

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Bandipora-Gurez road blocked due to avalanche, clearance operation underway
Top News Report

BANDIPORA, Mar 17 (Agencies): The Bandipora-Gurez road in the Jammu and Kashmir has been blocked due to multiple snow avalanches on Sunday.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has commenced an extensive clearance operation in the snow avalanche-hit area.

Earlier in the month, a group of seven local trekkers stranded at Mughal Road in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district amid heavy snowfall and avalanches were safely rescued, officials said.

The rescue operation was carried out by a team of officials from the mechanical engineering wing of the Public Works department.

Horrific: A mother saves her two children as leopard enters home

SRINAGAR, Mar 17 (Agencies): In a harrowing incident a mother's quick thinking saved her two children when a leopard unexpectedly entered their home on Saturday morning. The incident was reported from Kilhotran village in the Doda district, where no such thing has happened ever.

According to reports, the alarming incident unfolded as the mother and her children were inside their house, and the leopard breached the premises. Reacting swiftly, the mother managed to evacuate her children to safety, averting a potentially tragic outcome.

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CS-Led panel formed to implement three new criminal laws in JK

SRINAGAR, Mar 17 (Agencies): For the successful implementation of new Criminal Laws in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, the Administration has constituted a UT Level Steering Committee.

Headed by the Chief Secretary, JK, the committee shall formulate a time bound roadmap for successful implementation of the three new laws namely Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshaya Abhinियam (BSA) 2023, in the Union Territory of JK, well before the date of enforcement, which has been notified as 1st of July 2024.

Besides the Chief Secretary, JK as its chairman, Principal Secretary Home Department; Director General of Police, JK or his representative not below the rank of ADGP; Director

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Azad requests EC to hold assembly election in J&K one month after LS Polls

JAMMU, Mar 17 (Agencies): Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad requested the Election Commission (EC) on Sunday to hold the much-awaited Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir a month after the completion of the Lok Sabha election.

The Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory will be held in the first five phases on April 19 (Udhampur), April 26 (Jammu), May 7 (Anantnag-Rajouri), May 13 (Srinagar) and May 20 (Baramulla). The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

"The EC has stated that it is not holding the Assembly polls with the Lok Sabha election because of security considerations.

"It is true that if 10 candidates fight from each parliamentary seat, we have five seats and the number of candidates will be 50. Similarly, if we have 15 candidates from each of the 90 Assembly segments, the number of candidates will be around 1,500. It is difficult to provide security to 50 candidates," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.



However, he requested the EC and the Centre to hold the Assembly polls a month after the completion of the parliamentary election.

"The Assembly election should be held after a month's rest post the Lok Sabha polls," he said.

Azad, who was a member of a high-level committee chaired by former president Ram Nath Kovind to look into the feasibility of the "one nation, one election" concept, said the report has been submitted to the president and it is now for the government and the EC to take a call on the recommendations.

Asked about the opposition's criticism over holding the Lok Sabha polls in seven phases, the former Union minister said even during the Congress rule, elections used to take place in seven or eight phases.

He said the DPAP has announced one candidate from the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat and the decision with regard to other seats will be taken in due course of time.

"We have announced one candidate and will see where else we are going to field candidates," he said.

Earlier, addressing a public meeting at the heart of the city here, Azad said a legislation is needed to protect Jammu up to Samba.

"Our land and jobs were protected by Article 35A (of the Constitution) but after its abrogation with Article 370 (in August 2019), Jammu has become vulnerable as anyone coming from outside will prefer the city rather than going to the hilly districts of Jammu or the Kashmir valley. People from the 22 districts of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are living in Jammu and we have to protect the city up to Samba (district)," he said.

Azad sought the people's support in forming the next government in Jammu and Kashmir and said he will give top priority to mitigating the problems being faced by them due to a lack of electricity and water, besides ensuring development.

He also asked people to wisely vote in the parliamentary polls so that the elected candidates become their voice and highlight their issues.

"Elections in J&K will be held as per SC direction": BJP'S Tarun Chugh

JAMMU, Mar 17 (Agencies): Bharatiya Janata Party general secretary Tarun Chugh said on Sunday that the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will happen according to the Supreme Court's direction.

"Everybody has faith in the Election Commission. According to the Supreme Court's direction, the elections will happen in Jammu and Kashmir in September," he said.

Earlier today, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal said that it was shocking but was expected.

"Shocking, but that is expected. They will have no polls in J&K, and what is even more shocking is that Sonam Wangchuk, who is on fast, wants to have 'district hill status' and they are not even providing that," he said.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said on Saturday that the J-K Assembly polls will be held after the Lok Sabha elections.

In an interview with ANI, CEC Kumar said, "We are yet to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. I mentioned in the press conference



earlier today that the way for conducting legal elections has opened since December 23. This is March, and there is snowfall in the region, hence the question of holding elections does not arise at this point."

"We (ECI) went to Jammu and Kashmir and were asked by all the political parties there to hold the state assembly elections with the Lok Sabha polls. After that, we held administrative meetings wherein it was discussed that a lot of security forces would be required to conduct state assembly election with Lok Sabha election in J-K," he said.

The general election for 543 Lok Sabha seats will be held in seven phases from April 19, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced on Saturday. The counting will be held on June 4.

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Besides the Chief Secretary, JK as its chairman, Principal Secretary Home Department; Director General of Police, JK or his representative not below the rank of ADGP; Director General of Police (Prisons), JK; Director General of Prosecution, JK; Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Judicial Officer to be nominated by the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, in

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Won't retreat from wiping out terrorism from J&K: DGP Swain

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 17: Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain Sunday said that Jammu and Kashmir Police is committed to wipe out roots of terrorism in J&K, and added, "The strategy and roadmap in this regard are very clear and will be able to root-out it exponentially."

Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of Public Grievance Redressal Programme (PGRP) in Doda, the DGP Swain said that police and other security



agencies are committed to root out terrorism and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the J&K Police is having a clear roadmap in this regard and will be able to root-

out it exponentially.

"We are clear in our strategy. We have a roadmap and we will not retreat from our modus-operandi. I can't assure you that terrorism will end in Jammu and Kashmir on a fixed date, but it will be rooted out exponentially," DGP Swain said.

On the conduct of Lok Sabha general elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the DGP Swain said security issue is an important factor for J&K Police in the upcoming LS polls. "Election Commission of India (ECI)

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Cabinet Meet | PM asks Ministers to draft roadmap for first 100 days, next 5 years of new Govt

NEW DELHI, Mar 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday told ministers to draft a roadmap for the first 100 days and next five years for new government, sources said.

Chairing a Cabinet meeting here this morning, the PM also asked the ministers to meet secretaries and other officials of their respective ministries to discuss how the agenda for the first 100 days and the next five years can be better implemented.

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Election Commission makes fresh electoral bonds data public

NEW DELHI, Mar 17 (Agencies): The Election Commission on Sunday made public fresh data on electoral bonds, which was previously submitted to the Supreme Court in sealed covers, following a directive from the apex court to make it available to the public.

"The Election Commission of India has today uploaded the data received in digitized form from the registry of the Supreme Court on electoral bonds on its website," the poll panel said in a statement.

The ECI had submitted it in the sealed covers to the Supreme Court and was later asked to put them in the public domain.

Notably, this information pertains to transactions that occurred before April 12, 2019, while details of electoral bonds issued after this date were disclosed by the election commission last week.

"Data so received from political parties was deposited in the Supreme Court without opening sealed covers. In pursuance of the Supreme

Court's order dated March 15, 2024, the Registry of the Supreme Court has returned physical copies along with a digitized record of the same in a pen drive in a sealed cover. The Election Commission of India has today uploaded the data received in the digitized form from the registry of the Supreme Court on electoral bonds on its website," the EC statement said.

According to the new details, DMK received Rs 656.5 crore through

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"Shocking but that is expected": Kapil Sibal on J&K Assembly polls to be held after LS polls

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Mar 17 (Agencies): After the announcement by the Election Commission to hold Jammu and Kashmir polls after the Lok Sabha elections, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal on Sunday said that it is shocking, but was expected.

"Shocking, but that is expected. They will have no polls in Jammu and Kashmir and what is even more shocking is that Sonam Wangchuk, who is on fast, wants to have 'district hill status' and they are not even providing that," Sibal told reporters.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar on Saturday said that the J-K Assembly polls will be held after the Lok



Sabha elections.

In an interview with ANI, CEC Kumar said, "We are yet to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. I mentioned in the press conference earlier today that the way for conducting legal elections has opened since December 23. This is March, and there is snowfall in the region, hence the question of holding elections does not arise at this point."

"We (ECI) went to Jammu and Kashmir and were asked by all the

political parties there to hold the state assembly elections with the Lok Sabha polls. After that, we held administrative meetings wherein it was discussed that a lot of security forces would be required to conduct state assembly election with Lok Sabha election in J-K," he said.

The general election for 543 Lok Sabha seats will be held in seven phases from April 19, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced on Saturday. The counting will be held on June 4.

Nearly 97 crore voters will be eligible to vote for 543 Lok Sabha constituencies across the country. With the announcement of dates, the model code of conduct comes into force immediately.

Licensed gun holders asked to deposit weapons

SRINAGAR, Mar 17 (Agencies): Following the announcement of the Lok Sabha election schedule, the district administration of Bandipora has urged all civilians and personnel, both retired and serving, holding valid arms licences to deposit their weapons and ammunition at the respective police stations within seven days.

District Election Officer/ District Magistrate Bandipora, Shakeel-ul-Raman (IAS), also mandated that all printing presses operating within the north Kashmir district clearly indicate the names and addresses of the printer and publisher on any election pamphlets or posters.

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Ports	4Ports - 64 Ports
Trunks	4 - 10 Trunk's
FND	Tri-Color
Scheduler	Small, ABS Body
KTS	Pluggable Add on
Paging	Yes
Hotel Fn	Yes
MMOH	Pluggable Add on

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CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With heavy heart and profound grief we inform about the sad demise of our beloved mother, **Smt. Shanta Aima (Shyama Jee)** W/o Late Prof. Roshan Lal Aima, of Fateh Kadal Srinagar - Kashmir, presently residing at D-302, Satisar Apartments, Sector 7, Dwarka, New Delhi, on 11th March 2024, in New Delhi.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 20th March 24 at Gauri Shankar Mandir, Palam, at 8 AM followed by an **ASSEMBLY** at our residence D-302 Satisar Apartments, Dwarka at 11 AM.

We pray to the almighty, may her divine soul attain the state of eternal bliss - 'Moksha'. Om Shanli.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Mr. Manish Aima - Son

Mrs. Rashmi Aima & Mr. Ashish Aima - Daughter in Law & Son

Mrs. Nancy Kaul - Sister in Law

Mrs. Kusum & Mr. Ramesh Kumar Raina - Sister in Law & Brother in Law

Mrs. Anu Aima & Mr. Anil K Aima

Mrs. Sushma & Mr. Virendra Salman

Mrs. Saroj Aima

Mrs. Meenakshi Langar & Mr. Rakesh Langar

Mrs. Rani Wali (W/o Late Mr. M L Wali)

Mrs. Suman Wali (W/o Mr. R K Wali)

**SMT. SHANTA AIMA
(SHYAMA JEE)**

Grand Daughters:
Isha, Saanvi, Saiyette and Sharika
Samast Wali, Aima and Raina Parivar
Contact Number - 9810660346

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With heavy hearts and profound sorrow, we announce the unfortunate passing of our beloved patriarch, **Sh. Shadi Lal Koul, (Retd. SDE - BSNL)** S/o Late Sh. Amar Nath Koul. Original R/O 2nd Bridge, Sheelteng, Habba Kadal, Presently at F-8, SBI Officers Flats, Upper Rajender Nagar, Near B.S.N.L Exchange, Bantala, Jammu, attained nirvana on the 8th of March 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE HELD AT AKHNOOR GHAT ON 16.03.24 AT 6:30 AM & ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT SHARDA MATA TEMPLE, LOWER RAJENDER NAGAR, BANTALAB, JAMMU AT 11:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Sarla Koul - Wife

Son and Daughter-in-Law:

Mr. Kuldip Koul (SBI Emp.) and Mrs. Anita Koul (9419235946 / 9419156613)

Mr. Ajay Koul and Mrs. Meenakshi Koul

Daughter and Son-in-Law:

Mrs. Urveshi Gargroo and Mr. Rahul Gargroo (9800644649 / 9560162578)

Mrs. Archana Zaijuri and Mr. Navin Zaijuri

Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-Law:

Mrs. Churi Devi Kohra (9562501221)

Mrs. Durga Rani and Mr. D. N. Kohra (9012873499)

Brother and Sister-in-Law:

Mr. B.L. Koul (Retd. SBI Emp.) and Mrs. Suchma Koul (9816311395)

Sister and Brother-in-Law:

Mrs. Nancy and Mr. R. K. Dhar (Retd. SBI Emp.) (9419119019)

Mrs. Santosh and Mr. G. L. Raina (Retd. SBI Emp.) (9372188137)

Mrs. Usha and Mr. B.L. Raina (9816737003)

**SH. SHADI LAL KOUL,
(RETD. SDE-BSNL)**

Mrs. Kati and Mr. Ramesh Raina (9466962400)
Grandchildren: Anya Koul, Jeevanshi Gargroo, Yugansh Gargroo, Ayush Koul, Mohi Koul, Pranav Zaijuri, Sidhant Zaijuri
SAMAST PARIVARS OF KOUL, RAJMA, DHAR, KOTHA, BHAN, GARGROO, ZAIJURI

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr. Rahul Bhat (Shibi)** S/o Late Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat (Mahnoori) from Village Mahnoora District Budgam Tehsil Chadoora Kashmir A/P Lane No.18, Block No. 96, Flat No.5, Jagti Migrant Camp Nagrota, Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Sainik School Nagrota on 18-03-2024 Monday at 7 AM while **Assembly** at behind Lane No.20, Near Ration Depot Jagti Nagrota, Jammu at 10:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Guddi Bhat - Mother

Brother & Bhabhi

Abhinandan Bhat & Khushi Raina/Bhat

Kiran Bhat - Tayi

Ankur Bhat & Arli Bhat - Brother & Bhabhi

Children: Arav Bhat, Harika Bhat, Rihaan Bhat

Mob: 8082670564, 9541758860



**MR. RAHUL BHAT
(SHIBI)**

MOURNING AND 10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM UNTIMELY DEATH OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH BALKRISHEN PANDIT** S/O LT DINA NATH PANDIT ORIGINALLY FROM UMANAGRI BRARIANAGAN UTTERSOG KASHMIR PRESENTLY RESIDING AT SRB 24 C SHIPRA RIVERA INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2024 AT MURAD NAGAR.

GRIEF STRICKEN

RAJ DULARI PANDIT - WIFE

OMPRAKASH PANDIT - BROTHER

KISHNA DHAR - SISTER

SAMAST PARIVAR HANDOO ANNATNAG, BAMBROO AKURA AND KATH BILASPUR (SISTERS)

KUSUM & MANORANJAN PANDIT - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON

RAHI & SUMAN PANDIT - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON

RINKI JI & KIRAN PANDIT - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON

ARTI & ARUN KOUL - DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW

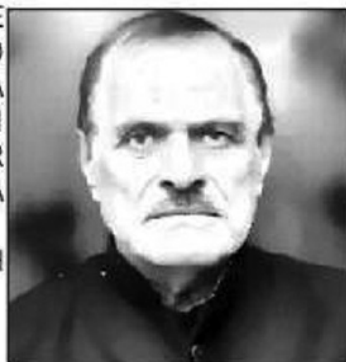
JYOTI & SANJAY PANDIT - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON

KALPANA & KANAYA BHAT - DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW

GRAND CHILDREN:

KAVISH, AYUSH, SAYURI, KARAN KOUL, VAIBHAV BHAT, YUTIKA, TANISH, SHALIJA BHAT, NITIN

9910882227 # 7428452227#



SH BALKRISHEN PANDIT

10TH DAY/KARAM

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of beloved father **Darshan Kumar Magotra** S/o Lt Pt Nihal Chand Ward No. 11, Reasi.

10th Day will be performed on 17th of March 2024 (Sunday) at Bharatiya Vidya Mandir School Reasi at 11 AM.

KARAM on 18th March 2024 at our residence.

**Deeply Remembered by
MAGOTRA FAMILY**

Mob. 8803284041, 9906380109



**Darshan Kumar
Magotra**

MOURNING FROM MALUIN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Ajay Kumar Bhat** S/o Lt Kashi Nath Bhat originally from Hawal Pulwama, husband of Mrs. Romi Bhat D/o Sh. Nand Lal Bhat of Umanagri Brarianagan (Anantnag) on 14-3-2024.

