

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, MAY 03, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**Farah Khan claps back at those who said she was 'too old to get married, have kids'**



NATIONAL | 7

**He resigned from post, not party, will continue taking his guidance: Sanjay Raut on Sharad Pawar**

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**Pakistan Government, PTI agree to hold same-day elections across country; date yet to be decided**



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-120 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### India records 3,720 new Covid-19 Cases

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): India has recorded 3,720 new Covid-19 infections and the count of active cases of the disease in the country stands at 40,177, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll due to the viral disease has increased to 5,31,584 with 20 more fatalities, including five reconciled by Kerala, being recorded, the data updated at 8 am showed. The tally of Covid cases in the country now stands at 4.49 crore (4,49,56,716), according to the data.

Active cases now comprise 0.09 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.73 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has surged to 4,43,84,955 while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.18 per cent. According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of vaccines have so far been administered in the country under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive.

### MeT predicts more rains in J&K; Below normal temperatures at some places

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, May 3: As fresh rains started in Kashmir on Wednesday morning, the weather department has forecast intermittent light to moderate rain while as several places recorded below normal temperatures.

Quoting a meteorological department official, that a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm was expected at scattered places towards late afternoon or evening today.

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".

He asked tourists to keep warmer cloths, saying that the weather was likely to be colder till

■ Turn to page 9

## Security Forces foil infiltration bid in Kupwara, Two terrorists killed

SRINAGAR, May 3 (Agencies): Two terrorists were killed in an encounter as security forces foiled an infiltration bid in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday, officials said.

Srinagar based defence spokesman, Col Emron Musavi said that based on a specific intelligence input provided by SSP Kupwara of likely infiltration from one of the terrorist launch pads across the Line of Control (LoC) towards Machil sector, troops



were put on a high alert on Monday.

"A well coordinated counter infiltration grid was put in place in this rugged and extremely difficult area. A number

of additional ambushes including those of Indian Army and SOG (J-K police's special operations group) Kupwara were placed along the likely routes of infiltra-

tion," he said.

The troops in ambushes braved continuous bad weather marked by incessant rainfall, poor visibility and significant drop in temperature for two consecutive nights, Col Musavi said.

The defence spokesman said early on Wednesday morning, terrorists were sighted by the troops.

Intense fire fight ensued resulting in elimination of the two terrorists, he said.

Bodies of two terrorists

■ Turn to page 9

## Terror Funding Case | Delhi HC issues notice to NIA on plea challenging framing of charges against separatist leader

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to National Investigation Agency (NIA) on a plea moved by Naeem Ahmad Khan, a Kashmiri separatist leader, challenging the framing of charges against him in a terror funding case.

A division bench comprising justices Sidharth Mridul and Talwant Singh issued notice to

the agency and listed the matter on August 3, 2023.

Khan has challenged the trial court order passed on March 16, 2023. The court will also hear the bail matter of Khan on the next date of hearing.

He has challenged various charges framed against him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Indian Penal Code (IPC)

in a case of alleged terror funding.

Khan was arrested in July 2017. He was remanded to judicial custody after interrogation. He is under judicial custody since August 14, 2017.

It is submitted in the appeal that the prosecution has completely failed to substantiate any allegations related to the Appellant's

■ Turn to page 9

## One dead, five injured in Poonch road mishap

POONCH, May 3 (Agencies): One person died and four others were seriously injured when a vehicle rolled into a gorge in Mandi area of Poonch on Wednesday.

Police sources said that a Tata Magic vehicle rolled down into a deep valley at Balnai in Mandi causing death of Mohammad Rustom.

The injured are the residents of Balnai.

"The injured have been shifted to sub district hospital, Mandi," they said.

## Cloud burst triggers flash flood in Kulgam's Lammar Hallan area

SRINAGAR, May 3 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a cloud burst occurred in upper reaches of Lammar Hallan area of Kulgam district, triggering a flash flood.

The incident took place on Monday afternoon, causing panic among the local residents.

However, there have been no reports of any loss of life or property so far.

The local administration has swung into action and is closely monitoring the situation. The officials have deployed rescue teams in the

■ Turn to page 9

## Amarnath Yatra | Shrine Board releases list of permitted, banned food items for pilgrims at 'Langars'



JAMMU, May 3 (Agencies): As the 62-day long Shri Amarnath Yatra this year is scheduled to begin from July 1, the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board has released a list of permitted and banned meal, food items at 'langars' (community kitchens) for the pilgrims en route twin tracks to the holy cave shrine located in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said that focus is the health of the pil-

grims and in view of that, Langar organisations have been asked to serve only nutritious and healthy meals to the pilgrims en route to the cave shrine.

"No junk and fried food will be allowed but only nutritious meals will be served at around 120 langars to be established this year for the pilgrims at twin routes leading to the cave shrine," they added.

The Shri Amarnath

Shrine Board (SASB) has also circulated a menu (permitted, banned), applicable to all langar organizations, food stalls, shops and other establishments to remain operational during the yatra period, said an official.

He further stated that the District Magistrates of Ganderbal and Anantnag will ensure action against those who violate the guidelines.

The meals in the Permitted Menu included Cereals, Pulses, Green Vegetables, Potato, Saag, Nutrela Soya Chunks), Besan Curry, Plain Dal, Green Salad, Fruits and Sprouts, Plain Rice, Zeera Rice, Khichdi and Nutrela Rice, Roti / Phulka, Dal Roti, Missi Roti, Makki ki Roti (unfried, without oil / butter), Tandoori Roti,

■ Turn to page 9

## Govt approves Rs 687 Cr for upgradation of power distribution infrastructure in Ladakh

LEH/JAMMU, May 3 (Agencies): The Central Government has given its approval for the implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the Union Territory of Ladakh with a sanctioned cost of Rs 687.05 crore, officials said.

The ministry of power conveyed its approval to RDSS for implementation in Ladakh, they said.

In this regard, an agreement was signed between chief engineer, Distribution, Ladakh

Power Development Department (LPDD), Tsewang Pajor and executive director WAPCOS Limited A K Gahlot in the presence of administrative Secretary Power, Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar, they added.

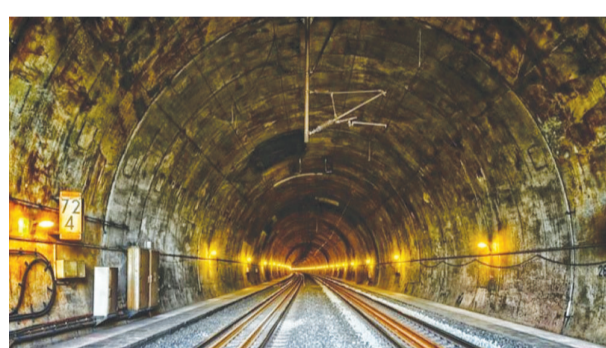
The scheme includes the grid connectivity of the Changthang region, downline infrastructure in the Zaskar region along with other loss reduction works in the Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh, they said.

The ministry of power also approved the appointment of WAPCOS, a Government of India undertaking as the project management agency (PMA) for the implementation of RDSS in Ladakh.

The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme aims to improve operational efficiencies and financial sustainability, by providing result-linked financial assistance to DISCOMs for strengthening of supply

■ Turn to page 9

## Preparation for laying ballastless track in progress on Katra-Banihal Rail line



JAMMU, May 3 (Agencies): The preparatory works for laying ballastless track (BLT) is in progress in several stretches from Katra to Banihal, which is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) national project.

This was revealed by officials during inspec-

tion and review of the ongoing important works of the USBRL project by R N Sunker, Member Infrastructure on Tuesday.

A ballastless track or slab track is a type of railway track infrastructure in which the traditional elastic combination of ties, sleepers and ballast is replaced by a

rigid construction of concrete or asphalt.

Sunker was informed that the country's "first cable-stayed bridge" Anji bridge has been completed and preparatory works for laying the ballastless track are in progress, officials said.

Sunker, who inspected the entire section from Bakal to Dugga by motor trolley, was also informed that the BLT has been laid in the section (world's highest railway bridge) and the work of installation of electro-mechanical devices is in progress, they said.

The BLT has to be laid on nearly 30

■ Turn to page 9

## Over Rs 600 Cr liabilities of MGNREGA pending for 2016-17 to 2022 - 23: Ajeet

KISHTWAR, May 3: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference senior leader Ajeet Bhagat said that the much touted about Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme has failed to provide succor to its beneficiaries as payments worth

over Rs 600 crore for mason and material have not been released for the year 2016-17 to 2022-23 till date for the reasons best known to authorities at the helm of affairs.

Bhagat said that the unnecessary delay in release of payment has led to a lot of public resentment as the basic

purpose of the scheme to provide 100 days employment guarantee to people in rural areas has been totally killed.

Bhagat said that the people who worked on the schemes in different parts of erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir are now running from pillar to post for release of payments but to no

avail as the authorities at the helm of affairs don't pay heed to their woes and pleas.

But the Government still did not take any step in releasing the same and provide succor to the people who worked on the scheme.

What has irked the people and led to the

■ Turn to page 9

YOUR LOGO

# CCTV services

installation & maintenance

Our best services :

- CCTV Camera
- IP Camera
- DVR, NVR
- Access Control
- Hidden Camera
- Time Attendance
- RFID Magnetic lock
- GSM Home Security

Call us now!  
7006897056

**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**



**SMT. BHAG RANI  
CHHIBBER  
(1938-2023)**

**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**

**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, 2023.

Virender Dhar - **Son** - 9971222134

Renuka Dhar - **Daughter-in-law**

Rishika Dhar - **Grand Daughter**

**Samast Tikku, Pandita & Dhar Pariwars**



**Smt. Shanta Dhar  
(Badi Rani)**

**OBITUARY**

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

Tatha was a very spiritual person and a staunch devotee of Ramakrishna Pramahansa. He was also influenced by Bhagwan Gopinath Bub and Swami Laxmajoo 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 dotting father and grandfather, an excellent friend and colleague. 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 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 Tikku (Wife) Noida

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

Jyotsna Tikku (Daughter) Noida

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

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

And Samast Tikku & Kak Parivars, Takoos, Ganjoos, Kumars, Arazbegis, Aimas, Khardoris and extended family & friends.

**Contact Nos: 8595105737, 9868613606, 9810422244**



**Autar Krishen Tikku (Tatha)  
(Ex Director GSI)  
1938-2023**

**TENTH DAY/ KRIYA**

We express our deep regret with a heavy heart on sudden demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Sushil Mandla** W/o Late Sh. Prem Nath Mandla R/o F-35, Hari Nagar Lane No.17, Talab Tillo, Jammu on 25-04-2023.

She was surrounded by her loved ones until her last breath. May her noble soul rest in peace forever.

**"Om Shanti"**

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 04-05-2023 (Thursday) at our residence at 11.00 AM.

**Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 07-05-2023 (Sunday) at 12.30 PM.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-**

Anshuman Singh & Amita Sambyal - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Amit Mandla & Minakshi Slathia - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Ajay Guleria & Mitu Mandla - **Son-in-law & Daughter**

**Grand Children:** Maithili, Yasvni, Mannat, Raunak Mandla, Aryaman, Aarush Guleria

**DEEPLY MISSED BY:- Mandla & Manhas Families**



**SMT. SUSHIL MANDLA**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With extreme grief & sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Sh. Basker Nath Bhat (Kaka Ji)** S/o Lt. Sh. Dina Nath Bhat resident of Flat No. 1102, Key Stone Vista, Plot No. 26, Sector 34 C Kharghar Navi Mumbai - 410210 originally from Kanti Bagh, Baba-Rishi Road, Baramulla (J&K) left for his heavenly abode on 29th April 2023 at 05:30 PM.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 8th May 2023 at 08:00 AM, SIWA Saayujyam, Plot No. 20, Sector 14, Kopar Khairane, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Tosha Bhat - **Wife**

Son & Daughter-in-law

Deepak Bhat & Anupama Bhat

Baby Vrinda Bhat - **Grand Daughter**

Raj Bhat & Bitya Bhat - **Brother & Bhabhi**

Rajinder Bhat & Anita Bhat - **Brother & Bhabhi**

Sarla Bhat & Nanaji Bhat - **Sister & Brother-in-law**

Nancy Beera & Kuldeep Beera - **Sister & Brother-in-law**

Sunita Thathu & Ramesh Thathu - **Sister & Brother-in-law**

**Samast Kachroo & Bhat Parivar**

**Mobile No.:- +919930268333 (Tosha Ji), 9833026692 (Deepak Bhat)**

**9868536035 (Pupa Ji), 9560399006 (Rajaji) Whatsapp, 9419614201 (M.L. Dhar)**



**Sh. Basker Nath Bhat  
(Kaka Ji)**

**UTHALA**

With profound grief we inform peaceful demise of **Smt. Dharam Kalra** W/o Late Sh. Krishan Dev Kalra on 1-5-23.

**UTHALA** ceremony will be performed on Thursday, 4th of May 2023 at Paanch Mandir Gandhinagar from 3 to 4 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Sons and Daughters in laws**

L. Ashok & Neelam Kalra

Ashwani & Prabha Kalra

Pawan & Dheera Kalra

Arun & Rashmi Kalra

**Nephews**

Arvind (Mitsy)- Malvika Kalra

Sanjeev- Anshu Kalra

**Grand Sons and Grand Daughters**

Jatin- Pooja, Nitin - Bhawana

Kapil - Sakshi, Kunal - Mehak

Angad Kalra, Ayush Kalra Priyanka.



**SMT. DHARAM KALRA**

Aditti - Rachitt  
Neha - Kunal  
**Allied Business Corporation**  
**The Food Factory**  
**Usha Sales Corporation**  
**9419106182, 9419203112**

**RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt Sheela Devi** W/o Sh Om Prakash Saraf R/o Sunder Bani.

**Rasam Pagri/Uthala** will be performed on Friday May 5, 2023 at Radha Krishna Mandir Hall Sunder Bani from 3 PM to 4 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh Om Prakash Saraf - **Husband**

**(9858679084)**

**Daughter-in-law & Sons**

Smt Sudha & Vinod Verma **(9419173784)**

Smt Prabha & Sh. Vinay Verma **(9596054233)**

**& Grand Children**



**Smt Sheela Devi**

**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

**Kaul's**

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



**Smt. Usha Kaul**

**Mob - 9971885566,  
9650011258, 9971034400,  
9650031258**

**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**



**SMT VEENA SHARMA**

**CHOUBARSI**

Four years have passed since you left us for your heavenly abode. We remember you and miss your presence in every moment of our lives. You will always live in our memories and will be remembered for your love, compassion and care.

**Choubarisi** of our beloved **Late Smt Nirmal Gupta** W/o Lt. Sh Rajinder Singh Gupta W/o Lt. Sh Rajinder Singh Gupta will be performed on 4th of May 2023 (Thursday) at our residence House No. 122-A Gandhi Nagar Jammu from 11 am.

**Deeply Missed and Remembered By :**

Dr Punam Gupta -**Daughter**

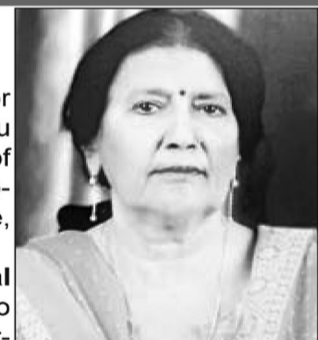
**Daughter-in-law & Son**

Mrs Archana & Mr Deepak Gupta

Ayush Gupta -**Grand Son**

**All Nears & Dears**

**Mobile: 9971065556, 7889586465, 6005233455**



**Late Smt Nirmal  
Gupta**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the demise of our beloved **Karmayogi Smt Daily Kumari Pandita** W/o Lt Behari Lal Pandita R/o Bumzua Mattan at present H No. 126 East Extn Marble Market Trikuta Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 30/04/23 at her residence.

**Tenth Day** will be observed 9 (May) Tuesday 2023 at Muthi Ghat at 8.30 AM near Director

School Education.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Devers & Devranis

Smt Sharika & M K Pandita

Smt Sanju & Paray Lal Pandita

**Daughter's & Son in law**

Mrs Shafali & Ashish Patel

Mrs Shikha & Nitin Sharma

**Brother & Bhabhi**

Mrs Anita & Pran Nath Pandita

**Sister & Brother in law**

Mrs Kiran & Ranjan Bhat

**Grand Children**

Miss Jiyana Patel

**SMAS TARIWAR'S**

**PANDITA & BHAT'S**

7698003067, 9419211526, 9419143792

**UMA MEDICATE**



**Karmayogi  
Smt Daily Kumari Pandita**

**KIRTAN AND ARDAS**

**Sdn. Harmohinder Kaur**

With a heavy heart, we inform the sad demise of **Sdn. Harmohinder Kaur, W/o Dr Mohinder Singh** R/o 17/4 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on 20 April '23 in USA. She was surrounded by her loved ones until her last breath and is now at peace and united with Waheguruji.

