# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

**INTERNATIONAL** 

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

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Tamannaah remembers the time she was rejected by Boogie Woogie team



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"Putin Won't Stop If He Is Successful In Ukraine", Says US Defence Chief



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#### BRIEFLY

#### Northern Railways slash fare in Kashmir Valley by 50 Pc

SRINAGAR, Mar 20 (Agencies): As a major relief to commuters, Northern Railways on Wednesday decided to reduce the train fare in the Kashmir Valley.

"Railways have reinstated second class ordinary fare on passenger trains in the Valley," the officials said.

The charges have dropped from 40 to 50 per cent. Before the relief, the fare was Rs 35 from Sadura station (Anantnag district) to Srinagar. It has now come down to Rs 15.

This relief is applicable across the Valley in Kashmir and travelling by train has become highly affordable and cheap after the relief," officials said.

The rail services are presently operating from Baramulla town in the north of the Valley to Sangaldan in Ramban district of the Jammu division.

#### Widespread light to moderate rain over J&K during next 24 Hrs: MeT

SRINAGAR, Mar 20 (Agencies): A Western Disturbance (WD) is likely to cause widespread light to moderate rain and snow over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours, officials said. Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Wednesday forecast fairly widespread light to moderate rain in Kashmir valley and parts of Jammu division during

the next two days.

Kashmir weather, an independent forecaster said, "Under the influence of a WD, light to moderate rain/snow is expected to commence in parts of Kashmir from tomorrow afternoon onwards, and by the evening, most parts of Kashmir Valley would have received a spell of rain/snow. Rain/snow activities can continue in some areas on March 22". He said the least impact of WD is expected in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts, too. There is a possibility of hailstorms and gusty winds in some areas during this Turn to page 9

# **Election Commission issues notification for first phase of Lok Sabha elections**

NEW DELHI, Mar 20 (Agencies): The Election Commission of India on Wednesday issued the notification for the first phase of the Lok Sabha elections 2024 to be conducted on April 19. In the notification, the

ECI informed that March 28 will be the last date for filing nominations for Bihar and March 27 for Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

weep and Puducherry.
"March 30 will be the date for scrutiny of nomi-



nations for Bihar and March 28 for others," the notification said.

According to the ECI's notification, April 2 will be the last date for withdrawal of candidatures for Bihar and March 30 for Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu,

Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Puducherry;

"June 6, the date before which the election shall be completed in all the above-mentioned parliamentary constituencies," the notification read.

Elections will be held in 102 Lok Sabha seats in 17 States and Four Union Territories in this phase.

**Tamilisai Soundararajan** 

**Rejoins BJP After Quitting** 

**As Governor** 

39 seats in Tamil Nadu, 12 in Rajasthan, 8 in Uttar Pradesh, and 6 in Madhya Pradesh will go to polls in the first phase.

Along with them, five seats in Uttarakhand, Assam and Maharashtra, four seats in Bihar, three in West Bengal, two in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and one seat in Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Puducherry will also go to polls on April 19.

The Election Commission on March 16, announced the schedule for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

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#### Centre should heed demand for Ladakh's inclusion under sixth schedule, says CPI(M) leader Tarigami



SRINAGAR, Mar 20 (Agencies): The Centre should pay heed to the demand for the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, CPI(M) leader Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami said on Wednesday.

"Today, there is a unified call for constitutional guarantees under the Sixth Schedule. We share a common history and concerns

for Ladakh, resonating deeply with the aspirations of its people. It's imperative for the government of India to heed their voices and address their grievances promptly," Tarigami said in a statement.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir never desired for Ladakh to be separated from the erstwhile state.

"Yet, it happened abruptly against our wishes. While a faction of the society in Leh were demanding Union Territory status for Ladakh and celebrated it later, they now acknowledge the drawbacks and express a preference for constitutional guarantees for their

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#### Not taking polls lightly, ready for the test: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Mar 20 (Agencies): National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday claimed the Centre was using all its might to defeat the National Conference in the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The NC does not take any elections lightly and is preparing for Lok Sabha elections, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

"No elections are easy to win. There are different situations in each election. This time the entire might of the Centre is busy trying to defeat us. In earlier elections, guns were used. The NC has been the biggest target of militancy. We have contested elections in most trying times whether it was in 1996, or when I contested my elections in 1998 and 1999 in the face of strong boycott calls," he told reporters while leaving the party office here.

"We don't take any elections lightly, we are making our preparations and we hope to win," he added.

Asked about a third front of local parties coming up in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said it does not make much of a difference as such attempts have been made in the past as well.

"We have seen such tie-ups earlier also when all the parties came together against Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah in 1977. The result is known to everyone. So, whether it is a B team or C team, it does not matter. The sooner they make an announcement about it the better. We are ready for this test," he added.

Abdullah was reacting to speculation that DPAP of Ghulam Nabi Azad might tie up with Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari.

#### CA exam dates rescheduled in view of 18th Lok Sabha Polls: ICAI

NEW DELHI, Mar 20 (Agencies): The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has rescheduled its exam dates in view of the Lok Sabha elections, according to officials. While the chartered accountant exams will be conducted in the month of May as decided earlier, the dates have been rejigged. According to the revised schedule, the intermediate course exam for Group 1 will be held on

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#### Sikhs in Kashmir announce formation of Gurdwara Co-Ordination committee

SRINAGAR, Mar 20 (Agencies): Sikhs in Kashmir on Wednesday announced the formation of the All Kashmir District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Coordination Commit-

The objective behind the committee's formation is to get "pahari"

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# 'Modi Ki Chinese Guarantee', Kharge taunts PM amid agitation in Ladakh

NEW DELHI, Mar 20 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday alleged that the Modi government has put the country's territorial integrity and national security at risk in dealing with China and is also "attacking the constitutional rights of our own citizens of Ladakh".

Kharge asserted that the Congress remains committed to protecting Ladakh and securing national interests at the borders.

"Modi Ki Chinese Guarantee! In Ladakh, there is a strong wave of public support, with unified calls for protection for tribal communities under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.



"But like all other guarantees – 'Modi Ki Guarantee' to assure Constitutional rights to the people of Ladakh remains a colossal betrayal. It is nothing

but fake and Chinese in nature," the Congress chief said on microblogging site X.

His remarks come amid climate activist Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike in support of statehood and constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule for the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Wangchuk, a renowned education reformist, has been on 'climate fast' in Leh since March 6, a day after talks between the joint representatives of Lehbased Apex body and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) heading an agitation in support of four-point demands and the central government hit a deadlock.

The Sixth Schedule contains provisions related to the administration of tribal areas in Assam,

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## **OBITUARY**

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

10TH DAY shall take place on 24 March, 2024

**GRIEF STRICKEN FAMILIES** Sharma's & Koul's

Mob: 9419118588, 9682365964



Smt. Suman Sharma (Pinkey)

#### OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Ratna Koul (Behan ji) W/o Late Sh. Soom Nath Koul Originally R/o Amnoo Kuigam who left for her heavenly abode on 14th of March 2024 at Flat No.227 Mahadev Apartments Pocket 1 Dwarika Sec 23, New Dehli.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 23.03.2024 11am at G257+W7P, New Palam Vihar, Block, T, Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir Sec 109 Gurgaon Pawala Khasrupur, Haryana 122017. IN GRIEF:

Son in laws & Daughters Ram Krishen Koul and Suman Koul Vijay Raina & Neetu Raina -Daughter Lovely Pandita W/o Late, M.K.Pandita

Sons and Daughters in law Sunil Koul & Shashi Koul Anil Koul & Vijay Koul



Ratna Koul (Behan ji)

Mob.Nos: 9911051382, 9811579440, 9350584733

# TENTH DAY

With sorrow this is to inform you that Smt Phoola Ji D/o Pt. Madhu Sudhan Lal of Chittergul presently residing at Indra Nagar Srinagar Kashmir, passed away on 16-3-2024 after brief illness. Her crimination was done on, 17-03-2024 at Karan Nagar Shamshan Ghat.

10th Day Kriya will be held at Ganpatyaar Ghat (Badiyar Ghat) on 25-03-2024.

Grief Stricken

Bal Krishan Pandita Vimal ji Pandita Satish Pandita

Pinkey Raina



Smt Phoola Ji

#### TENTH DAY / KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of SH OM PARKASH DOGRA (MASTER, RETD) S/O Lt SH NEK RAM R/O W.NO 2. H.NO 255 (NH1A) Indira Nagar Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on Wednesday 13 March 2024 The Tenth Day will be performed on Friday 22/3/24 at 10 am at Devika Ghat Udhampur and Uthala will be performed at 2.00 pm on Saturday 23/3/2024 at our residence, W/No 2, H/NO 255 Indira Nagar (NH1A) UDHAMPUR.

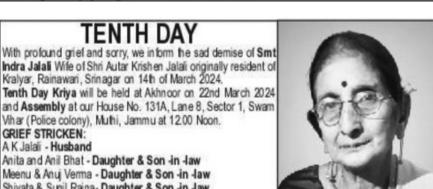
GRIEF STRICKEN SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW Jugal Kishore Bharti & Renu Bharti Sanjeev Dogra & Anita Dogra DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW Darshana Bharti & Arun Rajwal Sunita Bharti & Jatinder Dogra Aniu Bharti & Surinder Kumar NEPHEW AND NIECE IN LAW Manchar Dogra & Rekha Dogra Kuldeep Dogra & Anu Dogra



SH OM PARKASH DOGRA ( MASTER, RETD) DOB: 15-01-1937 DOD: 13-03-2024

#### M/S Durga Spares M/S Babbu Car Zone M/S Mahaveer Tyres NH1A UDHAMPUR Rahul Dogra & Supriya Dogra

TENTH DAY



Smt Indra Jalali

A K Jalali - Husband Anita and Anii Bhat - Daughter & Son -in -law Meenu & Anuj Verma - Daughter & Son -in -law Shivata & Sunil Raina- Daughter & Son -in -law Ratni Jalali - Sister-in-law Girja & R. K. Jalali - Sister in law & Brother-in-law B. L Jalai - Brother-in-law

Kralyar, Rainawari, Srinagar on 14th of March 2024.

Vihar (Police colony), Muthi, Jammu at 12.00 Noon.

Phoola Sadhoo - Sister in law Santosh Dhar - Sister-in-law Rama Fotedar - Sister-in-law

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Aayush, Aryan, Gun, Harshiv, Arya.

