TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, MAY 02, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

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



NATIONAL

Raghav Chadha's name figures in **ED's supplementary chargesheet**

in Delhi excise policy 'scam'

INTERNATIONAL

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Oantas Names Vanessa Hudson As First Woman CEO



Mahatma

Gandhi's

grandson

at 89

Arun Gandhi

passes away

MAHARASHTRA, May

2 (Agencies): Mahatma

Gandhi's grandson Arun

Gandhi passed away at

Kolhapur in Maharash-

tra on May 2 after brief

illness, family sources

The funeral of the

e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

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Vol.-14 Issue-119 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

India logs 3,325 New Covid-19 cases, Active infections down to 44,175

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): India has logged 3,325 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases have dipped to 44,175 from 47,246, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The death toll has increased to 5,31,564 with 17 deaths, which includes seven reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The Covid case tally was recorded at 4.49 crore (4,49,52,996)

The active cases now comprise 0.11 per cent of the total infections and the national COVID-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.71 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to

4,43,77,257 while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.18 per

According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

MeT predicts more rains in J&K

JAMMU, May 2 (Agencies): Weather department on Tuesday morning forecast intermittent light to moderate rain at many places of Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

A meteorological department official here said that a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm was expected at scattered places towards

evening on May 3. From May 4-6, he said, "weather was likely to be fair to partly cloudy. A brief spell of rain/thunderstorm may occur towards late afternoon/evening." From May 7-8, he

said, rain was likely at "many places".

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 10.6°C against 11.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal for the summer capital

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 9.0°C

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Terror Funding Case | NIA raids 12 locations in J&K

SRINAGAR, May 2 (Agencies): The NIA carried out raids at multiple locations across Kashmir valley early Tuesday in connection with a terror funding case and detained one person for questioning, officials said here. Raids were carried out at nearly a dozen locations in Srinagar, Awantipora, Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag areas.

One person has been detained for questioning by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from Sozeith area of Srinagar, the officials said.

The detained person



was identified as Ishaq Ahmad Bhat.

"The NIA came early in the morning between 5.30 and 6.00 am. They asked for Ishaq and took him away along with his mobile phone. He works as a labourer," Mohammad Ramzan Bhat, father of the suspect,

"We have no links with militancy or stone pelting," he added.

Bilal Bhat, brother of the detained person,

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Explosion at petrol pump after short circuit in underground power board

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: An explosion took place at a petrol pump in the Narwal area here on Monday after a short circuit in its underground power board, officials

No one was injured in the incident, they said. It is suspected that the short circuit happened after rainwater leaked into the underground

power board, the offi-

cials said. The blast, which took place around 10:50 am, damaged a portion of the floor of the petrol pump and a nearby structure housing the front office



of a bank, they said.

Sub Divisional Police Officer, Jammu East, Zaheer Abbas Jafri said according to preliminary investigation, the explosion was caused by a short circuit.

"The owner of the petrol pump told us that the blast was caused by a short circuit. We have

also seen that electric wiring has been damaged," he said, ruling out any foul play.

Jafri said experts have been called for inspecting the site.

The petrol pump's employees said there were no customers at the pump when the incident happened.

activist. Mortar shell recovered along LoC in

they said.

1 killed, several injured in Rafiabad road accident

SOPORE, May 2 (Agencies): One person was killed and several others were injured in a road accident that took place in Rohama village of Rafiabad in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday.

An official said that a vehicle met with an accident, resulting in on spot death to one person and injuries to several

The injured were immediately evacuated to a nearby hospital.

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Lithium reserves found in J&K to be auctioned by December: Mines Secretary Mines, carried out a G3

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): Auction of lithium reserves found in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi will be started by December, said Secretary Ministry of Mines Vivek Bharadwaj.

Speaking at an industry event on Tuesday, the secretary said the ministry has written to J&K administration for the transaction advisor for the lithium auction.

We have completed the consultation process with stakeholders on the amendment of the offshore Mining Act.

Hopefully, we will soon bring it in the parliament for discussion," Bharadwaj said.

"We have been lucky to discover 5.9 million tonnes of Lithium. We were actually looking for limestones which are available in Jammu Kashmir. We found limestone, bauxite and lithium together. There has been renewed interest in exploration in these minerals," he said.

The central government in February this year said that 5.9 million tonnes of lithium



reserves had been found for the first time in the country in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lithium is a non-ferrous metal and is one

in asthma cases in Kashmir: DAK

of the key components other industries.

"Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of the Ministry of

stage mineral exploration project during Field Season 2020-21 and 2021-22 in Salal-Haimna areas of Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir and estimated an inferred resource (G3) of 5.9 million tonnes of lithium ore and the report has been handed over to the Government of Union Territory of J&K," the Ministry of Mines earlier said.

The Geological Survey of India proposes more exploration activities in J&K for identifying lithium resources.

89-year-old author and socio-political activist will be held at Kolhapur later today, his son Tushar Gandhi said.

Born to Manilal Gandhi and Sushila Mashruwala in Durban on April 14, 1934, Arun Gandhi followed in the footsteps of his grandfather as an

Rajouri

JAMMU, May 2 (Agencies): A 120 mm mortar shell was found along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Tuesday.

Some villagers saw the shell lying at a river bank in Kalal border area and informed the police on Monday night, they said. A bomb disposal squad of the Army was called in and the shell was destroyed through a controlled explosion,

Boy injured after being | Air pollution, fast food causing rise stabbed by girl in Srinagar's Kak Sarai



SRINAGAR, May 2 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a girl stabbed a man with a knife in Darish Kadal locality of Kak Sarai in Srinagar on Tuesday afternoon, officials said

An official said that the bov sustained injuries in his abdomen after he was stabbed by a girl in Darish Kadal area today

afternoon.

He said the boy has been admitted to SMHS hospital for treatment. "Further investigation into the matter is going on," he said.

tified as Aadil Ahmad of Bemina locality of Srinagar. The official added that the girl, after committing

the crime, has fled from

The boy has been iden-

the spot, while efforts are on to nab her. Meanwhile, chief medical officer SMHS, Dr Aasif said that the boy has received injury in his

Tuesday.

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Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 2: **Doctors Association** Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday said that air pollution and consumption of fast food is causing a spike in asthma cases in the

On the World Asthma day, expressing concern over the rise in asthma cases in Kashmir valley

DAK President Dr Nisar-ul-Hassan said that "Air pollution and valley,". Dr Hassan said the air

consumption of fast food are causing a spike in asthma cases in the

quality in Kashmir has

(Pic by Aman)

been constantly deteriorating for the past few years due to the increasing number of vehicles, construction, brick kiln, cement and other factories which emit pollutants and significantly pollute our air. "And this is behind rising cases of asthma in the valley," he

"A study published in the British Medical Journal has found that children exposed to higher levels of environmental pollutants are more likely to develop asthma compared to children who were not exposed," DAK President said.

"The research showed

that for every 5µg-percubic-meter increase in concentrations of air pollutants, there was about a 4 or 5 percent increase in asthma", he added.

"Not just what you breathe, what you eat puts you at risk of developing asthma," he said and added "according to a study children and teenagers are nearly 40 percent more likely to have asthma if they eat fast food more than three times a week."

Dr Nisar said over the years fast food has largely replaced homemade meals in Kashmir. Children and teens

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Man attempting to rob bank hides in false ceiling overnight, caught by police in Poonch

JAMMU, May 2 (Agencies): A dismissed bank employee who was caught while allegedly trying to transfer money into his account had hid himself in the false ceiling on the premises overnight, officials said on Tuesday. Mohd Abrar's attempt

to transfer money from the Mendhar branch of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank early on Tuesday alerted the officials, who immediately informed the police and the accused was caught

Four drug smugglers booked

red-handed, they said. A resident of Ari village in Mendhar, Abrar was said to be a former employee of the bank but dismissed in 2021 for his alleged involvement in a fraud. He entered the bank during working hours on Monday and managed to hide inside the false ceiling, an official said.

However, he failed to hack the bank's security system as he tried to transfer the money, alerting the officials, they

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Education Deptt officials helpless due to dictatorship of private schools: Amit Kapoor

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 1: After the dictatorship of International School Principal Anupama Sinha came to the fore, now the dictatorship of St. Francis Higher Secondary School in Akhnoor has also reached its peak. Crossing all limits of

dictatorship, this school



addressing a press conference at Jammu on

expelled a child named Nitya Dinesh of class IV, studying in the school from pre-nursery, without any reason.

The father of the school, crossing all the limits of dictatorship, did not even spare ZEO and on the complaint of the parents, when ZEO went to the school, the father

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SRINAGAR, May 2 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday booked four drug smugglers under

Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS)Act in Baramulla district. Police identified the accused drug smuggler

as Habeel Yaseen Dar

Abdul Rehman Malik alias Rehman Military of Kalantra Payeen Kreeri, Shahnawaz Ahmad Mir alias Boja of Daragutliyan Uri and Hafeez Ahmad Khan of Rehsiwari Niloosa Baramulla.

under PIT-NDPS act in Baramulla

alias Rouf a resident

of Tarhama Kunzer,

All the four drug smugglers have been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority, police said and added subsequently they have been lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jail Jammu. Pertinent to mention

that many cases are registered against these drug peddlers and

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10TH DAY & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform sad demise of our beloved Smt Bhag Rani Chhibber W/o Bakshi Hari Krishan Lal Chhibber (D/o Mehta Roop Chand Datta) R/o 151/11, Nanak Nagar Jammu, on 25th of April 2023.

10TH DAY shall be performed at our residence on 04-05-2023 at 10 a.m.

UTHALA shall be performed at Laxmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar on 05-05-2023 (Friday) from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Grief Stricken:

Daughters-in Law & Sons

Shakti & Arvind Chhibber-CE (Retd) PDD Meenakshi & Ashok Chhibber-XEn PDD Daughters & Sons-in-Law

Amita & D. L Sharma CE (Retd) PWD Jyoti & R. P Sharma XEn (Retd) Hydraulics

Grand Children: Agrita & Gaurav Bali, Brijesh, Ajitesh, Pranav, Ameesh & Poonam, Danish & Diksha and Ashish

Phone No. 9419128211, 9419186550

10th Day/Kriya/Uthala

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Sh Surinder Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh Ishar Dass R/o H.No. 103 Ext. 1 A Bhagat Pura Channi Himmat Jammu. 10th Day will be performed on Sunday 30-4-2023 time 11 AM at Home Kriya will be performed on Monday 1-5-2023 at their resi-

Uthala will take place at Panch Mandir Channi Himmat on

3-5-2023 Time 6 PM. Grief Stricken

Smt Satya Devi W/o Late Sh Chuni Lal Sharma **-Mother** (Ex. Dy. Chairman Leg. Council)

Renu Sharma -Wife Sunil & Riya -Son & Daughter-in-law

Daughters & Sons-in-law Meenakshi & Parshotam Sharma

Pooia & Jitender Puiari **Brothers & Bhabhis**

Smt Shakuntla Devi & Late Sh Darbari Lal Smt Asha Devi & Late Sh Mohinder Sharma

Chander Deep & Poonam Naresh Sharma & Kanchan

Rajesh Sharma & Rupali Sisters & Brothers-in-law Vimla Devi & Late Sh Din Dayal Kanchan & Late Sh Subash Veena & Rajinder Sharma



SMT. BHAG RANI

CHHIBBER

(1938-2023)

Sh Surinder Kumar Sharma

Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law Parshotam Kumar & Jyoti Devi **Grand Children** Utsav, Muskan, Lavanaya, Hiteshwar,

9419182034, 8492912683

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of ou beloved Tatha / Autar Krishen Tiku (Ex Director GSI), S/o Late Pt. Janki Nath Tiku, (Kani Kadal, Srinagar) at 6604, ATS GREEN I Sector 50, Noida on 27th April 2023.

Tatha was a very spiritual person and a staunch devotee o Ramakrishna Pramahansa. He was also influenced by Bhagwan Gopinath Bub and Swami Laxamjoo during his childhood upbringing in Kashmir. He had a great sense of humor, always full of life and entertaining everyone with his wit. Tatha was a good family man, who had a close bond with his brothers and sisters, a doting father and grandfather, an excellent friend and coleague. He believed in supporting noble charitable causes and was actively involved with numerous social work activities. He is survived by his wife and 3 daughters.

Prayer meeting will be held on 3rd May (Wednesday) at 11am at Autar Krishen Tiku (Tatha) Community Centre, Kendrya Vihar, Sector 51, Noida (UP). Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 6th May 2023 (Saturday)

at 8 am at Murad Nagar (UP). Family Members in Grief:

Smt. Indira Tiku (Wife) Noida

Shashi & Anoop Ganjoo (Daughter and Son in law) NJ

Jvotsna Tiku (Daughter) Noida Karuna & Ashok Kumar (Daughter and Son in law) MI

Smriti Ganjoo, Gitika Kumar, Dhruv Kumar (Grand Children)

13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Smt Kailash Gupta W/o Sh Vijay Kumar Gupta R/o Akhnoor.

13TH DAY & UTHALA will be performed on 3 May at 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Kameshwar Mandir Akhnoor.

