

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Megha Ray on why audiences are connecting to Sapnon Ki Chhalaang

NATIONAL | 7

NSA Ajit Doval meets US, Saudi, UAE counterparts to enhance growth, stability

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Billionaire Peter Thiel Reveals He Has Signed Up To Be Cryogenically Preserved When He Dies

e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-125 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

India adds 1,839 Covid infections, active cases down to 25,178

NEW DELHI, May 8 (Agencies): India on Monday recorded 1,839 fresh COVID-19 infections, while the number of active cases came down to 25,178 from 27,212 the day before, according to Union health ministry data. The COVID-19 tally now stands at 4.49 crore (4,49,71,469). The death toll climbed to 5,31,692 with 11 fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

At 25,178, the active cases comprise 0.06 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.76 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,44,14,599, while the case fatality rate stood at 1.18 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

Rains lashes plains, upper reaches experiences snowfall in J&K

SRINAGAR, May 8 (Agencies): Fairly widespread light to moderate rains lashed plains of Jammu and Kashmir while upper reaches received a fresh spell of snowfall unleashing cold conditions all across, officials said.

The Meteorological Department said that it was still raining at many places in Jammu and Kashmir since last evening and the weather was cloudy in Ladakh.

It said that today's weather is going to be rainy, cloudy and cold in J&K. The weather will significantly improve very likely from tomorrow, May 9. However, there are likely to be thunderstorms in the late afternoon or evening at some places tomorrow also.

The weather is very likely to remain dry and there will be a rise in temperature from May 10-15, the MeT office said.

The weather man has also advised farmers to

Turn to page 9

BJP urges ECI to revoke registration of Congress



NEW DELHI, May 8 (Agencies): The Bharatiya Janata Party today demanded that the Congress party's registration with the Election Commission of India must be

revoked immediately in view of Sonia Gandhi's tweet.

A delegation of senior BJP leaders led by Union Ministers Bhpender Yadav, Dr Jitendra Singh and BJP

national general secretary Tarun Chugh called on the chief election commissioner and presented him a memorandum demanding immediate action against the Congress and its leader Sonia Gandhi, a party statement said.

The memorandum demanded that since it amounted to serious violation of model code of conduct, stringent action must be taken in the matter.

"Referring to the tweet of Sonia Gandhi in which she called the Karnataka voters to protect the sovereignty of the state, the memorandum said it followed a pattern of mischievous and intentional indiscretion for which a serious note must be taken by the ECI and a punitive action is urgently called for," it said.

G20 should keep eye on J&K situation: Cong; PDP says Govt wants to project 'all is well in Kashmir'

SRINAGAR, May 8 (Agencies): Opposition Congress and PDP on Monday said the government wanted to falsely project normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir by holding a G20 event while there was an "emergency-like situation" in the Union Territory.

"The G20 countries should also internally keep an eye on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The democracy has been wiped out here, there is an emergency-like situation created by the BJP," Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Vikar Rasool Wani told reporters at a party function here.

He said the government has destroyed the roads in the city and now



is putting up hoardings to impress the G20 delegates.

"They are showing the roads to the G20, roads have been destroyed, now only pictures are being put up...the G20 should also know about the internal situation in J-K, the lack of democracy, the absence of an (elected) assembly, snatching of the statehood and the division of

the state," Wani said.

Wani claimed that he was denied permission to hold public rallies in the Valley but the BJP's like-minded parties are continuously allowed to do so.

"We had applied for permission to hold rallies at Baramulla, Budgam, Kupwara and Kishtwar but permission was not granted. Other parties like Apni party and

DPAP are getting permissions continuously," he said.

Wani said it was evident that the government has failed to improve the situation in J and K.

"(Union Home Minister) Amit Shah claims to have ended terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. But there is no decrease in target killings. In one month, we have lost 10 soldiers in Rajouri. The BJP only uses Kashmir for election campaigns," he alleged. PDP leader Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura said while holding the G20 working group meeting in Kashmir may boost tourism in the valley, the government's main aim was to falsely project

Turn to page 9



Colourful Basohli Art paintings on walls at Bahu Fort Ropeway Station in Jammu making more attractive to tourists. (Pic by Aman)

IAF's MiG-21 crashes in Rajasthan; Three civilians killed, Pilot safe



JAIPUR, May 8 (Agencies): A MiG-21 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed on a house in Hanumanagarh district of Rajasthan on Monday, leaving three women dead and as many others injured on the ground, officials said.

The pilot sustained minor injuries in the crash that took place at around 9:45 am, the IAF said.

The plane was on a routine training sortie from the Air Force Station at Suratgarh in Ganganagar district, which

is close to Hanumanagarh. "Soon thereafter, the pilot experienced an onboard emergency, following which he attempted to recover the aircraft as per existing procedures," the IAF said in a statement.

"Having failed to do so, he initiated an ejection, sustaining minor injuries in the process. The pilot was recovered from about 25 kilometres North East of Suratgarh base," it said.

The IAF said the "wreckage of the aircraft fell on a house in Bahlol Nagar in Hanu-

managarh district, unfortunately leading to the loss of three lives." "The IAF regrets the loss of lives and offers its deepest condolences to the bereaved families. A Court of Inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident," it said.

IG, Bikaner range, Om Prakash said the pilot made all efforts to avert human casualties and crash-landed the plane on the outskirts of a village.

"Three women have died in the incident and three others are injured," he said. SP, Hanumanagarh, Sudheer Chaudhary said the plane crashed on the house of one Ratti Ram, killing his wife Basha Kaur and two other women identified as Leela Devi and Banto Kaur.

Burn injuries led to the

Turn to page 9

Multiple avalanches bury vehicles, shut Srinagar-Kargil road

GANDERBAL, May 8 (Agencies): Zojila Pass along Srinagar-Kargil road on Monday was closed for traffic movement after fresh snowfall and snow avalanches at various places, which buried two vehicles.

An official told Greater Kashmir that two vehicles including a passenger cab were hit by a snow avalanche near Panimath area and soon after a rescue operation was launched by the Border Roads Organ-

isation (BRO) and the police.

He said the passengers and drivers were rescued safely.

A BRO official said that it has been snowing at Zojila Pass since today morning and the road has become slippery. He said that several avalanches have occurred at many places blocking the road.

The official said that once the weather shows some improvement the road clearance work would be taken up.

3.1-magnitude earthquake jolts Kashmir

SRINAGAR, May 8 (Agencies): A 3.1-magnitude earthquake jolted Kashmir valley on Monday with panicked residents running out of their homes at some places.

According to National Center for Seismology, the epicenter was in

Baramulla district and the quake took place at a depth of 10 km.

It said the earthquake occurred at 02:28 pm Indian standard time.

Experts have warned of a major earthquake in the region as J&K falls in the seismic Zone IV and V.

Truck driver from Baramulla found dead in Qazigund

SRINAGAR, May 8 (Agencies): A truck driver from Baramulla district was found dead at Wangund Qazigund near Toll Plaza area of South Kashmir Anantnag district.

Agency reported that a man identified as Taseer Ahmad Mala son of Ghulam Hassan Malla a resident of Panzla Gund Baramulla was found unconscious inside his truck bearing registration number JK05F-4371. He was shifted to emergency hospital Qazigund where doctors declared him brought dead on arrival.

Meanwhile, a police official also confirmed that a case has been registered in this regard for further investigations.

42-year-old widow accuses Delhi man of rape, attempting religious conversion; FIR lodged

NEW DELHI, May 8 (Agencies): A 42-year-old Sikh woman has accused a Muslim man of raping and attempting to forcibly convert her religion, Delhi Police said.

The police have registered a case based on the allegations and said that an investigation into the matter will be undertaken to ascertain the facts.

"The case was registered under Sections 376/506/509/323 at Dabri police station on April 19 and the matter is being investigated," Delhi Police said on Sunday.

According to the FIR registered by the police, the accused in the case was identified as Azmat Ali Khan, 32, who is a resident of Laxmi Nagar

in Delhi.

In the FIR, the victim woman claimed that she is a model by profession and had met Azmat on Facebook in 2016.

"Khan was a mutual friend of her Kathak Dance teacher, and therefore she accepted his request and became friends. She is left with a child after the passing away of her husband," the FIR stated.

As per the FIR, both came into a relationship in 2017.

The woman alleged that Khan recorded her video while they were intimate. She also alleged that he tried to forcibly convert her religion, to which she refused.

"Khan forced me to adopt the Muslim religion and follow its norms

which I denied. But Khan told me that I will have to accept Islam, will have to wear burkha, offer Namaz five times a day, and will have to keep Roza. I refused to change my religion and decided to sever the ties," she alleged.

According to the FIR, the accused allegedly threatened to throw acid on her face and kill her if she refused to convert.

After this, the victim said that she started maintaining a distance from Khan.

"He threatened me that he would make all my videos viral on social media if I ignored him. He threatened to ruin my whole career. He kept on sending abusive messages to me," the victim alleged.

Turn to page 9

Schools for students up to class 8 closed in Ramban due to heavy rains

RAMBAN/JAMMU, May 8 (Agencies): All schools for students up to class 8 in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban were closed on Monday due to heavy rains in the district, officials said.

