

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Active Covid cases in country dips to 14,493

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): India logged 801 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, said Union Health Minister on Monday.

The active cases dipped to 14,493 in the last 24 hours from 15,515 cases reported on Sunday, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare bulletin informed. The country reported 1,815 recoveries in the last 24 hours. With this, total Covid recoveries stand at 4,44,35,204. The active caseload is 0.03 per cent of the total reported cases.

With 55,636 covid tests being conducted in the last 24 hours, the total tests conducted in the country have increased to 92.86 crore said the Union Health Ministry's bulletin.

A total of 220.66 crore Vaccine doses (95.21 crores Second Doses and 22.87 crore Precaution Doses) have been administered so far under Nationwide Vaccination Drive with 367 doses being administered in the last 24 hours.

The recovery Rate currently stands at 98.78 per cent, the Daily positivity rate at 1.11 per cent and the Weekly Positivity Rate at 1.11 per cent said the Union health ministry.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently announced that the COVID-19 pandemic is over as a global health emergency.

However, the viral load and emergence of any new variant still need to be monitored, said Dr Rakesh Mishra, director of Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS) on May 8.

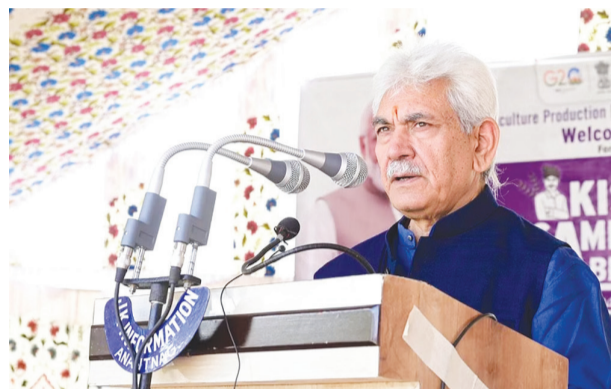
Speaking to agency, Dr Mishra said, "Corona is already in the endemic stage. The level of infection we saw recently from Bengaluru data was more significant than the third wave and would have had a big problem. However, it did not happen because of vaccination, or hybrid immunity. Clinically, the virus is more infectious, but less harmful as it affects the body like the common cold."

Night temperatures drop below normal in J&K, MeT predicts rain at isolated places

SRINAGAR, May 15 (Agencies): Amid rainfall at few places and forecast for rain and thunderstorm at isolated areas during next 24

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Few hundred people had hijacked admin to ruin J&K: LG Sinha



ANANTNAG, May 15 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that some 500 to 1000 odd people would get contracts of the government only to ruin the erstwhile State but their time is over as the present administration is committed to serve and listen to every single citizen of the UT. Addressing the Kissan

Samparak Abhiyan at Dooru, Anantnag, the LG, as reported by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that some "500 or 1000 odd people had gotten contracts" to rule and ruin J&K. "Their time is over now. The present administration is committed to listen to every single citizen of the UT and address their issues.

We are here to serve the 1.30 Cr people of J&K without any discrimination," he said, adding that some people can't digest the peace and development in J&K.

"Some people feel pain in their stomachs after seeing the peace and development in Kashmir. I can't help them," he said without naming any one. The LG said that Kashmiri products will reach national and international markets soon. "Time is not far when farmer's son would like to become a farmer too similarly the way government officer's son dreams to become the officer," he said, adding that modern avenues will be made available to the farmers so that they too can dream big.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit takes over as Deputy Chief of Air Staff

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff today. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he was Commissioned in the fighter stream on 06 December 1986. He is a graduate of the Staff Course, Bangladesh and National Defence College, New Delhi. The Air Marshal is a Qualified Flying Instructor as well as an Experimental Test pilot, with over 3300 hours of flying



experience on fighter, trainer and transport aircraft. He participated in Operation Safed Sagar and Rakshak. Air Marshal Dixit commanded a Mirage 2000 Squadron, a frontline fighter base in the Western sector, as well as a premier fighter training base. He has earlier served as Principle Director Air Staff Requirement, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Projects) & Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Plans) at Air

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Cricket Legend Sachin Tendulkar invests in Hyderabad-based AZAD Engineering

HYDERABAD, May 15 (Agencies): (UMI)AZAD Engineering, a leading provider of engineering and technology solutions for Global OEMs in the Clean Energy, Aerospace, Defence, Oil & Gas and SPS Industries on Monday announced that cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar has made an undisclosed strategic investment in the company.

This strategic investment from Sachin Tendulkar allows AZAD Engineering to further strengthens its commitment to contribute to Make in India and Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiatives of Government of India, Hyderabad based com-



pany said in a release here.

These initiatives aim to elevate India's global standing and revolutionize the Indian manufacturing landscape and surpass international standards.

Rakesh Chopdar, Founder & Managing Director of AZAD Engineering, stated "We are thrilled to have Sachin

Tendulkar as an investor and it is a tremendous honour for us. As a company committed to promoting highly complex manufacturing and self-reliance, AZAD will focus our vision and create more growth & innovation opportunities for India."

Over the past decade, AZAD Engineering has experienced remarkable growth with state-of-the-art facilities, process engineering mastery, unparalleled supply chain efficiency, and infrastructure that surpasses industry standards to meet the demands of its OEM clients.

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NIA files chargesheet against TRF operative in Delhi court

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a supplementary chargesheet against an accused in a case related to terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Quoting a statement of a spokesperson, news agency reported that the NIA has charged Faisal

Muneer @ Ali Bhai, a resident of Talab Khattikan area under P.S Peer Mitha Jammu of conspiring with Pakistan-based operatives of LeT/TRF for transportation of firearms and explosives for carrying out terrorist acts in India.

"He had entered into a conspiracy with his handlers based across-the-

border to deliver the consignments of weapons and explosives to active terrorist commanders and operatives of these outfits for commission of terror acts in India, as per NIA investigations," said the statement.

It stated that as part of the conspiracy hatched with other co-accused

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Pakistani intruder detained along LoC in Rajouri

RAJOURI/JAMMU, May 15 (Agencies): A Pakistani intruder was nabbed by the Indian Army when he attempted to infiltrate from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday.

Mohammad Usman (30), a resident of Karela village of Kotli in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), was intercepted by troops after he entered Tarkundi village late Sunday evening, the officials said.

They said nothing incriminating was recovered from the

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Drugs seized in Indian waters worth Rs 25,000 cr, confirms NCB



NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): The value of drugs seized in a special operation by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Indian Navy in Indian waters on Saturday was priced at Rs 25,000 crores after enumeration, informed NCB on Monday.

According to the NCB officials, the enumeration of the high-purity methamphetamine seized by NCB and the

Indian Navy has been completed. The total seizure has been confirmed as 2,525 kg and it is valued at 25,000 crore rupees, as per the official information received from the NCB. The officials further informed that the enumeration was completed in 23 hours. "The value became higher because it is higher grade methamphetamine. The seized drugs were in

134 sacks. The methamphetamine was kept in packets of one kilo each", one of the officials said.

One suspected Pakistani national was already arrested in this regard. He will be produced before the Court today evening, informed the NCB officials.

On Saturday, NCB seized approximately 2,500 kg of contraband drugs in Indian waters in a special operation.

Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (Ops) said it was the largest in terms of monetary value.

Talking to agency, Singh said, "NCB & Navy conducted a successful operation in the Indian Ocean. It is the largest in terms of its monetary value. It

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Scuffle breaks out at GMC Jammu hostel, police investigating: SSP

JAMMU, May 15 (Agencies): A scuffle broke out between students of government medical college, Jammu and outsiders in the institution's hostel, police said on Monday.

SSP Jammu, Chandan Kohli said that there has been an incident of scuffle between some students and outsiders in GMC Hostel, Jammu. "The police have taken cognizance of the matter and investigation is

going on," he said.

Earlier, Jammu and Kashmir Students Association said to have received distressing calls from GMC Jammu, reporting that a group of Kashmiri students have been injured as a result of a recent altercation over 'The Kerala Story' issue.

"One student was attacked with an iron rod & sustained head injuries with 12 stitches," the association said.

Flying of Drones, Use of Firecrackers banned in Ramban

SRINAGAR, May 15 (Agencies): District Magistrate Ramban has ordered a complete ban on the use of firecrackers and flying of professional drones in the district with immediate effect.

A formal order in this regard was issued by the District Magistrate Ramban.

"It is hereby ordered that there will be a complete ban on the use of firecrackers and professional drones

flying within the territorial jurisdiction of District Ramban with immediate effect, till further orders," reads the order issued by District Magistrate Ramban.

"Sr Superintendent of Police, Ramban, shall implement the aforesaid order in letter and spirit," it said.

Pertinent to mention that a complete ban on the use of firecrackers has already been imposed in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri.

NIA conducts raids across J&K in Jamaat-e-Islami terror funding case

SRINAGAR, May 15 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has continued its raids in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama, Anantnag and Kulgam. According to sources, these raids are related to terror funding and other terrorist activity cases. They further stated that mostly houses belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami people are being searched.

As per information, NIA teams are conducting raids in the Wachi area of Shopian, Nehama and Litter area of Pulwama district and the Fresal area of Kulgam district and one team had reached Achawal area of Anantnag district where the raid is yet to start.

SIA raids in Bathindi

JAMMU, May 15 (Agencies): State Investigation Agency (SIA) conducted raids in Bathindi area of Jammu on Monday.

Quoting official sources, agency reported that searches were being conducted at the residences of two Jammu residents.

"The raids are being carried out at the houses Anwar Hussain S/o Abdul Aziz resident of Vidhata Nagar Bathindi and Sarpanch Hafeez-Ullah S/o Barkat Ali resident of Bathindi, Jammu," they said.

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Fresh inquiry ordered against retired SP

JAMMU, May 15 (Agencies): The government has ordered a de-novo (afresh) inquiry into the charges framed against retired Superintendent of Police (SP) Jagdev Singh and appointed the DIG Training, Police Headquarters, Imtiyaz Ismail Parray as Inquiry Officer.

The Inquiry Officer has been given thirty days to submit his report to the Home Department. Chief Prosecuting Officer, Police Headquarters Suhaib Ashraf will be the Presenting Officer in the said inquiry.

Departmental proceedings were initiated against Jagdev

Singh, EXJ 905447, the then SHO Domana, in furtherance to the observations and directions of the High Court in the judgment dated April 25, 2013. Later, in terms of Rule 33 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and

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10TH DAY/UTHALA

Tenth Day of Late Brigadier Uttam Singh Chib, SM will be performed at H.No. 198, Sector-A, Sainik Colony, Jammu on Monday 15 May, 2023 at 10 AM.

13th Day at H.No. 198, Sector-A, Sainik Colony, Jammu Friday 19 May, 2023 at 10 AM.

Rasam Pagri/ Uthala at Ram Mandir, Sector-D, Sainik Colony, Jammu Friday 19 May, 2023 from 5 PM to 6 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Jati Devi - Mother

Dr. Reeta Chib - Wife

Sh. Rahul Singh Chib - Son

Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh. Vikram Singh Chib & Smt. Neha Chib

Isha Singh - Grand Daughter

Brothers & Sisters-in-law

Dr. Veena Chib W/o Late Sh. Rattan Singh Chib

Sh. Avtar Singh Chib, Spl Secy (Retd) & Dr. Nidhi Kotwal

(Principal GDC, Basohli)

Dr. Karuna Singh, Dr. Asheesh K. Sawhny - Niece & Nephew

Sh. Abhishek Singh Chib, Dr. Adhishree Singh Chib - Sons-in-law

9419183915 (Son), 9419220032



LATE BRIGADIER UTTAM SINGH CHIB, SM
06 July, 1955 - 7 May, 2023

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Surya Parkash Sharma (Retd. ZEO) S/o Late Sh. Amarnath (Thalori Wale) R/o H.No. F-184, Old Gurah Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on 04/05/2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on 13/05/2023 at 11 AM at Shiv Mandir Old Gurah, Bakshi Nagar.

Kriya will be performed on 14/05/2023 at our residence.

Uthala will be performed at Amar Kashatriya Rajput Sabha, Opp. Shiv Mandir Old Gurah, Bakshi Nagar from 4 PM to 5 PM on 17/05/2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Girdhari Lal - Brother

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Dr. R.K. Sharma & Namarta Khajuria

Suresh Sharma & Jyoti Sharma

Daughters & Sons-in-law

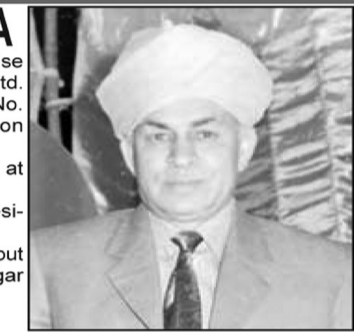
Smt. Veena Kumari & Mahesh Chander

Smt. Sushma Sharma & Vinod Sharma

Potru & Potri - Arinut, Akrita, Akshra

Dotru & Dotri - Mannat, Umanshu, Aarya, Sanchit

Mob.: 9419160249, 7889765252



Sh. Surya Parkash Sharma (Retd. ZEO)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we are deeply saddened to inform you about the demise of our beloved Smt. Mohini Raina W/o Late Prithvi Nath Raina R/o Trichal, Pulwama at present C/o H.No. 58-B, Extn. Mohinder Nagar, Near 57 Arora House, Jammu on 12th May, 2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on 21/5/2023 at 8.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law

Ashok Raina & Shashi Raina

Romesh Raina & Ashu Raina

Daughter & Son-in-law

Ram Krishan Pandita

Kiran & Satish Pandita

Rajni & Rakesh Kaul

Grand Children : Shubam, Dinesh, Vibuti, Ritvik, Akriti & Divita

Mob.: 9596711329



Smt. Mohini Raina

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Shri Narinder Kr. Behal S/o Late Shri Ram Pall R/o New Plot who left for heavenly abode on 7th of May, 2023(Sunday).

The Tenth Day will be performed on 16-05-2023 (Tuesday) from 11.00 (AM) to 12.00 (Noon) at Shiv Mandir, Lane No-6, New Plot, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Sushma Behal (Wife)

Purav Behal (Son)

Bhawana Behal (Daughter)

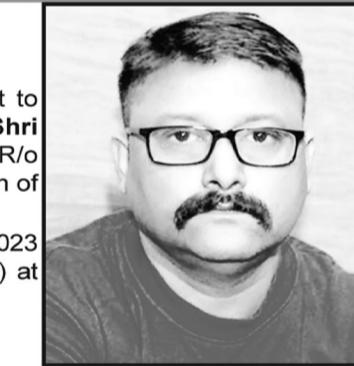
Bhargav Behal (Son)

(Brothers and Bhabhis)

Shri Lalit Kr. Behal and Smt. Sumi Behal

Shri Sushil Kr. Behal and Smt. Meena Behal

Mob. No. 9419211116, 7006046603 & 8491952895



LATE SHRI NARINDER KR. BEHAL

TENTH DAY KRIYA

On 16th May 2023

With heavy heart and saddened times, we inform you that the untimely demise of our beloved Sh. Kuldeep Singh Jamwal S/o Late Sh. Amar Singh Jamwal and Smt. Manisha Jamwal on 7th May 2023.

The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 16th May 2023 (Tuesday) Time : 10 am at our residence Village Suchani near Panchayat Ghar Central University Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Manisha Jamwal (Mother)

Smt. Surishta Jamwal (Wife)

Son and Daughter-in-law

Sandeep Singh and Payal

Daughter and Son-in-law

Varun Singh and Vandana Jamwal

Grand Children : Mayuk

CONTACT NO : 9419136259, 9596816815



Sh. Kuldeep Singh Jamwal

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Sansar Chand Gupta S/o Lt. Sh. Vishwa Nath Gupta R/o Sattani Dhar Road, Udhampur on 07-05-2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on 16-05-2023 Tuesday at 11.00 AM at our residence Sattani, Near SBI.

Kriya will be performed on 19-05-2023 Friday at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Satyra Devi (Wife)

Pankaj Gupta & Monika Gupta (Son & Daughter in law)

Tina Gupta W/o Lt. Sh. Brij Mohan (Son & Daughter in law)

Daughters & Son in law:

Indu Bala & Jyoti Parkash

Neeru Bala & Jagdish Gupta

Anu Bala & Kewal Krishan

Madhu Bala & Surinder Choudhary

Vinay Gupta & Bishan Dass

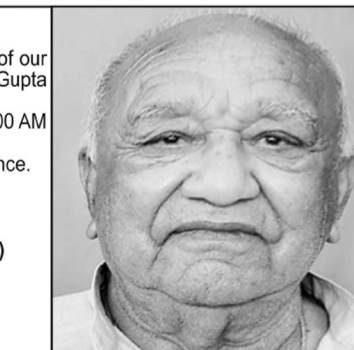
Sonika Pargal & Rajneesh Pargal

Monika Gupta & Ashwani Gupta

Grand Children: Khushi Mahajan, Dhruv, Aditi, Akarsh, Adhar

Ph. 9419160530, 7006960530, 7006383029

PAKHOTRA FAMILY



Sh. Sansar Chand Gupta

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF MRS. NANCY BHAN W/o SH. C.L BHAN R/o 47-INDRA COLONY, CAMP ROAD TALAB TILLO, JAMMU ON 9/5/23 AT K-504, ACE CITY, NOIDA EXTENSION SEC-1 PLOT-1, PIN- 201306.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 18th OF MAY, 2023 (THURSDAY) AT 8:30 AM AT GANGH NAHAR (CHHOTA HARIDWAR), MURAD NAGAR, GHAZIABAD (UP) AND ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT K-504 ACE CITY, NOIDA EXTENSION PLOT-1, SEC-TOR-1, PIN- 201306 AT 12:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

MR. C.L BHAN -HUSBAND

Mr. RAJU BHAN AND MRS. ZOYA BHAN - SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW

MRS. NIRUPA RAINA AND MR. RAKESH RAINA - DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW

MR. CHAMAN LAL BHAN AND MRS. ASHA JI - JETH AND JETHANI

GRAND CHILDREN - RIYA, TEJ, RISHABH AND SONIA

CONTACT NO.'s- 7298117766, 9873000935



MRS. NANCY BHAN

MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE

With heavy heart we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved sister Smt. Nancy Bhan W/o Sh C. L Bhan of Vaskur GBL and D/o Late Jaggar Nath Bhat (Buran Pattan) on 09-05-23.

