

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MAY 02, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

NATIONAL

| 7

INTERNATIONAL

| 8



India needs to invest in more theatres, says Aamir Khan



Vaishnav pitches for shared standards, clear rules for ethical use of AI



Israel strikes near Syria's presidential palace over threats to Druze community

e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-12 Issue-120 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Prominent cleric Maulana Mubarak Mubarki passes away

SRINAGAR, May 2 (Agencies): Renowned Islamic scholar and preacher, Maulana Mubarak Mubarki, president of Bazm-e-Tawheed and Khateeb of Bazar Masjid, passed away on Friday, leaving behind a legacy of faith, unity, and service.

Known for his wisdom, humility, and deep commitment to Islamic teachings, Maulana Mubarki touched countless lives through his sermons and religious guidance.

One of his family members told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that his funeral will be held in two parts — first at 2:30 pm at his residence in Sanat Nagar, and later at 4 pm at Bohri Kadal Chowk near Bazar Masjid.

He said that Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is expected to lead the funeral prayers at Bazar Masjid. Meanwhile, Mirwaiz Dr Umar Farooq also expressed deep sorrow over his demise, calling it a personal loss.

"A few weeks ago, I visited him to inquire about his health. Despite his frailty, he recognised me and spoke with warmth and clarity. His death is a misfortune for Kashmir," he said.

Lecturer faces probe for misconduct, Inquiry officer appointed

SRINAGAR, May 2 (Agencies): The School Education Department has appointed an Inquiry Officer to probe charges against a government school lecturer in Poonch district for alleged violation of conduct rules.

As per an official order issued by the SED, Mushtaq Ahmad, I/c Joint Director (SE), Directorate of School Education Jammu, has been appointed as the Inquiry Officer to investigate the charges against Mr Mohd Ishaq, Lecturer (Mathematics) at BHSS Surankote.

The lecturer has been accused of violating provisions of Rule 22 of the J&K Employees Conduct Rules, 1971. The inquiry will be held in terms of Rule 31 of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.

The Inquiry Officer has been directed to submit his findings and recommendations to the department within 15 days from the date of the order's issuance.

Pakistani troops violate ceasefire for 8th night, Residents near LoC begin readying bunkers



JAMMU/SRINAGAR, May 2 (Agencies): Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in five districts of Jammu and Kashmir, prompting retaliation from the Indian Army, officials said on Thursday.

This is the eighth consecutive night of unprovoked firing along the LoC, amid heightened tensions following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people were killed.

Civilians living along the LoC and IB have begun cleaning their community and individual bunkers to make them habitable in case of escalation to shelling.

"During the night of May 1-2, 2025, Pakistani Army posts resorted to unprovoked small arms fire from posts across the LoC opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Naushera,

■ Turn to page 9

Congress Working Committee to discuss Pahalgam attack, caste census today

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): The Congress' highest decision-making body CWC will on Friday evening deliberate on the situation arising out of the Pahalgam terror attack and the caste census announced by the Centre.

Party general secretary Jairam Ramesh told reporters on Thursday that the entire Congress Working Committee (CWC) would sit and discuss the two crucial issues before the country.

Sources said the CWC is likely to pass resolutions seeking concrete action against Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack and for allocating funds to get the caste census conducted soon as part of the national census exercise.

It is also likely to demand that there should be a constitutional amendment and the

■ Turn to page 9

Pahalgam attack: Terrorists could still be hiding in south Kashmir

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): New inklings suggest that the Pahalgam attack terrorists are likely still in the South Kashmir's dense forests area. The terrorists are believed to be 'self-reliant', i.e., be carrying provisions, and therefore stay hidden in the dense forests, which could explain why they had avoided detection so far, NIA sources told NDTV.

Experts said that this would obviate the need for external logistical support that would most likely be provided by Pakistan, which New Delhi has accused of involvement in the

Pahalgam attack.

Initial inquiries indicate that the terrorists were present in Baisaran Valley, Pahalgam for at least 48 hours.

The four terrorists who shot and killed 26 people in famous tourist resort, Pahalgam in south Kashmir on April 22, have been on the run since — evading a massive manhunt involving the military and local police.

National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the investigation into the worst terror attack in India in recent years, certainly since February 2019, when 40 soldiers were killed

in J&K's Pulwama.

NIA sources said OGWs, or Over Ground Workers, or terrorist sympathisers, interrogated after the attack said they reced four other locations. These included the Aru and Betaab valleys.

But all of them were heavily guarded and so the terrorists picked Baisaran. Questions have since been asked by the opposition about the lack of military presence, as a deterrent.

The equipment used, sources said, did not need SIM cards and was capable of short-range encrypted

■ Turn to page 9

Chenab water level rises amid heavy rainfall

JAMMU, May 2 (Agencies): The river Chenab's water level rose on Friday following heavy rainfall in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the IMD had predicted relatively light to moderate rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds (40-60

km/h), across Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand from May 1 to May 6, 2025.

Additionally, heavy rain lashed parts of Delhi in the early hours today, resulting in waterlogging and traffic disruptions in many areas of

the national capital.

The Delhi-NCR region experienced traffic congestion as several trees were uprooted and vehicles broke down due to heavy waterlogging following the rainstorm.

Places like Gurgaon, Delhi Airport, and Minto Road have been severely inundated, resulting in significant public

■ Turn to page 9

Class 12th fake result gazette: JKBOSE writes to Cyber police for investigations

JAMMU, May 2 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has formally lodged an FIR after a fake website link showing fabricated results for Class 12 went viral on social media, causing confusion and distress among students.

According to officials, unidentified individuals created a fraudulent website mimicking the official JKBOSE portal.

The fake link, which falsely displayed what it claimed to be the Class 12 results, quickly circulated online, prompting widespread panic among students and parents.

Confirming the development, Secretary JKBOSE talking to Kashmir News Service (KNS), said an FIR has been registered against the perpetrators. "We have taken serious note of the incident and

lodged a formal complaint with the police. Strict action will be taken against those responsible for creating and circulating the fake website," the official said.

The board has urged students and guardians to rely only on the official JKBOSE website for any updates.

The cyber wing of the police is now investigating the source of the fake link and

■ Turn to page 9

Pahalgam Attack: Kashmiri hindus in US call for security overhaul, Global attention

HOUSTON, May 2 (Agencies): Kashmiri Hindus in the US are demanding greater accountability and global awareness following the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists.

The diaspora members said the attack on April 22, which occurred during the visit of US Vice President JD Vance to India, has raised serious concerns about lapses in security preparedness and persistent threats to minority communities in Kashmir.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the

banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Dr Vijay Sazawal, International Coordinator of the Indo-American Kashmir Forum (IAKF), claimed that the attack was a preventable tragedy.

"Thousands of tourists use this route daily, yet there was no visible security presence on the day of the attack. Despite a high-profile diplomatic visit, basic risk assessments were clearly ignored," he claimed.

"While attention often centres on cross-border

terrorism, there are also internal support structures — overground workers — that quietly sustain militant activity," Sazawal said, claiming that the "progress against them has been hindered by judicial delays and administrative inefficiencies".

Dr Subhash Kak, a Padma Shri awardee and an academic based in Oklahoma, said the Pahalgam attack underscores the fact that severing diplomatic ties or curbing trade with Pakistan is not enough.

Amit Raina, a Kashmiri Pandit based in

■ Turn to page 9

GupShup

RESTAURANT

Where Hunger Meets Happiness

Are you a true desi chicken connoisseur? Look no further than Gupshup Restaurant, the only restaurant in Jammu and Kashmir to serve 100% Desi chicken (Jatka) cooked to perfection on a traditional Chullah.

Visit us at:
Ban Bantaleb, Old Nagrota Highway, Jammu (J&K)
+91-9086207123 | +91-9086072548

ORDER NOW

MASVAR & VAHARVAR

One year has passed since you left us for heavenly abode. The pain of losing you will never fade. But your blessings are always with us, you will remain in our hearts forever guiding and inspiring us.

Masvar & Vaharvar of our beloved **Lt. Sh. Vikram Kumar Bhat (Raju)** S/o Lt. Sh. Dwanika Nath Bhat R/o Uttarsoo, Anantnag will be performed at our residence H.No. 219 (Meena Kunj) Hari Nagar Old Janipur Jammu on 2-05-2025 & 3-05-2025.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY

Smt. Bimla Bhat (Rakha Ji) - **Wife**
Abisheak Bhat (Baru) - **Son**
Abinash Bhat (Biloo) - **Son**
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Santosh & Sh. B.L. Bhat
Smt. Usha Bakshi W/o Lt. Sh. A.K. Bakshi - **Sister**
Smt. Asha & Sh. Pardeep Hangloo - **Sister & Brother-in-law**
In Laws
Smt. Asha Koul W/o Lt. D.N. Koul
Smt. Bimla Koul & Sh. H.N. Koul
Smt. Kishni Koul & Sh. Roop Krishen Koul
Smt. Dolly & Sh. Ashok Koul
Lucky, Jackey, Goldi, Ashu, Akshay, Harshma & Koul Family.



Lt. Sh. Vikram Kumar Bhat
(Raju)

CHOUBARSI

FOUR YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE YOUR NOBLE SOUL DEPARTED TO HEAVENLY ABODE TO BE WITH ALMIGHTY CREATING A VACUUM IN OUR LIVES & LEAVING US STRUGGLING TO LIVE WITH YOUR ABSENCE.

YOUR SWEET MEMORIES ARE ALWAYS ALIVE IN OUR HEARTS AND WILL BE CHERISHED FOREVER. WHEREEVER YOU ARE, MAY YOU REMAIN HAPPY AND KEEP ON GUIDING US.

CHOUBARSI OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER LATE **SMT URMIL BALI** W/O LATE SH J C BALI WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE 15/9, TRIKUTA NAGAR ON SATURDAY 03-5-2025 AT 10:00 AM FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY

ATUL BALI & SMT RICHU BALI (SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
DR ANURADHA & DR SANJEEV NARANG (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)
HARSHIL, ARSHIA & ARNAV (GRAND CHILDREN)
AND ALL MEMBERS OF BALI AND KASHYAP FAMILY
MOBILE NO. 9622207267, 9419141585, 8825090463



LATE SMT URMIL BALI

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of **Smt. Mohan Pyari Ambardar** W/o Lt. Sh. Manmohan Nath Ambardar R/o Motiyar, Rainawari, Kashmir at present Sader Bazar, Satara on 24th of April, 2025.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Satara on 3rd of May 2025.

Grief Stricken.**Daughter-in-law**

Ragnee Ogra Ambardar
W/o Lt. Sh. Surindar Ambardar

Daughter

Rajni Ambardar Bhat W/o Lt. Sh. Shiban Ji Bhat

Grand daughter and Grand son-in-law.

Rachna Sus and Neel Sus

Rushali and Aditya Anand

Grand son and Grand Daughter-in-law

Rahul and Shafalica Ambardar

Nitesh and Daulat Bhat

Great Grandsons and Great Granddaughters

Reva, Rahm, Taruni, Twisha, Nimaay, Nitaay and Nandini

And Samast Ambardar Parivar



Smt. Mohan Pyari
(Bhabhi)
(24-04-2025)

CHOUBARSI

Fondly remembered today and always, four years have passed yet not a single day goes without your presence being felt in countless ways. The echo of your laughter still fills our heart with warmth.

The **Choubarsi** of our beloved **Sh. RAJA VIVEK JI** (S/o Late Dr. K. Krishna Ji) shall be performed on 3rd May 2025 (Saturday) at Krishna Dham, Satsang Bhawan, Om Vihar Udaywala, Jammu at 12 PM (Noon) onwards

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY

Smt. Anuradha Ji (Mother)
Smt. Anju Sethi (Wife)
Bhanu Pratap Singh (Son)
Sh. Ravi Verma & Smt. Bimla (Brother & Sister In law)
Sethi Family (in-Laws, Karnal)
(Chacha ji & Chachi ji)
Sh. Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Ji & Smt. Neelam Sadhotra Ji
Smt. Sudha & Sh. Vikas Gupta (Sister and Brother in Law)
Mob.: 9419149738, 9018440459



Sh. RAJA VIVEK JI

MASVAR/VAHARVAR

It has been a year since you left us, but your memory and legacy continue to inspire us everyday.

We think of you always, we speak of you. Still, you are never forgotten and never will be. You remain forever in our hearts, guiding us through life. Your legacy is immeasurable and everlasting.

The **Masvar and Vaharvar** of our beloved **Late Sh. Chaman Lal Koul** will be observed on 3rd and 4th of May, 2025 at our residence H.No. 10, Lane 13, Tawi Vihar Sidhra, Jammu.

Deeply Remembered & Missed By:

Smt. Anu Koul - **Wife**
Sh. B.L. Koul & Smt. Neelam Koul - **Brother & Bhabhi**
Sakshi & Manav Nehru - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Samiksha & Sunney Koul - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Sheshank Kaul & Varnika Koul - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
Grand Children: Aadanya, Ryan, Stayva
Samast Koul Parivar
Contact No: 9906067480, 9419142141



Sh. Chaman Lal Koul

ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Dr. Manohar Singh Bhatia** (Ex-Scientist, IIM, Jammu), Son of Late Sardar Gulab Singh Bhatia, Resident of Ward No. 19, Ekta Vihar, near 121 F.H.O. Gate, M.H. Road, Udhampur left for heavenly abode on 25th April, 2025.

To seek blessings for the departed soul and offer our heartfelt prayers:

ARAMBH OF SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB will commence from 10 am on 2nd May, 2025.

BHOG OF SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB will be performed at 10 am on 4th May, 2025.

KIRTAN AND ANTM ARDAS will be held from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm followed by Guru Ka Langer.

We humbly request family, friends and well-wishers to join us in prayer for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

GRIEF-STRICKEN:

Sdn. Pari Bhatia - **Wife**

(Daughter and Son-in-law)

Dr. Harpreet Bhatia and S. Amarpreet Singh

Brothers-in-law and Sisters-in-law

S. Deedar Singh Sehgal and Late Sdn. Krishan Kour

Late Sh. Dhanraj Sehgal and Late Smt. Santosh Sehgal

S. Narinder Singh Sehgal and Sdn. Kuldeep Kour

S. Darshan Singh Sehgal and Sdn. Dharam Kour

Sh. Rajinder Sehgal

Late Sh. Bansil Lal Suri and Smt. Nanki Suri

Sh. Ramesh Megoo and Smt. Kanchan Megoo

M- 7006767820



Dr. Manohar Singh Bhatia
(Ex-Scientist, IIM, Jammu)

UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother

Smt. Kailash Kumari (W/o Lt. Sh. Mulkh Raj Ghai, Teacher) R/o H.No. 5 Green Enclave Opp. B.S.F Hq Patta Paloura originally resident of H.No. EP 287, Mohalla Dalpatan Jammu on 29-04-2025.

UTHALA will be performed on 3rd May 2025 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Geeta Mandir Bakshi Nagar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sushma & Sh. Sanjeev (Retd PDD) - **Son & D-in-law**

Smt. Amita & Sh. Mahesh Ghai (Treasury Officer Akhnor) - **Son & D-in-law**

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Sunita & Sh. Kamal Gupta (Retd Chief Manager J&K Bank)

Smt. Veenu & Sh. Ram Paul Gandotra (Retd AE PWD)

Smt. Nirmala Ghai (Devrani)

Grand Children : Shivam, Satyam, Shivangi, Rishav, Abhishek, Sahil, Prisha

MOB: 9419836569, 9149509554, 9419277632



Smt. Kailash Kumari

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With Profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Bal Ji Bhan** son of Lt. Madow Ram (Bhan), R/O Gotingo Kupwara.

A/P:- Block No. 141, Flat No. 17, Lane no. 23, Jagti Migrant Township Nagrota, Jammu. who departed for heavenly abode on Friday 02.00 am dated 25.04.2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu on 04.05.2025 (Sunday) at 8.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Kuldeep Bhan (Son)

Smt. Jasvinder Kour (Daughter-in-law)

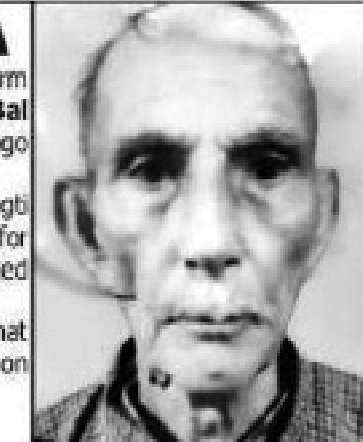
Smt. Nancy Bhan (Sister-in-Law)

Smt. & Sh. Bushan Lal Bhan (Brother)

Smt. & Sh. Moti Lal Bhan (Brother)

Smt. & Sh. Ashok ji Bhan (Brother)

CELL NO. 9469133259.



Sh. Bal Ji Bhan

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Kiran Magotra** (Teacher, Kendriya Vidyalaya. No. 2, Jammu Cantt.), daughter of Late Smt. Pushpa & Late Sh. CB Magotra on 24.04.2025.

