

Top News OF J&K

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"No one will be spared": D Fadnavis seeks central agency probe in TCS case

French President Macron welcomes Lebanon-Israel ceasefire deal



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BRIEFLY

Over 21 Kg of poppy seized in Kathua, One booked

JAMMU, Apr 17 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police have seized over 21.68 kg of illegally cultivated opium (poppy) plants and booked one person in connection with the case in Kathua district, officials said.

Acting on specific information about the illicit cultivation of poppy in the Pallan area of Billawar, a police team launched an operation under the supervision of senior officers on Thursday, they said.

During the action, police seized 21.68 kg of poppy cultivation and destroyed it on the spot in the presence of an executive magistrate, following due procedure, they said.

The police booked Khushi Mohd, a resident of Pallan in Kathua's Billawar Tehsil. A case under has been registered at police station Billawar and further investigation is underway.

MeT predicts rain, gusty winds in J&K till April 19; improvement from April 20

SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): Amid forecast of intermittent spells of light rain and thunder-showers at many places till Sunday, Kashmir witnessed light rainfall over the past 24 hours, the Meteorological Department said on Friday.

The MeT data showed that the summer capital Srinagar recorded 2.6 mm of rainfall during the period. Among other areas, Qazigund in south Kashmir received 4.4 mm, Kupwara in north Kashmir 6 mm, while the ski resort of Gulmarg recorded 7 mm, making it one of the wetter places in the Valley.

The tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir received 5.4 mm of rainfall.

Meanwhile, the night temperatures across the Kashmir division remained 0-3 C above normal at many places. The lowest minimum temperature in the Valley was recorded at Gulmarg at 3.6 C.

The MeT said a spell of wet weather is expected across Kashmir till April 19, with the Meteorological Department forecasting partly to generally cloudy skies and intermittent spells of light rain or thundershowers at

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LG Sinha flags off Shobha Yatra to commemorate Bhagwan Parshuram Ji Jayanti in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha on Friday flagged off a grand Shobha Yatra

from Chanakya Chowk Parade, Jammu, to commemorate Bhagwan Parshuram Ji Jayanti.

The procession was organized by the Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha, celebrating the life and teachings of Bhagwan Parshuram, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor paid obeisance to Bhagwan Parshuram and prayed for peace, progress, and prosperity for one and all.

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CM Omar Abdullah meets delegations, Assures Time-Bound redressal of public issues



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17 : Several legislators, delegations and individuals today called on Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah, raising several issues concerning them for redressal. Former minister and

legislator Abdul Majid Wani, and former legislator Chaman Lal from Ramban, highlighted key concerns pertaining to their respective areas.

A delegation from the Indian Institute of Architects, J&K Chapter, led by its Chairman Vikas Dubey, apprised the Chief Minister of issues arising from recent amendments to the Unified Building Bye-Laws.

Meanwhile, a delegation led by President, Jammu University

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CM Omar Abdullah unveils Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Club jersey, releases wildlife publication



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17 : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today unveiled the jersey of Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Club (SCC) at a function held here.

The event was attended by Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir

Aslam Wani and members of the club.

Appreciating the club's contribution to promoting cricket, the Chief Minister said that the government is committed to extending all possible support to encourage sports activities and nurture young talent across Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion,

SCC President Aman Cheema highlighted the club's achievements, noting that it has participated in and won several tournaments. He added that the club is playing a positive role in engaging youth and steering them away from negative influences such as drug abuse by

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LG Saxena inaugurates first water body made operational under project him Sarovar

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 17: Just three weeks after his visit to Stok village on March 26, during which he had instructed the renovation of the reservoir at Phikar, Stok, the Lieutenant Governor of the UT Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, today inaugurated the first water body under Project Him Sarovar. He also operationalised the water body by releasing glacial melt into it. The operationalisation of the first water body comes just a week after the launch of Project Him Sarovar, which envisages the creation of small water bodies across Ladakh to conserve snowmelt and ensure long-term water



security in Ladakh. Project Him Sarovar was launched on April 10.

During his visit to Stok, the Lieutenant Governor also announced adopting the village to develop it as a model village that is self-reliant, culturally vibrant, and sustainable. He further informed that Stok, along with Likir, is being envisioned as a

model for holistic, sustainable rural development in Ladakh.

The water body has been created by restoring a heavily silted depression in the village. During his first visit to the site on March 26, the Lieutenant Governor had directed to clean, dredge and de-silt the depression. The depres-

sion was also stone-pitched by the administration with the active support of the locals to prevent the seepage of water. Spread over 1,824 sq mtr, the water body will hold nearly 35 lakh litres of water, benefiting approximately 150 hectares of land within its command area.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor expressed satisfaction at witnessing the realisation of his vision, within a short span of three weeks, with the successful remodelling and operationalisation of the reservoir at Phikar, Stok. He stated that Stok village is leading the implementation of Project Him Sarovar, which

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Posting doctored videos, hate speech to attract 3-year jail: DM Jammu

JAMMU, Apr 17 (Agencies): The administration on Thursday imposed a blanket prohibition on posting or sharing communally sensitive and inflammatory content on social media platforms across Jammu district for a period of 60 days, citing threats to public order and communal harmony.

It pointed out that social media platforms have been increasingly misused to spread communally provocative, false and inciting content, which has the potential to disturb public peace, cause communal tensions, and endanger lives and property.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), I hereby order that posting, uploading, sharing or forwarding any content — text, image, video, audio, meme, graphic or reel — that promotes enmity,



hatred or ill-will between communities on grounds of religion, race, caste, community, language or region is strictly prohibited within the territorial jurisdiction of district Jammu," District Magistrate Dr Rakesh Minhas said.

The BNSS empowers the district magistrate to pass orders to prevent obstruction, annoyance or injury to any person lawfully employed, or danger to human life, health or safety, or disturbance of public tranquillity, or a riot, or an affray.

The District Magistrate, in the order, stated that with immediate effect, certain acts are strictly prohibited within the territorial jurisdiction of Jammu district. "These measures have been put in place to maintain public order and prevent misuse of social media for activities that may disturb communal harmony," the order read.

The creation or dissemination of any false, fabricated or misleading information designed to incite communal tensions, riots or violence against any group or

community has also been banned, it said.

The order further prohibits circulating morphed, doctored or out-of-context images or videos to misrepresent incidents and inflame communal or religious sentiments. It also bars the use of any social media platform to call for boycotts, issue threats, or incite violence against any specific community, religion, caste or ethnic group.

"The organising or coordinating of mobs, unlawful assemblies or processions through social media with the intent to target, intimidate or harm any particular community has been disallowed," it said. The directive also bans sharing speeches or material that hurt religious sentiments or deliberately provoke sectarian tensions.

The order said the decision was taken in view of the increasing

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J&K Police attaches properties of 2 drug peddlers in Rajouri, Udhampur

JAMMU, Apr 17 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police has attached properties worth more than Rs 55 lakh belonging to two drug peddlers in Rajouri and Udhampur districts as part of a crackdown on narcotics, officials said on Friday.

In Rajouri, police attached a single-storey residential building worth about Rs 43.13 lakh owned by Sourab Kumar from Muradpur, an accused in multiple cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, they said.

In Udhampur, police attached a Honda City car bearing a fake registration number worth around Rs 12 lakh belonging to Rakesh Kumar, a known drug peddler from

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Central Kashmir: Police intensify crackdown against illegal mining; 24 arrested, 23 FIRs registered



SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): Police in central Kashmir's Budgam district have registered 23 FIRs and arrested 24 individuals as part of an intensified crackdown on illegal mining, officials said.

The enforcement drive, conducted across multiple areas, also resulted in the seizure of 45 vehicles allegedly used for unlawful extraction and transportation of minerals, underscoring efforts to curb violations. Regional policy analysis

The seized vehicles include 17 tippers, 20 tractors, five JCB machines, two load carriers and one sand dredger. These were impounded from locations such as Beerwah, Khag, Hardpanzoo, Chadoora, Kanigund, Doodganga and Water-hall.

Police said legal action has been initiated against those involved under relevant laws, while the Department of Geology and Mining

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TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Late Avtar Krishan Raina** S/o Radha Krishan Raina of Darapora (Lolab), Kupwara & at present H. No. 80, Lane No. 2, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 15 April 2026.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at "Muthi Ghat" near Directorate of School Education on 24 April 2026 at 8:30 AM.

Grief Stricken**(Mother & Father)**

Smt. Raj Kumari & Sh. Radha Krishan Raina

(Uncle & Aunt)

Smt. Usha Raina & Sh. Jager Nath Raina

(Brothers & Sisters-in-law)

Smt. Girja Raina & Sh. Mahraj Krishan Raina

Smt. Sweety Raina **(Wife)**Smt. Seema Raina & Sh. Sanjay Kumar Raina **(Brother & Sister-in-law)**Smt. Luxmi Raina & Sh. Dileep Kumar Raina **(Brother & Sister-in-law)**Smt. Usha & Sh. Vinod Kumar Raina **(Brother & Sister-in-law)**Smt. Dazy Bhat & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat **(Sister & Brother-in-law)**Smt. Bawana Kaul & Sh. Ankush Raina **(Son & Daughter-in-law)**Mr. Ankit Raina **(Son)**Smt. Savita Raina & Sh. Bharat Bushan Raina **(Cousin & Sister-in-law)**

Smt. Manju Raina & Sandeep Raina



Late Avtar Krishan Raina

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Bushan Lal** (Bhaisahab), S/o Late Sh. Janaki Nath Pandita, originally from Waterkhami, Kupwara, and presently residing at H. No. 35, General Lane, Baraswahi Vihar, Anand Nagar, Bohni, Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 13-04-2026.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on Wednesday, 22-04-2026, at Akhnor Ghat, Akhnor.

The condolence meeting (Assembly) will follow at our residence at 9:45 a.m.

Grief Stricken:**Mother:** Smt. Jai Kishori**Wife:** Smt. Suman Bala**Son and Daughter-in-law:**

Sh. Anil Pandita and Smt. Shaleen Tiwari

Brothers and Bhabhis:

Sh. Sunita Pandita & Smt. Dura Pandita

Smt. Beauty Pandita, W/o Late Sh. Tej Kishan Pandita

Sh. Sanjay Pandita & Smt. Surja Kaul

Sh. Rakesh Pandita & Smt. Princy Bhat

Sh. Karan Kishore Pandita & Smt. Sheela Bhat

Nephew and Niece:

Sh. Yogesh Pandita and Smt. Shweta Bhat

Sh. Sumit Pandita and Smt. Riya Kaul

Ayush, Anish, Harshit, Annav, Tanishka and Dakshita

Sh. Bushan Lal
(Bhaisahab)

Grandchildren:
Vivash and Tyranah
9419149956, 9682670719 &
9898708685

TENTH DAY KRIYA**IN ETERNAL REMEMBRANCE**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our beloved **Sh Som Nath Bhat** S/o Late Sh. Amar Chand Bhat of Kilam, Kulgam presently residing at H. No. 141, Sector 3, Durga Nagar Jammu has left for his heavenly abode on 11th April 2026.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director's office at 9 am on 20/04/2026 (Monday)

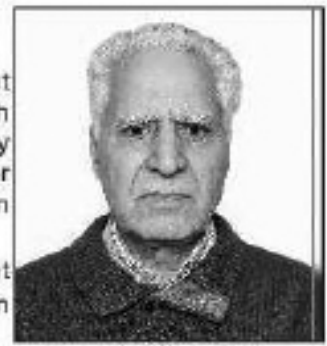
Grief Stricken**Asha Bhat (Wife)****(Daughters and Son in laws)**

Smt. Princy and Sh. Inder Ji Raina

Smt. Ruboy and Sh. Vikas Dulo

Son and Daughter in law

Sh. Sunny and Smt. Purna Bhat

Smt. Roopashri **(Bhabhi)**Smt. Meenaji Bhat **(Bhabhi)****SAMAST BHAT, TRAKROO AND WALI PARVAR**Sh Som Nath Bhat
01-09-1935-11-04-2026**10TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of my beloved wife **Smt Durga Sadhu (Labroo)** R/o 1035, Jawahar Nagar, Tallab Tillo, Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 19th April 2026 at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education.

Time : 9.00 am**Grief Stricken****Moti Lal Labroo (Husband)****LABROO'S, SADHU'S, WAZIR'S**

9419111500, 9796038064, 9810480924,
9682684188

Smt Durga Sadhu
(Labroo)**10TH DAY KRIYA**

10TH DAY KRIYA of **Karamyogni Smt. Krishna Razdan** (Kishni, Rani, Behanji) wife of Late Shri Moti Lal Razdan of Razdan Mohalla, Anantnag at present 117/3 Dream City, Muthi Jammu shall be performed at Muthi Ghat on 19th of April 2026 with assembly at 9 am.

IN GRIEF:**Veena Razdan/ Koul - Daughter in law****Daughters & Son in laws**

Neeti Razdan & I K Raina

Anjani Razdan & Rakesh Goja

Grand Children

Naveen Raina & Khushboo Agrawal

Praveen Raina & Arushi Koul

Marut Razdan & Neha Talashi

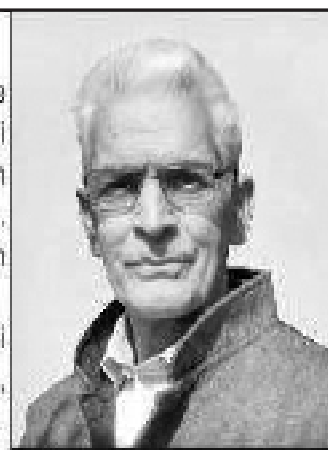
Vikas Goja

Dr. Ridhi Goja

MOB: 9086495307, 7889563239, 9419108745Karamyogni
Smt. Krishna Razdan
(Kishni, Rani, Behanji)**OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Karamyogi Sh. Chaman Lal Koul** (Dady), originally from Ishber- Nishat, Srinagar and at present H.No. 425 Sec.2, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi Jammu on April 9, 2026.

10th day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of Education Office, Muthi) on 18-04-2026 (Saturday) at 9:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:**Veena Koul (Daughter)****P L Pandita (Son-in-law)****Viyoma & Aditya - Grandchildren****Contact Nos: 9419184734, 9419091420**Sh. Chaman Lal Koul
(Dady)**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Bodh Raj ji** (Bhaderwahi) who left for his heavenly abode on 10-04-2026.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will take place at Gurha Brahmana Patoli on 18-04-2026.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Seema Devi (Wife)****Son-Daughter in law**

Ravi Parihar and Nirmal Parihar

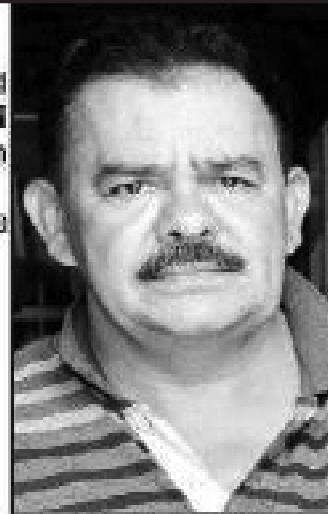
Komal and Ankush Ji - Daughter & Son in law**Brothers**

Badri Nath, Banta Devi

Hakam Singh, Kallasho Devi

Rajender and Raj Kumari

Uttam Singh - Beena Devi

Grand Children:- Vineet, Abhay, Raghav, Kiara, Auguste**PH NUMBER 9596666618**Sh Bodh Raj ji
(Bhaderwahi)**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we deeply regret to inform the sad demise of our father **Shri Chaman Lal Raina** S/o Lt. Prakash Ram Raina of Razdan Mohalla Handwara at present H.No. 63, Sec-2, Sharika Vihar Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 14-04-2026.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 23-04-2026 at 8:30 AM Near Directorate of School Education Muthi, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Smt. Raj Duleri****Smt. Shella Raina****Son & Daughter-in-law**

Smt. & Sh. Rozi Raina & Setesh Kumar Raina

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. & Sh. Anju Pandita & Rupesh Pandita

Grand Children: Ayush, Dananjay, Vanshika**& Samast Parivaar of Raina, Pandita, Tickoo's****Phone No: 7006687676, 9796014397**SHRI CHAMAN LAL
RAINA**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, I inform the sad demise of my beloved Wife **Sujata Zadoo (Dolly)**, wife of Anil Kumar Zadoo, originally from 172 Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, and presently residing at C-6, Sector 47, Noida, U.P.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Chotta Haridwar, Upper Ganga Canal Road, Muradnagar, U.P. on 18 April 2026 (Saturday) at 8:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

The Zadoos, Ganjus, Gargs, Revos, Rewoos and Razdans.



Sujata Zadoo (Dolly)

OBITUARY / 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raj Dulhari Kaul**, lovingly called "Didaji", wife of Late Shri Motilal Kaul (Bagh), originally from Bagh Jogilankar, Rahawari, and presently residing at 223-D, Pocket F, Dilshad Garden, Delhi - 110093.

She passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, 14th April 2026.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on Thursday, 23rd April 2026 at Moradnagar Ghat (UP) at 8:00 AM.

Following the rituals, the **10TH DAY KRIYA**

Assembly will be held at our residence:

223-D, Pocket F, Dilshad Garden, Delhi - 110093,

from 12:00 PM onwards.

GRIEF-STRICKEN:**Veena Kaul & Anil Kaul (Daughter-in-law & Son)****Bhawna & Ashutosh Hanjura (Daughter & Son-in-law)****Vandana & Vibhav Safaya (Daughter & Son-in-law)****Grandchildren:** Kashish, Krishna, Abhay, Aabha, Paerastish**Great Grandchildren:** Zuhie, Sitara, Kaavya**AND SAMAST KAUL & BHAN PARIVAR,****HANJURAS, SAFAYAS & KAMBOJS**

SMT. RAJ DULHARI KAUL

RASAM PAGRI & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **Late Sh. Krishan Kumar Kalsotra** S/o Late Sh. Chuni Lal Kalsotra, R/o Trikuta Ice Factory Udhampur.

