

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper

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J P Nadda reviews TN BJP's preparedness for 2026 Assembly poll

South Korea's main conservative party nominates Kim Moon Soo as its presidential candidate

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BRIEFLY

Body of youth recovered after Shikara capsizes in Dal Lake

SRINAGAR, May 3 (Agencies): The body of a 24-year-old youth who went missing after a shikara capsized in Dal Lake on Friday evening was recovered on Saturday morning, officials said.

The deceased has been identified as Raufeq Ahmad Chopan, a resident of Jogi Lanker, Rainawari.

According to officials, the boat he was in, along with another person, overturned amid strong gusty winds on Friday evening. While the other occupant was rescued shortly after the incident, Chopan went missing.

Rescue operations were launched immediately, with teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and local volunteers searching the lake. However, the operation was suspended overnight and resumed early Saturday morning.

Officials said personnel from SDRF's Quick Response Team (QRT) based at Nehru Park retrieved the body from the waters near Duck Park.

The incident occurred during a windstorm accompanied by rain that disrupted normal life in Srinagar on Friday evening, uprooting trees and causing damage in several areas.

Pahalgam attack: NIA grills two imprisoned terrorists in Jammu

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, May 3 (Agencies): As the investigation into the Pahalgam attack gains sharp momentum, NIA grills two terrorists, Muehtaq and Nisar, imprisoned in Jammu since April 2023. Both are being interrogated over their suspected role in the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians and injured many, NDTV reported.

The terrorists have been in jail since April 2023 over their role in the terror attack on civilians in Rajouri district, followed by an IED blast. Seven people, including two children, were killed and several others injured in the attacks.

The NIA formally took over the Pahalgam terror attack probe, registering a case in Jammu on April 27. Several teams of the agency began searching for evidence and questioning eyewitnesses, including relatives of victims, to uncover the terror conspiracy. NIA teams

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India bans direct, Indirect imports from Pakistan with immediate effect

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): India has banned direct or indirect import of all goods from Pakistan with immediate effect in the interest of national security and public policy, following the Pahalgam terror attack last month which killed 26 tourists, according to a government order.

The decision will completely halt all inbound shipments of goods from Pakistan to India. India's exports to Pakistan in April-January 2024-25 stood at USD 447.65 million, while imports were meagre USD 0.42 million.

A provision in this regard has been added in Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 "to prohibit direct or indirect import or transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan with immediate effect until further orders", the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated May 2.

It added this restriction is imposed in the interest of national security



and public policy. Any exception to this prohibition will require approval of Government of India, the order said.

Inserting the provision under the heading "Prohibition on Import from Pakistan" in the FTP, it said: "Direct or indirect import or transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan, whether or not freely importable or otherwise permitted, shall be prohibited with immediate effect, until further orders".

Main imports from the neighbouring country during April-January 2024-25 included fruits and nuts (USD 0.08 million), certain oil seeds and medicinal plants

(USD 0.26 million), and organic chemicals.

The decision follows a terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, in which 26 people were killed.

Following the terror attack, India took a series of measures including immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post, used for movement of certain kinds of goods. Besides, India has announced expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, and suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960.

Due to this, the trade between India and Pakistan has already come to a complete halt. The two-way trade between the countries was min-

iscule following steps taken by both sides after the Pulwama terror attack in 2019.

In retaliation, Pakistan has also announced suspension of all trade with India, including to and from any third country through Pakistan.

Exports and imports in 2023-24 were USD 1.18 billion and USD 2.88 million, respectively.

In 2022-23 and 2021-22, India exported goods worth USD 627.1 million and USD 513.82 million, and imported products worth USD 20.11 million and USD 2.54 million, respectively.

In April-January 2024-25, exports of organic chemicals and pharmaceutical products accounted for about 60 per cent of the country's total outbound shipments to Pakistan. It was USD 129.55 million and USD 110.06 million, respectively.

The other items include sugar and sugar confectionary (USD 85.16 million), certain vegetables (USD 3.77 million), coffee, tea and

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Democracy needs a Free Press, Says CM Omar on World Press Freedom Day



SRINAGAR, May 3 (Agencies): On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, Chief Omar Abdullah empha-

sised the importance of safeguarding press freedom.

Taking to social media platform X, Omar

wrote, "On #WorldPressFreedomDay, we honour the courage and commitment of journalists who speak truth to power."

"A free press is the cornerstone of a vibrant democracy — we must protect it, not just in words, but in action," he said.

World Press Freedom Day is observed globally on May 3 to highlight the role of the media and the threats it faces.

Born to serve J&K Police and my Country India: Cop after HC Stays his deportation to Pakistan

JAMMU, May 3 (Agencies): "I am born to serve the Jammu and Kashmir Police and my country, India," 45-year-old policeman Iftkhar Ali said on Saturday, just days after he and his eight siblings narrowly escaped deportation to Pakistan — a fate averted only through the timely intervention of the high court.

For Ali, who hails from

Mendhar sub-division near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, the uniform is more than a job — it's a calling. He has dedicated nearly half his life in the police force, serving its various wings with distinction and earning multiple commendations for his courage and unwavering commitment to duty.

He was all praise for Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and said he was confident that the country's leadership will not allow his handing over to the "enemy nation" on the "mere conspiracy" that they belong to the part of J&K which is under illegal occupation of Pakistan.

The nine members of the extended family were among over two

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"Kashmir was and will always be a part of India": Farooq Abdullah after meeting tourists in Pahalgam



ANANTNAG, May 3 (Agencies): National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah on Saturday urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to stand against the perpetrators of Pahalgam-like attacks for progress and prosperity, asserting that those behind the April 22 massacre would

"rot in hell".

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state visited the residence of Adil Hussain Shah, a pony ride operator who was among the 26 victims, at Hapatnaar in this south Kashmir district.

"He (Shah) is a martyr. He sacrificed his life, he was not afraid of the

guns of the beasts. This is 'insaniyat (humanity)', this is Kashmiriyat. One who is afraid is dead," Abdullah said.

"We have to fight them (terrorists) and fight them with courage. We will never be happy and prosperous and we can never move forward until we fight them. So, we must have courage," he added.

Abdullah, however, refused to comment on India's actions against Pakistan in the aftermath of the attack. "Our prime minister will take such a decision." On Pakistan Peoples Party leader Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's threatening

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Pakistan test-fires Abdali Missile amid strained ties with India over Pahalgam attack

ISLAMABAD, May 3 (Agencies): Pakistan on Saturday announced that it has conducted a successful training launch of the Abdali Weapon System — a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 450 km, amid heightened tensions with India following the Pahalgam terror attack.

"The launch was aimed at ensuring the operational readiness of troops and validating key

technical parameters, including the missile's advanced navigation system and enhanced manoeuvrability features," the army said in a statement.

The army said the missile launch was part of "Exercise INDUS" without giving details about the exercise.

The training launch was witnessed by the Commander Army Strategic Forces Command, senior officials from the

Strategic Plans Division, Army Strategic Forces Command, as well as scientists and engineers from Pakistan's strategic organisations.

President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and services chiefs extended their congratulations to the participating troops, scientists, and engineers.

They expressed complete confidence in the

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TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Subash Chander Kotwal** (Reld. Dy. Registrar, University of Jammu) S/o Late Smt. Nand Kumari Kotwal & Late Sh. Pritam Chand Kotwal, who left for heavenly abode on Friday 25th of April 2025.

Tenth Day will be held at Ved Mandir, Jammu on Sunday, 4th of May 2025 at 8 AM.

Kriya will be performed at our residence, Lane No. 1, Lower Karan Nagar, Jammu on Wednesday, 7th of May, 2025 at 11:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Suresh Kumari - **Wife**

Tejvesi Singh - **Son**

Daughter & Son-in-law

Mrs. Deepika & Mr. Rohit Luthra

Mrs. Priyanka & Mr. Malikit Singh

Brothers & Bhabhis

Smt. Neena & Late Sh. Suresh Kotwal

Smt. Anju & Sh. Sunil Chander Kotwal

Smt. Kalpana & Sh. Vipin Kotwal

Grand Children : Rudra Dev, Angad Dev, Viraj Singh Kotwal, Yuvaan Kotwal

Ph.No.: 9086125643, 6005801261



Sh. Subash Chander Kotwal
(Reld. Dy. Registrar at Jammu University)

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 heart-felt 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)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **RAJRANI BHAT**.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 8TH MAY 2025 FROM 8 AM TO 10 AM AT GAURI SHANKAR TEMPLE NEW PALAM VIHAR GURGAON.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Omkar & Rajkumar Bhat

Avtar & Shobha Bhat

Ashok & Sudha Bhat

Kishni Kaul

Krishan & Veena Khosla

Grand Children & Great Grand Children

Ph: 7006474732, 9810616194, 9312658554



RAJRANI BHAT

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 / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret the sad demise of **Sh. Nagar Mal Gupta** S/o Late Sh. Jiwan Mal on 25/4/2025.

The **10th Day** will take place on 4/5/2025 at 11.00 am at Mahajan Hall Kathua.

The **Kriya** will take place on 7/5/2025 at 10.00 am at our residence Ward No. 4, Near Sat Sarovar Mandir, Kathua.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Surishta Gupta (**Wife**)

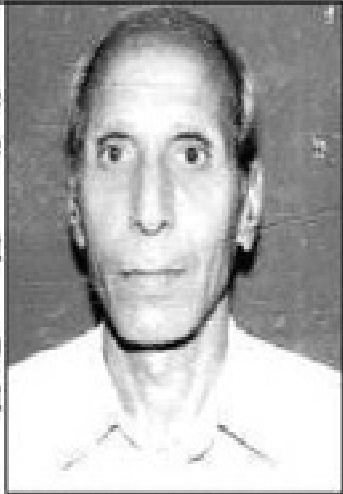
Sh. Tarsem Gupta (**Brother**)

Sh. Ram Pal Gupta (**Brother**)

Sh. Brij Mohan Gupta (**Son-in-law**)

Arun Gupta (**Son**)

Amnisha Gupta (**Son**)



Sh. Nagar Mal Gupta

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The **Tenth Day Kriya** of our beloved **Khema Dhar** wife of **Rajesh Rawal** resident of 01-Kabir Chowk, Sector-1, Durga Nagar will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education on 05th May, 2025 Monday at 8.30 AM.

RAWALS

Mobile : 9419120582



Smt Khema Dhar Rawal

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Dev Raj Sharma** S/o Bhag Mal on 25-04-2025.

TENTH DAY shall be performed at our residence Dhok Waziran Nagrota on 04-05-2025 (Sunday) at 10.00 AM.

11TH DAY KRIYA on 05-05-2025 (Monday).

RASAM PAGRI on 05-05-2025 at 4.00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Savitri Devi - **Wife**

Sons & Daughters in Law

Chander Mohan and Kalp Lata

Madan Mohan and Anu Radha

Ravinder Kumar & Asha Sharma

Daughters and Sons in Law

Smt Kamlesh and Sh. Girdhari Lal

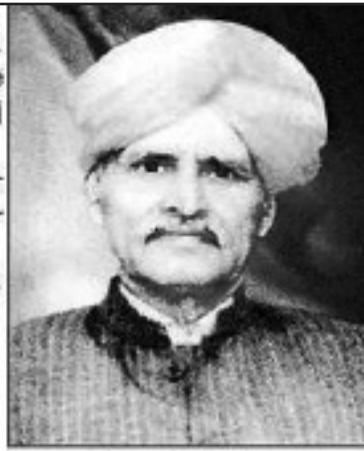
Lt Veena and Baldev Sharma

Smt Sudesh and Lt Narayan Dutt

Grand Childrens: Neeru, Vishu, Rishu, Nishu, Summi, Nitin Shivani Vidushi Akshita, Vasu Paru Kannu, Manshu, Ridhi, Shidi, Arshu.

AND ALL SANYAL FAMILY

MOBILE NO: 9419860196



SH. DEV RAJ SHARMA

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 Gobingo Kupwara.

A/P:- Block No. 141, Flat No. 17, Lane no. 23, Jagbi 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

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ram Pal Kohli** (Retired Chief Accounts Officer, Finance Department) S/o Late Sh. Shiv Ram Kohli R/o H.No. 302, Behind Radha Krishna Temple, New Pilot, Jammu.

10th Day will be performed at Brahman Sabha (near Prade Ground) on 04/05/2025 (Sunday) at 11 am to 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Wife: Smt. Vaishno Kohli

Son: Bhasker Kohli

Bhabhi: Smt. Ratni Devi (Wife of Late Sh. Behari Lal Kohli)

Sister: Smt. Biholi Devi (Wife of Late Sh. K. K. Verma)

Sister: Smt. Lalita Devi (Wife of Sh. Mohan Lal Abrol)

Nephew: Sh. Sham Lal Kohli & Smt. Sunita Kohli

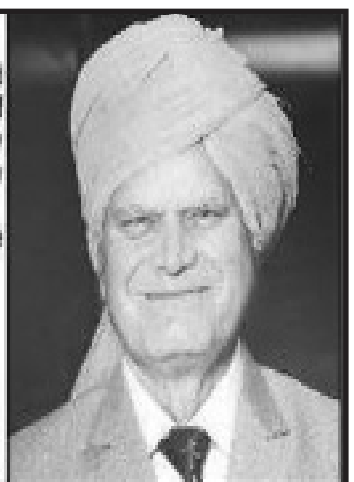
Daughter & Son-in-law

Late Harita Puri (Wife of Sh. Rameshwar Puri)

Deepali Kohli & Vinayak Abrol

Grand Children: Diksha, Daksh, Shiven

Mob: 9419218085, 9796477983



Sh. Ram Pal Kohli
(Retired Chief Accounts Officer, Finance Department)

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Darshana Devi** wife of Lt. Sh. Sabhu Ram R/o H.No. 33, Mohalla Paharian, Jammu, who left us for heavenly abode on 25th of April, 2025.

The **10th Day** shall be performed at Mahajan Hall Shalamar Road, Jammu on 4th May, 2025 from 10 AM to 11 AM.

Uthala will be performed on 7th May, 2025 from 4 PM to 5 PM at Mahajan Hall, Shalamar Road, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Romesh Chander Gupta & Baiji Gupta

Ajay Kumar Gupta & Neelika Gupta

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Veena & Sh. Madan Lal

Anju & Sh. Chander Mohan

Ritu & Sh. Ravinder Gupta

Monika & Sh. Parashotam Lal

Grand Daughters & Grand Sons-in-law

Sunmya & Sachin Gupta

Surbhi & Naren Gupta

Grand Children: Avni Gupta, Ananya Mahajan, Shivansh Mahajan

Great Grand Childrens: Ritihri, Aadvik, Tryaksh, Kriehna

Contact No: 9419105306, 9419263339



SMT. DARSHANA DEVI

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

MOURNING / TENTH DAY

With Profound Grief and Sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Phoola Pandita** (Tathi) W/o Sh. Jag Mohan Pandita R/o Akhran, Kulgam at present R/o A-11, Park Avenue, New CG Road, Chandkheda, Ahmedabad.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Sunday 4th of May 2025 at 9 AM at Triveni Sangam Charod Baroda Gujarat.

Condolence Prayers will be held at Jammu from 5th Of May 2025 to 16th of May 2025 on below address:

B/55 JMC 1113 Lane No 7, Bhawani Nagar, Talab Tilo, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sh. Jag Mohan Pandita (**Husband**)

Sh. R. L. Tickoo and Smt. Ratna Tickoo

Sh. Vinendra Matto and Smt. Nima Matto

Sh. R. L. Shukla (Bhauji) and Smt. Sunita Shukla

Sh. Sanjay Pandita and Binny Pandita

Smt. Rita Pandita W/o Late O. N. Pandita

Sh. R. L. Pandita and Smt. Phoola Pandita

Sh. H. L. Pandita and Smt. Sarita Pandita

Sh. Brij Nath Pandita and Smt. Rashmi Pandita

Sh. Sushil Pandita and Preeti

Sh. Subash Pandita and Sonika

Sh. Sunny Pandita

Rohi/Sonu/Shayara Pandit and Karvi Pandit (Grand Children)

SAMAST PANDIT PARIVAR OF AKHRAN.

PH- 81 28 17 99 135 60 93 17 1151 91 48 43 79 93 41 96 45 54 97 97 41 32 84



Smt. Phoola Pandita (Tathi)

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JMC conducts draw of lots, allots modern kiosks and rehris to vendors in Bahu Fort area

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: In a significant initiative to bolster local livelihoods, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Friday conducted a transparent draw of lots to allot modern kiosks and rehris among registered vendors operating in the Bahu Fort area. A total of 23 vending spaces, including 13 modern kiosks and 10 rehri licenses, were allotted to eligible vendors who were previously registered with JMC and held valid licenses to operate.

