

EDITORIAL

EDUCATION
IMPORTANCE

Education is the essential tool for the bright future of all of us. We can achieve anything good in life by using this tool of education. High level of education helps people to gain social and family respect and a distinct identity. Education time is a very important time for everyone socially and personally.

It develops a person to a different level in life and a sense of goodness. Education provides the ability to solve any major family, social and even national and international problems. None of us can ignore the importance of education in every aspect of life. It turns the mind towards positivity and removes all mental and negative thoughts.

It changes people's thinking by bringing positive thoughts and removes negative thoughts. In our childhood, our parents play a very important role in guiding our mind towards education. They make every effort to provide us good education by enrolling us in reputed educational institutions. It gives us technical and highly skilled knowledge as well as the ability to develop our ideas all over the world.

The best ways to enhance your skills and knowledge are by reading newspapers, watching informative programs on TV, reading books by good authors etc. Education makes us more civilized and better educated. It helps us to achieve a better position in the society and the envisioned position in the job.

Education plays a major role in the modern technological world. Nowadays, there are many ways to increase the level of education. The whole system of education has now been changed. Now we can study along with job through distance education program after class 12th.

Education is not very expensive, anyone can continue their studies even after having little money. Through distance education, we can easily take admission in any big and famous university at very low fees. Other smaller institutes are also providing education to promote skills in a particular field.

It enables us to become a good doctor, engineer, pilot, teacher etc. whatever we want to be in life. Regular and proper education leads us towards success by making us aim in life. The education system of earlier times was much tougher than today. Not all castes could get education according to their wish.

It was also very difficult to get admission in a prestigious college because of the high fees. But now, it has become very easy and simple to move ahead by getting education through distance education.

Education is the essential tool for the bright future of all of us. We can achieve anything good in life by using this tool of education. High level of education helps people to gain social and family respect and a distinct identity. Education time is a very important time for everyone socially and personally.

It develops a person to a different level in life and a sense of goodness. Education provides the ability to solve any major family, social and even national and international problems. None of us can ignore the importance of education in every aspect of life. It turns the mind towards positivity and removes all mental and negative thoughts.

Brighten the future in jewellery designing

By: Vijay Garg

When women or girls attend a wedding, function or event, they also pay special attention to the matching of jewellery with their dress. For some time now, the trend of wearing jewellery has been increasing among men as well. Due to the growing trend of jewellery designing, this industry is now progressing rapidly and the employment opportunities in it are also increasing rapidly. Jewellery designing The art of making various ornaments is known as jewellery designing. Who designed them Yes, they are called jewellery designers. Gold, silver etc. metals are molded into different shapes and attractive ornaments are made by adding diamonds and pearls to it. The main job of a jewellery designer is designing the jewellery as well as creating styles and patterns. Earlier this work was done by goldsmiths and their artisans and this work was done manually. Now this work is done by jewellery designers and the help of computer is taken in it. A jewellery designer makes beautiful jewellery keeping in mind the demands of his customers and fashion. style Diamonds, ivory, precious stones, shells, pearls etc. are also widely used in making jewellery. If you have the qualities of creativity and

long-term work, then a career can be made in the field of jewellery designing. Although today the prices of gold, silver, diamonds, pearls etc. are setting new records, but people's attraction towards jewellery is not going to decrease. Now this business is growing rapidly day by day. Nowadays, people go for traditional designer jewellery in gold as well as designer jewellery embellished with other metals and stones as part of the new fashion. are also beginning to give importance. The demand for professionals in this field is very high and the supply is very low. Therefore, the field of jewellery designing has unlimited career possibilities for the youth, which provides them with a guarantee of employment as well as heights in the future. qualification To make a career in the field of jewellery designing, first of all, it is more important to have interest and understanding towards this field. Along with this, it is important to be creative, imaginative, understanding of new era, understanding of fashion, understanding of color and design as well as hardworking. However, courage in every field But jewellery designing is such a work, in which the designer needs to work with patience. If you are designing jewellery with expensive metals like gold, diamonds

then even a little carelessness can spoil all your hard work. Course To make a future in the field of jewellery designing, you can do certificate, diploma and degree courses in this field after 12th. After 12th you can do a six month degree course in it or you can do a one year diploma after graduation. tenth pass Jewellery designing is also a career option for youngsters. Short term course can be done after 10th. CAD for Gems Jewellery, Basic Jewellery Design, Diamond Identification and Grading, Bachelor of Accessory Design, Jewellery Manufacturing, Advanced Jewellery Design with CAD, Bachelor of Jewellery Design, BSc in Jewellery Design, Master Diploma in Jewellery Design and Technology etc. are many employment oriented courses. , from which you can choose according to your ability, capacity and interest. The possibilities There is no shortage of employment in the field of jewellery designing is not There is a never-ending demand for jewellery designers in export houses to cater to the growing demand for traditional jewellery abroad. After taking a course related to jewellery designing, work from jewellery making to finishing can be easily done in a jewellery designing institute. Along with this, you can make a career in the positions of jewellery designer,

production manager, costing manager, writer and drafter, planning and concept manager, gem polisher and sales associate. salary When you get a job in a firm, initially You can earn 20 to 35 thousand rupees per month. After this, on increasing work experience, you can get a job in a big export house, where you can earn 50 thousand to 1 lakh rupees per month. As your experience increases, so does the salary. Technical ability There is no doubt that technical knowledge is very important to get employment in the field of jewellery designing. Without technical knowledge you cannot advance in this field. So join this job by doing jewellery designing course from a reputed institution All information can be obtained from Along with sketching practice, gemology, polishing, enamelling, color science, electroplating, quality control etc. are given detailed information in jewellery designing curricula. To get admission in a good institute related to jewellery designing one has to pass the entrance exam. Through this exam, the sketching ability and imagination power of the candidate is tested.

