TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper

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



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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

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

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

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

tomorrow also.

The weather man has also advised farmers Turn to page 9

BJP urges ECI to revoke registration of Congress



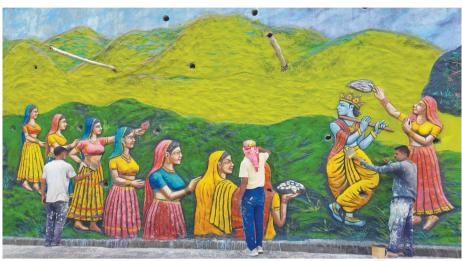
NEW DELHI, May 8 (Agencies): The Bharatiya Janata Party today demanded that the Congress party's registration with the Election Commission of India must be revoked immediately in view of Sonia Gandhi's tweet.

A delegation of senior BJP leaders led by Union Ministers Bhupender 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

"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.



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 mangarh district, unfor-



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

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 Hanumangarh. "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 eiection, 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 Hanutunately 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 vil-

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

Burn injuries led to the Turn to page 9

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 Terri-

"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 emergencylike 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

"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 Minis-

ter) 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 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

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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 offical 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 in Delhi.

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

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 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

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

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

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.

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

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Chuni** W/o Lt Sh Gopi Nath Bhat Originally resident of Hangalgund Kokernag at present Lane No. 16 Block-79 Flat No. 16 Jagti Township Nagrota.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 13-05-2023 (Saturday) Muthi Ghat at 7:00 AM near Directorate of School Edcation Muthi Jammnu. Mournings will be held at Community Hall Near Block No. 84 Jagti Township Nagrota Ĵammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-(Brother & Sister-in-law)

Smt Kamla Ji & Sh Pushkar Nath Bhat (Sons & Daughters-in-law)

Smt Reeta Ji & Sh. M.K. Bhat Smt Renu Ji & Sh. Ashok Bhat Smt. Meenakshi Ji & Sh Anil Bhat Smt. Reena Ji & Sh. Sanjay Bhat

Smt Priyanka Ji & Dr. Sunil Bhat - (Nephew & Niece-in-law)

& Grand Children

Mob :- 9419102920, 9419643371, 9419241681, 9149490235

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Janak Rai Sharma S/o Lt Sh Bashasher Dass R/o H No. 13, Lane No. 30 Rajpura Mangotrian Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 27-04-2023. "OM SHANTI"

TENTH DAY will be performed on 06-05-2023 (Saturday) at Shakti Nagar near (AG Office-Kali Mata Mandir) 10:30 AM

Kriya will be performed on 07-05-2023 (Sunday). Uthala will be performed on 10-05-2023

(Wednesday) at Hari Mandir (Rehari Colony Jammu) -3:00 - 4:00 PM.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY :-

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sanjeev Kumar Sharma JE PHE City-II & Ritu Sharma Rajesh Sharma & Shakti Sharma

Rakesh Sharma & Amita Sharma

Daughters and Son-in-law

Smt Neelam Sharma & Ashok Sharma

Smt Veena Sharma & Jeevan Sharma

Grand Children:

Samiksha, Muskan, Vansh, Akriti, Vedant

TENTH DAY/ KARAM & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the demise of our beloved Smt Soma **Devi** W/o Late Th. Nasib Singh Dadwal on 29th April 2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on 8th May at 10 AM at Karan Vihar, Ban Talab Jammu.

Karam & Uthala will be performed on 10-5-2023 Wednesday from 12 noon - 3 pm at our residence Karan Vihar, Upper Thathar, Ban Talab Jammu. Ph No. 9797684863, 7889434100

GRIEF STRICKEN: Anita Dadwal- (Daughter in law)

W/o Late Sh Karan Singh Dadwal Daughters & Son in law

Ashu Chib & Kulvir Singh Chib Deepshikha Wazir & Randhir Singh Wazir

Aryamann Singh - Grand Son

Kanika & Aditya Partap Singh Slathia Grand Daughter & Son in law

Anayesha Singh **Great Grand Daughter**



SH. JANAK RAJ SHARMA

SMT CHUNI

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father Sh. Chuni Lal Tandon S/o Late Sh. Kashi Ram Tandon originally resident of Village (Bewah) Distt Baramulla at present Block No. 148, Flat No. 15, Jagti Township Nagrota.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 16-05-2023 (Tuesday) at Muthi Ghat on 9.30 am. **Grief Stricken**

Smt. Santosh Tandon - Wife

Son & Daughter-in-law Sh. Virander Tandon & Smt. Kanchan Tandon

Smt. Reeta Tandon - Daughter

Brother & Sister-in-law Sh. Chaman Lal Tandon & Smt. Kirni Tandon

Eshan Tandon & Nupur Tandon - Grand Children

& Samast Tandon Parivar

Mob. Nos: 7006610267, 7006693042

BARKHI

One year has passed since you left for heavenly abode. Though you are not with us but your sweet and everlasting memories are fresh in our hearts.

Barkhi of our beloved Late Sh Ashok Kumar Sharma H/o Lt Smt Hemlata Sharma shall be performed on 9-05-23 (Tuesday) from 11 AM onwards at our residence, H No. F-24 Resham Ghar Colony Jammu.

Deeply Missed & Remembered By Ayush Sharma (Son) Sakshi Sharma (Daughter)



Sh. Chuni Lal Tandon

Late Sh Ashok **Kumar Sharma**

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Sdn. Baldeep Kour Dutt W/o Late S.Mohan Singh Dutt R/o H.No . 105, New Rehari, Jammu on 01-05-2023. Arambh Shri Akhand Path on 08-05-2023 a

9:30 am at our residence Bhog Shri Akhand Path on 10-05-2023 at 9:30 am Kirtan and Ardas at 11:00 am followed by Guru

ka Langar at our residence Antim Ardas shall be performed on 10-05-2023 at Gurudwara Kalgidhar Sahib, Rehari from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Brother-in-law & Bhabi:

Daughters and Sons-in Law:
Dr. Grumeet Kour (BMO Batote) & Dr.Nirmolak Singh Prof.Ramneek Kaur (Principal GDC Ramkote) & S.Jamrodh Singh (Retd.Dysp JKP) Sdn.Tina Singh & Mr. Koma

Sons & Daughters-in-law: S. Arvinder Singh Dutt & Sdn. Gurpreet Kour Dutt S. Jagvinder Singh Dutt & Sdn. Charu Singh Dutt

S. Jagbir Singh

S.Rajinder Singh & Sdn. Devinder Kour Brothers & Bhabis: . Harbhajan Singh & Sdn. Amarjeet Kour . Amardeep Singh & Sdn. Prabhnain Kour



Grand Children:

Dr. Pranav & Dr. Gurleen, Er. Ripudaman & Er. Komal, Harshvardhan (Journalist), Gautamveer, Mahak, Kapil, Divjot, Nirvair, Gurmahar, Jagteshwar, Randeep

Sdn. Baldeep Kour Dutt

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

Brother & Bhabhi Mrs Anita & Pran Nath Pandita Sister & Brother in law Mrs Kiran & Ranjan Bhat

Mrs Shikha & Nitin Sharma



Smt Daily Kumari Pandita

SMT. POONAM ABROL

Yogeshwar Singh

Charak (Pinta),

Smt. Renu Gupta

KARAM YOGNI SMT. MOHINI RAINA

Grand Children Miss Jiyana Patel **SMAST PARIWAR'S** PANDITA & BHAT'S 7698003067, 9419211526, 9419143792

UMA MEDICATE

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Smt. Poonam Abrol W/o Sh Parshotam Lal Abrol (Pinku) R/o Ward No 5 Basohli, left for heavenly abode on 27/04/2023. TENTH DAY will be performed on 6th May 2023

Saturday at 11:00 AM at our residence Kriya will be performed on 10th May, 2023 Wednesday at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-Sh. Parshotam Lal Abrol (Pinku) - Husband

Sons: Mr. Ankit Abrol, Mr. Abhishek Abrol Daughters & Son-in-law

Mrs Isha & Nikhil Ghai

Guran Ditta Mal Uttam Chand Basohli

9419291378, 9622391378, 9018991378, 9018291378

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Yogeshwar Singh Charak (Pinta), Son of Late Sh Raghuvir Singh and Late Smt Usha Charak on May 1.

Tenth Day will be performed on 10th May (Wednesday) and Kirya on 13th May at our residence, 216 A, Sector 2, Upper Roop Nagar,

Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt Madhu Charak - Wife (Sister and Brother in law) Smt Sangeeta and Sh Charanjeet Singh, Ex MLA Charak and Jamwal family.