Bhats, Vermas, Rainas, Fotedars, Dulloos, Kaks, Bhats, Kouls, Khars, Sadhoos, Dhars, Jalalis Phone Number: 9149413738, 9419145270, 9419186088

#### RASAM KRIYA

||Radha Soami Ji || Late Sh Amarnath

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Amarnath Ji, who left for his heavenly abode on 14-03-2024, Thursday. || Rasamkriya ||

Rasamkriya will be held on 23-03-2024, Saturday

and Satsang will start at 11.00 am at our residence Ward No. 68, Langar P/o Gangyal, Jammu. | | From Family Members | |

Son and Daughter-in-law Sukhdev and Sonia, Devraj and Renu, Darshan and Bharti, Davinder and Jyoti

Daughter and Son-in-law Bachno and Parshotam, Neelam and Mansinder Nath 9858175385, 7006847147



Late Sh. Amarnath

#### 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our mother Smt Suman Tickoo (Babli Ji) W/o Mahrai Krishan Tickoo originally resident of Mattan at present Vinayak Vihar, Paloura, Jammu. The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat & Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat on 25-03-2024 (Monday) at 11 AM.

Grief Stricken

Sh Maharaj Krishan Tickoo -Husband

Sahil Tickoo & Kajal Tickoo -Son & Daughter-in-law Sapna & Sahil Sapolia -Daughter & Son-in-law M.No. 8825010828, 8899980528, 9796267034

#### TENTH DAY/13TH DAY (KRIYA)

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Swaran Singh Sambyal S/o Late Sh Chaggar Singh Sambyal R/o Mandi Thalora Samba Tehsil & Distt Samba, who left us for his heavenly abode on 10.03.2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on 19.03.2024 (Tuesday) at 10.00 AM at Mand Thelora Samba.

13th Day (Kriya) will be performed on 22.03.2024 (Friday) at 10,00 AM at Mandi Thalora Samba.

Grief Stricken Smt Oma Devi- Wife

Sons & Daughters-in-Law Mr. Manjeet Singh Sambyal & Mrs. Madhu Sambyal Mr. Daljeet Singh Sambyal & Mrs. Paval Sambyal Daughter & Son-in-Law

Mrs. Ruch Slathia & Mr Balvinder Singh Slathia

**Brothers** Sh Karan Singh Sambyal Sh Gotam Singh Sambyal

Sh Jaswant Singh Sambyal



Smt Suman Tickoo

(Babli Ji)

Sh Swaran Singh Sambyal

Mob. Nos.: 9906107170, 9596634448

SMT. PHOOLA MOTA

(SAPROO)

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad

demise of our beloved mother Smt. Phoola Mota (Saproo), W/o Dr. Bans Lal Mota, originally from Chinkral Mohalla, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir, presently at H.No. 58, Sector- 1, Near church, Lower Muthi Jammu, who left for her heavenly abode on 12 March 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 21:03:2024 at HARIDWAR GHAT **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Dr. B.L Mota (Husband) Anchal & Sanjay Raina (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Suni Mota (Son) Akanksha Raina (Grand Daughter) Aarushi Raina (Grand Daughter)

Samast Mota, Saproo & Raina Pariwar.

Mob.: 9820185547, 9810177033, 7303954566, 7006735895

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With heavy heart and grief that our beloved mother Smt Pitty Pandita Wo Li Sh Prathyi Nath Pandita R/o Chogal, Handwara at present Jagli township, Nagrota, Behind Lane No. 4, Community Hall expired on 15-3-2024.

The 10th Day Kriya will be held at Saink School Ghat Nagreta on 24-03-2024 at 9:00 AM.

The Assembly shall be held at Jagti Community Hall Back side Lane No. 4.

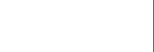
GRIEF STRICKEN : Sons and Daughters-in-lew T.K. Pandita/ Veena Pandita A. K Pandita/ Pinky Pandita Susheel Pandia/Sheetu Pandita

Mob No.9419261098, 9419853053, 7051209242

Vinod Ji Pandita / Kiran Pandita Inder Ji Wali/ Pamposh Wali Vinod Ji Pandita/Rinku Pandita GRAND DAUGHTERS & GRAND SONS :

Great Grand Daughters & Sons : SAMAST PANDITA PARIVAR

# Smt Pitty Pandita



Sh. Madan Lal Gupta

Shri Rajinder Singh

Jamwal

14th November 1935-12th March 2024

#### TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the

sad demise of Sh. Madan Lal Gupta S/o Banarsi Dass. R/o 215 Street No 1, Rajpura Shakti Nagar Jammu. who left us for heavenly abode on 11-3-2024 Monday. Tenth Day will be held at Harl Ghat near Pawan Ice Cream Cop. CID Office Canal Head from 10 am to 11 am on 20-03-2024 Wednesday.

Kirtya will be performed at our residence H.No. 215, Street No. 1, Rajpura Shakti Nagar Jammu on 12.00 noon at 23-03-2024 Saturday.

Uthala will be held at Hari Ghat near Pawan los Cream Opp. CID Office Canal Head from 04.00 to 05.00 pm on 23-03-2024 Saturday.

Grief Stricken Son & Daughter-In-law Miunisih - Neetu

Shashi Kant - Neha Mohinder - Anita

Contact No.: 9419308191, 8803177490, 9419352347

#### 10TH DAY/13TH DAY/ RASAM PAGRI

नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः। न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापी न शोषयति मारुतः ॥

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Rajinder Singh Jamwal S/o Late Bhag Singh R/o Raipur on 12th March 2024. Following days will be observed at our residence 210 Lane No. 6, Adarsh Vihar (Dillee) Sec-B, Sainik Colony, Jammu (Near Royal Nest Apartment).

10th Day at 11 am on 21/3/24. 13th Day/Kriya at 1pm on 24/3/24. Rasam Pagri at 12 Noon on 25/3/24. Grief Stricken

Smt Raj Rani Jamwal- Wife

Col V S Jamwal & Chetna- Son & Daughter in Law Jitender Singh Jamwal & Kanika-Son & Daughter in Law Neena & Pardeep Singh Jamwal- Daughter & Son in Law

Grand Children: Navjot, Sonika, Avinash, Manisha, Puneet, Shubhra, Shubham, Soumya, Kriti, Suryansh, Anvika, Karnveer, Nirvaan. Mob. Nos.: 7006670560, 9810154957



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 Akhnoor 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

Smt. Lovely and Ajit Koul Smt. Dolly and Ramesh Koul Smt. Seema and Rajinder Koul

Smt. Neetu and Anil Koul Smt. Girija and Pradeep Bhat Smt. Rajni and Rakesh Bhat Smt. Anjali and Anil Koul Adarsh, Urvaishi, Anupam, Nikhil, Hardik

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

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound, grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh Chaman Lal Bindroo** (S/o Late Sh Jialal Bindroo) Originally from

Sopore (Kashmir) At present, H No. 114 Kamal Baug, Housing Society, Wagholi (Pune) has left for Heaven on 12th March 2024. TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Wagaswar Temple Wagholi at 8.00 AM on 21st March 2024. Assembly will be held at our Residence at 12 00 PM.

Smt Vijay Bindroo (Wife) 9811694972 Mr Jeevit Bindroo (Son) 8291279896

Brothers Sh Mohan Lal & Raiinder Bindroo Sisters and Brother-in-laws Smt Santosh & Sh Pran Nath Suri

Smt Basanti & Sh Ashok Ji Bachoo

imt Kiran & Late Sh Anil Aggarwal

Daughters and Son in laws



Smt. Tita Koul

Bindroo

Sh Sri Kant Bhat

Smt Desha & Late Sh Chaman Lal Ganjoo Smt Poqja & Sh Sanjay Fotedar Smt Neha Ganjoo & Sh Deepak Mishra AND GANJOO PARIW

#### 10TH DAY KRIYA/MOURNING DO

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Sri Kant Bhat H/o Smt Mohini Bhat, originally from Brarlangan, Anantnag Kashmir, present resi-dence at JMC-135, Patoli Mangotrian near Shastri Memorial Hr. Sec School (Mast Bab) Ashram opposite road), who left for abode or 16-03-2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 25-03-2024 at Muthi Ghat at 9:00 am.

Smt Mohini Bhot (Wife) Smt Asha Ji & Sh Shamboo Nath Bhat (Bhabi & Brother) Smt Uma Short W/c Lt Sh Sham Lal Bhat (Sister) Daughters & Son-in-laws Smt Sunits & Sh Kiran Kumar Razdan

Smt Sushma & Sh Munu Jee Raina Smt Anjali & Sh Sunil Jee Raina Daughters in law Smt Vijay Bhan Wo Sh Janki Nath Bhan

ent Jeets Pandits Wo Sh Sohan Lai Pandits pha, Akahay, Michit, Manish, Suham

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Kishni Koul W/o Lt. Jaggar Nath Koul erstwhile Palpora (Wasoora), Pulwama A/p H.No.538, Durga Nagar, Sector -2 Ext. Near Shiv Shakti Guest House on 18th March 2024. Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of School Education a 9 AM on 27th March 2024 (Wednesday).

GRIEF STRICKEN: Son & Daughter-In-Law Sh. Mukesh Koul & Smt. Deepali Ji Ph. 7051137617, 9419229210 Daughters & Son-In-Law Smt. Pinky Ji & Sh. Tej Krishan Koul ( 9419110162) Smt. Baby Ji & Sh. Tej Krishan Bhat (9805508766)

TENTH DAY

mast Koul's, Bhat's, Kichloos's

Smt. Anjali Ji & Sh. Kulbhushan Koul (7710400447) Grand Children: Nitin, Akshay, Vinny, Komal, Kanshika, Vansh, Mudrika, Daksh.



#### With profound grief & sorrow, we regre to inform the sad demise of our belove father Sh Sat Pal Verma Ji R/o Janipur Colony Back Side of Shiv Mandir 10th Day will be performed at Shiv Mandir Janipur Colony, Jammu on 21-03-2024 (Thursday) at 11.00 AM.