GRIEF STRICKEN: Sh Vijay Kumar Gupta (Husband) Son & Daughter-in-Law Ashwani Gupta & Sonali Gupta Anil Gupta & Palvi Gupta Daughter & Son-in-Law

Jyoti Gupta & Om Prakash Gupta

Sheetal Gupta & Rakesh Gupta

Neeru Gupta & Naveen Gupta



Smt Kailash Gupta

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the demise of our beloved Smt. Kanchan Sharma W/o Romesh Chander Khajuria 10th Day will be performed on 2nd May, 2023 Tuesday at 11.00 am

at our residence H.No. 66, Lane No. 4, Preet Nagar, Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on 3rd May 2023, Wednesday at 12.00 pm Uthala/Rasam Pagri will be performed at Durga Mandir

(Rampura) Jammu from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm 3rd May 2023 Wednesday

GRIEF STRICKEN Romesh Chander Khajuria

(Retd. Adl. Sec. Legislative Assembly J&K)

Khajuria Family (Ramkot) Rattan Paul Family (Banhor Kathua)

Sangharsh Vidya Kender Maratha Colony, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

M) 7889688185, 7051223268



Late Smt. Kanchan Sharma D.O.B.: 1/4/1959 D.O.D.: 24/4/2023

Sh. Om Prakash Gupta

BARKHI

We think about you always, We talk about you still, You have never been forgotten, And you never will. We hold you close within our hearts And there you will remain, To talk and guide us through our lives, Until we meet again.

BARKHI of our beloved Sh. Om Prakash Gupta (Retd. Chief Accounts Officer) will be performed on 3rd May, 2023 (Wednesday) at our residence W.No.-16 H.No.-100, Near Brahmrishi Bawra School, Venus Chowk, Udhampur at 11:00 am.

Grief Stricken:

Smt. Shakuntla Devi- Wife Sons & Daughter-in-laws

Er. Kiran Kumar Gupta & Arch. Babli Kumari (9419161510) Mr. Parveen Gupta & Mrs. Neha Gupta

Mrs. Shashi Bala & Mr. Rajinder Gupta- Daughter & Son-in-law

Dr. Pankaj Gupta & Mr. Salil Gupta- Daughter & Son-in-law

Mehak, Madhur, Mayank, Miheer, Tania, Tanish, Shivansh, Divyansh-Grandchildren

OBITUARY

With profound grief and immense sorrow, I inform untimely demise of my beloved son, Sumit Ganjoo on 27-04-2023 at 10 PM at his residence, Krish Vatika, Bhiwadi, Raj.

Mourning days will be held at his residence in Bhiwadi, 10th Day, Pooja on 6th May, 2023, 10 AM will be performed at Choti Ganga, Muradnagar.

GRIEF STRICKEN Priyanka Ganju **- Wife**

Jawahar Lal Ganju - **Father** Vijay Ganju **- Mother**

Ashok & Suman Ganju - Uncle & Aunty Amit & Shweta Ganju - Brother & Bhabhi

Nirmala Sapru - Mother-in-law

Kotru's, Munshi's, Sapru's, Bazaz's, Vaishnavi's, Matoo's & Kaul's Mob.No: 9971476166, 9811738957, 9818185061



SUMIT GANJOO

S. Amarjit Singh

(Retd Research Officer, SIE)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With deepest grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Amarjit Singh** S/o Late S Ishar Singh, R/o 346/A, Gandhi Nagar(Jammu) on 24 Apr 2023 (Monday) Antim Ardas will be scheduled as per following programme:-Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence 346/A Gandhi Nagar, Jammu at 9 am on 01 -5-2023 (Monday). Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence 346/A Gandhi Nagar, Jammu at 9 am on 03 -5-2023 (Wednesday). **Kirtan & Antim Ardas** at Gurudwara Fateh Singh Sahib, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu from 10:30 am to 12 noon on 03-5-2023, followed by Guru Ka Langar

In Grief Sdn Mandhir Kaur (Wife)

Daughter-in-Law & Son
Sdn Sandeep Kaur (JAEO) & S. Satinder jit Singh (JAEO).

Daughters & Son-in-law Sdn Harminder Kaur & S. Gurpreet Singh. (JE, PCB) Dr Rupinder Kaur & Dr Paramjeet Singh Sethi

Sister-in-Law Sdn Amarjit Kour W/o Late S. Surjit Singh

Daughter-in-Law & Nephew
Dr Chandpreet Kaur & Col Gurmohinder Singh Niece & Son-in-law

Sdn Harpreet Kaur S. Gurcharan Singh Wazir. Sdn Gurpreet Kaur & S. Amtej Singh (Canada).

Sisters & Brother-in-Law Sdn Harbans Kaur & W/o Late S Daljeet Singh. (Chandhigarh)

Sdn Paramjeet Kaur & S. Karnail Singh. Grand Sons: Navsirjan Singh, Hridaan Singh, Jaywin Singh Sethi, Gurkarman Singh Grand Daughters: Gavya Singh, Manya Singh, Palakdeep Kaur, Eknoor Kaur

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Smt. Shanta Dhar (Badi Rani) W/o Late Sh. Omkar Nath Dhar (Kanthparistan Safa Kadal Srinagar) who left for her heavenly abode on the intervening night of 28th-29th April 2023 in Navi Mumbai.

Tenth Day will be observed on 7th May, Virender Dhar - Son - 9971222134

Renuka Dhar - Daughter-in-law Rishika Dhar - Grand Daughter

Samast Tikku, Pandita & Dhar Pariwars



Smt. Shanta Dhar (Badi Rani)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With extreme grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved Smt. Usha Kaul, resident of C-258, Kaul Niwas, Sushant Lok- I, Block-C, Gurugram, Haryana (Originally from Natipora, Srinagar, Kashmir), left for her heavenly abode on 25th April 2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, New Palam Vihar, Block T, Sec-109, Gurugram, Haryana, on 4th May 2023 at 08:00 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Sh. Rattan Lal Kaul (Husband) Sons & Daughters-in-Law Navneet Kaul & Sunita Kaul

Suneet Kaul & Neha Kaul Smt. Raj Dulari Langar & Sh. M.L. Langar Smt. Kaki Kaul Dembi & Sh. N.J. Dembi

Sh. P. N. Kaul & Smt. Pushpa Kaul

Sh. B. L Kaul Smt. Rajni Kaul & Sh. O.P. Kaul

Bindru's

Smt. Dulari Bindru, Nancy Bindru, Champa Bindru Grand children- Rishab, Rishaan & family members

Mob - 9971885566, 9650011258, 9971034400, 9650031258

Smt. Usha Kaul

KRIYA/ UTHALA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Pushpa Devi Mengi W/o Late Sh.Dev Dutt

KRIYA will be performed on 2nd MAY, 2023 (TUESDAY), at 12 noon at her residence in 265/5 CHANNI HIMMAT, JAMMU

UTHALA will be performed on 3rd MAY, 2023 (WEDNESDAY), at PANCH MANDIR SEC -2 CHANNI HIMMAT (4:00PM - 5:00PM)

SMT. PUSHPA DEVI **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Daughters & Sons in Law Lt. Smt. Kanta Gandotra & Sh. Pritam Pal Gandotra Smt. Saroj Wahi & Sh. Ashok Wahi Smt. Vinod Suri & Sh. Varinder Suri

Sons & Daughter in Law Sh. Kuldeep Rattan Mengi & Smt. Sunita Mengi Sh. Someshwar Mengi & Smt. Anju Mengi Sh. Rameshwar Mengi & Smt. Rita Mengi

Smt. Renu Verma & Sh. Ashok Verma

Grand & Great Grand Children

Mob.: 6005532023, 9419244724, 8803501345 SHIKSHA NIKETAN SCHOOL R.M. PUBLIC SCHOOL, PUSHP VATIKA

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Smt Veena Sharma W/o Sh Ashok Kumar Sharma R/o H.No. 1162, Green Enclave Rehari colony near Education Board TENTH DAY will be performed on 3rd May 2023 at 11 am at Hari Mandir, Rehari colony. KRIYA will be performed on 4th May, 2023 at our residence.

Grief Stricken:-Ashok Kumar Sharma (Husband)

Mitu Sharma (Son) Ritu and Deep Sharma (Daughter and Son in law) **Grand Children:-**

Kashvi and Gauri CONTACT NO. 7006993940



MENGI

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved mother Smt Rattan Rani Peshin W/o Lt Soom Nath Peshin of Wagoora Agar Budgam Kashmir at Present H.No 40 Ekta Vihar Lane 1 Gangyal near Ambay Printing Press. She left for heavenly abode on 24.04.2023 at 11am.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Muth Camp Ghat on 3rd May 2023 at 9am near Directo Education office.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt Rattan Rani Peshin Seema Ji and Shadi Lal Peshin (Daughter in law and Son) Anju and Bindu Ji Peshin (Daughter in law and Son Vijay and Lt Sh Ashok Bhat (Daughter and Son in la

SAMAST PESHIN PARIVAAR, KOULS, GIGOOS AND BHAT PARIVAAR.

MOB: 7838222702, 9906243093, 7780916795 **10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Uma Shree Raina W/o Lt. Tika Lal Rain: R/o Karshan Gham Kashmir A/p H.No. 95 Om Nagar Udheywala near J&K Bank. 10TH DAY KRIYA shall be held on 4 May 2023 (Thursday) at 8:30 AM at Muthi Ghat near Director Education Son & Daughter-in-law Sh Bushan Lal Raina & Smt Neelam ji Raina Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Basanti Koul & Sh Rajinder Koul

Deeply Remembered By Grand Childrens

Smt Jeeta Pandita & Sh Avtar Krishan Pandita Smt Usha Pandita & Sh Shuban Lal Pandita

Smt. Uma Shree

Shally, Neha, Akshay, Sheeku, Surbhi, Suraj, Ayush, Mehak Mobile No. 9796623756, 9419202231

TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief we would like to inform the demise of **Smt. Sheela Raina** W/o Sh. Jawaha _al Raina resident of 21/1 A Annuradhapurar Sector 1 Barnai presently at 229 B Gaur Greei Avenue Indrapuram, Ghaziabad. 10th Day Kriya will be performed on May 4 a

Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar, Uttar Prac Time: 10.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN Sh. Jawahar Lal Raina - Husband Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Rakesh Raina & Smt. Jessy Raina



Sh. Ravi Raman Raina & Smt. Dimpy Raina Daughter & Son-in-law Dr. Ritu Raina Bhatt & Dr. Ravinder Kumar Bhatt Phone Nos: 9871437501, 7006994308, 9810844299

TENTH DAY KRIYA Lal Raina resident of 21/1 A Annuradhapurar Sector 1 Barnai presently at 229 B Gaur Gree Avenue Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, 10th Day Kriya will be performed on May 4 Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar, Uttar Prades

Time: 10.00 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN Sh. Jawahar Lal Raina - Husband Sons & Daughters-in-law Sh. Rakesh Raina & Smt. Jessy Raina Sh. Ravi Raman Raina & Smt. Dimpy Raina



Dr. Ritu Raina Bhatt & Dr. Ravinder Kumar Bhatt Phone Nos: 9871437501, 7006994308, 9810844299

TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sac demise of our beloved **Shri Maharaj Krishan Kou** (Mandloo), S/o Jia Lal Koul erstwhile resident of 76 Kharyar Habba Kadal, Srinagar presently residing a

Flat No. D-903, Wave Estate, Sector 85, Mohali unjab who left for heavenly abode on 24th Apr Tenth Day Kriva will be held on 3rd May 2023 at NEHAR RANGILPUL, Roper Road, Opposite IET Bhaddal, Near Rupnagar at 6:30 AM to 8 AM and

after that we will assemble at 9:30 AM at our resience at D-903, Wave Estate, Sector 85, Mohal Punjab. Grief Stricken:

Smt Meena Koul- Wife Shri, Poshker Nath Koul and Late Phool Koul- **Brother and Sister-in-Law** Sunil Koul and Prerna Khosa Koul- **Son and Daughter-in Law** harika Lohit Girik Vaibhoy Ashima and Swayam- Grandchildren Samasth Parivar: Kouls, Aima's, Kotru's, Dhar's, Sabharwal's, Parm Kashkari's, Qazi's, Khosa's, Raina's, Warikoo's, Wangneo's, and Bhat's. Mob: +91-9582226160, 8178334625, 8699002125, 9818880743

CHOUBARSI

Four years have been passed since you left us for heavenly abode. Your sweet memories and blessings are always with as but we continuely missing you while taking decisions and mode of our Life. The CHOUBARSI of our beloved

mother Smt Chanderkanta Suri W/o Late Sh Nanak Chand Suri will^l be performed at Nek Palace, Katra

on 3-5-2023 at 12 Noon DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Sh Brij Mohan Suri & Manju Suri Sh Ram Pal Abrol & Smt Sapna Abrol Sh Avtar Krishan Suri & Smt Rama Suri

Sh Vijav Suri & Smt. Mamta Suri 9419164195, 9419164017, 9419164666, 7006619821

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY In the sweet and eternal memory of SMT TRIPTA SHARMA (GUDDI/MAMTA) WE CAN NO LONGER SEE YOU WITH OUR EYES OR TOUCH YOU WITH OUR HANDS BUT WE WILI OREVER FEEL YOU IN OUR HEARTS. BARSI OF LATE SMT TRIPTA SHARMA W/O SH. AJAY KUMAR KHAJURIA SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 3RD OF MAY 2023 (12 NOON) WEDNESDAY AT GEETA BHAWAN , PARADE JAMMU. DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-

SMT TRIPTA SHARMA (GUDDI/MAMTA)

MASWAR/VAHERWAR

POONAM KHAJURIA & LT. COL. SUNIL KUMAR

PRATYAKSH SHARMA **(GRANDSON)** PH. 9419122529, 9419168849, 9858558197

AJAY KUMAR KHAJURIA **(HUSBAND**)

ANUPAM KHAJURIA (SON)

DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)

One year has passed since you has left us for your heavenly abode. Your memories are stil fresh in our minds and we always remember you in our prayers everyday. We will continue to hold you in ur hearts till we catch up with you in heaven. Goo Bless Your Noble Soul.