CHOUBARSI

Mob.: 9419212834, 9419151105

You are probably looking down from heaven up above. Sending out smiles with blessings and love. Wherever you are, you will always be in our heart for-

Choubarsi of our beloved Smt. Renu **Gupta** W/o (Lt) Sh. Jagdish Raj Gupta will be performed on 9th May 2023 at 12 Noon at our residence H.No. 76, Ward No. 36, Lane No. 10, Indira

Colony, Old Janipur, Jammu. DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY Son & Daughter-in-law Anuj Mahajan & Surbi Sharma

Daughter & Son-in-law Vidushi & Sumit Mahajan Grand Children: Anaya & Sarthak All Relatives & Loved Ones Contact: 9906178737

TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed

that our Karam Yogni Mother Smt. Mohini Raina W/o Lt. Sh. Dwarika Nath Raina former-ly resident of Upper Sathu, Barbar Shah Śrinagar, Kashmir, presently at H.No. 68, Lane No.8 K.C. Doors Muthi (Near Bat Factory) Jammu, who expired on 4th of May, 2023. 10th Day Kriya shall be performed on 13th of May, 2023 (Saturday) at 8.30 AM Near Directorate of School Education, Muthi,

Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN Sons & Daughters-in-law Sh. Attan Ji Raina & Smt. Nirmala Raina (7006076523) Sh. Ramesh Kumar Raina & Lt. Smt. Girja Raina (9469220020)

Sh. Ajay Raina & Smt. Sunita Raina (09779913329 Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law Smt. Seevani & Sh. Amit Ji Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law Sh. Karan Raina & Smt. Gayatri Raina

Grand Daughter & Grand Śon-in-law Smt. Aniketah Raina & Sh. Vishal Koul Great Grand Daughter: Deeksha Raina Great Grand Son: Riaan Raina And Samast Sarafs, Lahories, Punjabis, Sapru, Pariwars

MASVAR & VAHARVAR

With silent tears and sobbing hearts, we sadly miss your selfless love, compassion, warmth and caring nature. The fragrance of your sweet memories will always enrich our lives. May God grant you eternal peace.

MASVAR & VAHARVAR of our beloved Shri Vinod Kumar Raina^l Ji will be performed on 9th & 10th May, 2023

A TRIBUTE FROM:

Shamma Raina (Wife) Vishant & Seema Raina (Son & Daughter in law) Sheshank & Sumita Raina (Son & Daughter in law)

Samasth Raina Parivar MOB: 8452818880 / 7069373349



Karmayogi



|TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mothe Smt. Mava Devi W/o Late Dr. LD Gupta (Kathua Wale) R/o 7/5 Channi Himma TENTH DAY will be performed on 6th May

on 2nd May, 2023.

GRIFF STRICKEN

Smt. Anita Tickoo (Wife)

& Samast Tickoo Parivar

Chota Haridwar Muradnagar - UP.

Gurugram on 11/5/2023 between 4 to 5.30 pm.

Mob.: 9818442653, 9953745633, 9811260054

2023, Saturday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM a Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat, Jammu. Kriya will be performed on 9th May 2023 Tuesday at 12:00 Noon at our residence 7/5 Channi Himmat, Jammu. **Uthala** will be performed on 10th May 2023, Wednesday from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN: STRIEF SI RICKEN:
ons & Daughter-in-laws
ir. Sudershan Kumar Gupta & Smt. Anita Gupta
ir. Sudershan Kumar Gupta & Smt. Anita Gupta
imt. Veena Gupta (Wio Lt. Sh. Rajinder Gupta)
imt. Poonam Gupta (Wio Lt. Sh. Rajiesh Gupta)
aughters & Son-in-laws
imt. Kanta Gupta & Sh. Traith Ram Gupta (Retd. Chief Acc
imt. Veena Gupta & Sh. Traith Ram Gupta (Retd. Chief Engineer)
imt. Senis Gupta & Sh. Ashok Gupta (Retd. Gompute
imt. Urmil Gupta & Dr. Ashok Gupta (Retd. Director, Anima
imt. Urmil Gupta & Dr. Ashok Gupta (Retd. Director, Anima



Sh. Surinder Mohan Tickoo

SMT. MAYA DEVI (15-03-1928 TO 27-04-2023)

Grand Childre Aparna Gupta & Dr. Amit Gupta Er. Abhineet Gupta & Chhavi Mahajan Er. Vinay Gupta & Shweta Gupta Er. Vivek Gupta & Inshual Mahaian Er. Tanvi Gupta & Gourav Jain

SH. SUSHAM GUPTA

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SH. INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SH.
SUSHAM GUPTA (RETIRED J&K BANK MANAGER)
S/O LATE SH. BABU RAM GUPTA. R/O. H.NO. 92,
WARD NO. 9, ARYA SAMAJ GALI. 10TH DAY WILL BE
PERFORMED ON SATURDAY 6TH MAY 2023 ON
11AM AT MAHAJAN HALL NEAR CHABUTRA
BAZAR, UDHAMPUR.
KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT DEVIKA GHAT ON

MONDAY 8TH MAY AND **RASAM PAGRI / UTHALA** WILL BE HELD ON 8TH MAY ON 5 PM AT OUR

RESIDENCE.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Madhu Gupta (Wife)
Sh. Pardeep & Smt. Veena Gupta (Brother & Sister in law)
Smt. Neelam & Late Sh. Chander Bhan Khajuria (Sister & Brother in law)
Smt. Neeraj & Late Sh. Sanjeev Gupta (Sister & Brother in law)

Daughter & Son in law Daughter & Son in Iaw Smt. Payal Gupta & Sh. Amit Gupta (Roop Nagar,Jammu) 9796684263 / 9906020315 Son's & Daughter in Iaw Sh. Sameer Gupta & Smt. Simran Gupta. 9149612679 / 7006875661

Mr. Sawan Gupta 3803738457

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

Amid sobs and tears, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our revered mother Smt. Kamla Devi W/o Sh Ram Chand erstwhile resident of Khowarwara Handwara, presently at Block B Quarter No 2 TRT Nagrota.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed o 12th of May Friday at 9 AM at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of Education Jammu. IN GRIEF

Sh. Ram Chand- Husband Daughters-in-laws and Sons Smt Sunita and Sh Sameer Ji Pandita Smt. Reeka and Sh. Rattan Lal Dhar Daughters and Son-in-laws Smt Bimla Ji W/o Lt. Baboo Ji Pandita Smt. Nirmala and Sh Moti Lal Pandita

Smt. Veena Ji Smt. Vijay and Roshan Lal Pandita

All Grand Children 9419806159, 9419806139, 9086229014, 9419949377, 9419205568, 9419150206

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA **NOBLE SOUL NEVER DIES** With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Janak Dulari** W/o Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta on 28/04/2023

TENTH DAY will be performed on 7th May 2023 (Sunday) at Kalgidhar Gurudwara, Rehari Ćhungi, Jammu from 10 AM to 11 AM. KRIYA will be performed on 10th May 2023 (Wednesday) at our residence House No. 56 Sector-A. Subash Nagar Jammu at 10 AM UTHALA will be performed on 10th May 2023

(Wednesday) at Hari Mandir, Rehari, Jammu from 4 PM to 5 PM. Smt. Janak Dulari GRIEF STRICKEN Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta- Husband Son and Daughter-in-law Mr. Jatin Gupta and Mrs. Deepika Gupta

Mrs. Maneeta Gupta and Mr. Vinay Gupta- Daughter and Son-in-law Mrs. Latakshi Gupta and Mr. Bhunu Khajuria- Daughter and Son-in-law Mob.: 9419124661, 7006952401, 9419216698

TENTH DAY With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you that our beloved **Dhiraj Angurana** Monu) S/o Sh. Dina Nath (Father) and Smt Santosh (Mother) who left for his heavenly abode on April 30th, 2023. Tenth Day will be performed on May 09, 2023 (Tuesday) at SK Resort, Nea Radha Soami Satsang Ghar, Bari Brahmana. Satsang Time: 12:00 Noon Langer: 1:00 PM Onwards
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-

Bharat Bhushan **(Brother)** Sh. Subash Chander **(Mama Ji)** Sh. Nanak Chand, Sh. Tilak Raj Sh. Joginder Angurana, Sh. Des Raj, Mob : 9419123527, 9419154163



Angurana (Monu) (30.03.1989 - 30.04.2023

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform about the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Girja R Bhat W/o Late Dr. Chaman Lal Bhat originally R/o Channapora, Srinagar currently residing at Austin (USA) on 06/05/2023

Grief Stricken Preeti & Rohit Priya & Rahul BHATS, TICKOOS AND RAINAS



10TH DAY With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Ajay Kumar Sharma

S/o Lt. Sh Uttam Chand Sharma and Lt. Smt. Shanti Devi on 03-05-2023. 10TH DAY will be performed at their residence (Flat No 1706, Nirwana

Greens 4. Kharar) starting 10 AM onwards on 12-05-2023. GRIEF STRICKEN: Anuradha Sharma (Wife)

Mobile No. 8968611556 9878611556 6005503071

Ascharya Sharma (Son) Digvijay Sharma and Aarohi Sharma (Son-in-law and Daughter) Anil Sharma and Anita Sharma (Brother and Sister-in-law Jmakant Sharma and Radha Sharma (Brother-in-law and Sister)



AJAY KUMAR

Kundal hands over memorandum of demands to Tehsildar Ramgarh



TOP NEWS REPORT

Manoj Sinha through

Handing over the

Tehsildar Ramgarh.

first memorandum to 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 started till date. demands of the people of Ramgarh area to Lieutenant Governor

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

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 Panchavats. money for the road has It is located in central 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 repa 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 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 to taken as the cows who have stopped giving milk are roaming on the road 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, Raiu, Prem, Sukhdev, Kalu, Naresh, Abhishek, Vinay and Sukhnandan.

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

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

common masses for

the awareness of Wel-

fare Schemes and new

initiatives of Govern-

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 Khursheed 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

MRM delegation meets DSE

TOP NEWS REPORT

place and it connects

all adjoining villages. It

is the best location for

establishing a degree

On the other hand,

in the second memo-

randum, Kundal told

Tehsildar ramgarh that

the work of Ramgarh to

SM Pura road has been

pending for the last sev-

eral years. Like the col-

lege, this road has also

become a victim of politi-

Kundal told that the

cal conspiracy.

college.

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 Derive(ATD 2023) said that when the transfer policy is flawful 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 teach taught 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 Karna-

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 Jumlas 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

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' 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 quest whereas the function was presided over by Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanst-

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



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

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 memhers of noet

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.