SH SAT PAL VERMA JI

Smt Aarti Verma - Wife Aadarsh & Raghay Verma - Sons Daughters & Sons-in-law Pallavi & Atul Verma Payal & Aditya Pandoh Brothers & Sister-in-law

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Raiinder Verma & Lt. Smt Krishna Devi Lt. Sh. Chaman Lal Verma & Smt Sushma Verma Sh. Kamal Kishore Verma & Shama Verma Contact No. 7006679559

#### BARKHI

One year has passed since you left us for heavenly abode but your loving memories, will always remain with us. Physically you are not with us but e feel your presence in every moment of our

Barkhi of our beloved Late Sh. Satpal Verma S/o Late Kushi Ram Verma wil performed at our residence Ward No 12. H No 69, Shitla Mandir Gali, Opp Mahajan Hall Udhampur on Thursday 21st of March 2024 at

12.00 Noon.
DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY Smt Luxmi Devi (Wife) Smt Pushpa Devi (Bhabhi) Sons & Daughter-in-laws Smt Arti & Raj Kumar Smt Honey & Anil Kumar Smt Veena & Narinder Kumar

mt Sunita & Anil Ver

Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt Swarna Devi W/o Late Sh Kuldeep Abrol
Smt Neelam & Vinod Verma M/s Mahaluxmi Caterers & Tent Shitla Mata Mandir Gali

#### Mob 9419160485, 9419142236 mt Poonam & Vishal Pandoh

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA Amid sobs and tears, with profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our revered mother Smt. Pitty Pandita W/o Lt. Sh. Prithvi Nath Pandita on 15th of March 2024, erstwhile resident of Chogal Handwara, presently at Lane no 2 Block 12 Quarter No 9 Jagti

Township Nagrota

MOURNING is being held at community Hall back side of lane no 4 Jagti Township TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed or 24th of March 2024 Sunday at 9 am at Sainik School Ghat Nagrota.

ing venue. SHTER IN LAWS AND SONS





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# **Congress manifesto document of deceit** full of lies: Rekha Mahajan

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan today took a jibe at the Congress party over their election manifesto for Lok sabha, saying that it was not a manifesto of the Congress, but the letter of lies and always misguided the innocent public of all segments. During the meeting with BJP workers here at party headquarters, Jammu. Rekha Mahajan said, it is not a manifesto of the Congress, it is a letter of lies and tore into the Congress, terming its manifesto as a "hypocrisy document" which was "full of lies"

Rekha, indirectly aimed at Congress, asserted that if the previous governments had worked honestly, the guarantees they gave would have been fulfilled 50 years ago. She said that today people are yearning. Not just one but many promises were given, all of them turned out



to be false and today again presented a letter of lies," Rekha Mahajan said. Rekha asserted that the public is not going to trust these lies because the public knows that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) does whatever it says and in the last successful ten years of good governance "Modi ki guarantee" fulfilled all promises, especially in the union territory of J&K. She further said that the public knew the truth of Congress and would not be confused. Rekha emphasized that Congress always did the politics of appeasement play with the emotion of the innocent people and always cheated and misguided them. She added that some political parties cannot understand the simple point that they

can achieve nothing by

making false announce-

ments. She remarks that

the public knows every-

thing and will give a befit-

ting reply to the Congress party in the upcoming polls.

Rekha highlights in her address that it has been the tradition of Congress that it has been misleading the people of the country for the last 70 years and has been playing with their emotions, but today the public has understood everything and believes in Modi's guarantees and countless schemes and wants to come forward.

In future, only because of Modi's guarantee the mission will cross 400 plus and the BJP government will be formed with the majority.

Rekha said I express my gratitude to the people of the country for electing Prime Minister Modi ji has done what no one had even imagined during his successful tenure of 10 years.

Rekha recounted, PM Modi is a tall example of a strong and decisive leader who can deliver what he promises. She stated that "Modi ki Guarantee" covers a wide range of promises across sectors, citizens, and schemes. Modi ki Guarantee means a steadfast commitment to the welfare of the people.

Modi ki Guarantee

means a Viksit Bharat, Shrestha Bharat. It is a guarantee for the development of the youth, empowerment of the women, welfare of the farmers, and all those marginalized and vulnerable who have been ignored for decades

Rekha added.

# **CEO Poonch starts Enrollment Drive** with focus on girl child education

**Top News Report** 

POONCH, Mar 20: In a commendable effort to bolster education in rural areas, CEO Poonch, Bishamber Dass, has kickstarted an enrollment drive with a particular emphasis on promoting girl child education. The initiative commenced from Government Middle School Dhant, nestled on the Line of Control in an extremely rural village within Kanuyian Zone in Poonch district.

Accompanied by N.M. Suri, DEPO Poonch, and Anwar Hussain, ZEO Kanuyian, CEO Bishamber Dass was greeted with warmth by the students, staff, and the School Management Committee of Middle School Dhant lead by Nazir Mughal, a Retired and veteran academician. As a symbolic gesture of growth and sustainability, CEO Dass also planted a fruit plant in the school premises, signifying the nurturing of education in

the region.

During the course of the drive, the CEO extended personal visits to the homes of some students, urging parents to consider enrolling their wards in

government schools. He highlighted the array of basic facilities being provided, emphasizing the conducive learning environment offered by government educational

institutions. CEO Poonch, Bishamber Dass, emphasized the importance of collective effort for the holistic development of students. He urged parents, members of the School Management Committee, and the community at large to join hands in ensuring the well-being and progress of the students

CEO Dass reiterated the crucial role of regular attendance in school urging parents to prioritize their children's education by ensuring their

consistent attendance. N.M. Suri, DEPO Poonch, highlighted the significance of positive societal cooperation in maximizing the effectiveness of school staff.
He emphasized that

the synergy between the school and the community is essential for fostering an enriching educational environment where students can thrive.

ZEO Kanuyian, Anwar Hussain, affirmed the commitment to bolstering educational stan-

dards in remote regions, stating, "The school shall be provided with kindergarten and other essential support to ensure the delivery of quality education in these far-flung areas."

Darshan Kumar, Coordinator of the Enrollment Drive, provided insights to the visiting officers and the School Management Committee about various initiatives undertaken by the school. These initiatives include the renovation of the school infrastructure and the enhancement of facilities aimed at ensuring a holistic learning experience for the stu-

dents. Nazir Mughal, retired District Education and Planning Officer, and members of the School **Management Committee** expressed their appreciation for the proactive efforts of the school staff. They commended the staff for their selfless contributions towards renovating the school infrastructure, setting a remarkable example for others in the community. Their dedication serves as a beacon of inspiration, exemplifying the spirit of collective responsibility towards educational advance-

# **KMTA** to support Dr Jitendra in LS elections



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: A delegation representing the Kanak Mandi Traders Association (KMTA) led by BJP Vice

President Jammu District Anu Gupta met with MoS PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh to convey their best wishes for the upcoming Lok Sabha

elections.

During the meeting, the association members expressed their support and confidence in Dr. Singh's candidacy.

# IIT Jammu inks pact with NIT Srinagar



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: In a formal agreement, Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu, and Prof A Ravinder Nath, Director NIT Srinagar, signed an official MoU in the presence of Prof Anurag Misra and Dr Vinay Sharma. Key components of this

MoU include Direct PhD / Start Early PhD and Joint PhD initiatives linking the two institutions, in addition to student and faculty exchange.

The pact aims to leverage the combined resources and expertise of both institutions, encouraging research and innovation

tongue while brushing

# No relief from electricity, water crisis in Samba Kandi area: Congress

**Top News Report** 

SAMBA, Mar 20: Indian National Congress workers of District Samba organized a public meeting in Kandi area under the Samba Assembly in which Congress Party's State Vice President and former Minister Yashpal Kundal and District President Sanjeev Sharma arrived as chief guests.

During this, he discussed strengthening the party and taking its policies to the people. Addressing the people, Kundal said that people are facing a lot of trouble due to frequent undeclared power cuts in the area.

Kundal said that if the administration does not stop the undeclared cuts soon, Congress will take to the streets for the sake of the people.

While addressing the people, District President Sanjeev Sharma said that the government is claiming to provide 24 hours electricity to the people by installing smart meters on one side.

On the other hand, people are facing undeclared power cuts. The work of small businessmen has come to a standstill. Farmers are not able to get water for irrigation. Addressing the people, Sanjeev expressed regret that the severe power crisis has made the life of the common man miserable not only in towns and villages.



He appealed to the people to support Congress in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections Manjeet Kumar Rashpal, Balram Kundal, Bubble Gupta etc. were present on this occasion.

No relief from electricity and water crisis in Samba Kandi area: Congress Samba: Indian National Congress workers of District Samba organized a public meeting in Kandi area under Samba Assembly.

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cities. He appealed to the people to support Congress in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Manieet Kumar Rashpal. Balram Kundal, Bubble Gupta etc. were present on this occasion.

## **IDA Conducts dental camp to mark world Oral Health Day**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, MAR 20 Indian Dental Association (IDA), Jammu branch, on Wednesday conducted a dental check-up camp at Balgran, Channi Rama, Jammu, to mark World Oral Health Day- 2024. In this camp 100 children were examined for their dental health Every year, March 20, is

observed as World Oral Health Day (WOHD) which aims to empower people with the knowledge, tools and confidence to secure good oral health. Oral diseases are a major health concern for many countries and negatively impact people throughout their

Dr. Gautam Sharma, President, IDA Jammu, informed that this year the theme of WOHD is



"A Happy Mouth Is ... A Happy Body" and the campaign will continue for next 3 years.

This theme offers a simple yet powerful way to capture the multifaceted nature of oral health in a concise and relatable manner

The 2024 campaign focuses on the intricate link between oral health and general health because "A Happy Mouth Is... A Happy Body." This empower everyone,

everywhere to value and take care of their mouths and understand that by doing so, they can also protect their overall well-

Avoid risk factors, adopt good oral hygiene habits and have regular dental check-ups to help protect your mouth and body.

Experts who were present during the occasion included Dr Vibha Raina. Dr Himja Mengi, Dr Arshiya, Dr Burhan and Dr Himani. Dr. Adil

(MBBS, MD) from Pulse hospital also examined the children, IDA Jammu associated with Plaksha foundation and Pulse Hospital Jammu to conduct the camp.

Free toothpaste samples were provided by Haleon for this camp.

Sh. Vinod Raina, President Balgran, Shashi Kant Goswami, Treasurer were present during the occasion. Prof. R.D.Sharma, Secretary, Balgran, supervised the

Doctors informed the students that for maintaining good oral health, brushing twice daily with a soft bristle toothbrush is mandatory. Use of hard brush causes abrasion of teeth, recession of gums leading to sensitivity in teeth. Many people do not clean their

which is one of the top reason for bad breath from mouth, known as halitosis, as bacteria and food particles remain attached to the surface of tongue. Use of dental floss protects a person from interdental caries which starts between the two teeth and one of the most common issues seen in the molars. Also, avoid consuming food which is soft, sticky and sweet, like candies, chocolates, ice-cream etc. Potato chips also stick to the surface of teeth and causes decay as it is rich in carbohydrates.

Social organisations, schools, NGOs can contact IDA Jammu if they wish to conduct the awareness lectures and oral check-up camps.

# RPHQ conducts campaign against drug menace

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: Continue to drive against Drug menace, a significant Campaign against the drug menace is being conducted by Range Police Hqrs. Jammu on Wednesday at Rajiv Nagar, Jammu under Civic Action Program under the control & command of DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Jammu Dr. Sunil Gupta and overall supervision of Staff Officer to DIG Jammu

Rajinder Singh Katoch, SSP. This ambitious drug awareness campaign aimed at fostering a

drug free community through a Nukad Natak (a team of Nav Durga Kala Manch) headed by Shazi Khan.