MASWAR & VAHERWAR of Smt. Phoola Bhat will be

performed at our residence House No. 237 Janipa nu Dated - 2 May & 3 May GRIEF STRICKEN: Son & Daughter in Law -Sh.Sanjay Bhat & Smt Anjali Bhat Sh.Vijay Bhat & Smt Rajni Bhat

Daughter & Son in Law -Smt.Suneeta Bhat & Sh Avtar Krishen Bhat Grand Children-Sonali, Komal, Kamini, Kunal & Tejasvi



UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED SH. KEWAL KRISHAN MAHAJAN (MES CONTRACTOR) S/O LATE SH. BELI RAM R/O 41 SHASTRI NAGAR, JAMMU LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 30.04.2023.

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON WEDNESDAY 03.05.2033 AT RAM MANDIR CHASTEI NAGAR AT 5:30PM

SHASTRI NAGAR AT 5:30PM. GRIEF STRICKEN

GRIEF STRICKEN
SMT. BACHNO GUPTA (WIFE)
SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
ALOK MAHAJAN (SURVEYOR AND LOSS ASSESSOR) &
DR. CHETNA GUPTA (ASSISTANT PROFESSOR GDC KATHUA)
ATUL MAHAJAN & POOJA GUPTA
DAUGHTER &SON-IN-LAW
ARJUN, DHARVI, SIDDHARTH, ARYAN, AKSHAT, ASHWIN -(GRANDCHILDREN)
ARJUN, DHARVI, SIDDHARTH, ARYAN, AKSHAT, ASHWIN -(GRANDCHILDREN)

M/S KEWAL MAHAJAN & CO. (MES CONTRACTOR)
M/S SURYA SHAKTI SOLAR SOLUTIONS
MOB: 9419192233, 9419195761, 9469491414, 9419238138



SMT CHANDERKANTA



Giving land rights to West Pak refugees is historic step: Kavinder

Pathania for immediate start of work on Kirchi to Seoj Dhar road

Top News Report

JAMMU May 2: A 'historic step which shall be written in letters of gold in history of JK' attributed Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister, while interacting with a delegation of WPRs at BJP headquarters.

This speaks of conviction and commitment of government which is committed towards welfare and well being of the people, especially flagging issues which have been left unredressed since decades and decades

Ranbir Singh Pathania, former MLA & J&K BJP Spokesperson, was particular about timely and fair compensation for acquired

He was canvassing for a land compensation of people affected by 4rth Tawi bridge. Award was passed in 2011 but people are still bereft of compen-



He was further dealing with land compensation cases of far flung areas where lands have been acquired since decades and a penny worth received by people as yet.

He further focussed on new techniques and best practices as to how we could redress the public issues in a more effcacious

He was critical of non start of work on Kirchi to Seoi Dhar. A multi crore road from Dudu-Kirchi to Dhar Seoj was proposed and sanctioned under

PMGSY. Work on the same was also started almost five years back but same could not be taken up due to some ecological concerns raised by the department of forests

Now, the department of PMGSY in liaison with the department of Forests have identified an alternative location which lessens the length of the road by as many as five kilometers and as many as 500 trees also could be saved. But project still hangs midway.

Amongst other general

issues pertaining to land

and telephone calls to concerned officials. Selected Junior Statistical Assistants (JSAs), SRTC employees, canvassed their issues. Rehbar E Janglats, called for a time bound regularisation and against a post having higher pay scale than that of a Forest Guard.

encroachments, compas-

sionate appointments, veri-

fications, ex-gratia to acci-

dent victims, relief to cross-

firing victims, proper con-

vening of Gram Sabhas in

Pulwama, drinking water,

building permissions, staff

shortage, proper voltage

electricity, were projected

by a number of deputa-

tions who called on in the

BJP office with references

NYCs called for rolling out a comprehensive regularisation policy as well as honorarium.

Anuradha Charak, Vice President, remained present and piloted the pro-

Arjun Puri of SMVDU qualifies Ph.D

Top News Report

KATRA, May 2: Arjun Puri, son of Shakuntla Puri and Vijay Kumar Puri, resident of Trikuta Nagar Ext. Jammu, has been declared qualified for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in the school of computer science and Engineering (CSE) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). The candidate

has worked on title, "Improved Techniques for Handling class imbalance and missing values in datasets" under the supervision of Dr. Manoj Kumar Gupta, Associate Professor School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU. The candidate has published research papers indexed in SCI/SCIE ranked journals and has presented papers at Scopus indexed interna-



The candidate has expressed his gratitude to the Supervisor Dr. Manoj Kumar Gupta and Prof. (Dr.) R. K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated the scholar and wished him a bright future ahead.

Bidding System

Period of Completion

1298/2023

06 Months

Tender Type

E-TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No. - 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR/22-2023-24-ADEN-I DH 23-2023-24-ADEN-I DH 24-2023-24-ADEN-I DH & 25-2023-24-ADEN-LDH acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-22-05-2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed

Tendering Section

original/revised bids up to closing date and time only, Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual

Open			VVOIKS		Single bid System	
Date of Uploading Tenders			Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time	
28/04/2023			08/05/2023		22/05/2023	
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender				
1	22-2023-24- ADEN-LDH	Construction of Limited height Subway of size 5mtrx5mtr by pushing method in lieu of manned Lxing no S-79 & S-80 on SNL-JUC section under SSE/W/PGW				
'		Advertised V	alue (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
		88426007.35		60 Days	09 Months	
2	23-2023-24- ADEN-LDH	Crossing of 600 mm dia RCC water supply pipeline passing through 1200 mm dia MS heavy duty casing pipe under the railway track near Bo no 216 at Km 64/8-9 on PGW-NSS-JJJ section				
		Advertised Value (Rs.)		Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
		6888467.75		60 Days	04 Months	
3	24-2023-24- ADEN-LDH	Provision of 2Nos New SMC panelled Over head tank of 2,25,000 Liters capacity in colony NO. 10 & 11 along with boring & pump house Etc at Ludhiana under ADEN-LDH				
		Advertised V	alue (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
		28061857.03		60 Days	08 Months	
		Creation cum improvement of infrastructure of LDH Loco Outpit to Cater the load of increased				

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Validity of Offer

We are grateful to people of Jammu District for making 100th Mann Ki Baat historic: Kapahi

: District President BJP Jammu, Parmod Kapahi addressing the media persons on Tuesday. (Pic by Aman)

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: "Bharatiya Janata Party is grateful to the people of Jammu District for participating in massive numbers and making the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat as a historic event", Parmod Kapahi.

More than fifteen thousand people listened to Mann Ki Baat at more than two hundred places in Jammu district said Parmod Kapahi, while thanking common people, party activists and various organizations for making the 100th Mann Ki Baat historic.

Parmod Kapahi District President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu was addressing the media persons at party headquarter, Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kachi Chawani Jammu.

District General Secretaries Kuldeep Kandhari, Rajesh Gupta Mandal Presidents Keshav Chopra, Parveen Kerni, Raman Sharma, Atul Bakshi District Incharge Mann Ki Baat Jaideep Samyal and Brijesh Gupta was also present on the occa-

"100th episode of Mann Ki Baat



Civic Safaikaramchari Union highlights JMC issues, seeks action

in Jammu District along with other parts of the nation turning it into a festival. BJP thanks every activist, common masses, NGOs, student organizations, trade & commerce organizations, religious & social organizations for celebrating the event in a historic way", said Parmod Kapahi

"More than 6.5 lakh people listened to the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat at more than 5500 places in J&K in public programmes. BJP Jammu expresses gratitude to each and every participant of this event for this feast", Parmod Kapahi

Parmod Kapahi also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for raising the morale of J&K residents by sharing their stories with the whole world through Mann Ki Baat.

skilled and Highly skilled (Drivers/

Computer Operators) labourers

One NGO labour namely Rashid

who was charged with an allegation

for charging Rs. 200/- for applying

online Date of Birth record. Conse-

quently, he was disengaged from

service as Mayor right from the day

J&K praising him for his dedication in promoting local business and providing jobs to hundreds of people.

Kapahi said that this programme highlights the important achievements of common people as a source of motivation to others. Mann Ki Baat has made a record in its 100th episode. This is the first programme by the head of the Nation in which he has continued its talks with the common masses for the 100 times

I appeal to the common persons and party activists to continue listening to this programme every month in a similar grand way.

"We heartily thank Modi ji for repeatedly boosting the morale of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Every time the social workers of

of joining as Mayor, JMC stated in

social media that 'any employee/

officer who will be indulged in cor-

rupt practices will face stern action.

Regretfully in the same department,

CTO, zone III Nisar Hussain (AEE,

Mech), JMC by misuse of his offi-

cial position has indulged in cor-

ruption and favouritism in JMC by

engaging 32 Nos. of NGO labourers

within very short spam by charging

1-2 lacs per labour which was also

published in local newspaper on

Ex. Chairman, Public Health and

Sanitation committee, JMC also

wrote a letter to the PWD Deptt,

J&K Govt. against the said officer

for indulging in malpractices in JMC.

The Chief Accounts Officer, JMC

has also requested the Commis-

sioner, JMC for immediate dissolv-

ing of the engagement of additional

manpower who were engaged with-

24.04.2023 (copy enclosed).

in Mann Ki Baat", said Kapahi

"Prime Minister Modi has always listened to the Mann Ki Baat of the neonle of Jammu and Kashmir. Modi ji has embraced the people of

Jammu and Kashmir", said Kapahi Parmod Kapahi added that the Modi government has given importance to the residents of J&K. This government has taken essential steps to solve the grave issue faced by the people here. Issues of PoJK refugees, women issues, Gujjar Bakkerwal, Gorkha, and all others have been addressed by Modi ji. PM has done unprecedented development in J&K by opening 2 AIIMS, 9 Medical colleges, Golden Cards, flyovers, ring road, PHE, road networks, PMAY, monthly pensions and many other benefits are provided to the people of J&K.

PM's public centric policies have made him the hero of 140 Crore people as he has listened to the Mann Ki Baat of common people irrespective of their region or reli-

In response to a question, he said that the Modi government is determined for development-oriented politics in J&K, which was looted for 70 years. He targeted other political parties for destroying the peace and progress in J&K earlier. Now these politicians are frustrated and hence trying to sabotage the ongoing development in J&K by mislead ing statements.

out any financial concurrence vide

letter no.JMC/Acctts./206-10 dated:

17.04.2023. But after some days,

she was deliberately transferred by

some conspiracy which was also

been published in local newspaper

(copies enclosed). It is worthwhile

to mention CAO, JMC has worked

always in favour of all the employ-

ees especially in service related

The union strongly demanded to

take strict action against the officer

who is defaming the name of JMC

by indulging in such corrupt prac-

tices in JMC by hiring of manpower

in the name of Safaikaramcharis

by engaging Skilled and Highly-

skilled (Drivers/Computer Opera-

tors) labourers through NGO and

an inquiry into the matter may be

initiated against the Officer/official

and get him/her transferred at the

<u>3UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR</u> Office of the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI PHE City Division No.II Jammu

25-2023-24- holding of NR due to homing of Electric Locos in Diesel Sheds at Ludhiana

Advertised Value (Rs.)

5674863.23

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-NIT No PHEC/II/ 04 OF 2023-24

The Executive Engineer PHE City Division No. II Jammu for and on behalf of The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering from approved and eligible contractors registered UT Jammu and Kashmir for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of work	Cost of Documents	Cost of Work	Earnest Money	Validity of works	Class of contract
			(Rs. In lacs)	@ 2%		or
1	Day to day Loading and unloading of Alum, Bleaching Powder, MS Pipe, DI Pipes, GI pipes and allied fitting from Procurement Store to Divisional store and from Divisional store to stacking site. Including shifting of material Complete Job,		Rs. 15.00	Rs. 30000/-	Upto 31-03-2024	A,B,C and Dee
2	Carriage of Alum and Bleaching Powder from unloading site to stacking place and handling of Alum and Bleaching for Filteration Plant Boria.	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 7.00	Rs. 14000/-	Upto 31-03-2024	A,B,C and Dee

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	29.04.2023	
2.	Date of Publishing.	29.04.2023	05.00 PM
3	Period of Downloading of bidding documents.	29.04.2023	05.30 PM
4	Bid Submission Start date.	29.04.2023	06.00 PM
5	Bid Submission End date	08.05,2023	04.00 PM
6	Date and time of opening of pre qualification bids (online).	09.05.2023	03.00 PM

- The Tender can be downloaded from J&K Govt. website www.iktenders.gov.in
- 2. Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE City Division No II Jammu /tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link http://www.imciammu.org/online-payment.html
- 3. Scanned copy of the EMD will also be required to be uploaded along with. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, Performance security @ 3% and relevant documents of Lowest Bidder (L-1) will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division NO II Jammu within 07(Seven) days of opening of financial bids on-line. In case the original documents are not submitted by the Lowest Bidder (L-1) within 07 (Seven) days after opening of financial bid, the tender of lowest bidder will be rejected and the lowest bidder (L-1) will not be allowed to participate in any further /future tendering process in the Divisional office for a period of two years. The work can be offered to L-2 after necessary approvals etc. from competent authority.
- 4. If any bidder quotes rates below than 25 %, of the advertised rate for any individual item, his bid shall be rejected.
- 5. The complete bidding process shall be online from 29.04.2023 to 08.05.2023 upto 04.00 PM

The technical bids shall be opened online on 09.05.2023 at 3.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE City Division No.II Jammu. In case office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids due to holiday, bids shall be opened on the next working day or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority, particularly keeping in view the ongoing restrictions on account The Performance Security so deposited shall be forfeited, if any bidder withdraws his online bid/tender during the period of bid validity or

fails to start the work within stipulated period.