Inspr. Anil Jad, DTI Banihal delivered lecture on the importance of technology for traffic enforcement such as e-challaning, use of camera, e-Parivahan app, understanding and operating e-challaning 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 Prin-

cipal 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-UI-Haq, Dy.SP (Admn/ Outdoor), Kuldeep Raj, DySP (Indoor/Tech.), Davinder Gupta, Dy.SP (R&D), Inspr. Surrinder Paul, Inspr. Mulkh Raj,

Inspr. Javed Hussain,

Inspr. Anil Kumar, Inspr. Kanwal Raina, Inspr. Himanshu Dutta were 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

echnology 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

Tt is an incident of some time ago. When **L**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, suchIn 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 education 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 educa-

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab)

Mir urges Admin to stand by farmers who suffered crop damage

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, May 8: Former Cabinet minister and Apni Party's Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir on Monday expressed his grief over the losses that the paddy growers have suffered due to the adverse weather conditions in recent days. He has demanded that the administration stand by the affected farmers and provide them with all the necessary help, including compensa-

In his statement, Mir said, "My heart goes out to the farmers who suffered huge losses to their crops due to the heavy rains along with hailstorms, and snow in various parts of Jammu and Kashmir."

He added, "The paddy crop has been hit hardest, and many farmers will need to replant their crops. However, I am told that there is an acute shortage of paddy seeds in the market. I appeal to the administration and the concerned officials to ensure that adequate supplies of paddy seeds are made available to the affected farmers so that they can replant their crops and recover from their losses."

He also urged the administration to provide compensation to the sufferers. He said, "In these difficult times, the government must stand by the farmers who suffered losses of paddy grains due to the adverse weather conditions. They should be adequately compensated and provided with the paddy seed so that they could replant the

Development of J&K under Modi Govt matchless, speaks itself about remarkable progress: Ritika

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8: Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan today claimed that the policies and programmes of PM Modi Govt are aimed to end woes faced by public.In a statement issued here, she said that every BJP activist works with a commitment to end the woes faced by the public. "For this, BJP remains in constant touch with the common masses through various activities, and through the medium of grievance camps.

Ritika highlighted the commitment and the priority of Modi government to develop the Jammu and Kashmir on most modern lines. She said that while the Union Government has taken effective steps to curb terrorism in the border regions, it has equally focused on to develop the region.BJP leaders have taken this

commitment of Narendra Modi government of to the ground level and are continuously dedicating them to remain in contact with the masses for their contentment and progress.

She said that the

development of J&K (UT) is the utmost priority of the Modi Government and in future every corner of UT will be fully developed. She said that the Modi Government is committed to the overall development of the rural areas with special focus on infrastructure development and social welfare. She highlighted various schemes of the Modi Government for infrastructure development of rural areas which will change the landscape in the country and help make India

a developed nation.
Ritika said that Modi
led Government at the
Centre has prioritized
the overall development of all the areas

without any rural-urban or other discrimination. She said that the development, which took place in Jammu and Kashmir under the BJP government led by PM Modi, is "matchless" and speaks itself about the remarkable progress which this region has made after the BJP took over the

rein. Ritika said that keeping in line with Modi's mission of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing unprecedented development in every sector since Prime Minister Modi took over the reins of this nation."The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, which was one of the best and most developed at the time of Independence, became most backward state in the country. After the Modi government came to power in the Centre, we had been successful in getting major projects for Jammu and Kashmir from the Centre," she added.

Stressing upon

the need for making common masses aware of all achievements of the BJP governments, both in the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir, Ritika said that various landmark initiatives have been taken by them for the welfare of people in general and downtrodden in particular."Numerous works for progress, development, upliftment and for welfare of the neglected sections, who were made scapegoat for seven decades, has been done by the BJP," she said, adding that people will not be led away by the opposition narratives as they have full confidence in the Prime Minister who is leading 130 crore people of the world's largest democracy.

Ensure Transparent Implementation of Online Transfer of Teachers: Dr Shazad

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8:: All Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JKBADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of residents of border areas has requested the J&K School Education department to ensure that this academic year, the online transfer schedule of teaching staff of education department is not stalled like the previous year.

The focal organization of border residents has appealed Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary School Education Department and zonal directors of Kashmir and Jammu division to not deviate from this online transfer process so that the deserving teachers are adjusted at respective places without any nepotism and corruption.

Dr Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of



BADC and former Vice Chancellor informed that School Education department has issued an order for online transfer of teachers and as per this order notification number 01-JK of 2023 dated 26/April/2023 the whole process of transfers of teachers has to be completed by 15/June/2023.

The former VC demanded that this transfer schedule should be implemented in a fair and transparent manner unlike the previous year, wherein due to negligence of higher officers of the school education department at the eleventh hour in vear 2022, the Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) was kept in abeyance for the reasons better known to the incompetent officers and the teacher were made to suffer.

He also urged the Principal Secretary to personally monitor the whole transfer process and apprise the staff of each stage so that complete transparency is maintained and no allegations of bias and corruption are leveled against any officer of the School education department. The BADC Chairman also said, the volunteers of his organization would also keep a close watch on this whole process and won't let this process to be sabotaged.

Govt should release pending Pahari, ST students scholarships: Khan

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8: Jammu Kashmir Pahari Student Union State President Majid Khan urged LG administration and Social Welfare Department and Tribal Affairs Department Jammu Kashmir to release pending Pahari scholarship and ST student scholarship of Jammu and Kashmir students immediately.

Highlighting the basic grievances of students of Pahari and ST students of Jammu and Kashmir, Majid Khan urged LG administra-



tion and Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs Departments to release Pahari scholarship of all students of Jammu and Kashmir and ST students scholarship as earlier as possible as large number of students of different institutions of Jammu and Kashmir are still waiting to receive their annual scholarship amount in their bank accounts but the concerned department is playing with the sentiments of the students community which is highly condemned able

Jammu and Kashmir Pahari Student Union state president Majid Khan lambasted the concerned authorities for their negligence and failure to grant scholarship to the Poor's students in appropriate time. He said that students are facing problems in meeting their day to day life.

Only BJP can fulfill people's aspirations: Sham

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 8: Sham Langer, Convener Trade Cell Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir has lauded the decision of Govt to grant ownership rights to the refugee families regarding land allotted to them on their migration to J&K from Pakistan in 1947.

In a statement issued to media here today, Sham Langer termed it as a historic and landmark decision which will undoubtedly provide great relief to thousands of West Pakistani refugees in this Union Territory. He said that due to inefficient governments for about seven decades, the West Pakistani refugees remained deprived of vital rights and were compelled to live as second class citizens till Aug 5, 2019, i.e. till abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A.



It would not be out of context to mention here that the West Pakistani refugees were given 46,666 Kanals of land on May 7, 1954 in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts but were not conferred with ownership rights as they were not treated as the State Subjects. The

land was mostly allotted in Pargwal Island in Akhnoor, RS Pura and Bishnah Tehsils in Jammu, parts of Samba and Hiranagar in Kathua district besides some other places.

Sham Langer said that it has

been possible only due to the relentless and determined efforts of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in synchronization with the Union Territory Administration led by the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha. He said that the Union Government has already given direction to Jammu and Kashmir administration in this regard and now the West Pakistani refugees will very soon get ownership rights of the lands allotted to them. He asserted that BJP has proved beyond doubt that it is the only party that can fulfil the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Unemployment is main issues in J&K Union Territory: Altaf Dar

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, May 8: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Provincial Vice President Kashmir Mohammad Altaf Dar in a statement issued to press here said It is disheartening to see that even educated and experienced individuals are struggling to find jobs in a union territory j&k where the inflation crisis is fluctuating day by day.

The issue of unemployment is not a new one for the past three to



four years, thousands of people have been jobless.

The situation is particularly dangerous because joblessness can lead to frustration, drug addiction, theft, violence, and street

crimes. Such behavior has severe consequences, not only for the individuals but also for the union territory J&K/country. Jobless individuals can also commit suicide when they are unable to cope with their situation.

We are only discussing the issue of unemployment, leaving aside other issues related to how our union territory J&K is being run and how people are living in it. The poor governance and corruption reported

as are not only destroying the union territory J&K but also halting the lives of common people.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party(DPAP)
Provincial Vice President Kashmir Mohammad Altaf Dar has demanded the Central government/LG Administration needs to take this issue seriously, as it is affecting a large number of people. All the causes of unemployment need to be addressed in a timely manner.

'Eklavya of Andaman' brings qualitative change in the lives of many

TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, May 8: Their names start with the letter 'N' and both are blessed with 'neversav-die' spirit and are relentless fighters. One is Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other is Padma Shri Naresh Chandra Lal, popularly known as 'Eklavya of Andaman'. Their valuable contribution and clarion call to come together for cleanliness and work towards building a New India is bringing qualitative change in the lives of many. Their participation is further inspiring others to be a part of the 'Swachchta Hi Seva' movement across the country.