Rasam Pagri & Uthala will be performed on Saturday, 16th April 2026 at 5:00 PM to 5:30 PM at K.D.N. Palace Near Women collage

GRIEF STRICKEN:**Smt. Ram Pyari (Mother)****Sh. Reva Kalsotra (Wife)****(Daughter-in-law & Son)****Smt. Hasm & Anil Mahajan****(Daughter & Son-in-law)****Smt. Manisha & Sunil Gandra****(Sisters & Brother-in-law)****Smt. Komla Gupta & Sh. Babji Gupta****Smt. Kusum Gupta & Late Sh. Anil Gupta****Brothers & Sister-in-law:**

Sh. Ravi Kalsotra & Late Smt. Urmil Gupta

Sh. Varinder Kalsotra & Smt. Babila Gupta

Late Sh. Anil Kalsotra & Smt. Jyoti Gupta

Grand Children: Reyansh, Aranya & Dhaliya**A.V. Traders.****Arpen Associates.****Chuni Lal Kalsotra & Sons****Kalsotra Trading Co.****Trikuta Ice Factory.****979222305, 9419160364, 9622039403, 9906321870, 9086241111**LATE SH. KRISHAN KUMAR
KALSOTRA**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief, we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved **Manoj Kumar Nathoo** on 11th April 2026. Resident of Building No 123 Lane No 21 Jagti Colony Jagti.

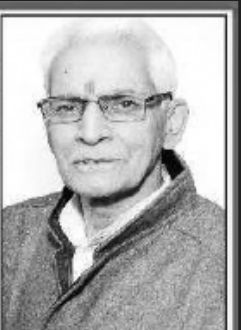
10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 20th April 2026 at **Manoj Kumar Nathoo** 8:00 AM at Akhnor.

Followed by **Assembly** at 12:00 PM at Muthi Ghat, near Director of Education Office, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN BY**Nathoo's, Bhagat's, Shah's, Mantoo's, Rayu's, Nakhasi's****MOB: 9682360887, 7006493387****OM SHANTI OM SHANTI OM SHANTI !!!****10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Karamyogi Sh. Chaman Lal Koul**, originally from Ishber, Nishat Srinagar A/P H.No. 425 Sec2, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi Jammu.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of Education office) on 18-04-2026 (Saturday) at 9:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:**(Son & Daughter-in-law)****M K Koul & Sunita Koul****(Son & Daughter-in-law)****Rajesh Koul & Sunaina Koul****(Daughter & Son-in-law)****Veena Koul & P.L. Pandita****Jaya Ji Mujoo W/o Lt. Shamboo Nath Mujoo (Sister & Brother-in-law)****Sheela Ji Kachroo W/o Lt. Jagar Nath Kachroo (Sister & Brother-in-law)****Isha, Anu, Rishu, Ishan, Aditya - Grandchildren****CONTACT NOS. 7021143315, 9622062872, 9419184734**Karamyogi Sh. Chaman
Lal Koul**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Anil Kumar Bhat**, S/o Lt. Janaki Nath Bhat of Raj Ghat Baramulla & at present House No. 16/A, Lane No. 12, Hazuri Bagh Bohni, Jammu, who left heavenly abode on April 12th, 2026.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at "Muthi Ghat" near Directorate of School Education on April 21st, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:**Smt. Nimmi Bhat (Wife)****(Daughter-in-law and Son)****Dr. Sapna and Dr. Pranoy Bhat****(Daughter and Son-in-law)****Mrs. Rashmi and Mr. Kunal Lekhi****Smt. Sunita and Sh. Amit Bhat (Bhabhi and Brother)****Smt. Indu Ji Bhat (Badi Bhabhi)****Smt. Asha and Sh. R.L. Bhat (Sister and Brother-in-law)****Smt. Ramee and Sh. R.N. Kaw (Sister and Brother-in-law)****Smt. Promila and Sh. Upinder Challa (Sister and Brother-in-law)****Diya and Palvi Bhat (Children)****Saumya Bhat (Grand-child)****CONTACT: 7889800446, 7006550156**

SH. ANIL KUMAR BHAT

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our brother **Sh. Rattan Lal Bakaya** S/o Late N N Bakaya R/o Shelling Habba Kadal II Bridge Srinagar Kashmir presently at Shahpora Stadium Colony Shahpora Wathora Chadoora Budgam Kashmir who left for his heavenly abode on 14.4.2026.

10th Day Kriya will be observed on 23rd April 2026 at Purshya temple Haba Kadal Srinagar at 9 AM.

Grief Stricken**Smt. Sunita Bakaya (Wife)****Smt. Pooja Bakaya & Anil Handoo (Daughter & Son in law)****Smt. Usha Bakaya & A K Bakaya (Bhabhi & Brother)****Smt. Sarita Bakaya & Parveen Bakaya (Bhabhi & Brother)****(Sister & Brother in law)****Smt. Krishna Karinaaloo & Late G K Karinaaloo****Deeply Remembered by Wali & Handoo Parivar**

Municipal worker union condemns attack on JMC sweepers, demands safety measures



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Municipal Worker Union Town Hall Jammu has strongly condemned the recent violent incident in which sweepers working under the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) were allegedly brutally assaulted by two men using sticks and swords.

Addressing a press briefing, Rinku Gill, President of the Municipal Worker Union, termed the incident deeply unfortunate and raised serious concerns regarding the safety and security of sanitation workers performing their duties across the city.

He said sanitation workers leave their homes early in the morning, travel long distances, and clean areas that are often unfamiliar to them. In such circumstances, if they face vio-

lent attacks, the question arises as to who will ensure their safety.

Gill stated that while the Union does not support violence from any side, even if there was any misunderstanding or mistake, it should have been resolved through dialogue and lawful means rather than through the use of dangerous weapons.

He questioned whether some individuals have become so intolerant that they resort to swords and physical violence over minor civic issues. He added that residents can always approach the police or concerned JMC authorities for resolution of grievances.

The Union President further said that several sanitation workers reportedly suffered serious injuries in the incident. He noted that had any worker lost his life

or suffered permanent disability, it would have devastated their families, leaving children orphaned and wives widowed.

During the press conference, Rinku Gill also criticized certain self-styled leaders who, according to him, tried to exploit the situation for personal and political gains. He alleged that one individual claiming to represent municipal workers had no official designation and was misleading workers while creating panic among the sanitation staff.

He urged the people of Jammu and members of the community not to take the law into their own hands and instead settle disputes through peaceful discussion and legal channels.

Gill also demanded strict police action against those involved in the assault as well as against anyone attempting to worsen such matters for publicity.

Reiterating support for municipal workers, he said sanitation staff play a vital role in keeping the city clean and deserve dignity, protection, and respect while performing their duties.

Omar Govt turning tide in Jammu with new development momentum: Rattan Lal



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President (Jammu) Rattan Lal Gupta on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party, asserting that the party is rapidly losing ground in Jammu as people have begun to see through what he described as its "years of hollow promises, neglect, and political opportunism."

Interacting with a public deputation from Ward No. 32, Gole Gujral, Talab Tillo Jammu, led by Sardar Harcharan Singh, Gupta said that the BJP's track record in Jammu stands exposed. "For years, the BJP sought votes in the name of development and regional aspirations, but once in power—whether in local bodies, legislature, or even during direct rule—they abandoned Jammu and its people," he said. District President Jammu Urban Chandar Mohan Sharma was also present on the occasion.

Gupta accused the BJP of turning a blind eye to pressing civic and urban challenges, including traffic congestion, poor transportation systems, environmental degradation, waste management failures, faulty drainage leading to flooding, recurring power outages, dilapidated roads, and the lack of affordable housing. "Not a single concrete step was taken. No upgradation, no augmentation, just empty slogans and blame games," he remarked.

He further alleged that the BJP "misused the mandate of the people of Jammu," adding that even during times of crisis, its representatives were missing from the ground. "During the recent floods, it was only the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his cabinet colleagues who were seen actively responding. BJP MLAs were nowhere to be found," he said.

Taking aim at the party's broader governance record, Gupta said that despite having power at the Centre and previously being part of the government in Jammu and Kashmir,

the BJP failed to deliver on urban development or preserve the region's identity. "Instead of working for the people, they focused on creating divisions. Today, our temples are in disrepair, heritage is crumbling, and key public institu-

tions are weakening. This is the legacy of BJP's governance," he added.

Gupta said the political mood in Jammu is now shifting decisively. "People are no longer willing to be misled on the basis of region

or religion. They have understood the reality and are ready to hold the BJP accountable for its failures," he asserted.

Highlighting the efforts of the current administration, Gupta said that the government led by Omar Abdullah is working with commitment to

reverse the developmental setbacks of the past decade. "There is a visible change on the ground. The Chief Minister and his team are accessible, responsive, and focused on real governance. Jammu is finally witnessing leadership that listens and acts," he said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice	
Sr.DEE/GJAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.irps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.	
Tender No.: 251-J-Elect-T-03-2026-27	
Name of work: Electrical Work in c/w Provision of air conditioners in Station Master's Office/Panel/VDU room/Power Cabins at 75 stations/locations over Jammu division.	
App. Cost (in ₹): 56,66,504.40	
Earnest Money (in ₹): 1,13,300.00	
Completion period: 6 Months	
Opening of tender: 08.05.2026 after 15:00 Hrs	
Website Particulars: www.irps.gov.in	
No.: 251-J-Elect/T. Notice No.03-Elect/2026-27 Dated: 16.04.2026 1262/2026	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

GGM Science College intensifies fight against drug abuse under NMBA



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: GGM Science College, Jammu, organized a series of impactful activities under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among students.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation and featured three major activities, including an Essay Writing Competition, an Elocution Contest on the theme "Drug: The Silent Killer", and a Pledge Ceremony wherein students collectively resolved to lead and advocate a drug-free life.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta highlighted the pivotal role of youth in shaping a drug-free society. He

commended the active involvement of students and encouraged them to become ambassadors of change, spreading awareness within their communities.

The event was efficiently coordinated by Dr. Rahul Kait, Convener NCORD and Coordinator CWASC Committee, along with Dr. Neha Sharma, NSS Programme Officer and Co-Coordinator CWASC.

The competitions were adjudged by a distinguished panel comprising Dr. Brinder Kumar (Convener, Science Club), Prof. BalKrishan (Convener, Psychological Counseling Cell), and Dr. Nitasha Swahny (Convener, Eco Club).

Among the prominent faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Sheetu Raina, Dr. Majid Bhatt, Dr. Syed Mujtaba, Prof. Kiran

Bala (HoD Biotechnology), Dr. Rozy Bomba (Convener, Red Ribbon Club), Prof. Poonam Kundan, Prof. Gourav Gupta, Dr. Neha Gupta, and Prof. Kirti.

A large number of NSS volunteers, NCC cadets, and students actively participated in the activities, reflecting their strong commitment to the cause of a drug-free society.

In the Elocution Contest, Ridhima secured the first position, followed by Amir in second place.

The joint third position was shared by Nabhiha and Krish, while Yash secured the fourth position. The programme concluded with a collective pledge reaffirming the participants' dedication to uphold the values of a drug-free society and to contribute meaningfully towards the success of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

Shri Ram Chandra Mission delegation calls on LG

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: A delegation of Shri Ram Chandra Mission led by its Working Committee Member R C Gupta called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Friday.



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

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-NIT No. 02 of 2026-27 Dated:- 16.04.2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri, invites e-tenders (in 2 covers) on item rate basis from Original pump manufacturers/memorandum of understanding with principal pump manufacturers / their authorized dealers/ registered in DIC / reputed contractors (electromechanical works) of MES/CPWD/Water works corporations of different states for below mentioned work at Water Supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri, of Jammu Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on Turnkey basis.

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. **Cover I** consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and **Cover II** consisting of Financial Bid, in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particular of the works	Estimated cost (in lakh)	Tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money deposit (in Rs.)	Bid validity	Time of completion of work (Days)
1	Providing Installation Testing and Commissioning of pumping machinery along with Electro Mechanical Components at WSSDOONG of Jal Shakti PHE Mech Division Rajouri UT of J&K under Jal Jeevan Mission JJM on Turnkey basis	78.00	1000.00 (Rs. One Thousand only)	2% Of Estimated Cost	180 days	150 days

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Position of AAA : Accorded

Position of T.S : Sanctioned

Tender inviting authority: Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri.

CRITICAL DATES:

a) Publish Date	16.04.2026
b) Document Download/sale start date	16.04.2026
c) Date of Pre-bid meeting	18.04.2026
d) Bids submission start date	19.04.2026
e) Bids submission end date	29.04.2026
f) Date of Bid opening	30.04.2026

1. Bidding documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

2. The pre-bid meetings shall be held in the office chamber of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri.

3. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bidding document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

4. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri.

5. Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document and EMD as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table and shall be payable at Rajouri.

6. **EMD** to be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri. **EMD** will be in the form of CDR/ FDR of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 06 months from the last date of submission of bid.

7. The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR under Major Head, **MH: 0215 WSS** (Revenue head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank branch Rajouri bearing bank account No. **0020010200000966**, IFSC Code **JAKAORADISH** in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri. No Demand Draft/Cheque will be accepted. **No exemption of cost of tender documents of any kind shall be considered.**

8. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidders who are declared as item wise L1.

9. The bid shall remain valid for a period of **180 days** from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

Sd /Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division
Rajouri

DIP/J-660/26

No. PHE/MDR/222-32
Dated: -16.04.2026

EDITORIAL

Growing Threat to Society

Social media has transformed the way people communicate, share ideas, and stay informed. It has connected families across distances, helped businesses grow, and given ordinary citizens a platform to express themselves. However, alongside these benefits, social media has also become a breeding ground for inflammatory content that spreads anger, hatred, misinformation, and division. This growing trend has become a serious threat to social harmony, democratic values, and mental well-being.

Inflammatory social media content refers to posts, videos, messages, or comments designed to provoke strong emotional reactions such as rage, fear, or hatred. Such content often targets communities, religions, political groups, or individuals. It may include false claims, edited videos, abusive language, and rumours presented as facts. Since shocking and emotional material attracts more attention, it spreads rapidly across platforms.

One of the biggest dangers of inflammatory content is its ability to divide society. Communities that have lived peacefully for years can suddenly become suspicious of one another because of misleading posts. Hate-filled messages can deepen existing tensions and create new conflicts. In many cases, rumours spread online have led to protests, mob violence, and damage to public property. A single false message shared thousands of times can create panic within hours.

Another major concern is the effect on democracy. Social media is now an important source of political information for many citizens. When inflammatory propaganda replaces facts and reasoned debate, public discourse becomes toxic. Instead of discussing policies, employment, education, health care, or development, people become trapped in endless arguments fueled by anger. Elections and public opinion can also be influenced by fake narratives carefully designed to manipulate emotions.

The impact on young people is equally serious. Many students spend several hours daily on social media. Constant exposure to abusive language, extreme opinions, and aggressive behaviour can normalize hostility. It can increase anxiety, stress, and emotional instability. Young minds may begin to believe that insulting others is a normal form of expression. This weakens empathy, patience, and respectful dialogue.

The reasons behind the rise of inflammatory content are clear. Social media algorithms often reward sensational posts because they generate clicks, comments, and shares. Some users seek fame or followers through controversy. Political groups may use such material to polarize society. Others simply forward messages without verifying facts, unknowingly becoming part of the problem.

Controlling this issue requires shared responsibility. Social media companies must strengthen moderation systems, remove hate content quickly, and act against repeated offenders. Governments should create fair and transparent regulations that punish incitement to violence while protecting freedom of expression. Law enforcement agencies must respond promptly when online content threatens public safety.

At the same time, citizens have the most important role. Every user should think before posting or sharing. If a message creates sudden anger or fear, it should be verified before forwarding. Respectful disagreement is healthy, but abuse and hatred are not. Parents and teachers should also guide young people on digital ethics and responsible online behaviour.

Media literacy must become a priority. Schools and colleges should teach students how to identify fake news, manipulated images, and misleading narratives. An informed public is the strongest defence against inflammatory propaganda.

Social media itself is not the enemy. It is a powerful tool that can educate, inspire, and unite people. But when used irresponsibly, it can damage trust and peace. Society must choose whether these platforms become spaces of constructive dialogue or engines of division. The time has come to reject inflammatory content and promote truth, responsibility, and respect online.