Mourning from Maluin side is being observed at H. No. 195/2-B Om Vihar (near Raju Cement Store) Muthi Village, Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Asha Bhat & Sh. Nand Lal Bhat 9419156202

Smt. Jankishori Bhat 70063-47241

Smt. Asha Bhat & Sh. Bhan Lal Bhat 94191797590

Smt. Nishu Pandita & Sh. Vineet K Bhat 9419156212

Smt. Sunaina & Sh. Sumit Bhat 908055677

Smt. Neenu Bhat & Sh. Ashwani Bhat 70063-47241

Smt. Dimpy & Sh. Venu Ji Bhat 9596187079



Sh. Ajay Kumar Bhat

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI (UTHALA)

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SMT ARUNA SHARMA** W/O SHRI RAJ KUMAR SHARMA (KOOTAH WALE) R/O H. NO. 118/C, LANE NO. 12, SHIV NAGAR JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 7TH MARCH 2024 (THURSDAY).

TENTH DAY SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 16TH MARCH 2024 (SATURDAY) AT 11.00 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

KRIYA SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 17TH MARCH 2024 (SUNDAY) AT 12.00 NOON AT OUR RESIDENCE.

RASAM PAGRI (UTHALA) SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 18TH MARCH 2024 (MONDAY) AT 2.00 PM TO 3.00 P.M. AT A.G.S OFFICE COMMUNITY HALL, A.G.S OFFICE COLONY JAMMU.

GRIEF STRICKEN

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA (HUSBAND)

SONS & DAUGHTERS IN LAW

POOJA AND ALOK SHARMA

POOJA DUBEY AND PARMOD SHARMA

LEENA SHARMA & DEEPAK SHARMA (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)

DEEPLY MISSED BY

PARI, KRISHNA, AMOD, PEEHU, PARTH

CONTACT NOS : 9858050680, 9906116114, 9419113041



SMT ARUNA SHARMA

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad demise of **Smt. Suman Sharma / (Pinkey)** W/o Sh. Ravi Ji Sharma originally resident of Akura (Mattan), presently at R/o H.No. 129 Adarsh Nagar Near J&K Bank Paloura has passed away on 15th March, 2024.

10TH DAY shall take place on 24 March, 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN FAMILIES

Sharma's & Koul's

Mob: 9419118588, 9682365964



**Smt. Suman Sharma
(Pinkey)**

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform sad and untimely demise of our dear **Hari Krishan Koul (Thimu Ji)** S/O Late Sh. Nand Lal Koul erstwhile resident of Laribal Krandigam Bejbahara Kmr. on 11.3.2024 at Jammu.

MOURNING is being observed at Community Hall, Lane No. 25 back side in front of block 151, Jagti Migrant Colony Jammu.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Bhaderkali Mandir Thalwal Jammu on 20.3.2024 and assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 11 AM.

Grief Stricken:

Hemu Kaul - Son

Rashika Kaul - Daughter

Santosh Kaul (Tati) - Babi

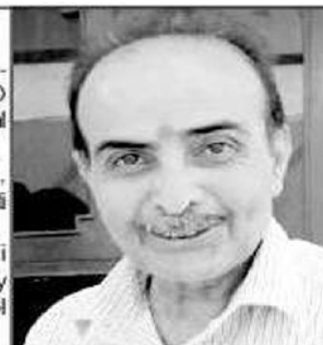
Bansi Lal Kaul - Brother

Rajinder Kaul / Usha Ji - Brother / Bhabhi

Ramesh Kaul / Jolly Ji - Brother / Bhabhi

Sandeep Kaul / Shalini - Nephew / Niece in law

Sunny Kaul / Sheela - Nephew/Niece in law
B.L. Raina - Jija Ji
Dulan Kaul Raina - Sister
Samast Kaul Parivar of Laribal Krandigam
Call No: 9899632033, 8307986764, 7006508583
8052852929



Hari Krishan Koul (Thimu Ji)

Indian Army organised Medical Camp at Kalakot, Rajouri**Top News Report**

RAJOURI, Mar 17: The right to health is a fundamental right of every individual in any country. Undoubtedly, good health is the biggest treasure. Indian Army strives to providing basic medical assistance for a healthy life style to the residents of remote village organ-

ised a medical camp at Kalakote, Rajouri on 17 March 2024. The medical camp was organised to meet the quick health care need of the AWAM of remote kalakote village. A team of medical doctors and professionals were available to address various health concerns and provided expert guidance like medical check-ups,

specialized care, health awareness sessions etc as well as provided essential medicines to them. The Indian Army's Medical Camp aimed to not only provides immediate healthcare support but also to raise awareness about the importance of regular health check-ups and a healthy lifestyle.

Indian Army with Kargil Veteran's organised Motivational Lecture at "Veero Ki Bhoomi" Lam, Rajouri**Top News Report**

RAJOURI, Mar 17: With an aim to evoke and instill the spirit of nationalism and patriotism especially in the youth of border villages, Indian Army conducted a motivational lecture at Govt higher secondary school, Lam, Rajouri.

The interaction was organised for the school students of Govt Higher Secondary School, Lam in which the Kargil War Veterans Hav Rajvir Singh & L/Hav Amrik

Singh of 8 SIKH and ESM Hony Capt Ravinder Singh, Ex 8 JAK LI shared their experience of the war. Before the commencement of the lecture, Army officials and all the students paid homage to the war heroes of Kargil War (Operation Vijay). After paying homage, students were given a brief history on the causes of war which started with as armed conflict between India and Pakistan at the Line of Control. They were also narrated with

the heroic deeds of Kargil war heroes who displayed their mettle in the face of enemy and remembers all the martyrs who laid down their lives to uphold the sovereignty of the country.

The event was successful in evoking the spirit of patriotism and nationalism in the students. At the end, teachers and students applauded the Indian Army for hard earned victory and also understood the residents significance of the day for our country.

Placebo Meditation Session Held At Sainik School, Nagrota**Top News Report**

NAGROTA, Mar 17: An enriching and enabling session on Placebo Meditation was conducted by Lieutenant Colonel Praveen Kumar, Staff Officer Education, White Knight Corps on 17 March 24 for the cadets at Major Somnath Sharma PVC stadium of the school. Session drew enthusiastic participation from staff, cadets, and volunteers alike.

Being an expert and a Research Scholar of Pondicherry University, the officer presented a comprehensive introduction to the unique form of meditation which is an

effective way to refine the perception and self-belief of cadets and enable them to unleash their full potential with increased vigour and energy. Following the introduction, the officer conducted a practical meditation session for the cadets. Vice Principal and members of the faculty also participated in the meditation session.

The event marked a significant milestone in empowering the future leaders of Sainik School Nagrota, instilling in them the importance of mindfulness and personal growth through placebo meditation.

The session, which lasted nearly an hour, proved to be a catalyst for meaningful conversations, inspiring cadets to embark on a journey of self-awareness, confidence-building and transformation through placebo meditation. On behalf of the school, the Vice Principal presented a token of appreciation and gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Praveen Kumar and mentioned that regular practice of meditation will undoubtedly help the cadets to stay focused on achieving their aim of joining the Armed Forces but also prepare them for the future challenges.

Obituary/Tenth Day Kriya

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the demise of our beloved **Smt. Tita Koul** W/o Late Ashok Kumar Koul originally resident of Ratnipora, Pulwama on March 12, 2024.

Mourning is being held at H. No - 109 (1st floor) Enclave - 1A, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu (HDFC Bank Lane)

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on March 21, 2024 (Thursday) at Akhnor Ghat and the assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 10.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Manu and Puneet Koul - Daughter-in-law and Son

Shri Rohit Koul - Son

Smt. Lovely and Ajit Koul

Smt. Dolly and Ramesh Koul

Smt. Seema and Rajinder Koul

Smt. Neetu and Anil Koul

Smt. Gita and Pradeep Bhat

Smt. Rajni and Rakesh Bhat

Smt. Anjali and Anil Koul

Adarsh, Urvasi, Anupam, Nikhil, Hardik

Koush and Bhats

Phones: 965-443-4887, 7006441245, 8715048000, 7006044183



Smt. Tita Koul

MOURNING / TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the demise of our beloved **Sh. Makhan Lal Sumbli** S/o Late Srikant Sumbli, originally from Sumbal Sonawari, Kashmir, A/P Jagti Colony, Nagrota Jammu on 9th March 2024 at 11:43 PM.

The **Mourning** is being observed at Community Hall Lane No. 23, Opposite Block No. 148, Jagti Colony. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 18th March 2024 at Tawi Ghat, Behind Sainik School Nagrota at 7:00 AM. While **Assembly** will be held at Community Hall Lane No. 23, Opposite Block No. 148, Jagti Colony at 10:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Sugata (Wife)

Sh. S.N. Sumbli (Brother)

Smt. Asha Ji Sumbli (Bhabhi)

Smt. Santosh Koul (Sister)

Smt. Raha Sumbli (Bhabhi)

Daughter & Son-in-Law:

Seema Pandita & Jwan Kr. Pandita

Savita Raina & Vikas Raina

Son & Daughter-in-Law:

Mihun Sumbli & Rimple Sumbli

Mohit Sumbli & Neetu Sumbli

Grand Children: Varsh, Savika, Nikunj, Saaranish, Sai, Vimarsh, & Nirvaan

Samast Sumbli, Bati, Pandita, & Raina Parivar.

Mob: 7889718777, 7006483400, 9797445346.



Sh. Makhan Lal Sumbli

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rajesh Bali** S/o Late Sh. Om Parkash Bali on 07/03/2024.

UTHALA will be held at Jawahar Nagar Ashram near Boys Middle School on 18/03/2024 (Monday) from (3 pm to 4 pm).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sneha Bali - Wife

Mank Bali - Son

Dhruv Bali - Son

Brother and Bhabhi

EDITORIAL

GREEN
LIFESTYLE

Environment is made up of climate, cleanliness, pollution and tree all together, and all these things i.e. environment is directly related to our daily life and affects it. Man and environment depend on each other. Environment such as climate pollution or the reduction of trees has a direct impact on the human body and health. Good and bad habits of human beings like saving trees, preventing climate pollution, and maintaining cleanliness also affect the environment.

Bad habits of man like polluting water, wastage, excessive cutting of trees, etc. affect the environment badly. As a result of which later humans have to suffer by facing natural calamities.

The biotic components of the environment include everything from micro-organisms to insects, all living beings and plants, and all biological activities and processes associated with them. While the abiotic components of the environment include non-living elements and their associated processes, such as: mountains, rocks, rivers, elements of air and climate, etc. In a general sense, it is a unit consisting of all biological and abiotic elements, facts, processes and events affecting our lives.

It pervades all around us and every event in our life depends on it and all the activities done by humans affect the environment directly and indirectly. Thus there is also a relationship between an organism and its environment, which is dependent on each other (interdependent).

On the basis of human intervention, the environment can be divided into two parts, the first of which is the natural environment and the man-made environment. This division is according to the greater or lesser degree of human intervention in natural processes and conditions.

This day, declared by the United Nations, is celebrated to bring awareness to the environment at the global level. It started in 1972 with the World Environment Conference organized by the United Nations General Assembly from June 5 to June 16. The first World Environment Day was celebrated on 5 June 1973.

In today's era, environmental pollution is increasing very fast. The nature of the environment is being destroyed due to the increasing population and big buildings. Everywhere by cutting thick trees and constructing big buildings, it is tampering with the environment and nature. Not only this, but due to the smoke of vehicles, the sound of machines, bad chemical water etc., air pollution, water pollution, and noise pollution is happening. Because of this, we are facing many diseases.

Therefore, today we need the most to make the general public aware of the issue of environmental crisis. Environmental problems such as pollution, climate change, etc. are prompting humans to rethink about their lifestyle and now the need for environmental protection and environmental management has become more important than ever.

How I lost the debate with Mr Development

By: Krishna Shastri
Devulapalli

Alarmed by the mad love being showered on a movie called Manjummel Boys, on the seventh of March, I posted something on Facebook. I must confess that, while it came from my own love of all things quiet, I also have a personal stake, sort of, in Kodaikanal. My plant-loving, environmentalist in-laws have lived there for nearly half a century, and watched Kodaikanal slowly wither away in front of their eyes despite their tireless efforts along with a small group of people who care.

My post went something like this:

"I don't care what anyone says but I won't watch Manjummel Boys. On principle.

I hear it's based on a true story, a survival drama, in which a gang of boys (men, really) go to a remote place, a location popularised in a movie, trespass into a prohibited area, and pay the price.

Here are the reasons why:

1. Any movie that romanticises all-male groups and bonding is a no-no for me. No good has ever come of a large, unsupervised group of men on holiday, irrespective of where they congregate.

2. The movie paeonised in Manjummel Boys is Guna, a '90s film in which the protagonist, a mentally unstable stalker, kidnaps a girl and

holds her hostage in the cave that the group of men in the present film go to. This cave is off the town of Kodaikanal, TN.

3. Kodaikanal, the hapless, once idyllic, hill town in the Western Ghats has, of late, been abused so brutally by tourism that its unique, price-less flora and fauna is in grave danger. Illegal construction and deforestation have led, for instance, to herds of gaur straying into town, endangering both themselves and the townsfolk. The unceasing efforts of environmental activists have had little or no effect. The biggest perpetrators, other than the people of Kodaikanal's home state themselves, have been the lovely folk (mostly loud, drunken, unhinged all-male groups) of neighbouring states.

4. We live in a world today where it has become a rite of passage for jobless men to emulate the protagonists of movies. Poor Kodaikanal, thanks to the success of this movie, will see a doubling of large, ugly, noisy, all-male gangs on bikes and in vans, hell-bent on causing even more damage on this struggling hill town in the name of nostalgia and male-bonding, leaving empty bottles, bewildered animals, terrified women and a devastated landscape in their wake."

A few people liked my post. Many didn't. I was somewhat

luckier, thanks to my obscurity no doubt, than poor Jeyamohan, the Tamil writer, whose piece (ninth of March, on his blog) that carried similar sentiments earned him no fans.

But just as I was thanking my guardian angel, my old pal, S.K., invited me for a drink. I've found that whenever I say something about the environment, poverty, unemployment, stray dogs, orphan children, anything at all with a whiff of humanity, somehow, S.K. The Businessman invites me for a drink.

'Why do you write such rubbish, da?' was his opening gambit. I had barely tasted the Talisker he was buying.

Before I could respond, he showed me three articles in quick succession on how tourism had doubled in Kodaikanal even though it was off-season, and how local businesses were rejoicing at the inflow of revenue. Just as I had predicted in my piece, sigh.

"This is development. You can't stop it," he told me, tapping his phone with the authority of one who had experienced much development. "How do you expect the owner of the tea stall to survive if there is no tourism? This is nature."

Nature it wasn't, but I nodded and ordered my second. I might as well, I figured, because there was no way I was going to win this

argument.

As S.K. provided evidence of the hundred ways in which I was an idiot, I thought of why the very idea of anything that questioned the sacred cow of continuous, exponential growth scared businessmen even more than a visit from the ED guys. S.K. was an engineer, for god's sake. How could anything, even that holiest of holies, Business, keep doing a 45 degree ascent on the time-turnover chart, till the end of time? Even Arjuna's arrow aimed at the sky, fuelled by Veda Vyasa's mythic prowess, no less, descended to Mother Earth, did it not?

Didn't someone say what goes up must come down? Perhaps this is the time. For things to come down. Even Business. There, I said it. Maybe it should have come down yesterday. Or the day before. And given way to a tree or two.

"If you continue this kind of thinking," I heard my friend say as if from far away, "we'll have to go back to prehistoric times..."

I imagined my friend as a prehistoric man. His first words, when early human language consisted of grunts, clucks and growls, would have been "cash flow". And his cave drawing would have been a pie chart of his share of bear meat versus how much went to the rest of the cave.

Who will corner the Matua vote? Seat for Nirmala a poser for BJP

By: Anita Katyal

They may be political adversaries but Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee have something in common. Both are averse to sharing the stage with anyone else, making sure they alone remain in the spotlight. Take the case of Mamata Banerjee. More than a week after she kickstarted the Lok Sabha poll campaign with an impressive public rally at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Grounds, everyone is still talking about her ramp walk at the venue when she strode in solo before going on to deliver her speech.

It was on this occasion that she announced the names of the 42 candidates being fielded by the Trinamul Congress for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. After the rally, she walked out with these 42 candidates in tow. Significantly, Abhishek Banerjee, the Chief Minister's nephew and political heir, did not walk beside her but was among the chosen candidates even though he was the other star speaker at the rally. The message was clear: Mamata Banerjee is the leader and everyone else is either a follower or an apprentice.

It was no surprise when foreign secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra got a six-month extension as both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and external

affairs minister S. Jaishankar are known to have a soft spot for him. Not only is Kwatra ideologically aligned with the current dispensation, he also keeps a low profile. Now that Mr Kwatra's extension is through, South Block mandarins are busy speculating about the next Indian ambassador to the United States. If the buzz in bureaucratic circles is to be believed, deputy national security advisor Vikram Misri is a frontrunner for this coveted post. Mr Misri, who has earlier served as India's envoy to China, is also said to be in Mr Modi and Mr Jaishankar's good books. Meanwhile, former Indian ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu, looks set for a political career with the BJP. He is being tipped for a Lok Sabha ticket from Amritsar. His senior colleague and former foreign secretary Harsh Shringla has already launched a mass contact programme in Darjeeling as he is in the running for a BJP ticket from there.