The 67-year old and son-of-the-soil from Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the holy land of historical importance during freedom movement Naresh Chandra Lal was on cloud nine when he received a letter from his "Guru, mentor, philosopher and guide" Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The letter (12 September, 2017) written by Prime Minister reads, "I am writing to you on a subject that is very close to Mahatma Gandhi's heart – Swachchta or cleanliness. A clean India is the most noble service we can do for the poor, downtrodden and the marginalised.



one such area where your contribution could bring qualitative change in the lives of many. I personally invite you to lend support to the 'Swachchta Hi Seva' movement. Your participation will further inspire others to be a part of the movement. Let us come together for cleanliness and work towards building a New India."

as Guru Dronacharya, Naresh Chandra turned all his attention like Eklavya towards the words of Prime Minister and with a singleminded devotion and utmost dedication, he went on to become the brand ambassador of the cleanliness campaign for the Islands. He has been visiting every school, college and hospital of Andaman for cleanliness for over six

The result of this is that today the students

aware of the importance of cleanliness, healthhygiene and maintaining proper sanitation. He simultaneously focused his attention to all the hospitals in the Islands from General hospital to AYUSH PHCs CHCs. He is visiting regularly to make patients, attendants and medical staff aware of pure hygiene and sanitation. During Covid pandemic he did a commendable job. He even moved from village to village and every nook and corner of the city streets to check the accumulated waste. Wherever he finds garbage accumulation, he

Calling upon people to extend their help in Swachch Sagar Abhiyan and beach clean-up activities, Naresh said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. There is no exercise

strives hard to get it

cleaned immediately.

better for the heart than reaching down and lift-ing people up. Happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more. We are not important because of how long we live. We are import because of how effective we live."

Naresh is a well-known film producer, director, theatre artist and he has played a major role in the preservation and promotion of Ramlila in Andaman. He is the only artist from the Island to be awarded Padma Shri for his contribution in two fields - film and theatre. In view of his contribution in the cultural and social field, institutions of different regions of the country have also honoured him.

He is also an Ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission; Board Member, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), and Preview committee Member of International Film festival of India (IFFI) 2017 & 2021. A recipient of several awards, Naresh Chandra Lal is the only NSD (National School of Drama, New Delhi) graduate (Direction) from the Islands who passed out in 1990.

He has also been producing and directing films, not for commercial purpose but to bring about a big change in the society and country.

Farooq, Omar conveyed condolences

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU May 8: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Mr Omar Abdullah today expressed grief over the passing away of Adil Majeed Malik Son of Dilshad Malik Vice President Central Zone and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family. Large number of senior National Conference leaders participated in the Namaz E Jinaza at Gujjar Nagar grave yard today.

In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mr Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with other members of the family.

In the condolence message, General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammed Sagar, Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal Additional General Secretary, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu, Nasir Aslam Wani Provincial President Kashmir have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Senior leaders of the National Conference have also conveyed their condolences to the bereaved family. Those who prayed for peace to the departed soul, include Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Central Secretary, Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy Vice President Jammu Province, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Jugal Mahajan, Babu Rampaul Central Zone President, Javed Ahmed Rana Zone President Pir Panjal, Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo former Minister and Zone President Chenab Valley, Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zone President Udhampur Reasi, Ajaz Jan P.P YNC, Jagjeevan Lal Ex-MLA, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat, Vijay Lochan P.P SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli P.P OBC Cell, Sajjad Shaheen, Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Pard-

eep Bali, Ayub Malik, Satwant

Kour Dogra P.P Women Wing, Deepender Kour Ex-MLC, Master Noor Hussain Ex-MLC, Shahmim Begum DDC Dansal, Ghar Singh, Ch. Rehmat Ali BDC Chairperson, Dr Gagan Bhagat Deputy Chief Spokesperson, Th. Yashu Vardhan Singh Additional Spokesperson Jammu, Zeeshan Rana Additional Spokesperson Jammu, Rakesh Singh Raka, Arif Mir, Abid Magrey, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, Rita Gupta, Nar Singh, Dinesh Singh Chouhan, Chander Mohan Sharma, Raghbir Singh Manhas, Naresh Bittu, Shafayat Ahmed Khan, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Tanveer Ahmed Kichloo, Zaffarullah Rather, Bagh Hussain Rathore, Sunil Verma, Ajeet Kumar Sharma, Sham Narian Mehta, Sudagar Chand Gupta, Abdul Qayoom Bhagwan, Raja Naveed, Ankush Abrol, S. Tejinder Singh, Nitish Gowami, Ashok Kumar Dogra, Rashida Begum and Subash Chander Bhagat.

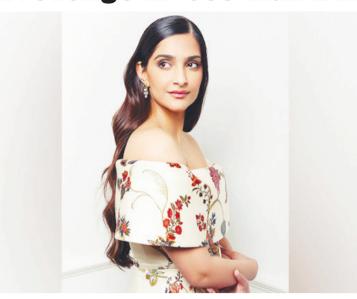
Sonam Kapoor at King Charles Coronation concert: Internet says, 'Britishers tortured us for 200 years, she took revenge in less than 2 minutes'

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 @emiliawickstead," 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 outl

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.

ebrations.

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.

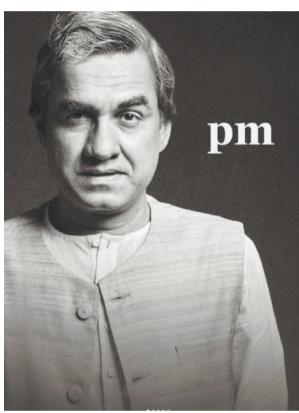
Pankaj Tripathi went through rigorous sessions to understand Atal Vajpayee's dialect, lifestyle vision for India

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

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, hardwork 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 threetime 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

"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 Sapnon Ki Chhalaang



Actress Megha Ray, who is a part of the show called Sapnon 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. Anniston shared a series of Instagram stories which reflects on the strike.

In the first social media post Anniston 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

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.

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

The four-way interaction comes before the 1267 ISIL/Al-Qaeda sanctions committee of the UNSC holds its quarterly update later this week

NEW DELHI, May 8 (Agencies): National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval met in a quadrilateral arrangement with his counterparts from the US, the UAE besides Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), "to advance their shared vision of a more secure and prosperous Middle East region interconnected with India and the world," said a US White House readout.

"During the meeting, they (Saudi Arabia) discussed means to strengthen relations and ties between the three countries (India, UAE and the US) in a way that enhances growth and stability in the region," said the state-run Saudi News Agency.

The four-way interaction also comes before the 1267 ISIL/ Al-Qaeda sanctions committee of the UNSC holds its quarterly update later this week. Incidentally, President of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly Csaba Korosi was also present in Riyadh.

That the US does not want to be left on the sidelines after



Arabia reflect the current fluid

diplomatic situation brought

about by the rapprochement

between the Arab states and

Iran. He had arrived in Saudi

Arabia on Sunday evening

amidst hectic activity by Saudi

and US NSAs to broker a cease-

fire and talks between the war-

ring sides in Sudan. Doval was

given full diplomatic courtesy

as he was received by Crown

Prince MBS, the power behind

"Sullivan also held bilateral

the throne in Riyadh.

the China-brokered truce was reflected from the presence of a multi-department team that accompanied the US NSA Jake Sullivan. They included the US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Michael Ratney, US National Security Council Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa Brett McGurk, Special Presidential Coordinator at the Department of State Amos Hochstein and Senior National Security Advisor Ariana Berengaut.

Doval's interactions in Saudi

(the UAE), and Doval to discuss bilateral and regional matters. He looks forward to further consulting with Doval on the margins of the Quad Summit later this month in Australia," said the White House readout. Interestingly, the confabula-

tions between the four countries took place a day before Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen will visit India and sign several agreements to promote bilateral interaction in several segments. Also, India has formed a quadrilateral grouping with the US, Israel and the UAE to promote economic cooperation among themselves.

meetings with the Crown Prince

(Saudi Arabia), Sheikh Tahnoon

The UAE had sent its NSA to Riyadh even as its officials were holding their inaugural meeting to promote business ties in the Iranian capital of Tehran. NSA Doval had also visited Tehran a week back during which he met not only his counterpart but also called on Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

"Not A Predictor Of Numbers But...": Priyanka Gandhi On Karnataka Polls

BENGALURU, May 8 (Agencies): Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who is in Bengaluru as part of the Karnataka Assembly elections campaigns today said that the grand old party would be elected to power as the people of the state want an "end to corruption".

"We are very confident and hopeful. I am not a predictor of numbers; I can only see the response that we have gotten from the public. The people of Karnataka want an end to corruption," Priyanka Gandhi said while talking to the media after her mega roadshow in the city.

Privanka Gandhi today held a roadshow in Bengaluru's Vijayanagar on the last day of campaigning for the Karnataka Assembly elections which are scheduled to be held on May 10.

She was accompanied by Vijayanagar MLA M Krishnappa, who is seeking reelection from the segment, and his son Priya Krishna, the Congress candidate in the neighbouring Govindarajanagar. In a grand roadshow, Congress workers and supporters across the state participated while a large number of people also gathered on the streets to attend the event.

Standing on a vehicle bedecked with flowers, she greeted the crowd thronging on both sides of the road.

Notably, the high-voltage campaign

for the May 10 Assembly elections in Karnataka will come to an end on Monday as all three major political parties in the state -- BJP, Congress and JD(S) - have the last chance to woo the voters.

Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge held various roadshows, rallies and elections campaigns.

The Congress is working hard to wrest power from the BJP that is striving to break the 38-year-old pattern of alternating governments and retain its power in the state.

With the war of words between top guns of all the major political parties, the campaigns of the election of the southern citadel saw games of allegations and accusations. Several issues of the state were promised to be solved.

As part of Congress campaigning for the elections, Rahul Gandhi who is on a visit to Karnataka for campaigning for his party, held an interaction with gig workers and delivery partners of appbased delivery services in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The former Lok Sabha MP held the conversation with delivery workers at a hotel in Bengaluru. Karnataka will go to Assembly polls on May 10 and the counting of votes will take place

Excise policy case desperate attempt by BJP to malign **AAP: Arvind Kejriwal**

NEW DELHI, May 8 (Agencies): The excise policy case is a desperate attempt by the BJP to "malign an honest party like the AAP". Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Monday.