TENTH DAY: 03.05.2025 at 10 AM at Shiv Mandir, Sector-3, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

KRIYA: 04.05.2025 at our residence, H. No:21-A, Sector 10, Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

UTHALA: 05.05.2025 from 5-6 PM at Shiv Mandir, Sector-3, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Rama Sharma, W/o Late Sh. V.P. Sharma

Vinod Sharma (Husband) - CGWB

Mallavika Sharma (Daughter) & Angad Sharma (Son)

Dr. Renu & Dr. Robinder Khajuria (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)

Arti & Manoj Sharma (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)

Dr. Ruby & Dr. Vipin Magotra (Sister-in-law & Brother)

Reena & Yogesh Magotra (Sister-in-law & Brother)

Rupali & Rajesh Sharma (Sister & Brother-in-Law)

CONTACT NO: 9419185643



SMT. KIRAN MAGOTRA

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Prana Raina** W/o Late Shri Bansil Lal Raina resident of Mahind Bijbehara (Anantnag) presently at H No 30, Lane No 1, Anand Nagar Bohri Jammu on 26-4-2025.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 05-05-2025 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 8 AM.

Mourning from Moulin side also will be performed at the same address i.e. H No 30/1 Anand Nagar Bohri.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Samast Raina, Razdan and Pandita Parivaar

Mob No. 9419284925, 9429260431, 9419265430



Smt. Prana Raina

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Bushan Lal Koul** S/o Late Prithvi Nath Koul originally resident of Jawahar Nagar Srinagar Kashmir presently residing at Paloura top Jammu on 24th April, 2025.

TENTH DAY: TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 3rd May, 2025 (Saturday) at 8.30 AM at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education, Muthi, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Vijay Koul - **Wife**

Bimla Dhar & B.L.Dhar - **Samdhis**

Kansha Dhar & Ajay Dhar - **Daughter and Son-in-law**

Vahin Dhar & Jiyana - **Grand children**

Nana Ji Bhat & Vjanti Bhat - **Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**

BHATS, TICKOO'S, SAPROO'S.

MOB: 9622043943, 8825052023, 9797658700



Bushan Lal Koul

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **MUNU JEE KOUL** SON OF LATE RUGH NATH KOUL ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF RATNIPORA PULWAMA AT PRESENT H NO. 11, LANE NO. 2, SECTOR B1 LAKSHIPURAM CHINORE ON 26TH APRIL 2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 5TH MAY 2025 AT 9:00 AM AT MUTHI GHAT, NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION, JAMMU

GRIEF STRICKEN :-

SMT PRABH/PYARI (WIFE)

PHONE NO. 9419206948; 6005433508

DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW

LOVELY AND SH H L KOUL

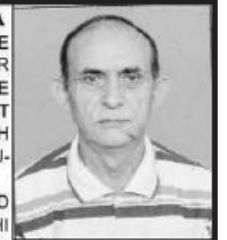
ANJALI AND SH SUNIL ZALPURI

NEETU AND SH SUNIL KOUL

AND SAMAST MAHADEV PARIVAR

OF RATNIPORA (PULWAMA)

7006730483



MUNU JEE KOUL

TENTH DAY/MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and timely demise of our Brother in law **Sh Tej Krishan** andhri H/o Smt. Reeta Kandhari (Babli Ji) of Khayari Nagar and Son of late Sh. Girdhari Lal Kandhari and late mt. Sham Rani Kandhari A/P A-1278, Gali No. 13A, Phase - Aya Nagar, New Delhi on 27-04-2025.

Mourning from Malyun Side will be held at our residence, No. 9/A, Lane-1, Bharat Nagar Bantala Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed at Chota Handwar Muradnagar on 6-05-2025 at 10 am.

Grief Stricken :

mt. Vijay Raina W/o Late Deep Raina

Sh. Ravinder Kumar Raina and Smt. Anita Raina

Sh. Surinder Kumar Raina and Smt. Reena Raina

mt. Asha Bhat W/o Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat

Sh. Shuben Ji Mattoo and Smt. Sarfa Mattoo

7780932157, 9086573743



Sh. Tej Krishan
Kandhari

MASVAR & WAHARWAER

A year has passed and not a single day when we not remembered you Dad we miss your warm hug unwavering love laughter advices and your comforting presence every single day we will cherish your memories forever.

Masvar & Vaharwaer will be performed on 3rd, 4th May at Rabbhawari temple near Sai Baba Mandir Talab Tilo.

Deeply Remembered By

Sharka Bhat- **Wife**

Ashish Bhat- **Son**

Priya Vootla- **Daughter**

Son in law- Ram Vootla

Daughter in law- Monika Bhat

Grand Childrens - Gaurang, Baldeva, Naavya

Near & Dears - Bhat's, Mallia's, Khaushu's, Raina's, Bhan's

Ph. 7006743023, 9596865910



Sh. Bhushan Lal
Bhat

10TH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved father, **Shri Dev Khosla** son of Late Shri B D Khosla, who departed for his heavenly abode on Friday, 25th April 2025.

The **10th Day** will be held at our residence village Dhok Waziran (near Sainik School Nagrota) on Sunday, 4th May 2025

The **Uthala** will be observed on Wednesday, 7th May 2025 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM

In Grief:

Smt. Sudesh Khosla (Wife)

Sameer Khosla and Kamal Jeet (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Simmi Dasari and Dr. Dipesh Dasari (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Shivani Dogra and Jeet Dogra (Daughter and Son in law)

Grand children : Reet, Hemant, Migaksh, Shweta and Dr. Arkush (Grand Son in law)



Shri Dev Khosla

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our dear brother **Sh Manu Jee Koul** originally R/o Ratnipora, Pulwama at present House No. 11, Lane No. 2, Sector B/1 Laxmipuram Chinore on 26th April 2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 5th May 2025 at 9:00 AM at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education.

Grief Stricken

Smt. Praba Ji- **Wife</**

SKUAST-J conducts Technical Assessment of RAWE&AIA students for Agro-Industrial Attachment



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Under the leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and guidance of Dr. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education, Dr. Sanjay Guleria, In-charge, Placement Cell and Dr. Vinod Gupta, Coordinator RAWE & AIA programme, a technical assessment test was conducted on Friday by Division of Agricultural Extension Education at Main Campus, Chatha in col-

laboration with Bayer Crop Science for short-listing B.Sc.(Agri.) Hons. students who are undergoing Rural Agriculture Works Experience and Agro-Industrial Attachment (RAWE & AIA) programme.

The shortlisted students will undergo industry internship in Bayer Crop Science for 30 days. Selected candidates will be deployed across various teams, including Market Development and sales.

Dr. Vinod Gupta, Head, Division of Agricultural

Extension Education and Coordinator RAWE & AIA programme said that attachment of agriculture graduates with agro-industries provides them an opportunity to understand the work culture and gains insights into the agro-based industry.

This experience can help students make informed decisions about their career paths and develop skills relevant to the industry. It also enhances their understanding of value addition, agri-entrepre-

neurship and the role of agro industries in modern agriculture.

Attachment of students in agro-industry is one of the crucial activities of RAWE & AIA programme of the University because it bridges the gap between theoretical learning and practical application, offering valuable hands-on experience and foster a deeper understanding of the agricultural sector and its challenges.

Besides, these programmes also equip students with employability skills and confidence needed for future careers, whether in farming, agribusiness or related fields.

The technical assessment test was conducted under the supervision of Dr. J.S Manhas, Co-coordinator and Sarabjeet Singh, Technical Incharge of the programme and a team of Bayer Crop Science.

MD JJM, J&K emphasizes financial management to avoid cost escalation of Water Supply projects in Rajouri district

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 2: Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah on Friday reviewed the implementation of JJM in Rajouri district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu, Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Rajouri, Executive Engineers of field divisions, AEE's and JE's including their counterparts from the Mechanical wing.

The chair was briefed about the schemes being executed in the district through a power point presentation.

As per the figures there are 87,188 rural households in the district out of which 55, 454 households have been



provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) till date. 183 civil schemes are in various phases of execution comprising of 351 works which include 10 dugwells, 108 bore wells, 43 Rapid Sand Filtration plants (RSFP's), two overhead tanks (OHT's)

183 pipe networks and 5 Slow Sand Filtration plants (SSFP's). 43 schemes comprising of 159 works stand completed till date. The Mission Director while commending the officers for successfully drilling of 107 bore wells in the district, also highlighted the non commissioning

of Rapid Sand Filtration Plants (RSFP's) which are essential component as far as quality drinking water to the beneficiaries is concerned.

The MD was assured that most of these RSFP are in advanced stages of completion and will be commissioned soon along with other components of the ongoing schemes.

The MD was further informed that 145 mechanical schemes are being implemented in the district for which machinery has been procured for 92 schemes and 50 schemes have been completed.

The Mission Director stressed upon the officers implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district for proper financial management of Water Supply Schemes to prevent cost escalation.

All J&K Sain Samaj to celebrate 725th Birth Anniversary of Sant Baba Sain Bhagat Maharaj on May 6

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: In a significant announcement on Friday, the All Jammu & Kashmir Sain Samaj held a press conference at its head office near Rani Park, Jammu, under the leadership of its President Kewal Krishan Fottra. The press briefing highlighted the upcoming celebration of the 725th Birth Anniversary of Sant Shromani Baba Sain Bhagat Ji Maharaj, the revered saint of the 14th century.

Addressing the media, Fottra shared that the celebration will take



place on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, from 10 AM to 3 PM at Shree Guru Nabha Dass Ji Maharaj Community Hall, Dogra Hall, Jammu (behind Shakuntla Theatre).

He elaborated, "This event is not just a spiritual gathering; it is a tribute to the timeless teachings and legacy

of Baba Sain Bhagat Ji Maharaj, who championed equality, humility, and devotion."

The meeting was attended by all office bearers and prominent members of the Samaj, who engaged in detailed discussions about the arrangements for the event. The committee

resolved to extend a heartfelt appeal to all members of the Sain community across Jammu province and J&K UT to attend the celebration along with their families.

"We invite everyone to come, seek blessings, and unite as one community under the guiding light of Baba Sain Bhagat Ji Maharaj," Fottra urged.

The press conference concluded with a call for collective participation to honor the great saint's spiritual and social contributions.

Parveen Sharma re-elected as Chairman of CCBL, felicitated by Trust

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: In a recently held meeting of the Board of Directors of Citizen Cooperative Bank Ltd (CCBL), Jammu & Kashmir, Parveen Kumar Sharma was unanimously re-elected as the Chairman of the Bank. His re-election reflects the transparency, efficiency, and public trust earned during his previous tenure.

On this significant occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri, State Awardee and President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur (Thather), Jammu & Kashmir, honoured Sharma by presenting him with a Dogra turban, porsa, a bouquet, and a

ceremonial shawl. He congratulated Mr. Sharma on his reappointment and expressed hope for the Bank's continued progress under his leadership.

Mahant Rohit Shastri said, "Parveen Kumar Sharma is not only a competent banking administrator but also a strong leader driven by a spirit of social service. His tenure opens new avenues of growth for the Bank. We are proud that such public representatives are guiding our society."

The Board of Directors also appreciated Sharma's leadership and expressed confidence that the Bank will reach new heights under his guidance.

Expressing his gratitude to the

Board, Parveen Kumar Sharma stated that customer interests, transparency, and the quality of banking services will always remain his top priorities. He emphasized that making the Bank more digital, secure, and customer-friendly will be among his key goals.

The event was graced by the presence of Atul Sharma, President of Jammu and Kashmir Brahmin Sabha; Sanjeev Lamba; Lucky Sharma; Abhiraj Sharma; Bank MD Ravi Kant; Rajeev Jandiyal; Sanjeev Khajuria; Tarsem Gotra; Ashwani Bakshi; Rakesh Arora; Munish Agreina; Raman Sharma; Jatinder Sharma; Sukhjeet Singh; senior bank officials; and others.

JKTF holds meeting, raises demands for teachers' welfare

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Under the directions of Ganesh Khajuria, Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), a meeting of the Forum was held on Friday at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The meeting was organized under the leadership of Darshan Sharma, State Secretary, and was attended by senior leaders and prominent members of the Forum.

The primary agenda revolved around critical issues concerning the adjustment of newly promoted Masters, the promotion of left-out teachers within the consideration zone, one-time exemption cases

for teachers/masters/l/c lecturers who completed their PG courses through distance or correspondence mode, and the regularisation of l/c lecturers who have been serving in-charge capacities for several years.


While addressing the gathering, the speakers strongly appealed to the Director School Education Jammu for the immediate adjustment of newly promoted Masters.

They expressed concern over the shortage of staff in schools, emphasizing that although the Director had assured the promotion of over 1500 teachers, the released list included only 1029 candidates. They revealed that

Chairman Ganesh Khajuria had approached the Director, who agreed to issue another list of l/c Masters of the same strength. The speakers urged the Director to expedite the release of the pending list to address the staff shortage in schools.

Another key issue discussed was the one-time exemption for Masters and Teachers who completed their postgraduate studies through distance education without prior administrative approval.

The Forum leaders advocated for granting this exemption on priority to ensure these teachers are not deprived of their rightful promotions.




DIRECTORATE OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, J&K
JAMMU/SRINAGAR.
Tel:- 0191-2457821, 2453013 E-mail: info.fesjk@jk.gov.in

Advisory on Fire Prevention during Summer season, heatwave and rising temperatures.

In view the increasing temperatures and heat wave in the UT especially Jammu province the following advisory (Do's and Don'ts),are issued in the public interest for preventive measures to be taken from Fire Safety point of view to minimize the losses due to fires:-

- Remove flammable materials such as piles of dust, leaves, sticks and cardboard from your living area they may ignite under strong direct sunlight.
- Keep your cables tidy and do not overload sockets; Give the electric panels/ gadgets rest and cooling breaks after intervals.
- Trip off the electricity of the houses when out of the premises.
- Avoid placing electric cables under furniture, carpets etc. and near plastic sheets or flammable objects.
- Store matches and lighters out of children's sight and reach to avoid any mischief by children.
- Avoid cooking during peak hours. Open doors and windows to ventilate cooking area adequately.
- Douse the cigarette butts with water and place them in a fire-proof container to safely dispose of after you're sure they've gone out. Don't toss them on the ground.
- Extinguish fire pits and campfires when done
- Pay attention to local ordinances for trash burning.
- Use caution when using flammable liquids.
- Don't throw lit cigarettes carelessly out of your moving car.
- Don't leave the trash/stubble in burning condition. Farmers shall avoid burning of trash/stubble. In case of urgency it shall be completely burnt in their presence and ensure that there is no chance of its re-ignition of fire.

DIP/J-779/25


Accounts Officer, 28/04
For Director,
Fire & Emergency Services, J&K,
Jammu.

NO: DF&ES/FR/2024/CC-136278 Dated:- 28.04.2025.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VIJAYPUR

ABBREVIATED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 03 of 2025-26 Dated: 30-04-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in shape of CDR/FDR (in Rs.))	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Name of Work for :- 1) Const. of Boundary Walla at Baba Chamliyal Shrine. 2) Treatment of Roof by way of integral water proofing i.e. Coba works on building at Baba Chamliyal Shrine 3) Repair and Renovation of ladies Washroom / Bathing area. 4) Cladding of entrance gate Baba Shrine and providing and fixing of PVC panelling at Office of Baba Chamliyal Shrine.	30.05	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	02 months	A & B

Position of AAA :- Accorded
Position of T.S :- Sanctioned
Project Authority :- District Development Commissioner Samba

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-04-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30-04-2025 to 09-05-2025
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	05-05-2025 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vijaypur
4	Bid submission Start Date	30-04-2025 at 1800 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	09-05-2025 upto 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	10-05-2025 at 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) division Vijaypur
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

The tender is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in> all other terms & conditions can be seen on the above website.

No. PWD/V/460-65
Dt. 30-04-2025

DIP/J-769/25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Division,
Vijaypur.