*(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)*

The downfall of Punjab, and lessons for the rest of India

By: Mohan Guruswamy

There was a time when Punjab was India's model state. It was number one in almost every field. Then people like Beant Singh, Amarinder Singh, the Badal clan and many others happened. From being the country's role model, it has now become a disaster zone and a national burden. It has been saddled with corrupt governments for many decades now. The "Khalistan" insurgency cost it more than just in lives. Good governance norms went out of the window too. Punjab is now our top handout dependent state. Yet the state still lives under an illusion that it contributes to the rest of India, and without it, India will literally starve.

A former Punjab civil supplies and food minister, Adarsh Prakash Singh Kairon, a man with a prominent and known lineage, had the temerity to say: "The food purchase scheme is not a profitable proposition. Punjab is mainly doing it in the national interest." The notion that Punjab feeds the whole of India is quite absurd now. India has for a few decades produced much more foodgrain than it needs. India exported foodgrain worth an average of Rs.6,000 crore a year since 1991, and last year it touched Rs.27,000 crore. The production has been in the vicinity of 260 million tonnes during the past three years, despite the droughts. India has food reserves of 49 million tonnes worth Rs.50,000 crore, and twice more than it needs.

It is actually the other way around. The rest of India supports Punjab, with this absurd minimum support price (MSP) scheme, that is actually above the market price. This combined with the PDS of low-priced

cereal is actually a gigantic subsidy scheme. The total food and agriculture subsidies allocation in Budget 2023-24 was Rs.2,87,000.00 crore, of which more than half goes towards food subsidy and another quarter goes for fertiliser subsidy. The bulk of the procurement accrues in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Which means the bulk of the MSP subsidy accumulates here.

There is no doubt that Punjab is a major foodgrain production centre, but the notion that it feeds India is quite exaggerated. In 2019, of the total national foodgrain production of 264 million tonnes, Punjab produced 27.4 million tonnes, or about 10 per cent. Admittedly Punjab's productivity is much higher than the rest of the country's as it accounts for only about five per cent of the 54 million hectares of irrigated farmland.

The claims of the Punjab government too foster this fiction. Its website once claimed: "It contributes nearly two-thirds to the total production of foodgrain and a third of milk production in the country. It is the leading producer of wheat, thereby contributing to national food security. Even though Punjabis account for less than 2.5 per cent of India's population, they are one of the most prosperous races in India. Their per capita income is twice the national average." The national per capita income at current prices is Rs.74,000 and Punjab's is Rs.92,000. Yet most of us have internalised the long-gone story of Punjab standing between India and starvation, and Punjab being the country's most prosperous state.

God and this country have both been good to Punjab. Today 85.15 per cent of all land in Punjab is arable and 89.72 per cent of it is with perennial irrigation. More than

half of this is due to the huge Central government projects, Bhakra Nangal being the most notable of them. The British, in their quest for land revenue, rightly chose Punjab for special attention. They invested in its irrigation. But after 1947, this trend accelerated. In 1955, the total national outlay for irrigation was Rs.29,106.30 lakh. Of this, Punjab got Rs.10,952.10 lakh, or 37.62 per cent. By contrast, Bihar got only Rs.1,323.30 lakh, which is only 4.54 per cent of the irrigation outlay. The Bhakra Nangal Dam, one of Jawaharlal Nehru's grandest temples of modern India, planned with an outlay of '7,750 lakh, alone irrigates 1.44 million hectares, or about 40 per cent of Punjab's net irrigated area. The consequences of this bounty are manifold.

The spectrum of regional inequalities in India is a very wide one. Punjab and Bihar represent the two ends of the wide spectrum. Though this might even have been the case historically, a study of state GDPs in the decades after Independence reveals that the width of the spectrum has only widened. In 1965, Punjab's per capita income was Rs.562 and was 1.7 times that of Bihar's Rs.332.

Punjab now has a per capita income of Rs.92,000 and Bihar's is Rs.31,000, or about 3:1. But other changes have also set in. Once India's most prosperous state, it now lags behind Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala and Telangana state, and is about at par with the neighbouring hill state of Himachal Pradesh.

Punjab has all the bounties nature can give, and it has had more than its rightful share of Central government assistance, not just in terms of food procurement and subsidies but also by way of employment. Punjab has also benefited by a dis-

proportionately large recruitment into the armed forces and the paramilitary, giving most rural families a second stream of income. Each year, about 60,000 Punjabi officers and men retire from the armed forces, and over a million draw pensions. Government pensions provide an income far in excess of the average national per capita income. Yet, Punjab is afflicted with a severe blight. An official government study found that 67 per cent households in Punjab have at least one person addicted to drugs. Yet another study by the Narcotics Control Bureau discovered that almost 40 per cent of men in Punjab are addicted to drugs.

So, what has brought Punjab to this pass?

One is that Punjab has been reeling under bad governments. Its politicians and their bureaucratic fellow conspirators, irrespective of party affiliation, have been among the country's most venal and corrupt. A Punjab Police SP, Salwinder Singh, facilitated the attack on the Pathankot airbase by Pakistani terrorists. The silence that has descended around him is understandable. According to a former Punjab DGP, a few years ago the intelligence department had compiled a list of drug barons. This list had the names of powerful politicians from every political party and police officials at every level. Salwinder Singh, now serving a 10-year sentence for rape, is only the tip of the iceberg. Just recently, radical "Khalistani" preacher Amritpal Singh was able to elude the police for over five weeks before being finally arrested from Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale's village. Unless Punjab gets a better government, this downfall will continue.

Varinder Jeet put forward demands of POJK refugees in front of leaders in Delhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Chairman of National Sikh Front and vice president of BJP S. Varinder Jeet Singh puts forward the demands of Sikhs and also refugees of Jammu and Kashmir.

Varinder Jeet Singh met S.S Ahluwalia, the only Sikh M.P of BJP in Lok Sabha, Paramjeet Singh Khurana Akali Dal leader and DGPC member, Vijay Joli senior BJP Leader, R.P Singh senior BJP Leader, Bhupinder Kansal senior BJP Leader and Pandit Brij

Bhushan Shiv Kumar and also other Akali Dal leaders and discussed the problems being faced but Sikhs and refugees of Jammu and Kashmir.