Program started with the warm welcome of Chief guest Vinod Kumar SSP Jammu and guest of honour SO to DIG Jammu Rajinder Singh Katoch SSP, SP South Jammu Ajay Sharma, SDPO East Sheezan Bhat, SHO Bahu Fort Insp Amit Kumar and ICPP Narwal SI Sanjeev Sharma.

In the program Chief Guest Vinod Kumar -IPS SSP Jammu while addressing media said that drug taken is a most common habit

in the youth these days mostly in 15 to 35 years age group.

He also said that drug is a poison which destroys once life and we should stay away from drugs and guide others to stay away from it and he also warned drug paddlers to stop drug paddling and ensured they dealt strictly under law.

Dr. Gulnaz Choudhary from Police drugs de addiction Centre, Jammu delivered impactful speech on drugs especially highlighting synthetic drugs and its bad effects she also said that it is very important to sensitize our

youth in every section of the society on the subject of drug abuse. General Public and Civil Society Members present in the program appreciated and thanked Jammu & Kashmir Police for organizing such events.

Team Nukad Natak awarded with Cash Prize from RPHQ Jammu for its outstanding performance related to drug abuse and its bad effects.

From RPHQ Jammu ASI Tarsem Lal, Sgct Sudesh Sharma, SgCt Narinder Sharma were present in the venue for smooth conduct of the event.

### **Army organised Quiz Competition** for School Children in Doda



**Top News Report** 

DODA, Mar 20: A 'Quiz Competition' has been conducted at Goha for school going children on 18 March 2024 to provide a platform for the school students to showcase their talent and to enhance their self-confidence. The competition was organized to develop creative skills among the students and to showcase their talent and

to enhance their selfconfidence. A total of 25 children participated in the said competition. The response was overwhelming as the event witnessed active participation by the students. The talent and creativity of students in the competition was praiseworthy. The spirit and zeal shown by the children during the competition displayed the growing transformation leaning towards national integ-

rity and amity amongst different communities of the region. Rishpaal Singh said these type of initiatives leaves everlasting imprint on young minds and are always welcomed as they help such far flung areas to relate it with main stream activities. At the end of the competition, prizes were distributed to the winners. The talent and creativity of students in the competition was praiseworthy.

# **EDITORIAL**

# BE MINDFUL, BE GRATEFUL

International Day of Happiness is celebrated all over the world to give importance to happiness in life and maintain happiness. It was started by the United Nations (UN) in 2013, since then it is celebrated every year on 20 March. Jeyme Illien, founder of Happiness (International Day of Happiness) and Happytalism, was a strong influence. The UN consultant considered happiness, health and freedom as essential for every person and campaigned for its recognition as a right.

Bhutan initiated the proposal to dedicate a day to celebrate happiness in 2012, a country that understood the importance of happiness and adopted Gross Domestic Happiness instead of Gross Domestic Product. International Day of Happiness recognizes the importance of happiness as a fundamental aspiration of people and encourages individuals, groups and government to spread happiness and positivity. Every year International Day of Happiness is celebrated under a prescribed theme. The theme of the year 2024 has not been decided yet. The theme of International Day of Happiness for the year 2023 was "Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind". By incorporating meditation, gratitude, and kindness into your daily routine, you can adopt a more positive mindset. This will also lead to your overall development and improvement in mental health.

Every year, on World Happiness Day, the United Nations releases a report and ranks countries by asking citizens how happy they are. Data is collected by Gallup World Poll.On International Day of Happiness of the year 2023, India ranked 126th among 137 countries in the Day of Happiness report, whereas Finland stood first among the happiest countries of the world. Everyone should take part in this day of happiness. The easiest and simplest way to celebrate this day is to be happy and joyful and spread happiness to others. UN International Day of Happiness guides people and groups through its campaign to celebrate this beautiful and positive day On the occasion of International Day of Happiness 2024, there are ten steps to Global Happiness 2024. These steps include-

- Talk to everyone about International Day of Happiness.
- Do whatever makes you happy.
- Join the World Happiness Week event virtually.
- $\bullet$  Give and spread happiness to others.
- Celebrate your own event and share it with the world.
- Share what makes you happy on social media.
  Encourage the "Happiness Resolu-
- Encourage the "Happiness Resolutions".
- Advance the United Nations Global Goals For Sustainable Development.
- Enjoy nature and environment.
- Spread happiness on the occasion of International Day of Happiness 2024 by taking these ten steps and personalizing them with your goals and dreams. Make time for your loved one, help someone in need or listen to your favorite music! Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to enjoy this day by spreading happiness and smiles.

# ONOE logistics challenge; threat to India's diversity

By: Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

Tn the 75-minute press conference held by chief election **▲**commissioner Rajiv Kumar, flanked by two newly-appointed election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, and other officials on March 16, Mr Kumar answered a question about the lengthy span of seven phases, which is alleged to be favouring the ruling party, the BJP. He said that it takes time to shift the troops, the Central armed police forces, from one place to another across the country where voting is to take place, and that is the reason for the seven phases lasting from April 19 to June 1.

Surprisingly, no one asked about the number of CAPF personnel pressed into election duty, and what were the more sensitive places.

It is interesting that on March 14, a committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind had sent a "One Nation, One Election" recommendation to President Droupadi Murmu. If the election to the existing 543 seats of the Lok Sabha and four state Assemblies involved elaborate security preparations, apart from the election machinery of more than 10 lakh polling booths, over five lakh electronic voting machines (EVMs) and tens of thousands of people in charge of the booths, checking the voters' identity and getting their signatures before they can press the button, and seven phases spread over six weeks, then just consider the magnitude of the preparations and the time it would take to hold elections to the Lok Sabha, whose number

is expected to go up to 800 seats from the present 543, as well as Assembly elections in all 28 states and eight Union Territories. If a Lok Sabha election involving 968 million voters is a gigantic task, one involving voting in all the states and UTs in addition would be on a much higher scale. The Minotaur's Maze would be child's play compared to the logistical labyrinth that a "One Nation, One Election" would involve.

It will be argued that from 1952 to 1967, the "one election" concept for Parliament and the state Assemblies was done without much ado, and that India after 70 years of elections can handle it, whatever be the scale. And it is a plausible argument. It can be done. One of the reasons that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is sold on the idea is because he loves the huge spectacle of a nation of a billion-plus people exercising their franchise in a rhythmic pattern similar to the contingent of soldiers marching with exact rhythm in the Republic Day parade in the national capital. Many others have suggested that the staggered elections to different state Assemblies is a big distraction in the political calendar of the country, and there is a need to reduce its occurrence. The desire for simplifying the electoral process is understandable. Mr Modi, however, thinks beyond mere convenience. His is the sensibility of totalitarian aesthetics. Everything has to be done on a mega scale because it is one way of showcasing the prowess of the nation.

Big is majestic in the political arena. It is an ancient concept of power and glory. The Roman rulers and soldiers believed that

they were the masters of the world. The Chinese emperors of old believed theirs was the centre of the world though the extent of the empire stopped at the Great Wall. Indian rulers with big empires, the Mauryas, the Mughals and the British, did not allow the size of the country and their control over it let their imagination of glory run riot. The Indian empirebuilders were keenly aware of the political, social and geographical diversity of the country. The unity of the country was not based on the idea of a single sovereign power but in the consciousness of a common cultural thread running through the country. The unity was a subtle, delicate one, based on a shared value system of human solidarity. The sense of unity was not based on strength and might.

The "civilisational moment", a phrase that has gained vulgar prominence in the boastful talk of the Hindutva chatterati, especially after the inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya built on the site of the razed Babri Masjid, which is alleged to have been built on the site of the ruins of an earlier temple, is an assertion of what has been come to be known as muscular nationalism. There is no pretence of civilisational value. It is a crude flexing of nationalist muscle.

So, a single national election day where a billion people would cast their vote is seen as the might of the nation, an expression of the will of the nation. There is the implied expectation that the will of the nation, expressed through a billion people, is one. This is the ominous aspect of the desire and aspiration of "One Nation,"

One Election". This is just a short step away from a leader enjoying the trust of the endorsement and trust of the billion people. The totalitarian underpinning of "One Nation" cannot be overlooked. The cultural unity that held India through the centuries was rooted in diversity, and diversity is not the fashion kaleidoscope of what many countries boast of, even as ruthless political unity and uniformity is imposed. The diversity of costumes and arts was the basis of the once mighty Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) under the rule of the Communist Part of the Soviet Union (CPSU), underpinned by dictatorial power of the State. Diversity is not simply about variety. It is also about contradictions. Political diversity has to be based on a clash of ideologies and clash of ideas. The striving for national unity by the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is one of uniformity.

An election in a democratic system is not just a mechanical process. It is also a reflection of the culture of democracy where fierce disagreements form the order of the system. The "One Nation, One Election" needs to be assessed beyond the sense of order it lends to the electoral system. There is a possibility that it will induce the people towards fear and shun differences in the name of national unity.

Independent India is not to be confined to the independence of the nation-state. It is the independence of the 140 billion people, of 140 billion free choices. The freedom movement was about freeing Indians, and not just an abstract entity called India.

# The importance of Reading Magazines as a Student

By: Vijay GarG

In the age of smart-phones, social media, and instant access to information, reading magazines might seem like a relic of the past. However, the practice of flipping through the pages of a well-crafted magazine can offer a range of benefits for students that go beyond the screen.

We'll explore the advantages of reading magazines as a student, highlighting how this seemingly old-fashioned habit can positively impact your academic and personal life.

Diverse Knowledge and Interests

Reading magazines exposes you to a diverse range of topics and interests. Whether you're interested in politics, fashion, science, or travel, there's a magazine for you. This diversity can broaden your horizons, helping you discover new passions and interests you might not have encountered otherwise.

Improved Vocabulary and Reading Skills

Magazines often contain well-crafted articles and in-depth reporting. Reading them regularly can enhance your vocabulary and improve your reading comprehension skills. This improved literacy can be invaluable in your academic pursuits.

Current Affairs and Awareness

Magazines are a great source of current affairs and news updates. Staying informed about the world is not only important for your general knowledge but can also be beneficial for academic discussions and writing assignments.

Critical Thinking and Analysis

Many magazines feature thought-provoking articles, editorials, and opinion pieces. Engaging with these materials can sharpen your critical thinking skills as you evaluate different perspectives and arguments presented in the articles.

Relaxation and Stress Relief

College life can be stressful, and reading magazines can serve as a pleasant escape. It provides a break from textbooks and assignments, allowing you to unwind and recharge your mental batteries.