The Modi government's decision to notify the Citizenship (Amendment) Act rules ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha election was taken with the primary purpose of further consolidating the support of West Bengal's Matua community which has been pushing for the implementation of this law. Predictably, the news about the notification was greeted with loud

cheers and celebrations, led by Union minister of state for shipping Shantanu Thakur who has taken up the cause of the Matua community's demand for citizenship. But confusion soon set in regarding the application process. While Thakurnagar residents from the Matua community are weighing the risk of applying for citizenship under the new rules, the junior minister's local office has told them it is trying to figure out what the form requires and the consequences of submitting an application. Taking advantage of this lack of clarity, the TMC has pointed out that an applicant will be required to submit his or her father's birth certificate.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has described the form as legally dubious while pointing out that, like many others, she, too, does not have her father's birth certificate.

While several RS members have been fielded for the LS polls by the BJP, its leadership is struggling to find a winnable seat for finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. There were strong rumours till a week ago that she could be fielded from a constituency in Bengaluru. However, those rumours have died down. Karnataka BJP leaders say the state unit had told the party bosses in Delhi that Sitharaman's candidature from the state may not be

received well and could even damage the party's prospects on other seats. They maintained that Sitharaman's outsider tag could prove to be a big negative as both the BJP and Congress have invoked Kannada pride in recent poll campaigns. More importantly, the state unit felt Sitharaman's silence on Karnataka's woes over the Cauvery waters issue, coupled with her Tamil identity, could prove to be a negative. BJP insiders now say Ms Sitharaman may be fielded from Tamil Nadu or AP, another state she has represented in the Rajya Sabha.

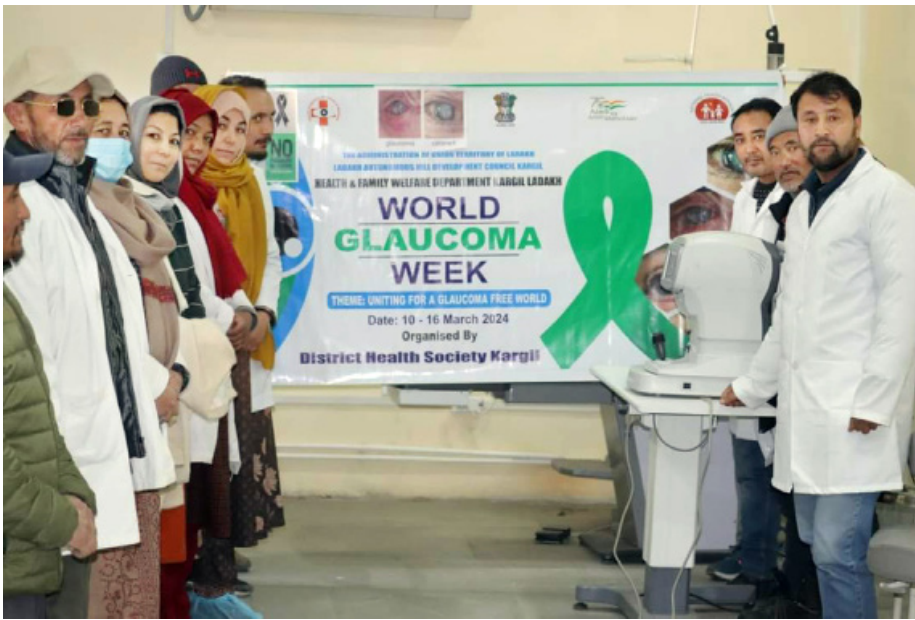
How the mighty have fallen. Once an important member of the Congress leadership's inner coterie, Suresh Pachouri has been reduced to another face in the crowd following his recent induction into the BJP. If Pachouri thought he would enjoy the same prominence here as he did in the Congress, he was mistaken. A recent photograph of a party function in MP says it all. It shows the present and former chief minister, flanked by several smiling BJP state leaders, while Pachouri can barely be spotted in the last row. This is a far cry from his long association with the Congress which rewarded Pachouri with several terms in Rajya Sabha and entrusted him with key assignments even though he has never been a mass leader.

Sankoo Community Health Center Leads Awareness Efforts During World Glaucoma Week

Top News Report

KARGIL, Mar 17: In Ladakh, in a concerted effort to combat glaucoma and promote eye health, the Community Health Center in Sankoo spearheaded a series of initiatives during World Glaucoma Week. Collaborating with the Department of Ophthalmology and the District Health Society in Kargil, the center organized awareness programs and screening camps on Saturday, March 16th.

Under the theme "Uniting for a Glaucoma-Free World," the week-long campaign aimed to educate the public about the signs, symptoms, prevention, and treatment of glaucoma. Dr. Zahida Khatoon, Block Medical Officer at the Community Health Center, played a



pivotal role in coordinating these efforts. One of the highlights of the event was an educational session held at the Jamiya Masjid in

Sankoo, where Mohd Raza, an Ophthalmic Assistant, provided valuable insights into the disease. Attendees were urged to prioritize

regular eye check-ups to facilitate early detection and intervention, thus mitigating the risk of irreversible vision loss. Speaking about the ini-

tiative, Dr. Zahida Khatoon emphasized the importance of raising awareness about glaucoma, which remains a leading cause of preventable blindness globally. She underscored the significance of collaborative efforts in tackling this public health challenge and expressed gratitude to all participants for their support.

World Glaucoma Week, an annual global initiative led by the World Glaucoma Association, aims to shed light on the importance of early detection and treatment of glaucoma. Through events like those organized in Sankoo, communities worldwide are empowered to unite in the fight against this sight-threatening condition.

Sushma Group held investment roadshow



Top News Report

JALANDHAR, Mar 17: Sushma Group, Punjab's renowned real estate developer organized an Investment Roadshow at Jalandhar today. The roadshow offered an opportunity for the potential buyers and investors to know the prospects of investment opportunities in and around Chandigarh. The event was organized in collaboration with 14 Investor. The roadshow also

offered a platform for the participants to explore various investment alternatives, acquiring vital insights about Sushma Group's projects and the exceptional results they bring.

Sushma Group also offered exclusive benefits for on-the-spot bookings, establishing a sense of urgency for those wanting to seize the chance while providing direct engagement with the group's real estate experts. Prateek Mittal, execu-

tive director, Sushma Group said, "Roadshow in Jalandhar illustrates our commitment to delivering excellent real estate investment options. Chandigarh and the areas in its proximity have great growth potential, and we are eager to help prospective purchasers make sound investment selections. The excellent reaction from guests demonstrates the growing interest in real estate investments in the region."

Dimple strongly criticized ECI and BJP Govt for not holding assembly elections in J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 17: Sunil Dimple, president mission statehood in an impressive bhandara lunger of mahadev bho-lanath on the eve of the eve of coming holi festi-ve, organized a function, lungar, bhandara.

Large number of women and people of all the religions took part in the function.

Sunil Dimple addressing the huge gathering

appealed the people of all the states of India to visit in jammu kashmir in large numbers in amaranath yatra this year, we are making elaborate arrangements.

Dimple strongly criticized ECI and bjp govt for not holding assembly elections in J&K.

He prayed for communal harmony and brotherhood, happiness in J&K.

Dimple danced on the occasion with the devotees and with the shiv

bhagats.

Dimple prayed for the universal peace, communal harmony, brotherhood, restoration of happiness in jammu Kashmir, with j&k state and progress and prosperity in the families of the jammu Kashmir people.

The other prominent are Madubala, Rajni Sharma, Komal Dogra, Bhavana kumara, Arjun Kumar, Brahmua Sharma, Chintu Kumar, Vivek Kumar and many others.

Mgmt committe of Shiv Temple Apna Vihar constituted

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 17: Residents of Apna Vihar colony Kunjwani Jammu constituted Management Committee of Shiv temple Apna Vihar Colony Kunjwani Jammu. In a meeting held here in hall of temple.Vijay

Rtd.xen as General Secretary Preetam Jamwal as Joint Secretary, U.K. Sharma as Treasurer and five Exc.Member include P.S. Bali, Rtd. AC S.C.Khajuria, Sanjay Gandotra, Bhushan Gupta & Kapil Mahajan were too elected .It was also resolved that the



Sharma Rtd.DC unanimously elected as president of Committee, Chopra & Dr. Vijay Sharma elected as Vice-Presidents, Er. S.C.Baru

term of committee will be for one year subject to extended period of one more year depending upon unknown exigencies.

Seminar on "Drugs Free India among Youths" at 52 Bn CRPF, PDC Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 17: As part of its Civic Action Programme, the 52 Battalion CRPF organized a seminar on "Drugs Free India among Youths" , at the premises of 52 Bn CRPF, Kishtwar. This initiative underscores the commitment of the CRPF to engage with local communities and address critical social issues.

The seminar witnessed active participation from a total of 65 youths and participants, reflecting the community's concern and interest in combating the menace of drug abuse.

Shri. Parma Shivan, Commandant 52 BN CRPF, Shri Akash Verma, CMO (SG) of 52 Bn CRPF, along with a significant number of CRPF personnel and civilians, graced the event with their presence.

During the seminar, insightful discussions were held on various aspects of drug abuse prevention and aware-



ness among the youth. The participants engaged in interactive sessions aimed at educating and empowering them to make informed choices and resist the temptation of substance abuse.

As a gesture of appreciation and encouragement, trophies and cash prizes were awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd position winners, along with consolation prizes for deserving participants. Shri. Parma Shivan, Commandant 52 BN CRPF, commended the efforts of the participants and the jury members, emphasizing the importance of collective action in addressing societal challenges.

Moreover, Shivan expressed gratitude for the support received from the civil administration and reiterated the CRPF's commitment to fostering peace and prosperity in the region. He also pledged to organize more such events in the future to promote community engagement and social cohesion.

The seminar concluded on a positive note, with renewed determination among the participants to contribute towards building a healthier and drug-free society. The 52 Battalion CRPF remains steadfast in its mission to serve and protect the welfare of the community.

Blood Donation Camp organized by Sant Nirankari Mission RS Pura

101 Units of Blood donated by the devotees



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 17: a commendable event in the annals of humanitarian service as the Sant Nirankari Mission Branch RS Pura, under the divine guidance of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, hosted a voluntary Blood Donation Camp at the Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan RS Pura. This event stands as a testament to the mission's dedication toward serving humanity and fostering a sense of compassion among individuals. The camp saw an overwhelming turnout of donors from various age groups, not just from the local branch in RS Pura but also from nearby areas like Miran Sahib, Arnai, and Sai Kalan. This wide participation is indicative of the

strong community spirit and the shared ethos of selfless service that the Sant Nirankari Mission promotes.

This camp was inaugurated by Sh Jugal Kishore ji Ex Member Parliament Jammu West while speaking on the occasion he said that Voluntary blood donation camps organized by the Sant Nirankari Mission are a commendable effort towards addressing the critical need for blood in hospitals and blood banks across various regions. The Sant Nirankari Mission, a spiritual organization that emphasizes universal brotherhood and the importance of selfless service, has been instrumental in promoting and conducting these life-saving events.

Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge Jammu while

speaking on the occasion he said that self - realization through God realization is the fundamental objective of human birth. Beyond the physical act of donating blood, these camps serve as a powerful platform for educating the public about the health benefits of blood donation, including the promotion of hemoglobin levels, improved blood flow, and the joy of giving. They also play a critical role in debunking myths and fears surrounding blood donation, making it a more widely accepted and celebrated act of kindness.

He said that since 1986 from the last 38 years Blood Donation Camps are being organized by the Mission and nearly 600 blood donation camps organized in India every year.

Master Tara Singh Sanyojak RS Pura welcome all presented in the Camp.

Other Dignitaries presented on the occasion were Dr Zulfikar Ahmed Consultant, Dr. Aifa from Blood Bank GMC Jammu, Gian Chand Khetriya Sanchalak Jammu and several senior citizens and social workers of the society.

The camp was held in collaboration with blood & transfusion dept. of Govt. Medical College Jammu and JKSAACS.

J&K para archer Sheetal Devi felicitated by Mumbai MLA Sunil Rane

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 17: Borivali , Mumbai MLA Sunil Rane felicitated J&K para archer Sheetal Devi during Atharva Foundation's 'Women Achievers Awards 2024' to mark Women's Day at Prabodhakar Keshav Sitaram

Sheetal Devi. Sheetal was born with a rare disease called phocomelia in Loidhar village of Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir. With indomitable courage and the spirit to do something, Sheetal became Asia's only para archer. She received the Arjuna



Thackeray Natyamandir, Mumbai.

Rane handed over an Rs 5 lakh cheque to special guest Major Shivani Narang on behalf of Sheetal Devi during the occasion.

During the occasion, Rane also narrated the inspirational life story of

Award from the President of India in January this year.

Women Achievers Awards are being organized every year by Atharva Foundation, to honour eminent women who have made a distinct identity in social life with their work.

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Tauba-Tauba'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 17: Natrang presented Hindi play 'Tauba-Tauba' here today under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. The play has been written by Rajinder Kumar Sharma and directed by Neeraj Kant. Coated with humor, the play presented some debatable issues which are faced by many theatre groups because of lack of commitment of a few artists which spoil the whole performance. But still it was more inclined towards comedy than being didactic.

The play opens at the home of one 'Anokhe Lal' who has converted it as rehearsal space as he is the director of the play which is scheduled to be staged within a few days. The drama erupts as the play proceeds as

it appears that no one is serious in doing rehearsals other than the director. The artists who used to plead for a single entry in the play have turned price now and come up with different excuses to skip rehearsals. At the top of it, the newly appointed servant adds to the confusion as he comes up with a new problem every time he enters the room. 'Anokhe Lal' was very much worried about the performance of the play as nothing was going right, actors were forgetting the lines, people were coming late in the rehearsal and on the top of it, the tickets of the show have already been sold. The ultimate crisis occur when the director comes to know that the actor who was doing the role of father of hero is not doing the play as he has to go out of station

for some personal work. Shattered by this untoward news, he decides to prepare his newly appointed servant to do the character of father in the play, who reluctantly agrees but real trouble erupts when the real father of 'Anokhe Lal' arrives to whom the servant introduced himself as the father of 'Anokhe Lal' on which both the servant and Anokhe Lal received a thorough beating from the real father.

Natrang actors who performed in the play included Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Vishal Sharma, Aadesh Dhar, Kananpreet Kaur, Samket Bhagat and Kushal Bhat. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant Sharma and the presentations were done by Sushant Singh Charak. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Sara Ali Khan, Shruti Haasan, Fatima Sana Shaikh dazzle on day 4 of Lakme Fashion Week

Actors Sara Ali Khan, Shruti Haasan and Fatima Sana Shaikh brought the glamour quotient to the ramp during the Lakme Fashion Week x FDCI as they turned showstoppers for designers Varun Chakkilam, Sakshi Bhati and Arvind Ampula.

Chakkilam began the day as he presented his collection 'Lenora', comprising royal outfits with a contemporary twist.

The idea behind the collection, which included outfits for men and women, is to celebrate the beauty of light in all its forms. From sarees to lehengas, suits and kurtas with blazers, every piece of work had some unique detail.

The colour palette included silver, beige and white, often accompanied by a touch of pink, violet and maroon.

Khan, 28, walked the ramp in an embellished shimmery grey lehenga,



in which she didn't feel 'restricted'.

"For me, as a person, the most important thing is comfort and being who you are. You should be able to use your clothes to express who you are but not let it overpower you. What I liked about this outfit is that I got to feel, flow and move. I didn't feel restricted. I had fun," she told reporters at the post show conference.

According to the actor, people should wear an outfit they feel comfortable with.

"I have a film coming up where I'm playing a character from the 1940s era. So it felt good that I got to do something modern for a while. I'll go back to the traditional, vintage looks after this," Khan said, referring to her upcoming period drama 'Ae Watan Mere Watan'. Chakkilam's presentation was followed by Bhati, who unveiled her collection of beautifully crafted garments, celebrating the beauty of nature.

The young designer's

collection, called Ember Glow, had a very different colour palette, including more of light pink, blue, green and white, decorated with floral prints and matching accessories.

The accessories of each model perfectly complemented the entire appearance.

Haasan turned muse for Bhati, walking the ramp in a light grey lehenga featuring floral threadwork. She donned minimal accessories and sported a long wavy hairstyle that perfectly complemented the entire look.

fectly complemented the entire look.

Ampula's show marked the runway debut of 'Dangal' star Shaikh, who walked the ramp in a purple lehenga.

The collection, titled 'Whispers of Empires', started with the presentation of red and white combinations, which were soon overtaken by white and green outfits.

