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Daily Evening Newspaper

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In BJP's model money is in hands of select rich, while Cong gives to poor: Rahul Gandhi



Taiwan President calls out China for threatening peace, calls it "aggressor"

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BRIEFLY

Government orders transfer and posting of four police officers

SRINAGAR, May 20 (Agencies): In a move aimed at administrative efficiency, the Jammu and Kashmir Government's Home Department has issued a transfer and posting orders for four senior police officers from the Telecom wing with immediate effect. The decision comes under Government Order No. 263-Home of 2025, issued on May 19.

Shri Fayaz Yasin Dar, SP (Telecom) awaiting orders of adjustment, be posted as, SP Telecom Kashmir Zone, against an available vacancy.

Shri Akhtar Hussain Buch, SP (Telecom) awaiting orders of adjustment, be posted as, Staff Officer to DPT, against an available vacancy.

Shri Javid Iqbal Attar, SP (Telecom) awaiting orders of adjustment, be posted as, SP Telecom ACS Kashmir, against an available vacancy.

Shri Satish Kumar, SP (Telecom) awaiting orders of adjustment, be posted as, SP Telecom ACS Jammu, against an available vacancy.

AITC delegation to visit J&K tomorrow

SRINAGAR, May 20 (Agencies): All India Trinamool Congress has announced on Tuesday that they will send a five-member delegation to Jammu and Kashmir for three days to express solidarity with the people affected by cross-border attacks and share the grief of the families who have lost their loved ones, official sources said.

According to an official, the delegation will visit Srinagar, Poonch and Rajouri tomorrow and will remain in the region for three days from May 21 to 23.

The delegation includes Derek O'Brien, Nadimul Haque, Sagari-ka Ghose, Manas Ran-jhan Bhunia and Mamta Thakur.

In a post on X, All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) announced, "Under the guidance of AITC Chairperson @MamataOfficial, a 5-member delegation will be proceeding to Srinagar, Poonch, and Rajouri".

"The delegation comprising

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LG Sinha chairs unified command meet to review security for Amarnath Yatra, current situation

JAMMU, May 20 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired meeting of Unified Command in Srinagar to review the security arrangements for the Annual Amarnath Yatra and the current situation in the Union Territory.

Sources told news agency (KNO) that the meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, top Army, Police and other officials to review



the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

They said that the meeting reviewed the

current situation in the Union Territory and security arrangement for the upcoming annual

Amarnath Yatra, which is scheduled to commence from July 3 this year.

"The meeting also focused on the fallout of Pahalgam terror attack and the situation that evolved post 'Operation Sindoor' in Jammu and Kashmir," sources added.

They said that the LG stressed on the Army, Police and Paramilitary officials to dismantle the terror ecosystem completely in Jammu and Kashmir.

From Punjab, Haryana, UP, 12 arrested for spying for Pakistan, Media Reports

SRINAGAR, May 20 (Agencies): At least 12 individuals, including a social media influencer and two women, have been arrested in the past two weeks from Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh on charges of spying for Pakistan, reports appearing in the media suggest.

The arrests follow a joint intelligence operation involving state police forces and central agencies. The alleged network was reportedly passing on sensitive military and strategic information to Pakistan-based handlers, some of whom were operating under diplomatic cover from the Pakistan High

Commission in New Delhi.

Among those detained is Jyoti Malhotra, a prominent Haryana-based YouTuber with over 3.7 lakh subscribers and more than 1.3 lakh Instagram followers. The Haryana Police arrested her on May 16 under the Official Secrets Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for allegedly sharing classified information with a Pakistani official named Danish, identified as Ehsan-ur-Rahim, who the Indian government expelled on May 13 for espionage activities.

The crackdown spans three states. Six people were arrested from

Punjab, four from Haryana, and two from Uttar Pradesh.

In Punjab, police arrested Falaksher Masih and Suraj Masih of Amritsar's Ajnala area on May 4 for allegedly leaking photographs and operational details of army cantonments and air bases to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). On May 11, two more persons, Guzala (31) and Yameen Mohammad from Malerkotla, were detained after investigators discovered they had received payments via online platforms for sharing military data with the same Pakistani

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Former MLA Amin Bhat set to rejoin Congress tomorrow

SRINAGAR, May 20 (Agencies): Days after resigning from the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), former member of the legislative assembly (MLA) Muhammad Amin Bhat is set to rejoin the Congress on Wednesday.

Sources said that

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BSF to resume retreat ceremony at all three Joint Check Posts in Punjab frontier from today



CHANDIGARH, May 20 (Agencies): The Border Security Force (BSF) has announced the resumption of ceremonial evening retreat at all three Joint Check Posts (JCPs) along the Punjab frontier, starting Tuesday.

The Beating Retreat ceremony, also known as the flag-lowering event, at the Attari-Wagah, Hussainiwala, and Sadqi Joint Check Posts (JCPs) of the BSF, which had been suspended on May 9 due to Operation Sindoor, will resume today at 6 pm.

The ceremony will be thrown open to the general public, starting Wednesday, marking a return to normalcy at

these key border points.

The retreat ceremony, a popular attraction showcasing the military discipline and cultural pride of India, is conducted jointly by the BSF and their Pakistani counterparts at designated border points.

In Punjab, the three prominent JCPs where the ceremony is held are Attari (Amritsar district), Hussainiwala (Ferozepur district), and Sadiqi (Fazilka district).

The event had been suspended temporarily due to heightened security concerns and pandemic-related restrictions in recent years. Its resumption is expected to draw large crowds of

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Summer vacation announced for District Courts

SRINAGAR, May 20 (Agencies): The district courts in the summer zone of Jammu province excluding those in districts of Kishtwar and Doda and specific courts in Ramban and Kathua will observe a 15-day summer vacation from June 9 to June 23.

The Principal District and Sessions Judges, along with Chief Judicial Magistrates of the concerned districts, have been instructed to arrange for the disposal of urgent criminal cases during this period within their respective jurisdictions, read an order issued by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Modi-led Govt committed to safety, security of border communities: LoP Sharma

JAMMU, May 20 (Agencies): The Leader of Opposition and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Sunil Sharma on Tuesday visited the border areas for the fourth straight day to

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Families in Rajouri whose houses damaged in Pakistan shelling seek assistance

RAJOURI, May 20 (Agencies): Locals in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir were the first to be in the line of fire during the recent conflict between India and Pakistan, which has come to a pause after both countries reached an agreement of cessation of hostilities.

However, the destruction caused by shelling from the Pakistani side has wreaked havoc in the lives of people living in villages near the border areas, with their



houses destroyed or in a dilapidated condition, becoming uninhabitable.

Mohammad, an elder of a village in Rajouri, said that his entire

house came down after shells hit the building. He appealed to the government to provide his family with tents and

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Army's bomb disposal squad destroys live Pakistani shell in Poonch



POONCH, May 20 (Agencies): The bomb disposal squad of

the Indian Army has destroyed a live Pakistani shell near a border

area village in Jammu and Kashmir. The live shell was placed on the roadside and destroyed to ensure the safety of the locals.

Mohammad Mashuk said that the army was doing a "tremendous" job of destroying the live shells launched by Pakistan. He said that the live shell, which was here in Dara Bagyal, was a threat to

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TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Chuni Lal Bhat** S/o Late Damodhar Bhat originally R/o Kanipora, Sonawari Distt. Bandipora at present Srinagar Kmr.

**Sh Chuni Lal Bhat**

The mourning will be held at Jammu at the residence of Avtar Krishan Bhat, Sharda Colony, Patoli Brahmana.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education on 26-5-2025 at 8.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Desha Bhat -Wife****Sumit Bhat -Son****Doora Dhar -Bhabi****Avtar Krishan Bhat & Girja Bhat -Brother & Bhabhi****R L Bhat & Dazy Bhat -Brother & Bhabhi****Samast Bhat & Raina Parivar****Cell:- 7006974366 9469334827 9958578555****10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Phoola Koul Wali** W/o Sh. Jai Krishan Wali originally from Checki-Raj-Wali, Vessu, Ananinagat present H.No 107, Lane 1A, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu on 13th May 2025.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Gath, near The Directorate of Education on 22nd May 2025.

The **ASSEMBLY** will be held at 8:30 am at the Muthi Gath.

IN GRIEF**Sh. Jai Krishan Wali - Husband****(Daughters-in-Law and Sons)****Smt. Rimple Bhan Wali and Sh. Kamal Wali****Smt. Basanti Raina Wali and Sh. Sushil Wali****(Daughter and Son-in-Law)****Smt. Durga Koul and Sh. Sunil Pandita****Smt. Sarita Koul (Sister-in-Law)****(Sister-in-Law and Brother-in-law)****Smt. Nancy Bhat and Sh. Ashok Ji Bhat****Smt. Girja Bhat and Sh. Jawahar Lal Bhat****Smt. Khema Wali and Sh. Ravinder Razdan****Keshvi, Karin and Vaibhav (Grand Children)****Samast Wali Parivar of Checki-Raj-Wali.****Sh. Jai Krishan Wali - 9149504435****Sh. Kamal Wali - 9906905010****Sh. Sushil Wali - 9796667067****Smt. Phoola Koul Wali****TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Shanti Devi** W/o Lt Kapoor Chand R/o Biyawa, Kunzer, Baramulla A/P H. No. 26/D. Sec-1, Lane-2, Durga Nagar Jammu on 15-05-2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 24-05-2025 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu at 8:30 am.

Grief Stricken:**Sh. Moti Ram & Smt. Desha Devi (Brother & Bhabhi)****Sh. Babu Ram S/o Lt. Mangat Ram (Brother)****Smt. Shakti Sharma W/o Lt. Bansal Sharma (Sister)****Sons & Daughters-in-law****Sh. Virender Kumar & Smt. Saroj Najawan****Sh. Shammi Kapoor & Smt. Dazy Najawan****Sh. Ravinder Kumar & Smt. Deepa Najawan****Daughter & Son-in-law****Sh. Shami Mahajan & Smt. Renu Mahajan****Grand Children****Chahal, Daksh, Sarvi, Tushar, Gauranshi, Nshu, Ashu****Ph. No. 7006113164, 9858050432, 7005225110****Smt. Shanti Devi****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Jai Kishori Raina** W/o Late Sh. Gopi Nath Raina originally from Chattabal Srinagar P/A H.No. 90, Lower Laxmi Nagar Sarwal Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 26th May, 2025 (Monday) at Muthi Ghat (8 AM).

GRIEF STRICKEN**Smt. Lalita Shouri Raina****Daughter-in-law & Sons****Smt. Veena Ji & Saroj Kumar Raina****Smt. Ushaji Raina - Daughter-in-law****Smt. Kanta & Lalit Khazanchi****Grand Children:****Smt. Sheeba Tickoo & Samir Tickoo****Smt. Nidhi Raina & Aditya Raina****Smt. Vaishali & Aditya Kachroo****Smt. Diksha & Shailan Mattoo****Smt. Mimica & Rahul Khazanchi****Grief Stricken:-****Samast Chattabali, Dhar, Parimoo, Saraf Parivar****M.No: 9419184840, 9622155869****SMT. JAI KISHORI RAINA****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Satish Kumar Bhat** S/o Anand Ram Bhat of Rajghat Baramulla A/P Block No. 47, Lane No. 8/9, Flat No. 2, Jagti left for heavenly abode on 16/5/2025.

Tenth Day shall be performed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on Sunday 25/5/2025 at 9.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Smt. Gudi Bhat (Wife)****Smt. Sheela Bhat W/o Late Kanya Lal Bhat****Smt. & Sh. Ashok Bhat****Smt. & Sh. Hari Krishan Bhat****Smt. & Sh. Tej Krishan Koul****Smt. & Sh. Arun Bhat****Smt. & Sh. Shrawan Bhat****Smt. & Sh. Mahesh Koul****Mob.: 7889644842, 9419141454, 9082862816, 9419189542, 7006480435****Satish Kumar Bhat****10TH-DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of the late **Shri Varinder Sharma**, a renowned International Judo Referee and National Judo Player, Warden, Youth Hostel, Nagrota Jammu, Department of Youth Services & Sports J&KUT, S/o Shri Both Raj Sharma, Administrator, JYBT.

The **10th-day** will be performed on May 21st, 2025, (Wednesday) at 10:00 AM (Sharma Mansion, Tawi Enclave, Nandani, Opposite Yoga Ashram, Near SOS Hermann School, Jammu)

Grief Stricken**All Sharma/Togotra Family****Mobile No's: 9419366702, 9596955663,****9419197957, 9906091981****Shri Varinder Sharma****OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about sad demise of **Sh. Dwarika Nath Bhat** S/o Late Sh. Sansar Chand Bhat R/o Dever Tral, A/P RZF 43, Gali No-3, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi -45 on 17th May 2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 26th May 2025 (11.00 am) at Upper GANGA, canal road Muradnagar Yusufpur, Manota, Uttarpradesh, Sh. Dwarika Nath Bhat

Grief Stricken**Son and Daughter in law****Smt. Monika Bhat & Sh. Raj Kumar Bhat****Smt. Dazy Bhat & Sh. Manoj Bhat.****Daughter and Son in law****Smt. Renu Bhat & Sh. Prince Jee Bhat****Smt. Vijay Marhatta & Sh. Chaman Lal Marhatta****Grand Children:** Priyanka, Purvashi, Nisha, Sahil, Esha, Shreya, Nikun, Namish**Mob: 7053631651, 7051076445 (Only Whatsapp call)****Sh. Dwarika Nath Bhat****FIFTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Koushlya Devi** W/o Late Sh. Jagan Nath Kapoor R/o Resham Ghar Colony Jammu.

The **FIFTH DAY** shall be performed on Wednesday the 21st May 2025 at 12.30 pm at Shiv Mandir Resham Ghar colony Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Smt. Neelam Abrol W/o Sh. Bansil Lal Abrol****Smt. Baby Abrol W/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Abrol****Smt. Asha Abrol W/o D.P. Abrol****Smt. Urmil Kapoor W/o Ashok Kapoor****MOBILE NO: 9419257051, 9419185305****SMT KOUSHLYA DEVI****10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Vishno Khajuria** W/o Late Sh. N.N. Khajuria R/o 3/163, Shant Nagar, Jampur Jammu.

10th Day will be observed on May 19, 2025 (Monday) at our residence at 11 AM.

Kriya will be performed on May 20 (Tuesday) at 12 Noon at our residence.