Inspiration and Creativity Magazines often showcase creative content, whether it's in the form of art, photography, or innovative ideas. Exposure to these creative elements can inspire your own creativity and help you think outside the box in your academic projects.

Networking and Career Opportunities

Magazines related to your field of study can be a valuable source of information about industry trends and job opportunities. They might also feature profiles of successful professionals you can learn from.

Enhanced Time Management

Reading magazines teaches you to allocate your time effectively. It's a manageable way to integrate reading into your daily routine, which can improve your overall time management skills.

Cultural and Societal Insights

Magazines often delve into the cultural and societal aspects of various topics. This can help you gain a deeper understanding of different cultures and societies, which is especially important in our interconnected world. Offline Digital Detox

Reading print magazines offers a break from the constant digital screen exposure that's become a norm in today's society. It's a chance to unplug, reduce eye strain, and enjoy a tactile reading experience.

In the fast-paced world of academia, the benefits of reading magazines as a student are undeniable. From expanding your knowledge base to improving your reading skills and offering relaxation, magazines can play a valuable role in your personal and academic development. So, consider incorporating this timeless habit into your daily routine and reap the rewards it can offer. Whether you're in it for education, inspiration, or simply the joy of reading, magazines have something to offer every student.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

# **Humanity Welfare Organisation Helpline wins Mahaveer Award 2024**

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Mar 20: The 27th edition of Mahaveer Award, instituted by Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, to recognise the altruistic services of individuals and organisations, went to **Humanity Welfare Organisation** Helpline, which tirelessly works at the grassroots level for delivering education to children with disabilities in Jammu & Kashmir. The organisation has bagged the Mahaveer Award 2024 under the category of Education.

Mahaveer Awards are presented every year in the categories of non-violence & vegetarianism, education, medicine, and community & social service. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh, a commendatory citation, and a memento.

The organisations that bagged the 2024 awards for Non-Vio-

lence & Vegetarianism, and Community & Social Service are Radha Surabhi Gau Seva Trust, Uttar Pradesh, and Group Captain Atul Chandra Barua, Assam, respectively - while, the award for Medicine honoured Parivaar Education Society of West Bengal. Radha Surabhi Gau Seva Trust is working for welfare of cows in Radha Kund in Mathura District, the native land of Lord Krishna. Captain Barua is renowned for his selfless efforts in offering shelter and care to abandoned elderly women in Assam, while Parivaar Education Society runs major health initiatives in the interior and underdeveloped tribal villages in Madhya Pradesh.

The Foundation received nominations for Mahaveer Awards 2024 from all over the country, enlisting the help of district administrators, legislators, bureaucrats, educationists,

media, social workers, parliamentarians and other eminent people.

The awardees were selected by an eminent jury headed by Justice M. N. Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India. The prominent members of the jury included: Poojya Acharya Shri Chandanaji Maharaj, Social Reformer, Shri S Gurumurthy, Editor Thuglak, Part-time Director of RBI, Prof. B M Hegde, Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mangalore Kendra, T S Krishnamurthy, former Chief Election Commissioner of India, D R Mehta, I.A.S.(retd.), former Chairman, SEBI, Prabhat Kumar, I.A.S.(retd.), former Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, and Justice G S Singhvi, former Judge of Supreme Court of India.

In his comments, Sugalchand Jain, Founder, Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, said, "We

are proud to recognise Humanity Welfare Organisation which was established by Javed Ahmed Tak in Jammu & Kashmir. The organisation is running Zaiba Aapa Institute of Inclusive Education, fully equipped for the education of disabled children. It provides education and rehabilitation services to 227 children with disabilities & 1011 persons with disabilities. It also runs a day care centre for children with different disabilities and a computer centre for poor, orphan, and the physically challenged. It organises physiotherapy sessions for cerebral palsy affected children and orthopedically impaired children. Speech therapy, special education, Braille education, vocational training and homebased rehabilitation services too are provided to physically and mentally disabled children and adults.

# Head and neck cancer cases account for 30% in India: experts



**Top News Report** 

CHANDIGARH, JAMMU, Mar 20: "India is grappling with a significant burden of head and neck cancer, constituting a majority of global cases. Particularly vulnerable are the underprivileged sections of the society, notably workers and labourers, due to the rampant tobacco consumption,"

Rakesh Chopra, chairman of Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGCIRC) during his keynote address at 22nd annual RGCON 2024 themed 'Head and neck cancer: bridging the gap from cure to survivorship' stated that head and neck cancers represent nearly 30% of all cancer cases in India, with projections indicating a startling 50% increase by 2040,

He further said," With 60% of people in the labour class found to be consuming some form of tobacco, they constitute the most vulnerable sections of the society. Preventive measures, therefore become imperative, and early detection plays a pivotal role, as 80% of all cancers are curable in the early stages,"

While emphasizing the role of technology in diagnostics, DS Negi CEO of RGCIRC, highlighted Al's transformative impact.

Negi said, "Al algorithms can swiftly identify cancer patterns, enhancing diagnostic accuracy and significantly reducing the turnaround time. This innovation holds promise in early disease detection and improving patient outcomes"

RGCON 2024 brought together over 250 faculties and over 1,000 delegates from across the globe to deliberate on advancements in cancer treatment.

Dr. (Prof) Sudhir Kumar Rawal, medical director and chief of Genito Uro – oncology services, RGCIRC said, "As an academic institution, RGCIRC places a very strong emphasis on research activities. RGCON serves as a platform to witness and adopt new trends in cancer treatment."

Prof. Alok Thakar, director of the National Cancer Institute & Director of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at AIIMS, Delhi praised RGCIRC's contributions while acknowledging it as a beacon in cancer care.

He said that this institution founded by a group of social activists has set a commendable precedent in cancer treatment.

RGCON 2024 featured key sessions on advanced treatment modalities such as proton therapy, brachytherapy, and the integration of AI in cancer care. Noteworthy innovations like the Indian surgical robot and SSI Mantra were also showcased alongside discussions on cost-effective reconstruction methods and facial reanimation techniques.

# J&K Bank & LFO-BHF Menstrual Hygiene Awareness reach Bandipora under CSR initiative



**Top News Report** 

BANDIPORA, Mar 20: J&K Bank reached a milestone in its CSR partnership with Live for Others - Being Helpful Foundation, marking the 20th district covered in their 'Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness Apply Pads).

This initiative, focused on menstrual hygiene awareness, involved distribution of 500,000 sanitary napkins and conducted over 100 awareness seminars across all 20 districts of Jammu &

Kashmir Over approx 50,000 individuals have benefited from this effort, break-

taboos. Bandipora, the final district covered distribution of more than 21,000 sanitary napkins, accompanied by 6 impactful awareness sessions reaching over 2300 people, including sessions at various schools and community gatherings including Govt. Girls High School, Bandipora; Govt. Girls High School, Plan Bandipora; Govt. Girls High School, Kaloosa; Aloosa Bandipora with two other community session. The resource person for these seminars were Avesha and Urfee.

"We are thrilled with the progress of 'Mission R-SAP' and the positive impact it's having on women's health Currently, we eagerly anticipate the initiative's expansion to other districts, with our team working diligently on its implementation," said Afreen, President (Kashmir Province), LFO-BHF.

We expresses gratitude to the Director School Education Kashmir, C.E.O Bandipora, the Principals of all participating schools, Social welfare officer Bandipora, Mission Shakti Bandipora & Special thanks goes to J&K Bank for organizing this impactful activity through their CSR fund, as acknowledged by Shah Aamir. Joint Secretary (National

Key members present during this activity included Furgan Bilal, Shah Aamir, Sheikh Shahid, Humaira Rashid, Sahil and others.

## **HDFC Bank inaugurates 60 Banking Outlets pan-India**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, today announced the inauguration of 60 Business Correspondent (BC) Banking Outlets across RBI notified unbanked rural centers (URCs) pan-India. These new outlets now increase HDFC Bank's URC network presence to 5,020 outlets. Notably, 34% of the Bank's BC Agent network now caters to providing formal financial products and services across 10,602 villages.

The initiative was undertaken in collaboration with CSC eGov. It will help deliver essential banking services to the last mile, directly through physical centres of village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs) acting as micro-entrepreneurs and in turn empowering communities in underserved regions.

Speaking on the development, Smita Bhagat, Group Head, Retail Branch Banking-North, East & Central, ABCP & Retail FX, HDFC Bank said, "HDFC Bank is deeply committed to financial inclusion even

in the remotest corner of the country. We are happy that a significant portion, nearly 34% of our BC network, operates within RBI notified unbanked rural centers (URCs). We aim to empower these communities and contribute to the government's financial inclusion agenda by providing crucial financial solutions like AePS transactions, deposit services, governmentbacked insurance, and access to credit facili-

Sanjay Rakesh, MD of CSC, emphasized the importance of digital innovation by suggesting that the bank should consider introducing a diverse range of digital products and services at BC centers. This strategic move aims to provide comprehensive banking services directly to customers within the catchment area. Additionally, Rakesh advised VLEs operating as BCs at URC locations to maximize their revenue potential through the HDFC Bank and CSC partnership by offering relevant financial products and services to the local customer base.'

#### Apni Party Senior VP expresses anguish over erratic Power supply in Habba Kadal here, the Apni Party

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Mar 20: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party Senior Vicepresident Srinagar & Constituency Incharge Habba Kadal Jeelani Hamid Kumar on Wednesday expressed deep resentment over the erratic power supply in Habba Kadal constituency amid ongoing holy month of Ramadan.

In a statement issued

leader said that the Habba Kadal inhabitants have been facing great inconveniences due to erratic power supply. "There are electricity issues prevailing in the area, especially during Suhoor and Iftari."

"Even as the people see the pesky power schedule, they on the other hand receive hefty power bills," he said adding, the authorities should ensure uninterrupted power supply and also consider covering the poor households under amnesty scheme to lighten their burden.

The Apni Party leader has in the meantime also urged SMC authorities to install ample number of street lights in the Habba Kadal area to facilitate the hassle free movement of the public during evening and night

## Week-long' NSS Winter **Camp concluded at GDC** Mahanpur

**Top News Report** 

MAHANPUR, Mar 20: NSS unit of GDC Mahanpur in collaboration with Department of English and Department of Hindi has organized the Cultural and valedictory function on on Wednesday i.e. on the seventh day of 'one week long' NSS Winter Camp.

It was organized by NSS Unit in collaboration address. In her address, she congratulated all the volunteers for their active participation in the camp. She not only shared her personal experiences with the volunteers but also gave a vision for the betterment of the nation.

The programme was comprised of - Report Presentation of one week long camp, Punjabi dance, Haryanavi dance,



with Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia (Department of English) and Dr. Sapna Devi (Department of Hindi) under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College.