**Kirtan and Ardas** shall be performed at Gurdwara Singh Sabha Shri Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu on 4th May 2023 from 4.30 - 5.30 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Dr Mohinder Singh -**Husband**

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Dr Malwinder Singh & Mandeep Kaur

Sarwinder Singh and Ashmeet Kaur

Inder Pal Singh & Puneet Kaur

**Brother & Sister-in-law**

S. Attar Singh Kukreja & Sdn. Balwinder Kaur

**Brothers-in-law & Sisters-in-law**

S. Inder Singh & Sdn Kuldeep Kaur

S. Kulbir Singh & Sdn Kuldeep Kaur

S. Harjit Singh & Sdn Loveleen Kaur

Sdn Charanjeet Kaur W/o Late S. Amrik Singh

S. Darshan Singh & Sdn Preet Kaur

**And Loving Grand Children**

**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. Tikka Lal Raina

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 Jeeta Pandita & Sh Avtar Krishan Pandita

Smt Basanti Koul & Sh Rajinder Koul

## Div Com e-launches mobile App "Azaala" developed by District Admin Rajouri to receive & redress public grievances

'e-Platform provides one stop solution to all public issues'



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Wednesday e-launched an innovative mobile app 'Azaala' created by the district administration of Rajouri to receive and resolve public grievances. This app provides a one-stop solution to citizens to register their complaints and grievances with ease. During the launch ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, briefed the Divisional Commissioner about the specifications and working of the App. Any person can submit his/her grievance(s) by entering their mobile number. The app can be installed from the Google Play Store and after installation, the complainant can lodge a complaint either through the WhatsApp number men-

tioned in the app or through email, Twitter, or Facebook. The app provides an option for OTP verification for secure and reliable complaint registration.

Moreover, any complaint through WhatsApp, Twitter, or Facebook can directly be accessed by the Nodal Officer who will immediately forward it to the concerned officer for redressal in the minimum possible time. The Divisional Commissioner Jammu conducted a demonstration during the launch to explore the overall grievance redressal mechanism and functioning of the App. He appreciated the initiative of the district administration of Rajouri and advised the Deputy Commissioner to regularly review grievances received, redressed, and feedback.

The Azaala App is a significant step towards promoting transparency and

accountability in the functioning of the government, and it will go a long way in enhancing citizen satisfaction.

The Deputy Commissioner Rajouri informed that a phone-in programme has also been started by the district administration to listen to the grievances of the public. He emphasized that technology is being used to provide a better grievance redressal mechanism in the district. The team of officers who worked under the guidance of DC Rajouri on the innovative App were ADC, Rajeev Khajuria; ACR, Imran Kataria; DIO NIC, Muzaffar Hussain Mir; ADIO, Ashwani Sharma; DIO, Narinder Kumar.

Additional Commissioner, Pankaj Katoch; Assistant Commissioner Central, Pritam Lal Thappa; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta were also present during the launch.

## KCIS should apologize to cancer-stricken mother of student who expelled from school: Amit Kapoor

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Parents Association President Amit Kapoor said today that KC International School Principal Anupama Sinha called directly to the cancer-afflicted mother of the child expelled from the school and apologized and immediately reinstate the child in the school.

He asked why the owner of the school, Chaitanya Chowdhary, is not coming forward despite protests against the school.

In a statement issued here, Amit Kapoor said that the education of the child has been deteriorating for the past several days while the school fees have been paid in advance. He said that instead of sending recommendations from here and there, Principal Anupama Sinha should directly call the child's mother and ask for forgiveness and reinstate the child in the school.

Kapoor said that apart

from this, a teacher of the school has also made serious allegations against the principal of misbehaving with teachers and students, the video of which is also going viral on social media.

Kapoor said that even after complaining to the JKFFC chairman and DC Jammu, no action has been taken so far.

Giving an ultimatum of three days, he said that if the child's mother is not apologized within three days and the child is not reinstated in the school, he along with the parents will sit on indefinite Dharna outside the main gate of the school. He said that the administration will be solely responsible for the situation arising out of this as it has failed to take any action while taking cognizance of the matter. He said that during this time he would be accompanied by the teachers expelled from the school who have accused the principal of dictatorial attitude.

## Progressive farmers of JK Pol Science graduate 'Chaspeeda' of Baramulla becomes role model in agri farming

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 3: Thirty four year old, Chaspeeda Bano of Palhalan village of Baramulla district, an ambitious agripreneur, has made fortunes with agriculture farming emerging as a role model for womenfolk of the area.

Bano is extending complete support to other women to become financially independent.

A graduate in Political Science, Bano entered into the farming sector seven years ago and with her hardwork and latest practices and regular advice from the Agriculture Department and succeeded in changing her fortunes.

She started growing different vegetables on her eight kanal fertile land and has been not only earning livelihood through it but now she also helps other farmers in her area to turn their agri farming into profitable enterprises.

Chaspeeda has been cultivating organic vegetables like radish, cucumber, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, peas, beans,

chillies. She appreciates the officials of Agriculture Department for regularly visiting her farm and encouraging her to adopt new practices in the field. "A new Hi-Tech green house is being established which will further help me to grow vegetables round the year. It will definitely add to my income substantially," she says.

Chapeeda Bano is becoming a role model for many farmers and youth in the district who regularly visit her farm to take her expert advice and regarding increasing the quality and quantity of the produce.

Chapeeda Bano bats for promotion of organic farming which she says is a low cost production. "Quality produce has the opportunity to get good premium price and organic production is economically viable. In fact my organic farming and its produce has provided a viable income to me which encourages me to do more hard work. Farming has provided me with financial security," she said.

Agriculture Department has praised her unique

agriculture techniques.

Bano also grows onion seedlings on four kanal of land which she sells in October and has been promoting the same to the people and farmers over the years.

"We sell our onion seedlings to Kupwara, Bandipora and other areas of Kashmir. We also sell the seedlings to the local markets," she said.

She produces at least 150 quintals of tomatoes every year which has helped her to improve her financial condition and become an example for other farmers in the village.

"This year we sold our tomato produce to different areas including Kargil and other parts of Kashmir. We also sold the same to the local markets and mandis," she said.

She is being introduced into Indoor Agriculture activities like Mushroom and Protected Cultivation. Her annual income from Agriculture farming enterprise is Rs.8-10 Lakh. She invests good income to strengthen her enterprise for further growth.

## TNWS team discusses issues with BJP



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Team Trikutana Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS) Jammu comprising Er. Ashok Kumar Arora, S.N Kaul and Er. Varinder Kumar Suri leading by Rajinder Parshad Kakkar President TNWS Jammu today submitted the long pending demands to BJP Grievance Cell Team comprising former Minister BJP Sat Sharma, Ashwani Sharma, Shailja Gupta and former chairman JMC in BJP headquarters Trikutana Nagar, here.

They demanded to review the free hold rights fees and slash as per the residents demand and generally acceptable by the residents is Rs. 1 lakh Per Kanal and regularise the additional land upto three Marla which is already with

the possession of original allottee since the time of handing over possession at the nominal charges from JDA on JDA free hold AAP.

They also said that JDA Jammu with the cooperation of Secretary supports should construct a Mini play field within Trikutana Nagar colony with all necessary facilities of basketball court, badminton court and Skating rink for the youth and kids of the colony.

Team TNWS Jammu already suggested three sites for this purpose.

They also demanded three borewell to meet the drinking water supply demands in Trikutana Nagar colony for coming summer season, as the existing borewell have low water level and since last year the concerned PHE division submitted the project twice

to their respective higher authorities for requirement of funds while as reported the tender has been called.

The Trikutana Nagar colony has been developed fully and traffic congestion in the lanes of the colony is daily routine especially in the night, so, it's required for a multistory parking complex like Jammu city.

The Grievance Cell team BJP Headquarters listened to the problems of visiting team TNWS patiently and assured the remedies at the earliest by forwarding the above mentioned demands to LG Manoj Sinha for issue directions to the concerned authorities and also arrange joint meeting with Advisor.

## Chairperson DDC inaugurates works of WSS scheme at Kaghote

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 3: Chairman District Development Council Udhampur, Lal Chand on Wednesday inaugurated work of WSS Scheme Kaghote in Block Ramnagar under Jal Jeevan Mission. BDC Chairman Ramnagar Des Raj, Superintending Engineer (Hydraulic circle Reasi-Udhampur) R.K. Mahajan, Sarpanch Kaghote-B Sunil Kumar, PRI Members, AEE Jal Shakti Sub-Division Ramnagar, Junior Engineer Concerned, Contractor of the Project and a large number of local public of the area attended the inauguration of work.

The WSS Kaghote project will be executed at a cost of Rs. 9.63 crore. The project is a Lift Water Supply Scheme and will cater three panchayats i.e Bhatyari, Kaghote-A and Kaghote-B having 1100 uncovered households.

The project, once completed, will benefit every household in the vicinity by providing clean tap water and the problems of dearth of potable water will be fully eliminated in these

Panchayats" said the DDC Chairman.

The Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur congratulated the PRI Members and public of the area. He appreciated the PRI Members for developmental activities being carried out in the Panchayats. Additionally, the Chairperson acknowledged the Jal Shakti Department officers' efforts and urged them to see to it that all approved projects were started and finished in scheduled time to provide tap water to every home and habitation.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson BDC Ramnagar also congratulated the local populace and expressed hope that the pace of development in Block Ramnagar would remain the same.

Later, the Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur chaired a meeting in Panchayat Ghar Kaghote-B and listened to the public grievances projected by PRI members and local Public. He assured them for their timely redressal of their demands.

## BYDC hails Kailash Rinku Kaith's selection in Jammu Got Talent Season 9



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Batwal Youth Development Committee at its special meet in Surya Vihar here today, hailed the selection of Kailash Rinku Kaith in Jammu Got Talent Season 9.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr R.L.Kaith and BYDC members said, "Kailash Rinku Kaith, a singer, proved that dedication, hard work and disciplined approach are the main ingredients which are required to achieve the desired goal.

Rinku, a native of Tinde khurd, after a regular riyaz of just few weeks, won Gold Medals in the National

and State Singing Competitions held last year.

His selection in Jammu's Got Talent was of great significance as he is to participate in an international singing competition in Hong Kong ahead".

Rinku's community members: Hony Captain Kamal Dass Kaith, Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu, Naib Subedar Jameet Raj Kaith, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Havildar Boxer Mast Ram Kaith, Darshan Kumar Bassa, Hans Raj Loria, Tilak Raj Bassa, Arjun Kumar Tugga and Deepak Jyoti congratulated him on his selection and wished for his next adventure.

## Gurmeet Singh appointed as District President Minority Cell JKNC Udhampur



### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 3: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, Jammu, J&K National Conference appointed Gurmeet Singh Josh as District President of Minority Cell Udhampur on the recommendations of the District Committee, Udhampur.

Speaking on the occasion, the Provincial President said the party is fighting for safeguarding the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir at various levels and the need of the hour is to strengthen the party ranks to meet the challenges during the ongoing struggle.

He asserted that only NC can fulfill the aspirations of the people

of Jammu and Kashmir with its vision of a vibrant, progressive and united Jammu and Kashmir.

Rattan Lal said that BJP befooled the people with its hollow promises before the elections and the common people today realize that they have been totally betrayed by the saffron party. He said that due to the anti-people policies of the Government, unemployment is at its peak, inflation has gone out of control amid the sky rocketing prices of essential commodities while the claims of unprecedented development stand exposed with the snail's pace of almost all the works.

He asserted that only National Conference

can address people's problems for which the party cadre will have to further strengthen the base of party at grass roots level.

Sunil Verma, District President, Udhampur, JKNC said S. Gurmeet Singh is presently serving the District Gurudwara Prabhanda Committee as District President Udhampur and his appointment as District President Minority Cell will strengthen the party in the district. He hoped that his appointment will reinforce the working of the Party at grass roots level in Udhampur district.

Gurmeet Singh, in his address, expressed gratitude to the Party for appointing him as the District President of Party's Minority Cell and assured that he will work for strengthening the base of the party.

Among others who were present include Capt Pavittar Singh, Ram Krishan, Pt Raju, Ashok Mehra, Annayatullah, Sumita Mehra, Pooja Devi, Abid Shah and Dr Ramesh Verma.

## 'Social Development' emerging as a career choice among students



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 3: Department of Social Work, University of Kashmir organised a seminar to raise awareness on the social development sector in the country.

Uzdah Mohammad Jawaid, former alumni, SBI Youth for India delivered a talk on how the youth of Kashmir can facilitate societal development at the village level, by working with communities and grassroots. The seminar was attended by the Professors and students from the University.

Speaking at the Seminar, Jawaid highlighted the social work that the youth today can explore

in thematic areas such as Health, Rural Livelihood, Food Security, Environmental Protection, Education, Water, Technology, Women's Empowerment, Self-Governance, Social Entrepreneurship, Traditional Craft and Alternate Energy. Some of these areas align with the India's G20 goals this year.

The social development sector in India faces several challenges in reaching out to rural communities while engaging youth in their development. Some of the rural challenges include limited Infrastructure, language and cultural barriers, limited resources, lack of awareness, resistance to change and gender inequality, to name

a few. To address these challenges, social development organizations need to adopt innovative approaches, build partnerships with local organizations and community leaders, and work towards building trust with the community.

The seminar by SBI Youth for India exemplified that the urban youth have the right skill-set and education to come up with unique solutions to challenging situations, and foster sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth at the grassroots level of the country. These will result in building capacity and empowering local communities to take ownership of development initiatives.

## Tarun condemns statement of Dr. Farooq Abdullah against G20 summit

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 3: Incharge Cultural cell BJYM J&K Tarun Sharma slams Former J&K Chief Minister and President National Conference over his statement that Jammu, the land of Dogras is being ignored for G20 Meets, as G20 meet is being held Kashmir and Ladakh only and not in Jammu, ignoring Dogras. Farooq Abdullah first should remember that the Ladakh is a separate Union Territory like J&K and not a part of J&K at present. Further, holding G20 meet in Kashmir and Ladakh is an effort of the Union Govt to link the terrorism hit people of Kashmir valley with the stream of the world as the participants of 20 countries including the European Union are participating in the G20 meet under



the presidentship of India this year. It is not necessary that G-20 meet has to be held in every state but as decided by the Union Govt.

It is also an attempt to bring the decades old terrorism hit valley and the neglected Ladakh Region, which had suffered a lot socially and politically during last 70 years ruling of National Conference and its allies. It is a known fact that it is the prerogative of Centre Govt as to where the G20 Meet has to be held and not necessary to hold in every State and region.

The statement of NC

President reveals his discontentment over any development in the Kashmir as he does not want that the people of Valley are linked with main stream of the country or the world but to live under the fear of terrorism to keep vote bank intact for his party. He fears that his vote bank will be slipped with holding any such G20 type meets of world class, which may bring the people of the valley out of fear of terrorism and open support in favour of BJP.

He noted that after August 05, 2019 Jammu and Kashmir witnessed massive development. Besides, the Central government took a clear stand on zero tolerance against terrorism. "After abrogation of Art-370 and 35-A, the terror and terrorism has reduced very much," Tarun Sharma said.

## EDITORIAL

MISUSE OF  
MESSAGING  
APPS

**S**ocial networking and messaging apps allow young people to maintain social relationships with school friends, distant friends or online friends they have never met. However, there are some important safety issues that are worth knowing about as a parent.

Meeting and chatting with strangers online poses a risk to young people who may be vulnerable to online (and offline) forms of grooming and sexual abuse.

With the physical barrier of a screen, some people feel more empowered to pressure others into sending messages, often of a sexual or abusive nature.

Many apps work based on identity or phone number information. In many cases the apps don't always tell you that this information is being used, which means that children may be sharing personal information. As with social networks, privacy and security settings are available on most devices.

Smartphones allow people to take photos and share them instantly on their social networks or post information about someone online in seconds. This can sometimes mean that younger people are more vulnerable to episodes.

We have compiled a list of the most popular social networking and messaging apps that kids are using and the potential risks they can pose to kids. You will also find links to relevant security pages or independent third-party articles and opinions with more information about the specific application.

Although the majority of social media apps have a minimum age of 13, there are many social media apps and tools that are designed for people under 13. These can help your child learn how to interact with their friends online in a safe environment, so they are well prepared to use the larger social platform. When you think they are ready.

Along with the advantages, there are disadvantages to using online messaging apps. We can't perfectly understand the other person's emotional state and can't recognise with whom we are talking. After the invention of these messaging apps, face to face interaction and personal experience has come down.

When we communicate through these messaging apps, there are chances of miscommunication because of typos or the inability to make the other person understand our thoughts or feelings. During a face to face interaction, people show some etiquette, but during an online conversation, people don't feel the need to use the appropriate netiquette.

