

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, MAY 04, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Anjali Anand says filmmakers are 'not ready to cast her as lead yet' in movies

PM Modi made 'desperate U-turn' on caste census: Cong

Australia's re-elected prime minister says voters chose unity over division

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BRIEFLY

Sopore Police Fine 79 Vehicles, Remove Illegal Stands

SRINAGAR: In a bid to streamline vehicular movement and address growing traffic congestion, Sopore Police on Saturday intensified a traffic enforcement drive across the town, issuing 79 challans and removing unauthorised vehicle stands.

An official said that a total of 79 challans were issued to violators of various traffic regulations during the day-long operation. These included 72 two-wheelers, two three-wheelers, and five four-wheelers.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of the newly appointed Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sopore, Iftikhar Talib.

Police also dismantled several unauthorised Sumo and Eco Van stands that were reportedly causing major obstructions and public inconvenience. Local residents had raised complaints about regular traffic jams, attributing them to the presence of unregulated vehicle stands.

Speaking at a public gathering on Friday, SSP Iftikhar Talib reaffirmed his commitment to strict enforcement of traffic laws. "The action will apply to everyone—even police vehicles must follow traffic rules. No sirens or violations will be allowed unless it's an emergency," he said.

Meanwhile, police urged the public to cooperate with authorities and adhere to traffic rules to ensure safer and smoother commuting for all.

NEET UG 2025 exam kicks off amid tight security measures

JAMMU, May 4 (Agencies): The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for Undergraduate courses (NEET UG) 2025 is being conducted across the country on Sunday by the National Testing Agency (NTA), with thousands of aspiring medical students appearing at various examination centers across the nation.

Lakhs of students participate in the exam every year, which determines admission to MBBS, BDS, and other undergraduate medical courses in India. Visuals from examination centres in different parts of the nation showed candidates gathering early at exam centres amid tight security.

Rajkumar Prasad, a NEET aspirant from Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, shared his hopes ahead of

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Lieutenant Governor flags off J&K's 1st batch of Haj pilgrims from Srinagar International Airport

SRINAGAR, May 4: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today flagged off the first batch of Haj pilgrims of the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir from Srinagar International Airport.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the pilgrims and extended his greetings and best wishes for a safe pilgrimage and a truly fulfilling spiritual experience. He prayed for peace and prosperity of J&K UT and well-being of one and all.

"I extend my heartiest greetings and felicitations to pilgrims undertaking the sacred Haj journey. The divine pilgrimage is a call from almighty and a cherished and life-long dream. The central government is committed to ensure best possible



arrangements for the well-being of pilgrims and their sacred pilgrimage," the Lieutenant Governor said.

This year, around 3622 pilgrims from Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir will perform Haj pilgrimage. Srinagar International

Airport is scheduled to operate 11 flights between 4th to 15th May 2025, facilitating approximately 3132 Haj pilgrims from J&K, and 242 from UT of Ladakh.

The Haj pilgrims will be received by the Consulate General of India, Ministry of External Affairs, Gol, at Jeddah. The Lieutenant Governor also recognised and appreciated the support by all the stakeholders for successful organisation of holy pilgrimage.

Shri Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister; Shri Dheeraj Gupta,

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CM Omar Abdullah bids farewell to first batch of Hajj pilgrims at Srinagar Airport



SRINAGAR, May 4 (Agencies): Chief Minister Omar Abdullah this morning accorded a warm send-off to the first batch of Hajj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir, extending his best wishes for their safe journey and smooth performance of Manasik-e-Hajj.

The Chief Minister arrived at Sheikh-ul-

Alam International Airport Srinagar early this morning, where he interacted with the pilgrims before their departure. A total of 178 pilgrims boarded a direct flight to Saudi Arabia.

While interacting with the pilgrims, the Chief Minister expressed his hope for their well-being and a spiritually fulfilling Haj-e-Baitullah. He

urged them to pray for lasting peace, prosperity and progress in Jammu and Kashmir, and for protection of its people from suffering and adversity.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and other concerned.

The pilgrims expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for the elaborate and efficient arrangements made at both the Hajj House and Srinagar International Airport.

Elaborate facilities have been put in place

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J&K Army Vehicle Accident: Congress expresses sorrow at Soldiers' deaths, Seeks preventive steps

NEW DELHI, May 4 (Agencies): The Congress on Sunday expressed sorrow at the deaths of three army personnel who were killed when their vehicle plunged into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir and urged the authorities to implement immediate safety measures.

Jammu travel guide

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X, "Extremely pained to hear about the terrible tragedy in

Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban, where three Indian Army soldiers have lost their lives due to a vehicle accident."

"We salute their selfless service to the nation. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of our bravehearts," he added.

Three Indian Army personnel were killed when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a 700-feet deep gorge in Ramban district on Sunday, officials said.

Kharge said, "Given

that a similar fatal incident, involving civilians, occurred in the same gorge in March this year, we strongly urge the authorities to implement appropriate and adequate safety measures immediately to prevent future accidents."

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi paid tribute to the soldiers and expressed his deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

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IGP Kashmir chairs joint security review meeting at PCR

SRINAGAR, May 4 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V. K. Biri

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Three soldiers dead after Army truck rolls down in gorge in Ramban

JAMMU, May 4 (Agencies): Three Army personnel lost their lives when their truck fell into a 200- to 300-metre-deep gorge near Battery Chashma on National Highway 44 in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Sunday, officials said.

According to the Station House Officer (SHO), Inspector Vikram Parihar of Ramban, the truck was part of a convoy travelling from Jammu to Srinagar along the National Highway when the incident happened.

A swift rescue operation was launched,

involving the Quick Reaction Team (QRT), police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Army, and local volunteers.

Inspector Parihar added that deceased soldiers are being transported to the District Hospital in Ramban.

More details awaited.

Youth's body found in Kulgam, Mehbooba calls for probe into allegations of 'Foul Play'

SRINAGAR, May 4 (Agencies): Residents of a village in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir recovered the body of a youth on Sunday amid allegations that the deceased was picked by security forces for questioning in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

Jammu travel guide

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said there were serious allegations

of foul play in the death of Imtiyaz Ahmad Magray whose body was fished out from the Adbal stream in the Aharbal area of Kulgam district this morning.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and started an investigation to ascertain the cause of death.

In a post on X, Mehbooba said, "Yet another body has been recovered from a river in

Kulgam raising serious allegations of foul play. Local residents allege that Imtiyaz Magray was picked up by the army two days ago and now mysteriously his body has surfaced in the river." The former chief minister said the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam appears to be a calculated attempt to derail the fragile peace, disrupt tourism in

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Three drug peddlers arrested in Handwara

SRINAGAR, May 4 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police have arrested 03 drug peddlers in Handwara and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A spokesperson said a Police team of Police Post Zachaldara at a checkpoint established at Sultanpora Bridge intercepted a suspicious individual. During search, officers were able to recover 06 grams of a brown sugar-like substance from his possession. He has been identified

as Raja Hashim Khan, son of Raja Altaf Khan, resident of Rengpath Kralgund.

Moreover, a Police team of Police Post Langate at a checkpoint established at Gund Kuhroo intercepted a suspicious individual identified as Naveed Rehman Dhobi, son of Ab Rehman Dhobi, hailing from Dangiwa-chi Rafiabab. During search, officers were able to recover 8.45 grams of heroin-like substance from his possession.

Meanwhile, a Police team of Police Post

Magam at a checkpoint established at Batpora intercepted a suspicious individual identified as Basharat Ahmad Bhat, son of Abdul Rahim Bhat, resident of Magam Handwara. During search, officers were able to recover 07 grams of heroin-like substance from his possession.

All the accused persons have been arrested and accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at Police Station Handwara and investigations are underway.

We urge the common

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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)

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Brother-in-law **Shri Brij Mohan Verma** S/o Late Shri Ram Chand Verma (Sungalwala) R/o Akhnoor, who left for heavenly abode on 1st May 2025.

FIFTH DAY rights from Mayka

Side will be performed on Monday

5th May 2025 from 10 AM at Kote

Opposite Temple Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Brother's & Sister-in-law

Smt. Shashi Abrol & Sh. Vijay Kumar Abrol

Smt. Suman Abrol & Sh. Parshotam Kumar Abrol

Ph Nos: 9596050480, 9419618491



Shri Brij Mohan Verma

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

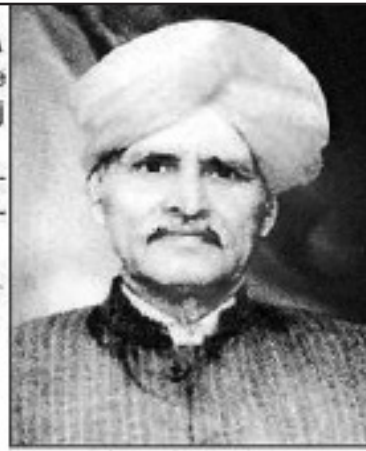
Smt Sudesh and Lt Narayan Dutt

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

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform that **10th Day** of our beloved **Ex. Capt. Sh. Parveen Singh Ji** S/o Late Sh. Puran Singh Ji R/o Ward 49, Rajput Mohalla, Channi- Rama, Jammu will be performed on Monday 05th May 2025 at our residence at 10:00 AM.

The **KRIYA** will be performed on Thursday (08th May 2025) at Channi Rama Park near our residence from 8:30 AM onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sudarshna Jamwal -Wife

Sons and Daughters-in-law

Sh. Suneet Singh Jamwal & Lt. Smt. Nisha Jamwal

Sh. Govardhan Singh Jamwal & Smt. Yogita Jamwal

Daughter and Son-in-law

Smt. Anita Sambyal & Sh. Avinash Singh Jamwal

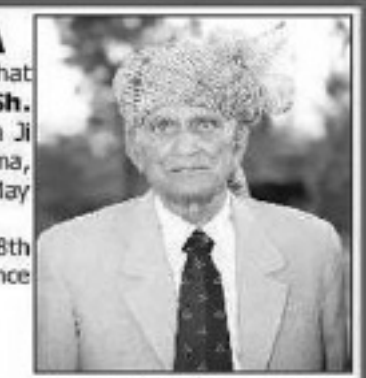
Grand Sons and Grand Daughters

Mrs. Shipra & Mr. Aditya Chopra

Mr. Pawan Singh Jamwal

Ms Kamakshi Jamwal, Harshvardhan Singh Jamwal, Divanshi Jamwal

CONTACT NO'S : 9906109606, 9906303933



Ex. Capt. Sh. Parveen Singh Ji

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

Malavika Sharma (Daughter) & Angad Sharma (Son)

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

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

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

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

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

CONTACT NO: 9419185643



SMT. KIRAN MAGOTRA

10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Samast Raina, Razdan and Pandita Parivaar

Mob No. 9419284925, 9429260431, 9419265430



Smt. Prana Raina

TENTH DAY 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 Khosa

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

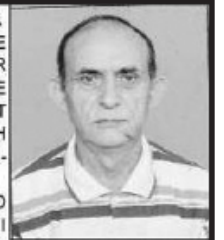
ANJALI AND SH SUNIL ZALPURI

NEETU AND SH SUNIL KOUL

AND SAMAST MAHADEV PARIVAR

OF RATNIPORA (PULWAMA)

7006730483



MUNU JEE KOUL

TENTH DAY/MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our Brother in law **Sh Tej Krishan Kandhari** H/o Smt Reeta Kandhari (Babi Ji) of Kharyar Snnagar and Son of late Sh Girdhari Lal Kandhari and late Smt Sham Rani Kandhari A/P A-1278, Gali No. 13A, Phase - 5 Aya Nagar, New Delhi on 27-04-2025.

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

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

Grief Stricken :-

Smt Vijay Raina W/o Late Deep Raina

Sh Ravinder Kumar Raina and Smt Anita Raina

Sh Surinder Kumar Raina and Smt Reena Raina

Smt Asha Bhat W/o Late Sh Ashok Kumar Bhat

Sh Shubhan Ji Mattoo and Smt Sarita Mattoo

7780932157, 9086573743



Sh Tej Krishan Kandhari

10TH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **RAJESH CHANDER SALARIA** S/O LATE SH OM PARKASH SALARIA R/O H.NO. 158, STREET NO. 6, SHAKTI NAGAR JAMMU ON 25-5-2025.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 4-5-2025 (SUNDAY) AT THEIR RESIDENCE AT 10 AM.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 5-5-2025 AT THEIR RESIDENCE.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sunita Salaria -Wife

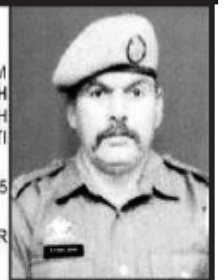
Ramesh Chander Salaria & Anita -Brother & Bhabhi

Rama Dogra & Ramesh Lal Dogra -Sister & Brother-in-law

Chetan Salaria & Suryansh Salaria -Sons

Ashmeen Salaria -Niece

Mob. 8716807024, 6006139652, 6005851914



RAJESH CHANDER SALARIA

10TH DAY/UTHALA

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

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

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

In Grief:

Smt. Sudesh Khosla (Wife)

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

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

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

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



Shri Dev Khosla

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

Grief Stricken

Smt Praba Ji- Wife 9419206948

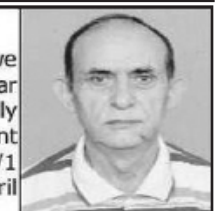
Smt Mohini & Sh Drauy Ji 8492820522

Smt Santosh & Sh Nath Ji Koul 6006073967

Smt Dulari & Sh T N Koul 7006730483

Smt Phoola & Sh Ravinder Koul 7889452658

Smt Jyoti & Sh Girdari Lal Koul 9796499268



Manu Jee Koul

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 Channod 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. Nirmala Matto

Sh. R. L. Shukla (Bhabhi) 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 Prati

Sh. Subash Pandita and Sonika

Sh. Sunny Pandita

Rohi/Shiv/Shaurya Pandit and Karvi Pandit (Grand Children)

SAMAST PANDIT PARIVAR OF AKHRAN,

PH- 81 28 17 99 135 60 50 75 11 51/ 91 48 45 52 79 9 59 41 96 45 55 4 97 97 41 32 84



Smt. Phoola Pandita (Tathi)

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)

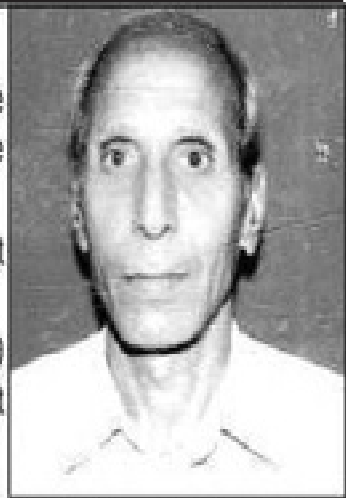
Sh. Tarsem Gupta (Brother)

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



Kavinder inaugurates Blood Donation Camp organized by All India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum at Rani Talab Digiana

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: In a commendable effort to serve humanity, the All India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum Unit Jammu organized a Blood Donation Camp at Darul Uloom Anwaria, Rani Talab Digiana, Jammu.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from youth volunteers and members of various communities, united under the spirit of selfless service.

The camp was graced by the presence of Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who attended as the Chief Guest.

Speaking at the event, Gupta appreciated the humanitarian efforts of the organization and encouraged the youth to actively participate in such noble causes.



Renowned senior journalist Sohail Kazmi was present as the Guest of Honour.

He highlighted the importance of communal harmony and youth-led initiatives in addressing the healthcare needs of society.

In addition many prominent citizen of civil society were also present in this event. Shahid Saleem, Chaudhari Mohammed Shafi Bazar, Prof Abdul Latif, Rtn Dr Navneet Kaur motivated and encouraged the blood donors for voluntary blood donation.

She stated that, there is not great joy than saving a soul.

Dr. Uttara Samiyal was also present with the whole team of government hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu. A group of young individuals came forward to donate blood voluntarily, showcasing solidarity and compassion towards those in need.

The event served as a vibrant example of inter-community cooperation and youth empowerment.

All India Payam-e-Insaniyat, a forum with a nationwide presence, works in multiple fields including career counselling, hospital and old age home visits, medical and de-addiction camps, and the distribution of free ration kits to the poor and needy.

The organization remains committed to promoting humanitarian values and uplifting marginalized sections of society.

This Blood Donation Camp is yet another step in the Forum's mission to build a more caring and inclusive nation.

Employees aghast over double EMI deduction: J&K NMOPS seeks clarity, demands immediate reversal of additional installment

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: The Jammu and Kashmir National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (J&K NMOPS) has expressed deep concern over the recent double EMI deductions from the salary accounts of government employees, causing widespread distress among the working class.