His remarks came after a Delhi court on Saturday granted bail to two accused in a money-laundering case registered by the **Enforcement Director**ate (ED) in relation to alleged irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

The court said the evidence against the accused, Rajesh Joshi and Gautam Malhotra,



was not sufficient for the case against them to be considered prima facie "genuine"

In a tweet, Kejriwal said, "The whole liquor scam is false. We were saying it from beginning. Now even courts have started saying it. It's a desperate measure by BJP to malign an honest party like AAP."

Reacting to the court order, the AAP had

said on Saturday that it showed that the entire case is "bogus", and asked the BJP to tender an apology for levelling false allegations.

The BJP, however, accused senior AAP leaders of presenting a "twisted and misleading" reference to the court order and demanded that contempt of court proceedings be initiated against them.

One injured in second low-intensity blast near Golden Temple in 30 hours

The explosion occurred near the same spot on the heritage street leading to the Golden Temple where the one on Saturday took place, the police said.

AMRITSAR, May 8 (Agencies): One person was injured in a low-intensity explosion that took place on a heritage street near the Golden Temple here on Monday morning, close to the spot where a blast was reported on May 6, police said.

No detonator has been found and it appears that the explosive was kept in a container, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said, adding that it is too early to say whether the blast was someone's "mischief or there's a terror angle

Police and forensic

teams reached the spot soon after the explosion and security was

stepped up in the area. Speaking to reporters here, DGP Yadav, who visited the spot, said one person was injured in the explosion which was reported around 6:15 am.

The explosive was very crudely made and assembled.

Though no shrapnel was used, there was a loud sound, he said.

The officer said the two explosions in the area are being "scientifically investigated"

"Our forensic team is present on the spot," he

"We have not found any triggering device or any detonator," he said referring to the two inci-

The absence of a triggering mechanism means it is a crude It appears that the

explosive was kept in a container, Yadav said on Monday's blast.

"At this moment, we are not ruling out anything. It could be someone's mischief, but it is too early to say whether it is a mischief, or there is a terror angle to it," he

The DGP said CCTV footage is being scanned and details are being sought from eyewitnesses. "I want to assure the

people that everything is normal and we will maintain peace and harmony. People should not lend an ear to any rumours. Punjab Police is there to keep the state safe and secure," he said.

Amritsar Police Commissioner Naunihal Singh said a case has been registered in connection with the two blasts, which took place in a span of nearly 30 hours.

"We have stepped up security in the area," he

The spot where the explosion took place has been cordoned off.

The heritage street leading to the Golden Temple witnesses heavy footfall every day.

Thousands of devotees walk through the street, dotted with shops and food joints, to reach the Golden Temple.

Jasbir Singh Patti, a daily visitor to the Golden Temple for the last 20 years, said the explosions have created panic among the devotees and the police should thoroughly investigate these incidents.

One person was injured and glass facades of some buildings were damaged in the blast on May 6.

Kerala houseboat tragedy: Death count rises to 21, rescue operation under way

MALAPPURAM, May 8 (Agencies): The death toll in the Malappuram boat capsize incident rose to 21 on Monday, the Regional Fire Range Officer said.

The incident happened in the Malappuram district in Kerala, where a tourist boat capsized near the Tanur coast. While talking to ANI,

Regional Fire Range Officer Shiju KK said, "So far, we have recovered 21 dead bodies. We don't know the exact

number of people on the boat, so we are continuing the search to find out whether there are more victims trapped in the mud or not." Several vehicles reached the spot and started the rescue operation.

Meanwhile, Kerala Health Minister Veena George called an emergency meeting of the State Health Department at midnight following the incident and directed the officials to ensure better treatment for the injured.

The health minister has directed better treatment for the injured and the speeding up of the post-mortem process. The minister has also given strict instructions to start the post-mortem at 6 am on Monday.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday condoled the loss of lives in the Malappuram boat capsize incident and ordered the effective coordination of rescue operations.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of lives in the Tanur boat accident in Malappuram. Have directed the District administration to effectively coordinate rescue operations, which are being overseen by Cabinet Ministers. Heartfelt condolences to the grieving families & friends," said CM Pinarayi Vijayan in a tweet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed grief over the loss of lives in the incident and announced an exgratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased

"Pained by the loss of lives due to the boat mishap in Malappuram, Kerala. Condolences to the bereaved families. An ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF would be provided to the next of kin of each deceased: PM @narendramodi," said a tweet from th Prime Minister's office on Sunday night.

2 Naxalites killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh's Sukma

A cache of explosives and an automatic weapon recovered from the encounter site

SUKMA, May 8 (Agencies): Two Naxalites, including a woman, were killed in an encounter with police in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Monday morning, an official said.

A cache of explosives and an automatic weapon were recovered from the encounter site, he said.

The gunfight took place in a forest near Danteshpuram village under Bheji police station limits when a team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma told agency.

The Naxalites opened fire on the

DRG's patrolling team following which the gun-battle broke out, he said.

After guns fell silent, bodies of two Naxalites were recovered from the spot,

the official said. They were identified as Madkam Erra, who was active as commander of Golapalli Local Organisation Squad (LOS), and Madkam Bhime, deputy command-

er of the same squad, he said. Erra and Bhime were carrying rewards of Rs 8 lakh and Rs 3 lakh respectively, on their heads, the official said.

A search operation was under way in nearby areas, he added.

5 die as speeding truck rams into van in UP's Barabanki

BARABANKI, May 8 (Agencies): A speeding truck rammed into a van in Dewa area here, leaving five people returning from a marriage function dead and three others injured, police said on Monday.

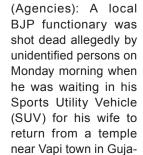
The victims were returning to Hardoi from Barabanki when the accident took place on Sunday night.

Those killed have been identified as Baijnath (45), Chandra



Prabha (40), Satyendra (42), Aradhya (92) and

Kamlesh (46) The injured were rushed to a hospital, where their condition is said to be serious



VALSAD, May 8

police said.

The motorbike-borne assailants came near the SUV of Shailesh Patel in Kocharva village and fired three-four

rat's Valsad district,

rounds at him, an official from Dungara police station said.

Gujarat BJP Worker Shot Dead By Men

Shailesh Patel was vice president of the BJP's Vapi taluka unit, its president Suresh Patel said while expressing grief over the incident.

Suresh Patel said the man had gone to the temple with his wife to offer prayers. After praying, he came out and was waiting in his SUV for his wife.

He also claimed there

were four assailants who arrived at the spot on two motorbikes.

The incident took place at around 7.30 am when Patel was waiting in his vehicle for his wife to return after offering prayers at the temple, the police said.

When Mr Patel's wife heard the noise, she rushed to the spot and found him lying in a pool of blood and called for help.

Mr Patel was rushed to

On Bike While Waiting For Wife In SUV a private hospital in Vapi where doctors declared him dead, the official said.

> Local BJP leaders expressed shock and grief and demanded a probe into the incident.

> The police said they were examining CCTV footage of the area and questioning suspects.

> Some roads in the area have been blocked and teams formed to search for the assailants, the police added.

10 Children Fall **Ill After Eating** At UP Wedding, **Probe Launched**

BUDAUN, May 8 (Agencies): Ten children were hospitalised following complaints of vomiting and stomach ache after consuming food at a wedding function here, a health department official said on Monday.

The suspected case of food poisoning took place in Ushait area on Sunday, Chief Medical Officer Pradeep

Varshney said. The children have been admitted to a district hospital, he said, adding that they are now out of danger.

The health and food departments of the district administration have collected samples of the food that was served at the function, the official said.

A probe has been launched into the matter, he said.

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

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 Aquirre 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.

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

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

Commentators on Chinese social media have speculated that Beijing

at the time.

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

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.

The victims were waiting at a bus stop when they were run over. Majority of these victims were immigrants 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

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

Brownsville is located on the southern tip of Texas, just across the Rio Grande River.

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 hut after drone wreckage fell on them in Sviatoshyn district, both situated west of the



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 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 offi-

cials, 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 northeastern 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 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 witness-

es said the building had been brought to rubble with no trace of the school that once stood "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 Palestinians want the more than half a million Jewish settlers there, along with Israeli soldiers, to leave the occupied territories. Israel balks at such sweeping pullouts, citing historical claims on the biblical lands.

The Gush Etzion Regional Council, which represents a nearby block of Jewish settlers in the West Bank, welcomed the demolition.

"This is definitely another step in the persistent struggle for our State lands, Gush Etzion Regional Coun-

cil 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

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. Me 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 "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

Then there is 45-yearold 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-

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 pres-



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

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

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.

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 Wadhwani as the quest 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 Dhruba 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

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".

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.

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 secretary 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 checkups 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

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

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.

Accrording 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

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 Kash-

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

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.

Markets rebound in early trade amid foreign fund inflows, rally in US equities

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallies 391.8 points to 61,446.09 in early trade

MUMBAI, May 8 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices began the trade on a firm note on Monday amid continuous foreign fund inflows and rally in the US equities.

Buying in index majors Reliance Industries and HDFC twins also supported the rally in the markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 391.8 points to 61,446.09 in early trade. The NSE Nifty climbed 107.3 points to 18,176.30.

Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Power Grid, Bajaj



Finance, HDFC, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Tata Motors. Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank were the biggest gainers. Infosys emerged as the only laggard.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading with gains, while Tokyo

quoted lower. The US markets had ended with significant

gains on Friday. Foreign Institutional Investors were net buyers on Friday also as they bought equities worth Rs 777.68 crore, according to exchange

India's imports from OPEC at all-time low as Russian oil buy peaks

NEW DELHI, May 8 (Agencies): Oil producers cartel OPEC's share in India's oil imports fell to an all-time low of 46 per cent in April as purchases of cheaper Russian oil peaked, industry data showed.

Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) nations, mainly in the Middle East and Africa, had a 72 per cent share of all crude oil India imported in April 2022.

This share slid to 46 per cent in April 2023, according to energy cargo tracker Vortexa.

OPEC made up for as much as 90 per cent of all crude oil India imported at one point of time but this has been sliding since Russian oil became available at discount in the aftermath of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February last

Russia continued to be the single largest supplier of crude oil, which is converted into petrol and diesel at refineries, for a seventh straight month by supplying more than one-third of all oil India imported.

The imports from Russia are now more than combined purchases from Iraq and Saudi Arabia - India's biggest suppliers in the last decade.

From a market share of less than 1 per cent in India's import basket before the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in February 2022, Russia's share of India's imports rose to 1.67 million barrels per day in April, taking a 36 per cent share.

OPEC supplied 2.1 million barrels per day out of 4.6 million bpd oil India imported in April. This gave it a 46 per

cent share, according to Vortexa.

Indian refiners in the past rarely bought Russian oil due to high freight costs but now they are snapping up plentiful Russian cargo available at a discount to other grades as some Western nations rejected it because of Moscow's invasion of

The purchases from Russia in March were double of 0.81 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil bought from Iraq, which had been India's top oil supplier since 2017-18. Saudi Arabia has been pushed down to No.3 spot with 0.67 million bpd supplies.

Month-on-month, purchases from Russia rose marginally from 1.64 million bpd of oil imported from the country in March. The UAE, which in March overtook the US to become the fourth largest supplier, sold 185,000 bpd, higher than 119,000 bpd oil sourced from the US.

"India's imports of Russian crude in April have set a new record once again, but the monthon-month increase has slowed and could possibly be peaking this month," said Vortexa's head of Asia-Pacific analysis, Serena Huang. Increased competition for Urals from China will likely put a lid on upsides to India's imports of Rus-

"OPEC's crude market share in India has fallen to 46 per cent last month, down from 72% a year ago, a multi-year low. OPEC may face an uphill battle in winning back the market share as refiners will ultimately be going for the crude that gives the highest margin, outside of fulfill-

sian crude.

ing their term contracts," Huang said.

Russia is selling record amounts of crude oil to India to plug the gap in its energy exports after the European Union banned imports in December.

In December, the EU banned Russian seaborne oil and imposed a USD 60-per-barrel price cap, which prevents other countries from using EU shipping and insurance services, unless oil is sold below the cap. Industry officials said Indian refiners are using the UAE's dirham to pay for oil that is imported at a price lower than USD 60.

According to Vortexa, India imported just 68,600 bpd of oil from Russia in March 2022 and this year the purchases have jumped to 1,678,000 bpd.

M-cap of four of top-10 valued firms falls by Rs 56,006 crore; HDFC twins take biggest hit

NEW DELHI, May 8 (Agencies): Four of the top 10 valued firms together lost Rs 56,006.15 crore in market valuation last week, with HDFC twins taking the biggest hit.

Last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark fell by 58.15 points or 0.09 per cent.

While HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC and Bharti Airtel faced erosion in their valuation, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever Limited, ITC and Infosys were the gainers, with a combined addition of Rs 44,540.05 crore in their market capitalisation (mcap).

Shares of HDFC twins fell sharply on Friday amid reports that the merged HDFC entity could see significant fund outflow.

The valuation of HDFC Bank tumbled Rs 34,547.61 crore to Rs 9,07,505.07 crore, the most among the top-10

HDFC's mcap eroded by Rs 13,584.9 crore to Rs 4,95,541.41 crore and that of Bharti Airtel fell by Rs 6,356.46 crore to Rs 4,39,153.22 crore.

The market capitalisation of State Bank of India declined by Rs



1,517.18 crore to Rs 5,14,370.01 crore.

However, Reliance Industries added Rs 14,279.06 crore, taking its valuation to Rs crore to Rs 6,47,532.81

climbed Rs 6,583.1

The market valuation of TCS rallied Rs 5,433.69 crore to Rs 11,82,184.61 crore and that of ITC advanced Rs 4,598.37 crore to Rs 5,32,975.54 crore.

The mcap of Infosys went up by Rs 2,696.74 crore to Rs 5,22,358.84

In the ranking of top 10 firms, Reliance Industries retained the tag of the most valued company, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Infosys, State Bank of India, HDFC and Bharti Airtel

Gold imports dip 24 per cent to USD 35 billion in 2022-23

NEW DELHI, May 8 (Agencies): India's gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, dipped 24.15 per cent to USD 35 billion in 2022-23 due to global economic uncertainties, according to data from the commerce ministry.

Imports of the yellow metal stood at USD 46.2 billion in 2021-22.

The growth rate in the imports was in the negative zone during August 2022 to February this year. It jumped to USD 3.3 billion in March 2023 as against USD 1 billion in the year-ago month, the data showed.

Silver imports, however, rose 6.12 per cent to USD 5.29 billion during the last

The significant fall in gold imports though has not helped in narrowing the country's trade deficit—the difference between imports and exports.

The merchandise trade deficit in 2022-23 was estimated at USD 267 billion against USD 191 billion in the year-ago

According to industry experts, high import duty on gold and global economic uncertainties have led to the dip in imports of the precious metal.

"India imported about 600 tonne of gold during April-January 2023, and it is down because of high import duty. The government should take a view on the duty part to help the domestic industry and push exports," an expert said.

India is the largest importer of gold, which mainly caters to the demand of the jewellery industry. In volume terms, the country imports 800-900 tonne of gold annually.

Gems and jewellery exports declined by 3 per cent to about USD 38 billion during 2022-23.

Last year, the Centre hiked gold import duty to 15 per cent from 10.75 per cent to check the current account

Researchers identify features of long Covid neurological symptoms

(Agencies): Long Covid patients with persistent neurological symptoms are more likely to suffer immune system dysregulation, according to a small study.

The patients were also found having problems with their autonomic nervous system, which controls unconscious functions of the body such as breathing, heart rate and blood pressure.

Reported neurologic symptoms among long Covid range from headaches and loss of taste and smell to sleep disturbances and cognitive impairment with difficulties in concentration, language and executive function, and clinically significant depression and anxiety.

The study by researchers at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) offers insight into biological mechanisms, and may help researchers better characterise the condition and explore possible therapeutic strategies, such as immunotherapy.

"Taken together, the findings add to growing evidence that widespread immunological and autonomic nervous system changes may contribute to long Covid," said Avindra Nath, clinical director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), part of NIH.

Twelve people with persistent neurological symptoms after SARS-CoV-2 infection were intensely studied at the NIH and were found to have differences in their immune cell profiles and autonomic dysfunction. Researchers used an

approach called deep phenotyping to closely examine the clinical and biological features of long Covid in 12 people who had long-lasting, disabling neurological symptoms after Covid-19.

Most participants had mild symptoms during their acute infection.

At the NIH Clinical Centre, participants underwent comprehensive testing, which included a clinical exam, questionnaires, advanced brain imaging, blood and cerebrospinal fluid tests, and autonomic function tests.

The results showed that people with Long Covid had lower levels of CD4+ and CD8+ T cells -- immune cells involved in coordinating the immune system's response to viruses -- compared to healthy

Researchers also found increases in the numbers of B cells and other types of immune cells, suggesting that immune dysregulation may play a role in mediating long Covid.

16,51,687.33 crore.

The mcap of Hindu-

stan Unilever jumped

Rs 10,949.09 crore to

Rs 5,87,632.77 crore

and that of ICICI Bank

Consistent with recent studies, people with long Covid also had problems with their autonomic ner-

vous system. Autonomic testing showed abnormalities in control of vascular tone, heart rate and blood pressure with a change in posture.

More research is needed to determine if these changes are related to fatigue, cognitive difficulties and other lingering symptoms.

The findings are published in the journal Neurology: Neuroimmunology & Neuroinflammation.

Study reveals phone calls linked with increased risk of high blood pressure

SOPHIA ANTIPO-(Agencies): According to a new, conversing on a cell phone for 30 minutes or more per week is related to a 12 per cent greater risk of high blood pressure when compared to less than 30 minutes. The findings of the

study were published in the European Heart Journal - Digital Health, a journal of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) "It's the number of minutes people spend talking on a mobile that matter for heart health, with more minutes meaning greater risk," said study author Professor Xianhui Qin of Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, China. "Years of use or employing a hands-free set-up had no influence on the likelihood of developing high blood pressure. More studies are needed to confirm the findings.'

A mobile phone is owned by over threequarters of the world's population aged 10 and up. Worldwide, almost 1.3 billion adults aged 30 to 79 have high blood pressure (hypertension). Hypertension is a key risk factor for heart attack and stroke, as well as a leading cause of death worldwide.

Mobile phones emit low levels of radiofrequency energy, which has been linked with rises in blood pres-



sure after short-term tory of hypertension, exposure. Results of education, smoking previous studies on status, blood pressure, mobile phone use and blood lipids, inflammablood pressure were tion, blood glucose, inconsistent, potentially kidney function and use because they included of medications to lower calls, texts, gaming, and cholesterol or blood gluso on. cose levels.