After the abolition of Article 370 and 35-A, the advantages and disadvantages to the Sikh community were discussed. After the abolition of Article 370, the minority commission benefits were extended to Jammu Kashmir and Sikhs benefitted by it were also discussed.

Anand Marriage Act is not implemented in Jammu and Kashmir



was also discussed.

The report of the Ansari Commission on the 1989 anti-Sikh riots was not made public or discussed.

The commissions made on Chatisingpora and Mahjoor Nagar massacre are not seen

anywhere was also discussed. The promise made to give reservations in Govt Jobs to Sikhs of Kashmir was also discussed.

The remaining 24.5 lakhs rupees to POJK refugees as compensation were also dis-

cussed. Reservation to wards of POJK in professional colleges was also a point of discussion.

The Statue of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur at Kunjwani Chowk and the naming of Banihal Qazikund Tunnel in the name of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji were also discussed.

Lastly, it was also demanded from member DGPC from Naraina Vihar Paramjeet Singh Khurana to give reservations to Sikh children in colleges of Delhi which are run by DGPC.

GDC Mandi organizes awareness Rally on Drug De-addiction



Top News Report

MANDI, May 2: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College Mandi organized an awareness Rally on Drug De-addiction under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan Chapter of Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav.

All students and faculty members of the College participated in the rally. The Rally was flagged off by Principal

of the College Prof. Zamir Ahmed Mirza and was led by Dr. Aurangzeb Anjum IQAC and NSS Program Officer of the College. De-addiction is the process of ridding the individual of his dependence on certain substances or activities. Process. Rehabilitation psychology studies the process of de-addiction and helps addicts blend with the normal lifestyle. Rehab centers offer several forms of therapy to reduce substance usage.

Fees to get an education should be suitable & also for Medical, NEET, JEE & Foundation Courses: Mohd Altaf Dar

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 2: Democratic Progressive Azad Party Provincial Vice President Kashmir Mohammad Altaf Dar in a statement issued to press here express concern towards a point that may impact the future.

Also we have heard, education is the key to success. For any country, state, or area, the main reason behind achieving development and respect is having educated people living there.

Unfortunately, the government schools, colleges, and universities are not providing quality education, and the



teachers are not fulfilling their responsibilities. No one is here to check on the things that keep getting worse.

Similarly, about 70 percent of families in our Kashmir Province are low-income, and they cannot afford huge fees to secure their child's future. As a result, 50 percent of our population is less educated, so how can they

contribute to the development of the UT J&K? Now, it is high time to take necessary action for the betterment of education.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Provincial Vice President Kashmir Mohammad Altaf Dar has demanded The LG Administration/ government should focus on increasing the quality of education and making facilities available for students. The fees should also be reasonable so that more students can participate in the development of the UT J&K by obtaining higher education & also for Medical, NEET, JEE & Foundation Courses.

GDC Kilhotran conducts cleanliness drive of water bodies

Top News Report

DODA, May 2: Department of Zoology in association with NSS Unit of GDC Kilhotran under Clean India Campaign, an initiative of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav-Celebration of India's 75 years of Independence conducted an awareness campaign for conservation and cleanliness of Water bodies originating from River Kalgoni in Kilhotran, Bhalessa and its adjoining areas under theme 'Clean Water and Save Life'.

The entire cleanliness drive was conducted under able guidance of Dr. Javid Iqbal, Principal of the College who always support and



encourage the NSS unit and other departments to carry out activities that aware the common masses.

The event was organized by team comprising of Dr. Tanveer Hussain, NSS Programme officer, Dr. Wahied Khawar Balwan, HOD Zoology, Prof. Arshad Ayoub, HOD Pol. Science, Rafiq Ahmed Beigh HOD EVS and Prof. Deepak Raj, HOD English.

Dr. Wahied Balwan,

HOD Zoology told our correspondent that majority of Students and NSS volunteers participated in the cleanliness drive of local river water bodies of Bhalessa and their motive was to advise the locals that they should not litter near these water bodies, rather they should plant more and more trees in the catchment areas of these water bodies. He told the local people if surrounding is clean then

there is less chance of spreading diseases in the society and among the people. The volunteers also educated the locals about cleanliness and hygiene and asked them to discourage the practice of open dumping.

The Principal of the College motivated the NSS volunteers for doing the noble work in the interest of the villagers and added that such type of mega cleanliness drives shall

add imperatives in the society and it would also help us to curb diseases, hazardous and other health related issues. Moreover by doing so it would also make our society healthy, happy and prosperous.

The Ex-Sarpanch of the area Anjum Firdous extended his special thanks to Principal of the College for conducting such type of awareness programme which would aware the masses regarding cleanliness and its importance.

The function ended with a formal vote of thanks by Prof. Deepak Raj, HOD English, who thanked the Principal and lauded the efforts of everyone associated with the event for making it a grand success.

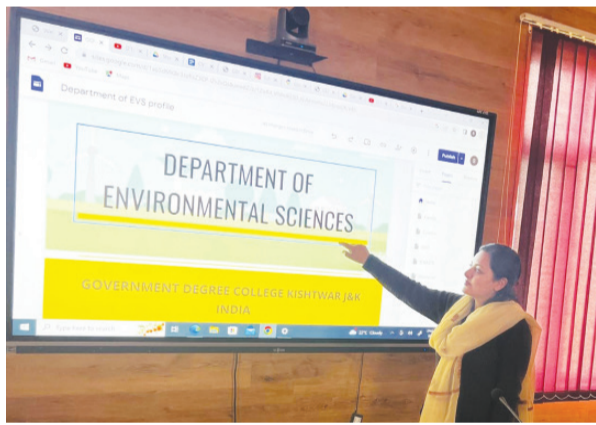
GDC Kishtwar organised one-day workshop under "Mission life"

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 2: IQAC and Eco-club Government Degree College Kishtwar organised one-day workshop on gaining institutional sustainability by shifting towards paperless departments Under "Mission life" initiative of Government of India. Most of the faculty

members and students participated in the workshop. Dr Sehrish Gazal (HOD, Environmental Sciences) gave a detailed presentation on the initiatives to be taken by the colleges towards achieving sustainability by going paperless.