It further had the combination of purple and yellow, white and yellow, and royal purple. The end had an extension of red attires with floral prints on them.

About her runway debut, Shaikh later said, "I felt really good to walk the ramp. Everybody was supportive. I'm not a model, I'm just an actor. I was fortunate that he gave me the chance to walk in this beautiful garment. I did it for the first time and that's why it was so special."

Kartik Aaryan ditches Range Rover for bicycle, says 'Puraani aadatien chhutne me time lagta hai'



Actor Kartik Aaryan, who has recently bought a swanky new Range Rover SV car, shared a video of himself happily cycling.

The actor's new car, is reportedly priced at Rs 6 crore.

The 33-year-old actor has shared a video on his Instagram wherein he can be seen wear-

ing a white sleeveless T-shirt and black joggers.

The look was rounded off with black sunglasses and kolhapuri chappals.

In the reel, Kartik can be seen riding a cycle in a beautiful garden.

The post is captioned, 'Ab soch raha hu set pe bhi cycle se hi jau'.

He gave the music of 'O Maahi' by Arijit Singh, from Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Dunki'.

The video has garnered 942K views, with fans commenting, 'Rs 6 crore wali gadi mujhe dedo'. Kartik replied to the fan comment, saying, 'Abhi ek aur dost udhaar pe lek gaya hai.. ate hi batat hu'.

Another user said, 'Ye dekho bhai Rs 5 crore ki gadi kharid ke cycle pe ghum raha hai,' to which Kartik replied, 'Puraani aadatien chhutne me time lagta hai'.

A female fan wrote, 'Totally gym boiiii', and Kartik replied, 'Always'.

Meanwhile, Kartik next has Kabir Khan's directorial sports drama 'Chandu Champion'. The film also stars Bhuvan Arora, Palak Lalwani and Adonis Kapsalis.

He also has 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' in the pipeline.

Tom Cruise uses helicopters to overcome roadworks during 'Mission: Impossible 8' filming

Nothing can stop Hollywood royalty Tom Cruise if he has set his mind to filming some of the most nerve-racking stunts.

The Hollywood star is using helicopters to ensure that the latest 'Mission: Impossible' film isn't disrupted by roadworks, reports Female First UK.

Tom has found an innovative way of ensuring that the cast and crew of 'Mission: Impossible 8' have been able to get to and from work, amid road works on the M25 in south-east England. The M25 road encircles most of Greater London.

A source told The Sun newspaper, "The M25 closure is a headache for most people but not for Tom. He is so keen to keep 'Mission: Impossible 8' in production that he's got helicopters on standby in London to fly his crew over to Longcross. It sounds excessive but delaying work on the film is a bigger problem and Tom is such a professional - he'd move heaven and earth to keep the show on the road."

The source further mentioned, "Staff on the movie or stars who are needed for filming have been told if they can't get to Longcross because of the M25



closures they'll be flown in by chopper. It's a feat that is just like a scene out of one of Tom's films."

Last year, Hayley Atwell admitted to feeling inspired by Tom.

The 41-year-old actress has worked with Tom, 61, on the 'Mission: Impossible' franchise, and Hayley confessed to being wowed by his work ethic, describing her co-star as "deeply inspiring".

The actress told ET Canada, "He's a one-man studio."

"There is nothing this man doesn't know about movie-making and the cinematic experience for the audience," she added.

Avantika Vandanapu on getting trolled for her American accent: 'I was born and raised in US'

Actor Avantika Vandanapu has been making waves since she starred in the reboot of Mean Girls as Karen Shetty. In an interview with agency, she spoke about the trolling she has since received for her American accent.

"I can't speak in Telugu everywhere"

When people recognised Avantika as the child actor from Brahmotsavam and Premam, many were proud to see a Telugu actor make it in Hollywood. But some pulled clips from her red carpet interviews, trolling her for her American accent. Speaking in the interview, Avantika explained the concept of code-switching and called out trolls for being mean to her.

She said, "I was born and raised in the US; it's natural for me to have



an American accent. A lot of immigrant kids code-switch, as in, we speak in an English accent at school and an Indian accent at home. But, I think the Telugu audience is unfamiliar with it. I was trolled for how I speak in English, but I can't speak Telugu everywhere, right?"

Avantika added that if she were in their place, she would be proud that a Telugu girl was reaching places and would try to uplift her, instead of pulling her down. "When a Telugu girl gains success in Hollywood, she should be supported. It's unfair I was trolled for my accent. I would be proud and want to uplift, instead of troll. I thought people would be proud of me. I will keep doing what I will because my family is proud of

me and their opinions are the only ones that matter," she said.

For the unversed, Avantika was born to a Telugu family in San Francisco, California, US. Her family is originally from Hyderabad and she debuted in 2016 with Mahesh Babu-starrer Brahmotsavam. She later starred as a child actor in films like Naga Chaitanya's Premam, Rarandoi Vedula Chudham and Pawan Kalyan's Agnyaathavaasi. She also debuted in Tamil with Aishwarya Rajesh's 2021 film Boomika. She was recently seen in Mean Girls and will soon be seen in Tarot. She plays Ludo in the Prime Video India Original series Big Girls Don't Cry, which began streaming this week.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu says she was 'shaking' while filming 'Oo Antava', reveals she would never do a dance number again

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu's song "Oo Antava" from Pushpa The Rise was a hit and it gained instant recognition as soon as it was released. Samantha has now opened up about filming for the song and said that she was 'shaking' during the first shot. She also explained why she has decided to not take up another dance number.

Samantha explained that deciding to do "Oo Antava" and play Raji in The Family Man were similar. She liked the freedom of making her own decisions without external influences. She said she chose to do "Oo Antava" because she wanted to explore a new style of performance, even though she initially felt uncomfortable with her sexuality and did not feel very confident.

She said, "I have always operated from a space of 'I'm not good enough, I don't feel pretty, I don't look like the other girls.' So for me, it was a huge challenge. It was actu-

ally the first shot of "Oo Antava"... I was shaking from fear because sexy is not my thing. It's not my thing. But how I've grown both as an actor and as a person is I've always made sure that I put myself in the most uncomfortable, unforgiving, very difficult circumstances."

When asked if she would do a dance number again, Samantha said, "No, I don't see the challenge in it anymore." She also said that her reason behind taking up the song was to expand on the message that one should move past judging women who want to look good. She said, "I think that, for me, it was the lyrics. It was a challenge. And I think we can move past judging women for wanting to look good. We can do everything. We can look good."

On the work front, Samantha was last seen in the film Kushi opposite Vijay Devarakonda. She will next be seen in Citadel, also starring Varun Dhawan.



Sydney Sweeney confirms she is heading back to Euphoria season 3: 'I always feel like I go home'

Sydney Sweeney just gave a major update about Euphoria. The actor was in conversation with MTV, where she spilled the beans about returning to the hit HBO show for a third season, implying that she has a busy plate for quite some time, following the releases of Anyone But You, Madame Web and Immaculate.

During the interview, when Sydney was asked whether she is planning to take a break after her back-to-back releases in the last few months, the actor smiled and said, "I go into Euphoria." She remained tight-lipped when asked about the script of the new season and whether she can give an update on that.

Further adding about the show, the actor however did say, "I always feel like I go home. It's like home when I go back to it. I like it. I'm excited, it's like family." Euphoria, directed by Sam Levinson, stars Zendaya, Hunter Schafer, Maude Apatow, Alexa Demie, and Jacob Elordi. The show first premiered in 2019 to wide acclaim,



and then returned for the second season in 2022.

The second season ended with a climactic

school play that brought a showdown.

Sydney, who played Cassie Howard in the show, received unanimous acclaim for her performance in season 2, resulting in an Emmy nomination in the Outstanding Supporting Actress in a drama series category.

A major tragedy occurred in-between, when Angus Cloud died of accidental drug overdose last year. The actor played Fez in the show. Sydney shared several memorable pictures with Angus on her Instagram and paid him a tribute. She wrote, "Angus you were an open soul, with the kindest heart, and you filled every room with laughter. This is the hardest thing I've ever had to post, and I am struggling to find all the words. You will be missed more than you know, but I'm so blessed to have known you in this lifetime, and I'm sure everyone who has ever met you feels the same. This heartache is real and I wish we could've had one more hug and 711 run. All my love is with you."

International students at Gujarat University attacked for offering namaz in hostel; 2 hospitalised

FIR registered against 20-25 people, nine teams of security personnel formed to conduct probe into the incident

AHMEDABAD, Mar 17 (Agencies): Students hailing from different foreign countries were assaulted allegedly by a group of persons in the Gujarat University hostel in Ahmedabad for offering namaz in the facility's building, police said on Sunday.

Two students - one from Sri Lanka and another from Tajikistan - were hospitalised after the incident which took place on Saturday night, they said.

An FIR was registered against 20-25 people and nine teams of security personnel were formed to conduct a probe into the incident, Police Commissioner GS Malik said.

The incident was reported at around 10.50 pm on Saturday when nearly two dozen people barged into the (government-run) Gujarat University's hostel and raised an objection to stu-



dents from Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and other countries offering namaz in the facility where they stayed, Malik said.

There are around 300 international students enrolled at the Gujarat University, including from Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Sri Lanka and countries in Africa, he said.

Nearly 75 of the international

students stay in the A-block hostel of the university where the incident occurred, the official said.

"Some 20-25 people entered the hostel premises and objected to the international students offering namaz there, asking them to do so in a mosque. They argued over the issue, assaulting them and hurling stones,"

Malik said.

The police responded within minutes after a call was made to the control room at 10.51 pm. A police van reached the spot and action was taken, he said.

Two students -- one from Sri Lanka and another from Tajikistan -- have been hospitalised, he said.

An FIR was registered against 20-25 people and they will be arrested soon, Malik said, adding the situation was under control.

Nine teams have been formed, including four from the crime branch and five from local police under DCP, to conduct a probe into the case, he said.

All those involved in the incident will be arrested, the official said, adding the case will be monitored by the joint commissioner of police (crime).

Rahul Gandhi holds 'Nyay Sankalp Padyatra' in Mumbai



MUMBAI, Mar 17 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday morning undertook the 'Nyay Sankalp Padyatra' from Mani Bhavan, the home of Mahatma Gandhi in south Mumbai.

His sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi,

along with Congress supporters joined the foot march which will continue till the August Kranti Maidan, where the Quit India movement started in 1942 during India's struggle for independence from the British rule.

Members of some of the opposition INDIA bloc constituents joined Rahul Gandhi in the

padyatra.

On Saturday, the Congress MP concluded his 63-day-old 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' here by paying tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar at his memorial 'Chaityabhoomi' in central Mumbai and reading the Preamble of the Constitution.

The yatra, a mass outreach movement ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, had commenced from strife-torn Manipur on January 14.

The opposition INDIA bloc will hold a rally here on Sunday evening in a show of strength.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and SP chief Akhilesh are scheduled to take part in the event.

1 killed, 13 injured as truck falls into Goa valley; CM Pramod Sawant, minister rush to help victims

PANAJI, Mar 17 (Agencies): One person was killed and 13 others were seriously injured after a truck fell into a valley in Goa, police said on Sunday, as Chief Minister Pramod Sawant who was passing by the spot rushed to help the victims.

The accident took place near Quepem town in South Goa district on Saturday night.

Goa CM Sawant and state social welfare minister Subhash Phal Desai, who were passing by the spot after participating in poll campaign, got down from their cars to help the victims.

Sawant, who is an Ayurvedic doctor, checked the pulse of the victims, while Phal Desai got down into the valley and helped in pull-



ing out the victims from the accident-hit vehicle.

A senior police official said the victims were sitting on the truck's carrier.

The driver lost control over the wheels following which the truck turned turtle and fell into the valley, he said, adding the victims got trapped inside the vehicle.

One person died on the spot while 13 others, including five children, as many men and three

women, were seriously injured, he said.

CM Sawant and minister Phal Desai joined the rescue work along with the police, fire and emergency services personnel and locals.

The injured persons were taken out of the truck and Phal Desai accompanied them while they were being shifted to the Goa Medical College and Hospital near Panaji in ambulance and police vehicles, the official said.

Rahul Gandhi Liability For INDIA Opposition Bloc, Says BJP's Mukhtar Naqvi

KOLKATA, Mar 17 (Agencies): Senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi feels Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is the biggest liability of the opposition bloc and warned that several opposition parties could risk losing recognition from the Election Commission after defeat at the hands of the Narendra Modi-led BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

The former Union minority affairs minister tried to dispel fears revolving around the implementation of CAA by saying, "Not a single Indian citizen, including Muslims, would be affected by the new legislation" and accused the opposition of trying to create communal conflict and confusion across the country.

In an interview to agency, Mr Naqvi predicted a decisive victory for the BJP government for a third consecutive term, citing a widespread loss of faith among the populace in opposition parties, particularly the Congress.

He criticised opposition bloc INDIA, saying it lacks coherent leadership and policies, with internal conflicts and ambitions hindering its effectiveness.

"INDIA bloc is a challenge for their allies and not the BJP. There is a lot of conflict and confusion among them as there is neither any leadership nor any clear policy. Everybody has prime ministerial ambition. People don't want a remote-controlled government by the Congress, which is the biggest ally. It has no visibility on the ground," he said.

Regarding the leadership crisis within the opposition, Mr Naqvi singled out Rahul Gandhi as a liability for the INDIA bloc, suggesting that the opposition's frustration is evident in their rhetoric.



He said, "Rahul Gandhi is a liability of the opposition bloc INDIA. Now, their depression over imminent defeat is visible through their abuses which reflect their frustration. INDIA bloc in no way is a challenge to the BJP." Mr Naqvi suggested that post-election, several political parties may struggle to maintain their recognition due to low vote counts.

He said, "The mood of the nation is very clear that they will defeat those political parties which are creating hurdles in the path of good governance." "Several political parties after the Lok Sabha polls will make rounds to the Election Commission to protect their recognition (as the votes garnered will be so less than the prescribed norms for having recognition)," he added.

Mocking the opposition bloc over its allies such as JD(U) and RLD deserting it, Mr Naqvi said the Congress wants to rule by the "virtue of dynasty, deputation (whom they will decide) and dictation (who will work as per their whims)." "And whichever coalition has not acted as per their dictation such as Chandra Sekhar or Chaudhury Charan Singh or HD Deve Gowda government, the Congress has ensured the fall of that government," he said.

The former minister dismissed the opposition's concerns about the CAA and the speculation about a National Register of Citizens (NRC), calling them fear-mongering tactics aimed

at stirring communal tensions for political gain.

Hitting out at the opposition for trying to create "communal confusion" in the country over their false propaganda over CAA, Mr Naqvi claimed, "Every section of minorities including the Muslims is safe and secure in India. The CAA is not about omitting or taking away anybody's citizenship. It is about giving persecuted religious minorities from neighbouring countries citizenship." "It is a conspiracy for creating communal confusion by merchants of lies (opposition) at the merit of truth," he said.

As per the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), rules of which were notified on Monday, the government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who arrived in India before December 31, 2014.

Refuting speculation over NRC that it is going to be a possible follow-up, which had triggered fear among the minorities, Mr Naqvi said such fears are unwarranted.

"The opposition is creating fear psychosis based on speculation that after CAA, NRC will be implemented. The opposition presuming that NRC will also be brought in is trying to create communal conflict to pursue vote bank politics," he said.

Mr Naqvi said the Muslim community has realised the development work the BJP government has ushered in the last 10 years.

"Muslims have realised that PM Modi has not discriminated against them in terms of development. Before 2014, a communal campaign was run against Modi that the Muslims would be in danger if he came to power.

Now the Muslims, too, have realised that those were completely false," he said.

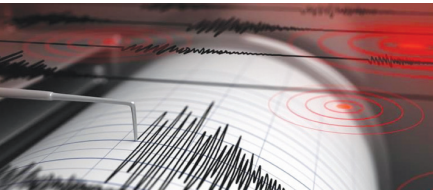
Mr Naqvi said maintaining communal harmony in the country is one of the biggest achievements of the Modi government, as the "secular commitments of the BJP as per the constitution are much higher than the previous Congress government". Lambasting the Congress, the Left and the Trinamool Congress, he said Prime Minister Modi's "mathematics of inclusive work has spoiled the chemistry of the feudal families".

"We have delivered development with dignity and empowerment without appeasement. In today's date, Modi's secular commitment as per the constitution is much higher than that of former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi," he said.

Alleging that the country witnessed an "era of policy paralysis" during the successive Congress governments, Naqvi said Modi has destroyed "corruption and dynastic politics and has delivered a new era of development." By destroying the "custom of corruption and dynastic politics", Modi has become a global brand of "perform, reform and transform through his commitment to good governance and inclusive empowerment," Naqvi said.

"The mood of the nation is that the BJP government led by Narendra Modi is going to return to power for the third consecutive term. Be it welfare policies, national security, and good governance, the Modi government has set new records in every sector. Now terrorist attacks every month in parts of the country are a thing of the past," he said.