EDITORIAL

WAVES: Promoting India's Heritage

In the ever-changing tides of time, where the old often gets swept away by the new, a mighty force called WAVES—the World Association for Vedic Studies—rises like a steadfast lighthouse, illuminating the vast and profound heritage of India. Across continents and generations, WAVES has emerged as a bridge, reconnecting millions with the timeless treasures of Indian civilization. At its heart, WAVES is more than just an organization—it is a movement of consciousness, a collective quest to preserve, study, and celebrate the spiritual, philosophical, cultural, and scientific wealth of India's ancient traditions. Born in 1996, it has since grown into a global family of scholars, teachers, writers, and heritage enthusiasts, united by a singular mission: to keep India's Vedic wisdom alive and thriving in the modern world. Through international conferences, academic forums, publications, and cultural exchanges, WAVES promotes rigorous study and open dialogue on India's rich intellectual history. From the Vedas and Upanishads to Ayurveda, Yoga, Sanskrit literature, mathematics, and astronomy, WAVES provides a platform for scholars and seekers to explore how these ancient streams of knowledge can contribute to contemporary global challenges. Their biennial conferences draw participants from across the world—scholars from Ivy League universities, sages from Himalayan ashrams, young students with inquisitive minds—all gathering under one roof to discuss, debate, and rediscover. Whether it's a paper on Vedic cosmology, a panel on women philosophers in ancient India, or a workshop on Sanskrit poetics, each event feels like a festival of ideas, rooted in reverence yet soaring toward innovation. In an age of fleeting trends, WAVES stands as a custodian of continuity, reminding us that heritage is not merely to be archived—it must be lived, questioned, interpreted, and evolved. But WAVES doesn't confine heritage to dusty texts or academic halls. It celebrates India's living traditions—its music, dance, crafts, oral histories, and festivals. Collaborating with artists, temple scholars, and folk performers, WAVES showcases how India's intangible cultural heritage continues to pulse vibrantly through every village, every household ritual, and every regional melody. In their cultural evenings, a Kuchipudi dancer's whirl, a bhajan singer's raga, or a weaver's loom is not just an artistic display—it's a tribute to generations of inherited wisdom, creativity, and devotion. Each art form, each motif, each note carries stories of resilience, community, and a worldview that sees the divine in every element of life. In a globalized world where cultural homogenization is a growing threat, WAVES provides a space to reclaim pride in India's pluralistic heritage. It urges young Indians at home and in the diaspora to look beyond stereotypes, to recognize the profound depth and diversity of their roots, and to be inspired to carry that legacy forward—not as a relic, but as a living, breathing identity. For millions of Indians abroad, WAVES acts as an emotional and intellectual anchor. Whether it's an Indian-American teenager curious about their ancestry, or an elderly emigrant longing to reconnect with their homeland's philosophies, WAVES offers pathways to belonging and understanding. Their outreach includes youth programs, heritage education workshops, Sanskrit learning circles, online lectures, and digital archives, making it accessible for a global audience. In this digital era, WAVES uses technology not to dilute heritage, but to amplify its reach, bringing ancient chants, manuscripts, and wisdom to smartphones, classrooms, and living rooms worldwide. As Indian communities across the globe navigate their identities amidst multicultural landscapes, WAVES helps them root deeper while reaching wider—fostering an identity that is proudly Indian, confidently global. Perhaps WAVES' most powerful message is that India's heritage is not locked in the past; it holds keys to the future. In its conferences, dialogues emerge on how Vedic ecology aligns with sustainability, how Ayurveda offers holistic health solutions, how ancient Indian logic can inform modern computational thinking, and how spiritual philosophies can contribute to mental well-being in a fractured world. WAVES invites new generations not merely to admire their heritage but to apply it, adapt it, reimagine it in ways that solve 21st-century challenges. In doing so, it transforms heritage from a backward-looking nostalgia into a forward-driving engine of innovation, ethics, and harmony. In the gentle chant of a Vedic hymn, in the rhythmic steps of a Bharatanatyam dancer, in the measured syllables of a Sanskrit shloka, in the ink of a palm-leaf manuscript—India's heritage whispers across time, inviting us to listen, learn, and live it anew. Through WAVES, this invitation travels across oceans and generations. It calls every Indian, every lover of wisdom, to become a custodian of this shared legacy. Not out of duty alone, but out of delight. Not just for preservation, but for participation, propagation, and purposeful evolution. As the tides of globalization rise, WAVES stands firm like a lighthouse—reminding us that true progress doesn't erase roots; it nourishes them. With every ripple of effort, every crest of knowledge shared, every shore of identity reached, WAVES continues to promote India's heritage—not as a monument of the past, but as a guiding force for the world's future.

A Tribute to Sarvanand Koul Premi Poet, Reformer, Secularist Par excellence

By: Omkar Dattatray

I pay my homage and tribute to Sarvanand Koul Premi on his 35st death anniversary on 1st May 2025 Thursday and I am short of words to describe him and his contribution to secularism, pluralism, progressivism, social reform, Hindu –Muslim unity, mutual brotherhood and what not? Premi's was a multifaceted personality and it cannot be penned down in a small space in paper. Sarwanand Koul Premi, Son of Gopi Nath Koul –the first matriculate in his village and Omarvati Koul, was born in a farming family of Anantnag district in the year 1924. Premi was a renowned freedom fighter, a philanthropist, litterateur and what not? Premi had good knowledge and proficiency in Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri, Sanskrit, Persian, English etc and wrote with ease in all these languages. Sarvanand was a great teacher, educationist, poet, reformer, doyen of Hindu –Muslim unity, a broadcaster, a translator, writer of repute, journalist, progressive personality leaning towards communist ideology and still a great Hindu indeed committed to Hinduism and Sanatan Dharma. Premi Sahib was a revolutionary and has penned a number of books. Premi Ji was in fact a household name in Anantnag district and his death at the hands of Islamist terrorists way back on 1st May 1990 along with his well educated son Virender Koul is very unfortunate and it was the death of humanity. Premi and his son had been killed in Anantnag and it is a big and irreparable loss not only to Kashmiri Pandits but to Muslim baradari as well. He

was respected by the people of all communities and in his untimely death a big void has been created which is very hard to fill. Kashmiri Pandits have been observing his death anniversary at Jammu and elsewhere. This year as usual death anniversary of the great man is being observed at JKCA and a large number of people from different walks of life participated in the observance of his death anniversary. Many outstanding personalities recalled his life, contributions and his multifarious life and threw light on his secular and multifarious personality. Sarwanand Koul Premi also spelled Sarvanand Kaul Premi was born on 2nd November 1924 and was a Kashmiri poet, journalist, research scholar, Gandhian, social reformer and independent activist. During Quit India Movement from 1942-1946, he also worked underground and was arrested on six occasions during this movement. He was honored with the epithet of Premi by Ghulam Ahmad Mehjoor for his love of poetry. It is very unfortunate and sad that Premi along with his married son, Verinder 27 were kidnapped, tortured and killed by Islamic terrorists in 1990 in the hey days of terrorism in J&K. Kashmiris of all hues and all nationalistic people mourned their death and it shook whole Kashmir. For a few years he worked for the village and the Khadi Industries Board a state enterprise as well as the Industries department of Punjab. Premi returned to Kashmir and joined the education department as teacher and in due course he became a great teacher and educationist and taught, counselled and guided many students of his

area. He was much popular as a teacher and a poet. Premi rose to become a headmaster. One of the most shocking killing in Kashmir in 1990 was of Sarvanand Kaul Premi a learned man and a school headmaster. At that time many of the Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave their homes and hearths but his family decided to stay put in Kashmir at his native village of Sofshalli. But this was a wrong decision and he and his son were brutally murdered. Premi has stayed put in his village as he had firm belief that no one will harm him and his family as he had taught all the students of his area. The patriotic people of Jammu and Kashmir ask the question as what was his fault and why was he killed brutally along with his son? Where was Kashmiriyat then and where had the Sofi culture and tradition as well as communal harmony gone? These question demand answers from the Muslim community of Kashmir even after 35 years of the shocking tragedy of the cold blooded broad day murder. Premi had proficiency in Holy Bhagvad Gita and holy Quran and used to read both the scriptures. But despite this premi was killed. At the age of 66 years Premi was killed along with his 27 year son. Premi enjoyed goodwill in the Muslim dominated society and so Kauls had decided to stay put in their native village only few days later to be killed by the Islamic terrorists to create fear among the Residual Kashmiri Pandits. May 1 is every year observed by the KP's as Shaheedi Diwas and floral tributes are paid to Premi and his son and his contribution to society and secularism is remembered and the partici-

pants resolve to fight terrorism tooth and nail. Rajinder Kaul his eldest son is embarking on a mission to republish Premi's works for future generations and this is a mammoth and praiseworthy effort. When there was communal tension in February 1986 in south Kashmir, Premi gave a lecture about maintaining communal harmony. Premi was a write of repute and authored more than two dozen books. He also translated Bhagvad Gita and Ramayan in Kashmiri. Premi wrote on Lalishori, Saint Merzakak and on and so forth. Premi also translated Harivansh Rai Bachchan's 'Madhushala'. His son Rajinder Kaul is doing commendable job of the project of publishing his father's works but faces paucity of finances. The Jammu and Kashmir cultural Academy and the information and culture department of JK UT should provided financial assistance to Rajinder Kaul so that his mission of publishing the works of premi is given a final shape. I conclude this write up with an Udru couplet which fits the personality of the great martyr Premi and reads as "Hazaroun saal Nargis Apni Benoori Pa Roui Tee, Badi Mushkil Se hota hai Chaman mai Deedver Paedha." May God grant peace to the soul of Premi and his son and we will continue to be inspired by his multifaceted personality.

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

Dual board exams for class 10 from 2026 – what it means for India's education system

By: Vijay Garg

India's education system is set to undergo a major change with the introduction of dual board exams for Class 10 students starting in the 2025–26 academic year. Announced by the Ministry of Education, this move is part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aiming to ease the high-pressure environment of board examinations by allowing students two chances each year.

Beginning in February 2026, students will be able to take the board exams twice—once in February and again in April/May—with the option to keep their best score. While this change is designed to offer students more flexibility and reduce stress, it also brings up important questions about its effects on students, teachers, and the wider education framework.

No supplementary examinations: A shift in the approach to academic recovery

Under the new dual board exam system, students will not have the option of supplementary examinations, which have traditionally been offered to those who fail in one or more subjects. Instead, students will be able to retake the exam in the same academic year—either in February or April/May—providing them with a second opportunity to improve their scores. This approach aims to reduce the stigma associated with supplementary exams while maintaining a focus on continuous learning and performance improve-

ment. Exam structure and financial considerations: New challenges to navigate

An important feature of the dual board exam system is that both examinations will cover the full syllabus, ensuring that students are tested comprehensively in both sessions. Additionally, students will be assigned the same examination centres for both the February and April/May attempts, promoting consistency and reducing logistical challenges. However, the introduction of separate exam fees for each attempt could pose financial strain for some families. Furthermore, the revised registration and subject selection timelines may put pressure on students to make quick decisions, adding a layer of stress to the process.

Why this reform?

The introduction of two exam sessions aligns with NEP 2020's focus on making assessments more student-friendly. By giving students a second chance within the same year, the reform reduces the pressure of having just one crucial exam. It allows learners to improve their scores without waiting a full academic year. This system is similar to international models, such as modular exams in the United Kingdom, and is aimed at helping India's education system match global practices.

Another goal of the policy is to encourage deeper understanding rather than rote learning. From 2026 onwards, exam papers are expected to include more compe-

tency-based questions, helping students develop skills like analysis and problem-solving.

Boards preparing for the shift
Several education boards across India are preparing to roll out the dual-exam format in 2026. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which oversees millions of students both in India and abroad, has confirmed it will adopt the new system, starting with a pilot programme in the 2025–26 session. The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), which conducts the ICSE exams, has also committed to the change.

State boards such as the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSBSHSE), Tamil Nadu's Directorate of Government Examinations (TNDGE), and the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB) are moving ahead with preparations. The Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) and the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) are reviewing the proposal and may implement it soon. Other state boards are also actively considering adopting this reform, signalling broader regional support for the dual board exam system.

What are the benefits and concerns?

The new system offers several clear benefits. Students get a second opportunity to improve their results, which can help ease exam stress and support mental well-being. Schools are also expected to adopt digital tools to support the change.

For example, CBSE has announced plans to introduce AI-based evaluation methods by 2026.

However, there are also some concerns. Students might feel pressured to appear for both exams, leading to additional stress instead of reducing it. In rural areas, schools could face challenges with exam planning, resource availability, and fair evaluation. There's also a risk that private coaching centres may take advantage of the new format, potentially increasing inequality among students from different backgrounds.

The success of this reform will depend on how well it is implemented. Authorities must ensure that schools are properly equipped, teachers are trained, and students across all regions have equal access to resources. With proper support and planning, the dual exam system could lead to a more inclusive and flexible education structure in India.

As national and state education boards prepare for the February 2026 rollout, this policy could mark an important step towards transforming how academic success is measured in the country.

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

International Labour Day celebrated by MIER College



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: To commemorate Labour Day on May 1, 2025, the Extension Unit of MIER College of Education (Autonomous) organised a Gram Sabha at Bathyari village under the flagship initiative of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

The event aimed to raise awareness among villagers about workers' rights and to disseminate critical information on various government welfare schemes designed for labourers and daily wage earners.

Approximately 20 students from the School of Education and the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at MIER College actively participated in the outreach program. The initiative was skillfully coordinated by Suman Devi, Coordinator of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

The keynote speaker for the event, Dr. Nadini, Assistant Professor, School of Sciences and Humanities at MIER College, delivered an insightful and comprehensive lecture. Her talk emphasised fundamental labour rights such as fair wages, safe working conditions, and access to social security. She also elaborated on several key government welfare schemes, including the E-Shram Card, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, benefits under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board, and Ayushman Bharat health insurance coverage.

The Gram Sabha drew enthusiastic participation from villagers, especially youth, women, and local workers. Following the lecture, an interactive discussion

session allowed attendees to raise pertinent questions and clarify their doubts.

The event successfully sensitized the rural community about their legal rights and the importance of enrolling in welfare programs. Concluding the program, Mrs. Suman Devi expressed her gratitude and emphasized the need for sustained grassroots-level awareness initiatives.

Dr. Adit Gupta, Principal of MIER College of Education, commended the efforts of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan team and extended heartfelt thanks to the Sarpanch, Panches, and residents of Bathyari village for their support and enthusiastic involvement. He remarked that such initiatives play a vital role in bridging the gap between policy and practice in rural India.

KCIS organizes Poster Making Competition on Drug Abuse

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: An interactive awareness session and Poster Making Competition on Drug Abuse was organized on Friday by KC International School in collaboration with the J&K Excise Department.

The event was graced by dignitaries including Sanjay Kumar Bhat, Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), as Chief Guest; Swati Gupta, Excise and Taxation Officer (North Range, Jammu), as Special Guest; Vikas Sharma, Founder and Project Director of the Parivartan Foundation, as Keynote Speaker; Anupama Sinha, School Principal; and Roma Gupta, Vice Principal.

Vikas Sharma, Founder and Project Director of the Parivartan Foundation, conducted a compelling session, shedding light on the detrimental effects of drug abuse on individuals and society.

He emphasized the importance of awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation, sharing valuable insights and strategies to combat substance abuse. Sharma's expertise and passion for creating positive change inspired the students to take an active role in promoting a healthy and safe environment.

The Chief Guest, Sanjay Kumar Bhat, Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), stressed the significance of collective efforts in combating substance abuse.

He highlighted the crucial role of educa-



tion and awareness in preventing drug abuse, particularly among the youth. Mr. Bhat encouraged students to become ambassadors of change in their communities, promoting a drug-free society.

He appreciated the school's initiative in organizing the seminar and emphasized the need for continued efforts in this direction.

Special Guest Swati Gupta, Excise and Taxation Officer (North Range, Jammu), emphasized the significance of prevention and parental involvement in combating substance abuse.

She urged students to stay informed and make responsible choices, and appreciated the school's efforts in promoting awareness about this critical issue.

School Principal Anupama Sinha urged students to take a pledge against drug abuse, promoting a commitment to healthy living and sup-

port for those affected.

She emphasized the importance of education and awareness in preventing substance abuse and encouraged students to become proactive participants in promoting a healthy and safe environment in their communities.

Sinha expressed her gratitude to the esteemed guests, speakers, and organizers for their valuable contributions to the seminar.

The Poster Making Competition saw talented participation from students, with the winners Sarah Ghai (Grade 10) - 1st place, Sonakshi Manhas (Grade 11) - 2nd place, and Suhani Gandotra (Grade 9) - 3rd place.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks extended by Vice Principal Roma Gupta. Through this session, KC International School reaffirms its commitment to fostering a healthy and informed community.

District Social Welfare Department (SANKALP) HEW Signs MoU with GDC Ramgarh to empower women affinity group

Top News Report

RAMGARH, May 2: Strengthening its commitment to empowering young women through skill development and various other schemes & facilities. Government Degree College (GDC), Ramgarh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with District Social Welfare Department (SANKALP-HEW), Samba.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Meeru Abrol, Principal of GDC Ramgarh, and Nawaz Sharief, JKAS, DSWO, Nodal Officer, SANKALP HEW.

Also present at the event were Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Associate Professor and Dr. Snobar, Associate Professor of GDC Ramgarh, along with Dr. Ruchi Thakur, District Mission Coordinator, Social Welfare Department, Samba & Ms. Mansi Abrol, Gender Specialist, SANKALP, HEW, Social Welfare Department, Samba.

As part of this collabo-



ration, Hub for Empowerment of Woman (HEW) has been established at GDC Ramgarh, providing a dedicated platform for women stu-

dents pursuing higher education & various other fields.