The workshop was organised under the patronage of Dr Jyoti Parihar Principal gov-



ernment degree College, Kishtwar who also graced the occasion as the chief guest. Emphasis on going Digital by learning to develop departmental websites so as to limit the paper used in the departments. The proceedings of the Workshop were conducted by Dr Athar Hussain (Coordinator, IQAC).

Heeralal Chitrakar honored with Life Time Achievement Award



Top News Report

JODHPUR, May 2: Jodhpur's world record holder and gold medalist Heeralal Chitra-

kar was felicitated with lifetime achievement award, memento medal and bech, the chief guest at the felicitation ceremony on May 1 by

International Recognized World Records and Natalia International Trust at Rukmani Ramji Convention Hall, Chennai.

Honored with the Life Time Achievement Award 2023 by the organizer Dr. Rajesh Khanna, Dr. Rajesh Khanna said that it is a matter of pride for us to honor Heeralal Chitrakar.

NMDC records best ever April month performance in company history

Top News Report

JAMMU / HYDERABAD, May 2: India's largest producer of iron ore NMDC, reported a production of 3.51 MnT and sale of 3.43 MnT in April 2023, recording the best ever performance for any April month in NMDC history. Iron ore production in April 2023 is 11.42% more than April 2022 and the growth in sales is 9.93% over

CPLY. Building on the momentum from the 40 MnT surpassed consecutively in FY22 and FY23, the mining major is on a record-breaking spree as it achieves the highest production and sales for any April month since inception.

Congratulating his team on the spectacular performance, Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Additional Charge), NMDC said, "Our dedication and consistency is displayed in NMDC's

back-to-back grit to outperform itself as seen in April's solid figures. We are continuously adopting new processes and technologies to strengthen our supply-chain and continue to meet the growing iron ore demands of the nation.

We are now aiming at becoming a 100 MTPA mining company by 2030 and are treading confidently on the road map laid for achieving the same.

Mahinder Rana elected Vice President of Rashtriya Atal Sena J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Mahendra Singh Rana joined Rashtriya Atal Sena (Social Organization) in front of State General Secretary Shahnawaz Ahanger and has been declared as the Vice President of Rashtriya Atal Sena Jammu and Kashmir. Remember that Rashtriya Atal Sena which is a social organization



and is working for the unity and integrity of the country. organiza-

tion is working to connect people. People of every class

are working in Rashtriya Atal Sena. Let us all together strengthen the RAS.

Rashtriya Atal Sena is working in the entire country and is working to instill faith in the people towards the unity and integrity of the country. At present thousands of people are working in the Rashtriya Atal Sena from all over the country who are serving the nation. Let

us all together follow the principles of Rashtriya Atal Sena, Rashtriya Atal Sena is an organization in which all kinds of people work for connecting people towards the country and for the love of the country.

All the teams of Rashtriya Atal Sena are currently working in Jammu and Kashmir. Remember that Rashtriya Atal Sena is a non-political organization.

Mass joining programme held at Kupwara

Promote BJP's pro-farmers schemes: Johal

Top News Report

KUPWARA, May 2: BJP Kissan Morcha President, J&K, Sarabjeet Singh Johal asserted that people across the nation are highly impressed by the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Government at the Center and this stands proved

by the fact that more and more people from every nook of the country are joining hands with Bharatiya Janata Party.

He was speaking at the mass joining programme at Kupwara in which nearly 150 families joined the party fold under the leadership of District President

Kissan Morcha BJP Kupwara, Javid Ahmad Mir.

On the occasion, Sarabjeet Singh Johal, State Vice President Dr Mohd Amin, General Secretary Manzoor Ahmad Khan and other senior representatives of Kissan Morcha J&K and Kupwara were present.



Johal, who was the Chief Guest, welcomed

their decision of joining BJP Kissan Morcha and

hoped that their joining will strengthen the party at their respective places.

He asked them to proactively participate in promoting the BJP's pro-farmers schemes so that the food producers get maximum benefit of such schemes.

The senior BJP leader asserted that some

political parties are playing divisive politics in Jammu and Kashmir but in today's world, there is no space for those who spread lies and play dirty politics.

He said that BJP is the sole party that is committed to serve the people irrespective of caste, colour and creed.

NOTICE

I, Tarsem Lal, S/o Late Sh Babu Ram, R/o Ward-5, House No 29, Ramgarh Samba have lost my documents including Identity Card, Aadhaar Card, PAN Card and Army Canteen Card at Bari Brahmana. I am applying for the duplicates of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authorities within 7 day of the publication of this notice.

As the Potterheads around the world celebrate International Harry Potter Day Harry, we go down the memory lane

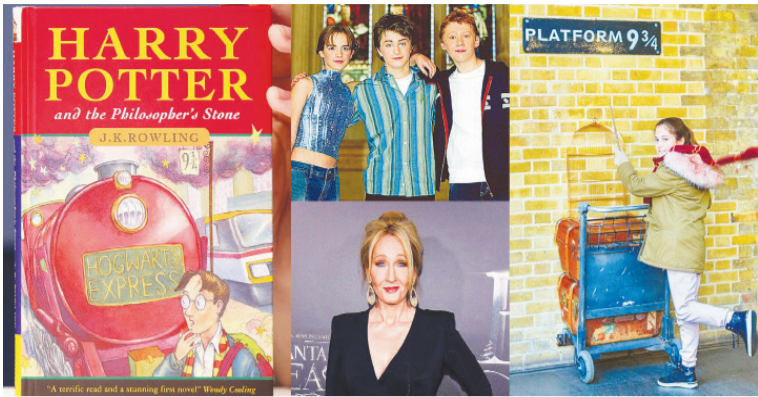
IF JK Rowling had given up after facing rejections from multiple publishers, there would be no Harry Potter. Best-selling book series in history, the fourth highest-grossing film franchise of all times, thriving theme parks to money-minting merchandise—the Potter mania has been holding the world in its grip since the summer of 1997 when the first book made it to the world!