This unexpected and unexplained deduction has imposed an undue burden on employees already struggling to manage their household budgets. The J&K NMOPS strongly terming it unjust and unacceptable.

President Sheikh

Mohd Ashraf stated, "The double deduction of EMI from government employees' salary accounts requires immediate attention and rectification. We demand prompt action to reverse the additional installment and prevent such incidents in the future."

The organization Spokesperson Ghulam Murtaza Khan emphasizes the need for transparent communication and employee consent in financial transactions.

The J&K NMOPS demands immediate reversal of the additional installment, transparent communication regarding changes in loan repayment schedules

or deductions, and prior consent from employees before making any changes.

Meanwhile, The J&K NMOPS urges the government and higher authorities to intervene, protect employee rights, and ensure prompt resolution. The organization will continue to monitor the situation and safeguard employee interests. We hope that the bank and finance departments will take prompt action to resolve this issue and provide relief to affected employees.

The J&K NMOPS will remain vigilant and continue to advocate for the rights and welfare of government employees.

Jasrotia slams Pakistan for spreading disinformation and propaganda to deflect attention from its own wrongdoings



Top News Report

JASROTA, May 4: Former Minister and MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia on Sunday strongly condemned the coordinated disinformation campaign launched by

Pakistan-based media outlets and proxy social media handles. The campaign aims to discredit senior Indian Armed Forces officers in the wake of India's resolve to punish the perpetrators of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

In a handout issued here, Jasrotia debunking false narratives stated that these attempts have been comprehensively debunked by official records and authoritative fact-checks. He emphasized that this exposes Islamabad's habitual resort to fake narratives whenever

confronted with the prospect of decisive Indian action. Slamming Pakistan's pattern of deception, Jasrotia highlighted Pakistan's consistent pattern of spreading disinformation and propaganda to deflect attention from its own wrongdoings. He emphasized that such tactics will not deter India from taking decisive action against terrorism.

Jasrotia's statement underscores the need to expose and counter Pakistan's disinformation campaigns. India's resolve to punish the perpetrators of the

Pahalgam terror attack remains unwavering, and the country's armed forces will continue to take all necessary measures to ensure national security. Saluting Security Forces, Jasrotia said nation's security forces are indeed the epitome of bravery and sacrifice. They have consistently demonstrated their unwavering commitment to defending Mother India, often putting their lives on the line with a smile.

Jasrotia taking pride and expressing gratitude said that nation is forever grateful for the sacrifices made by our

security forces. Their selfless service and bravery inspire a sense of pride and admiration in the hearts of every Indian. Our security forces stand tall as the defenders of the nation, protecting its sovereignty and integrity. Their courage and dedication are a beacon of hope and security for the country and its citizens. We pay tribute to the martyrs who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten, and their memory will continue to inspire future generations, added Jasrotia.

Modi Govt correcting historical injustice through Caste Census: Bali Bhagat Questions Congress silence over past exclusions



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat today welcomed the Centre's landmark decision to include caste enumeration in the forthcoming national population census, calling

it a long-awaited step towards ensuring truly inclusive and equitable governance in India.

Lauding the decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the senior BJP leader termed it a "historic move that will empower marginalized communities and help frame more focused and socially just policies."

"By incorporating caste data in a transparent and scientific manner, this census will lay the foundation

for targeted welfare initiatives that reflect the realities of our diverse society," Bhagat said, adding that this step reaffirms the Modi government's deep commitment to social justice and equality.

In a press statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader also took a strong stance against the Congress party for failing to include caste enumeration in the past despite being in power for decades. "Why did the Congress not include caste enumeration in the 1951, 1961, 1971, 1991, and

2011 censuses—conducted entirely under its leadership?" he questioned. "Rahul Gandhi must answer why former Congress Prime Ministers—Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, P.V. Narasimha Rao, and Dr. Manmohan Singh—did not see the need for a caste census."

Bali Bhagat said the Modi-led government is correcting a historical oversight and doing so in a manner that ensures transparency and national cohesion. "This is not a political stunt but a national necessity. It is the BJP

that is taking bold steps to ensure no section of society is left behind."

He also criticized some opposition-led states for carrying out non-transparent caste surveys for political gain, saying, "Such moves only create division and doubt. The BJP's approach is about unity through data and development."

The former Minister stated that the Caste Census will help strengthen India's socio-economic structure and serve as a tool for effective, inclusive policymaking in the years to come.

JU organizes "Fit India Sundays on Cycle" rally to promote healthy lifestyle

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: The Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu (JU), organized the "Fit India Sundays on Cycle" rally on Sunday, in collaboration with the Fit India Mission, under the aegis of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The event forms part of a nationwide initiative aimed at promoting physical activity and encouraging citizens to integrate fitness into their everyday lives.

The cycling rally commenced early in the morning from the University campus and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students,



faculty members, and local residents.

The initiative aligns with the broader objective of the Fit India Movement, launched by the Government of India, to foster a culture

of fitness and well-being across the country.

The rally was flagged off from the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, under the supervision of Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director,

Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu highlighted the importance of incorporating regular physical activity into daily routines.

"Cycling is not just an environmentally friendly mode of transport, but

also a great form of cardiovascular exercise that strengthens the body and mind. This campaign is our humble step towards building a healthier and more active community," he stated.

The Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative is a recurring campaign that encourages citizens to dedicate at least one day a week to non-motorized transportation and physical activity.

The University of Jammu intends to make this rally a monthly affair to sustain the momentum and further involve students, faculty, and the broader community in the fitness drive.

Cycle Rally organized under Fit India Movement at High School Chak Murar

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: In a vibrant display of enthusiasm for fitness and well-being, a cycle rally was organized on Sunday at High School Chak Murar, Zone Bishnah, under the banner of the Fit India Movement. The event was spearheaded by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, and witnessed the active participation of around 55 field staff members from the zone.

The rally was held

under the esteemed chairmanship of Rajinder Singh Tara, Director, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, and guided by Sukhdev Raj Sharma, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Jammu. Zonal Physical Education Officer, Surbjeet Kour, efficiently coordinated and supervised the event.

Cycling with enthusiasm and unity, participants conveyed a strong message promoting health, fitness, and an active lifestyle. The initiative aimed to motivate

not only students and staff but also the wider community to embrace regular physical activity as a cornerstone of daily living. The Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, applauded the dedication and spirit of all participants, organizers, and supporters for making the event a resounding success. The department reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a robust sports culture and promoting fitness at the grassroots level across the Union Territory.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE (M) DIVISION KATHUA

Tele/Fax: 01922-237825/E-Mail - phejummudkathua@gmail.com

Extension notice-III
e- NIT No. 06/JSPHEMK dated: 10-04-2025 Due on 21-04-2025

Due to no response the last date for uploading of tender documents and opening of tenderers vide e-NIT No.06/JSPHEMK dated 10-04-2024 Due on 21-04-2025 issued vide No: JSPHEMK/57-69 dated 10-04-2025 extended upto 25-04-2025 issued vide No. JSPHEMK/177-89 dated 22-04-2025& 01-05-2025 issued vide No. JSPHEMK/243-55 dated 26-04-2025 for Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of pumping machinery and electro-mechanical works along with allied jobs to be executed at water supply scheme Rehan Mandla of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Sub Division Mahanpur, is again hereby extended as under:-

Last date for uploading of tender document 08-05-2025 upto 04:00 PM

Last date for opening of tender document 09-05-2025 upto 01:00 PM

All other terms and conditions of NIT's referred above shall remain the same.

No:-JSPHEMK/327-39
Dated 02-05-2025

DIP/J-806/25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division
Kathua

EDITORIAL

ACTION AGAINST
TERRORISM

In recent years, India has taken an increasingly assertive stance against terrorism, sending a clear message both domestically and internationally that it will not tolerate any threats to its sovereignty and the safety of its citizens. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government has implemented a series of bold measures aimed at dismantling terrorist networks, holding sponsors of terrorism accountable, and strengthening national security.

One of the most notable developments has been India's firm response to cross-border terrorism originating from Pakistan. The government's decision to revoke Pakistan's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status following the 2019 Pulwama terror attack was a significant economic and diplomatic blow. Further, India imposed 200% import duties on goods from Pakistan, effectively halting trade between the two nations. By suspending bilateral trade, India not only cut economic ties but also sent a powerful signal that terrorism would no longer be overlooked under the guise of diplomacy.

In addition to economic measures, India has also leveraged its water-sharing agreements as a diplomatic tool. The government announced its decision to divert water from rivers flowing into Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty, a move that showcased its willingness to explore all legal avenues to pressure Pakistan to curb terrorism. By controlling water resources, India signaled a shift from symbolic protests to actionable deterrence.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken historic steps to break the back of terrorism. Actions like stopping Pakistan's water, suspending trade, and cutting off cross-border communication are commendable and necessary. For the first time, we see a leader willing to take tough measures for the nation's safety.

Pakistan continues to betray us by sheltering terrorists and launching attacks. They stab us in the back while talking about peace. Therefore, a strong and befitting reply is the only solution left.

At the same time, India has intensified its diplomatic offensive globally to isolate Pakistan on the issue of terrorism. New Delhi has repeatedly raised the matter at international forums such as the United Nations and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Due to sustained Indian lobbying, Pakistan has been placed on FATF's grey list, subjecting it to closer scrutiny over terror financing.

Domestically, the Indian government has also tightened anti-terror laws and empowered security agencies to act swiftly. The amendment of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) allowed individuals to be designated as terrorists, rather than only organizations, enhancing the government's ability to prosecute key operatives. Additionally, agencies like the National Investigation Agency (NIA) have been given wider jurisdiction to investigate terror cases across states without prior consent, streamlining the fight against terror networks.

India's multi-pronged strategy has earned praise from several quarters for being both robust and restrained, avoiding unnecessary escalation while protecting national interests. Analysts note that these measures reflect a calibrated approach, balancing military, diplomatic, economic, and legal tools to counter terrorism.

However, challenges remain. Terror outfits continue to attempt infiltration across the borders, and security forces face ongoing threats in Jammu and Kashmir. The government has responded by further strengthening border infrastructure, improving intelligence-sharing, and enhancing surveillance technologies. Increased coordination among armed forces, paramilitary units, and local police has been key to foiling many terror attempts before they materialize.

As India continues to confront terrorism on multiple fronts, its policy signals an unwavering resolve: terrorism will be countered decisively, and those who sponsor or support it will face serious consequences. With ongoing reforms in security policy, border management, and international diplomacy, India's fight against terrorism is poised to grow stronger in the coming years, reinforcing its role as a responsible power committed to global peace and security.

Empty Vessels Make Much Noise, Pakistan, Bharat Ko Geedad Bhabki deta hai

By: Omkar Dattatray

Empty vessels make much noise is an old adage and it fits Pakistan of today as she is making much noise and din and treats India as Jackal as Pakistan ,Bharat Ko Geedad Bhabki Deta hai and makes only noise without any substance. It is appropriate to say in context of present Pakistan that barking dogs seldom bite. That country in the wake of Pahalgam terrorist attack and its aftermath and India's counter diplomatic ,political and economic measures is only making empty noises and it is a clear case of barking dogs seldom bite .Chief of Pakistan army General Munir ,foreign minister ,Prime minister Shehbaz Sharief former ,minister Bilawal Bhutto and many other leaders of Pakistan gave warnings to India but these warnings are hallow and shallow as Pakistan which is a pigmy sized nation and our neighbor can be no compare to India's military might and prowess and therefore the warnings by Pakistani leaders are high and dry and they pale into insignificance given India's strength as a growing , stable and strong democracy. Pakistan defense minister's warning to own country amid India strike fear. Pak defense minister Khawaja Asif has sounded the alarm,claiming an Indian military attack is "imminent" after Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 tourists. Pakistan has reinforced its borders and remains on high alert but Asif insists nuclear weapons would only be used

if nation's existence is directly threatened. As both sides trade accusations,diplomatic ties hit rock bottom and border skirmishes continue.PPP chief and former minister Bilawal Bhutto whose Zulfkar Ali Bhutto the then Pak prime minister and his sister and once prime minister Bena-zeer Bhutto who were many years ago killed in Pakistan in seditious attack and terrorist attack respectively has threatened and warned India , "Blood will flow if India stops river water. He thundered , "The Indus is ours and will remain ours -either our water will flow through it ,or their blood.PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday -26th April has threatened that blood would flow in river if water is stopped ,in a sharp response to India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty -IWT after the Pahalgam terror attack . "The Indus is ours-either our water will flow through it, or their blood, "the former foreign minister was quoted as saying by The News on Friday while addressing a public rally in Sukkur area of his home Sindh province. The Indus flows through the province and the Indus Valley Civilization city of Mohenjo-Daro flourished on its banks. Mr.Bilawal said that prime minister Narendra Modi has claimed India is heir to a Civilization thousands of years old , "But that civilization lies in Mohenjo-daro,in Larkana. We are its true custodians, and we will defend it ."He further said that neither the people of Pakistan nor the international community would tolerate Mr

Modi's "warmongering" or any attempt to stop water. "Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif warns India over Indus Water Treaty. He has rejected India's accusations over the recent Pahalgam attack, calling them baseless. He has expressed readiness for a neutral investigation into matter .Meanwhile ,TRF which was earlier linked to the attack ,has denied any involvement ,claiming an orchestrated campaign to defame the Kashmir resistance. Pakistan prime minister calls for neutral and credible probe and showed its readiness to take part in it. He said the continuous blame game in the context of now Pahalgam terror attack should come to a grinding halt.PM also said any attempt to reduce Indus waters will be met by Pakistan with full force. In fact all these and other warnings are mere hallowed and shallow threats and Indian government of Modi and international community does not take these warnings seriously. It should be taken note of that the Indus Waters Treaty has survived past four wars but now the terrorist carnage at Pahalgam has been taken very seriously by India and thus Indian government has decided to suspend IWT and thus the flow of Indus waters to Pakistan. Pakistan's information minister says that the country has 'credible intelligence' that India intends to launch a military strike within the next 24 to 36 hours. Attaullah Tarar's comments come after India accused Pakistan of supporting militants behind an attack in Indian Kashmir that killed 26 tourists last week

.Tarar said that India intends to use the attack as a false pretext for a strike and that 'any such military adventurism by India would be responded to assuredly and decisively .There has been speculation over whether India will respond with military strikes against Pakistan ,as it did after deadly militant attack in 2019 and 2016.The attack has sparked widespread anger in India within Prime minister Narendra Modi publicly saying the country will hunt the suspects , "till the ends of the earth "and that those who planned and carried it out "will be punished beyond their imagination. "Many warnings have come from different leaders of Pakistan but these are not taken seriously by India and these warnings are akin to barking dogs seldom bite .In short these warnings are nothing but aimed to hoodwink its gullible people and divert the attention of the people from pressing problems. Therefore nothing should be seen in the noisy warnings by Pak leaders as these are hallow and shallow and are meant for public consumption and have no real meaning except from empty rhetoric and so should be rejected as false and rubbish having sans meaning.

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

Press Freedom Day: "When journalism was alive..."

By: Priyanka Saurabh

Silence of the press, noise of the reels: The fourth pillar of democracy became a trending tag.

Press Freedom Day has now become a formality. Journalism has been replaced by social media influencers, where reels have replaced truth, and views have replaced analysis. The fourth pillar of democracy has now been lost in brand deals and trending tags. Asking questions is now a threat, and staying silent is 'safe content.' In the times to come, we may have to trend #Throwback-ToJournalism. When the press used to speak, and the government used to tremble.

Every year on May 3, when 'Press Freedom Day' comes, a question arises with deep silence: Is journalism still really free? Is this day still a symbol of the fearlessness, responsibility, and truth that was once called journalism? Or has this day also become just a ceremonial formality—like the anniversary of a dead tradition?

The journalism that once had the courage to confront the power today seems to be sitting in the lap of the power. The pen is no longer sharp; it has started shining in the light of advertisements and sponsorships. Editorial policy is no longer value-based; it

is market-based. On news channels, there is shouting instead of news, noise instead of debate, and scripts instead of truth.

This is the time when a new group was born—social media influencers. These are the people who have no formal education in journalism but have the art of appearing in front of the camera. They gave importance to filter instead of truth and reel instead of research. For them, every issue is a 'content idea'—whether it is a farmer's suicide or the atrocities committed against a girl.

Today's influencers have taken on the role that journalists once played. The only difference is that a journalist would look for the truth behind a story, while an influencer only looks for views and engagement. A journalist may be proven wrong, but he is accountable; an influencer only counts the number of views—whether his statement has any basis or not.