With the wide variety of different online messaging apps for desktop, laptop, smartphone means people should be vigilant in protecting themselves from malicious and dangerous threats that may present themselves.

## Signs of churn in India, but is nation's mood changing?

By: Anand K Sahay

**I**t was coming but now we can no longer be in doubt that we have, by slow degrees, become a Democracy by Propaganda. Projected for the first time beyond our shores and beyond the confines of the only-too-happy-to-oblige media, the 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio broadcast "Mann ki Baat" was beamed live at the UN headquarters in New York on April 30.

Whether there were any takers for it is not the point. Nor is the quality of the programme, about which finicky souls would rather not speak in public. What stands out is the worrying contrast this singular event offers to other happenings and advertises our current status as Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkey (where the Opposition gets hell) in disguise, or a wannabe Israel under Benjamin Netanyahu defined by sticky allegations of high-order corruption and teaching the Muslims a lesson by religious extremists and the State.

Who could have missed that the crowning moment for Mann Ki Baat -- chirped about at an election rally in Karnataka by Mr Modi's most consequential minister, and also extolled by India's vice-president, whose day job is to preside over the Rajya Sabha and avoid partisan politics -- comes at a time when microphones of Opposition leaders were switched off in Parliament?

Earlier, the speeches of the key Opposition leaders in Parliament, which sought answers to uneasy questions about the dizzying rise of a business tycoon who suddenly finds himself among the most commented internationally due to a bruising dip in his fortunes, have been scrubbed clean from the

records.

And the Opposition's chief leader Rahul Gandhi, who is in the eye of the storm for marching almost 4,000 km around India denouncing the Modi government and asking searching questions of it on the Adani affair in Parliament, has been expelled from Parliament and may have to serve two years in jail if the higher judiciary doesn't overturn lower court verdicts given in a patently motivated criminal defamation case.

Political perversions abound in a hot-air democracy; media silence is the butt of jokes shared on smartphones around the country. If it weren't for the social media, we would be pretty much in the dark about the state of play in the run-up to next year's Parliament election and in a year filled with Assembly elections.

In a democracy in which punishing opponents and dissidents has become second nature lately, inquiries will not be held when MPs demand it. The governing party will resort to barricading tactics, giving the presiding officer the technical reason to adjourn Parliament. The Prime Minister will remain silent when questions are asked, or deny outright that China has invaded India's territory on his watch. Although he has no authority to do so, the vice-president will seek a written explanation from a Rajya Sabha member for criticising the home minister in a newspaper article, as has just happened with the CPI(M)'s John Brittas.

But it's not all doom and gloom. Since Mr Gandhi's own Long March, the mood in India is turning. Rahul Gandhi probably wasn't looking for professional reporting and commentary on television or in the large-circulation newspapers, and didn't get any. However,

hundreds, sometimes thousands, and at times even tens of thousands marched with him every single day through that five-month odyssey, going by eyewitness accounts. And many shot their videos and put them out in cyberspace. It is this that is getting the establishment nervous.

The Congress is the country's largest Opposition party which is not a regional party. And it doesn't depend on caste, class, language or religious bonding for votes. For many years it was everyone's party and suddenly found itself being no one's party as the era of emphasis on caste and religion identities took over the polity. The Congress also scored own goals along the way as it widely came to be seen as a dynastic party.

Much of this past baggage now seems out of the way as the party has elected a new president who is not a member of the Nehru-Gandhi family. In fact, the current president, Mallikarjun Kharge, is a well-regarded senior political figure from Karnataka who happens to be a Dalit. The symbolism of a Dalit Congress president has begun to worry the party's opponents, especially the BJP. But the time window is small for Mr Kharge to set up even a rudimentary organisational structure in many parts of the country in time for next year's general election.

This task may be rendered easier if the Congress can defeat the BJP in the Assembly election in Karnataka, the Congress chief's home state, due in about a week from now. The Karnataka election is important for the conjuncture, being the first electoral test for the Congress as well as the BJP on the heels of a tumultuous period that has seen wholly unexpected and out of the ordinary events.

Among these are the Congress' decision to throw in its lot -- conceptually for the first time -- with the idea of a caste census for India as well as reservations in education and jobs for OBCs according to their proportion in the population. In doing so, India's former ruling party finds itself on the same page as the so-called "social justice" regional parties -- and better placed than ever before to appeal to OBCs for votes across the country, especially North India. These middle peasant castes had been voting against it since the 1960s.

These are novel times indeed. The incumbent and the challenger are both apt to be nervous -- the incumbent because the economic indices are shallow and run against the interests of the country's non-privileged classes, and the challenger due to the great suspense caused by anticipation. It no longer seems the case that the BJP is visibly better placed than its challengers, unless the Election Commission goes soft on EVM-related irregularities.

On top of these considerations comes a major defection -- that of former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik. In explosive interviews he has lately accused the Prime Minister of "not being averse to tolerating corruption", and manipulating events to give rise to the Pulwama terrorist attack so that India may have a reason to drop bombs on Pakistan just months before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, and earn credit for fighting terrorism.

This is the first sign of contrary activity from within the citadel. Is Mr Malik acting alone? Is he a part of an influential, if not powerful, cabal? We shall only know in due course. But today is a time of genuine suspense in the political arena in our dwindling democracy.

## Imagining a new form of marriage in India: It has to start with a law...

By: Anita Anand

**I**magine a nuclear family in India: Mother, father, and children. Imagine an extended family: grandparents, parents and children, aunts, uncles, and their children.

Now imagine another kind of family: Two women, with or without children. Or two men, with or without children. Is this kind of family possible? It could be. But would it be legal, and would they enjoy the same rights as heterosexual couples and families?

At this moment, India's Supreme Court is hearing petitions to legalise same-sex marriage. Over the last decade, acceptance of homosexuality has grown in India, especially since the Supreme Court decriminalised homosexuality in 2018, with a ruling that legalised consenting gay sex.

Legality is only a beginning, an important beginning. Attitudes to sex and sexuality remain conservative and activists say most lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more (LGBTQIA+) people are afraid to come out, even to their friends and family. Same-sex couples in India face significant legal and social challenges.

LGBTQIA+ couples cannot adopt children or have a child by surrogacy; they do not have automatic rights to inheritance, maintenance and tax benefits; after a partner passes away, they cannot avail of benefits like pension or compensation; they cannot be party in living will or right to life decisions, as they are

not next of kin, not related by blood or marriage.

Most of all, since marriage is a social institution, created by and highly regulated by law, without this social sanction, same-sex couples struggle to make a life together. They face discrimination and harassment from their families, schools and colleges, the police, the healthcare system and the workplace. They face violence and threats from their own families,

who are supposed to offer the most support. It is these realities and incidences that have urged activists to petition the Supreme Court to legalise same-sex marriage.

The government argues that while the right to love and cohabit is a fundamental right, but marriage itself is "not an absolute right", not even among heterosexual couples, and that Parliament, not the courts, should decide on the legality of same-sex marriages. The present government, in power since 2014, however, has not spoken in one voice. Back in 2013, when the Supreme Court overturned the Delhi high court's decision on punishing sex between two consenting adults, Yogi Adityanath, now Uttar Pradesh chief minister, but then a BJP Member of Parliament, welcomed it, asserting he was opposed to any move to decriminalise homosexuality. In 2017, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Mohan Bhagwat said that members of the queer community are human beings who should have their own private and public space, and the right to live as others, the mainstream heterosexual

community.

There is no reason the government should speak in one voice. There needs to be no party line in matters of the heart and the Constitution of India guarantees basic and important fundamental rights. The Special Marriage Act 1954 allows people from different religious backgrounds to marry and spells out the procedure for solemnisation and registration of marriage, where the spouse could be Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs or even atheists. So, why not same-sex marriage?

The opposition to same-sex marriage comes from expected quarters. The Central government believes that giving recognition to same-sex marriage is beyond judicial adjudication and the petitions before the Supreme Court reflect urban elitist views for the purpose of social acceptance. Other organisations, religious and otherwise, argue that the recognition would be an attack of the "family system" and adoption of children by same-sex couples could affect children adversely.

But this "family system" is not an institution carved in stone. It has changed, continues to and needs to change. Once the family was a joint family, and several generations living together, with a patriarchal head, in rural or urban India. Arranged marriages were the norm and reproduction was essential to continue the family line, preferably with sons. If persons of the same sex were attracted to each other, they were shamed and often hurriedly marriages were arranged to "normalise" them. Many gay

people lead double lives, with much unhappiness on all sides. There were other kinds of families, headed by single women or men, or widows living on their own with children, which fell outside the definition of a "typical" family. In recent times, many single people do not want to marry or have children. The times change.

The goal and role of governance is to provide and ensure the pre-requisites of a happy society. Most adults dream of finding a partner with whom they can share a life and make a home. It could be persons of the same or opposite sex. The Supreme Court, in legalising consenting gay sex, then has a responsibility to take steps to put into action the legalisation of further rights that heterosexuals have. If the matter resides in Parliament, then it must work with the judiciary, and consider revisions to the Special Marriage Act. Or even the enactment of an entirely new law.

People have a right to live and love in families. Society does and will find it difficult to accept same-sex families and marriages, used to heterosexual couples. There is a fear of homosexuality. What we do not know, we fear. But those asking for same-sex marriages and the rights and privileges that come with it, also deserve the same rights and privileges that heterosexuals enjoy.

However long people take to change behaviour, India's legislators need to take the first steps. And then, take things to their logical conclusion.

## People block Bani Basholi Road seeking proper investigation in accidental death

### TOP NEWS REPORT

**BANI:** Family members and relatives of one Machinder Kumar, who died in an accident, today blocked the Bani Basholi Road seeking proper investigation in the accidental case.

Pertinent to mention here that Machinder Kumar, son of Mangat Ram, resident of Fatehpur was severely injured in a road mishap at Bani and later airlifted from Bani to Jammu Medical College by the administration for better medical treatment but unfortunately he succumbed to injuries.

Talking to media persons, the family members today blocked Bani



Basholi Road and said that no proper investigation and action was taken by the police till now. The protesters demanded that the Police should taken stern action against the

culprit by holding for proper Investigation in the accidental case.

Later, the Tehsildar Bani reached the spot and assured the public and the family members of the deceased that jus-

ice should be given as soon as possible.

The family members warned that if the proper investigation will take place then they will again come on the road till the justice met.

## GDC Kilhotran observes World Asthma Day

### TOP NEWS REPORT

**DODA, May 3:** Department of Zoology in association with IQAC of GDC Kilhotran observed World Asthma Day (WAD) under the theme 'Asthma care for All'.

The programme was organised under the aegis of Dr. Javid Iqbal Zargar, Principal GDC Kilhotran.

The programme started with the welcome address by Dr. Barkat Ali, Associate Professor Botany followed by thoughtful speech of Dr. Wahied Khawar Balwan, Senior Assistant Professor Zoology who said that the majority of the burden of asthma morbidity and mortality occurs in low and middle income countries.

The Asthma care for all message promotes the development and implementation of effective asthma management programs in all resource countries.

The Resource Person on the occasion was



Dr. Wahied Khawar Balwan, Medical Officer, Department of Community Medicine, GMC Doda who in his virtual address to the students of GDC Kilhotran said that WAD is held each May to raise awareness of Asthma worldwide. In his address he said Asthma is a long-term ailment that affects both children and adults, as stated by the World Health Organization (WHO).

This condition causes inflammation and tightening of the muscles around the small air-

ways in the lungs, leading to narrow air passages. As a result, individuals with asthma may experience coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and tightness in the chest.

He concluded his speech with saying that World Asthma Day is an annual event that has been established by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) since 1993.

Its purpose is to increase global asthma awareness and improve patient care worldwide. According to the World

Health Organization (WHO), asthma is often neglected and under-treated, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. While there is no cure for asthma, it can be effectively managed with inhaled medications, allowing people with asthma to lead normal, active lives.

His lecture was followed by Question-Answer session by students of the college. The Programme ended with formal Vote of Thanks by Dr. Tanveer Hussain, Coordinator IQAC GDC Kilhotran.

## Vibodh, Arif, Mudasir inaugurates Daily Deli at Rajouri

### TOP NEWS REPORT

**RAJOURI, May 3:** Vibodh Gupta, Former MLC, President Municipal Committee Rajouri, Arif Jatt, DySP Headquarters Rajouri Mudasir Choudhary jointly inaugurated Daily Deli Fast Food/Restaurant at Main Bazar Near Power House Rajouri.

Prominent among others present on the occasion include Rajiv Khajuria, President of National Development Foundation, Sanjay Kumar Municipal Councillor, Subash Sharma, Pappu Anand, Sushil Titti, Shivam Anand, Vinod Gupta, Ashok Sethi.

A large number of prominent citizens and inhabitants of Rajouri were present on the occasion.



The owner of the restaurant Paramveer Anand, while interacting with the media, inform that the daily deli will serve breakfast and all fast food items, including Pizza, Pasta and different varieties of Momos. Vibodh Gupta, in his

remarks, said that this restaurant will serve the people of Rajouri as in the Rajouri

Market places where customers can sit are significantly fewer.

Arif Jatt, President Municipal Committee and Mudasir Ahmed

DySP Headquarters Rajouri also spoke and congratulated Paramveer Anand for creating this facility.

The people present on the occasion appreciated the preparation and quality served by the eating point.

## Prof Uppal appointed as Honorary Member in Board Advisory Committee Member

### TOP NEWS REPORT

**JAMMU / NEW DELHI, May 3:** Think Human Rights Organization, New Delhi appointed Professor (Dr.) R. K. Uppal, Principal, Baba Farid College of Management and Technology, Bathinda as honorary member in the Board of Advisory Committee for his achievements and contribution in the field of Word Peach and Humanity.

Dr. Uppal completed his graduation in Economics from Punjabi University, Patiala in the year 1983 and thereafter did his post-graduation with distinction in Economics in 1986.

Realizing his taste for research in his early days of teaching, Dr. Uppal joined Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) programme at Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak.

He has also successfully defended his D.Litt thesis on the very burning topic, "Managing Transformation in Indian banks Through E-Delivery Channels- Challenges and Opportunities" in Utkal University,



Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India in 2021.

He has also completed MBA in Finance, M.A. Education, M. A. English. He was even awarded Honorary D. Litt by reputed Business University, Costa Rica in 2014.

International Peace University awarded honorary D.Litt 2019 and Nelson Mandela University, USA also awarded Doctor of Letters to Dr. Uppal.

University of South America also awarded honorary D.Litt. His insatiable craving for research got stimulus

under the aegis of UGC and HRD. As many as seven major post-doctorate research projects were funded by UGC, ICSSR and HRD, New Delhi. He reciprocated

successfully and harnessed his research skill with incredible finesse and ease. His able guidance inspired even many young teachers to wade into the ocean of research and He has guided several Ph.Ds and over five dozen M.Phil candidates.

During his over 35 years of teaching, research, consultancy, management and administration career, Dr. Uppal has immensely contributed in the area of Banking, Economics and Management Education through his research, publications and consultancy. He has around seventy two books and more than 300 research papers published in reputed journals - national as well as international to his credit. Apart from excellence in research, Dr. Uppal is also a born teacher.

His monumental work encouraged various national organizations to honor such an inclusive academic and research stalwart with Jewel of India Award, Best Educationist

Award, Shatiya Shiromani Purskar, Pride of India Award and Excellent Research Award by Punjab Commerce and Management Association respectively. This colossal figure earned Life Time Achievement Award from Dashmesh Girls College, Badal for his exemplarily service to the cause of education. Deputy speaker, Punjab assembly, S. Ajab Singh Bhatti also awarded Life time Achievement award.

Indeed, Dr. Uppal is an academican, author and scholar, who has been one of the most productive and influential contributors to the field of Banking and Finance that our country has seen in recent times. In brief, the outstanding educational and research achievements of Dr. Uppal are simply too many to recount within the space of a short citation. Today, the echelon he has attained academically, intellectually, socially and spiritually is even beyond the dreams of majority of the achievers.

## Dimple leads protest against selling lands to outsiders



### TOP NEWS REPORT

**JAMMU, May 3:** Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood Jammu and Kashmir, led a strong protest against selling lands, Govt jobs in Jammu region to outsiders without PRC and

domiciles.

Addressing the protesters, Sunil Dimple alleged there is no democracy in Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370.

Dimple alleged the JDA and the Housing Board are selling lands, flats,

to the residents of other states. This is a violation of the instrument of accession conditions and this is a big threat for the demography of J&K state, he added. Senior leaders present in the protest include Sita Ram

Rakwal, Sat Sharma, Sachin Soi, Rupesh Bhat, Arjun Anand, Ajay Kumar, Bunty Dogra, Om Parkash, Ashok Sharma and Pichi Singh.