More than two decades on, the mania is still ruling. The first ever Harry Potter scripted television series, touted to be a faithful adaptation of the iconic books, in a big-budget, long-form production was announced mid-April on HBO Max.

Triumph of good over evil, courage to face one's fears... Potter crazy fans, young and old alike, have derived their own lessons. Magic, fantasy, adventure and romance come together in this phenomenal world.

Today, Potterheads around the world sure can't keep calm! On this International Harry Potter Day, we take a trip down the two-decades-and-a-half-of-studiousness.

Not just a book series. As an avid Potter fan, actress Kirti Nagpure, who plays Tulsi in Zee TV's *Pyaar Ka Pehla Naam* Radha Mohan, believes that the best part is how this magical, make-believe community still maintains a connect with the real world scenario. "The core concept of the books is love. How true love and sacrifice can be more powerful than any evil



in this world. It taught me that sometimes the best people can make the worst decisions, and that even the misguided can be changed by love. Harry Potter isn't just a book series; it's an experience," she says.

Once a fan, always a fan. For actress Madalsa Sharma, the friendship between Harry, Hermione and Ron became the leitmotif. "I used to fantasise playing Quidditch with my friends," she admits. Interestingly, the fictional game from the book was brought to life in 2005 at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont and now boasts of international competitions. "I have visited the Harry Potter World at Los Angeles Universal Studios and I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoyed being there. Once a Harry Potter fan, always a Harry Potter fan!" she avers.

The book mania. JK Rowling's Harry Potter, a series of seven fantasy novels—*Philosopher's Stone* (1997), *Chamber of Secrets* (1998), *Prisoner of Azkaban* (1999),

Goblet of Fire (2000), *Order of the Phoenix* (2003), *Half-Blood Prince* (2005), *Deathly Hallows* (2007) have enjoyed enormous success. The final, seventh book became the fastest-selling book in history, reportedly selling 11 million copies in the first 24 hours of release. So far 600 million copies have been sold worldwide, making it the best-selling book series in history. The series is available in 85 languages.

The film franchise. The seven book series was adapted to eight films from 2001 to 2011. The final novel in the series was adapted into two feature-length parts by Warner Bros. The film franchise launched Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson as the three leading characters Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, and Hermione Granger respectively winning them unprecedented fame.

The rise, fall & in between. It's not just been all sunshine for Joanne Rowling better known by her pen name JK Rowling.

From a single mom, living on state dole to reportedly a billionaire author. Winning multiple British Book Awards, an OBE - Officer of the Order of the British Empire, British Academy Film Award recipient for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema with the cast and crew of the Harry Potter; if Rowling has enjoyed enormous success as an author, fair share of criticism has also come her way. Since the June of 2020, Rowling has battled 'transphobic' tag for her views on gender identity. The recent announcement of HBO Max TV show earned her yet another boycott call. She gave back to her critics in her characteristic sarcastic way!

The significant milestones. International Harry Potter Day is celebrated on May 2, every year since 2012. David Cameron, the then-Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, proclaimed this day an official international holiday in honour of J. K. Rowling's literary works.

May 2 is special for in 1998, the Battle of Hogwarts was fought on this day. The Order of the Phoenix proved victorious, that led to a number of casualties, including Lord Voldemort.

From terms like 'muggle' to the characters, even the dreaded Lord Voldemort, we loved it all. Who can forget spells like Expecto Patronum or the 'secret' platform Nine and Three Quarters at King's Cross Station in London.

Priyanka Chopra wears diamond necklace worth over Rs 204 crore at Met Gala



At 2023 Met Gala, Indian star Priyanka Chopra Jonas wore a necklace featuring 11.16-carat Laguna Blu diamond, which is said to be the largest blue diamond in a Bulgari piece.

The necklace is said to go to auction at Sotheby's Luxury Week in

Geneva on May 12. The pre-sale estimate is over \$25 million (over Rs 204 crore), according to International Gemological Institute.

Priyanka and her husband, American singer Nick Jonas, opted for the colour black for their appearance. The theme was "Karl

Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty," and the dress code was "in honour of Karl". The legendary German designer was the creative mind behind Chanel from 1983 till his death in 2019.

Priyanka opted for a black strapless gown by Valentino, featuring a big bow at the waist and a thigh-high slit. She paired her dress with Valentino platform pumps.

A two-toned (black-and-white) long, ruffle-lined cape with a trail acted as the statement piece for the look and was an ode to the style the late German fashion designer was known for.

This was the couple's first appearance at the Met Gala after welcoming their daughter Malti MarieChopra Jonas in 2022. They first attended the event together in 2017 dressed in Ralph Lauren and started dating. The duo got engaged in July 2018 and tied the knot in December that year. Priyanka and Nick then attended the gala in 2019 and 2022 as a married couple. The gala takes place at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Here's how Riya Sharma takes care of her skin during outdoor shoots

Actors are often seen shooting outdoors for long hours in the heat and extreme conditions. Staying hydrated is crucial to ensure they give their best performance on screen.

Riya Sharma (who plays the character of Tara) in Sony SAB's *Dhruv Tara - Samay Sadi Se* makes health a priority during these intensive outdoor schedules.

Riya, who plays the character of Tara, says, "Summer in Mumbai is humid and terribly hot, so I make it a point to have certain essentials by my side at all times. Recently, when we were filming a sequence for the show, we had to face harsh temperature.

During such times, I ensure to drink a lot of water, juices, and



other beverages to stay hydrated.

Fruits and coconut water are my best friends in the summer, as they help me stay energised."

She adds, "I try to start my day early and pack in as much work in the

morning, to avoid the hot summer sun that takes over. I always apply sunscreen on me and try to keep my skin fresh using basic ingredients available at home. These simple tricks help me put my best foot forward."

Karan Johar fumes over punctuality on Instagram, confused netizens asked him to 'name the person'

Seems like someone from the industry irked Karan Johar for not being disciplined, as the filmmaker on Monday penned a cryptic post on punctuality.