Uthala will be performed at Geeta Mandir Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on May 26 (Monday) from 5 PM to 6 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Devar & Devrani****Sh. Yoginder Pal Khajuria & Smt. Veena Khajuria****Sons & Daughters-in-law****Er. Ajay Khajuria & Smt. Kanchan Sharma****Er. Vinay Khajuria & Smt. Preeti Khajuria****Daughters & Son-in-law****Er. Suman Sooden & Dr. Faendra Sooden****Nephew & Niece -in-law****Vikas Khajuria & Priyanka****Grand Children: Tania Khajuria & Hitesh Sharma - Grand Daughter & Son-in-law****Abhishek Khajuria, Tushar Khajuria, Tapas Sooden, Sidhart Sharma & Arushi Khajuria****9419200501, 9419113883****Smt. Vishno Khajuria****DISCLAIMER**

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BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, We regret to inform the sad demise of **Sdm. Manjeet Kaur Ji** W/o Mistry S. Khem Singh Sudan Presently residing at Near Deva palace Preet Nagar Who left for her heavenly abode on 16th May 2025.

Katha time 6:30 to 7:30 from 18 May to 22 May 2025 at our residence Near Deva Palace Preet Nagar Jammu.

Antim Ardas will be performed as per given program:-

Aarambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib: 23 May 2025 (Friday) 9:30 AM at our residence, near Deva Palace Preet Nagar.

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib: 25th May 2025 (Sunday) 10:00 AM at our residence.

Kirtan and Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Guru Angad Dev ji Preet Nagar 10:30 am to 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:**Mistry S. Khem Singh Sudan (Husband)****S. Arvinder Singh Sanju****S. Gurpreet Singh Honey (Son)****Sdn. Rupinder Kaur (Daughter)****Sdn. Sukvinder Kaur & Harbhajan Singh (Daughter & Son-in-law)****Contact No.: 9018145533, 7051126087****Sdm. Manjeet Kaur Ji****OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our Father **Sh. Bhushan Lal Makroo** S/o Late Prabhavati and Manohar Nath Makroo, original resident of Chanapora Srinagar / Anand Nagar, Talab Tillo, Bohri, Jammu at present Flat No. 18035, E Block, 16th Avenue, Gaur City 2, Greater Noida (UP).

The **10th Day Kriya** shall be performed at Chota Haridwar, Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad (UP) at 10 AM on 21st May 2025.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Makroo's / Kakroo's / Mattoo's/ Rayu's****9999768496****Sh. Bhushan Lal Makroo****10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Vishno Khajuria** W/o Late Sh. N.N. Khajuria R/o 3/163, Shant Nagar, Jampur Jammu.

10th Day will be observed on May 19, 2025 (Monday) at our residence at 11 AM.

Kriya will be performed on May 20 (Tuesday) at 12 Noon at our residence.

Uthala will be performed at Geeta Mandir Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on May 26 (Monday) from 5 PM to 6 PM.

Grief Stricken**Devar & Devrani****Sh. Yoginder Pal Khajuria & Smt. Veena Khajuria****Sons & Daughters-in-law****Er. Ajay Khajuria & Smt. Kanchan Sharma****Er. Vinay Khajuria & Smt. Preeti Khajuria****Daughters & Son-in-law****Er. Suman Sooden & Dr. Faendra Sooden****Nephew & Niece -in-law****Vikas Khajuria & Priyanka****Grand Children: Tania Khajuria & Hitesh Sharma - Grand Daughter & Son-in-law****Abhishek Khajuria, Tushar Khajuria, Tapas Sooden, Sidhart Sharma & Arushi Khajuria****9419200501, 9419113883****Smt. Vishno Khajuria****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Sunamika** W/o Sh. Ashutosh Raina. Originally from K.P. Road, Anantnag, presently residing in Virginia, USA, where she left us on May 15, 2025.

Condolence is being held at H.No. 209/P, Sector-2, EWS Colony, Lower Roop Nagar, near Green Land Palace, Jammu.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 24.5.2025 (Saturday) at 9 am at Muthi Ghat Near Director School Education department Jammu.

Grief Stricken:**Sh. Ashutosh Raina - Husband****Anaya Raina - Daughter****Parents-in-law****Smt. Kishni Koul and Sh. Ashok Raina****Uncle and Aunt****Sh. T.N. Bhat****Smt. Kundan Raina****Smt. Vijay Fotedar and Mr. M.J. Fotedar****Smt. Asha Raina****Smt. Usha Kiran and Mr. Bal Ji Razdan****Smt. Sunita Raina and Sh. Resham Raina****Smt. Annapurna Raina and Sh. Bansil Lal Raina****Bhabhis and Brothers****Natasha Raina and Dr. Pankaj Raina****Dr. Rinkoo Pandit and Dr. Rakesh Raina****Nisha Munshi and Dr. Sagar Raina****Shirpa Raina and Vishal Raina****Riya Raina and Sahil Raina****Aneasha Raina and Robiner Raina****Premia and Akshay****Sunamika**

Aditya Raina (Brother)
Aditi Raina (Sister)
Children: Rodhi, Rishik, Varshika, Vaibhav, Riyaan, Pravya and Myra.
SAMAST RAINA (GUZARWAN) PARIVAR
AND ALL NEARS AND DEARS.
9418105533, 9419208682, 9419125050, 9418038155.

10TH DAY KRIYA**"Jai Shree Radha Krishna"**

"Death is not the end, but a beginning of the eternal. The soul, unbound and infinite, continues its journey towards oneness with the Supreme."

With deep sorrow and acceptance of the Divine Will, we inform the peaceful passing of our beloved **Sh. Pushker Nath Raina** S/o Late Sh. Maheshwari and Nath Raina of Mattan, Anantnag, Kashmir. He lived the life of love, kindness, and courage. He left for heavenly abode on 12th of May 2025.

The **10th Day Kriya Ceremony** will be performed on Wednesday, 21st May 2025 at Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar at 8:00 am.

Assembly will be held at Plot No. 235, Sector 46, Faridabad, Haryana at 12 noon, Wednesday, 21st of May 2025.

GRIEF STRICKEN:**Smt. Binola Raina (Wife)****Smt. Vini & Pradyuman Rain**

EDITORIAL

COMMUNAL POLITICS

Communal politics refers to the practice of using religious, ethnic, or cultural identities as a basis for political mobilization. In a diverse society, where multiple communities coexist, this form of politics can be particularly dangerous. Instead of promoting harmony and unity, it seeks to divide people along communal lines for electoral gains. While it may benefit certain political groups in the short term, its long-term consequences can be deeply damaging to the social fabric and democratic values of a nation.

The roots of communal politics can often be traced back to colonial times. In countries like India, British rulers followed a policy of “divide and rule,” actively encouraging divisions between Hindus and Muslims to weaken the possibility of unified resistance. Separate electorates and communal representation in political councils further institutionalized these divisions. Even after independence, many political parties continued to use religion as a means of appealing to vote banks.

Communal politics functions by creating a sense of “us versus them.” Political parties may portray one religious group as being under threat from another, inciting fear and insecurity. They use religious symbols, rhetoric, and events to mobilize support. In some cases, even riots and violence are manipulated or incited to consolidate votes. This strategy thrives on misinformation, stereotypes, and historical grievances, often spread through mass media and social platforms.

One of the most significant dangers of communal politics is the erosion of democratic principles. Democracy thrives on the idea of equality, secularism, and rule of law. Communal politics undermines these by promoting identity over issues, loyalty over competence, and emotion over rational debate. It shifts the political discourse from development, education, employment, and healthcare to matters of faith and identity.

When people vote primarily on religious lines, competent leaders may be sidelined in favor of those who simply represent a particular community. Laws may be framed or misused to favor one group, and state institutions can become biased. This damages the credibility of democratic institutions and leads to polarization.

Communal politics not only disrupts governance but also creates lasting divisions in society. It can result in distrust, segregation, and communal violence. In extreme cases, it may lead to pogroms or ethnic cleansing. Generations may grow up with deep-rooted prejudices, affecting social harmony and integration.

Festivals, which should be occasions for joy and unity, may become flashpoints. Neighborhoods get divided based on religion, and children grow up with limited exposure to different cultures. This weakens the very fabric of pluralism that defines many societies.

Stability is crucial for economic growth. Communal tensions and violence disrupt normal life, deter investments, and lead to destruction of property and infrastructure. Tourism declines, businesses suffer, and government resources get diverted toward managing law and order rather than development.

Furthermore, when politics revolves around religious identity, it often leads to favoritism in resource allocation. This results in economic disparity between communities, which in turn fuels further resentment and conflict—a vicious cycle.

Media plays a dual role in either promoting or curbing communal politics. Irresponsible journalism, biased reporting, and sensationalism can ignite communal passions. On the other hand, ethical journalism and fact-based reporting can expose divisive agendas and hold politicians accountable.

Education also holds the key. A curriculum that fosters critical thinking, tolerance, and a balanced view of history can prevent the youth from falling prey to communal ideologies. Civic education must stress the importance of secularism, human rights, and the value of diversity.

Combating communal politics requires a multi-pronged approach. Firstly, political parties must be held accountable through strong laws and vigilant civil society. Electoral reforms and stricter regulation of hate speech can help curb such practices. Secondly, secularism must be preserved in its true sense—meaning equal respect for all religions and complete separation of religion from state affairs.

Citizens, too, play a critical role. Awareness, dialogue, and interfaith initiatives can bridge divides. Choosing leaders based on their vision, integrity, and performance—rather than religious identity—can send a strong message to political opportunists.

Communal politics is one of the most regressive and divisive forces in a modern democracy. It thrives on fear, misinformation, and manipulation. While it may offer short-term political gains, the long-term damage to national unity, democracy, and social peace is profound. Only through collective awareness, institutional integrity, and a strong commitment to secular values can societies overcome the dangers posed by communal politics.

Indian Army’s Operation Keller Post Pahalgam Attack

By: Omkar Dattatray

Originally and initially Operation Killer was coined in the very past in UNO’s second major counter offensive against Chinese communist people’s Volunteer Army PVA and the North Korean Army KPA during the Korean war.India responded to the terrorist attack in Biasaran valley which is meadows near world famous tourist destination Pahalgam where the Pakistan sponsored terrorists killed 26 civilians all tourists but one local man who sort to help the tourists to be saved and fought the terrorists and he too was killed rather martyred by the brutes in the form and shape of humans but they can be called most savage and inhuman as they martyred all these civilians by identifying them with their religion and killed 25 Hindu tourists without any fault of theirs.This terrorist attack on tourists was unprecedented and unparallel in the history of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.This tragedy shook not only Jammu and Kashmir,but whole of India.The most savage and inhuman act was condemned by the people of Kashmir who wanted that security forces should give stringent punishment to the killers and their backers.It was perhaps the first time when Kashmiris of all hues and colours came on the roads and spontaneously observed bandh and held protests across Kashmir showing solidarity with the bereaved families. Whole of India stood as one and demanded stern punishment for the terrorists.Modi gov-

ernment showed firmness and determination and launched the Operation Sindoor and resorted to the strike on the infrastructure sites of terrorists in POJK and Pakistan .In all nine such terrorist hideouts and terrorist camps were attacked with missiles and drones by Indian army and destroyed these and killed more than 100 terrorists. Pakistan took these strikes on terrorist sites as war on Pakistan and thus instead of supporting India in its fight against terrorists,resorted to attacks on military installations and even attacked with missiles and drones on civilian areas,schools and hospitals in all attacked 36 places in north India.All the missiles and drones of Pakistan were neutralized ,defused and intercepted and thus Pakistan failed in its offensive against India.Our army responded proportionally but with great restraint and responsibility resorted to missile and drone strikes on the air bases and military installations and inflicted maximum loss on the enemy. Our Operation Sindoor was a success and India took revenge of the Pahalgam massacre by killing more than 100 terrorists and dismantled their hideouts in POJK and Pakistan. As against this Indian Army resorted to Operation Keller to hunt down and kill terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir after the Pahalgam terror attack and avenge the dastardly killings which shamed Kashmiris and shook the nation.Operation Keller is the decode name given to the counter offensive to terrorist encounter at village Keller and other place in Tral

area of Pulwama district..While Operation Sindoor has become a household name within small time but Operation Keller has not got such popularity as yet but it is on going in Jammu and Kashmir to track,hunt and kill the terrorists and free the land of JK from terrorism. Through Operation Keller the Indian Army neutralized three hardcore terrorists in J and K’s Shopian on Tuesday 13 April as a retaliation to the killings of tourists in Pahalgam.An encounter broke out earlier in the day when security forces were executing a search and destroy operation in Shopians forested area of keller village and killed three dreaded terrorists of the LeT and all the slain terrorists were involved in several terrorists acts and have since been shot dead by the valiant Jawans.A day after army struck terrorists in an encounter in Tral area in Pulwama district and eliminated three hardcore terrorists of HM and recovered ache of arms and ammunition from the encounter site.This was the second success of the Indian Army after the first strike in Shopian’s killer area.Thus in all in these two strikes under operation keller six dreaded terrorists were liquidated without any loss of the security forces. Army is thus maintaining its edge over terrorists and is hunting and liquidating terrorists and making an effort to cleanse valley from terrorists and the OWG’s were also arrested in several places in Kashmir. While nation celebrates Operation Sindoor ,Indian Army was engage into a hunt and kill three LeT Terrorists and recovered

huge ache of arms and ammunition.After Pahalgam attack ,our security forces resorted to multiple cordon and search operations and at lest six terrorists were tracked and killed post Pahalgam terror attack.Shahid Kutty ,the chief of LeT’s proxy outfit The Resistance Force TRF the terrorist group behind the Pahalgam attack were reportedly killed in Operation Kellar in shopian .Indian Armed forces on Tuesday eliminated three LeTterrorists in a counter -terrorism operation codenamed as ‘Operation Keller’in the Zin-patherkellar area of Jammu and Kashmir’s shopian.The incident assumes significance due to the timing since India and Pakistan ,the two warring neighbours ,were engaged in a conflict for the past several days ,reached a ceasefire deal on Saturday 10 the of May enforced from 5 pm according to Indian standard time.The army is maintaining its pressure on terrorists and is on the job of eliminating them to free Kashmir valley from terrorists backed and exported by Pakistan and it is hoped by the people that terrorism will be on its death bed very soon and if it happens that will be a great day for Jammu and Kashmir.

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

By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

The ‘Peace’ God means for us is not ‘world peace’ but it means completeness, soundness, prosperity at all levels of our lives. World peace is defined as an ideal of freedom, peace, and happiness among and within all nations and/or people.