If a journalist's report does not reach the public, he is rewarded for his honesty in the form of unemployment. On the other hand, if an influencer makes an emotional reel, he gets brand deals and followers. If a journalist questions the government, he is called a traitor, but if an influencer says the same thing laughingly, he is called 'bold.'

In fact, today we are in an era where the public has also lost the habit of listening to the truth. People do not want facts; they want emotions. They do not want analysis; they want entertainment. Asking questions now creates depression, and jokes give relief. This is why the silence of the press does not bother us, but the noise of the reels gives us relief.

Imagine, in the coming times, on May 3, we will celebrate 'Influencer Day' instead of 'Press Freedom Day.' Children will be asked in schools, "Son, what will you become when you grow up?" And the answer will be, "I will change the country by making videos." Trending reels will be invited on the platforms, who will tell how a reel is made on democracy. And the press? It will be sitting in a corner—like forgotten memories.

This is a ridiculous reality, but equally true. Because the soul of democracy lies in its free press. And if that soul is now lost in counting followers on Instagram, then the Preamble of the Constitution will also start looking like a profile bio.

Poets, writers, thinkers, and journalists have to come together to understand this decline. Democracy does not run only on elections; it runs on the expression of ideas and the search for truth. We have to revive the jour-

nalism that questions, tells the truth, and does not bow down to power.

Otherwise, the day is not far when we will start a trend on social media—#ThrowbackToJournalism, and the most viral reel of that day will be: "When journalism was alive..."

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JKTJAC holds monthly meeting, raises key issues of teaching community

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 4: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) held its monthly meeting on Sunday at Udhampur under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Lekh Raj Parihar. The meeting was attended by executive and apex body members from all eleven zones of the district.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vinod Sharma raised several genuine and pressing issues concerning the teaching fraternity, appealing to the Education Minister and Additional Chief Secretary of School Education to address them amicably for the welfare of thousands of teachers, especially those appointed under the Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) scheme.

Highlighting a key demand, Mr. Sharma urged the government to implement Government Order No. 469 Edu of 2014 dated 25.06.2014, which provides for the inclusion of five years of ReT service for seniority benefits and transfer eligibility. He expressed disappointment over the non-implementation of this order despite clear directives from the Hon'ble CAT equating



regularized ReTs with general line teachers and affirming their eligibility for transfers within the district.

Mr. Sharma also called for the implementation of the Old Pension Scheme for employees appointed on or after 01.01.2010, citing it as a long-standing and justified demand.

Raising concerns about the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme, he pointed out that teachers have been managing funds from their own pockets to ensure smooth functioning, yet the government has released MDM funds for only 3-4 months in 2024-25, leaving 7-8 months of dues pending. He warned that unless pending dues are released immediately,

teachers may be forced to stop the program in the coming days.

He further appealed to the Director School Education Jammu (DSEJ) for:

- Issuance of regularization orders for ReTs who have completed five years and whose files are pending in DSEJ
- Conversion of RRETs to Teacher Grade II/III to ensure timely salaries
- Conduct of DPC for promotion from teachers to masters to clear backlogs
- Change in school timings in Jammu's winter zones from 10:00 am-4:00 pm to 9:00 am-3:00 pm due to the prevailing heatwave, as implemented in Kashmir
- Other demands included cash-in-lieu benefits for teachers; conversion

of head teacher posts into non-plan master posts; release of time-barred arrears of teachers/masters; parity in grades with teachers from other UTs; earned leave entitlement for teachers engaged during vacations; filling of vacant headmaster posts in headless schools; and immediate distribution of pending free textbooks in government schools, as many students are still waiting for books despite the session already being underway.

Sharma also urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene in the matter of JK Bank allegedly harassing employees by deducting two loan installments within four days.

He demanded cancel-

lation of the MoU with JK Bank and allowing employees to open salary accounts in other banks, criticizing the bank's monopoly and its adverse impact on employees.

District President Lekh Raj Parihar also spoke, demanding issuance of continuation orders for Aayas-cum-Helpers in government schools to ensure the welfare of young students. He further emphasized the need for a transparent rationalization of teachers, warning against any "pick-and-choose" approach.

Others who addressed the meeting included Sham Sharma, Sukesh Khajuria, Ashok Seth, Pritam Goswami, Chain Singh, Bhushan Khajuria, Jagdish Chander Sharma, Suresh Sharma, Balvinder Singh, Sandeep Sharma, Vijay Sadhotra, Sham Singh, Anil Sharma, Manoj Sharma, Vipin Raina, Pankaj Thakur, Jai Parkash, Prashant Sharma, Som Raj, Ravinder Atri, Sushma Kumari, Vidhi Lal, Narinder Dogra, Sunak Singh, Sudesh Kumar, Yash Paul, Beerbajan Singh, Abdul Gani, Sunil Verma, Brinder Kumar, Pardeep Kumar, Niku Ram, and others.

Tehsildar Karnah conducts surprise inspection at KGBV Baghballa



Top News Report

KUPWARA, May 4: In a significant step to strengthen education in the far-flung and sensitive border region of Karnah, Tehsildar Karnah, Mohamad Amin Bhat, conducted a surprise inspection of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Baghballa, located in the Tangdar educational zone.

He was accompanied by Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Tangdar, Shah Mohammad, and ZEPO Tangdar.

Karnah, situated nearly 60 kilometers from Kupwara district headquarters, lies close to the Line of Control (LoC) and often faces the brunt of cross-border tensions. Despite these challenges, the

administration continues its efforts to ensure that education remains uninterrupted and accessible. During the inspection, the officials thoroughly reviewed the functioning of the residential school. Special attention was given to the academic progress of the students, teaching quality, hostel facilities, and overall discipline. The team interacted with both teachers and students, observing the learning environment and addressing various concerns.

Tehsildar Karnah instructed staff to focus on providing quality education and fostering a teacher-student friendly atmosphere. He also expressed concern that due to the prevailing border situation, some parents are reluctant

to send their daughters to school. He assured the community that the administration is committed to creating a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment for all students.

ZEO Tangdar emphasized the need for consistent monitoring and pledged full support to improve academic outcomes in the school. The visit reflects the commitment of the District Administration Kupwara and Directorate of School Education Kashmir towards uplifting educational standards in remote and conflict-affected areas.

This inspection serves as a reminder that even in challenging times, the pursuit of education must continue, offering hope and opportunity to children in the region.

Design academic odyssey as per aptitude: MLA Marh tells meritorious pass outs



Top News Report

MARH, May 4: MLA Marh Surinder Kumar on Sunday exhorted students to aim high, saying sky is the limit for the meritorious and those striving for achieving academic excellence. The path to success is not easy, but with perseverance, determination and firm belief in self, the talented ones can overcome any challenge that comes their way, be it academics or any other field", Surinder Kumar said at a felicitation ceremony, organised at Government High School Mandal to honour the meritorious students, who had outstanding performance in the Board Examination in Marh Constituency.

In his motivational discourse, MLA said that only those students, who have concentration and willpower towards studies, score top marks. They do not

only lay strong foundations for their academic odyssey but also and bring laurels to their parents, teachers and the soil they belong to, he observed.

Complementing the achievers, Surinder acknowledged their resilience and determination in setting their goals and working to achieve success. The success of the meritorious students is not only due to their hard work, but the support system and dedication of their parents and teachers. But for their strong backing, it was not possible to achieve such a big success, he added.

"If there is no direction, we cannot achieve the goal. Parents and teachers are the foundation of life, always respect them", MLA advised the outstanding students, saying that parents play an important role in taking youngsters forward.

Earlier parents used to tell children what to study, but today children themselves decide what they want to study, he added.

MLA Surinder Kumar showered special praise for the girl students, who outshined the boys with their outstanding performance in the 10th and 12th class exams and said that this is the indication of a vibrant and prosperous future generation. He also asked the meritorious students to help the fellow students to do well in their career. He also congratulated the students for their achievements and advised them to maintain good habits, principles, moral character which are key to progress and prosperity. He wished them success in future career.

The ceremony was attended by esteemed guests, including School Principal Surekha Raina, Vice Principal

Rajinder Singh Sandhu, Mandal President Amarjeet Kaur, former Sarpanch Balbir Kumar, Mandal General Sec-

retary Bunty Sharma, Chowki Incharge Balbir Singh, teachers and other prominent members of the community

Dr. R. S. Gupta of SMVDU triumphs at Khelo India Masters Games with triple gold in aquatics



Top News Report

KATRA, May 4: Dr. Rudraksh S. Gupta, Research Fellow at the School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), achieved a remarkable feat by winning three gold medals in the Aquatics Championship at the 4th Edition of the Khelo India Masters Games held in Common Wealth Village, New Delhi.

This outstanding performance not only underscores Rudraksh's dedication and passion for sports but also highlights SMVDU's growing emphasis on integrating physical excellence within its academic environment.

He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the University for its continuous support and encourage-

ment, acknowledging the infrastructure and motivation provided to pursue his sporting aspirations alongside academic commitments.

Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, along with faculty members, extended their warmest congratulations to Rudraksh, applauding his achievement as a source of inspiration for the university community.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, also congratulated Rudraksh on his success, noting that his victory adds another feather to the cap of SMVDU and enhances the institution's stature in promoting holistic development through sports and academics.

Lowpaid Govt Employees Federation Doda holds condolence meeting

Top News Report

DODA, May 4: The Low Paid Government Employees Federation (LPEF), District Unit Doda, has expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Ghulam Nabi Butt, retired Principal from the Education Department. A condolence meeting was held under the chairmanship of the District President of LPEF Doda.

Speaking on the occasion, senior LPEF leader Ghulam Hassan Pampori described Butt as a man known for his sharp administrative acumen and noble work ethics.

Er. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, President of the JK Pensioners Association (affiliated with LPEF Doda), highlighted that even after retirement, Butt continued to serve as Principal of Faridia Model Higher Secondary School, Doda, for over three years, demonstrating his dedication



to education.

Dr. Matloob Ahmad Tak lauded Butt's unwavering commitment to excellence, which earned him the respect of both colleagues and students. Mr. Riaz Ahmad Mintoo recalled him as a highly respected figure in the department and society, emphasizing that he was a strong pillar of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood.

The condolence meeting was attended by Gopal Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Rashpal Singh, Vicky Kumar, Surishta Devi, Vishwa-

mitter, Brij Lal, Paras Ram Sharma, Kaku Ram, Ghulam Hassan Bagwan, Faizan Ali Trambo (President NHM Health Department), and Manzoor Ahmad Butt (President YSSC Doda), among others.

In their telephonic messages, Zaheer Abass Hashmi, Ajaz Siddiqi (Kishtwar), Nayeem Ahangar, Showkat Malik (Bhaderwah), Mohamad Aslam, Riaz Ahmad Najjar, Syed Imtiaz Ahmad, Syed Mubashir, Niaz Ahmad Kulhandi, Molvi Abdul Hameed, Salah-ud-Din, Mehboob Ahmad Tak, Ghulam Rasool (PDD Doda), Mohammad Ashraf Khokhar, and many others conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

The gathering observed a two-minute silence and prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul.

Two drug peddlers nabbed with 7.50 gms heroin

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 4: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers/peddlers, Samba Police has arrested two drug peddlers in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur and recovered 7.50 grams approximately heroin (chitta) like substance from their possession.

A Police party of Police Station Vijaypur under the supervision of SDPO Vijaypur and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba during vehicle checking at naka NHW AIIMS, intercepted a motorcycle bearing registration No. JK02CT-3626 for its checking. During checking, 7.50 grams approximately heroin like substance was recov-

ered from the possession of the two persons riding on the said motorcycle.

The drug peddlers identified as Mohd Mustafa S/o Soni Mohd. and Usman Choudhary S/o Yousaf Hussain both residents of Badhori tehsil Bari Brahmana district Samba have been arrested and contraband item alongwith motorcycle have also been seized.

A case FIR No. 45/2025 U/S 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Vijaypur and investigation started.

SSP Samba warned strict action against the people indulging in drug trafficking, bovine smuggling and other criminal activities and also sought the cooperation of people in this regard.

Anjali Anand says filmmakers are 'not ready to cast her as lead yet' in movies

Anjali Anand has had an amazing last seven months with two back-to-back successes in *Raat Jawan Hai* and more recently *Dabba Cartel*.

The actor admits that with her body type, it has been a struggle getting good roles but she is glad that it is finally happening. "Everybody has a different struggle and obviously with my body, it's a little bit harder for people like me. I don't feel that I am any different but the society has created that perception. I believe I am very special and I don't feel like a bechari as it's about how you think of yourself," she says.

Anjali Anand insists that the West has learnt to look beyond the body size of an actor, but in India, it is still an issue. "Adam Sandler is the biggest example. They call him egg-shaped, but he is wearing t-shirts and shorts and doing everything. Har type ke log hote hain, and

wahaan accept kar liya hai ye. They don't have a problem there, but here they do," she says.

Recalling her early struggles, Anjali shares, "When I came into this industry, people put this cloud in front of me that I am overweight. I came here to act and people forgot that."

And I had to prove myself again and again to remind them. After I did (TV show) *Dhai kilo Prem*, people said that this is the only lead character I'm going to ever get, unless I lose weight. I was told to go underground for six months and come out thin.

But in three months, I came back as a leading lady on the same channel."

She adds, "I know in movies, makers are not ready to cast me as lead yet. I'm accepting that reality. Abhi tak makers are not ready to see me on a poster or dancing on songs. They're not ready yet, but they will be, I will make them



ready. We need more people like Shibani Dandekar (producer, *Dabba Cartel*) and Sumeet Vyas (director, *Raat Jawan Hai*) who will get out of the comfort zone, and cast someone just on the basis of that what they can do with the character, not on any other basis."

After *Dabba Cartel*, Anjali came into the limelight with her story about facing molestation growing up connecting to a lot of people. But for the actor, this attention got a bit "overwhelming". "I didn't expect for it to go so big and for people to reach out. I didn't know someone was interested in knowing it. I have been giving interviews for eight years, but no one cared. Now, suddenly they do," she admits, adding, "It takes a lot of guts to be vulnerable. But I think I'm all for it. I'm all for feeling my emotions as much as I can. They help me as an actor as well as a human being."

Sonakshi Sinha backs TV show Meri Bhavya Life, talks about body positivity



Bollywood actor Sonakshi Sinha has lent her support to 'Meri Bhavya Life', a new TV show that challenges society's disregard for overweight people. The actor recently shot a promo video where she talks about how much she was affected by body-shaming and urges young girls to be confident in their own skin.

In the promo, Sonakshi

is seen expressing her frustration with society's beauty standards. Dressed in a pink kurta and a denim sleeveless jacket, she enters the frame, visibly angry at the hypocrisy of people. While they call chubby kids 'cute', as they grow up, they are shamed for their body. "Pehle bolte the career banao, character banao, aur ab jab bana liya hai toh bolte hai body banao (We

were told to build a character and career first, and now they want us to build a toned body)," she exclaims.

The actor also questions how marriage matches often don't work out because of these issues. Expressing her anger, Sinha adds that she faced similar criticisms until a few years ago, and how many women still go through it on a daily basis. The lead actor of the show, Prisha Dhatwalia, joins her as the two question what's a bigger issue: being fat or being fat-shamed.

Apart from the social media video, Sonakshi Sinha has also shot for a special podcast episode with Prisha. As per sources close to the show, the two women discussed how young girls face body image issues due to constant criticism while growing up. They also pressed upon the importance of body positivity.

Mouni Roy on botched surgery claims: People are writing rubbish, vicious things

Actor Mouni Roy recently surprised fans with a fresh bang look, which quickly drew attention online. However, she soon faced trolling, with some accusing her of getting cosmetic surgery and using the hairstyle to conceal it.

In a conversation with Zoom, Mouni addressed the criticism, saying she feels pity for those who spread negativity online.

"Initially, when I read those comments to date, sometimes I see those AI videos, and suddenly you feel, it's so cringe, you can't and it's yourself, right? Imagine how you feel looking at somebody else. And when I see my face distorted over other people's bodies, it's disgusting, right? So sometimes you do feel like, where are these kinds of people going? What do they want to achieve with it? What is the aim? Because all you are collecting are people's curses and bad wishes. Nobody can wish well for someone who's doing that," she said.

This came after the actor debuted a fresh look featuring bangs at the trailer launch of her upcoming film 'The Bhootnii'. This sparked speculation among social media users, with many claiming she had undergone cosmetic surgery that went wrong.

Additionally, several AI-generated viral videos showed her with noticeably raised eyebrows and enhanced cheekbones.