In a note, the 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' director wrote, "So... The wonderful thing about Punctuality is that it doesn't require a natural talent, a degree or even a parental or an employers sanction.... It's NOT an art form that we inherit through generations.... It's simple basic manners....respect for other people's time and therefore respecting them as well.... Pure unadulterated respect. Landing up 15 minutes late without a murmur of an apology or an over-compensating happy visage reeks of entitle-



ment and defensiveness...."

He added, "Messaging 'on my way'.... Doesn't get you off the hook either.... 'On my way'.... So ??? You are meant to be... you ain't doing me any favours honey! And you sending me this message sans details is as ambiguous as a Nolan film...Then the

worst! 'oh... I forgot!!!!' why MR president???? Running a country that keeps you so busy ??? Then the ever popular one... too much traffic'.... Do you live in New Zealand???? No this is INDIA.... Check the populations status baby! We are densely populated.... So here's what you do..... LEAVE

EARLY!!!!!! The very very worst one is when they don't show up and don't even send a message with a grovelling apology! This last sect of time offenders must me struck off your list forever."

Netizens were left wondering who the filmmaker was referring to in his cryptic note. However, he did not reveal any names.

"Now nation wants to know..." a social media user wrote.

"Who is that person?" a netizen asked.

"Don't be shy, tag the person," an Instagram user wrote. Karan's post also drew reactions from the members of the film industry. "Oh gosh totally agree with u," actor Shamita Shetty commented.

"Absolutely! My father taught me if you're 15 minutes early then you're on time and I always am," actor Ronit Roy commented.

"Totally agree with you Karan, but please tell who is this person," designer Farah Khan Ali wrote.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Karan recently completed shooting for 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani'. The family drama features Alia Bhatt, Ranveer Singh, Dharmendra, Shabana Azmi and Jaya Bachchan in the lead roles.

'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani' marks the return of Karan as a director after 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil' (2016). The film is scheduled to hit the theatres on July 28.

SS Rajamouli talks about 'ancient tree' after Anand Mahindra asks him to make film on Indus Valley Civilisation

Filmmaker SS Rajamouli has shared a response after Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra asked him to do a film based on Indus Valley Civilisation.

Anand took to Twitter, where he re-shared a post on the ancient cities of the civilisation including Harappa, Mohenjo Daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Kalibangan, Banawali, Rakhigarhi, Surkotada, Chanhu Daro, and Rupar among many others.

Anand Mahindra tweeted, "These are amazing illustrations



that bring history alive and spark our imagination. Shoutout to @ssrajmouli to consider a film project based on that era that



will create global awareness of that ancient civilisation..." Reacting to that, Rajamouli replied: "Yes sir... While shoot-

ing for *Magadheera* in Dholavira, I saw a tree so ancient that it turned into a fossil. Thought of a film on the rise and fall of Indus valley civilization, narrated by that tree! Visited Pakistan few years later. Tried so hard to visit Mohenjodaro. Sadly, was denied permission."

'Magadheera' is a Telugu-language fantasy action film, which was released in 2009. The film stars Ram Charan, Srihari, Kajal Aggarwal, and Dev Gill. It is themed on reincarnation and eternal love.

Being a breadwinner means more responsibility, says Sneha Jain



Showbiz can boast about some of the most successful people, but there is always a

great deal of struggle behind each such story. Actress Sneha Jain, who hails from Gujarat,

has come a long way too. From facing financial struggles to living on the streets, she has done it all.

Sneha also faced a long struggle in the industry as an actor. She said, "I have faced too many rejections. There were multiple situations where I wanted to give up. My family told me to get a job to make ends meet. You need to have money for travel and make-up, and there is a different requirement of clothes for every audition."

Sneha has experienced a lot and believes money plays an important part in our lives. "Being a breadwinner means more responsibility, and you need to make compromises. Since my childhood, I have seen a lot, so you become quite mature and learn to take responsibility in life," she added.

Adele supports 'fiance' at Lakers basketball game

Rolling in the Deep hit-maker Adele has cut a casual figure while supporting her alleged 'fiance' Rich Paul at an NBA game in Los Angeles, with the singer positively glowing while sitting courtside.

Adele, 34, looked chic and laidback, and could be seen parading her slimmed down curves while rocking a baggy

tracksuit at the game recently. The I Drink Wine singer sat next to her beau as they watched the NBA playoff game between the Los Angeles Lakers and Memphis Grizzlies.

Adele's supposed hunky husband-to-be is most notable as a long-time friend and agent for NBA star LeBron James, who was also present. While Adele



looked casual in her grey oversized tracksuit, complete with a full-on glam make-up look, Rich matched the British star with his attire.

Rich could be seen wearing a green and cream patterned tracksuit, with the top zipped up to just below his chin and with a gold wrist watch peeking out from his sleeve.

US: First Republic Bank sold in fire sale to JPMorgan

NEW DELHI: Regulators seized troubled First Republic Bank early Monday, making it the second-largest bank failure in US history, and promptly sold all of its deposits and most of its assets to JPMorgan Chase in a bid to end the turmoil that has raised questions about the health of the US banking system.

It's the third midsize bank to fail in less than two months. The only larger bank failure in US history was Washington Mutual, which collapsed at the height of the 2008 financial crisis and was also taken over by JPMorgan in a similar government-orchestrated deal. "Our government invited us and others to step up, and we did, said Jamie Dimon," chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase. Dimon said in a conference call with both reporters and investors that he believed this part of this (banking) crisis is over. Other midsize banks reported their results last week and the vast majority of them showed deposits had stabilized and profits remained relatively healthy. The outlier was First Republic.

Once the envy of the banking industry, First Republic has struggled since the March collapses of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. Investors and depositors had grown increasingly worried about the bank's large amount of uninsured deposits that is, deposits above the \$2,50,000 limit set by the FDIC and exposure to low interest rate loans. A coalition of a dozen banks pulled together a \$30 billion funding package for First Republic last month that, for a while, seemed to stanch the bleeding out of the bank. But it



became increasingly clear that the First Republic was on borrowed time: it needed to find a buyer, or find new forms of funding to replace the deposits that were exiting the bank. First Republic planned to sell off unprofitable assets, including low-interest mortgages that it provided to wealthy clients. It also announced plans to lay off up to a quarter of its workforce, which totalled about 7,200 employees in late 2022. But it was seen as too little, too late, by analysts.