No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State Government is allowed to work as a contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. The contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as foresaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.

Executive Engineer,

DIP/J-879/23

Jal Shakti PHE City Division No.II

NO: PHEC/II/ 3338-53 Dated: - 29/04/2023

The site of work shall be identified by the concerned JE/AEE.

Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

DLL organises Self Employment programme at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar

through NGO.

Top News Report

Top News Report

JAMMU. May 2: The Civic Safai-

karamchari Union of JMC held a

press conference in which various

Regular corrupt practices in JMC

by hiring of manpower in the name

of Safaikaramcharis by engaging

burning issues putforth.

JAMMU, May 2: Employment Information Cum Advisory Bureau (EIAB), Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL) in collaboration with Department of Chemistry, PSPS Govt. College for women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu today organized an awareness programme on Self Employment for the students of their college.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Irvinder Kour, HOD Home Science. She in her address highlighted the importance of self employment in today's era. Prof. Anjana Gupta, HOD Chemistry, in her address, stressed on the need of organising such type of programmes for the benefit of students in their crucial stage.

The programme was held under the overall supervision of Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu and Prof. Meenu Mahajan, prinicipal, PSPS Govt. College for women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The special resource person for the programme was Dr. Harleen Kour, Sr. Assistant professor, Department of Commerce, University of Jammu. She informed the students about the concept of Self employment and various

Government Schemes and start ups. Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB, DLL co-ordinated the activity. There were 72 participants who appreciated the event in their feedback. Dr. Deepika Gupta presented formal vote of thanks.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

earliest please.

matters, etc.

Dy.CE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tender (E-Tenders) against below titled tender and available or www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-26.05.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shal be ignored. Tenderers are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Open Tender			Gati Shakti Unit	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders			Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
01.05.2023			12.05.2023	26.05.2023/ 15:00 Hrs.
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender		
	-2023-24	Civil works in c/w direct reception and despatch facility on Goods handling line no 5 and ballast loading line no 6 to avoid undue shunting movement at KTHI Lunder.		

Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money (Rs.) Validity of Offer Period of Completio

Tendering Section

7,22.75.039.86/-5,11,400/-60 Days Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work" Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender

Serving Customers with a Smile

ADEN/JAT.

1311/2023 No.: OP-02-GSU-FZR-2023-24 Date: 01.05.2023

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION RAMBAN

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: - Cancellation of E-NIT No. EE/PMGSY/DR/02 of 2023-24, dated 15-04-2023 issued vide endorsement no. <u>EE/PMGSY/DR/254-328 Dated :- 15-04-2023</u>

Due to Administrative reason the above mentioned E-NIT is hereby Withdrawn /

No:- EE/PMGSY/DR/ 48/- 83 Dated :- 28-04-2023

Executive Engineer PMGSY Division DIP/J-821/23

EDITORIAL

EDUCATION IMPORTANCE

ducation 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

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 jewelery designing By: Vijay Garg long-term work, then a career then even a little carelessness production manager,

hen women or girls attend a wedding, function or event, they also pay special attention to the matching of jewelery with their dress. For some time now, the trend of wearing jewelery has been increasing among men as well. Due to the growing trend of jewelery designing, this industry is now progressing rapidly and the employment opportunities in it are also increasing rapidly. Jewelery designing The art of making various ornaments is known as jewelery designing. Who designed them Yes, they are called jewelery 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 jewelery designer is designing the jewelery 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 jewelery designers and the help of computer is taken in it. A jewelery designer makes beautiful jewelery 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

can be made in the field of iewelery designing. Although today the prices of gold, silver, diamonds, pearls etc. are setting new records, but people's attraction towards jewelery is not going to decrease. Now this business is growing rapidly day by day. Nowadays, people go for traditional designer jewelery in gold as well as designer jewelery 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 jewelery 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 jewelery 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 jewelery designing is such a work, in which the designer needs to work with patience. If you are designing jewelery with expensive metals like gold, diamonds

can spoil all your hard work. Course To make a future in the field of jewelery 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 Jewelery designing is also a career option for youngsters. Short term course can be done after 10th. CAD for Gems Jewellery, Basic Jewelery Design, Diamond Identification and Grading, Bachelor of Accessory Design, Jewelery Manufacturing, Advanced Jewelery Design with CAD, Bachelor of Jewelery Design, BSc in Jewelery Design, Master Diploma in Jewelery 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 jewelery designing is not There is a never-ending demand for jewelery designers in export houses to cater to the growing demand for traditional jewelery abroad. After taking a course related to jewelery designing, work from jewelery making to finishing can be easily done in a jewelery designing institute. Along with this, you can make a career in the positions of jewelery 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 jewelery designing. Without technical knowledge you cannot advance in this field. So join this job by doing jewelery 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 jewelery designing curricula. To get admission in a good institute related to jewelery 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

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 Chatisingpura 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

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 Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan Chapter of Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsay.

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

Democratic Pro-

education.

gressive 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



should plant more and

more trees in the catch-

ment areas of these

water bodies. He told

the local people if sur-

rounding is clean then

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 there is less chance of correspondent that spreading diseases in majority of Students and the society and among NSS volunteers particithe people. The volunpated in the cleanliness teers also educated the drive of local river water locals about cleanliness bodies of Bhalessa and hygiene and asked and their motive was them to discourage the to advise the locals practice of open dumpthat they should not litter near these water bodies, rather they

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.

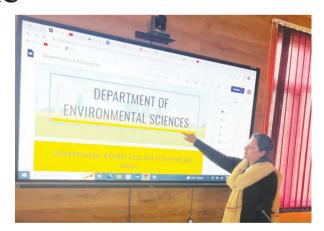
GDC Kishtwar organised one-day workshop under "Mission life"

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 Chitrakar was felicitated with lifetime achievement award, momento medal and bech, the chief guest at the felicitation ceremony on May 1 by and Natalia International Trust at Rukmani Ramji Convention Hall, Chennai.

Honored with the Life Time Achievement Award 2023 by the

International Recog-

nized World Records

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 / HYDER-ABAD, 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 supplychain 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, Sarabjeat 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 ben-

efit 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

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, longform 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 stupendous success.

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

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),

there. Once a Harry Potter fan,

always a Harry Potter fan!" she

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 Cam-

eron, 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

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 (blackand-white) long, rufflelined 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. Privanka 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

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 overcompensating 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 poplar 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

Karan's post also drew reactions from the mem-

user wrote.

bers 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 Java 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

best foot forward."

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

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,



that bring history alive and spark our imagination. Shoutout to @ ssrajamouli to consider a film



will create global awareness of that ancient civilisation..." Reacting to that, Rajamouli

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.

"These are amazing illustrations project based on that era that replied: "Yes sir... While shoot-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

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.

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.

PM Modi Shreds Congress, Says Its History Is About "Appeasing Terrorists"

CHITRADURGA, May 2 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today alleged that Congress's history is about "appeasing terror and terrorists", and the party had questioned the country's defence forces, when the surgical strikes and air strikes had been carried out.

Also accusing the Congress and JD(S) of "encouraging terror", the Prime Minister said they can never increase investment in Karnataka and cannot create new opportunities for the youth in the state.

"People of Karnataka should never forget Congress's history and thinking. Congress' history is about appeasing terror and terrorists. When the Batla House encounter happened in



Delhi, there were tears in the eyes of Congress' top most leader, hearing about the death of terrorists," PM Modi said.

Addressing a public meeting, he said, "When surgical strikes happened, when air strikes happened, Congress raised questions on the capability of the country's defence forces."

"In Karnataka you have seen how Congress is encouraging terrorism. Congress had left Karnataka to the 'rehemokaram' (mercy) of terrorists. It is the BJP that broke the back of the terrorists, and has ended the game of appeasement," he said, adding that for a prosperous Karnataka and to make it number it is important for the state to be safe.

Congress has lost its warranty and trust of the people, the Prime Minister said, adding that its election guarantee without warranty is nothing but lies.

He also said that BJP's election manifesto has a roadmap to make Karnataka number one State in the country.

Union Minister A Narayanaswamy and Davangere MP GM Siddeshwara among others were present

Raghav Chadha's name figures in ED's supplementary chargesheet in Delhi excise policy 'scam'

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate in its second supplementary chargesheet filed in a local special court here has mentioned the name of AAP Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha in connection with the Delhi liquor policy case.

In the chargesheet, the ED said arrested former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's former secretary, C Arvind, had told the probe agency that there was a meeting held at the residence of his ex-boss' residence with Raghav Chadha in attendance.

According to C Arvind's statement, the meeting was also attended by Punjab Excise Commissioner Varun Roojam, Vijay Nair, an accused in the case, and other officers from the Punjab Excise department. Meanwhile, in a statement Chadha unequivocally deny commission of any alleged offence in any manner, in relation to the said meeting or oth-

He said, "News articles/ reportage stating that I have been named as an accused in a complaint filed by the enforcement directorate are factually wrong, incorrect and appears to be part of a malicious propaganda to harm my reputation and credibiltiv.

The AAP leader further said, "I have not been named as an accused or even a suspect in any of the complaints filed by the enforcement directorate. There are no allegations whatsoever against me in the said complaints. It appears that in the complaint my name is mentioned as an attendee to some meeting though the basis of making such an allegation is not clear.'

He went on to add: "I vehemently and unequivocally deny commission of any alleged offence in any manner, in relation to the said meeting or otherwise. I request the media and publication houses not to cause any incorrect reporting and clarify this issue, lest I will be con-

strained to take legal action." This comes days after the CBI named Manish Sisodia as an accused for the first time in its supplementary chargesheet filed before a CBI court in Delhi. Sisodia was arrested by the probe agency in February after they questioned him for eight hours in connection with the case.

It is alleged that the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 to grant licences to liquor traders favoured certain dealers, who had allegedly paid bribes for it, a charge strongly refuted by the AAP. The policy was later scrapped by the Delhi government.

The ED has earlier levelled major allegations against Delhi Chief Minister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal and his former deputy Manish Sisodia. In the first supplementary

chargesheet, the ED had said the new liquor policy was Kejri-



wal's brain-child and that he, along with Sisodia, provided immunity to Vijay Nair so he could engage in illegal activities while framing and implementing the policy. Vijay Nair was the first accused to be arrested in the case.

The central probe agency also levelled charges against BRS leader K Kavitha and said she met Sameer Mahendru, a liquor trader who was among the accused in the case, at her residence in Hyderabad in 2022. It said the meeting was attended by others accused in the case, including businessmen Sarath Chandra Reddy and Abhishek Boinpally, and Kavitha's alleged front man Arun Pillai.

"Only Talks About Himself": Rahul Gandhi On PM Modi's Karnataka Rally



THIRTHAHALLI, May 2 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying he speaks only about himself even in Karnataka and not about anything

He also sought to know why PM Modi was silent on the issue of corruption in Karnataka and never takes the name of his party's Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, his predecessor B S Yediyurappa and the state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra.

Mr Gandhi reminded the people that the May 10 Assembly elections in Karnataka is not about Narendra Modi but about their future and their children.

"Have you seen the meeting of the BJP? Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives and does not take the name of any leader. The way I mention the name of former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Congress state president D K Shivakumar, or Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge, but Modi will never talk about their leaders," Mr Gandhi said at a public meeting here in Shivamogga district.

He said PM Modi never ever takes the name of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai or former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa "as if they do not exist." Every person of Karnataka is wondering why PM Modi is not taking the name of his own leaders including the state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, who is contesting from Thirthahalli, Mr Gandhi said.

The former Congress president alleged that during the recruitment of sub-inspectors, rampant corruption took place but PM Modi never took the name of Karnataka's Home Minister.

"There are two reasons behind it (not taking the names of his leaders). One is that Narendra Modi talks only about Narendra Modi. For example, there is an election going on in Karnataka and others are talking about the people of Karnataka, development and corruption but Narendra Modi talks only about Narendra Modi in the Karnataka election. He never speaks a word on

what the BJP government did in the last three years," Mr Gandhi said. Calling the BJP government in Karnataka,

'a government by theft, which came into power by destroying democracy," Mr Gandhi asked the prime minister why he was silent on corrup-

Why does the Prime Minister never utter a word on its (BJP government's) corruption, he sought to know.

"If you are afraid of taking the name of Yediyurappa, Bommai or Home Minister, then at least explain what did you do to check corruption? What steps did you take to stop corruption?" Mr Gandhi said.

The Congress leader said, the contractors' association wrote to the Prime Minister that there is "40 per cent commission charged on everything" but he did not answer

He told the crowd that this election is not about PM Modi

"This election is not about Narendra Modi. This election is about your future, about your children, about your youth, mothers and sisters. This is Karnataka's election. The most important election is corruption, price rise and unemployment. In the last three years BJP has broken the world record on corruption. They have done 40 per cent corruption on every work," Mr Gandhi

BSF shoots dead two Pakistan intruders along international border in Gujarat, seizes three packets of drugs

GUJARAT, May 2 (Agencies): The Border Security Force shot dead two Pakistani intruders along the International Border in Gujarat and seized three packets of narcotics on Monday night.

"On May 1, a patrol party of 13 Battalion shot two Pak intruders and recovered 3 packets of suspected contraband item from their possession, close to border about 10 kms north of Munabao," a BSF spokesperson



At about 9 pm, BSF troops on area domination duty observed some suspicious movement near the border security.

The operational patrol

immediately took posi-

tions and challenged the intruders but they did not pay any heed and moved close to border fence to negotiate it.

In order to prevent them from crossing fence and in selfdefense, BSF patrol fired upon the intruders, the spokesperson added.