Prof. Rupalee Jasrotia initiated the programme. The programme started with the ceremony of lightening of the tradition-

al lamp by the dignitaries. Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College gave the keynote solo song, Dogri dance, Punjabi Giddha, etc. The entire event was hosted by Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia and Dr. Sapna Devi.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Suman. Refreshment was given all the **NSS** volunteers

The faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Mohinder, Dr. Sudesh, Dr. Jogbindar Sudan, Dr. Anil, Dr. Ajay, Dr. Hilal and Dr. Sardar Bhatti.

# Awareness program on prevention of drug abuse held at GDC RS Pura



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan Committee of Government Degree College R.S.Pura in collaboration with Munsiff Court R. S. Pura organized an awareness program on the prevention of drug abuse at Government Degree College R. S. Pura which was attended by student and faculty members of the college. The welcome speech was presented by Prof. Neelam Kumari, convener Drug De- Addiction and Rehabilitation Cell. In her introductory speech, she highlighted about the various drugs and its negative impact. Advo-

cate Chandani Sudan

and PLV Parminder Kour were the resource persons of today's event.

While attracting the students Adv. Chandani emphasized on the various problems that drug addicts suffer throughout their life. She highlighted the various features and sign of addiction and appealed the students not to get indulged in any kind of drugs whether it may be smoking, alcohol or other dangerous forms

Further PLV, Parminder Kour said that drug trafficking and trading is a big challenge and most important people should be made aware about the menace. He together people could make a big difference in controlling and preventing drug

addiction.

The whole event was organized under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Rajni Bhagat( Principal of the College). While addressing the students she said that such programs play a vital role in educating students about the dangers of substance abuse, fostering a supportive environment, and empowering them to make informed decisions. The event was coordi-

nated by Prof. Neelam Kumari and the faculty members who were present in the event were Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, Dr. Rekha Rani and Sunny Kumar. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr Sunil Kumar Man-

## **SAKSHAM J&K Vice President** visits Basti Area of Bhadarwah

**Top News Report** 

BHADARWAH, Mar 20: Vice President SAKSH-AM NGO Ajit Singh Kotwal on Wednesday visited Basti area of Panchayat Nalthi of Additional District Bhadarwah where he interacted with the public and presented the points of the aims and objectives of the organ-

isation. A press release in this regard stated that Kotwal had an elaborate meeting with the senior citizens particularly Differently Abled Persons and made them aware about the statutory rights they have in the constitution of the country that confers special privileges for their inclusivity, overall welfare

and development. The release said that the participants were informed that SAKSH-AM Bharat Organisation is specifically acting as a bridge between the general public and the governmental agencies which encompasses the purpose of spreading mass awareness amongst the public especially physically challenged persons in the

society. "The main aim of this organisation is to rope in maximum population of persons with disabilities to avail different benefits Govt has provided for them including edu-



He further added, "Facilities like locomotive aids, tricycles, Awaas Yoina and 75% concession in rail fares are important aspects for covering physically challenged population". He further added that PWDs will avail themselves of the opportunities during upcoming Lok Sabha elections in which they they have been given the right to cast their votes from the comfort of their homes while adhering to the guidelines set by the election commission

said.

The locals on this occasion expressed satisfaction on the way the organisation is working

of India setting aside the

need to visit polling sta-

relentlessly for the welfare of the people(PWDs) and assured all sorts of cooperation with the NGO's nationwide mission to create a more equitable society for all individuals regardless of

"The exchange of knowledge and goodwill during my visit underscores the importance of community engagement in driving positive change. By continuing to work together and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, we can build a society where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and contribute meaningfully," he clarified adding SAKSHAM remains steadfast in its mission and with the support of communities, we are confident in our endeavour to create a more inclusive and accessible future for all

stakeholders.

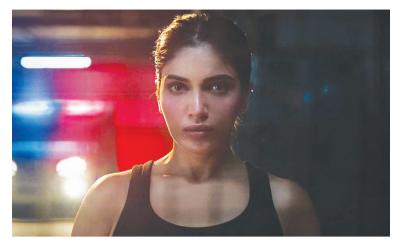
# Bhumi Pednekar making her series debut with Prime Video 'Daldal'

Actor Bhumi Pednekar will make her series debut with 'Daldal', a Prime Video thriller drama which will see her as a cop hot on the heels of a serial killer in Mumbai.

Amrit Raj Gupta of 'Gullak' fame will direct the series, based on Vish Dhamija's book 'Bhendi Bazaar'. It is produced by Abundantia Entertainment.

In 'Daldal', Pednekar plays Rita Ferreira, Mumbai's newly appointed DCP who is haunted by the guilt of her part and dealing with demons of her present.

"She must embark on an investigation of a series of murders that puts her on a collision course with a cold-blooded serial killer, even as she has to save her life from falling apart," read the official synopsis.



Pednekar, who was recently seen in crime investigative film 'Bhakshak', said she has been fortunate to feature in projects that help her push boundaries as a performer.

"I love challenges... When the

script of 'Daldal' came my way, I was thankful to the team, who thought I could do it. It is one of the most challenging parts, it's a genre that I've never done, I haven't really played in the thriller-drama space, but it has a lot of action and I've been prepping for it.

"There have been scripts that have come to me in the past where women are in uniform...

The beauty of my character is that she is complex, conflicted, and layered. It's exciting to me to be able to portray that with all my conviction," the actor said at the Prime Video Presents event.

Vikram Malhotra and Suresh Triveni serve as executive producers on the series, penned by Sreekanth Agneeaswaran, Rohan D'Souza, and Priya Saggi. Sreekanth Agneeaswaran and Rohan D'Souza are credited for the screenplay which has dialogues by Hussain Haidry.

# Rana Daggubati announces his talk show The Rana Connection



Actor Rana Daggubati is all set to come up with an exciting talk show featuring his friends and contemporaries from Indian cinema. The announcement was disclosed at a Prime Video event in Mumbai in the presence of the show's team.

The show is titled The Rana Connection. Taking to Instagram, Prime Video shared the news with fans and captioned the post, "An exciting and curiosity-piquing talk show hosted by celebrated actor Rana Daggubati, featuring his friends and contemporaries from Indian cinema. Rajeev Ranjan and Prashanth Potluri serve as producers on The Rana Connection. Rana Daggubati is a renowned name in the Telugu cinema industry. He got international recognition with his role of Bhallaladeva in Baahubali: The Beginning (2015) and Baahubali 2: The Conclusion (2017). Meanwhile, Rana will be seen in Vettaiyan, directed by TJ Gnanavelraja.

## Tamannaah remembers the time she was rejected by Boogie Woogie team

Tamannaah Bhatia, who was recently seen in the Telugu film Bhola Shankar, shared that she was rejected from Boogie Woogie, and it has been one hell of a journey for her to get to collaborate with actor Jaaved Jaaferi.

The actress attended Prime Video's slate announcement event, Prime Video Presents, with the team of her upcoming streaming title Daring Partners, which also stars Diana Penty and Jaaved Jaaferi.

Tamannaah said, "I was once rejected from Boogie Woogie. Since, then it has been a journey to share the same



platform with Javed sir, it all has come full-circle." Daring Partners follows the story of two bestfriends, who embark on a daring journey as partners in an alcohol start-up. Daring Partners will soon drop on Prime Video.

# Prime Video unveils new series 'Matka King' starring Vijay Varma

After 'Dahaad', Vijay Varma is reuniting with Prime Video for 'Matka King', a new series directed by Nagraj Manjule of 'Sairat' fame.

Filmmaker Karan Johar and Aparna Purohit, head of India Originals in India and Southeast Asia, Prime Video introduced the show at the Prime Video Presents event here.

Johar asked Varma, who played a serial killer in 'Dahaad', whether there was a secret to playing great grey roles, an acting school perhaps.

Varma, an FTII graduate, said though he has been to an acting school, he learned more on the job.

"I learnt more from the masters who worked before me like Dilip Kumar sahab, Amitabh Bachchan sahab, Shah Rukh Khan sir, Salman Khan sir. I like what Javier Bardem once said, 'I don't believe in God, I believe in



Al Pacino," the actor said.

According to the streamer, the 1960s-set 'Matka King' follows the story of an enterpris-

ing cotton trader in Mumbai who starts a new gambling game called Matka, taking the city by storm and democratising a terrain previously reserved for the rich and elite.

Manjule, who also serves as the creator of the upcoming show, has co-written its script with Abhay Koranne.

'Matka King' is backed by Roy Kapur Films, Aatpat and SMR Productions.

Siddharth Roy Kapur of Roy Kapur Films said he has been a fan of the content produced by Prime Video and he is looking forward to collaborating with the streamer.

"It's lovely to be doing a show together for the first time (with Nagraj). Since the time I saw 'Sairat', I was full blown by him (Manjule).

"Then to be able to get someone like Vijay to play the role of Matka King, he has always got fans excited. And, then to work with Abhay, who had written a wonderful script. So, it all came together," Kapur said.

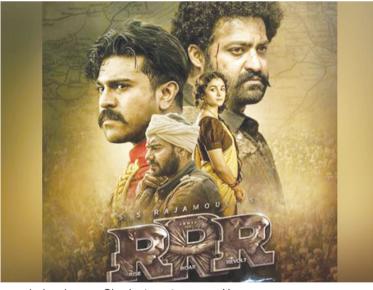
# SS Rajamouli attends 'RRR' special screening in Japan, receives gift from 83-year-old fan

Filmmaker SS Rajamouli, who attended a special screening of his blockbuster film 'RRR' in Japan, says he is grateful for the love the audience continues to shower on the movie even after almost two years of its release.

According to Japanese film distribution outlet Twin Company, the 'RRR' screenings were held on Monday at multiplex theatres Shinjuku Piccadilly Cinema and Shinjuku Wald 9 in Tokyo.

Rajamouli, who attended one of the screenings, shared a series of photos with an elderly Japanese woman who gifted him 1,000 origami cranes.

'In Japan, they make origami cranes & gift them to their loved ones for good luck & health. This 83yr old woman made 1000 of them to bless us because RRR



made her happy. She just sent the gift and was waiting outside in the cold. Some gestures can never be repaid. Just grateful,' the filmmaker captioned his post on X.

Twin Company distributed 'RRR' in Japan on October 21, 2022, months after its release in India. The film, starring Ram

Charan and Jr NTR, earned over 410 million yen (approximately Rs 23 crore) at the Japanese box office.

In an X post, the distribution studio said as Rajamouli was unable to interact with 'RRR' fans the last time he visited Japan due to infection control measures in the wake of the pandemic, they honoured his wish to watch the film with 'a cheering crowd'.