Mourning will be held at G-334 A Pratap Vihar Ghazibad.

10TH DAY will be performed on 18-05-23 (Thursday)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Samast Bhat, Koul & Pandita Parivar

Ph. No. 9654982876 & 9958578555



Smt. Nancy Bhan

OBITUARY

We regret to inform about the sad demise of Shri Shiv Dass Magotra S/o Late Jagan Nath Magotra R/o Ward No 6 House No 32, Court Road Udhampur on 08.05.2023.

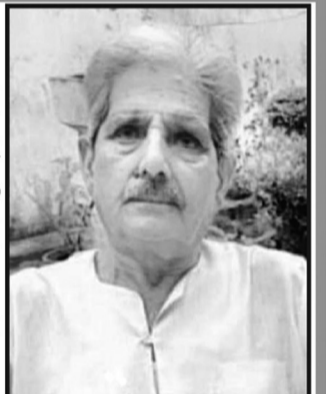
Tenth Day prayers shall be done on 17-05-2023 (Wednesday).

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

MAGOTRA FAMILY

9419160084; 6005419639;

9149431602; 7889364068



SHRI SHIV DASS MAGOTRA

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



Sh. Chuni Lal Tandon

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our mother Smt Kushlawati Dhar W/o Late Sh. Rugh Nath Dhar of Gund Villagang Kupwara at present 28/22 Surya Vihar Bohri on 7th May 2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at 9 am on Tuesday the 16 May 2023 at Muthi Ghat near the office of DSE Jammu.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Sons and Daughters in law

Sh Hira Lal Dhar and Smt Bimla Dhar

Sh Shubhan Lal Dhar and Smt Dali Dhar

Sh Rudha Krishan Dhar and Smt Pyari Dhar (Dever and Devrani)

(Grand and Great Grand Children)

Sandeep and Swati Dhar, Ashish and Vishali Dhar, Khushi and Tanishka

MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE WILL BE HELD AT THE SAME PLACE AS MENTIONED ABOVE.



SMT KUSHLAWATI DHAR

ANTIM ARDASS

We inform the sad demise of our beloved S. Mian Singh Ji (Batote Wale) R/o Sector-1, G.T.B.Nagar, Channi Bypass Jammu on 10th May, 2023.

Programme

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 14.05.2023 at 9:00 AM

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 16.05.2023 at 9:00 AM.

Kirtan and Antim Ardass will be performed at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Guru Tegh Bahadur Nagar, Channi Bypass Jammu on 16.05.2023 (Tuesday) from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Afterwards Guru Ka Langar will be served.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sdn. Gian Kaur (Wife)

Sons & Daughters-in-law

S. Joginder Singh & Sdn. Agya Kour

Dr.Devinder Singh & Sdn.Pavinder Kour (Edu. Deptt.)

S. Iqbal Singh (Agri.Deptt) & Sdn.Harjit Kour (Edu.Deptt)

Daughters & Sons-in-law

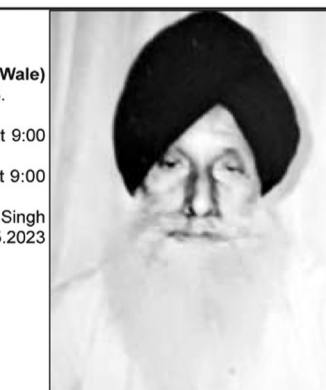
Sdn.Devinder Kour (Rtd.Edu.Deptt) & Dr. Jagjeet Singh

Dr.Amrit Kour & Dr.Manohar Singh

Sdn. Harmeet Kour (Edu.Deptt) & Dr. Amrik Singh

Sdn Ajit Kour (Edu.Deptt) & S.Ravinder Singh (J&K Police)

Mob.7006846725, 9419358080



S. Mian Singh Ji (Batote Wale)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our father Karmayogi Sh. Madsudhan Koul of Vessu Anantnag at present H.No. 37/6 EWS Colony Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu.

The 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education on 17-05-2023 at 9:00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. & Sh. Shubhan Ji Koul - Brother & Bhabhi- 9419211312

Sons & Daughter-in-laws

Smt & Sh. Anil Kumar Koul - 8082977100

Smt & Sh. Ravi Ji Koul - 8717087794

Smt & Sh. Satish Kumar Koul - 6005118842

Smt & Sh. Vikram Koul - 8802057000

Smt. & Sh. Shadi Lal Bhat- Daughter & Son-in-law- 9419814219

Smt & Sh. M. L Bhan - Sister & Brother-in-law 9469479621

Grand Children : Abhay, Sachi, Medha & Shlok



Karmayogi Sh. Madsudhan Koul

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved mother, Smt Shyama Bakshi W/o Late Sh. Makhan Lal Bakshi Originally resident of Lal Nagar Chanpora. At Present 139-C MIG flats Rajouri Garden, New Delhi 27 on 09th/10th May 2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 18th May 2023 at Murad Nagar, U.P.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Vinod Bakshi & Kiran Bakshi - Son & Daughter-in-Law

Kusum Malla & Sanjay Malla - Daughter & Son-in-Law

Sunita Gurkha & Ajay Gurkha - Daughter & Son-in-Law

Amodini, Manisha, Sneha, Anisha & Anuj - Grand children

Samast Bakshi, Raina, Koul, Sadhri, Nagari, Khurdi, Malla, Gurkha and Ganju Parivar

Mobile No: 9311768181, 9818667784, 9810399809



Smt Shyama Bakshi

TENTH DAY & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the demise of our beloved Smt. Satya Devi W/o Late Shri Ram Lal Dogra (Lali Shah, Kulfi Wale).

Tenth Day will be performed on 15th May at 11 AM at our residence Lane No.6, House No. 166, Shakti Nagar on Monday.

Uthala will be performed on 19th May at Jagat Resort from 2 PM to 4 PM, Friday at Shakti Nagar.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons

Sh. Ram Parshad & Sh. Abhinash Dogra

Daughter-in-law

Smt. Arti Dogra & Veena Dogra

Mr. Rajan Dogra - Grand Son

Mrs. Anam Dogra - Grand Daughter-in-law

Vansh Deep & Shiv Nandan - Grand Son

Aadharan & Adhvik - Great Grand Son

Ph: 9419142060, 6006770615, 7006670540, 9419110898



Two days workshop on “Financial Literacy for Youth Program” organized at GDC Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, May 15: Two days workshop on “Financial Literacy for Youth Program (FLY)” organized by Career Counselling and Placement Cell, Department of BBA & Commerce, GDC Kathua in collaboration with National Institutes of Securities Markets (An Educational Initiative of SEBI), was inaugurated in Govt Degree College Kathua. A large number of students and faculty members participated in the event. Workshop was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC Kathua in presence of revered resource person Mr. Ashok Singla, ISO Lead Auditor, Prof. Anirudh Sharma, Prof. Jaswinder Singh, IQAC Co-Ordinator, Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma, Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener, Career Counselling Cell & Head, Department of Chemis-



try, Dr. Anupma Arora, Dr. Himani Arora, Dr. Pankaj Gupta and Dr. Jaswinder Singh. Prof. Seema Mir, Chief Guest of the event in her deliberations stressed on the need of such type of workshops for the faculty as well as students. She appreciated the efforts of Speaker, Convener, members of organizing committee for taking this initiative of organizing this interactive workshop for students and faculty of GDC Kathua. Moreover, she encouraged all the faculty members to organize more such

events for shaping the career of students. Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener of the workshop welcome the Chief Guest, Resource person and all the participants. He said that Career Counselling and Placement Cell of the college is continuously involved in organizing such type of awareness programs for students for helping them in deciding better future. He said that after attending this workshop participants shall become more responsible savers and investors. Moreover, they shall be ready for

the real-life situations and shall be able to take decisions more independently. Resource person of the event, Ashok Singla, in her inaugural talk highlighted various investment schemes and educational loan schemes for students. In the interactive session he made the participants aware of savings, protection of money, precautions while investing in securities Markets etc. The two workshop shall cover aspects like Importance of Investments, Introduction to

Securities Markets, Primary Markets and Secondary Markets, Mutual Funds, Precautions for Investing; Investor Protection and Grievances Redressal Mechanism; Career opportunities in securities markets etc. The proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Prof. Himani Arora, Head Department of Commerce. The workshop was ended with an impressive vote of thanks by Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Event Coordinator & Assistant Professor in Chemistry. Others who have contributed in the successful organization of the event were Prof. Rahul Sharma, Dr. Roshan Lal, Prof. Neha Mahajan, Dr. Verinder Singh, Dr. Kamal Deep Singh, Prof. Kanchan Mala, Prof. Shiv Kumar, Prof. Natasha, Dr. Tejeshwar Singh, Prof. Ajay Sharma, Prof. Rohit Gupta, Dr. Isha Khajuria & Prof. Manta Devi.

Civil Defence Jammu inaugurates 05 days training programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: On the directions of Directorate of HG, CD and SDRF J&K, 05 days training programme was started at Govt. Modal Hr. Sec. School Kandoli Nagrota, Jammu. The programme was started by the Civil Defence, Jammu under the supervision DySP Anita Pawar, Deputy Controller Civil Defence, Jammu. In the training camp 100 Students of Hr. Sec. School are attending CD basic training. The training will be given by the Civil

Defence Experts on the knowledge of First Aid & Fire Fighting, Snake bite, Choking and other basic life saving technique and preventive measures during the natural/ manmade disaster. During the inaugural programme of the training, DySP Anita Pawar delivered a lecture and highlighted the role of Civil Defence and importance of this training. She urged that this training is considered to be very beneficial for the daily life of every human being. Paramjit Kumar Chief Warden Civil Defence

Jammu in his speech also highlighted the setup of the organization especially the role of wardens in Civil Defence organization. At the end of the programme Parshotam Kumar Sharma Principal of the Hr. Sec. School presented vote of thanks. Besides other who was present on the occasion were R. Vijay Magotra Dy. Chief Warden CD Jammu, Sub Insp. Ram Dayal Saini I/C Trainings, Ct. Rajinder Kumar Civil Defence instructor and Ct. Parshotam Kumar civil Defence Instructor.

Secretary Ex-Servicemen Welfare visits headquarters Northern Command



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 15: Vijoy Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare visited Udhampur Military Station on 15 May 2022 and interacted with Lt Gen Upenendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C and other senior officers of Headquarters Northern Command.

During the visit, he discussed various issues related with welfare of Ex-Servicemen and their glorious contribution in Nation Building. Secretary Ex-Servicemen Welfare was also briefed on the contribution of Northern Command in the UTs of Jammu,

Kashmir and Ladakh. He appreciated various Ex-Servicemen welfare schemes and valuable contributions of all ranks of ‘Always in Combat’ Command, while securing the borders as well as fighting the Proxy War in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Karnataka results has shown the way forward: APUM

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: All parties United Morcha on Monday celebrated the victory of Congress party in Karnataka, in a meeting in Jammu and decided to carry on the message of unity in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir to defeat the communal and divisive & opportunist forces like BJP. Congratulating the congress leadership at the centre and in the state and expressing gratitude to the people of Karnataka for rejecting the communal and divisive agenda of the opportunist BJP, the leaders of prominent opposition parties said that people of Karnataka have given a verdict of change in the country in the forthcoming general elections. The people have voted for the positive agenda



of development welfare and employment against price rise and corruption and rejected the vote bank politics of ruling BJP. The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Abdul Rehman (Ex-MP) and attended by Ravinder Sharma (Chief Spokesperson JKPC), Rattan Lal Gupta (Provincial President - NC), Manish Sawhney - President Shiv Sena Udhav Bal Thakur (JKUBT) Sr. IDP leader I.D. Khajuria (Convener APUM) Virinder Singh Sonu

(PDP), Narinder Khajuria (IDP), Com. Hari Singh (CPM), Vikas Bakshi (UBT), Sardar Narinder Singh Khalsa (Akali Dal A). Sweets were distributed on the occasion to celebrate the victory. The APUM congratulated the Congress leadership for the landslide victory and effectively countering and defeating the opportunist agenda of BJP, starting from Bharat Jodo Yatra, till culmination of elections. The BJP attempt to

polarize the atmosphere and hijack the elections, were defeated by the people of Karnataka, who have shown the way forward to the countrymen for the forthcoming general elections. The meeting felt that BJP is delaying assembly elections in the JKUT because the party sees the writings on the wall, as BJP will face a humiliating defeat in J&K in assembly elections as and when held. The people are totally fed up with the poli-

cies and programmes of BJP and has left the people at the mercy of irresponsible and non-responsive bureaucratic regime with the resources of J&K opened for the loot of outsiders while locals are without jobs and business prospects. The unemployment is on the peak in J&K. The people are being heavily taxed while the price rise is on the peak. The people of J&K want early elections to the state assembly under statehood, for which the opposition parties shall unitedly fight and struggle for restoration of democracy. They appealed all other opposition political parties in the country and J&K, who are opposed the policies and opportunist politics of BJP to unite to fight for the rights of the people of J&K.

BVP conducts Regional Workshop at Jalandhar

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) conducted Regional workshop at Jalandhar. More than 45 members participated. From JK Prant region a team of more than 10 members lead by its President Bharat Bhushan, Regional Joint Secretary Arun Sharma, Regional Secretary Sanskar Er. Gopal Sharma and Regional Secretary Mahila Parmukh



Ameeta Sharma, Vice President Samparak Parmukh, Vice President Sanskar Ashok Gupta, General Secretary Shiv Ram Sharma,

Finance Secretary Prant Sunita, Mahila Parmukh Arti Sharma, Devinder Mahajan were present in the workshop. National President

chaired the session followed by other programmes. In his address National President laid stress on more and more

members by organizing Sampark amongst elite group of members to unite them in Vikas Karya of 5 parkalaps. Many other sessions took place where participated members had exchange of views. More stress was laid on media highlight of the Karya done and carried away by different branches of the Region. The workshop concluded on 2nd day with recitations of National Anthem.

Film producer Amit Singh honoured by IMRC College of Law



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Moot Court Competition was organized by Amit Singh and Editor Director Narayan Singh Toilet Ek Prem Katha and Raju Chandel Hinduist BJP leader IMIRC College of Law. Chief Guest Narayan Singh Film Director Wednesday, Batti Gul Meter Chalu, Toilet Ek Prem Katha, Amit Singh Film Producer, Raju Chandel Chairman National Channel BBSA, Meghraj Law Faculty of Delhi University, Advocate D Raghav Delhi High Court, Advocate P.S Tomar Delhi High Court, Advocate Pawan Som Karkardooma Court, Dr.

Rajendra Singh Tomar Chairman and Director IMIRC College of Law and Dr. Brijesh Kumar Singh, Advocate Delhi High Court. This competition was only for the students of the college, in which the students participated with great enthusiasm. Be aware that eminent personalities were invited to the college to assess the performance of the students. Gauri Chakraborty, Advocate Arvind Kumar Singh, Advocate Suraj Kumar Singh, Dr. Meghraj, Advocate Brijesh Kumar Singh, Advocate P S Tomar, Advocate Pawan Singh, Advocate Bupendra Singh, Advocate IB Raghav provided important contribution and guidance. After this enthralling performance of Charan, the final year students Megha Gupta and Megha won first and Ram Mehar Singh and Kashmir got the second prize, and Best Speaker Kishori Best Research Iram Khan and Appreciation Barkha Jha given to Chief Guest Narayan Singh.

Apni Party District Committee Udhampur launches public outreach programme

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 15: Apni Party District Committee Udhampur has launched a public outreach programme in remote areas of the district comprising Chanani and Sudhmahadev. The programme was launched by district committee Udhampur under the leadership of its Provincial Vice President, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath. Those who accompanied him included District President Hans Raj Dogra, Vice President Jagdev Singh, District Vice President, Haji Noor Mohammed, District General

Secretary, Sat Paul Chalotra and others.

During the public outreach programme, the Apni Party leaders held a series of public meetings at Chanani, Sudhmahadev, Man Talai, Bup Sarar, Marothi, Lattu and other places.

Addressing one of the public meetings at Sudh Mahadev, the Ex-MLA Faqir Nath said that “There is acute shortage of drinking water, electricity, medicine in the hospitals and the conditions of local roads are in very bad shape.” He also addressed many local people deputations who met the



Apni Party during the public outreach programme and assured them to raise their problems. Meanwhile, dozens of people joined the Apni Party that includes Azaz Hussain, Rakesh, Yasir Naik, Mohammed Hussain Bhat, Shahid-ulla

Bhat, Hukam Chand, Krishan Chand, Mohammed Kalu Khan, Jahngir Ali and others. Those who also address the meetings are H. R. Dogra, Jagdev Singh, Noor Mohammed Ansat, Paul Chalotra and others.

Mohd Altaf expresses condolences on demise of Brother in law of Dr Manohar Lal

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 15: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Provincial Vice President Kashmir Mohammad Altaf Dar today expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the shocking demise of Master Lakhnapal Sharma (Brother in law of Dr Manohar Lal Sharma) Ex Minister, Sr DPAP Leader in tragic road accident at Chann Arorian (Kathua). Dar termed the sad demise of the Master Lakhnapal Sharma as a great loss to the community/Society as

deceased has always remained on front foot for the betterment. Mohammad Altaf Dar in a statement told that the contribution of Master Lakhnapal Sharma sahab will be remembered in the community. Provincial Vice President Kashmir (DPAP) Mohammad Altaf Dar including all the members of DPAP condoled the sad demise and prayed for his soul. Democratic Progressive Azad Party(DPAP)also extended the heartfelt condolences and expressed solidarity with them especially with Dr Manohar Lal Sharma in this hard time.

EDITORIAL

FOREIGN POLICY

India adopted an independent foreign policy since independence and gave priority to cordial and friendly relations with neighboring countries and other countries of the world keeping global peace ahead. For this reason, instead of becoming a part of any particular bloc during the Cold War, India carried forward the Non-Aligned Movement.

In the changing global order, India adopted the policy of 'Look East' in order to promote economic activities with South-East Asian countries.

Apart from this, India also worked on the policy of giving unilateral exemption to its small neighboring countries under the 'Gujral Principle' which can be understood in the context of 'Farakka Agreement'.

The present government has given priority to 'Neighbourhood First Policy' while maintaining the elements of continuity in the foreign policy as well as making it more dynamic according to the current circumstances.

The 'Neighbourhood First Policy' has also maintained the elements of continuity existing in Indian foreign policy, in which the priority of the Gujral principle has been accepted, emphasizing on global peace, friendship and cordial relations.