Pakistan Albatross Around Neckof India &----

By: Omkar Dattatray

The phrase ‘Pakistan albatross around the neck of India’ describes Pakistan as a persistent, burdensome liability that restricts India’s rise as a global power and hinders its regional stability. This metaphor, often used in Indian strategic discourse, signifies how tensions, terrorism, and unresolved disputes [like Kashmir] drain India’s diplomatic military, and economic resources. If Pakistan is Albatross around the neck of India, then it is also true that congress is albatross around the neck of Modi government. Congress never loses any opportunity to criticise and attack Modi government even on less significant matters. Congress has become an obstacle and hinders the performance of the BJP headed NDA government. Congress always remains on its toes to level false allegations on the Modi government. Congress is busy in doing negative politics and it blindly criticises each and every act of the Modi government and BJP and Modi government is trying to break the congress albatross around the neck of its government. Seen unbiasedly, it can be safely argued that congress has no policy and it fails short of doing constructive politics which is the prerogative and privilege of the opposition but in this respect, congress miserably fails and this party remains ever busy in criticising the government of Modi as this government and Modi is the bet nori of congress. Remember congress is not coming out of the political shocks and this party has become irrelevant in modern Indian politics save only to oppose every action of the Modi government. It has no ideology except to follow and further vote bank politics and minority appeasement. The grand old party congress is not shy of its position and condition in the country political landscape. This party has become irrelevant in the political firmament of the country. Congress is uneasy over the Modi governments development agenda and its shining performance and creates obstacles in the growth and development of the country and is doing negative politics. Congress is obsessed with the Pakistan foiba and it is congress which is working in tune of Pakistan. Infact, Congress’s passive and lenient approach viz a viz Pakistan has in fact exposed Congress and the results are before our eyes as the congress has totally failed to make itself relevant on pan India basis. Congress is busy in creating hurdles in the development efforts of the government with the result it criticises all good as well as not so good works of the

incumbent government. Modi has rightly said that congress is playing to the tunes of Pakistan and that party’s love for Pakistan is not hidden from anyone. Congress is consistently following minority appeasement politics and its vote bank politics is known to all. Senior Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar described the strained relationship with Pakistan as an ‘albatross around our necks,’ arguing in 2023 that India cannot become a global power [Vishwaguru] until it improves relations with its western neighbour. Aiyar advocated for sustained dialogue, citing his experience as Consul General in Karachi. Albatross metaphor refers to a burdensome problem that is difficult to escape, stemming from a poem where a sailor is forced to wear a dead bird as punishment.

Key Aspects of the ‘Albatross’ Metaphor--1---Regional Hindrance---Veteran diplomat Mani Shankar Aiyar argued that until India resolves its issues with Pakistan, it cannot ‘take its due place in the world’ or achieve its full potential. 2---Diplomatic & Security Drain---The ongoing conflict forces India to focus disproportionate energy on its neighbour, reducing its ability to focus on broader global initiatives. 3---Terrorism and Infiltration---Cross-border terrorism, such as the Mumbai attack, Pulwama attack etc. forces India into a reactive posture, causing persistent security challenges. The April 22, 2025 Pahalgam attack and post response of India resulted into a conflict with Pakistan and since then the relations further nosedived and thus creating problems for India to emerge as a regional and global power. 4---Proxy Warfare Constraints---Pakistan’s strategic aim to check India through non-conventional warfare has often necessitated large-scale military deployment along the LoC and international border. 5---Contextual Shift-A ‘Taliban’-shaped ‘Burden for Pakistan’---Recent analysis indicates a significant shift, suggesting that Pakistan is now dealing with its own ‘albatross’—the Taliban. This is described as a ‘Taliban’-shaped albatross’ resulting from Pakistan’s own efforts to gain strategic depth, which has now become a ‘lethal liability’ threatening Pakistan’s own security. Mani Shankar Aiyar said, ‘until Pakistan is ‘albatross around our necks, we will not be able to take our due place in world.’ Aiyar said he asked himself the question through his three years there and for the last 40 years since he came back from Pakistan. Some years back battling for resumption of dialogue with Pakistan, diplomat-turned politician Mani Shankar Aiyar said India will not be able to take its due place in the world as long as its western neighbour is an albatross

around our necks. The congress leader, who served as India’s consul general in Karachi from December 1978-January 1982, has dedicated a full chapter to his Pakistan stint in his autobiography Memoirs of a Maverick -The First Fifty Years [1941-1991] that hit the stands. In an interview with PTI on his new book, published by Juggernaut Books, Aiyar said the high point of his bureaucratic career was undoubtedly his stint as consul general in Pakistan and he has dwelt at very great length on his three years in Karachi in the first volume out now. India’s ‘biggest asset’ ‘in Pakistan were the people three who did not consider it an enemy country, he said. Aiyar further said, ‘I have come to the conclusion that whatever may be the view of the sections of the army, or sections of polity, as far as the people of Pakistan are concerned, they are neither an enemy country nor do they regard India as an enemy country.’ ‘Every time we want to display our disapproval of the [Pakistan] government, visas are stopped, films are stopped, TV exchanges are stopped, books are stopped, travel is stopped, so I do not see why we do not know how to leverage the goodwill of the people of Pakistan as an integral part of our diplomatic approach,’ Aiyar added. ‘For the last nine years all dialogue between India and Pakistan has been frozen,’ he noted. ‘Until Mr. Modi became PM of India, almost every PM, if he had the time, was attempting some kind of a dialogue with the Pakistan but now we are in a freeze and the victims of this freeze are not the army of Pakistan, which is still swigging its scotch, it is the people of Pakistan whose relatives in large numbers live in India and many of whom have a desire to visit our country,’ he said. Suggestions for India include having the patience and persistence to deal with a difficult neighbour while maintaining ‘strict policing and border management’ ‘to prevent illegal infiltration and terrorism. Others argue that India should be more assertive, shifting from strategic patience to using economic and strategic tools to neutralize the threat. To conclude it can be said that Pakistan is an albatross around the neck of India, and at the same time it will not be inappropriate to say that congress is albatross around the neck of Modi government. Both, these situations have to be rectified sooner or later.

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

A new milestone in Haryanvi short story: “Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar”

By: Dr. Vijay Garg

For the first time, “Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar” brings together 33 Haryanvi short story writers from India and abroad. This unique collection of 99 short stories offers a vivid glimpse of Haryana’s soil, folk culture, and human sensibilities. This work is dedicated to the memory of Mr. Manumukt ‘Manav’, IPS, a youth inspiration. Published in 2026 under the guidance of Dr. Ramniwas ‘Manav’, compiled by Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, and with a cover designed by Surendra Bansal, this 121-page work is priced at ₹275. It is a must-have for lovers of Haryanvi literature.

The true strength of every language lies in its soil, and from that very soil its letters are born. “Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar” is a collection of short stories that captures this sweet fragrance, not only bringing to the fore the vibrant Haryanvi dialect but also strengthening the influential literary genre that has become the most relevant in today’s fast-paced life—the short story.

This collection, edited by Dr. Satyavan ‘Saurabh’ and compiled by Dr. Priyanka ‘Saurabh’, includes a total of 99 short stories by 33 short story writers. This number is not just a statistic, but an indication of the emerging form of the Haryanvi short story. For a long time, Haryanvi literature was largely limited to folk songs, raginis, and storytelling, but this collection shows that this dialect is now making its strong presence felt in modern literary genres as well.

The defining characteristic of a short story is its brevity, but reading this collection, one feels that

the words are few, yet the impact is profound. Each work is centered on a single event, emotion, or social situation, instantly engaging the reader. These stories are not only read, but also felt—and this is the greatest success of this collection.

The book’s greatest strength lies in its diverse subject matter. It explores life’s many shades—the sweetness of relationships, the harsh realities of society, the simplicity of rural life, and the complexities of changing times. “Tadakai Ki Maa” reflects the sensitivity of motherhood, “Izzat Ki Paribhasa” questions social norms, “Bahu Bihar Ki” exposes social prejudices, while works like “Mati Ki Sondh” and “Ghunghat Aur Ghadi” offer a vivid portrait of Haryana’s connection to its cultural roots.

The simplicity and straightforward nature of the Haryanvi language make these short stories even more impressive. There’s no artificiality or pretense in the language, but rather a natural flow that reaches directly to the reader. This collection reinforces the belief that the depth of literature lies not in the complexity of language, but in its sensitivity.

However, there is one aspect of this book that draws attention—the lack of linguistic uniformity. Since it includes works by many authors, different forms of Haryanvi emerge. In some places, the language is pure folk, while in others, the influence of Hindi is clearly visible. This diversity, on the one hand, makes the collection comprehensive, but on the other, it also lacks a uniform linguistic flow. Nevertheless, this should be seen as a natural condition of the evolving form of Haryanvi rather than a shortcoming.

Many of the works in this collec-

tion sharply attack social anomalies. Short stories like “Dogla,” “Kagzi Samaj Seva,” “Leader,” and “Crowd and Leader” satirize the hypocrisy, pretense, and hollow leadership prevalent in society. Works like “Daughter’s Honor,” “Lioness Mother,” and “Women’s Rights” effectively present women’s struggles, self-respect, and changing social roles. The hallmark of these stories is their straightforward portrayal of reality without unnecessary sentimentality.

An important aspect of this book is that it features both new and experienced writers. This not only maintains literary balance but also provides new writers with an opportunity to express themselves. This effort is also important because the emergence of new talent is essential for the development of any language.

Dr. Ramniwas ‘Manav’s’ preface provides an ideological foundation for this collection. The clarity with which he presents the current state of the Haryanvi short story, its challenges, and its potential, makes the reader realize the seriousness of this genre. Meanwhile, Surendra Bansal’s “Creative Enterprise Nai Sadhuwad” commends this effort and establishes it as a positive literary initiative.

Overall, “Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar” is not just a short story collection, but an important document for Haryanvi literature. It attempts to fill a void where very little work has been done so far. This collection not only highlights current writing but also points to future possibilities.

Ultimately, it can be said that this book fully achieves its objective. It not only entertains readers but also inspires them to think, understand, and view their society from a new perspective. This is an

invaluable work for lovers of the Haryanvi language, as well as for all those interested in the literature of Indian folk languages.

“Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar” is indeed a remarkable literary effort that powerfully presents the fragrance of its soil and the power of its letters – which has the potential to give a new identity and a new direction to the Haryanvi short story.

Book Details and Availability
Title: My soil, my letters (Haryanvi short story collection)
Publisher: Pragyanshala, RK Features (Regd.), Bhiwani (Haryana), India
ISBN: 978-81-998644-4-3
Price: ₹275/-
Page Number: 121
Availability: Online and offline
How to buy:
Get it by contacting the publisher/editor directly
Contact Number: 9466526148 7015375570
Online Purchase: Search on Google – “Mhari Matti Mhare Akhar Book”

(Dr. Vijay Garg)
(Retired Principal, Educationist and Columnist)
Address: Street Kaur, Chand Marg, Malout, Punjab
(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker)

Vivek Bali meets Director AIIMS Jammu, discusses key public health concerns



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Vivek Bali, State President, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), today held a significant meeting with the Director of AIIMS Jammu to discuss various issues concerning healthcare facilities and public welfare in the region.

During the meeting, Vivek Bali highlighted the need for strengthening healthcare infrastructure, ensuring

timely medical services, and addressing the challenges faced by patients, especially those from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. He emphasized the importance of improving accessibility, availability of specialized treatments, and enhancing coordination between departments for efficient service delivery. Dilawar Singh, Political Advisor, was also present during the meeting and actively

participated in the discussions. He stressed the importance of policy-level interventions to ensure better healthcare outcomes and extended full support towards initiatives aimed at public welfare. The Director AIIMS Jammu assured that the institution remains committed to providing high-quality medical services and acknowledged the concerns raised. He further assured that necessary steps would be taken to address the issues discussed. Vivek Bali reiterated SBSP's commitment to advocating for the welfare of the people and ensuring that their voices are heard at all levels. He expressed hope that such engagements would lead to meaningful improvements in the healthcare sector.

Symposium on Road Safety Awareness at GCW Udhampur



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 17: In a significant move to curb road mishappenings and instill traffic discipline among the youth, the Road Safety Club, Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur, in collaboration with the IQAC organized a comprehensive Symposium on Road Safety Awareness program today.

The event held in the college's multipurpose hall, saw enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members of the college.

The symposium was graced by Dr. Nalini Pathania, Principal of GCW Udhampur, who served as the Chief Guest of the program. The event commenced with a formal welcome address by the Nodal Officer of the Road Safety Club, Prof. Pardeep Singh who highlighted the alarming statistics of road-related fatalities in the region and the urgent need for behavioral change among young commuters.

During the symposium, students presented well-

researched arguments and emotional appeals regarding traffic safety. After a rigorous evaluation by a panel of judges based on content, delivery, and impact, the winners were announced. Sonia Devi of semester 8th secured the prestigious First Position for her compelling discourse on the psychology of defensive driving. Renu followed the Second Position with an insightful presentation on the legal implications of traffic violations, while Manisha clinched the Third Position among ten participants.

In her keynote address, Chief Guest Dr. Nalini Pathania, Principal of the college lauded the participants for their depth of knowledge and passion.

She remarked, "Road safety is not merely a set of rules but a culture of respect for one's own life and the lives of others. Our students are the most effective change-makers in society.

By becoming 'Road Safety Ambassadors,' they can carry this vital message from this campus to every house-

hold in Udhampur.

She further emphasized that adhering to speed limits, avoiding the use of mobile phones while driving, and wearing ISI-marked helmets are non-negotiable practices for a civilized society.

In the end of the program, Certificates of Participation was given to the participants and refreshment was distributed to all the students who have attended the program.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Yash Kumar from Dept. of Music GCW Udhampur who expressed gratitude to all staff members and students for their active participation on this important occasion.

The program was attended by the senior most faculty including Dr. Monika Gupta, Dr. Mool Raj, Dr. Ajay Sharma, Dr. Ravinder Kumar, Dr. Om Parkash, Prof. Yash Paul, Dr. Mukesh Sharma, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Dr. Mukteshi Sharma, Prof. Safina Chaudhary, Dr. Ravi Kumar and around Hundred students of college.

Drug peddler held with Charas

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Apr 17: Police on Friday apprehended a drug peddler during naka checking at Chatergul Chowk and recovered a significant quantity of charas from his possession.

Officials said that an Alto vehicle bearing registration number

JK03K-9820 was intercepted during routine checking. During the search, around 1 kilogram of charas powder and nearly 100 grams of charas in ball form were recovered.

The accused has been identified as Farooq Ahmad Khan, son of Fazil Khan, a resident of Poshnari.

A case under FIR No. 39/2026 has been registered under relevant sections of law, and further investigation has been set into motion.

Police reiterated their resolve to curb drug trafficking and appealed to the public for cooperation in eliminating the drug menace.

“Amarnath Yatra set to break all records”
Devotees must adhere to guidelines issued by SASB: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Raman Suri, a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, on Friday described the annual Amarnath Yatra as a deeply spiritual and divine experience that every devotee should undertake at least once in their lifetime.

Highlighting the unprecedented enthusiasm among pilgrims, he expressed strong confidence that this year's Yatra will surpass all previous records especially when lakhs of devotees have already registered themselves through hundreds of designated bank branches across the country ever since the registration process commenced.

Raman Suri said that this reflects devotees' unflinching faith and eagerness to undertake the sacred Amarnath Yatra. He said, "The massive response witnessed during the initial days of registration itself speaks volumes about the devotion of devotees from across the country". "This growing participation is a testament to the spiritual connection people have with the holy cave shrine," he stated.

He further noted that the extended duration of the Yatra this year will play a crucial role

in accommodating a larger number of pilgrims. "With more days allocated for the pilgrimage, we are optimistic that a record-breaking number of devotees will pay obeisance at the holy shrine. The enthusiasm this year is unprecedented," he added.

Emphasizing the transformation of Jammu Kashmir into a hub of spiritual tourism, Raman Suri said that continuous improvements in infrastructure, enhanced road connectivity, and better facilities have made the Yatra more accessible than ever before. "Facilities such as improved lodging arrangements, medical services, and helicopter services have significantly eased the journey for pilgrims, encouraging greater participation," he said.

Raman Suri also urged all devotees to strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB). "It is imperative for all pilgrims to follow safety protocols and instructions laid down by the authorities. This will ensure their safety and enable them to undertake the Yatra smoothly and comfortably, making their spiritual journey truly fulfilling," he emphasized.

He appreciated the

relentless efforts of the administration, security forces, and volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the Yatra every year. "Their dedication and commitment are instrumental in the successful conduct of this sacred pilgrimage," he remarked.

Raman Suri extended his heartfelt wishes to all pilgrims and expressed hope that Amarnath Yatra 2026 will not only set new records in terms of participation but also provide a deeply enriching and divine spiritual experience to every devotee undertaking the sacred journey.



GDC Thannamandi holds Geographical Tour to Dera Ki Gali



Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Apr 17: Reinforcing its commitment to experiential and field-based learning, the Department of Geography of Government Degree College Thannamandi organized an educational study tour of geography students to Dera Ki Gali, a significant resource potential and tourist destination situated in the vicinity of the college, to provide students with practical exposure and firsthand academic experience.

The tour was organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Shamim Ahmed Azad, Principal of College who flagged off and highlighted the importance of educational excursions in bridging

the gap between classroom teaching and practical understanding. He encouraged students to make effective use of such opportunities for academic and personal growth.

Students of 4th and 6th semesters actively participated in the tour and undertook a questionnaire-based field survey to study and document the tourism potential and developmental prospects of the area.

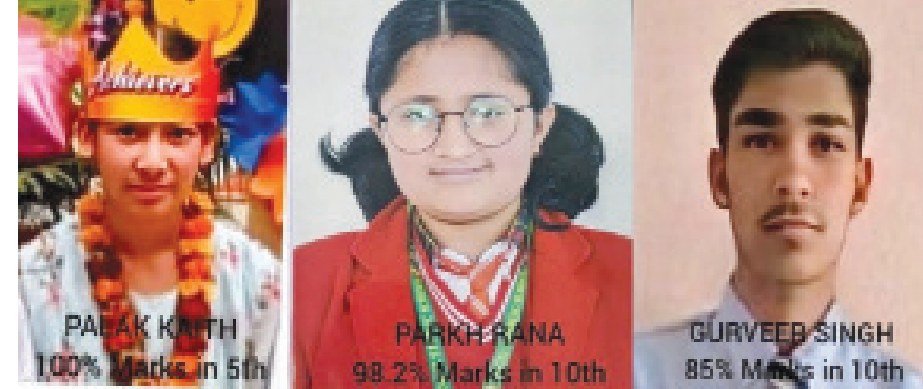
The programme was organized under the overall coordination and supervision of Dr. Gulshan Rashid, and conducted with the active support of Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Dr. Naseem Ahmed Malik, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Dr. Sarfaraz Ahmed,

and Mohammad Zubair, who guided and assisted the students during the academic exercise.