Later on search of the area. BSF recovered the bodies of two Pak intruders and three packets, suspected to contain heroin, from their possession.

West Bengal: BJP leader found dead, party alleges TMC-backed goons behind 'murder'

KOLKATA, May 2 (Agencies): The body of a local Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Bijoy Bhuiya, who was allegedly kidnapped, was found on the roadside in West Bengal's East Mid-

napore district, reports said. The BJP has alleged that goons backed by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) killed Bhuiya.

On Monday evening, Bhuiya was returning home with his family when he was attacked by some people. He was then allegedly kidnapped by the miscreants. His body was later found in a pool of blood on the roadside by locals.

Police said he had multiple injuries to his body and an investigation into the incident was initiated.

BJP MLA Ashok Dinda alleged that police were supporting the miscreants, who hurled bombs in the area

"It was around 5 pm. Our booth president Bijoy Babu was returning home with his family when they were attacked midway by one Monoranjan Hazra and TMC-backed goons. Initially, they targeted his son, but he managed to

Then they showed Bijoy a gun and picked him up. After some time, his body was found," Dinda said.

"We will approach the high court. TMC-backed goons hurled bombs in the area and police were supporting them," he said.

2 Pakistani drug traffickers killed along India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan



BARMER, May 2 (Agencies): Two Pakistani men, suspected to be engaged in narcotics trafficking, were killed by the Border Security Force along the IndiaPakistan International Border in Rajasthan, official sources said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Monday night along the Barmer front, they said. About 3 kg of suspect-

ed drugs were seized following the interception, they added. Rajasthan shares a

1,036-kilometre-long boundary with Pakistan on India's western flank.

Congress releases Karnataka poll manifesto; promises to repeal all 'anti-people laws' passed by BJP govt

The party reiterates its five guarantees: Gruha Jyothi, Gruha Lakshmi, Anna Bhagya, Yuva Nidhi and Shakti

BENGALURU, May 2 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday promised in its manifesto for the May 10 Assembly elections to repeal all "unjust and anti-people laws" passed by the BJP government in Karnataka within one year of coming to power in the state.

In the manifesto for the polls released here by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in the presence of the state unit chief DK Shivakumar, CLP leader Siddaramaiah and others, the party reiterated its five guarantees: Gruha Jyothi, Gruha Lakshmi, Anna Bhagya,

Yuva Nidhi and Shakti. The Congress in the manifesto promised to



"repeal all unjust laws and anti-people laws passed by the BJP government within one year of coming to power".

The manifesto called 'Sarva Janangada Shanthiya Thota' (Peaceful garden of all communities) includes the Shakti scheme which will provide free travel to all women throughout the state in regular KSRTC/ BMTC buses and the Gruha Lakshmi scheme under which each woman head of the family will receive Rs 2,000.

Kharge said, "I am giving the sixth guarantee that these guarantees will surely be implemented in the first cabinet meeting on the first day of the government formation.

Sharad Pawar announces decision to step down as NCP president, forms panel to name successor NEW DELHI, May 2

(Agencies): In a major development that may further alter the dynamics of BJP-opposition relationship ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar stepped aside from his role saying it was time for the younger generation to take over the mantle.

Nephew Ajit Pawar by his side, Sharad Pawar made the announcement in Mumbai during the launch of his autobiography.

Sharad Pawar, a fourtime chief minister of Maharashtra and the architect of the erstwhile Uddhav Thackeray led Shiv Sena-NCP and Congress government in the state, also announced the formation of a committee of NCP leaders to work on the future course of action.



his uncle's political heir appears evident. Ajit Pawar has rou-

tinely threatened to rebel having recently met several NCP MLAs amid signals that he could split the party. Maharashtra political

observers say Sharad Pawar's resignation could be the peace deal between the powerful uncle and the ambitious nephew who wants to be

positioned as NCP chief sooner rather than later. Sharad Pawar's Lok

Sabha MP daughter Supriya Sule is hardly viewed as a challenger to her cousin with Sharad Pawar hoping to ensure her political future too through the internal arrangement he announced today of a party panel which will guide the future course of action.

Ajit Pawar, who was deputy CM in the erstwhile MVA government, has never hidden his chief ministerial ambitions and has also never concealed his effortless flings with the BJP.

In 2019 after Maharashtra elections threw up BJP as the single largest party, Ajit Pawar had ditched Sharad Pawar to go and form a government with BJP and even took oath as deputy CM with Devendra Fadnavis as CM.

The BJP however lost

the trust vote. Sharad Pawar then engineered the MVA alliance with Uddhav Thackeray taking oath as CM.

The Shiv Sena split last year ended the MVA run with Ajit Pawar again commencing his dabbling with the BJP.

Sharad Pawar's latest move is being seen as his final attempt to save the NCP from a split, and meanwhile buy time to ensure a smooth transition. The 82-year-old

Maratha strongman had

helped found NCP in

1999 after leaving the Congress over projection of Sonia Gandhi as the prime ministerial face of the party. Pawar had cited her foreign origins to make the case. Unable to prevent Sonia's rise, he, along with PA Sangma and Tariq Anwar went on to form their own party--the NCP--which soon joined the ruling Congress-led UPA coalition at the centre with Sonia

Gandhi at its helm as

UPA chairperson.

Sudan civil war: Battles rage as UN agencies warn of 'catastrophe'

KHARTOUM, May 2 (Agencies): Fierce fighting between rival generals raged on in Sudan Tuesday despite the latest truce, as warnings multiplied of the potential for a "catastrophic" humanitarian crisis with hundreds of thousands of refugees.

The bloodshed has gripped Sudan since April 15 when tensions erupted into armed exchanges between regular army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy-turnedrival, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Hundreds have been killed and thousands wounded as air strikes and artillery exchanges have gripped swathes of greater Khartoum sparking the exodus of thousands of Sudanese to neighbouring countries.

Many more cannot afford the arduous journey to Sudan's borders, and have been forced to hole up inside the city of five million people with dwindling supplies of food, water and electricity.

"We are hearing some sporadic gunfire, the roaring of a warplane and the anti-aircraft fire at it," said one resident of south Khartoum.

In a Monday briefing, the top UN aid official in Sudan, Abdou Dieng, warned that the situation was turning into "a full-blown catastrophe.

Kenyan President William Ruto said the conflict had reached "catastrophic levels" with the warring generals declining "to



heed the calls by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union and the international community to cease fire."

In a virtual meeting with senior UN officials, Ruto said it was imperative to find ways to provide humanitarian relief "with or without a ceasefire."

Burhan and Daglo, who fell out after carrying out a 2021 military coup that derailed Sudan's transition to elective civilian rule, have flouted multiple ceasefires, the latest a 72-hour extension agreed upon late on Sunday.

Foreign governments have scrambled to evacuate their citizens. Over the past 10 days, thousands of foreigners have been brought to safety by air or sea in operations that are now winding down.

Russia's armed forces said on Tuesday they were evacuating more than 200 people from Sudan on four military transport planes. Nearly 500 people arrived in the Saudi port of Jeddah on Monday aboard two vessels, one a US Navy ship, the other Saudi.

Relief trickles in

Top UN humanitarian official Martin Griffiths arrived in Nairobi on Monday on a mission to find ways to bring relief to the millions of civilians trapped inside Sudan. "The situation unfolding there (in Sudan) since April 15 is catastrophic," he said on Twitter.

Sudan's turmoil has seen hospitals shelled, humanitarian facilities looted and foreign aid groups forced to suspend most of their operations. At least 528 have been killed and some 4,600 wounded in the violence, according to the health ministry.

The United Nations' refugee agency, UNHCR, said it was bracing for "the possibility that over 800,000 people may flee the fighting in Sudan for neighbouring countries.'

The World Health Organization warned that the fighting was pushing Sudan's already ailing health sector toward "disaster" with only 16 percent of health facilities in Khartoum still functioning.

The WHO said that it had delivered six containers of medical equipment to Port Sudan on the

Red Sea coast, including supplies for treating trauma injuries and severe acute malnutrition. It had also distributed scarce fuel to hospitals which rely on generators for power.

Darfur chaos Beyond Khartoum, lawless-

ness has engulfed the West Darfur state capital, El Geneina, where at least 96 people have been reported killed since the start of the fighting, according to UN figures.

More than 330,000 people have been displaced, over 70 percent of them in West and South Darfur states, according to the International Organization for Migration.

"The health system has completely collapsed in Geneina," the doctors' union said, adding that looting of clinics and camps for the displaced had forced several agencies to carry out "emergency evacuations" for their teams. On Friday, Doctors Without Borders said the fighting had forced it to halt "almost all activities in West Darfur."

The Darfur region is still scarred by a war that erupted in 2003 when then-hardline president Omar al-Bashir unleashed the Janjaweed militia, mainly recruited from Arab pastoralist tribes, against ethnic-minority rebels.

The scorched-earth campaign left at least 300,000 people dead and close to 2.5 million displaced, according to UN figures. The Janjaweed -- which rights groups have accused of atrocities in Darfur -- later evolved into the RSF, which was formally created in 2013.

"We Regret": Ukraine **Apologises After Backlash Over Goddess Kali Tweet**



KYIV, May 2 (Agencies): Ukraine Deputy Foreign Minister Emine Dzhaparova today expressed "regret" after an image of a female above blast smoke was tweeted by the country's defence ministry triggering outrage with social media users pointing out the resemblance of the image to the depiction of Goddess Kali.

The country's deputy foreign minister Emine Dzhaparova said that Ukraine "regrets" the defence ministry's depiction of goddess Kali in a "distorted manner" and that the European country "respects unique Indian culture and highly appreciates support from India".

Australia Announces Sweeping Crackdown

She added the depiction had been removed.

"We regret @DefenceU depicting #Hindu goddess #Kali in distorted manner. #Ukraine & its people respect unique #Indian culture&highly appreciate support. The depiction has already been removed. is determined to further increase cooperation in spirit of mutual respect& friendship," Ms Dzhaparova tweeted.

On April 30, Ukraine's Defence Ministry tweeted with the caption "Work of art," and shared a picture of a blast with an improvised picture by Ukrainian artist Maksym Palenko.

In the picture, the artist depicted the blast in a unique yet offensive blend of famous American actress Marilyn Monroe in her 'flying skirt' pose with the face and detailing resembling Hindu Goddess 'Maa Kali'.

After posting the picture, the tweet triggered a massive backlash, forcing the Defence Ministry of Defence to delete the Twitter post.

One Twitter user posted, "Shocking! Official handle of Ukraine Defense Ministry is portraying Maa Kali in a demeaning pose. This is not a work of art. Our faith is not a matter of joke. Take it down and apologise @DefenceU"

Meanwhile, another Twitter user said, "Hurting sentiments of 1.4 billion Indians is not Okav @DefenceU. This is a blatant display of Hinduphobia by Ukraine's defence ministry. Please remove this.'

Ms Dzhaporava had recently visited India, the first visit by a Ukrainian minister to India since the start of the Ukraine war in February last year. During the visit the Ukranian minister held talks with Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakashi

Qantas Names Vanessa Hudson As First Woman CEO

Qantas said Vanessa Hudson would become chief executive and managing director when Joyce retires in November after 15 years in the top job.

SYDNEY, May 2 (Agencies): Australian airline Qantas named company veteran Vanessa Hudson as its first woman chief executive on Tuesday, replacing the cost-cutting Irish-Australian Alan Joyce.

Qantas, which returned to profit late last year after taking large losses during the Covid-19 pandemic, said Hudson would become chief executive and managing director when Joyce retires in November after 15 years in the top job.

Hudson, who has been in Qantas' executive ranks for nearly three decades, will remain in her role as chief financial officer until then, the airline group said.

"I have worked for Qantas for 28 years and that excitement of the first day that I felt walking into Qantas, I feel still today," Hudson told a news conference.

"We are in an incredibly strong position. We have got many things in the pipeline. That is not to say the past three years have not been challenging -- they have," she added.

"There will be many challenges, I am sure, ahead," she said, stressing that taking care of customers was "absolutely at the centre

of everything" Hudson said she was "incredibly proud" as a woman to reflect both on her own promotion at Qantas and on "some of the other amazing females that are running very big organisations across Australia and across the globe".

'Qantas downfall' Joyce, who had already been expected to leave Qantas at some



point this year, praised his successor as an "outstanding executive".

"There are not many female CEOs of the worldwide aviation industry," he told the news conference.

"And it's a credit to this country that a gay Irish man was appointed 15 years ago to be CEO of the company. And now we have the first female.

Joyce said he had extended his time as chief executive at the board's request to deal with the pandemic. "If it had not been for Covid I would have retired a few years ago."

Qantas posted a profit of Aus\$1.43 billion (US\$974 million) before tax in the second half of 2022, after accumulating Aus\$7 billion in losses across the previous three years, weighed down by the pandemic.

Under Joyce, however, Qantas was heavily criticised by union leaders for sacking or standing down thousands of staff to keep a lid on costs at the height of the outbreak.

"After 15 years of Qantas downfall under Alan Joyce's management, a new CEO has the opportunity to serve the hard-working people who built the spirit of Australia," the Transport

Workers' Union said in a statement.

"Current and illegally sacked workers deserve courageous management to take Qantas in a new direction.'

The airline has also angered customers post-lockdowns with sky-high fares.

'Constructive relationship'

Qantas says the restructuring, which saved the airline almost Aus\$1 billion, was crucial to the company's financial post-lockdown rebound.

Hudson said she looked forward to meeting with the unions and "developing a constructive relationship".