The 'Naagin' actor added that she feels pity for people hiding behind screens who spread negativity to get likes. "Initially, when I'd come on Instagram and I'd get a lot of hate, I'd actually make the effort of going to



their profiles and blocking them. Now I feel very pitiful. I feel you should pray for them. These are phantom people, hiding behind their screens, writing all these things. You can either be a glass-half-full or a glass-half-empty person. I can't negate the love I receive from my fans I genuinely feel that section of the internet, like socials, has become a very, very nasty place because people are genuinely just writing rubbish and vicious things about others just to get likes."

Meanwhile, Mouni Roy will next be seen in Sanjay Dutt's horror film 'The Bhootnii'. Directed by Sidhaant Sachdev, the film is set to release in theatres on May 1, coinciding with Ajay Devgn's 'Raid 2.'

Would love to do more antagonist roles: Actor Soha Ali Khan

Fresh off her role as a villain in the horror movie "Chhorii 2", actor Soha Ali Khan says she's eager to take on more antagonist characters and delve into the complex shades of grey.

Talking to agency on the sidelines of a panel discussion organised by the Almond Board of California in Pune, Khan admitted that she was being experimental by playing such roles and receiving positive feedback for her performance in "Chhorii 2" has been "very reassuring".

"I have always felt that when it comes to cinema the antagonist has so many wonderful layers whereas the hero or heroine are often trapped by the unvirtuous. Now we are exploring characters and getting into grey and we are getting into reality."

"So I think it is definitely very interesting to play an antagonist and I would love to do more such roles," said the actor, who plays the character of 'Daasi Maa', an eerie and sinister antagonist.

The actor, known for films such as "Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster", "Tum Mile", and "Aghista



Aghista", is making her come back to acting after a seven-year hiatus. She was last seen in "Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster 3" in 2018.

Khan, acknowledging that she got little distracted with motherhood, shared that she is motivated to do more work. She recently wrapped up shooting for the thriller "Bridge", in which she stars alongside her "Rang De Basanti" co-actor R Madha-

van. The film is set to release later this year.

Besides her own comeback, the 46-year-old actor is happy to see her mother, veteran actor Sharmila Tagore, returning to Bengali cinema with "Puratwan", which she starred alongside Rituparna Sengupta.

"I was very excited. I guess after 12-14 years she has gone back to Bengali cinema. It is her mother tongue, it is her

real passion. She was very excited to work in Bangla again. I think cinema really immortalises you, so as a daughter to watch your mother being immortalised on screen. I think it is something really precious," she added.

As a mother herself, when asked which of her own films she'd like her daughter to watch first, she laughed and said, "Definitely not 'Chhorii 2'," before choosing the 2007 romantic drama film "Khoya Khoya Chand".

"It's a biopic, it's about being an actor. I think she would enjoy the different looks, the glamour, the sarees, and the costumes. But more than mine, I would want her to watch 'Hum Hain Raahi Pyaar Ke' by Kunal. That's the movie she would actually really enjoy," she explained.

Kemmu was only seven when he played the role of a naughty kid, Sunny, in the 1993 film "Hum Hain Raahi Pyaar Ke". The romantic-comedy drama, which stars Aamir Khan and Juhi Chawla in the lead roles, is based on the 1958 Hollywood movie "Houseboat".

With a family full of A-list stars, including Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor, one wonders if there's ever been a temptation for them to collaborate on a project.

Khan responded in negative, saying there hasn't been such a plan and that it sounds more like the premise for a reality show, "that too not a good one".

"Our audience is quite savvy. They don't want to see something gimmicky. And now, with social media and everything, you see the family enough on Diwali, on Eid, in reels, and in photographs. I think in films, we need to have some kind of script; we need an original authenticity to justify why all of us have been cast in it," she concluded.

The discussion, which also saw fitness expert Yasmin Karachiwala and dietitian Ritika Samadhar as panelists, focused on the importance of protein in addressing India's nutritional gap.

It highlighted the role of small dietary changes, like a handful of almonds, in improving protein intake for people across all age groups.

Deepika Padukone-SRK to reunite for 5th time in King, shooting details out: Report

Actor Deepika Padukone might just be back on-screen to reunite with Shah Rukh Khan in his upcoming film 'King'. Speculations have been rife for sometime about Padukone joining the big Bollywood debut of Suhana Khan, which is being directed by Sidharth Anand. However, it seems like she has finally given her dates for the shoot.

A report in agency suggested that Padukone's dates matched the shooting schedule of the film. "Shah Rukh Khan was always clear to have Deepika Padukone on board 'King'. Initially, the dates did

not match as Deepika was taking time off to be with the newborn kid, and also hitting the gym to get back in shape. Due to a delay in the schedule of 'King', the timelines are aligned, and she is back on board the film," the source said.

The report also mentioned that Deepika Padukone's role in the film is not just a blink-and-miss appearance. The actor is not making a cameo in 'King' as reported earlier, but has a 'full-length role'.

A source close to the production also said, "After all the discussions and setting the shoot



timelines, everything has aligned well to have Deepika Padukone on board the film."

The actor is expected to begin shooting for her performance in the second half of the year,

while the film prepares for a grand release in the second half of 2026. "She will be shooting for her role in the second half of 2025. It's a full-length role, and a lot more than just a cameo as reported before," the source said.

This is the fifth time that Shah Rukh and Deepika Padukone will be seen together on-screen. After her debut pairing in Bollywood with 'Om Shanti Om', the two have teamed up in films like 'Happy New Year', 'Pathaan' and 'Jawan'. 'King' also stars Abhishek Bachchan and Jaideep Ahlawat in important roles.

'Speed' reunion: Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock set to feature in romantic thriller



Hollywood stars Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock will feature in an upcoming romantic thriller.

According to an entertainment news outlet, the untitled film is being developed at the Amazon MGM Studios.

The project will also reunite Reeves and Bullock, who have previously worked together in films like "Speed" (1994) and "The Lake House" (2006).

The details of the plot are being kept under wraps. But the studio has described it as "propulsive".

Bullock is producing the film through the banner Fortis Films alongside Reeves, Mark Gordon and Bibby Dunn from The Mark Gordon Company.

Noah Oppenheim and Sarah Bremner will produce through Prologue Entertainment.

PM Modi meets Air Chief Marshal AP Singh amid India-Pakistan tensions: sources

The meeting comes just a day after the Prime Minister held a meeting with Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

NEW DELHI, May 4 (Agencies): Air Chief Marshal AP Singh today met Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 people on April 22, sources said. The engagement with the Air Force chief came less than 24 hours after a separate meeting between the Prime Minister and Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, the Chief of the Naval Staff. The Prime Minister had met Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi last week.

While an official readout of the meeting was not released to the media, it is being seen as part of ongoing deliberations over a response to the April 22 attack, in which gunmen opened fire on a group of tourists in Pahalgam. All those killed were civilians, many of them tourists from various states across India, visiting the picturesque region in south Kashmir during the spring season. The attack marked one of the deadliest strikes on



civilians in Kashmir in recent years and has triggered calls for retributive action against Pakistan, which India accuses of providing support to terror groups to carry out cross-border attacks. Prime Minister Modi, in a high-level meeting held earlier this week, gave clear directions to the defence leadership that the Indian armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide the nature, targets, and timing of the country's response

to the attack. Present at that earlier meeting were Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, and the heads of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Two days after the Pahalgam massacre, PM Modi's reference to taking the fight to the "ends of the earth" and punishing the perpetrators "beyond their imagination" was widely seen as a direct message to Pakistan. Historically, India has responded

ed to terrorist provocations with force. In 2016, India carried out surgical strikes on terrorist launchpads across the Line of Control, following the attack on soldiers in J&K's Uri, and the 2019 Balakot airstrikes after the Pulwama bombing. The Air Force played a key role in the Balakot operation, using Mirage-2000 fighter jets to carry out strikes on what the government described as a major terror training facility. Following the Pahalgam attack, India has already taken diplomatic and strategic steps aimed at increasing pressure on Islamabad. One such move was the decision to put in abeyance certain provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, a longstanding bilateral agreement governing the use of rivers that flow from India into Pakistan. Despite public pressure and the firm tone adopted by the Prime Minister and senior officials, there has so far been no official word on the nature or timing of any retaliatory action.

Padma Shri awardee Baba Sivanand dies in Varanasi



VARANASI, May 4 (Agencies): Padma Shri spiritual guru Baba Sivanand died here of health complications. His disciples claim he was 128. Baba Sivanand had been admitted to BHU Hospital on April 30 with some health issues. He died on Saturday night. His body has been kept at his residence in Kabinagar Colony for the people to pay their last respects. His last rites will be performed later this evening, the disciples said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a post on X hailed the guru for inspiring generations and termed his death an "irreparable loss". "It is extremely saddening to hear about the demise of Shivanand Baba Ji, a yoga practitioner and resident of Kashi. His life dedicated to yoga and sadhana will continue to inspire every generation of the country. He was also awarded Padma Shri for serving society through yoga.

"Shivanand Baba's departure to Shivaloka is an irreparable loss for all of us Kashi residents and millions of people who draw inspiration from him. I pay my tribute to him in this hour of grief," he said. Born on August 8, 1896, in Sylhet district of present-day Bangladesh, Baba Sivanand lost his parents to starvation when he was just six, they said. Since then, he followed a life of austerity and discipline, eating only half a stomach of food, they said. After his parents' demise, he was taken under the care of Omkamand, who became his guardian and mentor. It was under his guidance that Baba Sivanand received spiritual education and life teachings. Recognised for his contributions to yoga and spirituality, Baba Sivanand was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2022. His disciples credited his longevity and robust health to his disciplined lifestyle. They said he would wake up at 3 am every day, practise yoga, and manage all his chores by himself. He ate only boiled food and slept on a mat. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid his tributes to the yoga guru. "It is very sad that famous yoga guru of Kashi 'Padma Shri' Swami Shivanand ji, who made an unparalleled contribution in the field of 'Yoga', passed away. Humble tribute to him!" he wrote on X. "Your sadhana and yoga-filled life is a great inspiration for the whole society. You dedicated your whole life to the expansion of yoga. I pray to Baba Vishwanath to grant salvation to the departed soul and give strength to his bereaved followers to bear this immense grief. Om Shanti!" he added.

India looking for partners, not preachers: Jaishankar's message to Europe

NEW DELHI, May 4 (Agencies): Europe must display some sensitivity and mutuality of interest for deeper ties with India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday, asserting that New Delhi is looking for partners and not "preachers". In an interactive session, Jaishankar said India always advocated the "Russia realism" and there is an "important fit" and "complementarity" between India and Russia as a resource provider and consumer. The external affairs minister also criticised earlier attempts by the West to find a solution

to the Russia-Ukraine conflict without involving Russia, saying it "challenged the basics of realism". "Just like I am an advocate of Russia realism, I am also an advocate of America realism," he said at the 'Arctic Circle India Forum'. "I think the best way to engage today's America is also through finding mutuality of interests rather than putting ideological differences upfront and then allowing it to cloud the possibilities of working together," he said. The external affairs minister was broadly delving into global consequences of devel-

opments in the Arctic and how the changing world order impacts the region. In answering a question on India's expectations from Europe, Jaishankar said it has to get beyond preaching and start acting based on a framework of mutuality. "When we look out at the world, we look for partners; we do not look for preachers, particularly preachers who do not practise at home and preach abroad," he said. "I think some of Europe is still struggling with that problem. Some of it has changed," the external affairs minister said, adding, Europe has "entered a certain zone



of reality check". "Now whether they are able to step up to it or not, it is something we will have to see," he said. "But from our point of view, if we are to develop a partnership, there has to be some understanding, there has to be some sensitivity, there has to be a mutuality of interest and there has to be a realisation of how the world works," he noted. "And I think these are all work in progress to differing degrees with different parts of Europe. So some have moved further, some a little bit less," Jaishankar said.

Aspirant dies by suicide in Kota a day before national medical entrance exam

KOTA, May 4 (Agencies): A NEET aspirant allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from an iron grill of her room in Parshavnath area ahead of the national medical entrance exam scheduled for Sunday, police said. While refusing to disclose the name of the student, circle inspector at Kunhadi police station Arvind Bhard-

waj told agency that the girl was under 18 and hailed from Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh. She had been living with her parents in Kota for the past several years and preparing for NEET-UG at a coaching institute. The student was scheduled to take the NEET-UG exam that is being held at various centres across the country on Sunday. The girl used her scarf

to hang herself from an iron grill in her room on Saturday evening. The family members were reportedly at home at the time of the incident and found her dead around 9 pm. No suicide note was recovered from her room, he said, adding that the body has been sent for post-mortem. This is the 14th case of suicide by a coaching student in Kota this year.

PM Modi made 'desperate U-turn' on caste census: Cong

NEW DELHI, May 4 (Agencies): Claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a "desperate U-turn" on the caste census, the Congress on Sunday asked whether he will have the honesty to acknowledge that his government has officially changed its policy on the subject and commit to a timeline for such a survey. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said evidence abounds on Prime Minister Modi's "sudden, complete, and desperate U-turn" on the caste census. Citing examples, Ramesh said that in a TV interview on April 28, 2024, Modi branded all those demanding a caste census as "urban naxals." "On July 20, 2021, the Modi Government told Parliament that it had 'decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste-wise population other than SCs and STs in the Census'," the Congress leader said on X. In its affidavit to the Supreme Court dated September 21, 2021, the Modi Government clearly stated that "the



exclusion of information regarding any other caste (outside of SCs and STs) from the purview of census (2021) is a conscious policy decision taken by the Central Government as explained in the preceding paragraphs", he said. "In fact, the Modi Government explicitly urged the Supreme Court not to order a caste census for the OBCs. In such a situation, any direction from this Hon'ble Court to Census Department to include the enumeration of Socio-Economic data to the extent relating to BCCs of Rural India in the upcoming Census, 2021, as prayed, would tantamount to interfering with a policy decision as framed under Section 8 of the Act," Ramesh said.

Posing three questions to the prime minister, Ramesh asked whether he will have the honesty to acknowledge that his government has officially changed its policy on the caste census over the last 11 years. Will he explain to the people and Parliament the reasons for the change in the government's policy, Ramesh further asked. He also questioned whether the PM will commit to a timeline for the caste census. The Congress has said the government's caste census decision is in line with its pattern of first opposing every good scheme or policy, defaming it and then adopting the same policy in the face of public pressure and reality. The opposition party

has also claimed that Prime Minister Modi is the "master of giving a headline without a deadline" and called the government's caste census decision a "diversionary tactic" in the face of demands for taking strong action against Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack. The Centre on Wednesday announced that caste enumeration will be part of the next population census, with the inclusion of caste details for the first time since Independence. Opposition parties, including the Congress, had been demanding a nationwide caste census, making it a major election issue. Some states like Bihar, Telangana and Karnataka have conducted such surveys. Announcing the decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had said the census comes under the purview of the Centre, but some states have done caste enumeration in the name of surveys "non-transparently" which has created doubts in the society.

3 dead, several trapped after battered building collapses at Jharkhand hospital



JAMSHEDPUR, May 4 (Agencies): Three people died and twelve others were rescued after part of a dilapidated building at MGM Hospital in Jharkhand's Jamshedpur collapsed late Saturday night. According to police officials, fifteen people were initially reported trapped under the debris. A search operation is underway to

recover one remaining body. "Two bodies have been recovered after part of a dilapidated building at MGM Hospital in Jamshedpur collapsed. Information was received that fifteen people were trapped. Twelve of them have been rescued," said East Singhbhum SSP. Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari

visited the site on the instructions of Chief Minister Hemant Soren. "Our priority is to stand with the families of the deceased. They will be given Rs 5 lakh each as compensation, and the injured will receive Rs 50,000. We will take concrete steps to ensure that such an incident does not happen again," he said. The minister added that he, along with the Additional Chief Secretary of the Health Department, reached the site during the night and held an emergency meeting with the district administration. "NDRF and district officials are carrying out rescue operations. A high-level investigation has been ordered, and strict action

will be taken against those responsible within a week," Ansari said. Expressing condolences, he said, "The tragedy caused by the collapse of a part of the building is extremely sad. May God give peace to the departed souls and strength to their families." Meanwhile, BJP leader Pratul Shah Deo strongly criticised the state government. "This is a tragic incident, but we do not consider it an accident. These are deliberate killings of the poor by the system. The Chief Minister admitted that the building was dilapidated—so why was treatment still being conducted there? Why wasn't it repaired?" he said.