The Department expressed profound gratitude to the Principal for his unwavering support, dynamic leadership, and personal efforts in obtaining necessary approval, after ensuring security of students, from the Directorate besides ensuring smooth and efficient management of the entire programme.

The study tour was widely appreciated for offering students an enriching platform to enhance their understanding of tourism geography, field research, and resource evaluation through direct observation and practical engagement.

Friends Welfare Society hails meritorious students on exceptional achievements



Top News Report

PUNJAB, Apr 17: The Friends Welfare Society at a meeting held here today, extended its warmest congratulations to the outstanding students who have etched their names in the annals of excellence. Palak Kaith, Prakhar Rana Kaith and Gurveer Singh Motan have set a shining example for their peers with their remarkable academic achievements.

Palak Kaith, the topper with 100% marks in Primary Class, has proven that dedication and hard work can lead to perfection. Parkh Rana Kaith's

98.2% marks and Gurveer Singh Motan's 85% marks in Secondary School Examination conducted by CBSE, are a testament to their unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

The Friends Welfare Society Members including Retired officers: R.L.Kaith, Subedar Tilak Raj Motan, Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Havildar Ashok Kumar Tugga, Havildar Ghari Lal Lakhotra, and Sub Inspector Darshan Kumar Bassa, alongside dignitaries Madan Raj Kaith,

Tilak Raj Bassa, and Naresh Kumar Kaith and Deepak Jyoti Kaith, hailed the students' achievements as a source of inspiration for others. They remarked, "These young minds are the future leaders, innovators, and change-makers of our society. Their success is a reflection of their perseverance, passion, and pursuit of excellence".

All present wished Palak Kaith, Parkh Rana Kaith and Gurveer Singh Motan all the best and success ahead, urging them to continue striving for greatness and making their mark in the world.



‘Dhurandhar’ has changed grammar and whole perspective towards filmmaking: Rajkummar Rao

Rao also says the duration of a film doesn't matter citing examples of 'Lagaan' and 'Animal'

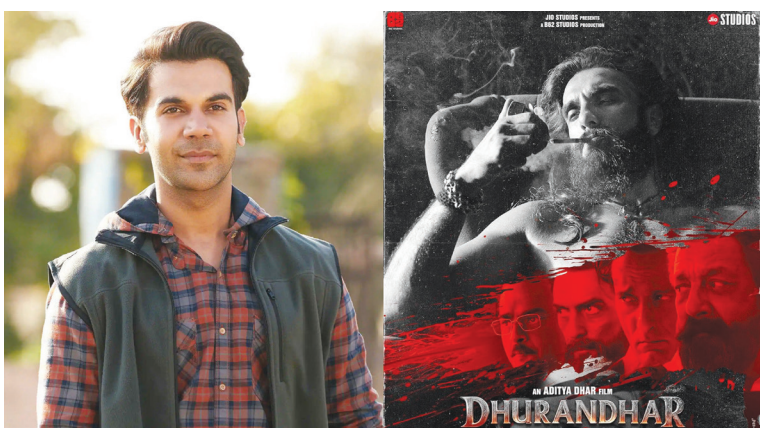
Actor Rajkummar Rao believes Aditya Dhar's two-part spy saga "Dhurandhar" is a disruptor for Hindi cinema, one that has altered its "grammar", and says filmmakers should feel empowered to tell their stories freely without worrying about runtime.

"Dhurandhar" and its sequel "Dhurandhar: The Revenge", headlined by Ranveer Singh, have emerged as box office juggernauts, earning over Rs 1,300 crore worldwide each, with the duology's combined gross of over Rs 3,000 crore making it the highest-grossing Indian film franchise of all time.

"Every decade or every five years, some film would come which would change the grammar and would change the whole perspective towards filmmaking. And I'm glad 'Dhurandhar' has done that," Rao told agency in an interview.

The 41-year-old actor said he watched both the parts and "absolutely loved" them.

"I think Aditya's language of cinema and the way his craft is, it's phenomenal. I have never seen a spy film like this in my whole life coming out of India. The way he has portrayed Ranveer in it was absolutely brilliant. His passion, his storytelling, his use of music, shot taking, everything. There was so much to



learn from it. (It was a) very new kind of filmmaking," he added.

Rao, known for his critically-acclaimed performances in movies such as "Shahid", "Omerta", "Newton", "Ludo" and "Stree" franchise, also addressed the long-standing fixation on runtime in filmmaking.

Both "Dhurandhar" and "Dhurandhar: The Revenge" had a runtime of over three hours but it didn't deter the audiences from turning up in huge numbers. "I think this whole thing of making it under two hours, make it under two and a half hours, it doesn't matter. A good film is a good film," he said.

He gave the example of Aamir Khan's "Lagaan" and Sandeep Reddy Vanga's "Animal".

"If a film holds, it holds. It

doesn't matter how long it is. So it should empower your directors, it should empower your makers to let them make the film that they want to make and don't interfere with some perception that you have of the industry and the audience.

"That this is how it is, no one knows how it is. There is no formula and 'Dhurandhar' has proved. The only formula is your passion and your filmmaking," he added.

The actor currently stars in Netflix comedy "Toaster", which marks his debut as a producer alongside wife Patralekhaa. They have produced the movie through their banner Kampa Film.

Patralekhaa said she watched "Dhurandhar" and its sequel twice and was "so blown away".

"The first time I watched the films, I was simply enjoying the ride. The second time, I focused on understanding the technicalities and storytelling. Aditya is truly a gem in filmmaking today, he has genuinely changed the perception," she said.

Actor Sanya Malhotra, Rao's co-star from "Toaster", said she saw the first part but is yet to watch the follow-up.

"It has some amazing performances, amazing story and also the music, I am a fan of... Cannot stop listening to how amazing the album is. Everything about the film is perfect," she said.

"Dhurandhar", which was released in December 2025, follows a decade-long Indian intelligence operation in which an undercover agent infiltrates Karachi's criminal and political underworld. Ranveer Singh plays the covert operative who rises through the ranks of the ISI-underworld nexus from within, with the mission of dismantling it.

The second instalment, "Dhurandhar: The Revenge", was released on March 19 and was picked up the story from where the first film left off, with both parts having been shot concurrently.

Daisy Shah shares she was inappropriately touched by a filmmaker in South



Actor Daisy Shah, who made her Bollywood debut opposite Salman Khan in Jai Ho (2014), has opened up about an uncomfortable incident which took place in Mumbai when a filmmaker had come to the city to conduct auditions. The filmmaker's behaviour put her at unease, recalled the actor in an interview with agency.

She said, "I was touched badly by one of the filmmakers in South. He had come to Mumbai for casting. We were 6-7 girls who went to meet him. He was meeting everyone of us individually. But I didn't

like because he touched me and he was holding my hand."

She added, "I've always been apprehensive about people touching me. The reason why I don't get massage done is because I don't like being touched, even by a woman...by a man is a different story altogether. So that just put me off. I told him 'I will get back to you' but I never got back to him."

The actor did not name the filmmaker she was talking about.

Daisy began her career as an assistant to choreographer Ganesh Acharya and appeared as a background dancer

in several Bollywood songs before stepping into acting. She made her lead debut in Kannada cinema with Bhadra and Bodyguard, and later rose to fame in Bollywood with Salman Khan's Jai Ho (2014). She went on to appear in films like Hate Story 3 (2015) and has participated in dance reality shows and television appearances as well.

Most recently, Daisy was seen in Amjad Khan's web series Red Room, which also featured Amit Gaur, Anuj Sachdeva, Reena Aggarwal and Reeva Chaudhary in key roles. Apart from acting, Daisy is quite active on YouTube, where she shares her daily routines with fans through her vlogs. She currently enjoys a following of around 50,000 subscribers.

On the work front, Daisy is set to star as the female lead in an upcoming, yet-to-be-titled thriller directed by Palash Muchhal. The film also stars Shreyas Talpade.

Neha Dhupia's deglam avatar

The first look and trailer of Neha Dhupia's her debut international film 52 Blue has been officially revealed, offering audiences a striking glimpse into one of the most transformative roles of her career.

Known for her versatile performances, Neha steps into an entirely new space with this project, appearing in a raw, deglam avatar for the very first time on screen.

Directed by acclaimed Egyptian filmmaker Ali El Arabi, 52 Blue is a poignant coming-of-age story that follows a young Indian football enthusiast's journey as a migrant worker to the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The film explores themes of identity, aspiration and resilience, set against a deeply emotional family backdrop.

The film also stars Adil Hussain, who plays Neha's husband, marking their first on-screen collaboration. In a significant departure from her previous roles, Neha will be seen portraying the mother of a young man, bringing depth and



emotional gravitas to a character that anchors the narrative.

Shot extensively in Kochi, Blue 52 traces the journey of Ashish (Yadav Shashidhar), a young boy growing up under the isolating control of his father on a remote island home. With the quiet strength and support of his mother, and inspired by the memory of his late brother, Ashish eventually finds the courage to break free. His journey takes him across borders as he sets out to meet his idol, Lionel Messi, at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar 2022 - marking his first encoun-

ter with the larger world beyond his confined upbringing.

Neha said, "The film 52 Blue has been one of the most deeply moving and transformative experiences of my career. When I first read the script, what stayed with me was the quiet strength of the mother she doesn't speak loudly, but her presence shapes her son's entire world. Playing a mother to a young man for the first time was both challenging and incredibly fulfilling, because it required me to tap into emotions that are raw, instinctive, and deeply human."

Grateful for the opportunities: Sanya Malhotra

Sanya Malhotra, who made her Hindi cinema debut with Dangal in 2016, says her journey in Hindi cinema has been nothing but surreal and she hopes that her films continue to receive love from the audiences. The actor now stars in Netflix comedy Toaster opposite Rajkummar Rao. The film marks the production debut of Rao and wife Patralekhaa through Kampa Film. It revolves around a miser who wants to get back to a wedding when the ceremony is called off. Malhotra plays his wife. "Ten years... it's surreal. It's been amazing, quite fulfilling and I am so grateful for the opportunities that I get," Malhotra said in an interview. The actor said though she has worked with Rao in two different projects — Hit: The First Case and Ludo, this is the first time that they spent a lot of time working together. "I am so happy to be a part of Toaster. I got a call from Raj saying that we are making a film and



even before I read it, I was like, 'Of course'. If he is attached to something, then it has to be really good. It can't be just anything.' This is our third film together. I was in a suitcase in the first one (Hit). We were not together in the other (Ludo). So, I was dying to work with Raj because we all know how incredible he is as an actor. And this was the perfect opportunity," she said. Rao said Malhotra's work in Toaster is her finest in the space of comedy. "She is so funny in the film. And we were so happy when we saw her performance. We all know Sanya. She wants to have fun on set but she is also this quiet girl who will sit quietly and do her work. But when you see her on screen in the film. She is marvellous," the actor added. Patralekhaa said Malhotra was a "riot" on the movie's set. Malhotra was praised for her performance in Mrs., a remake of the critically-acclaimed Malayalam movie The

Great Indian Kitchen. The actor said she is grateful for the love that the movie received but she does not take it as a pressure. "I just hope that all my other films and all the other projects that I'm doing will get the same kind of love and respect." Ruchikaa Kapoor Sheikh, director, Original Films, Netflix India, said Toaster, which started streaming on the platform from Wednesday, stems from Rao and Patralekhaa's distinctive vision and features a terrific ensemble cast. "It was especially exciting to see Vivek bring his visual sensibility as a director, while Patralekhaa stepped into the producer's role with such conviction. At Netflix, we're drawn to stories rooted in Indian realities and filled with characters audiences can instantly connect with... With its imperfect yet endearing characters and light, entertaining tone, Toaster stands out as a delightful family entertainer."

Mona Singh on new phase of her career: 'Not chasing quantity'

Actor Mona Singh is clearly in her element, diving headfirst into a new phase of her career with a streak of back-to-back projects such as Border 2, Subedaar, and Kohrra 2. The actor, however, isn't playing the numbers game.

Instead of chasing quantity, Mona admits she is consciously leaning into risk by choosing roles that push her boundaries and help her uncover newer, more layered versions of herself with every performance.

On back-to-back releases

The past few months have been particularly rewarding for Mona, who has been exploring a wide range of diverse and compelling stories. On the big screen, she portrayed

a grieving mother and Sunny Deol's wife in Border 2, before seamlessly switching gears to play a mafia boss in the OTT project Subedaar. She also stepped into the shoes of a Goan gangster in Happy Patel: Khatarnak Jasooos and a police officer in Kohrra 2. Most recently, she appeared in Ma Ka Sum, playing a mother being nudged back into the dating world by her math whiz teenage son.

Here, Mona makes it clear that she is not chasing quantity but quality. "I think earlier in my career, there was a lot more uncertainty, so you sometimes make choices out of fear or security. Now, I'm in a space where I can take a step back and ask myself, 'Does this excite me?' That's become

very important. I'm not chasing quantity, I'm looking for something that challenges me or tells a story I believe in," Mona says while talking about the back-to-back releases.

Her filmography reflects a conscious effort to steer clear of being typecast, something Mona credits to the risks she has taken throughout her career.

"I think the only way to avoid being boxed in is to keep taking risks. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but at least you're trying something new. I've been very conscious of not repeating myself. Also, I've been fortunate that people have trusted me with different kinds of roles. That makes a big difference," shares Mona, who made her



small-screen debut with Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin, and got famous overnight.

On transition across mediums

Over the course of her career, Mona has navigated the small screen and big screen and is now actively exploring the OTT space. On TV,

she was seen in shows such as Kya Huaa Tera Vaada, Itna Karo Na Mujhe Pyaar, Pyaar Ko Ho Jaane Do and Kavach...Kaali Shaktiyon Se.

She was a part of the Aamir Khan-starrer 3 Idiots, and also appeared in the actor's Laal Singh Chaddha, in which she was seen in the role of Aamir's mother.

After making her mark on the big screen, Mona transitioned into the OTT space, embracing an entirely new storytelling landscape. From family drama in Yeh Meri Family to the glitzy, layered world of Made in Heaven, and the gripping intensity of Kaala Paani, she has showcased her versatility as an actor.

For Mona, the medium

has never been the focus; the story has. "Whether it's television, film, or OTT, at the end of the day, you're telling a story and playing a character. Of course, the process changes slightly, but the intent remains the same. I just feel lucky that I've been able to explore all these spaces," says the actor.

Ask her how she adapted from TV's loudness to OTT's subtlety, Mona mentions, "It's definitely a shift. Television, especially daily soaps, has a certain rhythm and energy, and OTT is much more internal. But I don't think it's about 'unlearning', it's more about adapting. As actors, that's our job. You understand the tone of the project, and you align yourself with it."

Here, she mentions

that her secret is "the moment you feel like 'I've figured it out', you should probably shake things up a bit. I've always tried to choose roles that are different from what I've done before."

How do you explain Mona Singh's 2.0 era?

"Maybe... exploration. I feel like I'm still discovering new things about myself as an actor. There's a lot I haven't done yet, and that excites me," she says, adding that going forward, she is just looking forward to more good work, honestly.

"I don't plan too far ahead. I just hope to keep getting opportunities where I can do something different and keep growing. That's all I really want," Mona ends.

‘Let us create history’: PM Modi’s appeal for support to Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday made a last-minute appeal to opposition parties to support the Women’s Reservation Bill, urging a consensus for what he described as a historic step towards empowering women.

The appeal comes amid an ongoing debate in Parliament on the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, formally known as the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026. The Bill, which aims to provide reservation for women and facilitate delimitation, was approved in the Lok Sabha on Thursday after a division of votes.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister noted that discussions on the Bill continued late into the night. “Currently, a discussion is underway in Parliament on amending the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. The debate continued until 1 a.m. last night as well,” he said.

He asserted that the government has addressed concerns raised during the debate.



“Every apprehension has been addressed. The information that was lacking has also been provided to every member,” he stated, adding that misconceptions surrounding the Bill have also been clarified.

Highlighting the long-standing nature of the issue, the Prime Minister said that women’s reservation has been a subject of political debate for decades. “For four decades, a great deal of politics has been played on the issue... now is the time that half of the country’s population must receive its rights,” he said.

He also pointed to the low representation of women in decision-making roles. “Even after so many decades of Independence, it is not right that Indian women have such minimal representation in the decision-making process,” he added.

With voting on the Bill scheduled later in the day, the Prime Minister urged all political parties to support its passage. “In just a short while, voting will take place in the Lok Sabha. I urge all political parties... please, after due consideration and with complete sensitiv-

ity, take a decision and vote in favour of women’s reservation,” he appealed.

Calling attention to public expectations, he said, “The eyes of the country’s millions of women are upon us... please support the amendment.”

The Prime Minister also made an emotional appeal to lawmakers, asking them to reflect on their personal connections. “Keep in mind the memory of your mother, sister, daughter, wife... listen to your conscience,” he said.

Describing the moment as an opportunity to strengthen both women and democracy, he added, “This amendment will be passed by consensus, and the women power of the country will become even more empowered... the democracy of the country will become even more empowered.”

Concluding his appeal, the Prime Minister urged collective action. “Come... let us together create history today. Give the women of India... their rightful due,” he said.

“No one will be spared”: D Fadnavis seeks central agency probe in TCS case



MUMBAI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said the state government will seek the intervention of central agencies to investigate a serious case that has surfaced at a BPO facility of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in Nashik.

Calling the matter “grave and deeply concerning,” Fadnavis asserted that strict action is being taken and that the investigation will go “to the root of the case.”

“We will not spare anyone involved. No one will be shielded. We have asked central agencies to probe the matter thoroughly,” he said, adding the incident appears to be part of a larger organised module.