Mild tremor hits Kutch in Gujarat; no casualty



AHMEDABAD, Mar 17 (Agencies): A mild tremor of 3.3 magnitude hit Gujarat's Kutch district shortly after midnight on Sunday, the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said.

The tremor was recorded at 12.12 am with its epicentre 22 km east-south east of Khavda, the Gandhinagar-based institute said in its latest update.

District authorities said no casualty or

damage to property was reported.

Kutch district is located in a very high risk seismic zone, where earthquakes of lower intensity occur regularly. This month, Kutch has so far witnessed three tremors.

The district recorded a tremor of 3.2 magnitude on March 5 and of 3.5 intensity on March 11, as per the ISR record.

The 2001 earthquake in Kutch was the third largest and second most destructive in India over the last two centuries.

Around 13,800 persons were killed and 1.67 lakh injured, while a large number of towns and villages in the district suffered almost complete destruction.

ED summoned Kejriwal in 'fake' case linked to Delhi Jal Board: Atishi

NEW DELHI, Mar 17 (Agencies): Senior AAP Leader and Delhi minister Atishi on Sunday said the Enforcement Directorate has sent Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal a fresh summons to join its probe in a "fake" case linked to the Delhi Jal Board.

"Nobody knows what this DJB (Delhi Jal Board) case is about. This seems to be a backup plan to arrest Kejriwal anyhow and stop him from campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls," she claimed at a press conference here.

Atishi said two summonses asking Kejriwal to appear before the federal agency next week were received hours after the Lok Sabha poll date announcement on Saturday.

One of them is related to the excise policy case and the other to the DJB, she added.

The AAP leader charged that the BJP was using ED and CBI as its "goons" to finish off political opponents.

There was no immediate reaction from the ED and the CBI on this.

The Enforcement



Directorate (ED) has summoned Chief Minister Kejriwal for questioning on March 18 in a money laundering probe

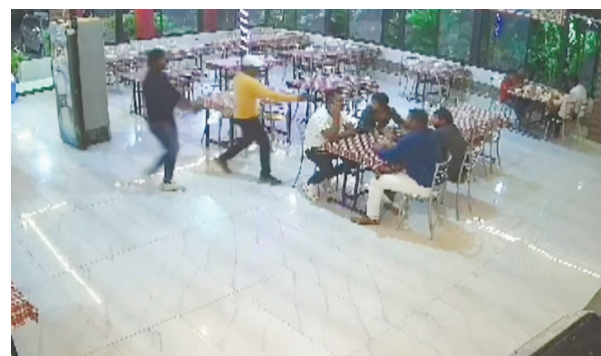
linked to alleged irregularities in the DJB. This is the second case registered under the anti-money laun-

dering law in which the 55-year-old politician, also the Aam Aadmi Party national convenor, has been summoned.

He has also been issued a notice for questioning in the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case. Kejriwal has skipped eight summonses in this case till now, terming them illegal.

A Delhi court on Saturday granted Kejriwal bail on two complaints filed by the agency against him for skipping summons in this case.

Man with criminal record murdered in Pune; hunt on for assailants



PUNE, Mar 17 (Agencies): A 31-year-old man having multiple criminal cases against him has been hacked to death after being shot at allegedly by eight persons in Maharashtra's Pune district, police said on Sunday.

The incident, which took place on Saturday night in Indapur area, seems to be the fallout of a previous enmity, they said.

The deceased has been identified as Avinash Dhanve and the police have found CCTV

footage of the incident.

"We have identified eight assailants through the CCTV footage and teams have been mobilised to apprehend them," a senior official from Pune rural police said.

"Dhanve, who had multiple cases against him, was shot at and hacked to death," he said.

A previous enmity with a rival group seems to be the reason behind the killing, the official said, adding that an investigation is on into the incident.

Putin poised to rule Russia for 6 more years after election with no other real choices

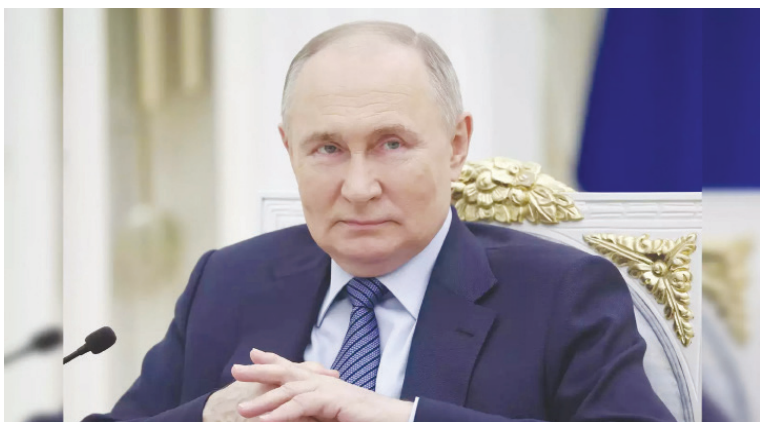
The three-day election that began Friday has taken place in tightly controlled environment where no public criticism of Putin or his war in Ukraine is allowed

MOSCOW, Mar 17 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin is poised to extend nearly a quarter century of rule for six more years on Sunday after wrapping up an election that gave voters no real alternatives to an autocrat who has ruthlessly cracked down on dissent.

The three-day election that began Friday has taken place in a tightly controlled environment where no public criticism of Putin or his war in Ukraine is allowed. Putin's fiercest political foe, Alexei Navalny, died in an Arctic prison last month, and other critics are either in jail or in exile.

The 71-year-old Russian leader faces three token rivals from Kremlin-friendly parties who have refrained from any criticism of his 24-year rule or his full-scale invasion of Ukraine two years ago. Putin has boasted of Russian battlefield successes in the run-up to the vote, but a massive Ukrainian drone attack across Russia early Sunday sent a reminder of the challenges faced by Moscow.

The Russian Defence Ministry reported downing 35 Ukrainian drones overnight, including four near the Russian capital. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanyin



said there were no casualties or damage.

Russia's wartime economy has proven resilient, expanding despite bruising Western sanctions. The Russian defence industry has served as a key growth engine, working around the clock to churn out missiles, tanks and ammunition.

Russia's scattered opposition has urged those unhappy with Putin or the war to express their protest by coming to the polls at noon on Sunday. The strategy was endorsed by Navalny not long before his death.

Voting is taking place at polling stations across the vast country's 11 time zones, in illegally annexed regions of Ukraine, and online. Despite tight controls, at least a half-dozen cases of vandalism at polling stations

were reported Friday and Saturday.

A 50-year-old university professor was imprisoned Saturday for 15 days after she tried to throw green liquid into a ballot box in the Urals city of Ekaterinburg, local news site Ura.ru reported.

In Podolsk, a town close to Moscow, a woman was fined 30,000 rubles (\$342) and charged with "discrediting the Russian army" after spoiling her ballot with an unspecified message, according to OVD-Info, a police monitoring group.

Ahead of the election, Putin cast his war in Ukraine, now in its third year, as a life-or-death battle against the West seeking to break up Russia.

Putin has boasted about recent gains in Ukraine, where

Russian troops have made slow advances relying on their edge in firepower. Ukraine has fought back by intensifying cross-border shelling and raids, and by launching drone strikes deep inside Russia.

Air raid sirens sounded multiple times Saturday in the Russian border city of Belgorod, where two people were killed by Ukrainian shelling, regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

Russia's Defence Ministry said it had thwarted attempts to enter the country by "Ukrainian sabotage and reconnaissance groups," following claims by Ukraine-based Russian opponents of the Kremlin last week that they had made an armed incursion into the Belgorod and Kursk regions.

Western leaders have derided the election as a travesty of democracy.

Beyond the lack of options for voters, the possibilities for independent monitoring are very limited. No significant international observers were present. Only registered, Kremlin-approved candidates, or state-backed advisory bodies, can assign observers to polling stations, decreasing the likelihood of independent watchdogs.

Suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels target ship in Gulf of Aden

DUBAI, Mar 17 (Agencies): A suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a ship early Sunday in the Gulf of Aden, potentially marking their latest assault on shipping through the crucial waterway leading to the Red Sea.

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre offered few details in an announcement about the attack, saying only it happened off the coast of Aden, the port city in southern Yemen home to the country's exiled government.

The Houthis have launched repeated drone and missile attacks in the same area, disrupting energy and cargo shipments through the Gulf of Aden.

The rebels did not immediately claim responsibility for the attack, though it typically takes the Houthis several hours before acknowledging their assaults.

Separately, the US military's Central Com-

mand said it carried out a series of strikes targeting the Houthis. It said it destroyed five drone boats and one drone before take-off from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen on Saturday. It was an unusually high number of drone boats to be destroyed.

Separately, the US military shot down one Houthi drone over the Red Sea, while another was "presumed to have crashed".

"There were no reports of damage or injuries from ships in the vicinity," Central Command said.

The Houthis have attacked ships since November, saying they want to force Israel to end its offensive in the Gaza Strip against Hamas.

The ships targeted by the Houthis, however, largely have had little or no connection to Israel, the US or other nations involved in the war. The rebels have also fired missiles toward Israel, though they have largely fallen short or been intercepted.

The assaults on shipping have raised the profile of the Houthis, who are members of Islam's minority Shiite Zaydi sect, which ruled Yemen for 1,000 years until 1962.

A report Thursday claimed the Houthis now have a hypersonic missile, potentially increasing that cachet and putting more pressure on Israel after a cease-fire deal failed to take hold in Gaza before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Hypersonic missiles would pose a more serious threat to American and allied warships in the region.

Earlier in March, a Houthi missile struck a commercial ship in the Gulf of Aden, killing three of its crew members and forcing survivors to abandon the vessel. It marked the first fatal attack by the Houthis on shipping.

Other recent Houthi actions include an attack last month on a cargo ship carrying fertiliser that later sank after drifting for several days.

21 dead in bus collision with tanker in Afghanistan: provincial official

KABUL, Mar 17 (Agencies): Twenty-one people were killed and 38 injured in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province on Sunday when a bus collided with an oil tanker and a motorbike, a provincial official said.

"Early in the morning today, based on the information we have received so far, 21 people were killed" in an accident "between a passenger bus, a tanker, and a motorbike", the provincial governor's spokesman

Mohammad Qasim Riyaz told agency.

Another 38 people were injured in the collision, the provincial information department said, updating an initial tally of 11 provided by Riyaz.

The collision caused the vehicles to ignite, with images shared by the Helmand information department on social media showing charred, twisted metal and the crushed cabin of the tanker.

The accident took place early Sunday

morning on a main highway between the capital Kabul and northern Herat City in the Grishk district of Helmand.

Deadly traffic accidents are common in Afghanistan, due in part to poor roads, dangerous driving on highways, and lack of regulation.

In December 2022, an oil tanker overturned and caught fire in Afghanistan's high-altitude Salang pass, killing 31 people and leaving dozens more with burn injuries.

Donald Trump says US democracy would end, warns of 'bloodbath' if he's not elected

VANDALIA, Mar 17 (Agencies): Former US President Donald Trump has said American democracy would likely come to an end if he does not win November's presidential election. He also said it would be a "bloodbath" for the whole country if he did not get elected.

Trump's remarks came after he reiterated that his 2020 election defeat to Democratic President Joe Biden was the result of election fraud.

"If we don't win this election, I don't think you're going to have another election in this country," Trump said in Dayton, during an outdoor speech that was whipped by strong winds and punctuated by some profane language.



In the middle of a section in his speech about placing tariffs on imported cars, and foreign competition for the US auto industry, Trump also said, "If I don't get elected, it's going to be a bloodbath for the whole country."

Later, in clarification, his campaign pointed to a post on the social media platform X by a New York Times journalist, which said Trump's "bloodbath" comment came amid a discussion about the US auto industry

and the economy, news agency reported.

During his opening remarks, the former US President paid tribute to his supporters who are currently in jail for rioting at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, as they sought to block certification of Biden's 2020 election win.

Trump saluted and called them "patriots" and "hostages".

Trump, who is under criminal indictment in Georgia for trying to overturn the result of the 2020 election there, this week won enough delegates to mathematically clinch the Republican nomination.

A general election rematch with Biden is likely to be extremely close.

Imran Khan demands high treason proceedings against Pakistan poll mandate thieves

ISLAMABAD, Mar 17 (Agencies): Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has sought high treason proceedings against officials who allegedly stole the people's mandate in the February general elections.

Khan's remarks came as he spoke to reporters after the hearing of the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case in which his wife Bushra Bibi, aide Farah Gogi and property tycoon Malik Riaz are also implicated.

The February 8 elections in Pakistan were marred by the allegations of vote rigging.

Though more than 90 independent candidates backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) won the maximum number of seats in the National Assembly, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and the Pakistan Peo-



ple's Party (PPP) led by former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto struck a post-poll deal and formed a coalition government in the country. PTI says the new government was formed by stealing its mandate.

Khan claimed that his party bagged over 30 million votes whereas the rest of the 17 political parties jointly secured the same number of votes, Dawn newspaper reported.

He said his party took up the irregularities in polls with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and that non-government organisations also pointed out flaws in the electoral process.

Meanwhile, a protest was held outside the IMF headquarters in the US against the alleged rigging in the polls.

Khan, 71, in his remarks, endorsed the demonstration outside the IMF office but distanced himself from the anti-Army slogans raised by the protesters.

"First, the PTI was denied its electoral symbol of bat under a conspiracy and then the former ruling party was deprived of its share of reserved seats," Khan said, as he sought high treason proceedings against officials who stole the people's mandate.

The theft of the mandate was akin to treason, which attracted Article 6 of the Constitution, the politician said.

He said the order of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) on reserved seats would be challenged in the Supreme Court, adding that the Election Com-

mission of Pakistan (ECP) could not allocate PTI's seats to other political parties.

In a huge blow to PTI, the PHC on Thursday unanimously rejected the Sunni Ittehad Council's petition challenging the election commission's decision to allocate reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial legislatures meant for it to other parties. PTI-backed independents, who won the February 8 elections, joined the Sunni Ittehad Council, a political alliance of Islamic political and Barelvi religious parties in Pakistan, to get a share of the reserved seats.

Khan said the election was a fixed match in which the "ECP and the caretaker government were hand in glove".

A few political parties and the establishment "sabotaged the plan to bring in electronic voting", he said.

Ukraine drones attack refinery, target Moscow, disrupt power, Russia says

MOSCOW, Mar 17 (Agencies): Ukraine launched 35 drones against broad areas of Russia, sparking a brief fire at an oil refinery, targeting Moscow and disrupting electricity in border areas, Russia said early on Sunday, the final day of the country's presidential vote, opens new tab.

Moscow accuses Kyiv of election sabotage with its days of strikes on Russian infrastructure, one of the most sweeping air operations on Russian territory since President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of neighbouring Ukraine two years ago.

Putin, all but certain to win re-election, has vowed to punish Ukraine for the attacks.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy thanked his military forces and intelligence for new "long-range capabilities" in his nightly video address on Saturday, without mentioning the reported intensified attacks by his nation's forces.

The Russian defence ministry posted on the Telegram messaging app on Sunday that 17 drones were destroyed over the southern Russian region of Krasnodar, four over the Moscow region and the rest over six other regions.

"The drones were neutralised, but a fire broke out as a result of the fall of one of the devices," the operational headquarters of the Krasnodar region in southern Russia said on Telegram.

The fire at the Slavyansk refinery in Krasnodar was extinguished and there were no casualties as a result of the fire,

although preliminary information indicated one person had died of a heart attack, the administration said.

Roman Siniagovskyi, head of the Slavyansk administrative district, said on Telegram refinery workers were evacuated and there was no threat to nearby populated areas from the incident.

The Slavyansk refinery, some 70 km (45 miles) north of Krasnodar, processes around 4.5 million metric tons of crude a year, producing fuel mainly for exports, but also sells some gasoline on the domestic market.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanyin said there were no casualties or damage reported from the drones shot down over three districts near Moscow.

North of Moscow four drones were destroyed over the Yaroslavl region, with no damage or injuries reported, Governor Mikhail Yevrayev said on Telegram.

In the border region of Belgorod, an attack by four Ukraine-launched drones damaged electricity and gas lines in one village, said Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov.

Russia's defence ministry said Russian forces also shot down 12 rockets launched from Ukraine towards the Belgorod region on Sunday.

As Russia was facing attacks from Ukraine, Kyiv's military said on Sunday that Russian air attacks had damaged agricultural enterprises and destroyed several industrial buildings in the Black Sea port of Odesa overnight.

Australia Foreign Minister Penny Wong Marries Longtime Partner

SYDNEY, Mar 17 (Agencies): Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong, the country's first openly gay female parliamentarian, has married her partner Sophie Allouache, Wong said on Sunday.