The event was held in the presence of Member



of Legislative Assembly Vikram Randhawa and JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, alongside other senior officials. Addressing the gathering, MLA Vikram

Randhawa congratulated the allottees and encouraged them to work with dedication, uphold discipline, and offer quality products and services to the

public. He emphasized the crucial role of self-employment initiatives in strengthening the local economy and improving the standard of living for small vendors.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav highlighted that the modern kiosks were developed by Jammu Smart City Limited with financial support from the Union Government, aiming to empower local vendors and promote organized, dignified vending spaces. He called upon the allottees to maintain cleanliness and hygiene

in and around their allotted spaces, contributing to both the beautification of the area and the broader goals of environmental health.

The draw and allotment process is part of JMC's broader vision to modernize urban vending and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the urban poor in Jammu city. Officials underscored that such initiatives not only improve working conditions for street vendors but also enhance the overall aesthetic and functional quality of key public spaces like the Bahu Fort precinct.

The event was attended by several senior officers including Joint Commissioner (R&E) Rakesh Gupta, Deputy Commissioner (North) Sanjay Badyal, Deputy Commissioner (South) Lal Chand, Tehsildar Bahu Raju Samyal, Chief Revenue Officer Sunil Gupta, and SHO Bahu, reflecting a coordinated effort across departments to implement the vending reforms effectively.

Mahant Rohit Shastri meets Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta, Executive Director of AIIMS Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur (Thather), Jammu & Kashmir, and State Awardee, today paid a formal visit to Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur, Jammu.

On this occasion, Mahant Shastri presented a copy of the felicitation volume published by the Trust and warmly appreciated Dr. Gupta's dedicated service spirit, administrative leadership, and socially beneficial initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri said, "Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta is not only a visionary leader in the field of medical science but also a deeply sensitive and committed individual towards social causes. Under his capable leadership, AIIMS Vijaypur, Jammu has achieved remarkable progress in enhancing the quality of medical services, ensuring efficient management, and improving patient facilities within a short span of time. This is highly commendable and inspirational."

He further added that honoring such person-



alities is not merely a recognition of an individual, but a tribute to the collective contribution of society. He described Prof. Gupta as an exemplary figure in Indian medical services and extended his best wishes for the institute to attain new heights under his leadership.

On this occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Mahant Rohit Shastri and Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, stating, "I am truly grateful for this honor. This felicitation volume is not just a book, but

a source of inspiration for continued dedication and commitment to the path of service.

I deeply appreciate Mahant Rohit Shastri's efforts in preserving and promoting the ancient knowledge of Indian culture, Sanskrit, Vedas, and astrology among the younger generations."

He further remarked that the initiative of bringing together healthcare, culture, and service on a common platform by intellectual and spiritual leaders is praiseworthy and represents a significant step towards harmony and prosperity.

Dr. Ashu Sharma honoured with Shri Parshuram Gourav Samman



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Sahitya Akademi Award-winning young Dogri writer and scholar Dr. Ashu Sharma was conferred with the prestigious Shri Parshuram Gourav Samman 2025 by Shri Bhagwan Parshuram Trust, Jammu. The award ceremony was held at the Trust's Jammu office, where the award was presented by the Trust's Youth President, Tarun Sharma.

Speaking to the media, Sharma highlighted the Trust's commitment to social welfare, with a special focus on the upliftment of the Brahmin community. "We are dedicated to encouraging and promoting the meritorious youth of our society," he said.

"Dr. Ashu Sharma is an exceptionally talented Dogri writer whose work continues to inspire. We pray to Shri Bhagwan Parshuram ji for her continued success, brilliance, and good health.

"Dr. Ashu Sharma was earlier conferred with the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2022 by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for her acclaimed Dogri short story collection "Kathputali."

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Sharma expressed heartfelt gratitude to Shri Bhagwan Parshuram Trust for the honour. "I am deeply thankful for this recognition and the support extended to me," she said. "I remain committed to the development and promotion of Dogri language and literature."

The event was marked by appreciation for Dr. Sharma's literary contributions and her dedication to preserving the rich cultural heritage of Dogri.

Channi's 'Surgical Strike' Remark Undermines National Security

Congress questions surgical strikes, disrespects army: Vibodh

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Reacting to Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi's recent statement questioning the proof of India's surgical strikes, BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta issued a strong condemnation in a press statement.

He described the Congress as a "group of traitors" and accused them for defending Pakistan's terror. Vibodh emphasized that the surgical strikes were a testament to India's military supremacy and the government's unwavering commitment to national security.

"Once again, the Congress has chosen to question the integrity of the Army and Air Force. Charanjit Singh Channi has repeated his disbelief in the surgical strikes and is demanding evidence. It raises serious concerns about the mindset of the Congress leadership and the Gandhi family—how can they consistently cast doubt on our forces while appearing to trust



Pakistan's narrative? Even Pakistan has publicly acknowledged that the strikes happened", Vibodh added.

Vibodh further said that at a time when the entire nation is united in supporting our armed forces to avenge terrorism, the Congress party continues to undermine their credibility.

He strongly asserted that by questioning the surgical strikes and demanding proof, Congress is not just attacking the government but also hurting the morale of our soldiers and it is shameful that the Congress is playing politics with the security of the nation, while our forces risk their lives every day to protect us.

Teach Pakistan a lesson to restore peace in Kashmir: Shiv Sena

Free PoK from Pakistan occupation and fulfill the dream of a united J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Restoration of peace in Jammu and Kashmir and elimination of terrorism is possible only by teaching a tough lesson to Pakistan. It is said that PoK should be freed from the occupation of Pakistan and made a part of Jammu and Kashmir stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena UBT J&K unit.

In a press conference held on Saturday at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that Pakistan's panic due to the stoppage of water of the Indus Water Treaty. Threats of attack on India are being given. The

ceasefire agreement is being continuously violated.

Without wasting any time, the Central Government will have to take strong counter action against Pakistan's threats, enter inside Pakistan and take revenge, liberate POK from Pakistan's occupation and fulfill the dream of a united Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahni said that without sending to hell the supporters of terrorists in Pakistan Army, ISI and the masters of terrorists, there can be no complete stop to the terrorism that has been going on in Jammu and Kashmir for the last seven and a half decades and peace cannot be restored.

BJP welcomes Centre's decision to deport illegally staying Pakistanis in India: Sunil Sethi

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir, welcomes the Government of India's decision to deport all illegally staying or overstaying Pakistani nationals from Indian Territory after the GOI's decision to deport all the Pakistanis.

This was stated by Adv. Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP, who was accompanied by Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, Spokesperson, and Dr. Pandeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

While addressing the media persons, Sunil Sethi said that whatever may be circumstances or the justifications, these overstaying Pakistanis even if staying for a larger period and having matrimonial relation with Indian Citizens have no right to stay in India, neither they have a right to claim LTV (Long Term Visa) merely on this emotional ground.

It is asserted that such individuals may be potential sleeper cells, and there is a possibility that some of them have been planted by the ISI as part of a nefarious design.

"Pleading their claims for the Political gains or sympathy is fraught with the danger of playing with the security of



the nation", Sethi said.

BJP further asserts that the incident like Pahalgam could not be possible without the local support suggesting the possible involvement of some local persons.

However, the majority of Kashmiris have strongly opposed the terror attack and have extended help to the terror victims, said Sethi.

For the first time the whole of Kashmir has stood as 'one voice' against the Pakistan sponsored terrorism which proves that Kashmir has moved away from politics of terror 'post-2019' and now a common Kashmiri has the courage and the commitment against the terrorists and their mastermind.

Welcoming the Government of India's decision to suspend the Indus Water Treaty, Sethi noted that the people of Jammu & Kashmir had long awaited this move, which will enable better use of river waters for regional development. He also criticized the historical Shimla Agreement, stating it worked

against India's strategic interests despite the country's advantageous position post-war.

It is also noted that in the All Party Meeting and in the Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir, it was unanimously resolved to welcome the steps of the Government of India post terror attack.

India believes that terrorism cannot be eradicated until its root causes and infrastructure are dismantled. Pakistan, plagued by its policy of supporting terrorism, is now facing an internal crisis. In contrast, the Indian government enjoys support from all quarters, including the opposition on matters of national security.

It was further emphasized that the international community has come forward in support of India in its fight against terrorism.

The Indian government and armed forces are fully capable of ensuring the safety of its citizens, and the Indian people stand firmly behind their forces on issues of national security.

Samba police seizes five vehicles for illegal mining

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 3: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Samba Police on Saturday seized five vehicles in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Samba and Ghagwal which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by SHO Police Station Samba, Incharge Police Post Supwal of PS Samba and Incharge Police Post Rajpura, while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas, have seized five vehicles including two dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK08L-2364 and JK08F-1273 and three tractor trolleys bearing registration Nos. JK14F-2801, JK08M-9526 and



JK21J-3081 which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

The abovementioned

vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to the Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No.: 08 & 09-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR

Date: 30.04.2025

DEN-4/2025 acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.nreps.gov.in with closing date- 22.05.2025 & 21.05.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/bid up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against the tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.nreps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.nreps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single/Package System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
28.04.2025	08.05.2025 & 07.06.2025	22.05.2025 & 21.05.2025 / 15:00 Hrs.

S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender								
1.	08-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR	CTR(s) 1.00 KM in Mechanical Workshop at ASR in old Augmentation of facility for loading of newly built wagon by ASRV for G-105 certification.								
		<table><tr><th>Advertised Value (Rs.)</th><th>Earnest Money</th><th>Validity of Offer</th><th>Period of Completion</th></tr><tr><td>88,09,012.82/-</td><td>1,79,200.00/-</td><td>60 Days</td><td>94 Months</td></tr></table>	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	88,09,012.82/-	1,79,200.00/-	60 Days	94 Months
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion							
88,09,012.82/-	1,79,200.00/-	60 Days	94 Months							
		Similar nature of work - "CTR/TRR/TTR/TTR including raising of track/screwing down of track/tyre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/loosening machines & TTR by T-28."								
2.	09-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR	Augmentation of Amritsar Workshop by providing new administrative building with Account department & Personal department of Amritsar Workshop.								
		<table><tr><th>Advertised Value (Rs.)</th><th>Earnest Money</th><th>Validity of Offer</th><th>Period of Completion</th></tr><tr><td>3,26,09,280.69/-</td><td>3,13,100.00/-</td><td>60 Days</td><td>06 Months</td></tr></table>	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	3,26,09,280.69/-	3,13,100.00/-	60 Days	06 Months
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion							
3,26,09,280.69/-	3,13,100.00/-	60 Days	06 Months							
		Similar nature of work - "Any civil work other than track work."								

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE1307/25

EDITORIAL

Road Safety

Road accidents have become a grim reality of modern life. Every day, thousands of people around the world lose their lives or suffer serious injuries on the roads. According to the World Health Organization, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death for people aged 5-29 years globally. Closer to home, India alone accounts for over 1.5 lakh road fatalities annually. These aren't just numbers; they are shattered families, lost futures, and preventable tragedies. In this context, road safety awareness is not just a campaign—it is a life-saving mission. The urgency to educate, empower, and enforce road safety norms cannot be overstated. We, as a society, must collectively embrace road safety as a shared responsibility, involving not just drivers, but pedestrians, cyclists, passengers, policy makers, and enforcement agencies alike. At the heart of road safety lies responsible behaviour on the roads. Simple actions such as wearing seatbelts, using helmets, following traffic signals, avoiding over-speeding and saying no to drunk driving can make the difference between life and death. Yet, many still treat these basic precautions as optional or inconvenient. Road safety awareness campaigns must break through this apathy by emphasizing how these small choices have life-altering consequences. The government has indeed taken proactive steps by implementing stricter traffic laws through the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019. Heavier fines, stricter penalties for violations like drunk driving, and compulsory insurance are commendable measures. However, enforcement alone cannot solve the problem. Behavioral change through awareness is equally crucial. Campaigns such as “Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha” have raised visibility of the issue, but we need deeper, sustained engagement, especially at the grassroots level. One of the most vulnerable groups on our roads are young people and school children. Every year, hundreds of school students die or get injured in road mishaps, often due to negligence, lack of supervision, or reckless driving by others. Road safety education must start young—integrating basic traffic rules, pedestrian discipline, and awareness about safe commuting in school curricula is essential. Mock drills, interactive workshops, and involving students in awareness drives can inculcate responsible habits early on. Technology also holds immense promise for improving road safety. The use of speed governors, GPS tracking in school buses, dashboard cameras, and advanced braking systems can prevent accidents. Urban planners too must prioritize pedestrian zones, cycling tracks, better lighting, and scientifically designed crossings. Every pothole filled, every zebra crossing repainted, and every traffic light repaired contributes to safer roads. However, road safety is not just about infrastructure or rules; it's about attitude. Too often, we see drivers ignoring red lights, overtaking dangerously, or using mobile phones behind the wheel. We witness pedestrians crossing roads recklessly, jaywalking, or motorists not slowing down near schools or hospitals. This mindset of “rules are for others” must be replaced with mutual respect and empathy on the roads. Corporate organizations and community groups can also play a transformative role. Companies can organize defensive driving workshops for employees, incentivize safe driving practices, and contribute CSR funds towards road safety infrastructure. NGOs can work with local authorities to identify accident-prone spots and push for corrective measures. Social media influencers can amplify safety messages to younger audiences in creative, relatable ways. Perhaps the most powerful driver of change is stories. Sharing real-life stories of accident survivors, families affected by road crashes, or even ordinary citizens making extraordinary efforts to help accident victims can humanize the statistics. Stories create emotional connections that statistics alone cannot. Ultimately, road safety awareness is not a one-day affair or a government responsibility alone—it must become a culture of care, caution, and compassion. Whether you're behind the wheel, crossing the street, or riding a two-wheeler, remember: safety begins with you. Every time you fasten a seatbelt, slow down at a crossing, or stop for a pedestrian, you are not just following a rule—you are protecting a life. Let us work together to make road safety not just an obligation, but a value deeply ingrained in every journey we undertake. Because every life saved on the road is a family kept whole, a dream kept alive, and a future kept intact.

By: Omkar Dattatray

The blood of Indian’s irrespective of religion and party affiliations is boiling over the blood cuddling Pahalgam terror attack and the people are scared ,restive and demand blood for blood. They want tooth for tooth and eye for eye policy to be perused by the Modi government. People of the country this time want no media hype but actual strike on the epicenter of terrorism that is Pakistan to teach the terrorists and their masterminds a lesson so that such terror attacks will not recur again and no innocent human blood is spilled and lost. The soil of the Sofi land should not be drenched and soaked with the precious human blood and this is possible only if this time Indian asserts and strikes Pakistan. This is an opportune and appropriate time to strike mentors of terrorism beyond borders so that terrorism will not raise its ugly head again and sock the land of Kashmir with human blood. The people of India and the whole nation and political parties across the spectrum are solidly behind the government and want direct action to be taken to rein in the terrorists and give a befitting reply to the sponsors ,exporters and abettors of terrorism. The Pahalgam carnage is unprecedented and extra-ordinary and it deserves unprecedented and extra-ordinary response so that Pakistan/POK is taught a lesson so that terrorists will not dare to again hurt Kashmir. While the Pahalgam massacre is blood cuddling the blood of Indian’s is boiling but we should remain calm and quiet and allow government of India to take the necessary counter measures including to inflict wounds and injuries on those who are behind the terror in Jammu and Kashmir. This time whole India demand revenge against those who perpetrated the Pahalgam carnage and so this is the right time to strike POK and annex it to India. The international support and diplomacy is with India as the whole world has condemned Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists mostly Hindus have lost life and they are behind India in its pursuit of the terror factory and thus India should necessarily take lead and inflict maximum penalty on Pakistan for its conspiracy to bleed India including J&K with thousand cuts. The time of tit for tat has come and India should strike Pakistan so that the menace of cross boarder terrorism is eliminated once for all and so final blow to terrorism should emanate from India which is the victim of terrorism for the last over thirty five years. No more and further blood bath should be allowed to happen in Kashmir and the perpetrators of terrors should be given strongest and severest punishment for its direct involvement in terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. There is natural grief, sorrow ,gloom ,anger and feeling of revenge among people of India and in the Modi government as well and Modi has vowed to trace and punish terrorists and their backers to the end of the earth and there was anger and sadness in Modi when he was addressing to nation from Bihar and making it clear that India will go for hot and unprecedented pursuits to deal with Pakistan. While the grief ,anger and revenge is understandable but we should not allow our mind and intellect to be clouded by it rather should see sanity and be behind the government in its strike on the epicenter of terrorism and thus mayhem and doom should be eliminated and terrorism defeated so that it will not be in a position to raise its ugly head again in Jammu and Kashmir and kashmiris should be allowed to heave a sigh of relief from terrorism and its adverse consequences and this will be only

possible when the enemy country is taught a lesson. This is no time for negotiations and peace talks but for attacking the enemy beyond the borders and inflicting maximum damage on the perpetrators of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Patience of the GOI and the people is waning and now is the time to avenge for the killings of the innocent lives and so the government should without wasting any time strike at the very roots of terrorism. It seems that people across India are seething with anger, grief and revenge and want that government should act fast to deal with Pakistan and give a serious blow to her so that she will think eleven times before conspiring against India and perpetrate terror in Jammu and Kashmir. The anger ,grief, gloom and the feeling of revenge is rite large on the face of Indian’s and thus the government should take the opportunity and strike on POK so that the demon of terrorism and its mentors are defeated so that they will not again raise their head in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan should be made to stay away from Jammu and Kashmir and its terrorist camps and hideouts should be demolished and Indian army which has been given a free hand should cross the LAC and inflict maximum punishment upon the country which abets and sponsors terrorism to Jammu and Kashmir. There is naturally grief, panic, anger and revenge in the people of India and GOI should strike at the very roots of terrorism in POK so that terrorism ceases to appear in J &K in future and for this final blow should be given to the perpetrators and Jammu and Kashmir freed from the menace of cross boarder terrorism which has consumed a large number of innocent human lives. The blood of the Indian’s is boiling on the Pahalgam massacre and it should find expression in the GOI’s response to Pakistan so that

terrorist acts will not recur again and sock the Sufi land of Kashmir. While anger and revenge is natural response to Pahalgam massacre, but it should be directed towards Pakistan and we should maintain communal harmony and mutual brotherhood and the anger should not be directed towards Muslims as terrorism has no religion. Secularism and pluralism should be maintained at all costs while giving befitting response to Pakistan. We should protect and safeguard secularism and attack the demon of terrorism and this can be done only when we remain united and stand behind the government in its response to Pakistan’s involvement in Pahalgam attack. All that is required is that anger against Pakistan should not be directed and diverted towards the Muslim community rather against Pakistan and terrorism. The opportune time has come to annex POK to India and for this India should take the initiative to show the Pak its place and India has done well to have diplomatically isolated Pakistan and enlist the support of the international community on India’s response to terrorism and backers of terrorism.PM Modi has given free hand to army to deal with Pakistan and the army is anxiously waiting for the order of the government to strike a final blow on perpetrators of terrorism. In brief it can appropriately said that Pahalgam massacre is blood-cuddling.