Under this, giving priority to the neighboring countries, the commitment to be a partner in their economic development and growth has been strengthened. Taking this forward, efforts have been made to make relations with all parties sweet and intense by not giving priority to any particular party of any country. This can be seen in the context of the change in the Indian approach towards establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Most of India's neighboring countries are small, due to which they are always apprehensive about India and somewhere affected by 'Big Brother' syndrome in the context of India. In such a situation, peace, stability and trustful relations in neighboring countries are important from the point of view of Indian security.

India has friendly relations with most of the neighboring countries, but at times it is affected by global circumstances and regional events.

Talking about relations with neighboring countries, at present India has good relations with Afghanistan and India is playing a major role in capacity building there, but Taliban activism remains a matter of concern here. India also has good socio-cultural relations with Nepal, but the internal situation of Nepal and the presence of China here affects it negatively.

China wants to establish its influence on the trade routes of the Indian Ocean. In such a situation, China is working on a strategy to surround India under the policy of 'String of Pearls' with the intention of establishing its influence there by providing economic assistance to India's neighboring countries. Therefore, in order to counter-balance China in South Asia, the role of neighboring countries increases immensely.

India will have to promote 'Three C' (Culture, Commerce, Connectivity) to maintain diplomatic balance with neighboring countries.

To establish cordial relations with the neighboring countries, India should resort to its 'soft power' and cultural diplomacy, which is seen to be lacking with China. Apart from this, efforts should be made to complete their projects on time so that there is no 'trust deficit' towards India.

We need to indicate with reference to our projects that it is in their socio-economic interest and not to trap them in debt trap. By doing this, somewhere or the other, India's relations with its neighboring countries will deepen and their psychological confusion will be dispelled.

In this hour of crisis, India can provide medicines and other medical equipment to its neighboring countries, which will not only counter-balance China's influence in these countries but will also increase India's 'soft power' policy.

Young stay aloof from monarchy; Liverpool hit by Eurovision fever

By: Kishwar Desai

There is still a bit of euphoria left over from the coronation, last week. Newspapers are still coming out with multicoloured supplements of the King and his extended family. So everyone is still a little giddy with the parties and the celebrations. And the wall-to-wall coverage.

We escaped any crisis, thanks to Prince Harry maintaining a low profile as he came, sat quietly in a back row through the coronation and then scooted back to Heathrow to be present at his son's birthday in Los Angeles. A sigh of relief that the joyous occasion was not marred by any tantrums which would have only inspired another Netflix movie!

India sent the Honourable Vice-President to attend the coronation. So Londoners had the benefit of meeting him at the local Taj where he spoke to the large gathering followed by a dinner.

But as always, there is a reaction following all that jollity.

This being Britain in the 21st century, there is a debate about whether royalty will survive for long. While the splendour of the coronation ceremony should have silenced such debates, there has been a reverse effect. There are a growing number of Republicans in the British

population, who were standing around even in the coronation crowds, with placards stating "Not My King". As expected, the police overreacted and arrested some of them fearing that these demonstrators may upset the procession or, even worse, upset the tight timetable by blocking it, lying down in the road as the climate change rebels do. The procession went through on time but as a consequence the Republicans got a lot of publicity. Questions were asked in Parliament about them. But there has been an increase in their membership and newspapers are agog with shock at such unseemly behaviour. However, for many in India who got rid of their maharajah system post-Independence this addiction to royalty appears to belong to a different era. Somewhat quaint and old-fashioned.

It seems the elderly British are super-loyal and believe the monarchy is a strength. But those under 30 are indifferent or hostile. So unless the youngsters mature into monarchists, there is a problem for the young Prince George — the next but one in line of succession — though William the Prince of Wales may just get away with it. Maybe because he and his wife are already trying to look like one of the masses: he will be the king connected to the people, unlike his father who may

still need someone to squeeze the toothpaste tube for him every morning.

But let's not forget that the monarchy is a whole industry and far too many people — including the tourism industry — depend on it. Not to speak of the staff who maintains and manages the various palaces.

But out in the real world, business as usual has resumed. We had local elections in most parts of the country except London. It is a rule of British politics that the ruling party loses seats in local elections. Then we get into a debate as to what this will do to its chances in the general elections. The truthful answer is, "no one knows". But that does not stop speculation. As the Conservatives lost more than they had expected, there is much speculation about Rishi Sunak.

He has, however, done 200 days as Prime Minister, which, given recent history, is quite remarkable. But during the coronation, it was Penny Mordaunt who had a starring role as Leader of the House of Commons (a post established centuries ago), carrying a sword and preceding the King through the ceremony. She had contested and lost in the leadership elections which Liz Truss won. So now she is being touted as the next Prime Minister. One would have thought there is little

time left before the next election to change Prime Ministers but then English politics has become like the weather — unpredictable.

There are pleasant surprises, however. The Eurovision Song Contest which has been going on for over 65 years has come to Liverpool this year. It should be held in Kyiv, Ukraine, as it was a Ukrainian group which won the contest last year. That qualified Kyiv to stage this year's contest. But the situation being a bit dangerous out there, Liverpool was chosen (as the native place of the Beatles) to do the honours. The music will range from the predictable to the bizarre. But the thrill of the Eurovision is the final decision. Each country taking part has a panel watching which gets to cast their votes on the performance of each contesting country. As the contest is European, the language is French. The scoring is the highlight, not the music. The country getting the maximum points is the winner so this is a democratically decided contest. I always enjoy the cheeky commentary that accompanies it... and this year it is Sweden who has been voted as the winner! Well, that brings back memories of ABBA — who won the Eurovision in 1974 with "Waterloo" — and then never looked back!

Karnataka helps breach a psychological barrier

By: Sanjaya Baru

Elections to the Karnataka Assembly became the first important battleground on which Rahul Gandhi directly confronted Narendra Modi. Mr Gandhi won. Mr Modi lost.

That about sums up the first important significance of the Karnataka electoral verdict. Ever since he entered active politics, Rahul Gandhi has not been credited with any decisive victory for his party. His inability to convincingly lead the Congress Party to electoral victory became his Achilles' heel. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his rambunctious acolytes could easily make fun of him, dubbing him "Pappu".

The Bharat Jodo Yatra changed all that. It helped Rahul Gandhi acquire a wholly new image as a down to earth, principled, idealistic, earnest, "boy-next-door". He clicked as much with family elders as with idealistic and aspirational young people. While Mr Modi has retained his appeal to his core support base, the middle class that enthusiastically voted for him in 2014 and in 2019 has become increasingly disillusioned. Barring the communalised sections of the middle class that have become diehard supporters of the Hindutva project of asserting Hindu majoritarianism, most others are no longer impressed by Mr Modi's bombastic oratory or his obsessive self-projection of himself.

There is no better evidence of this change than the response of the Bengaluru voter to Mr Modi's heavily garlanded roadshow on a carpet of marigolds and rose petals. Maybe he tried to project himself as a later day Wodeyar Maharajah. Short of sitting atop an elephant, Mr Modi did everything to look like one. Rahul Gandhi travelled around

the city on public transport engaging young people, while Mr Modi merely smiled at children on the other side of a barbed wire, refusing to touch extended hands.

Karnataka's Bharatiya Janata Party leadership could not bridge this gap. The Karnataka result is, without doubt, a huge morale booster for the Congress Party and its leadership. While the task ahead is humungous and Mr Modi remains ahead of any available political challenger, he no longer appears invincible. If the final numbers had been closer, say 114 to 100, many explanations would have been trotted out to protect the Prime Minister's image and not allow the defeat to besmirch it. However, a result like the one we have is nothing less than a resounding defeat that directly impacts Prime Minister Modi's image.

The second important implication of the Karnataka result is that it will help breach an important psychological barrier that has largely held back overt criticism of the Prime Minister. The incarceration of many journalists and a variety of other critics, and the official hounding of individuals and institutions critical of the Narendra Modi government had generated fear of regime leadership both within the institutions of the State and in the media. While the government corrupted the media with huge advertisement spends and the pampering of the faithful, self-censorship on the part of many editors and journalists became a larger problem. Journalists, especially in television media, have been willing to crawl when asked to bend.

It is interesting to see the reception on the social media over the past few days to Parakala Prabhakar's recently published collection of essays, *The Crooked Timber of New India*, with many admiring

his "courage" for "speaking truth to power" and calling a spade a spade. Prabhakar went on the social media to assert that the "Modi regime is staggeringly incompetent". Suddenly, many have woken up to the fact that Mr Modi can be challenged and criticised openly. Journalists who have reduced

themselves to propagandists must introspect as to how much damage they have done to their own reputation and to that of the profession. It remains to be seen if professionalism will assert itself over partisanship within the media.

A third important outcome is the failure of Mr Modi and the Sangh Parivar to benefit from their cynical deployment of an appeal to religion and the religious beliefs of ordinary people to secure political power. Not only was history distorted to malign Tipu Sultan and Hindu priests invited to endorse candidates, the Prime Minister made a wholly objectionable statement asking Karnataka's voters to say "Jai Bajrang Bali" while pressing the button on the voting machine. This was perhaps the lowest depth to which the communalisation of the electoral process had reached. That the Karnataka voter ignored such cynical manipulation of their faith is testimony to the essentially secular character of most Hindus, especially in Southern India.

We are seeing the long-term social and economic consequences of the cynical mixing of religion and politics in Pakistan. Few recall that the Pakistani economy was ahead of India's for close to three decades, from the 1950s till the 1980s. India took off in the 1990s, leaving an increasingly Islamised Pakistan far behind.

On the other hand, Bangladesh has taken off as an economy, over-

taking India on per capita income, as a country now constitutionally wedded to secularism.

Removing religion out of politics is a good way of keeping the focus on equitable development, treating all citizens as equals.

Many economists have argued that mixing politics with religion has a debilitating impact on governance and economic development. While the Modi BJP has often been critical of Atal Behari Vajpayee and his leadership of the party, as a country India performed well during Vajpayee's tenure because he opted for more liberal politics, eschewing hardline Hindutva. Mr Modi's decade has not been a particularly impressive one in terms of governance and development despite the leadership being more assertive and authoritarian. It remains to be seen if the Modi BJP draws any such lessons from the Karnataka verdict or ends up blaming the state leadership, absolving the national leadership of all responsibility.

Finally, a more self-confident Congress Party will have to tread the ground carefully over the next year if it wishes to regain its national support base. Its performance in the states where it governs will be one leg of its claim to power in 2024. The other leg would be pursuing imaginative policies and politics that restore hope to a sullen middle class, improve the social and economic prospects of the poor, revive the so-called "animal spirits" of Indian private enterprise and regain India's global stature as a secular, liberal, plural democracy.

The writer is an author, a former newspaper editor and adviser to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. His latest book is *Journey of a Nation: 75 Years of Indian Economy*.

DDC Pancheri-Moungri inaugurates CBC's Photo Exhibition

TOP NEWS REPORT

MOUNGRI, May 15: District Development Council (DDC) member, Pancheri-Moungri, Jasvir Singh on Monday inaugurated Photo exhibition on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, G20 Presidency and Mission LIFE-Conservation of water organized by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Field Office, Udhampur, at Moungri.

The photo exhibition mounted at Sai Dabber, during the historic Shiv Parvati Mela, Sar Dabber Moungri in district Udhampur is part of various outreach activities being organized by CBC, Jammu & it's Field Offices in UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

The two-day long exhibition showcases the freedom struggle of India through a series of photo exhibits.

The aim of the Photo exhibition is to generate awareness among the masses regarding the various initiatives AND welfare programmes of Government of India. It is an effort to familiarize people with the objectives and vision behind Amrit Mahotsav and



how people can be a part of the campaign.

In his address, DDC member, Pancheri-Moungri appreciated the efforts of the CBC, Field Office Udhampur in organizing the Photo exhibition and urged people to visit the exhibition.

He also exhorted youth especially students to visit the Exhibition for an insight into the freedom struggle of India.

Speaking about the Mission LIFE, DDC member said, today welfare schemes move in mission mode, so that we can get connected with the schemes.

He urged CBC Field Office Udhampur to

organise such programmes in other hilly areas of Pancheri-Moungri.

Field Publicity Officer, CBC Udhampur, Khurshed Yousuf while welcoming the guests gave a detailed overview of the functioning, structure and working of CBC, in the twin UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He also briefed the audience about various outreach activities that will be organized during the event.

Yousuf said that these programmes are being organized so that people get benefits of various public welfare schemes of the government.

Karnail Singh, Naib

Tehsildar Moungri spoke on the implementation of the Central Sponsored Schemes of Revenue department and urged all to come forward and take benefits from these schemes.

Others present during the event Tehsildar Moungri, Narinder Kumar, Principal Govt. Higher Secondary School, Moungri and Damnotte and Officials from other departments, PRI members from various Panchayats, Teachers, Students, and locals.

During the day long programme, apart from other activities, Open Quiz Competition, Expert Lectures, and Cultural Programmes

were conducted. IEC material was also distributed among the audience.

In run up to exhibition, CBC, organized Govt. High School Panjar to mobilize and aware about the various activities being organized by CBC during the Photo Exhibition. During the Pre-event, Sh. Suresh Kumar, Headmaster GHS Panjar and Sarpanch Panjar, Sh. Koushal Kumar presided over the function.

The exhibition is open to the public up to 16th May, 2023 during which people may visit the exhibition participate in open Quiz competition and enjoy the cultural programmes.

Manjit demands desilting of canals ahead of paddy season in Samba

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, May 15: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has been desilting of the canals in Ramgarh, Samba ahead of the paddy season.

Addressing a workers meeting at Ramgarh, Manjit Singh was reviewing the party's working and put forth the strategy to strengthen its roots in Samba district, and its border villages.

The meeting was organized by District President Legal Cell, Sahil Bharti, District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, Lovely Mangol, Block President Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary, and others.

He asked the party leaders to launch a door to door campaign and intensify the awareness campaign among the people with regard to the various developmental policies, and programmes of the Apni Party.

In his address, he referred to the issues of the border farmers who suffer because canal water is not reaching the tail-end villages in Ramgarh, and other villages of District Samba.

"The canal is unclean



and this becomes an obstruction in the flow of canal water to reach up to the tail-end villages. Therefore, the desilting of canals is must as the farmers use canal water for irrigation purposes, and paddy season is also approaching. The irrigation department should immediately take necessary steps to desilt the canal up to the villages along the border," he said.

He also said that most of the bore wells of the irrigation department are not functional and the department has also turned blind eyes towards the problems of the farmers.

"The farmers are left with no option, but to approach the administration. However, their demand to look into the issue of non-functional bore is not being addressed," he complained, quoting concerns of the people.

He said that the farmers have also complained about the unscheduled power cuts

in Samba and hence, the water pumps do not work when there is no electricity. However, the farmers are compelled to pay the electricity bills although the electricity supply remains disrupted for hours together.

In absence of canal water, he said that the farmers in the border belt use bore well water for drinking, and irrigation purposes. He appealed to the Govt to ensure supply of drinking water through tap in every left out village of Ramgarh.

Similarly, he raised concern over the developmental issues in villages, and poor cleanliness.

He demanded better hospital facilities for the villagers who have to travel for hours to reach Vijaypur or to GMC Jammu to get medical care.

He expressed concern over the poor funding at the block level works that has led to the delay in various developmental works.

Zonal Level Inter School Tournament held

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, MAY 15: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Udhampur organized Zonal Level Inter school tournament for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls at Govt. High School Dudu Kirchi, in sports disciplines of Carrom, Chess, Badminton, Yoga and Wrestling in which 400 boys and 150 girls drawn from different 20 government institutions of two Blocks Latti Maroti and Dudu Basantgarh participated.

The event was inaugurated by Headmaster Govt. High School Dudu Shamsheer Ahmed in presence of other officials.

A Pledge was taken by the participants, officials and spectators in respect



of "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan".

An oath was also taken by all the participating student players for smooth and successful conduct of the tournaments.

The competitions are being organized under the patronage ship of Subash Chander Chibber, Director Youth Services and Sports UT of J&K, chairmanship of Dharam Vir Singh District Youth Services &

Sports Officer Udhampur and supervision of Malik Iffikhar Iqbal PEM, I/C Zonal Physical Education Office Dudu.

Today's Results:

BOYS Wrestling u-14: Kameshwer Singh of MS Upper Bhattian defeated Aakash Bharti of MS Kirki. Badminton: Aayat Uzma of MS Upper Bhattian defeated Suman Bharti of HS Panchound. Chess: HS Balota Upper-la defeated team of HS

Chappar; HSS Jakhed defeated team of MS Chakka.

The matches were officiated by a technical panel of experts of YSS Abid Hussain Kanth, Mohd Arfan, Rajesh Kumar, Rakesh Kumar and Sanjeev Khajuria R.E.K. Among others who were present were Kuldeep Kumar, Ankush Thakur, Altaf, Shabir, Pawan Kumar, Uttam, Komal Gupta and Kewal.

GGM Science College celebrates Mother's Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 15: NSS of GGM Science College Jammu celebrated Mother's Day 2023 with lecture cum Poster making competition and focus was on the need for Mother's Day honours.

The event was organized under the guidance of Principle Prof. Rajesh Gupta and supervision of Dr. Narinder Kumar, NSS PO.

The idea theme for this international day is to acknowledge the idea of motherhood.

Principal apprised the participants that mother day is a special day dedicated to celebrating and honoring mothers for their love and contributions to their families and society.

Dr. Narinder Kumar NSS PO said that the



significance of Mother's Day lies in recognising and acknowledging, the selfless love, care, and sacrifices.

He added that this day express gratitude and appreciation for the sacrifices and hard work that mothers put in to

raise their children.

He further added that mother often has to balance their personal and professional lives while ensuring the well-being of family. No. of NSS volunteers spoke on the occasion. The judges namely Dr. Gurpreet

Kour and Dr. Deepjayot examined the posters and declared the result, first prize goes to Karuna, second Ritika and third to Ritish. Large number NSS volunteers participated and made the event grand successful.

Students given tips on how to crack NEET, IIT JEE at a motivational session by Aakash BYJU'S at Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 15: A motivational session was organised by Aakash BYJU'S at Jammu for Jammu and Udhampur branches. More than 6000 students and parents participated in the event.

The speaker at this program was Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, North India, Aakash BYJU'S who gave an encouraging and inspiring message to the students.