"We are delighted that so many of our family and friends could share this special day with

us," Wong said on social media platform Instagram, alongside a photo of her and Allouache in wedding attire and holding a bouquet of flowers.

Wong and Allouache have been together for nearly two decades and tied the knot on Saturday at a winery in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia,



The Sydney Morning Herald reported. Wong represents the state of South Australia in the

senate.

A Labor senator since 2002, Wong is the first Asian-born person to hold an Australian cabinet position.

Same-sex marriage became legal in Australia in 2017, a watershed for a country where homosexuality was not decriminalised in all states until 1997.

Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj delivers Lecture in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 17: Sadh-guru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandgi, while delighting the Sangat with the nectar of his sermons at Satwari Chowk, School Ground, Jammu today, said that poison and nectar live together in this human body. Even gods want to attain this human body. If you churn Goswami ji completely then Sahib will emerge. There is Sahib in Ramayana also. If Guru becomes happy then Sahib also becomes favourable. Sahib has a special place in the spiritual world. Before Sahib, there were only richas, shlokas and mantras. Sahib gave Sakhis, Chaupaiyas, couplets, Sorathas, Ramanis, Bhanjans etc. Earlier there was only Sanskrit.

What is the image of Sahib at present? Some people oppose me. But deep down we know it is honest. But why are they protesting? There is a team, it creates the atmosphere.



This devotion was there earlier also. He too was opposed. But right now it's only ours. Because he also included Niranjani's devotion. Made a compromise. We spoke about the devotion of Peevar Sahib. Tell the rules. You accepted to follow the rules, then I gave you a name. This is how the relationship between me and you, Sadhguru-disciple, was established.

First I said speaking the truth. There is no penance equal to truth and no sin equal to lies. Then said not to eat meat. Eating non-vegetarian is a grave sin. Everyone is his children. They too are sad. There can be no mercy in a non-vegetarian. Then he said to remain of good character. Women should be limited

to their husbands and men should be limited to their wives.

Then he said not to steal, not to gamble, not to take drugs. After this one was asked to worship Satya Sahib. I have now printed in detail what rules have to be followed after getting the name. When you agreed that I would follow these rules, I went ahead and gave the name.

Being born in any religion does not make one a religious person. Follow religion.

Sahib ji further said that someone asked me a question that you say that the great ascetics were defeated by Kaal Purush. No one was allowed to follow the truth. Didn't let anyone's penance remain. So what is the status of a creature of Kaliyuga? Celebrities like Gauraknath got stuck. It is mentioned in your sermons that Parashar Rishi, Shringi Rishi etc also got stuck. Then how can we people of Kaliyuga meditate?

I said that the mind is a

very cunning. If you listen to my sermons, I speak on Naam, Sadguru, Amarlok, Surti, Man etc.

I said that a power called Naam has come within you. With that strength you will cross the worldly ocean. That strength will remain with you. Listen to what you need to do.

After the name you will be seeing changes inside you. Sahib has mentioned this in thousands of places. If the horse is not controlled then it is very difficult to control it. If the name is like this then this mind gets controlled. Otherwise this mind makes everyone dance different dances. At this time you are living in Mahakalikali. Lies, deception and crime increased. If you look from a bird's eye view, you have control over them. You have not done much penance. This will happen automatically from the name. After taking the name, you have to follow the rules. To remember a little. You will feel that there is a

force working with you.

The one who has money looks at the money of the poor. The one who has his own woman looks at someone else's woman. This is too much. Even though the kings had 100 queens each, they were not satisfied. These senses are never satisfied. The big guys couldn't control them. There was a man in the army. He used to go for a walk every evening. He also told me to leave. Because girls used to come there to visit in the evening. These eyes saw many beautiful things, but were not satisfied. Sahib is saying that first of all control your eyes. I did great duty in Jammu and Kashmir while serving in the army. But did not go anywhere. Yes, went on duty. When a man looks at a woman's body parts, then disorders arise. That's why eyes have to be cultivated first. Only the one who controls his senses is a saint. This can happen only by the power of the name.

Warm Farewell Accorded to Surjeet Chand Bhagat, Headmaster GHS Kothilair, Meer-Panchari

Top News Report

PANCHARI, Mar 17: A fare well party was organized in the office of Sanjeevani Jan Kalyan Seva Samiti and All India Ex-Servicemen Council Mir to Surjeet Chand Bhagat to give a warm send off who is superannuation on March 31, 2024.

All members of Sanjeevani Jan Kalyan Seva Samiti and All India Ex-Servicemen Service Council, Mir including local wished to Head Master a very happy, cheerful and healthy retired life.

Prabhat Singh, Chairman of Sanjeevani Jan Kalyan and Sankri Development Committee, Senior Advisor Master Prem Nath, Advisor Master Sandhoor Singh, Former Sainik Seva Parishad and founder of Sanjeevani Jan Kalyan Hav Khajur Singh accorded warm send off to Surjeet



Chand Bhagat Head Master High School Kothi Lair Panchari on his superannuation.

While acknowledging the outstanding contribution of the Head Master local wished his good health and prosperity.

Master Sandoor Singh said that you have been a guide for us and we will follow the path shown by you. Along with this Prabhat Singh, Chairman of Sankri Devel-

opment Committee said that today we wish you and the entire family the best for the next time and a better life. Master Prem Nath said that you should spend time happily with your family and pray to god that may blessings be upon you.

Sanjeev Singh Horticulture Technician also wished to Surjeet Chand Bhagat for good health and long life for the next phase of his life.

Pradesh Vishwakarma sabha rejects 8% reservation to OBC



Top News Report

An emergency meeting of "Paradesh Vishwakarma Sabha" held today at its head quarter, Vishwakarma Mandir, Gurah Bakshi Nagar, Jammu. The meeting was chaired by the worthy President of Vishwakarma Sabha along with all Executive Members of the Sabha who strongly condemned the inadequate enhancement of OBC Reservation from 4% to 8% and not following the recommendations under Mandal Commission Report.

A press conference was also called in which members present treating this Order the Govt. is totally against the expectations of OBC's by raising reservation from 4% to 8% and adding 15 new Castes in the list of OBC. The State OBC's has been denied their

Constitutional Rights for the last 70 years, particularly from 1992 when the Mandal Commission Report was implemented. Every successive Govt. may it be of N.C, PDP, Congress or BJP have deceived the OBC Peoples. On previous days BJP was making very hue and cry that previous parties deceived OBC's but now we now we will implement the reservation to OBC's in its true spirit. Unfortunately OBC's met with the same fate. A famous saying fits "Empty Vessel Makes Much Noise"

BJP as it is now proved working by keeping the vote bank for political advantages that is why they issued Order last day before announcing of Code of Conduct. BJP Govt. has diluting the main concept of reservation by including non-

deserving Castes under OBC's, which defeat the Object & Spirit of the Constitution of India. Reservation has now become the freebies to get the votes of masses thus, completely diluting its basic concept. The Castes which were deprived Educationally & Socially from Centuries were treated as OBC's. The recent Govt. Order a decoy on the Rights of the coming generations of OBC's which is not accepted at any cost.

So we in one voice condemn and reject this Govt. Order to OBC's unless Mandal Commission Report is not implemented in its true Spirit.

The members present in the Press Conference as Shashi Verma, Raj Chalotra, Sham Lal Chagotra, Advocate Amarjeet Chagotra, Advocate Ashwani Kumar, Joginder Verma.

Program held in Janipur under the "Pratikantham Sanskritam Samprak Abhiyan"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 17: Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan Trust organized a program in Janipur under the "Pratikantham Sanskritam Samprak Abhiyan" to bring Devavani Sanskrit to every household.

President of Shri kailash jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan trust Mahant Rohit Shastri, conducted the program. On occasion Mahant Rohit Shastri mentioned that this campaign has been initiated to promote Devavani Sanskrit, and the Trust has published a book titled "Saral Sanskrit Bodh," which will be distributed free of cost. "In the glory



of India, there are two essences - Sanskrit and culture." This means, the glory of India lies in these two things - Sanskrit and culture. It is essential to bring this language to every home, and success is assured if there is

determination. Although there are variations in pronunciation in different languages, the pronunciation of Devavani Sanskrit, based on sound science, remains consistent throughout the world. On this occasion, the

Vice President of the Trust, Pawan Khajuria, mentioned that the Trust is making good efforts to promote Devavani Sanskrit in the region. It is crucial to bring Devavani Sanskrit to every home, and success is certain if

there is determination. He emphasized the importance of teaching Sanskrit language to children at home so that they can recommend its usage to others. The script of the Sanskrit language is Devanagari. The sages chose this language for composing mantras because the pronunciation of its words was highly effective in creating the correct vibrations in the mind. The Vedas were manifested in this language, followed by the Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas. Pandit Arun Shastri, Naresh Raina, and others were present at this event.

JKTJAC Organises Programme On Drug Abus

Top News Report

Jammu Kashmir Teachers'Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) organised an awareness event on the Critical theme of Youth Drug abuse at REASI. On the occasion UT President JKTJAC Vinod Sharma was the Chief Guest and Sh Vinod Sharma, J&K UT President TJAC appeals the ZEO Reasi as Guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion Mr Vinod Sharma appealed the teaching fraternity of Education Department in to join the Fight against "DRUG MENACE"

Sh. BALWAN SINGH, District President TJAC

Reasi has assured that after the completion of SUMMATIVE Assessment our TJAC Team will spread this message door to door.

Sh. Tarun Sharma has been nominated as Media incharge District Reasi. All the press releases and Media related work of TJAC in District Reasi will be handled by him in future.

The prominent members gave their presence. Sh Rajesh JAMWAL Ji (Prov. President), Sh. Sukesh Khajuria ji , Khazan Singh ji, Sandeep Sharma ji, Ravinder Singh Manhas ji (D.P. Jammu) and other members of District Reasi also gave their witness-



es Smt.POONAM Mam , Veena man , Rama Devi, Poonam Kumari , Sumita , Neelam Devi , Reena , Gulshan man Shamshad, Ekta Khajuria, Ritu Mam Ravi Sir, Rakesh , Surinder , Nisha Lata, Sohan singh, Daleep Singh, Ashwani. Amjad Khan, Raj Singh, Parshotam Singh,

Khem Raj, Balbir Singh, Raghvir Singh, Romesh Lal, Mukhtiyar Ahmed, Angrez Singh, Krishan Lal, Sanjay Kumar, Vikas Verma, Bablu, Tarun Sharma, Ghulam Nabi, Izaz khan , Kuldeep, Singh, Rattan Lal, Romesh Singh. Sohan Lal(district Chairman) , Ritu Devi, Babu Bhatti, Narinder Jamwal,

Gopal , Vishal, Joginder Singh, Surnandan Singh, Rajinder Singh, Madan Lal, Ganesh, Shamsher Singh, Romesh Master, Subash Lecturer, JAG-DISH, Johan Mohd, Balwant Singh, KULDEEP Bali, Sher Mohd. Pawan , Mohd Hanif, Ajay Sharma, Ajay (Aghar Balian), Sukhvir Singh, Vakil Chand and others.

Licensed gun holders asked to deposit weapons

An order by the DEO/DM stated, "In compliance with the instructions from the Election Commission of India, there will be a complete prohibition on issuing new arms licences until the conclusion of the election process."

Additionally, printing presses within the Bandipora district are required to submit copies of election material and declarations from publishers to the district office within three days of printing.

The administration cautioned printing press owners and operators against violating Section 127 A of the Representation of People's Act, 1951, and the Election Commission of India's directives. Non-compliance may result in severe consequences, including the possible revocation of printing press licences.

CS-Led panel formed to implement three new criminal laws in JK

consultation with the High Court of JK and Ladakh and Director, Forensic Science Laboratory, JK will be its members.

"Elections in J&K will be held as per SC direction": BJP's Tarun Chugh

Nearly 97 crore voters will be eligible to vote for 543 Lok Sabha constituencies across the country. With the announcement of dates, the moral code of conduct comes into force immediately.

CS-Led panel formed to implement three new criminal laws in JK

General of Police (Prisons), JK; Director General of Prosecution, JK; Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Judicial Officer to be nominated by the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, in consultation with the High Court of JK and Ladakh and Director, Forensic Science Laboratory, JK will be its members.

Election Commission makes fresh electoral bonds data public

electoral bonds, including Rs 509 crore from lottery king Santiago Martin's Future Gaming.

BJP encashed electoral bonds totalling Rs 6,986.5 crore. The highest amount received by the ruling party was in 2019-20 worth Rs

2,555 crore. Congress redeemed a total of Rs 1,334.35 crore through electoral bonds.

The Supreme Court, in a ruling in February, struck down the Centre's Electoral Bond Scheme, which allowed for anonymous funding to political parties, and ordered the SBI to stop issuing Electoral Bonds immediately.

It had asked SBI to furnish details of each electoral bond encashed by parties, including the date of encashment and the denomination of the bond.

On Monday, the top court dismissed an application of SBI seeking an extension of time till June 30 to submit details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission, asking the bank to disclose the details by March 12.

The apex court also directed the poll panel to compile the information to be furnished by the SBI and publish the details on its official website no later than March 15, 2024, by 5 pm.

Cabinet Meet | PM asks Ministers to draft roadmap for first 100 days, next 5 years of new Govt

The meeting took place a day after the Election Commission announced schedule for the Lok Sabha polls 2024.

The Cabinet also initiated the process of

notifying the dates of the seven-phase parliamentary elections by sending the Election Commission's recommendation to President Droupadi Murmu.

The first notification will be issued on March 20 for the first phase of polls on April 19 on 102 seats. The nomination process begins for a particular phase with the issuance of the notification.

Horrific: A mother saves her two children as leopard enters home

News of the leopard's intrusion rapidly spread throughout the area, drawing hundreds of spectators from neighboring villages to witness the unfolding rescue operation.

Prompt response teams, comprising wildlife officials from Kishtwar and personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir police, initiated a challenging rescue operation to capture the elusive leopard. The task proved arduous as the agile animal evaded capture attempts, leaping from one room to another within the house.

Complicating matters further, the large crowd of onlookers amassed near the affected house presented additional hurdles for the rescue teams. Regrettably, the operation resulted in some damage to the property.

However, after a concerted effort through-

out the day, wildlife officials successfully tranquilized the leopard in the evening and safely removed it from the premises, alleviating the immediate threat to the community.

Won't retreat from wiping out terrorism from J&K: DGP Swain

has passed strict directions in this regard. It is our concern that elections in J&K should be peaceful for all. We will provide secured environment to voters, candidates and agents of political parties as it is our duty and responsibility," DGP Swain added.

He added that besides existing forces personnel more troops will be brought to Jammu and Kashmir for smooth and peaceful conduct of Lok Sabha polls. "The discussions with central government are underway. More troops will come to Jammu and Kashmir for poll duty and security to stakeholders," he added. Responding to a query, the DGP Swain said that the concerns of SPO's in J&K Police is already under consideration and we believe they should be given every benefit they deserve. "We are trying to provide them good remuneration. We will soon persuade government that those who are taking part in operational activities should be given good benefits," DGP remarked.

FROM PAGE 1

Megha Engineering, Electoral Bond donor No 2, added Rs 11250 crore in debt in five months in 2023

Prior to that, Meil's debt barely exceeded Rs 1,000 crore in any given year over the past 18 years with just one exception.

HYDERABAD, Mar 17 (Agencies): Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd (Meil), the second biggest electoral bond donor, has an unusual debt profile.

The little-known infrastructure company has an outstanding debt of Rs 11,422 crore, or approximately \$1.37 billion. This isn't a startling number for an infrastructure company, but what stands out in Meil's case is that 98% of the outstanding debt was added in just five months of 2023. Between July and December 2023, the company went on a debt binge raising a neat sum of Rs 11,252 crore.

Prior to that, Meil's debt barely exceeded Rs 1,000 crore in any given year over the past 18 years with just one exception. It was in 2013 that its debt stood at a princely sum of Rs 8,721 crore, which it duly paid off in 2020.

Though the company has projects worth an enviable Rs 1.87 lakh crore spread across 20 states and two union terri-



tories, as per Crisil Research, it maintained a rather low profile. However, the closely held public company came under the national spotlight soon after the Election Commission of India published details of the buyers and beneficiaries of electoral bonds.

According to India Ratings, its FY24 revenue is estimated at Rs 35,000 crore. This translates to a 10% increase over FY23, when revenue stood at Rs 31,766 crore.

According to data from the Election Commission of India,

ects include the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme in Telangana, which is under the Comptroller and Auditor General scanner.

It is also executing the controversial Polavaram Multipurpose Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh, which was originally granted to Navayuga Engineering, but was subsequently cancelled.

Beyond infrastructure, Meil has interests in media entities. Through its subsidiary My Home Group, it has investments in regional new channel TV9.

The flamboyant Reddy is known within his circle for his love for movies, fast cars and luxury sports. In fact, in 2022, he brought in single seater motor racing event to Hyderabad with his entity India Racing League, and is now being expanded to other cities like Chennai.