When we wake up in the morning and listen to the radio or read the newspaper, we are confronted with the same sad news: violence, crime, wars, and disasters. Today, peace has predominantly become political work towards settlement of issues between the nations through military involvement, cessation of arms and weapons and dialogue on less-violent, civilian matters. Peace has also included some humanitarian efforts that stretch its helping hands to the calamity-hit regions in the world. Mahatma Gandhi – the father of nation is not seen in this platform of world peace. His ideologies remain neglected at the global forum and are considered as a tonic for social and cultural

Peace is the mother of progress

development only. As he is known as the Father of the nation politically, economically his dictum stands as a medicine merely for building local economy. He said, “If we have no charity, and no tolerance, we shall never settle our differences amicably and must therefore always submit to the arbitration of a third party.” His perception of bringing peace and resolving conflict had such a diversified point of interest every time when he insisted on taking fast to bring hostile situation under control.

Today we that all the over the world people crave for peace. The leaders and politicians of the world are trying to achieve world peace. But many difficulties come in the way. There is fear and suspicion among nations. Russia suspects the motives of American. America likewise does not trust Russia. Pakistan says that it is afraid of India.

It is said that voice of the people is the voice of God. Nowhere in the world people want war. They are fed up with it. The desire for peace is supreme in their hearts. Pow-

erful countries should give up the race of arming themselves and their friendly countries to the teeth. Peace and prosperity can be attained through the realization of five basic fundamental freedoms, for all people, everywhere in the world. They are: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, freedom for the environment, and freedom from fear.

Modern challenges of poverty, hunger, diminishing natural resources, water scarcity, social inequality, environmental degradation, diseases, corruption, racism and xenophobia, among others, pose challenges for peace and create fertile grounds for conflict.

Peace is the mother of progress. Without peace a nation cannot make any progress. So peace is ever desirable. World-peace is absolutely necessary. The public opinion of the world is in favour of lasting peace. It is said “Peace begins with a smile.” A smile can light up a room, so imagine what a world of smiles can do. If every day, someone does something kind for someone, it will create

a ripple effect.

Focusing on peace is imperative for our future. There is power when people unite in the heart for the betterment of all people and the planet. Peace is certainly something we must seek. History is a record of wars. Peace is still a dream. People talk of peace but prepare for war. Almost all the countries have been raising their defense budgets. There are a few people who have come to learn that the solutions to the challenges of life are not necessarily found on the outside, but need to come from within. Increasing our love and connection in day-to-day interactions can be the missing piece in the peace equation.

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GDC R S Pura hosts ornamental plants plantation drive



Top News Report

R S PURA May 20: NSS unit of Government Degree College R.S.Pura successfully organized an Ornamental Plants Plantation Drive within the college campus, aiming to foster environmental awareness, promote ecological balance, and enhance the campus's aesthetic appeal.

The event was held under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of GDC

RS Pura, who emphasized the importance of green initiatives in academic institutions.

"Creating a green and serene environment not only benefits the ecosystem but also contributes to the overall well-being of students and staff" she added.

Faculty members, non-teaching staff, and students enthusiastically participated in the drive, planting a variety of ornamental species.

"The Plantation Drive is part of our broader

commitment to sustainability and student engagement in eco-friendly practices," said Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO.

The initiative coordinated by the NSS Unit was a part of green initiative with a motive of nurturing a culture of environmental responsibility among youth.

The faculty member who were part of the drive were Dr. Shivani Manchanda, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch and Dr. Savleen Kour.

Kaith Biradari congrats its distinction holder students Priya, Vipul, Jattin

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: The Kaith Biradari Members hailed and congratulated the distinction holder students namely- Priya, Vipul and Jattin hailing from Tehsil R.S.Pura's Village Chohala.

Biradari Members said to them, "Your hard work and dedication are truly inspiring. We are proud of you and wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Keep shining!"

Members also congratulated their father Naresh Kumar and



mother Roshini Kumari for their children's tremendous exam performance.

LFO-BHF appoints new provincial team



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: Live For Others – Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) announced the appointment of its new provincial team with immediate effect, as directed by Director and CEO, Vivek Parihar.

Abhishek Raina has been appointed as the National Body Secretary. The provincial team includes Shubam as Provincial President, Sahil as Provincial Vice President, Stuti as Provincial General Secretary, Rithik as Provincial Secretary, and Diya as Provincial Secretary.

Speaking on the occasion, Vivek Parihar stated, "These appointments reflect our belief in youth lead-

ership and our commitment to building a stronger, more impactful Foundation. The newly appointed team members have shown remarkable dedication to our mission, and I am confident they will lead with integrity, compassion, and responsibility."

The Foundation extends heartfelt congratulations to all the appointees and looks forward to their valuable contributions in driving positive change across communities. Their leadership will play a crucial role in furthering the mission and values of LFO-BHF.

The members who graced the occasion were Bharti, Manvi, Babita, Rubina, Kangan, Vishal, Abhinandan and many more.

Successful series of surgeries performed at SDH Gandoh

Top News Report

DODA, May 20: In a significant development, the dedicated surgical team of Sub District Hospital (SDH) Gandoh, led by Dr. Mudassir Ahmed Sofi (MS Surgery) and efficiently assisted by the OT staff, successfully performed a series of surgeries, reflecting a notable advancement in local healthcare services.

These procedures were carried out under the close guidance of BMO Gandoh, Dr. Farooq Saleem, and with the continuous support and supervision of Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Om Kumar.



Their leadership has played a vital role in strengthening the surgical infrastructure and

ensuring quality care for patients in the region.

CMO Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, said, "This achievement reflects the dedication and professionalism of our dedicated medical teams. We are committed to strengthening healthcare services even in the far-flung areas of the district, and SDH Gandoh is setting a fine example."

BMO Gandoh Dr Farooq Saleem commended the entire team for their sincere efforts and commitment to delivering accessible and efficient medical care to the people of Gandoh and surrounding areas.

Wushu Association of J&K to hold selection trials for Nationals

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: The Wushu Association of Rajasthan is set to host the 34th Senior National Wushu Championship in Jaipur from June 14 to 19, 2025.

In preparation for the event, the Wushu Association of Jammu & Kashmir will conduct selection trials on May 22 and 23, 2025, at the Wushu Hall, MA Stadium, Jammu.

To ensure a fair and transparent selection process, the Wushu Association of J&K has constituted a selection committee comprising experienced officials and coaches.

The committee includes Kuldeep Handoo as Chairman, along with Rajinder Singh, Kamal Kishore, Ajay Paul Gill, Lalit Singh, Ajaz Hassan, Rameez, Irfan Ahmed, and Nisar Mir as members.

Following the selection trials, the J&K Sports Council will organize a coaching camp for the selected athletes.

The camp will be held in Srinagar from May 26 to June 12, 2025, to prepare the team for the national championship. The camp aims to enhance the performance and readiness of the players representing Jammu & Kashmir at the national level.

GDC Kishtwar launches vertical garden using recycled bottles

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 20: In a shining example of innovation, teamwork, and environmental responsibility, the Department of Botany at Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar has established the institution's first-ever vertical garden — a sustainable project built entirely with recycled plastic bottles.

The initiative was made possible through the visionary support of Principal Prof. Basharat Iqbal and the leadership of Prof. Satish Kumar, Head of the Department of Botany, who has consistently encouraged green and student-led innovations on campus.

Under the dedicated supervision of Prof. Asma Javaid, the project came to life with active participation from Semester VI students, who enthusiastically embraced each stage — collecting, preparing,



and planting over 50 reused plastic bottles. The garden now features a colorful collection of plants such as Salvia, Catharanthus, Dianthus, Geraniums, and succulents, breathing new life into the campus environment.

The project reflects

the remarkable commitment and collaboration of the faculty. Prof. Asma Javaid brought creativity and hands-on leadership to the effort, while Dr. Deepak Chauhan, Dr. Hassan Jaleel, Dr. Arshad, and Dr. Opendar Surmal offered their expertise and tire-

less support throughout. Their collective efforts ensured the scientific, aesthetic, and educational success of the initiative. The interdisciplinary spirit was further strengthened by Dr. Shazia Tabassum from the Department of Zoology, whose collaboration

enriched the outcome.

Special acknowledgment goes to Mr. Jahangeer Sheikh and Mr. Shahid Hussain Giri, whose technical assistance and dedication were invaluable, as well as Talat Samreen and Rehan Kousar for their enthusiastic contributions.

Senior faculty members including Nain Kumar (Head, Department of Physics), Prof. Ajeet, and Prof. Jai Deep also extended their support and appreciation, applauding the Botany Department's innovative mindset and commitment to sustainability.

This vertical garden stands as a proud symbol of faculty mentorship, student creativity, and institutional leadership, marking a new chapter in GDC Kishtwar's journey toward eco-conscious education and campus greening.

GDC Ramgarh hosts poster making competition on Mental Healthcare



Top News Report

RAMGARH, May 20: Government Degree College, Ramgarh organized a Poster Making Competition on the theme "Mental Healthcare Act, 2017" under the purview of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The event was held under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol Principal of the college.

The competition was meticulously organized by Priya Sharma, who played a key role in coordinating the event and encouraging student participation. The objective of the competition was to raise awareness about mental health rights and to sensitize students on the significance of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, which ensures the

protection and dignity of individuals with mental illness.

Students from various semesters took part in the event with great enthusiasm, showcasing their understanding through creative and impactful posters. Ashu Verma secured the first prize, while Chetna Sanotra and Amandeep Kaur won the second and third prizes respectively.

The event was judged by Prof. Sandeep Kumari and Dr. Shivali Panigotra, who praised the participants for their originality, clarity of message, and artistic skills. Faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Snobar, Ashok Kumar, Dr. Neeraj Bargotra, Anjali Devi and Ms. Sayma were also present and supported the smooth conduct of the event.

GDC Darhal holds special lecture on Tagore Jayanti



Top News Report

DARHAL, May 20: Government Degree College (GDC) Darhal organized a special lecture on the eve of Tagore Jayanti to commemorate the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, the iconic poet, philosopher, and Nobel Laureate. The event, held on the college campus, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various semesters and was attended by all faculty members.

The programme was jointly coordinated by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of the college under the esteemed patronage of Prof. Zamir Ahmed Mirza, Principal,

GDGDarhal.

Dr. M. Saleem Wani, Head of the Department of English and Coordinator of IQAC, was the keynote speaker. In his address, Dr. Wani shed light on the multifaceted personality of Rabindranath Tagore, elaborating on his contributions to literature, education, art, and philosophy. He encouraged students to engage deeply with Tagore's writings to develop a broader vision of universal brotherhood and foster a spirit of East-West cultural amalgamation, which he emphasized as essential for building a stronger and more prosperous India. The lecture was graced by the presence of Dr. Ghulam Abbas, the senior-most faculty member of the college, along with

other distinguished faculty members including Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Dr. M. Akhlaq, Dr. Anzaar Ahmed, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Dr. Sagir, Dr. Ataur Rehman, Dr. ShaheelKataria, Dr. Mohd-Shakoor, Dr. Sumina, and several others.

Dr. MohdAkhlaq, NSS Coordinator, efficiently conducted the proceedings of the programme and also extended a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, students, and organizing members for making the event a success.

The lecture served as an enlightening academic and cultural experience, inspiring students to delve into Tagore's literary legacy and embody his ideals in their personal and academic lives.

Tusshar Kapoor reveals using Ouija Board to contact ghost spirits ‘for fun’

Actor Tusshar Kapoor is set to return to the big screens with a horror comedy Kapkapiii, which is based on a group of friends who decided to play a game with a Ouija board to make contact with otherworldly spirits. While sharing his own experience regarding the Ouija Board, Tusshar revealed that he tried it in his “childhood” for fun but now has decided to stay away from it.

At the press conference of Kapkapiii, which was attended by Tusshar Kapoor, Sonia Rathee and Siddhi Idnani, the actor humourously said that using Ouija Board or other activities to call the otherworldly spirits should only be “limited” to movies.

When asked by agency if he ever had a chance

to interact with the people who tried Ouija Board or other such activities, as the movie is said to be “based on true events”. To this, the actor responded, “These are not my true events. People have done these things about which I don’t know much. I did it in my childhood for fun, but I didn’t try to extensively pursue it neither, want to do in future. It would be better if it is limited to films.”

The actor further believes that people should not “disturb” the other world if they don’t have complete knowledge about it. “And why disturb the other world or the unknown about which we don’t have much knowledge except those people who have an understanding of that world. They should also



do it with safety. I am inquisitive and curious only till a point where people can watch horror film and get entertained with such stories,” added Tusshar.

The actor further said that he is unwilling to experiment or try activities similar to the Ouija Board in future. “But, trying to experiment (Ouija Board) with it, is something I won’t do. I would say that we should be in peace and let them also be rest in peace,” concluded Tusshar.

The film is directed by the late filmmaker Sangeeth Sivan, who is known for his works like Kya Kool Hain Hum and Apna Sapna Money Money. The movie also stars Shreyas Talpade in the lead role.

Rukhsar embraces stage with passion, calling theatre her ‘first love’ despite the pay gap



“Theater is my first love”

Rukhsar Rehman, known for her work in films such as ‘God Tussi Great Ho’, ‘Sarkar’, ‘Bheja Fry 2’, ‘PK’, ‘Uri: The Surgical Strike’ and ‘83’, as well as television shows such as ‘Kuch Toh Log Kahenge’, ‘Baal Veer’, ‘Dream Girl’ and ‘Mariam Khan – Reporting Live’, continues to cherish her roots in theatre. She has also made a mark in the digital space with web series including ‘Gone

Game’ (Seasons One and Two), ‘The Night Manager’ and ‘Haq Se’.

Despite her success across platforms, Rukhsar remains a theatre artist — and says she doesn’t mind if it pays less.

“Theatre is my first love. I enjoy every moment on stage,” she shared. “I’ve been doing theatre for ten years. My first play was ‘Nirbhaya’ — a testimonial piece directed by Yael Farber. We travelled with that production for three years.”

Recently, Rukhsar performed in ‘Bade Miyan Deewane’ and ‘Phir Se Shaadi’ — both comedy plays — during her visit to Lucknow. “They were very well received. Lucknow has quite a huge chunk of theatre lovers,” she said.

Describing the feeling of being on stage, Rukhsar added, “It’s difficult to put those emotions into words. It’s almost like being in love.”

Among her favourites is ‘Mamma Mia’, which she had the chance to see live in London last year. “I was bowled over by the way they produced it. Everything was just perfect. It’s my favourite so far—I’m a huge fan of ‘Mamma Mia’, the film, its songs and of course, Meryl Streep,” she said.

Tamannaah Bhatia on body positivity: The fact that I look a certain way...

Not just her dance moves in Aaj Ki Raat (Stree 2, 2024) and Nasha (Raid 2), Tamannaah Bhatia’s outspoken attitude too continues to earn applause. An advocate for body positivity, the actor isn’t one to shy away from conversations about self-image. While many in the spotlight avoid discussing body issues or resort to cosmetic procedures, not Tamannaah. She says she has had “the edge of growing up literally in front of the camera”.