According to reports, the upper reaches of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban also received fresh snowfall.

"All schools, both government and private, up to the middle level (Class 8) in Ramban district shall remain closed today in view of heavy rains," said Ramban Deputy Commissioner Mussarat Islam.

However, exams, if any, shall be held as per schedule, he said.

Cold wave conditions gripped parts of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban after the upper reaches of the districts received

Turn to page 9

Kundal hands over memorandum of demands to Tehsildar Ramgarh



TOP NEWS REPORT

RAMGARH, May 8: Former Minister Jammu Kashmir and President SC ST OBC Wing AAP, Yashpal Kundal, along with other prominent citizens of Tehsil Ramgarh and public representatives like Panches, Sarpanches, Corporators handed over two memorandum's of demands of the people of Ramgarh area to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha through Tehsildar Ramgarh. Handing over the

first memorandum to the Tehsildar, Kundal said that in 2019, the State Government had announced the GDC College for Ramgarh Tehsil. After which there was a wave of happiness among the people of the border areas, but even after almost four years, the work of building the college has not started till date.

Due to political conspiracies, the construction of degree college is being delayed. Kundal said that the border

people are becoming victims of politics.

Kundal said that the college should be built in Ramgarh or in its vicinity, and the construction work of the college should be started as soon as possible. Kundal told that Ramgarh town is an educational hub and all other administrative offices like BDO office, ZEO office are in Ramgarh town. Ramgarh tehsil has many Panchayats. It is located in central

place and it connects all adjoining villages. It is the best location for establishing a degree college.

On the other hand, in the second memorandum, Kundal told Tehsildar Ramgarh that the work of Ramgarh to SM Pura road has been pending for the last several years. Like the college, this road has also become a victim of political conspiracy.

Kundal told that the money for the road has sanctioned but despite

that the work is not being started. The road construction contractors are doing whatever they want, have uprooted the roads but are not repair them, due to which the people are facing a lot of trouble.

Kundal said that the money that has come for the road is people's money, people's tax money, so the government should start the work of this road soon. It was requested to Tehsildar Ramgarh to convey this matter of prime concern to higher authorities so that the grievances of residents of border area get redressed. Memorandum was submitted and it is being expected that higher authorities will definitely give a positive response.

Senior Leader Oam Parkash Attri, Mohan Lal, Vaid Parkash, Himant Singh Bhatti, Jasbir Singh, Kewal Krishan etc. were also present.

DFSS seeks strong action against bovine smugglers



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of President Ashok Gupta took out a massive protest rally in Jammu city against the bovine smuggling in Jammu.

The party workers in huge numbers gathered in old city raised slogans.

The party president stated that these smugglers should be detained under PSA and if police failed the party workers will be involved in direct action and Government will be responsible for law and order problem.

From last two weeks, we are continuously hearing the news of bovine smuggling in Jammu Division but still there is no action," the protesters alleged and asked the administration to take necessary steps to control this menace.

He stated that last week a police Naka party was attacked by the Gujjars which led to the hospitalisation of 3 policemen as one of them got 15 head stitches.

There are some people who are trying to give this attack a communal angle and action should be taken against them. He further stated that action should be taken as the cows who have stopped giving milk are roaming on the road and are being captured by the smugglers and Govt should increase the procedure of taking them to the cow shelters. Bovine smuggling should stop as for Hindus it is a matter of faith and if someone try to damage the sentiments it would result in to nothing less than an Armageddon.

The party people present at the protest were Bantu, Raju, Prem, Sukhdev, Kalu, Naresh, Abhishek, Vinay and Sukhandan.

Jt Dir CBC, J&K and Ladakh Region to finalize annual action plan for FY 2023-24



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8: Joint Director, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), J&K and Ladakh Region, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Ghulam Abbas on Saturday chaired a high level meeting to finalize the annual action plan of CBC Regional Office, Jammu and its Field Offices across J&K and Ladakh Region at CBC Regional Office Jammu.

During the meeting, the officials from all Field offices across J&K and Ladakh put forth the Action Plan of Integrated Communication and Outreach

Programmes (ICOPs) for the FY 2023-24 of their respective offices. A comprehensive Strategy was formulated for Organising outreach Programmes in the remote and hilly areas of J&K and Ladakh to reach the common masses for the awareness of Welfare Schemes and new initiatives of Government.

In the meeting different issues faced by Field offices were also discussed.

Joint Director gave a patient hearing to Field Incharges regarding the issues faced highlighted by them and assured that all issues will be addressed in a phased

manner. Besides others the meeting was attended by Deputy Director, Ayushi Puri, Field Publicity Officer, Udhampur Khurshid Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer, Anantnag, Shahid Mohammad Lone, Administrative Officer, Ram Kishen, Accounts Officer, Ashwani Kumar Gupta, In-charge CBC Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, InCharge CBC Doda Vikram Uppal, Incharge CBC Poonch, Vijay Mattoo, Incharge CBC Rajouri, Sunil Kumar, Incharge CBC Srinagar, Sikander, Accountant, Shobha Gupta, Ravinder Vaishnavi and Muni Koul from programme section of regional office Jammu.

MRM delegation meets DSE

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8: A delegation of Jammu And Kashmir "Muslim Rashtriya Manch"(MRM) under the leadership of its J&K Ladakh Convenor Mir Nazir met Director School Education Jammu Ashok Kumar Sharma in his office chambers here today.

According to a press statement, the delegation comprising, Organiser Secretary J&K Ladakh UT's Gulshan Kumar, Spokesperson and Media Head UT Amir Iqbal Khan, Fayaz Ahmed Wani (Distt. Secretary), Shahid Kalas (Convenor Mendhar), Zakir Ali, Adv. Tanzeer Khatana apprised the director about the ill conceived transfer policy for the employees of School Education recently issued by the administrative department of School Education J&K which in addition to it, is full of discrepancies and flaws, statement said.

The delegates while expressing anguish over the Annual Transfer Policy (ATD 2023) said that when the transfer policy is flawed then how ATD would be fair and impartial. They said that ill conceived Zonation done in the transfer policy is bound to promote corruption at various levels during the drive on one hand and possible unrest among the teaching community on the other which is bound to affect teaching process badly at a juncture when the academic session is in full swing. "It's ramifications will become visible when transfers would be made in irregular and imbalanced manner due to disproportionate vacancies in different zones and large number of teachers so transferred," statement added saying that due to lack of school choice with in education zones and Tehsils, the teacher fraternity seems to be in a fix while filling/registration of online proforma on

transfer portal of SED.

"Teachers must have been given school level choice and within Tehsil municipality wise zones should have been framed which could accomplish the derive smoothly and without any hue and cry from stakeholders," it further observed.

The statement further said that RETs, RRETs, 3rd Teachers, Teachers Grade II and Teachers Grade III have been kept out of ATD and transfer policy 2023 which tent a mounts to injustice and human rights violations with these teachers. "Especially female teachers who have been serving the department for the last 20 years in a single school are the worst sufferers. They are facing social and psychological problems and even after their regularisation as General Line teachers as they have been denominated in their regularisation orders, they were not covered under any transfer policy despite assurances from different previous governments," statement said and added, "there are various directions/orders from Hon'ble High Court of J&K and of late Double bench judgement have asked the state govt to effect the transfers of regularised RETs and 3rd teachers, but the same have not been implemented or complied with by the concerned department for the reasons known to them."

A detailed memorandum listing different demands pertaining to teachers fraternity with respect to the present Transfer Policy and ATD 2023 was also presented to the director seeking early resolution of the highlighted grievances.

Meanwhile, Director School Education Jammu Heard the delegation patiently and assured that the demands raised by it shall be mitigated on priority and the whole exercise of ATD and Transfer Policy shall be revisited for the good of the fraternity as well as society.

Congress will comeback in all elections including Karnataka: Seva Dal



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8: Congress Seva Dal President Vijay Sharma Babbi has said that the people of the country have now become aware and Congress will achieve success in all the coming elections including Karnataka.

Regarding the Karnataka assembly elections, Vijay Sharma said that it has been proved by the blatant statements of the leaders of the ruling party that the Congress party is going to win this election.

Not only Karnataka, Congress will make a strong comeback in all upcoming elections. Vijay Sharma said that the ruling party formed government in many states through Jumlal and horse-trading but now its downfall has started because people we have come to know that their claims of development are completely hollow.

These people are not well-wishers of the common man but of a few industrialists. The way corruption, inflation, unemployment are increasing in the country, it has become clear that the BJP does not have the ability to run the government.

The countrymen are realizing that they were living a happy life under the rule of the Congress party, but at present their economic condition has become very bad.

The downfall of the ruling party is going to start from Karnataka.

In all the upcoming assembly and 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the people of the country will uproot this autocratic government from power.

Dogri Sanstha releases Jagdish Sharma's book

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8: Dogri Sanstha Jammu released Jagdish Sharma's collection of Dogri poetry entitled 'Ek Soorat Jehdi Nei Bhuldi' in a function organized at Dogri Sanstha, Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar Jammu.

Prof. Raj Kumar, Ex-Head of Department Hindi at Jammu University and a prominent Hindi writer was Chief Guest, Prof. Devender Sharma was special guest whereas the function was presided over by Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha.