If Reddy's Hyderabad home 'Diamond House' stands out for its architectural marvel, his family home in Dokiparru, Krishna district is no less a palace.

CCI probe against Google Play Store billing policy

CHENNAI, Mar 17 (Agencies): The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered an investigation into Google's Play Store billing policy over alleged misuse of market dominance.

The competition watchdog directs the Director General to investigate the matter and submit a report within a period of 60 days on receiving the order. CCI in its order stated Google introduced 'User Choice Billing' (UCB) system, it is offering an illusory choice for users to opt for an alternative billing option next to its existing Google Play's billing system (GPBS).

Google announced that app developers offering digital content can offer alternative billing systems (ABS) alongside GPBS. "The updated policies of Google have been alleged to be discriminatory and unfair which

skew and disrupt competition in the downstream app markets and continue to favour Google's own apps and cement Google's position in the payment processing market as well," CCI noted.

"It has been alleged that Google imposes a service fee/commission model wherein it admittedly makes only 3% of the app developers bear the entire cost of 100% of the app developers on Google Play Store by charging them exorbitant service fee /commission without commensurate additional services." While its earlier billing process was criticised as anti-competitive, In September 2022, Google introduced User Choice Billing pilot where certain changes were made to Play Store's payment policies.

CCI said Google's Play Store billing policies are in violation of Section 4 of the Act and allegedly

impacting app developers, payment processors and users. The commission observed that Google has violated the provisions of Section 4(2)(a), 4(2)(b) and 4(2)(c). Google's service fee is also alleged to be excessive as this commission / fee has no reasonable economic relation to the services provided by Google.

Google's discriminatory policies and excessive fee is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition (AAEC) in other markets. The informants in the case are People Interactive India Private Limited (PIIPL), which operates brands such as Shaadi.com and Sangam.com, Mebiggo Labs Private Limited (Mebigo), which owns Kuku FM and Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF) and Indian Digital Media Industry Foundation (IDMIF).

Neurological conditions now leading cause of ill health and disability globally: Lancet study

NEW DELHI, Mar 17 (Agencies): Neurological conditions such as epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease and dementia are now the leading cause of ill health and disability globally, affecting 3.4 billion people in 2021, according to a major new analysis published in The Lancet Neurology journal.

Globally, the number of people living with, or dying from, neurological conditions such as stroke, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and meningitis has risen substantially over the past 30 years. This is due to the growth and ageing of the global population as well as increased exposure to environmental, metabolic, and lifestyle risk factors, the researchers said.

The study suggests that worldwide, the overall amount of disability, illness, and premature death -- a measurement known as disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) -- caused by neurological conditions increased by 18 per cent over the past 31 years, rising from around 375 million years of healthy life lost in 1990 to 443 million years in 2021.

The analysis from the Global Burden of Disease, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2021 shows that the absolute number of DALYs is increasing in large part due to ageing and growing populations worldwide.

The top 10 contributors to neurological health loss in 2021 were stroke, neonatal encephalopathy (brain injury), migraine, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, diabetic neuropathy (nerve damage), meningitis, epilepsy, neurological complications from preterm birth, autism spectrum disorder, and nervous system cancers, the researchers said.

Neurological consequences of COVID-19 (cognitive impairment and Guillain-Barre syndrome) ranked 20th, accounting for 2.48 mil-

lion years of healthy life lost in 2021, they said.

The most prevalent neurological disorders in 2021 were tension-type headaches (around 2 billion cases) and migraines (about 1.1 billion cases). Diabetic neuropathy is the fastest-growing of all neurological conditions, the researchers said.

"The number of people with diabetic neuropathy has more than tripled globally since 1990, rising to 206 million in 2021," said study co-senior author Liane Ong from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington, US.

"This is in line with the increase in the global prevalence of diabetes," Ong said in a statement.

The research builds on previous GBD study to provide the largest and most comprehensive analysis to compare the prevalence and burden of nervous system disorders between countries on a global scale between 1990 and 2021.

"Every country now has estimates of their neurological burden based on the best available evidence," said study lead author Dr. Jaimie Steinmetz from IHME. "As the world's leading cause of overall disease burden, and with case numbers rising 59 per cent globally since 1990, nervous system conditions must be addressed through effective, culturally acceptable, and affordable prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and long-term care strategies," Steinmetz said.

Over 80 per cent of neurological deaths and health loss occur in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), the researchers said.

Overall, estimates reveal striking differences in nervous system burden between world regions and national income levels, they said.

The study shows that in high-income Asia Pacific and Australasia -- regions with the best neurologi-

cal health -- the rate of DALYs and deaths were under 3,000 and 65 per 100,000 people, respectively in 2021.

In these regions, stroke, migraine, dementia, diabetic neuropathy, and autism spectrum disorders accounted for most health loss, it found.

In the worst-off regions of western and central sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of DALYs and deaths were up to five times higher (over 7,000 and 198 per lakh people respectively) in 2021, with stroke, neonatal encephalopathy (brain injury), dementia, and meningitis the biggest contributors to years of healthy life lost.

"Nervous system health loss disproportionately impacts many of the poorest countries partly due to the higher prevalence of conditions affecting neonates and children under 5, especially birth-related complications and infections," said Tarun Dua, Head of WHO's Brain Health unit and one of the co-senior authors of the study.

"Improved infant survival has led to an increase in long-term disability, while limited access to treatment and rehabilitation services is contributing to the much higher proportion of deaths in these countries," Dua said.

The researchers highlight that, as of 2017, only a quarter of countries globally had a separate budget for neurological conditions, and only around half had clinical guidelines.

The analysis suggests that modifying 18 risk factors over a person's lifetime -- most importantly, high systolic blood pressure -- could prevent 84 per cent of global DALYs from stroke.

Estimates also suggest that controlling lead exposure could reduce the burden of intellectual disability by 63 per cent while reducing high fasting plasma glucose to normal levels could reduce the burden of dementia by around 15 per cent.

Men have greater risk of fractures from falls than women: Study

MASSACHUSETTS (US), Mar 17 (Agencies): A recent study titled "A meta-analysis of previous falls and subsequent fracture risk in cohort studies" found links between self-reported falls and increased fracture risk, as well as a slightly greater risk of fracture in men than in women.

Published in Osteoporosis International, this international meta-analysis of data pooled from 46 prospective cohorts comprising over 900,000 individuals also recommended that previous falls are a factor that should be included in patients' histories used by fracture risk assessment tools like FRAX (Fracture Risk Assessment) Tool to calculate a person's likelihood of getting a fracture over the next decade. FRAX is the



most commonly used assessment to predict fracture risk.

"FRAX was developed using longitudinal data from studies around the world. Although previous falls have long been recognised as a significant risk factor for fractures, until now, they have not been factored into the FRAX algorithm," said Douglas P Kiel, MD, MPH, director of Musculoskeletal

Research Centre and senior scientist at Hinda and Arthur Marcus Institute for Aging Research at Hebrew SeniorLife, a nonprofit, Harvard Medical School affiliated institution. "In this newly updated FRAX dataset, previous falls were included as a risk factor and were found to increase the risk for fracture. These findings underscore that falls are an important contributor

to fracture in both men and women, but interestingly, slightly more in men."

Key findings of the meta-analysis include:

Increased Fracture Risk: Individuals with a history of falls within the past year were found to have a significantly higher risk of any clinical fracture, osteoporotic fracture, major osteoporotic fracture, and hip fracture. One or more previous falls were significantly associated with an increased risk of death among women and men.

Sex Disparities: The association between previous falls and fracture risk was observed to vary by sex, with men exhibiting higher predictive values compared to women.

Independent Risk Factor: The increased fracture risk linked to

previous falls was largely independent of bone mineral density, emphasising the standalone significance of falls as a risk factor. A previous fall in the past year confers a significantly increased risk of any clinical fracture, osteoporotic fracture, and hip fracture with the increase in risk varying between 36 per cent and 59 per cent depending on the fracture outcome and sex.

"These findings underscore the importance of incorporating previous falls into the FRAX algorithm," Dr Kiel added. Integrating this information into tools like FRAX can enhance their predictive accuracy and ultimately help healthcare providers to more accurately predict fracture risk and tailor preventive strategies accordingly to improve patient outcomes.

Covid-19 origin in more probability unnatural than natural, lab leak potential source: New study

The study, findings of which were published in the journal Risk Analysis, said the possibility of a laboratory origin of the Covid pandemic cannot be easily dismissed

NEW DELHI, Mar 17 (Agencies): The Covid-19 pandemic in more probability had an unnatural origin than a natural one with a potential source being a lab accident or leak, according to new research that employed a commonly used risk analysis tool to arrive at this conclusion.

Originally designed to distinguish between natural epidemics and deliberate biological attacks, researchers modified the Grunow-Finke Tool (mGFT) by tweaking the criteria to determine the likelihood of the nature of the pandemic's origin.

The study, findings of which were published in the journal Risk Analysis, said the possibility of a laboratory origin of the Covid pandemic cannot be easily dismissed.

The mGFT tool, previously applied to smaller outbreaks, contains 11 criteria such as intensity and dynamics of the pandemic, including its rapid and unusual geographic spread, an unusual strain of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and peculiarities in clinical symptoms



experienced.

The researchers at the University of New South Wales, Australia, assigned points from one to three to each criterion based on available evidence collected from literature and case data from the public source 'Our World in Data' that gathers information from the WHO, John Hopkins University and official government reports.

Factors such as biological risk of bat virus research at Wuhan Institute of Virology, unusual strain, pandemic intensity and dynamics were assigned points of three, three, and two, respectively, while clinical symptoms

was assigned two points.

Each criterion was multiplied by a weighting factor (1-3) to compute a score. A final score of more than 50 per cent favoured unnatural origins, while less favoured natural origins.

The final score that the mGFT algorithm calculated produced a total of 41 out of 60 points. Being more than 50 per cent, the researchers concluded a higher probability of COVID-19 originating unnaturally, with a focus on lab accidents or leaks as potential sources.

Being used in the context of a pandemic for the first time, the researchers said the tool may

require further testing and training. Also, higher scores tend to be assigned to criteria such as pandemic intensity and unusual rapid spread, which can lead to overall high scores favouring unnatural origins.

To minimise subjectivity in scoring, the team's results were reviewed by two other experts.

The researchers said the modified GFT provides a risk analysis framework that can be applied to differentiate between natural and unnatural epidemics and the tool should be included in the toolset for investigating the pandemic's origins.

"The strengths of this study include a more comprehensive analysis of factors ranging from traditional virology, epidemiology, and medical factors to situational and other intelligence," the authors wrote in their study.

"The debate about the origins of SARS-CoV-2 has been focused largely on medical evidence but not on other intelligence, which is key to identifying unnatural epidemics," the researchers wrote.

Rohit Sharma Having The Freedom To Walk Out And Bat Will Be Beneficial For Mumbai Indians: Aaron Finch

MUMBAI, Mar 17 (Agencies): With the burden of captaincy off his shoulders, Rohit Sharma will be able to play with a lot of freedom which will help five-time champions Mumbai Indians, reckoned former Australia T20 skipper Aaron Finch. Hardik Pandya will lead MI this season, replacing Rohit who has led the side to five IPL titles. "I think for Rohit, the challenge would be just walking out and opening the batting as he's done so many times for India and Mumbai over the years. This might be a wipe off for his shoulders," Finch said during Star Sports' Show Game Plan. "When you are captaining a team constantly, everywhere you go you are captain of the team. You can get engrossed a lot in that, so now having the freedom to walk out and bat will be beneficial for him personally and Mumbai Indians."

Two-time former champions Kolkata Knight Riders had finished seventh in the last edition and Finch hoped they will be able to put up a good show this



time after the addition of Australia pacer Mitchell Starc.

"I think KKR will improve on their last year (performance), they weren't at their best last year. But Shreyas (Iyer's) injury cloud would be interesting to see how much of an impact he has throughout the tournament," said Finch, who featured for as many as eight IPL teams, includ-

ing the Kolkata Knight Riders.

"When you add Mitchell Starc to any T20 team you are going to be better, his ability with the new ball to swing it upfront will provide very valuable wickets... and in the power play, which is so important for the game. And, his death bowling is obviously exceptional as well." Former India allrounder Irfan Pathan

felt Sunrisers Hyderabad could give the captaincy reins to Pat Cummins this season following his exploits for Australia.

Cummins led Australia to the 50-over World Cup title last November and also earned the World Test Championships crown for his country.

"Sunrisers Hyderabad taking punt on Pat Cummins' momentum which is especially good for him from last two seasons, be it the ICC 50-overs World Cup and WTC final and the way he is performing at the international level," he said.

"My doubt is only that his IPL numbers are not that great, eight-and-half economy in the IPL which is quite high for a premier quality fast bowler.

"Hopefully that can change in one season, so Sunrisers Hyderabad will be hoping he will be able to come and lead the side to victory, which they haven't got for some time now. But I certainly think that T20 cricket is a different form of game compared to 50 overs and Test cricket."

Indebted to MS Dhoni for the rest of my life: Ashwin



CHENNAI, Mar 17 (Agencies): MS Dhoni, a master of out of the box strategies, flung the new ball to R Ashwin in the IPL 2011 final against Royal Challengers Bangalore and the then rookie off-spinner made an impact in the fourth ball itself, dismissing an in-form Chris Gayle.

That magical Che-pauk night for Chennai Super Kings was just a beginning for Ashwin. Well over a decade, a roller-coaster ride has taken him to 100 Tests and 516 wickets in the traditional format.

Ashwin did not forget that moment of trust from Dhoni during a felicitation function organised by the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) to celebrate his twin feat of 500 wickets and a century of Tests, which was completed during the recent home series against England.

"I don't generally search for words to express how I feel. I am truly humbled and grateful to be here," said Ashwin, who was awarded Rs one crore by TNCA for his rare achievements, in a dipped-in-emotion voice.

Giving due credit to his

first IPL skipper Dhoni, Ashwin said: "In 2008 I met all the greats (in CSK dressing room) Mathew Hayden and MS Dhoni. I sat through (IPL) 2008. I was a nobody then, where am I to play in a team that had Muttiah Muralitharan.

"I am indebted to Dhoni for the rest of my life for what he gave me. He gave me an opportunity with the new ball to go head on with Chris Gayle and 17 years later Anil bhai would be talking about the same episode," he fondly recalled.

Ashwin was roped in as a local spinner in 2008 by CSK but he never got a game as the legendary Muralitharan led their spin attack.

The 37-year-old Chennai man is among the finest thinkers of the game and he has found a way to constantly reinvent himself, resulting in a bagful of wickets in the longest format.

"Anil bhai and Rahul (Dravid) bhai briefly mentioned that. It is very tough to win an argument with me. It is true because I believe argument is one of the greatest pathways to excellence. Argument is never with the person. It is always with the true

learning that comes at the end of it," he said as Kumble watched on from the stage.

Ashwin also thanked a host of Tamil Nadu greats, who were among the gathering, including his first First-Class captain S Badrinath and former batter S Sharath, who is now an India selector.

Ashwin, who is especially lethal against the left-handers, said Sharath helped him become a better bowler against the southpaws.

"A lot of people spoke about how I tormented left-handers day in and day out. My first tryst with left handers, Mr S Sharath is sitting in the front. Someone told me if you are that good an off-spinner try and get this man out.

"I did get him out once, caught at slip and I played several more games with Sharath, he never got out to me again. That's the quality of the batter he was. I bowled to him a lot and hence became a far better bowler to the left-handers.

Such is Ashwin's commitment to TN and club cricket, till date he makes himself available for those domestic events when he is not on national duty.

"This place has given me so much that I want to keep coming back here. People keep asking why do you want to go back. Tomorrow, I might not be alive but my soul will be hanging around this place. This is what this places means to me," added Ashwin.

Rishabh Pant's recovery earlier than anticipated, his background in gymnastics played huge role: NCA staff

NEW DELHI, Mar 17 (Agencies): Rishabh Pant's mental strength and his background in gymnastics has helped the dashing wicketkeeper-batter to make an early recovery.

Fifteen months after Pant was involved in a horrific car accident on the Delhi-Dehradun highway in December 2022, the wicketkeeper-batter received a green signal to play in the IPL, starting March 22.

"The mental strength and confidence inside him made us give our 100 per cent in doing the rehab part for him," Thulasi Yuvraj, a physiotherapist at the National Cricket Academy told 'bcci.tv'.

"The doctors believed that he may take up to two years. Once he came to NCA, it was like a progressive phase for him," he added.

Pant had dabbled in gymnastics at a young age and that served as an asset in his recovery, according to Nishanta Bordoloi, the strength and conditioning coach at NCA.

"One thing was that Rishabh has a background for gymnastic which was a very big asset for us because there are a few things that come naturally to him," Bordoloi said.

"Anytime he would feel he couldn't move, he could tumble or roll over back to his feet again. Which was so much of an added advantage for him.