“There’s nothing for me to hide. I was just 15 when I had my first release, so people have seen me change from teens to how I looked in my 20s to now. Post puberty, people have seen me change on screen,” says the 35-year-old whose film Odela 2 recently released in theatres.

She further emphasises on individuality and says it’s important to stand out in an industry where conformity can sometimes be unavoidable: “I feel as an actor



and performer, your biggest strength is in how unique you are. The fact that I look a certain way - it could be from the face to the body to the way I carry myself - is all unique to me. If I tailor that to how someone else looks, then I will lose something that’s individual to me. I consider everything that’s mine as my strength and also a differentiator. Otherwise we can’t be impactful if we have the cookie-cutter approach.”

To her, ‘beauty is subjective’: “If I’m doing the same thing five or six others are doing, then why would filmmakers choose me? Clearly, I bring else to the table as well. Also, real beauty is about more than just shapes and sizes. It takes skill and craft to channel beauty. If you don’t feel good about yourself, even the best body in the world won’t make you feel good, the camera catches that instantly.”

Kamal Haasan wants ‘the audience to forget Nayakan’ when they watch Thug Life

This is one of the most highly anticipated films, given that ace director Mani Ratnam and film legend Kamal Haasan have joined hands after 38 years. It was in 1987 that the two stalwarts worked together in Nayakan, which is featured on Time’s All-Time 100 Best Films and is a cult classic. In a media meet for Thug Life in Chennai, Kamal Haasan, AR Rahman, Silambarasan, Trisha, Abhirami, and Ashok Selvan came together to talk about the film and their experiences.

Kamal Haasan on Thug Life

One of the biggest comparisons being made is obviously between Nayakan and Thug Life, as they are both crime dramas, and while in Nayakan, he was Velu Naicker, in Thug Life, he is Rangaraya Sakthivel Naicker. When Kamal Haasan was asked about the grand reunion with Mani Ratnam after 37 years and what had changed between Nayakan and Thug Life, he replied, “I am a more



experienced actor now. Both of us have also evolved — we are not the same Mani Ratnam

or Kamal Haasan we were during Nayakan. Even AR Rahman is not the same music direc-

tor since then. Mani has gone in the direction he has wanted, and if he has not achieved what he wanted to, it’s only because of circumstances and not otherwise. We also want people to forget Nayakan when they watch this film. This is not related to that.”

Interestingly, the story of Thug Life has been written by Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam. “I had written a script called Amar Hai, which was with me, and I told Mani about it. That story was then polished and reworked by Mani — so if you look at Amar Hai and then Thug Life, it won’t be the exact same story now but that is the inspiration. This is what I believe is true collaboration,” Kamal stated.

On Mani Ratnam’s influence

Incidentally, Amar Hai was announced as a film around nine years ago and was to feature Kamal Haasan and Saif Ali Khan. But the movie was eventually dropped. The Amar Hai story was about a man named

Amar, who is thought to be dead, but he is in fact alive. When the 16 Vayathinile star was asked about life and death, which played a role in this film, he replied, “I don’t separate death from life. Death is a part of life. Your conscience is immortal.”

The actor added that the synergy between everyone in the Thug Life cast was wonderful and they all understood the vision and worked well together. He smiled, “Mani Ratnam orchestrated it well.” As for what has changed over the years, Kamal said that everything has changed in cinema over the years from the lights to the cameras to the cars people come in but what remained the same was that the actors who came to act were still the same.

When Hindustan Times asked Kamal Haasan what he would say if he could sum up his life in one line, Kamal Haasan smiled and said, “Life!” To this, actor Askok Selvan jokingly added, “Thug Life!”

Ashutosh Rana narrates Sony TV’s historical drama Chakravarti Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan

Sony Entertainment Television is set to bring viewers a historical drama with its upcoming series Chakravarti Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan, which charts the journey of one of India’s most revered kings. The show promises to offer an in-depth portrayal of Prithviraj Chauhan’s rise — from a young prince to a warrior monarch — through a retelling of key moments from his early life and reign.

The epic narrative would delve into the challenges he faced and highlight the strength, courage and wisdom that defined his legacy. From his formative years to the battles that cemented his place in Indian history, the show aims to evoke both pride and inspiration in its viewers.

Adding gravitas to the project is actor Ashutosh Rana, who joins the

series as its narrator. Lending his voice to the character of Chand Bardai — Prithviraj Chauhan’s close confidant and court poet — Rana would guide audiences through the emotional and historical arc of the series.

“It is a matter of pride and joy for me to lend my voice as the narrator for this historical saga,” said Rana. “As a child, I grew up listening to tales of Prithviraj Chauhan — stories of his unmatched bravery, wisdom and spirit. Those stories left a deep impact on me and to now be part of bringing that legend to life is truly special.”

Rana also reflected on the power of voice in storytelling. “As an actor, I’ve always believed that voice holds great power. Through this narration, I aim to bring depth, dignity and intensity to the story. The emo-



tions I carry — rooted in strength, passion and respect — resonate closely with the spirit of this show.”

‘Chakravarti Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan’ is part of Sony TV’s efforts to revisit iconic historical

figures with cinematic storytelling and compelling performances. The show is expected to appeal to audiences across generations, offering a blend of education, emotion and national pride.

Zarina Wahab says she doesn’t care about Aditya Pancholi’s extramarital affairs

Actor Zarina Wahab recently opened up about her marriage with actor Aditya Pancholi, which has been a mix of ups and downs. There have been many rumours about Aditya’s extramarital affairs, but that hasn’t affected their relationship, as Zarina, in a recent interview, claimed that she doesn’t care what Aditya does outside the house.

Zarina on Aditya’s rumoured affairs

Aditya has been rumoured to have affairs with actor Pooja Bedi in the 1990s and most recently with Kangana Ranaut. In an interview with agency, Zarina was asked if it affected her to read about his affairs in the media.

“I used to feel a little bad when I used to read affair rumours, but then I also laughed at them. I don’t care what he does outside, but when he enters the house, he is an excellent father and husband. And that’s all that matters to me. I would have felt bad if only he brought his affairs home. If I take all of these things too seriously and fight, I will suffer. I don’t want to suffer, I love myself,” Zarina



said. Zarina also stated that people assume that she is unhappy because of her relationship and not living a good life however she refuted all the assumptions. “People think I am very stressed. They simply assume that ‘she must be unhappy because Aditya is seeing this and that girl’ nobody says, ‘Yeh ladki dekh rahi hai inko’

(the girl is also looking at him).”

Zarina and Aditya’s marriage began in 1986. They are parents to actor Sooraj Pancholi and Sana Pancholi. Aditya was rumoured to be living with Kangana Ranaut in the early 2000s, something the actor has confessed. He reconciled with Zarina after his affair with Kangana ended.

Designate protection officers to ensure safety of women from domestic abuse: SC to states, UTs

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all the states and union territories to identify officers in the Department of Women and Child Development at the district and taluka levels and designate them as protection officers.

A protection officer is an appointed individual tasked with ensuring the safety and well-being of victims of domestic violence.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma directed the chief secretaries of the states, UTs and the secretaries of the Women and Child/Social Welfare Departments to coordinate and ensure the designation of officers as protection officers under the Domestic Violence Act.

"They shall also take steps to discharge their duties under Section 11 by giving wide publicity through media to promote awareness about the provisions of the Act, ensure effective



coordination of services under the Act, and implement its provisions," it said.

The bench directed for the exercise to be completed within six weeks from today in areas where protection officers weren't designated.

"The states shall ensure the availability of service providers, help groups, and shelter homes for distressed women.

The respondent states shall also identify shelter homes for

publicity to these provisions, the bench said.

"Needless to say, if any woman approaches for legal aid or advice, it shall be provided expeditiously, as the Act guarantees every woman the right to free legal assistance," it noted.

The top court's direction came on a plea filed by NGO We the Women of India seeking to fill massive gaps in infrastructure under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act across the country for providing effective legal aid to women survivors of abuse at matrimonial homes and creating shelter homes for them post lodging of complaints against husbands and inlaws.

The NGO, in its plea filed through advocate Shobha Gupta, said domestic violence continues to be the most common crime against females in India despite the Domestic Violence Act coming into force more than 15 years.

In BJP's model money is in hands of select rich, while Cong gives to poor: Rahul Gandhi



HOSAPETE (KARNATAKA), May 20 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday said that the BJP follows a model under which select rich people get entire money and resources, whereas in the Congress' model, money is put into the bank accounts and the pockets of the poor.

The Congress leader was speaking at an event to mark Karnataka Congress Government's two years in office, during which over one lakh title deeds were distributed to eligible beneficiaries, whose "undocumented habitations" have been declared as revenue villages.

"Congress party Government has completed two years. During the election, we made you promises. We had promised five guarantees. The BJP people said that Congress party will not be able to fulfill it. The Prime Minister said this won't be done," Gandhi said.

Listing out the five guarantee schemes

implemented by the Government, he said, "We have told you that we will put money into the bank account of Karnataka's poor. Today, thousands of crores of rupees is being directly put into your bank account. This money, you use for the education of your children, for your health. This is what we wanted — your money comes back to your pocket."

"The BJP wants only to select people to get India's entire money, but we want the money to go to the pockets of poor, backward, dalits, adivasis directly. When we put money into your pockets, that money goes into the market and because of this production increases and money gets injected into villages as you spend this money in your villages and cities and Karnataka's economy benefits from it," he added.

Stating that in the BJP's model, the entire money is given to two-three billionaires, the Congress leader said these billionaires don't

Communal politics practised by mainstream parties root cause of all problems: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said Hindu-Muslim politics practised by mainstream parties for the last 75 years is the root cause of all problems in the country.

Speaking at the launch of the party's student wing — the Association of Students for Alternative Politics (ASAP) — here, the former Delhi chief minister accused the current BJP dispensation of destroying the city's education system.

"Our country is grappling with a lot of problems. People do not have food or access to education. Why is this happening? It is because parties like the BJP, the Congress and others have only indulged in politics in the last 75 years," he said.

"These parties are only teaching our school children about Hindu-Muslim... This is the root cause of problems in our country," he said.

Talking about the ASAP, he said student cultural groups will be formed in colleges across the country under the forum.

Kejriwal said the AAP has proved that elections can be fought with complete honesty. He also hit out at the BJP-led government in Delhi for the long power cuts in the national capital.

"Nowadays, there are three to four hour-long power cuts in Delhi, which did not happen earlier. Within three months, they (BJP) have started ruining the education in Delhi," he said.



"The AAP did not allow the private school mafia to increase fees in 10 years of its tenure," he added.

Six killed in car-bus collision in West Bengal

KOLKATA, May 20 (Agencies): At least six people were killed in a collision between a car and a bus in West Bengal's Nadia district on Tuesday, police said.

The accident occurred around 7 am on the Krishnanagar-Karimpur state highway near Kanthalia area after the four-wheeler with six

people on board collided head-on with the bus, a senior officer said.

All the deceased were occupants of the car, he said.

The identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained, the Krishnanagar Police district officer said.

"The private car was

Five, including minor, arrested for gang raping 16-year-old girl in Jharkhand

DUMKA, May 20 (Agencies): Five people, including a minor, were arrested for allegedly raping a 16-year-old girl in Jharkhand's Dumka district, police said on Tuesday.

They were apprehended on Monday evening, and produced before a court here on Tuesday, a senior officer said.

Four of them were remanded to judicial custody, while the minor was sent to a juvenile correctional home, he

going from Krishnagar to Kolkata when the accident occurred. The impact of the collision was such that the private car got mangled," the officer said.

Cutters were used to bring out the bodies from the mangled car, he said, adding that an investigation was initiated.

"Based on an FIR, a team was set up and all five accused were arrested on Monday. They were produced before the court on Tuesday.

Four of them were sent to jail, and the minor was sent to a juvenile correctional home," Mufassil Police Station in-charge Satyam Kumar said.

The medical test of the girl has also been conducted, the officer added.

Veteran nuclear scientist M R Srinivasan no more

DUMKA, May 20 (Agencies): Veteran nuclear scientist and former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, M R Srinivasan, died here on Tuesday, family sources said.

He was 95 and is survived by wife and daughter.

Srinivasan worked



alongside Dr Homi Bhabha in the country's indigenous nuclear power program. He is a recipient of the prestigious civilian honour, Padma Vibhushan.

District Collector Lakshmi Bhavaya Tanneeru paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of Srinivasan.

Govt may try as much to cover up 'India's biggest scam', truth is coming out: Cong on Adani issue

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday flagged media reports claiming that SEBI has warned two offshore funds holding Adani Group shares with penalties and said the market regulator's actions might appear on the surface to represent progress but the probe has dragged on for over two years with the conglomerate benefitting from the delay.

There was no immediate reaction from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) or the Adani Group on the claims.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, said the "double-engine" Modani



saga continues.

"SEBI has reportedly threatened two Mauritius-based offshore funds controlled by Elara Capital —? Elara India Opportunities Fund and Vespera Fund —? with penalties and licence cancellations for failing to provide shareholding details," he said on X.

Ramesh said, these funds have been accused of "stock parking" — being fronts for

Fund was invested in three Adani Companies, while in June 2022, 93.9 per cent of Vespera was invested in Adani Enterprises, he said.

"SEBI's actions might appear on the surface to represent progress, but the fact is that the Supreme Court had required this investigation to be completed in two months, but it has dragged on for more than two years. The only people who have benefited from this delay are Modani," Ramesh said.

Try as the government may to cover up "India's biggest scam", the truth is coming out, he asserted.

"And if not via India's compromised institutions, they will come out

through foreign jurisdictions that Modani cannot bribe, bully, or co-opt," Ramesh said.

The Congress has been persistent in its attack on the government since the Adani Group stocks took a beating on the bourses in the wake of US-based short-selling firm Hindenburg Research making a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, on the conglomerate headed by industrialist Gautam Adani.

The Adani Group has dismissed all the charges made by the Congress and others as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.

Wanted criminal with Rs 1 lakh bounty killed in UP police encounter

LUCKNOW, May 20 (Agencies): In an early morning operation, Uttar Pradesh Police shot dead a notorious criminal, Sonu Pasi alias Bhure, who had a Rs 1 lakh reward on his arrest. The encounter took place near Saloni Mohammadpur Bandha in Gonda district on Tuesday.

Pasi had over 50 cases registered against him across several districts since 2002. The charges included murder, attempted murder, offences under the NDPS Act, Arms Act, Gangster Act, theft, and

dacoity. He was wanted by police in areas such as Tarabganj, Paraspur, Kotwali Nagar, Karnailganj, Chhawani, and Huzurpur in Bahraich district, among others.

Police tracked him down during a joint operation by Umri Begumganj and Khodare police stations, with support from the Special Operations Group (SOG).