## Modi led Union Govt fully committed to farmers' welfare: Bharat Bhushan

### TOP NEWS REPORT

**JAMMU, MAY 2:** Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Jammu has asserted that the Central Government led by the worthy Prime Minister Narendra Modi is fully committed to provide ample facilities to the farmers in order to enable them to get their incomes doubled. He said that the PM is paying focussed attention towards farmers' issues leaving no stone unturned in ameliorating this lot that constitutes the significant food producers of the nation. He expressed this while addressing a gathering during a function in which he inaugurated the Lift Irrigation Scheme Gurha Pattan here today.

The DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan congratulated the people of the area especially the farmers on the final completion of the lift irri-



gation scheme Gurha Pattan that has now been completed after a long wait of three decades. He said that the completion of the scheme has come as a big relief to the local farmers of the area as they will now be getting regular and sufficient supply of water for the irrigation of their farms.

It is pertinent to mention here that one transformer of 250 KV capacity along with a stabilizer and the requisite electric panel has installed for

the complete functioning of this scheme with the additional cost of Rs. 25 lakh under Capex-Budget 2022-23.

Emphasizing that 'Farmer Empowerment' is a priority for any government that intends to push the nation to greater heights, the DDC Chairman said that the current government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a visionary who has taken strategic steps to accelerate transformation in the farming sector with

an ambition to empower farmers. He said that doubling farmers' income, securing them and their endeavours, making them tech savvy, boosting agriculture research and education, and building farm-related infrastructure are some of the major goals set and being worked upon for the growth of agriculture sector and farmers' welfare by the incumbent BJP Govt at the Centre.

Bharat Bhushan also lauded LG Manoj Sinha

for satiating development needs of the people of the Union Territory with utmost efficiency as the areas which saw neglect of the successive governments in the erstwhile State of J&K are now on the priority list of the administration with every nook and corner getting the much desired focus of the people sitting at the helm.

Bharat Bhushan asserted that the New India envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi runs on his motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and farmer welfare is an integral part of it.

District General Secretary Jammu North Ajay Sharma, Executive Engineer Rajeev Moha, AEE Irrigation Narinder Singh Lashu and Mandal General Secretary Amb Ghatora besides prominent people of the area were also present on this occasion.

## Shipra qualifies Ph.D

### TOP NEWS REPORT

**KATRA, May 3:** Shipra Misra has been declared qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in the School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU).

The candidate has worked on the topic, entitled "Effectiveness of Destination Advertising: AM Empirical Study of Tourism in Jammu & Kashmir" under the supervision of Dr. Kakali Majumdar, Associate



Professor, School of Economics, SMVDU, Katra. Shipra Misra has published her research work in high-premier ABDC and UGC indexed journals and she has

presented her research papers at several national and international conferences. The scholar expresses her gratitude to the School of Business, SMVD University, for providing all necessary facilities and support during her research work. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU and other committee members congratulated Shipra Misra and wished her a bright future ahead.

## As the Supreme Court refuses to hear the plea seeking a ban on Sudipto Sen's The Kerala Story, here's a look at the controversy around the film

Just two days before the Hindi film, *The Kerala Story*, hits the cinemas, hullabaloo around the Vipul Amrutlal Shah-backed film has reached the crescendo! On Tuesday, the Supreme Court refused to hear the plea seeking a ban on the film immediately.

The *Kerala Story*, directed by Sudipto Sen, stars Adah Sharma, Yogita Bihani, Siddhi Idnani and Sonia Balani in the lead roles. The film's producer Vipul Amrutlal Shah is also the creative director of the film that's centred around a group of women from Kerala who are converted to Islam and join the extremist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and land up in Afghanistan jail.

"A spine-chilling, never told before true story – revealing a dangerous conspiracy that has been hatched against India. The *Kerala Story* is a compilation of the true stories of three young girls. The truth shall set us free. Thousands of innocent women have been systematically converted, radicalised and their lives destroyed. It's their side of the story," reads the film details on different social media handles. The film is being compared with *The Kashmir Files*, and labelled as a 'propaganda' film.

Much of the ire is about the protagonist of the film identifying herself to be 'one of the 32,000



girls who have been converted and buried in the deserts of Syria and Yemen' in the teaser that dropped five months ago. The trailer was released on April 26 and it mentions thousands of girls who are victims. The cast and crew of the film

have come out in support of the movie, backing the narrative that the movie is not made with the intention of religion versus religion, but rather humanity versus terrorism. "#TheKeralaStory isn't about elections, agenda, religion vs religion.. it

is about something much bigger. Life and Death! It is about terrorism vs humanity. Calling it propaganda is covering up the story of each girl whose life was destroyed," tweeted actor Adah Sharma, who plays Shalini Unnikrishnan /Fatima Ba in the film. The film's director Sudipto Sen has urged people to give the film a chance. "Dear my Kerala, you are highest in literacy. Education taught us tolerance. Pls watch #TheKeralaStory. Why the hurry to make opinion? Watch it - if you dislike, we'll debate. We worked for seven years for this film in Kerala. We are part of you. We are Indian together..." he posted (sic).

The controversy took a political turn. Meanwhile, others have joined the fray. "It may be 'your' Kerala story. It is not 'our' Kerala story," tweeted Shashi Tharoor, adding, "Let me stress, I am not calling for a ban on the film. Freedom of expression does not cease to be valuable just because it can be misused. But Keralites have every right to say loud & clear that this is a misrepresentation of our reality."

Director of *The Kashmir Files* Vivek Agnihotri reverted, "@ShashiTharoor & Company. If you attack a film without seeing it, you are neither an honest & fair person nor a free speech & democratic person. #TheKeralaStory."

## Salman takes inspiration from Marvel's Groot to answer question about doing stunts, marriage



Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is a Marvel fan and his favourite character is Groot going by his recent post for the *Guardian Of The Galaxy Volume 3*. Salman took to his social media, where he shared a promotional video for the upcoming

Marvel film. In the clip, he is seen sitting in his vanity and looking at videos of Groot from the film.

The Dabangg star then goes to a press conference, where he is asked about his next film's title, to which he replies in Groot's mannerism "I am Groot".

As Salman says, "I am Salman".

He is then asked about the dialogues, to which he replies "I am Salman" in different ways. A reporter then asks him if he was scared performing the stunts, to which he again says "I am... Salman", in an intense way.

Finally, a female journalist says that all the other Khans are married and asked him about his marriage, to which Salman puts on his headphones and listens to the title track of the *Guardian Of The Galaxy Volume 3*.

He captioned the clip, "I live in Galaxy... Uparwale are my Guardians... Swagat karo mere new friend ka on May 5th. only in cinemas #GotGVol3 @Marvel\_India." James Gunn directorial, *The Guardians of Galaxy Volume 3* stars Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista, Karen Gillan and Pom Klementieff among others. *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* releases in India on May 5 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

## Shah Rukh Khan pushes 'intruding' fan's hand aside as he tries to click selfie with the actor

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, whose last film 'Pathaan', created wonder at the box-office, is back in the bay as he landed in Mumbai recently. While moving from the airport premises to his car, he was surrounded by a lot of people who wanted to catch a glimpse of their favourite superstar. As SRK waved to the crowd and moved ahead, wearing an all black attire with black t-shirt, black cargo pants and a black jacket, a fan tried



to click a selfie with him. SRK pushed his fan's hand away and was not

in a mood to get clicked for the selfie. SRK, who sported a clean shaven

look rounded up with a pair of sunglasses exited the airport premises with his manager Pooja Dadlani.

The video has gone viral inciting polarising responses from the people on the Internet with some in support of SRK while others criticising his move. Meanwhile, on the work front, SRK will be next seen in the Rajkumar Hirani directorial 'Dunki' in which he will share the screen with Taapsee Pannu.

## Punjab court stays release of biopic starring Diljit Dosanjh on late Punjabi singer Chamkila and his second wife Amarjot



A court in Punjab's Ludhiana has stayed the release of Punjabi film 'Jodi Teri Meri', a biopic starring Diljit Dosanjh on the late Punjabi singer Amar Singh Chamkila and his second wife Amarjot Kaur.

The film is slated for release on May 5.

Civil Judge (Junior Division) Karandeep Kaur has ordered to issue summons to Dosanjh, actress Nimrat Khaira, Gurmail Kaur, the wife of Chamkila,

Karaj Gill of Rhythm Boyz Entertainment Pvt Ltd and Daljit Thind of Daljit Motions Films returnable by May 8, the next date of hearing.

The order on Tuesday came weeks after another court in Ludhiana had stayed the "broadcast, release and streaming" of another biopic on the couple, titled 'Chamkila'.

Chamkila and Amarjot Kaur were gunned down on March 8, 1988, during militancy in Punjab.

"From the documents, a prima facie case is made out in favour of

plaintiff (Ishdeep Randhawa). Balance of convenience is also in his favour and if defendants are not restrained from releasing the film 'Jodi Teri Meri', then an irreparable loss will be caused to the plaintiff, which cannot be compensated with any cost," says the order.

"Accordingly, defendants are hereby restrained from releasing the film on May 5 except in due course of law till next date of hearing (May 8)," added the order.

## Gigi Hadid nails sheer black corset outfit at Met Gala 2023



American supermodel Gigi Hadid turned heads with her outfit at the Met Gala 2023.

Gigi slayed the black Givenchy ensemble. The model wore a strapless corset top and a low-rise black skirt.

She completed the look with three pearl necklace strings and a black mesh overlay that flowed into a daring

train.

To compliment her outfit, she opted for a pair of sheer gloves, stud earrings and black stilettos.

The 2023 Met Gala marks Gigi's eighth consecutive appearance at the annual event. Since her debut at the fashion event, which was back in 2015, Gigi has certainly seen a lot of

changes.

She became a mom when she and her on-again, off-again boyfriend Zayn Malik welcomed their first child together, a daughter named Khai, in 2020.

At Met Gala 2022, she wore a sultry red corset jumpsuit by Versace and a voluminous matching maroon cape, a creative take on the night's 'Gilded Glamour' theme. She capped off her monochromatic look with hot red knee-high boots and bold crimson lipstick.

The Met Gala livestream is hosted by actor and producer La La Anthony, writer Derek Blasberg, and Saturday Night Live's Chloe Fineman. Internet multi-hyphenate Emma Chamberlain will return as Vogue's special correspondent.

This year's theme is "Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty," based on the new Costume Institute exhibition exploring the work of the iconic designer. Lagerfeld, who died in 2019 at the age of 85, spent decades creating clothes for Balmain, Patou, Chloe, Fendi and Chanel in addition to his own namesake label.

## Farah Khan claps back at those who said she was 'too old to get married, have kids'



Filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan in a new post on social media talked about her life as she slammed those who 'tried to bring her down' as not only a choreographer and director, but also as a woman.

Farah took to Instagram, where she shared actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu's advertisement where the south sensation talked about the pressures a woman has to deal with in society.

She wrote: "As I am watching this film, I can't help but remember how many times I have been subjected to commentary that tried to bring me down in my journey as not only a successful choreographer and director but also as a woman..."

"You don't dress like a Choreographer. You're too young to be in this field. Women can't make action films. You're too old to get married. Too old to have kids.... Guess what? Here I am and I DID IT. I chose not to give into what society had to say about me but put in the hard work to #RiseUpBaby! Love this narrative by @pepsiindia and @samantharuthprabhuoffi #Collaboration," added Farah, who is married to filmmaker Shirish Kunder.

In 2004, Farah married Shirish, who is eight years younger to her, and the couple is parents to triplets - a son and two daughters - Diva, Anya, and Czar.

## Shehnaaz Gill says 'agar main positive nahi rahungi, to barbaad ho jaungi'

Actress Shehnaaz Gill, who exudes positivity from every inch despite having gone through so much in life, said: "Agar positivity nahi rahungi, fir toh main barbaad ho jaungi".

Talking to agency, she said: "Positivity nahi rahungi fir toh main barbaad ho jaungi na. Main na bahut emotional type insaan hun. Agar main positive nahi rahi, toh I think main toot sakti hun. (If I will not keep positivity in life, I will be ruined as I am an emotional person)." "Toh mujhe apne aap ko positive rakhna hi padhna hai. Zaroori hai life main. (So I have to keep myself positive. It is important for life)," she added.

Shehnaaz, who was recently seen in Salman Khan-starrer 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', gained the spotlight after her stint in the 13th season of 'Bigg Boss'. Her strong chemistry with late actor Sidharth Shukla was loved by everyone. However, in 2021, he passed away after suffering a heart attack at the age of 40.



On love for her in abundance since her stint in the controversial reality show, she said: "I am enjoying. Till whatever time I have it, I am enjoying it."

Shehnaaz feels that it's her 'desi' persona that connects with her fans. "I am desi and that is why people connect with me so much. I don't

pretend to be someone else. I am what I am... That I think connects with people," said the actress, adding that she would leave it only if she has to play a character on screen.

"But if you talk naturally... I can't change my personality. It will always be the same," she concluded.

## “Congress Is Enemy Of Peace And Development”: PM Modi In Karnataka

Calling Congress the “enemy of peace and development”, PM Modi also accused it of insulting and abusing India’s defence forces.

MULKI, May 3 (Agencies): In a frontal attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the entire politics of the party is based on “divide and rule” policy, and charged it with going across the world defaming the country, when India’s democracy and development is being appreciated and respected globally.

Calling Congress the “enemy of peace and development”, the Prime Minister also accused it of insulting and abusing India’s defence forces.

“Congress is an enemy of peace and development. When Congress is there, investors will flee. Congress protects ‘aakas’ (boss) of terror, they encourage appeasement,” PM Modi said.

Addressing a public meeting here in Dakshina Kannada district of coastal Karnataka, which is a BJP stronghold, he said Congress’ only identity is “appeasement politics”.

“Will you (people) allow such Congress to come to power, will you allow Karnataka to get ruined?”

“Across the country whichever



state wants peace and development, the first thing people there do is to oust Congress from there. If there is peace in society and the country is progressing, Congress cannot sit peacefully or will not be able to digest it. Congress’ entire politics is based on divide and rule policy,” he added.

This was the Prime Minister’s first poll rally today ahead of the high-stakes Assembly elections in Karnataka with PM Modi scheduled to address two more meetings later in the day.

Alleging that the Congress tries to save those who were arrested for conspiring to spread terror, PM Modi claimed that it not only withdraws cases against such anti-social elements, but also releases them.

The “reverse-gear” Congress also takes electoral help from anti-national forces, the Prime Minister further alleged.

Noting that the whole country respects and honours our defence forces, PM Modi said the Congress insults and abuses the military brass and

soldiers.

The whole world appreciates and respects India’s democracy and development, he said, but the Congress is going across the world defaming the country.

“America, Australia, Japan, UK, in every corner of the world India is being appreciated or not? Why?... It is not because of Modi, it is happening because of your (people’s) votes. It’s the strength of your votes, which formed a strong and stable government in Delhi,” he added.

Highlighting that BJP wants to make Karnataka number one in India, the Prime Minister said: “We want Karnataka to become number one in industrial and agriculture development, fisheries and port. We are working on it.”

He charged the Congress of looking to make Karnataka the “number one ATM” for its ‘Shahi Parivar’ (royal family) sitting in Delhi.

Karnataka BJP President Nalin Kumar Kateel and Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje among other BJP leaders were present at the rally.

## India brings back home another batch of 231 people under ‘Operation Kaveri’



NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): India on Wednesday brought back home a total of 231 people under its mission to evacuate stranded Indians from strife-torn Sudan.

The Indians arrived in Mumbai in a commercial flight.

“Another #Operation-Kaveri flight brings citizens back home. Flight carrying 231 passengers lands in Mumbai,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

The Indians were brought back home from the Saudi Arabian city of

Jeddah where India set up a transit camp for the evacuees.

Under ‘Operation Kaveri’, India has been taking its citizens in buses from conflict zones of Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are being taken to the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah in Indian Air Force’s (IAF) heavy-lift transport aircraft and Indian Navy’s ships.

From Jeddah, the Indians are being brought back home in either commercial flight or IAF’s aircraft.

On Tuesday, 231 Indi-

ans arrived in Ahmedabad, while another batch of 328 citizens were brought to New Delhi.

India brought back 186 people on Monday under the evacuation mission that was launched over a week back.

On Sunday, 229 Indians arrived in Bengaluru while 365 people reached Delhi on Saturday.

Under the evacuation mission, 754 people arrived in India in two batches on Friday.

The total number of Indians who were brought back home now stands at 2,930, according to official data.

The first batch of 360 evacuees returned to New Delhi in a commercial plane on last Wednesday.

The second batch of 246 Indian evacuees arrived in Mumbai in a C17 Globemaster aircraft of the IAF on Thursday.

## Maharashtra: Woman passenger charred to death as auto-rickshaw catches fire in Thane

THANE, May 3 (Agencies): A woman passenger was charred to death when an auto-rickshaw in which she was travelling caught fire in Maharashtra’s Thane city on Wednesday. The incident happened after the auto-rickshaw hit a road divider in Gaimukh area on Ghodbunder Road, civic officials told news agency.