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

Common plastic food packaging found to contain 9,936 harmful chemicals

By: Vijay Garg

You grab a pre-made sandwich from the fridge, tear off the clear wrap, and toss the wrapper without a second thought. Yet that throwaway plastic film contains thousands of chemicals that can move into your lunch, enter your gut, and settle into your bloodstream. Scientists have known for years that additives such as bisphenol A (BPA) and phthalates leach from containers, but recent studies show the list of migrating chemicals is far longer. The longer food rests against plastic, the more time those molecules have to move, and a microwave zap or a sun-soaked picnic only speeds the process. Tangled mix of chemicals in plastics Plastics start as long polymer chains, but manufacturers tweak them with colorants, softeners, heat stabilizers, and other agents so the material bends, flexes, or shines on command. Impurities, leftovers from production, and by-products that form as the plastic ages or cracks add to the list, creating a mixture even chemists struggle to map. None of these extra molecules are firmly locked in place. Heat, grease, ultraviolet light, and mechanical stress let them slip out. This is why food-contact articles like bags, trays, squeeze bottles, and bottle liners top the list of concern. The warm interior of a delivery truck or the jet of steam from a dishwasher can do the job. Thousands of chemicals, one sandwich bag “We found as many as 9936 different chemicals in a single plastic product used as food packaging,” noted Martin Wagner, a professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU’s) Department of Biology.

His team examined 36 everyday items sold in the United States, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Germany, and Norway, running high-resolution mass spectrometry screens to identify additives and breakdown products. The researchers also exposed cultured human cells to extracts from those items. “In most of these plastic products, we found chemicals that can affect the secretion of hormones and metabolism,” Wagner explained. Those cellular changes line up with national biomonitoring surveys showing BPA and phthalates in more than 90 percent of Americans, a prevalence mirrored in Europe and Asia. Hormones and plastic chemicals Hormones carry instructions between glands and organs. When those instructions are garbled, essential cellular functions such as growth, reproduction, and energy use can falter. In a second experiment, the NTNU group tested mixtures of plastic chemicals against 82 G-protein-coupled receptors – molecules that handle many of the body’s incoming signals. “We identified 11 chemical combinations from plastic products that affect these signal receptors,” said Associate Professor Wagner. Even small tweaks to those pathways can ripple outward. A lab analysis linked phthalate exposure to about 350,000 cardiovascular-related deaths worldwide in 2018, with middle-aged adults carrying the heaviest burden. The authors warned that phthalates may increase risks tied to obesity and high blood pressure, suggesting the true health toll could be higher. Beyond BPA and phthalates When BPA drew fire, manufacturers shifted to related chemicals such as

bisphenol S and bisphenol F. A 2024 study found these replacements cause the same cellular disruptions linked to obesity and diabetes, challenging the comfort offered by “BPA-free” labels on water bottles and baby cups. With more than 13,000 known plastic chemicals – and many still unlisted – scientists say a substance-by-substance approach cannot keep up. “These and previous findings show that plastic exposes us to toxic chemicals. They support the theory that we need to redesign plastic to make it safer.” Research teams are now testing plant-based polymers that break down quickly yet still block oxygen and moisture, two qualities valued by food producers.

Global momentum for safer plastics Negotiators from 175 countries met in Ottawa last year to shape a United Nations treaty aimed at ending plastic pollution “from source to sea.” Talks focused on additive databases and phase-outs for the most hazardous compounds, recognizing that pollution begins long before a bottle reaches the ocean. Delegates hope to finalize text at a fifth session later this year, setting the stage for formal adoption in 2026. While the treaty inches ahead, some regulators are moving on their own. The European Chemicals Agency has listed dozens of plasticizers as substances of very high concern, and several U.S. states now ban BPA in food-contact materials. Industry trade groups, meanwhile, are building open registries of additives to anticipate stricter disclosure rules, signaling that even manufacturers see change on the horizon.

What happens now? Researchers are racing to map the many unknown plastic chemicals that standard tests miss. High-resolution mass spectrometry, machine-learning models that predict biological activity, and expanding open databases are shrinking that blind spot, but laws often trail the lab work by years. In the meantime, practical steps can trim exposure: choosing fresh or frozen foods over canned, microwaving leftovers in glass, swapping scratched non-stick pans for stainless steel, and airing out that new-car smell before long drives. Small moves matter, because evidence suggests risk rises with every sip from a soft plastic bottle and every bite that rides down a plastic-lined conveyor. The wrapper may be tossed in seconds, but its chemistry can linger in the body for years.

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

GDC Ramgarh observes World Press Freedom Day 2025



Top News Report

RAMGARH, May 3: Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized a thought-provoking lecture on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, observed every year on May 3, to highlight the pivotal role of the media—the fourth pillar of democracy—in promoting transparency, truth, and accountability. The event was held under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the College. This year's global theme, "Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media," served as the focal point of the session.

The event was coordinated by Prof. Brham Dutt, and featured an informative and engaging lecture delivered by Ashok Kumar, who served as the Resource Person for the day. In his lecture, Kumar explored how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the landscape of journalism and press freedom. He spoke about the benefits of AI in the media sector, such as faster reporting, content generation, real-time fact-checking and multilingual content creation. At the same time, he cautioned against the emerging risks of AI misuse—particularly the spread of misinformation through deep fakes,

algorithmic bias, and threats to journalistic revenue models. Kumar also addressed the historical context of World Press Freedom Day, reminding the audience of the 1991 Windhoek Declaration and the role of UNESCO and the United Nations General Assembly in establishing this day in 1993. He reiterated that press freedom is not only essential for democracy but also for safeguarding human rights, promoting transparency, and ensuring informed public discourse. The event witnessed participation from the entire faculty, including Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Prof. Brham Dutt, Dr. Shivali Panigotra, Priya Sharma, Anjali Devi, Dr. Susheel Kumar, and Sayema. A large number of students actively participated in the session, expressing their deep interest in the topic and their appreciation for the role of media in shaping society. The session concluded with a renewed commitment to uphold press freedom, combat disinformation, and foster media literacy among the youth in an AI-driven world.

KCCI delegation visits family of Syed Adil, pays tribute to his heroic act

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 3: A delegation from the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), led by President Javid Ahmad Tenga, visited the family of Syed Adil, who tragically lost his life at Baisaran on April 22, to express heartfelt condolences and solidarity. The KCCI team, comprising Junior Vice President Fayaz Punjabi, Secretary General Faiz Bakshi, Treasurer Zubair Mahajan, and

Executive Committee Member Tauseef Bhat, met with Syed Adil's father, Syed Hyder Shah, and other grieving family members at their residence in Hapatnad. During the visit, the KCCI delegation lauded Syed Adil's brave and selfless efforts in rescuing tourists, an act that has been widely praised not only in Kashmir but across the world. "Syed Adil's heroism in the face of danger has brought pride and honor to the entire community," President Tenga

said while offering condolences. The KCCI assured the bereaved family of its meaningful and continued support during this difficult time. The delegation conveyed that Syed Adil's legacy of courage and humanity would be remembered and honored by the people of Kashmir and beyond. The family expressed gratitude for the visit and the solidarity shown by the business community.

Farewell organized in honour of Head Assistant Javeed Iqbal



Top News Report

DODA, May 3: The staff of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Dy CMO) Office Doda organized a farewell programme in honour of Head Assistant Javeed Iqbal on the occasion of his transfer to the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu. The event was graced by CMO Doda Dr. Om Kumar, Dy CMO Doda Dr. Sat Lal Manhas, along with officers and officials from the CMO

and Dy CMO offices, who were present to bid farewell to their colleague. During the programme, several speakers, including Dr. Om Kumar, Dr. S.L. Manhas, Dr. Javeed Paray, Mohd Shafi Attu, Mohd Saleem Bandy, Rishi Kumar Pandita, and Mohd Ishtiaq, addressed the gathering. They praised Javeed Iqbal for his dedicated services, commitment, and professionalism during his tenure at the CMO Office and other postings across the

region. The speakers extended their heartfelt best wishes to him for success and fulfillment in his new assignment. In his address, Javeed Iqbal expressed his gratitude to the staff for organizing the farewell and for the affection and respect shown to him. He thanked everyone for their support and cooperation throughout his service. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Faizan A Trambo, who anchored the event and kept the audience engaged.

Samba police organizes debate competition on drug abuse at GHSS Vijaypur

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 3: Samba Police on Saturday organised a debate competition on drug abuse at Govt. Higher Secondary School Vijaypur which was attended by hundreds of students, lecturers, teachers and other members of the school management. The programme at Govt. Higher Secondary School Vijaypur organized under Civic Action Programme (CAP) was presided over by SSP Samba, accompanied by SDPO Vijaypur and DySP DAR Samba in which a total of nine students had actively participated. SSP Samba presented



mementos and certificates to the first, second and third best student speakers whereas six other student speakers were also felicitated with

participating certificates on the occasion. While speaking on the occasion, SSP Samba urged upon the students to channelize

their energy in the right direction and participate in recreational activities besides taking keen interest in their studies. He asked the students

to stay away from the drug abuse and inform police about any drug related activity in their areas. The identity of the informer shall be kept secret. A pledge for say no to drugs was also taken on the occasion. The Principal of GHSS Vijaypur expressed her sincere gratitude to the Police Department for organizing such programme in the school. The efforts of J&K Police in promoting awareness about the negative impact of drug abuse were highly appreciated by the school management and attendees. At the end, refreshment was also served to the students.

JKMEF delegation meets MLA South, Dr. Narinder Singh, discusses health employees issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: The Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF) delegation led by President Jaswinder Singh, on Saturday met MLA South, Dr. Narinder Singh to discuss pressing issues faced by health employees in the RS Pura block. The delegation highlighted that employees posted at the RHTC in RS Pura have been struggling without their pending salaries for the past two months. The employees are facing difficulties due to the dual administrative control exercised by the Director Health Services Jammu and the Principal of Government Medical College Jammu, theu said adding that this dual control has led to budget constraints, preventing the timely disbursement of salaries and adversely impacting the financial stability of the health workers. Dr.Narinder listened

to their grievances and promptly contacted the Principal Medical College, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, and the Director of Health Services, Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zarger, via phone. He assured the delegation that the salary issues would be resolved within a week. The federation urged the authorities to expedite the release of the pending salaries. They also warned that if the administration fails to release the salaries promptly, the employees may be compelled to take the path of agitation to voice their demands. The deputation was accompanied by Bharat Bushan president JK GPA, Bahadur Singh Working President JKMEF, Parulal Singh General Secretary JKMEF, Vishal Gorkha, Bikram Singh Randhawa, Dalip Choudhary, Gagan Singh Block President RS Pura, and Tejinder Singh Publicity Secretary JKMEF.

Randhawa inaugurates washroom complex, tile works at Valmiki Colony

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: In a significant step towards improving civic infrastructure, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa on Saturday inaugurated the newly constructed washroom complex and tile laying works at Valmiki Colony, completed at an estimated cost of Rs 57.40 lakh. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of officials from the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), ensuring proper execution and adherence to quality standards in these developmental works. The event was graced by prominent leaders and dignitaries, including Rahul Kumar (Mandal President), Satbir Singh, Garu Bhatti, Rikki Gupta, Sanjay Gupta, Bhushan Verma, Ravi Khokhar, and several others who joined to mark this important occasion. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa said, "Development at the grass-roots level is our top



priority. Projects like these not only provide essential facilities but also improve the overall environment and quality of life for the residents. I am committed to bringing more such works to every colony and lane in my constituency." He appreciated the efforts of JMC officials and local leaders for their support and coordination in completing the projects within the stipulated time. Local residents warmly welcomed these new facilities, expressing

their gratitude towards the MLA and the administration. They highlighted that the modern washroom complex will greatly improve sanitation, while the tile work will ensure safer and smoother movement, especially during the rainy season. MLA Randhawa further assured the public that additional development projects focusing on drainage, street lighting, and road improvement are in the pipeline for Valmiki Colony and surrounding areas.

Dimple leads protest against JMC, PDD, PHE over Jammu's civic crisis

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: In a demonstration of public anger, Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, led a massive protest rally on Janipur High Court Road against the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Power Development Department (PDD), and Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, accusing them of complete failure in delivering basic civic services. The protest, joined by a large number of traders and locals, aimed to send a strong message to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, highlighting what Dimple called the "utter collapse of Jammu's civic infrastructure." Addressing the gathering, Dimple alleged that over 15,000 street lights and main road lights across all city wards are defunct, plunging Jammu into darkness every night. "Not a single



streetlight is functional; the city has been left to rot," he declared, drawing loud support from protestors. Dimple further alleged that the official website of JMC Jammu is non-functional, preventing residents from accessing essential services like birth and death certificates, sanitation complaint bookings, and online approval of building plans. "People are left helpless; no online system is working, no solutions are being offered," he said. Criticizing the garbage management system, Dimple pointed out that no door-to-door garbage

collection autos are arriving in the wards, leaving roads, lanes, drains, and sewerage overflowing and damaged. "The entire civic system is broken; even our elected MLAs are missing in action and never seen among the people," he said. Taking aim at the PDD, Dimple accused the electricity department of issuing inflated and erroneous electricity bills. He demanded the immediate delivery of physical paper bills to consumers, scrapping of the prepaid smart metering system, and a waiver of all excessive bills. "Poor families don't

have smartphones, don't understand apps, and are suffering under this failed digital system," Dimple said, warning of an intensified agitation against smart meters. He also raised concerns over the lack of transparency and accountability in the billing process. "People are being looted with multiple bills in a single month. Where is this money going? No one knows," Dimple questioned. Dimple made a direct appeal to the chief minister, demanding 200 units of free electricity for every household, warning that protests

will escalate if demands are ignored. He further demanded the provision of 12 free LPG cylinders annually and double ration supplies for all residents of Jammu and Kashmir starting January 1, 2025. Highlighting another crisis, Dimple said the Jal Shakti and PHE departments have failed to ensure basic drinking water supply. "Jammu's residents are facing an acute shortage of drinking water across wards. How long will the people suffer like this?" he asked. He vowed to continue the struggle for the return of the Darbar Move and promised the traders and citizens of Jammu that the fight for free drinking water, electricity, LPG cylinders, and ration would intensify in the coming days. Prominent leaders who stood alongside Dimple at the protest included Billo Pehlwan, S. Kala Singh, Mohinder, Vijay Virdi, Arun Verma, Lohari Shaha, Shishupal Sharma, Babu Singh, among others.

Time to pull up my socks as an actor: Vikrant Massey on audiences' growing appetite for entertainment

Mumbai, Actor Vikrant Massey says it is important for performers to stay on their toes and adapt to the rapidly changing demands of viewers in the ever-evolving world of entertainment.

Massey said he feels fortunate to have worked across all platforms, from television, films, to OTT. Over years, they have all evolved but the desire for entertainment remains constant, he added.