Asked to quit alcohol, angry Uttar Pradesh man shoots son, daughter-in-law

GORAKHPUR, May 4 (Agencies): A retired home guard shot his son and daughter-in-law in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur, when he was asked to stop drinking alcohol and fighting in the house. The incident was reported on Saturday night, when retired home guard Hari Yadav reached his residence in a drunk state and picked a fight with his family. When he was asked to stop the quarrelling and

stay away from alcohol, he picked up his licensed gun and fired shots. His elder son Anup Yadav (38) was shot in the chest, while his younger daughter-in-law Supriya Yadav (30) was shot in the left hand and stomach. After receiving treatment at the district hospital, both were referred to the BRD Medical College, where they are in critical condition. Barhalganj SHO Chandrabhan Singh said that the accused Hari

Yadav has been taken into custody and his licensed gun has been seized. Further action will be taken as soon as a complaint is received. In a separate incident in Gorakhpur this week, enraged by the engagement of a woman he loved to another man, a government servant entered her house shot her and her sister. He then shot himself. All three are in the hospital in a critical condition.

Australia's re-elected prime minister says voters chose unity over division

MELBOURNE, May 4 (Agencies): Australia's re-elected Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Sunday was greeted by well-wishers at a Sydney cafe and said the country had voted for unity over division.

Albanese's center-left Labor Party won an emphatic victory in elections on Saturday. As vote counting continued, the government was on track to win at least 85 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives, the lower chamber where parties need a majority to form an administration.

Labor held 78 seats in the previous Parliament, and gaining seats in a second term is rare in Australian politics.

"The Australian people voted for unity rather than division," Albanese told reporters in the crowded café in the inner-suburban Leichhardt where he and his fiancée, Jodie Haydon, gathered with colleagues and supporters for coffee.

"We'll be a disciplined, orderly government in our second term, just like we have been in our first," he added.

He noted that he had frequented the cafe as a child with his late mother, Marryanne Albanese, a single parent who became an invalid pensioner. She raised her only child in public housing nearby.

"I did certainly think of her last night as well. She would be very proud," Albanese said of his mother, who was a member of the Labor Party.

Australian election result reminiscent of Canada

In an election result reminis-



cent to Canada's recent contest, conservative opposition leader Peter Dutton lost his parliamentary seat. His alliance of parties was reduced to 37 seats.

Canada's opposition leader, Pierre Poilievre, lost his seat after US President Donald Trump declared economic war on the US neighbour. Poilievre had previously been regarded as a shoo-in to become Canada's next prime minister and shepherd his Conservative Party back into power for the first time in a decade.

Senior Australian lawmakers say they feared late last year they would become the first government to be tossed out after a single three-year term since the turmoil of the Great Depression in 1931.

Like the center-left Canadian government, the Australian government had linked their political opponents to Trump's administration and its Elon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency.

Australia was hit during the five-week election campaign with 10% tariffs on exports to the United States despite trading with its bilateral free trade partner at a deficit for decades.

Opposition leader branded DOGE-y Dutton'

The opposition leader was branded "DOGE-y Dutton," and Labor warned that a Dutton government would slash public sector services to pay for seven government-funded nuclear power plants.

Labor said Dutton never campaigned at any of the proposed power plant sites and argued the conservatives realized that nuclear reactors were not popular. There is no nuclear power generation in Australia.

Labor also accused Dutton of igniting culture wars. While Albanese stands before the Australian flag and two Indigenous flags at media announcements, Dutton had said that as prime minister, he would only stand in front of the national flag.

Indigenous Australians account for 4% of the population and are the nation's most disadvantaged ethnic minority.

Albanese has become the first Australian prime minister to lead a party to consecutive election victories since conservative John Howard in 2004.

Revolving door for Australian political leaders

Howard's 11-year reign ended at the next election in 2007. Like Dutton, Howard also lost his seat in Parliament as well as his government. Howard's departure coincided with the start of an extraordinary period of political instability that created a revolving door for political leaders. There have been six prime ministers since Howard, including one who served in the role twice in separate stints three years apart.

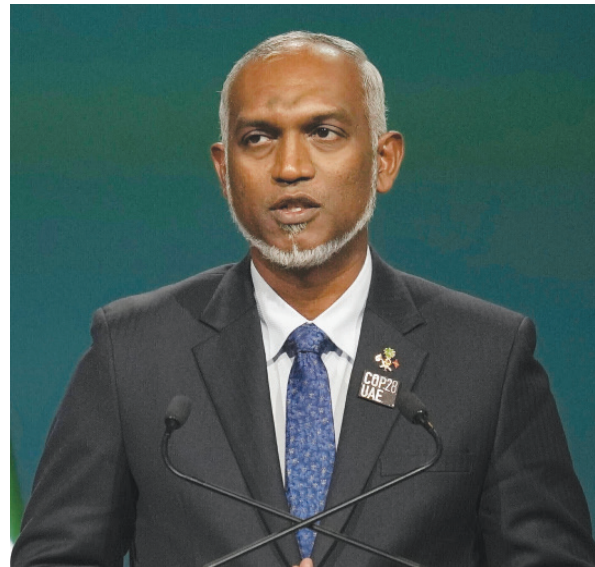
Albanese said the first world leader to congratulate him on his election victory was Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape, who phoned at 7:45 a.m.

"He's a very good friend," Albanese said. "I told him it's a bit early to call."

Albanese had also spoken to New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and received text messages of congratulation from British Prime Minister Kier Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron.

Albanese said he would speak to Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later Sunday.

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu holds record 15-hour press conference



MALE, May 4 (Agencies): Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu addressed a press conference for nearly 15 hours, his office said on Sunday, claiming it broke a previous record held by Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky.

Muizzu, 46, began the marathon press conference at 10:00 am (0500 GMT) on Saturday, and it continued for 14 hours and 54 minutes with brief pauses for prayers, his office said in a statement.

"The conference extended past midnight -- a new world record -- by a president -- with President Muizzu continuously responding to questions from journalists," the statement said.

In October 2019, Ukraine's National Records Agency claimed that Zelensky's 14-hour press conference had broken an earlier record of over seven hours held by Belarusian strongman Alexander Lukashenko. The government of the Indian Ocean archipelago said Muizzu's extended session was also intended to coincide with World Press Freedom Day on Saturday.

"He acknowledged the crucial role of the press in society and emphasised the importance of factual, balanced, and impartial reporting," the statement added.

During the lengthy session, Muizzu also

responded to questions submitted by members of the public via journalists.

The statement said Muizzu, who came to power in 2023, was also marking his island nation's rise by two places to 104th out of 180 countries in the 2025 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

During Saturday's session, he answered a wide range of questions, the statement said.

Around two dozen reporters attended and were served food.

A predecessor of Muizzu set another world record by holding the first-ever underwater cabinet meeting in 2009, to highlight the threat of rising sea levels that could swamp the low-lying nation.

Former president Mohamed Nasheed plunged into the Indian Ocean followed by his ministers, all in scuba gear, for a nationally televised meeting.

The Maldives is on the frontline of the battle against global warming, which could raise sea levels and swamp the nation of 1,192 tiny coral islands scattered across the equator.

Gulf states concerned over deteriorating security in South Asia: GCC Secretary-General

RIYADH, May 4 (Agencies): Jassim Al Budaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), expressed the Council's deep concern over the deteriorating security situation in South Asia, urging restraint, prioritisation of dialogue, and the urgent resumption of negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of India.

He condemned the terrorist attack targeting tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in the death and injury of numerous innocent civilians, stressing the importance of peaceful means to resolve disputes in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations to safeguard security, peace and stability in the region.

The Secretary-General reaffirmed the GCC's principled and consistent stance



in rejecting all forms and manifestations of terrorism. He also reiterated the GCC states' call for the international community to intensify efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Five people detained in UK on suspicion of planning terrorist attack: Police

LONDON, May 4 (Agencies): Five people, including four Iranian nationals, have been detained in the UK on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack, Metropolitan Police said.

"Counter Terrorism Police have arrested

five people on suspicion of terrorism offences as part of a proactive investigation, which is being led by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command," the statement says.

It is noted that the ethnicity of the fifth man is

being established. They all currently remain in custody. The ages of the detainees range from 29 to 46.

As part of the investigation, police are also conducting searches in London, Swindon and Greater Manchester.

Romanians vote in presidential redo after voided election sparked deep political crisis

BUCHAREST, May 4 (Agencies): Romanians are casting ballots Sunday in a critical presidential election redo after last year's annulled vote plunged the European Union and NATO member country into its worst political crisis in decades.

Eleven candidates are vying for the presidency and a May 18 runoff is expected. Polls opened at 7 am (0400 GMT) and will close at 9 pm (1800 GMT). By 10 am local time (0700GMT), 1.8 million people, about 10% of eligible voters had cast ballots, according to the Central Election Bureau, with a massive 425,000 coming from voters abroad.

Romania's political landscape was shaken last year when a top court voided the previous election in which the far-right outsider Calin Georgescu topped the first round, following allegations of electoral violations and Russian interference, which Moscow has denied.

Like many countries in the EU, anti-establishment sentiment is running high in Romania, fuelled by high inflation and cost of living, a large budget deficit and a sluggish economy.



Observers say the malaise has bolstered support for nationalist and far-right figures like Georgescu, who is under investigation and barred from the rerun.

While data from local surveys should be taken with caution, a median of polls suggests that hard-right nationalist George Simion will enter the runoff, likely pitting him against Bucharest Mayor Nicusor Dan, or the governing coalition's candidate, Crin Antonescu.

At a polling station in the capital, Bucharest, Simion appeared Sunday morning alongside Georgescu and told reporters: We are here with one mission only: the return to constitutional order, the return to democracy.

I have no other goal than first place for the Romanian people.

For his part, Georgescu called the vote rerun a fraud orchestrated by those who have made deceit the only state policy, but that he was there to acknowledge the power of democracy, the power of the vote that frightens the system, that terrifies the system.

Dan, a 55-year-old mathematician and former anti-corruption activist who founded the Save Romania Union party (USR) in 2016, is running on a pro-EU Honest Romania ticket.

After casting his ballot, Dan said he voted for hope and a new beginning for Romania.

I voted with realism, because Romania is going through a difficult time, he said.

Veteran centrist Antonescu, 65, who campaigned on retaining Romania's pro-

Western orientation, said Sunday morning that he voted for a united Romania, for a strong Romania, for a dignified Romania.

Victor Ponta, a former prime minister between 2012 and 2015, has also pushed a MAGA-style Romania First campaign and boasts of having close ties to the Trump administration.

Another hopeful, Elena Lasconi, came second in last year's first round ballot and is participating in the rerun.

She has positioned herself as a staunchly pro-Western, anti-system candidate, railing against what she describes as a corrupt political class.

Distrust in the authorities remains widespread, especially for those who voted for Georgescu, a sizeable electorate that Simion has sought to tap into.

The anti-establishment sentiment is not like an anarchic movement, but is against the people who destroyed this country, Simion, who came fourth in last year's race and later backed Georgescu, told agency days before the rerun.

We are not a demo-

cratic state anymore.

Simion said that his hard-right nationalist Alliance for the Unity of Romanians party is perfectly aligned with the MAGA movement, capitalising on a growing wave of populism in Europe after the U.S.

President Donald Trump's political comeback.

AUR rose to prominence in a 2020 parliamentary election, proclaims to stand for family, nation, faith, and freedom, and has since doubled its support.

The election redo is a crossroads moment for Romania as it seeks to restore its democracy and retain its geopolitical alliances, which have become strained since the canceled election fiasco.

The decision to annul the election and the ban on Georgescu's candidacy drew criticism from U.S.

Vice President JD Vance, Elon Musk and Russia, which publicly supported his candidacy in the rerun.

The presidential role carries a five-year term and significant decision-making powers in national security and foreign policy.

Houthi ballistic missile strikes near Israel's biggest airport

MANILA, May 4 (Agencies): The ballistic missile fired by the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen hit near Israel's Ben Gurion Airport after "several attempts" to intercept it failed, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said on Sunday. Israel has, meanwhile, pledged to hit back 'seven times stronger' after Yemen missile fire.

The missile struck a grove adjacent to an access road, inside the country's main airport's perimeter, according to a report by the Times of Israel.

The military said it made several attempts to intercept the missile fired from Yemen, but "an impact was identified in the area of Ben

Gurion Airport."

The Israeli Air Force's aerial defence array is probing the failure. "An investigation is underway regarding the impact at the Ben Gurion Airport area," the Israel Airport Authority says in a statement.

At least one person was reportedly hurt after the missile fell on one of the airport's parking lots. Surveillance camera footage emerged on social media showing the moment the Houthi missile struck near the airport.

There was no report of any major damage in the attack, but the airspace was closed for around an hour. However, the airport reopened its airspace and resumed takeoffs

and landings shortly after.

Meanwhile, National Unity chairman and former Israeli Minister Benny Gantz, who quit the government last year in June in protest against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy on the war in Gaza, called on the government to hold Iran accountable for the strike.

"This is not Yemen, this is Iran. It is Iran that is firing ballistic missiles at the State of Israel, and it must bear responsibility," wrote the former defence minister on X.

"The Israeli government must wake up," he insisted, arguing that fire on Israel "must lead to a severe response in Tehran."

Vehicle crashes into entrance at Manila airport, killing 2 people including a 4-year-old girl



MANILA, May 4 (Agencies): A vehicle crashed into an entrance at Manila's airport on Sunday morning, leaving two people dead including a 4-year-old girl, according to the Philippine Red Cross.

The other victim was an adult male, the humanitarian group said in a statement.

Other people were injured in the incident and the driver of the vehicle was in police custody, according to the airport's operator, New NAIA Infra Co, and the Red Cross.

Dozens of emergency personnel could be seen at Ninoy Aquino International Airport surrounding a black SUV that had rammed into a wall by an entrance. The vehicle was later removed from the site.

The airport operator said it is coordinating with the authorities to investigate the incident.

JYF slams failure of DDOE to open UG admission, urges CM to intervene

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: While strongly flaying Centre of Distance and Online Education (DDOE), JU for not opening admission for undergraduate students, JYF has appealed the Chief Minister to initiate high level investigation to find out the recklessness of Centre of Distance and Online Education (DDOE) in this behalf.

This was stated by Jammu Youth Forum State President Ajaz Khan in a press conference today and said that there is no information about the courses which were closed last year in the Centre of Distance and Online Education (DDOE). However, when students came to take admission in undergraduate courses in DDOE, they were told that admission would be opened admission next year in March-2025, but still DDOE did not open the admission making students to run helter shelter for seeking admission with none to listen to their grievances, he revealed.

He further said that due to the negligence of a Sr. Professors of DDOE the admissions has not been opened there till now, which now needs probe as the Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai is protecting the Director DDOE Prof Pankaj Srivastav or Sr Professors because both incumbent VC and Director are from outside with VC seems hesitating to take action against the Director DDOE responsible for dereliction of duty.

He is acting arbitrarily there and no one is there to question Director because VC is shielding Director DDOE as whenever the former requires money from DDOE, the Director forthwith provides VC money generously without even holding a meeting or fulfilling other codal formalities, which amounts to flagrant violation financial propriety.

He further said that there was an advertisement for a law post in DDOE but the Director and VC together converted the post into Sociology subject without citing any reasons. In brief sorry state of affairs is prevailing in

DDOE without any check by the University Authority.

He added that only the names of professors are shown in the time table but classes are taken virtually by the Scholars.

He further said that instead of professors, entire work of teaching is given to the Contractual teachers and the one who does not agree to the dictates of a Professor is fired for next year Contractual engagement as teacher.

A few years ago, a campus dean's meeting was held in which a decision was made that there will be a contractual lecture for 500 students, he revealed, adding that lakhs of rupees are being spent every year on contractual appointments. If PCP is not compulsory, then why are contractual teachers appointed, he pointed out, saying that Contractual teachers are required in some regular Departments. He asked why the DDOE should be favored by the Vice-Chancellor of Jammu University.

He further said that in the Centre of Distance and Online Education (DDOE), the Director is appointed from an outside department and all the professors put pressure on the Director to get their wrongdoings done. In order to save his chair, the Director gets influenced by those professors.

He further said that just as there are two permanent Professors in English, one Professor in Hindi, one professor in Political Science and similarly in other subjects also, there are professors. But in spite of that the contractual appointments are made. He asked why the VC, JU does not streamline the system in terms of requirement of teachers Vis a Vis teaching workload in Centre of Distance and Online Education (DDOE).

JYF members demanded the CM of the UT who is Pro-Chancellor of Jammu University to constitute a fully-fledged enquiry involving the investigating agencies of the State to look into and probe the irregularities that took place during the tenure of Vice-Chancellor.