Prof. Veena Gupta, Vice President Dogri Sanstha and an eminent linguist gave detailed analysis about the creative works of Jagdish Sharma and Ashok



Khajuria, a well-known Dogri writer presented a paper on the released book.

On this occasion Prof. Devender Sharma recalled his long association with the poet and said that he will continue prompting him to pen down more creative works as he has the potential to do it.

Prof. Raj Kumar as a chief guest said that

it's good that whatever came in the mind of poet he has expressed it in his own way.

The book carries poems on varied subjects including his memories about his wife, whose demise actually came as a turning point in his life and he started giving words to his innermost feel for her in her absence.

Jagdish Sharma also

spoke about his growing interest towards literature and shared with all that he started writing at a very late stage but he enjoys it now and hoped that he will come up with another book on the history of Bishnah, his native place. Prof. Lalit Magotra in his presidential speech complemented the poet for coming up with another book which is his third.

He said that age is no bar in a creative field because when you get instigated from within to express in words whatever you feel, a writer is born.

Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary of Dogri Sanstha and a prolific writer also complemented Jagdish Sharma for the released collection of Dogri poems and expressed that his journey will continue and he will come up with more collections in near future. He also presented vote of thanks.

The programme was conducted by Pawan Verma, a well-known theatre activist and Dogri writer and was attended by galaxy of prominent personalities from all walks of life including family members of poet.

PTTI Vijaypur organizes lecture for Traffic Induction Course

TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, May 8: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized lecture for trainees of one Week Traffic Induction Course.

Insp. Anil Jad, DTI Banihal delivered lecture on the importance of technology for traffic enforcement such as e-challenging, use of camera, e-Parivahan app, understanding and operating e-challenging machines, etc.

Jad told Police personnel that while managing traffic maximum use of modern gadgets and technology is quite helpful to book the violators and to avoid arguments

with the violators so that traffic rules can be enforced strictly. The lecture was attended by trainees as well as staff of the Institute.

Shiv Kumar, SSP Principal PTTI Vijaypur highlighted the aim of organizing such lecture for trainees and staff is to aware staff and trainees about modern traffic gadgets. He emphasized upon staff and trainees to obey traffic rules for smooth traffic regulation. Among others, Zia-Ul-Haq, Dy.SP (Admn/Outdoor), Kuldeep Raj, DySP (Indoor/Tech.), Davinder Gupta, Dy.SP (R&D), Insp. Surrinder Paul, Insp. Mulkh Raj, Insp. Javed Hussain,

Insp. Anil Kumar, Insp. Kanwal Raina, Insp. Himanshu Dutta was present on the occasion.

NOTICE

I, Rajinder Singh, S/o Sh Harbhajan Singh, R/o Kalakote, District Rajouri want to make correction in my Driving License with change in the name of my father from Bajan Singh to Harbhajan Singh and address from Kalakote District Rajouri (J&K) to Preet Nagar, Digiana, District Jammu (J&K). Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authorities within 7 days of publication of this notice.

EDITORIAL

TECHNOLOGY IN
EDUCATION

Technology is a new subject of education as it is equally important. It has become an integral part of education. Nowadays either you have to know your syllabus or you have to clear your confusion on any subject. Everything is possible and available online. You can access these platforms with the help of various technologies.

Anybody has seen the difference, how technology has changed modern education. In olden days students used to read their books and if they had any kind of problem, they used to ask their teachers. But it is not necessary that every student has the same intelligence capacity to understand what the teacher has said. Some students don't understand this but never ask because they are shy in class.

But in today's era when technology has become a part of education, students get many options to solve their questions easily. There are various forums where they can ask a question or have a live chat with their teachers in person.

In fact education has made a lot of progress. You can also compare marks, in earlier times people could hardly find distinction but nowadays it is not a big deal anymore.

Technology has made education easy and today we have many options to clear our doubts. Easy access to internet and other helpful apps has made education easy as well as interesting. These gadgets also save time and energy.

Any device that is helpful in educating the student is a student-friendly technology. It can also be a mobile phone or laptop. Nowadays there are many devices specially made for the students for their studies. I have listed them here:

Laptop: One of the best medium to acquire knowledge. Internet is such a thing where you can get any kind of information in written form or in audio form. You can find detailed explanation by different teachers on different platforms.

It helps the students to get detailed information and also helps to clear their doubts. Laptop is one such device where you can easily access various educational portals.

Smart phones: These are smaller versions of laptops; You can take your smartphone anywhere and it is also a bit more convenient to use than a laptop. Easy internet connection and small size make it user friendly.

Many students have mobile phones and use them for educational purposes. There are many educational apps available in play store which can be used easily in android phone.

Electronic Pen Reader: It is a thermometer device which helps in recording the words written in the books. In fact, we do not like to read all the time and sometimes like to listen more and it has also been proved that we gain more knowledge by listening.

So, this device is specially made for those people who love to listen more. This pen collects everything written in a book and plays it as audio when needed.

Kindle for Textbooks: These books are available on the online platform and that too at half the rates only. It helps in reducing the production of paper and online books can also be stored easily. These days they are becoming very popular.

Noise Canceling Headphones: These are the most advanced type of headphones that help in maintaining perfect noise-canceling. Sometimes it becomes difficult to study due to marriage season or some other reasons. These headphones are specially designed to remove any kind of noise and help you concentrate.

The use of technology in education will bring about massive changes in our education system. On one hand it will encourage the students to study while on the other hand it will help them in their studies in many ways. Technology teaches us new things and also encourages us to develop new ideas and boost our creativity. We can easily connect with people and find solutions to our problems.

In the era of mobiles, humans no longer need humans, but they are suffering from depression in times of trouble

By: Vijay Garg

It is an incident of some time ago. When a child returned to his coaching after a long time, his teacher expressed concern and asked, 'Because of Kovid, you remained alone for so many days. It must have felt very bad and bored! Then that child said that 'No, I was very happy... I had all my 'gadgets' with me. I used to have a great time without friends. I don't even feel the need for friends It happened.' Probably any sensitive person would be surprised to hear such an answer from the child. The use of technology has interfered in our lives to such an extent that now humans do not need other humans much. The need to sit together and gossip is disappearing. From shopping to meeting is also happening through video call After the complete ban to prevent the epidemic, now the situation is that from shopping for household items to meeting people, it is also done through video calls of smartphones. The limit is that all the members of the same house They don't talk much to each other. They are engrossed in their mobile phones even while sitting together. Instead of

knowing or understanding the mind of a member of the household, they have started giving more priority to talking to someone thousands of kilometers away on social media. The irony is that it is affecting children the most. They know how to operate technology, but they absolutely cannot control relationships and emotions. Psychologists say that such children, who are becoming completely socially cut off, are more likely to face a bad situation. But go into depression. They resort to drugs etc. or sometimes even commit suicide. Many times children want someone to listen to them, counsel them, but parents get busy in their phone or internet world after work. Immobility has come in the life of children. Actually, there has been a lot of immobility in the lives of children. They don't go out to play. Education was also online during the pandemic. Even after studying, they play different games or watch videos on the phone itself. now people somewhere real Even when we go casually, we are not completely on the spot under the pressure of making a 'reel' or sharing photos. An acquaintance's daughter is so tech savvy that she has built several apps, she is a master at

coding. But when her love affair broke, she went into deep depression. He didn't know whom to talk to about this. His parents were busy on their phones. Even if she tries to say or tell something, her words do not get importance. It was only when she fell seriously ill that they realized what a mistake they had made. Were staying Among the studies that have come out about increasing loneliness in people, the main thing is that loneliness weakens our immunity. Being a victim of heart attack, diabetes, dementia etc. is becoming common. Research conducted at the University of Arizona in the US has revealed that over-reliance on technology, especially smartphones, has changed the way we behave. This is the biggest reason for increasing depression among the youth. This proved to be very harmful for them emotionally as well as physically. It's happening Too much dependence on smartphones has also made him suffer from 'FOMO'. 'FOMO' is such a situation, when a person does not have a mobile, he will feel a fear of separation from the world. It would seem that a lot is happening and he is not able to be a part of it. This is the fear that people keep

scrolling unnecessarily or running fingers on it every time they have the phone in hand. This imaginary fear has started isolating people from the real world. Now every person also has an 'e-identity', which he can carry at all times. wants to increase more. How many friends and followers one has on social media has also become a status symbol. That's why there is a competition to make our 'e-personality' bigger by giving more and more time to social media. While according to a research by Oxford University, out of about 150 social media friends, only four people are hardly able to meet when there is a real need. It is true that technology helped people a lot during the lockdown. People were connected to the world through phones and internet. but Increasing dependence on technology is a dangerous sign. Technology can never be a substitute for humans. When we are faced with a real problem or emotionally disturbed, we need a real human being to help us.