"A lot has changed now. The way we tell stories today and the way they are also consumed by the audiences. I started 21 years ago on Doordarshan, and today, the consumption patterns have changed. The way we tell stories has changed, and it is a process which will keep evolving as we move forward," the actor said.

"Today, most of us, are consuming entertainment on our mobile phones. One thing that has remained constant is our appetite for entertainment," he added.

The 38-year-old actor was speaking at a session, titled 'The Changing Face of Indian Cinema', on day two of the inaugural World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit here.

The "12th Fall" actor also noted that Hollywood films have made a strong impact on Indian audiences. He said that even people from humble backgrounds are



well acquainted with blockbuster movies such as "The Avengers".

"I know it for a fact that most of my staff have seen 'Avengers' and most of the Hollywood films dubbed in their local language, and they can sort of enjoy their form of entertainment.

"So, what that does for an actor like me now is to sit back and understand that I need to pull my socks up as an actor because today a guy from Sitamarhi, Bihar, or Kathmandu, Nepal, is watching global cinema inside a small room on his phone with his headphones plugged on," the actor added.

Massey said one has to adapt and move with the changing times.

"Our appetite for entertainment

remains constant, but we also need to adapt with different formats coming in, different forms of storytelling are coming in. So, from where I see it a lot has changed, but a lot more is yet to change. So, we need to adopt and adapt to moving times," he added.

The session was also attended by "Ponniyin Selvan" star Ravi Mohan, Sonali Kulkarni, and director Om Raut of "Adipurush" and "Tanhaji" fame.

Mohan expressed his disappointment over the perception that the cinema experience has shifted entirely to smaller screens.

He gave the example of a acclaimed Malayalam movie, "Manjummel Boys", and one

of his recent films, "Ponniyin Selvan", and said both the movies were meant to be watched on the big screen.

"Ponniyin Selvan" is a tale that all Tamil people were waiting to see on the big screen. It started with MGR, and Sivaji Ganesan, then it transformed to Vijay and Mahesh Babu, then somehow it came to us, me and Karthi and Vikram sir.

"This was the tale we were waiting to hear. Even if you give us Rs. 100 million, we will not watch it on the small screen or the phone. It made nearly Rs. 600 crores, and it would not have happened if people wanted to watch it on the small screen," the Tamil movie star said.

Mohan said that "big screen experience will not fade away" anytime.

"So, we should avoid the blame of saying that cinema has come to the small screen or on the phone. For learning, you can shoot the movie, edit the movie, do the recording and release it on YouTube from your phone, it is all great," he said.

"I don't think the future is going to be like that, I wish it won't become like that. The big screen will always be part of our hearts for movies," Mohan said, adding that the small screen, like TV and OTT, is used for the long run of the movie.

Meet Sachin Pilgaonkar, the 'sutradhar'



Sony Entertainment Television's latest offering Shirdi Wale Sai Baba promises to take audiences on a profound journey of faith and transformation. Rooted in the timeless teachings of Sai Baba, the show is set to be enriched further with the presence of veteran actor and revered performer Sachin Pilgaonkar, who steps in

as the sutradhar (the narrator) and guiding voice of the show. As the narrator, Sachin will guide viewers through each episode, helping them understand how Sai Baba's simple yet powerful messages are meaningful and relevant even in today's world. His voice will emphasise the stories and highlight the values of kindness and hope.

Known for his versatility and unmatched legacy in Indian cinema and television, Sachin brings both gravitas and emotional depth to the show through his narration. His spiritual connection to Sai Baba further adds a heart-felt layer to his role as the sutradhar. Sharing his thoughts on being part of Shirdi Wale Sai Baba, Sachin says, "This isn't just another professional milestone for me, it's something deeply devotional. I've always been a devoted follower of Sai Baba and his teachings have been a constant source of strength and guidance in my life. Hence when I was asked to become the sutradhar of this show, I saw it as more than just a professional service, it felt like a heartfelt tribute towards my faith through my narration. I hope to convey the simplicity, depth and timeless relevance of Baba's wisdom, and gently remind people that his values of love, compassion, and humility are needed now more than ever before."

Angelina Jolie to star in film adaptation of Anxious People

Actor Angelina Jolie is set to star in Anxious People. The upcoming film will be directed by Marc Forster, best known for Stranger Than Fiction and World War Z.

It is an adaptation of Fredrik Backman's novel, reported entertainment news outlet Deadline. The story revolves around an investment banker, Zara (Angelina), who begrudgingly finds herself mingling with a group of strangers at an open house, a day before Christmas Eve.

When a reluctant bank robber inadvertently takes the group hostage, chaos and oversharing ensue, secrets are revealed and literally nothing goes according to plan.

Previously, the book was adapted into a series by Netflix. It released in 2021.



Vijay Deverakonda apologises after complaint over 'derogatory' comments against tribal people: 'No intention to hurt'

Actor Vijay Deverakonda has expressed his "sincere regret" after a police complaint was filed against him for alleged derogatory comments made against tribal people. Taking to X (formerly Twitter) on Saturday, Vijay clarified that he had "absolutely no intention to hurt or target any community". The actor also clarified in which context he used the word tribe. Vijay made the comments during an event for Retro in Hyderabad.

Vijay Deverakonda issues clarification note over his comments

Vijay said that he considers the tribes an integral part of India. "It has come to my attention that a remark I made during the Retro audio launch event has caused concern among some members of the public. I wish to sincerely clarify: there was absolutely no intention to hurt or target any community, especially our Scheduled Tribes, who I deeply respect and consider an integral part of our country," he said.

The actor said he was talking about unity amongst Indians at the event. "I was speaking about unity — about how India is one, our people are one, and how we must move forward together. In what world would I, while urging us to stand united as a country, deliberately discriminate against any group of Indians — all of whom I see as my family, like my brothers," he wrote.

Vijay defends his usage of the word tribe



Vijay also explained what he meant when he used the word tribe. The actor said, "The word 'tribe,' as I used it, was meant in the historical and dictionary sense — referring to a time centuries ago when human society globally was organised into tribes and clans, often in conflict. It was never a reference to the Scheduled Tribes classification, which was introduced during colonial and post-colonial India and formalised only in the mid-20th century — not even 100 years ago."

"According to the English dictionary, 'tribe' means: 'A social division in a traditional society consisting of families or communities linked by social, economic, religious, or blood ties, with a common culture and dialect'," he added.

Vijay regrets his comments
Vijay concluded his note saying that he will use his social media platforms to "uplift and unify". "If any part of my message was misunderstood or hurtful, I express my sin-

cere regret. My only aim was to speak of peace, progress, and togetherness. I remain committed to using my platform to uplift and unify — never to divide. Vijay Deverakonda," concluded his note. Sharing the post, Vijay simply captioned it, "To my dear brothers (red heart emoji)."

What did Vijay say
At the event, Vijay said, "The solution to what is happening in Kashmir is also to educate them (terrorists) and ensure they don't get brainwashed. What will they achieve? Kashmir belongs to India, and Kashmiris are ours. India doesn't even need to attack Pakistan because Pakistanis themselves are fed up with their government and will attack them if this continues. Asalu 500 years back tribals kokkutunnatu, veelu buddi lekunda, minimum common sense lekunda chese panulu. (They behave like tribals did 500 years ago, fighting without common sense)."

A terrorist attack on tourists in Kashmir's Pahalgam left 28 people dead and many others injured on April 22.

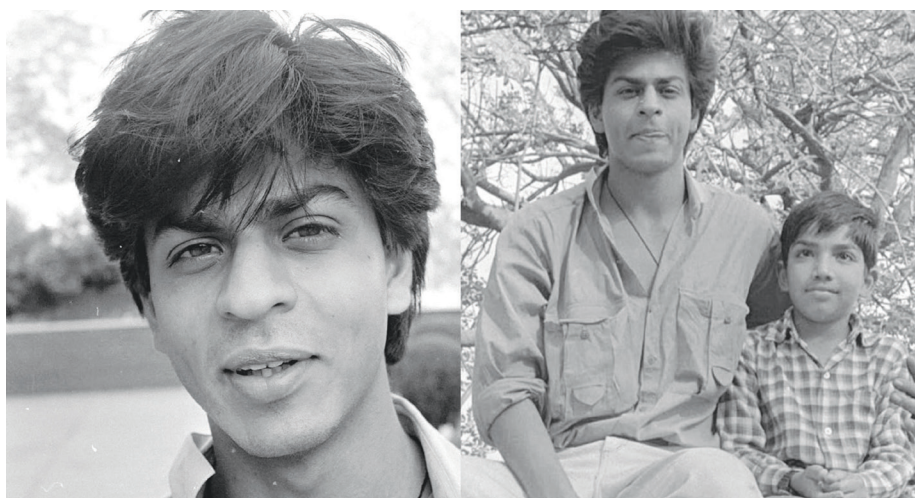
What happened after Vijay's comments
Recently, a Telangana Today report stated that lawyer Lal Chauhan filed the complaint against Vijay for his comments. In the complaint, he alleged that Vijay, talking about the Pahalgam terror attack, said that the attacks were similar to clashes between tribal communities hundreds of years ago.

Shah Rukh Khan's 'raw charm' in unseen photos from pre-Bollywood days

Actor began his acting journey with the television series "Fauji" in 1988

Actor Amar Talwar, well known for his role in the 1994 TV series "Shanti", has delighted fans by sharing unseen photographs of Shah Rukh Khan—well before the superstar he is today.

Posting the images on Instagram, Talwar revealed that the pictures date back to around 1990, just before Shah Rukh's move to Mumbai to pursue a career in Bollywood. One of the photos features a young SRK with Talwar's son, Tally, while another captures Khan holding a camera. "Going through my old pictures, came across these I had clicked of Shah Rukh Khan with my son, Tally, around 1990, before his departure for Bollywood," Talwar wrote in his caption.



He added, "Shah Rukh and I had acted in a couple of TAG (Barry John's Theatre Action Group) plays together — "Rough Crossing", "Who's Life Is It Anyway" and "Lend Me A Terror". Barry cast me in the role he wanted Shah Rukh to play but by then Shah Rukh had left for Mumbai, Bollywood...

and the rest is history — I guess!"

The post quickly garnered love from fans, who were thrilled to see the throwback images of a young SRK. Dressed casually and brimming with youthful energy, Shah Rukh looked every bit the charismatic performer even before his screen debut.

Shah Rukh, who began his acting journey with a television series "Fauji" in 1988, made his film debut with "Deewana" in 1992.

He rose to fame with back-to-back hits like "Baazigar" and "Darr" in 1993.

Talwar appeared in a brief role in "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham".

Harleen Kaur Rekhi is in love with theatre

Harleen Kaur Rekhi, known for her character Mandodari in Shrimad Ramayana, is now winning hearts playing Mata Sita in the stage production Humare Ram, starring Ashutosh Rana as Ravana. A passionate theatre artiste, Harleen has performed in over 60-70 plays since 2011, after graduating from Shri Ram Centre, Mandi House, a place she fondly calls her 'first school' of acting.

Sharing the stage with veteran actor Ashutosh Rana, Harleen describes the experience as 'incredible and mesmerising'. She recalls, "Seeing him since childhood, he has always been an idol. Every day, every time I step on stage with him, it's a new experience



altogether." She praises Rana for his powerful command over Hindi and the magnetic aura he brings to the stage. Despite the rise of screen-based entertainment, Harleen remains a fierce advocate of theatre. "Theatre is, and will always be, my first school. It stays with you till your last breath," she asserts. "It's a beautiful art form — there are no retakes, and the joy of receiving instant reactions from a live audience is incomparable," she adds.

Recalling emotional moments from Humare Ram performances, Harleen shares, "An elderly couple once came on stage with tears in their eyes, touching my feet and offering me prasad.

PM Modi announces USD 200 million for modernisation of Angolan armed forces

Holds wide-ranging talks with President Joao Manuel Goncalves Laurengo that focuses on ramping up overall bilateral ties

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced a USD 200 million defence credit line for Angola and expressed commitment to act firmly and decisively against terrorists and their backers, an assertion that came days after the Pahalgam terror strike.

Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Angolan President Joao Manuel Goncalves Laurengo that focused on ramping up overall bilateral ties, including in areas of digital public infrastructure.

In his media statement, the prime minister said Laurengo's visit to India not only gives a new direction to the bilateral relations but also strengthens



the India-Africa partnership. "I am pleased to announce India's USD 200 million defence credit line to support modernisation of Angola's defence forces," he said. The prime minister also said that there was a discussion on repair, overhaul and supply of defence platforms as well.

India will also share its capabilities with Angola in the areas of digital public infrastructure, space technology and capacity building, Modi said. "We have also decided to further strengthen our relations in areas of healthcare, diamond processing, fertiliser and critical minerals." The prime minister also said, "We are committed to taking firm and decisive action against terrorists and those who support them." Highlighting the importance of ties between India and the African Union, he said, "We are partners in progress, We are pillars of the Global South." Laurengo arrived in Delhi on Thursday on a four-day trip.

Rajnath set to skip Russia's Victory Day parade; junior defence minister to represent India



NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to skip Russia's Victory Day parade and his deputy Sanjay Seth is likely to represent India at the event in Moscow this week, official sources said on Saturday. The move to send the Minister of State for Defence to the May 9 ceremony comes amid increasing tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack. Russia had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Victory Day parade to mark the 80th anniversary of

the Soviet victory over Germany in the Second World War, but it was decided that Singh would attend the event. The sources said Seth will represent India at the parade. Russia has invited leaders of several friendly nations to attend this year's Victory Day parade. Modi had travelled to Russia twice last year for an annual summit with President Vladimir Putin and to attend the BRICS Summit in Kazan. The Russian president is expected to visit India for the annual summit this year.

J P Nadda reviews TN BJP's preparedness for 2026 Assembly poll

CHENNAI, May 3 (Agencies): BJP national president and Union Minister J P Nadda on Saturday reviewed the preparedness of the Tamil Nadu unit of the party in facing the 2026 Assembly election.

Nadda, who participated in the state core group meeting held here during his one-day visit to the city, advised the party senior functionaries to commence the preparatory work for the upcoming Assembly election and also carry out the organisational work of the party, a senior leader said.

The meeting, held with Tamil Nadu BJP chief and Legislature party leader Nainar Nagenthiran in the chair, was attended by national co-in-charge of Tamil Nadu affairs P Sudhakar Reddy, TN unit's co-convenor H Raja, national Mahila Morcha president and legislator Vanathi Srinivasan, and former state presidents: Pon Radhakrishnan and Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, among others.

"At the meeting, our state president Nainar Nagendran expressed the resolve to oust the DMK government from power in the 2026 election and ensure maximum number of BJP members in the state Assembly," the party's senior functionary Vinoj P Selvam said.



Nadda, who is the Union Minister for Health, Chemicals and Fertilisers, is in the city to participate in the sixth international conference on Saiva Siddhanta being held under the auspices of the Dharmapuram Adheenam at the SRM Institute of Science & Technology, here. "We are deeply grateful to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji for his gracious message and blessings for the 6th International Saiva Siddhanta Conference. His words inspire us to uphold the spiritual and cultural heritage of Bharat. @PMOIndia @MinOfCultureGoI @BJP4India @BJP-4TamilNadu," Paarivendhar, founder chancellor of SRM University, said in a post on 'X'.

Huge interest among global firms to collaborate with IICT: Vaishnaw at WAVES event

MUMBAI, May 3 (Agencies): Global firms are keen to work with the newly announced Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) to harness the creative energies in the country's youth, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said here on Saturday.

The Information and Broadcasting minister made these remarks after seven leading firms — JioStar, Google, Adobe, Meta, Apple, NVIDIA and Microsoft — exchanged Letters of Intent with the IICT on the sidelines of the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) here.

The Letters of Intent were exchanged in the presence of Vaishnaw, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan, and I&B Secretary Sanjay Jaju.

Vaishnaw said the institute is set to become



a national hub for the animation, visual effects, gaming, comics, and extended reality (AVGC-XR) sector. "Already seven firms — Nvidia, Google, Apple, Microsoft, Meta, Star India and Adobe — are collaborating with the IICT. The IICT will work closely with the industry to make our young creators future-ready," he said. Vaishnaw informed reporters that discussions with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) were also on for a col-

laboration with IICT. He had a meeting with Daren Tang, the director general of WIPO, on the sidelines of WAVES here on Friday. The IICT is being set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as a National Centre of Excellence on the lines of the prestigious IIT and IIM in strategic collaboration with trade body FICCI and industry body CII. "India has the potential to take a global leadership role in the world of media and entertainment. This institute is the first step in that direction and we have to build on it," Vaishnaw said. The minister said there was a huge willingness among global firms to work with the IICT. Pointing out that India is home to 40 million creators according to industry estimates, he said, "This vibrant set of creators participated in large numbers in 'Create In India' challenges. More than 1,00,000 creators from 60 countries have participated in this first edition of WAVES." Vaishnaw noted that the world of creativity was undergoing a profound transformation with technology democratising the sector. "The way content is created is changing and the medium of consuming content is also changing." He said WAVES is meant to offer a plat-

form for creators from around the world. "It will provide exposure to new technologies. WAVES will connect creators with investors, producers and buyers. This will create new economic opportunities," the minister said. The first phase of IICT is located at the NFDC Building on Pedder Road in Mumbai and features state-of-the-art facilities, including gaming labs, animation labs, edit and sound suites, virtual production setups, immersive studios, a preview theatre, and multiple smart classrooms. Vaishnaw also said that Phase-II of the IICT will see the development of a dedicated 10-acre campus at the Film City in Goregaon, further expanding the capabilities and the reach of the institute.