The controversy stems from allegations that several women employees at the TCS BPO office in Nashik were subjected to sexual exploitation and coercion related to religious practices.

According to complaints, certain team leaders allegedly targeted economically vulnerable Hindu women, pressuring them to convert, offer namaz,

and consume beef. The allegations, which are now under active investigation, have triggered widespread concern and political reaction.

Police sources confirmed that multiple cases have been registered so far, with at least nine FIRs filed in connection with the matter. Seven accused individuals have been arrested, including Danish Sheikh, Tausif Attar, Raza Memon, Shahrukh Qureshi, Shafi Sheikh, Asif Aftab Ansari, and a woman associate.

The prime accused, Nida Khan, who is currently on the run, approached a local court in Nashik for anticipatory bail. She is currently in Mumbai and is expecting her first child, her family said.

Investigators are also probing a possible international link to the case. Officials indicated that the role of a Malaysia-based individual, identified as Imran Khan, is being examined, particularly in connection with suspected illegal funding channels. Authorities are looking into whether financial flows from abroad may have supported the alleged activities.

The Nashik Police has constituted a Spe-

cial Investigation Team (SIT) to handle the case, indicating the seriousness of the allegations. As part of the probe, a resort in the region is also under scrutiny, where victims have claimed they were taken under coercive circumstances.

Meanwhile, TCS has initiated internal disciplinary action. The company has suspended the employees named in the allegations, stating that it is cooperating fully with law enforcement agencies. Fadnavis acknowledged the company’s response, noting that “TCS has taken strong and timely action against those involved.”

The alleged incidents are reported to have taken place over an extended period between 2022 and 2026. Victims have claimed that the pattern of exploitation continued unchecked for years, raising questions about oversight and workplace safety mechanisms.

The matter has also reached the Supreme Court, where a petition has been filed describing the case as a “systematic conspiracy” and seeking stringent action against those responsible.

With political, legal, and investigative dimensions unfolding simultaneously, the case is expected to remain under close scrutiny in the coming days, as authorities attempt to uncover the full extent of the alleged network and ensure accountability at all levels.

BJP using women’s quota bill as front to pass Delimitation Bill that will break India: Mamata

COOCH BEHAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday alleged the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre was using the proposed amendment to the women’s quota law in Parliament as a front for the Delimitation Bill that would “break the country into pieces”.

The TMC will fight this Central government’s move at every step, she asserted at her party’s poll rally here.

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill to tweak the women’s quota law, along with the Delimitation Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, to implement the proposed amended women’s quota law, in the Union territories of Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir, were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

According to the Constitution amendment bill, Lok Sabha seats will be increased to

a maximum of 850 from the current 543 to “operationalise” the women’s reservation law before the 2029 parliamentary polls, following a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census.

Seats will also be increased in state and Union territory assemblies to accommodate 33 per cent reservation for women.

Opposing the Centre’s move, Banerjee alleged that “the BJP brought the Delimitation Bill while keeping the women’s reservation bill at the front”.

“The BJP is trying to increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha to nearly 850 through the Delimitation Bill. It will break the country into pieces,” the TMC supremo said.

She also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not speaking the truth about the development of north Bengal at a BJP rally last week.



“The prime minister said nothing was done for the development of north Bengal. But we spent Rs 1.72 lakh crore on the development of the region,” Banerjee said and asked Modi to cross-check data before making such remarks.

Govt wants to change India’s electoral map, it’s nothing short of anti-national act: Rahul

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the constitution amendment bill has nothing to do with women’s reservation but is an attempt by the government to change the country’s electoral map by taking away representation from southern, north-eastern and smaller states, which is “nothing short of an anti-national act”.

Participating in a debate in the Lok Sabha on the three bills introduced for amendments in the women’s quota law and setting up a delimitation commission, the Congress leader said, “This is not a women’s bill as it has nothing to do with empowerment of women.” “This bill is an attempt to change the country’s electoral map, using and hiding behind India’s women,” he alleged.

Gandhi said the government should bring back the 2023 Women’s Reservation Act for implementation, and the opposition will help the government pass it immediately.

He accused the government of avoiding giving power and representation to OBCs, saying that was its real agenda, and also alleged that it was trying to make sure that the caste census has nothing to do with rep-



resentation for the next 15 years.

“They are scared of the erosion of their strength, and are trying to rejig the Indian political map,” he said.

“The government is telling the southern, northeastern, and smaller states that for the BJP to remain in power, ‘we are going to take away representation from you,’” Gandhi said.

What the government is doing is nothing short of an “anti-national act”, Gandhi said.

“We won’t allow you to do it; the entire opposition will defeat this attempt. I want to assure the southern, northeastern, and smaller states that we will not allow the government to touch your representation in the Union of India,” he said.

Gandhi said the BJP knew that the bill could not be passed, and bringing it was a “panic reaction” because Prime Minister Narendra Modi had two objectives — to change India’s electoral map and show that he is

pro-women.

Responding to the uproar from the treasury benches over his apparent reference to the Modi in connection with the Balakot strike, demonetisation and Operation Sindoor, Gandhi said, “The BJP thinks that they are the people of India; they also think that they are the armed forces. You are not the people of India, you are not the armed forces, so you should not hide behind the people and the armed forces.” The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill to tweak the women’s quota law was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday after a division of votes.

Two ordinary bills — the Delimitation Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill to implement the proposed amended women’s quota law in Union territories of Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir — were also introduced in the House.

PM’s gift to women wrapped in barbed wire; delimitation will be ‘political demonetisation’: Tharoor

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has wrapped the gift of justice to ‘nari shakti’ in “barbed wire” by linking the implementation of women’s reservation to the expansion of Parliament, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said on Friday and asserted that delimitation will turn out to be “political demonetisation”.

Participating in a debate in the Lok Sabha on the three bills introduced for amendments in the women’s quota law and setting up a delimitation commission, Tharoor demanded that delimitation be deferred. He called for ensuring that the “march toward a ‘New India’ does not give us a disunited India”.

The MP from Thiruvananthapuram said linking women’s reservation with delimitation is to hold the aspirations of Indian women hostage to “one of the most contentious and complex” administrative exercises in the country’s history.

“The issues surrounding delimitation require extensive consultation with all stakeholders, including all state governments, all political parties, and civil society. It cannot be rushed,” he said.

“I urge the government to decouple these issues and pass the Women’s Reservation Bill today, we will support it. The PM spoke with passion about nari shakti. Let it take effect in the next general election, using our current seat count. Show the women of India that your commitment is not mere rhetorical flourish,” the senior Congress leader said.

Delimitation, he stressed, must be deferred and a formal mechanism such as a joint parliamentary committee be constituted to debate a new federal settlement that protects the interests of all states.

“Let us give women their due now, and give our nation our Union of states, the time it needs to solve its demographic challenges with wisdom, not just arithmetic,” Tharoor asserted.

He pointed out that there is near unanimous political consensus in favour of women’s reservation. Every major party realises that the time for tokenism is over and the era of collective partnership must begin, he said.

“The prime minister (Narendra Modi) says the government has brought nari shakti a gift of justice but he has wrapped it in barbed wire, tethering the implementation of women’s reservation to the expansion of Parlia-



ment, to numbers from the 2011 census and an exercise of delimitation... Why must we entangle a moral imperative with a demographic minefield, he asked.

Women’s reservation, he said, is ready for harvest and can and should be implemented immediately based on existing parliamentary strength.

“Any delimitation exercise is fraught with complications that could tear at the very fabric of our federalism,” he said.

“You have proposed delimitation with such haste, the same haste that you showed on demonetisation. Unfortunately, we all know what damage that did to the country. Delimitation will turn out to be political demonetisation. Don’t do it, sir,” Tharoor said.

He stressed that delimitation requires serious discussion.

“There are at least three major fault-lines — the balance between small states and big states; the balance between states, particularly in the South like Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which have diligently implemented national goals of population control and invested in human development, and those, mainly in the North; the balance between the states that are the engines of our economy, contributing more to the national exchequer than they receive, and those that are net recipients of central funds,” he said.

A delimitation based purely on population would further marginalise the voices of those states that provide the lion’s share of the resources that keeps our Union afloat, Tharoor argued.

“We risk creating a tyranny of the demographic majority, where a handful of large, poor states could theoretically determine the

fate of the entire country, leaving smaller states and those with distinct linguistic and cultural identities and economic contributions feeling like bystanders in their own country,” he said.

According to Tharoor, the “50 per cent formula” that was suddenly brought up by Home Minister Amit Shah in the House on Thursday, promising that no state will lose its current number of seats while the total House strength increases, remains a “precarious political assurance and not a political certainty”.

“This pledge is fundamentally contradicted by the existing text of the legislation itself, which gives total freedom to the delimitation commission appointed by the government, whose decisions cannot be challenged in a court of law. Since this formula is not codified as an immutable constitutional safeguard, it could be easily discarded or altered by a simple parliamentary majority, offering no guarantee that it will survive beyond the very short term,” Tharoor said.

Furthermore, expanding the Lok Sabha to an 850-member House would create a legislature that is, by far, the largest in any democracy, resulting in a body that is both unwieldy and unworkable, he said.

Another great concern is that that the size of the Lok Sabha is being expanded but there is no corresponding proposal to increase the strength of the Rajya Sabha, raising a serious structural concern, he said.

This, the Congress MP added, alters the relative balance between the two Houses, especially in cases of a joint sitting when the Lok Sabha would dominate the process.

This imbalance also extends to elections for the president and vice president, he said. Tharoor also cited the example of the European Parliament where “degressive proportionality” is practised and said such options need to be discussed and debated for arriving at a solution.

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill to tweak the women’s quota law was introduced in Lok Sabha on Thursday after a division of votes. Two ordinary bills — the Delimitation Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill to implement the proposed amended women’s quota law in Union territories of Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir — were also introduced in the House.

Trump claims Iran agrees to hand over enriched uranium, says deal very close

KYIV, Apr 17 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that Iran has agreed to hand over its stockpile of enriched uranium, claiming the two sides are close to reaching a deal that could end six weeks of conflict.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump framed the development as a major breakthrough in ongoing negotiations. "They've agreed to give us back the nuclear dust," he said, using his term for enriched uranium that Washington believes could be used to build nuclear weapons. "There's a very good chance we're going to make a deal."

Trump said the next round of talks between the United States and Iran could take place as soon as this weekend, indicating momentum in negotiations.

At the same time, he cast doubt on the need to extend the current ceasefire. "I'm not sure it needs to be extended," he said, adding that Tehran is now more flexible than before.

"We have a very good relationship with Iran right now, as hard as it is to believe," Trump said. "And I think it's a combination of about four weeks of bombing, and a very powerful blockade."

Iran's nuclear ambitions were a sticking point at last weekend's talks. The US proposed a 20-year suspension of all nuclear activity by Iran - an apparent



concession from longstanding demands for a permanent ban. Tehran suggested a halt of three to five years, Reuters reported. Washington has pressed for any highly enriched uranium to be removed from Iran. Tehran has demanded that international sanctions against it be lifted.

Two Iranian sources said there were signs of a compromise emerging on the highly enriched uranium stockpile, with Tehran considering shipping part, but not all, of it out of the country, something it had previously ruled out.

CEASEFIRE HANGS IN BALANCE

Despite the optimism, Trump warned that fighting could quickly resume if negotiations collapse. "If there's no deal, fighting resumes," he said, underscoring

the fragile nature of the ceasefire, which is set to expire next week.

Officials have indicated that Iran is now willing to do things today that they weren't willing to do two months ago, pointing to concessions that may have been driven by mounting pressure.

DEAL COULD BE SIGNED IN ISLAMABAD

In another notable remark, Trump said he may personally attend if a deal is finalised in Islamabad, hinting at the diplomatic importance of the negotiations.

"If the deal is signed in Islamabad, I might go," said Trump, who heaped praise on Pakistani Prime Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistani Army Gen. Asim Munir for their role as mediators in the

US-Iran talks. "The field marshal has been great. The prime minister has been really great in Pakistan, so I might go. They want me."

Trump's remarks came a day after White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said the talks would "very likely" take place at the same location as before.

TRUMP HITS OUT AT POPE LEO OVER IRAN STANCE

Trump also linked the Iran issue to broader global concerns, saying it was "very important" for Pope Leo XIV to recognise the threat posed by Tehran.

"The Pope has to understand - it's very simple - Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon. The world would be in great danger," he said. The remarks come amid an ongoing public rift between the two leaders over the Iran conflict, with the Pope repeatedly calling for restraint and peace while Trump has defended a tougher stance.

Pope Leo, originally from Chicago, decried the madness of war in a peace appeal on Saturday. Leo told Reuters on Monday he would keep criticizing the war, regardless of Trump's comments.

"The Pope can say what he wants, and I want him to say what he wants, but I can disagree. I think that Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon," Trump said.

French President Macron welcomes Lebanon-Israel ceasefire deal



PARIS, Apr 17 (Agencies): French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday welcomed the recently announced Lebanon-Israel 10-day ceasefire deal, referring to it as a truce between Hezbollah and Israel, while raising concerns over its implementation and urging restraint from all sides.

In a post on X, Macron said he "fully supports" the ceasefire between "Hezbollah and Israel", which was announced by US President Donald Trump, but expressed concern that "it may already be undermined by the continuation of military operations."

He also emphasised the need to ensure the safety of civilians on both sides of the Lebanon-Israel border.

"I fully support the ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel as announced by President Trump yesterday. I also express my concern that it may already be undermined by the continuation of military operations. I call for the safety of civilian populations on both sides of the border between Lebanon and Israel," the post read.

The French President also called on Hezbollah to renounce its weapons and urged Israel to respect Lebanese sovereignty and bring an

end to the conflict.

"Hezbollah must renounce its weapons. Israel must respect Lebanese sovereignty and stop the war," the post added.

The ceasefire comes amid heightened tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border, with exchanges involving Israeli armed forces and Hezbollah, which saw a major escalation following the US-Iran war in the region.

Trump announced that Israel and Lebanon had reached an agreement to initiate a 10-day ceasefire, following intensified diplomatic efforts to reduce hostilities in the region.

The US President shared that he held "excellent conversations" with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, confirming that both leaders have committed to the temporary truce as a step towards a broader resolution.

"I just had excellent conversations with the highly respected President Joseph Aoun of Lebanon, and Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu of Israel. These two leaders have agreed that, in order to achieve peace between their countries, they will formally begin a 10-day

ceasefire at 5 p.m. EST," Trump stated in a post on Truth Social.

Meanwhile, the State of Qatar has also welcomed the ceasefire announcement, describing it as an important step toward de-escalation in the region.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged all parties to ensure "full and immediate compliance" with the ceasefire agreement to maintain calm and prevent further escalation.

The statement further expressed appreciation for the diplomatic efforts led by US President Donald Trump, acknowledging his role in the mediation that contributed to reaching the deal.

"The State of Qatar welcomes the ceasefire in the Republic of Lebanon as a step towards de-escalation, urging full and immediate compliance to maintain calm and prevent further regional tensions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses the State of Qatar's appreciation for the efforts of HE President Donald Trump of the friendly United States of America in mediation and good offices that contributed to reaching the deal," the statement read.

Qatar also voiced hope that the ceasefire would bolster broader regional and international efforts aimed at achieving a "comprehensive, just, and sustainable peace" in the Middle East.

The ceasefire comes at a critical juncture for West Asia, following a period of significant volatility along the Israel-Lebanon border.

8 killed in helicopter crash in Indonesia, wreckage found in dense forest area

JAKARTA, Apr 17 (Agencies): All eight people on board a helicopter were killed when it crashed in Indonesia's West Kalimantan province, authorities said on Friday as search teams tried to retrieve the bodies and wreckage.

The Airbus H130 helicopter lost contact on Thursday morning five minutes after taking off from a plantation area

in Melawi, Mohammad Syafii, the head of Indonesia's rescue agency, said.

"The location of the crash or loss of contact is in a densely forested area with steep hilly terrain," Syafii said, saying rescuers had found debris suspected to be the tail of the helicopter approximately 3 km (2 miles) west of where contact was lost.

The cause of the crash remains unclear. A spokesperson from the local rescue agency said the six passengers and two crew members onboard had died in the crash. Rescuers, including military and police personnel, were trying to reach the crash site via land routes on Friday. The plantation area was owned by an Indonesian palm oil company,



Citra Mahkota, and the helicopter belonged to

Matthew Air Nusantara, Syafii said.

People's steadfastness caused 'aggressors' to inevitably retreat during war: Iranian President Pezeshkian on conflict

TEHRAN, Apr 17 (Agencies): Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has said that the "steadfastness" of the Iranian people compelled US-Israeli forces to retreat during the "40-day war", according to Iranian state media.

According to agency, speaking at a meeting with the minister, deputies, and senior managers at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Pezeshkian stressed the importance of accurately presenting the realities and achievements of the period.

The president highlighted the need for effective storytelling to convey the events of the conflict, noting the "diverse and creative methods to properly reflect national accomplishments," according to agency.

He said, "During this war, powers with extensive claims and prestige stood against the Iranian nation, but the people's steadfastness caused these currents to inevitably retreat. This is a significant and strategic achievement for the country."

Pezeshkian underscored the decisive



role played by citizens, stating, "With their conscious presence, the people neutralised all scenarios designed to create instability and, contrary to the enemy's calculations, strengthened national cohesion." He also accused the "aggressors" (US and Israel) of resorting to unlawful tactics, saying, "At a point where the enemy reached a state of desperation, they resorted to actions that are rejected not only from a legal and international perspective but also from a human standpoint."

He added that such actions included targeting "vital infrastructure, service centres, schools, and medical facilities", which, according to him, was a clear

violation of human rights principles and the rules of war.