This study examined The average age the relationship between of participants was making and receiving 54 years, 62% were phone calls and newwomen and 88% were mobile phone users. onset hypertension. The study used data During a median follow from the UK Biobank. A up of 12 years, 13,984 total of 212,046 adults (7%) participants developed hypertension. aged 37 to 73 years Mobile phone users without hypertension had a 7% higher risk were included. Information on the use of a of hypertension commobile phone to make pared with non-users. Those who talked on and receive calls was collected through a selftheir mobile for 30 minreported touchscreen utes or more per week had a 12% greater likeliquestionnaire at baseline, including years of hood of new-onset high use, hours per week, blood pressure than and using a hands-free participants who spent device/speakerphone. less than 30 minutes on Participants who used phone calls. The results a mobile phone at were similar for women least once a week to and men. make or receive calls Looking at the findings

were defined as mobile

The researchers ana-

lysed the relationship

between mobile phone

usage and new-onset

hypertension after

adjusting for age, sex,

body mass index, race,

deprivation, family his-

phone users.

in more detail, compared to participants who spent less than 5 minutes per week making or receiving mobile phone calls, weekly usage time of 30-59 minutes, 1-3 hours, 4-6 hours and more than 6 hours was associated with an

raised risk of high blood pressure, respectively. Among mobile phone users, years of use and employing a hands-free device/speakerphone were not significantly related to the development of hypertension. The researchers also

examined the relationship between usage time (less than 30 minutes vs. 30 minutes or more) and new-onset hypertension according to whether participants had a low, intermediate or high genetic risk of developing hypertension. Genetic risk was determined using data in the UK Biobank. The analysis showed that the likelihood of developing high blood pressure was greatest in those with high genetic risk who spent at least 30 minutes a week talking on a mobile - they had a 33% higher likelihood of hypertension compared to those with low genetic risk who spent less than 30 minutes a week on the phone.

Professor Qin said: "Our findings suggest that talking on a mobile may not affect the risk of developing high blood pressure as long as weekly call time is kept below half an hour. More research is required to replicate the results, but until then it seems prudent to keep mobile phone calls to a minimum to preserve heart health."

Cow urine can be a boon for humans: IVRI

LUCKNOW, May 8 (Agencies): In a research, the senior scientists of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly have found that cow urine extract is rich in antibacterial and antifungal properties and a boon for humans.

The four-year-long study conducted by a nine-member team of scientists refuted the previous claim that cow urine is dangerous to humans and have asserted that cow urine extracts are full of medical and medicinal properties.

In this research, 14 urine samples from two indigenous cow breeds— 'Sahiwal' and 'Tharparkar' were compared with the samples from crossbreeds.



The samples were taken during various seasons over the year.

To avoid the possibility of bacterial contamination in fresh urine of cows, extracts were studied in concentrated form," said Ravi Kant Agrawal, scientist, IVRI, who led the study which was initiated in 2018, along with eight other scientists.

According to the institute's research, the urine of Sahiwal and Tharparkar breeds was found to be highly antibacterial as compared to crossbred cows.

Cow urine extract was found to be bactericidal (ability to kill) against bacteria such as E. coli, Salmonella species, Pseudomonas, aeruginosa and against gram-positive bacteria Listeria monocytogenes, Bacillus cereus, Staphylococcus aureus.

"The research also found that cow urine extract has antifungal effects against yeasts," added Agarwal.

SRH stun RR by four wickets after dramatic last ball no-ball call

The SRH bowlers looked clueless throughout the innings with all of them bleeding runs

JAIPUR, May 8 (Agencies): Abdul Samad hit a six off the final delivery, re-bowled after a no-ball call, as Sunrisers Hyderabad stunned Rajasthan Royals by four wickets in a dramatic match in the Indian Premier League here.

Chasing a target of 215, SRH needed 17 runs off the final over bowled by Sandeep Sharma with Samad and Marco Jansen at the crease.

Samad hit a six off the second ball to leave the equation to five runs from the last delivery when the drama unfolded.

Everybody thought Samad was out with Jos Buttler taking a catch near the boundary but the umpire called for a ball and the last ball was re-bowled.

SRH needed four runs for a win, but Samad (17 not out) then despatched Sharma's delivery for a six to reach 217 for 6 and notch up one of the most improbable wins in the IPL, leaving RR players shell shocked.

Number six batter Glenn Phillips (25 off 7 balls) also played his part in the turnaround of SRH's fortunes as they needed 69 off the last five overs though with eight wickets in hand.

Phillips spiced up the tall chase by hitting three consecutive sixes and a four off inexperienced pacer Kuldip Yadav in the penultimate over to raise hopes of a stunning win.

Ultimately, RR spinner Yuzvendra Chahal's (4/29) fine effort went in vain, though at one stage it looked like a comfortable win for RR.



SRH began the run chase on a cautious note as they lacked in fireworks in the powerplay overs at the end of which they were 52 for 1 with impact player Anmolpreet Singh becoming the first victim of Chahal.

Ravichandran Ashwin (4-0-35-1) also kept things tight and the SRH batters found it difficult to get the boundaries.

At the halfway mark, SRH were 87/1, needing another 128 from the back end and asking rate nearing 13 in an over.

Abhishek Sharma (55) fell after hitting Ashwin for a six for the second time in the 13th over with the premier India spinner having the last laugh.

In the next over, Rahul Tripathi struck a four and two sixes to collect 19 runs from Murugan Ashwin.

Heinrich Klaasen, who hit a four and a six earlier, then gave some anxiety to the RR camp with a six and four off Chahal in the 16th over before he fell in the fifth ball of that over with Jos Buttler taking a well-judged catch at long off.

Earlier, the Royals piled up 214 for 2, thanks a crafty 95 from English opener Jos But-

tler and an unbeaten 66 from

captain Samson.

After a 54-run opening stand with Yashasvi Jaiswal (35), Buttler (95 off 59 balls) stitched another 138 runs with Samson (66 not out) in 13.3 overs to steer the Royals to a big total after opting to bat.

Buttler missed a well-deserved century as he got out in the penultimate over with five runs short. He hit 10 fours and four sixes during his crafty innings. Samson's 38-ball unbeaten

boundaries and five sixes. The SRH bowlers looked clueless throughout the innings with

all of them bleeding runs.

knock was studded with four

The Royals made a rollicking start, reaching 61 for one at the end of powerplay, thanks to a quickfire 35 off just 18 balls from the talented Jaiswal who continued his fine form this season to reach 1000 IPL runs.

The youngster struck two maximums off Bhuvneshwar Kumar

(4-0-44-1) and Marco Jansen (4-0-44-1) as well as five fours but fell to a soft dismissal of the latter bowler in the fifth over.

Jansen extracted extra bounce from a slower offcutter and Jaiswal simply lofted the ball on to the hands of T Natarajan.

The tempo continued as the home side were 107 for 1 at the halfway stage with one-down Samson punishing the SRH bowlers and scoring his first fifty in six matches.

Samson targeted Mayank Markande for special treatment as he struck three towering sixes off the hapless bowler in the ninth over which yielded 21

Buttler, who was relatively quiet in the early part of his innings, began to open up his arms after settling down nicely.

The Buttler-Samson duo kept the run-rate above 10 run an over all the time, reaching 150 in the 15th over as the SRH bowlers became increasingly clueless on how to break the partnership.

The Royals duo kept on getting the sixes every over as they launched onto the SRH bowlers after laying a strong foundation.

The Royals added 60 runs off the last five overs.

Samson struck two more sixes off Markande in the 16th over and then reached his third fifty in the 18th over off 33 balls.

Buttler was out five runs short of hundred in the penultimate over with Bhuvneshwar Kumar getting his scalp after a review.

Wrestlers wary of false promises

In first formal meeting with Ministry delegation, demand arrest of Brij Bhushan



NEW DELHI, May 8 (Agencies): As the Sports Ministry formally opened talks with the nine-member committee formed by the protesting wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat, the wrestlers' representatives made it clear that they will not be persuaded by false assurances.

A two-member delegation of the Sports Ministry, led by Sports Authority of India's (SAI) director general Sandip Pradhan, met the committee last night at Jantar Mantar, where the wrestlers have been sitting on a dharna for 15

The committee, of coaches and former players, put forward two demands the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brii Bhushan Sharan Singh and a ban on his family's involvement in the running of WFI's day-to-day affairs.

The government delegation said it could not give any assurances as it was not the final authority. The committee then insisted that any decision taken between the two parties will have to be

"We had decided that we will not take any false assurance from the government this time. So we insisted that any agreement to end the dharna has to be given to us in writing," said a source who was involved in the deliberations.

The meeting lasted for over two hours, with many coaches also showing videos of alleged abuses suffered by them as well as the referees at the hands of Singh.

"It took this long as everybody had to say something to the officials. Some also showed videos of his rude behaviour," another source said.

The delegation was also told that neither the wrestlers nor any of the committee members will visit any government office for further deliberations. "They requested us to come to Shastri Bhawan or the SAI office as they did not want the meeting to be held with the media around. We told them none of us will go anywhere. Whosoever wants to meet us, they will have to come to us,' the source added.

This was the second time a senior SAI official paid the wrestlers a visit. SAI deputy director general Shiv Sharma had tried to pacify the wrestlers on April 24 in the hope of ending the protest.

Ever since their return to Jantar Mantar on April 23, the wrestlers have been demanding WFI chief's arrest. That demand, they said, is central if the government wants the protest to end. "We have decided we will not budge this time. This is do or die for us," said a wrestler.

Vinesh Phogat has confirmed that none of the wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik, has plans of retiring. Speaking with the media, the two-time Olympian said they will take part in competitions. Vinesh and others have not competed in any national or international meet since the start of this year. After sitting on dharna for the first time, the trio has skipped four competitions. With their time mostly spent on dharna, the training has taken a back seat. Vinesh, however, insists they are not thinking of retiring just yet. "We will surely compete. We have been training as much as we can here. We will plan our training schedule better and see how much more time we will get to train but like I said we will compete soon," she said.