Gonda SP Vineet Jaiswal said Pasi, a resident of Kadipur under Karnailganj police station, was recently involved in a burglary on the night of April 24-25 in Dixir village. During



the incident, one family member was shot dead by the robbers, including Pasi.

Three other suspects

Pasi remained at large, prompting the ADG of Gorakhpur zone to declare a Rs 1 lakh reward for his arrest.

According to police, Pasi opened fire when surrounded, with one bullet hitting the bullet-proof jacket of the Umri Begumganj SHO. Police returned fire, and Pasi was later declared dead at the hospital.

From the site, police recovered a .32 bore illegal pistol with spent cartridges, a country-made .315 bore firearm, and a Hero HF Deluxe motorcycle without a number plate.

US President bestows Medal of Sacrifice to three Palm Beach County fallen officers

The medals are a new honour meant to be bestowed on first responders who die in the line of duty. The three officers were killed in November 2024 when a driver struck them on the side of the road.

WASHINGTON DC, May 20 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Tuesday awarded first Medals of Sacrifice to fallen Palm Beach County officers.

The medals are a new honour meant to be bestowed on first responders who die in the line of duty. The three officers were killed in November 2024 when a driver struck them on the side of the road.

"We award the first ever medals of sacrifice to three heroic law enforcement officers from Palm Beach County Florida. I went to the service it was crazy, it was just horrible. Earlier today Congressman Brian Mast introduced a bill to ensure this new medal will be awarded to any law enforcement officer or first responder who gives his or her life in the line of duty," Trump said.

The White House said in a post on X, "In the Oval Office, US President Donald Trump presented the first-ever Medal of Sacrifice to three Palm Beach County fallen heroes: Cpl. Luis Paez, Deputy Sheriff Ignacio Dan Diaz, & Deputy Sheriff Ralph Butch Waller. "We will never forget their legacy & we will never forget the debt we



owe."

"We properly respect the ones that have lost their lives today. We also remember three remarkable heroes who will become the medal's first ever recipients it's a big honor. Corporal Luis Paez, Deputy Sheriff Ignacio Dan Diaz, and Deputy Sheriff Ralph Butch Waller," he said.

Trump said that the three deceased officers were represented by their family.

"They are represented by family members. They were devastated. We're profoundly grateful to be joined by their loved ones Corporal Paez's former wife Doris and his son

Cameron. Deputy Waller's wife Denise and Deputy Diaz's daughter Alexandria. I want to thank the three officers we recognized today. They were close friends and colleagues and together they dedicated their lives to protecting the people of Palm Beach County and well beyond," he said.

Trump talked about how dangerous their job was, and how they carried it out countless times.

"They were beloved and respected by all really top-of-the-line people countless times. When I was in Florida, they proudly saved a lot of lives. Their reputation was incredible

they served in motorcades for presidents, called presidential motorcades- a very dangerous job actually," he said.

Trump said he attended the memorial service of the officers in November, and that their accident shook the entire Palm Beach.

"I was deeply honored to attend their memorial service last year in a horrific accident in November. The three officers were working to restart one of their motorcycles on the shoulder of a road when they were struck by an SUV dead center and all three perished from their injuries essentially. This was a terrible tragedy, it shook the entire Palm Beach community," he said.

Trump said that the US will never forget their sacrifice and legacy.

"We'll never forget their legacy and we will never forget the debt we owe all of these great law enforcement heroes who have given their lives to keep our community safe and make America strong again. We have so many unbelievable people in the police department and other departments- first responders, firemen, a lot of brave incredible people," he said.

Israel continues to pound Gaza, over 50 killed in latest strikes

GAZA, May 20 (Agencies): Israeli air strikes killed at least 50 Palestinians in Gaza on Tuesday, local health authorities said, as Israel continues its bombardment despite mounting international pressure to stop military operations and allow aid into Gaza unimpeded.

The attacks were carried out on two homes, where women and children were among the 18 dead, and a school housing displaced families, among other areas, according to Gaza medics.

Israel's military, which on Monday warned those in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis to evacuate to the coast as it prepared for an "unprecedented attack", had no immediate comment.

Tuesday's strikes were carried out on Khan Younis and areas to the north, including Deir al-Balah, Nuseirat, Jabalia, and Gaza City, the medics said.

Israeli strikes have killed more than 500 people in the past eight days as the military campaign has intensified, they say.

Israel's military said on Monday it allowed five aid trucks into Gaza after a more than two-month blockade of food and other supplies.

The UN has long said Gaza, with a population of about 2.3 million, needs at least 500 trucks of aid and commercial goods every day. Throughout the war, trucks with aid have waited weeks and months at Gaza's border to enter.

The war, now in its 20th month, has strained Israel's relations with much of the international community and those with its closest ally, the United States, now appear to be wavering.

The leaders of Britain, France and Canada warned on Monday they could take "concrete actions" against Israel

if it did not stop military operations in Gaza and lift its restrictions on aid.

In a separate statement alongside the European Union and 20 other nations, the three countries warned that Gaza's population was facing starvation and that the UN and aid groups must be allowed to carry out their work independently.

Responding to the leaders' criticism, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country was engaged in a "war of civilisation over barbarism" and vowed it would "continue to defend itself by just means until total victory."

Under a heavily-criticized US and Israeli-backed plan to deliver aid, a newly created Gaza Humanitarian Foundation aims to start work in Gaza by the end of May.

Israel's ground and air war has devastated Gaza, displacing nearly all its residents and killing more than 53,000 people, many of them civilians, according to Gaza health authorities.

The war erupted after Hamas-led militants attacked Israeli communities near Gaza's border on October 7, 2023, killing about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and seizing 251 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's leadership has insisted that it can free the hostages and dismantle Hamas through force. Netanyahu has said Israel aims to control the whole of Gaza.

Hamas has said it would release the hostages in exchange for an end to the war and the release of Palestinians in Israeli jails. A new round of indirect ceasefire talks in Qatar between Israel and Hamas has produced no breakthrough.

Iran's Khamenei says talks with US unlikely to 'lead to any outcome'

TEHRAN, May 20 (Agencies): Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Tuesday that nuclear talks with the United States were unlikely to yield any results, amid a diplomatic standoff over the Islamic republic's enrichment activities.

"We don't think it will lead to any outcome. We don't know what will happen," said Khamenei during a speech, adding that denying Iran's right to enrich uranium was "a big mistake".

Iran and the United States have held four rounds of Omani-mediated nuclear talks since April 12, the highest-level contact between the two foes since Washington abandoned the 2015 nuclear accord.

The two sides had confirmed plans to hold another round of discussions during the latest meeting on May 11, which Tehran described as "difficult but useful", while a US official said Washington was "encouraged".

Iran currently enriches uranium to 60 percent, far above the 3.67-percent limit set in the 2015 deal but below the 90 percent needed for a nuclear warhead.

Western countries, including the United States, have long accused Iran of seeking to acquire atomic weapons, while Iran insists its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.



Iran has repeatedly insisted its right to maintain uranium enrichment was "non-negotiable", while chief US negotiator Steve Witkoff has called it a "red line".

On Sunday, Witkoff reiterated that the United States "cannot allow even one percent of an enrichment capability."

"If the US is interested in ensuring that Iran will not have nuclear weapons, a deal is within reach, and we are ready for a serious conversation to achieve a solution that will forever ensure that outcome," said Iran's Foreign Minister and lead negotiator Abbas Araghchi.

"Enrichment in Iran, however, will continue with or without a deal," he said in a post on X.

"Very productive exchange," Putin on talks with Trump on Russia-Ukraine crisis

MOSCOW, May 20 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday following a telephone conversation with US President Donald Trump said that the exchange was extremely productive.

Putin said that Russia also supports a peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis.

"This conversation has effectively taken place and lasted more than two hours. I would like to emphasise that it was both substantive and quite candid. Overall, I believe it was a very productive exchange," he said.

Putin expressed his gratitude towards the US for attempting to sort the Ukraine-Russia issue.

"First and foremost, I expressed my gratitude to the President of the United States for the



support provided by the United States in facilitating the resumption of direct talks between Russia and Ukraine aimed at potentially reaching a peace agreement and resuming the talks which, as we know, were thwarted by the Ukrainian side in 2022," he said.

Putin said that Trump shared his views on the cessation of hostilities during the phone call that lasted for over two hours.

"The President of the United States shared his position on the cessation of hostilities and the prospects for a ceasefire. For my part, I noted that Russia also supports a peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis as well. What we need now is to identify the most effective ways towards achieving peace," he said.

Putin said that Russia is ready to engage with the Ukrainian side on drafting a memorandum

regarding a potential future peace agreement.

"We agreed with the President of the United States that Russia would propose and is ready to engage with the Ukrainian side on drafting a memorandum regarding a potential future peace agreement. This would include outlining a range of provisions, such as the principles for settlement, the time-frame for a possible peace deal, and other matters, including a potential temporary ceasefire, should the necessary agreements be reached," he said.

The Russian President said that as the peace talks have resumed, they were now on the right track.

"Contacts among participants of the Istanbul meeting and talks have resumed, which gives reason to believe that

we are on the right track overall. I would like to reiterate that the conversation was highly constructive, and I assess it positively," he said.

Putin added that the Ukrainian side must now show their commitment to peace.

"The key issue, of course, is now for the Russian side and the Ukrainian side to show their firm commitment to peace and to forge a compromise that would be acceptable to all parties. Notably, Russia's position is clear. Eliminating the root causes of this crisis is what matters most to us," he said.

US President Donald Trump claimed earlier in the day that he was doing the best he could with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, to try and stop the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Taiwan President calls out China for threatening peace, calls it "aggressor"

TAIPEI, May 20 (Agencies): Taiwan President Lai Ching-te on Tuesday criticised China for threatening peace across the Taiwan Strait, calling it an "aggressor" despite reiterating his willingness to hold talks with Beijing, agency reported.

After delivering a speech marking the first anniversary of his taking office, he said, "The aggressor is the one who undermines peace."

He said, "Many countries around the world, including Taiwan, are in fact under the threat of aggressors," noting that Taiwan was committed to pursuing peace.

Lai made these remarks while responding to a question regarding the ongoing cross-strait tensions and China's apparent use of

large-scale military exercises around Taiwan whenever Lai, who faces strong opposition from Beijing, delivered key speeches over the past year.

Since Lai assumed office on May 20 last year, China has intensified its grey-zone tactics that stop short of direct military conflict or war -- including the alleged sabotage of undersea cables by Chinese vessels, agency reported.

In recent months, Lai Ching-te has toughened his cross-strait policy, in contrast to the more moderate stance taken by former Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen.

Earlier in March, Lai called China a "foreign hostile force" as he accused Beijing of increasing infiltration, spying activities, and united-front work



against Taiwan and vowed to take multiple measures in response to those national security threats. The measures include tightening controls on cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two sides, reinstating military courts, and expanding the screening of cross-strait flows of talent, goods, and capital, agency reported.

Despite calling China an "aggressor", he reiterated his willingness to hold talks to continue

exchanges and collaborations with China, provided that each side treats the other equally and respectfully. Lai said he remained ready to "engage in dialogue instead of confrontation" and work with China towards peace and prosperity.

On Tuesday, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) has said that it detected six People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft, eight People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN)

vessels and three official ships operating around Taiwan until 6 am (local time) on Tuesday.

According to Taiwan's MND, six sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern and eastern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ). In response to Chinese action, Taiwan's armed forces deployed aircraft, naval ships, and coastal missile systems to monitor the situation.

In a post on X, Taiwan's MND stated, "6 PLA aircraft, 8 PLAN vessels and 3 official ships operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 6 out of 6 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern and eastern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded."

Thousands protest after a suspected drone strike kills four children in Pakistan



PESHAWAR, May 20 (Agencies): A suspected drone strike killed four children and wounded five others in Pakistan's restive northwest, prompting thousands of residents to stage a protest by placing the children's bodies on a main road to demand justice, local elders said on Tuesday.

It was unclear who was behind Monday's attack in Mir Ali, which has been a stronghold of Pakistani Taliban, and there was no comment from the army about the incident.

"We are not blaming anyone, but we want justice, and the government should tell us who killed our children,"

local tribal elder Mufti Baitullah said.

He warned that the protest, currently staged at one regional roadblock, could expand if authorities fail to answer.

"We will not bury the bodies until we are told who is responsible for killing our innocent children," he said, as people chanted "we want justice."

The civilian casualties came amid ongoing military operations against the Pakistani Taliban, which have a strong presence in Mir Ali, a city in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, are a separate insurgent group from the Afghan Taliban, and they often target troops in the region.

Nayak Muhammad Dawar, a provincial minister, condemned the attack in a statement Tuesday. He said investigations were ongoing.

Mir Ali and nearby districts located near Afghanistan were long a base for the Pakistani Taliban and other militant groups. The TTTP have stepped up attacks in the region in recent months.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes interactive session with Managing Director IMCSD



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: NSS unit of Govt. College for Women Bhagwati Nagar Jammu organized an interactive session for the semester four students to discuss the objectives, expectations, and guidelines for the upcoming summer internship training program, under the patronage of Principal of the college Dr. Naveen Anand.

The session aimed to prepare students for real-world exposure, encourage proactive participation, and ensure a structured approach to internship selection and reporting.

Vikas Sharma, Senior Journalist and Managing Director IMCSD, was the resource person on the occasion.

In the session, he highlighted the importance of summer internships in academic and career development. The students were briefed on how internships help bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

He further emphasised

on selecting internships aligned with their academic and career interests.

The students were also guided on how to find internships through various portals, industry contacts, or institutional tie-ups and sample formats for resumes and cover letters were also shared.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college Dr. Naveen Anand, talked about how internships allow students to apply the theoretical concepts learned in classrooms to real-world situations.

He enlightened the students that the hands-on experience gained during internships deepens the understanding and enhances problem-solving skills, as students gain firsthand insight into the functioning of organizations and industry standards and they become familiar with workplace dynamics, corporate culture, and expectations in professional environments.

The session witnessed active participation from students and several queries were raised

concerning, Internship options in their hometowns or remote opportunities, Certification requirements, Possibility of pursuing research-based internships, Role of the department in facilitating placements etc. All queries were addressed satisfactorily, and students expressed appreciation for the guidance provided.

Rasam Pagdi, Bhandara ceremony held in honour of Mahant Shanti Giri Maharaj

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: A solemn Rasam Pagdi and Bhandara ceremony was organized by the Shiv Mandir Committee Arma in Kathua district to honour the memory and legacy of Shri Shanti Giri Maharaj. The event drew a large number of saints, devotees, and dignitaries who came together to pay their respects and celebrate the spiritual contributions of the revered saint.