The woman has not been identified. She was trapped inside the vehicle and charred to death. The driver, identified as Rajesh Kumar (45), received severe burn injuries in the accident. He was rushed

to a hospital and was undergoing treatment. The vehicle was reduced to ashes, the official said.

The auto-rickshaw was proceeding from Thane city towards Bhayander when its driver lost control over the wheels.

The vehicle then hit a road divider and caught fire, Thane Municipal Corporation’s regional

## He resigned from post, not party, will continue taking his guidance: Sanjay Raut on Sharad Pawar

MUMBAI, May 3 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday reacted to Sharad Pawar’s resignation as Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief and said that the latter had resigned from his post and not the party. Sanjay Raut added that he would continue seeking Pawar’s guidance.

He said that his party is keeping a close watch on the political developments within the NCP and he has discussed the matter with party chief Uddhav Thackeray.

Raut said, “Sharad Pawar has not retired



from politics. I know him. He will continue to work for the party, Maharashtra and the nation. He has resigned from the post and not the party. We met Uddhav Thackeray and yes, we discussed the situation.”

“We will take Sharad Pawar’s guidance whenever needed,” Raut further added.

Talking about Sharad Pawar’s book, Raut said, “Whatever is written about Uddhav Thackeray by Sharad Pawar

will be his personal opinion. Very soon Uddhav Thackeray will be giving an interview in Saamana and answer all questions regarding the same.”

Sharad Pawar in his book has said that Uddhav Thackeray failed to quell the discontent within his own party and resigned from the post of Maharashtra CM without giving any fight. Sharad Pawar in his book has said, “We anticipated there would be a storm within the Sena due to Uddhav Thackeray becoming CM.”

Sanjay Raut went to Karnataka’s Belgaum for campaigning on

Wednesday. Belgaum is at the border of Maharashtra and Karnataka and is the cause of a border dispute between the two states.

Sanjay Raut said, “I am going to Belgaum in Karnataka for campaigning. It is our commitment. All the border places should be part of Maharashtra. Maharashtra CM should also consider this. He earlier said that he had been jailed for the same. Belgaum Police have a warrant against me. First I will have to go to court and cancel the warrant. State CM and DCM should do something for Belgaum.”

## AAP Getting Exposed By The Day: BJP

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): The BJP said on Wednesday that the Aam Aadmi Party is getting “exposed” by the day as it asked the party to come clean on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s alleged involvement in the corruption case involving the city’s excise policy.

At a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi cited reports to question if the change in timing of restaurants in the national capital was

due to some “commercial deal” involving AAP leaders.

He also referred to reports of the statement made by secretary of former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia about Mr Kejriwal’s alleged presence in a meeting where decision to raise commission for liquor contractors from 2 per cent to 12 per cent was taken to attack the AAP leader.

To a question about the AAP’s criticism of probe agency Enforce-



ment Directorate, the BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member said the party has a history of making false allegations and apologising later.

As it has no answer to the charges levelled against its leader, it is resorting to diversionary tactics, he said.

The CBI had arrested Mr Sisodia for alleged

corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 on February 26, following several rounds of questioning.

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

## 25 injured as bus hits truck in Maharashtra’s Palghar



PALGHAR, May 3 (Agencies): Twenty-five people were injured when their bus rammied into a trailer truck after the latter’s driver applied brakes suddenly in Maharashtra’s Palghar district, police said on Wednesday.

The accident took place at around 10 am on Tuesday near Kudus when the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus carrying 65 passengers was heading from Palghar

to Wada area, they said.

The driver of the trailer truck applied brakes suddenly. As a result, the bus which was behind the truck rammied into it, an official from Wada police station said.

Twenty-five people, including the bus driver and conductor, were injured, he said.

Locals and police rushed to the spot and helped in transporting the injured to a nearby public health centre, the official said.

A 47-year-old woman, who was seriously injured, was shifted to the Wada rural hospital, he said.

A probe was on into the incident, he added.

## Congress Leader’s Brother’s Home Raided, 1 Crore Found On Tree

IT department officials raided the Mysuru home of Subramania Rai, brother of Karnataka Congress leader Ashok Kumar Rai.

BENGALURU, May 3 (Agencies): The Income Tax department today raided the residence of the brother of a Karnataka Congress leader and seized 1 crore cash hidden in a tree.

IT department officials raided the Mysuru home of Subramania Rai, brother of Karnataka Congress leader Ashok Kumar Rai. Mr Rai is the Congress candidate for Puttur constituency for the upcoming Assembly elections in the state.

Karnataka Police, in view of the elections, have conducted a string of raids across the state.



A video of the search at Subramania Rai’s residence shows fat stacks of cash packed in a box and hidden on a tree.

Following the enforcement of the model code of conduct in the poll-bound state, agencies have seized over 110 crore in cash.

According to the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka, as many as 2,346 FIRs have been filed with regard to the seizures.

The Karnataka Assembly elections will be held on May 10 and the results will be announced on May 13.

## 13,000 Doctors On Strike In Madhya Pradesh, Demand Better Facilities

BHOPAL, May 3 (Agencies): Doctors across government hospitals in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday started an indefinite strike over a host of demands, including facilities for their colleagues posted in rural areas and putting an end to alleged bureaucratic interference.

The agitation is being organised by different medical associations under the umbrella body of Madhya Pradesh Shashikiya Swashasi Chikitsak Mahasangh after failed talks with the government. Nearly 13,000 doctors are participating in the protest, claimed the Mahasangh. In February too, the doctors had gone on a similar protest.

The protest is likely to affect outpatient services and other essential hospital work. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday night held a meeting with the district collectors and divisional commissioners over the impending strike and directed them to ensure the smooth operation of medical facilities in the state, said officials.

After the meeting, Mr Chouhan said in a statement, “Health services are essential services. There should be no hindrance in running such services. Leave no stone

turned for the smooth operation of emergency and critical services. This strike is unethical, there is a provision for action for this. Make necessary arrangements in medical colleges and hospitals and take services of PG doctors.”

The CM asked officials to take the help of private hospitals and said the government will treat such patients (in private hospitals) under the Ayushman Yojana.

“Doctors are considered a form of God to save human life. Don’t play with human life,” he said. In the Bhopal district, the administration has arranged for doctors from private hospitals to run the government medical facilities. Bhopal Collector Ashish Singh told reporters at the state capital’s biggest government-run Hamidia Hospital, “One-hundred-fifty doctors from private hospitals have been called here and they are serving in the outpatient department (OPD) and wards.” Mr Singh said 672 patients are admitted to Hamidia Hospital, where all facilities are running smoothly.

“We have booked 1,500 beds in two private hospitals. Those being shifted from here or being admitted through government ambu-

lances will be treated free of cost in these private hospitals,” the collector said, adding that no patient is facing any problem. Divisional Commissioner of Bhopal division Mal Singh Bhaydiya said that critical patients are being shifted to big private hospitals.

According to an office-bearer of Madhya Pradesh Shashikiya Swashasi Chikitsak Mahasangh, which is spearheading the protest, “We had withdrawn our agitation on February 17 on the assurance given by the minister and chief minister. But no change has been made.” The office-bearer said, “We are fighting this battle for the doctors who are serving in rural areas. They work 7 days a week without taking leave in those areas where no amenities like school and housing exist.” The demands of the agitating doctors will not put any financial burden on the state, he asserted. Talking about alleged bureaucratic interference in their work, the office-bearer said, “It seems that the administrative officials have held our (health) department hostage.”

The CM should intervene to take the health department out of the clutches of administrative officials, he added.

## 300 arrested in global crackdown on dark web drug market

Largest number of arrests — 153 — made in the United States, followed by the United Kingdom with 55 and Germany with 52

THE HAGUE, May 3 (Agencies): Authorities in the US and Europe arrested nearly 300 people, confiscated over USD 53 million, and seized a dark web marketplace as part of an international crackdown on drug trafficking that officials say was the largest operation of its kind.

The operation targeting the "Monopoly Market" is the latest major takedown of sales platforms for drugs and other illicit goods on the so-called dark web, a part of the internet hosted within an encrypted network and accessible only through specialised anonymity-providing tools.

Most of the arrests were made in the US, which is in the grips of an overdose crisis. Synthetic opioids, mostly fentanyl, kill more Americans every year than died in the Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined.

"Our message to criminals on the dark web is this: You can try to hide in the furthest reaches of the internet, but the Justice Department will find you and hold you accountable for your crimes," said U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland. The number of arrests and money seized was the highest for any international Justice Department-led drug trafficking operation, he said.

One defendant in California led an organisation that bought fentanyl in bulk, pressed it into pills with methamphetamine and sold millions of pills to thousands of people on the dark web, he said.



Investigators also got leads from local police investigating overdose deaths, including a 19-year-old man in Colorado who loved learning languages and building his own computers, said FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate.

"But some of the packages his family thought were full of computer parts actually contain drugs he had purchased off the dark net," he said. "Because of those drugs, that promising young man sadly died of an overdose last year." For the first time, FBI agents from all the bureau's field offices also visited buyers to tell them about the overdose danger of pills sold online, which are often disguised to look like prescription drugs.

The largest number of arrests — 153 — were made in the United States, followed by the United Kingdom with 55 and Germany with 52, according to the European Union law enforcement agency Europol, which coordinated the worldwide operation.

"Our coalition of law enforcement authorities across three continents proves that we all do better when we work together," Europol's executive director, Catherine De Bolle, said in a statement. "This operation sends a strong message to criminals on the dark web: International law enforcement has the means and the ability to identify and hold you accountable for your illegal activities, even on the dark web."

It seized 50.8 million euros (USD 53.4 million) in cash and virtual currencies, 850 kilograms of drugs, and 117 firearms were seized in a series of raids in several countries.

In the Netherlands, where authorities arrested 10 suspects, police said the operation was made up of "separate but complementary actions that took place in nine countries over the past 18 months."

The Dutch national police's Cyber ??Enabled Crime Team was involved in the operation, codenamed SpecTor. "The intelligence that Europol

shared with us, such as transaction data and virtual currency addresses, helped us to start new investigations and to enrich existing investigations. In this way we have identified and apprehended a number of important Dutch sellers," said the Dutch team's leader, Nan van de Coevering. "The success of this operation again shows that international cooperation is essential in combating crime on the dark web."

The seized drugs include 64 kilograms (141 pounds) of fentanyl or fentanyl-laced narcotics; over 258 kilograms (569 pounds) of amphetamines; 43 kilograms (95 pounds) of cocaine; 43 kilogram (95 pounds) of MDMA; and over 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of LSD and ecstasy pills, authorities said.

"A number of investigations to identify additional individuals behind dark web accounts are still ongoing," Europol said. "As law enforcement authorities gained access to the vendors' extensive buyer lists, thousands of customers across the globe are now at risk of prosecution as well."

The agency, based in The Hague, built intelligence based on evidence from Germany, which it said seized the marketplace's "criminal infrastructure" in December 2021.

Leading up to the operation announced Tuesday, German and U.S. authorities took down the "Hydra" dark web market in April last year.

## Teenage boy opens fire in school in Serbia capital



BELGRADE, May 3 (Agencies): A teenage boy opened fire early on Wednesday in a school in central Belgrade, causing injuries, Serbian police said.

Police received a call about the shooting in the Vladislav Ribnikar primary school around 8.40 am, they said in a statement. The suspect, a 7th

grade student, was arrested, police said. The statement added that the boy apparently fired several shots from his father's gun at other students and the school guard.

Serbian media have reported that the guard was killed in the shooting. Police gave no other details.

The Vladislav Ribnikar school is located in the very centre of Belgrade. Primary schools in Serbia have eight grades.

## Body of missing Australian man found inside crocodile

CANBERRA, May 3 (Agencies): The body of a man who went missing in Australia's Queensland state while fishing with his friends, was found inside a crocodile, a media report said on Wednesday.

The 65-year-old victim, Kevin Darmody, was last seen at Kennedy's Bend -- a well-known saltwater crocodile habitat in a remote part of northern Queensland -- on April 30, said the BBC report.

After a two-day search of the area, the police on Monday euthanised two large crocodiles, which measured 4.1m and 2.8m in length. The crocodiles were shot dead in an area about 1.5 km from where Dar-



mody was last seen. Human remains were found inside only one of the reptiles, but wildlife officers believe both were involved in the incident.

Although the body is yet to be formally identified, the police have said that it was a "tragic ending" to the search for

Darmody, who was an experienced fisherman.

Crocodiles are common in Australia's tropical north, but attacks are rare, the BBC reported.

Darmody's death is the 13th fatal attack in Queensland since record-keeping began in 1985.

## UN: 258 million people faced acute food insecurity in 2022

ROME, May 3 (Agencies): More than a quarter-billion people in 58 countries faced acute food insecurity last year due to conflicts, climate change, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, according to a report published on Wednesday.

The Global Report on Food Crises, an alliance of humanitarian organisations founded by the UN and European Union, said people faced starvation and death in seven of those countries: Somalia, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen.

The report found that the number of people facing acute food insecurity and requiring urgent food aid — 258 million — had increased for the fourth consecu-



tive year, a "stinging indictment of humanity's failure" to implement UN goals to end world hunger, said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

While the increase last year was due in part to more populations being analysed, the report also found that the severity of the problem increased as well, "highlighting a concerning trend of a deterioration."

Rein Paulsen, direc-

tor of emergencies and resilience for the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, said an interplay of causes was driving hunger.

They include conflicts, climate shocks, the impact of the pandemic and consequences of Russia's war in Ukraine that has had an impact on the global trade in fertilizers, wheat, maize and sunflower oil.

The impact has been most acute on the poor-

est countries that are dependent on food imports.

"Prices have increased (and) those countries have been adversely affected," Paulsen said.

He called for a "paradigm shift" so that more funding is spent investing in agricultural interventions that anticipate food crises and aim to prevent them.

"The challenge that we have is the disequilibrium, the mismatch that exists between the amount of funding money that's given, what that funding is spent on, and the types of interventions that are required to make a change," he said.

Acute food insecurity is when a person's inability to consume adequate food puts their lives or livelihoods in immediate danger.

## Pakistan Government, PTI agree to hold same-day elections across country; date yet to be decided

ISLAMABAD, May 3 (Agencies): Pakistan's coalition Government and former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party made "big progress" after they agreed to hold general elections in the entire country on the same day but still differed on the date of the polls.

The decision was taken in overnight parleys to end a deadlock over the timing of provincial and federal elections, an issue that has rocked the country's politics for months.

The talks were being held in the backdrop of the controversy over Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking early polls -- particularly in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where assemblies were dissolved in January -- and the government maintaining that provincial and federal elections across the country be held on the same day in October.

The third and key round of talks between the coalition government and PTI began on Tuesday night to discuss proposals for holding elections on the same day in the country.

"There was no longer any confusion about whether there should be separate elections in one or two provinces [...] and the two sides have agreed that holding elections in the country on the same day was for the betterment," Ishaq Dar was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

He added that another positive outcome of the talks was that elections would be held under caretaker setups.

However, he added, a consensus was yet to be reached on the date of the elections.

"We have narrowed down on the date... but we have yet to reach an agreement," he said, adding that both sides would consult their leadership on the matter.

He termed the consensus on holding one-day elections in the country as "big progress".

The minister said both sides have shown flexibility and if they continue to work towards a resolution with sincerity, "the third stage (finalisation of the election date),



which will be the final stage, will also be successful".

Speaking alongside him, PPP's Yousuf Raza Gilani said it was also agreed that both sides would accept the election results.

The government side included Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Azam Nazeer Tarar and Sardar Ayaz Sadiq from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and they are joined by Yusuf Raza Gilani and Syed Naveed Qamar from the Pakistan Peoples Party and other parties in the coalition government.

The PTI, which is the main opposition party, fielded its Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry and Senator Ali Zafar for talks.

Meanwhile, PTI's Qureshi said while briefing the media about the meeting that his party has agreed to the government's proposals of holding elections on the same day under caretaker setups.

But, he added, an agreement was yet to be reached on the date for dissolving the National Assembly and Sindh and Balochistan assemblies, as well as the date for elections.

Qureshi said the PTI has proposed that these assemblies be dissolved before or on May 14 before polls were held simultaneously across the country.

The talks being held in the Parliament House were scheduled to begin at 11.00 am on Tuesday but were delayed until 9.00 pm. As the two sides announced last week, they would discuss each other's proposals to end the deadlock over elections.

Earlier, Khan said that the

government should dissolve all assemblies by May 14 to pave the way for holding elections in the entire country on the same date. However, the government is not ready to dissolve assemblies.

The first round of talks was held on April 27 which went on for two hours and the rivals decided to meet again after consulting their party heads. It was followed by the second round on April 28 when two sessions were held and at the end Dar said each side had tabled two proposals, which would be presented to the respective leadership.