PM Modi continues to shun Manipur; Shah big failure: Congress

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): The Congress on Saturday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "continues to shun" Manipur and Union Home Minister Amit Shah proved to be a "big failure" in managing the situation in the state which has been in the grip of ethnic strife since 2023.

Congress General Secretary In-charge, Communications, Jairam Ramesh said the BJP formed a government in Manipur with a massive mandate in February 2022, and exactly two years ago today, the state erupted in sectarian violence.

"What began on May 3, 2023, therefore, was the self-dictated, self-directed derailment of the so-called double engine sarkar in the state. Three months later, the Supreme Court was compelled to declare that there had been an absolute breakdown of Constitutional machinery in the state," Ramesh said on X.

Faced with a no-confidence motion to be moved by the Congress in the state assembly, the Modi government forced the CM to resign and finally imposed President's Rule on February 13, 2025 — twenty months after the people demanded it, he



said. "The anguish and suffering of Manipur continues. Political games are being played. No worthwhile reconciliation process is underway. Over 60,000 internally displaced persons continue to live in relief camps in conditions of great stress," Ramesh said. "Most importantly, the PM continues to avoid and shun Manipur. He has met with nobody from the state. He has gone all over the world but has not found the time nor the inclination nor the sensitivity to visit the troubled state and reach out to the people there," he said. The Home Minister to

whom the PM has outsourced management of Manipur has proved to be a "big failure," Ramesh alleged. "Manipur deserves better. The people of Manipur are waiting for the PM to arrive in Imphal and go around the beautiful state and extend the healing touch — at least to the extent that he is capable of doing so," the Congress general secretary said. More than 220 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

One killed, 3 injured as Mercedes rams into motorcycle, falls off bridge in Pune



PUNE, May 3 (Agencies): One person was killed, and three others sustained injuries after a Mercedes rams into a motorcycle and fell off a bridge in Pune in the early hours of Saturday, police said. The accident occurred on Wadgaon bridge in the Sinhgad Road area around 4.30 am, an official said. He said the motorcyclist, Kunal Hushar, a resident of Pimpri Chinchwad, died in the incident, and the pillion rider sustained injuries. "A Mercedes rams into a motorcycle and fell off the bridge onto the service road below. The motorcyclist, who was critically injured,

died after being taken to a hospital," said Sambhaji Kadam, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 3). The occupants of the car also sustained injuries, he said. The official said two persons have been detained, and a case has been registered for culpable homicide not amounting to murder under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita and relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. The driver will undergo a medical examination to ascertain if he was drunk at the time of the accident, he said.

7 killed, 80 injured in Goa temple stampede, Chief Minister announces inquiry

PANAJI, May 3 (Agencies): At least seven people were killed and over 80 injured after a stampede during the Shri Lairai Zatra annual festival in Goa's Shirgao late on Friday. The injured have been admitted to the Goa Medical College (GMC) and the North Goa District Hospital in Mapusa for treatment. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant visited

the North Goa District Hospital following the incident to take stock of the situation. He also visited the Bicholim hospital earlier in the day. The Chief Minister, in a post on X, expressed his condolences and shared that he is personally monitoring the situation. The Goa Chief Minister announced that an inquiry would be conducted into the temple stampede. Talking to report-

ers at the site, Sawant said, "I have asked for a detailed inquiry into the incident. We will make the report public." Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said that as many as 80 people are injured and are being treated. "This is the most unfortunate incident. My whole team has been active the whole night they have been working. 80 people have been



injured and brought to hospital. The focus of the Health department is to save the lives of the critically injured, which are about 10. More than 6 to 7 people have lost their life. Government is doing the best to save the lives," the health

minister said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed his condolences and said that the local administration is helping the affected. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi also paid condolences to the victims' families and hoped for the speedy recovery of all the injured. Authorities are yet to release further details about the cause of the

stampede or the identities of the victims. The Shri Lairai Zatra, that started on Friday, is a deeply revered annual festival celebrated at the Shri Lairai Devi Temple in Goa's Shirgao. Devotees from across the state and beyond gather to honour Goddess Lairai, believed to be a form of Goddess Parvati. The highlight of the festival is the traditional dhondachi zatra,

during which thousands of devotees walk across burning embers barefoot. The celebration features a grand procession of the deity, marked by rhythmic drumming, devotional chanting, and ceremonial offerings. Thousands of devotees and visitors converge to witness the vibrant rituals and seek the blessings of the goddess.

Russian drone attack wounds at least 47 in Ukraine's second city, Kharkiv

KYIV, May 3 (Agencies): A Russian drone strike on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, wounded 47 people, local officials said today.

Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said drones hit 12 locations in the city late Friday. Residential buildings, civilian infrastructure and vehicles were damaged in the assault, according to Kharkiv regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov.

Following the attack on Kharkiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged stronger, more decisive support from the country's allies.

"While the world hesitates with decisions, nearly every night in Ukraine turns into a nightmare, costing lives. Ukraine needs strengthened air defense.



Strong and real decisions are needed from our partners — the United States, Europe, all our partners who seek peace," he wrote on X in the early hours of Saturday.

The Ukrainian Air Force said Saturday that Russia fired 183 exploding drones and decoys

overnight. Of those, 77 were intercepted by Ukrainian defenses, while a further 73 were lost, likely having been electronically jammed. The Air Force also reported that Russia launched two ballistic missiles.

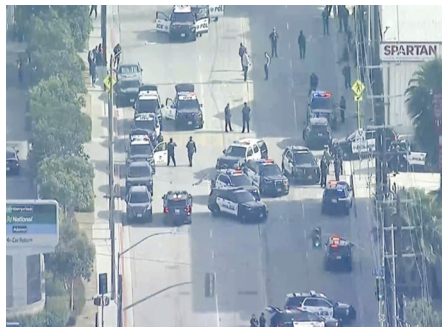
Meanwhile, Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses

shot down 170 Ukrainian drones overnight. The ministry said eight cruise missiles and three guided missiles were also intercepted.

In southern Russia, four people were injured in a drone strike on the Black Sea port city of Novorossiysk overnight, according to Krasnodar Region Gov. Veniamin Kondratyev.

The latest wave of attacks comes after the U.S. and Ukraine on Wednesday signed an agreement granting American access to Ukraine's vast mineral resources, finalizing a deal months in the making that could enable continued military aid to Kyiv amid concerns that President Donald Trump might scale back support in ongoing peace negotiations with Russia.

2 women shot on campus of small technical college near Los Angeles



INGLEWOOD, May 3 (Agencies): Two female employees of a Southern California technical college were shot on campus and taken to the hospital in an incident that authorities were attributing to workplace violence.

The shooting occurred around 4 pm Friday in an office at the Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology Campus in Inglewood, where Mayor James Butts said the suspect was believed to be a former employee.

Aerial TV video showed a heavy police presence outside the campus in the city, which abuts Los Angeles to

the southwest.

One of the victims was in critical condition, Butts said. The Los Angeles County Fire Department confirmed on the social platform X that two people were taken to the hospital.

The school went on lockdown for at least an hour after the shooting.

Chris Becker, president and chief administrator of the campus, told KABC-TV that the campus is patrolled regularly and that as an aviation school, safety is one of the things it focuses on the most.

"It's a peaceful campus," Becker said. "It's a nice community of students and teachers and staff."

The Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology has campuses across the country.

Its Inglewood location accommodates 500 students and offers training programs focused on aviation maintenance technology, according to its website. It is about 1.5 km from the Los Angeles International Airport.

Donald Trump sparks backlash after posting AI image of himself as Pope

WASHINGTON, May 3 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump has stirred controversy online after sharing an AI-generated image of himself dressed in papal attire on social media platform, Truth Social, on Saturday. The post comes just days after Trump jokingly declared himself as his choice for the new Pope, following the recent death of Pope Francis.

Francis, who passed away last month at the age of 88 due to a stroke and heart failure, was mourned by world leaders, including Trump, who attended his funeral.

However, the AI-generated image, which depicts Trump in white papal robes, has triggered strong reactions across social media, which critics accusing him of mocking the late Pope and showing disrespect to the Catholic Church.

"This is disrespectful to the church and God himself...he is literally the anti-christ," one user commented. Others described the post as "offensive" and "narcissistic".

Another person commented, "How disrespectful to Catholics. That is what Trump and his maggots are all about, disrespect and meanness and stupidity. How dare you mock the process



we Catholics go through to pick a new pope."

The image was posted shortly after Trump's comment to a reporter about who he would like to see succeed Pope Francis. "I would like to be Pope. That would be my number one choice," the 78-year-old quipped.

Trump added that he had no specific preference for the successor to Pope Francis, but praised Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, saying, "We will see what happens."

South Korea's main conservative party nominates Kim Moon Soo as its presidential candidate

SEOUL, May 3 (Agencies): Former Labor Minister Kim Moon Soo won the presidential nomination of South Korea's main conservative party, facing an uphill battle against liberal front-runner Lee Jae-myung for the June 3 election.

Observers say Kim will likely try to align with other conservative forces, such as former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, to prevent a split in conservative votes in a bid to boost prospects for a conservative win against Lee.

In a party primary that ended Saturday, Kim won 56.5% of the votes cast, beating his sole competitor, Han Dong-hun, the party said in a televised announcement.

Other contenders have been eliminated in earlier rounds.



"I'll form a strong alliance with anyone to prevent a rule by Lee Jae-myung and his Democratic Party forces. I'll push for that in a procedure and method that our people and members accept, and I'll ultimately win," Kim said in his victory speech.

Kim, 73, served as a governor of South Korea's most populous Gyeonggi province and a member of the Nation-

al Assembly for three terms. Kim was originally a pro-democracy and labor activist but joined a conservative party in the 1990s.

The June 3 election is meant to find a successor to conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol, a PPP member who was impeached and removed from office in early April over his ill-fated Dec. 3 imposition of martial law.

Kim has opposed parliament's impeachment of Yoon, though he said he respects a Constitutional Court ruling that formally dismissed Yoon as president in early April.

Yoon's impeachment is a major source of feuding at the People Power Party and a hot topic at the party's primary.

Han, Kim's main contender in Saturday's party election, served as Yoon's first justice minister. He leads a reformist yet minority faction at the PPP who joined the liberal opposition in voting to overturn Yoon's martial law decree and later impeach him. Without the support of Han's faction members, an opposition-led impeachment motion on Yoon couldn't have passed through the National

Assembly because opposition parties were eight votes short of a two-thirds majority to approve it.

Lee is the clear favorite to win the election, but he stands a total of five criminal trials over corruption and other charges. If Lee becomes president, those trials will likely stop as he will enjoy presidential immunity from most criminal prosecutions.

Lee's campaign suffered a setback due to a recent Supreme Court decision to order a new trial on his election law charges. It's unclear if he will face a court sentence that requires the suspension of his campaign before the June 3 vote, but he'll likely grapple with an intense political offensive by his election rivals.

Global leaders to convene in Abu Dhabi for inaugural Governance of Emerging Technologies Summit

ABU DHABI, May 3 (Agencies): Under the patronage of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, Abu Dhabi is set to host the inaugural Governance of Emerging Technologies Summit (GETS 2025) on May 5-6 at the St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort.

Organised by the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC) in strategic partnership with the UAE Public Prosecution, this landmark event aims to shape the future of technology governance on a global scale.

GETS 2025 arrives at a pivotal moment as the world grapples with rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, and Web3 technologies.

The summit seeks to establish robust governance frameworks that balance innovation with the protection of societal rights, bringing together over 500 leaders from government, industry, academia, and civil society to foster inclusive dialogue and collaborative solutions.

Faisal Al Bannai, Advisor to the UAE President for Strategic Research and Advanced Technology Affairs and Secretary-General of ATRC, emphasised the sum-

mit's significance: "Innovation without ambitious governance lacks sustainability. Through GETS 2025, the UAE reaffirms its belief that technological leadership must be coupled with ethical and inclusive policies that build trust and advance global human progress."

Echoing this sentiment, Chancellor Dr. Hamad Saif Al Shamsi, UAE Attorney General, stated, "Amidst the global technological surge, we bear the responsibility of constructing a smart judicial system capable of safeguarding rights and ensuring justice. GETS 2025 presents an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to developing responsive legislation and innovative governance that support societal advancement and uphold human dignity in the digital age."

Dr. Sultan bin Saif Al Neyadi, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, highlighted the role of youth in shaping technological governance: "The future of technology governance should be crafted by minds attuned to its evolution. Our youth possess the creativity, confidence, and responsibility required for leadership. At GETS 2025, we aim to empower young individuals to lead discussions and make

decisions that will lay the ethical foundations of our digital future."

The summit aligns with the UAE's strategic investments exceeding AED13 billion to accelerate AI and digital economy initiatives, reflecting a clear commitment to integrating AI into legislation, procedures, and government services.

Distinguished attendees include Faisal Al Bannai; Advisor to the UAE President for Strategic Research and Advanced Technology Affairs and Secretary General of ATRC; Chancellor Dr. Hamad Saif Al Shamsi, UAE Attorney General; Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri, Minister of Education; Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications; Maryam bint Ahmed Al Hammadi, Minister of State and Secretary-General of the UAE Cabinet, Dr. Sultan bin Saif Al Neyadi, Minister of State for Youth Affairs; Dr. Mohammed Al Kuwaiti, Head of UAE Cybersecurity Council; Maqsood Kruse, Chairman of the National Human Rights Institution; Dr. Mohammed Obaid Al Kaabi, Chairman of the Sharjah Judicial Department; Dr. Amin Al Amiri, Assistant Undersecretary for

the Health Regulation Sector at the Ministry of Health and Prevention.

The summit will feature over 50 prominent experts, including Salem Al Jumaa Al Zaabi, Head of Public Prosecution at the UAE Attorney General's Office; Dr. Najwa Al Araj, CEO of the Technology Innovation Institute, Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Ali; CEO of Trends Research & Advisory, Hamad Saif Al Kaabi; Director of Hazardous Materials Incidents and Official Spokesperson for the National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority; Dr. Hamad Abdullah Al Mutairi, Director of Archives Department at the National Library and Archives; Ambassador Mamuka Jgenti, Senior Expert in Justice and Civil Society at the EU Global Facility on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism; Lt. Col. Dana Hamid Al Marzouqi, Chair of the Governance Committee at INTERPOL and Director-General of the International Affairs Office at the Ministry of Interior; Changpeng Zhao, Founder of Binance; Christophe Legrand, Executive Vice President of PASQAL; Marc Rotenberg, Founder of the Center for AI and Digital Policy; Gabriele

Mazzini, Principal Architect of the EU AI Act; Naima Hizir Al Falasi, Senior Vice President of Portfolio Strategy at Mubadala; Ali Haidar, Head of Legal and Government Affairs at Microsoft UAE; Nabil Cheqroun, Chief Commercial Officer at Honeywell; Prof. Rabii Madi, Director of Robotic Surgery at Cleveland Clinic; Dr. Ibtisam Al Mazrouei, Founder and CEO of AIE3, and Chair of the UN AI for Impact Initiative; Dr. Nasser Al Rashidi, Director of Space Policy and Legislation at the UAE Space Agency, Advisory Board Member at Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, and CEO of 5IR Consultancy.

Key topics to be addressed include AI governance, digital privacy and rights, cross-border enforcement, cybersecurity in the post-quantum era, and the role of emerging nations in setting global standards.

GETS 2025 represents a strategic initiative to unify efforts across governments, academia, and the private sector, aiming to develop practical and ethical solutions that protect communities and foster technological advancement in an ever-evolving world.

Bangladesh celebrates World Press Freedom Day amid challenges

DHAKA, May 3 (Agencies): Bangladesh is celebrating World Press Freedom Day as the media face serious challenges. Political changes have shaken the media landscape in Bangladesh.

More than two dozen outlets changed leadership positions following the July uprising last year. Some journalists are facing murder charges. The authorities concerned are also investigating their bank accounts. The government has cancelled the accreditation cards of the journalists. Some journalists faced job cuts.

The United Nations General Assembly declared May 3 as World Press Freedom Day in 1993, marking an important milestone in the protection of freedom of expression and media freedom.