This initiative will offer students various opportunities, including

participation in knowledge-building sessions, skill-enhancement workshops, industry-oriented training programs, and networking events orga-

nized by SANKALP-HEW.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Meeru Abrol, Principal GDC, Ramgarh expressed appreciation for District Social Welfare Department (SANKALP-HEW) Samba, initiatives for organizing impactful programs in the College. She highlighted the importance of such schemes & various knowledge building programmes and reaffirmed her commitment to supporting future initiatives that contribute to the holistic development of students.

This partnership marks another significant step by District Social Welfare Department (SANKALP-HEW), Samba in fostering skill development and financial empowerment among young women, reinforcing its mission to create a brighter future for women in Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA Pawan Gupta listens to issues in Public Grievance Redressal Camp in Panchari



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: A public grievance redressal camp (Janata Darbar) was organized today at Panchari under the leadership of Hon'ble MLA Shri Pawan Kumar Gupta. A large number of local residents participated in the camp to voice their issues and concerns. Officials from various government departments were also present, including representatives from PWD, Jal Shakti, PDD, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Health.

The purpose of the camp was to provide a direct platform for the public to raise their

problems and to ensure on-the-spot resolution through coordination with concerned departments.

Citizens brought forth issues related to roads, electricity, water supply, healthcare, pensions, and other welfare schemes.

Pawan listened to each grievance attentively and issued immediate instructions to departmental officials to address the matters on priority.

The local population appreciated the proactive approach and continued efforts of Shri Gupta in ensuring responsive governance and inclusive development.

Kaith's plea to Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Deptt

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Large number of residents of Surya Vihar Patna Bohri met here today under the chairmanship of social and BJP Activist R.L.Kaith, and expressed the concern regarding contamination of our water supply, which appears to be contaminated with urea. Residents were particularly concerned about their and their children's health, who are more vulnerable to getting sick.

In addition, they stated that the water being supplied to their locality keeps very low



pressure which doesn't reach even their kitchens' water taps.

R L.Kaith therefore, urged the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Bhiwag Jammu to send a medical team to take the samples of water, and also send the technical staff to investigate the water supply pressure in the area. He hoped that the Chief Engineer can help resolve this issue.

Students of GDC RS Pura showcase Yoga Asanas in inspiring display of discipline, wellness



Top News Report

R S PURA, May 2: In a vibrant celebration of fitness, wellness, and cultural heritage, the students of Government Degree College (GDC) RS Pura showcased an impressive yoga asana demonstration on campus today, as part of the ongoing Fit India Movement. The event, organized by the Department of Physical Education and Sports, drew enthusiastic participation and admiration from students and faculty alike.

The demonstration featured a seamless blend of foundational and advanced yoga postures—from Tadasa-

na and Vrikshasana to Chakrasana and Mayurasana—reflecting the students' strength, flexibility, focus, and grace. Set against serene music and guided narration, each asana highlighted the profound health benefits of yoga, promoting both physical vitality and mental tranquility. Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, in her inaugural address, praised the students' dedication, saying, "Yoga helps our youth manage stress and lead balanced lives. It's heartening to witness such commitment to wellness." The highlight of the event was the coordinated student-led yoga asana sequence,

featuring Surya Namasakar, Bhujangasana, Trikonasana, Padmasana, Sarvangasana, Dhanurasana, and Shavasana, each performed with precision and accompanied by explanations of their benefits, from improved concentration and flexibility to stress relief.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Roopali Sathia, acknowledging the efforts of the organizing team and dignitaries.

Present on the occasion were Prof. Anupama Andotra (Convener), Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, Prof. Neelam, Prof. Rakesh Kalotra, Prof. Hari, and Dr. Roopali Sathia.

Students of Gahlian School will read book 'Ankahe Jazbaat' written by Rajiv Dogra

Top News Report

KANGRA, May 2: The students of Government Excellent Senior Secondary School, Gahlian will now have the privilege of reading 'Ankahe Jazbaat', the debut poetry collection by young poet Rajiv Dogra. Published by Saroj Hans Publications, the book has been generously donated by the author to the school library, aiming to inspire budding writers to embrace literature.

Rajiv Dogra, a celebrated poet from Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, has gained recognition for his evoc-



ative poems featured in national and international newspapers and magazines. Alongside his literary achievements, he has earned numerous awards and honorary degrees from international universities for his contributions to both literature and education. Currently serving as a Hindi teacher at Gahlian School, Rajiv Dogra has mentored

many students whose poems have been published in reputed newspapers. His dedication to nurturing literary talent continues to shine through his efforts.

School Principal Gulshan Awasthi congratulated Rajiv Dogra on his remarkable accomplishment and applauded his commitment to promoting literature and education.

Deepak Tijori to make a comeback as an actor with film Ittar

"My first film received immense love. I am starting my second innings as an actor with a film titled Ittar. I am hoping people will give me as much love as they did for Aashiqui," opened up Deepak Tijori, who made a quick dash to Chandigarh.

Tijori was in city for the inauguration of Man-deep Hot Yoga Studio in Sector 17. A prominent actor in the 90s with hit films like Dil Hai Ke Manta Nahin, Sadak, Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar, Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa and Baadshah, he turned to directing in 2003 with film Oops! Fareb, Tom, Dick and Harry, Rock'N Love, Do Lafzon Ki Kahani. The 2024 film Tippiys was his last directorial venture. Most of the films that he directed are also written and produced by him. "Mahesh Bhatt saheb (director of his first film Aashiqui) told us that there would be a time in your life when there would be no time.

You would be busy writing, directing and telling inspiring stories to the world," shared Tijori, who has written three of the seven films that he has directed.

None, however, has surpassed the 90s magic. "Even today, youngsters reach up to me and talk of the songs from Aashiqui and Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar, which is so surprising and sweet at the same time."

After staying behind the camera for a while, Tijori is coming back as an actor for Ittar. "It's a mature love story, like half of our population in their second innings of love," says Tijori. Directed by National Award-winning director Veena Bakshi, it also has Rituparna Sengupta opposite him.

Ask him on what he does in his free time, he answers, "I am very boring. I am a vegetarian, I don't drink, don't party much. I just keep to myself largely."



Among the friends in the industry, he counts Aashiqui lead Rahul Roy as one!

"With the OTT boom, it's a good time for actors and directors, and I am really looking forward to more films and shows," he signs off.

Hot & happening
Accompanying him was Mandeep Kaur Sandhu, who opened

her first Hot Yoga Studio in 2009 in Mumbai. Sizzling at 40 degree, does Chandigarh really need Hot Yoga? Mandeep asks back, "Let's be honest how much time do we really spend outside? With our cars, homes and offices all air conditioned, we barely get the heat. Even our gyms are air conditioned!" Her spe-

cially designed studio with Melting Chambers is set at a precise 41 degree centigrade with 40 per cent humidity, carefully calibrated for optimal body response and safety.

"Ours is an expertly crafted 25-posture programme rooted in Hatha, Ashtanga, Vinyasa and Rhythmic yoga developed by certified instructors trained under the Bikram Yoga College of India. The sequence is designed to engage every part of the body muscles, ligaments, veins and organs for peak functionality and holistic health," offers Mandeep.

Deepak Tijori is a hot yoga practitioner and he trained under Mandeep Kaur Sandhu. His friend Raj Zutshi introduced him to Hot Yoga. "I find it very beneficial not just weight loss but also internal health. Now that I am going to face the camera, I have become pretty regular in it!"

Chris Hemsworth to headline submarine thriller 'Subversion'



Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth has found his next acting project: a submarine thriller movie from Amazon MGM.

Titled Subversion, the film will be directed by German filmmaker Patrick Vollrath from a script penned by Andrew Ferguson.

The project has been described as a 'Die Hard on a submarine' style thriller. It is backed by Lorenzo di Bonaventura of di Bonaventura Pictures banner.

In the movie, Hemsworth will essay the role of a once-promising Naval commander

who is blackmailed by a cartel-like operation into piloting a dangerous submarine carrying illegal cargo across international waters.

"Thrust into a high-stakes game of cat and mouse, the man must outmaneuver blockades and navigate perilous threats both in and outside of the submarine," the official logline read.

Vollrath, who earlier directed short films such as Everything Will Be Okay and The Jacket, made his feature directorial debut with 7500, featuring Joseph Gordon-Levitt as a pilot stuck in his cockpit while his plane is hijacked.

Besides Subversion, Hemsworth is working on another project with Amazon MGM Studios. He will star in thriller movie Crime 101 alongside Mark Ruffalo, Barry Keoghan, Halle Berry and Monica Barbaro.

Hemsworth is also set to reprise his fan-favourite Marvel character Thor in the upcoming movie Avengers: Doomsday.

Esha Deol wishes her 'world' Dharmendra-Hema Malini on 45th wedding anniversary

On actor-couple Dharmendra and Hema Malini's wedding anniversary on May 2, their daughter and actor Esha Deol shared the warmest wishes on social media. Sharing an adorable family picture, Deol called them her "world."

Dharmendra and Hema Malini celebrated 45 years of togetherness on Friday. Esha's picture featured her parents sitting beside each other, while Esha and her sister stood next to them. The caption read, "Happy anniversary mamma & papa. You are my world. Love you (sic)."

Another picture in the post featured a vintage photo of Dharmendra and Hema smiling at each other. Fans reacted to the post and showered the couple



with love and blessings.

The two first met on the sets of 'Tum Haseen Main Jawan' and went on to co-star in several hit films, eventually falling in love. Despite facing opposition due to Dharmendra's existing marriage, the couple got married in 1980. Together, they have two daughters; Esha and Ahana Deol. Both of whom

have briefly ventured into the entertainment industry.

Beyond acting, Hema Malini has had a successful career as a classical dancer and politician, serving as a Member of Parliament. Dharmendra, too, remains a beloved figure in the industry, admired for his humility and charm.

India needs to invest in more theatres, says Aamir Khan

Mumbai, Superstar Aamir Khan on Friday said India is a film loving country but the majority of its people lack access to cinemas.

On day two of the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit here, the 60-year-old actor participated in a session titled "Studios of the Future: Putting India on World Studio Map".

Aamir said there is a serious need for investment in infrastructure to boost the industry's growth.

"My belief is that we need to have a lot more theatres in India and theatres of different kinds. There are districts and vast areas in the country which don't have a single theatre.

"I feel that whatever issues we have faced over the decades is just about having more screens. And according to me, that is what we should be investing in.



India has huge potential but that can only be realised when you have more screens across the country. If you don't, then people won't watch the films," the actor said.

The superstar highlighted that India is way behind the United States

and China in terms of cinema screen count.

"For the size of the country and the number of people living here, we have very few theatres. I think we have around 10,000 screens. In the US, which has one-third the population of

India, they have 40,000 screens. So they are way ahead of us. China has 90,000 screens.

"Now, even in this 10,000, half of them are in the South and the other half is in the rest of the country. So for a Hindi film typically, it is around 5,000 screens," Aamir said.

Even for blockbuster movies, only a tiny fraction of Indians are able to watch them in theatres, he noted.

"Only two per cent of the population in our country, which is recognised as a film loving country, watches our biggest hits in theatres. Where is the rest 98 per cent watching a movie?" he asked.

He also lamented that many areas in India, including regions like Konkan, have no theatres at all.

"People in those areas will hear about the films, will see the chat-

ter online but there is no way to watch them... that's a very unfortunate situation. So the first thing we need to do is that we must have more screens," Aamir added.

On the first day of the summit, Aamir's contemporary Shah Rukh Khan had also batted for more theatres in the country.

"I still believe the call of the day is simpler, cheaper theatres in smaller towns and cities so that we can showcase Indian films in whichever language to a larger majority of Indians for cheaper rates. Otherwise, it's becoming very expensive, only in big towns," he said.

At the session, Aamir was joined by producers Ritesh Sidhwani, Dinesh Vijan, Namit Malhotra, PVR Inox founder Ajay Bijli and American film producer Charles Roven.

Nimrat Kaur on OTT Vs film industry: 'As a female actor I have got more challenging parts on OTT'

Nimrat Kaur will be seen playing the royalty in Kull - The Legacy Of The Raisingghs which is releasing on Jio Hotstar on May 2

Actor Nimrat Kaur is setting the record straight when it comes to OTT platforms giving a tough competition to the film industry. The actor, who will soon be seen in Kull - The Legacy Of The Raisingghs releasing on Jio Hotstar, says that online streaming platforms are an important creative medium which have given her some of her most layered characters in her acting career.

"Opportunities have increased with OTT"

In an interview with Hindustan Times, Nimrat opens up about her long creative association with online platforms and said, "The thing is we should not look at it as competition because eventually it is a creative medium. We have to see that every-

body is employed in a way which is inclusive. As a female actor, I have had the opportunities to play parts in web series that I have never had in movies."

"I started my journey with Ekta Kapoor with The Test Case and from there till now, I have actually been able to explore some of my most cinematically challenging and layered parts on the OTT. I think the opportunities and platform has increased and that is marvellous," Nimrat added.

"Lunchbox is once in a lifetime gift"

Nimrat wowed the critics and audiences alike with her impeccable performance in Ritesh Batra's Lunch Box (2013) alongside Irrfan Khan. When asked if it is difficult for scripts

like Lunchbox to come by often, the actor said, "Lunchbox is a once in a lifetime gift. It is a blessing. But I feel like with OTT and new creative voices coming to the forefront, I feel that there is more we can explore when it comes to content, today. We have got a lot more to choose from."

Nimrat took styling inspiration from Maharani Gayatri Devi for Kull. Nimrat will be seen playing a royal, Indrani Raisingghs, who is part of a dysfunctional family in the thriller in Kull - The Legacy Of The Raisingghs. The actor looks every bit the royalty, taking inspiration from Maharani Gayatri Devi and Indira Devi, Maharani of princely state Cooch Behar of British India. The actor insists



it has been one of the most challenging parts she has ever played on screen.

"The secrecy, mystery and drama about a royal family that one never actually have an access to was something very attractive. It is the most challenging role I have played in my life because there are so many twists and turns, and we didn't shoot it chronologically. So it was important for me to stay close to the script every single day and keep a character arc in my mind, understanding where she is coming from and going into," the actor said.

Living in a palace helped Nimrat stay in the zone while playing a royal

The 43-year-old actor

could not stop raving about the fact that she got a chance to stay at Laxmi Niwas Palace, where the show has been shot. It gave her the time to get into the skin of the character. "For the first time, I got to stay in a location where we were shooting, that also helped me build the character and stay in the zone." The Lunchbox actor enjoyed the long walks in the lawns of the palace which helped her keep her calm.

According to Nimrat, Kull is an intense marathon but her chemistry with other characters and a relaxed atmosphere at sets made her ride easy. "We used to have relaxed time between the shoots and laugh a lot because the shooting was intense

and high octane with lots of drama and complex situations. Sahil Raza, the director, was so chilled out to work with which made things easier," Nimrat said. When asked what was the most difficult part to shoot, the actor, without giving any spoilers, said that it was the climax which is full of shocks and surprises.

About Kull - The Legacy Of The Raisingghs

Kull also stars Amol Parashar, Riddhi Dogra, Gaurav Arora, Rohit Tiwari, and Rahul Vohra. This riveting saga is created by Ekta R Kapoor and Shobha Kapoor. Directed by Sahir Raza, and produced by Balaji Digital, the series is available to stream on Jio Hotstar from May 2.

Well-being of senior citizens essential for guiding families, society: Murmu

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): Emphasising the role of senior citizens as pillars of wisdom and tradition, President Droupadi Murmu on Friday called for collective responsibility to ensure the dignity, happiness, and well-being of India's elderly population.

Speaking at the 'Ageing with Dignity' programme hosted at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, Murmu underscored the invaluable contribution of senior citizens in shaping society and guiding future generations.

"Senior citizens are a vital link to our past and guides to our future," she said, urging all citizens to remain committed to their welfare and learn from their vast experiences.

"Our senior citizens represent wisdom, prudence, and tradition. We must ensure that their dignity and health are a shared duty," she said.

She appealed to citizens to "honour their presence, value their guidance, and cherish their companionship." Lauding the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) for ini-



tiating several measures aimed at ensuring dignity in the lives of the elderly, she appreciated the launch of a dedicated portal for senior citizens, describing it as a "one-stop digital platform" to support their needs.

The president pointed to cultural values that uphold respect for elders, saying, "Respect for parents and elders is embedded in our traditions. In many households, children are happiest with their grandparents. Often, what children won't accept from their parents, they gladly accept when told by a grandparent." She also acknowledged the emotional and psychological support that elderly family members offer.

"When elders see their families thriving, their physical and mental well-being also improves. They are emotional pillars for their families," she said.

However, Murmu expressed concern over the evolving challenges faced by the elderly.

"With economic growth and modernisation, young people often migrate for jobs, leaving behind elders who crave love

and respect. Sometimes, even when parents live with their children, they don't receive the affection and dignity they deserve. Sadly, some people even consider the elderly a burden," she said.