The \$30 billion package bought time when time was needed for First Republic, said Jeremy Barnum, JPMorgan's chief financial officer, in a call with reporters. Last Monday, First Republic reported its first-quarter results and stunned analysts and investors when it revealed that \$100 billion in deposits had flowed out of the bank, most in mid-March immediately after the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. Its executives took no questions from analysts on an earning

conference call. First Republic's stock plunged more than 50% the day after the report. By mid last week, it became clear government intervention in First Republic was necessary. Treasury officials asked banks to submit bids for First Republic, and bankers and regulators worked through the weekend to find a way forward. Once again JPMorgan Chase, the nation's biggest bank with a reputation as a dealmaker during times of crisis, became the government's go-to bank. Treasury officials had enlisted JPMorgan last month to lead the \$30 billion rescue package. Back in 2008, Dimon was the go-to banker for Washington to find private solutions for that banking crisis and JPMorgan acquired both Bear Stearns and Washington Mutual. The Federal Reserve and FDIC, which regulate the banking industry along with the Office of Comptroller of the Currency, could face renewed criticism over their handling of First Republic. Both acknowledged Friday in separate reports that

lax supervision had contributed to the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. There could also now be questions about the size of JPMorgan Chase, which has more than \$3 trillion in assets and is by far the biggest of the too-big-to-fail institutions around the world. JPMorgan is so big that by law it would not be allowed to buy First Republic because no one bank can have more than a 10 per cent market share of deposits in the US. It is only because First Republic failed that JPMorgan was able to step in. In a statement, JPMorgan portrayed the First Republic deal as beneficial both to the financial system and the company. As part of the agreement, the FDIC will share losses with JPMorgan on First Republic's loans. JPMorgan expects the addition of First Republic to add \$500 million to its net income per year, although it expects to incur \$2 billion in costs integrating First Republic into its operations over the next 18 months.

Sensex, Nifty climb on foreign fund inflows; record GST collection in April

MUMBAI: Equity benchmarks climbed in early trade on Tuesday amid continuous foreign fund inflows and record GST collection in April. Also, a largely firm trend in Asian gauges and buying in index major Reliance Industries and IT counters added to the optimism. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 276.61 points to 61,389.05 in early trade. The broader NSE Nifty went up 89.65 points to 18,154.65. From the Sensex firms, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro, Wipro, Power Grid, Nestle, NTPC, Asian Paints, HDFC, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra and Tata Steel were the biggest gainers. Tata Motors, Kotak Mahindra Bank and UltraTech Cement were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading in the green, while Japan quoted lower. The US markets had ended marginally lower on Monday. GST collection in April rose by 12 per

cent annually to over Rs 1.87 lakh crore, touching an all-time monthly high, showed finance ministry data released on Monday. Manufacturing activities in India accelerated further and touched a four-month high in April, boosted by robust new business growth, mild price pressures, better international sales, and improving supply-chain conditions, a monthly survey said on Monday. "India outperformed the rest of Asia and the developed markets in April with a smart rally mainly assisted by sudden change of strategy by the FII's who have turned big buyers in the market in the last two trading days. "Also, good corporate results, particularly from the banking space and record GST collection at Rs 1.87 lakh crore are aiding bullish sentiments. The market is resilient and the undercurrent is bullish," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

IBM to pause hiring, plans to replace 7,800 jobs with AI

NEW DELHI: With the artificial intelligence creating significant waves across all sectors, International Business Machines Corp. is planning to pause its hiring in order to pave way for the AI roles. The company expects to replace an estimated 7,800 jobs by AI. In an interview with Bloomberg News, the company's CEO Arvind Krishna said that the company expects to pause hiring. It would mainly impact back-office functions such as human resources, administrations and so on, Krishna

added. These non-customer-facing roles amount to roughly 26,000 workers, Krishna said. "I could easily see 30 percent of that getting replaced by AI and automation over a five-year period," he added. Krishna, who has been the CEO since 2020, also said that IBM's workforce reduction strategy may include not filling roles left vacant due to attrition. With the launch of OpenAI's ChatGPT, text-generating AI chatbot, significant attention is drawn worldwide explor-

ing its possibilities in their respective sectors including software development. During the interview, Krishna also added that mundane tasks including providing employment verification letters is likely to be fully automated. "Some HR functions such as evaluating workforce composition and productivity, probably won't be replaced over the next decade," he said. IBM currently employs around 2,60,000 workers and continues to hire for software development and customer facing roles.

New study shows how dengue virus evolved in India

NEW DELHI: A team led by researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has explained how the dengue virus has evolved dramatically over the last few decades in the Indian subcontinent.

Dengue cases of dengue have steadily increased in the last 50 years, predominantly in the South-East Asian countries. However, there are no approved vaccines against dengue in India, although some vaccines have been developed in other countries.

"We were trying to understand how different the Indian variants are, and we found that they are very different from the original strains used to develop the vaccines," said Rahul Roy, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering at IISc Bengaluru.

The study, published in the journal PLOS Pathogens, examined all available (408) genetic sequences of Indian dengue strains from infected patients collected between the years 1956 and 2018 by others as well as the team themselves.

There are four broad categories serotype of the dengue virus (Dengue 1, 2, 3 and 4). Using computational analysis, the team examined how much each of these serotypes deviated from their ancestral sequence, from each other, and from other global sequences.

"We found that the sequences are changing in a very complex fashion," said Roy, corresponding author of the



study.

Until 2012, the dominant strains in India were Dengue 1 and 3, the researchers said. However, in recent years, Dengue 2 has become more dominant across the country, while Dengue 4 once considered the least infectious now making a niche for itself in South India, they found. The team sought to investigate what factors decide which strain is the dominant one at any given time.