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

Lessons of Democracy

By: Vijay Garg

In a healthy democracy, it is absolutely necessary for every citizen to be educated. It is not a new establishment that education serves to civilize our society and at the same time prepares the way for the future of the generations to come. Today's era is of information. In such a situation, education becomes necessary for democracy because the operation of democracy is incomplete without communication and information. Today, the needs of the modern society have increased a lot as compared to earlier. Contemporary society is moving towards information, scientific consciousness, such In recent times the importance of education has increased more than before. Although it would probably limit the importance to say that scientific approach is needed only in education. There is a great need of scientific basis in our democracy too. On this issue, John Dewey says that in the absence of education, democracy is less capable, lifeless and in a way unnecessarily flexible and in the absence of democracy, education is dry, dull and dead. Today, non-discharge of participation in the entire democracy only shows the lack of education. educated

should not be seen only from the perspective of job and business. It is also very important to live a better life and move forward according to the society. Rather, its usefulness is more on this front. But the question is that when education is so important for the common people to live their lives, is it not necessary for the leaders who run the government to be properly educated? Politicians participate in governance by participating in elections. The responsibility of running the country is more on their shoulders. From this point of view also, they are educated to a better level. It is necessary to be The vehicle of democracy can be operated in the best way only when the people involved in democracy are of high level of thinking. What will be the result of taking over the reins of the country by those who themselves are deprived of education? All who meditate on the art of governing mankind recognize that the fate of government depends on an educated democracy. In today's time, whether it is the tragedy of the country or of the public, those whom the society has entrusted with the task of taking democracy forward, they themselves are in the process of real education. Z doesn't keep. It is also an irony of democracy

that educated people do not become a part of democracy. Surprising things come in front of us, those who do not have any proper and practical understanding of education, today they speak in the field of education. However, it is also a strange contradiction that many such educated people will be found, who like dictatorship and not democracy. This class is unable to see beyond its vested interests. In fact, this is the class which is irritated from the point of view of social justice and which Runs away from his responsibility towards the society. This protected class has not only kept a special distance from the marginalized sections, but has also attacked their interests from time to time as soon as they got the opportunity. Today in the country, most ideological and political attacks on reservation, secularism and rights of minorities are being done by this class and the most irresponsible political groups of the country have worked to take it further. Sometimes it seems that if everyone becomes really educated then the shops of people living in dictatorship Will be closed. Perhaps that is why concrete steps are not taken to give a complete shape to education. It is a matter of regret that of late the issue of edu-

cation has been disappearing from the long-running debates. While talking about the current structure of education, one important aspect is the government policy, the second aspect is the concept of the teacher and the third aspect is the nature of the student. Helping in the all-round development of democracy should be the basic goal of our education system. For this it is necessary that we have a better and serious understanding of democracy. Create A teacher should be democratic in terms of conduct and perspective. He should have the ability to take his subject seriously, to create intense interest in the students towards study and labor. He should be conversant with the state-of-the-art methods of teaching, teach to keep his place of work clean and orderly, familiar with the methods of using book related material and tools of communication or communication. There is talk of development in the country everyday from morning to evening, but is the development of the country possible without education. the truth is that The recognition of democratic values is incomplete without education.

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

Sonam Kapoor at King Charles Coronation concert: Internet says, 'Britishers tortured us for 200 years, she took revenge in less than 2 minutes'

Actor Sonam Kapoor delivered a spoken word piece about the Commonwealth at the Coronation Concert to celebrate the crowning of King Charles III and Queen Camilla as part of the United Kingdom's long celebratory weekend.

The 37-year-old actor said: "Each of our countries is unique; each of our peoples special, but we choose to stand as one, learning from our history; blessed by our diversity; driven by our values; and determined to build a more peaceful, sustainable and prosperous future for everyone; where every voice is heard."

Sonam Kapoor started trending online ever since it was known that the actor would be attending the crowning of King Charles III.

As soon as the clip was on air, a social media user wrote: "This is embarrassing. As if going to the event itself wasn't embarrassing enough. It's giving 5th std English elocution competi-



tion. Maybe she did it on purpose, as revenge." Another wrote: "Truly a global embarrassment." Someone else said, "This is giving me second hand embarrassment. Can she not enjoy her retirement far away from the cameras?"

"Britishers tortured us for 200 years, she took that revenge

in less than 2 minutes," wrote another user.

The event, which also saw performances by pop stars Katy Perry and Take That, was held at Windsor Castle on Sunday evening.

Dressed in an exquisite Anamika Khanna-Emilia Wickstead ensemble, Sonam began

her address with a 'namaste'.

She then introduced the Commonwealth virtual choir composed of performers from across the 56 Commonwealth countries, alongside the legendary musician Steve Winwood. The group performed a modern version of his song "Higher Love," accompanied by a 70-piece orchestra.

At the Coronation Concert, Sonam was accompanied by her husband entrepreneur Anand Ahuja and friends Imran Amed and Mansata.

The actor, who will next be seen in the film "Blind", also took to Instagram to share a series of pictures from the event.

"Historic moments call for fashion moments. I'm honoured to mark the unforgettable occasion of the #Coronationconcert by wearing the collaborative vision of two of the most incredible designers from the two countries I'm lucky to call home.. @anamikakhanna.in @emilia-wickstead," she wrote.

'It is not a remake'

Samantha on Indian chapter of Citadel



Miss Universe Australia finalist Sienna Weir died at the age of 23, reported news agency.

Sienna passed away after being taken off life support following a horseback

riding accident. According to an Australian outlet

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has cleared the air saying that the Indian version of Citadel is not a remake of the Priyanka Chopra-starrer spy series. Samantha took to social media to share some pictures from her birthday celebrations.

A user on the comments' section enquired about the Indian adaptation, which also stars Varun Dhawan. The user wrote: "@samantharuthprabhuoffi I have one question is Priyanka's Citadel and your Citadel the same story? Why I am asking is Priyanka dubbed in all Indian languages... so if you are doing the same story for Indian audiences then many would have already watched it. I am a bit confused... can you clarify if it's same or different?? BTW (by the way) happy birthday dear... God bless you!!" Replying to the user, Samantha said, "It is not a Remake!!"

Helmed by The Family Man creators Raj and DK, Citadel is the Indian counterpart of the larger international series of the same name which has been originally created by the director duo, Russo Brothers. The global version of the series stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Richard Madden.

I am looking for an opportunity to showcase my craft, says Madalsa Sharma

Anupamaa actress Madalsa Sharma shares her love for the craft of acting, her struggles and the kind projects she is on the look-out for. She said, "Like any other artiste, I too am looking for an opportunity where I can showcase my craft to the maximum. I would love to play today's youth, an independent girl struggling to make it big."

"For an artiste, satisfaction is important. To stay in the game, one must polish one's art. Amitabh Bachchan is a living example of that. In the same way, I take my career forward. I do not think about the past. I work for a better future. As the number of mediums, platforms, and online channels have increased, so has the competition. If you don't take up an opportunity, there are many



more people ready to grab it. You have to be

in the right place at the right time," she added.

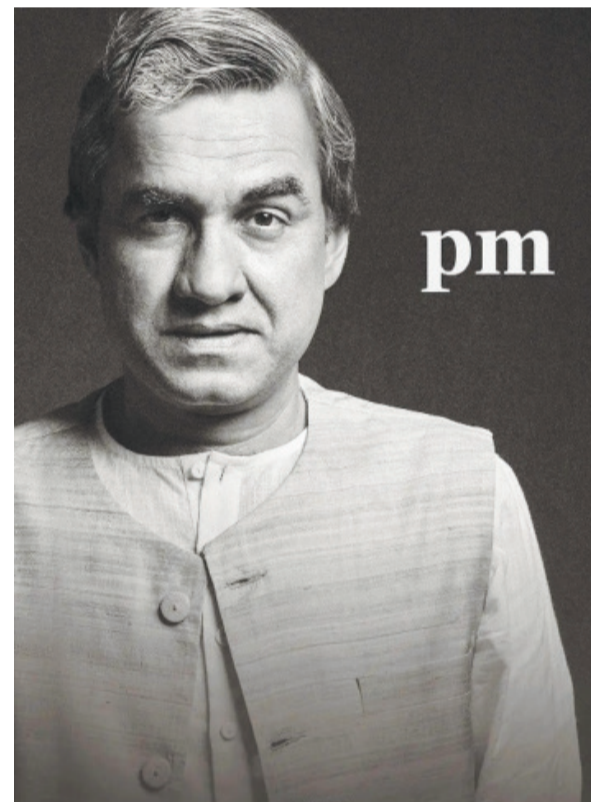
Pankaj Tripathi went through rigorous sessions to understand Atal Vajpayee's dialect, lifestyle vision for India

Acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi has shared an update about his next 'Main Atal Hoon'. He has commenced shooting for the film.

Today, the makers officially announced the filming of 'Main Atal Hoon'. The movie will revolve around the life and political career of India's beloved leader, Atal Bihari Vajpayee who was not only a politician but also a poet, a gentleman and a statesman.

Commencing the shoot in Mumbai, the team will have a long schedule of more than 45 days covering different parts of our country like Mumbai and Lucknow.

"Getting a chance to play the role of our great leader, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was an honour in itself. We went through rigorous reading sessions, to understand



the dialect, his lifestyle and his vision for India. I feel elated today as we begin shooting for Main ATAL Hoon," shared

Pankaj.