Calling them a "storehouse of knowledge," she highlighted their potential to guide the youth and strengthen the nation's progress.

"Our senior citizens can lead society and the country towards greater prosperity," she said.

Before the programme, Murmu interacted with five senior citizens who shared their life experiences. She praised their role in fostering unity in society through their stories and perspectives.

She also cited several government initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for senior citizens, such as the Ayushman Bharat-PM Jan Arogya Yojana, which provides up to Rs 5 lakh annually for citizens aged 70 and above.

"The health of our elderly is essential for guiding families and society," she noted.

PM Modi commissions Vizhinjam Seaport; says it will bring economic stability to Kerala, India



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, May 2 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday officially commissioned the Vizhinjam International Seaport, here, which was completed at an estimated cost of Rs 8,867 crore, and said the facility will bring economic stability to Kerala and India.

Speaking after commissioning the port, Modi referred to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as a "pillar" of the opposition INDIA bloc and told him and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, both of whom were on the dais, that the inauguration event will give "sleepless nights" to many.

However, the person translating his speech did not translate it properly and it prompted the PM to say — "the message has gone across to whom it was meant".

Giving details of the development in the country, Modi said that India was among the top three nations globally on the number of seafarers and in the last 10 years, the capacity of our ports has doubled, their efficiency improved and the turnaround time there decreased by 30 per cent.

Modi further said that the seaport has been constructed at a cost of Rs 8,800 crore, and its transshipment hub

capacity is set to triple in the near future.

"It is designed to accommodate large cargo ships, addressing a critical need. Until now, 75 per cent of India's transshipment activities were conducted at foreign ports, resulting in significant revenue losses for the country." "However, this is poised to change. The funds previously spent abroad will now be channeled into domestic development, creating new economic opportunities for the people of Vizhinjam and Kerala, ensuring that the nation's wealth directly benefits its citizens," he said.

He said that the people of Gujarat will be disappointed with Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani for building such a huge port in Kerala when he hails from the western Indian state.

He also said that state Ports Minister V N Vasavan's reference to Adani Group, a corporate entity, as a partner of the Communist government shows the changes taking place in the nation.

The PM also referred to the era before slavery and said that India flourished with prosperity for thousands of years.

"At one point, it held a significant share of the global GDP. What set

Vaishnav pitches for shared standards, clear rules for ethical use of AI

MUMBAI, May 2 (Agencies): Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Friday made a strong pitch for joint funds for new technologies, shared standards and clear rules for ethical use of artificial intelligence.

Addressing the Global Media Dialogue at the World Audio, Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) here, he said tie-ups between government, industry and creators had become indispensable as there was greater focus on local stories.

The I&B Minister said the global media dialogue was anchored in creativity, culture and collaboration.

"As a government, we must provide a fair chance for everyone to showcase their story to the world.

We must incentivise local content promotion and enforce IP framework among other things," Vaishnav said, addressing the Dialogue, attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Minister of State for I&B L Murugan, and representatives for several countries.

Vaishnav also said that governments must support policies that preserve and promote all cultural forms as they connect people across borders.

"Focus is shifting towards local stories. We aim to build people-to-people and country-to-country exchanges," he said.

"Tie-ups with government, industry and creators have, therefore, become indispensable. Practical steps include co-production treaties to ease licences and talent movement.

We need joint funds for



new tech, shared standards, and clear rules for ethical AI," Vaishnav said.

Mayawati slams BJP-Congress over caste census, says OBCs' welfare lies only with BSP

LUCKNOW, May 2 (Agencies): BSP president Mayawati on Friday accused the BJP and Congress of politicising the issue of caste enumeration, claiming their anti-Bahujan character continues to deprive OBC communities of their due rights.

Reacting to the Centre's decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census, she said Centre has taken the decision after a "long delay" and "much reluctance".

In a series of posts on X, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said, "The BJP and Congress are now rushing to take credit for it, attempting to position themselves as champions of OBCs. However, their track record shows a pattern of oppression and exclusion of Bahujan communities."

Mayawati further stated that if the intentions and policies of the BJP and Congress had truly been honest and inclusive, the OBC community would already have had a fair share in the country's development.

"In that case, the mission of self-respect and dignity initiated by Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar would have seen real success," she



added.

Highlighting the "political motivations" behind the move, the BSP chief said the OBC community, like Dalits, has become politically aware due to the sustained struggle of Babasaheb Ambedkar and the BSP.

"Today, OBCs are largely conscious of their rights. The apparent support they receive from other parties is merely driven by electoral compulsions, not genuine concern. It is clear that the true welfare of OBCs lies only with the BSP," she asserted.

Mayawati said that the time has come for the Bahujan community to give real meaning to the slogan, 'Vote hamara, raj tumhara nahi chalega' (Our vote, your rule - this won't work).

"It's time for the marginalised to rise through a humane and result-oriented struggle. Continued negligence and tokenism by the BJP, Congress and other parties are dangerous, and they cannot be trusted for the welfare and upliftment of Dalits, OBCs, and the larger Bahujan society," she said.

In a major decision, the government on Wednesday announced that caste enumeration will be included in the forthcoming census exercise in a "transparent" manner.

While making the announcement, the government slammed the opposition parties for using caste surveys as a "political tool".

Opposition parties, including the Congress, have been demanding a nationwide caste census, making it a major election issue, and some states like Bihar, Telangana and Karnataka have already conducted such surveys.

BJP govt's pattern to oppose good policy, defame, then adopt it under public pressure: Cong

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday said the government's caste census decision is in line with its pattern of first opposing every good scheme or policy, defaming it and then adopting the same policy in the face of public pressure and reality.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications alleged that the Modi government is only adept at diverting the attention of the public, running away from real issues and furthering its divisive agenda.

"Apart from this, they have neither any policy nor any intention — only the politics of lies, propaganda and hatred," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

"Caste census — which the Modi government tried to suppress for years — the same government has finally succumbed to the unwavering fight of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, the Congress party and countless social workers and organizations. This is an important milestone in the fight for social justice," Ramesh said.

The Modi government, which till yesterday was shying away from even its name and was leaving no stone unturned to ridicule and procrastinate, has today agreed to conduct a caste census, bowing to the heavy pressure of the public and the struggle of the opposition, he said.

"In fact, this has been the pattern of the BJP government — first oppose every good scheme or policy, defame it — and when faced with public pressure and reality, adopt the same policy," Ramesh said.

"Remember what the Prime Minister said in Parliament about MGNREGA - 'Monument of failure' — The scheme which the world called a model of rural employment and poverty alleviation, the same MGNREGA was mocked, it was said that people are digging pits. But when a crisis like Coronavirus came, this MGNREGA became the backbone of the poor of the country.



What happened then? The government also increased its budget and also tried to take credit for it," the Congress leader said.

Ramesh pointed out that the same happened with Aadhaar as when the BJP was in opposition, it used to say that "it is a threat to privacy and is just a political stunt" but as soon as it came to power, it made the same Aadhaar the foundation of the entire welfare system.

"The story of GST is also no different. When the Congress took the initiative to bring GST, the BJP strongly opposed it, stating that it is against the interests of the states. But as soon as it came to power, it implemented it without any major changes and then started praising itself by calling it a 'game changer'," Ramesh said.

He also said that the system of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) was created by Congress so that subsidy reaches directly to the account of the public.

"At that time BJP rejected it, saying- 'This will not work'. But as soon as it came to power, it implemented this DBT in the entire country and started beating the drum of 'Digital India'," Ramesh said.

Ramesh further said that the policy of giving cash assistance to women was started by Congress.

"The BJP had said then- 'This is just the politics of announcements'. Today the same government is running different cash transfer schemes for women.

Talking about the internship/apprenticeship scheme, the Congress had promised an apprenticeship scheme under Yuva Nyay in its 'Nyayapatra' for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"During the elections, the BJP had also taken a dig at it. But later Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced it in the budget. Sadly, till date, that too has remained only an announcement," Ramesh said.

This list does not end here and actually, these are just a few examples, he added.

"The truth is that this government has neither any vision of its own nor any direction to solve the problems. This government is only adept at diverting the attention of the public, running away from the real issues and furthering its divisive agenda. Apart from this, they have neither any policy nor any intention — only the politics of lies, propaganda and hatred," he said.

The Congress on Thursday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the "master of giving a headline without a deadline" and called the government's caste census decision a "diversionary tactic" in the face of demands for taking strong action against Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Ramesh had said many questions arise about the decision, especially on the intention of the government, and asked "where is the deadline" for conducting the census.

The Centre on Friday announced that caste enumeration will be part of the next population census, with the inclusion of caste details for the first time since Independence.

Israel strikes near Syria's presidential palace over threats to Druze community

TEL AVIV, May 2 (Agencies): Israel has confirmed it carried out an airstrike near the presidential palace in Damascus. In a joint statement, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz said the strike was a direct message to the Syrian regime, warning against the deployment of forces near southern Damascus and threats to the Druze community.

"This is a clear message to the Syrian regime. We will not allow forces to be sent south of Damascus or any threat to the Druze community," they said in the statement, Times of Israel reported.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) also confirmed the strike near Ahmed Hussein al-Shara's palace.

In a post on X on Friday, IDF wrote, "A short time ago, warplanes attacked the area near Ahmed Hussein al-Shara's palace in Damascus."

Meanwhile, the US also condemned the violence against the Druze community in Syria, call-



ing it "reprehensible and unacceptable."

In a statement, US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said, "The recent violence and inflammatory rhetoric targeting members of the Druze community in Syria is reprehensible and unacceptable. The interim authorities must stop the fighting, hold perpetrators of violence and civilian harm accountable for their actions, and ensure the security

of all Syrians."

She added, "Sectarianism will only sink Syria and the region into chaos and more violence. We have seen that Syrians can solve their disputes peacefully through negotiations. We call for a representative future government that protects and integrates all of Syria's communities, including ethnic and religious minorities."

According to Al Jazeera, the clashes broke out around mid-

night Monday after an audio clip circulated on social media of a man criticising Islam's Prophet Muhammad. The audio was attributed to a Druze scholar. However, scholar Marwan Kiwan stated in a video posted on social media that he was not responsible for the audio, which angered many Sunni Muslims.

Earlier this week, Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri, leader of the Druze community, condemned the violence in Jaramana and Sahnaya near Damascus as a "genocidal campaign" against the community in Syria.

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), the United Kingdom-based war monitor, stated that at least 101 people were killed in fighting between security forces, allied fighters and local Druze groups.

The SOHR said the death toll included 30 government loyalists, 21 Druze fighters and 10 civilians, including Sahnaya's former mayor, Husam Warwar, Al Jazeera reported.

China says assessing US proposals for talks to reduce tariffs

BEIJING, May 2 (Agencies): China on Friday said it is assessing whether to start trade talks with the US on tariff reductions following recent approaches by Washington, a move that would possibly ease the tit-for-tit tariff war between the world's two largest economies.

"China is making assessments as the United States has recently reached out to convey messages to China through relevant parties many times, expressing hope to engage in talks with Beijing over tariff issues," the Chinese Commerce Ministry said in a statement here.

"The tariff and trade wars were unilaterally initiated by the United States. If the US wants to negotiate, it must demonstrate sincerity, and make preparations and take concrete actions on issues such as correcting its erroneous practices and lifting the unilateral tariffs," the statement by its spokesperson said.

US President Donald Trump slapped 145 per cent tariffs on Chinese exports. Later the White House said tariffs on Chinese goods amounted to 245 per cent.

Beijing retaliated by imposing 125 per cent levies on US exports.

China has been denying any talks with the US on tariffs while Trump said talks were on and Chinese President Xi Jin-

ping spoke to him.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry denied any such talks between the two Presidents.

Both the US and China have been steadily increasing tariffs on each other's goods since the US raised tariffs on dozens of countries.

China now faces 245 per cent taxes on exports to the US, while other countries were given a 90-day reprieve for most duties.

On April 16, China appointed a new top international negotiator after Trump said the ball is in Beijing's court to work out a deal to end the tariff deadlock.

According to a fact sheet issued on April 16, the White House said, more than 75 countries have already reached out to discuss new trade deals.

As a result, the individualised higher tariffs are currently paused amid these discussions, except for China, which retaliated.

China is the only country to have retaliated with tit-for-tat levies.

For China, the US is the third largest export market.

Despite China putting a brave front, there is considerable concern here about the impact of Trump's tariffs on China's economy, which is struggling with slowdown due to falling exports, low domestic consumption and collapse of the housing market.

21 firefighters injured during operation 'wall of fire'

TEL AVIV, May 2 (Agencies): Israel's Fire and Rescue Services concluded Operation "Wall of Fire," putting out the wildfires in the Jerusalem Mountains.

During 33 consecutive hours of fighting the flames, firefighters acted with determination and determination as a living wall between the fire and the city - hence the operation was named "Wall of Fire."

"The name of the operation, which was born from the field, symbolises the uncompromising spirit of the firefighters, who operated under complex conditions and in a large number of simultaneous fire sectors," it said.

At its peak, high-intensity fighting was recorded in 8 different sectors.



During the operation, forces from all over the country were deployed: 1,430 firefighters from all districts, 167 fire engines, 38 ATVS, 12 firefighting aircraft, including 2 "Shimshon" aircraft, a contract helicopter and 3 firefighting

and rescue helicopters, 8 drones and advanced forecasting systems, 5 Leviathan vehicles for logistical support.

21 firefighters were injured, mainly from smoke inhalation and contact with extreme heat.

"PM Modi has our full support": US State Dept spokesperson Tammy Bruce

WASHINGTON, May 2 (Agencies): US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has got the full support from the Trump administration, adding that they are in constant communication with the governments of India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Speaking at the press briefing on Friday, Bruce said that the US is closely monitoring the situation.

State Department spokesperson cited the readout of US State Secretary Marco Rubio's Thursday conversation with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"We are monitoring closely. Yesterday, the



Secretary spoke with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. As President Donald Trump articulated to Prime Minister Modi last week, the United States stands strong with India against terrorism, and Prime Minister Modi has our full support," she said.

"The Secretary encouraged both countries to work toward a responsible solution that main-

tains a responsible resolution that maintains long-term peace and regional stability in South Asia. We continue to be in touch with the governments of both countries, as I mentioned, at multiple levels," she added.

When asked if the calls for de-escalation were being heeded, Bruce said, "We are asking for a responsible resolution from both parties. And beyond that, there's

nothing I can give you, any other details."

It comes as there has been a rise in ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir after the April 22 brutal attack in Pahalgam, where Pakistan-sponsored terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, and injured many others.

India has taken a raft of measures against Pakistan for its support to cross-border terrorism, including holding the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance and closing the Integrated Check Post at Attari. India has also decided to curtail the strength of High Commissions.

The government has given armed forces complete operational freedom to decide on

the response to the Pahalgam terror attack. The Indian Army has effectively responded to the Pakistan Army's unprovoked small arms firing across the LoC.

The Army responded swiftly to the ceasefire violation on the night of April 27-28 in areas opposite Kupwara and Poonch districts in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The Indian Army had also responded effectively to the Pakistan Army firing along the LoC on the night of April 26-27 in areas opposite the Tutmari Gali and Rampur sectors, as per officials.

Security forces have intensified anti-terror operations in the Kashmir valley in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

"We wish to encourage trade with India": Afghan traders at Iran Expo 2025

TEHRAN, May 2 (Agencies): Afghanistan traders, who attended Iran Expo 2025, expressed interest in boosting trade between Afghanistan and India, adding that they also urged governments to make facilities for businessmen of both countries.

Speaking on the current state of trade relations, a trader, Abdulqadim Tayib, said, "We came from Afghanistan. Earlier, we had a good trade. Now, the Wagah border is closed."

Tayib highlighted the potential of the Chababhar border for trade

between the two countries.

"The Chababhar border is good for Afghanistan and India's trade. We wish to encourage trade between Afghanistan and India. Also, we want both governments to make facilities for businessmen of Afghanistan and India," Tayib told ANI.

Further, another trader highlighted the difficulties faced by Afghan traders due to the closure of key borders with Pakistan.

"India and Pakistan border has been closed for Afghanistan trade. The Torkham border

and the Chaman border have been closed. So now it's a big problem for Afghan trade people who export dry fruits, perishable fruits, and other commodities to India, Dubai, and other countries," an Indian trader who attended the event said.

"We request that the trade be facilitated through shipments via Chababhar, which is very near Kabul. Also, the shipment can be taken from Chababhar, which is the nearby port to the Indian borders," he added.

Notably, more than 3,100 international trad-

ers from 111 countries participated in Iran Expo 2025.

The event demonstrated exceptional synergy between government and private sector efforts to develop non-oil exports, the release added.

It further added that the exhibition marked significant growth from the previous year's attendance of 2,400 traders from 94 countries. Interest from domestic companies was unprecedented, with over 1,200 top export-oriented firms registering across six product categories.