"The beginning phase was to get foundational strength in him, making his body understand what the movements are like.

"It's completely reconstructed thing and once it's reconstructed it takes a lot of mind and body connection. The neural system needed to understand, the muscle, tendons have to function," he added.

Although Pant left no stone unturned, ticking all the boxes, the 26-year found the rehab mundane.

"Rehab is very irritating, have to do same thing again and again. But you have to do it

because you don't have any other choice. It's boring but the more you do the better you get," said Pant.

But returning to the cricket field has made him love the sport more than he could imagine.

"I feel so happy when I go to the ground. The love of cricket has gone up. I used to love it more than anything before but still there is an increase."

His treating doctor, renowned orthopedic surgeon Dinshaw Pardiwala has credited the NCA staff and the cricketer's extreme motivation for his comeback.

"NCA keeping a physio with him daily. Making sure the determination and intensity was there each and every day. He has returned so quickly, six months earlier than anticipated. It is because of his drive, his extreme motivation and also his expertise in rehab aspect," Pardiwal said.

Huge Injury Concern For MS Dhoni And CSK: Star Set To Be Ruled Out For 4-5 Weeks

CHENNAI, Mar 17 (Agencies): With less than a week left for the start of the Indian Premier League, Defending champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have received a huge blow ahead of their opening game against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) on March 22. According to a report, star pacer Matheesha Pathirana is set to be sidelined for four to five weeks due to an hamstring injury. Pathirana has been out of action since he picked up a niggle during the second T20I against Bangladesh at Sylhet on March 6 and left the field without completing his spell.

Pathirana played a big role in CSK's title

march in the previous IPL, grabbing 19 wickets from 12 matches.

"The Grade 1 hamstring typically takes nearly two weeks to recover fully. So, it remains to be seen when Pathirana can join the team, and it is hard to tell at this stage whether he will be available for the initial couple of matches," an IPL source had told agency.

CSK suffered an injury blow before the beginning of the season as New Zealand opener Devon Conway is expected to miss at least the first half of the tournament after undergoing thumb surgery. Conways sustained a blow on his finger during New Zealand's third

T20I against Australia.

CSK will kick off their campaign against RCB in the first game of the IPL 2024, at Chepauk, on March 22.

CSK IPL Squad: MS Dhoni (C), Moeen Ali, Deepak Chahar, Tushar Deshpande, Shivam Dube, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Ravindra Jadeja, Ajay Mandal, Mukesh Choudhary, Matheesha Pathirana, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Mitchell Santner, Simarjeet Singh, Nishant Sindhu, Prashant Solanki, Maheesh Theekshana, Rachin Ravindra, Shardul Thakur, Daryl Mitchell, Sameer Rizvi, Mustafizur Rahman, Avanish Rao Aravelly.

IPL 2024: New stadium will bring renewed luck for PBKS, says Shikhar Dhawan

LUDHIANA, Mar 17 (Agencies): Punjab Kings will not play their home games in Indian Premier League 2024 at the PCS Stadium. The team will call the newly built Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium their home in the upcoming season in the tournament.

Punjab Kings captain Shikhar Dhawan hoped that the new stadium will bring renewed luck for PBKS in the 2024 season - having gone trophy-less in the first 16 seasons of the cash-rich league.

"The new jersey has new details and everyday is a new day and you come up with new ideas. We always look forward to positive vibes ahead of the tournament," Dhawan said at the jersey launch event.

"The new stadium will be our lucky charm. We are trying to think positively. We are very grateful to Mohali and we thank the Mohali stadium, its grounds-



men," he further added.

PBKS NEW STADIUM

Punjab Kings (PBKS) will host their home matches in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 at the newly-built Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium in Mullanpur, Mohali.

Mullanpur will host its first match when the Kings lock horns with the Delhi Capitals (DC) on Saturday, March 23. The Punjab Cricket Association IS Bindra Stadium in Mohali has

hosted home matches of PBKS over the years.

However, the crowd in Mohali will now get a chance to experience the ambience of a new stadium. The venue has a capacity of 33,000.

"The Mullanpur stadium also has a well-equipped herringbone drainage system, which helps in removal of water within 25-30 minutes after the rain stops. Instead of using traditional soil, the ground is made of

sand, which is difficult to maintain, but provides good stability.

"It is equipped with two international-standard dressing rooms having facilities for steam, sauna and ice bath, while a world-class gym has also been set up at this complex," the release added.

Earlier in February, Caroline Rowett, the British Deputy High Commissioner, Chandigarh, visited the stadium. She thanked Dilsher Khanna, the PCA Honorary Secretary, and vice-president Preet Mohinder Singh Banga for giving her a tour of the venue.

The Kings, in the meantime, will be looking to win their maiden IPL title. They are the only team to not have won the IPL even once. In fact, since playing in the IPL 2014 final against the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), the Kings have failed to advance to the playoffs even once.

IPL 2024: Skipper KL Rahul announces his arrival for Lucknow Super Giants

KL Rahul gave his fitness update via his social media handle and could be seen batting, fielding as well as wicketkeeping. He captioned the post 'soon,' which means the skipper will be joining LSG in no time.

LUCKNOW, Mar 17 (Agencies): Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul has announced his arrival for his franchise ahead of the 17th edition of the Indian Premier League. Rahul could be seen doing batting practice in the nets and attaining full fitness before he joined his team.

Rahul gave a much-needed fitness update to the fans by posting his practice video on social media. In the video, Rahul was practising hard in the nets of the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru to be match-ready for the Lucknow

Super Giants.

He was involved not just in the batting practice, but also in fielding drills and honed his wicketkeeping skills. Rahul had faced an issue with his right quadriceps, and he recently returned from London after consulting a medical team in London. Ever since his return, he has been undergoing rehabilitation at the NCA.

Rahul suffered discomfort in his right quadriceps during the 1st Test match against England in Hyderabad. Rahul had played a key knock of 86 runs in the 1st



innings to help India take a 190-run lead. However, India lost the Test match by 28 runs. He was eventually ruled out of the 2nd Test in Vizag and couldn't join the Indian team for the last 3 Test matches either. It was a huge blow for the Indian team, who fielded a young team that already missed Virat Kohli. However, India managed to triumph over England 4-1 in the 5-match series.

Rahul will be raring to attain full fitness and join his team for IPL. LSG are set to face Rajasthan Royals in their inaugural

fixture on March 24, Sunday at Jaipur. Meanwhile, the rest of the LSG squad has started regrouping to begin their pre-season camp under the coaching of Justin Langer. The franchise will expect a fully-fit Rahul to lead the team from the front with his bat.

Notably, Rahul was ruled out of IPL 2023 after sustaining a hamstring injury during the match against RCB. In May, he underwent surgery and continued to be out of cricketing action for a long period until the Asia Cup in September 2023.

CEO Jammu visits NILP Assessment Centres , interacts with learners

Top News Report

R S PURA, Mar 17: Chief Education Officer Jammu Jagdeep Kumar Padha today visited NILP Assessment Centre at Govt Boys Middle School Chohala and Girls Middle School Chohala of Zone Miran Sahib and interacted with learners under NILP. Director Samagra Shiksha Rakesh Magoitra and Co-ordinator Samagra Ajit Kumar , Dy CEO Ashok Kmar, ZEO Arnia Subash Kumar were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Education Officer Jammu Jagdeep Kumar Padha said that programme aims to cover a target of 5.00 crore learners during the five years under Foundational Literacy and Numeracy component. The programme



has five objectives including foundational literacy and numeracy, critical life skills, vocational skills development, basic education and continuing education. Under the New India Literacy Programme (Nav Bharat Saksharata Karyakram) scheme, 200 hours "study on the course FLN" have been

imparted through critical life skills to all illiterate persons in the age group of 15 years in UT of J&K.

Padha further said that various steps are being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the programme in the J&KUT and encouraging users to join the programme. The first step is to identify the

beneficiaries and Volunteer Teachers. Survey of beneficiaries and Volunteer Teachers (VTs) are being conducted using schools as the base. The volunteer teachers are trained to carry out the learning modules in online mode. Various workshops are being conducted. The teaching and learning material

is available on DIKSHA portal developed by NCERT. The sample assessment modules have also been made available on DIKSHA.

Padha claimed that Department is serious for implementation of the programme for conducting, among others, environment building activities by the involvement and use of social media platforms including Print/Electronic/Folk Media and Interpersonal Media to reach across all rural areas and to create an atmosphere so as to motivate and spur potential literacy volunteers and learners and also to adopt multiple strategies, keeping in view the local conditions, with active participation of community leaders, PRI functionaries, Mahila Mandals, Civil Society Organisation and educational institutions.

Former Sarpanch starts blacktopping of road in Kotli Shah Doula Panchayat

Top News Report

R S PURA, Mar 17: Former Sarpanch and senior Congress leader Badrinath Sharma on Sunday kick-started blacktopping work of Railway line Patri village of Kotli Shah Doula Panchayat in RS Pura Jammu South constituency. The blacktopping of 1 Km of road will be completed with an estimated amount of Rs 15 lakh rupees, he added. The Black Topping work of the said road was the longest pending demand of the locals, the locals thanked the Congress leader for keeping his promises, the total length of the blacktopping of road stretch is about 1 Kilometer. The locals and the prominent persons thanked Congress leader for his efforts, as the said developmental work has been ignored for the last several years, the issue was raised by the local residents of the Village, when he was on Election campaign, and



assured that he will complete this work, and now the work has been started, this positive change is worth appreciating said locals. Sharma said that after becoming the Sarpanch of the Panchayat, he has continuously paid attention to the development of the Panchayat and today every village of the Panchayat has the facility of a Pucca road. He said that all the promises

made during elections have been fulfilled and each and every link road has been constructed. He assured the villagers that the development works would be continued. He urged the government to prioritize the timely completion of essential road projects and ensure that the promises of development translate into tangible improvements for the people of the region.

16th Triennial Conference of BMS J&K on March 23, 24 at Katra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 17: Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) Jammu Kashmir is going to hold its two days triennial conference at Chinta Mani Trust Katra in which hundreds of delegates from all districts of UTs of J&K and Ladakh belonging to manufacturing, construction, service, power, transport, health, banking, postal, BSNL, Railways, Cooperatives and hospitality industries will participate and deliberate on various important issues confronting the working classes in Government, Semi Government and Private sectors.

The 16th triennial conference of BMS is being organized in line with legacy of over 48 years of BMS in J&K and this conference will set the agenda and target of BMS for focused struggle on issues taken up in the conference for coming years. The char-



ter of demands upon which the BMS J&K will focus in coming years is released today by Sh. Ashok Choudhary Ji (Organizing Secretary BMS J&K and Ladakh) in the form of poster for conference wherein genuine demands of working classes have been highlighted including; Linking of minimum wages with DA in J&K. Ensuring coverage of ESI and EPF in all factories/establishments. Solving issues of Daily wagers, contractual work-

ers and NHM employees. Bringing Aanganwadi workers and helpers into the fold of minimum wages.

Central minimum wages for power projects on Chenab river.

Ensuring 80% local employment in all projects and industry.

Providing Rs. 3000/- monthly pension as social security to construction workers.

Stoppage of outsourcing jobs to contractor workers in all sectors.

Establishment of Skill

Employment Corporation in J&K and Ladakh.

Establishment of Shrine Board for Dharmarth Trust and ensuring wages to its employees on pattern of SMVDB.

The two day conference will have sessions on various important topics including balance of work and life so that physical and mental health of working classes is ensured while achieving professional targets. The delegates will discuss how to curb exploitation of working class, poor

functioning of ESI and PF and labour laws implementation. The conference will pass important resolutions while fixing targets next three years to make inroads for BMS in left out sectors.

BMS National Organizing Secretary Sh. B. Surendren Ji and North India Organizing Secretary Sh. Pawan Kumar Ji and other senior functionaries of BMS along with various trade unionists will grace the occasion and new State Executive committee of BMS will be elected for next three years.

The press conference was addressed by Sh. Ashok Choudhary (Organizing Secy. BMS J&K) and attended by Neelam Sharma (Gen. Secy. BMS J&K), Harbans Choudhary (working president BMS J&K), Ravi Hans, Rohit Seth, Mukesh Kumar (Secretaries BMS J&K), Shamsher Chand, Ghar Deen, Sewa Ram, Subash Chander and others.

Dozens of youth and Mahilla workers Join Shiv Sena: Shan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 17: In compliance to the directions of shan president Shiv Sena Chenab valley, the Shivsena leader Sunil Kalyan General Secretary Chenab Valley of the party managed joining of many workers in the party and the party has welcomes to the newly joined workers.

Shan have assured to

the workers that they will work day and night for the poor masses and full fill their all genuine grievances through the higher ups.

Speaking on the occasion, the mr kalyan Sena leader highlighted the policies and programmes of the Party. They also assured the new entrants full respect and honor in the Party. Newly inducted party members said that they will work round the

clock for strengthening the Party at grassroot level.

Newly joined workers raise the slogans full support of shan in upcoming Lok Sabha elections

Shan also thanks the party state president Ashwani Gupta, State General Secretary Rakesh Kak, State organiser and higher authority of shivsena leaders their exceptional support in the region.

Scores of people join Shiv Sena Hindustan at Natral village, Bishnah

Top News Report

A meeting was organized by Shiv Sena Hindustan in the village Natral of Block Bishnah under the chairmanship of Jammu and Kashmir President Pt Rajesh Kesri, in which dozens of youth, influenced by Shiv Sena Hindustan activities, joined the party.

The new entrants include Rohit Kumar, Rahul Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Rajat Kumar Ravi Kumar, Dheeraj Kumar. Speaking on the occasion, Kesri said that nowadays drugs are being sold a lot in the border areas, keeping this in view, we have launched a campaign in every village to eradicate drug addiction, for this purpose a meeting was held today in Natral Village and all the youth were asked to pledge that they will not consume any kind of drugs and will promote our party and will help the candidates contesting elections.

For the last one year, Shiv Sena has been



working in every village of RS Pura Border. Kesri urged the parents of the children in the meeting and even the small children of 14-15 years of age to stay away from the consumption of drugs and other dry intoxicants which were growing in the society. He said young generation is a ray of hope of the society, which is the responsibility of every parent and every social worker to save. Kesri further said that as long as the young generation does not obey their parents and respect their elders, drug sellers will dominate the young generation.

Today's young generation should also pay attention to the progress of the country and take care of their family and their health. Attention should also be paid to this because intoxication makes the body hollow from inside like a termite and destroys a person's thinking power, added Kesri.

Kesri observed that because of this intoxication the children in the border areas have lost their parents and siblings. They lost their lives at such a young age due to drug addiction. He requested the young

generation to respect their elders and also pay attention towards their religious activities so that their mentality becomes capable of serving the country's progress and become great officers by focusing on their studies and health. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Bishnah Block President Rajkumar Baba Vice President Sanjeev Sharma, Arnia President Balwant Saini, Suresh Kumar, Ashwini Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Darshana Devi, Rajni Devi, Neeru Devi, Pooja Devi besides others.

SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma bowed their heads in Shri Bawa Kailakh Dev temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 17: SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma bowed their heads at Shri Bawa Kailakh Dev Temple Raipur thather and took blessings of Shri Bawa Kailakh Dev ji. SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma prayed for peace, harmony and prosperity in the country. On this occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avum Vedic Sansthan Trust, presented him a self-written book 'Nagdevtaon ki Mahima' on behalf of the Trust.

On this occasion, SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma ji said that in our country, respect is given to all the animals as they are responsible for the balance of nature. This balance gets disturbed due to the lack of any one. In Sanatan Dharma, Nagdevtas have been considered to be revered since ancient times. All Nagdevtas are also an integral part of our society. That is why human beings should protect the Nagdevtas



and they should not be harassed without any reason. Brijesh Sharma said that our scriptures have described Nagdevtas as an integral friend of human beings in thousands of examples. Therefore, let us take a pledge that we will not kill Nagdevtas in any way. Will give up cruelty towards them, they sometimes bite by mistake to protect their life, their nature is not attacking, science says that more than 80 percent of snakes do not contain venom. So there

is a need for this integral of nature and our to save a friend.

Mahant Rohit Shastri said that it is clearly known from mythology, folklore and legends that Nagdevtas have been beneficial to mankind in every way, if we pay attention to other examples, plots or episodes from the Vedic period till today. There will be many such examples which show human cruelty towards Nagdevtas. There is no such story anywhere in any corner of India from which it can

be said that Nagdevtas have once frightened mankind. Today's science also calls upon farmers, villagers, social institutions and intellectuals to take measures to protect Nagdevtas.

During this former BDC Kuldeep Kumar, Ex Sarpanch Partap Singh, Harshvardhan Singh, Yash Seth, Rajinder Seth, Vinay Gupta, Vijay Seth, Angraze Singh, Bhushan Jamwal, Sunil Singh Raipuria, Aditya Abhiraj Sharma and others were present.