The issue of elections has rocked Pakistani politics as Khan demanded snap polls when he was voted out of power in April last year. As he failed to get his goal through protest, Khan dissolved the assemblies in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in January by using his party's governments in the two provinces.

He wanted to put pressure on by the law, elections should be held within 90 days of the dissolution of an assembly.

However, the government used delaying tactics by citing a lack of funds and a rise in terrorism to set a date for polls in the two provinces while pushing the narrative that the elections should be held on the same day in the country after the completion of the term of the National Assembly in August.

The problems began when the issue landed in the Supreme Court which after a hearing ordered that elections should be held in Punjab on May 14 and the government should provide Rs 21 billion for its to the Election Commission of Pakistan. It had set April 27 as the last date for the provision of funds.

The government has not provided the funds and openly announced to defy the order to hold the elections on May 14.

The talks began when the apex court indicated that it was ready to show flexibility on the election date if the political parties agreed on a consensus to hold elections in the entire country on the same date.

## Nepal police searching for 5 missing people after avalanche

Four women and one man missing since Tuesday, says Darchula district official

KATHMANDU, May 3 (Agencies): Dozens of police rescuers were scouring a remote area in northwest Nepal on Wednesday looking for five villagers who went missing after being hit by an avalanche while searching for a valuable aphrodisiac herb, an official said.

Four women and one man were missing since Tuesday when an avalanche hit their camp at the village of Byas while seven others escaped, Darchula district official Pradip Singh Dhama

said by phone. The area lies about 500 km (312 miles) northwest of the national capital of Kathmandu.

"The search for the missing villagers has been hampered by continuous snowfall and rain in the area," Dhama said.

Hundreds of villagers go to the foothills of the Himalayas during the summer to pick up the fungus-like herb, which is also known as the "Himalayan Viagra".

Sixteen villagers col-



lecting the expensive herb were killed in the remote Dolpa region

bordering China during a heavy snow storm in 2007.



## Block Diwas held at Bhalla Block

### Top News Report

BHADERWAH, May 3: Weekly Block Diwas was on Wednesday held at Bhalla block of District Doda to redress the grievances of people.

A large number of locals and PRIs participated in the Block Diwas to project their demands and issues of public importance before the officers of different departments. The PRI members raised issues of public importance and demanded their early redressal.

The event was chaired by ADC Bhaderwah Chowdhary Dilmir,



who listened to the participants. The government officers also provided various services and resolved many issues on the spot pertaining to their respective departments. PRI members and Local participants projected

various demands before ADC, who assured them of early redressal.

The program was attended by Tehsildar Bhalla, BDO Bhalla, ExEn I&FC, AEE Jal Shakti,

AEE R&B and representatives of various other departments viz Forest, Floriculture, Horticulture, Agriculture, RDD, Fisheries, Revenue and others were present.

The PRI members and locals demanded new road links and blacktopping of all existing roads in Bhalla block. The demand of drinking water supply to every village and electrification of all villages was also projected by the locals and PRI members. Registration of forest land to the occupants under Forest Rights Act was also demanded by the concerned participants.

## DC reviews working of CEO office; inspects Traffic management in Doda Township

### Top News Report

DODA, May 3: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan on Wednesday conducted an inspection of the Office of the Chief Education Officer and reviewed the working of the office.

He checked the arrival/attendance register, functioning of the Biometric attendance system, movement register of the employees and service deliverance.

He further directed the officer and staff to main-

tain work culture and punctuality and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances.

He said that district administration won't tolerate irresponsible behavior of any employee towards their duties and the complaint regarding the unauthorised absence of any employee shall be dealt with strictly.

The DC Doda also inspected the traffic management and cleanliness in Doda town and issued strict directions regarding the traffic congestion/

wrong parking etc..

He directed the authorities to take strict action against the violators of traffic rules, wrong parking and roadside encroachment. He directed the Traffic/Police and ARTO to work in close coordination and act tough against violators, who cause a lot of inconvenience to common people. ADC, Dr Ravi Kumar Bharti; CEO, Parshotam Goria; ARTO, Rajesh Gupta and Traffic/Police officials were also present during the inspection.

## Special awareness campaign held at DPL Doda under SVEEP



### Top News Report

DODA, May 3: A special campaign was today organized at the District Police Line (DPL) Doda under the Systematic Voters' education and Electoral Participation programme (SVEEP) to raise awareness among police personnel and security personnel regarding the ongoing Special Summary Revi-

sion of Electoral Rolls. The objective was to encourage enrollment of left-out voters and increase their participation in the electoral process. During the campaign, the form 6, 7 and 8 regarding election process was also distributed to the police personnel.

The campaign was attended by several officers, including Deputy

District Election Officer Doda, Amresh Kotwal; Dy.SP DAR, Susheel Kumar; Election Naib Tehsildar (ENT), Angrez Singh Jasrotia and RI DPL Sanjay Manhas. They were all actively involved in the special campaign and helped in spreading awareness among the police and security personnel.

The officers explained the importance of voter enrollment and participation in the electoral process. They also highlighted the significance of every vote in shaping the future of the country. The campaign aimed to create a sense of responsibility among police and security personnel towards their duty as citizens to participate in the electoral process.

## DC Kathua presides over LG's Special Governance Camps for West Pakistani Refugees

### Seeks full saturation of welfare schemes for WPRs

### Top News Report

KATHUA, May 3: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas on Wednesday presided over the ongoing LG's Special Governance Camps for West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) of 1947.

The DC Kathua was accompanied by ACR, Vishav Pratap Singh, Tehsildar Kathua and other District & Sectoral Officers.

The camp was set up at the Office Building of Patwar Halqa, near District Employment & Counselling Centre Kathua to provide essential services to the WPRs, including documentation, healthcare, education and livelihood support.

On the occasion, the DC inspected the facilities being provided in the camps and to obtain the feedback from the beneficiaries, besides ensuring that they receive all necessary services and support.

The DC also met with the



WPRs and listened to their grievances. He also reviewed the progress of the ongoing camps and directed the concerned officials to ensure that all necessary services are provided to the WPRs.

Speaking on the occasion, Rakesh Minhas said, "The LG's Special Governance Camps are an important initiative aimed at providing essential services to the West Pakistani Refugees. These camps will go a long way in addressing the issues faced by the WPRs, including docu-

mentation, healthcare, education, and livelihood support. He said that these camps are meant to provide One Stop Platform for Providing all the services. We are committed to extending all necessary support to the community members, and we will ensure that all their grievances are addressed.

The DC also appreciated the efforts of the officials and staff involved in the organization and management of the camps. He urged them to continue working with dedication and commitment

to ensure that the WPRs receive all necessary services and support. He also laid emphasis on saturating all the welfare schemes vis a vis WPRs.

The DC further called upon the officers/officials to provide these services to the community members in their respective offices also apart from these scheduled camps.

Pertinently, the LG's Special Governance Camps for West Pakistani Refugees of 1947 being organised by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir with the aim of providing essential services to the WPRs. In Kathua, a complete schedule was issued in advance and these camps have been set up in various locations across the district with maximum concentration of WPR community viz. Kathua, Nagri-Parole, Marheen, and Hiranagar, and have been receiving a positive response from the community members.

## FROM PAGE 1

## Security Forces foil infiltration bid in Kupwara, Two terrorists killed

have been recovered along with two AK series rifles, magazines and huge quantity of war-like stores, he added.

Further extensive search of the area is under progress, Col Musavi said.

Their identity and group affiliation is being ascertained.

This successful intelligence based operation is yet another example of close synergy between Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and all agencies. The security forces stand steadfast to defeat the nefarious designs of inimical elements supported by our adversary to disrupt peace and harmony of the area, the defence spokesman added.

## Amarnath Yatra | Shrine Board releases list of permitted, banned food items for pilgrims at 'Langars'

Bread / Kulcha / Double Roti, Rusk, Chocolate, Biscuits, Roasted Chana and Jaggery, Sambar, Idli, Uttapam, Poha, Vegetable sandwich (without cream / butter / cheese), Bread Jam, Kashmiri Naan (girda), Roasted Dumplings (vegetable Momos), Herbal Tea, Coffee, Low Fat Curd, Sharbat, Lemon Squash / Water, Low Fat Milk, Fruit Juice, Vegetable Soup, Mineral Water, Glucose (in standard packet form), Kheer (Rice / Sabudana), White Oats (Daliya), Figs, Raisins, Apricots, Other Dry fruits (only roasted / raw), Low Fat Milk Sawai, Honey, Boiled Sweets (candy), Roasted papad, Khakra, Til Ka Ladoo, Dhokla, Chikki (Guchak), Reweri, Phulian Makhane, Murmara, Dry Petha, Amla Muraba, Fruit Muraba and Green Coconut.

Meanwhile the items completely banned are all Non Veg foods, Alcohol, Tobacco, Gutka, Pan Masala, Smoking, other intoxicants, Heavy Pullav / Fried Rice, Poori, Bathura, Piza, Burgar, Stuffed Parantha, Dosa and Fried Roti, Bread with Butter, Cream Based Foods, Pickle, Chutney, Fried Papad, Chowmein and all other Fried / Fast Food, Cold Drinks and Karrah, Halwa, Jalebi, Gulab Jamun, Laddu Khoya Burfi, Rasgulla and all other Halwai items, Crunchy Snacks (high in fat and salts) chips / Kurkure, matthi, Namkeen Mixture, Pakora, Samosa, Fried Dry Fruits and all other Deep Fried Items.

In 2022, the 43-day yatra started on June 30 and concluded on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

In total, 3.65 pilgrims performed darshan at the cave shrine of Amarnath in 2022.

The figure was the highest in the past five years.

However, 16 pilgrims died and several went missing due to the cloudburst in July during the yatra that remained suspended for three days.

## Terror Funding Case | Delhi HC issues notice to NIA on plea challenging framing of charges against separatist leader

alleged affiliation or even any remote connection with any banned or terrorist organisation, let alone any evidence to contend that the appellant was involved in the raising of the funds for a terrorist act.

It is the allegations of the agency that some letters recovered from Khan's residence revealed that he was funding the terror activities out of the commission he earned for getting students admitted to medical College in Pakistan.

Earlier, Naeem Khan had challenged the order denying him bail.

On December 22, the Trial Court refused to grant bail to Naeem Khan and said, "Since the nature of the allegations and evidence collected during the investigation require leading of evidence to prove different facts, which would take a substantial amount of time. In such a situation, the delay in the trial, to my mind cannot be entertained by this court once a question of bail is governed by specific mandate under sections 43-D(S) of UA(P) Act."

Trial Court further stated "Right from the day when different charge sheets were filed in this case till date, there has been no delay in the trial. Rather a process/enquiry u/s 207 Cr.P.C., the question of consideration of plea of guilt of other accused as well as deciding the question of charge, have been expeditiously decided by Predecessor of this court only with the view to ensure fair and expeditious trial to other co-accused."

"This court however would like to mention here that earnest efforts would be made for expeditious trial of the matter so that there should not be unnecessary delay in completing the trial and this court is very much conscious of a period of incarceration of different accused persons including applicant," added the Trial Court.

Senior Counsel Siddharth Luthra appearing for NIA had submitted that since charges in this case have already been framed, the court has already concluded regarding the sufficiency of evidence against the accused for framing of charge under different offences of UA(P) Act and IPC.

Senior Advocate Luthra had also contended that such exercise of evaluating the evidence in detail scrutiny having been done now at the stage of bail as per the requirement of section 43-D(S) of UA(P)

act, only the authenticity of accusation against the accused is to be seen which is far lighter than consideration at the stage of charge. Therefore accused is not entitled to bail on account of the bar of Section 43-D(S) of the UA(P) Act.

The bail petition moved stated that the accused had been incarcerated for six years suffering from various health issues like hyperuricemia and rheumatoid arthritis. Bail further stated that prosecution evidence is yet to start and there are around 400 prosecution witnesses and documents running into thousand pages, the prosecution is seeking to prove. As such trial is likely to take a very long period of time.

Earlier, the Court framed the charges against other Kashmiri separatist leaders who are accused in the case after Farooq Ahmed Dar alias Bitta Karate, Shabbir Shah, Masarat Alam, Md Yusuf Shah, Aftab Ahmad Shah, Altaf Ahmad Shah, Nayeem Khan, Md Akbar Khanday, Raja Mehrajuddin Kalwal, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, Shabir Ahmad Shah, Abdul Rashid Sheikh and Naval Kishore Kapoor formally signed the court order copy and said they are ready to face trial in the case.

In March 2022, the NIA Court ordered the framing of charges against Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, Kashmiri separatist leaders including Yasin Malik, Shabbir Shah, Masarat Alam and others under various sections of UAPA in a case pertaining to the terrorist and secessionist activities that disturbed the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The court had also ordered the framing of charges against Kashmiri politician and former MLA Rashid Engineer, Businessman Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, Bitta Karate, Aftab Ahmad Shah, Avatar Ahmad Shah, Naeem Khan, Bashir Ahmed Bhat, alias Peer Saifullah and several others under various sections of IPC and UAPA including criminal conspiracy, waging war against the country, unlawful activities, etc.

## Govt approves Rs 687 Cr for upgradation of power infrastructure in Ladakh

infrastructure based on meeting pre-qualifying criteria and achieving basic minimum benchmarks.

## Preparation for laying ballastless track in progress on Katra-Banihal Rail line

kilometers of track in different stretches on 111-km stretch from Katra to Banihal.

He inspected and reviewed the ongoing important works of the Anji bridge, for which all 96 cables were fully installed on April 26 in a record time period of 11 months, they said.

## Over Rs 600 Cr liabilities of MGNREGA pending for 2016-17 to 2022 - 23: Ajeet

brewing resentment among them is that the Government withheld the payment on the pretext that the MGNREGA has been violated in the year 2016-17 to 2022 - 23 while executing the development works in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ajeet Bhagat said that the Government asked all concerned DCs to hold the investigation and submit the report but much to the chagrin of the hapless people who worked on these schemes the report has not been submitted by the concerned DCs till date.

Bhagat said, adding the callousness on the part of authorities has put the people who worked on these schemes to lot of problems and economic hardships.

Bhagat said if the irregularities were made in the construction of works by defying the rules or Act but that is not the fault of labourers or masons who worked on these schemes in the different parts of the erstwhile State.

Bhagat said that the irregularities were made by officers concerned and for the same the laborers can't be made to suffer by withholding their payment.

Ajeet Bhagat said as per Act 60 percent should be labour component while 40 percent should be material component in execution of works under MGNREGA. But irregularities were made by BDOs, ACDs and Executive Engineers REW concerned.

Bhagat said if any officers gave approval to 90 percent material and 10 percent labour component for that the labourers can't be held responsible and put to problem.

Bhagat said the BDOs under the Act are empowered to sanction the works amounting upto Rs two lakh while ACDs is authorised to sanction up to Rs five lakh. Till Technical Sanction (TS) is not accorded by the Departmental authorities the work can't be executed.

Bhagat said that the liabilities are pending since then, putting the people who worked on these schemes to lot of trouble, Bhagat said that the people are so desperate after not getting payments till date that some have sold their land and others the ornaments of their wives to feed themselves but none bothered for their plight.

Ajeet Bhagat said that the peculiar situation has taken place in blocks of Chenab Valley Zone Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban districts where BDOs totally defied the

Government instructions asking Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing (REW) to hold physical verification of works. But the same could not be done due to the non cooperation of concerned BDOs who totally defied the orders forcing the Executive Engineer in his capacity as chairman of the Verification Committee to seek intervention of District Development Commissioners of Chenab Valley.

Delaying the verification and non compliance of orders by BDOs has blocked the payment of the labourers and masons who are making daily rounds of concerned offices but to no avail.

## Cloud burst triggers flash flood in Kulgam's Lammar Hallan area

affected areas. They are working tirelessly to ensure the safety of the residents. The officials have also urged the people to cooperate with them and follow the safety guidelines.

The local administration has assured the residents of all possible assistance and support in the aftermath of the incident.

## MeT predicts more rains in J&K; Below normal temperatures at some places

May 8.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 10.4°C against 10.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 8.8°C against 9.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.3°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 5.2°C against 6.5°C on previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of 7.4°C against 8.3°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.5°C against 8.3°C on previous night and it was 0.8°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 8.7°C against 8.1°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 18.8°C and it was 4.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 10.8°C (above normal by 0.7°C), Batote 10.2°C (2.3°C below normal) and Katra 15.4°C (3.8°C below normal).

## Markets decline in early trade after 8-day rally; all eyes on US Fed interest rate decision

Also, fall in index majors Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, Infosys and HDFC adds to the weak trend in equities

MUMBAI, May 3 (Agencies): Benchmark indices fell in early trade on Wednesday, halting their eight days of rally, ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision and weak global market trends.

Also, fall in index majors Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, Infosys and HDFC added to the weak trend in equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 330.27 points to 61,024.44. The broader NSE Nifty fell 97.05 points to 18,050.60.