A PAN-India film, 'RRR' followed a pre-independence fictional story woven around two real-life Indian revolutionaries — Alluri Sitarama Raju (Charan) and Komaram Bheem (Jr NTR) — in the 1920s.

The film raised over Rs 1,200 crore at the global box office and went on to win the best original song Oscar for its track 'Naatu Naatu'.

# Michelle Pfeiffer to star in Oh.What.Fun



Filmmaker Michael Showalter has teamed

up with Hollywood veteran Michelle Pfeiffer for his next feature film. Written by Showalter and Chandler Baker, the film is a holiday comedy, titled Oh.What.Fun.

The project, which is backed by Amazon MGM, is based on a short story from Baker that was originally published by Amazon Original Stories.

Pfeiffer will essay the role of Claire Clauster, who organises a special Christmas outing when her family forgets her in the shuffle. By the time they realise their mistake, she's gone missing.

Their Christmas is in jeopardy, but Claire has other plans.

# Ellie Goulding feels 'sad as hell' after announcing her split with husband

English singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding has confessed that she is 'feeling sad as hell' but assured that 'tomorrow will be better', making the remarks just weeks after announcing her separation.

It was announced last month that the singer-songwriter, 37, and her husband Caspar Jopling, 32, have separated. The former couple confirmed the news in respective statements that were shared with their followers on social media. The BRIT Award winner wrote, "Solidarity to anyone else feeling sad as hell today. Tomorrow



will be better." The post comes weeks after Ellie and Caspar announced their separation. There had been rumours that the pair, who are parents to son Arthur, two, together, had split up prior to the announcement last month.

The singer said that the former couple "remain the closest of friends" and have been "co-parenting" together. Ellie said, "In light of recent stories, I feel I have been left with no choice but to let you all know that Caspar and I privately separated some time ago. We remain the closest of friends."

# Dua Lipa looks back at the time when she had her eureka moment



Singer-songwriter Dua Lipa, who recently released her album Radical Optimism, recently talked about her eureka moment. The singer shared that it was a song called Illusion, where she felt that lyrically she got the radical optimism.

Dua, in an interview, said that she felt very strong in the moment when she was writing that song. The singer said, "I felt in a stronger power of position, because I was like maybe before, I would have fallen for something like this and now I can dance with the illusion, and it's something for me too, you know? I think musically also, when Kevin and Danny came together and it was the live drums and the synths and the big music breakdown, in my head the big dance moment, when all those came together it was just a feeling."

# "Some In Politics Need To Be Launched Repeatedly": PM Modi Takes A Swipe

Prime Minister Modi was speaking at Startup Mahakumbh

NEW DELHI, Mar 20 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today took potshots at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying some in politics need to be repeatedly launched, much unlike startups that move on to other avenues in case one venture does not work out.

Without naming anyone, Prime Minister Modi, while speaking at the Startup Mahakumbh here, said many people launch startups, while the number is much more in politics. Some "have to be launched repeatedly", he said.

The startup ecosystem is experimental and moves on to a new one if a particular startup doesn't launch, he said, contrasting them with the ones in politics.

Prime Minister Modi exuded confidence of returning to power for a third term in a row and presenting a full Budget for the fiscal year starting April 1.

Businesses, in normal course, put off big events till the elections are over but the large assembly of startup entrepre-



neurs and people associated with that ecosystem at the three-day 'Mahakumbh', days after general elections were announced, is a sign of things to come, he said.

"You know what is going to happen in the next five years," he said, referring to continuity in governance under him after the April 19 to June 4 general

From less than 100 startups in 2014, India now has 1.25 lakh registered startups, and 12 lakh youth are directly associated with them, he said.

"India today is world's third largest startup ecosystem... We have over 100 unicorns," he said.

Indian startups have filed more than 12,000 patents, he said but added that still there are many who have not grasped the significance of going in for patents.

Prime Minister Modi exhorted entrepreneurs and innovators to file for patents, given the fast pace at which the world is moving.

He said there was a time when education meant getting a job, and government job meant a

"That mindset has changed," he said, citing the startup revolution sweeping the country.

Earlier, innovators with ideas would worry about funding, and it was believed that only those with financing could do business.

"The startup (culture) has broken that mindset and psych... this is how revolutions happen... The youth have opted to become job creators more than jobseekers," Modi said.

Backed by initiatives like Startup India and Standup India, the nation's youth has proven its mettle, he said.

Prime Minister Modi said his efforts have always been to unshackle and unleash a sector's potential, unlike the practices of the past where the government's approach was to hold

"Today, Indian startups are showing good work in frontiers like space. Already, our startups are launching space shuttles in such a short time," he added.

## Tamilisai Soundararajan **Rejoins BJP After Quitting** As Governor

Ms Soundararajan resigned from the BJP before assuming the office of Governor of Telangana in 2019. She was appointed Lt Governor of Puducherry in 2021.



CHENNAI, Mar 20 (Agencies): Former Telangana Governor, Tamilisai Soundararjan today rejoined the BJP in the presence of Tamil Nadu BJP President K Annamalai.

Annamalai, referring to "criticism against Tamilisai Soundararajan by Left parties and the DMK" for joining the BJP after holding the office of Governor, said persons holding exalted posts quitting office to start working again for the public as an ordinary person is possible only in the BJP.

A person belonging to a political party other than the BJP will not quit high offices. For them, being in politics is meant only to assume top positions. She functioned very

well as Governor. Quitting that position and joining politics again shows Soundararajan's love for the people.

Her joining the BJP again shows her commitment to the party; her determination that her work should also contribute to strengthening the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he assumes office for a third time in a row.

Ms Soundararajan resigned from the BJP before assuming the office of Governor of Telangana in 2019. She was appointed Lt Governor of Puducherry in

Sixty-two year old Tamilisai Soundararjan is a gynaecologist and she joined the BJP over two decades ago.

#### Two women, man injured; roof, wall of house collapse as electric motorbike battery explodes in Maharashtra's Thane

THANE. Mar 20 (Agencies): Two women and a man were injured after an electric motorbike battery exploded in a house in Thane district of Maharashtra, civic officials said on Wednesday

Due to the impact of the explosion which occurred on Tuesday night, the roof of the house and its common wall with an adjoining house collapsed, Thane Municipal Corporation's disaster management

cell chief Yasin Tadvi said.

The battery was kept in the house located at a chawl (row tenement) in Shanti Nagar locality of Kalwa area.

At around 10.30 pm, the battery exploded, the official said, adding that it was not yet known if it was kept in the house for charging purpose.

A 28-year-old woman residing in the house where the battery collapsed, and a 66-yearold man and a woman aged 56 staying in the neighbouring house were injured, he said.

Local firemen and the disaster management cell team rushed to the spot after being alerted.

The three injured persons were admitted to the civic-run Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Kalwa, the official

> A probe was on to ascertain the cause of the blast, the official

# Man Forced To Drink Urine, Lick Slipper, For **Eloping With Married Woman**

UJJAIN, Mar 20 (Agencies): A man was allegedly beaten up, forced to drink urine and wear a garland of shoes after he eloped with a married woman in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district, prompting the police to initiate

action into the incident. Some videos of the incident were seen on social media but no complaint has been filed by the man so far, police

In one of the videos, the man is seen wearing a garland of shoes and drinking a liquid,



believed to be urine, from a bottle as some people shout at him and force him to consume it. He is also seen being beaten up by the woman with whom he had allegedly eloped.

Another video showed

two boys saw that the

clothes of the accused

the man licking a slipper held in his hand and being forced to put

head. In the clips, the man is seen with half of his moustache and parts of head shaved off.

another slipper on his

Asked about it, Additional Superintendent of Police Nitesh Bhargava told reporters that they have taken cognisance of the video clips, which are three-four days old, and contacted the victim. "After the videos came

to the notice of the police, we proactively contacted the victim's home but he was not present there," he said.

"I have spoken to the victim over the phone and he will be meeting me. After verification of the accused and the place of the incident, legal action will be initiated." he said.

On the reason behind the incident, the official said it is not yet clear and will be confirmed after talking to the victim.

"We proactively contacted the victim but no complaint has been made so far," he said.

According to sources, the issue was about the man eloping with a married woman from the Banjara community of Bhilkhedi village under Bhatpachlana police station limits, some 75 km from the district headquarters.

#### 'Regret children's death more than son's encounter': Man Rapes Minor Girl, Posts Video **Father of Budaun murderer**

BUDAUN, Mar 20 (Agencies): The father and the uncle of Sajid, accused of killing two children in Uttar Pradesh's Budaun on Tuesday evening, said they regret the killing of the two children more than the encounter of their own son

Both the relatives of Sajid were detained on Wednesday.

During interrogations. the father of the accused said, "Whatever happened was very unfortunate."

"I do not regret the death of Sajid, as much as I regret the death of the two children," he

Sajid's father also said his son was at home on Tuesday and stepped out post 7 pm after he received a call.

Speaking about Sajid, his uncle said he was extremely "aggressive" and did not talk much, even to his family mem-

A man who had recently opened a barber shop in the locality entered the house and attacked three brothers -- aged 12, 8, and 10 years. While the brothers aged 12 and 8 died in the attack, the third one survived with injuries.

As per the FIR lodged



after a complaint by the children's father, Vinod Kumar, Sajid and his brother Javed reached the house at around 7 pm on Tuesday.

"Sajid told my wife Sangeeta that he needed Rs 5,000 which is required for the delivery of his wife. When my wife went inside to get the money, Sajid went to the roof of the house.

Moments later, Javed also reached the roof, and they called my two sons on the roof," read the FIR. The accused attacked

the minors with a sharp

knife. The mother of the

were drenched with blood when they came downstairs. "When my wife came

out with the money, she saw Sajid and Javed coming downstairs with a knife. Seeing my wife, they said 'I have done my work today' and tried to escape from the spot," the FIR stated.

The accused also attacked the third son, who had gone upstairs to fetch water.

Police were on the lookout for Javed and were ascertaining the motive behind the

# Online In UP's Muzaffarnagar: Police



MUZAFFARNAGAR, Mar 20 (Agencies): A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a man who posted the video of the act online, police here said today.

Circle Officer (CO) Rajkumar Sav said the accused, Waseem, allegedly raped the 16-year-old two weeks ago in a sugarcane field and made a video

According to the complaint filed by

the girl's family, Waseem threatened the girl of sharing the video on social media if she informed anyone about

"The accused had forced the girl into a sugarcane field and raped her. He also threatened the girl of dire consequences and of making the video public, if she informed anyone about the incident," the police said.

"Afraid of the threats, the girl didn't complain to anyone about the incident," Mr Sav said.

However, when the accused posted the video online on Tuesday, the girl's parents approached the police, he said.