The ceremony also commemorated Mahant Upendra Giri Ji, with a Bhandara (community meal) held in his memory. Devotees gathered in large numbers to offer prayers and partake in the communal feast, reflecting deep devotion and reverence.

Prominent saints present at the occasion included Mahant Rajesh Bittu Ji, Organizing General Secretary of Jammu-Kashmir Sant Samaj



Nyas, Mahant Datt Giri Ji, Mahant Rameshwar Giri Ji, and several others. Mahant Rajesh Bittu Ji appreciated the cooperation extended by the local administration, particularly the Deputy Commissioner of Kathua and the Tehsildar, for facilitating the smooth conduct of the event.

Addressing the gathering, Mahant Datt Giri Ji highlighted the significance of such spiritual events in fostering unity among temple committees and promoting Sanatan Dharma.

He reaffirmed that the legacy of Mahant Shanti Giri Maharaj would continue to inspire and guide devotees.

Mahant Shanti Giri Maharaj, in his address, expressed his sincere commitment to fulfilling all responsibilities entrusted to him by the temple committee. He thanked the saints and Sadhu Samaj members for their presence and support, underlining the importance of unity and collective spiritual progress. He assured that he would remain devoted to the temple's develop-

ment and actively participate in future religious initiatives.

Sarpanch Hari Dutt Ji, President of the Shiv Mandir Committee, extended heartfelt gratitude to all saints

and attendees for their overwhelming support and presence.

Other notable dignitaries included Padmavati Ji from Hira Nagar, Mahant Mohan Bharti Ji, Mahant Jasmer Jangam Ji, Mahant Mahadev Giri Ji, Swami Somanand Maharaj Ji, Mahant Raj Giri, and Davinder Singh, President of Ram Lila Club. Mahant Shanti Giri Maharaj also expressed his deep gratitude to them and assured that more such gatherings would be organized to nurture spiritual harmony and religious values.

Army conducts Lecture on Child Health (Ayushman Bharat) at Parori Gujjaran



Top News Report

RAJOURI, May 20: A lecture on Child Health under the Ayushman Bharat initiative was conducted by the Indian Army at Parori Gujjaran village on 20 May 2025.

The event aimed to raise awareness among the local population about critical aspects of child healthcare and the benefits of government-led health initiatives.

The session highlighted the need to enhance the capacity of the health administration to facilitate timely and effective decision-making. It also stressed the importance of strengthening the capabilities of ASHA workers and community health per-

sonnel, reinforcing the hub-and-spoke model for digital health interventions, and ensuring continuous monitoring and assessment of health impacts to improve service delivery.

The local residents actively engaged in the discussion and expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts in supporting community health and well-being.

A total of 30 villagers attended the event, making it another meaningful step in the Army's ongoing initiatives to strengthen civil-military cooperation and promote positive perception among the local populace.

Ex-servicemen are pillars of national security: Balbir

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, has praised the Jammu and Kashmir government's decision to assign the responsibility of guarding vital and sensitive establishments to ex-servicemen, calling it a powerful step toward strengthening the Union Territory's security framework while honouring the nation's veterans.

"A soldier's duty never ends," Balbir said, emphasizing that the spirit of service

and patriotism remains deeply rooted in every former serviceman. By deploying ex-servicemen in critical security roles, the government is not only reinforcing the security grid but also providing these brave individuals another opportunity to serve the nation.

He highlighted the immense value veterans bring—discipline, experience, and unwavering commitment—qualities that make them ideal protectors of key infrastructure. This initiative recognizes their unmatched dedication and gives them a

renewed sense of purpose, he added.

Balbir also noted the broader societal impact of the move, stating that it would inspire younger generations by showing that service to the nation continues beyond the battlefield. This is a shining example of how patriotism and duty endure even in times of peace. It strengthens social cohesion and reinforces national unity.

He further pointed out that integrating ex-servicemen into civil security roles will build greater trust between civilians and the security establishment. Their



presence boosts public confidence and symbolizes constant vigilance. This initiative respects their lifelong commitment to the country—uniformed or not.

"Ex-servicemen truly are the pillars of our national security," Balbir said.

FromPage No: 1

BSF to resume retreat ceremony at all three Joint Check Posts in Punjab frontier from today

visitors and tourists who gather daily to witness the lowering of the flags and the ceremonial drills performed by the border guards of both nations.

BSF officials have ensured that all necessary security and safety arrangements are in place to manage the expected influx of visitors.

Following the recent terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgal, tensions escalated between India and Pakistan, leading to the suspension of the daily retreat ceremony at the three key Joint Check Posts along the international border.

However, with the gradual de-escalation of tensions, it has now been decided to resume the ceremonial flag-lowering ritual at all three locations.

Modi-led Govt committed to safety, security of border communities: LoP Sharma

assess the damage caused by Pakistani shelling.

Sharma was accompanied by several Party leaders and legislators including Sham Lal Sharma, Dr Narinder Singh and others.

They visited Geeta Bhawan and Gurudwara Sahib in Poonch town to assess the damage caused by Pakistani shelling.

The leaders interacted with local residents, took stock of the situation, and assured coordinated relief and rehabili-

tation efforts in collaboration with local authorities.

Pertinently, Sharma held a meeting with Poonch residents late Monday night.

After listening to their concerns, Sharma assured them of prompt support and essential supplies.

"The Narendra Modi government remains committed to ensuring the safety, security, and development of border communities, focusing on infrastructure enhancement and sustained relief efforts," he said.

From Punjab, Haryana, UP, 12 arrested for spying for Pakistan, Media Reports

official, Danish. Guzala reportedly confessed to receiving Rs 30,000 through two UPI transactions.

Two more suspects, Sukhpreet Singh and Karanbir Singh, were picked up on May 15 in Punjab for allegedly leaking details of troop movements and strategic sites related to Operation Sindoor in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

In Haryana, Nauman Ilahi was arrested in Panipat on May 15. Originally from Kairana in Uttar Pradesh, Ilahi was allegedly in contact with a Pakistan-based ISI handler. A day later, 25-year-old postgraduate student Devender Singh was held in the Kaithal district. Singh had travelled to Pakistan on pilgrimage last November and reportedly stayed in contact with intelligence operatives after his return. He is accused of photographing the Patiala cantonment and uploading weapon-related images on social media.

In Nuh district, police arrested Armaan, 26, on May 18 for sharing sensitive military information via WhatsApp and social media platforms. A local quack, Shahzad, was later apprehended in a joint

operation with a central agency for allegedly participating in cross-border smuggling and espionage for the ISI. He was nabbed from Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, by the state's Special Task Force (STF).

Former MLA Amin Bhat set to rejoin Congress tomorrow

SSSSSBhat is expected to join the party tomorrow.

Bhat's rejoining is likely to strengthen the Congress's presence in South Kashmir. In the last Assembly elections, the Congress secured two seats in the region, and Bhat's return is expected to provide further boost to the party's efforts.

In the last assembly election, NC won 11 out of 16 seats in the region. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) secured two seats, while an independent candidate claimed one.

The formation of the Justice & Development Front (JDF) has added a new dimension to politics of south Kashmir as it draws its cadre from an organisation that was considered influential in the region's politics before 1987.

Families in Rajouri whose houses damaged in Pakistan shelling seek assistance

other assistance since they have nowhere to go.

"It was morning when I was going for my prayers, and we heard the explosion. We have a house with two floors, which came down. It has become uninhabitable. We should be given tents or some kind of assistance. They (officials) came, saw and went away. I was

admitted to the hospital (after injuries to the head) and recieved stitches. I have been discharged after seven days," he said.

"I took loans to teach my daughter...We have no support. I urge the government to help us in any way possible," he added.

Mariya, a family member, said that her uncle Mohammad and her cousins were inside the house when shelling occurred, after which they fainted and regained consciousness after a while.

"When shelling occurred, my uncle (Mohammad) and his family members were inside the house. The shelling has caused massive losses to them. They have worked as labour to educate their daughters. Everyone in the house fainted when the shells hit the house. As soon as they regained consciousness, they tended to my uncle's injuries. We appeal to the government to help them," she said.

Saima, daughter of Mohammad, said that her father educated them by indulging in labour and built the house by taking loans. She lamented that many household items kept for her newly wedded sister were also destroyed due to the shelling.

"We are three sisters. Our father has taught us by doing labour with huge difficulties. We built this house by taking loans. Our sister just got married, and many items that were kept for her have been destroyed. We were in the kitchen; my father was in the lobby when the shelling occurred," she added.

Akhtar, wife of Mohammad, became emotional while describing the scenes from when their house was destroyed. "I feel like running away. I never want to return here," she said.

"The shelling happened around 5:00 in the morning. I was trapped in the washroom. One of my daughters rescued me after regaining consciousness. Everything is destroyed. Nobody is there to earn. My husband got a head injury, which has left him incapable

of working. We have no support," she added.

Intense shelling by Pakistan during the recent conflict with India has left a trail of destruction in the border villages and districts across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, with locals suffering damages to their houses and livelihood.

Reportedly, the locals have suffered damages to their livestock, properties, and essentially their livelihood in border areas such as Nowshera.

Last week, Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary visited border villages near the LoC in Rajouri district and interacted with residents affected by recent hostilities.

Over a week ago, the locals residing in the border villages demanded that the government compensate them for the damaged houses. They also urge the Indian government "not to spare Pakistan" for its misadventures.

Vijay Kumar, a local from a village in Nowshera, said that his entire life savings were spent on building the house, which has been damaged due to shelling by Pakistan. He said that the government must compensate those who have suffered damages to their houses in the village, inflicted due to the shelling.

Army's bomb disposal squad destroys live Pakistani shell in Poonch

everyone living here, and this threat has now been averted.

"I want to say that the Indian army is doing a tremendous job in the entire Poonch. The live shell was there on the roadside, and there is a 'basti' nearby. However, the army personnel destroyed it. It was a huge threat for us, especially for those who walk down this path.

A local from Dara Bagyal in Poonch said, "The army has

destroyed a bomb, which came from Pakistan. We were in danger and fearful due to this. I want to thank them for destroying the bomb."

Meanwhile, locals in border districts in Jammu and Kashmir have suffered massive damages due to intense shelling by Pakistan during the recent conflict. Locals in these districts were the first to be in the line of fire during the recent conflict between India and Pakistan, which has come to a pause after both countries reached an agreement of cessation of hostilities.

However, the destruction caused by shelling from the Pakistani side has wreaked havoc in the lives of people living in villages near the border areas, with their houses destroyed or in a dilapidated condition, becoming uninhabitable.

Mohammad, an elder of a village in Rajouri, said that his entire house came down after shells hit the building. He appealed to the government to provide his family with tents and other assistance since they have nowhere to go.

Reportedly, the locals have suffered damages to their livestock, properties, and essentially their livelihood in border areas such as Nowshera.

Last week, Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary visited border villages near the LoC in Rajouri district and interacted with residents affected by recent hostilities.

AITC delegation to visit J&K tomorrow

@derekobrienmp @MdNadimulHaque6 @ManasBfficial @sagarikaghose and Mamata Thakur, will be in the region from May 21 to 23 to express solidarity with the people affected by cross-border attacks, and share the grief of the families who have lost their loved ones," it added.

District-Level Inter-School/Inter-Zone Sports meet ignites competitive spirit



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 20: Under the distinguished patronage of Rajinder Singh Tara and the meticulous oversight of Romesh Chander Mishra, the District-Level Inter-School/Inter-Zone Sports Meet commenced with an air of fervent anticipation.

A formidable cohort of 134 adept young athletes converged in Udhampur, engaging in intellectually and physically exacting contests across the disciplines of table tennis, basketball, football, and chess within the U-14 and U-17 girls' categories.

In his evocative address, Guest of Honor Romesh Chander Mishra extolled the inextricable virtues of sportsmanship, resolute discipline, and unwavering perseverance.

He fervently underscored the impera-

tive necessity of optimal hydration, particularly in the throes of exhaustive athletic exertion, and advanced an impassioned plea for adherence to the principles espoused by the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, advocating for an uncompromisingly drug-free ethos and the cultivation of a robust and salubrious lifestyle.

This exemplary confluence of youthful athleticism and tenacity serves as a crucible in which the foundational precepts of teamwork, resilience, and leadership are galvanized, reinforcing the paramount significance of sports in sculpting well-rounded individuals.

The competition underscores the interdisciplinary symbiosis between strategic acumen and physical dexterity, positioning sports as an indomitable pillar of comprehensive personal and communal development.

SDM reviews implementation of “PARIKSHA 2.0” Initiative in Gool



Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 20: Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Imtiaz on Tuesday convened a meeting with Principals and Headmasters of the government educational institutions from across Sub Division Gool to take a comprehensive review of academic initiative “PARIKSHA 2.0”.

The meeting assessed the current academic performance of schools, identify existing challenges and devise effective strategies to

improve educational outcomes in the region.

The SDM conducted a detailed analysis of academic trends and initiatives undertaken to enhance Class 10th and 12th board examination results in the upcoming session.

He instructed the school heads to identify critical areas requiring immediate attention and to formulate a concrete, actionable roadmap focused on academic excellence.

Emphasizing the

importance of collaboration and accountability, the SDM urged all educational heads to prioritize student-centric learning, ensure timely syllabus completion, and implement regular assessment practices to track progress.

The SDM reiterated the administration's commitment to fostering a robust educational ecosystem in Sub-Division Gool, aimed at raising academic standards and expanding future opportunities for students.

DDC Doda inaugurates Space, STEM Labs at GHSS Chilly- Bhallessa Announces well-equipped Library for the school

Top News Report

DODA, May 20: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh on Tuesday visited Chilly Bhallessa (Doda) and inaugurated the newly established Space Lab and STEM Lab at Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Chilly. The inauguration was held in the presence of Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz, and Principal of the school Shafiq Banoo.

The DDC assessed the functioning of both labs and interacted with the students. A series of engaging events, including a debate competition and cultural performances, were presented by the students, showcasing their talents and enthusiasm.

While addressing the gathering, the DDC emphasized the transformative power of education in shaping individual lives and building a stronger society. He highlighted the significance of establishing modern educational infrastructure, such as the Space and STEM Labs, in remote areas like Bhal-



lessa to bridge the gap in access to quality education.

The DDC also announced that a well-equipped functional library will soon be established in the school, stocked with quality books to encourage reading habits among students. He urged students to cultivate the habit of reading to strengthen their cognitive abilities and become informed, responsible

citizens.

Additionally, the DDC Doda informed that one-month extra academic classes are conducted for students in the district who underperformed in the recent examinations.

This initiative aims to support students in overcoming academic challenges and ensure that no learner is left behind.