From the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank and HDFC were the major



laggards.

NTPC, Nestle, Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints, Power Grid and Tata Motors were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Hong Kong traded lower, while Shanghai quoted in the green.

The US markets had ended lower on Tuesday.

Rallying for the eighth straight day, the BSE benchmark had climbed

242.27 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 61,354.71 on Tuesday. The Nifty went up 82.65 points or 0.46 per cent to finish at 18,147.65.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.03 per cent to USD 75.34 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors were net buyers on Tuesday as they bought equities worth Rs 1,997.35 crore, according to exchange data.

## Airfares likely to rise as Go First cancellations reduce capacity: TAAI



NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): No-frills carrier Go First filing for insolvency proceedings and cancelling flights is bad for the airline industry as the move will reduce capacity and could push airfares in certain routes, travel agents' grouping TAAI said on Wednesday.

Bogged down by an acute financial crunch due to grounding of more than half of its fleet amid P&W engine supply woes, Go First has cancelled flights for three days starting

May 3.

Besides, the Wadia group-owned airline has filed for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

"It is bad for the (airlines) industry... It is such a fragile industry... we lost crores of rupees in Kingfisher Airlines, in Jet Airways and we have another one going into insolvency (proceedings)," Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) President Jyoti Mayal told agency.

The developments at Go First, which has been flying for more than 17 years, also come at a time when the domestic air traffic is on an upward trajectory.

Mayal said that right now there is demand for air travel as it is holiday time and "we do expect fares going up in sectors it (Go First) was flying. In the coming weeks, fares are likely to go up." Regarding booked tickets, she said it is the company that has to provide refunds and if it goes into insolvency, the rules are different. "Those are the challenges we are going to be facing".

TAAI has around 2,800 members. In the summer schedule that is on from March 26 to October 28, Go First is to operate 1,538 flights per week.

## Adani-Hindenburg row: PIL petitioner moves SC, opposes SEBI's plea for extension of time to complete probe

Says the market regulator has already got sufficient time to inspect, examine, collect and seize relevant documents

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): One of the PIL petitioners has moved the Supreme Court opposing SEBI's plea seeking a six-month extension to complete the probe into allegations of stock price manipulation by the Adani Group and lapses in regulatory disclosure, saying the market regulator has already got sufficient time to inspect, examine, collect and seize relevant documents.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently moved an application in the top court seeking six more months for ascertaining possible violations related to misrepresentation of financials, circumvention of regulations and/or fraudulent nature of transactions, and completing the exercise.

The top court had on March 2 asked SEBI to probe the matter within two months and also set up a panel to look into the protection of Indian investors after a damning report by a US short seller wiped out more than USD 140 billion of the conglomerate's market value.

PIL petitioner and



lawyer Vishal Tiwari on Tuesday filed an application before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud opposing the SEBI's plea, saying it will prolong the probe and cause inordinate delay. "That the Application filed by the respondent (SEBI) may prolong the matter and cause inordinate delay. The...delay may allow the various corporate entities which are under the umbrella of investigation to manipulate the important data and figures and may cause tampering of evidence present in different shapes and modes," Tiwari said in his reply.

He said SEBI, even before the court ordered a probe, stated it had already begun the investigation and was enquiring into the situation emerging after the

Hindenburg report.

"When SEBI is already in action prior to the order passed by this court of investigation then it should have got the records and data which are required in the present investigation of several corporate entities and of Adani group," Tiwari's reply said.

The reply said SEBI has not stated in its plea as to who it has appointed to investigate the issue.

"The reasons given in the application by SEBI for the extension time of six months are not acceptable because SEBI has already got sufficient time to inspect, examine, collect and cease (sic) the relevant documents, data, information, accounts statements etc. SEBI is trying to make the investigation process endless and delay will grant ben-

efit to the wrong-doer companies and promoters," it said.

If SEBI does not take effective steps expeditiously without delay, then the investors' investments will remain in danger and the wrongdoers will manage to "manipulate or protect themselves by wrong means", it said, insisting the market regulator should not be given more time for probe.

In respect of the investigation related to 12 suspicious transactions, the SEBI has said these are complex and have many sub-transactions.

A rigorous investigation of these transactions would require collation of data from various sources along with detailed analysis including verification of submissions made by the companies, it has said.

The apex court, while directing the setting up of a six-member committee headed by former apex court judge Justice A M Sapre for the assessment of the extant regulatory framework and for making recommendations to strengthen the process, had said it was appropri-

ate to constitute such a panel of experts in order to protect Indian investors against the volatility of the kind which has been witnessed in the recent past.

The court-appointed Justice Sapre panel is to be provided assistance by the Centre and other statutory agencies including the SEBI chairperson.

The Centre had agreed to the apex court's proposal to set up the committee to go into regulatory regimes.

Four PILs have been filed in the top court so far on the issue by lawyers M L Sharma and Vishal Tiwari, Congress leader Jaya Thakur and Mukesh Kumar, who claims to be a social activist.

Adani Group's stocks had taken a terrible hit on the bourses after Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, including those of fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, against the business conglomerate.

The Adani Group has dismissed the charges as lies and asserted it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.

## Google pays Rs 1,338-crore fine to CCI in Android case

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): In the first case of a Big Tech giant paying a heavy penalty to the Indian regulators as the government aims to bring in an inclusive Digital India Act (DIA), Google has paid the entire penalty amount of Rs 1,337.76 crore imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in the Android case. The regulator had imposed the penalty on Google in October 2022 for allegedly exploiting its dominant position in the Android market.

Dr Ritesh Malik, Director, Alliance for Digital India Foundation (ADIF), who has been at the forefront of helping Indian startups fight against the global Internet giants, said Big Tech firms started taking the fines/penalties as 'cost of doing business' and prefer to pay the



same rather than making the ecosystem more fair and non-discriminative.

"It is important to note that Google has made the payment after spending all possible avenues, including reaching out to the SC and the NCLAT. The paramount concern is whether Google is complying with the CCI rulings in letter and spirit, which has not been the case today," Malik added.

Earlier this year, Google announced to comply with the CCI's directives for Android.

"The CCI's recent directives

for Android and Play require us to make significant changes for India, and we've informed the CCI of how we will be complying with their directives," Google had said.

"We're updating the Android compatibility requirements to introduce changes for partners to build non-compatible or forked variants," said Google.

Through user choice billing, developers can offer users the option to choose an alternative billing system alongside Google Play's billing system when purchasing in-app digital

content. The changes came as a Supreme Court Bench said the findings by the CCI cannot be said to be "without jurisdiction or with manifest error" and affirmed the NCLAT order, declining to grant interim relief to Google.

Exploited dominant position. The entire penalty amount has been deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India, within the 30-day deadline given by the NCLAT in its order.

The Indian market regulator had imposed the penalty on Google in October 2022 for allegedly exploiting its dominant position in the Android market.

The CCI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 936.44 crore on Google in a separate case for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies.

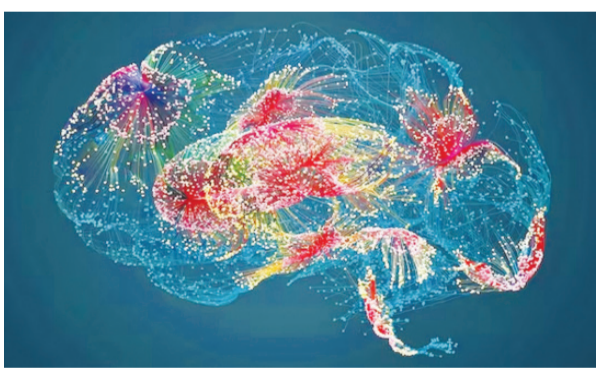
## Do dying people see white light? Mysterious activity detected in their brains

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): Neuroscientists across the world have been involved in unraveling the secrets of the brain. A team of researchers has now identified a mysterious surge of activity in the brains of two people who were on the verge of dying, and as they transitioned into death.

Researchers have long been trying to understand the science of the brain and what happens in the final fleeting moments before it completely shuts down and a person dies. Previous studies among animals have shown a surge of gamma waves as they go into cardiac and respiratory arrest.

A similar activity has now been detected in the human brain. Gamma waves are associated with memory processing in the brain and are found during conscious perception.

To better understand what happens in the brain during the final moments of a person dying, scientists from the US-based University of Michigan analyzed the electroencephalogram (EEG) and elec-



trocardiogram (ECG) signals in four dying patients before and after the withdrawal of ventilatory support. The four patients were in a state of coma.

While EEG is used to monitor the functioning of the brain and track the electrical activity of the brain by detecting signals that are produced by the neurons, ECG is used to check the condition of the heart.

The findings published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences state that researchers found hypoxia (falling levels of oxygen in the brain) was marked by a surge in gamma activities in two of the patients.

"Brain function around the time of cardiac arrest is poorly understood. While the loss

of overt consciousness is invariably associated with cardiac arrest, it is unclear whether patients can possess covert consciousness during the dying process," scientists said in the paper.

Scientists looked into cases from Michigan Medicine, the University of Michigan's academic medical center, of patients who died in the neuro-intensive care unit since 2014. They noticed a sharp jump in gamma waves in one part of the brain that established a long-range connection across both hemispheres of the brain.

"Perception of bright light or familiar faces reported by survivors of clinical death suggests a preserved capacity in the dying brain to process internally gener-

ated vision," the paper read.

The team stated that it still remains to be determined if the posterior cortical regions, which are located at the back of the head and are responsible for processing visual information, are activated in the dying human brain.

The gamma wave was initially located in a part of the brain known as the hot zone, which has in the past been associated with people dreaming, and in seizure patients who report having visual hallucinations. The hot zone in the brain is a region known to be critical for conscious processing.

However, the patients did not survive to describe what they saw due to the elevated gamma waves.

"While the mechanisms and physiological significance of these findings remain to be fully explored, these data demonstrate that the dying brain can still be active. They also suggest the need to reevaluate the role of the brain during cardiac arrest," the team concluded in the paper.

## Want to reduce bloating? These herbs and spices can help



NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): Bloating is increasingly becoming a common disorder that most people face almost every day. While there are several factors that contribute to bloating, the most common ones are having heavy meals, eating too fast and having salty foods.

Nutritionist Lovneet Batra, in her latest Instagram post, talked about what you should do when experiencing bloating. She mentioned the herbs and spices that are effective in de-bloating and giving you relief from the pain.

"Too much heavy and salty meals, stress eating, eating too quickly all can have a big impact on your digestion that can make you feel uncomfortable and bloated," the expert wrote.

As per the nutritionist, food

plays a major role in making you feel less bloating. "Well, food is a great healer and you should never underestimate the power of simple, minor dietary inclusion. So, if you are feeling bloated? The top 5 Indian herbs & spices have your back," she wrote, mentioning the five herbs and spices that can help you relax after a heavy or salty meal.

Fennel seeds (saunf): These seeds, often used in many Indian dishes, contains anethole, fenchone and estragole that act as antispasmodic in relaxing the muscles. These seeds also have anti-inflammatory properties that contract the intestinal muscles as well.

Cumin seeds (jeera): "The wealth of volatile oils in cumin seeds such as cuminaldehyde, cymene and

other terpenoid compounds are packed with anti-bloating features that instantly provide relief from gas and stomach cramps," the expert wrote.

Ajwain (carom seeds): The richness of volatile compounds of ajwain like pinene, limonene and carvone are chief elements that are effective in treating bloating.

Ginger: Ginger helps in de-bloating in a great way. It has anti-inflammatory properties that also helps to reduce heartburn. "Ginger contains compounds called gingerols that can help speed up stomach emptying and reduce bloating and gas," as per the expert.

Mint: "Mint is soothing and energizing that comes with a boast of medicinal properties. It also possesses analgesic, spasmolytic and gastroprotective properties that aid in easing bloating, indigestion, and other gut problems," wrote Lovneet Batra.

If you have acidity, then citrus fruits will make you feel worse. Coffee will also make you feel more acidic. Stay away from smoking, alcohol, fried foods and coffee. It would increase reflux, ulcer formation, gastroesophageal reflux (GERD) and acid-related symptoms.

## IPL: Delhi Capitals bring down Gujarat Titans

Delhi Capitals stay alive in IPL with thrilling five-run win over Gujarat Titans

AHMEDABAD, May 3 (Agencies): Aman Khan's maiden T20 fifty was beautifully complemented by the pacers as Delhi Capitals kept their playoffs hopes alive with a tense five-run win over defending champions Gujarat Titans in the IPL here.

Bowling impeccable lengths, Mohammed Shami (4/11) was lethal with the new ball as he knocked the wind out of the Capitals' top-order.

Aman (51 off 44) waged a lone battle, putting some much-needed runs on the board. He added 50 off 54 balls with Axar Patel (27) and 53 off 27 balls with Rival Patel (23) as DC managed 130/8.

In reply, Hardik Pandya's (59 off 53) sedate fifty and Rahul Tewatia's (20) hat-trick of sixes were not enough as Delhi's bowlers held their nerves to stop



the table-toppers at 125/6. It was the third win of the season for Delhi, who continue to remain at the bottom of the table.

Defending a modest target, Delhi's pacers were able to make early breakthroughs as Gujarat lost three wickets inside

the powerplay. If Impact Player Khaleel Ahmed (2/24) bowled a beautiful first over, which was a wicket- maiden, Anrich Nortje (1/39) got rid of the dangerous Shubman Gill (6). Veteran pacer Ishant Sharma

(2/23) too joined the party as he outfoxed Vijay Shankar (6) with a perfectly executed knuckle ball.

Wickets continued to tumble with the introduction of the slow bowlers as left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav (1/15) bamboozled David Miller (0) in the seventh over.

Pandya and Abhinav Manohar (26) steadied the Gujarat ship with a 62-run stand for the fifth wicket.

With 30 needed off 9 balls, Tewatia hit three back-to-back sixes to bring the equation down to 12 off six balls. However, Ishant gave away just six runs while taking the vital wicket of Tewatia in the final over.

Brief score: Delhi Capitals: 130/8 (Aman 51; Shami 4/11); Gujarat Titans: 125/6 (Hardik 59; Ishant 2/23, Khaleel 2/24).

## Two-time Australian Open golf champion Frank Phillips dies

Phillips won 23 tournaments worldwide, including the Australian Open twice



SYDNEY, May 3 (Agencies): Two-time Australian Open golf champion Frank Phillips, who also won tournaments in Singapore and Hong Kong, has died, PGA Australia

said in a statement on Wednesday. He was 90.

PGA Australia said Phillips died on Tuesday at a nursing home in Bowral, south of Sydney, where he had lived the past few years.

Phillips won 23 tournaments worldwide, including the Australian Open twice — 1957 at Kings-ton Heath and 1961 at Victoria Golf Club, both in Melbourne — and he tied for second with Jack Nicklaus to finish behind Gary Player at the 1965 Australian Open. He also won the New South Wales Open five times and the Singapore Open and the Hong Kong Open.

He played in the US Masters twice, in the US Open and at the British Open, where he placed 12th at St Andrews in 1964.

## Madrid Open: No substitute for experience as Sabalenka rallies past Sherif

MADRID, May 3 (Agencies): Aryna Sabalenka said her experience playing at the top level of women's tennis was key to helping her pull through difficult matches after the world number two fought back from a set down to beat unseeded Egyptian Mayar Sherif at the Madrid Open.



Sabalenka, who stopped consulting a psychologist in pre-season and took the mental aspect of her game into her own hands, said that earlier in her career she lacked the composure to win matches that were not going her way.

"I'd get crazy and I would keep screaming, keep throwing the racket probably and keep giving her

so many chances to win," the Belarusian, who won the quarter-final 2-6 6-2 6-1, told reporters.

Sabalenka, who won her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open this year, said the top players were able to take their opportunities by staying focused while younger players tended to overthink things.

"You can play with more passion. You're

not going over-crazy about things. When you see an opportunity, you take it," she added.

"As a top player, you understand ... you're calmer and understand things better. So I prefer to be a top player going to the third set." World number 59 Sherif will return to the top 50 next Monday after becoming the first Egyptian to reach the quarter-final of a WTA 1000 tournament.

## Alcaraz, Tsitsipas advance in Madrid; Medvedev, Rublev lose

MADRID, May 3 (Agencies): Carlos Alcaraz made sure he wouldn't be among the top seeds being upset at the Madrid Open, playing well from the start to secure his spot in the quarterfinals with a 6-1 6-2 win over Alexander Zverev.

After both second-seeded Daniil Medvedev and fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev lost their fourth-round matches at the clay-court tournament, Alcaraz cruised past 13th-seeded Zverev to stay on track to defend his title at home.

Fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas also avoided an upset, defeating Bernabe Zapata Miralles 6-3 6-1. In the women's draw, second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka reached the last four by rallying past Mayar Sherif in three sets.