Diplomatic initiatives initiated to probe death of second Nepali student in KIIT: Nepal Foreign Minister

KATHMANDU, May 2 (Agencies): Diplomatic initiatives have been initiated to investigate the death of a Nepali female student at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Odisha, the Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba announced on Friday morning.

In a post on X, the Foreign Minister said, "Immediately after the incident, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiated diplomatic initiatives to investigate the truth of the incident through high-ranking officials of the Government of India, the Government of Odisha, and the Nepali Embassy in Delhi."

Furthermore, Deuba also expressed condolences to the family of the Nepali student, Prisa Sah and said, "The incident of Prisa Sah, a Nepali student studying at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University in Odisha, India, being found dead in her hostel room has left us deeply saddened. I pray for the eternal peace of Prisa's soul and express my deepest condolences to her family at this sad



hour."

Sah, a first-year B.Tech, Computer Science student studying at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, was found dead inside her hostel room on Thursday evening.

This is the second incident of the death of a Nepali female student at the same university to be reported within three months. Earlier in February, Prakriti Lamsal also had taken her own life at the same university.

"Today (1st May, 2025), we have received information that a girl from Nepal has died by suicide at the KIIT University...we reached there and investigated the matter. A detailed inves-

tigation will be conducted into the matter...The scientific team arrived, and all the necessary details were collected. Her family has been informed. The body has been sent to AIIMS for the post-mortem," Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner Suresh Dev Datta Singh told agency.

The Odisha government also extended condolences over the death of the girl and assured that necessary action will be taken in the matter.

"Information about the alleged suicide of a girl student from Nepal, studying in the first year B Tech, Computer Science, KIIT University, was received from local police at about 8.10 pm

today. The parents of the girl were informed about the incident immediately by the university authorities. In this hour of distress, the State Government extends its support to the family of the deceased and offers its condolences to them," the Information and Public Relations Department said.

"On receipt of the information, senior officers, including the Commissioner of Police and Revenue Divisional Commissioner, rushed to the site to enquire into the circumstances leading to the unfortunate incident and take necessary action in the matter. The forensic team is at the spot to collect evidence," it added.

Earlier this year, a Nepali student from the same university was found dead in the hostel on February 16, leading to Nepalese students staging a protest. The protesting students had alleged that a fellow student had harassed her and that the college had failed to act despite multiple complaints. Later, the accused student was arrested on February 17.

One killed, 3 injured as vehicle overturns in Golan

TEL AVIV, May 2 (Agencies): A 20-year-old man was killed and three others injured when a vehicle overturned in the Golan Heights near Ramat Magshimim, Magen David Adom said. "This was a serious car accident. One of the injured, who suffered a serious injury, was unconscious. We provided him with

medical treatment and performed CPR operations, but his injury was fatal, and in the end, we were forced to declare him dead," said MDA paramedic Yossi Mosangad. "Three lightly injured people who were walking around the scene were treated on the spot and evacuated for further treatment at a hospital."



Under Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan, Balbir distributes booklets and pamphlets



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: As part of "Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan" Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson, J&K BJP & former Vice Chairperson, distributed booklets and pamphlets based on the life and thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar among prominent citizens of various sections of the society. The aim of this initiative is to spread the ideas of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar to the masses and to give his contributions the due respect they deserve. The booklets and pamphlets elaborate on how the BJP has truly adopted and honoured Dr. Ambedkar's ideas and work. They highlight key

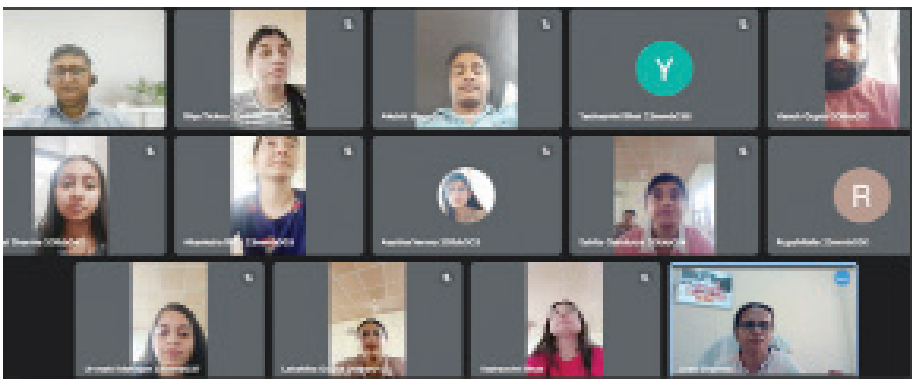
steps taken by the BJP government under PM Narendra Modi, such as the development of the five "Panchteerth" sites, declaring national holiday on Ambedkar Jayanti and laying foundation stone for constructing tallest statue of Dr. Ambedkar in Maharashtra. The BJP also persuaded VP Singh in 1990 to honour Dr. Ambedkar with Bharat Ratna, when it was supporting his government from outside. Balbir Ram Rattan stated that Dr. Ambedkar gave India a strong and inclusive Constitution and the BJP has always worked to promote his ideas. The booklet also exposes how the Congress Party historically

neglected and disrespected Dr. Ambedkar. His name and contributions were sidelined for years. His ideas were not taken seriously. Moreover, the Congress failed to appropriately recognize his contributions. Balbir further noted that the BJP government has launched several schemes aimed at building the India envisioned by Baba Saheb, with a focus on social justice, education, and economic empowerment. He said that this campaign will not only promote Dr. Ambedkar's ideas but also raise awareness among all sections of society about his contributions, paving the way for a more inclusive and just India.

Students interacted with alumnus of School of Business, SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, May 2: Varun Sharma, alumnus of the School of Business interacted in online session with management students of School of Business. Proud SoB alumnus, Varun Sharma 2004-06 MBA batch pass out, is presently working as Head of HR



tencies. He concluded his session highlighting the integration of competency framework with HR framework for getting the desirable benefits. The session was crammed with real-world examples and practical advice, leaving students with a clearer understanding of what it takes to succeed and grow in today's corporate world. The management students expressed their gratitude towards Varun Sharma for this insightful session. The Head, School of Business, Prof. Jyoti Sharma acknowledged the continuous support and guidance of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for organizing such kind of interactions regularly.

Magam residents protest over incomplete bridge, seek accountability

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 2: Residents of Magam in Central Kashmir's Budgam district staged a strong protest on Friday, questioning the delay in completion of a key bridge project inaugurated by Union Minister Smriti Irani in 2021. The bridge, launched with much promise and public attention, remains half-constructed even after years. Locals described it as a "broken symbol of forgotten promises," pointing to the slow pace of development despite over 50 per cent of the work already being

completed. A group of protesting locals said, "Why is Magam always ignored? Why are our voices never heard? The concerned department cites a lack of funds, but if half of the bridge is already built, why has the rest stalled?"

The locals also raised concerns about flood protection measures, stating that after the 2014 floods, only partial dredging of the river was done. "Only 50% dredging has been carried out. Materials to fix the damaged bunds are lying here, but no work is being done. Our children are living in homes at risk of landslides. Where will we go if disaster strikes again?" one local asked.

Frustration was also voiced over the administrative apathy. "Whenever we approach any office, we're just told to go somewhere else. No one listens. We're simply being passed from one department to another," they said. The protesters urged the administration to intervene immediately. "We demand answers.

– Rail and Inland Terminals and Bulk Business SCO, Gurgaon. Drawing from his extensive corporate experience, Sharma spoke about practical issues related to Competency Mapping and Assessment mechanisms implemented in the corporate sector. He enlightened the management students

regarding how organizations identify and build key competencies-both behavioural and functional. He enlightened the students regarding important concepts like the 9-Box Model for mapping performance and potential, and explained how companies design career paths and succession plans around these compe-

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan marks Labour Day with sanitation drive in Jagti Village

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: To commemorate Labour Day, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) RCI IIT Jammu organised a sanitation and cleanliness drive at a sacred site in its adopted village, Jagti. The initiative was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu; Prof. Abhay Sharma, Regional Coordinator, UBA; and Dr. Nalin Sharma, PI Coordinator, UBA. The drive saw active participation from village women, who cleaned the sacred premises and facilitated the installation of bib cocks on open water pipes, improving hygiene and access to clean water. Further enhancements included the replacement of a leaking 500-



litre water tank with a 1000-litre overhead tank and repairs to the water outlet of the on-site washroom. Installation of the new tank, bib cocks, and outlet pipe is scheduled for completion by a plumber later in the day. The site, revered by locals as the 'Devatas' place, holds religious significance for the community. To ensure sustained

maintenance, the women collectively resolved to form a committee and initiate a monthly contribution system dedicated to the site's upkeep. The initiative reflects the ethos of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in empowering rural communities towards sustainable development and collective well-being.

Smile Foundation NGO mourns great loss of Scholar Muhammad Mubarak

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 2: In a heartfelt statement, the Smile Foundation NGO, led by Chairperson Masrat Jan and President Sajjad Ahmad Sholla, expresses profound sorrow over the passing of the esteemed religious scholar, Muhammad Mubarak mubarak affectionately known as Mubarak Sahab.

His wisdom, compassion, and dedication to his community have left an indelible mark on countless lives. Chairperson Masrat Jan shared, "Mubarak Sahab was not just a scholar; he was a guiding light for many. His teachings transcended boundaries and inspired us all to strive for a better world. We will cherish his memory and continue his mission of kindness and knowl-

edge." Smile foundation NGO President Sajjad Ahmad Sholla added, "This loss is deeply felt across our community. Mubarak Sahab's legacy will live on through the lives he touched and the hearts he inspired. We are committed to honoring his work and carrying forward the values he stood for." As we come to terms with this immense loss, the Smile Foundation



invites everyone to reflect on the teachings of Mubarak Sahab and how we can embody his spirit of love and service in our everyday lives.

FromPage No: 1

Pakistani troops violate cease-fire for 8th night, Residents near LoC begin readying bunkers

and Akhnoor areas of Jammu and Kashmir," a defence spokesperson in Jammu said. Indian Army troops responded in a calibrated and proportionate manner, the spokesperson added. Initially beginning with unprovoked small arms firing at several posts along the LoC in Kupwara and Baramulla districts of north Kashmir, Pakistan swiftly expanded its ceasefire violations to the Poonch sector and subsequently to the Akhnoor sector of the Jammu region. This was followed by small arms firing at several posts along the LoC in the Sunderbani and Naushera sectors of Rajouri district. Subsequently, the firing expanded to the Pargwal sector along the International Border in Jammu district. The renewed ceasefire violations come despite a recent hotline conversation between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan, during which the Indian side is learnt to have cautioned Pakistan. Since the night of April 24, just hours after India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty following terror attack in Pahalgam, Pakistani troops have been resorting to unprovoked firing at various places along the LoC in J&K, starting from the Kashmir Valley. On April 24, Pakistan blocked its airspace for Indian airlines, closed the Wagah border crossing, suspended all trade with India, and warned that any attempt to divert water would be considered an "Act of War." The ceasefire along the borders was reaffirmed in February 2021, when both countries agreed

to observe the 2003 agreement in letter and spirit. However, the current situation marks a significant departure from the relative calm maintained since then. India shares a total of 3,323 km of border with Pakistan, divided into three parts: the International Border (IB), approximately 2,400 km from Gujarat to the northern banks of the Chenab River in Akhnoor, Jammu; the Line of Control (LoC), 740 km long, running from parts of Jammu to parts of Leh; and the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL), 110 km long, dividing the Siachen region from NJ 9842 to Indira Col in the north. Civilians living along the LoC and IB have begun cleaning their community and individual bunkers to make them habitable in case of escalation to shelling. Civilians living along the LoC and IB started clearing their community and individual bunkers and are getting them cleaned so as to be make them habitable in case of escalation to shelling. The Union government sanctioned the construction of 14,460 individual and community bunkers in 2017. Over 8,600 community and individual bunkers have been built in five districts: Samba, Kathua, Jammu, Poonch, and Rajouri, officials said. While harvesting of crops along R S Pura and Arnia sectors along the IB has been completed, it is still going on in Kathua, Samba, Rajouri, and Poonch districts. "This is being done in view of the tensions along the borders," an official said.

Congress Working Committee to discuss Pahalgam attack, caste census today

50 per cent cap on reservations be removed. The CWC is also

expected to urge the government to implement Article 15(5), which pertains to reservations in private educational institutions. The CWC meeting would be held at the party's 24, Akbar Road headquarters here at 4 PM. The meeting comes just two days after the Centre announced that caste enumeration will be part of the next population census, with the inclusion of caste details for the first time since independence. The CWC also met on April 24 in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday that the perpetrators of the April 22 attack, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, must be held accountable and the prime minister should act firmly. He also welcomed the government's "sudden" decision to include caste enumeration in the next census exercise after "11 years of opposing it" but asserted that the Centre should fix a timeline for its implementation. Crediting a sustained campaign run by the Congress for the government announcing the caste census, he had said his immediate suspicion was that this could go the women's bill way in terms of implementation and demanded a specific date for it. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha had said that the pressure the Congress put on the government for the caste census has worked.

Pahalgam attack: Terrorists could still be hiding in south Kashmir

transmissions, making it difficult, if not impossible, for it to be intercepted. As many as three satellite phones were reportedly used by the terrorists, possibly to mask their positions and keep Indian secu-

rity forces off guard till the attack, which began at 1.15 pm. The attack plan was simple – three terrorists sprang from hiding places around Baisaran to open fire at the tourists, while the fourth stayed hidden to provide back-up, if necessary. Sources have said there may even have been other terrorists hiding nearby. Witnesses reported the terrorists interrogated some victims – all of whom were men – asking them to recite Islamic verses. Those who failed were shot at point-blank range. Horrific videos from after the attack soon emerged online, showing women with their faces covered in the blood of their husbands and partners, pleading for help. One terrorist sneered at a woman whose husband he had just killed, saying, "Go tell (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi." Among the 26 men who were killed was a Nepali citizen. Another was a Navy officer on his honeymoon; he had been married less than a week ago. Yet another was a 70-year-old man from Andhra Pradesh. A fourth was a 35-year-old Karnataka family man who begged for his life. The attack was met with horror from around the world, and Mr Modi vowed vengeance, not just against those who pulled the triggers but also those who planned the attack. Terrorism's evil agenda would not be allowed to succeed, he said, putting Pak and its terror network on notice. India's initial response was a flurry of diplomatic restrictions, including expelling Pak nationals from the country and suspending the Indus Waters Treaty. The IWT is a critical water-sharing deal that supplies Pakistan, also an agrarian nation, with over 80 per cent of its water supply. Pak responded by also expelling Indians and suspending the Simla Agreement. The two countries have also shut their airspaces to the other's planes.

India is also expected to launch a military response. On Wednesday the PM chaired a high-level meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan. Sources said Mr Modi gave the armed forces the greenlight to plan and execute a counterattack. This morning the Pak Army carried out unprovoked small arms fire in the Kupwara, Uri, and Akhnoor sectors, drawing a proportionate response from India. This is the seventh straight night of Pak fire.

Chenab water level rises amid heavy rainfall

inconvenience. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday declared that the "triple-engine government" of the Centre, Delhi, and local bodies is working cohesively to overhaul the capital's faltering infrastructure, as unseasonal heavy rainfall exposed persistent waterlogging issues. "The government and administration were on continuous alert since 5 am. All DCs and officers were standing on the roads... While coming to this programme, I saw three points where there was waterlogging and a traffic jam.... This is a triple-engine government, where today the Centre, Delhi, and our local bodies are standing together as a team to work with great enthusiasm to improve the messed-up system of Delhi. I want to thank God that this rain, which has come today before the monsoon, is an alarm for the entire system," Gupta said. According to the advisory, people are asked to stay indoors and avoid travel if possible. The advisory also recommends seeking shelter in a safe location and avoiding refuge under trees or near concrete floors and walls. It further advises unplugging electrical and electronic appliances to prevent

damage or injury & immediately moving out of water bodies and avoiding objects that conduct electricity. **Class 12th fake result gazette: JKBOSE writes to Cyber police for investigations** attempting to identify those behind the fraudulent activity. **Pahalgam Attack: Kashmiri hindus in US call for security overhaul, Global attention** Houston, said, "For many, this was a shocking event. For us, it is a recurring nightmare. The same pattern — Amarnath, Wandhama, Nadimarg — keeps repeating. We're still waiting for justice." Meanwhile, the Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD) and HinduDIAction, led by Utsav Chakraborty, are hosting a congressional briefing titled 'Pakistan's Proxy War Against Hindus: Global Implications' on May 5 in Washington, D.C. Utsav Chakraborty, Executive Director of HinduDIAction, said the attack reflects a larger transnational threat. "This isn't just another terror incident. This is part of a sustained ideological campaign. The US and its allies must take seriously Pakistan's use of jihadist groups as geopolitical tools," he said. The Pahalgam attack drew swift and widespread condemnation from global leaders, who expressed solidarity with India and denounced terrorism. Memorial vigils and community prayer meetings condemning the attack are being held in more than 50 cities across the US, Canada, the UK, and Australia to honour the victims.