Director Ravi Jadhav added, "I have seen Pankaj ji being super involved in the process

of knowing and understanding Atal ji. I am sure no one else would have been a better fit than Pankaj Ji to essay such a proficient personality. Hoping to create the same magic with our film that Atal ji created with his life and his vision for our country."

Producer Vinod Bhanushali shares, "Main Atal Hoon is a special film. Everyone associated with the film is leaving no stone unturned for it to be one of the best experiences for our audiences. We went through a lot of research—right from the story, locations to looks for each of our character—before coming on floors for the shoot of our film."

Producer Sandeep Singh shares, "This is just the beginning of an incredible experience. With infinite meetings with the teams, hard-work of the entire crew

and locking our incredible cast, I am happy to commence the shoot of our film, 'Main Atal Hoon'."

Helmed by National Award-Winning Director Ravi Jadhav, 'Main Atal Hoon' features Pankaj as Vajpayee, the three-time Prime Minister of our country.

The film is written by Rishi Virmani and Ravi Jadhav with music by Salim - Sulaiman and lyrics by Manoj Muntashir.

'Main ATAL Hoon' is presented by Bhanushali Studios Limited and Legend Studios, produced by Vinod Bhanushali, Sandeep Singh, Sam Khan & Kamlesh Bhanushali and co-produced by Bhavesh Bhanushali, Ishaan Dutta, Zeeshan Ahmad and Shivv Sharma.

The film is slated to hit the theatres in December.

Heeramandi could be a turning point in my career, says Manisha Koirala



Manisha Koirala defines success as the "luxury to say no", which the actress says she has attained over the years with films 1942: A Love Story, Bombay and Company proving to be turning points in her career. Now, almost after two decades, Koi-

rala said she is hopeful that Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming series Heeramandi emerges as another milestone for her.

"What I call success is the freedom to do what I want to do and at what time. I feel I am pretty successful today

because I have the luxury to say no... The undying love for this profession keeps me going. I love the field of acting and cinema," the actor said in an interview.

Koirala said the idea of being successful in the 1990s was having a busy schedule.

"Earlier when I started my career it was about filling your date diary. I was told if the actors are busy for the next three years, they are happening and rocking actors, so my focus was that." After 32 years in showbiz, her focus has shifted.

"I would rather have a lot of free time, where I can travel, do gardening, trekking, write a book, binge watch, spend time with family... Do things that interest me rather than do mediocre projects," she added. She reunites with her Khamoshi: The Musical director Bhansali for Netflix's Heeramandi, which marks the filmmaker's foray into digital medium.

Megha Ray on why audiences are connecting to Sapon Ki Chhalaang



Actress Megha Ray, who is a part of the show called Sapon Ki Chhalaang, believes that the audience is able to relate to the show. "I've been getting a great response from everyone who has spoken to me about the show. They say all the characters are so relatable, and the story is so well written. And, the overall execution is great. I haven't received a single negative comment about the show yet," she said. "The reason why the show is being made is so that we can address the common life. People from all age groups are connecting with the show. I think that's a great achievement," she added. Talking about finding opportunities in a place like Mumbai, Megha said, "Mumbai is the hub of opportunities. There are more people, and when there are more people, the competition increases."

Jennifer Aniston expresses support for Writers Guild Association strike

Actress Jennifer Aniston has joined the celebrities who have openly expressed their support for the Writers Guild Association (WGA) strike due to the alleged unfair treatment of writers.

The 'Friends' sitcom fame actress Jennifer took to her Instagram handle to post about the protest. Aniston shared a series of Instagram stories which reflects on the strike.

In the first social media post Aniston shared a reel of ex-co-star Lisa Kudrow. In the clip, Lisa can be seen thanking the writers one by one for writing the wonderful script for the actress.

Jennifer shared a carousel post related to all of the information one needs to know about the WGA strike. The post gives an insight into the rules that must be followed to support the union, the reason behind the strike, how writers are not getting fully paid and how streaming has changed the pay structure in the industry.

The last story by the actress featured a sarcastic tweet referring to the question writers



have been asked about the strike.

The tweet also mentioned the tremendous number of 11,000 writers who left signed contracts to make the strike successful.

Earlier reported by Deadline, a US-based media house, a meeting of top showrunners took place on Sunday a day after top production houses consisting of Paramount, Disney and Warner Bros asked them to perform all other production-related activities which don't come

underwriting.

Reports surfaced after top Hollywood actors like Pete Davidson and Mark Ruffalo backed the strike which fights for writers being underpaid by the production houses.

The hosts of popular talk shows falling under the banner of 'Late Night' shows are among the other projects which will be negatively impacted by Hollywood writers going on strike, has still decided to gift free lunches to the writers.

27 die in goldmine fire in Peru

175 workers have been safely evacuated after the accident

LIMA, May 8 (Agencies): A fire broke out deep in a gold mine in southern Peru and killed at least 27 workers during an overnight shift, Peruvian authorities reported. The Yanaquihua mining company said in a statement that a total of 175 workers had been safely evacuated after the accident, which happened late Friday or early Saturday. It said the 27 dead worked for a contractor that specializes in mining.

Government officials said the cause of the incident was under investigation. Some news reports said preliminary investigations indicated an explosion might have been set off by



A short circuit in a part of the mine about 100 metres below the surface. Relatives of the victims were brought by buses to the mine in Yanaquihua in the Arequipa region, where they were briefed by security agents. Some sat in

front of posters at the entrance to the mine to wait for the bodies of their loved ones. Marcelina Aguirre said her husband was among the dead. She said he had told her there were risks at the mine. "We are very worried, very sad we are, to lose a husband, leaving two abandoned children," she said. The Public Ministry of Arequipa's Fiscal District said investigators were working to clarify what happened. "During the investigation, the Prosecutor's Office will determine the cause of the tragic event and the responsibilities of those involved," its statement said.

8 die, several injured in run-down accident in Texas



HOUSTON, May 8 (Agencies): A driver ploughed into a group of people waiting at a bus stop outside a migrant shelter in the US state of Texas, killing at least eight people, including several immigrants and injuring many, authorities said. The incident occurred on Sunday at the bus stop near the Ozanam Centre, a shelter for migrants, Brownsville Police investigator Lt Martin Sandoval said. Brownsville police confirmed 8 people dead. Seven were killed on the spot and one succumbed to the injuries later.

and were waiting for a bus to take them to the bus station or airport, to get to their final destination, Sandoval said. "This is something that is extraordinary. We have never seen something like this," Director of the Ozanam Centre Victor Maldonado said. Brownsville police say the driver, a Hispanic male and a resident of Brownsville, is now in jail. Sandoval said he is facing a charge of reckless driving, but more charges are possible as the investigation continues. Toxicology results are also pending. "I know there is a report out there, they are saying that it was intentional. Brownsville police are saying

this was an intentional accident. Well, I'm here to clarify that Brownsville police have never taken the stand that this was an intentional accident. It is a factor that we have to look at," Sandoval said. Ten people are being treated in hospitals in Brownsville, Harlingen and McAllen with their injuries ranging from minor to major. As the crash involves migrants who were processed by Border Patrol, the FBI will be assisting Brownsville police as needed in the investigation. Sandoval said authorities are still investigating whether the crash was intentional or accidental. He said witnesses described seeing the driver ignore a red light, drive up on a curb and run over a group of people waiting at the bus stop. The shelter has been housing immigrants while they wait for more permanent housing, he said. Brownsville is located on the southern tip of Texas, just across the Rio Grande River.

Mystery Chinese Spacecraft Returns To Earth After 276 Days: Report

BEIJING, May 8 (Agencies): An experimental Chinese spacecraft returned to Earth on Monday after staying in orbit for 276 days, China's state media reported, completing a landmark mission to test the country's reusable space technologies. The uncrewed spacecraft returned to the Jiuquan launch centre

in northwest China on Monday as scheduled, according to state media. No details were given on what the spacecraft was, what technologies were tested, how high it flew, and where its orbits had taken it since its launch in early August 2022. Images of the craft have also yet to be released to the public. The test marks an "important" breakthrough in China's research into reusable spacecraft technology that will provide a more convenient and inexpensive way to mount future space missions, state media reported. In 2021, what may have been a similar

spacecraft flew to the edge of space and returned to Earth on the same day in a mission that was also kept largely under wraps. It landed on Earth "horizontally," according to China's main space contractor at the time. Commentators on Chinese social media have speculated that Beijing has been developing a spacecraft like the U.S. Air Force's X-37B, an autonomous spaceplane that can remain in orbit for years. The uncrewed and reusable X-37B returned to Earth in November last year in its sixth and latest mission, after more than 900 days in orbit.