Qantas had been upfront in recognising the "customer experience was not where we wanted it" during the pandemic, she added. But the airline had invested heavily in improving its performance "and it is back where we were pre-Covid," she said.

Qantas chairman Richard Goyder said the airline was "extremely well positioned", with a clear strategy, strong balance sheet and record profitability.

Qantas shares were trading 2.4 percent lower in mid-afternoon trade.

On E-Cigarettes SYDNEY, May 2 try -- a flourishing black (Agencies): Australia

announced a sweeping crackdown on vaping Tuesday, accusing tobacco companies of hooking the next "generation of nicotine addicts" by deliberately targeting teenagers.

Billed as the country's largest anti-smoking reforms in a decade, Australia will ban singleuse disposable vapes. halt imports of nonprescription versions, and restrict how much nicotine e-cigarettes may contain.

Australia has long been at the vanguard of attempts to stamp out smoking, and in 2012 became the first country to introduce "plain packaging" laws for cigarettes -- a policy since copied by France, Britain and others.

But in recent years, Australia has struggled to contain the explosion in recreational vaping, particularly among teenagers.



vaping nas become the number one behavioural issue in high schools. And it's becoming widespread in primary schools," Health Minister Mark Butler said in a speech

"Just like they did with smoking, Big Tobacco has taken another addictive product, wrapped it in shiny packaging and added flavours to create a new generation of nicotine addicts.'

People will still be allowed to use vapes, with a prescription, as a tool to help them quit cigarettes.

"Vaping was sold to governments and communities around the world as a therapeutic product to help longterm smokers quit," Butler said.

"It was not sold as a recreational product -especially not one for our kids.

Black Market

In theory, it is already illegal to buy nicotine e-cigarettes in Australia without a prescription. But in practice, they

are widely available in small convenience stores across the counmarket the government has struggled to contain.

E-cigarettes were introduced in the early 2000s and initially billed as a less-harmful replacement for traditional cigarettes packed with cancer-causing chemicals.

But an emerging body of research has shown vapes can also be highly addictive, and often result in young users eventually turning to cigarettes as a way to get their nicotine fix.

A 2022 study by the Australian National University found adolescents who vaped were three times more likely to start smoking.

"Nicotine use in children and adolescents can lead to lifelong addiction issues as well as difficulties in concentration and learning," the researchers said at the time.

"Vapes deliver hun-

dreds of chemicals -some of them known to be toxic and many others with unknown effects."

Cancer Council chief executive Tanya Buchanan said Australia was fighting a "vaping epidemic" and had a shrinking window of opportunity to take control.

She said e-cigarettes were not safe and threatened "Australia's hard-fought successes in driving down smoking rates".

Heavy taxes on tobacco sales mean Australia has some of the most expensive cigarettes in the world -- with a pack of 25 selling for around Aus\$50 (US\$33).

Australia has one of the lowest daily smoking rates in the world. according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, but has seen an increase in the number of under-25s taking up cigarettes.

Canadian govt proposes ban on assault-style firearms

Under the scheme announced, the government will make regulations through the Firearms Act to ensure that guns are classified correctly before entering the Canadian market

OTTAWA, May 2 (Agencies): The Canadian government is proposing a ban on assaultstyle firearms that would apply once legislation now before Parliament comes into force.

Under the scheme announced, the government would make regulations through the Firearms Act to ensure that guns are classified correctly before entering the Canadian

"I want to make it clear that our government is

not targeting hunters and law-abiding gun owners," Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino told a news conference. "What we're doing is protecting families, protecting our children, protection our communities."

The government also plans to recreate a firearms advisory committee that will make recommendations on the classification of guns now on the market.

Mendicino said the committee will include



rural and northern residents, Indigenous ers, law enforcement and gun control advocates. "Guided by the com-

mittee's recommendation we will increase the classifications of firearms for ban," he said. "This committee will be convened quickly and asked to provide its advice to the government as soon as this summer.'

Mendicino said measures are being taken so future governments "will have a very difficult time making assault-style firearms legal again."

More than 15,000 people joined the 'Yoga Mahotsav' in Jaipur



Top News Report

JAMMU / JAIPUR, May 2: The Yoga Mahotsav witnessed an exhilarating atmosphere as more than 15,000 enthusiasts performed Common Yoga Protocol (CYP), along with dignitaries, at the sprawling ground of Shri Bhawani Niketan Shiksha Samiti here on Tuesday.

The Yoga Mahotsav was a celebration to commemorate 50 days to International Day of Yoga, 2023. The participants performed Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) in complete rhythm and harmony with a mesmerising outcome.

The event was graced by the Governor of Rajasthan, Kalraj Mishra; Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal; Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat; Union Minister of State (MoS) for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal; Union MoS for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Kailash Choudhary; Union MoS for Ayush and Women & Child Development, Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai; Member of Parliament (MP), Bhilwara, Subhash Chandra Baheria; MP, Jaipur, Ramcharan Bohra; MP, Karauli-Dholpur, Dr Manoj Rajoria; MP, Nagaur, Shri Hanuman Beniwal; MP, Ajmer, Bhagirath Choudhary; MP, Rajsamand, Km. Diya Kumari; Mayor of Jaipur, Dr Somya Gurjar; Deputy Mayor of Jaipur, Puneet Karnawat; Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush; Vice Chancellor of National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA) Prof Sanjeev Sharma as well as many other dignitaries and guests took part in this mammoth exercise, with an ultimate motive to popu-

Kalraj Mishra said, "Yoga and Ayurveda have a long history which dates back to centuries. The very first mention of Yoga was in the Rig Veda, one of the oldest sacred texts. This spiritual discipline is based on a subtle science that aims to bring about harmony between the body and mind. The whole world has been going through a tough time in form of Covid-19. Yoga and Ayurveda have helped to control the Pandemic.At the initiation and inspiration of Prime Minister, Narendra Bhai Modi, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21st June, as the International Day of Yoga.Since then, the whole world is celebrating International Day of Yoga with enthusiasm and gaiety. I am extremely happy to be part of this mega event of 50th Day countdown of Yoga. I congratulate the Ministry of Ayush for organising this

event in the Pink City of Jaipur."
Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Today, on this historic city of Jaipur, with a rich

legacy of Yoga, has made this Yoga

Mahotsav event a grand success. As thousands of you have joined here, the vision of our dynamic Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make Yoga a health & wellness movement among people has received a tremendous boost. Our endeavour through these Mahotsav is to sustain a ripple effect around the rich heritage of yoga. Yoga has been proved to act as an elixir to realise a healthy mind & body. Guided by the vision of Prime Minister Modi ji, we remain steadfast towards building a healthier nation with the help of our rich traditional medicinal system including Yoga. As India is chairing the G20 for this year, we have a special responsibility to further our soft power of yoga to enrich the health & wellness of people across the world. Thanks to global appeal that yoga is enjoying since the inception of International Day of Yoga at the behest of Prime Minister Modi ji, it has been able to bring the whole world together resulting in peace and harmony. This year, we are planning to demonstrate of Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) at Arctic and Antarctic region. With the tremendous response to the Yoga Mahotsav in Jaipur, it has emboldened our effort to make Yoga a global healthcare movement."

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, "Today we have gathered in this beautiful city to celebrate the 50th countdown of International Yoga Day. To understand the importance of yoga, we must first know what yoga is. Yoga is the result of tireless meditation by sages for thousands of years. Our sages have defined yoga as 'samatvam yoga uchyate', which means to remain balanced in both happiness and sorrow, in both equilibrium and imbalance. Yoga has united the world in a single thread, given new meaning to global values, and brought various health systems closer to each other. This beautiful movement of humanity towards a healthy and happy future has been made popular and institutionalised at the global level thanks to the vision and capable leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. The scale of Yoga Day is increasing day by day."

Three Jaipur based Yoga groups, namely Yogashtali Yoga Society, Yoga Peace, Madan Gurjar & Team also performed at the Yoga Mahotsav. Among the pariticipants, the students, officials from the central and state governments, and yoga enthusiasts participated in the event. The Ministry organised the event with active support and cooperation of the state government of Rajasthan, local authorities and various institutions with an objective to boost Medical Value Travel in Rajasthan through Yoga.

Cong, NC, PDP did injustice since 1947

Ownership rights of land to West Pak refugees will heal their wounds: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri on Tuesday hailed the decision of government to grant ownership rights of land to West Pakistani refugees who had migrated to Jammu and Kashmir in 1947.

The announcement made by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in this regard is a welcome step and will reverse the injustice done to these families since 1947 by Congress, NC and PDP regimes who did not bother to treat the refugees as citizens of India.

Raman Suri said that the abrogation of Article 370 has opened many new vistas of development for thousands of families belonging to different castes and regions. Many got voting rights and now many more will get ownership rights of land allotted to them way back in 1947. These people have suffered a lot of pain and agony and, this decision of the Union Government and subsequent implementation by the LG administration is indeed a welcome step.

The BJP leader said, now these West Pakistani refugees can have government jobs, cast their votes, and even own land in Jammu and Kashmir which was their right but was snatched by those in power like Congress, NC, or PDP. He said, land measuring approximately50 thousand kanals will now be allotted to West Pakistani refugees who until now were living in their own country in miserable conditions

and without any rights to vote, seek jobs or have land in their names.

Raman said, the BJP government at the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is sensitive towards such issues and this decision establishes how PM is concerned about the plight of refugees who had arrived from Pakistan in 1947 and ever since then, were living under miserable conditions. He accused various previous governments like those of Congress, PDP, or NC of ill-treating these people and depriving them of their legitimate rights of living like an honourable citizen and enjoying facilities and rights which other citizenshave been granted.

Raman added that the BJP government, post abrogation of Article 370, has also granted voting rights to Valmiki Samaj members, who were brought in from Punjab but were never granted citizenship rights here. They too are now enjoying equal rights like others. The BJP government, he added, is one with a difference and is doing justice with all those who had been neglected, ignored, or condemned by previous governments of Congress, NC, or PDP. The assurance by LG that special emphasis will be laid to help the youth belonging to West Pakistan who migrated to India in 1947, to establish themselves is also a welcome step. He asked the youth to take maximum benefits of the Union Government as well as LG administration schemes and contribute to nation building.

Braham Jyot demands inquiry into ill construction of Nallah above road level at Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) along with locals demands Inquiry probe into ill Construction of Nallah at canal road ,Rajpura , Shakti Nagar Jammu .

He also send grievance in Lieutenant Governor 's Cell and concerned authorities . Braham Jyot visited

the site where Nallah is constructed above road level which shows the low grade skills of constructing authorities. Then he listened public grievances regarding this and send it to Lieutenant Governor's Cell and concerned higher authorities.

Braham Jyot said it very low grade work of construction authorities because Boundary walls of this Nallah is above road level without any drainage system because of this Water will Jam on road and will cause inconvenience to

passer by public.

He said public is unhappy with this construction and requested me to visit this site and after visiting I observed that this construction work is not good for public's health and for

road also even it has a gap of 4 feet between drain and Nallah

Nallah.
Somehow, so people are playing with the previous

lives of the public which is

not good for society.

He said now monsoon will arrive with 1-2 months and stopped rain water will cause various diseases and it will also an open invitation to accidents. He appealed concerned authorities to take an immediate positive action into this.

He said Nation's first ideology of BJP is best and it works in nation's interest and prominent citizens are joining hands with BJP which is highly appreciable.

He said under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi India is achieving new heights at International level and BJP is available for the help of every needy person and our priority to reach every needy of state.

Vivek Bali says there is no alternative to elected Govt to address public grievances

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: JD(U) State General Secretary Vivek Bali on Tuesday expressed serious concern over undevelopment in Khaur Deonian Panchayat area of R S Pura.

Addressing a public meeting in khaur Deonian, he referred to the developmental issues being confronted by the local population in the area where the development is still a

Vivek Bali said the farmers in the region have been struggling for years with inadequate infrastructure, particularly with regards to the poor condition of the roads.

The situation has worsened in recent months, with heavy rainfall causing severe damage to the roads, making it difficult for farmers to transport their produce to market.

Meanwhile, Vivek Bali said, "The conflicting ground reality exposes the false claims of the officials that the development has reached every village. If you visit the villages, one would find poor road connectivity, lack of drinking water supply system and unscheduled power cuts."

He said that the local population is living a miserable life with no development and improper implementation of Govt schemes for their benefit.

"The authorities have been working on the directions of a political party and adopted a line which is against the basic values of the constitution of the country. However, we will not allow this kind of discrmination with the local population which faced ignorance and backwardness for over 7 decades," he said

Bali said that "The elected Govt can do justice with the people. The people are fed up with the LG administration and they want a change in the governance because the elected Govt is answerable to the people

who vote them to power."

Bali said that the issues under LG administration have doubled as the officials have failed to perform on the ground and the developmental projects which were initiated by the previous Govts have yet to be completed.

He was accompanied by Chairman Sikh community Dilawar Singh, District Secretary Raj Kumar, Vivek president R s Pura Sonu Kumar, Kuldeep kumar and other senior members of the party.

DDC reviews implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Catch the rain initiative

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 2: To review the latest status of progress made under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Catch the rain 2023 campaign in the district, District Development Commissioner, Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Tuesday convened a meeting of officers of line departments here in his office chamber.

At the outset, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, Ashok Sharma briefed the chair about the parameters of CTR, the latest progress on schemes and role of different departments for effective implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Catch the rain initiative in the district

Speaking at the meeting, the DDC impressed upon the officers to work with zeal and dedication to achieve the targets set for the current financial year. He further called for close monitoring of ongoing works to ensure quality and adherence to timelines. He asked the stakeholder departments to work in cohesion and make dedicated and coordinated efforts to conserve and preserve water for the present and future generations.