JU inaugurates Inter-Departmental Tournament with enthusiasm



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: The University of Jammu kick started its much-anticipated Inter-Departmental Tournament for the academic session 2025-26 with vibrant

enthusiasm and a spirit of healthy competition at the University Gymnasium Hall. The grand inauguration marked the beginning of exciting matches in Table Tennis and Chess, with separate categories for

both men and women participants.

The tournament is being held under the esteemed patronage of the Chairman, Campus Sports Committee, University of Jammu, and under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Chairman, Campus Sports Committee.

The event is efficiently coordinated by Sh. Raj Kumar Bakshi, Incharge PTI, who ensured smooth execution of the sporting events.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba emphasized the vital role of sports in enhancing students' mental health, relieving stress, and boosting overall productivity. He remarked that such inter-departmental tournaments foster a sense

of camaraderie, belonging, and positive energy within the university, contributing significantly to students' holistic development.

The opening day witnessed thrilling matches across disciplines. In Men's Table Tennis, the Mathematics Department emerged dominant, defeating the Biotechnology Department and the Physical Education Department, both by 2-0. In Men's Chess, the Zoology Department defeated The Law School, MCA Department won against Geology Department, Law Department beat D.S.R.S Department, and Physical Education outplayed Design Your Degree Department.

In Women's Chess, the Physical Education

Department defeated D.S.R.S Department and later secured victory over Law Department, while Law Department earlier beat Design Your Degree Department.

The seamless and fair conduct of all matches was made possible through the dedicated efforts of officials Raj Kumar Bakshi, Vikas Karlopiya, Gagan Kumar, P. D. Singh, Dr. Inderjeet Singh, and Anil Singh, whose professionalism and commitment ensured the tournament's success.

The University's Inter-Departmental Tournament continues to uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork, enriching the campus environment with zeal and vibrancy.

DPS Jammu students excel in National Roller Skating Championship 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Students of Delhi Public School, Jammu, brought immense pride to the school and their parents by winning silver medals in the 2nd Inter-District Open National Roller Skating Championship 2025.

The championship was organized by the Roller Skating Federation of India and held in Mohali, Punjab, from 11th to 17th April 2025.

Zayafat John (VIII-I), Rajanya Khajuria (IX-H), and Hridayansh Chib (X-E) won silver medal in Roller Hockey (Sub-Junior Category).

The Management of



DPS Jammu, under the visionary leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC Dr. Ritu Singh, Director S.S. Sodhi, and Principal Ruchi Chabha, congratulated the winners, their parents, and the

School Skating Coach, Parth Slathia, for this commendable achievement.

They also extended their best wishes to the young athletes for continued success in all their future endeavours.

Heritagean Viraj Singh shines at National Muaythai Championship



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Heritage School celebrated the remarkable achievement of Viraj Singh, student of Class VIII A, who

has brought honour to the institution by clinching the bronze medal at the 2nd WBC National Muaythai Championship, held in Chandigarh on 25th – 27th April,

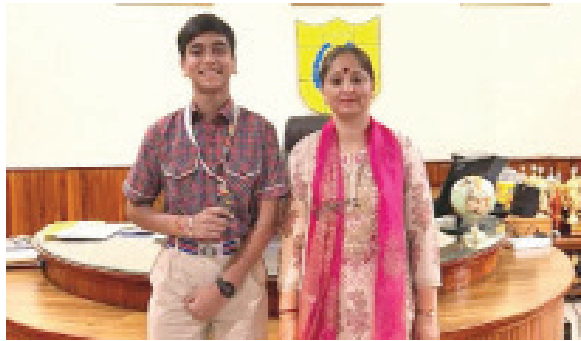
2025.

The championship drew talented martial artists from across the nation, making it a highly competitive platform.

Viraj's outstanding display of refined combat skills earned him a well-deserved spot on the winners' podium.

The entire Heritage fraternity extended heartfelt congratulations to Viraj on this commendable accomplishment and wishes him continued success in his future sporting pursuits.

Nagbani outshines in 2nd Inter District Open National Roller Skating Championship



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Kyrán Gupta of Class 9th of MHAC School, Nagbani has once again proved his worth.

Starting strong alongside other top competitors, Kyrán skills with perfection, showing

remarkable control and confidence in game. He bagged Silver medal in Sub Junior Category at 2nd Inter District Open National in Roller Skating at Mohali.

Principal Sonia Anand congratulated Kyrán on his achievements.

Mohd Alyas appointed as Technical Official for Khelo India Volleyball Tournament



Top News Report

POONCH, May 2: Mohd Alyas, a proud native of the border district of Poonch and currently serving as the Director of Physical Education and Sports at Government Degree College, Poonch, has achieved a remarkable milestone by being selected as a technical official for the upcoming Khelo India Volleyball Tournament.

The prestigious national-level event is scheduled to be held in Patna, Bihar, from May 2 to 8, 2025.

Alyas is one of only 28 technical officials chosen from across the country to officiate at this premier sporting event, which showcases India's emerging sporting talent and is organized under the

flagship Khelo India initiative.

An accomplished volleyball professional, Mohd Alyas is a certified national referee accredited by the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI). He has also successfully completed a specialized certificate course from the esteemed Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS), Bengaluru.

With a background as a professional player, Alyas has represented the senior national team on several occasions and received his foundational training under the Sports Authority of India. His selection is a matter of immense pride for the region and serves as an inspiration for young sports enthusiasts in Jammu and Kashmir.

Inter-School Tournament held at GBHS Simbal



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: The Department of Youth Services & Sports, Zone Miran Sahib, on Friday organized an Inter-School Tournament in various disciplines including Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Chess, Wrestling, Football, Cricket, Yoga, Handball, and Basketball for Under-14 and Under-17 boys at GBHS Simbal.

The event was held under the chairmanship of Sukhdev Raj Sharma, District Youth

Services & Sports Officer, Jammu, and overall supervision of Joginder Sharma, Zonal Physical Education Officer, Miran Sahib, in the presence of Kuldeep Raj Sharma, Headmaster GBHS Simbal. During the opening ceremony, Anuradha Thakur, SDM R S Pura, emphasized the importance of sports in students' lives, urging them to adopt positive habits that nurture both mental and physical well-being while cautioning against the dangers of drug addiction.

The tournament witnessed a vibrant participation of around 650 students from various government and private schools of the zone.

Prominent community members like Raja Singh (Ex-Sarpanch, Dhinday Kalan) and Ravinder Singh (Ex-Sarpanch, Nihampur Simbal Lower) graced the occasion.

All PEMs, PETs, and REKs of Zone Miran Sahib participated with great enthusiasm, making the event a resounding success.

Rotary Club Jammu Bahu, HPCL celebrate Labour Day 2025 with

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Rotary Club Jammu Bahu, under Rotary International District 3070, in collaboration with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) Jammu Depot, commemorated International Labour Day 2025 with a powerful event dedicated to honoring workers, raising awareness about their rights, and celebrating their indispensable contributions to nation-building.

Held at the HPCL Plant Rail Head, Jammu, the program brought together workers, management, social reformers, and Rotarians in a dynamic session that blended recognition, advocacy, and education.

The event was led by renowned social reformer and Rotarian Dr. Navneet Kaur, who delivered an interactive awareness session on labour rights and legal protections. "Labour Day is not merely a celebration—it's a call to action," Dr. Kaur emphasized. "We must honor the sweat and sacrifice of workers while working relentlessly to protect them from exploitation, ensuring their dignity, health, fair wages, and



safe conditions." Her heartfelt message resonated deeply with the over 70 participating workers.

Ashish Samalia, Chief Depot Manager, HPCL Jammu Depot, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to worker welfare. "From health facilities to skill development programs, HPCL continuously strives to uplift its workers. Today reminds us that while progress has been made, the journey towards comprehensive worker welfare continues," he shared.

A highlight of the event was the special recognition of Ram Kumar Mouria, who was honored with the title "Worker of the Year 2025" for his exemplary dedication and service. Several other HPCL workers were also recognized as "Labour of

the Year", symbolizing collective appreciation for their hard work.

Yogesh Bharti, Assistant Manager, HPCL Jammu Depot, praised the workers as the very backbone of society. "They are the foundation upon which our nation stands. Events like these are crucial to not only acknowledge their efforts but also to address their concerns through dialogue and partnership," he said.

The Rotary team also presented a citation of appreciation to Samalia for his leadership in advancing labour welfare. The program successfully educated workers on their rights and welfare schemes, facilitated open dialogue between workers and management, and strengthened the Rotary-HPCL partnership for future welfare initiatives.

BFGI offers quality, affordable education and career opportunities: Dr. Poonia



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Prof. (Dr.) MP Poonia, Campus Director of Baba Farid Group of Institutions (BFGI) and former AICTE Vice Chairman, highlighted the institute's commitment to empowering youth through accessible, industry-oriented education during a press conference at the Press Club Jammu.

He said BFGI, a NAAC A+ accredited institution with over 30 years of excellence, offers 60+ approved programs in engineering, management, paramedical, agriculture, law, and more. The institution provides modern infrastructure, 100% merit-based scholarships, and strong placement support, ensuring affordability and employability. Dr. Poonia noted that

BFGI is registered under PMSSS and is providing scholarship for free education for students from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under this scheme. He said BFGI offers 100% Tuition Fee Waiver for ST Students from the region, making it one of the most inclusive institutions in North India. Under NEP 2020, BFGI's Applied Learning Model enables students to earn while study-

ing. Implementing the Applied Learning Policy, students can earn stipends through internships and on-campus work opportunities while pursuing their degrees.

He informed that in 2024-25, over 125 top national and international companies, including TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HDFC, Amazon, and Deloitte, recruited from BFGI. The institution boasts an 85%+

placement rate, with many students securing multiple job offers before graduation. BFGI promotes innovation through 125+ published patents and nurtures startups via its Baba Farid School of Entrepreneurship. It offers live projects and hands-on experience, including paid internships through collaborations with over 30 hospitals and clinics.

The institute has signed an MoU with Arora Classes, Bathin-

da—known for coaching around 50,000 Punjab Government employees—to provide expert training for government and PSU competitive exams. It has also partnered with renowned UPSC mentor Avadh Ojha for career guidance and coaching.

Dr. Poonia invited students from Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh to explore BFGI's opportunities aimed at education, empowerment, and societal upliftment.

“Success of Mumbai Indians comes from smart planning” Ambati Rayudu reflects on MI’s win against RR

He spoke about their ability to stick to roles, play to their strengths, and handle pressure, making them dangerous in the playoffs with many match-winners.

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): Former Indian cricketer Ambati Rayudu said that Mumbai Indians’ (MI) success stems from smart planning, like their unusual use of short balls at Wankhede, understanding conditions, and executing well. Speaking on Jio Hotstar, Rayudu highlighted the franchise’s ability to stick to roles, play to their strengths, and handle pressure, making them a formidable force in the play-offs with numerous match-winners.

“Success of Mumbai Indians comes from smart planning—look at the number of short balls they bowled today, which is rare at Wankhede. But they understood the conditions and executed well. When it comes to the business end of the IPL, Mumbai Indians get into a trance -- they stick to roles, play to their strengths, and handle pressure better



than most. Once they make it to the playoffs, they become a formidable team. You can pick 9-10 individual match-winners in their playing XI,” JioStar expert Ambati Rayudu said while speaking on Match Centre Live on JioHotstar.

MI bowlers Karn Sharma, Trent Boult, and Jasprit Bumrah powered MI to a commanding victory of 100 runs over Rajasthan Royals (RR) in their Indian

Premier League (IPL) clash on Thursday at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. This was MI’s sixth straight victory after losing four out of their initial five matches.

RR was bowled out for 117 chasing a huge target of 218. Karn Sharma (3/23) and Trent Boult (3/28) were the pick of the bowlers for MI, with Jasprit Bumrah also delivering a pressurising four-over spell of

2/15. Skipper Hardik also got a wicket. Ricketton was awarded the ‘Player of the Match’ award.

Rayudu also previewed Sunrisers Hyderabad’s (SRH) next clash against the Gujarat Titans on Friday at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. He said, “In the last match, Sunrisers Hyderabad did well against a struggling Chennai Super Kings, but moving forward, their batting must fire big. They’ll be up against the Gujarat Titans, who are in top form, especially with their bowling attack. It won’t be easy -- they’ll have their task cut out.”

GT, captained by Shubman Gill, has won 6 out of its 9 matches. They are ranked fourth on the points table. On the other hand, the SRH, led by Pat Cummins, have been struggling in the tournament, with only three wins out of their nine matches so far. The Sunrisers are at number 9.

AIPA secures Delhi High Court directive against Sports Ministry’s arbitrary recognition order

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): In a significant development for Indian sports governance, the Delhi High Court has directed the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) to submit a detailed affidavit justifying its decision to grant recognition to the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA), following a legal challenge by the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA).

Established in 2007, the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) is the oldest and most widely represented governing body for Pickleball in India, with active federations in 24 states. AIPA has played a pivotal role in the structured growth of the sport for nearly two decades and is also a founding member of both the International Pickleball Federation (IPF) and the Asian Pickleball Federation (APF), with official affiliations granted in 2015 and 2020, respectively, as per a press release from AIPA. In its petition, AIPA—India’s longest-standing and internationally affiliated Pickleball body—has contested the recognition granted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) to the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA), citing violations of the National Sports Development Code of India, which mandates, among other criteria, that a recognized body must have a minimum of three years of existence—a requirement AIPA claims the IPA fails to meet.

Taking cognizance of the concerns raised, the Hon’ble Delhi High Court has asked MYAS to provide reasoning and justification for granting any exemptions under the Sports Code, and has scheduled the matter for an interim relief hearing on May 19, 2025.

“AIPA has strongly pressed that the impugned recognition order is not sustainable and is arbitrary under the law,” said the association in a statement.

Senior Advocate Dayan Krishnan, appearing on behalf of AIPA, was supported by Advocate Hemant Phalpher, Advocate Jaya Phalpher, and Advocate R Iyer. Commenting on the matter, Advocate Hemant Phalpher stated, “The Sports Code exists to bring transparency, accountability and fairness to the process of recognition of National Sports Federations. If the code is to be diluted arbitrarily, it will damage the entire sporting ecosystem. AIPA has been the oldest and internationally affiliated governing body for Pickleball in India and will continue to uphold the principles of good governance in sports.”

The All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) remains affiliated to the International Pickleball Federation and the Asian Federation of Pickleball, and continues to lead the growth and development of the sport across the country.

Virat Kohli names player who had “biggest impact” on him during initial IPL years

BENGALURU, May 2 (Agencies): Star India and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Virat Kohli recalled how former South African wicketkeeper-batter Mark Boucher had an impact on him during his initial years in the Indian Premier League (IPL), saying that his conversations with the Protean legend “stunned” him.

RCB’s leading run-getter in IPL history was speaking on RCB Podcast’s upcoming episode, a trailer of which was released on the team’s official X handle.

Speaking on his conversations with Boucher, who he admitted called him to some golf games, Virat said, “Out of all players I played with initially, Boucher had the biggest impact on me. He figured out what my weaknesses could be. If I wanted to go to the next level, this is what I need to do, without me asking him anything. He told me that ‘when I comes to commutate in India three-four years from now and I do not see you playing for India, you would do a disservice to yourself. So he really stunned me with the conversations he had with me.”

Boucher played for RCB from 2008-10, when Virat was slowly finding his feet in international cricket and had not played Test cricket for India. In 27 matches, Boucher made 388 runs at an average of 29.85, with a half-century.

Virat also opened up on his loyalty to RCB, a franchise he has stuck with since the start of his IPL career, saying that the “relationship and mutual respect” he has



with the franchise is more valuable.

“The love that I have received from the fans, I do not think any silverware or any trophy can come close to that,” he added.

Virat also said that nothing in IPL has changed for him after T20I retirement.

“I do not think things have changed for me in any way. The decision (to leave T20Is) was taken purely understanding that there is a new set of players who are more than ready and they need time, they need a 2-year cycle to evolve, handle pressure, play in different parts of the world, and play enough games to the point where when the World Cup comes, they feel like they are ready,” he concluded.

During the ongoing IPL, Virat is sitting at third place among the highest-run-getters, with 443 runs in 10 innings at an average of 63.28, a strike rate of almost 139, and six fifties, with the best score of 73*.

His side is at the second spot in the table with seven wins and three losses, and they will host Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at home on Saturday.

“He is a thinking bowler...”: Shastri wants Arshdeep in India’s squad for England tour

MUMBAI, May 2 (Agencies): Former Indian head coach and cricketer Ravi Shastri called for Team India to include a left-arm pacer in their squad for the five-Test tour to England, saying that Arshdeep Singh could fit into the team as he is a “thinking bowler”.