He also discussed how committed the student should be towards their preparation and how constructive changes can make one brighter and more successful.

More than 100 Aakashian alumni who are pursuing Medical and Engineering degrees from the top most prestigious colleges like AIIMS, IITs etc were felicitated at the event. The parents of the students were also honoured.

Jha also motivated and guided students on how to crack NEET and IIT JEE and how with proper guidance, mentorship, self-study and the blessings of parents, teachers and ultimately God, one can achieve his or her goal. He also highlighted a significant point that toppers and successful students can come from even the remotest of places and locations

and it is not necessary to move to big cities for the same.

This program helped students to be motivated by a positive mind and improve the intensity in chasing their dreams of aspiring their careers in the medical and engineering field. Parents and students not only expressed their satisfaction and happiness but also thanked Aakash BYJU'S team and system for bringing to them the best quality education and helping in achieving their dreams in engineering and medical fields. The session concluded with the pledge to sticking to goals and indulging themselves in achieving their dreams.

HDFC Bank, TASK come together to promote fresh employment

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 15: HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, and Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK), a not-for-profit organisation under the Department of ITE&C, Government of Telangana has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote employment of fresh graduates and post-graduates.

As per the MoU, HDFC Bank will now be able access a large pool of talent across 700 institutions registered with 'TASK'.

The MoU was signed at Hyderabad by Shrikant Sinha, CEO - TASK and Ranga Subramanian, Head - Talent Acquisition, HDFC Bank.

Under the partnership, TASK will help HDFC Bank hire trained students. All

kinds of logistical support for placement drives and interviews will be provided by TASK.

"HDFC Bank is committed to promoting fresh talent across the length and breadth of the country. We are an equal opportunity organisation where everyone is given an ecosystem to excel and grow to their maximum potential. Our partnership with TASK will open the doors to Gen Z to kick-start their career at a certified 'Great Place to Work' that is financially empowering millions and contributing towards nation-building," said Ranga Subramanian, Head - Talent Acquisition, HDFC Bank.

HDFC Bank is amongst the largest employers in the country with an active employee base of over 1,70,000 employees.

Pratham Education Foundation organises school readiness Melas



TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, May 15: Directorate of School Education Jammu Kishtwar in collaboration with Pratham Education Foundation is organising school readiness Melas in schools of different zones in district Kishtwar.

The Mela is aimed at checking overall development of children who are going to take admission in class 1st includ-

ing physical intellectual Mathematical and language development of children. In school readiness Mela Pratham team organises event through checking child at different stalls and parents being alongside the child noticing all.

At last a report card is provided to parents on which the development across different aspects of children are recorded. After a gap of one

month the Mela will be done again with same children and it would be noticed that either any improvement is seen in the development of children in one month of schooling or not.

The Melas organising process was started in different zones of district Kishtwar including PS Goni heaven in zone Drabshalla, ups Semna Zone Kishtwar and PS Hular zone Nagseni.

Family sagas have been relegated to the background, as bold content shines on screen. However, the entertainment fraternity vouches for simple stories with melodious songs

A family that prays together, eats together, stays together... Declared babuji aka Alok Nath in Hum Saath Saath Hain. Elaborate sets, big joint family, pretty dresses, petty quarrels and couple of delightful songs, there was a time when the parivar was a priority in Bollywood!

The family sagas full of love, romance, shadi and songs pulled crowds to cinemas, and the masala entertainers that exploited every sentiment — mother, sister, bhaiya, bhabhi, didi — sent the box-office cash registers ringing. Films like Hum Aapke Hain Koun, Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, Kal Ho Naa Ho, 2 States, Badrinath Ki Dulhania, Dil Dhadakne Do and more regaled the audiences.

Different scenario Cut to the present; courtesy the change in plot lines, and treatment, movie watching is becoming a solitary outing. Stuck to one's own screens, bold content has made family cinema outings a thing of the past. Well, there have been exceptions; even after the pandemic



sent theatres packing for a long haul, we have had the likes of Drishyam 2, Jugjugg Jeeyo and Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar, but family flavour is largely missing from films.

This International Family Day, we ask the entertainment fraternity if they miss the good-old family sagas?

"With bold content and thrillers ruling the scene, family films are passé," says director Manoj Agrawal, known for films like Hadd Kar Di Aapne and Pardesi Babu. "The

films today are following Hollywood more than our own culture. See how films like The Kashmir Files and The Kerala Story are doing so well at the box-office just because these are our stories," says the director. "Apart from that, we have forgotten the art of simple storytelling, melodious music and artistic photography.

Thus, we are paying a very heavy price for all the misadventures in cinema," states Agrawal, who would rather reignite the oldworld charm,

"I do miss the innocence of the films of the past."

The family sagas going missing is also a reflection of the current times, believes film director Josan Sandeep. "Today, the society and social media has warped the family concept. A family sitting together at home or in the theatre just brings that union," says the director.

Actor Charrul Malik misses the times when the whole family would sit together without the need to mute or fast forward the scenes. "I miss

movies like Mr. India, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge and 3 Idiots. With entertainment moving from big screens to the small, much of OTT content today is totally off family limits."

Actor Sheeba Akashdeep makes a dash back to some rather simple times, "I have a bunch of films that I really like going back to. Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham is one among them."

Passing phase? Rather than a final statement, it's just a phase believes actor Nikhil Nanda. "Times have changed, but still the family values have not. I think we still need to make films that we all can go out and watch together as a family. Bold content is probably something which sells more on the OTT because you can see it in privacy. I have loved family comedies, and wish they make their way back."

Well, time and tide wait for none, who knows the big, boisterous family sagas make another dash...Here's hoping for it!

Here's how Raveena Tandon bagged her first role



Raveena Tandon made her debut in the Hindi film industry with Salman Khan-starrer Patthar Ke Phool in 1991. The actress spoke about how she got her debut role. Raveena would be seen talking about her maiden film during the The Kapil Sharma Show, which celebrated India's influential women — Sudha

Murthy, Raveena, and Guneet Monga — each of whom have made a mark for themselves in their respective fields.

During a chat where life stories and experiences were shared, host Kapil asked Raveena about her first movie and how she landed the role.

Taking a trip down memory lane, Raveena

said: "I was in my first year of college, and my friends and I would often go to the newly opened pizza shop on Linking Road. One day, while we were there, I saw Vivek Vaswani and Anant Balani sitting nearby. They were discussing the heroine for Salman Khan's second film and Anant pointed towards me, and asked Vivek to talk to me. Vivek didn't recognise me, but I recognised him as he is my brother's friend and I told him the same when he asked my name. He realised I was Ravi ji's daughter and that's how we connected."

She added: "Simultaneously, I was interning with Prahlad Kakkar and assisting him in shoots. Whenever there was no model available, he would make me stand in for free. During one of these shoots in Bandra, Bunty Walia noticed me, told Salman I would be perfect for films, and brought him to meet me. However, Salman didn't personally meet me, only noticed from a distance. My father later received a call from Salim ji and that's how I got another opportunity. You know how destiny works, what's written will happen."

Dwayne Johnson quit school during his earliest battle with depression

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson revealed how he suffered mental turmoil at various points during his life, from his college football days at the University of Miami to the height of his fame.

"My first battle with depression was in Miami. I didn't want to go to school. But at that time was I just know what depression was," Johnson recalled.

The former WWE star explained that depression had resurfaced at various points of his life despite success in both wrestling and movies, although his 'saving grace' is time spent with



his daughters Simone, 21, Jasmine, seven, and Tiana, five.

He said: "Years later, I went through it again when I got divorced, but

didn't know what it was. In 2017, I went through it a little bit. Knew what it was at that time and luckily had some friends that I could lean on."

Halle Bailey, soon to be seen in The Little Mermaid, shares Beyoncé's advice to deal with racism

Rising Hollywood star Halle Bailey said she is glad to have a bonafide Hollywood superstar like Beyoncé on her side as she continues to find fame. The 23-year-old actress and singer will soon be taking over the box-office as Ariel in a live version adaptation of Disney's The Little Mermaid. The lavish adaptation is set to hit the screens later this month when fans will finally be able to see Halle swim, splash and sing her way through the iconic musical.

When her casting was announced back in July 2019, vile racist comments were directed towards Halle via social media. Halle revealed



that she was able to turn to a mega-star for advice on how to handle the situation.

She said: "I had a private conversation with Beyoncé who told me not to read the comments on social media. It's kind of sad, but very good advice for your mental health. I started

in the industry so young that mental health has always been something I have tried to prioritise." Halle and her elder sister Chloe have a special friendship with 41-year-old Beyoncé, who offered them a record deal after seeing them cover one of her songs on YouTube.

The sisters subsequently signed a six album deal with Beyoncé's Parkwood Entertainment record label, with Chloe releasing her debut album, In Pieces, earlier this year. The duo previously released albums together under the moniker Chloe X Halle, with

The Kids Are Alright released in 2018 and Ungodly Hour in 2020.

After being snapped up by Beyoncé when they were 15 and 16, respectively, Halle added that she was still able to call on the chart-topping icon for creative advice.

The Little Mermaid also stars British actor Jonah Hauer-King as Prince Eric, Javier Bardem as King Triton, and Melissa McCarthy as the villainous sea witch Ursula. Voice performances will come from Daveed Diggs as Sebastian the crab, Awkwafina as Scuttle the gannet, and Jacob Tremblay as Flounder the fish.

Celebs talk about the importance of mental health and how it should be a priority

Be grateful

Rishina Kandhari We can become mentally ill in the same way that we get physically ill. One can seek the help of specialists. Morning walks, yoga, and meditation, all forms of regular exercise, have proven to be effective treatment for mental health issues. Other than this, having a healthy eating routine and getting enough sleep are important. You can also listen to soft music, cultivate a hobby, or talk to your close friends and family members to gain emotional support. Always be grateful for your life!

Seek help
Nikhil Nanda
Mental health issues must be discussed openly, and one should not shy away from seeking help. We should be kind to people who face mental health issues. Awareness should be created that counselling is not a taboo. For me, yoga and medita-

tion are a very big part of my daily routine, and help me remain calm and peaceful. There is always a solution, and we should have the will to work for it.

Trust the universe
Hansa Singh

A calm mind is the source of all happiness. Living in a chaotic world with all the pressure and competition leads to stress. I also have many issues in life. But over the years, learnt how to be calm amid chaos. As stress won't get me an answer, I just need to know the problem; once known, I just look and work for the solution. I don't like to rush things. I trust the universe. Everything happens at the right time. People with depression should voice it out. Reading good books helps a lot.

Being calm
Megha Chakraborty
It is very important to take care of your mental health. We focus on a

healthy lifestyle and fitness, but we forget about the mind. No matter how healthy your lifestyle is, you wouldn't see that effect on your body if mentally not healthy. If you are depressed and stressed and working-out daily, you still won't get the desired results until you are happy from within. Being calm and mentally stable is very important. I try to keep myself calm whenever I get frustrated and stressed. One should try to talk it out and share it with family or close ones, as it can relieve stress. I often go to a spa or get a massage done because it's a stress buster. You can play games, dance, meditate or listen to music to keep stress under control.

Manage situations
Aadesh Chaudhary
A person who is emotionally stable always feels vibrant and truly alive, so he or she can manage emotionally



challenging situations with ease. One must also be physically fit in order to be mentally strong. My best habit is an early morning walk, apart from yoga and exercises. Eat healthy food and sleep well.

Rest is important
Simaran Kaur

I get up early, as it gives me time to connect with myself and find inner calmness. I like to read occasionally and listen to soothing music. I don't use my phone while I am going to sleep to avoid distractions. Your performance will be better no matter what you are doing if you rest both mentally and physically. In the 21st century, mental health is becoming a more pressing issue. Not everybody receives the assistance they require.

Remain happy
Mental health should be a priority. If you need help, then seek it. There are many profes-

sionals available who will give you the right kind of help, online or offline. If you see somebody struggling with something, help out, as mental health issues are real. I definitely feel that professionals should be a part of the picture sooner rather than later. I personally do yoga, work-out, and listen to music. I try to keep myself happy. There is a lot that disturbs your mental peace on a day-to-day basis. Having friends is good for your cognitive health.

Part of life
Ssudeep Sahir
I am a positive person inherently, so I don't get bogged down easily. Moreover, highs and lows are part of life. We have to take it in the stride. My family is always there to support me. I really advice people to not keep things pent up inside, but rather talk to friends and family.

PM Modi to distribute about 71,000 appointment letters

The 'Rozgar Mela' will be held at 45 locations across the country

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute about 71,000 appointment letters on Tuesday to those joining various government departments and also address them virtually.

The 'Rozgar Mela' will be held at 45 locations across the country and the recruitments are taking place across central government departments as well as state governments and UTs supporting this initiative, an official statement said.

The new recruits, selected



from across the country, will join various posts like gramin dak sevak, inspector of posts, commercial-cum-ticket clerk, junior

clerk-cum-typist, junior accounts clerk, track maintainer, assistant section officer, lower division clerk, sub divisional officer and tax assistant among others.

The Rozgar Mela is a step towards fulfilment of the prime minister's commitment to according highest priority to employment generation, it said.

It is expected to act as a catalyst in further employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in national development.

7 killed in SUV-truck collision in Andhra Pradesh

The collision occurs on Kadapa-Tadipatri highway near Chitratvati bridge in Kondapuram mandal early on Monday morning

KADAPA, May 15 (Agencies): Seven people were killed and eight others injured when an SUV in which they were travelling collided with a truck in Andhra Pradesh's YSR Kadapa district on Monday.

According to police, the collision occurred on Kadapa-Tadipatri highway near Chitratvati bridge in Kondapuram mandal early on Monday morning. The victims were returning in a Toofan vehicle after paying obeisance at Sri Venkateswara temple at Tirupati.

The jeep collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction.

While seven people died on the spot, eight others were injured. Since the accident occurred in darkness, police had a tough time rescuing the victims.

The injured were initially rushed to a hospital in Tadipatri and later shifted to Anantapur. The deceased and injured hailed from Tadipatri in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh and Bellary in neighbouring Karnataka. The victims included women and children.

6 suffer from burns in fire after cooking gas leakage in Mumbai house

MUMBAI, May 15 (Agencies): Six people, including two children, suffered from burns after a fire broke out in a house in Khar suburb of Mumbai due to cooking gas leakage on Monday morning, officials said.

After the gas leakage, there was an explosion of a gas cylinder in the house located in Khar Danda area, Mumbai

fire brigade chief Sanjay Manjrekar told agency.

The incident took place at around 8.45 am in the single-storey structure located near a bakery on Govind Patil Marg, civic officials said.

At least four fire engines and other fire-fighting equipment were rushed to the spot and the blaze was doused by 9.17 am, he said.

Six people suffered from 40 to 51 per cent burns, a civic official said.

Among the injured were two children in the age group of six to seven years and a 65-year-old woman, he said.

All injured persons were admitted to the Bhabha Hospital in Bandra, the official said.

BJP To Hold Massive Month-Long Campaign To Mark 9 Years Of PM Modi-Led Government

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): As the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government completes nine years, the Bharatiya Janata Party has planned a massive month-long "special contact campaign" across the country, covering all Lok Sabha constituencies. It starts on May 30 and will conclude on June 30.

PM Modi will launch the campaign with a huge rally on May 30, BJP sources said, adding that a second rally of the PM will be held the next day, May 31. 51 rallies of senior BJP leaders have been planned across the country.

Public meetings will be held in 396 Lok Sabha seats, in which the pres-

ence of a Union Minister or a national official of the party is mandatory.

Several rallies may be planned for poll-bound states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana.

The PM Modi-led government's policies and achievements will be conveyed to the public. BJP's Chief Ministers, Leaders of the Opposition in states, MPs, and MLAs will also be invited to these rallies and public meetings.

One lakh specific families, including 250 in every Lok Sabha constituency, will be contacted across the country. Families of influential people such as sportspersons, artists, industrialists, and war heroes will be

contacted.

On May 29, press conferences will be held simultaneously all over the country. Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, Leaders of Opposition, and other senior party leaders will hold press conferences in state capitals. In the next two days, they will interact with social media influencers and share the achievements of the government.

As part of a three-tier program, party workers have been instructed to conduct other programs from June 1 to 22. These include holding a press conference in every Lok Sabha seat, congregations of eminent persons, meeting social media influencers, busi-

nessperson's conferences, and organising 'Vikas Teerth' programs.

Programs will also be held at the Assembly level. These include meeting and dining with senior workers of the assembly constituency, a joint conference of all seven fronts of the party, a conference of beneficiaries of welfare schemes, and a program on Yoga Day (June 21).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually interact with party workers at 10 lakh booths on the death anniversary of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on June 23.

House-to-house contact campaigns will be conducted from June 20 to 30. A "missed call campaign" will also be

run.

State units of the party have been instructed to call a one-day meeting of the State Working Committee to prepare for this huge campaign.

The campaign committee of the party will be responsible for the campaign. Two-member teams, comprising Union Ministers, former ministers, National Vice Presidents, National General Secretaries, members and senior leaders have been formed to oversee the campaign.

BJP has also sought information from state units about editors in the media, social media influencers, and specific families, in a prescribed format.

6 killed in road accident in Chhattisgarh

BALODA BAZAAR, May 15 (Agencies): Six people, including a child, were killed in a road accident in Chhattisgarh's Baloda Bazaar district on Monday, police said.

According to the police, the accident took place near Goda Bridge in the Baloda Bazaar district after a pickup vehicle carrying over two dozen people was hit by a truck leav-

ing six dead.

The incident took place under Palari police station limits. A child and a woman are among those killed, Baloda Bazaar SSP Deepak Jha said.

Case filed against me by Nashik police under Maha CM's pressure: Sanjay Raut

MUMBAI, May 15 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Monday alleged that the Nashik police have registered a case against him under pressure from Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and state Home Minister Devendra Fadnis.

Raut in a Twitter post also claimed that democracy and freedom have been severely affected in Maharashtra and said such "autocracy" has to be fought back.

The Nashik police have registered the case against Rajya Sabha member and Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Raut for his alleged appeal to state officials and police personnel to not follow orders of the "illegal" state government, police earlier said.

Raut had made the remarks on May 12, a day after the Supreme Court pronounced its verdict on the Shiv Sena-centric political imbroglio in Maharashtra.

The Nashik police suo

motu took cognisance of the remarks and the case was registered under section 505(1) (B) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Act, and other relevant sections, an official said on Sunday.