Scaleless Fanged Fish Found On Oregon Beaches, Officials Stumped

OREGON, May 8 (Agencies): Several freaky-looking fish with fanged jaws and huge eyes have washed ashore on Oregon's beaches, according to Fox Weather. These fish are usually found more than a mile deep in the ocean. Scientists are baffled by the sudden appearance of the fish that have fierce-looking teeth, bulging eyes and sail-like fin, the outlet further said. These lancetfish look like they once swam with the dinosaurs. The Oregon State Parks shared the news about the fish and its photos on Facebook. "Several lancetfish have washed ashore on Oregon's beaches the last few weeks from Nehalem south to Bandon. These deep-sea fish live in tropical and sub-



tropical waters and can migrate as far north as the Bering Sea to feed. No one is sure why they are washing ashore," it said in the Facebook post. "The one shown here was found alive, helped back to the ocean and it swam off," the Oregon State Parks added. The agency asked beachgoers who see the fish to take photos and post them online, tagging the agency and the NOAA Fisheries West Coast region. According to NOAA Fisheries, these are the largest deep-sea fish that belong with the genus *Alepisaurus*, which means "scaleless lizard". The agency said these creatures can grow to more than 7 feet long and can swim to depths more than a mile below the sea surface. Since 1982, NOAA groundfish surveys have found two lancetfish in the Gulf of Alaska, four near the Aleutian Islands and 10 in the Eastern Bering Sea, Fox Weather said citing NOAA Fisheries.

5 injured after Russia launches wave of strikes on Ukraine ahead of Victory Day celebrations

KYIV, May 8 (Agencies): Five people were injured after Russia launched strikes on Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine, while a foodstuff warehouse was set ablaze in the Black Sea city of Odesa during the attack, Ukrainian officials said early on Monday. The attack came as Russia is set to hold its Victory Day parade that marks the anniversary of its defeat of Nazi Germany. Russian President Vladimir Putin has evoked the then Soviet army that defeated Nazi German forces, and defended Moscow's invasion on its neighbour asserting that it was done with an aim to "de-Nazify" Ukraine, Reuters reported. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on his Telegram messaging channel that three people were wounded in blasts in Solomyanskyi district while two others were hurt after drone wreckage fell on them in Sviatoshyn district, both situated west of the



capital's centre. According to Kyiv's military administration, emergency services were working at Zhuliany airport after drone wreckage fell on a runway of the airport. But, there were no reports of fire. Drone debris seemed to have struck a two-storey building in Kyiv's central Shevchenkiivskyi district, causing damages. However, it was not clear whether there were any casualties or not, the administration said. Eyewitnesses told agency they heard several explosions in Kyiv. According to local officials, air defence systems were

activated to repel the attacks. It is not known how many drones were launched on Kyiv, agency reported. There were media reports of blasts in the southern region of Kherson and in the Zaporizhzhia region in southeast after air raid alerts were sounded over parts of Ukraine. Separately, Russian forces launched strikes on eight locations in Sumy region in north-eastern Ukraine on Sunday, according to the regional military administration. Strikes on Russian-held targets have intensified in the last two weeks, especially on the Crimean Peninsula. On February 24 last year, Russia invaded Ukraine, claiming it was a "special military operation" to flush out "neo-Nazis" in the neighbouring country. However, Kyiv and its allies maintain that it was a land grab and an undeclared act of aggression.

Israel demolishes 'illegal' Palestinian West Bank school, draws EU ire

JERUSALEM, May 8 (Agencies): Israeli authorities demolished a Palestinian school in the occupied West Bank, drawing harsh condemnation from the European Union. COGAT, a branch of the Israeli military, said in a statement that the building, located about 2 km from Bethlehem, had been constructed illegally and "was found to be dangerous to the safety of anyone studying or otherwise visiting there," and thus an Israeli court "had ordered it demolished." The European Union Delegation to the Palestinians, on its official Twitter account, said it was "appalled" by the school's demolition, which it said would affect 60 Palestinian children. The demolition was "illegal under international law" and would "only increase the suffering of the Palestinian population and further escalate an already tense environment," the EU delegation said. COGAT said the building's owner had refused

several attempts by Israeli authorities to engage in dialogue over the status of the structure before the enforcement of the demolition. Students and witnesses said the building had been brought to rubble with no trace of the school that once stood there. "We got ready to come to school and when we arrived we didn't find the school," student Mohammed Ibrahim told Reuters. "We want a school today! We want to study, if they (Israeli forces) will keep demolishing, we will keep building." Witnesses also said the contents of the building had been confiscated. "They demolished the school and they took everything with them," a nearby resident and witness whose grandson was a student at the school Ismael Salah told agency. "All the furniture, they put them in trucks and took them." Israel has often cited a lack of building permits, which Palestinians and



rights groups say are nearly impossible to obtain, in destroying Palestinian structures in the West Bank, an area it captured in the 1967 Middle East war. The Palestinian Authority's ministry of education called the demolition a "heinous crime" and said it would cause "the school's students to be deprived of receiving their education in a free, safe and stable manner, similar to children in the rest of the world." An Israeli official source told Reuters that the dispute over the building's safety had gone on for six years and that a nearby school would absorb the students displaced by the demolition. "This is definitely another step in the persistent struggle for our State lands, Gush Etzion Regional Council Mayor, and Chairman of the Yesha Council, Shlomo Neeman said in a statement. "There is still a lot of work to be done." The Palestinian Authority's ministry of education called the demolition a "heinous crime" and said it would cause "the school's students to be deprived of receiving their education in a free, safe and stable manner, similar to children in the rest of the world." An Israeli official source told Reuters that the dispute over the building's safety had gone on for six years and that a nearby school would absorb the students displaced by the demolition.

Billionaire Peter Thiel Reveals He Has Signed Up To Be Cryogenically Preserved When He Dies

NEW YORK, May 8 (Agencies): Billionaire tech investor Peter Thiel has confirmed that he has signed up to be cryogenically preserved after he dies so that he might be brought back to life in the future, according to a report in Fortune. One of the co-founders of PayPal, Mr Thiel made the revelation at a podcast last week. The investor, however said he is still sceptical that the technology actually works, the outlet further said. Mr Thiel has an estimated net worth of \$8.13 billion, according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Podcast host - journalist Bari Weiss - as the billionaire last Wednesday, "Is it true that you're signed up to be cryonically preserved when you die so that you might be brought back to life in the future?" "Yes, but I think of it more as an ideological



statement," Mr Thiel said. "So it's true?" Ms Weiss again posed a question. "Sure, I don't necessarily expect it to work, but I think it's the sort of thing we're supposed to try to do," Mr Thiel responded. As per an old report in the Telegraph, the investor had signed on with Alcor for a deep cryogenic deep freeze

after he dies. Explaining about his approach to the "problem of death", Mr Thiel had said: "You can accept it, you can deny it, or you can fight it. I think our society is dominated by people who are into denial or acceptance, and I prefer to fight it." As per the New York Post, the podcast host had asked Mr Thiel if he has made provisions for any loved ones to be frozen. "I'm not convinced it works. It's more, I think we need to be trying these things. It's not there yet," he replied. Apart from co-founding PayPal, Peter Thiel was the first outside investor in Facebook and an original partner in the venture capital firm Founders Fund. The Post reported that Thiel is not the only one to be betting big on life extending technologies. Sam Altman, the CEO of ChatGPT creator OpenAI, recently invested \$180 million in a firm Retro Biosciences that is aiming to extend the human lifespan by 10 years. Then there is 45-year-old Bryan Johnson, a biotech pioneer, is undergoing an expensive medical regimen that might cost up to \$2 million a year to have the body of an 18-year-old.

Bharat Bhushan urges LG Sinha for timely assessing, disbursing compensation of damaged crops among farmers

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8: DDC Chairman Jammu, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi on Monday urged the Lt Governor Sh Manoj Sinha to provide adequate compensation to the farmers of Jammu who lost their crops in the recent incessant rains and hailstorm that completely damaged the standing crops of farmers.

The DDC Chairman was speaking at the meeting organized by BJP District Kissan Morcha North Jammu here today. The meeting was organized by Raman Singh, President of BJP District Kissan Morcha North Jammu. Omi Khajuria, District President BJP North Jammu was also present.



ent.

In the meeting, the BJP Kissan Morcha leaders apprised the DDC Chairman about the loss of damages to crops due to incessant rains and hailstorm that completely damaged the standing crops of farmers. They demanded adequate

compensation of damaged crops.

The DDC Chairman, who was the Chief Guest, informed that the Divisional Administration and District Administration has already constituted teams and directed the revenue department for assessing the

loss of damaged crops. He asked the Kissan Morcha leaders to have faith on the government as the administration under the stewardship of LG Sinha is working day and night to address the problems being faced by people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The DDC Chairman Jammu said that the Central Government headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done more work in the last eight years than ever before for empowering farmers and making them self-reliant. He said the Government at the Centre stands fully committed to the welfare of the farmers who deserve special attention especially in view of their being the food producers of the nation.

The DDC Chairman appealed to the LG Sinha to issue necessary directions to the Revenue Officials for speeding up assessing the damaged crops so that the farmers would get timely compensation of their damaged crops.

Max Hospital Bathinda launches specialty clinic for diabetes & endocrinology



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU / BATHINDA, May 8: An advanced specialty clinic for diabetes and endocrinology was launched at Max Super Specialty Hospital, Bathinda on Monday.

The clinic will offer a range of advanced specialty services, including hormone, diabetes, and obesity treatment, all under one roof.

It will be run by Dr. Sushil Kotru, associate director and head department of diabetes and endocrinology and his team.

The specialty clinic will operate with specific services available on each day of the week. On Monday, the clinic will offer services for thy-

roid disease and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS).