"Since the changeover in Bangladesh last year, July-August, we find that there are changes in the media sector. We also find some of the editors were removed from the position of the newspapers and televisions and some new people joined there," said Golam Rahman, Editor of Ajker Patrika, a Bengali daily newspaper of Bangladesh.

According to The Daily Star report, Editors at least eight newspapers and heads of news in 11 private television channels have been either

dismissed or forced to resign, while some left their jobs. "We find there is a silent crisis in the media that is going on because the media is writing and reporting matters, but many of our editors or many of our key people in the media are not facing or feeling safe to write to express their opinion. They are a bit shaky to express their opinion in full length," Rahman told ANI in an interview.

"We understand, some people were in prison, some people were arrested, and some key editors of the newspapers were also arrested. Those are stumbling blocks in the freedom of expression," he added.

The interim government headed by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus claims the government neither helped anyone nor intervened in changing the ownership or leadership in any privately owned media houses. The government says private news organisations have changed their leadership on their own.

"But in reality, we find some representatives of the present government who ordered some media people to be removed from some television stations. They were also instructed to change for the editorship of newspapers. There are hidden things that we find on social media and also in international media. Our media has

some blockades where they don't express their own opinions. There are hidden censorship," Rahman said.

"This is a legacy that we are inheriting from ages. Most of the time, it is written that media freedom is there. But the reality, we have not seen full freedom of the media in times. Media freedom is always being curtailed, threatened. Some restrictions are always there. Sometimes it is by law, sometimes it is by order, sometimes it is by practice; all these things are there. Full freedom of the media is still a far cry in the country. Because of political influences and political interferences, even sometimes top political parties or top political leaders also put pressure on the press. That is the legacy, that is the historical reality we faced," he said.

Rahman further said, "It is the recent practice that some journalists were put into jail. They are behind the bar. They are facing charges of killing people. But I should say those are not real arguments for them, those are not real cases for them. It is just because they are putting pressure on the press, pressure on some specific journalists, they are doing that. Without that, they can not keep them in prison. That is the main serious problem. Journalists should be free in their writing."

BJP J&K announces Basit Nabi as Media Secretary for Kulgam District



Top News Report

KULGAM, May 3: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir has announced the appointment of Basit Nabi as the new Media Secretary for the Kulgam district. The decision was officially communicated by party leaders earlier

within the district. Speaking about his new role, Nabi expressed his commitment to serve the party and work towards the development and welfare of the people in Kulgam. "I am honored to be entrusted with this responsibility and look forward to working closely with party colleagues and the community to promote our agenda and initiatives," he stated. Party officials praised Nabi's dedication and experience, emphasizing his role in enhancing the party's visibility and engagement in Kulgam. The BJP continues to focus on expanding its presence across Jammu and Kashmir, with appointments like these aimed at boosting grassroots connectivity and effective communication.

Announcement Regarding 2024 documentation cancelled by Smile Foundation NGO

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 3: In a significant development for the Smile Foundation NGO, it has been announced that "all the documents of 2024 supposed to be cancelled with regards Chairperson Masrat Jan." This decision comes as part of a broader initiative to streamline operations and refocus the organization's mission in the upcoming year. Chairperson Masrat Jan expressed her com-

mitment to ensuring that the foundation remains agile and responsive to the needs of the communities it serves. "As we look forward to 2024, it's essential that we reassess our strategies and objectives," Jan stated. "The cancellation of these documents allows us to realign our resources effectively and prioritize initiatives that truly make a difference." The foundation has gained recognition for its unwavering dedica-

Empowering Youth: 67 cases of Mission Youth schemes approved at Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 03: In an initiative towards youth empowerment and entrepreneurship development, the District Level Implementation Committee

(DLIC), under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, today approved 67 new cases under various components of the Mission Youth initiative. The approvals include 35

cases under the Mumkin Scheme, 08 under Tejaswini and 24 under the Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative (SEI). These schemes are designed to provide financial aid, skill development, and infrastructure support

to youth, promoting self-reliance and employment generation. At the outset, AD Employment Shafqat Ali Keen provided a comprehensive overview of the schemes, highlighting their impact and outreach.

National Workshop on “POSH Act and UGC Regulations 2015” held at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, May 3: Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) in Collaboration with National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized a one day national workshop on "PoSH Act and UGC (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women at Work - place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) and the University Grants Commission (Prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment of women employees and students in higher educational institutions) Regulations, 2015 provide clear guidance on this sensitive matter. The objective of this one day event was to spread the awareness among the stakeholders of SMVDU in particular and higher educational institutions in general for preventing such criminal offences. The welcome address of the workshop was delivered by Dr. Kakali Majumdar, Presiding



Officer, ICC, SMVDU. Jyoti Solaria, a PoSH Consultant, Corporate Trainer and Workplace Wellness Coach was the Guest Speaker. Solaria focused on the aspect of 'Awareness to Action'. She pointed out that unwelcoming sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, making sexually coloured remarks and other verbal and physical conduct of sexual nature at the workplace etc. are the types of sexual harassment and are covered under PoSH Act. Solaria also made the audience aware of 'QUID PRO QUO', 'Hostilework Environment' and other related situations. The speaker also highlighted the rights available to the complainant. As part of the workshop, NCC cadets and NSS volunteers of SMVDU delivered thought-provoking skit, songs and poems centered around the themes of gender sensitivity, dignity, and safe campus environments. The university admin-

istration appreciated the involvement of NCC and NSS units, commending them for using artistic expression and outreach as effective tools to promote respect, equality, and safety. Their participation

added meaningful depth to the workshop's objectives and left a lasting impact on all attendees. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU (JKAS) handed over the memento to the honoured guest.

Faculty members, Non-teaching staff and students of SMVDU and SMVD College of Nursing attended the workshop. The organizing committee of the workshop comprised of Dr. Kakali Majumdar, Rajesh Sharma, Ritu Sharma, Members of the ICC; Dr. Rajiv Kumar, the Coordinators of NSS Unit; Dr. Varun Dutta from NCC Unit of SMVDU, Jaipal Singh Jamwal, Staff associated with ICC and student volunteers of NSS & NCC. The one day workshop concluded with an Awareness Rally.

GDC RS Pura hosts poster display on Viksit Vibrant Village program



Top News Report

R S PURA, May 3: NSS Unit of Government Degree College R.S. Pura hosted a poster display event focusing on the 'Viksit Vibrant Village Program' under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College and supervision of Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS, PO. This initiative aligns with the broader 'Viksit Bharat@2047' vision, aiming to empower border villages through infrastructure develop-

ment, improved livelihoods, and cultural vibrancy. The posters pertaining to Viksit Vibrant Village Program (VVVP) were displayed on the notice board of the college by the NSS Team and Volunteers to create awareness among the students about the event and to register them on My Bharat Portal as a part of transformational Leader of Viksit Bharat. Later volunteers registered themselves on My Bharat Portal which was beneficial to them regarding the aware-

ness of various Govt. Initiatives meant for them. Speaking on the event Principal of the College exhorted that such activities are part of the college's ongoing efforts to engage students in national development themes and raise awareness about critical government initiatives for empowering the border villages. The faculty members present during the event were Dr. Akriti Parihar, Dr. Hari Singh, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch and Dr. Savleen Kour.

FromPage No: 1

India bans direct, Indirect imports from Pakistan with immediate effect

spices (USD 1.66 million), cereals (USD 1.39 million), petroleum products (USD 11.63 million), fertiliser (USD 6 million), plastics (USD 4.16 million), rubber (USD 1.88 million), and auto components (USD 28.57 million). The India-Pakistan trade relations soured after the Pulwama terror attack. Following that, India raised the import duty to 200 per cent on all goods imported from the neighbouring country, including on fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products and mineral ore. In 2017-18, Pakistan's exports to India were USD 488.5 million. India also withdrew MFN (most favoured nation) status to Pakistan. That time the two main items imported from Pakistan were fruits and cement. Slapping an import duty of 200 per cent effectively means almost banning imports. The country invoked a security exception clause of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to withdraw the MFN status. Both countries are members of this organization. India had granted the MFN status to Pakistan way back in 1996, but the neighbouring country had not reciprocated. Under the MFN pact, a WTO member country is obliged to treat the other trading nation in a non-discriminatory manner, especially with regard to customs duty and other levies. In 2012, Pakistan had committed to giving the MFN status to India but retracted later due to domestic opposition. Instead of MFN, Pakistan said it was working on grant-

Born to serve J&K Police and my Country India: Cop after HC Stays his deportation to Pakistan

dozen people mostly from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) who were served 'Leave India' notices by the authorities in Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu districts and were taken to Punjab for deportation to Pakistan on Tuesday and Wednesday. However, Ali and his eight siblings – Mohd Shafiq (60), Nashroon Akhter (56), Akseer Akhter (54), Mohd Shakoor (52), Naseem Akhter (50), Zulfqar Ali (49), Koser Parveen (47) and Shazia Tabasum (42) — were brought back to their village in Poonch after the High Court of J&K and Ladakh admitted their petition claiming that they were not Pakistani nationals and have been living in Salwah village for generations and stayed their deportation.

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead, the Centre announced a slew of measures, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, downgrading diplomatic relations with Islamabad, and ordering all Pakistanis on short-term visas to leave India by April 27 or face action. "We have a centuries-old history of being the bona fide residents of Salwah with both our parents and other ancestors were buried in the village...the notice (on April 26 by Deputy Commissioner, Poonch) came as a shocker to our family comprising more than 200 members, including some serving in the Army," Ali said. Ali lives with his wife and three children, all aged between six and 11 years. In the midst of the situation, he said they decided to approach the high court and are grateful to the judiciary for giving them respite. "(The) petitioners are not asked or forced to leave UT of Jammu & Kashmir. This direction is, however, subject to objections from the other side," Justice Rahul Bharti said in an order on Tuesday after hearing the plea of Ali, who is currently posted at Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. The court directed the Deputy Commissioner, Poonch to come forward with furnishing of an affidavit with respect to the status of property holding if any by the petitioners and set May 20 as the next date of hearing of the case. "We have a land holding of nearly five hectares with another two hectares illegally usurped by my maternal uncle with whom we are having a long dispute. The deportation notice is the outcome of that very dispute because they do not want to return our land," Ali claimed.

According to officials, Ali's father Faqur Din and mother Fatima Bi spent a long time at a camp in Tralkhal after they crossed over to PoK during the 1965 war. The couple and their nine children returned to their village in 1983. After a long struggle, they were admitted as permanent residents by the J&K government between 1997 and 2000 but their nationality still remained pending with the central government, they said. "I have served all the wings in the police department over the past 27 years, which is evident from the scars on my body, and the citations and rewards which I have received from the department for shedding my sweat and blood for the country," Ali said. He said the most painful moment of his life was when he was told that he did not belong to this country. "I do not belong to Pakistan and nobody is there for me. I belong to India and this is my country. I love the police from the core of my heart and I am ready to sacrifice my life for the country," Ali said, reiterating his pledge to protect this land with every breath he takes. He also thanked his lawyers and also the sociopolitical activist Safer Choudhary who extended his support to the family. "I also come from Mendhar and I know they have a genuine case so I came forward on humanitarian grounds to mobilise support in their favour so that they are not deported to Pakistan," Choudhary said.

“Kashmir was and will always be a part of India”: Farooq Abdullah after meeting tour-

ists in Pahalgam

remarks, Abdullah said, "He (Bhutto) will continue to issue statements ... If we care about his statements, we cannot move forward." After India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan after the Pahalgam attack, Bhutto-Zardari was quoted as saying by The News, "The Indus is ours and will remain ours — either our water will flow through it or their blood." Abdullah also called for revisiting the treaty. "We have been saying for a long time that we need to revisit the IWT. We are suffering losses because of it. The rivers are ours but we are suffering. I am not saying that water be stopped but we also have a right over it," he said. Jammu faces water shortages and water from the Chenab cannot be diverted for residents of the region because of the treaty, Abdullah said. "We had tried to divert water from the Chenab to them but the World Bank did not help us, saying it came under the IWT. Today, we have an opportunity to get water to Jammu from there (Chenab). We have a right over the rivers as well, not just them (Pakistan)," he added. Brokered by the World Bank, the IWT governed the distribution and use of the Indus river and its tributaries between India and Pakistan from 1960. Abdullah said India could not build any projects on its rivers without Pakistan's permission because of the treaty. "Are you not deprived of electricity? We have rivers from where we can generate thousands of megawatts of electricity and can never be deprived of electricity. But we cannot build any projects as they (Pakistan) do not permit us. So, we have to revisit it and, God willing,

we will," he said. Asked about a war-like situation prevailing between the two nuclear powers in wake of the attack, Abdullah said, "I have no answer to such questions." Speaking on the Pahalgam massacre, the National Conference chief urged people not to be afraid of such attacks and said those behind it would rot in hell. "Those who did that and those behind it murdered humanity. The doors of hell are open for them. They cannot enter heaven," he said. Abdullah later travelled to Pahalgam and interacted with several tourists. He also clicked selfies with the tourists. **Pakistan test-fires Abdali Missile amid strained ties with India over Pahalgam attack** operational preparedness and technical proficiency of Pakistan's Strategic Forces to ensure credible minimum deterrence and safeguard national security against any aggression. **Pahalgam attack: NIA grills two imprisoned terrorists in Jammu** have recorded accounts from victims' family members in Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal among other states. Initial investigations into the attack indicated that the number of terrorists involved could range from five to seven. The attackers were also aided by at least two local militants who received training in Pakistan.

Kuldeep to represent Asian Kabaddi Federation at Asian Youth Games in Bahrain

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: In a significant achievement for Jammu & Kashmir, Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, General Secretary of the J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association and Technical Director of the Asian Kabaddi Federation (AKF), has been entrusted with an important responsibility by the AKF for the upcoming 3rd Asian Youth Games (AYG) 2025, scheduled to be held in Bahrain.

Gupta will represent the AKF as part of the official delegation in the first Technical Delegate Meeting of the 3rd Asian Youth Games, which will take place from May 13 to May 17, 2025, in Bah-



rain.

A veteran in kabaddi administration and officiating, Gupta has an illustrious track record, having served as Technical Director in major international sporting events, including the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China (2023), the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China (2010), and the 14th Asian Games in

Busan, South Korea (2002). He has also been appointed multiple times as a Technical Official at the National Games in India.

Gupta's appointment underscores his deep expertise and leadership in the sport.

His role at the Asian Youth Games will be pivotal in ensuring the effective planning and execution of kabaddi competitions at this prestigious continental event.

His selection has been widely appreciated by the kabaddi fraternity, with many expressing confidence that his participation will further boost the profile of Indian kabaddi at the Asian level.

Tennis ball cricket trials from tomorrow

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: The Jammu & Kashmir Tennis Ball Cricket Association (JKTBCA) has announced two-day selection trials for the upcoming T-10 Senior and Junior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship.

The trials will be held on May 4 and 5, 2025 at M.A. Stadium, Jammu, in preparation for the national championship scheduled to be played in Nagpur, Maharashtra from May 9 to 11, 2025. Interested players are invited to report at the venue in proper sports kit on the respective dates.

Participants are required to bring six recent passport-size photographs, Xerox copy of Date of Birth

certificate, Domicile certificate, and Physical fitness certificate issued by a registered physician.

The trials will commence sharp at 9:00 AM. For the Junior category, participants must be born on or after May 1, 2006. All aspirants are instructed to report to Gulshan Rattan, In-charge of Selection Trials, at the stadium along with all required documents. He can be contacted at 7006963458 for any further details.

The association also informed that participants will have to bear all their expenses from Srinagar to Nagpur and back, as the activity is not sponsored by the J&K Sports Council. With photo Press Release

GCW Udhampur NCC Cadets shine at CATC Camp under 1st J&K Girls Bn NCC Srinagar



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 3: The NCC cadets of Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur affiliated with the 1st J&K Girls Battalion NCC Srinagar, have brought laurels to the college with their outstanding performance during the Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC) held recently under the dynamic command of Colonel S.P. Tiwari.

Held with a focus on holistic cadet development through rigorous training, discipline, and leadership exercises, the camp witnessed active participation from

cadets across various institutions.

GCW Udhampur Cadets showcased exceptional discipline and dedication throughout the camp. Several cadets from the college excelled in selection trials and secured positions in prestigious preparatory events including Pre-SNIC (Special National Integration Camp, Pre-RDC, Pre TSC (Thal Sainik Camp).

The cadets were lauded by the Additional Director General (ADG) of NCC Jammu and Kashmir Directorate - Major General Anupinder Bevil, VSM for their dedication and conduct.

The Principal of GCW Udhampur Dr.Nalini Pathania also commended the cadets for upholding the institution's legacy of excellence and for being proud ambassadors of the college's NCC unit and congratulated Lt.Prof Rukhsana Kousar for her efforts in grooming cadets in the best possible way.

Their achievements reflect the hard work, perseverance, and commitment instilled through the NCC training framework and are a testament to the vibrant spirit of youth leadership being nurtured at GCW Udhampur.