England will host India for a five-Test series - the first of the next cycle of the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 - starting with the first Test in Edgbaston, Birmingham on June 20. This series is going to be crucial for India after the home series loss to New Zealand last year, which ended their 12-year dominance at home, and a 1-3 loss to Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Speaking on the latest episode of The ICC Review, as quoted by the ICC, Shastri said, “I will be looking for a left-arm. I will be keeping an eye on which left-arm is in good form,



and try and squeeze him in there as the sixth (bowling) option.”

“It could be anyone. It could even be a white-ball specialist. I do not like this thing when they say someone like Arshdeep Singh is a ‘white-ball specialist’.”

“I will keep a close eye on his red-ball record as well and the number of overs he bowls. If he can bowl 15-20 overs for me, he might very well be in the mix because he’s got the mindset. He is a thinking bowler, and I need a left-arm. It is just that.”

also taken 14 wickets in nine ODIs, including a five-wicket haul in South Africa.

Arshdeep has shown promise in red-ball cricket, claiming 66 wickets in 21 first-class matches. His recent stint with Kent in the 2024 County Championship, where he picked up 13 wickets in five games, added valuable exposure to English conditions.

Khaleel, with 52 wickets in 19 first-class matches, has also been on the selectors’ radar. He was part of the Australia tour, initially with India A and later as a travelling reserve for the Border-Gavaskar series, though a niggle cut his time short. He has taken 15 wickets in 11 ODIs and 16 wickets in 18 T20Is for India.

In the ongoing IPL, Khaleel has been exceptional in the powerplay, having taken 14 wickets at an average of 22.57 in 10 matches.

Arshdeep has managed 13 scalps in 10 matches at an average of 21.15.

Among the other batting options, Shastri floated the idea of Shreyas Iyer returning to the Test setup, especially after his inclusion in India’s latest central contract list.

Iyer has impressed in sub-continental conditions, scoring 736 runs in 11 Tests across India and Bangladesh at an average of 43.29.

However, opportunities outside Asia have been limited, and he is yet to make a mark, managing just 75 runs in three matches, with appearances in South Africa and a solitary outing in England.

“He (Shreyas Iyer) can (make a comeback), but it’s again going to be a competition,” Shastri noted. “White-ball, certain. Test cricket, we have got to see who the other players are around,” he added.

SRH need win to stay afloat as GT eye quick turnaround

The Titans are still one of the most consistent teams this season, having a well-balanced squad with depth in both batting and bowling.

AHMEDABAD, May 2 (Agencies): Gujarat Titans will look to bounce back from the carnage that wonder boy Vaibhav Suryavanshi inflicted on them when they face a stuttering Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match here on Friday.

GT were left stunned when Rajasthan Royals’ Suryavanshi took the game by storm, smashing the fastest century of the season in just 35 balls and becoming the youngest ever to score an IPL ton at just 14 years and 32 days.

The eight-wicket defeat was crushing despite GT posting a formidable 209/4 but, overall, the result has not changed their position in this IPL.

The Titans are still one of the most consistent teams this season, having a well-balanced squad with depth in both batting and bowling.

The Shubman Gill-led side is currently placed comfortably with six wins from nine matches (12 points), and it needs just two victories from their remaining five fixtures to reach the magical 16-point mark — good enough to secure qualification for the playoffs.

Back at home, GT will be buoyed by their in-form top-order. Sai Sudharsan, who has scored 456 runs this season, has been their standout performer. Gill (389 runs) and Jos Buttler (406 runs) also feature among the season’s top-7 run-getters, forming a formidable trio at the top despite recent hiccups.

On the bowling front, Prasidh Krishna has led the attack impressively, forming a strong pace trio alongside Mohammed Siraj and Ishant Sharma.

In the spin department,



Rashid Khan’s return to form — especially his 2/25 against Kolkata Knight Riders — is a major boost, while Washington Sundar has been a steady support option.

In the reverse fixture earlier this season, GT had registered a commanding seven-wicket win over SRH in Hyderabad, built around Mohammed Siraj’s sensational spell of 4/17. A month later, they’ll be

hoping for an encore.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad have slipped into a precarious position and face a must-win scenario.

Last year’s runners-up, known for their explosive brand of cricket, have faltered badly, managing just three wins from nine matches and dropping to ninth place on the points table.

Another defeat would all but knock them out of playoffs contention.

Australian allrounder Beau Webster set to make his debut for Warwickshire in County Championship ahead of WTC final

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): Australian allrounder Beau Webster is set to make his Warwickshire debut at Headingley, having arrived at Edgbaston for the start of a three-month spell as a Bear.

Webster, who made his Australia Test debut in January, is set to be available for seven Rothesay County Championship fixtures and all 14 Vitality Blast North Group games, as per a release from the Warwickshire official website.

First up is the trip to Yorkshire (2-5 May) as Warwickshire look to build on a solid start that’s seen them claim a win and two draws from the opening three fixtures. Six-foot-six-inch Webster, who can bowl medium pace and spin, sometimes in the same over, joins the squad in good red ball form for his home State, Tasmania, in the Sheffield Shield.



The 31-year-old claimed a five-fer in his final game against New South Wales at the end of March, and averaged 47.90 with the bat in seven matches with a high score of 113 (183 balls) versus Victoria last October.

That was before he went on to announce himself on the international stage in style in the fifth Test against India when he top scored in the first innings (57) and

was unbeaten on 39 the second time around when he hit the winning runs.

“I’m fit and raring to go as a Bear. I landed in Birmingham on Tuesday and got stuck straight into training with the guys on Wednesday,” Beau Webster said.

“I’m feeling good and looking forward to making my first start for the Club at Headingley,” he added.

Webster made four

County Championship Division Two appearances for Gloucestershire last season, scoring 233 runs (58.25 ave) and taking 16 wickets at 21.25 apiece.

It included a home debut to remember when he returned First Class career best figures of 6/100 against Derbyshire before smashing 76 off just 79 balls.

First Team Coach Ian Westwood added: “Beau brings proven quality, a great record, a very imposing figure, and he looks to be improving all the time. He’s a cricketer who’s on the up, and his relatively recent decision to start bowling seam has given him even more impetus.

“He arrived on Tuesday and has had Wednesday training with the lads. He’s a solid guy, he’ll add a lot to the group and the changing room as well as what he can offer us on the pitch,” he added.

PCC adopts resolution congratulating Rahul Gandhi for announcement of Caste Census

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee has congratulated the LOP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and the Congress leadership for the success of the Congress struggle for the Caste Census in the country.

A unanimous resolution was adopted in a meeting at PCC HQ Jammu on Friday, to express gratitude to the Congress leadership especially LOP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for the success of the struggle to pressurize Government to concede the demand of Congress Party for Caste Census in the Country.

The resolution moved by JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma was seconded by Working President Tara Chand (Ex-Dy. CM) and Raman Bhalla (Former Minister) and adopted unanimously by the participants, by raising hands, amidst raising of slogans in favour of Congress Part, Congress President Malikaarjun Kharge and Rahul



Gandhi.

JKPCC Working President Tara Chand who presided over the meeting alongwith Raman Bhalla, which was attended by several senior leaders, said that the struggle of Rahul Gandhi has finally yielded results and the Government had to accept the demand raised by Congress Party for Caste Census.

He said that the entire credit for this goes to Rahul Gandhi and the Congress Party. He said that now the party demands that the Caste Census should be completed within time frame

so that the complete benefits reach to the common man, at the earliest.

Raman Bhalla, while expressing gratitude to Rahu Gandhi, said that the announcement of Caste Census is the result of the struggle of Rahul Gandhi and entire Congress party behind him.

He called for a time frame to complete the exercise, so that the benefits of Government scheme reach the targeted population. All participants fully endorsed the resolution and adopted by one voice.

The meeting also asked the party cadres in the border areas including DCC Presidents to remain in constant touch with the people and the administration in view of the prevailing situation, keeping a close watch on the activities on the border belt.

The meeting strongly condemned Pakistan for the unprovoked firing on the border and LOC and reiterated the decision of CWC and Congress President Malikaarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi that Congress party is fully behind the nation and the Government to give befitting

response to terrorism and Pakistan for the Pehalgam carnage.

Earlier, a two minutes silence was also observed to mourn the death of veteran Congress leader and former union minister Smt. Girija Viyas and pray for peace to the departed soul.

Those who participated in the meeting include Th. Balwan Singh, Yogesh Sawhney, Th. Balbir Singh, Ved Mahajan, Kanta Bhan, Yash Pal Kundal, Sr. Adv M.K. Bhardwaj, Th. Manmohan Singh, Suresh Dogra, Narinder Sharma, Babal Gupta, Madan Chalotra (OBC Chairman), K.D.Singh, Ashok Bhagat, Dwarka Choudhary, Neeraj Gupta, Vijay Shastri, Sanjeev Panda, Rajveer Singh, Dr. Kamal Singh, Sahil Sharma, Bharat Priye, Ram Mangotra, Sohiti Sharma, Nasir Masih, Ajay Kumar, Shekhar Sharma, Michal Wazir, Thomas Khokhar, Ricky Dalotra, Ranjit Manhas, Hoshiar Singh, Mandeep Chaudhary, Janak Mehra, Maqbool and others.

Secretary Higher Education releases ‘Therapeutic Thoughts’ Book



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: In a graceful ceremony organized by the Academy of Arts & Culture, Government of Jammu and Kashmir at the Writer's Club, Secretary Higher Education Shantmanu released the much-awaited book "Therapeutic Thoughts". Speaking as the Chief Guest, Shantmanu praised the book's

inspiring and thought-provoking quotes, emphasizing their potential to energize and uplift readers.

"This book deserves inclusion in the academic curriculum for its motivational value," he remarked.

Secretary JKAACL urged attendees to explore the essays within, calling them a "booster to the mind." Dr. Bandna Sharma,

professor at Central University and translator of the book into English, emotionally reflected on her journey, sharing how the profound content enriched her experience.

Author Santosh Sangra gave a brief overview of the book's essence. The event concluded warmly with tea and informal discussions among participants.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch launches campaign to Boycott Amazon, Flipkart in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: The Swadeshi Jagran Manch, a leading nationalist economic movement, has launched a powerful region-wide campaign urging citizens of Jammu & Kashmir to boycott e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart in a bid to promote indigenous industries and economic self-reliance.

At a press conference held today in Jammu, Ajay Singh Chandel, Provincial Contact

Head of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, formally announced the campaign, which will run from May 1 to May 10.

Addressing the media, Chandel declared, "This is not just a boycott; it is a declaration of economic independence.

Every rupee spent on a local vendor nourishes our families, fortifies the local economy, and strengthens our cultural roots."

The Manch is calling on all residents to abstain from online shopping during the 10-day

period and instead support neighborhood stores and local markets.

The campaign urges consumers to choose Swadeshi (indigenous) products across categories—from clothing and electronics to groceries and handicrafts—as a meaningful step toward Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

The initiative will include awareness drives, street-corner meetings, pamphlet distribution, and a robust social media cam-

paign to highlight the long-term risks of economic dependence on foreign corporations.

Chandel emphasized, "We must reclaim our market space and ensure our wealth stays within our communities."

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch expressed confidence that this campaign will become a mass movement across Jammu & Kashmir, inspiring citizens to embrace local businesses and sustainable development.

District Administration Ramban intensifies Anti-Drug Campaign across district



Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 2: In a determined effort to combat the menace of drug abuse as a part of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, has intensified its anti-drug campaign under the nationwide Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir initiative.

A series of awareness activities were organized across various educational institutions in the district to sensitize students and the community about the harmful effects of drug and substance abuse.

These initiatives are part of a sustained campaign initiated by DC Ramban Baseer-UI-Haq

Chaudhary to eradicate drug abuse and build a safer, healthier future for the youth of Ramban.

In Gool, the girl students of the Government Model Higher Secondary School led from the front by conducting sensitization drives within their community. Their active participation and leadership underlined the role of youth—especially young women—in driving social change.

At the PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Tethar, students actively participated in anti-drug pledge ceremonies and awareness programs aimed at promoting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Similarly, the PM Shri Government High School Chakka also held awareness events under the same campaign, where students

took part in discussions and activities emphasizing the importance of staying away from drugs.

In a notable grassroots effort, the students of the Government High School Shagan staged a

powerful Nukkad Natak (street play) highlighting the devastating impact of drug addiction. The performance received appreciation for its impactful message and creativity.

Meanwhile, students

at Kaskoot, Bankoot and various other schools took a pledge to observe the Anti-Tobacco campaign and joined the Nasha Mukh Bharat campaign, reaffirming their commitment to an addiction-free lifestyle.

Sai Krishna Temple Inspector pays obeisance at Tirupati Balaji Temple, joins Abhishek Ceremony

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: In a spiritual gathering filled with devotion and reverence, Sai Krishna Temple Inspector, along with Superintendent Balaji Temple Jammu R.C. Subramaniam, Ramesh Babu, Umesh Gupta, and social activist Anil Sharma, paid obeisance at the Tirupati Balaji Temple in Jammu today. The dignitaries participated in the special Abhishek ceremony of Lord Venkateswara, held every Friday, praying for the welfare and prosperity of the country.

During the ceremony, the Inspector highlighted the spiritual and cultural significance of the temple, saying, "It is a moment of great pride and joy that a Tirupati Balaji Temple is established here in Jammu. This temple brings a glimpse of South Indian culture to our region, offering devotees a divine and unique spiritual experience." He appealed to the public



to visit the temple and participate in the sacred rituals.

The Inspector also urged the Transport Commissioner to introduce a dedicated bus service to the temple, making it easier for devotees to access the shrine. He emphasized starting a Bharat Darshan bus service to promote the temple as a destination for both spiritual and cultural tourism, potentially boosting the region's religious tour-

ism sector.

Present at the ceremony were Ved Pandit Amit Shukla, Neeraj Shukla, Archak Yam Gautam, Narasimha, Raviteja Bhattacharya, attendants Anurag Mishra, Suryaprakash Dwivedi, Potu Chandan Tiwari, Gautam Pandey, distributor Ram Gopal Sharma, and Keshav Tripathi, among others.

The event concluded with blessings and prayers for peace, unity, and spiritual growth for all.

Rajkumar Goyal meets Minister Satish Sharma, pledges full support for Smooth Amarnath Yatra 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: In a crucial meeting ahead of the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, Rajkumar Goyal, National Executive Chairman of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society, called on Satish Sharma, Cabinet Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Government, to discuss security and logistical arrangements for the pilgrimage. He was accompanied by Rajkumar Gupta, Chairman of All Jammu and Kashmir Gau Raksha Samiti.

Highlighting the recent Pahalgam terror attack, Goyal expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and its impact on tourism.

"The number of visitors has drastically reduced, and tensions along the borders have further added to apprehensions," he stated.

With the Amarnath Yatra set to begin soon, he stressed the need for robust arrangements to ensure devotees can undertake the pilgrimage without fear or disruption.

Goyal assured the Minister that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society, with its longstanding service to pilgrims, would extend full cooperation to the



government.

"The Yatra is a matter of pride for every person of Jammu and Kashmir. Our committee stands firmly with the administration to make the pilgrimage a safe and smooth experience," he affirmed.

Echoing similar sentiments, Rajkumar Gupta pledged support from the All Jammu and Kashmir Gau Raksha Samiti for managing the Yatra's logistics and welfare efforts.

Minister Satish Sharma acknowledged the critical role of community partnerships in ensuring the success of the Yatra.

"Apart from the government, the cooperation of citizens and voluntary organizations is vital to manage the pilgrimage and restore tourist confidence in Jammu and Kashmir," he remarked. He praised the efforts of the Welfare Society in serving pilgrims from across India and abroad, expressing hope that, despite challenges, the Society's collaboration will help conduct the Yatra peacefully and efficiently this year.

A shared commitment towards faith, security, and hospitality marks the road to Amarnath Yatra 2025.

Bukhari slams irrational eligibility rule in marriage assistance scheme

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 2: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has expressed concern over a flawed rule which states that anyone seeking to benefit from the government's marriage assistance scheme must have attained education up to at least the 8th standard.

He has termed this eligibility criterion an "illogical and irrational" guideline and urged the authorities to revisit it to better serve the interests of girls from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Pertinently, under this scheme, the government provides a one-time financial assistance of Rs 75,000 to eligible unmarried girls before their marriage.

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari wrote on his X handle: "Making educational qualification up to 8th class as a mandatory eligibility criterion for the Marriage Assistance Scheme for girls from economically weaker sections is completely



illogical."

He further said, "I have been informed that many applications are being rejected by the Social Welfare Department simply because the applicants—underprivileged girls—are unable to produce a certificate confirming they have passed the 8th grade. This is utterly illogical."

"I urge the government to revisit this flawed guideline. The 8th pass eligibility criterion is defeating the purpose of what is otherwise a helpful and commendable scheme," the post further reads.