On Tuesday it will focus on obesity/weight loss and fatty liver disease screening. The services for men's health and secretory disorders, as well as diabetes kidney disease screening will be offered on Wednesday.

On Thursday the clinic will cater to gestational diabetes and type 1 diabetes, while Fridays will focus on postmenopausal and osteoporosis clinics.

Patients will not only receive medical check-ups but will also be provided with awareness health talks on prevention by the specialist.

The routine diabetes OPD will be open

from Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm, with additional services such as the diabetes and endocrine clinic, diabetes foot clinic, diet clinic and diabetes fundus screening clinic available.

Dr. Sushil Kotru said that the hospital's other auxiliary departments, such as the department of women's diseases, bones, stomach diseases, physiotherapy, kidney diseases, ophthalmology and skin diseases will also be available to patients.

The modern facilities will ensure that patients receive comprehensive and effective treatment. Col Harinder Singh Chehal, senior director & COO at Max Health Care informed that the clinic is an advanced specialty clinic. It will have all the facilities like hormone, diabetes and obesity treatment care under one roof for Malwa region.

Dr. Pinak Moudgil, senior vice president of Max Hospital Mohali & Bathinda said that the launch of this clinic will eliminate the need for patients from the Malwa region to travel to higher cities for medical services.

5-Days Media Conference cum Meditation Retreat 2023 on "Media Responsibility for National Development" concluded



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU / MOUNT ABU, May 8: The inaugural session of a media conference cum retreat entitled "Media Responsibility for National Development" was held at the Brahma Kumaris Gyan Sarovar complex in Mount Abu.

This initiative aimed to stimulate introspection amongst media professionals to embrace spirituality as a means for constructive journalism benefiting society.

Delivering the keynote address on the theme Director General of IIMC Prof. Sanjay Dwivedi said that when you practice the Gyan Yoga, you are successful in journalism. And when your journalism is centred on the truth, when your journalism stands with the truth, no power in the world

can bring it down. And that is why I want to say that instead of agenda journalism, we need to do journalism based on the truth. We need to think about the people, for the development of the people, for the development of this nation. This is our purpose. We need to use the media as a weapon of change. The media is a tool, a weapon of change.

Dr Dwivedi stressed not to spread fake news. And if we want to stop the spread of fake news, people will have to make themselves media literate. Seminars like this, and discussions like this, will help people to create media literacy and I say this with great responsibility.

Director of Buffering Media Tech Mumbai Amit B Wadhvani as the guest of honour

of the inaugural session said that there has to be a distinct line of demarcation between news dispensation and content creation. I feel that this line has been lost somewhere.

Dr Dhruva Jyoti Pati, Dean & Director, India Today Mass Communication Institute, Noida appreciated the universal brotherhood, and belongingness which he observed in the Brahma Kumaris headquarters. Also complimented the media personnel for their role and for giving a positive spirit to the common man.

He further added that Media is creating the role of balancing between judiciary and executive and legislative part. And appealed the media personnel to be solution based".

India wrestler Sangram Singh, guest of honour of the

event, said that media is the mirror of society. He shared a golden principle to reduce negative news, giving two days in a week no negative news, neither in the paper, nor on the TV channel, nor anywhere else. Only positive news. So I am telling you all to see how the country will change. And a country does not run on the government. A country runs on culture. And we have to give this culture to our children.

It's the quality of our thoughts, the way we treat others that qualifies us to be heroes, he said and reinforced a key tenet of Rajayoga taught by the Brahma Kumaris: Simple living, high thinking.

BK Karuna, Chairperson of the Media Wing of the Brahma Kumaris, addressed the inaugural session by recalling the guiding principle of the Brahma Kumaris.

He congratulated the delegates for taking valuable time out of their busy schedules to attend the conference and bring about a difference in themselves and in the world.

B. K. Sheilu, Vice-Chairperson, Education Wing, RERF, took everyone through a guided meditation experience that was aimed at awakening the inner self and connecting with the Supreme Father.

BK Chandrakala, Zonal Coordinator of the Media Wing, Brahma Kumaris, did the stage management and BK Shantanu, National Coordinator of the Media Wing, gave a welcome speech. The program included a candle-lighting ceremony, beautiful Ganesh Vandana and dance sequences.

Raft Turns Turtle In Chenab River In Reasi, All 13 Rescued



JAMMU, May 8 (Agencies): A raft carrying 13 people turned turtle in Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Monday after hitting a pillar of a bridge, officials said.

All of them, including five women, fell into the river but were wearing life jackets, they said. A rescue operation was immediately launched

by the rafting operators and all 13 persons were rescued safely, they added.

Twenty-four people, after a visit to the cave shrine of Shiv Khori, were on the river in two rafts enjoying the recreational activity when they hit the bridge in Baradari area. "Mata Vaishnodevi and Lord Shiva saved us. It took

over half an hour to rescue us. We went into the water and the strong current took us a long distance, but we held each other's hand and stayed together," a woman said.

Mortar Shell Found In Samba

SAMBA/JAMMU, May 8 (Agencies): An old mortar shell was detected along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Monday, officials said.

The shell was found by locals, who informed the Border Security Force (BSF) troops, they said.

A bomb disposal squad has been called to defuse the shell.

FROM PAGE 1

G20 should keep eye on J&K situation: Cong; PDP says Govt wants to project 'all is well in Kashmir'

normalcy in the Union Territory. "Holding G20 event is good and it may help to boost tourism here. However, there is no change in the ground situation, particularly after the revocation of Article 370. I think by holding a G20 event here in Kashmir, they want to convey a message globally that all is well in Kashmir," Hanjura told reporters here.

The PDP general secretary said the situation on the ground was "not good" as two incidents of militancy-related violence happened in Rajouri and Poonch.

"Firstly, I strongly condemn the incidents. It should not happen because the PDP believes guns are not the solution. Issues can be resolved through talks but unfortunately the BJP government cannot digest this. They are not ready for talks. Even, for instance, if war prevails for 100 years, ultimately the solution is through dialogue," he added.

Hajura said the people in Kashmir were facing problems as authorities have tightened the security measures ahead of the G20 meeting.

On demands for another surgical strike on Pakistan, he said, "After first surgical

strike, the situation is as it was. Gun is not the solution the PDP advocates dialogue only. India and Pakistan should come on table for talks along with stakeholders to find a solution." In response to a question on the involvement of locals in the pooch incident, Hanjura said, "That's the duty of security agencies. If anyone is involved, he should be punished." He, however, questioned as to how the incident took place in such a huge presence of security forces.

"The BJP is answerable for that. They claim that they made the situation better here, stone pelting is not happening, militancy is over," he said.

On the spat between the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan on the sidelines of the SCO meeting, Hanjura said, "They (two countries) should bring down the bitterness and overcome the hatred. I think Bilawal Bhutto Zardari should not have said what he said and the response he got was also not valid." The third G20 tourism working group meeting will be held in Kashmir between May 22 and 24.

IAF's MiG-21 crashes in Rajasthan; Three civilians killed, Pilot safe

death of the women, he said. According to initial reports, the house of Ratti Ram was completely damaged besides some nearby houses. A local

resident said he heard a loud sound and saw a parachute coming down. Within seconds, the plane crashes on the house of Ratti Ram and wood stored in the house caught fire. "Local people immediately started efforts to douse flames with the help of water and sand. Fire brigade and police reached the spot and the women were taken to a hospital," the local resident told reporters in Hanumangarh. Soon after the incident, locals gathered at the spot in large numbers.

42-year-old widow accuses Delhi man of rape, attempting religious conversion; FIR lodged

She alleged that on April 2, Khan attacked her at the Janakpuri Police Station. "He threatened to throw acid on my face. Also, he said that if I tried to ignore him he would bury me alive," the victim alleged. The police after receiving her complaint lodged a case of rape under Indian Penal Code at the Dabri Police Station. However, Delhi Police said the accused had applied for anticipatory bail in the court and he has protection from the court till May 17.

"When he will join the investigation, he will be interrogated and his side will also

be asked. Then things will be clear as to how much truth is there in the allegations," the police said.

Schools for students up to class 8 closed in Ramban due to heavy rains

fresh snowfall overnight, reports said.

Rains lashes plains, upper reaches experiences snowfall in J&K

postpone spraying of orchards & harvesting of crops till May 8. Tourists have been asked to wear warm clothes as the weather is likely to be colder today.

It has also advised people to check road status of Srinagar-Jammu and Srinagar Ladakh highway before embarking on journey from traffic police amid inclement weather conditions today.

Srinagar received 1.6mm of rainfall, Qazigund 49.8mm, Pahalgam 15.1mm, Kupwara 8.2mm, Kokernag 62.2mm, Gulmarg 10.2mm, Jammu 2.7mm, Banihal 40.2mm, Batote 20.3mm and Katra 6.4mm during the past 24 hours till 0830hours today.

Reports of fresh snowfall were received

from upper reaches of Gulmarg, Qazigund, Bandipora, Gurez, Kupwara and Pir panjal range of mountains of south Kashmir during the past 24 hours.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 6.7 degree Celsius against 6.5 degree Celsius on Sunday which was 4.0 degree Celsius below normal.