Rejecting claims that pressure would weaken public resolve, Pezeshkian said, "Some imagined that by intensifying threats, the Iranian people would withdraw from the scene. However, in practice, we witnessed a stronger presence of the people and an increased level of social responsibility."

Highlighting domestic resilience, he pointed to public participation in development efforts, noting, "These experiences show that by relying on the people's capabilities, many problems can be solved with greater speed and quality."

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said

that the United States is heading towards "victory very shortly" against Iran while making strong remarks on military developments involving Iran and past US operations in the region.

Speaking during an event here, Trump suggested progress in ongoing strategic actions and claimed significant degradation of Iranian capabilities.

"And I said, we're in there for two months, and you know what? We're gonna have victory very shortly," he said.

He described Iran as a "tough, smart country" while asserting that its military capacity had been severely reduced.

"And against a very tough, smart country. These people were fighters, and you know, I don't want to claim it before the fact, but they (Iran) have no Navy left. 158 ships at the bottom of the sea. 158, think of it," Trump said.

The remarks came amid heightened tensions in West Asia and ongoing diplomatic and security developments involving the United States and Iran, including ceasefire-related negotiations and maritime security concerns.

European allies have capacity to clear mines in Hormuz, says France



PARIS, Apr 17 (Agencies): European countries, including Belgium, the Netherlands and France, have the capacity to conduct mine-clearing operations to help secure vital shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz, French Defence Minister Catherine Vautrin said on Friday, according to agency.

Vautrin told agency that European states could provide "fully supported escort services" or vessels transiting from a strategically important waterway.

According to agency, Vautrin also said that efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz would be discussed in talks scheduled later in Paris

on Friday.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron are set to host a virtual meeting of world leaders to discuss efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and secure vital shipping routes, agency reported.

Leaders from around 40 countries are expected to participate in the summit, focusing on supporting the fragile ceasefire involving Iran and ensuring safe passage through the key maritime corridor, as reported by agency.

According to a statement from the British Prime Minister's Office, discussions will include plans to establish an international mission

aimed at reopening the strait. The proposed initiative would be strictly defensive in nature and involve a combined military effort to be deployed once conditions permit, as per agency.

The summit will also deliberate on supporting the work of the International Maritime Organization to enhance the safety of vessels and crew navigating the region, agency reported.

According to agency, Starmer is scheduled to arrive in Paris on Friday to co-host the meeting with Macron. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz is also expected to attend, according to a German government official.

"The unconditional and immediate reopening of the strait is a global responsibility and we need to act to get global energy and trade flowing freely again," Starmer is expected to tell the summit, as per agency.

He is also likely to emphasise the need to reassure commercial shipping and support mine-clearance operations to stabilise maritime activity, agency reported.

A German official said Berlin is prepared to contribute to ensuring safe navigation through

the strait, provided there is a clear legal framework in place, as reported by agency.

As per agency, the contribution could include mine-clearance vessels or maritime surveillance capabilities, areas where the German armed forces have significant expertise, the official added.

Earlier on April 11, the US Central Command said that two of its ships had begun setting conditions for clearing mines in the Strait of Hormuz, and the claim was denied immediately by Iran, agency reported.

CENTCOM said that USS Frank E. Peterson (DDG 121) and USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) transited the Strait of Hormuz and operated in the Arabian Gulf as part of a broader mission to ensure the strait is fully clear of sea mines previously laid by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.

"Today, we began the process of establishing a new passage, and we will share this safe pathway with the maritime industry soon to encourage the free flow of commerce," said Admiral Brad Cooper, commander of CENTCOM, as quoted by the statement.

GDC R S Pura hosts lecture on ‘Holistic Wellness and Modern Diet Practices’



Top News Report

R S PURA, Apr 17: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC), R.S. Pura organized an expert lecture on the theme “Holistic Wellness and New Diet System” as part of Poshan Pakhwada, an annual nutrition awareness initiative of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

The programme was conducted under the esteemed patronage of the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, and under the aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC).

The event commenced with a formal welcome address by Dr. Savleen Kour, who warmly received the distinguished resource persons. The expert panel comprised ParulSingh (NDS Coach), Ekta Chawlani (NLP & NDS Coach), Col. Kuldeep Singh (Retd. Army Officer), Raman Sharma (Fire Brigade), Vinod Sawhney (Retd. Superintendent Engineer), Avinash Sharma (Ex-Physical Education Officer) and Jyoti Sharma (Head of the Institution).

Ekta Chawlani from Pune was the key note speaker for the event. The session aimed to sensitize students and faculty about the importance of holistic wellness by integrating physical fitness, mental well-being, and balanced nutri-

tion through modern dietary practices.

The speakers delivered insightful and engaging talks, emphasizing the adoption of healthy lifestyle habits, stress management techniques, discipline, and sustainable diet systems.

The programme was attended by faculty members, NSS volunteers, and students, whose active engagement made the session lively, interactive, and impactful.

The entire programme was efficiently coordinated by Prof. Lukesha Dubgotra, NSS Programme Officer, along with the committee members, whose dedicated efforts ensured its smooth execution. As a token of appreciation, the speakers were felicitated with planters for their valuable contribution.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Renu Sharma, who expressed her sincere appreciation to the expert team, faculty members, and students for their presence and active participation, which contributed to the success of the programme.

The lecture proved to be an enriching experience, serving as a significant step towards promoting health consciousness, nutrition awareness, mental well-being, and holistic development among students.

DYSSO Srinagar conducts Cyclothon under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan from SKICC to Nishat



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 17: In a significant step towards promoting a drug-free society under the Nasha Mukht J&K

campaign, a cyclothon was flagged off by the District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Srinagar, Gh Hassan Lone from SKICC on Friday.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 300 students, parents, and other stakeholders, reflecting a strong community commitment towards eradicating the menace of drug abuse.

Speaking on the occasion, Gh Hassan Lone highlighted the importance of collective efforts in making the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan a success. He emphasized the need for awareness, especially among the youth, and urged participants to act as ambassadors in spreading the message of a drug-free society.

LG Sinha flags off Shobha Yatra to commemorate Bhagwan Parshuram Ji Jayanti in Jammu

Ved Prakash Sharma, President Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha, and members of organising committee including Parshotam Chander Sharma, Chander Mohan Sharma, Soujanya Sharma, Surinder Sharma, B D Sharma, Er Rajesh and Raman Sharma; heads of religious organizations, prominent citizens and people from different walks of life attended the flag off ceremony.

Yudhvir Sethi and Devyani Rana, Members of Legislative Assembly; senior officials and prominent citizens were also present.

CM Omar Abdullah meets delegations, Assures Time-Bound redressal of public issues

Teachers Association (JUTA), Prof. Ravinder Singh, presented matters concerning the teaching fraternity. Moreover, several individuals met the Chief Minister to seek resolution of their grievances.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and individuals, assuring that all genuine issues would be addressed on priority.

CM Omar Abdullah unveils Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Club jersey, releases wildlife publication

channelizing their energy into sports.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also launched a wildlife magazine titled ‘Checklist of Mammals of Jammu and Kashmir, India’. A delegation of wildlife ecologists led by Muzaffar Kichloo briefed him on their ongoing and upcoming projects.

The Chief Minister commended their efforts and

emphasized the importance of scientific research and conservation in preserving the region’s rich biodiversity.

LG Saxena inaugurates first water body made operational under project him Sarovar

will play a crucial role in ensuring water security and addressing water scarcity challenges in Ladakh. Describing it as a critical initiative, he called for active public participation to ensure its success.

Saxena informed that under Phase I of the project, 50 water bodies—30 in Leh and 20 in Kargil—are proposed to be developed, covering nearly 25 percent of villages in Ladakh. He further expressed optimism that nearly 50 percent of villages would be covered under Project Him Sarovar within a year. Emphasising the importance of scientific water management, he highlighted the need for innovative and sustainable solutions to address the growing challenges of climate change and water scarcity in the region. He stated that the project will serve as a shield against climate change while ensuring water security, and will stand as a model of convergence involving government departments, armed forces, and local communities.

Announcing the adoption of Stok village, the Lieutenant Governor remarked that he now considered himself a member of the village and assured full support for its sustainable and inclusive development. He emphasised that with active community participation, Stok can be developed into a premier tourist destination. Saxena also launched work on block-paving the roads in Stok and noted that the proposed infrastructure improvements, including paving roads with blocks on both sides, would enhance the village’s aesthetic appeal and provide a clean, dust-free environment for visitors.

He further stated that tourists visiting Stok should return with a memorable and enriching experience of Ladakhi hospitality, emphasising the importance of treating visitors as part of the community. He outlined key focus areas for developing Stok as a model village, including promoting organic farming, harnessing solar energy, and strengthening tourism infrastructure.

Posting doctored videos, hate

Punjab wrestler Chhota Saddam lifts 99th Jhajjar Kotli Dangal Title

Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 17: Wrestler Chhota Saddam from Hoshiarpur, Punjab, emerged victorious in the prestigious 99th Jhajjar Kotli Dangal Title 2023, defeating wrestler Lalli of Phagwara, Punjab, in a thrilling and hard-fought final bout held at Jhajjar Kotli in District Jammu.

The winner of the first main mali bout, Chhota Saddam, was awarded a cash prize of Rs 80,000 along with the traditional Pata, while runner-up Lalli received Rs 70,000. A total of 46 bouts were contested during the one-day wrestling extravaganza, drawing large participation and enthusiasm from wrestling lovers.

In the second main mali bout, wrestler Nadeem of Doda defeated Sarwan of Dera Baba Nanak, Punjab. Nadeem



received Rs 18,000, while Sarwan was awarded Rs 13,000.

The third main bout between Rishu of Kathua and Nisar of Doda ended in a draw, with both wrestlers jointly awarded Rs 15,000.

The fourth bout was won by Surjit Singh of J&K Police, a resident of Reasi, who defeated Arif of Doda. The fifth bout was won by Fiza of J&K Police, resident of

Billawar, who defeated Yuv Raj of Jammu.

Among other notable results, Muneer of Panj Gami defeated Deepa of Mullapur, Amir Khan of J&K Police defeated Irfan of Basantgarh, Arjun of Jammu beat Laikat Ali of Punjab, Chain Singh of Reasi defeated Babal of Mullapur, Kharpu of Jammu beat Akhtar of Hoshiarpur, and Dillar of J&K Police defeated Surma

of Hamiarpur. The bout between Ranjeet Singh of J&K Police and Shariff of Hoshiarpur ended in a draw.

Senior BJP leader and District President Nand Kishore Sharma was the chief guest on the occasion, while Shiv Kumar Sharma, former Joint Secretary of J&K State Sports Council and President of J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, presided over the

event.

SHO Jhajjar Kotli Sunil Sharma and Naib Tehsildar Bishan Dutt attended as guests of honour. The Dangal was organized by the Jhajjar Kotli Kesari Dangal Committee in association with the J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association under the supervision of Durga Dass Thappa, Om Parkash Dubey, Nazir Mohammad Dhami, Naresh Kumar (Pappu Lakri), and Sat Paul Verma.

Addressing the gathering, Shiv Kumar Sharma said that sports not only build physical strength but also promote discipline, teamwork, and leadership qualities among youth. He stressed the importance of youth participation in building a drug-free society and urged them to devote their energy towards sports and constructive activities.

DLSA Budgam holds review meeting with LADCs



Top News Report

BUDGAM, Apr 17: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, on Friday convened a review meeting with all Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) in the office chamber of the Secretary, DLSA Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by Tabassum Qadir Parry, Secretary, DLSA Budgam, with the objective of assessing the performance of the Legal Aid Defence Counsels and ensuring adherence to the prescribed standards of service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Lateef

Ahmad Khan, Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel; Nazeer Ahmad Wagay, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel; and Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels.

During the meeting, the counsels shared their experiences, highlighted challenges encountered in the field, and offered constructive suggestions to improve the delivery of legal aid services. Key issues discussed included ensuring quality legal representation, expediting the disposal of pending cases, and strengthening coordination among counsels to enhance access to justice.

Hakeem Yaseen welcomes ‘Nasha Mukht J&K’ campaign, seeks wider role for society

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 17: President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front and former Cabinet Minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen on Friday welcomed the launch of the 100-day “Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir” campaign announced by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, terming it a much-needed and timely initiative to combat the growing menace of drug abuse in the Union Territory.

Addressing the various delegations at party headquarters in Srinagar, Hakeem said the firm resolve expressed by the administration to take strict action against drug smugglers, including punitive measures such as cancellation of passports, Aadhaar cards, and attachment of properties, sends a strong message that those involved in ruining the future of youth will not be spared at any cost. He said such decisive steps are essential to dismantle the network of drug trafficking and protect society from its devastating impact.

While appreciating the government’s commitment, Hakeem emphasized that the fight against drug abuse cannot be won by the administration alone. He stressed the need for a collective societal effort, calling upon civil society members, parents, teachers, and community leaders to actively participate in

this campaign.

He particularly highlighted the important role of schools, colleges, and religious institutions, stating that Imams and scholars can play a vital role in spreading awareness and guiding youth away from substance abuse.

Hakeem further said that awareness must be complemented with sustained engagement at the grassroots level.

He urged educational institutions to organize regular counseling sessions, awareness drives, and youth-centric activities to keep students informed and motivated.

He also underlined the importance of community vigilance in identifying and reporting suspicious activities related to drug peddling.

“Unless the origin and networks behind these drugs are exposed and dismantled, the problem will persist,” he added.

Hakeem also stressed that unemployment among youth is one of the contributing factors driving them towards drug abuse.

In this regard, he urged the administration to introduce an employment-based support system, including a special unemployment allowance (employment batak), to provide financial security and meaningful engagement to young people.

FromPage No: 1

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channelizing their energy into sports.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also launched a wildlife magazine titled ‘Checklist of Mammals of Jammu and Kashmir, India’. A delegation of wildlife ecologists led by Muzaffar Kichloo briefed him on their ongoing and upcoming projects.

The Chief Minister commended their efforts and

speech to attract 3-year jail: DM Jammu

misuse of platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube and Telegram to circulate provocative, false and misleading content that could incite communal tensions and endanger lives and property.

The administration warned that violations would attract stringent action under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Information Technology Act, 2000, with punishments ranging from fines to imprisonment, including up to life term in serious cases involving threats to national unity and integrity.

The order, issued under Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023, provides for jail terms ranging from one to seven years under various sections for violations of prohibitory orders.

Directing citizens to exercise caution, the order urged people not to forward inflammatory content and to report such material to the nearest police station or cybercrime unit.

It also placed responsibility on administrators of social media groups and channels to prevent the circulation of prohibited content, failing which they would face legal liability.

The order further instructed social media intermediaries to comply with takedown requests issued by authorities under Section 69A of the IT Act and the IT Rules, 2021, warning of legal consequences, including loss of safe harbour protection, for non-compliance.

For enforcement, the Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, has been directed to ensure immediate registration of FIRs against violators, while the Cyber Crime Unit will maintain round-the-clock monitoring of online platforms. “Special monitoring cells will also be set up at the sub-divisional level.” The administration said the restrictions come into force immediately and will remain in effect for 60 days unless modified or withdrawn earlier, adding that the order applies to all individuals and platforms whose content may impact public order within Jammu district.

J&K Police attaches properties of 2 drug peddlers in Rajouri,

Udhampur

Bishnah, the officials said.

It was found that the car was purchased using proceeds of narcotics trafficking, they said.

The actions were part of the ‘Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan’ to curb drug trafficking and dismantle the financial networks of those involved in it, the officials said.

Central Kashmir: Police intensify crackdown against illegal mining; 24 arrested, 23 FIRs registered

has also taken parallel action. Fines amounting to several lakhs of rupees have been imposed on violators.

Officials stated that the drive is part of a broader initiative to tackle illegal mining, which poses risks to natural resources and ecological balance.

Police have urged the public to report such activities, emphasising that community cooperation is essential in curbing illegal mining. They reiterated their commitment to strict enforcement to protect the environment and ensure compliance with regulations.

MeT predicts rain, gusty winds in J&K till April 19; improvement from April 20

many places.

These weather activities are likely to occur mainly during morning and evening or late evening hours. Gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph and the possibility of hailstorms at a few locations have also been predicted during this period.

From April 20 to 24, weather conditions are expected to improve, with generally dry weather likely to prevail across the region. The dry spell may continue on April 25 and 26 as well, although brief spells of light rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds could occur at isolated places, particularly during the afternoon hours.

Army organizes interaction with prominent locals at Samote



Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 17: The Indian Army has been consistently contributing to the progress and development of society and the nation. Whether in times of peace or crisis, the Army has always stood alongside its citizens.

In Jammu & Kashmir, its dedicated efforts in countering militancy have played a significant role in fostering growth and advancement of the people.

With this background, the Indian Army organised an interaction at Samote with prominent locals, including village

elders, VIPs, Ex-Servicemen (ESMs) and residents.

The aim of the interaction was to highlight positive changes in society resulting from the Army's initiatives, the cooperation of local communities, and the impact of recent Central Government policies.

The Commanding Officer of the Indian Army unit at Samote welcomed the participants and conducted a detailed interaction.

Discussions covered a wide range of topics, including the Army's people-friendly approach, inclusion of Gujjar and Bakarwal

communities, education, development initiatives and public participation in nation-building. A total of 107 participants attended the event.

The participants actively engaged in the session, sharing their views and experiences. The interaction served as an eye-opener, helping to clarify perceptions and spread awareness on key issues.

At the conclusion of the event, attendees expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for the initiative, stating that it would further strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the Awam.

Dr. Ritu Singh leads Nasha Mukh J&K initiative at DPS Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Under the guidance and visionary leadership of Dr. Ritu Singh, Founder and Pro Vice Chairperson of DPS Jammu, Nagbani, and Katra, Delhi Public School (DPS), Jammu, organised a Special Assembly on "Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Pledge Campaign" here on Friday, aligned with the flagship Nasha Mukh Abhiyan led by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K. The programme was graced by Ramesh Kumar (IAS), Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, as the Chief Guest.