Section 505 (1) (b) deals with the "intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public, or to any section of the public whereby any person may be induced to commit an offence against the State or against the public tranquility".

Raut in a tweet on Monday claimed, "The police registered the case against me under pressure from the chief minister and state home minister."

The Rajya Sabha member wondered what was his crime.

"I had expressed my opinion that the state administration should not follow the orders of this government because they might face legal implications in future. Is this even a crime? The state gov-



ernment directly filed a case against me," he tweeted.

The Supreme Court held on Thursday it cannot reinstate the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition government headed by Uddhav Thackeray since he chose to resign without facing the floor test in the wake of a rebellion in his party.

The unanimous verdict by a five-judge Constitution bench came as a relief for CM Shinde even as it censured former Maharashtra

Chief Minister Shinde, the bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said the court cannot ordinarily adjudicate disqualification petitions under the anti-defection law and directed Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar to take a decision on the pending matter within a "reasonable period."

Citing the SC order, Raut in his Twitter post claimed, "After the Supreme Court's verdict, the procedure that led to formation of the state government has now become illegal. The appointment of chief whip and Shinde as leader of the party in the Legislative Assembly has now become unconstitutional." "The situation is such that the 16 MLAs can be disqualified any time. However, I am not afraid of any action against me," he said.

Democracy and freedom have been severely affected in Maharashtra, Raut claimed and said such "autocracy" has to be fought back.

Fearing Disapproval Over Marriage, Maharashtra Couple Die By Suicide

PALGHAR, May 15 (Agencies): A 20-year-old woman and her 19-year-old boyfriend allegedly ended their lives in Maharashtra's Palghar district after entering into a "suicide pact" as they feared their families would not approve of their relationship, police said on Monday.

A passer-by on Sunday evening spotted the bodies hanging from a tree on a hill in Talasari area and alerted local police, they said.

The police rushed to the spot and sent

the bodies to a government hospital for postmortem, Talasari police station house officer said.

The duo had a constant fear that their families might not accept their relationship. They entered into a "suicide pact" and allegedly hanged themselves from a tree in the hill area, the official said.

A case of accidental death has been registered, an official from Palghar rural police control room told agency.

A probe was on into the case, the police added.

ED issues fresh summons to NCP MLA Jayant Patil in money-laundering case

MUMBAI, May 15 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Maharashtra NCP president and MLA Jayant Patil for questioning in a money-laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the now bankrupt financial services firm IL&FS, official sources said on Monday.

The 61-year-old MLA from Islampur seat of Maharashtra was issued the first summons for appearance on May 12 but he had sought deferment for about 10 days citing



personal and official engagements.

The politician has now been asked to appear on May 22, sources said.

Patil, a former minister of home and finance, is also the state president of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and is a seven-term legislator.

He had told reporters

last week that he never had any association or financial dealing with IL&FS.

Alleged payment of some "commission amount" by some accused companies to entities linked to Patil are under the scanner of the agency and it is understood he will be questioned about these transactions and his statement recorded under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) filed for bankruptcy in 2018.

Punjab Court Summons Mallikarjun Kharge In 100-Crore Defamation Case

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): A Punjab court today summoned Congress party chief Mallikarjun Kharge in a 100 crore defamation related to the party equating the banned Islamic outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) with Bajrang Dal, the youth wing of the Sangh-affiliated Vishwa Hindu Parishad, in its Karnataka Assembly election manifesto.

The Sangrur district court summoned the Congress President after a complaint from Hitesh Bhardwaj, the president of an outfit

called "Bajrang Dal Hindustan."

During the recently-concluded Karnataka assembly elections, the Congress in its manifesto compared Bajrang Dal with "anti-national organisations like SIMI and Al-Qaeda", the petitioner said.

Naming the Bajrang Dal, the Congress in its manifesto promised to ban organisations that promote "enmity or hatred, whether among majority or minority communities".

"The Congress Party is committed to take firm and decisive action

against individuals and organisations spreading hatred amongst communities on grounds of caste or religion. We believe that law and Constitution is sacrosanct and can not be violated by individuals and Organisations like Bajrang Dal, PFI or others promoting enmity or hatred, whether among majority or minority communities," the Congress manifesto, called 'Sarva Janangada Shanthy Thota' (peaceful garden of all communities), read, adding that the party, if voted to power



in the state, will take 'decisive action' as per law, including imposing a ban on them.

Outgoing Karnataka minister CN Ashwathnarayan, who retained his seat in the Malesh-

waram constituency, on result day challenged the Congress to ban the Bajrang Dal, which is often linked with vigilantism, violence and moral policing.

"How dare they talk about banning Bajrang Dal. Let them try. We will show what we can do," he said.

The Congress, however, was forced to clarify its promise after massive backlash from BJP leaders, including public taunts by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at election rallies. The Congress has decided "to lock up" Bajrang

Bali devotees, said PM Modi, and urged voters to chant 'Jai Bajrangbali' and punish those who "abuse culture". The grand old party, which later registered a thumping victory in Karnataka, winning 135 of the total 224 Assembly seats, had said it had "no proposal to ban the Bajrang Dal" because banning an organisation like it came under the central government.

But the party also hit back at the Prime Minister, accusing him of "hurting religious sentiments" of devotees by equating Lord Hanuman

with the Bajrang Dal, and demanded an apology from him.

Soon after it was clear that Congress was headed for a comfortable win, party workers taunted the BJP and the right wing by turning up at party officers dressed as Bajrangbali Hanuman.

"Bajrangbali BJP ke nahi Congress ke sath hain... Bajrang Bali ne BJP par fine lagaya hai (Lord Bajrangbali is with the Congress. He has levied a fine on the BJP)," said one of the workers, walking around in a Hanuman costume.

700 injured as powerful Cyclone Mocha floods homes, cuts communications in western Myanmar

Mocha made landfall near Sittwe township with winds blowing up to 209 km per hour

DHAKA, May 15 (Agencies): Rescuers early on Monday evacuated about 1,000 people trapped by seawater 3.6 meters (12 feet) deep along western Myanmar's coast after a powerful cyclone injured hundreds and cut off communications in one of Asia's least developed countries. The extent of the damage and the death toll were not yet known.

Strong winds injured more than 700 of about 20,000 people who were sheltering in sturdier buildings on the highlands of Sittwe township such as monasteries, pagodas and schools, according to a leader of the Rakhine Youths Philanthropic Association in Sittwe. He asked not to be named due to fear of reprisals from the authorities in the military-run country.

Seawater raced into more than 10 low-lying wards near the shore as Cyclone Mocha made landfall in Rakhine state Sunday afternoon, he said. Residents moved to roofs and higher floors, while the wind and storm surge prevented immediate rescue.

"After 4 p.m. yesterday, the storm weakened a bit, but the water did not fall back. Most of them sat on the roof and at the high places of their houses the whole night. The wind blew all night," the rescue group leader said.

Water was still about 1.5 meters (5 feet) high in flooded



areas on Monday morning, but rescues were being made as the wind calmed and the sun rose in the sky. He asked civil society organizations and authorities to send aid and help evacuate residents.

At least three deaths had been reported earlier in Myanmar, and several injuries were reported in neighboring Bangladesh, which was spared the predicted direct hit.

Mocha made landfall near Sittwe township with winds blowing up to 209 kilometers (130 miles) per hour, Myanmar's Meteorological Department said. By Monday morning, it was downgraded from its severe status and was steadily weakening over land, according to the India Meteorological Department.

High winds crumpled cell phone towers during the day, cutting off communications. In videos collected by local media

either destroyed or damaged, leading Bengali-language daily Prothom Alo reported.

U.N. agencies and aid workers in Bangladesh had prepositioned tons of dry food and dozens of ambulances in the refugee camps that house more than 1 million Rohingya Muslims who fled persecution in Myanmar.

In May 2008, Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar with a storm surge that devastated populated areas around the Irrawaddy River delta. At least 138,000 people died and tens of thousands of homes and other buildings were washed away.

Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune city, said cyclones in the Bay of Bengal are becoming more intense more quickly, in part because of climate change.

Climate scientists say cyclones can now retain their energy for many days. Cyclone Amphan in eastern India in 2020 continued to travel over land as a strong cyclone and caused extensive devastation.

"As long as oceans are warm and winds are favorable, cyclones will retain their intensity for a longer period," Koll said.

Tropical cyclones, which are called hurricanes or typhoons in other regions, are among the world's most devastating natural disasters when they hit densely populated coastal areas.

Pakistan's military establishment plans to keep me in jail for 10 years under sedition charges: Imran Khan



LAHORE, May 15 (Agencies): Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan claimed on Monday that the country's powerful military establishment has planned to keep him in jail for the next 10 years under sedition charges and vowed to fight against the "assortments of crooks" till the last drop of his blood.

Khan is likely to appear before the Lahore High Court in connection with the cases registered against him for torching the house of the Corps Commander here and other incidents of violence erupted after his arrest in a corruption case last week.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) had granted 70-year-old Khan bail, barring the authorities from arresting him in all the cases registered beyond May 9 and

asked him to approach the Lahore High Court for further relief on May 15.

In a series of tweets in the early hours of Monday, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief said: "So now the complete London plan is out. Using the pretext of violence while I was inside the jail, they assumed the role of judge, jury and executioner. The plan now is to humiliate me by putting Bushra begum (Khan's wife) in jail, and using some sedition law to keep me inside for the next ten years."

The tweets came after Khan held a meeting of PTI leaders at his Lahore residence.

Khan, who has been on bail in more than 100 cases, further said: "To ensure that there is no public reaction, they have done two things -- first deliberate terror

is unleashed not just on PTI workers but on common citizens as well. Second, the media is totally controlled and muzzled."

The Army remains Pakistan's most powerful institution, having ruled it directly for close to half its 75-year history through three coups.

"This is a deliberate attempt to instill so much fear in people that when they come to arrest me tomorrow, people won't come out. And tomorrow they will again suspend internet services and ban social media (which is only partially open). Meanwhile, as we speak, houses are being broken in and shamelessly police are manhandling the women of the houses," he said.

He said never has the sanctity of chadar (veil) and chaar dewaari (four walls) been violated the way it is being done by these "criminals".

Giving his message to the people of Pakistan, Khan said: "My message to the people of Pakistan; I will fight for Haqeeqi Azaadi (real freedom) till the last drop of my blood because for me death is preferable than to be enslaved by these assortments of crooks.

China sentences 78-year-old US citizen to life in prison on spying charges

BEIJING, May 15 (Agencies): China sentenced a 78-year-old United States citizen to life in prison Monday on spying charges.

John Shing-Wan Leung, who holds permanent residency in Hong Kong, was detained on April 15, 2021, by the counter-intelligence agency in the southeastern city of Suzhou. The city's intermediate court announced Leung's sentence in a brief statement on its social media site but gave no details of the charges.

Such investigations



and trials are held behind closed doors and little or no information is made public.

Relations between Washington and Beijing have hit a histori-

cal low amid disputes over trade, technology, human rights and China's increasingly aggressive approach toward its territorial claims.

Wreck of freighter located off Australian coast after 50 years

CANBERRA, May 15 (Agencies): A team from Australia's national science agency has found the shipwreck of a freighter 50 years after it sank, solving one of the country's greatest maritime mysteries, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) announced on Monday.

The motor vessel Blythe Star, a 44-metre coastal freighter, suddenly capsized off the southwest coast of Tasmania on October 13, 1973, reports Xinhua news agency.

All 10 crew on board



escaped but three died before the survivors were rescued 12 days later.

The incident prompted the largest maritime search operation in Aus-

tralian history to that point, but no sign of the vessel was found until the CSIRO's announcement on Monday that it had found the Blythe Star's resting place.

The discovery was made by a CSIRO team during a 38-day voyage on board the research vessel Investigator to study a submarine landslide off the Tasmanian coast.

A side project to investigate an unidentified wreck found the ship intact and sitting upright at a depth of approximately 150 metres.

The team used multibeam echosounders to map the shipwreck before deploying underwater camera systems to the site.

They found the wreck matched the dimensions and profile of the

Blythe Star.

Vision from the cameras was then compared with historical photos of the ship to identify distinctive features, including the word "star" written on its bow, to confirm the wreck.

The team is hopeful that video imagery could provide insight into what caused it to sink.

The findings were shared with the families and sole surviving crew member of the ship and the Blythe Star Memorial Group, which is planning an event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the sinking in October.

Turkey faces runoff election with President Erdogan leading

Neither Erdogan nor his challenger Kilicdaroglu pass 50% threshold

ANKARA, May 15 (Agencies): Turkey headed for a runoff presidential vote after President Tayyip Erdogan outperformed projections in Sunday's election as he sought to extend his two-decade rule, holding a sizable lead over his rival but falling short of an outright majority.

Neither Erdogan nor rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu cleared the 50% threshold needed to avoid a second round, to be held on May 28, in an election seen as a verdict on Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian path.

The presidential vote will decide not only who leads Turkey, a NATO-member country of 85 million, but also whether it reverts to a more secular, democratic path; how it will handle its severe cost of living crisis and manage key relations with Russia, the Middle East and the West.

Kilicdaroglu, who said he would prevail in the runoff, urged his supporters to be patient and accused Erdogan's party of interfering with the counting and reporting of results.

But Erdogan performed better than pre-election polls had predicted, and he appeared in a confident and combative mood as he addressed his flag-waving, cheering supporters.

"We are already ahead of our

closest rival by 2.6 million votes. We expect this figure to increase with official results," Erdogan said.

With almost 97% of ballot boxes counted, Erdogan led with 49.39% of votes and Kilicdaroglu had 44.92%, according to state-owned news agency Anadolu. Turkey's High Election Board gave Erdogan 49.49% with 91.93% of ballot boxes counted.

ERDOGAN HAS EDGE
The results reflected deep polarisation in a country at a political crossroads. The vote was set to hand Erdogan's ruling alliance a majority in Parliament, giving him a potential edge heading into the runoff.

Opinion polls before the election had pointed to a very tight race but gave Kilicdaroglu, who heads a six-party alliance, a slight lead. Two polls on Friday even showed him above the 50% threshold.

"Erdogan will have an advantage in a second vote after his alliance did far better than the opposition's alliance," said Hakan Akbas, managing director of political advisory Strategic Advisory Services.

A third nationalist presidential candidate, Sinan Ogan, stood at 5.3% of the vote. He could be a "kingmaker" in the runoff depending on which candidate he endorses, analysts said.

The opposition said Erdogan's



party was delaying full results from emerging by lodging objections, while authorities were publishing results in an order that artificially boosted Erdogan's tally.

Kilicdaroglu, in an earlier appearance, said that Erdogan's party was "destroying the will of Turkey" by objecting to the counts of more than 1,000 ballot boxes. "You cannot prevent what will happen with objections. We will never let this become a fait accompli," he said.

Meanwhile, supporters of both sides celebrated.

Thousands of Erdogan voters converged on the party's headquarters in Ankara, blasting party songs from loudspeakers and waving flags and Erdogan posters. Some danced in the street.

KEY PUTIN ALLY
"We know it is not exactly a celebration yet but we hope we will soon celebrate his victory. Erdogan is the best leader we had for this country and we love him," said Yalcin Yildirim, 39, who owns a textile factory.

Feyyaz Balcu, 23, a cyber security engineer said: "We accept

that the economy is not in good shape now but Erdogan will make it better."

At Kilicdaroglu's CHP party headquarters, supporters waved flags of Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and beat drums.

The choice of Turkey's next president is one of the most consequential political decisions in the country's 100-year history and will reverberate well beyond Turkey's borders.

A victory for Erdogan, one of President Vladimir Putin's most important allies, will likely cheer the Kremlin but unnerved the Biden administration, as well as many European and Middle Eastern leaders who had troubled relations with Erdogan.

Turkey's longest-serving leader has turned the NATO member and Europe's second-largest country into a global player, modernized it through megaprojects such as new bridges and airports and built an arms industry sought by foreign states.

But his volatile economic policy of low interest rates, which set off a spiralling cost of living crisis and inflation, left him prey to voters' anger. His government's slow response to a devastating earthquake in southeast Turkey that killed 50,000 people earlier this

year added to voters' dismay.

PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY
Kilicdaroglu has pledged to revive democracy after years of state repression, return to orthodox economic policies, empower institutions that lost autonomy under Erdogan and rebuild frail ties with the West.

Thousands of political prisoners and activists could be released if the opposition prevails.

Critics fear Erdogan will govern ever more autocratically if he wins another term. The 69-year-old president, a veteran of a dozen election victories, says he respects democracy.

In the parliamentary vote, the People's Alliance of Erdogan's Islamist-rooted AKP, the nationalist MHP and others fared better than expected and were headed for a majority.

With 93% of votes counted, it was on course for 324 seats in the 600-seat parliament. Kilicdaroglu's Nation Alliance formed of six opposition parties, including his secularist Republican People's Party (CHP) established by Ataturk, looked set for 211 seats.

The Labour and Freedom alliance, led by the pro-Kurdish Green Left party, appeared headed for 65 seats.

Sukesh Khajuria hits out at double standards in dealing with infant deaths

Top News Report

JAMMU May 15: Senior social activist, Sukesh C Khajuria in a letter written to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) with copies to his counter parts in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh has questioned the double standards in dealing with the deaths of infants in foreign countries vis-a-vis those who died in India due to alleged spurious drugs manufactured in India.

Appreciating the action being initiated against Indian pharmaceutical companies manufacturing spurious drugs which had reportedly caused deaths of infants in foreign lands resulting in an outcry at the international level about the standards of drug manufactured in India, Sukesh Khajuria said that it was a happy development that action has been initiated in the shape of joint inspections, cancellation of licenses of 18 pharmaceutical companies and notices to 26 others in this matter. But he insisted that it needed to be done on a sustained basis.

However, while, appreciating these action following international outcry following deaths of foreign infants, Sukesh said that it was regrettable that tangible action in to deaths of infants in similar circumstances happening in India are missing.

"My concern is whether the deaths of Indian infants is different from deaths of foreign infants," he questioned.

He informed the Drug authorities that he had taken up with the National Human Rights Commission the issue of deaths/ deformities of infants in Northern India following consumption of unchecked spurious and adulterated drugs in the case no. 80/09/14/2020 in NHRC seeking compensation for the families of the victims of Ramnagar tehsil of distt. Udhampur of J&K, which the Commission graciously granted and subsequently upheld by the High court of Jammu and Kashmir [case wp(c) No 388 of 2021] & Supreme Court of India [SLP(c) No 8345/2021] despite objections by the J and K Government where majority of the deaths took place in 2019-20.