GHSS Dradhu felicitates meritorious students, discusses developmental priorities

Top News Report

DODA, May 20: Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Dradhu witnessed a momentous occasion as Block Development Officer Bhaderwah and Prabhari Officer of the school Yasir Wani, paid a special visit along with his team. The visit aimed to review key developmental issues concerning the school's infrastructure, academic growth, and overall student welfare.

Yasir Wani interacted with the school staff and students, emphasizing the importance of quality education, regular attendance, and strengthening subject-wise academic performance, particularly in core



areas such as Science, Mathematics, and English.

The visiting team assured full support in addressing infrastructural gaps and promoting a positive learning environ-

ment. Former Sarpanch Ashok Sharma also graced the event, showing his continued commitment to community and educational development.

A highlight of the day was

the felicitation of the toppers of Class 10th and calls 12 (2024-25 session). The meritorious students were honoured with certificates and mementos in recognition of their hard work and academic excellence. This gesture not only encouraged the achievers but also motivated their peers to strive for similar success.

The entire program was meticulously organized under the supervision of the Principal, Satish Kumar, whose dedication ensured the smooth conduct of the event. Teachers, students, and local dignitaries appreciated the initiative, marking the day as a step forward in the journey of educational excellence at GHSS Dradhu.

Floriculture Department conducts cleanliness drive in Udhampur, Reasi districts



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 20: The Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens conducted a comprehensive cleanliness drive across all parks in Udhampur and Reasi districts.

A total of 10 parks were covered under this initiative. With the onset of summer, a significant number of visitors frequent these parks, especially during the evening hours. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a clean and welcoming environment, the Department is giving top priority to cleanliness and sanitation across all its parks

and gardens.

This cleanliness drive is not a one-time effort but part of a continuous process aimed at enhancing the overall experience for visitors. The Department is committed to ensuring that these green spaces remain clean, hygienic and enjoyable for all.

Additionally, the Department is actively discouraging the use of plastic and related items within the parks.

Awareness efforts are underway to promote eco-friendly practices among visitors, ensuring the preservation of the natural beauty and ecological balance of these public spaces.

SBI RSETI organises Vegetable Nursery Management Training at Behri Neghal- Ramban

Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 20: To promote self-employment and sustainable agriculture in rural areas, SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Ramban inaugurated a 12-day training programme on “Vegetable Nursery Management & Cultivation” at Panchayat Behri Neghal, Block Ramban.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Director SBI RSETI S. Harvinder Singh, along with SMS Agriculture Department Jyoti Prakash, JK Bank Associate Mangeet Singh and Lambardar Sanjay Singh. The ceremony began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the start of this farmer-centric initiative. Addressing the trainees, Director RSETI highlighted the significance of skill-based agricultural training in enhancing rural livelihoods, especially for women. He also introduced various government-sponsored self-employment and social



security schemes such as PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY, and the MUDRA Loan Scheme.

Subject Matter Specialist Jyoti Prakash elaborated on modern practices in nursery management, emphasizing eco-friendly disease control methods and integrating scientific knowledge with traditional farming. JK Bank's representative discussed financial assistance and credit schemes available to

farmers, urging them to utilize banking services for agricultural growth.

The Lambardar and trainees expressed gratitude to SBI RSETI Ramban for organizing the localized training. The 12-day course will cover nursery bed preparation, seed treatment, irrigation, pest management, and post-harvest techniques—empowering participants with practical skills to enhance productivity and income.

Anti- drug IEC campaigns organised across all 17 blocks of Doda district

Top News Report

DODA, May 20: to combat the menace of drug abuse, a series of IEC (Information, Education & Communication) campaigns were organized on Tuesday across all 17 blocks of Doda district under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner

Harvinder Singh, and the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer(Nodal Officer IEC Campaign) Tariq Qazi.

The awareness programs aimed to educate students, youth, and local communities about the harmful effects of drug use and to encourage a healthier, addiction-free lifestyle. The campaigns were held at Assar, Bhagwah, Bhalla, Bhaderwah, Bharat, Changa, Chilly Pingal, Dali Udyanpur, Ghat, Gandoh, Gundna, Kahara, Kastigarh, Marmat, Thathri, Phagsoo, and Doda (Ghat) blocks, covering both rural and semi-urban areas. Each block organized targeted events in schools, panchayats, and community halls to ensure maximum outreach. The entire district witnessed large gatherings where community members, especially the youth, raised their voices in unison against the drug menace. Activities included awareness rallies, street plays, poster-making, slogan-writing competitions, and lectures by health experts, educators, and motivational speakers.

awareness in the fight against substance abuse.

One of the key events was held at Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra, located in Panchayat Misrata,

Block Bhaderwah. The campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, staff, and local residents, who were sensitized about the importance of saying

no to drugs and yes to life. Interactive sessions and motivational talks formed a crucial part of the initiative, empowering youth with knowledge and confidence to lead a drug-free life.

JMC intensifies efforts to make city garbage-free



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is making continuous and determined efforts to transform Jammu into a completely garbage-free city in a sustainable manner. As part of this mission, the Corporation regularly organizes awareness programs and activities to educate and engage citizens on waste management.

To further streamline waste management, JMC has established a Material Recovery

Facilities (MRF) Center at Bandhu Rakh. This center caters to municipal wards in Zone III, in an effort to convert waste to wealth, wet waste collected from households, vegetable markets, and fruit markets is brought in for processing. At the MRF Center, efforts are being made to convert this organic waste into compost—supporting both environmental sustainability and effective waste disposal.

Under the guidance of Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner

of Jammu Municipal Corporation, the Joint Commissioner (Health and Sanitation) and the Health Officer have been directed to intensify city-wide cleanliness efforts. Citizens are being urged to actively participate and take responsibility for keeping Jammu clean by following proper waste segregation and disposal practices.

JMC appealed to all residents to support this initiative and contribute towards making Jammu a model city for cleanliness and sustainability.

IPL 2025: Digvesh Rathi suspended for a match, Abhishek Sharma fined 25 per cent of match fees after the duo had a heated argument

LUCKNOW, May 20 (Agencies): Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) bowler Digvesh Singh Rathi has been fined 50 per cent of his match fees for breaching the Indian Premier League (IPL) Code of Conduct during his team's match against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow on Monday, as per IPL Media Advisory.

This was his third Level 1 offence under Article 2.5 this season and hence, he has accumulated two Demerit Points, in addition to three Demerit Points he had accumulated earlier - One Demerit Point against Punjab Kings on April 01, 2025 and two Demerit Points against Mumbai Indians on April 04, 2025.

As he now has Five Demerit points this season, which result in a one-game suspension, Digvesh will now be suspended for LSG's next game - against Gujarat Titans on May 22, 2025, in Ahmedabad. For Level 1



breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding.

Abhishek Sharma, All-rounder, Sunrisers Hyderabad, has been fined 25 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his team's match against Lucknow Super Giants at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow on Monday.

This was his first Level 1 offence under Article 2.6 this season and hence, he has accumulated One Demerit Point. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding.

This came after a heated exchange of words between

Abhishek and Digvesh after the bowlers' aggressive "notebook" celebration following the left-hander's dismissal.

In 12 matches and 11 innings this season, Abhishek has scored 373 runs at an average of 33.90, with a strike rate of 192.26. He has scored a century and two fifties, with the best score of 141. He has been SRH's top run-getter this season.

On the other hand, Digvesh has grabbed 14 wickets in 12 matches at an average of 28.07, and an economy of 8.18. Explosive knocks by Abhishek Sharma and Heinrich Klaasen guided SRH to a six-wicket win over LSG at Ekana Stadium on Monday.

With this victory, SRH are at eighth spot, with four wins, seven losses and a no result. They have a total of nine points. LSG is in seventh spot, with five wins and seven losses, giving them 10 points.

WFI to select gold winners at U-17 Nationals for Asian championship



CHANDIGARH, May 20 (Agencies): The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has decided to select the gold winners at the U-17 National Wrestling Championship — to be held at Palwal, Haryana, on May 25-27 — as the entries for next month's U-17 Asian Wrestling Championship. The Asian event will be held at Vung Tau in Vietnam on June 22-27.

"Due to the limited time available between

the two events and the registration deadline for entries on UWW Athena ending on May 28, a decision in this regard has been taken. The procedure is mandatory and intended to facilitate the timely processing of entries and travel documentation," an official said.

Wrestlers who win gold at Palwal will be required to submit their documents to the WFI officials immediately after the final bouts. WFI officials have

asked the coaches and state units to ensure smooth execution of the process.

However, with regard to the U23 Asian Wrestling Championship, the WFI has decided to hold selection trials for the freestyle, Greco-Roman and women wrestlers. All national campers, below 23 years of age, all those who participated in the trials on March 25, and medal winners of the U20 national championships in Kota, in between 18 and 20 years of age, are eligible for the selection trials. The freestyle and Greco-Roman teams will be selected at Lucknow on May 22 and the women's team in New Delhi on May 23.

"No past or 2024 performances will be considered for this trial as enough opportunities have been given to the U23 wrestlers through national events," an official said.

IPL 2025: Mumbai Indians signs Jonny Bairstow, Richard Gleeson, Charith Asalanka

MUMBAI, May 20 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians (MI) have picked England wicketkeeper/batter Jonny Bairstow, Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka, and England seamer Richard Gleeson as replacements for Will Jacks, Corbin Bosch, and Ryan Rickelton, who will leave for national duties, as per IPL Media Advisory.

Jacks had returned to India ahead of MI's final two group-stage games but will be unavailable for the season's conclusion due to international duty. With England's home ODI series against West Indies starting from May 29, clashing with the rescheduled knock-out stage.

Rickelton, along with his compatriot Corbin Bosch, is set to miss the play-offs, with Cricket South Africa requesting members of their World Test Championship final squad to return home by May 27, according to ESPNcricinfo.

Jonny Bairstow was an integral part of the England side that won the ODI World Cup in 2019. Bairstow has a total of 287 caps for England. Bairstow has played in 50 IPL games over five seasons, having previously played for

Punjab Kings (2022 and 2024) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (2019-21).

With 1589 runs in the league at an average of 34.54 and a strike rate of 144.45, he has had a remarkable career in the league. He has also hit two IPL hundreds, one of which was a record-breaking run chase against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at Eden Gardens last year.

Charith Asalanka is currently Sri Lanka's captain in the ODI and T20I formats and has represented the country 134 times in international cricket. In T20Is, the Sri Lankan skipper has made 1247 in 58 matches with an average of 24.45 and a strike of 128.55.

Richard Gleeson, 37, has played in six T20Is for England and is known for his prowess in the death overs. He made his IPL debut last year, playing two matches for Chennai Super Kings.

Prior to their last two group stage games against the Delhi Capitals (May 21) and Punjab Kings (May 26), MI is currently ranked fourth in the points standings with seven wins and five defeats.

UAE captain Muhammad Waseem reflects on their first international victory over Bangladesh

SHARJAH, May 20 (Agencies): The United Arab Emirates secured their maiden international triumph over Bangladesh with a win in the second T20I in Sharjah, according to the ICC website.

After challenging Bangladesh in the first T20I of the three-game series, UAE went one better and stunned the Tigers in the second encounter by two wickets, thus tying the series 1-1.

This was their first win over Bangladesh across formats, and ensures that all will be at stake in the third T20I in Sharjah on May 21. Skipper Muhammad Waseem led the Emirati effort during a stiff chase with a blazing 82 off 42, and was ecstatic at the outcome.



"I have no words. I am very happy we beat Bangladesh. Very happy with the performance. I was giving hope to everyone that we can chase this score because we know the conditions (in Sharjah)," Waseem said after the game.

Like the first T20I, UAE elected to bowl first, but Bangladesh batters led by Tanzid Hasan (59 from 33) and Tawhid

just 58 away with seven wickets in hand.

"We were hoping to chase it, and I tried to play my natural game," Waseem described his batting effort during UAE's first successful chase over 200 runs in T20Is," Muhammad Waseem said.

The losing captain, Litton Das, believed the side was let down by their effort in the middle overs of the chase.

"Any loss is hard, but we still batted well on this wicket. Wicket was pretty good, when they batted, they had the favour of dew. We missed a bit in the fielding and the middle-overs bowling," he said.

The game was also a trying debut for speedster Nahid Rana, who gave away 18 runs in his very first over, and

despite his two wickets was taken for 50 runs across his spell. The seamer, however, did make a comeback of sorts in his final over, giving away just six runs and picking a wicket to ensure Bangladesh got back in the contest briefly but Dhruv Parasher and Haider Ali managed to see the hosts through the line.

"When you play on this type of ground, which is small and with dew as a factor, you have to calculate and plan," Litton empathised with his bowling group.

"What Rana did before," The Bangladesh skipper added. "We were expecting more from him. You can have good days and bad days. We will sit and talk and come back," he added.

IPL 2025 | Mumbai Indians look to seal playoffs spot against fallible Delhi Capitals

MUMBAI, May 20 (Agencies): Fighting for the only available play-off spot, Mumbai Indians will take on Delhi Capitals in a potentially decisive showdown here on Wednesday with the five-time champion home team better-placed to advance against the erratic visitors.

Sunrisers Hyderabad's six-wicket thrashing of Lucknow Super Giants on Monday ended the latter's chances of making the final four, leaving Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals to fight it out.

Gujarat Titans, Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers have taken the first three knockout phase spots.

Both Mumbai Indians (14 points) and Delhi Capitals (13 points) are in control of their destiny for now, but it is the host side which starts favourite at the Wankhede Stadium.

While MI's win will take them to 16 points and beyond the reach of the Axar Patel-led side, Delhi Capitals need to win both their remaining contests, the last being against Punjab Kings, to sail through.

Mumbai Indians' form and all-round depth tilt the scale in their favour even though they are coming off a narrow loss to Gujarat Titans nearly a fortnight ago.

This was after recording six consecutive wins prior to emerge as one of the most formidable teams in the competition.

While a win will carry MI into the playoffs, a defeat will leave their fate on the outcome of the contest between DC and PBKS on May 24, and thus the Mahela Jayawardene-coached side will be

eager to put its best foot forward.

Mumbai superstar Rohit Sharma will be the cynosure of all eyes as this will be his first game since announcing his retirement from Test cricket.

The veteran batter would be extra motivated to fire on all cylinders and carry his team through.

MI would also want to make the most of their current combination, which features Ryan Rickelton and Corbin Bosch in their playing XI with prominent roles.

The two South Africans will leave for national duty before the play-offs, which would be a headache for another day.

Suryakumar Yadav will look to carry on with his prime form with the bat, but MI would need Tilak Varma to rediscover his mojo.

The left-handed batter has gone through a quiet phase with the bat which includes three outings for single-digit scores in his last five matches.