One possible factor could be Antibody Dependent Enhancement (ADE), said Suraj Jagtap, a PhD student at IISc and first author of the study. ADE occurs when the antibodies generated during an immune response recognise and bind to a pathogen, but they are unable to prevent infection. Instead, these antibodies act as a Trojan horse, allowing the pathogen to get into cells and exacerbate the immune response.

Jagtap explained that sometimes, people might be infected first with one serotype and then develop a secondary infection with a different serotype, leading

to more severe symptoms. Scientists believe that if the second serotype is similar to the first, the antibodies in the host's blood generated after the first infection bind to the new serotype and to immune cells called macrophages.

This proximity allows the newcomer to infect macrophages, making the infection more severe, they said. "We knew that ADE enhances severity, (but) we wanted to know if that can also change the evolution of dengue virus," Jagtap noted. The researchers noted that at any given time, several strains of each serotype exist in the viral population.

The antibodies generated in the human body after a primary infection provide complete protection from all serotypes for about 23 years. Over time, the antibody levels begin to drop, and cross-serotype protection is lost, they said. The researchers propose that if the body is infected around this time by a similar not identical viral strain, then ADE kicks in, giving a huge advantage to this new strain,

causing it to become the dominant strain in the population. Such an advantage lasts for a few more years, after which the antibody levels become too low to make a difference, they said. "Nobody has shown such interdependence between the dengue virus and the immunity of the human population before," Roy said. This is probably why the recent Dengue 4 strains, which supplanted the Dengue 1 and 3 strains, were more similar to the latter than their own ancestral Dengue 4 strains, the researchers added.

Apollo opens genomic institute in Chennai, to open three more in 2023

CHENNAI: Apollo, one of the world's largest healthcare providers, on Tuesday launched a Genomics Institute in Chennai for the study of genes and genetic disorders. By the end of 2023, Apollo aims to open three more genomics facilities in Hyderabad, Bangalore and Ahmedabad. The company already has similar institutes in Mumbai and Delhi.

The Apollo Genomic Institute in Chennai will host a range of services including genetic evaluation, clinical diagnostics, obstetric genetics, cancer genomics, prenatal genetic screening capabilities and more, empowering

patients with information to manage and prevent genetic disorders. "India is a highly diverse heterogeneous country, and as a result, genomic medicine could have transformative potential. With decreasing infant mortality rates, genetic disorders are emerging as an important group of diseases," said Preetha Reddy, executive vice chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Group. "Today, as our population gets more health conscious, we're also seeing increased awareness amongst individuals around the value of genomic tests in the prevention and diagnosis of non-communicable dis-

eases (NCDs) and genetic diseases. The expansion of the Genomics Institute is a critical step towards the prevention and management of NCDs," said Preetha. The Apollo Genomics Institute aims to transform medical practice by bringing genomic services within the reach of every clinician and patient, the company said.

"At Apollo, we believe that patients need to be brought to the forefront of the decision-making process with regard to their health journey. Constantly increasing availability of real-world data sources coupled with patient-centric analytics offer deeper

insights into how they are diagnosed, treated and beyond," said Suneeta Reddy, managing director, Apollo Hospitals Group. "At Apollo Genomics Institute, our focus on preventive care and personalized medicine underscores our commitment to a more resilient and healthier society," said Suneeta. India has 20 per cent of the world's global population and contributes to 0.2 per cent of the global genetic database. Apollo Genomic Network is planning to launch a genomic variant database. The Pan-Apollo Genomics Network is also actively involved in academics and research activities.

Study finds link between air pollution and irregular heartbeat

NEW DELHI: Long-term exposure to air pollution has been associated with an increased risk of arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat, according to a large study conducted in 322 Chinese cities. The study evaluated hourly exposure to air pollution and the sudden onset of arrhythmia symptoms using data from 2025 hospitals. The research, led by Renjie Chen from Fudan University in Shanghai, found that acute exposure to ambient air pollution was linked to an increased risk of symptomatic arrhythmia. The common arrhythmia conditions atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter, which can lead to more severe heart disease, affect an estimated 59.7 million people globally.

Air pollution is a modifiable risk factor for heart disease, but the evidence linking it with arrhythmia has been inconsistent. The new findings, which were published in the European Heart Journal, provide further evidence that reducing air pollution could help to prevent heart disease.

Air pollution has become a growing concern globally, with increasing evidence linking it to a range of health problems. The World Health Organization estimates that air pollution causes seven million premature deaths each year.

The study highlights the need for policymakers to take action to reduce air pollution levels, particularly in densely populated areas. Measures such as promoting public transportation, reducing emissions from factories and vehicles, and increasing the use of clean energy sources could all help to improve air quality and prevent heart disease.

The researchers note that further studies are needed to confirm their findings and to explore the mechanisms by which air pollution may affect the heart. However, the new research adds to the growing body of evidence suggesting that reducing air pollution could be an important way to improve public health and reduce the burden of heart disease.

Loneliness is deadly like smoking a dozen cigarettes daily, says US Surgeon General

NEW DELHI: About half of US adults say they have experienced loneliness, posing health risks and costing the health industry billions of dollars annually, according to an advisory from the US surgeon general. Loneliness is a common feeling the body sends when something needed for survival is missing, Dr. Vivek Murthy said in the report, adding that the issue needs to be addressed to help the millions of Americans struggling in the shadows. The declaration aims to raise awareness of the issue but won't unlock federal funding or programming devoted to combatting it. We now know that loneliness is a common feeling that many people experience. It's like hunger or thirst. It's a feeling the body sends us when something we need for survival is missing, Murthy told The Associated Press in an interview.

Research shows that Americans, who have become less engaged with worship houses, community organizations and even their own family members in recent decades, have steadily reported an increase in feelings of loneliness. The number of single households has also doubled over the last 60 years. But the crisis deeply worsened when COVID-19 spread, prompting schools and workplaces to shut their doors and sending millions of Americans to isolate at home away from relatives or friends.