Kho-Kho U-14 & U-17 girls of Jammu get underway

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: The Zonal-Level Inter-School Tournament in the discipline of Kho-Kho for U-14 and U-17 girls of Jammu Zone got underway at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Bakshi Nagar, here on Saturday.

The Tournament is being organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, under the Chairmanship of the District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jammu, Sukhdev Raj Sharma and under the overall supervision of Harvinder Kour, Zonal Physical Education Officer Jammu.

586 girls drawn from different institutions both Govt and Private of Jammu Zone participated in these competitions, which are meant to pick the teams for



the upcoming Inter-Zonal Tournament.

The event was formally inaugurated with an opening ceremony

which was graced by the Principal GGHSS Jammu, Jabeena Akhter, who attended as the Chief Guest.

In her address, Jabeena congratulated all the participating students and emphasized the vital role of sports in character building and youth development.

She encouraged the students to continue participating in such events, highlighting the physical, mental, and social benefits of regular sporting activities.

Speaking at the occasion, Harvinder Kour, Zonal Physical Education Officer, Jammu congratulated all teams for their enthusiastic participation and for showing sporting spirit.

"The players displayed extraordinary skill and gave their best to get the selectors nod," maintained, Harvinder Kour. She said that all the officials of Zone Jammu were present during the Tournament and showed enthusiasm and fervour.

JKSC screened Kalarippayattu team for 7th Khelo India Youth Games 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: The J&K Sports Council (JKSC) conducted the official screening of the Jammu & Kashmir Kalarippayattu team ahead of their participation in the 7th Edition of the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, scheduled to be held in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, from May 11 to 13, 2025.

Ten outstanding Kalarippayattu athletes from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir have been selected to represent the region at this prestigious national-level event. The selected athletes are Manvi Sharma, Misthi Sharma, Aapurti Saini, Anandika, Adarishtha Manhas, Aaidah Nabi, Palak Sharma, Pratham Vaid, Nitin Kumar, and Chirag Puri.



The screening session was graced by eminent dignitaries including Baljinder Singh Balli, Divisional Sports Officer (

Jammu) of J&K Sports Council; Manjeet Singh, Chairman of the Kalarippayattu Association of J&K; T.P. Singh, Veteran Nation-

al Athlete of J&K; Dr. Jagandeep Singh - Physiotherapist of JKSC, Joginder Kumar, Danish Sharma, General Secretary of the Kalarippayattu Association of J&K and Jagriti Sangotra (Coach).

Anissa Nabi (Chief Sports Officer - J&K Sports Council) extended her best wishes to the team, expressing confidence in their potential to perform exceptionally and bring laurels to the Union Territory. The Kalarippayattu Association of J&K conveys its heartfelt appreciation to the J&K Sports Council for its constant support and commitment toward the growth of traditional martial arts. The team is well-prepared and motivated to make their mark at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025.

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 3: In the wake of heightened tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla, accompanied by former Minister Yashpal Kundal, visited border areas Daugh, Abtal, Chowni, Jarda, Swankha, Upper Pard in Samba District to listen to the grievances of the local population. Prominent among those who accompanied Bhalla included Sarpanchs Vijay Kumar (Baba) Choudhary, Yash Paul Sharma, Surjeet Singh, Bittu Sharma, Ex Sarpanch Tirth Ram, Sunil Kumar Bhagat, Bhadur Singh, Amarjeet Singh, Mohan Singh Bhatti

Border Kisan Cell President, Narayan Dass, Darshan Sharma, Jarnail Singh, Sanjeev Katal Block President, Mandeep Choudhary, Amarjeet Singh.

During the visit, Bhalla reviewed the bunkers and facilities available to the border residents and assured them that the party would take care of their needs and provide all possible help. Bhalla demanded that the government provide 5 marla plots to border residents in safer places, citing that they are the frontline sufferers whenever tensions escalate between India and Pakistan, resulting in ceasefire violations.

While raising the concerns of the border residents, Bhalla reaffirmed the Congress party's full support to the Union Government in its fight

against terrorism. He emphasized that the party stands united with the government in this critical endeavor. Bhalla assured the border residents that their concerns would be taken up with the authorities and that every effort would be made to address their needs and provide them with the necessary support.

Raman Bhalla's visit to the border areas demonstrates the party's commitment to the welfare of the border residents and its resolve to support the government's efforts to combat terrorism. The demand for 5 marla plots for border residents in safer places highlights the party's concern for the well-being of those living in these areas.

Bhalla strongly condemned Pakistan for its continued support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, despite its own economic struggles. He criticized Pakistan for not learning from past experiences and instead choosing to foment terror in the region. Bhalla described Pakistan as a failed state and a rogue nation, emphasizing its inability to address its own internal issues while continuing to destabilize the region through terrorism.

Despite Pakistan's negligible economy, it continues to prioritize terrorism over the welfare of its own citizens, Bhalla said. This approach has not only harmed the region but also exacerbated Pakistan's own economic woes. Bhalla's strong

words against Pakistan reflect the deep-seated concerns about the country's role in promoting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. His remarks underscore the need for Pakistan to reassess its priorities and work towards regional stability and peace.

Bhalla expressed confidence in the Indian armed forces' ability to defend the country's borders, citing their past successes. He emphasized that terrorists deserve no mercy and that countries that nurture them to use against other nations should face economic sanctions and global isolation. Bhalla highlighted the devastating impact of Pakistan's proxy war, which has claimed several precious lives. He stressed that the nation cannot afford to lose any more innocent lives and that Pakistan should be taught a lesson to mend its ways and become a civilized country.

Bhalla's statement underscores the need for global action against countries that sponsor terrorism. He emphasized that economic sanctions and isolation can be effective measures to deter such behavior and promote regional stability. Bhalla's remarks reflect the strong sentiment against terrorism and the need for collective action to combat it. His confidence in the Indian armed forces and call for global action against terrorism underscore the importance of a united approach to address this critical issue.

MIER College of Education hosts theatrical tribute to Samuel Beckett's Legacy

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: In a poignant tribute to the legendary Irish playwright and novelist Samuel Beckett, born in April 1906, the Literary Club of MIER College of Education hosted a special theatrical performance of his iconic play Waiting for Godot. Organized by the Department of English, the event marked Beckett's birth month and celebrated his profound literary legacy.

Known for its existential depth and minimalist style, Waiting for Godot was brought to life by an enthusiastic team of students whose powerful interpretation captivated the audience. Their dedication and nuanced performances conveyed the play's themes of uncertainty, anticipation, and philosophical introspection with impressive maturity.

Arzoo served as the narrator, providing insightful guidance



through Beckett's layered narrative. The lead roles were compellingly portrayed by Mehak, Charu, Riya, Khushi, Sheetal, and Sanidhya. Their collective performance evoked the essence of Beckett's dramatic intent.

Behind the scenes, Ishan and Chitvan managed the technical aspects with finesse, ensuring seamless coordination of light-

ing and sound to enhance the emotional impact of the play.

The event was gracefully anchored by Anushka, while Sudiksha extended a warm welcome to the attendees. The program concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Divya, acknowledging the dedication and collaborative efforts of the entire team.

Dr. Palvi Mangotra, Assistant

Professor, Department of English, commended the students for embracing the challenge of staging such a complex piece. She lauded their courage and artistic expression, emphasizing the educational value of theatre. Quoting the celebrated poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan—What is past is past—she encouraged students to immerse themselves fully in the learning journey that art and literature offer.

Prof. Adit Gupta Director and Principal MIER College praised the efforts of the literary club and its participants for their outstanding creativity and thoughtful presentation of Samuel Beckett's play.

The Literary Club of MIER College continues to serve as a vibrant platform for students to engage with global literature, nurturing creativity and fostering cultural appreciation through innovative events and programs

“Asian Cricket Council could be disbanded”: Sunil Gavaskar drops India-Pakistan relations bomb

Sunil Gavaskar has made a bold prediction that the ACC might get disbanded

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): Legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar has made a bold prediction that the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) might get disbanded, amid mounting political tensions between India and Pakistan following the terror attack in Pahalgam’s Jammu and Kashmir, where 26 tourists were killed. India are co-hosts, alongside Sri Lanka, for this year’s Asia Cup. While the dates and venues for the event are yet to be confirmed, a report recent claimed that the Asia Cup might not take place this year owing to tensions between India and Pakistan.

Gavaskar was also of the opinion that if the Asia Cup does take place this year, it is highly unlikely for Pakistan to take part in the continental event.

“BCCI’s stance has always been what the government of India tells them to do. So I don’t think it would be any different when it comes to the Asia Cup.



India and Sri Lanka are the hosts for this particular edition of the Asia Cup, so it depends on whether things have changed at all, but if things haven’t changed, I can’t see Pakistan now being part of the Asia Cup, which is going to be hosted by India and Sri Lanka,” Gavaskar told agency.

Gavaskar also suggested that the ACC might get dissolved if the situation doesn’t improve.

“I don’t know how it will be. It might be that the Asian Cricket Council could well be disbanded, and you could just have a three-nation tour, that could well have a three-nation tournament, or a four-nation tournament with maybe Hong Kong or UAE being invited. So that could well happen, the Asian Cricket Council could well be disbanded. But I think it is dependent on what happens in the next couple of

months,” he added. Gavaskar also pointed out that if India pulls out of the Asia Cup, they might invite other Asian teams for a multi-nation event in India.

“It could well happen that India decides to pull out of the Asian Cricket Council that could well happen. We can say look we’re going to have a 4 nation tournament or a 5 nation tournament in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and it could be, it could well be that if the tournament is held in Bangladesh, the tournament is held in Sri Lanka, but obviously India is going to be the host, then India will host it in India,” he added.

“I won’t be surprised at all if the Asian Cricket Council gets disbanded with what’s been happening. I mean if you’ve got two countries, you know, fighting against each other, then it’s, it’s a little bit difficult to, to play sport with each other,” Gavaskar explained.

Shubman Gill in trouble? Gujarat Titans skipper risks 1 match ban after ‘heated umpire arguments’



AHMEDABAD, May 3 (Agencies): Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill could be staring at disciplinary action after engaging in two heated exchanges with umpires during the Indian Premier League 2025 match against Sunrisers Hyderabad at Ahmedabad’s Narendra Modi Stadium.

against Mumbai Indians on May 6.

The first flashpoint came after Gill was ‘controversially’ run out for a blistering 76 (38), sparking an animated argument with the fourth umpire over the decision.

The tension flared again in the second innings when Gill furiously protested an on-field LBW call that went in Sunrisers batter Abhishek Sharma’s favour. The GT captain had to be calmed down

by the opposition batter himself.

Gill’s actions appear to breach Article 2.8 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which relates to dissent at an umpire’s decision. With two incidents in one match, he could face a Level 1 offence—leading to a fine and demerit points—or, if deemed more serious, a Level 2 offence, which could result in a match suspension.

However, Gill later opened up about the heated exchange with the umpire during the run chase. Speaking at the post match presentation, the Gujarat Titans skipper downplayed the incident, stating that emotions were running high in a crucial game.

“There are so many emotions, you give 110% on the field, sometimes you’re bound to show emotions,” Gill said.

Rishabh Pant’s form under scrutiny as Shreyas Iyer-led Punjab eye crucial win over LSG

DHARAMSHALA, May 3 (Agencies): Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant’s woeful form with the bat and Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer’s sublime touch have made Sunday’s mid-table clash an engrossing contest—one that could decisively shape the fortunes of either side as the IPL enters its business end. Iyer’s understanding of game situations and his evolution as a captain, without compromising on his batting, have served PBKS well. In their last game, the PBKS captain struck his fourth half-century of the season, helping his side to a creditable fourth spot on the table with 13 points from 10 games.

Pant, on the other hand, has endured a disappointing run with the bat, registering six single-digit scores for a total of 110 runs in 10 matches. His only noteworthy knock this season has been a 63 against Chennai Super Kings.

Pant’s poor form has placed his side in a virtual must-win situation against PBKS, with LSG currently sixth on the table with 10 points.

Iyer, who played a key role in Kolkata Knight Riders’ title-winning campaign last season

but was released before the mega auction, was snapped up by PBKS for a staggering Rs 26.75 crore. Since then, he has made an immediate impact with sharp tactical leadership.

Once vulnerable against the short ball, Iyer has made notable technical adjustments to overcome that long-standing weakness.

With all-rounder Glenn Maxwell ruled out of the remainder of the tournament due to a fractured finger, Iyer will have to find a suitable replacement—something easier said than done.

Iyer could turn to Azmatullah Omarzai, the yet-to-feature Aaron Hardie, or even Xavier Bartlett, depending on conditions.

In the batting department, opener Prabhsimran Singh’s recent exploits have been the stuff of dreams. More confident than ever, the 25-year-old became the first uncapped player in IPL history to cross 1100 runs when PBKS defeated CSK in their previous outing.

With a well-set top and middle order featuring Priyansh Arya, Nehal Wadhwa, and Shashank Singh, PBKS’s batting looks solid.

On the bowling front, PBKS will be buoyed by Yuzvendra Chahal’s

return to form. The leg-spinner relied on instinct and subtle variations on a gripping surface to claim a hat-trick against CSK in their last match.

A well-rested LSG will look to reboot their season after a week-long break—their last match was on April 27 in Mumbai.

While the return of pacer Mayank Yadav after a long injury layoff was a positive, they were still handed a 54-run thrashing by Mumbai Indians, exposing flaws in a batting unit packed with power-hitters like Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran, and David Miller.

Pooran (377 runs), Marsh (344), and Markram (326) have often formed the bedrock of LSG’s batting success, and their performance on Sunday will be key to the team’s prospects.

While Avesh Khan has been consistent, Mayank’s return adds pace to the attack. Though bowling in the 140 kmph range—slightly below his earlier highs of 150-155—he made an impact against MI with two wickets, a performance that should boost his confidence ahead of the PBKS clash.

Kolkata Knight Riders eye must-win at Eden as Rajasthan Royals aim to spoil party

KOLKATA, May 3 (Agencies): Riding high on their new-found confidence, defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to finally get it right at home and keep their playoff hopes alive when they take on a struggling Rajasthan Royals in their IPL match here on Sunday.

With four league matches remaining, KKR’s equation is straightforward -- win all four and reach 17 points, a total that should secure a spot in the top-four without relying on the other results.

The challenge, though simple on paper, is steep in reality.

The final leg of their campaign includes two home matches -- against Rajasthan Royals on Sunday and Chennai Super Kings on Wednesday -- followed by two away fixtures, against Sunrisers Hyderabad on May 10 and an in-form Royal Challengers Bengaluru (May 17).

While SRH have lost steam, RCB are charging up the table, making that final clash in Bengaluru potentially a high-stakes encounter.

But that’s still far away. For now, the Knights must stay focused on what’s immediately in front -- the two back-to-back games at Eden Gardens, starting with the Royals.

Interestingly, both RR and CSK are among the most inconsistent sides this season and were the first to be eliminated.

CSK became the first team to crash out of the playoff race, and RR followed soon after, officially eliminated following their 100-run loss to Mumbai Indians in Jaipur on Thursday.

That, however, makes them dangerous opponents. With nothing to lose, both CSK and RR can spoil KKR’s party.

But KKR’s bigger worry is their poor run at home. Eden Gardens, which once used to be their fortress, has yielded just one win from five matches this season -- the latest a rain-affected washout against Punjab Kings.

Their spinners have struggled to adjust to the grip and variable bounce, something the rival teams have exploited far more effectively.

Batting, too, has been underwhelming which has been a far cry from the explosive unit that powered them to the title in 2024.

Rinku Singh, the finisher who grabbed headlines last season, has struggled to make an impact with just 169 runs from eight innings.

Quinton de Kock, roped in to fill Phil Salt’s gap at the top, has lacked consistency with 143 runs from seven innings at a strike rate

of 137.50.

But the biggest let-down has been their costliest buy of the season, Venkatesh Iyer, who has been re-signed for Rs 23.75 crore and made vice-captain.

The pressure seems to have taken a toll. Venkatesh has managed only 142 runs in 10 games and has scored just 28 runs across his last three innings -- a sharp decline from his 370-run tally in 2024 at a strike rate of over 158.

Captain Ajinkya Rahane, who has been KKR’s most reliable batter this season, is nursing a hand injury he sustained while fielding. “I’m fine. I’m trying my best and hopefully I’ll play the match on Sunday,” he said.

The one big positive for KKR was their morale-boosting 14-run win over Delhi Capitals that ended a three-match winless run.

Sunil Narine was the architect of the win -- a 16-ball 27 with the bat, a match-winning 3/29 with the ball and a brilliant direct-hit run-out that sent KL Rahul packing.

The Trinidadian’s all-round brilliance provided the spark KKR badly needed, and his experience will again be the key as they look to reignite their campaign.

For Rajasthan Royals, the tournament has slipped out of control.

With just one win in

their last seven games, the flaws in their auction strategy have been laid bare. A lack of depth in batting and bowling, combined with injuries, has led to their early exit.