The Chief Guest was accorded a warm and ceremonial welcome with a reception by the school band and a traditional tilak. The programme commenced with the auspicious lighting of the ceremonial lamp, invoking divine blessings for the noble cause.

Delivering an impactful address, Ramesh Kumar administered the Nasha Mukh Bharat Pledge to the students and staff. He sensitised the gathering about the causes and far-reaching consequences of substance abuse, emphasising that addiction adversely affects health, families, careers, and society at large. He highlighted practical strategies to combat stress and prevent substance abuse, including maintaining discipline, engaging in sports and creative pur-



suits, seeking guidance from mentors and family, and building emotional resilience. Urging students to remain vigilant and responsible, he encouraged them to actively spread awareness and make informed life choices.

The Divisional Commissioner also appreciated the commendable efforts of the DPS fraternity, lauding the students for their awareness, confidence, and commitment, and encouraging them to continue serving as agents of positive change. In her welcome address, Dr. Ritu Singh emphasised that the vision of a Nasha Mukh J&K is a shared societal responsibility. Reflecting the school's guiding philosophy of "Service Before Self," she highlighted the importance of nurturing responsible, aware, and compassionate citizens. She urged students to uphold strong values,

make wise choices, and actively contribute towards building a healthier, drug-free society. She also appreciated the collective efforts of students and staff in achieving milestones of excellence.

In a remarkable show of collective commitment, around 5,000 students, their parents, and members of the teaching and administrative staff of DPS Jammu signed pledges in support of the Nasha Mukh campaign, significantly amplifying its outreach across the region.

A key highlight of the programme was the unveiling of the "Wall of Strength", symbolising a united stand against substance abuse, featuring pledges signed by students, parents, and staff. The Chief Guest also inaugurated a Painting Exhibition on "Say No to Drugs," showcasing students' creativity, awareness,

and sensitivity towards this pressing social issue. The programme also featured a Badge of Responsibility Ceremony, wherein eight students were designated as Brand Ambassadors of the Nasha Mukh Abhiyan: Mahira Tandon (Class II F), Dhriti Langeh (Class VI F), Abhilasha Gupta (Class VIII B), Myra Gupta (Class VIII I), Jenna Nurn (Class XI C), Nadia (Class XI H), Sparsh Bakshi (Class XII B), and Kashvi Arora (Class XII H). Adorned with badges and sashes, these young ambassadors interacted with the Chief Guest and shared insightful ideas on how youth can play a pivotal role in building a drug-free society. They emphasised peer awareness, responsible choices, and collective action. Earlier, the programme commenced with a soulful prayer led by Aleena Arora of

Class VII, followed by a thought-provoking Hindi poem recitation by Abhilasha of Class VIII, highlighting the ill effects of drugs on health, family, relationships, and the nation. A melodious choir presentation further enriched the event, spreading a message of hope, awareness, and positivity.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by the Principal DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chhabra, followed by an instrumental rendition of Vande Mataram and the National Anthem.

Also present on the occasion were Vice Principal, Meenu Gupta, Headmaster, Mr Ravi Kotroo, Dy Headmaster & Chief Coordinator, Umesh Sharma, Deputy Headmistress, Rimpi Sharma, Senior Manager Operations, Karandeep Singh, Chief Accounts Officer, Ramesh Gupta, Transport Administrator, M.L. Mehra, Coordinator/ Supervisor Anu Bali, Coordinator, Pre-Primary Ms Preeti Abrol, Coordinator Primary, Prerna, Coordinator Middle, Anuradha Malhotra, Coordinators Senior-Arti Sharma and Sheetal Abrol.

On behalf of the Management and Trustees, including President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, and Director, S.S. Sodhi, Dr. Ritu Singh reaffirmed her unwavering commitment to nurturing responsible citizens and contributing meaningfully towards a Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir.

Army conducts Latti Volleyball League-season 1



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 17: Delta Force successfully organised the "Latti Volleyball League - Season 1" at Latti Panchayat in Udhampur district from 15 to 16 April 2026.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local youth, with 10 teams representing areas including Sudhmahadev, Sira, Latti, Jakhed and Basantgarh.

The league was flagged off by the Principal of Government Middle School, Bandhole, in the presence of dignitaries from the civil administration, J&K

Police and local residents. The event drew an approximate footfall of 500 people.

The initiative was aimed at promoting civil-military coordination, fostering mutual trust and encouraging teamwork and camaraderie between the security forces and the local community.

Participants showcased remarkable skill and sportsmanship, reflecting the true spirit of the game.

The event also provided a valuable platform for meaningful interaction, strengthening bonds of unity and

cooperation among all stakeholders.

The league concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where the winning teams were felicitated by local office bearers and dignitaries.

The initiative received widespread appreciation from the local populace, with many expressing the desire for more such events in the future.

The successful conduct of the Latti Volleyball League stands as a testament to the positive role of sports in strengthening community ties and promoting a spirit of togetherness in the region.

CS interacts with All Ladakh Goba Association on preparations for Sacred Buddha Relics Exposition

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 17: The Chief Secretary of UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, today interacted with members of the All Ladakh Goba Association to discuss preparations for the forthcoming exposition of the Sacred Buddha Relics, scheduled to be held from May 1 to May 15, 2026.

During the interaction, detailed deliberations were held on various aspects of the organisation and scheduling of the sacred exposition.

The Chief Secretary emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event, which is expected to attract many devotees



and visitors from across the region and beyond.

Members of the All Ladakh Goba Association shared their views and suggestions, highlighting the crucial role of village representatives in facilitating community participation and maintaining effective local coordination during the exposition.

The Chief Secretary also specifically urged all Goba, particularly

those in and around Leh city, to ensure cleanliness and sanitation in their respective areas in the lead-up to the event.

Additionally, Goba from far-flung areas raised concerns regarding transportation and requested the provision

of adequate bus services to facilitate smooth travel for residents wishing to attend the exposition.

Div Com Kashmir reviews progress of 60 MLD Noorbagh STP, other Key Projects

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 17: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Friday conducted a comprehensive review of the progress on the 60 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Noorbagh, along with other major ongoing projects being executed by the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) in Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Chief Engineer, KPDC; Superintending Engineer, UEED; Executive Engineer, R&B; representatives from NBCC; and other concerned officials.

At the outset, the Superintending Engineer, UEED, delivered a detailed presentation covering key aspects of the projects, including electricity supply, leakage issues, pending household connections, relocation of shops along the 90-foot road, and demolition of unsafe structures at Alamgiribazar. He also shared details on the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for newly developed habitations in Zone-III of Greater Srinagar, incorporating advanced systems such



as tertiary treatment and SCADA for the 60 MLD STP.

The meeting also reviewed progress on other proposed STPs, including a 30 MLD facility aimed at mitigating pollution in Dal Lake, a 14 MLD STP at Alluchibagh, and a 6 MLD STP to address pollution in Doodganga.

During the review, the Divisional Commissioner directed that all issues related to electricity supply and leakages at the Noorbagh STP be resolved by May 31 to ensure the facility becomes fully operational. He further emphasized expediting the connection of all pending households to the STP network.

Regarding the reloca-

tion of shops, officials informed that funds have already been released by UEED and the process is expected to be completed by August this year.

It was also noted that UEED is in the process of preparing a fresh in-house DPR for newly developed habitations in Zone-III of Greater Srinagar, incorporating tertiary treatment, SCADA, and Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS).

With respect to the proposed 30 MLD STP, the chair was informed that all pending issues have been resolved, and both survey and design work have been completed, while site development is currently under progress.

GDC Bani organizes debate competition under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan

Top News Report

BANI, Apr 17: As a part of the ongoing activities under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, Government Degree College (GDC) Bani organized a debate competition on Friday on the theme "Drug Addiction: A Cancer to Society." The event was conducted under the patronage of the esteemed Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Neena Gupta.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who expressed their views with confidence and clarity, highlighting the harmful impact of drug addiction on individuals and society at large. The competition aimed to raise awareness among the youth and encourage critical thinking on this pressing social issue.

Dr. J. S. Soodan (PTI) delivered the formal welcome address and played a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth



and effective conduct of the programme. On the occasion, the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Neena Gupta, also addressed the gathering and motivated the students to stay away from drugs. She urged them to channel their energy into constructive pursuits, emphasizing that instead of falling into harmful addictions, they should cultivate an "addiction" to hard work, discipline, and positive thinking. She highlighted that such a mindset is essential for personal growth

and for building a healthy and progressive society.

In the competition, Shivani Devi of 2nd semester secured the first position, followed by Savita Devi of 2nd semester who secured the second position, while Raman Kumar of 2nd semester bagged the third position. The results were adjudged by Dr. Mulkh Raj and Prof. Rajneesh Kumar.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Nisha Devi, Programme

Officer, NSS, who expressed her sincere gratitude to the Principal, faculty members, and students for their active support and participation in making the event a success.

Among the faculty members present on the occasion were Prof. Naseeb Kumar Bhagat (EVS), Dr. J. S. Soodan (PTI), Dr. Resham Singh (Punjabi), Prof. Akash Zutshi (History), Dr. Reeha Sharma (Education), Dr. Nisha Devi (Hindi), Prof. Vishab Thappa (English), Dr. Sayeed Ahmed (Chemistry), Prof. Firdos Bhat (Political Science), Dr. Farooq Ahmed Dar (Political Science), Dr. Mulkh Raj (Education), and Prof. Rajneesh Kumar (Sociology), who appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to actively participate in such awareness programmes.

The programme served as a meaningful step towards promoting awareness and fostering a drug-free society.

We need to take some tough calls: MI skipper Hardik Pandya after 4th successive defeat

The five-time champions lost to Punjab Kings by seven wickets and are now languishing ninth on the table with just two points

MUMBAI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Skipper Hardik Pandya did not mince his words after Mumbai Indians crashed to their fourth successive defeat in IPL 2026, warning about taking a few “difficult calls” and reminded his misfiring teammates of the need to take “ownership” of the team’s poor outings.

In their latest debacle, the five-time champions lost to Punjab Kings by seven wickets and are now languishing ninth on the table with just two points.

“To be very honest, I don’t have much to say right now. I think we really need to go back on the drawing board and see where are we lacking. Is it individuals? Is it as a group? Is it planning? We’ll just figure it out and see what we can do next,” said Pandya after another morale-shattering loss on Thursday night.

Indirectly, Pandya might have been hinting at the faltering show of MI seniors like Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah and Tilak Varma.

“No, I think we need to see, do we need to make some difficult calls or do we need to keep



continuing and hope that we’ll turn things around. These are some harsh questions which eventually we need to answer and yeah, ownership has to be taken,” he said. Suryakumar has scored a fifty but his other scores have been 16, 6, 33 and 0 and Tilak Varma has a modest sequence of 20, 0, 14, 1 and 8.

The talismanic Jasprit Bumrah is yet to take a wicket in five games and has given away runs at 8.63 per over.

However, Pandya credited the opposition for out-thinking them in all departments of the game.

“I think we need to give credit

to them as well. The ball started reversing. In the second inning the dew came and it slightly got better but having said that, they just outbeat us. They bowled better, they batted better, they fielded better definitely and that talks to us again.

Punjab captain Shreyas Iyer, who made a 35-ball 66 in the successful chase against MI, said staying grounded has helped the side execute their plans with precision.

“Certainly confident and optimistic the way we have been playing. Also we have our heads on our shoulder. I am glad that today we came out and got that

victory,” said Iyer.

He also praised the coming of age of Prabhsimran Singh, noting that the opener has consistently provided fluent starts and on Thursday carried the team through with an unbeaten knock.

“He (Prabhsimran) has certainly raised up his bar, even though he was getting runs, he was giving us excellent starts, this year he has been more mature, match by match he is getting more mature,” added Iyer.

Prabhsimran, who made an unbeaten 80 off 39 balls, said self-belief helped him overcome a lean phase in the Powerplay and take on the bowling more aggressively later in the innings.

“I was just believing in myself because the powerplay I didn’t get many balls to play. I think I played 6-7 balls in the powerplay. But then in my mind I thought that if I take a little longer, I will be able to play (better).

“So I kept believing in myself that I will do it and I did it. I just had this in mind that I will play the anchor,” added Prabhsimran.

Mohali’s Niharika Vashisht breaches Asian Games qualification mark



CHANDIGARH, Apr 17 (Agencies): From representing the nation in international events and featuring in an ad-shoot with Akshay Kumar, Mohali’s triple-jumper Niharika Vashisht has now delivered a commanding performance to breach the Asian Games qualification mark.

During the Indian Athletics Series-3 in New Delhi, she clinched the top spot in the women’s triple-jump event with a distance of 13.41m. She also emerged as the only athlete to cross the 13m mark.

“I am really happy to breach the Asian Games qualification mark. My aim is to clear the Commonwealth Games qualification event. The ultimate aim is to bag a medal for the nation in either of these tournaments,” said Niharika. The 2026 Asian Games are scheduled to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19.

The international triple-jumper is a national medallist and had represented Panjab University at the International World University Games.

In the national capital, she started with 12.84m jump, followed by a foul attempt. In her third leap, she recorded a 13.29m jump, followed by another controlled effort of 13.25m. Her best jump of 13.41m came in the fifth round, before she concluded with another foul.

“The off-season really went well. I was training at multiple venues, including Chandigarh and Panchkula, which helped me to get adjusted to the condition in no time. I tried my best for breaching the mark in the 2022 Asian Games as well, but it was a hard time. Later, I suffered an injury but thankfully, recovered and returned to my practice. The upcoming months are really important for me, considering the preparation for the international events under completely different conditions and setup,” she added.

Last year, she won five medals at various national events for Punjab, including an important one with a clear jump of 13.27m during the 38th National Games in Dehradun.

Canada’s T20 World Cup match vs NZ under ICC ACU scrutiny: Report

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): The ICC is investigating Cricket Canada for alleged breach of its anti-corruption code, including the national team’s loss to New Zealand in a T20 World Cup match held on February 17 in Chennai, a media report has stated.

The game at Chepauk, which Canada lost by eight wickets, has come under scrutiny from the ICC’s Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) following allegations of corruption highlighted in a recently-aired documentary.

Electing to bat, Canada had posted 173/4, before New Zealand chased it down in just 15.1 overs. Glenn Phillips (59 not out off 39 balls) and Rachin Ravindra (76 not out off 36) sealed the win to confirm the Black Caps’ Super Eight berth.

According to agency, the ACU is probing multiple allegations linked to Cricket Canada and “two active investigations that span elements of Cricket Canada and allegations of breaches of the ICC’s anti-corruption code at international and domestic level as well”.



The allegations came into light in a 43-minute documentary, Corruption, Crime and Cricket, produced by Canadian investigative programme ‘the fifth estate’ and aired by CBC on Friday.

The film makes wide-ranging claims about corruption and governance issues in Canadian cricket.

As per the documentary, the World Cup match against New Zealand is under scrutiny, particularly the fifth over of the chase bowled by Canada captain Dilpreet Bajwa.

Appointed captain just three weeks before the tournament, Bajwa, a batting all-rounder who bowls off-spin, came on to bowl with New Zealand at 35/2.

He began the over with a no-ball, followed it with a wide down the leg side, and went on to concede 15 runs.

“Consistent with its established operating procedures, the ACU is not in a position to comment on the substance of any allegations contained within it (the documentary),” Andrew Ephgrave, interim General Manager of the ICC’s Integrity Unit, said in a statement to agency.

“Governance matters in relation to ICC Members are considered by the ICC, where they fall under its jurisdiction, in accordance with the ICC’s standard constitutional processes.

“The ICC’s Anti-Corruption Unit operates across three core functions: intelligence, prevention and education, and investigation. These functions operate concurrently and are applied wherever there is a credible basis to believe the integrity of the sport may be at risk.”

Canada had started with pace in the match through Jaskaran Singh and Dillon Heyliger, who conceded 15 and 14 runs respectively.

Spin was introduced in the third over, when Saad bin Zafar bowled a wicket maiden, while Heyliger picked up a wicket in the fourth over.

The second investigation relates to a leaked

phone recording involving former Canada coach Khurram Chohan, in which he alleges that senior (now former) board members pressured him to select certain players.

“The recording also contains claims of attempts to fix in matches, though those involve challenges in corroborating with actionable evidence,” according to the report.

The documentary also features former coach Pubudu Dassanayake, who makes a similar allegation of undue pressure in team selection ahead of the 2024 T20 World Cup.

The fifth estate said the board tried “to force” Dassanayake to select certain players and warned his contract would be terminated if he refused.

Dassanayake is now suing Cricket Canada for wrongful dismissal.

Cricket Canada has faced administrative turmoil over the past year, including the appointment and removal of former CEO Salman Khan, whose hiring had drawn ICC attention over non-disclosure of prior criminal charges.

He has since been charged with theft and fraud by Calgary Police, allegations he has denied. Earlier this month, Arvinder Khosa replaced Amjad Bajwa as board president.

Rwanda to host inaugural ICC Women’s T20I Challenge Trophy from April 18

KIGALI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Kigali is set to witness a significant step forward in the growth of women’s cricket as the International Cricket Council (ICC) launched the inaugural Women’s T20I Challenge Trophy, set to start on April 18 in Rwanda.

The five-team tournament will open with hosts Rwanda taking on Italy, while Nepal face the United States on the same day. Vanuatu, the fifth side in the competition, will begin their campaign on April 19 against Rwanda after a first-day bye. Matches will be played across two adjoining grounds at the Gahanga Cricket Stadium.

Designed as a double round-robin event, the tournament will run until May 2, offering participating teams a valuable platform to gain competitive international exposure, according to ICC.