The DDC set June 30, 2023 as the deadline for the completion of the execution of works under JJM. The Concerned officers were directed to visit the rural and far flung areas of the district to get first hand information of the progress

of works under JJM scheme. The DC directed all the officers of line departments to work in coordination for better results at the grassroots level.

The need for generating mass awareness about the importance of water conservation, with special focus on rain water harvesting techniques was also stressed upon. The DDC asked the officers present in the meeting to ensure the rain water harvesting initiative is implemented in letter and spirit in the district. Officers were exhorted to put maximum emphasis on motivation and facilitation of the general public to adopt roof water harvesting and replicate the same for water conservation in their

respective areas.

Pertinent to mention here that

Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Catch the rain 2023 was launched by the Government of India on 4th March, 2023 in all the districts of the country, covering both rural and urban area with the central theme "source sustainability for drinking water "to bring the necessary focus on sustainability of drinking water supply, specially ground water sources and

springs.
Additional District Development
Commissioner, Ghan Sham Singh,
Chief Planning Officer, Mudassir
Yaqoob Zargar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral
and other district officers attended
the meeting.

Terror Funding Case | NIA raids 12 locations in J&K

said Ishaq was illiterate and worked as a window glass fitter.

The raids are being conducted in connection with a terror funding case registered last year.

1 killed, several injured in Rafiabad road accident

"The condition of injured persons is stated to be stable", he said.

The deceased has been identified as Kaiser Ahmed Dar son of Gulzar Ahmed Dar of Jalsheeri Baramulla.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Air pollution, fast food causing rise in asthma cases in Kashmir: DAK

are often seen taking fast foods like burg-

ers, pizzas, French fries and noodles.

"This change in dietary habits from homemade to processed and convenient foods

could be another reason for the rise in asthma cases," he said.

"There is an urgent need to control environmental pollution to save people, especially the younger generation from the disease", he said adding "we need to educate parents to encourage their children to eat healthy and avoid fast foods,

Boy injured after being stabbed by girl in Srinagar's Kak Sarai

abdomen, however, his condition is

Man attempting to rob bank hides in false ceiling overnight, caught by police in Poonch

The local police station was immediately informed and the accused arrested, he said

The officials said Abrar is being questioned to ensure that no other bank employee was involved in the attempted robbery.

Education Deptt officials

FROM PAGE 1 helpless due to dictatorship of private schools: Amit Kapoor

misbehaved with him as well. Wherein the child and the parents were not allowed inside and he was thrown out of the school without any reason.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, the President of the Parents Association, Amit Kapoor strongly condemned the entire matter.

He said that the Director of Education Department, Chairman JKFFC and DC Jammu are unable to take action against such schools, so where should the children go.

Kapoor said that three complaints have been lodged against this school in the past as well but no action has been taken so far.

Amit Kapoor said that on April 7, the parents deposited all the fees and also bought fourteen books installed by the school and also took the uniform. After this the child was continuously going to school and till 28th April the child went to school and was also given homework.

The parents of the child said that when they went to the school to collect the result, they were made to sign on a blank

page. He told that when the child was not allowed to sit in the class, he was called to the school and the father of the school asked him to take the transfer certificate of his child as he had applied for it. The parents say that they have not applied for it, otherwise why would they take the transfer certificate. While the child has bought books and uniform as well and the child is studying there from pre-nursery, then why will the child be removed from there now.

Amit Kapoor warned the school management that they should desist from their arbitrariness, otherwise there will be a strong protest against it. He also requested the Deputy Commissioner of Jammu that he is complaining about this to them and if this child does not get justice and no action is taken against this school, then he will strongly protest against it. He said that if the child is not made to sit back in the class within three days, he will protest outside the school.

Four drug smugglers booked under PIT-NDPS act in Baramulla

were involved in promoting drug abuse by supplying drugs to local youth of Kunzer, Kreeri Wagoora, Uri, Bijhama and other areas of District Baramulla.

Despite their involvement in many FIR's they did not mend their activities and were again involved in promoting drug abuse by supplying drugs to local youth, police said.

MeT predicts more rains in J&K

against 7.8°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.3°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 6.5°C against 4.7°C on previous night and it was 1.6°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Kokernag recorded a low of 8.3°C against 7.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal for the place, the officials said. Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.9°C against 4.0°C on previous night and it was 0.4°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said. In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 8.1°C against 8.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C below normal for the north Kashmir area. Jammu recorded a low of 16.8°C against 18.7°C on the previous night. It was 5.8°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

US: First Republic Bank sold in fire sale to JPMorgan

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 lic'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

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

JPMorgan last month to lead

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 toobig-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 fourmonth 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 FIIs 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 inorder 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

These non-customerfacing roles amount to roughly 26,000 workers, Krishna said. "I could easily see 30 percent of that getting replaced by Al 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, textgenerating 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 counties. 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 categoriesserotypesof 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



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 4once considered the least infectiousis 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

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 similarnot identicalviral 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 ference, 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.

Chennai, to open three more in 2023 patients with information eases (NCDs) and genetic insights into how they are 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 to manage and prevent genetic disorders. "India is a highly diverse

Apollo opens genomic institute in

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-

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

diagnosed, treated and beyond," said Suneeta Reddy, managing director. Apollo Hospitals Group. "At Apollo Genomics Insti-

tute, 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

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.

ACS chairs SLEC meeting, emphasizes speedy implementation of horticulture projects under MIDH

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production, Atal Dulloo, yesterday chaired State Level Executive Committee (SLEC) of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) regarding proposed annual action plan for the current financial year held here at Civil Secretariat.

ACS, who is also the chairman of SLEC, emphasized the need for planning massive high-density plantation across Jammu and Kashmir divisions. He had detailed discussion on rejuvenation activities suggested by Mangla Rai Committee. He enquired about the status of funds and called for swift planning and execution of projects.

"We have to bring massive progress in horticulture and



allied sectors across Jammu & Kashmir within a short period of time, said Atal Dulloo, while stressing the importance of effective utilisation of funds for the development of the sectors in the UT", he maintained.

ACS was briefed about district wise activities planned for increasing vegetable production including establishment of cold storages, CA stores, pick-up vans and other infrastructure. Besides, plans for establishing smart-automated and regular greenhouses were also pre-

sented before the ACS. The meeting also discussed various other activities including protected cultivation, cultivation

of exotic crops, plantation infrastructure development, flower cultivation, aromatic plants, organic farming, horticulture mechanisation, human resource development and post-harvest management.

ACS instructed departmental heads and other members to utilise all funds effectively and implement them for development of horticulture sector in the UT.

At Jammu, the meeting was attended by committee members including Director Agriculture, KK Sharma; Director Horticulture, Ram Savak; Assistant Director Planning besides others while officers from Kashmir including Director Horticulture Production and Marketing, Vikas Sharma and others participated online.

Minga Sherpa holds introductory meeting with DIPR, JDI, Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Soon after taking over as Minga Sherpa, yesterday called for synergized efforts by various wings of the department to disseminate information regarding policies and programmes of the government of Jammu and Kashmir.

In an introductory meeting with the officers and officials of the Directorate and Joint Directorate Jammu here, Sherpa stressed the crucial need of coordination in the department and the print and electronic media as this is imperative for achieving the objective of generating awareness among the people on various key programmes. He also highlighted the significance of the social media and said these platforms can be used for overall good of the people.

Sherpa assured the officials that every effort will be made to promote professionalism in the working of various units of the department to meet the

with confidence. He said the department has to be vibrant in highlighting the government activities on all fronts.

On the issues raised during the introductory meeting, Sherpa said these will be looked into earnestly.

Later, Director inspected various sections of the department including Establishment, PR, Accounts, Litigation, Audio Visual, Social Media Cell and Auditorium.

Among others present in the meeting included Joint Director Information Headquarters, Naresh Kumar, Deputy Director Central, Subhash Chander Dogra, Deputy Director Information AV, Deepak Dubey, Assistant Director Planning, Information Officers, Accounts Officer, Administrative Officer and other officials.

DC Samba conducts whirlwind tour of Border Belt in Ramgarh

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 2: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Samba, Abhishek Sharma yesterday conducted a whirlwind tour of the border belt of Ramgarh to review the security scenario, river protection works and other pressing issues of the public. During the tour, the DC also interacted with locals to gain a firsthand understanding of their concerns and needs

During the visit, Commandant 51 Battalion BSF K. Umesh. SSP Samba Benam Tosh, Adl SP, DIO, Tehsildar, BDO, AEE flood control, AC BSF BOP nursery, Malluchak and others accompanied the DC.

Interacting with the locals, the DC said that the border belt region is of strategic importance, given its proximity to the international border. "Therefore, ensuring security and protection is the top priority for the administration," he added. The DC reviewed the security measures in place and discussed ways to further strength-

en the same The DC also reviewed the river protection work in the region, which is essential to prevent flooding and damage to property and crops.

The DC discussed measures to improve river protection and ensure that the river systems in the region are well-maintained.

During the tour, the DC interacted with locals and listened to their concerns. The DC appreciated the active participation of the locals in maintaining the security of the region and expressed his gratitude for their support. The DC also assured the locals that their concerns would be addressed, and steps would be taken to improve their living conditions.

The DC visited BOP Nursery, in forward Village Kajyal Kurd, BOP Malluchak, Khamore Forward and other forward

DC Srinagar inspects progress on construction work on Dalgate Bridge, pace of Macadamization Works in City

Top News Report

SRINAGAR 2: Deputy Commissioner(DC), Srinagar on Monday morning undertook a visit to various City areas to inspect the various ongoing developmental works.

Accompanied by the Officers of the concerned Departments, the Deputy Commissioner visited Dalgate area and took onsite inspection of the works undertaken for construction of New Dalgate Bridge near Badyari Chowk being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs 5.0 Crores.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that work is under progress and the process related to shifting of utilities including PHE and PDD lines has been completed so far while construction of CofferDam for restraining water in progress. He was also



informed that widening of the curve on Badyari Chowk towards Boulevard has been incorporated under the project which will ensure decongestion of the traffic flow along Boulevard axis.

The DC asked the Officers and concerned executing agency to speed up the pace of work on the vital project of the Dalgate Bridge by employing additional men and so that traffic flow is regulated in the area in a smooth manner.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also inspected the status of

Macadamisation Works in different parts of the city.

While inspecting the macadamization works, the DC was informed that a target length of 97.05 km has been earmarked for the current fiscal by the R&B Department in Srinagar City out of which 25.75 km road length has been macadamized till date.

Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineer R&B, Executive Engineers of R&B and other concerned Officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

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DC Samba participates in Kissan Sampark Abhiyan at panchayat Gudwal

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 2: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma, yesterday visited Gudwal-A panchayat and to attend Kissan Sampark Abhiyan launched in the district to encourage the farmers to take benefit of schemes under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme(HADP).

The programme aims to conduct a baseline survey of farmers to provide them personalized services and better support. The survey has already been conducted covering 24,000 farmers to gather data and provide personalized services based on their needs.

The programme focuses on increasing output, decreasing input, diversifying crops, and doubling the selling price. The farmers will be provided with advanced alerts on various issues such as rain alerts, crop insurance, disease pandemics, and more.

The programme includes training and orientation of farmers under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). It offers over 121 courses, 700 learning sessions, video lectures, and other resources to empower farmers and agri-preneurs with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the agriculture sector. The resources are available in four languages, making it accessible to a broader audience.

The programme has received tremendous support from the local community, and many farmers, locals, and other stakeholders were present

during the outreach under Kissan Sampark Abhiyan. The Sarpanch of Gudwal A panchayat, Jasbir Singh

present on the occasion.

expressed gratitude for the launch of the programme, which is expected to benefit the farmers in the border belt region which have peculiar needs and issues. In addition to the training and resources, the programme also includes SMS-based advisory services for farmers to provide real-time information on crop management,

disease prevention, and

other related issues. The

programme aims to provide

a comprehensive solution

to the challenges faced by farmers in the region. The DC informed that the innovative web portal, Daksh Kisan, is a key component of the programme, which offers a Learning Management System (LMS) that provides access to a range of resources, including videos and learning material in multiple languages. The platform is committed to empowering farmers and agri-preneurs

by providing high-quality

training and educational resources. In conclusion, the launch of the Kissan Sampark Abhivan marks a significant step towards promoting sustainable agriculture practices and improving the lives of farmers in the region. The programme's focus on providing personalized services and advanced alerts, along with training and orientation, is expected to have a significant impact on the lives of farmers and agri-preneurs in the region, added the DC

Samba.

DDC Rajouri reviews progress of **Education Sector Works**



Top News Report

RAJOURI, May 2: District Development Commissioner Rajouri. Vikas Kundal, yesterday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of Education Sector works taken up under District Capex budget and SAMAGRA Shiksha program in the district.

During the meeting, the DDC sought a detailed report from the concerned officers about the physical and financial progress of the

projects. The officers briefed the DDC about the status of the same. While reviewing the status of the works under SAMAGRA Shiksha, the meeting was informed that 165 works were approved for FY

cost of Rs 1882.43 lacs. While taking note of the status of these works, the DDC directed to issue tenders of the works at the earliest for their timely completion on the ground within the shortest possible time.

2022-23 at an estimated

Taking stock of the progress on the ongoing works under the District Capex Budget, the DDC emphasized the need to expedite the pace of the progress. He also stressed the importance of maintaining quality while executing the work on the projects for their longevity. The DDC made it clear that no laxity would be tolerated in this regard.

He also directed the concerned officers to resolve any bottlenecks hampering the developmental projects in a timely manner to ensure smooth execution of works.

Officers who attended the meeting were Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid; Chief Education Officer, Sultana Kouser and concerned officer from SAMAGRA Shiksha.