He further brought to the notices of drug authorities the sad and untimely death of several children and severe deformities to others in some parts of northern India due to consumption of spurious drugs since December, 2019. As a senior social activist of UT of J and K, he had been highlighting these unfortunate deaths and deformities of infants in J&K, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

A total of 16 deaths took place in North India, 13 in Ramnagar tehsil of Distt. Udhampur and one in Bishnah tehsil, distt. of Jammu in UT of J&K, one child died at Baddi in Himachal Pradesh and another died at Patiala in Punjab.

Eight children who consumed unchecked spurious and adulterated drugs were disabled, six of them in Udhampur district with disabilities ranging from 40 per cent to 85 per cent while another child at Panchakula in Harayana suffered 100 per cent disability. Another child at Patiala has been found with disabilities.

The FIR no 21/2020 dated 02-03-2020 at police station Kala Amb, district Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh, FIR no.33/2020, dated 03-03-2020 at police station Ramnagar in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir and FIR no 0182/2020 dated 05-03-2020 at police station Mahesh Nagar, Ambala Cantt. Haryana were registered against companies manufacturing spurious and adulterated drugs.

He said that in view of inadequate response from drug controlling agencies and a larger mafia operating in different States, it was found that there



was a lack of coordination between the Central and State governments on regulatory measures to check and punish such unscrupulous elements who are manufacturing and selling spurious drugs in connivance with quacks and corrupt drug authorities.

Twelve infants/children had lost their lives in Ramnagar area/tehsil Udhampur district of J&K after consuming "Coldbest-PC syrup" manufactured by M/S Digital Vision, 176 MauzaOgli, Nahan Road, Kala-Amb, Distt. Sirmaur, HP 173205, marketed by M/s Orison pharmaceuticals 51, Industrial Estate, AmbalaCantt. On a complaint by J&K administration, the Himachal Pradesh Police had registered a case of attempt to commit culpable homicide and under the provisions of The Drugs and Cosmetics Act against M/S Digital Vision, A Pharmaceutical Firm at Kala Amb in Sirmaur District which manufactured the "Coldbest-PC Syrup".

A two year old child, Radhika d/o Monu (M-78076-53688), permanent resident of Kanhari, Hardoi-Uttar Pradesh-241123 (Aadhar card Number 5349 2196 0929), and presently residing near Sabzi Mandi, Baddi H.P. was admitted in advanced Paediatrics Centre, PGIMER, Chandigarh on 22nd July with renal failure vide CR No:202002621258. The child was administered a number of drugs on the prescription of Dr. Diwan Chand S/o Sita Ram, Ward no. 2, Baddi, Solan, HP 173205. The PGIMER gotit analysed in Paediatric Biochemistry Lab for the presence of diethylene glycol (DEG) qualitatively using GCMS and confirmed by searching on NIST library.

In PGIMER Chandigarh's preliminary assessment, one of the drugs consumed by the child was Cofset-AT (Ambroxol Hydrochloride, Terbutaline Sulphate, Guaiphenesin, Menthol) manufactured by Digital Vision and marketed by Orison Pharmaceuticals 51, Industrial Area, AmbalaCantt DL5200 [Mfg. date 09-19, Exp 08- 21] was found to have Diethylene Glycol DFEG (reference : (For Extraction)K.J.Mulligan: No 4042-A procedure to determine Diethylene Glycol (2,2'-oxybisethanol) and ethylene glycol (1,2-ethanediol) in glycerine and selected products, laboratory Information bulletin 12(7), DHHS (1996) chromatogram attached is in a serious condition and undergoing treatment at PGI, Chandigarh.

Another infant, Anmol Sharma, age 02 years, S/O Pradeep Kumar, Labour and resident of Shambu,district Patiala died at Govt. Medical college Hospital Sector-32 Chandigarh. Another child, Sarabjeet Singh a five year old son of Avtar Singh, a car mechanic of Shambu, district Patiala is struggling between life and death due to consumption of

spurious/poisonous syrup manufactured by Digital Vision in Patiala district of Punjab.

The Cold Best -PC syrup which was given to the children contained Diethylene glycol (DEG) and spurious drug which is a banned drug. The drug is banned in some states and the United States Food and Drug administration had warned in 2011 against the use of the drug to children below five years of age.

Khajuria said that the Government Analyst, Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory (RDTL) Chandigarh has furnished hisreport of Test and Analysis conducted on the suspected drug i.e. Cold Best-PC Syrup on Form-13 vide no. LSD/RDTL/1758/19- 20, DT: 02-03-2020 with the following remarks: "In the opinion of the undersigned the sample referred to above is not of standard quality as defined in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Rules there under for the reason given below: The sample does not conforms to claim as per Patent & Proprietary in respect to the pH and the Assay of Phenylephrine Hydrochloride" Further, the sample has been tested for Diethylene Glycol (DEG) and found positive for the same and content of Diethylene Glycol (DEG) is 34.24%.

The Patiala police has filed two FIRs: FIR NO : 0029 /0027/2020 U/s 328/304 IPC 1860 and the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 U/s 15(3) at police station Shambu, District Patiala, Punjab. But the-accused medical practitioner Garja Singh and his son Kulwinder have been granted bail by the court.

Interestingly, the medical practitioner against whom cases have been registered by Patiala police has contended that he had only prescribed the medicine which was manufactured by M/s Digital Vision pharmaceutical company, 176 MauzaOgli, Nahan, Kala Amb, District Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh, against whom number of cases have been registered and has already been prosecuted at different places for preparing spurious drug. Different states have already banned the sale of "Cold Best- PC syrup".

According to extended Licencing Laboratory and legal Node, a database that tracks instances of substandard medicines, there have been seven cases from 2014 to 2019 when drugs manufactured by Digital Vision were found to be 'not of standard quality'.

Khajuria said that these revelations are just the tip of the iceberg and many innocent lives are at stake due to a mafia comprising owners of spurious drug manufacturing units, functionaries of Drug Controllers of different States. This mafia and inaction of other authorities are playing with the lives of innocent people.

He further said that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has already taken cognizance of my complaint regarding the deaths of infants due to consumption of spurious drugs in Ramnagar area of Udhampur district in December-January 2019-2020 and reprimanded the Jand K drug authorities. The NHRC has issued a show cause notice to the J and K government seeking action taken report against "the delinquent officials, on account of whose negligence such incident had occurred, which could otherwise be averted due to their strict vigil".

Sukesh.C.Khajuria lamented that there has been no action taken against the erring drug control officials who allegedly colluded with these spurious drug manufacturing companies and are responsible for infants' deaths. He requested the drug authorities to take appropriate against drug controlling authorities of different states including J and K where such spurious drugs are being sold blatantly. He further said that any such punitive action would meet the ends of justice to the bereaved infants and victim families and act as a deterrent against any such misdeemeanour by drug mafia in future.

Jammu University Employees Tournament-2023 Commences



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: The Jammu University Employees Tournaments Men & Women commenced today at University Campus in Table-Tennis (M&W) Carrom (M&W), Cricket (M), Chess (M&W) and Badminton (M&W)organized by the Campus Sports Committee of the University of Jammu. Earlier Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba Chairman, Campus Sports Committee inaugurated the Inter-Departmental Tournaments 2023 and interacted with the players of various departments participating in different disciplines.

The results
MEN Cricket: Team B beat team D by 41 runs; Team C beats Team E by 1 wicket. Badminton: Er. Raman Gupta beat Dr. Padam Dev Singh by

(21-16) points; Dr. Mandeep Singh beat Sourav Chalotra by (21-12) points; Pankaj Gupta beat Harinderpal Singh by (21-11) points; Tarsem Singh beat Sumeet Kapoor by (21-17) points; Vishal Sharma beat Sunil Kumar by (21-05) points; Gusharan Singh beat Sham Lal by (21-05) points; Dimple Sharma beat Karan Singh by (21-06) points; Manu Puri beat Balbir Singh by (21-1-) points; Abhimanyu Sharma beat Nikhil Sharma by (21-16) points; Suresh Tack beats Vishal Sharma by (21-16) points. Carrom: Tinku Sharma beat Jagdev Sharma; Joginder Singh beat Dr. Rakesh Chib; Arjun Singh beat Pankaj Gupta; Vishal Sharma beat Sunil Kumar; Balwant Singh beat Prof. Susheel Sharma; Vishal Sudan beat Sumeet Kapoor; Er. Rajesh

Kumar beat Gagandeep Singh; Tinku Sharma beat Gurmeet Singh.

WOMEN Badminton: Pooja Manhas beat Dr. Kusam Sharma by(21-17) points; Sonika Sharma beat Seema Rathore by (21-11) points; Komal Bakshi beat Pankaj Bazaz by (21-15) points. Carrom: Sunita Sharma beat Azmat Choudhary; Azmat Choudhary beat Komal Bakshi; Pooja Manhas beat Sonika Sharma; Pooja Manhas beat Dr. Samita Wathara; Sunny Bhat beat Dr. Meghna Dhar; Rinkey Bazaz beat Seema Rathore; Rinkey Bazaz beat Sunny Bhat.

The matches were officiated by Raj Kumar Bakshi, Ravish Vaid, Vikas Karlopiya, Gagan Kumar, Jai Bharat, Padam Dev Singh and Ashok Singh Bali.

DFSS with vegetable fruit sellers hold protest against JMC

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of President Ashok Gupta held a protest along with the vegetable and fruit seller against the misbehaviour by the JMC employee.

Gupta stated that under the leadership of Jammu Mayor Rajinder Sharma a anti polythene drive has been launched to educate the people and ban the use of polythene completely as it is very dangerous for the environment.

The party president stated that plastics harm the environment in numerous ways. When these bags are used up and thrown, they litter the streets and block the drains and when burned, these release toxic chemicals and contaminate area.

The main aim is to transform Jammu into a plastic free city, for which anti plas-



tic drive was launched and also the public are being sensitised about the ill effects of plastics.

Few days back there was a fight at BC Road in which it was seen that a JMC employee thrashed the Rehriwala while having a conversation. A JMC employee attacked the Rehriwala along with his other fellow employees.

Gupta further stated that rather than checking and imposing fine on the shopkeepers the JMC should seal those factories which are located along side the Tawi river which are still manufacturing the illegal

plastic and the owners should be jailed.

There are big wholesaler's of polythene bags in areas like Shalimar road, Moti Bazar, Bakshi Nagar who are indulged in this illegal trade practice and they should also be checked.

At last he stated that if the polythene bags will be manufactured than vegetable & fruit vendors should not be able to sell those polythene bags of lowers quality.

The people present at the protest were Abhishek, Raju, Kalu, Prem, Naresh, Vikas, Narendra, Panjab and Rampal.

FROM PAGE 1

Pakistani intruder detained along LoC in Rajouri

possession of the intruder, who is being questioned.

Earlier on April 29, Indian troops detained a father-son duo from PoK who had inadvertently crossed into this side in nearby Poonch district. Both the individuals were later repatriated to Pakistan through Chakan Da Bagh border crossing point.

Drugs seized in Indian waters worth Rs 25,000 cr, confirms NCB

originated from the Chabahar port in Iran. The source of the drugs is Pakistan."

Singh further said that the consignment was meant for Sri Lanka, Maldives and India.

"The mother ship was being stationed at different points in the sea. The smaller boats would go from various countries & collect consignments from the mother ships. The consignment was meant for Sri Lanka, Maldives and India. One Pakistani national has been arrested", he said.

He added that the operation was started in February last year and as part of the operation, the team has seized roughly around 4,000 kg of various drugs.

"We started Operation Samudragupta in February 2022 as part of that operation we have seized roughly around 4,000 kg of various drugs", Singh said.

The initial success of the operation called 'Samudragupta' was achieved in the month of February 2022 when a joint team of NCB and Indian Navy seized 529 kg of Hashish, 221 kg of Methamphetamine and 13 kg of Heroin in the high seas off the coast of Gujarat, all sourced from Balochistan and Afghanistan.

The seizure part of 'Operation Samudragupta' targeted the maritime trafficking of drugs originating from Afghanistan.

Appreciating the threat to national secu-

rity emanating from maritime trafficking of Heroin and other drugs over the maritime route in the Indian Ocean region, the Director General, NCB launched Operation Samudragupta headed by Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (Ops), NCB and comprising officers of Operations Branch of NCB Headquarters in January 2022.

The primary objective of the operation was to collect actionable inputs which could lead to the interdiction of ships carrying narcotics contraband.

For this task, the team exchanged and gathered information from drug law enforcement agencies such as DRI, ATS Gujarat and intelligence agencies such as the Intelligence Wing of Indian Navy, NTRO etc.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit takes over as Deputy Chief of Air Staff

Headquarters.

The Air Officer has also been the Air Defence Commander of Southern Air Command and was Senior Air Staff Officer, South Western Air Command prior to taking over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

Cricket Legend Sachin Tendulkar invests in Hyderabad-based AZAD Engineering

The company, which has global clients, has qualified for manufacturing over 1500 unique parts and exports to 20+ countries. With two new, colossal, cutting-edge manufacturing plants set to take the world by storm, each ten times larger than its current facilities, AZAD Engineering is poised for an unstoppable era of unprecedented expansion and growth led by an innovative global ecosystem for precision manufacturing.

Youth found hanging at

home in Central Kashmir

arrival, he said.

He said that the body will be handed over to the family for last rites after medico-legal formalities.

The official said that further investigation has been started into the matter.

NIA files chargesheet against TRF operative in Delhi court

and handlers/operatives of LeT/TRF, Faisal had actively worked for LeT/TRF and had received funds from operatives of LeT, with the intent to further its terror activities.

"Faizal is the fourth person to be chargesheeted in the case (RC-32/2021/ NIA/DLI), registered suo moto by NIA on 18th November 2021. NIA had earlier filed a chargesheet against accused Arsalan Feroz @ Arsalan Soub, Muzamil Mushtaq Bhat @ Hamza and Mudasir Ahmed Dar respectively on 18th June, 9th November and 17th December, 2022."

It added that the three accused, found working at the behest of LeT/TRF operatives, as Overground Workers (OGWs), were charged under various sections of the law.

"During investigations, it emerged that Faisal Muneer was working as an active OGW of LeT/TRF, and was involved in receiving, collecting, and supplying weapons /explosives /funds. These materials were sent/dropped from Pakistan via drones in the areas situated near International Border area of Samba/Kathua, for carrying out terrorist activities in India."

It further said after receiving the consignments from his associates, accused Faisal Muneer used to store them at his residence for onward delivery to terrorist operatives and their OGWs, on the directions of the LeT/TRF operatives based across the border.

"In its supplementary chargesheet filed

today in the NIA Special Court, Patiala House, NIA has charged Faisal under various sections of IPC, Arms Act and UA(P) Act, 1967." it read.

Fresh inquiry ordered against retired SP

Appeal) Rules, 1956, an in-depth inquiry was ordered to inquire into the charges framed against him (Jagdev Singh). Yoginder Koul, IPS, the then IGP, IR, Jammu, was appointed as Inquiry Officer.

The Inquiry Officer furnished his report on October 7, 2015, in which he, inter-alia, concluded that the charges framed against the officer could not be proved and accordingly it was recommended that the charged officer might be exonerated of the charges. "The matter was further examined in the Home Department and on the basis of the facts of the case particularly the discrepancies pointed out by the High Court during the investigation and prosecution of the case related to FIR 58/2003, which involved the delinquent officer, the competent authority has approved conducting a de-novo inquiry into the charges framed against Jagdev Singh, EXJ 905447, the then SHO, Police Station, Domana," read an order issued by Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Home Raj Kumar Goyal.

"Now, therefore, in terms of Rule 33 of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, 1956, Imtiaz Ismail Parray, IPS, DIG Training, Police Headquarters, J&K is hereby appointed as Inquiry Officer to conduct de-novo inquiry into the charges framed against Jagdev Singh, EXJ 905447, the then SHO Domana (now retired SP), and served to him vide OM No Home/Gaz/ P/53/2013/4938 dated October 9, 2014," Goyal further ordered.

Night temperatures drop below normal in J&K, MeT predicts rain at isolated

places

hours, night temperature recorded a drop and settled below normal across Jammu and Kashmir barring Banihal on Monday, officials said.

Quoting a meteorological department official, agency reported that Srinagar recorded a low of 9.6°C against 10.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 7.0°C against 10.0°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.2°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 3.5°C against 5.6°C on previous night and it was 1.6°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 6.9°C against 7.4°C on the previous night and it was 2.7°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 7.2°C against 9.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.1°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 2.5°C against 3.0°C on previous night and it was below normal by 3.0°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 22.6°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 11.3°C (above normal by 0.4°C), Batote 13.4°C (0.3°C below normal), Katra 19.6°C (0.4°C below normal) and Baderwah 8.0°C (below normal by 1.5°C). Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of 0.2°C, he said.

Regarding rainfall during the last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, he said, Qazigund received 1.8mm, Pahalgam 6.5mm, Kokernag 1.3mm, Gulmarg 4.2mm and Baderwah 6.8mm.

From May 15-16, he said, the weather is likely to be partly cloudy with possibility of rain/thunderstorm at isolated places. He reiterated that there is no forecast of any major rainfall for next one week.

From May 17-20, he said, rain and thunderstorms are expected at isolated to scattered places.

Markets climb in early trade on continuous foreign fund inflows

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbs 188.57 points to 62,216.47

MUMBAI, May 15 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices began the trade on a firm note on Monday, extending their previous day's rally, amid continuous foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 188.57 points to 62,216.47. The NSE Nifty gained 48.9 points to 18,363.70.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Motors jumped over 3 per cent after announcing its Q4 earnings. Tech Mahindra, Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, Ultra-Tech Cement, Bharti Airtel, Infosys and Nestle were the other biggest gainers.



Maruti, IndusInd Bank, NTPC and Tata Steel were among the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were buyers on Friday as they bought equities worth Rs 1,014.06 crore, according to exchange

data.

In Asia, Tokyo and Hong Kong markets were trading in the green, while Seoul and Shanghai quoted lower.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.84 per cent to USD 73.55 per barrel.

M-cap of 8 of top-10 valued firms soars Rs 1.26 lakh-crore; Reliance, Hindustan Unilever shines

Market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 28,956.79 crore to Rs 16,80,644.12 crore

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Eight of the top 10 valued firms together added Rs 1,26,579.48 crore in market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries and Hindustan Unilever Ltd emerging as the biggest gainers.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 973.61 points or 1.59 per cent.