The break would have given fast bowlers, including Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult in particular, some extra time to rest and recover but it also saw Delhi Capitals' ace pacer Mitchell Starc (14 wickets) deciding against joining his IPL side.

Starc's absence is a huge void for any side to fill.

With the contest being a do-or-die affair without the Australian speedster, who has in the past exploited conditions here at the Wankhede Stadium with the white ball effectively, DC will have to find other ways to succeed.

A lot hinges on KL Rahul's (493 runs) performance, who struck a

valiant century against Gujarat Titans but ended on the wrong side of a 10-wicket hammering.

It exposed Delhi Capitals' frailties with the ball even though Starc's replacement, Mustafizur Rahman, returned a tight spell.

DC began the IPL with five wins in the first six matches, but wheels have come off their faltering campaign.

Kuldeep Yadav (12 wickets) has provided control from one end, but this season has largely been a disappointing one for skipper Patel, whose 263 runs and five wickets so far do not inspire much confidence either.

Teams (from): Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Robin Minz (wk), Ryan Rickelton (wk), Shri-jith Krishnan (wk), Bevon Jacobs, Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir, Will Jacks, Mitchell Santner, RajAngad Bawa, Raghu Kumar, Corbin Bosch, Trent Boult, Karn Sharma, Deepak Chahar, Ashwani Kumar, Reece Topley, VS Penmetsa, Arjun Tendulkar, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Jasprit Bumrah.

Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel (c), Mustafizur Rahman, Abhishek Porel (wk), Karun Nair, KL Rahul (wk), Tristan Stubbs (wk), Ashutosh Sharma, Vipraj Nigam, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohit Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Sameer Rizvi, Darshan Nalkande, Tripurana Vijay, Dushmantha Chameera, Faf du Plessis, T Natarajan, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Manvanth Kumar L, Madhav Tiwari.

Match starts at 7:30pm IST.

Time for Mahi to rest: Joginder Sharma drops massive statement on Dhoni's IPL future

NEW DELHI, May 20 (Agencies): Former India cricketer and the 2007 T20 World Cup-winning star Joginder Sharma feels it is time for Chennai Super Kings icon MS Dhoni to "rest".

Chennai, a team that boasts five title wins and 12 playoff appearances, was chasing the shadows of its former self as it crashed out of the playoff race in the group stage. After designated captain Ruturaj Gaikwad was ruled out of the tournament, Dhoni took the mantle of leading the beleaguered CSK.

Speculations have been going around about Dhoni's future in the cash-rich Indian Premier League after the five-time champions crashed out of the race to the playoffs following a shambolic campaign in the 18th season.

Rumours about Dhoni's retirement sparked when his family came to Chepauk last month



for Chennai's fixture against Delhi Capitals. The 43-year-old's coming down in the batting order fuelled the rumour mill, especially after Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming admitted that Dhoni can't bat for "10 overs running full stick."

Joginder, who was Dhoni's final over masterstroke against Pakistan in the 2007 T20 World Cup, believes it is time for the veteran wicketkeeper to bid adieu to his 18-year-long journey in the cash-

rich league.

"Considering Mahi's fitness level, he should play up to prove his fitness, but I believe it is time for him to rest," Joginder told ANI.

Dhoni addressed his retirement plans after his finishing touches helped Chennai trounce the defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders earlier this month. He acknowledged that he would have to see if his body could take pressure in the next six to eight months.

"After this IPL gets

over, I have to work hard for another 6-8 months to see if my body can take this pressure. Nothing to decide now, but the love and affection I have seen is excellent," he said in the post-match presentation.

With his brute force and lightning-quick reflexes with the gloves, Dhoni toppled several records in the 18th season, including featuring in 400 T20s, becoming the oldest player to be adjudged the Player of the Match, securing most wins as a captain and many more.

During CSK's IPL 2023 triumph, Dhoni didn't miss a single match. He led the team from the front and ensured that his troops walked away with their fifth IPL title at the end of the tournament. Months later, the former Indian skipper underwent knee surgery at the beginning of this month to overcome the issue he carried for most of the season.

ADGP Armed visits Armed Police Complex Parihaspora

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 20: Anand Jain, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Armed J&K alongwith Junaid Mehmood, Deputy Inspector General, IRP Kashmir, on Tuesday visited Armed Police Complex Parihaspora, Pattan.

The purpose of the visit was, to review the functioning of IRP-3rd and IRP 9th Battalions stationed at the complex.

Upon his arrival, Jain was accorded a warm welcome by the concerned Commandants. He was presented with a ceremonial Guard of Honour by a joint contingent of IRP-3rd and IRP-9th Battalions.

A comprehensive inspection of various unit establishments of both the units and allied offices was carried out during the visit.

While addressing a special Darbar convened on the occasion, Jain assured the personnel that all their legitimate concerns would be addressed at



the Armed Police Headquarters level.

As part of the visit, the ADGP led a plantation drive at the complex, during which saplings of Chinara and pine trees were planted, besides also inaugurated Recreation Hall Facility of IRP 9th Bn.

He further underscored the psychological, social and cultural implications of substance abuse and impressed upon the personnel to keep themselves away from drugs.

The ADGP Armed also commended the role of personnel and encouraged their active participation in ongoing refresher courses.

Highlighting cyber security Awareness, the ADGP advised,

to exercise caution while using social Media Platforms and stressed upon adopting set protocols to safeguard data.

The ADGP urged all officers and personnel to maintain high levels of vigilance and operational preparedness in light of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025.

He also emphasized the significance of cleanliness within the complex and directed regular sanitation drives to ensure hygiene standards.

Moreover, the ADGP instructed the Commandants to ensure regular medical checkups of the all the personnel to promote health standards.

Among others who were present on the occasion include, Syed Mubashir Hussain, Commandant IRP 9th Bn. Javid Iqbal SSP Commandant IRP-3rd Bn. Surjit Kumar SSP, Commandant IRP-20th Bn, Paramjit Singh, Commandant IRP-21st Bn. Munir Ahmed, SSP, APCR Kashmir and other officers.

Agriculture Department Jammu celebrates World Bee Day with awareness

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: The Department of Agriculture, Jammu, today celebrated World Bee Day with great fervour and commitment across the Jammu Division.

The central event was organized at the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishni Bhawan, Talab Tillo, Jammu, under the global theme "Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all." The celebration highlighted the indispensable role of bees and other pollinators in sustaining ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, and ensuring food security.

The event was presided over by Arvinder Singh Reen, Director Agriculture, Jammu, and was graced by key officials including Satish Sharma, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), and Sohan Singh, Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB).

The proceedings began with a welcome address by Rajesh Verma, Assistant Entomologist, Apiculture



Development Scheme, Jammu. He provided an insightful overview of World Bee Day, emphasizing its importance in educating the participants about the vital role bees play in ecological balance and agricultural productivity.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture, Arvinder Singh Reen, emphasized the ecological and economic significance of bees. He said, "Bees are not just pollinators; they are vital contributors to our food systems and biodiversity. Jammu has immense potential for commercial beekeeping, which can serve as a sustainable income source for our farming

community."

He also highlighted initiatives like honey testing labs, diagnostic centres, and processing units set up in Jammu to enhance quality production and provide support to beekeepers.

He emphasized the importance of sustainable and scientific approaches in apiculture and reaffirmed the department's commitment to strengthening the sector by promoting scientific beekeeping practices and supporting beekeepers through dedicated training programs, improved infrastructure, and robust market linkages.

Director A.S Reen urged the public and

Vasu Sharma, who spoke about his journey in organic honey production.

The event also witnessed participation from senior officials including Sanjeev Rai Gupta Deputy Director (Central), Priyanka Parihar Deputy Director (Plannings) Jammu, Vikas Padha Agronomist (VIS) Jammu, Karuna Nidhi Deputy Director (Trainings), Madan Lal SMS RL, Dharmesh Vaid SMS RL, Sanjay Anand SMS RL, Manohar Lal Sharma Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu, Nirmal Parkash DSCO Jammu, Rakesh Sharma DSSO Jammu, Raju Mahajan PPO Jammu, Vinod Sharma Agriculture Chemist Jammu, Raghubir Singh Kochhar MDO Jammu, Farmers, Beekeepers, Sectoral Heads, Section Officers, and other staff members among others.

The programme was hosted by the Apiculture Development Scheme, Jammu, and was seamlessly coordinated by Veena Wazir, AEA, who conducted the proceedings.

Admission awareness campaign organized at GHSS Bhalwal, GHSS Gharota by Government Polytechnic College Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: An Admission Awareness Campaign was successfully conducted at GHSS Bhalwal and GHSS Gharota (Zone Bhalwal) by faculty members of Government Polytechnic College Jammu. The campaign was held under the guidance of Er. Talet Mahmood, Principal of the college, as part of the institution's ongoing efforts to promote admissions to its 3-year Diploma in Engineering and Non-Engineering programs.

Following the directions from college authorities, Group-A members, including Er. Raj Shekhar (HOD, Automobile), Mehmood Ahmed, Manjeet Singh, Vicky Sharma, and Rakesh Kumar, visited both schools. During their visit, they informed students about various diploma courses and scholarship opportunities



ties available at Government Polytechnic College Jammu. The team encouraged students to consider enrolling in technical education to enhance their skills and improve their employability.

Speaking on the occasion, Er. Vicky Sharma from the Electrical Engineering Department emphasized, "Polytechnic education offers practical skills, hands-on training, and

faster employability. Our awareness campaign aims to help students and parents make informed decisions about technical career paths."

Interested students are encouraged to apply for admission to Government Polytechnic College Jammu, which remains committed to nurturing skilled professionals through quality education and industry-focused training.

Udhampur Police attaches drug property worth Rs 1.50 Cr of notorious drug peddler

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 20: In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking, the Udhampur Police has attached moveable property worth Rs. 1.50 crores under Section 68(F) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The action was taken against Mohd. Asif, son of Sanak Mohd, a resident of Hartaryan village in Rehambal, District Udhampur.

Mohd. Asif is involved in a case registered under FIR No. 14/25 at Police Station Rehambal, booked under Sections 8, 21, and 22 of the NDPS Act. As part of the ongoing legal proceedings, the investigating officer officially passed the attachment order today. The attached properties include three trucks bearing registration numbers JK14J-6362, JK14J-8369, and JK20C-4698, along with



a Bolero car registered under number JK14J-4983.

This action reflects Udhampur Police's firm commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against

drug-related crimes. The department reaffirmed its resolve to continue taking strict measures against individuals involved in narcotics and illicit drug activities.

Jugal, Randhawa conduct visit to village Chatta, assure development of historic local pond



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Jammu-Reasi Constituency, Jugal Kishore Sharma, along with Vikram Randhawa, Member of the Legislative Assembly from Bahu constituency, conducted a visit to Village Chatta in Block Satwari of Bahu Assembly segment.

During the visit, the leaders interacted with the residents and listened to their grievances and developmental concerns.

A major issue raised by the local populace was the development of

the village pond (Talab), which holds cultural as well as ecological significance for the area.

Responding promptly, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma issued necessary directions to the SDM South Manu Hansa, BDO Satwari Sandeep Gupta, and other concerned officials present during the visit.

He emphasized the urgent need to focus not only on the rejuvenation and beautification of the pond but also on holistic development of the entire village.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikram Randhawa reiterated his commitment to addressing

grassroots-level issues and assured that the matter would be taken up at all relevant forums to ensure timely action.

Also present during the visit were BJP District President Naresh Singh, Surjeet Singh, Kulveer Charak, Arun manmotra, Parkash Singh, Sanjeev Ji, Tarun Sharma, Amit Gupta, Farmaan, Anwar Ali, Raman, Gulshan, Ajay, Sanjeev, Arun, Tej Ram, Sunny and others prominent locals were present and extended their support for local development initiatives and pledged cooperation in mobilizing resources.

The visit underscored

the leaders' resolve to bring about tangible improvements in rural infrastructure and ensure that government schemes effectively reach the last mile.

GHRT India holds Meeting on Health, Human Rights and War Devastation

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: Global Human Rights Trust (GHRT) India organized a high-level meeting at KC Residency Jammu, chaired by its Chairman. The meeting discussed critical issues related to health, human rights, and the devastating impact of war on civilians. In this meeting, in-depth discussions on health and human rights, exploration of the humanitarian consequences of war and conflict, emphasis on protecting civilians in conflict zones.

Dr. H R Rehman Chairman emphasized on significant topics, including strategic goals, objectives, and initiatives for advancing human rights and health Promoting Health and Human Rights Protection of vulnerable populations, Access to healthcare in conflict zones Humanitarian response and crisis management.

National Health President Dr Nadeem Niyaz Jan stressed on accountability and Integrity of the members towards their work to achieve the goals.

Dr. Anisa Nisar Jan National health Secretary (GHRT INDIA)



also briefed about the healths camps and it's impact on society.

The meeting was attended by various GHRT renowned members including Dr. Narinder Kumar National President, Ajaz Hussain General Secretary J&K, Kuljeet Singh District President Udhampur, Dr. Talib Hussain Youth President J&K, Santosh Kumari women President, Mustafa District President Reasi, Ashiq Hussain National President for transport, Amit Nayyar Director Jammu Division, Rahul Wadhwa Divisional President Jammu, Sahil Singh District Secretary corporate Affairs, Ghulam Hassan Tehsil President Latti, Irfan Ahmed Volunteer.

GHRT passed resolution to framed Committee on social media scrutiny. The Committee include Dr. H R Rehman Chairman, Dr T Arul Raj State President Tamil Nadu, Dr Nadeem Niyaz Jan, Adv Raj Balwinder Singh, Nishat Ahmed state president Bihar.

This committee serves as a watchdog for GHRT's social media handles, reviewing content before it's uploaded to ensure it meets the organization's standards. The meeting concluded with a pledge to work towards promoting human rights, equality, brotherhood, peace, and development."

GHRT is committed to collaborating with the government on its initiatives and works in tandem with governmental efforts to contribute to making India a better country.

All J&K NGHEU appeals for appointment of Director Horticulture Kashmir

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 20: The Non Gazetted Horticulture Employees Union Kashmir extended a heartfelt appeal to the Cabinet Minister, Agriculture Production Department, and the Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, regarding the prolonged vacancy in the post of Director Horticulture, Kashmir. The Non Gazetted Horticulture Employees Union said, "It is with deep concern that since the retirement of the former Director Horticulture, Kashmir in the month of March, the post has remained unfilled. This extended vacancy is causing severe disruption in the functioning of the department and adversely impacting the implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and state-sponsored initiatives." The absence of a full-time Director has created administrative bottlenecks and stalled several key developmental activities meant for the welfare of the farming community. Moreover, important service matters and pending issues of the department's employees are gathering dust without the attention and authority of a dedicated head of department.