The competition is part of ICC’s broader initiative to strengthen pathways for Associate



Member nations, complementing other events such as the Emerging Nations Trophy introduced last year.

The participating teams earned their spots through strong performances in the 2025 regional Women’s T20 World Cup Qualifiers, with each side representing one of the ICC’s five regions and narrowly missing out on qualification for the Emerging Nations Trophy.

Nepal and the USA enter the tournament as early favourites, having featured in the recent

Women’s T20 World Cup Global Qualifier earlier this year. Nepal, currently ranked 21st in the ICC Women’s T20I rankings, are the highest-ranked side in the competition.

Meanwhile, Vanuatu could prove to be a dark horse. Ranked 30th, they showcased their potential by defeating higher-ranked Indonesia during the East Asia-Pacific Qualifier in Fiji, securing their place in this tournament.

The Challenge Trophy comes at a time when women’s cricket is undergoing rapid expansion globally.

The Women’s T20 World Cup is set to grow to 12 teams in 2026, with further expansion to 16 teams confirmed for the 2030 edition.

ICC Women’s T20I Challenge Trophy - Schedule

April 18
9:00 am - Rwanda vs Italy
1:00 pm - Nepal vs USA

April 19
9:00 am - Rwanda vs Vanuatu
1:00 pm - Italy vs Nepal

April 21
9:00 am - Rwanda vs USA

1:00 pm - Vanuatu vs Italy

April 22
9:00 am - Rwanda vs Nepal

1:00 pm - USA vs Vanuatu

April 24
9:00 am - Nepal vs Vanuatu

1:00 pm - Italy vs USA

April 26
9:00 am - Rwanda vs Vanuatu

1:00 pm - USA vs Nepal

April 27
9:00 am - Rwanda vs Italy

1:00 pm - USA vs Vanuatu

April 28
9:00 am - Rwanda vs Nepal

1:00 pm - Italy vs Vanuatu

April 3
9:00 am - Italy vs USA
1:00 pm - Nepal vs Vanuatu

May 1
9:00 am - Rwanda vs USA

1:00 pm - Italy vs Nepal

All matches will take place at Gahanga Cricket Stadium’s two grounds in Kigali.

“Let IPL teams own Test teams”: Lalit Modi’s bold suggestion to save “dying” Test cricket

LONDON, Apr 17 (Agencies): Former Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Lalit Modi has proposed a bold measure to save the “dying” Test cricket, suggesting that the Indian Premier League (IPL) teams could own the Test teams and attract youngsters to the game to save the longest format of the game from facing further decline.

Lalit Modi, speaking on The Overlap Podcast with former England cricketer Michael Vaughan, suggested that to keep Test cricket alive, IPL franchises could own Test teams and play exhibition matches to engage younger audiences. However, he stressed that international, country-versus-country cricket should remain the top priority.

“The only way Test cricket will work, somebody’s going to shoot me for saying this. First time I’m saying this. Let the IPL teams own Test cricket teams.

You got the youngsters, you got the loyalty factors. You play your country versus country, without doubt, that’s premier. I’m saying you have it as a world championship that goes around the world every year, you play those without doubt, but also so that it doesn’t disappear, you have exhibition matches starting off with it—teams playing test cricket. At least play one in a season between each other just to get their youngsters back into the game. That’s going to be like club cricket. You have club cricket in everything. But the primary has to be country versus country,” Lalit Modi said.

He said building loyalty among young fans requires engaging them early and providing them with a strong, enjoyable cricket experience.

“And if you want to build loyalty with the youngsters, you got to catch them young and you’ve

got to give them the experience.”

Lalit Modi expressed hope that Test cricket survives, but said he believes it is in decline globally. He said only Australia and England are maintaining a strong interest in the format through events like the Ashes, while Test cricket is “dying” in other parts of the world.

“I hope Test cricket survives because I love Test cricket. You look at the generation that is growing up now. Unfortunately, they are not experiencing it anywhere else except in Australia and England. These are the only two countries that are actually keeping the level of Test up because of the Ashes and because of the English season, and you have the advantage of that, but the rest of the world, Test is dying,” he said.

Modi also recommended that five-day Test matches be

trimmed to four-day day-night affairs.

“Now people think I’m crazy to suggest this, but I care about it, and my suggestion has always been, and since 2007, I’ve been saying this: Tests should turn into a four-day game, it should be day and night,” he said.

Modi further argued that modern audiences lack the time and patience for long, traditional Test matches, unlike in earlier eras when cricket was less accessible and viewing options were limited.

“People don’t have the luxury today to go out there and spend four days all day sitting in the sun and drinking beer. I’m sorry. Those were the good old days when you had a single-channel television and the Test was rare and not accessible with media today, available to you on the fly. Every match around the world is available to you,” Modi added.

Governor of Punjab honours GGS College brilliant students with gold medals



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: GGS College of Management and Technology has added another feather to its cap as several of its students secured top positions at the university level and were honoured with prestigious Gold Medals during the third convocation ceremony of the university.

The meritorious students who brought laurels to the institution include Amandeep (BA JMC), Jasmeet Kumar (BA JMC), Rajveer Kaur (M.Sc. IT), Simranjeet Kaur (B.Com. Hons.), Tisha (BBA), and Jyoti (BBA).

Their remarkable academic performance earned them first positions in their respective

courses, making the college proud.

The students were felicitated by the Governor of Punjab along with the Vice Chancellor during the convocation ceremony, where they received Gold Medals in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

The event marked a significant milestone in the academic journey of these students and highlighted the institution's commitment to excellence in education.

The Management, Principal, and staff of GGS College of Management and Technology extended their heartfelt congratulations to the achievers. They appreciated the hard work, dedication, and perseverance demon-

strated by the students.

Dr. R. K. Uppal expressed immense pride on this accomplishment, stating that it is a moment of great honour for the entire GGS campus. He described the achievement as exemplary and a reflection of the high academic standards maintained by the institution.

He further congratulated the students, their teachers, and parents, acknowledging their collective efforts in achieving this success.

The achievement of these students not only enhances the reputation of the college but also serves as an inspiration for other students to strive for excellence in their academic pursuits.

Pahari Communities of Chenab Valley demanded inclusion in Scheduled Tribe List – Fulfil Lokur Committee Criteria

Top News Report

DODA, Apr 17: The Pahari Core Committee of the erstwhile Doda district strongly reiterates its long-pending demand for the inclusion of the Pahari-speaking communities of Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban (Chenab Valley) in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list. The Committee asserts with full responsibility and evidence that these communities unequivocally fulfil all the criteria laid down by the Lokur Committee, which continue to serve as the foundational framework for tribal identification in India.

The Lokur Committee identified five essential characteristics for Scheduled Tribe status: primitive traits, distinct culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact, and socio-economic backwardness. The Pahari communities of Chenab Valley meet each of these criteria in letter and spirit, as demonstrated by both ground realities and statistical data.

Firstly, with regard to primitive traits, the communities continue to follow traditional, subsistence-based livelihoods. More than 90 to 95 percent of the population in Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban resides in

rural areas, relying primarily on agriculture and livestock. Farming practices remain largely non-mechanized and rain-dependent. Urbanization is extremely low, with only around 6.4 percent population in Kishtwar and nearly 4 percent in Ramban living in urban areas, clearly indicating minimal exposure to industrial and modern economic systems. These indicators reflect the persistence of traditional ways of life, a key element of the Lokur framework.

Secondly, the criterion of distinct culture is strongly evident among the Pahari communities. They possess a unique linguistic and cultural identity expressed through dialects such as Bhaderwahi, Bhalesi, Sarazi, Pogali, and Kishtwari, Rudhari, Khashali, Khush, Kohistani, Rambani, Zundhari, Bonjwari and many others. Their customs, traditions, folk songs, rituals, and social institutions are markedly different from other populations of Jammu and Kashmir. However, these languages are often not separately recorded in official Census data and are grouped under broader linguistic categories, leading to cultural and

statistical invisibility despite their distinctiveness.

Thirdly, the condition of geographical isolation is clearly satisfied. The Chenab Valley is characterized by rugged mountainous terrain, scattered settlements, and poor connectivity. Doda district, for instance, has a population density of only about 46 persons per square kilometer, indicating sparse habitation. Over 90 percent of the population lives in remote rural areas, many of which remain cut off during winters due to snowfall and landslides. This physical isolation has historically limited access to education, healthcare, markets, and administrative services. Fourthly, the criterion of shyness of contact is reflected in the limited interaction of these communities with mainstream institutions. Extremely low urbanization, coupled with infrastructural and educational deficits, has resulted in minimal exposure to external systems. Literacy data highlights this gap: in Kishtwar, male literacy is about 68.9 percent, while female literacy is significantly lower at around 42.3 percent; in Ramban, female literacy drops further to nearly

38 percent. These disparities indicate restricted social mobility, especially among women, and demonstrate limited engagement with formal institutions—an essential aspect of this criterion.

Finally, the condition of socio-economic backwardness is strongly supported by statistical indicators. The overall literacy rates of the region—approximately 64.7 percent in Doda, 56.2 percent in Kishtwar, and 54.3 percent in Ramban—are significantly below the national average of about 74 percent. Female literacy remains critically low across all districts. The overwhelming rural population, lack of industrial development, limited employment opportunities, and poor infrastructure collectively point toward deep-rooted economic deprivation. Additionally, the sex ratio in these districts—around 919 in Doda, 920 in Kishtwar, and 902 in Ramban—is lower than the national average, reflecting broader socio-economic stress.

In view of the above, the Pahari Core Committee firmly stated that the exclusion of the Pahari communities of Chenab Valley from the Scheduled Tribe list is

not based on any deficiency in criteria but rather represents a glaring oversight and regional imbalance. The community not only meets but strongly exemplifies all five criteria laid down by the Lokur Committee.

The Committee, therefore, urged the Government of India and the Union Territory administration of Jammu and Kashmir to take immediate and concrete steps to rectify this historical injustice. The inclusion of the Pahari communities of Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban in the Scheduled Tribe list is essential to ensure access to constitutional safeguards, reservation benefits, and targeted developmental schemes.

The Pahari Core Committee appealed to policymakers, civil society, and all stakeholders to recognize the legitimacy of this demand and support the cause of justice, equality, and inclusive development for the marginalized people of the Chenab Valley.

Those who spoke include AM Bichoo, Abdul Khaliq, JS Chak, Dr Javed katoch, Sadaket Malik, Jugesh Singh Thakur, Shiv narayan Singh Chib, Rajat Bhaderwahi, Saqlain pogali, Rajinder Singh, Hamait Wani, and many others.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta listed by Outlook Magazine as amongst India's Leading Change Makers of the Decade

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Indian Institute of Management Jammu shares a moment of reflection and appreciation as Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Honorary Distinguished Professor, IIM Jammu, and Founding Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu, has been recognized among 28 distinguished personalities in the national "Game Changers of the Decade" initiative, as featured in Outlook Magazine (April 2026).

The recognition highlights individuals whose sustained leadership and contributions have significantly shaped India's growth over the past decade.

India's remarkable growth over the past decade reflects a nation that has steadily transformed challenges into opportunities through innovation, resilience, and inclusive development. Emerging as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally, the country has witnessed significant expansion driven by technology, research, and progressive policy frameworks such as the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The rise of digital public infrastructure platforms like Aadhaar, UPI, and Digi Locker has revolutionized access across governance, finance, healthcare, and education, while advancements in artificial intelligence continue to accelerate impact across sectors.

Strengthened by a dynamic talent pool, expanding infrastructure, and strong public-private collaboration, India is laying the foundation for sustainable



and equitable growth. In this context, the "Game Changers of the Decade" by Outlook Magazine feature recognises individuals whose leadership embodies this transformative journey.

Responding to this achievement, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Honorary Distinguished Professor, IIM Jammu mentioned that he feels deeply honored and grateful to be placed alongside globally respected leaders such as Satya Nadella, Chairman and CEO of Microsoft; Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet and Google; Shri Nandan Nilekani, Co-founder of Infosys and Founding Chairman of UIDAI; and Shri Virat Kohli, former Captain and icon of the Indian Cricket Team.

He emphasised that this recognition is not merely an individual milestone but a reflection of the collective commitment, dedication, and tireless efforts of colleagues, mentors, healthcare professionals, and institutional teams he has had the privilege to work with over the years.

He noted that every achievement attributed to him is deeply rooted in collaboration, a shared vision, and the larger mission of strengthening India's healthcare ecosystem.

For, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Honorary Distinguished Professor, IIM Jammu, this honour stands as a tribute to the spirit of teamwork, public service, and the unwavering pursuit of excellence that continues to drive transformative change across institutions and communities.

Adding to this proud moment, Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, noted that Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Honorary Distinguished Professor at IIM Jammu's recognition reflects the kind of leadership that builds institutions with purpose and impact.

He highlighted that such achievements reinforce the institute's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, particularly in critical domains like healthcare, where management, medicine, and technology must converge to address emerging challenges.

He further emphasized that Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta's association with IIM Jammu brings invaluable experiential insight to the MBA (Healthcare) programme and inspires future leaders to pursue excellence with integrity and a larger sense of national service.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, who hails from Poonch, Jammu & Kashmir, is an alumnus of Government Medical College Jammu and AIIMS New Delhi.

He began his career in J&K Health Services before joining AIIMS New Delhi, where he later headed the Department of Hospital Administration. Over the years, he has mentored more than 45 postgraduate and PhD scholars,

guided over 112 research studies, and authored more than 110 publications.

His department became the first at AIIMS to receive ISO certification, and he contributed to curriculum standardization and academic innovation in hospital administration.

He has led multiple WHO-supported initiatives on hospital governance, public-private partnerships, and electronic medical records and has authored eleven books on key areas including hospital planning, procurement, disaster management, and infection control.

He has also led national capacity-building programmes and contributed to policy frameworks, including roles in the National Ambulance Code Committee and emergency care systems.

As Founding Executive Director and CEO, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Honorary Distinguished Professor, IIM Jammu, has led the development of AIIMS Jammu into a modern, patient-centric institution, introducing initiatives such as "Patient First" and "Pain-Free" care models.

Under his visionary leadership, 43 major infrastructure projects were completed within a record timeframe, earning national recognition, including the CPWD Best Project Award. Under his stewardship, AIIMS Jammu secured the 7th rank in the Government Medical Universities Ranking 2025, emerging as the second-highest-ranked institution after AIIMS New Delhi, firmly placing it on the national academic map. Today, AIIMS Jammu stands

as a symbol of visionary leadership and determined execution.

At Indian Institute of Management Jammu, he is contributing to the MBA (Healthcare) programme offered in collaboration with AIIMS Jammu and IIT Jammu, bringing a rare confluence of clinical depth, administrative acumen, policy insight, and technological orientation.

His involvement is shaping the programme into a future-ready platform that aims to nurture a new generation of healthcare leaders equipped to navigate complexity, drive innovation, and strengthen healthcare systems with a patient-centric and nation-focused approach.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta's recognitions include FICCI Healthcare Personality of the Year (2025), Capital Foundation National Award, Times Healthcare Achievers Award, and the State Award for Meritorious Public Service by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, among others. He has also received international recognition, including the International Partner of the Year Award from Cologne University, Germany.

The recognition under the "Game Changers of the Decade" initiative reflects his enduring contributions to healthcare administration, institution building, and public service in India. For Indian Institute of Management Jammu, it reinforces a shared commitment to advancing thought leadership, fostering meaningful collaborations, and contributing to the evolution of healthcare management education in the country.

Dr. Ritu appoints Mahant Rohit Shastri as Advisor to Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti Sanstha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: In a significant and proud development, Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti Sanstha has formally announced the appointment of renowned scholar, eminent spiritual thinker, and noted social worker Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji as Advisor to the organization.

The appointment was made on the recommendation of the Chairperson, Dr. Ritu Singh, reflecting the institution's visionary leadership and commitment towards strengthening religious and cultural values in society.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chairperson Baldev Khullar said that Mahant Rohit Shastri has been consistently working for the preservation and promotion of Devvani Sanskrit in the region.

He added that with his vast knowledge of astrology, deep understanding of Vedic traditions, and disciplined spiritual life, Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji has earned a distinguished place in society.

He further stated that Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji's life has been devoted to social service, cultural awakening, and the protection of Vedic heritage. His appointment is expected to bring fresh



energy and direction to the activities of the Sanstha.

Baldev Khullar expressed confidence that under the guidance of Mahant Rohit Shastri, religious awareness would receive renewed momentum while positivity, moral values, and cultural ethos would be further strengthened among the people.

He said that his experience, wisdom, and farsighted vision would play a vital role in taking the institution to greater heights.

The main objective of Jammu Aarti Sanstha is to promote religious, cultural, and spiritual activities while encouraging moral values in society.

The organization believes that under the leadership and guid-

ance of Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji, these goals would be achieved more effectively and welfare initiatives would gain fresh momentum.

Other office bearers of the Sanstha also welcomed the appointment and termed it highly inspiring. They said that Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji's ideas, experience, and guidance would provide a new direction to the institution's future plans and help in their successful implementation.

The organization requested Mahant Rohit Shastri to accept this important responsibility so that, under his able guidance, the institution continues to progress and further strengthen spiritual, cultural, and moral awareness in society.

Army conducts lecture on youth career counselling at Chiralla

Top News Report

DODA, Apr 17: Indian Army conducted a lecture on Youth Career Counselling at Chiralla. The initiative aimed to guide and motivate local youth towards making informed and purposeful career choices. The session witnessed active participation from students and young individuals of Chiralla, who attended

with great enthusiasm. The lecture focused on creating awareness about various career opportunities in govt services. Special emphasis was laid on the importance of education, skill development and disciplined preparation for competitive examinations. The importance of self-confidence, dedication and continuous learning in achieving career goals was also stressed upon.