Only ITC and Infosys faced erosion in their valuation, while Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India, HDFC and Bharti Airtel were the gainers.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 28,956.79 crore to Rs 16,80,644.12 crore.



Hindustan Unilever's valuation rallied Rs 28,759 crore to Rs 6,16,391.77 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of HDFC Bank climbed

Rs 23,590.05 crore to Rs 9,31,095.12 crore and that of TCS zoomed Rs 15,697.33 crore to Rs 11,97,881.94 crore.

The M-cap of HDFC surged

Rs 13,893.03 crore to Rs 5,09,434.44 crore and that of ICICI Bank soared Rs 11,946.89 crore to Rs 6,59,479.70 crore.

Bharti Airtel's valuation moved up by Rs 2,174.58 crore to Rs 4,41,327.80 crore and that of State Bank of India gained Rs 1,561.81 crore to Rs 5,15,931.82 crore.

However, the mcap of ITC tumbled Rs 10,439.53 crore to Rs 5,22,536.01 crore and that of Infosys dived Rs 5,600.92 crore to Rs 5,16,757.92 crore.

In the ranking of top 10 firms, Reliance Industries remained the number one firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Infosys, State Bank of India, HDFC and Bharti Airtel.

Much before talk of diesel car ban, sales down to 17.6% of total volume

CHENNAI, May 15 (Agencies): The news about an Indian government committee suggesting a ban on diesel cars from 2027 has sowed the seeds of uncertainty in the minds of diesel car buyers, said top industry officials.

Car buyers will think twice before writing out a cheque to buy a diesel car, they added.

The government has suggested a ban on diesel-powered cars by 2027 in cities with a population of over a million people.

"The impact on the diesel vehicle industry will be from now, and not from 2027," Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales), Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, told agency.

"Nobody buys a car for two-three years," Suyash Gupta, Director-General, Indian Auto LPG Coalition, told agency.

Interestingly, sales of diesel vehicles have been on the decline for the past several years.

Except for sports utility vehicle (SUV) and multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) models, diesel-powered vehicles are on the decline and are being replaced by hybrid/petrol/compressed natural gas (CNG) models, industry officials said.

Already many car makers in India like Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, Renault and others have stopped rolling out diesel cars.

The major diesel car

players in India now are Mahindra & Mahindra, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Kia India, MG Motor and Hyundai Motor India Ltd.

Going by industry numbers shared by the officials, banning of diesel vehicles by 2027 need not be a pipe dream.

"The share of diesel cars in the total industry volume is on the decline. Ten years back, diesel cars accounted for about 58.4 per cent of the industry volume. In April 2023, the share was just 17.4 per cent. Last year, it was 18.6 per cent,"

Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales), Mauri Suzuki India Ltd, told agency.

What is the reason for this decline?

The economic logic for a diesel car is no longer there owing to the marginal difference in the retail price between petrol and diesel and the high upfront price of diesel cars.

According to Srivastava, the SUV/MPV segment has a major presence in the diesel segment. Within that, the midsize SUVs have 54 per cent volume share.

Srivastava said diesel cars world over are disappearing and manufacturers are not investing in them.

"With the decline in market share of diesel-powered vehicles, attention is shifting towards gasoline and alternative fuel vehicles such as CNG and electric cars. Diesel shares in the total Indian passenger vehicle market has reduced



from about 36 per cent in 2018 to 18 per cent now, which means less than one of the five cars sold in India is diesel-powered. The share of petrol engine-powered cars has grown from 54 per cent in 2018 to 60 per cent now," Venkatram Mamillapalle, Country CEO & Managing Director, Renault India Operations, told agency.

"Demand for CNG has also grown and it contributes almost 11 per cent to the total passenger vehicle sales now, from about 7 per cent in 2018. While CNG vehicles have lower emissions and operating costs compared to gasoline and diesel cars, limited fuelling station availability and high conversion costs pose challenges. Also, increasing cost of CNG in recent times has put pressure on the demand for CNG variants," Mamillapalle added.

According to Mamillapalle, by the end of 2019, Renault India had ceased the use of K9K diesel engines and subsequently halted production of all diesel vehicles.

"The decision was

made to align with the transition to the BS VI emission norms mandated by the government. These regulations establish strict standards for exhaust emissions, requiring vehicles to implement advanced technology to curb pollutants," Mamillapalle said.

Will the industry be ready to roll out non-diesel cars by 2027?

"It depends on several factors, including the specific target year, the current state of the industry, and the level of support from the governments. The industry has already made significant progress in developing and producing non-diesel cars, and major automakers have majority of sales coming from gasoline variants. While electric vehicles (EV) have also gained momentum, but the challenges remain, including the need for more charging infrastructure and other infrastructure-related eco-system and battery technology improvements to increase driving range and reduce costs," Mamillapalle said.

Last year, 52,000 units of electric cars were

sold, which was about 1.2 per cent of the total industry volume. In April 2023, the percentage went up to 2 per cent which proves that EV adoption is increasing, said Srivastava.

Adding further, he said once the EV sales volume touches 3-4 per cent of the industry sales volume, the growth will start accelerating. The industry expects EV sales to touch 3-4 per cent in 2024-25.

By 2030, the total car industry volume is expected to be six million units out of which the share of EVs is expected to be one million.

Be that as it may, the question that remains unanswered is the fate of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) powered cars.

Welcoming the committee's recommendation of banning diesel vehicles from 2027 as it would create space for other fuels, Indian Auto LPG Coalition's Gupta said there is a need for other viable fuel by 2027 which is comparable to diesel.

"As regards LPG, it is the third-most widely used automobile fuel in the world. In India, auto LPG is not a subsidised fuel. It is popular in southern and western parts of India. Cost-wise it is 40-50 per cent cheaper than petrol," Gupta said.

According to him, the role of vehicle makers and the government for the spread of LPG as a fuel is important.

WPI inflation eases to 34-month low of (-) 0.92 pc in April



NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Wholesale inflation rate eased to 34-month low of (-) 0.92 per cent in April on easing prices of food, fuel and manufactured items.

The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation has been on a declining trend for 11 months in a row and entered the negative

zone in April.

In June 2020, the WPI was at (-) 1.81 per cent.

WPI inflation was 1.34 per cent in March and 15.38 per cent in April last year.

Inflation in food articles too eased to 3.54 per cent in April, against 5.48 per cent in March.

"Decline in the rate of inflation in April 2023 is primarily contributed

by fall in prices of basic metals, food products, mineral oils, textiles, non-food articles, chemical & chemical products, rubber & plastic products and paper & paper products," the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

Fuel and power basket inflation eased to 0.93 per cent in April from 8.96 per cent in March. In manufactured products, inflation rate was (-) 2.42 per cent, as against 0.77 per cent in March.

The deceleration in WPI comes in line with the easing of April retail inflation, which came in at an 18-month low of 4.7 per cent.

Long-term exposure to diesel pollution bad for health: Experts

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Prolonged exposure to diesel pollution, which includes a complex mixture of pollutants, can have serious health effects on humans, said experts here even as the government contemplates a ban on diesel vehicles.

A government panel formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has recommended banning the use of diesel-based four-wheelers by 2027 in cities with a population of over 10 lakh people.

Pollution from diesel exhaust mainly includes soot or particulate matter (PM); oxides of nitrogen (NOx) which contribute to the production of ground-level ozone (smog) and acid rain; hydrocarbons (HC), carbon dioxide (CO2), and carbon monoxide (CO).

Short-term exposure to diesel exhaust can cause irritation of the nose and eyes, changes in lung function, headache, fatigue, and nausea. Long-term exposure has been shown to result in prolonged cough, sputum production, and poor lung function.

"One common contributor to air pollution is vehicular smoke, with diesel exhaust particles accounting for a significant percentage of the particles emitted in many towns and cities," Vivek Nangia, Principal Director and Head-Pulmonology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, told agency.

"Exposure to fumes



causes significant inflammatory changes in the airways, which may be even more detrimental in people with chronic lung diseases such as bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), interstitial lung disease, etc. It is also postulated that diesel exhaust particles are an important factor contributing to the allergy pandemic as they act as adjuvants to allergens and increase the sensitisation response," he added.

A recent study by the Universities of British Columbia and Victoria in Canada showed that common levels of traffic pollution are capable of impairing brain function in a matter of hours.

Another study of 1.4 million kids aged under 10 by Universities of Manchester in the UK and Aarhus in Denmark showed that exposure to high levels of nitrogen dioxide and PM2.5 increased their odds of self-harm in adulthood by 50 per cent.

These two pollutants are also among the most commonly linked with heart and lung diseases, as they get into the bloodstream and cause inflammation.

Air pollution contributes to about 6 million preterm births each year globally. Exhaust emitted by diesel engines

have also been linked to increased rates of neuro-developmental disorders, such as schizophrenia and autism.

"Diesel engines emit a complex mixture of pollutants. Obviously, those are very small carbon particles which are known as diesel particulate matter. So if their sizes are small, they will enter deep into our organs, especially lungs," said Kuldeep Kumar Grover, Head of Critical Care & Pulmonology, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram.

"Diesel exhaust contains more than 40 cancer causing substances, thus diesel engine emissions are believed to be responsible for so many cancer related contaminants. That is why various factors exaggerate the health risk of diesel particulate exposure," he added.

A possible solution is switching to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles, as suggested by the government panel.

A latest study by the University of Southern California used real-world data to provide evidence that increase in electric vehicles may result in better air quality and better health.

The study found that when electric vehicles increased, air pollution and health problems went down.

Here Are Some Plant-Based Milk Alternatives & Their Benefits

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Plant-based milk is a dairy-free alternative to cow's milk made from plant-based ingredients such as nuts, seeds, grains, and beans. Plant-based milk is lactose-free, cholesterol-free, and lower in saturated fat compared to cow's milk.

Plant-based milk is widely used by vegans, people with lactose intolerance, or those who want to reduce their dairy intake. In this article, we share some plant-based milk alternatives you can try and their benefits.

6 Variety of plant-based milk alternatives and their benefits:

1. Almond milk
This dairy-free milk is made from ground almonds and water. It is low in calories, high in vitamin E, and rich in healthy fats. Almond milk is often fortified with calcium, vitamin D, and B12, making it an excellent

alternative to cow's milk. It is a great choice for those who want a low-calorie, cholesterol-free, and vegan-friendly milk.

2. Soy milk
Soy milk is made by soaking, grinding, and boiling soybeans. It has a similar protein content to cow's milk and is an excellent source of essential amino acids. Soy milk is also rich in calcium and vitamin D, making it a great option for people who are lactose intolerant or allergic to dairy. Soy milk's health benefits include a lower risk of heart disease, osteoporosis, and certain types of cancer.

3. Oat milk
Oat milk is made by blending soaked oats with water. It is high in fibre, low in fat, and free from lactose and gluten. Oat milk is a great source of iron, calcium, and vitamin D. The beta-glucan in oat milk also helps to lower cholesterol levels, blood sugar,

and inflammation. Oat milk's creamy texture and nutty flavour make it a great option for coffee and baking.

4. Coconut milk
Coconut milk is made by pressing the meat of mature coconuts and mixing the resulting milk with water. Coconut milk is high in healthy fatty acids, which help to improve heart health, brain function, and weight loss. Coconut milk is also rich in potassium, fibre, and magnesium. Coconut milk is a good alternative to cow's milk for people who are lactose intolerant, vegan, or looking to add more healthy fats to their diet.

5. Cashew milk
Cashew milk is a creamy, nutty, and flavourful alternative to dairy milk. It is made from ground cashew nuts and water. It is rich in vitamins E, K, and B6, as well as minerals such as copper, magnesium, and phosphorus.

Cashew milk is low in fat and carbohydrates, making it a good choice for weight management.

6. Hemp milk
Hemp milk is made from the seeds of the hemp plant, which are high in protein, healthy fats, and fibre. Hemp milk is rich in calcium, iron, and omega-3 fatty acids. Hemp milk is low in calories and naturally free from lactose and gluten. Hemp milk is a good alternative to cow's milk for people with soy or nut allergies and those who prefer a milk alternative that is plant-based and sustainable.

In conclusion, plant-based milk alternatives provide a wide range of nutritional benefits and are a great option for people who cannot consume dairy milk. It is recommended to try different plant-based milk alternatives to find the best fit for your needs and preferences.

IPL 2023: Clinical KKR beat CSK by 6 wickets to keep slim hopes alive

KKR finished at 147 for four in 18.3 overs with Rana leading from the front after making the most of a dropped chance

CHENNAI, May 15 (Agencies): Skipper Nitish Rana and Rinku Singh slammed the fifties apiece en route to a 99-run match-winning stand to guide Kolkata Knight Riders to a comfortable six-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in an Indian Premier League match here.

Rana remained unbeaten on 57 off 44 balls while Rinku made 54 off 43 deliveries to set up KKR's chase of 145 runs after they lost their first three wickets for 33 runs inside the fifth over.

KKR finished at 147 for four in 18.3 overs with Rana leading from the front after making the most of a dropped chance.

KKR's cause was helped to a large extent by a superb bowling effort earlier by spin duo of Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine, who did superbly and picked up two wickets each.

The defeat also puts on hold CSK's chances of sealing a play-off berth as the home side is in second spot with 15 points.

KKR, on the other hand, moved to 12 points with a match to play but their hopes rest on other results.

Rana and Rinku, both left-handers, showed necessary skills and patience on a tacky pitch to negate the impact of CSK spinners after the home team had posted a moderate 144 for six in 20 overs.

The match-winning partnership between Rana and Rinku ended when the latter was run out by a direct hit from Moeen



Ali.

CSK spinners -- Ravindra Jadeja, Maheesh Theekshana and Moeen -- could not do any damage after Deepak Chahar had provided the initial breakthroughs to leave KKR at 33 for 3.

CSK struck an early blow when Chahar got Rahmanullah Gurbaz (1) as he failed to keep his square-drive down and was well caught by Tushar Deshpande close to the boundary.

After six overs, KKR were 46 for three with Chahar having picked up all the three wickets to fall -- Gurbaz, Jason Roy (12) and Venkatesh Iyer (9).

Rana got a life on 18 when Matheesha Pathirana dropped a catch running in from the boundary off Moeen.

In the 13th over bowled by Moeen, Rana played two superb shots on the off-side to pick up boundaries and followed it up with a few more

cracking strikes in the 15th over by Maheesh Theekshana.

Earlier, talismanic Mahendra Singh Dhoni's decision to drop down the order backfired as CSK lost wickets at regular intervals to be restricted to the modest score.

Dhoni, who came out to bat no.7 position, remained unbeaten on 2 off 3 balls.

Opting to bat, CSK were 72 for five in the 11th over before Shivam Dube underlined his utility, hammering a 34-ball 48 (1x4, 3x6s) to help the hosts somewhat recuperate in the company of Ravindra Jadeja (20 off 24).

The duo shared 68-run stand for the sixth wicket to take CSK close to the 150-run mark, which at one point of time looked out of reach on a sluggish pitch.

Spin duo of Narine (2/15) and Chakravarthy (2/36) were the pick of the bowlers for KKR

and they were ably supported by Shardul Thakur (3-0-15-1) did and Vaibhav Arora (1/30).

CSK were 99 for five after 16 overs as KKR bowlers, especially the spinners, kept things tight and struck at regular intervals.

Narine and Chakravarthy did the damage in the middle of the innings before Dube and Jadeja launched a fightback.

After a quick start, Chakravarthy broke through for KKR, getting Ruturaj Gaikwad (17, 13 balls, 2x4) to edge one to Arora in the fourth over as CSK raced away to 31 in the fourth over.

Devon Conway and Ajinkya Rahane maintained the pace of scoring, despite not going bang-bang, and scored 52 runs in the first six overs.

Conway earned a reprieve when he got a LBW decision overturned via DRS after being adjudged out off Chakravarthy. Rahane fell trying to force the pace, unable to clear the boundary off Chakravarthy.

Conway top-edged a pull to Rinku Singh in the deep off Thakur after making 30.

Ambati Rayudu's poor season continued as he fell for just 4 to give Narine his first wicket.

The West Indian spinner then castled a struggling Moeen (1) to reduce CSK to 72 for 5 in the 11th over.

Brief scores: Chennai Super Kings: 144/6 (Dube 48*; Narine 2/15, Chakravarthy 2/36); Kolkata Knight Riders: 147/4 in 18.3 overs (Rana 57, Rinku 54; Chahar 3/27).

RCB win battle royale

Register 112-run victory after Rajasthan suffer batting collapse



JAIPUR, May 15 (Agencies): Royal Challengers Bangalore got a boost to their playoff chances with a 112-run win against Rajasthan Royals, who suffered an inexplicable batting collapse in their Indian Premier League match here.

Chasing a target of 172, hosts Royals suffered a stunning collapse to be bundled out for just 59 in 10.3 overs, with only Shimron Hetmyer (35 off 19 balls) and Joe Root (10 off 15 balls) scoring in double-digit figures. It is the third lowest total in the IPL history.

It was RR's second lowest total as they just about managed to go

past their lowest of 58 against the same opponents in 2009.

Rajasthan failed to put up a fight as their batters kept on playing attacking shots when the situation demanded a partnership on a slow and tricky wicket.

RCB's bowlers exploited the lack of application from the RR batters. Wayne Parnell was the pick of the bowlers with three wickets for 10 runs from his three overs. Michael Bracewell and Karn Sharma took two wickets each, while Mohammed Siraj and Glenn Maxwell got one each.

With the win, RCB jumped to the fifth spot with 12 points from 12

matches, while RR moved down to sixth with 12 points from 13 matches. RCB also managed to get a healthy bump in the run rate.

Royals lost five wickets for 25 runs in the power-play, with Parnell taking two, including that of Jos Buttler (0) and captain Sanju Samson (4). But it was Siraj who had opened the floodgates by getting the wicket of in-form Yashasvi Jaiswal (0). It was a rare instance as both the RR openers got out for ducks.

Earlier, captain Faf du Plessis and Maxwell struck half-centuries to help RCB post a challenging 171/5 after opting to bat.