The 14-year-old sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi’s stunning 35-ball century was a rare moment of magic, but the Royals cannot rely on such individual brilliance every time.

The absence of Jos Buttler, who moved to Gujarat Titans, and captain Sanju Samson, who has missed most of the season due to injury, has left their batting looking thin.

Yashasvi Jaiswal has carried the top order, but the middle-order trio of Shimron Hetmyer, Dhruv Jurel and Nitish Rana has underperformed.

Jurel has one fifty from 10 innings and 249 runs to show, while Hetmyer has scored 187 runs at an average of 20.77.

Rana, who returns to face his former team, has failed to find rhythm and will be under scrutiny against the side he captained with distinction in 2023.

The bowling hasn’t fared any better. Without Yuzvendra Chahal -- now doing wonders for Punjab Kings, including picking up a second hat-trick -- they may lack the penetration, especially

on slower tracks like Eden.

Wanindu Hasaranga missed the last game with a nigggle and it remains to be seen if he’s back. Jofra Archer has taken 10 wickets in 11 games but at an expensive average of 40.10.

Maheesh Theekshana, too, has failed to deliver.

Teams (from) Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane (c), Rinku Singh, Quinton de Kock (wk), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Rovman Powell, Manish Pandey, Luvnith Sisodia, Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy, Moeen Ali, Ramandeep Singh, Andre Russell, Anrich Nortje, Vaibhav Arora, Mayank Markande, Spencer Johnson, Harshit Rana, Sunil Narine, Varun Chakaravathy and Chetan Sakariya.

Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson (c), Riyan Parag, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dubey, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Kunal Singh Rathore, Yudhvir Singh Charak, Nitish Rana, Sandeep Sharma, Tushar Deshpande, Akash Madhwal, Kumar Kartikeya, Kwen Maphaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Ashok Sharma and Jofra Archer.

Match starts: 3:30pm.

Mohammed Shami struggles in IPL 2025, expert raises concerns ahead of India’s England Tour

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): Mohammed Shami has had a tough time in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, and many are starting to worry, especially with India’s Test tour of England coming up soon. Earlier this month, Shami nearly broke an unwanted record by conceding 75 runs in four overs against Punjab Kings (PBKS). That’s just one run short of the most expensive four-over spell in IPL history, held by Jofra Archer, as per ESPNcricinfo.

While going for runs is part of T20 cricket, Shami hasn’t looked like his usual self this season.

As commentator Aakash Chopra said, “He’s not looking good,” as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

Shami missed IPL 2024 due to an ankle injury and underwent foot surgery in March 2024. Just a season earlier in 2023, he was in red-hot form and won the Purple Cap with 28 wickets for Gujarat

Titans (GT). But this season, the numbers are worrying. Against his former team GT on Friday night, he gave away 48 runs in three overs without taking a wicket. So far, he has just six wickets from nine matches, with a high bowling average of 56.17 and an economy rate of 11.23.

“You’ve had a big surgery like that, I think psychologically for a start (it gets you down),” Danny Morrison said on ESPNcricinfo’s Time Out.

“And then you’ve got to come back and pace yourself, I just wonder: he is no 29-year-old anymore, is he? So there are all of those things that are stacked against you,” he said.

“That’s a big question there, no, because it’s not like he came back from an injury last week or last month. He started playing domestic cricket last year and this is May already,” Aakash Chopra said, as

quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

“He’s played an ICC event (Champions Trophy) in between. He’s played a lot of games. If he’s still off the boil, and that has something to do with the injury - and we’re all assuming that it is - then there is a serious question mark with regards to what happens next,” he added.

Chopra noted, “Of course, (SRH) is one story. The other is the tour of England. All of us were harping about the fact that (at the) Border-Gavaskar Trophy, (Jasprit) Bumrah was alone, there was no Shami, and if there was Shami how things would have been different. But will there be Shami (in England) is the question. And what kind of Shami?”

“This tournament is such that it doesn’t matter who you are. If you’re not delivering the goods, you will be taken to the cleaners. And right now, what I see with

Shami is, pace down is one bit, second is not enough balls getting bowled in the same area. Mohammed Shami was always that. That is his only strength (and), it is phenomenal,” he said.

Shami had made his return to competitive cricket late last year with Bengal in the Ranji Trophy. He also featured in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy before returning to the Indian team for the T20I series against England earlier this year. His best recent performance came in the Champions Trophy, where he picked up 5/53 against Bangladesh and ended the tournament as India’s top wicket-taker with nine wickets, helping India lift the trophy.

Also there have been off moments too -- like the match against Pakistan in the same tournament, where he bowled five wides in his first over. On Friday, something similar happened. He bowled too

straight to Shubman Gill, who flicked him for six, then gave too much room to B Sai Sudharsan, and even bowled a 20-run over.

“Going back to that game against Pakistan, where he bowled five wides in the first over - okay that happened also 45 days ago or, maybe more, two months ago (on February 23) - so if he’s still not able to get the ball right... because he’s not someone who will get flicked for a six; you can drive him for a four, cut him maybe - he doesn’t give you that much width by the way - but very seldom will he bowl those that you’re flicking for a six and you’re happy facing the (next) ball. So yeah, he’s not looking good,” Chopra said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

Commentator Danny Morrison pointed out how difficult it can be for a fast bowler to bounce back after injury, especially with age and form not on your side.

“Sometimes, there’s a saying, you just put it there rather than you bowl it,” he said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

“And follow through, and present to the crease well, and all those sorts of things. He may just be subtly guilty - and it could be anyone - that if I am not just getting through the crease, pace has come down - sure, all those things - whether you are wholeheartedly getting through your action,” he added.

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) still have four matches left. They are not out of the playoff race just yet, but the chances are slim. These next four games are a chance not just for SRH to fight back, but also for Shami to prove he still has it. The IPL may not decide who gets picked for the Tests, but Shami has not played a red-ball match since June 2023 and right now, things are not looking too promising.

Panun Kashmir urges stronger action against terrorism, calls for declaration of Pakistan as Terrorist State

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: In a press conference at the Press Club Jammu today, Dr. Ajay Chrungoo, Chairman of Panun Kashmir, expressed unequivocal support for the Government of India's operations against Pakistan, emphasizing the need for decisive action to deter its ongoing support for terrorism in India.

Addressing the recent Pahalgam massacre of Hindus, Dr. Chrungoo underscored that the attack wasn't simply a lapse in security but a glaring flaw in the security doctrine pursued by the government.

"This was not an isolated terror incident — it's part of an ideological war, a jihad aimed at the destruction and disintegration of Hindu demography in Jammu and Kashmir," he asserted.

He warned that unless these doctrinal flaws are



addressed, India risks facing "many more such tragedies."

Dr. Chrungoo drew attention to what he termed a "genocidal war" against Hindus, beginning with the Kashmiri Pandit genocide and now manifesting in various forms across states like Manipur, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Kerala.

Quoting former Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat's concept of

a "2.5 front war," Dr. Chrungoo criticized the government's lack of clarity on countering the "0.5 front" — referring to internal ideological and asymmetric threats.

"There is an ideological message behind the Pahalgam massacre," he warned, cautioning against attempts to "fudge, obscure, and obstruct" a decisive national response.

He called out what he labeled "funeral secu-

larism" — performative displays of unity after attacks — as inadequate and even subversive.

Panun Kashmir laid out a series of urgent demands to the Government of India. They demanded immediate declaration of Pakistan as a terrorist state, formal recognition of the genocide of Kashmiri Hindus, enactment of a law in Parliament to prevent and punish the crime of genocide,

further reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir, including the creation of a Union Territory of Panun Kashmir for the rehabilitation of displaced Hindus, and granting statehood to Jammu province.

"These steps are crucial if India is to mount an effective response against Islamist terrorist separatism," Dr. Chrungoo declared.

The press conference was also addressed by Raj Nath Raina, P L Koul Budgami, P N Raina, Sunil Bhat, and Sh. Surinder Bhan, who echoed similar sentiments, urging the government to adopt a bold and uncompromising stance.

Panun Kashmir's leadership concluded with a call for the government to shed its reluctance, recognize the genocidal war being waged, and act decisively to secure the future of Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir.

Advocate Neeta Verma delivers motivational session at BSF School Paloura



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: BSF School, Jammu organized a Counselling-cum-Motivational Session featuring Advocate Neeta Verma, a distinguished member of the Supreme Court of India and State President of the Human Rights Mission, Jammu and Kashmir, as the keynote speaker.

The session proved to be both enlightening and thought-provoking, especially for the students and faculty members who participated with great enthusiasm.

The event witnessed the gracious presence of DIG PSO BSF Prabhakar Joshi, Principal Dr. S.K. Shukla, senior faculty, and a large gathering of students.

The session was held with the objective of raising legal and social awareness among school-going youth and encouraging them to take informed and responsible steps in their personal and academic lives. Advocate Neeta Verma, in her detailed and interactive address, touched upon a wide array of crucial topics relevant to today's generation - cyber crime, juvenile crime to boys and girls, Sexual Harassment Act, Pocco, Staying drug free, Cooperation and Coordination between

teachers and students, helping girls with self-defense and providing administrative and legal aid in safe and difficult situations and lastly discussed Mission Vatsalya. It was a dynamic counselling interaction in which students eagerly asked questions about laws related to children, digital safety, and legal consequences of drug abuse.

Advocate Verma, with her extensive experience and compassionate approach, answered each question with clarity, giving real-life examples and suggesting ways students could protect themselves and help others.

She also drew attention to the growing menace of substance abuse among children and teenagers, urging students to remain vigilant and to support their peers in avoiding such harmful practices. Her message was clear: awareness is the first step towards prevention, and youth must be equipped with the right information to safeguard their future.

Highlighting her own background and inspirations, Advocate Neeta Verma shared how her family—rooted in the freedom struggle and legal service—shaped her journey. She encouraged the students to follow the path of truth,

law, and justice, and to never underestimate their potential to bring about change.

At the conclusion of the session, Advocate Neeta Verma presented her authored book, "Bharat Varsh Ka Itihaasik Aur Vartaman Kanoon", to DIG PSO BSF Prabhakar Joshi and Principal Dr. S.K. Shukla.

The book, which highlights the historical and current legal framework of India, was highly appreciated by the dignitaries.

Principal Dr. S.K. Shukla thanked Advocate Verma for her valuable time and deeply insightful talk. She was honored with a certificate of appreciation and a memento by the school administration as a token of gratitude.

DIG Prabhakar Joshi also appreciated the initiative and stressed the importance of such sessions in today's educational system, where students must be prepared not just academically but morally and legally.

The session left a lasting impression on students, opening their minds to legal rights, social responsibilities, and the power of awareness. It truly underscored Advocate Neeta Verma's commitment to justice, education, and empowerment.

Centre's ban on Pakistan trade a strategic move post-Pahalgam attack: Kavinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta has hailed the Modi Government's decision to impose a complete ban on the import and transit of goods from Pakistan, terming it a strategic and timely move in the wake of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.

Speaking after the meeting held at Party headquarters in Jammu, the BJP stalwart said the terror incident in Pahalgam, which led to the loss of innocent lives, has once again exposed Pakistan's deep-rooted involvement in sponsoring cross-border terrorism.



"This ban is a firm and appropriate response. The message is clear—India will not maintain any form of engagement, even trade, with a country that harbours terrorism," he stated.

Notably, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on Saturday issued a notification inserting a new clause—Para 2.20A—into the Foreign Trade Policy

2023 under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992. It prohibits, with immediate effect, the direct or indirect import and transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan.

Kavinder applauded the Centre's swift action, saying it reflects the Modi government's zero-tolerance policy towards terror and unwavering

commitment to national security. "Such actions are not just policy shifts, they are strong national statements. The Pahalgam attack demanded a decisive answer—and this ban is one of that answers," he said.

He added that economic disengagement from Pakistan is necessary to cut off all indirect support to its terror infrastructure. "We cannot

afford to trade with a nation that constantly bleeds our soldiers and civilians. Enough is enough," he remarked.

Appealing to the people, especially the trade and business community, the former deputy chief Minister urged full support for the government's decision. "National interest must always come first. The country stands united in its resolve against terrorism," he added.

Among those who were present in the meeting included Bali Bhagat former minister, Parmod Kapahi, Suresh Sharma, Rajinder Chib, Kulbhushan Mohtra, Sunil Prajapati and Ishant Gupta were present.

Dr Darakhshan felicitates educationists, students during investiture ceremony at ASN School Jammu

Modern education along with our ancient historical awareness under NEP is strengthening our young minds to lead world: Andrabi



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board on Saturday participated in the Investiture Ceremony of the Student Council Members at ASN School at Channi Himmat in Jammu as the Chief Guest.

She was accorded a warm reception by the Director of the School during the Ceremony.

Andrabi presented the awards and also addressed the gathering of the educationists, students and civil society members.

Hailing the efforts of the school in creating

a scientific and modern model, Dr Darakhshan said that this era is undoubtedly the era of India's growth as a world power of knowledge and wisdom.

"Modern education along with our ancient historical awareness under NEP is strengthening our young minds to lead the world. Our youth have impressed the globe and the journey is on as the future belongs to us," said Dr Andrabi.

She said that New Education Policy has broadened the horizons of our educational landscape and we as a growing nation will get benefited on a bigger scale.

"Innovation is becoming the habit of our youth and this habit is going to reshape our nation on the basis of pure applied knowledge beneficial to the mankind", said Darakhshan.

P B Kapoor, M D Adarsh Educational Trust was the Special Invitee whereas Vishakha Pandita, Outreach Manager, Shoolini University, HP, Neeru Gandotra Principal Govt Hr Sec School Channi Himmat, Manmeet Kour, Vice Principal, Army Public School Jammu Cantt, Seema Sambyal, Principal Holy Presentation Convent School, Kathua participated as the Guests of Honour.

FICCI-FLO JKL, GCW Udhampur sign MoU to empower women through skilling, wellness, and entrepreneurship

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 3: In a significant step towards empowering women in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO), Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Chapter, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government College for Women (GCW), Udhampur.

The MoU, signed here on today, marks the beginning of a collaborative partnership aimed at enhancing the personal, academic, and entrepreneurial capacities of women students in the region. This initiative, aptly titled "The Power to Empower", reflects a shared vision of both institutions to create transformative opportunities for young women in the region.

The agreement was formalized in the presence of senior representatives from both sides. Representing FICCI-FLO JK&L were Aati Choudhary, Chairperson, Varuna Anand, Past Chairperson, Rupika Sahai, Vice Chairperson and Nandita Bajaj, Secretary. From GCW



Udhampur, Prof. Nalini Pathania, Principal, GCW Udhampur and senior faculty members including Dr. Indu Khajuria (IQAC Convenor), Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma (NSS Programme Officer), Dr. Ravinder Kumar (Career Counseling Cell Convenor), and Dr. Rewa Lakhotra (Hospitality & Protocol Convenor) participated in the signing ceremony.

Prof. Nalini Pathania, Principal of the college, shared her thoughts on the occasion, stating, "This MoU is not just a formal agreement but a powerful commitment to equipping our young women with the skills, exposure, and support they need to thrive in today's dynamic world. We are proud to collaborate with FICCI-FLO

JK&L, whose dedication to the cause of women's empowerment aligns seamlessly with our mission of holistic education."

The MoU outlines a broad framework of collaboration in areas such as skilling and entrepreneurship, health and wellness, and empowerment. Through this partnership, both parties aim to jointly conduct events, workshops, and training programs that promote digital and financial literacy, entrepreneurial thinking, and career development for the students of GCW Udhampur. The students will benefit from the experience and insights of successful women entrepreneurs and domain experts invited by FLO JK&L, who will

serve as mentors and role models.

In addition to professional development, the MoU places strong emphasis on health and wellness. Initiatives will be launched to promote physical and mental health among students, including awareness campaigns on issues like drug de-addiction, stress management, and nutrition. Outreach activities will also extend to underprivileged groups, reinforcing the inclusive values both institutions uphold.

The MoU also seeks to deepen women empowerment at the grassroots level. Specialized programs and capacity-building workshops will be conducted for women associated with Farmer Producer Organizations

(FPOs) and other local collectives.

As part of this effort, the establishment of the FICCI-FLO Young Women Affinity Group (YWAG) at GCW Udhampur will offer students a platform to lead, innovate, and connect with wider networks across the region and beyond.

Both organizations have agreed that beyond the defined scope of the MoU, they will remain open to future collaborations in areas of mutual interest. The agreement is valid for one year from the date of signing, with an option to renew upon mutual consent. In the event of termination, both parties have committed to ensuring the smooth conclusion of any ongoing activities.

This collaboration between FICCI FLO JK&L and GCW Udhampur is more than just an institutional partnership—it is a call to action to invest in the potential of women as change makers and leaders.

Together, they aspire to transform the landscape of women's development in the region and serve as a model for similar collaborations nationwide.