Shri Atam Vallabh Jain Clinic organizes 450th Free Artificial Limbs Camp



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: Shri Atam Vallabh Jain Clinic, Jammu, successfully organized its 450th monthly Free Artificial Limbs Camp at Fattu Chogan, Kali Janni, Jammu, on Sunday.

The camp, spanning three days, aimed to provide free prosthetic and mobility aids to the differently-abled.

On the first day of the camp, 74 patients were assessed, and the clinic distributed 21 artificial limbs (Jaipur Foot), 14 callipers, 2 wheelchairs, and 1 tricycle, all free of cost. The initiative reflects the clinic's long-standing commitment to empowering individuals with physical disabilities by enhancing their mobility and independence.

Pritul Jain, General Secretary of the Society, briefed the attendees and visiting dignitaries about the clinic's ongoing efforts and the impact of their humanitarian work.

Several dignitaries graced the occasion, including Kimti Jain, Davinder Jain, Praveen Sethi, Deepak Jain, Vikas Jain, Rishek Jain, and Shailesh Jain, who lauded the clinic's dedication and service to the community.

The camp continues for two more days, with further beneficiaries expected to receive prosthetic devices and mobility aids as part of this noble endeavor.

Amity Meeting organised for Civil Society at Haribudha

Top News Report

POONCH, May 4: Haribudha village is near the line of control where the people are facing various challenges every day. The meeting was attended by a number of locals who included representatives of civil administration, Sarpanch, Nambardar, and village elders of area in and around Haribudha.

The Amity meeting was a step towards a progressive and continuous interaction of the Indian Army and civil society.

The people informed about the challenges they are facing in their daily lives and they were assured by the Indian Army that these problems would be solved on priority.

The younger generation was informed about the qualification requirement for joining the Indian Army and also how they can play an important role in shaping the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The locals expressed their desire that such meetings must be conducted periodically to maintain the bonhomie between Awam and Indian Army.

The villagers praised the efforts of Indian Army during all hours of their need.

They expressed their faith in the Indian Army and requested for such events in future.



Madhuparamhans Ji enlightens congregation with discourses on immortal country of soul

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, May 4: Sahib Bandgi's revered Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, while delivering his spiritual discourse in Akhnoor on Sunday, captivated the congregation with profound insights about the immortal country from where the soul originates.

Sadguru emphasized that the true homeland of the soul is beyond the physical realm, a divine country without earth, sky, water, air, or any of the five elements. "Wherever there are five elements, there is Pralaya (destruction)," he explained. "Elements give birth to elements and elements destroy elements."

He highlighted that the saints throughout history have carried the message of that immortal country. "Whatever Paltu Sahib said, it was Sahib's words. Whatever other saints said, they were also Sahib's words," he noted, acknowledging how the teachings of saints like Paltu Sahib and Kabir Sahib have echoed the same divine truths, albeit in their own expressions.

"Paltu Sahib tells us there

is no water, no wind, no earth, no sky in that country. This is Sahib's message," Sadguru Ji elaborated, underscoring that even sacred texts like the Vedas cannot fully describe this divine realm. "Even gods and the ten incarnations do not reach that country. No Siddha or meditative master can meditate there."

Sadguru Ji further explained that while many have spoken about Sat Lok (the eternal realm) after reading scriptures, only a true saint who has experienced it firsthand can truly convey its essence. "The Satya Lok that I am talking about—I truly go there," he affirmed. "That's why Sahib said: 'You are talking about what you have read; I am talking about what I have seen with my own eyes.'"

He urged the congregation to seek the truth beyond written words and to embrace the direct experience of the divine through spiritual guidance.

Devotees present expressed deep reverence and gratitude for the enlightening discourse, leaving with renewed inspiration to walk the path of truth and inner realization.

Body of youth recovered from Kulgam Nallah

KULGAM, May 4 (Agencies): The body of a 23-year-old youth was recovered from Nallah at Adbal Wattoo area of DH Pora in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Sunday.

According to sources, he was an Over Ground Worker (OGW) and had links with terrorists.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the deceased has been identified as Imtiaz Ahmad Magray, 23, son of Nazir Ahmad Magray, a resident of Tangmarg. He was working as a labourer.

The body was recovered from the Nallah by locals, following which police were informed. A police team reached the spot and took custody of the body for medico-legal formalities.

Police sources said Imtiaz Ahmad Magray (23), S/O Najir Ahmad Magray R/O Tangmarg P/S Manzgarn had confessed about knowledge of hideout with presence of two Pakistan terrorists.

"Today morning when CASO was launched, deceased went to the hideout spot (near river bed) under close supervision via videographed drone, consequently,

Army conducts medical patrol for local youth at Balangi



Top News Report

RAJOURI, May 4: In its constant endeavor to understand and touch the basic needs of people in the remote areas of Rajouri especially the Gujar and Bakkarwals which lack such amenities, Indian Army has initiated the conduct of Medical Patrols where in the troops while ensuring safety and security of the local Populace are helping them with their basic medical needs.

Indian Army conducted medical patrol in the remote villages of Gunda which has a considerable population of Gujar and Bakkarwals, a total of 09 females, 08 males and 04 children benefitted from this initiative.

They expressed great satisfaction and gratitude towards the Indian Army for the assistance provided.

DC Poonch inspects developmental works in Surankote

Top News Report

POONCH, May 4: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal conducted a site inspection of various developmental projects in Surankote today. The Deputy Commissioner inspected the progress of the NABARD road construction and ongoing water supply initiatives.

Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, Tehsildar Surankote Akbar Hussain, executive engineers and other officers.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the 4KM NABARD road from Jogi Morh to TCP via Dak Bunglow Surankote. He emphasized the importance of completing the widening and blacktopping of the road promptly and ordered the demolition of any encroachments, warning of strict action against defaulters.

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Lieutenant Governor flags off J&K's 1st batch of Haj pilgrims from Srinagar International Airport

Additional Chief Secretary; Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Budgam and members of J&K Haj Committee, senior officers of Airport Authority, Civil and Police administration were present on the occasion.

CM Omar Abdullah bids farewell to first batch of Haj pilgrims at Srinagar Airport

for the convenience of the pilgrims, including smooth transportation, boarding & lodging, luggage verification, security screening, refreshment, food, prayer arrangements, distribution of travel documents and prompt issuance of boarding passes.

J&K Army Vehicle Accident: Congress expresses sorrow at Soldiers' deaths, Seeks preventive steps

The news of the death of many of our soldiers due to the accident of an army van in Ramban, Jammu and Kashmir, is extremely saddening, he said in a Facebook post.

The army truck was part of a convoy moving from Jammu to Srinagar along National Highway 44 when the accident occurred around 11.30 am, the officials said.

They said a joint rescue operation was launched by the army, police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and local volunteers. Three soldiers travelling in the vehicle were found dead on the spot.

The victims were identified as sepoy's Amit Kumar, Sujeet Kumar and Man Bahadur and their bodies are being retrieved, the officials said and added the crash reduced the vehicle into a mangled heap

IGP Kashmir chairs joint security review meeting at PCR Kashmir

Sunday held a joint security review meeting at PCR Kashmir, which was attended by officers from multiple security forces, including the Police, Army, Intelligence Agencies, and CAPFs.

A police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the meeting was attended by IG BSF FTR Kashmir, IG CRPF KOS, IG CRPF Srinagar, DD IB Srinagar, DIG SSB Kashmir, DIG RPF, DIG BSF Srinagar, DIG CRPF North/South Srinagar, DIG ITBP, DIG CKR, DIG Traffic Kashmir, Col GS (IS) 15 Corps, SSP Srinagar, SSP Railways, SSP Traffic Rural, SSP CID CIK, SSP APCR Kashmir, SSP SDRF, DC SB Srinagar, SP PC Srinagar, SP Telecommunication, and other officers, and was virtually attended by DIG CISE, DIG SKR, and other SSPs of districts/PDs of Kashmir Zone.

At the onset of the meeting, the officers briefed IGP Kashmir about the overall security scenario, with the primary focus on garnering insights into the existing security challenges in the Valley.

The discussions focused on intelligence gathering, threat assessments, emergency response preparedness, and inter-agency coordination, a police spokesman said.

IGP Kashmir underlined the need to bolster synergy among all security and intelligence agencies for seamless information sharing and joint operational readiness.

The joint security review meeting underscored the commitment of all security and intelligence agencies to work in close coordination to maintain peace and stability in the Kashmir Valley.

Youth's body found in Kulgam, Mehbooba calls for probe into allegations of 'Foul Play'

Kashmir and undermine communal harmony across the country.

"If a single act of violence can shake the entire system, triggering arbitrary arrests, home demolitions, and the targeting of innocent civilians then the perpetrators have already achieved their objective," she said.

Mehbooba called for an impartial investigation into the death.

"Allegations of misconduct whether in Bandipora encounter or in this latest incident in Kulgam are deeply troubling and warrant a thorough impartial investigation," she added.

Three drug peddlers arrested in Handwara

masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law."

NEET UG 2025 exam kicks off amid tight security measures

the exam: " This is my second attempt. During my first attempt, I couldn't score a good mark. I hope I can score well this time, unlike last time."

While another student, Gunjan Gulati, said, "I have prepared very well. I am very confident...I have 100% confidence that I will clear the exam. This is my first attempt"

Anamika Kumari, a NEET aspirant from West Bengal's Siliguri, said, " Preparations have been done well. I just need to give exams now...fear is there..."

Earlier, NTA on Saturday said that all preparations for the safe and secure conduct of the examination have been completed, and state governments across the country have been placed on high alert.

The security push comes in the aftermath of the NEET-UG 2024 controversy, which saw allegations of paper leaks, inflated marks, and legal battles over grace marks, prompting widespread protests and judicial scrutiny. This year, the NTA has taken "all measures" to ensure the integrity of the exam.

Candidates will undergo thorough checks by district police, in addition to NTA's standard security protocols, before entering exam centres. Question papers and OMR sheets will be transported under complete police protection to prevent tampering or leaks.

Authorities will closely monitor coaching centres and online platforms to prevent organised cheating networks. Exam centres will be equipped with CCTV cameras to ensure transparency and accountability.

India’s media landscape: JioStar invests over Rs 85,000 crore in content in 3 years

The logic behind such astronomical investments lies in the critical need for local content that resonates with the tastes and aspirations of the Indian audience.

MUMBAI, May 4 (Agencies): At the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Mumbai, Uday Shankar, the Vice Chairman of JioStar, dropped a bombshell regarding the company’s massive investment plans in content. This fiscal year, JioStar is set to pour an eye-popping ₹32,000-33,000 crore into content creation, a clear sign that India’s media landscape is in for a transformative phase.

Shankar revealed that in FY24 alone, Jio Cinema and Disney+Hotstar together spent ₹25,000 crore on content, which then surged to ₹30,000 crore in FY25. But that’s just the tip of the iceberg—next year, the duo plans to break new ground with a spend upwards of ₹32,000-33,000 crore. “In three years, we’ve already invested more than \$10 billion,” Shankar proudly stated, emphasising the long-term vision behind these colossal financial commitments.

For Shankar, the logic behind such astronomical investments is clear. Indian media companies like JioStar are deeply focused on catering to local consumers, with their returns expected to come from the domestic market itself, unlike global counterparts who often look beyond borders for financial gains. In fact, he firmly believes that this focus



on Indian audiences is the key to continued success.

Shankar also exuded confidence about the company’s future growth trajectory, specifically in the realm of subscriber numbers. JioStar is on track to hit an impressive 300 million subscribers during the Indian Premier League (IPL) season, a feat he credits to the timely merger of Jio Cinema and Disney+Hotstar when Pay TV was supposedly on the decline. Far from losing subscribers, the Pay TV segment has seen a resurgence, and Shankar is optimistic that this momentum will continue.

Looking ahead, Shankar emphasized the critical need for local content that resonates with the tastes and aspirations of the Indian audience. He stressed that while con-

tent made for global markets can sometimes make its way to India, it’s the homegrown, locally relevant shows that will drive the media revolution here. “It should ideally travel to the world, but you can’t just import content meant for global consumption and expect it to keep pace with India’s surging demand,” he explained.

In essence, JioStar’s aggressive content strategy isn’t just a play for numbers—it’s a well-calculated move to shape the future of Indian entertainment, ensuring that it not only serves the country’s vast and diverse population but also positions itself as a global content powerhouse.

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Zoho pauses USD 700mn chipmaking plan in absence of tech partner and high capital requirement

NEW DELHI, May 4 (Agencies): Software giant Zoho has decided to put its ambitious \$700 million (approximately Rs5,800 crore) semiconductor manufacturing plan on hold, which came across as a notable setback for India’s efforts to build a domestic chip manufacturing ecosystem.

Co-founder and CEO of Zoho, Sridhar Vembu, stated the reason for pause as not sure of the right technology path and significant capital investment required for semiconductor fabrication Plant.

Vembu posted on social media ‘X’, “On our semiconductor fab investment plan, since this business is so capital intensive, it requires government backing, we wanted to be absolutely sure of the technology path before we take taxpayer money.”

He added, “We did not have that confidence in the tech so our board decided to shelve this idea for the time being, until we find a better tech approach,”

As part of the plan, Zoho had planned to invest USD 400 million in a semiconductor facility in Karnataka, it was

expected to create 460 new jobs.

Currently, India does not hold a single operational chipmaking facility. The Indian government has been actively promoting domestic chip production through various incentives and it would have come as a huge blow for the government.

Adani Group too has reportedly paused its USD 10 billion plans to enter the chip manufacturing sector through a venture with Israel’s Tower Semiconductor.

However, a report by NITI Aayog, the cost of semiconductor chips used in vehicles is expected to double from the current average of USD 600 to USD 1,200 per vehicle by 2030.

Last year, Maharashtra approved Adani Group’s proposal to set up a semiconductor manufacturing plant with Israel’s Tower Semiconductor, which was expected to create 5,000 jobs.

Earlier on March 6, in a significant milestone for India’s semiconductor industry, India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL),

and Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited (TSMPL) signed a Fiscal Support Agreement (FSA) in the presence of Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel for India’s first commercial semiconductor fab in Dholera, Gujarat.

This breakthrough agreement, reached at the Gujarat Semi Connect Conference 2025, represents a decisive step forward in strengthening India’s technological self-reliance under the modified program for the semiconductor & display manufacturing ecosystem in India.

Tata Electronics’ semiconductor fab in the Dholera (SIR) commands a total investment of over Rs 91,000 crore with a capacity of 50,000 wafers starts per month (WSPM). The Government of India, through the India Semiconductor Mission, has committed 50 per cent fiscal support on a paripassu basis for eligible project costs—demonstrating unwavering national commitment to building a world-class semiconductor ecosystem within Indian borders.

Consumption of ultraprocessed foods linked to rising premature deaths: Study

WASHINGTON DC, May 4 (Agencies): A study analyzing data from nationally representative dietary surveys and mortality data from eight countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, United Kingdom, and United States) shows that premature deaths attributable to consumption of ultraprocessed foods (UPFs) increase significantly according to their share in individuals’ total energy intake.

The new study, appearing in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, published by Elsevier, reinforces the call for global action to reduce UPF consumption, supported by regulatory and fiscal policies that foster healthier environments.

UPFs are ready-to-eat-or-heat industrial formulations that are made with ingredients extracted from foods or synthesised in laboratories, with little or no whole foods in their

composition.

These have gradually been replacing traditional foods and meals made from fresh and minimally processed ingredients.

Lead investigator of the study, Eduardo Augusto Fernandes Nilson, DSc, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), Brazil, says,

“UPFs affect health beyond the individual impact of high content of critical nutrients (sodium, trans fats, and sugar) because of the changes in the foods during industrial processing and the use of artificial ingredients, including colorants, artificial flavors and sweeteners, emulsifiers, and many other additives and processing aids, so assessing deaths from all-causes associated with UPF consumption allows an overall estimate of the effect of industrial food processing on health.”

While previous studies focused on spe-

cific dietary risk factors instead of food patterns, the current study modeled data from nationally representative dietary surveys and mortality data from eight countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, United Kingdom, and United States) to link dietary patterns, considering the extent and purpose of industrial food processing, to deaths from all causes.

High consumption of UPFs has been associated with 32 different diseases, including cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, some types of cancer, and depression.

For the first time, this study has estimated the burden of UPF intake on premature deaths from all causes in different countries, showing that the attributable mortality is significant in all settings and that addressing UPF consumption should be a global public nutrition priority.