Du Plessis (55 off 44 balls) and Maxwell (54 off 33 balls) continued their strong form on a slower pitch. Anuj Rawat hit 29 not out off just 11 balls late in the innings as RCB added 51 runs in the last five overs. Australian spinner Adam Zampa (2/25) and pacer KM Asif (2/42) were the most successful Royals bowlers while Sandeep Sharma got one wicket.

Brief scores: Royal Challengers Bangalore: 171/5 (du Plessis 55, Maxwell 54; Zampa 2/25); Rajasthan Royals: 59 all out in 10.3 overs (Hetmyer 35; Parnell 3/10, Bracewell 2/16).

Titans look to seal playoff berth

AHMEDABAD, May 15 (Agencies): Gujarat Titans pride themselves on consistency and would be expected to produce a solid show against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL here today after a

rare "flat" performance. Another win should be enough for defending champions Gujarat Titans to seal a playoff berth while Sunrisers, who have only four wins from 11 games, are all but out of the reckon-

ing. Barring Rashid Khan, who starred with both ball and bat against Mumbai Indians, the bowlers had a forgettable outing and no one had answers to the special hitting ability of Suryakumar Yadav.

Kings reach Dharamsala for final two games

DHARAMSALA, May 15 (Agencies): Playing their final two league games here, Punjab Kings arrived today to a warm welcome. Still alive in the race for the playoffs, Punjab Kings play Delhi Capitals on Wednesday and Rajasthan Royals on Friday. The IPL returns



to Dharamsala after a decade. The last time

IPL matches were held here was in 2013.

England pacer James Anderson suffers groin injury ahead of Ashes 2023

LONDON, May 15 (Agencies): Veteran England pacer James Anderson suffered a groin injury while playing for Lancashire, and his fitness will be assessed before next month's Ashes warm-up Test against Ireland, according to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The 40-year-old was carted off the pitch on Thursday after suffering an injury on the first day of the match against Somerset at Old Trafford. A "mild groin strain" was diagnosed. "His fitness will be assessed nearer the time of the Test match



against Ireland, which takes place at Lord's starting on Thursday, June 1, 2023," an ECB statement said.

Anderson and Stuart Broad, 36, are the most prolific wicket-taking partnership in Test his-

ness for the series after the paceman was ruled out for the remainder of this season's Indian Premier League (IPL) due to a nagging elbow injury last week.

Anderson, the world's No. 2 Test bowler, has joined a growing list of England bowlers nursing injuries ahead of the Ashes, missing three days of County Championship action this week.

Lancashire head coach Glen Chapple said after the draw: "Jimmy bowled really well in the first innings. He's just irritated his groin. I don't think it's anything too serious. "We should be positive

about his recovery, but obviously he had done it badly enough not to take any part in the game today.

"It just seems like a tweaked groin to me." After suffering a hamstring injury in last week's County Championship match against Lancashire, Nottinghamshire pacer Olly Stone will be out for at least the first Ashes Test.

The 29-year-old, who has played three Tests and eight ODIs for England since his international debut in 2018, was sent for scans after hobbling off the field during the thrilling draw at Trent Bridge.

India taken apart by Chinese Taipei

SUZHOU, May 15 (Agencies): Double Olympics medallist PV Sindhu's gallant fight ended in agony as India made a dismal start to their Sudirman Cup campaign, going down 1-4 to Chinese Taipei in their Group C opening round tie here.

Tanisha Crasto and K Sai Pratheek started on a positive note in the mixed doubles contest but they ran out of steam in the end, losing 21-18 24-26 6-21 to world No. 30 Yang Po-Hsuan and Hu Ling Fang. "We should've pulled off the second game," said Crasto. "In the third game we just went a little blank.

We didn't stick to the plan. This is learning for both of us, what can be done in the next match. But I'm really happy with the way we played," she added.

World No. 9 HS Prannoy then couldn't find his 'A' game, going down 19-21 15-21 to world No. 5 Chou Tien Chen in the men's singles.

Sindhu was handed the responsibility of bringing India back into the tie but it was always going to be a tough task against her nemesis and former world No. 1 Tai Tzu Ying.

The 27-year-old Indian, who

hasn't been in the best of form lately, produced a gritty performance after the opening game reversal but couldn't go the distance with Tai managing a 21-14 18-21 21-17 win in an hour and four minutes. It allowed Chinese Taipei to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match tie.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fought hard before losing 13-21 21-17 18-21 to Lee Yang and Ye Hong Wei in the men's doubles match in a little over an hour.

World No. 17 Treasa Jolly and P Gayatri Gopichand showed tremendous grit as they recovered from an opening game loss to eke out a 21-15 18-21 13-21 win over Lee Chia Hsin and Teng Chun Hsun in the final women's doubles match to help India avoid a sweep.

India will face Commonwealth Games mixed team champions Malaysia in their second group match tomorrow. Malaysia beat Australia 5-0 to top the group.

Double delight

Tokyo Paralympics champion Pramod Bhagat capped off his impressive run with two gold medals at the Thailand Para Badminton International tournament here.



Pramod defeated England's Daniel Bethell in the men's singles SL3 final before pairing up with compatriot Sukant Kadam to claim the gold medal in the men's doubles SL3-SL4 category. Pramod won the opening game 21-18 when Daniel decided to retire because of an injury. In the doubles category, the Indians beat compatriots Nitesh Kumar and Tarun 18-21 21-14 21-19.

Suhas Lalnakere Yathiraj emerged the champion in the men's singles SL4 category after beating compatriot Sukant 21-14 17-21 21-11 in the final. In women's singles, Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan and Thulasimathi Murugesan signed off with silver medals in SH6 and SU5, respectively.

MI batter Nehal Wadhwa travels in Mumbai airport wearing batting pads as punishment

MUMBAI, May 15 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians punished Nehal Wadhwa for arriving late to the team batters' meeting as the young batter was witnessed roaming at the Mumbai airport while wearing batting pads. He was not fined, but the punishment left him feeling a little embarrassed at the airport.

Notably, the team had a rather novel way of punishing players who were late for team meetings: they had to travel with the team while wearing a specially designed "punishment jumpsuit."

Mumbai franchise posted a video on their official social media account to show fans Wadhwa's off-field activities. He could be seen striding through the airport with his pads on, alongside his teammates.



"#MumbaiIndians youngster #NehalWadhwa turned all heads at Mumbai airport with his punishment #OOTD. He was captured with his pads on instead of the traditional jumpsuit. According to our sources, #Nehal regrets being late for batters meeting," Mumbai Indians posted on Twitter.

Mumbai Indians purchased the young cricketer from Ludhiana in the IPL 2023 mini-auction for INR 20 lakh. The southpaw has been consistently good for the Mumbai Indians this season, first grabbing attention for hitting the tournament's first 100-meter plus six, breaking the mark at the age of

22. Wadhwa is one of the season's discoveries and has been a consistent performer in the batting department for Mumbai in recent matches. He hit two half-centuries in pressure situations against RCB and CSK after making his debut in IPL 2023.

Wadhwa made an impressive Ranji Trophy debut in January, scoring a magnificent 123 against Gujarat and then an even more impressive 214 against defending champions Madhya Pradesh. In his first Ranji season, he scored 376 runs in seven innings, with an average of 53.71 and two hundred.

While Mumbai are currently third in the points table, their win over the Gujarat Titans has helped them get closer to a playoff spot.

JKBS members, others felicitate in HP Batwal Community's honour ceremony

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 15: Himachal Pradesh Batwal community organises 'Honour Ceremony' at Kathal Paleta in which a large number of Batwal community members hailing from Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu Kashmir participated with great enthusiasm.

On the occasion, eminent persons were honoured for their contribution in the field of humanitarian and social work.

Those who were felicitated included Messrs R.L. Kaith, Subedar Tilak Raj Motan (Retd), Havildar Des Raj Kaith (Retd), Sub Inspector Retired Darshan Kumar Bassa, Sher Singh Gaddal, Nand Lal Sanjotra, Rahul Gaddal, Karan Kumar Malarch, Roki Gaddal, Lucky Heer, Chaman



Lal Malarch, Ket Ram Gaddal, Parlad Singh Gaddal, Honey Singh Gaddal, Bidhi Chand Gaddal, Kulwinder Singh Gaddal and Neeraj Kumar Gaddal.

During the ceremony, the community members interacted with each other and said that such a member to member interaction would forge unity and goodwill among them.

Speaking on the occasion, the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha General Secretary R.L. Kaith said Batwal people have a long history of their migra-

tion from Himachal Pradesh's Chamba dating back to the 14th century, the researcher Sir Lord Ibetson said in his book 'Punjab Castes' published in 1885.

Throughout their journey, they have faced many challenges, including oppression and discrimination, in their quest to maintain their identity and culture. Despite these obstacles, the Batwal people have remained resilient, and their culture and traditions are still alive today. They have held on to their customs, and religious beliefs, and their

unique identity is still very much alive.

The history of the Batwal people is a testament to the power of perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity, said Kaith adding that in the present day, Batwal community has distinct cultural identities in each of the regions. However, they still maintain many of the same cultural practises and beliefs that originated from their ancestors, such as ancestor worship. He said that they have similar socio-economic practices, and various other similarities that have been inherited from the forefathers since time immemorial.

Kaith urged the community people to maintain peaceful environment and follow Guru Gyagi's ideals of humanity, secularism and universal brotherhood.

162 Battalion CRPF holds free Medical Camp in Bumhama

TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, May 15: A Free Medical health check-up camp was organized in Bumhama Kupwara under the Civic Action Programme by 162 Battalion Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Govt Middle School Bumhama Kupwara, during which free medicines were distributed here.

The camp was inaugurated by SSP Kupwara Youghal Manhas, Commandant 162 Battalion Vinod Kumar, Second-in-Command CRPF Rajiv Kumar, Assistant Commandant Neeraj Kumar, Assistant Commandant Abhishak Yadav, Dr Vishvender Singh Medical Officer 162 Battalion, Sarpanch Bumhama and other dignitaries were present on this occasion.

During this camp Dr Vishvender Singh Medi-



cal officer 162 Battalion CRPF was present.

During the medical camp a number of people including women, children and senior citizens of the area visited to take advantage of the camp.

SSP Kupwara Youghal Manhas, while talking to media he said, "CRPF runs various schemes for assisting the needy and merging with the local and for having

better coordination with them.

Commandant 162 Battalion CRPF Vinod Kumar said today we have organised a free medical camp and consultancy for those who require medical assistance and you see a large number of people turned up in the programme.

The aim of such programmes is to have good relations with locals and

also help them in difficult times. It's a continuous process and 162 Battalion is periodically conducting community outreach programs in one or other way.

In the past also such free medical camps were organised in Kupwara district.

Meanwhile the locals extended gratitude to 162 Battalion for conducting the medical camp in the area.

NDS Executive Interacts with Dogra Samaj Trust Patron

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 15: Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) Executive Organised an interactive session with Patron Dogra Samaj Trust Mumbai, Nidhi Dogra Sharma at Jammu.

NDS President Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila welcomed Nidhi Dogra Sharma with the flower bouquet and indicated the Areas where both the Organisations can work which was followed by interaction.

Capt Lalit Sharma Convener NDS while welcoming the DST Patron offered to work jointly

and in collaboration with Dogra Sanaj Trust for the furtherance of Dogri Language and Dogra Culture which was respectfully acknowledged by Patron Dogra Samaj Trust Mumbai.

Yash Pal Yash General Secretary NDS elaborately explained the literary activities being undertaken by Nami Dogri Sanatha and similarly, Patron Dogra Samaj Trust explained in detail the Dogri Language and Cultural endeavours being undertaken by that organisation in Mumbai and Maharashtra.

After thorough discussions it was decided that both the organ-

isations shall keep close liaison with each other and shall seek literary and cultural help from each other to strengthen the literary and cultural campaigns of NDS and strengthen the Dogra ethos of Dogras living in Maharashtra and this Cultural Bondage will strengthen the Bondage of Dogras living in Maharashtra with their Motherland Duggar.

The Dogri Publications of each Sanstha shall be shared and similarly, the Dogri Creative works in the field of Music shall be shared. The cultural exchanges shall include programmes of NDS in Mumbai

and vice versa. Prof. Anupama Sharma, Patron Youth Wing Nami Dogri Sanstha in her interactive conversation expressed grave concern over growing Drug Abuse in Duggar which is a potential threat to our youth and Duggar culture.

The Mutual Cooperation to work in this field together was also agreed to. Ratish Gupta and Pallavi Rajput, Prominent Young Journalists also participated.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Advocate Arjun Dev Mohan General Secretary Youth Wing NDS.

NC Minority Cell team meets Relief Commissioner; seeks Constitution of Advisory Committee (Apex) for migrants



JAMMU, May 15: A deputation of National Conference Minority Cell, led by its President, Jatin Bhat called on the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Migrants, KK Sidha the other day and discussed various issues pertaining to migrants.

Dy Relief Commissioner Davinder Singh and Assistant Commissioner Relief Dr Reyaz were also present on the occasion.

The deputation expressed dismay over the delaying tactics adopted by Government in settling long pending issues of the migrants. It said that migrants were facing humiliation and harassment on one pretext or the other.

Jatin Bhat demanded Constitution of Advisory Committee (Apex) for migrants to address the problems being

faced by the Kashmiri Pandits residing in various camps across the Union Territory. He said that the framing of aforesaid Advisory Committee was deliberately ignored by the J&K government since 2014 due to which migrants are facing huge hardships.

The deputation also demanded adequate arrangements for impending Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra for Migrants residing in various camps and Non-camps like availability of free buses at all camps and at few KP dominant areas; proper security arrangements should be made for smooth conduct of Yatra; arrangements of stay for the Yatris at Tullamulla Ganderbal; appointment orders be issued in favour of those 45 aspirants who have already got directions from the

Court; enhancement of Cash relief assistance in favour of relief card holders; ration slips be issued to anyone who is in blood relation of card holder; construction of TRT's for those families who are still staying in rented accommodation at Jammu; construction of stadium at Jagti; distribution of sport kits among the migrants at Muthi, Purkho, Jagti and non-camp; extension of Khelo India scheme for migrants through migrant Schools established at various places at Jammu and basic facilities may kindly provided to those families who are residing in old TRT Purkhoo.

The deputation comprised of Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Ashok Koul, Harmohinder Singh, Rattan Lal Malla, Sumit Bhan, Rajinder Dhar, Kaka Ji Bhan, Ravinder Ji, Varinder Pandita and others.

Dogri Sanstha organizes online Kahani Gosthi

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 13: Dogri Sanstha organized online Dogri Kahani Gosthi in which short story of Ved Rahi was presented by Prof. Shashi Pathania and Prof. Lalit Magotra and Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' presented their short stories themselves.

The Gosthi started with Rajeshwar Singh Raju, an eminent English, Hindi and Dogri writer who presented his short story 'Barkati' revolving around man-woman relations where in lust prevails over love and affection, Prof Lalit Magotra, a prolific dogri writer presented his short story 'MARNE DE BAAD' revolving around the experiences of a wealthy man after he plans his death just to experience reactions of others thereafter. Prof. Shashi Pathania presented celebrated short story writer, novel-



ist, poet and filmmaker Ved Rahi's short story 'Trutti Di Chhatri' which revolves around agony and sufferings of an old man after the death of his young son in a blast executed by militants.

The Kahani Gosthi was presided over by Prof. Veena Gupta, Vice President Dogri Sanstha Jammu. She complemented all the three story writers for their thought provoking stories. She said that all the three short story writers are well known for their contributions in Dogri literature and Kahani Gosthi was very successful as all the three stories were quite different concept vice and

craft was also distinct one for each story.

She further added that in fact it was representation of three generations of short story writers being led by VedRahi, followed by Prof. Lalit Magotra and now Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' which proves that short stories written in dogri can compete with short stories being written in any language.

The Kahani Gosthi was conducted by eminent dogri short story writer and playwright Jagdeep Dubey and vote of thanks were presented by Pawan Verma, well known theatre activist and Dogri poet.

Gohallan Village residents celebrate opening of stitching training centres

TOP NEWS REPORT

BARAMULLA, May 15: Brigham Young, one of the famous American religious leader and politician once said, "You empower a man; you empower an individual. You empower a woman; you empower a generation".

The recent opening of three Stitching Training Centres in the village of Gohallan is a step in this direction. It was a collaborative effort of all villagers, government officials and security forces.

The Centres, opened to provide vocational training to the women of Gohallan Village, were inaugurated by Parveena Begum, the Sarpanch of the village.

The training centers will provide local women with the skills and

knowledge necessary to earn their own money by stitching clothes.

This initiative is part of a larger effort to promote women empowerment and economic independence in the region.

The opening ceremony was attended by a large number of villagers, including prominent personalities from Salamabad and Jabla villages, as well as Army personnel.

Parveena Begum spoke at the event, highlighting the importance of the training centres for the local community.

"By providing them with the skills and knowledge to operate sewing machines, we are giving them the tools they need to achieve economic independence and improve their lives."

Quality enhancement through outcome based education

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 15: SSD Girls' College, Bathinda organized a NAAC sponsored one day national seminar on topic 'Quality enhancement through outcome based education'.

Dr. Gurpreet Lehal (Dean College Development Council, Punjabi University Patiala) graced the occasion with his presence as Chief Guest and Dr.

Reetu Lehal was also a special guest of National Seminar.

Programme was commenced with the lighting of lamp. President Advocate Sanjay Goyal welcomed the chief guest and other dignitaries.

Principal Dr. Neeru Garg introduced the Chief Guest and other distinguished personalities.

Dr. Gurpreet Lehal expressed his remark-

able ideas regarding new ways of education in his inaugural address.

Dr. Vishal Goyal (Department of Computer Science, Punjabi University Patiala) and Dr. Vikasdeep (Department of Business Studies, Talwandi Sabo) delivered their Keynote address.

Dr. Vishal Goyal explained about the online A&A methodology in revised accredi-

tation framework. Dr Vikasdeep discussed about the outcome based education.

Two parallel technical sessions were chaired by Dr. Naresh Singla (Department of economic studies, Central university of Punjab, Bathinda) and Dr. Rajinder Kumar Sen (School of languages, Central university of Punjab, Bathinda).

About 150 delegates registered for the semi-

nar from different parts of the country. The seminar was concluded with certification distribution in valedictory session. College President Adv. Sanjay Goyal, General Secretary Sh. Satish Arora and Vikas Garg Secretary SSDWIT were also present there.

Principal Dr. Neeru Garg appreciated the efforts of IQAC coordinator Dr. Anju Garg and her team for organizing this National Seminar.

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