The maximum temperature was also running 2.7 degree Celsius below normal of 23.6 degree Celsius in Srinagar on Monday.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national highway had a low 4.0 degree Celsius against 5.2 degree Celsius and it was 5.2 degree Celsius below normal.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a low of 2.6 degree Celsius against 2.1 degree Celsius which was 2.9 degree Celsius below normal for the famous tourist hot spot.

Kokernag recorded a low of 2.2 degree Celsius against 4.2 degree Celsius and it was 7.0 degree Celsius below normal for the famous picnic hotspot of south Kashmir.

Gulmarg had a low of minus 0.4 degree Celsius against which was 5.6 degree Celsius below normal of 5.2 degree Celsius for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir.

Kupwara recorded a low of 5.2 degree Celsius against 6.3 degree Celsius which was 4.1 degree Celsius below normal on Monday, the MeT office said.

NSS Units of GDC Kathua celebrates World Red Cross Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, May 8: NSS Units of GDC Kathua celebrated World Red Cross Day on May 8th to share the principles of the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement. Blood donation registration camp was organized in college campus which was inaugurated by Principal of College, Prof. Seema Mir.

Speaking on the occasion Principal Gdc Kathua Prof Seema Mir said that World Red Cross Day marks the birth anniversary of the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Jean Henry Dunant, who was the recipient of the



first Nobel Peace Prize for his humanitarian work. She appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers for organizing such camp for the noble cause of society.

She registered herself for blood donation and motivated others to donate blood. NSS volunteers registered

themselves and motivated other students of college for blood donation.

NSS Program Officer Prof. Manmohan Singh address the volunteers that diseases, economic disparity and similar causes lead to a great deal of suffering in the world. Red Cross Move-

ment is dedicated to helping those in need through humanitarian acts.

World Red Cross Day also highlights the impact of kindness and compassion in the world. Going just a little out of your way to help those in need can make a big difference in the

world.

The camp was followed by a pledge in which NSS volunteers and other students pledged that they will tirelessly work for the welfare of world.

Senior Most faculty members Prof Romila Guleria, HOD Music, Prof Anirudh Sharma, HOD Physics, Prof Raj Kiran Sharma, Associate Professor Physics and Dr Shivani Kotwal, HOD English also grace the occasion with their benign presence.

The whole event was organized under the patronage of Principal Prof. Seema Mir and under the supervision of NSS program officers Prof. Manmohan Singh and Dr. Suresh Sharma.

Lifting Covid-19 emergency status big relief: DAK

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, May 8: With world health organization (WHO) lifting emergency status of Covid-19, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday termed the declaration a big relief.

"This is very encouraging news that Covid-19 emergency is over," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

WHO on Friday announced that Covid-19 no longer warranted the status of a global health emergency, more than 3 years after it raised the disease to its highest alert level.

Dr Hassan said the decision recognizes the falling impact that covid

has now on our lives.

We are no longer seeing major surges in infection, severe illness or death. This is because people have developed hybrid immunity from widespread infections and vaccinations.

"The virus has settled now. Infections are less severe and hospitalizations are minuscule," he said.

The DAK President said the end of Covid-19 as a global health emergency means that countries no longer need to implement public health measures like masking and social distancing.

"WHO decision makes a symbolic end to the pandemic which has

had a profound impact on our lives over the last 3 years," he said adding pandemic has affected our health, our economy, our everyday activities and caused devastation through the loss of so many lives.

"We have entered into the endemic stage of Covid-19," said Dr Nisar.

"It is yet another infection joining many other diseases that humanity has learned to live," he said.

"With the transition from pandemic to endemic stage, Covid is going to stay with us, but will no longer be a disruptor of daily family and community life," he added.

SMVDU celebrates Shankaracharya Jayanti

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, May 8: Shankaracharya Jayanti was celebrated by the School of Philosophy & Culture, SMVDU, Dr. Anil K. Tewari, Assistant Professor SoPC gave an introductory speech. Dr. A. K. Sharma was the Chief Guest.

The day was celebrated by showing a documentary titled Kalady: the triumph of faith over time (rediscovery of Sri Adi Shankaracharya's birth place).

Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti is celebrated on Panchami Tithi during



Shukla Paksha of Vaishakha month. Shankaracharya is known for his teachings on Advaita Vedanta, which emphasizes the unity of the individual self (atman) with the universal consciousness (Brahman).

The documentary discussed the importance of the birth place of Adi Shankaracharya.

It shed light on the four peeths which are located in the four corners of India - Sringeri in South, Dwarka in the west, Puri

in the east and Joshimath in the north.

The main discussion was about history of acquiring Kalady and relocating Shankaracharya's home and related places. It also discussed his life story and the inci-

dents which encouraged him to observe Sannyasa.

Students from various branches attended the celebration. Guest faculties of Vedic Studies, Keshav Kumar Pandey, Krishna Kumar Pandey and Dr. Chandra Shekhar Mishra explained Shankaracharya's philosophy.

Sumantha Sarthi Sharma discussed a few questions related to the importance of Advaita Vedanta Philosophy in present time. In the end, the vote of thanks was given by Dr. Madhu Mangal Chaturvedi.

IRCS, Army organize blood donation Camp

TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, MAY 8: Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in collaboration with 21 RR Army, Media Association Handwara, Handwara Police organized a blood donation camp at Environmental Hall Handwara on Monday.

The event was a resounding success, with around 60 units of blood donated.

The blood donation camp was inaugurated by ADC Handwara Nazir Ahmad Mir, President Media Association Aatif Qayoom, BDC chairman Langate Showket Husian Pandith, and Town Commander Handwara Major Jerry.

On the occasion, ADC Handwara, BDC Chairman Langate, SHO Handwara, army troops, police personnel, and media men, among 60 people, donated their blood.

ADC Handwara praised the initiative, stating that such programs are the need of the hour, and everyone should come forward to provide a helping hand in donating blood for saving precious lives.

President of the Media Association, Handwara Aatif Qayoom, expressed his gratitude to all the donors and the administration for their assistance in organizing the blood donation camp.

He also emphasized the association's responsibility to give back to society and announced that more events like this would be organized in the future.

Red Cross volunteer Imitiyaz Ahmad, a senior member of the association, donated blood for the 63rd time, while the vice president of the association, Shamim Bhat, donated for the 32nd time, setting an excellent example for others to follow.

The event was a great success, and the Handwara Media Association hopes to organize similar initiatives in the future to continue their efforts in giving back to society.

Inter School Zonal Level Tournament concludes

TOP NEWS REPORT

BASOHLI, May 8: The Inter School Zonal Level Tournament for U/14 and u/17 Boys organised by Department of youth Services & Sports in the disciplines of Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Badminton, Chess, Carrom and Athletics concluded today at Subash Memorial School Bhoond

About 170 student are participates in different games.

The main motive of the tournament was to



select the best talent in each discipline for their

further participation in Inter zonal District level

Tournaments. B.S Jasrotia Sub

Inspector of Sheetal Nager block Bhoond advised the student players to stay in touch with games as inter zonal District level tournaments will start soon .

The matches were officiated by Ritu Kapoor convener PEM, Guljinder Singh REK, Sushant Mishra REK, Naved Ahmed REK, Om Parkash REK, Lata Verma, besides others staffs of Youth Services and Sports Department and staffs of schools.

Vinod Sharma accorded welcome as Incharge HQ of JKPC Office Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8: Newly appointed Incharge of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee Office Jammu Shri Vinod Sharma, accorded rousing welcome today by the large number of Congress workers at PCC HQ here on Monday.

Th. Balwan Singh former MLA and other Senior Leaders of the party attended the function and garlanded the newly appointed Incharge Headquarters Jammu and warmly welcomed and congratulated him on his new assignment.

While assuming the new assignment Vinod Sharma expressed gratitude to PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani and



Party High Command for showering faith on him and pledged to work with more devotion and dedication and come to their expectations as incharge PCC HQ Jammu. He said that his loyalty and services towards the party have been recognized in the party and expressed his gratitude to the Central

and State leadership of the Congress party.

Speaking on the occasion, Th Balwan Singh said that the choice of the party of giving responsibility to Vinod Sharma is praiseworthy as he has long experience of working in the organization as Seva Dal Chief and PCC General Secretary. He urged party workers to

strengthen the party at the grass root level and prepare themselves for the elections to the Corporations, Local Bodies and Assembly, as and when held. The Congress party is a strong force in the state and there is need to further activate the cadres, he said. He welcomed the decision of the

Party High Command for appointing Vinod Sharma as Incharge HQ Jammu.

Prominent among those attended the function included TS Bajwa (Ex-MP), Ved Mahajan (Ex-MLC), Narinder Gupta, Bhushan Dogra, Suresh Dogra, Sahil Sharma, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Naresh Sharma, Thomas Kokhar, Kulbeer Pathania, Badrinath Sharma, Subash Bhagat, Vijay Sharma Chairman Seva Dal, Ch Mohan, Pawandeve Singh, Virendra Manhas, HS Baghi, Jatinder Bhagat, Ram Magotra Gurmeet Singh, Kartar Singh Jasrotia, N.D. Sharma, Sikandar Khan, Jai Pal, Munish Sharma, Khilari Lal Koram and others.

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