Modern lifestyle takes a toll on youth spinal health

HOSHIARPUR, May 4 (Agencies): Cervical spondylitis, a condition that primarily affects the neck and upper spine, was once mostly seen in older adults. However, it is now increasingly being diagnosed in young individuals, including school and college students. Dr Sanjay Narad, a prominent orthopaedic specialist from Hoshiarpur, has been seeing a growing number of young patients suffering from this condition, which he considers a deeply concerning trend that reflects the damaging impact of modern lifestyle habits on youth health.

Talking to The Tribune, Dr Narad said that the rising cases of cervical spondylitis among young people were alarming. While it is a degenerative condition and cannot be completely cured, it can be effectively managed and even prevented with timely awareness and healthy lifestyle practices. He emphasised that with the right habits, young individuals can



maintain good neck and spine health and live active, pain-free lives. Dr Narad pointed out that one of the leading causes of the increase in cervical spondylitis cases among the youth is the excessive and improper use of mobile phones and laptops.

Many people spend

prolonged hours looking down at their screens, which places continuous strain on the neck, he said. This condition, now widely referred to as “text neck,” results from poor posture during extended screen time and can, over time, damage the cervical spine, leading to pain

and stiffness.

Another major cause was the growing popularity of workout routines among young people, often without proper supervision or understanding of correct posture. Incorrect exercise techniques, lifting heavy weights without guidance and neglecting warm-ups often harm the neck and back muscles, either triggering or worsening cervical problems.

Also, today’s inactive lifestyle adds to the problem, long hours of sitting while studying, watching television or using mobile devices without adequate physical movement significantly affect spinal health.

“There are several symptoms to watch for. The common signs include neck pain and stiffness, headaches at the base of the skull, numbness or tingling in the hands, pain that radiates to the shoulders or arms, as well as symptoms like vertigo, dizziness, or loss of balance. If any of these symptoms occur

regularly, it is important to consult a medical professional promptly, as ignoring them can lead to worsening of the condition over time,” Dr Narad said.

Discussing treatment and management, Dr Narad made it clear that although cervical spondylitis cannot be completely cured due to its degenerative nature, it can be well-managed with appropriate lifestyle changes, medical care and physiotherapy, especially when identified early.

He said exercise plays a key role in prevention and management. Regular stretching of the neck and shoulders, strengthening of the back muscles and correcting posture can make a substantial difference. He also mentioned the benefits of yoga, which improves flexibility and relieves neck tension.

Dr Narad advised against engaging in high-intensity workouts without warming up and urged young people to seek professional guidance when exercising.

Extended surgery could help lower risk of 2nd cancer in patients with genetic condition

NEW DELHI, May 4 (Agencies): In patients of Lynch syndrome—an inherited condition -- risk of developing a second tumour could be lower among those having an extended resection, involving a removal of organs and tissues adjacent to the affected ones, compared to segmental resection, according to a study.

The inherited condition increases one’s risk of cancer, especially that of colon and rectum.

An international collaboration, including researchers from the Institute of Human Genetics, Ahmedabad, compared the incidence of metachronous colorectal cancer—the second cancer develops distinct from and at least six months following diagnosis of the first—after segmental versus extended surgical resection in patients with Lynch syndrome.

The analysis looked at data taken

from the ‘Prospective Lynch Syndrome Database’, involving 8,500 patients from 25 different countries. Findings are published in the British Journal of Surgery.

Once colon cancer is identified, European and American guidelines recommend considering an extended colorectal surgery for patients of Lynch syndrome carrying the ‘path_MLH1’ and ‘path_MSH2’ gene variants, and a segmental resection for those carrying the ‘path_MSH6’ and ‘path_PMS2’ gene variants.

All these gene variants are associated with a higher lifetime risk of developing colorectal, gynaecological and urinary tract cancers, among others.

Overall, a higher risk of metachronous colorectal cancer was found to be higher among patients who underwent segmental resection, compared to those who

underwent extended surgery.

For example, path_MLH1 carriers had a higher risk of metachronous (colorectal cancer) by the age of 75 years after segmental colorectal resection (69.1 per cent), compared with extended surgery (25.1 per cent), the team said.

“This study has found that path_MLH1 and path_MSH2 carriers who undergo segmental resection for a first colorectal cancer were at increased risk of metachronous colorectal cancer, compared with those with no prior colorectal cancer,” the authors wrote.

They said the study’s findings contributes to the ongoing discussion on surgical strategies for patients with Lynch syndrome.

The research team also included members from the US, Europe and Australia.

Only 8% of bacterial infections in India treated appropriately in 2019: Lancet study

NEW DELHI, May 4 (Agencies): Only about eight per cent of bacterial infections detected in 2019 in India were treated appropriately, according to an analysis of low and middle-income countries.

Findings published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal show that in 2019, there were nearly 15 lakh bacterial infections resistant to carbapenems — a common antibiotic — across eight countries that were under study.

Carbapenems are used for treating severe infections — such as those acquired from being inside a hospital, where bacteria resistant to antibiotics are abundant.

Of the 15 lakh bacterial infections, only over a lakh treatment courses were procured — the resulting treatment gap meant that only 6.9 per cent of the patients were treated appropriately, researchers, including those from the Global Antibiotic Research and Develop-

ment Partnership (GARDP), Switzerland, found.

“India procured most of the treatment courses (80.5 per cent; 83,468 courses), with 7.8 per cent of infections treated appropriately,” the authors wrote.

The eight countries that were part of the study included Bangladesh, Pakistan and Mexico.

The most-procured antibiotic was tigecycline — usually prescribed in hospitals for serious infections. Most of the 15 lakh infections were found to have occurred in South Asia, with over 10 lakh infections estimated to have occurred in India.

Antibiotic, or antimicrobial, resistance is emerging as a major public health, with a 2024 Lancet study projecting over 39 million around the world could die due to such infections in the coming 25 years — most of these could occur in South Asia, it said.

The study also estimated that over a million died every year during 1990-2021 from antibiotic resistance, in which disease-causing bacteria become immune to drugs developed to kill them, thereby rendering these drugs ineffective.

For this study, data from a systematic analysis of the burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance from 1990 to 2021— named ‘GRAM’ study — was analysed, along with that from a healthcare database managed by IQVIA, a US-based life sciences company.

The authors said the findings highlight the most recently available picture of the state of care for antimicrobial-resistant infections in the selected low and middle-income countries.

The results also underscore the need for meaningful action by global and national policy makers, the team said.

IPL 2025: RCB edge past CSK in nail-biting thriller at Chinnaswamy stadium

BENGALURU, May 4 (Agencies): Fifties from Ayush Mhatre and Ravindra Jadeja went in vain as the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) registered a 2-run victory over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in a last-ball thriller of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

With this victory, the RCB side moved to the top of the IPL 2025 points table after winning their eighth out of their 11 games in the 18th edition of the cash-rich league. On the other hand, the CSK side remained at the bottom of the table after losing their ninth match in the tournament.

In pursuit of a mammoth total of 214 runs, CSK openers Shaik Rasheed and Ayush Mhatre came out in the middle. Both players started slowly but paced up later on and put on a 51-run partnership off 27 balls before Rasheed (14 runs off 11 balls) was sent back to the pavilion on the bowling of Krunal Pandya.

Following Rasheed's dismissal, left-hand batter Sam Curran came out, but he was sent back to the dressing room after scoring just five runs.

After Curran's departure, Ravindra Jadeja came out to bat along with young Mhatre. Ayush Mhatre completed his maiden IPL fifty in the 8th over.

The Chennai-based franchise completed the 100-run mark on the fourth ball of the 10th over as Mhatre slammed a maximum on the bowling of Romario Shepherd.

The MS Dhoni-led side completed the 150-run mark in the 14th over. Ayush Mhatre (94 runs from 48 balls) missed his well-deserved ton by six runs as he was sent back by Lungi Ngidi in the 17th over.

In the last over, the Chennai side needed 15 runs to win with Jadeja and MS Dhoni on the crease. On the first three balls, Yash Dayal gave just two runs and took Dhoni's wicket.

Following Dhoni's wicket, left-



hand batter Shivam Dube came out. He slammed his first ball out of the park, which was a no-ball too.

After this no ball, the equation was six off three, where Dayal held his nerve and gave away just four runs on the last three balls of the 20th over.

Jadeja played an unbeaten innings of 77 runs from 45 balls, which was laced with eight boundaries and two maximums in his innings. These runs came at a staggering strike rate of 171.11.

For the Rajat Patidar-led side, three wickets were snapped by Lungi Ngidi (3/30 in 4 overs) and one wicket each were grabbed by Krunal Pandya (1/24 in 3 overs) and Yash Dayal (1/41 in 4 overs) in their respective spells.

Earlier, after being put to bat by Chennai, Virat and Bethell inflicted carnage on CSK bowlers and relished the conditions in RCB's home den. The duo combined for three maximums to take 19 runs off Khaleel Ahmed in the third over, showcasing their six-hitting appetite.

The duo went berserk from that point and clobbered Chennai for their wayward line and lengths. It was a boundary-hitting fest, with Virat and Bethell sending Chennai's blueprint straight into the bin.

Bowlers changed, but the result stayed the same. Irre-

spective of what Chennai skipper MS Dhoni lined up against the duo, each bowler perished. While Virat dazzled with his classic strokeplay, Bethell flexed his raw power and muscled the ball effortlessly towards the boundary rope.

In the rest of the powerplay, RCB garnered 10-plus runs from each over and hammered 71-0 to assert dominance. The field restrictions were lifted, but the attitude remained the same.

Touted to be a future star, Bethell brought up his half-century with a sublime four. However, his exploits ended in the 10th over, when he skied the ball off Matheesha Pathirana, as Dewald Brevis pulled off an absolute stunner to punch Bethell's return ticket to the dugout on 55(33).

The 97-run partnership between Kohli and Bethell emerged as the second-highest opening stand for the Royal Challengers against the Super Kings.

Virat continued his business with sixes and fours and brought up his fifty in style. He cut the ball through the backward point, raised his bat to celebrate his milestone, and his teammates stood on their feet to applaud Virat's masterclass.

Chennai needed Virat back in the dressing room, and Sam Curran took the mantle on him-

self. He banded the ball short, and Virat tried to counterattack with an uppercut. The idea was there, but Virat floundered in his execution. The ball flew straight to Khaleel, who banded it into the turf as Virat returned with a flashy 62(33).

From that point, RCB's high-flying inning showed signs of slowing down. Devdutt Padikal came in, struck a couple of boundaries and returned with 17(15) as Pathirana picked his second of the night.

RCB's woes increased after Jitesh Sharma (7) holed it to Brevis off CSK's premier wrist-spinner Noor Ahmad on the penultimate delivery of the 17th over. Skipper Rajat Patidar, who was a mere spectator until that point, tried to swing his arms but skewed it straight to Curran.

With two overs left, Romario Shepherd muscled the ball away for back-to-back maximums with brute power. Fortune was indeed on his side as the third ball took the top edge and flew to the fence for a four.

The explosive Caribbean batter tormented Khaleel and Chennai by smacking the ball with two sixes on the trot. The no-ball on the fourth delivery made Khaleel run out of ideas, but he came back with a dot on the fifth one. Khaleel tried to get out of jail, but a four on the final ball saw RCB take away 33 runs from the penultimate over.

Pathirana tried to contain Shepherd in the final over, but the West Indies hard-hitter drilled the ball for a four and then shovelled it for a six to bring up the 50-run partnership in just 15 deliveries. He sent the final ball into the third tier to finish with an unbeaten 53 from 14 as RCB blazed to 213/5.

Brief Score: Royal Challengers Bengaluru 213/5 in 20 overs (Virat Kohli 62, Jacob Bethell 55; Matheesha Pathirana 3/36) vs Chennai Super Kings 211/5 in 20 overs (Ayush Mhatre 94, Ravindra Jadeja 77*; Lungi Ngidi 3/30).

'I'm hot enough so I don't need these dishes!' jokingly reveals KKR mentor as Caribbean flair meets Bengali cuisine



KOLKATA, May 4 (Agencies): In a heartwarming cultural exchange that blended sport, humor and culinary heritage, West Indian cricket stars Dwayne Bravo, Sunil Narine, and Andre Russell brought their Caribbean flair to the kitchen in the latest episode of Kolkata Knight Riders' cooking show Knight Bite.

The episode, aptly titled 'West Indies meets Chicken Kosha,' featured the trio immersing themselves in Bengali culinary traditions while adding their Trinidadian touch to the famous Bengali dish Kosha Murgi Mangsho (slow-cooked chicken), as per the KKR press release.

The cultural connection was immediate and delightful as the cricketers engaged in friendly banter with the host Kunal Kapur over whether the dish should be called 'chicken curry' or 'curry chicken.'

"No, the right way is called curry chicken," insisted Bravo with playful conviction, explaining that in Trinidad and Tobago, the terminology matters.

"If we come on national TV and say chicken curry, the entire country is going to beat us," he joked, giving viewers a

glimpse into the serious business of food in Trinidadian culture.

As the chef demonstrated the traditional preparation using mustard oil and potatoes -- staples in Bengali cuisine -- the West Indian stars shared insights about their homeland's culinary treasures.

"If you want the fast food, there's a thing in the West Indies called doubles," Bravo explained, describing the street food made of chickpeas and dough, similar to paratha with chickpea curry. He also highlighted 'bake and shark' and 'roti' as "must-try whenever you come to Trinidad and Tobago."

The cooking session revealed surprising aspects of the cricketers' personalities. When asked about their academic performances, all three champions confessed to being better at cricket than at studies.

"Was I good in school? Not at all," Bravo admitted candidly, while Narine shared a similar sentiment.

In a particularly endearing moment, Sunil Narine opened up about his signature hairstyles, which have become his trademark over the years.

"Styling hair is something I started a long

while ago. And it just stuck with me," he shared, revealing that his family was initially sceptical about his experimental looks before they 'grew on them.'

The show took an unexpected turn when Bravo revealed his Bollywood aspirations, sharing that Shah Rukh Khan -- KKR's owner and Bollywood superstar -- had promised him a movie role if he won trophies for the Trinbago Knight Riders (who play in the Caribbean Premier League). "I won four trophies," Bravo said proudly.

A lighthearted egg-whisking competition brought out the playful competitiveness in the cricketers, with Russell stepping in to help Narine. The friendly challenge culminated in Bravo's signature 'Champion' celebration, highlighting the camaraderie that exists among these international stars beyond the cricket field.

The episode concluded with a beautiful fusion meal--Bengali chicken curry with Trinidadian spices, accompanied by paratha and rice. Ever prepared, Andre Russell pulled out his Caribbean hot sauce from his pocket, adding the final Trinidadian touch to the Bengali feast.

This episode of 'Knight Bite' beautifully showcases how cricket and cuisine can bridge cultural divides. As these West Indian stars embraced Bengali culinary traditions while proudly sharing their own, they demonstrated that food, like cricket, has the power to bring diverse worlds together.

Hungry to make comeback, focus on training: Sathiyam

CHENNAI, May 4 (Agencies): It has not been easy days after 2022 Asian Games (held in 2023). Like all players, G Sathiyam too had to overcome the ordeal of recovering from injury with a very strong mind. His back injury he sustained after the Asian Games in Hangzhou took some time to heal. The spasms spread to his hips and his knees restricting the lightning pace for which he is known. He did manage to leave those tough days behind.

After winning three medals at the National Games earlier this year, Sathiyam is slowly shifting his focus towards the all-important Asian Games next year. And like he said he is now hungry to make a comeback. Sathiyam for now is focussing more on training. He would be competing more towards the end of the year leading up the Asian Games next year.

"I have taken a conscious decision to train more and play less tournaments (now)," he said adding he would want "to play more tournaments in the second half of the year just before the Asian Games. This will help in peaking at the right time," he told this daily during an award function organised by Raman TT High Performance Centre to felicitate National Games winning members of the Tamil Nadu team.



Along the way he would want to accumulate as many WTT points as possible. "With the WTT system, balancing tournaments due to the new ranking system is an challenge. And now with domestic circuit, points are necessary to enter the top 50," he added.

"It's more about having time to train, because I have seen that training had played an important role. That's why I could get into the top 25. So I really want to get back into the drawing board, have a good training phase and at the same time work on my fitness because that is key."

Two weeks from now, Sathiyam will hope to make his name again at the World Table Tennis Championship to be held in Doha. He wouldn't pair with Manika Batra in the worlds. Yashashwini (Ghorpade) and Harmeet (Desai) and Manush (Utpalbhair) and Diya (Chitale) have been selected in the mixed doubles for India. Sathiyam will play singles and men's doubles with Harmeet Desai.