IPL 2023: Focus on Sunil Narine as KKR face Punjab Kings at home

KOLKATA, May 8 (Agencies): A 'Go To' man in Kolkata Knight Riders for more than a decade, Sunil Narine will have to play out of his skin to justify his place in the playing eleven when his team face Punjab Kings in a must-win Indian Premier League game, here on Monday.

The Trinidad man, who has played 158 games spread across 12 seasons, including the current one, has 159 wickets along with 1,039 runs with four half-centuries after he worked on his batting once his action was deemed suspect and he lost fizz of the pitch.

Narine hasn't been the same "mystery bowler", who burst into the T20 franchise scene, for many seasons but he would be first one to admit he has been insanely lucky.

The architect of 2012 and 2014 IPL wins with 24 and 21 wickets in those two seasons, has struggled for at least two of his last three seasons but KKR management (the principal decision makers CEO Venky Mysore and assistant coach Abhishek Nayar) has stuck with him.

However with KKR staring at another round robin exit with only four wins in 10 games, there is no room for error in next four games.

The question is whether KKR can still afford to still play the man, who only has seven scalps from 10 games with an economy rate of 8.76 and aggregate of 14 runs from 8 batting innings with a strike-rate of less than 80.

While KKR does need to take some tough selection calls, Punjab



Kings is also in a spot of bother and the match is of equal importance

Having been out-batted by Mumbai Indians in their last outing, the Shikhar Dhawan-led side may be a spot ahead of the eighth-placed KKR with a two-point lead but both the teams are staring at elimination.

More so in the case of the Nitish Rana-captained home side who face a do-or-die situation in their last four matches this season.

Their think-tank led by an astute domestic tactician in Chandrakant Pandit also must think beyond their two Caribbean stars—Narine and Andre Russell.

The other day during an interaction with the media team CEO and managing director Mysore had reiterated: "Russell is the best T20 all-rounder. Narine, I don't have to say much about him...".

With Narine being a regular, one overseas quota is blocked as KKR are missing out on the options of pace gun Lockie Ferguson and David Wiese, a genuine seam-bowling all-rounder who also can make good cameos with the bat.

That Varun Chakravarthy has become their premier spinner -- 14 wickets at 20.14 -- makes it a stronger

not Russell. A leg-spinner, who bowls at 90-95kph, Chakravarthy has spearheaded the spin attack brilliantly.

think beyond Narine, if

He showed the way when Rana gave him the task to defend nine runs in the last over as KKR snatched a thrilling five-run win against SRH.

As for Russell, KKR must think of a way to promote him up the order as he has got limited opportunities to showcase his batting exploits.

The Jamaican bighitter has 166 runs and batted at a strikerate of 148-plus.

However, he has made impact as a bowler, giving the team vital breakthroughs in the middle overs-seven wickets at 20.14.

With three home matches left, and a tough away tie at Chennai Super Kings KKR must exploits the conditions at Eden Gardens so as to keep their chances alive.

It was a perfect team effort for KKR against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last match.

The onus would be on the KKR batters to put together a superlative show, against a bowling unit that would be low on confidence after Mumbai Indians'

onslaught in their last match.

Boasting a sound bowling attack in with Nathan Ellis, Sam Curran and Arshdeep Singh, Punjab Kings failed to defend 214/3 as MI cantered home with seven balls to spare.

Ellis gave away 2/34 with just four dot balls, while Arshdeep went for 1/66 from his 3.5 overs with four dot balls. Curran (0/41) leaked the most runs, as KKR must find a similar approach against the trio.

As for batting, Liam Livingstone, Shikhar Dhawan and the latest keeper-batter sensation Jitesh Sharma have been their backbone as KKR bowling attack would look to restrict the

Squads

Kolkata Knight Riders: Nitish Rana ©, Jason Roy, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Venkatesh lyer, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Shardul Thakur, Lockie Ferguson, Umesh Yadav, Tim Southee, Harshit Rana, Varun Chakravarthy, Anukul Roy, Rinku Singh, N. Jagadeesan, Vaibhav Arora, Suyash Sharma, David Wiese, Kulwant Khejroliya, Mandeep Singh and Aarya Desai. Punjab Kings: Shikhar

Dhawan ©, Shahrukh

Singh.

Khan, Matthew Short, Prabhsimran Singh, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Jitesh Sharma, Gurnoor Singh Brar, Rishi Dhawan, Liam Livingstone, Atharva Taide, Arshdeep Singh, Baltej Singh, Nathan Ellis, Kagiso Rabada, Rahul Chahar, Harpreet Brar, Sam Curran, Sikandar Raza, Harpreet Bhatia, **Lucknow Super Giants** Vidwath Kaverappa, Mohit Rathee, Shivam

IPL 2023: Gujarat Titans crush **Lucknow Super Giants by 56 runs**



AHMEDABAD, May 8 (Agencies): Gujarat Titans' juggernaut continued in the Indian Premier League as the defending champions crushed Lucknow Super Giants by 56 runs here to remain perched on the top of the table.

This was their eighth win in 11 matches, taking their tally to 16 points and closer to the

play-offs. Gujarat Titans, propelled to their highestever total of 227 for two courtesy a franchise record 142-run partnership between Shubman Gill (94 not out) and Wriddhiman Saha (81), came back strongly in the second half of LSG's chase to emerge winners in a comprehensive manner.

Chasing 228, LSG stroked their way to a strong 102 for one at the halfway mark but the wheels came off eventually, with GT tying down their batters with tight

Despite Quinton de Kock's brilliant 70 in his first game this season and Kyle Mayers' brisk 48 at the top, LSG middle-order crumbled against a mountainous chase to concede the contest, finishing at 171 for seven in 20 overs.

knocked off 50 runs from the target in only four overs with both Mayers

and de Kock finding momentum.

While Mayers began with three consecutive fours off Hardik Pandya in the second over, the third from Mohammad Shami yielded 19 runs with de Kock hitting a couple of fours and Mayers getting a six and a four.

Mayers was also severe on Rashid Khan in the fifth, hitting him for a six and a four to collect 14 runs as LSG reached 72 for no loss after the powerplay.

However, a brilliant catch from Rashid in the ninth over broke LSG's opening stand at 88.

The Afghan player covered a distance of 26 metres from deep square leg and managed to hold on to the ball while diving to his right, getting rid of Mayers for 48 off 32 balls (7x4s, 2x6s) off Mohit Sharma.

de Kock continued to flourish, flicking Hardik powerfully over midwicket for a six to take LSG to 102 for one halfway through.

The horror run this IPL, meanwhile, continued for Deepak Hooda (11) who managed to get into double digits for only the third time in 10 innings, but hit a full toss off Shami straight to deep midwicket.

LSG failed to hit even a single four in overs

11-14 as Gujarat seized

control. Marcus Stoinis (4) succumbed with Mohit getting him caught at short third man in the 15th

LSG skidded further when Rashid cleaned up de Kock for a fine 70. coming off 41 balls with three sixes and seven fours, while Nicholas Pooran (3) fell to Noor

Ahmad. Earlier, Gill's unbeaten 94 and Saha's brutal 81 fired Gujarat Titans to 227 for two — the fourth highest total this season.

Saha and Gill went hammer and tongs from the word go to add 142 runs for the first wicket in only 12.1 overs, setting the franchise record for highest partnership for any wicket, as LSG had no respite despite deploying eight bowlers

into the attack. It was also the secondbest stand for any team and for any wicket in this IPL, whereas for Gujarat Titans, the total was their highest-ever in IPL since their debut last season.

Saha struck an overall four sixes and 10 fours to make his runs from 43 balls whereas Gill finished close to what would have been a splendid maiden IPL century, hitting seven sixes and two fours in his 51-ball knock.

Guiarat Titans also bettered their overall record of most runs in the powerplay.

Having hit 65 against Chennai Super Kings here in the seasonopener, the Saha-Gill pair went ballistic to add 78 runs in the first six overs, scoring at 13 runs

Saha got off the blocks quickly to put pressure on the visiting bowlers, hitting Mohsin Khan for a couple of fours and Avesh Khan for a six and a four in the first two

overs of the innings. The Gujarat wicketkeeper-batter continued with his assault on Mohsin in the left-armer's second over, hitting him for a couple of sixes and fours each to take the defending champions past the 50-run mark inside four overs.

Gill, so far steady at the other end, smacked a six over long-on off Krunal Pandya and in the last over of the powerplay, Saha brought up his fifty off only 20 balls with a six off Yash Thakur.

Saha and Gill's century stand came up in the ninth over itself with the latter hitting Ravi Bishnoi inside out for a six over cover.

Saha looked set for his second IPL century - his first came nine years ago in IPL 2014 — but a sharp catch at deep midwicket by substitute Prerak Mankad off Avesh ended his assault.

GT captain Hardik Pandya played a handy cameo hitting two fours and a six to make 15 off 25 balls. David Miller hit a couple of fours and a six to make 21 not out off 12 balls.

Brief scores: Gujarat Titans: 227/2 (Shubman 94*, Saha 81); Lucknow Super Giants: 171/7 (de Kock 70, Mayers 48; Mohit 4/29).

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

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 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

"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: Shankaracharva Javanti 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 Veddanta, which emphasizes the unity of the individual self (atman) with the universal con-

sciousness (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 Hussian 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

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 Imtiyaz 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

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,

Inspector of Sheetal Nager block Bhoond

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 JKPCC 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, Pawandev 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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