Shiv Kumar Gupta takes over as new **Vice Chairman JDA**

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Shiv Kumar Gupta, JKAS yesterday took over as the new Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority from Pankaj Magotra, JKAS.

Immediately after taking over the charge, the new Vice Chairman took an introductory meeting of Senior officers and reviewed the functioning of the Authority.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, JDA, Financial Advisor & CAO, JDA, Chief Town Planner, JDA, Superintending Engineer, JDA, Tehsildar, Executive Engineer, JDA Division, No. I/II and Mega Project.

Directions were issued to officers to streamline the functioning of different wings of the Department which have direct interface with the public to make them more people friendly



He laid stress on the timely completion of Master Plan Review exercise and expediting the demarcation of JDA land. He exhorted the employees of JDA to work with the highest degree of dedication, honesty and transparency expected from a public servant in the office and issued directions for timely completion of major projects of JDA.





RCB bowlers rise to occasion to beat LSG by 18 runs in low-scoring game

LSG dished out a fine bowling display to restrict RCB to a below-par 126 after being asked to bowl first

LUCKNOW, May 2 (Agencies): Aided by KL Rahul's injury early in the match, Royal Challengers Bangalore did just enough to eke out an 18-run win over Lucknow Super Giants in a lowscoring Indian Premier League game here.

LSG skipper Rahul pulled his right thigh muscle in the second over of RCB innings while trying to stop a boundary and came out to bat only towards the end, which acted in favour of the visi-

LSG dished out a fine bowling display to restrict RCB to a below-par 126 after being asked to bowl first.

RCB never had momentum in their innings despite the opening pair of skipper Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli sharing a 62-run partnership

The spin duo of Ravi Bishnoi (2/21) and veteran Amit Mishra (2/21) shone bright with the ball in the middle overs to keep a check on RCB's scoring rate.

Later, it turned out to be a nightmarish start for LSG while chasing a modest 127-run target, as they lost their first three wickets for just 21 runs in 4.1 overs.

In Rahul's absence, Kyle Mayers and Ayush Badoni opened the innings but failed to live up to the expectations.

While Mayers departed in the second delivery of the innings without troubling the scorers, stand-in captain Krunal Pandya



played an 11-ball 14-run knock before being caught by Virat Kohli at long-off off Glenn Max-

Badoni followed suit in the next over while going for big shot, caught by Kohli off Josh Hazlewood (2/15).

If that was not enough, Deepak Hooda was stumped by Dinesh Karthik off Wanindu Hasaranga de Silva, as LSG slumped to 27

for four in 5.1 overs. Leg-spinner Karn Sharma (2/20) then accounted for Nicholas Pooran (9) and Marcus Stoinis (13) in a span of four overs

to make matters worse for LSG. The asking rate was under control, but LSG kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

Krishnappa Gowtham was the next to depart, run out after a 13-ball 23.

Ravi Bishnoi then ran himself out as LSG collapsed to 77 for eight in 14.4 overs.

Naveen-ul-Hag and Amit Mishra tried their best with a gutsy 26-run stand for the ninth

An injured Rahul came out to bat last with LSG needing 24 off eight balls, but he looked in discomfort and failed to open his

account. Earlier, Rahul failed to stop the boundary, looked in considerable pain, and limped off the field. In his absence, Pandya led the side.

The duo of du Plessis and Kohli gave RCB another good start. Both the openers failed to get going but gave a platform for the rest of the batters to take RCB to a decent score.

Kohli didn't look at his best as he managed just three boundaries during his 30-ball 31-run knock before being stumped by Pooran off the bowling of Bish-

New man in Anuj Rawat didn't last long as he gave a catch to Mayers in the deep off the bowling of Gowtham.

Dangerman Glenn Maxwell followed suit, without troubling the scorers much, LBW to Bish-

After the initial partnership between du Plessis and Kohli, the LSG bowlers pulled back the game brilliantly.

Suyash Prabhudesai didn't last long, caught by Gowtham at mid-off off the bowling of veteran Mishra, as RCB slumped to 90 for four in 14.3 overs.

The match came to halt in the 16th over due to a steady drizzle.

After a delay of nearly 26 minutes due to rain, the match restarted with no overs being reduced.

While du Plessis batted deep he never got the desired momentum in his knock and struggled to find boundaries and sixes. He was eventually dismissed by Mishra in the 17th over, caught by Pandya as the South African tried to break the

Thereafter, Dinesh Karthik (16 off 11) tried his best to up the ante but it wasn't enough.

Towards the end, Afghan fast bowler Naveen-ul-Haq picked up two wickets in two deliveries in the 20th overs, to finish with figures of 3 for 30.

Virat Kohli, Gautam Gambhir fined 100 per cent match fees for verbal spat

Naveen-ul-Haq to cough up 50 per cent fee



LUCKNOW, May 2 (Agencies): Cricketers Virat Kohli and Gautam Gambhir have been fined 100 per cent of their match fees for breaching the Code of Conduct during the Indian Premier League (IPL) match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Lucknow Super Giants held in

Lucknow on Monday. The Royal Challengers Bangalore batter and the Lucknow Super Giants' Team mentor admitted to the Level 2 offence under Article 2.21 of the IPL Code of Conduct during the match at the Atal Bihari

Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium.

LSG bowler Naveenul-Haq was also fined 50 per cent of his match fees for breaching the Code of Conduct. Naveen-ul-Hag admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.21 of the IPL Code of Conduct.

The altercation happened after RCB had bowled LSG out for 108 after scoring 126/9 in 20 overs, with KL Rahul batting through a leg injury in an unsuccessful attempt to take his side to victory. During the Lucknow innings, Kohli had celebrated the fall

of wickets with his usual aggressive gestures.

In the previous encounter between the two sides last month, LSG team mentor Gambhir had signalled the RCB home crowd to be quiet after LSG's narrow win. Not only did Kohli blow kisses at the Lucknow crowd when their team lost a wicket, but he also copied Gambhir by pressing his finger to his

After the match ended, the two shook hands and things looked fine. LSG opener Kyle Mayers walked up to Kohli and started speaking something when Gambhir came and took Mayers away. A little while after this incident. visuals from the match showed Gautam Gambhir animatedly speaking to Virat Kohli. Other players, including KL Rahul, and support staff were seen separating the two. Kohli was then seen having a lengthy chat with LSG captain KL Rahul.

'We don't need security'

Bajrang, Vinesh, Sakshi refuse SC-ordered cover provided by Delhi Police

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): The wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar have refused the security cover provided by

the Delhi Police. Kapil Sibal, who has been representing the wrestlers in the alleged sexual harassment complaint in the Supreme Court against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, had sought protection for the protesting wrestlers — Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik — and the seven complainants.

Following the hearing in the SC, where Sibal had submitted an affidavit in a sealed envelope and raised concerns about the safety of a minor complainant, the bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha had directed the Delhi Police to provide security to the minor and also to make an assessment of the threat to the other complainants. If required, the police were to provide security to them as well

The Delhi Police had then provided two personal security officers to Bajrang and one each to Vinesh and Sakshi.

However, the wrestlers have declined the security cover, saying if they are not safe at Jantar Mantar then they will not be safe anywhere.

Interestingly, immediately in the aftermath of the SC's direction on Friday, the wrestlers had welcomed the move suggesting that since Singh is considered to be a "Bahubali", he can resort to any desperate measure to end the case. Further, they have been raising his criminal past, saying that if anything untoward were to happen to the protesting wrestlers or to their families, the blame would lie with Singh.

The Delhi Police personnel came to the site where the wrestlers have been sitting in protest for the last nine days on Sunday evening. They were given tea and snacks and were asked to

"We have refused the security cover," Bajrang said. "We were thinking that if we are not safe here then we will never be safe anywhere. So till the time we are

sitting here in protest we will not take this offer from the police," he added.

However, he did not rule out taking the security cover once they leave the protest site. "We will see whether we would need a security cover at a later date, maybe once we leave from here, but we are firm we do not need security here," he said.

To miss ranking series

The wrestlers have decided to skip another tournament as they seek to extend their protest Bajrang, Sakshi and Vinesh have refused to send their entries for the June 1-4 ranking series in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The Indian Olympic Association had got in touch with the protesting wrestlers and wanted to take their consent before sending their names for the competition.

"We have hardly trained ever since we came here so what is the point in going for a tournament when we are not ready," Bajrang said. "We have decided to see this protest out first so everything else will come later," he added.

This would be the fourth tournament since January, when they sat on the dharna for the first time, which the wrestlers have decided to skip. They skipped the Zagreb ranking series in February, the ranking series in Alexandria and the Asian Championships in Astana last month.

Sidhu questions delay in arrest Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu, who came out to support wrestlers at Jantar Mantar, questioned why Brij Bhushan Singh has not been arrested yet despite two FIRs, including one under POCSO getting registered against Singh.

Flanked by Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat, Sidhu questioned whether law is different when influential persons get accused

of crimes. "The big question here is that the accused is in a powerful position. He can ruin and threaten careers. How do you expect a fair investigation under the circumstances?" Sidhu said

No second wind: Aditi comes close to making history

LOS ANGELES, May 2 (Agencies): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok came tantalisingly close to her maiden LPGA win before losing in a three-way playoff at the LA Championship here.

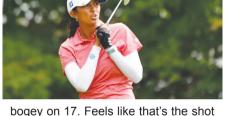
The 25-year-old Indian, who has been playing on the LPGA Tour for seven years now, carded a 4-under 67 in the final round to earn a place in the playoff with Hannah Green (69) and Xiyu Lin (67). But she couldn't go the distance, registering her first tied-second finish on the world's biggest ladies tour. Australia's Green, who had made a 25-foot birdie putt on the final hole to join the playoff, ended up winning the title.

"I think overall it was a good week," Aditi said. "I've never played in this position on the LPGA, to be near the lead on the first day and stay there the whole tournament. The competition is just so deep out here. Ten people have a good tournament but only one can win. I'm happy with the way I played," she added.

Aditi, who finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics, started the week with a bogey-free 5-under. After she added a 1-under 70 on the second day, she went into sole lead after 36 holes for the first time in her career. It was also her first cut of the year.

On the third day, she did not score as well but bounced back on Sunday with five birdies and a lone bogey to move to 9-under for the tournament.

"I think I played good today, kind of like the first day, no mistakes. Just the



I left out there." Aditi said.

In the playoff, Ashok had a 15-foot putt lip out on the 18th, which ending her bid. Lin made a 12-foot putt and Green made a four-footer to stay in the game. On their second go at the 18th, Lin hit into a bunker and blasted out to some 18 feet but missed the par putt. That left Green to tap in from two feet for her first LPGA win since September 2019.

Aditi is currently leading the Ladies European Tour's order of merit list, with one win — at the Kenya Ladies Open in February — and three top-10 finishes. The win in Kenya was her first on the tour in five years and third overall. Aditi credited her recent success to her offseason grind.

"I was just working on swing speed in the off-season and gained a lot of vardage. The driving distance helped a lot and just working on being more consistent through the game. I changed my irons back to what I was using a couple of years ago and I'm more comfortable with that," said Aditi, who has a week off and is due to play next at the Founders Cup.

Sreeshankar wins gold in **USA** meet

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar claimed the gold medal with a leap of 8.29 metres at the MVA High Performance athletics meet 1 held in Chula Vista, USA.

Competing in only his second event of the season, the 24-yearold, who had won silver at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, produced a creditable effort that was just short of his personal best of 8.36m. China's Ma Weidong secured the silver medal

with a 7.99m leap, while



his compatriot Huafeng Huang claimed the bronze with an effort of 7.61m.

The qualifying standard for the World Championships, to be held in Budapest in August, is 8.25m but Sreeshankar's effort was not considered as tailwinds were over permissible limits.

Sreeshankar had a 7.94m jump at the Indian Grand Prix in Bengaluru earlier this month.

Sreeshankar national record of 8.36m was surpassed by Jeswin Aldrin with an effort of 8.42m in March.

scare for WTC final-bound Indian team LUCKNOW, May 2 (Agencies): Lucknow Super Giants skipper

KL Rahul and his team's veteran left-arm seamer Jaydev Unadkat seem to have sustained serious injuries which could render them doubtful for the high-profile World Test Championship final against Australia at the Oval from June 7-11.

Senior Team India wicketkeeper-batter Rahul sustained the injury on his right thigh during the IPL match against Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Monday.

A day before the

game, his teammate Unadkat slipped badly while bowling at the nets and it resulted in a nasty fall with the entire weight of his body on his left shoulder.

Unadkat was in pain and the team physio was seen putting ice-



KL Rahul's thigh, Unadkat's shoulder injury

area. It is still not known if it's a dislocation and whether he needs to report to the National Cricket Academy. Rahul limped off the

field with the help of the team physio and a teammate, who was in the reserve. He was finding it difficult to walk and lay on the ground writhing in pain for quite sometime after what seemed like a pulled thigh muscle while chasing a ball racing to the boundary.

He first held his right thigh and limped before collapsing onto the ground.

The injury happened off the last ball of the second over when Faf du Plessis punched a Marcus Stoinis delivery through the extra cover region and Rahul sprinted to save an imminent boundary. It was vicecaptain Krunal Pandya, who took charge with Ayush Badoni coming out to open alongside Kyle Mayers.

The extent of both injuries is yet to be ascertained as he didn't come out to bat and TV cameras showed him sitting in the dressing room. He looked in considerable pain and was seen applying some ointment to the injured area.

If it is a quadriceps muscle tear and not a pull, his participation in the World Test Championship final, where he is a wicket-keeping option, could be in jeopardy.

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