The match between Alcaraz and Zverev was a rematch of last year's Madrid final, which Alcaraz also comfortably won against the former two-time champion in the Spanish capital.

"For me it's amazing to play the level that I played today," Alcaraz said.

"I feel really good right now and this match gives me a lot of confidence."

Alcaraz didn't concede



any break opportunities against Zverev and converted on four of the 10 break chances he had. The 19-year-old Spaniard ended with 21 winners and 12 unforced errors. Zverev had only nine winners and 22 unforced errors.

"This is not a normal result, Zverev is a great player and has great shots, it would be more normal to be a tighter match and I was prepared for it," the second-ranked Alcaraz said.

"I played well. I kept attacking and didn't let him take control, especially on his serve. I played a complete match, that's why the result was like that."

Alcaraz, coming off the title in Barcelona, has won 18 straight matches in Spain.

Sabalenka reached the last four after trailing Sherif by a set and a break. Sabalenka came from behind to beat the Egyptian 2-6, 6-2, 6-1. The Australian Open

of the Arantxa Sanchez Vicario court, saying he should have played on center court as the No. 2 seed.

Karatsev is a former No. 14 in the world and has won three tour titles, the last in Sydney last year. He was a semifinalist at the Australian Open in 2021.

"I'm feeling great," said Karatsev, who will next play against China's Zhang Zhizhen, who came from behind to defeat American Taylor Fritz in a thrilling 3-6 7-6(5) 7-6(8) victory. Zhang saved three match points on his way to becoming the first Chinese player to reach the quarterfinals of an ATP Masters 1000.

Rublev lost to his doubles partner and also fellow Russian Karen Khachanov 7-6(8) 6-4. Khachanov saved two set points in the tiebreaker in his first win against a top-10 opponent on clay since 2019. The 12th-ranked Khachanov believed their tiebreaker was crucial after losing to Rublev in Monte Carlo three weeks ago, when Rublev went on to capture his first Masters 1000 title.

"It's always tricky to play against each other because, on one side, we know each other's games perfectly

because we've been training together for so many years," Khachanov said.

"At the same time, we know what to expect, but also of course a bit nervous to play against each other. We are good friends."

Khachanov, who improved to 19-0 after winning the first set in 2023, will face Alcaraz in the quarterfinals.

Khachanov and Rublev made it to the doubles quarterfinals, where Jamie Murray and Michael Venus await.

Lucky loser Daniel Altmaier reached the quarterfinals by defeating Jaume Munar 6-3 6-0.

Munar was upset with a call that put him down 3-0 in the final set. He challenged it and was irate when the ruling against him stood, saying: "I will destroy this machine. How is it possible? The mark is clear."

He walked to what appeared to be some tour officials near the court and argued with them about the challenge system, telling them "we are playing for 80,000 euros (USD 87,600) here." Altmaier's next opponent will be Borna Coric, who defeated Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-7(5) 6-3 7-6(5).

## 'Anurag Thakur tried to suppress the matter', alleges wrestler Vinesh Phogat amid protest



ment. By forming a committee, he tried to suppress the matter there; no action was taken that time," Vinesh told reporters.

The ace wrestler also said that it is tough to stand against a powerful person who is misusing his power and position for a very long time.

"It is very difficult to stand against a person who is misusing his power and position for so long," she said.

The Olympian further revealed that the wrestlers had met an official before they started their protest in Jantar Mantar, for the first time. But, no action was taken.

"Three-four months before we sat at Jantar Mantar, we had met an official, we had told him everything about how women athletes are sexually harassed and mentally tortured when no action was taken, then we sat on dharna," Vinesh said.

Meanwhile, Brij Bhushan has refused to resign from the wrestling body, saying it would then mean he has accepted the allegations.

"If I resign that means I have accepted their allegations, my tenure is about to end. Till a new party is formed and the government has formed an IOA committee under that committee elections will be held and then my tenure will end," he told the media earlier.

The wrestlers' protest has become a huge political issue, with several opposition leaders showing solidarity with the athletes and demanding the resignation of the WFI chief.

NEW DELHI, May 3 (Agencies): India's ace wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who has been protesting at the Jantar Mantar here with other top grapplers against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, has alleged that Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur tried to suppress the matter by forming an oversight panel instead of taking concrete action.

During their second phase of their protest, wrestlers are demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan, who is also a BJP MP.

"We ended our protest after talking to Union Sports Minister (Anurag Thakur), and all the athletes had told him about the sexual harass-

## New Zealand Boxer Suffers Stroke After World Title Defeat

AUCKLAND, May 3 (Agencies): New Zealand boxer David Light suffered a mild stroke and underwent surgery for a blood clot following his world title defeat to Lawrence Okolie, his coach said on Wednesday. The 31-year-old Light lost on a unanimous decision to Britain's Okolie for the World Boxing Organization cruiserweight belt in Manchester in late March. The New Zealander reported no ill effects when he flew home but felt unwell in the days after his return, his coach Isaac Peach told reporters.

Light, a 2014 Commonwealth Games silver medalist, was admitted on April 17 to a hospital in Auck-

land where surgeons removed a blood clot.

He is recovering in hospital but Peach would not be drawn on whether Light will fight again. "That's for David to answer, not me," said Peach.

In a statement put out by his promoter, Light said his focus was now on recovery. "This is like another fight camp for me, I've got to train hard, rehab and work on getting better," said Light.

Defeat to holder Okolie for the world title was the first loss of Light's career.

Peach said it had been "devastating" to see his fighter fall ill. "It's horrible. It's really hard for all of us to see him like that," Peach said.

## Messi suspended for two weeks by PSG for unauthorised Saudi trip: Source



PARIS, May 3 (Agencies): Lionel Messi has been disciplined by Paris Saint-Germain for his trip to Saudi Arabia without the club's permission, a source with knowledge of the matter confirmed to Xinhua.

The source on Tuesday didn't specify the length of the suspension, but French media RMC and L'Equipe reported earlier in the day that the Argentine star will be hit with a two-week suspension with "no training, no match, and no salary." Messi, who had played in PSG's 3-1 home defeat to Lorient in Ligue 1 on Sunday, wasn't present at the team's training session the following day as he traveled to Saudi Arabia to attend a commercial activity as a tourism ambassador.

L'Equipe reported that PSG coach Christophe Galtier had initially planned two days off - Monday and Tuesday - for his players if they beat Lorient. Other-

wise, the team would train on Monday and have Tuesday off. However, Messi made the decision to go to Saudi Arabia without getting the green light from the club.

A two-week suspension means that Messi will miss his team's away match against Troyes and the home clash with Ajaccio. His contract with PSG expires at the end of this season, and it's very likely that he has only three more games to play with the French capital team since the two sides seem to have drifted apart.

Arriving in Paris as a free agent in 2021, the 35-year-old FIFA World Cup winner scored 15 goals and registered 15 assists in Ligue 1 this season. But PSG's failures in the UEFA Champions League have annoyed supporters, as Messi has been booed several times at the Parc des Princes by home fans over the past two seasons.

## Child Psychology & Counseling Services begins at SMGS Hospital

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 3: Child Psychology and Counseling Services started in DEIC SMGS Hospital Jammu by the team (comprising of Faculty of Department of Psychiatric Diseases, Child Psychologist, Social Counselor, Special Educator) lead by Dr. Mannu Arora, Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatric Diseases, GMC, Jammu, with the aim to help children suffering from emotional social or psychological disorder.

Principal & Dean, Government Medical College, Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

She inaugurated this special clinic in the Department of Pediatrics, SMGS Hospital, Jammu and appreciated the coordinated efforts of Department of Psychiatric and Department of Pediatrics for starting this kind of special clinic in SMGS Hospital for the children suffering from mental health issues, attention deficit, hyperactive disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder and learning disability.

Speaking on this occasion, Professor & Head,



Department of Psychiatric Diseases, Dr. Mannu Arora mentioned that their team is running the Child Guidance and Well Being Clinic in Psychiatric Diseases Hospital Jammu under UNICEF program and under the guidance and support of Principal, Government Medical College, Jammu and in coordination with HoD Pediatrics, Coordinator DEIC and Medical Superintendent, SMGS Hospital, Jammu, they have started this clinic on OPD basis in SMGS Hospital, which will cover more children requiring attention and care regarding their mental health issues. He conveyed that this clinic in SMGS Hospital Jammu shall function on every Wednesday on weekly

basis from 12 to 2 pm and the team will work with the parents in counseling sessions helping them understand their child's behavior and sorting out mental health issues.

Professor & Head, Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Ghanshyam Saini conveyed that with this joint effort of Department of Psychiatric and Department of Pediatrics, many children suffering with mental health issues, will be benefitted as in this special clinic they will be treated and counseled by the certified experts and can lead a healthy productive life. He further, mention that a number of these children especially adolescents are not able to share a problem with family members due to fear,

hesitation/guilt of shame, whereas, finds it easy to share their problem with a Child Counselor. And if these children are left untreated, it can affect their educational profile and deviation in very adverse manner.

Dr. Dara Singh, Medical Superintendent, SMGS Hospital, Jammu; Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Dy. Medical Superintendent; Dr. Rakesh Banal, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatric; Faculty of Department of Pediatrics: Professor: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Digra, Dr. Ashu Jammwal, Dr. Sunil Dutt Sharma, Dr. Mohd. Razak; Associate Professor: Dr. Ravi Kumar Parihar, Dr. Koushal Khajuria and others were also present.

## ADG lays emphasis on joining hands to make upcoming G20 event in Srinagar a great success

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 3: Additional Director General (Region) PIB J&K and Ladakh, Rajinder Chaudhry today said, the coordination & cooperation between media units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, J&K DIPR and Central Government Departments must be strengthened for effective communication and best publicity of Government of India initiatives, policies and programs.

Chaudhry said this while chairing a meeting of the Inter-Media Publicity Coordination Committee (IMPCC) organised by Press Information Bureau, Jammu.

In his address, Rajinder Chaudhry said, better media integration and synergy among the units is significant in achieving better media coverage.

Chaudhry emphasized, the publicity should not be seen as an event based activity but has to be a sustained ongoing process and the story ideas like soft stories/success stories must be shared, to be converted into concrete stories in collaboration with media units.

A positive story planned and placed well in the media will help change the course of any ongoing Government of India project, policy or scheme for best implementation, he added.

Chaudhry emphasized, the need is to identify a soft story on an achievement which can be packaged well so that it can be amplified nationally and sometimes internationally depending on its content.

Highlighting proper story for further amplification as per relevance of the content is need of the hour, he further said.

Chaudhry appreciated the efforts of the media units based in



J&K for giving best publicity to 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat, Y20 in Ladakh and commemoration of the foundation day of Maharashtra and Gujarat in J&K.

Joint Director, Press Information Bureau, Jammu & Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Ghulam Abbas gave an overview about Central Bureau of Communication and its overall functioning. The mandate of CBC is to highlight various centrally sponsored schemes and initiatives through Multimedia Exhibitions, he said.

Deputy Director, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Ayushi Puri provided an overview about main activities of CBC & PIB in J&K. She emphasized, the cooperation is inevitable between the departments in giving meaningful information so as to develop good developmental stories.

Media & Communication Officer, PIB Jammu, Sheikh Mudassir Amin stressed the need to

ensure factually correct information and press matter to be shared with PIB to take the same to the masses in the interest of the larger benefit of the common masses. He also asked the participating departments to utilize social media platforms for quick, fast and accurate delivery of the information and achievements in a professional manner.

The meeting was attended by representatives of various media units and departments of the Jammu, including Renu Raina, Program Head DDK Jammu, Ramesh Raina, Deputy Director DDK Jammu, Gautam Verma, PEX DDK Jammu, Lt. Col. P S Sidhu, PRO Defence Udhampur, Nisar Ahmad Bhat, State Project Director NYKS J&K, Ladakh, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Deputy Director, JKDIPR, Anjana Badyal, Program Head AIR Poonch, Rakesh Kumar, Program Head AIR Kathua, Prof. Anil Soumitra, Regional Director, IIMC Jammu, Dr. Nasir-ul-Rashid, Sr. Scientist IIIM-CSIR

Jammu, Shalin K Nair, PRO IIM Jammu, Daksh Communications Officer IIT Jammu, Sunil K Khar of NSSO and Sachin, Social Media Head, JKDIPR.

The meeting called upon the media units to focus on better synergy, cooperation and improvement in quality content with respect to highlighting the initiatives and welfare programs of the Central Government. The meeting laid an emphasis on joining hands on the 'G20' campaign to make it a success.

During the meeting, various action points were also worked out and suggestions were put forth for assisting the various departments in formulating coverage and feedback strategies. The meeting emphasized on the strategy to achieve this objective, by designing their publicity programmes in a more attractive way and will have to highlight the schemes through success stories to attract the public attention to generate greater enthusiasm among the masses.

## International Labour Day observed at Prem Bhawan

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Apr 29: International Labour Day also known as May Day is celebrated on May 1 or International Workers Day who lost their lives in Chicago. There were thousands of laborers who lost their lives. Contribution of workers and leaders of Low paid employees Federation, Abdul Majeed Khan Master Abdul Aziz, Manohar Lal Arya, Giyani Autar Singh.

Kabla Singh and President Anchal Dev Singh Shabir Mir Niaz Ahmed Rahi, Noor Hussain



Malik, Malik Younas said our leaders teaches lesson for making labour day Struggle against injustice who were present Mohd hafiz, Rashpal Singh, Kabla Singh, Krishan Singh Abdul Majhed Shah, Ghulam Hassan Pampori, Shakeel Ahmed Dev, Anayatullah Shan and many more were present on May Day programme Labour Day and to honour the enormous amount of effort Put in by the working community and to Inform theme of their rights and to Safeguard them against exploitation.

## Farooq is blind to success of Y20 Jammu meet: Raman

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 3: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri today took the former Chief Minister of J&K and National Conference President Farooq Abdullah head-on, asking him to stop playing divisive politics by shouting how Jammu did not get any G20 meet.

For the information of Farooq Abdullah, the Youth-20 (Y20) meeting which is part of over-2000 G20 events being held in the country was a major diplomatic achievement for India and Y20 Jammu meet was also part of this event, Raman Suri added. He regretted that such a grand success at international level wherein Ladakh

and Jammu listened to the opinion of young foreign delegations is not being digested by the National Conference and its leaders, who are still stuck in 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated and a way for such events was paved. Irked over India's grand success, Farooq Abdullah stands blinded towards such developments wherein youngsters from around the globe are descending in Jammu and Ladakh to have a fair judgement of the situation and are going back home with sweet memories.

Raman Suri said, for the knowledge of former Chief Minister who is finding flaws even in the best of events, Y20 meet held at Jammu University was also a part of the G20 meet and instead of crib-



bing, he should have appreciated Kashmir hosting G20 delegates and welcomed young delegates from other countries to Jammu as well as Ladakh. Instead, the he chose to crib, spread hatred, and divide people on the conventional lines of regional and religious divide.

Raman Suri said that this is strange that even though delegates from various countries and universities of Indiabe-

sides youth representatives attended the Y20 Consultation meet which was addressed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha; Farooq Abdullah is saying that in Jammu no meeting was held. This is absurd, dirty politics and a move to spread hatred against each other. "We the people of Jammu are very happy to see G20 delegates from countries around the world descending in Kashmir and wonder why Farooq Abdullah had a problem with Y20 delegates arriving in Jammu", said Raman Suri.

LG Manoj Sinha spoke at length on the theme "Peace building and reconciliation: Ushering in an era of no war" at the University of Jammu where this Y20 Summit, which is a youth-led

event, brought together young leaders from across G20 countries to discuss and debate the G20 leaders' agenda. Why is this irking Farooq and what position he wants to make. Kashmir is very much integral part of India and any such international event being held in Kashmir or elsewhere in India is a matter of pride for every Indian, then why this frustrated NC leader is speaking on divisive lines must be probed, he asserted.

He advised Farooq Abdullah to stop banking upon old, tested, tried, and failed ways of dividing people and asked him to enhance his knowledge and know about successful conduct of Y20 meet in the Jammu University, which was also part of the G20 schedule for Jammu and Kashmir.

We Are  
LAPTOP REPAIR SPECIALISTS

Motherboard Repairs  
LCD Replacements  
Video Display Repairs  
Shutting Down  
USB Port Malfunctions  
Power DC Jack Repairs  
Overheating  
Blue Screen Errors  
Bios Password Removal  
Wi-Fi Problems  
VIRUS Removal  
OS Installation / Repair  
and more...

Magic Computers  
&  
Communications

Contact: 7006897056

Schools of Creativity

"Leadership League of Children"  
program

• LIVE  
Classes

Age Group:  
7-18 years

Based on UNICEF's, Re-imagine Education program

Do you want your kid to be a

Self-Confident Speaker

Creative Personality

Leader with Interpersonal Communication

And Excel in Academics

LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

<https://bit.ly/socearlybirdoffer>

+91-92121 00808