Sathiyam's coach Olympian S Raman said he would be evaluating

his performance every quarter. "We worked on a few things and those things are not working out. So which means whatever we brought to the table is not sufficient enough. So we need to spice it up, we need to change a little bit. So, you know, it's an ongoing process of how we keep reinventing the wheel," he said.

Raman also ensured that his injury would not be a concern now, after his evaluation by sports scientists at Reliance Foundation. Sathiyam spent about a week evaluating his injury at the Reliance centre and the signs, according to his coach, was positive. "He is completely free of injury and after the evaluation, he is very positive," he said. "Now he wants to get back into the top 50 once again."

"I have generally understood that there are certain muscle groups that he needs to develop. He needs to strengthen those. Increase little bit of load on the strength quotient and on the speed and agility quotient," he said. Hopefully, for Sathiyam things will be better this season.

Delhi Capitals take on Sunrisers Hyderabad hoping to break two-match losing streak

HYDERABAD, May 4 (Agencies): Delhi Capitals skipper Axar Patel would like to quickly forget the underwhelming performances of his side in home conditions and get their stuttering campaign back on track when they take on Sunrisers Hyderabad, who are teetering on the edge of elimination, in an IPL match here on Monday.

Recent defeats for Delhi Capitals—the latest being the 14-run loss to Kolkata Knight Riders—have seen their campaign take a beating but they have still managed to keep their playoff hopes alive thanks to their success on rival territory, something they would be eyeing when they face Pat Cummins' side.

With Axar Patel nursing an injury—he had walked off the field during KKR's batting after injuring his left hand on April 30 -- it remains to be seen if the charismatic all-rounder has recovered fully in the intervening period.

Axar suffered a bruise while fielding but despite the discomfort he smashed a 23-ball 43. However, the wound, if not fully healed could come in the way of the left-arm spinner bowling his full array of variations.

Delhi Capitals, currently placed fifth on the table with 12 points from 10 games, have in Axar a captain who has led



the side from the front, and his absence—or even a curtailed role—could harm the team, given that they desperately need to find the winning ways after two successive losses on their home ground—to KKR and RCB.

With DC having suffered three defeats in their last five matches, they would look to avoid any more hiccups at the business end of the tournament.

The return to form of South African stalwart Faf du Plessis with a fine half-century against KKR, albeit in a losing cause, would have gladdened the hearts of the team's think-tank but his

adaptability to slower surfaces remains a matter of concern.

KL Rahul has been DC's leading run-getter this season with 371 runs in nine games but he could not accelerate in the home game against RCB, scoring 41 off 39 deliveries, while against KKR in the previous match he was brilliantly run out by KKR stalwart Sunil Narine when on seven runs.

The wicketkeeper-batter would back himself to take on the likes of Cummins, Mohammed Shami and Harshal Patel, the SRH trio capable of upsetting the calculations of any side

when on song.

Abhishek Porel too has battled with plenty of aggressive intent at the top of the order scoring over 250 runs, including a half century, but his inability to convert good starts into big scores has been his undoing so far this season.

DC's batting runs deep with someone like bowling all-rounder Vipraj Nigam also having the ability to score quick runs at the backend. But it's DC's bowling which gives them the confidence to go all out for a win.

With pacer Mitchell Starc leading an experienced bowling attack that has the likes of Dushmantha Chameera and Mukesh Kumar, Delhi can be more than a handful. Add to that a fully-fit Axar and DC has one of the most potent attacks in IPL 2025.

In the previous match against KKR, Starc and Axar shared five wickets among themselves though the reigning IPL champions still managed a 200-plus total, something that could be attributed to the nature of the wicket.

Sunrisers, on the other hand, have not been able to capitalise on the tons of experience they have in their side. With Cummins leading the team and having the services of Mohammed Shami, Travis Head, Ishan Kishan, Heinrich Klaasen and Jaydev Unadkat, that they are

still struggling is something that defies logic.

India pacer Unadkat recently opened up on SRH's faltering IPL campaign, blaming their underwhelming performance to ineffective bowling and changing pitch conditions.

The team is all but out of the playoff race after suffering a 38-run defeat against Gujarat Titans on Friday.

Teams (From):

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins @, Ishan Kishan (wk), Atharva Taide, Abhinav Manohar, Aniket Verma, Sachin Baby, Smaran Ravichandran, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Travis Head, Harshal Patel, Kamindu Mendis, Wiaan Mulder, Abhishek Sharma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Shami, Rahul Chahar, Simarjeet Singh, Zeeshan Ansari, Jaydev Unadkat, Eshan Malinga.

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

Match starts at 7.30pm.

Natrang presents Hindi comedy play, 'Aag Ka Tamasha'

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: Natrang presented a Hindi comedy play, 'Aag Ka Tamasha' here today at Natrang in Natrang's weekly Theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'.

The play has been written by Giriraj Sharan Aggarwal and directed by Neeraj Kant. A very well conceived and structured play carried candid instances of comedy in its content and stage action, which received appreciation from the audience of different age groups.

The play opens in a busy market where a Policeman is shown looking for one Fakir Muhammad Urf Jhunjhuna Qawwal's house.

Even after inquiring from many people moving all over in the street, he fails to get any clue about his exact whereabouts, but eventually a man escorts him to Jhunjhuna's house.

Jhunjhuna Qawwal mistakenly thinks that Havaladar has come from the Police Station with



an invitation for a commissioned Qawwali programme for that he start demonstrating his entire repertoire of Qawwalis.

The policeman gets engrossed in his poetry recitations and soulful Qawali renderings and forgets that he has come to pick him up.

Later, the moment he remembers the purpose

of his visit, he swings into action and drags him straight to the police station.

On reaching the police station, the sub-inspector tells Jhunjhuna that someone has filed a complaint against him alleging having set his Mufatlal Beedi Store on fire which resulted in a loss of Lakhs of Rupees

to him.

On this Qawwal pleaded that the inspector has some misunderstanding, as his art works like a fire extinguisher and not sets things on fire. On this the proprietor of Mufatlal Beedi Bhandar is summoned, who accuses Jhunjhuna Qawwal for setting his Beedi store on fire as he was heard singing the entire night 'Aah Laga Doonga' (Will set on fire, will set on fire). Pleading further Jhunjhuna's wife Bul-

buli Begum informs that they were rehearsing a Qawwali that night whose lyrics were "Har Dil Mein Mohabbat Ki Hum Aag Laga Denge".

Meanwhile, Ahe ji, the poet of that Qawwali, is also summoned. Both Jhunjhuna Qawwal and Ahe ji are booked for a conspiracy for setting on fire the Mufatlal Beedi Bhandar.

While pronouncing the judgement, it was observed the 'Love' that Qawal and the poet are pleading is not found in contemporary times. Laws are made to punish and not to reward anyone for spreading the message of peace and love through artistic expressions.

Natrang artists who presented a wonderful performance included Neeraj Kant, Pawan Verma, Mohd. Yaseen, Shivam Singh, Simran Bhagat, Vansh Pandotra, Aryan Sharma, Adaksh Bagal and Kartik Kumar.

The lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant whereas the presentations were done by Prema Sharma.

Ex-Corporator Sucha Singh backs PM Modi's strong measures against terrorism, Pakistan

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: Former Corporator Sucha Singh extended strong support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his decisive actions in safeguarding the nation and countering terrorism.

Addressed a press conference here on Sunday, Sucha Singh praised the Prime Minister's inclusive leadership, emphasizing that Modi is leading the country by taking everyone along and making decisions thoughtfully in light of the current national and international situation.

Singh noted that at a time when tensions are high across the nation, especially along the borders, the steps being taken by the Central Government are well-calculated and necessary.

"For the first time, we have a Prime Minister who has taken bold and historic steps to break the back of terrorism," he said, lauding the measures as praiseworthy



thy and timely.

Highlighting specific actions, Singh commended the government's move to stop Pakistan's water supply, suspend trade with Pakistan, and halt cross-border letters and communication.

Singh argued that diplomatic measures alone will not yield results as Pakistan continues to betray India by supporting terrorist activities.

"Pakistan repeatedly stabs us in the back; therefore, giving a strong and befitting reply has become necessary," he asserted. "There is no solution left except war."

Drawing parallels with historic epics, Singh remarked, "Just as

the Mahabharata and Ramayana concluded with wars, similarly, Pakistan's chapter must end. Peace cannot be achieved without decisive action."

He further expressed confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and the central leadership, stating that every decision they are taking is aimed at securing the country's future.

"I wholeheartedly appreciate and support the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister, and all leaders for the bold decisions they have taken for the betterment of our nation," Singh concluded.

Ashok Koul, Arvind hold key meeting with Ward 41 delegations, Kashmiri Samaj members

Stress equitable progress, inclusive development under Modi regime



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: In a step aimed at further strengthening grassroots engagement and reinforcing the party's connect with the local community, senior BJP leader and General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul, along with MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta, today convened a crucial meeting with delegations from Ward No. 41 and prominent members of the Kashmiri Samaj.

The meeting, held at BJP Headquarters in Jammu, served as an important platform for dialogue between the BJP leadership and representatives of the local population, especially from areas with a strong Kashmiri presence. Community members raised several civic and developmental issues and put forward suggestions regarding the upliftment and representation of their concerns in governance.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the gathering, reiterated the BJP's commitment to inclusive development and assured the delegations that their concerns would be given top priority. "The BJP remains dedicated to building stronger bonds with all communities, especially those who have been instrumental in the region's cultural and social fabric," he said.

Ashok Koul reiterated the BJP's commitment to ensuring the voices of the Kashmiri people are heard and addressed at every level. He empha-

sized the government's ongoing initiatives aimed at empowering displaced and resettled Kashmiri families, and pledged continued support in resolving their long-standing issues.

MLA Arvind Gupta highlighted his continuous efforts toward resolving issues faced by residents of Ward No. 41. He appreciated the active participation of community members and emphasized the importance of such engagements in ensuring responsive and transparent governance. "Our goal is to create an open and accessible interface between the administration and the people. Every suggestion shared here today will be taken seriously and followed up," he added.

The MLA further highlighted the Party's consistent efforts in maintaining a direct connection with the grassroots and ensuring transparent communication with the community.

The delegation members expressed appreciation for the BJP leadership's outreach and presented their concerns and suggestions.

The BJP leaders assured them that their inputs would be taken seriously and reflected in future policy decisions.

Among those who were present in the meeting included Brijesh Gupta, K.L. Sharma, Rajeev Pandita, and other senior BJP leaders. Local residents, including Krishan Gopal Sood, Sukhdev Singh,

Jagdish Seth, Jawahar Lal Koul, Sunny, Anuj Sharma, Sanjay Singh, Neelam Singh, Chaman Lal Sharma, D.K. Magotra, Ishan Mahajan, Naresh Verma, Sanjeev Arora, Madan Lal, R.K. Sharma, Ritesh Gupta, Rakesh Sharma, Rakesh Mattoo, Lal Singh Jasrotia, Ashok Singh, Kuldeep Singh, and Girdhari Lal Sharma, also marked their presence.

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 4: Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir launched the Annual Newsletter of Govt. SPMR College of Commerce Jammu in a vibrant programme which also marked the culmination of Seven Day NSS Special Camp in the college.

The newly launched newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of the diverse activities conducted during the previous session, ranging from academics and co-curricular activities to achievements in the fields of NCC, NSS and Sports.

The programme began with traditional lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries followed by Ganesh Vandana.

Shantmanu was the chief guest on the occasion, accompanied by Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, who was the Guest of Honour.

In his address, Shantmanu



lauded the efforts of the NSS volunteers and programme officers, emphasizing the crucial role of the National Service Scheme in fostering social responsibility, community engagement, and personality development among the youth.

He encouraged students to continue participating actively in nation-building activities. He recounted his previous tenures with Education Departments and said that engaging with students was his priority.

He also congratulated the Principal and staff of the college on the occasion of release of the College Newsletter. He noted that it was an important document that would preserve

the hard work of the institution for years to come and inspire others.

Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, congratulated the NSS units on the successful completion of the camp and the publication of the newsletter.

He highlighted the importance of experiential learning gained through NSS activities and its contribution to holistic education. The event also witnessed the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Ravinder Tickoo, Nodal Officer for Colleges in the Jammu Division, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal, GGM Science College; Dr. Geetanjali Rana, Principal, PSPS GCW Gandhi

Nagar; Prof. (Dr.) Archana Koul, Principal MAM College Jammu and Prof. (Dr.) Jyoti Parihar, Principal, GCOE Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Singh formally welcomed the guests and participants and expressed his gratitude towards the dignitaries for release of the newsletter.

He stated that the newsletter captures the journey and achievements of the academic year, and inspires the faculty and students to perform better in the future. He also congratulated the NSS units of the college for the successful completion of the 7 day Special camp.

The welcome address was followed by a detailed report on the seven day NSS camp conducted in the college read by Dr. Deepak Pathania.

During the programme, certificates were distributed to the academically meritorious students of the previous session, exceptional achievers in sports, NCC and NSS activities, and participating NSS volunteers in the 7 day camp.

Maj Gen Anupinder Bevli, ADG NCC Dte JK&L visits 1 Ladakh Bn NCC Leh

Top News Report

LEH, May 4: Major General Anupinder Bevli, ADG NCC Dte JK&L came on visit to 1 Ladakh Bn NCC, Leh on 2nd and 3rd May 2025.

The General Officer interacted with Lieutenant General Hitesh Bhalla UYSM, SC, SM, VSM GoC-in-C 14 Corps and Major General Ravinder Kumar, SM GOC Leh Sub Area to thwart issue related to NCC. He thanked both the General officers for their timely and whole hearted support for NCC related activities within UT, Ladakh.

On visit to 1 Ladakh Bn NCC, Leh located at Skara, the General Officer was given befitting Guard of Honor by an immaculate and impressive turned-out guard by NCC cadets. Then he interacted with posted Permeant Instructor Staff (Army), Civil Staff employees (UT Ladakh) and Cadets.

Thereafter, Colonel HS Dhanoa, Commanding Officer 1 Ladakh Bn



NCC, Leh briefed the ADG NCC Dte JK&L in detail about the Battalion functioning and achievements for the past Training Year 2024-25. The major issues covered were such as E-Enrolment, DBT/ ETEDA, Refreshment Allowance, Award of various Scholarships, Conduct of Camps (ATCs/CATCs, SNIC, Army Attachment Camp, TSC and RDC), Camp Audits, Battalion participation into various Social Services Community Development (SSCD) activities and

other Achievements.

The ADG was highly impressed by the Battalion drills, dedicated & motivated staff of NCC Team, Leh.

He specially congratulated the Commanding Officer efforts for increasing the footprints of NCC to entire boarder region of UT Ladakh spanning to 554KM stretch in such an inhospitable terrain bounded by heavy snowfall and cutoff from entire country from November to March. He applauded and congratulated for

the conduct of Vibrant Village Programme and spreading awareness about various Government Schemes among villagers at remote areas through SSCD activities working in close coordination with UT YS&S and other departments.

Later on, the General Officer visited Eliezer Joldan Memorial Government College, Leh. After welcome speech by cadets the General officer during his address shared his views with the cadets. The General Officer motivated the

young cadets to keep evolving themselves by building their Character, Spoken Skills and Personality Development by participating into various NCC Centrally Organised Camps and SSCD activities. He told cadets to learn through peer groups, explore diverse & rich culture of our country and become a Responsible Citizen and force multiplier into Nation Building. He also urged cadets to become members of NCC Alumni Association and informed them about new NCC Bn raising & expansion and authorization of cadets to travel by AC-III Tier and DBT/ ETEDA facilities being granted by government.

The General Officer then felicitated Second Officer Gridhari Lal for being adjusted Best Associate NCC Officer (ANO) & CSM Tsering Dolkar for being adjusted Best Cadet for the Training Year 2024-25 and Junior Under Officer Stanzin Yangzom for being conferred with DG NCC Commenda-

tion Card on scaling Mount Kang Yatse-II (6250Mtrs) during the Training Year 2024-25.

The General Officer also visited to oversee the ongoing work and monitor the progress of the new Bn KLP, NCC Academy at Phayang. Later on, he paid his homage at Pathar Sahib Gurudawra ahead of Nanak Hill Complex.

Maj General Anupinder Bevli, VSM ADG NCC Dte JK&L was highly impressed & lauded Colonel HS Dhanoa and NCC Team, Leh for taking keen interest and efforts for motivating NCC cadets to join Armed Forces, Para Military Forces, Ladakh Police & making them responsible citizens of India by Grooming Future Leaders. He expressed his satisfaction & confidence within NCC Team Leh and UT Ladakh Administration for showcasing wonderful bonhomie and working ethos and congratulated both depicting excellent Military - Civil confluence.