Police have filed an FIR under Indian Penal Code Section 376 and relevant sections of the Information Technology Act. Several police teams have been formed to look for Waseem who has been on the run since Tuesday evening.

#### Telangana woman kills daughter after she refuses to marry man of her choice

HYDERABAD, Mar 20 (Agencies): A woman killed her 20-year-old daughter in Hyderabad after she refused to marry a man of her choice. A case has been registered by Rachakonda Police.

The incident happened in Ibrahimpatnam, located on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

After killing her daughter Mote Bhargavi, 20, the woman, Mote Jangamma, tried to pass it



off as suicide. However, the injuries on the woman's throat indicated that Bhargavi was strangled to death

The victim was living with her mother, father, Malliah, and brother Charan. The investigation is ongoing.

#### **Aunt Beats 2 Minor Boys To Death With** Wooden Plank In UP's Prayagraj: Cops

Family members said the accused woman was "mentally disturbed" and has since run away from home since the incident.

PRAYAGRAJ, Mar 20 (Agencies): A woman allegedly beat two of her nephews to death using a wooden plank in a village in Prayagraj, police said today.

Family members said the accused woman was "mentally disturbed" and has since run away from home since the incident.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Yamuna Nagar) Shraddha Narendra Pandey said the incident took place on Tuesday night. The accused Pooja beat her nephews, Abhi (3) and Lucky (6), to death with a wooden plank, the DCP said. Police have sent the bodies for post-mortem, the DCP added.

#### 4 killed after consuming spurious liquor in Punjab's Sangrur



CHANDIGARH, Mar 20 (Agencies): At least four people have died in Punjab's Sangrur after allegedly consuming

spurious liquor, police said on Wednesday.

The incident happened in Gujran village, which is located under

the jurisdiction of the district's Dirba police station. A probe has been

launched by the police into the incident. Further details are awaited. In a similar incident, three labourers died

after consuming spurious in Sangrur in April In August 2020, at

least 112 people died in three districts of Punjab after consuming spurious liquor manufactured by a Ludhiana-based paint shop.

# **IMF reaches staff-level agreement with Pakistan** on releasing last tranche of USD 3 billion bailout

The IMF also said that Pakistan will further increase gas and electricity prices to keep the circular debt at the agreed level in this fiscal year

ISLAMABAD/WASHING-TON, Mar 20 (Agencies): The IMF has reached a staff-level agreement with cash-strapped Pakistan on the final review of a USD 3 billion bailout, paving the way for the release of the last USD 1.1 billion tranche from the lender.

The agreement is subject to the approval of the IMF's Executive Board, the global lender

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team, led by Nathan Porter, visited Islamabad from March 14-19 to hold discussions on the second review of Pakistan's economic programme supported by an IMF.

The IMF Executive Board approved the USD 3 billion Stand-By Arrangement for Pakistan last year.

"The IMF team has reached a staff-level agreement with the Pakistani authorities on the second and final review of Paki-



stan's stabilization program supported by the IMF's US\$3 billion (SDR2,250 million) SBA," the Fund said.

"The agreement recognises the strong programme implementation by the State Bank of Pakistan and the caretaker government in recent months, as well as the new government's intentions for ongoing policy and reform efforts to move Pakistan from stabilisation to a strong and sustainable recovery," the IMF said in a statement.

Pakistan's economic and financial positions have improved in the months since the first review, the global lender said but cautioned that the economic growth

remains modest and its inflation was above the target level.

The IMF also said that Pakistan will further increase gas and electricity prices to keep the circular debt at the agreed level in this fiscal year.

"Given the timing of the Second Review mission, immediately following the formation of the new Cabinet, we expect the review to be considered by the IMF's Board in late April," the Fund said.

The IMF also announced that Pakistan has shown interest in taking a new medium-term bailout package and the discussions will begin in the coming

"The new government is committed to continue the policy efforts that started under the current SBA to entrench economic and financial stability for the remainder of this year," the Fund said.

# South Korean tanker capsizes off south-western Japan; 4 crew members rescued, 7 missing



TOKYO, Mar 20 (Agencies): A South Korean tanker capsized off an island in southwestern Japan early Wednesday, and the coast guard said it had rescued four crew members and was still searching for seven

who were missing. The coast guard said it received a distress call from the Keoyoung Sun chemical tanker, saying that it was tilting while taking refuge near Japan's Mutsure Island due to rough

weather.

The island is just off the southwestern end of Japan's Honshu main island, about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from Tokyo.

The ship later completely capsized, the coast guard said.

Footage on NHK television showed the ship completely upside down, a rough sea washing over its red underside.

The conditions of the rescued crew members were immediately not known.

NHK television reported the crew included a Chinese national, two South Koreans and eight Indonesians.

No other details, including how the ship capsized, were immediately known.

## Vapes to be banned in New Zealand in bid to prevent minors from taking up habit

retailers that sell vapes to children under 18 years of age will face fines of up 100,000 New Zealand dollars (USD 60,000), while individuals will be fined 1,000 New Zealand dollars (USD 600)

WELLINGTON, Mar 20 (Agencies): New Zealand said on Wednesday it will ban disposable e-cigarettes, or vapes, and raise financial penalties for those who sell such products to minors.

The move comes less than a month after the government repealed a unique law enacted by the previous left-leaning government to phase out tobacco smoking by imposing a lifetime ban on young people buying cigarettes.

ciate Health Minister Casev Costello said on Wednesday that e-cigarettes remain "a key smoking cessation device" and the new regulations will help pre-



vent minors from taking up the habit.

"While vaping has contributed to a significant fall in our smoking rates, the rapid rise in vouth vaping has been a real concern for parents, teachers and health professionals,"

Under the new laws. retailers that sell vapes to children under 18

Costello said.

years of age will face fines of up 100,000 New Zealand dollars (USD 60,000), while individuals will be fined 1,000 New Zealand dollars (USD 600).

> Other regulations introduced will prevent e-cigarettes from being sold with images that might appeal to young people or with enticing names

# North Korea claims progress in developing a hypersonic missile designed to strike distant US targets

SEOUL, Mar 20 (Agencies): North Korea successfully tested a solid-fuel engine for its new-type intermediaterange hypersonic missile, state media reported on Wednesday, claiming a progress in efforts to develop a more powerful, agile missile designed to strike faraway US targets in the region.

A hypersonic missile is among an array of high-tech weapons systems that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un publicly vowed to introduce in 2021 to cope with what he called deepening US hostility.

Outside experts say Kim wants a modernised weapons arsenal to wrest US concessions like sanctions relief when diplomacy resumes.

On Tuesday, Kim guided the ground jet test of the multistage solid-fuel engine for the hypersonic missile at the North's northwestern rocket launch facility, the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

It cited Kim as saving the strategic value of the new missile with an intermediate-range is as important as intercontinental ballistic missiles targeting the US mainland and that "enemies know better about it".

It said that a timetable for completing the development of the new weapons system was "set through the great success in the important test".

Intermediate-range missiles possessed or pursued by North Korea are the weapons systems primarily aimed at attacking the US Pacific territory of Guam, home to US military bases.

Those missile can also reach Alaska, and with a range adjustment they can be used to strike closer targets like US military installations in Japan's Okinawa island, experts say.

In recent years, North Korea has been pushing to develop more weapons with built-in solid propellants, which make launches harder to detect than liquidpropellant missiles that must be fuelled before liftoffs and cannot last long.

The North's pursuit of hypersonic weapons is also meant to defeat US and South Korean missile defence systems, but it's unclear the North's hypersonic vehicles proved their desired speed and maneuverability during tests in recent years, analysts say.

In January, North Korea said it flight-tested a new solid-fuel intermediate-range ballistic missile tipped with a hypersonic, maneuverable warhead, in a likely reference to the missile mentioned in Wednesday's KCNA dispatch.

In November, North Korea said it had tested engine tests for an intermedia-range missile but didn't say whether it's designed to carry a hypersonic warhead.

While the North's missile test in January was likely related to the development of its firststage rocket, this week's engine test appeared focused on the development of its second-stage rocket in part of the North's efforts to increase the weapon's flying speed, said Chang Youngkeun, a missile expert at South Korea's Research Institute for National Strategy.

Chang said the latest engine test suggests North Korea could soon test-launch the new hypersonic missile.

After short-range tests with hypersonic weapons, North Korea would want to increase their ranges with maneuverable hypersonic warheads,

Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute, said. He said the capacities of the new missile can be assessed when it's test-flighted.

On Monday, South Korea, the US and Japan said they detected the multiple ballistic missile test-launches by North Korea in what was the country's first missile firings in about a month. The North said on Tuesday it performed a live-fire drill of what it called nuclear-capable "super-large" multiple rocket launchers designed to target South Korea's capital, Seoul. South Korea's military later said it views the North Korean weapons system tested as a ballistic missile.

North Korea has been engaging in a provocative run of missile tests since 2022. The US and South Korea militaries have responded by expanding their bilateral exercises and trilateral drills involving Japan. Observers say North Korea will likely intensify its run of missile tests ahead of the US presidential election in November.

### "Putin Won't Stop If He Is Successful In Ukraine", **Says US Defence Chief**

The US Secretary of Defence said that Russia has wasted USD 211 billion and the war will cost Moscow USD 1.3 trillion.

BERLIN, Mar 20 (Agencies): Reaffirming US support for Ukraine amid the ongoing conflict with Russia, US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin warned that if Vladimir Putin is successful here, he will not stop there.

Convening the 20th meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group, Austin said that Ukraine will not back down in the face of the Russian invasion of the country, and neither will the United States, the statement from the US Department of Defence (DOD) stated.

The meeting took place at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, praising the "countries of conscience" that are working together to aid Ukraine in its

Austin and Air Force General CQ Brown, Jr, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met with representatives of more than 50 countries and organizations to channel aid, training and capabilities to Ukraine.

"For more than two years, Ukraine's forces have fought Putin's aggression with defiance and skill," the DOD quoted



Austin as saying.

"Russia has paid a staggering cost for Putin's imperial dreams. At least 315,000 Russian troops have been killed or wounded," he said addressing the event.

The US Secretary of Defence said that Russia has wasted USD 211 billion and the war will cost Moscow USD 1.3 trillion.

"Since the invasion, Russia has wasted up to USD 211 billion to equip, deploy, maintain and sustain its needless war on its neighbour," Austin said. "Putin's war of choice will cost Russia USD 1.3 trillion in previously anticipated economic growth through 2026."

He further emphasised that Ukraine has been valiantly fighting against "Kremlin's invaders" and the people of Ukraine "will not let Putin prevail."

"If Putin is successful in Ukraine, he will not stop there," Austin said. "Our allies and partners are here because they understand the stakes.'

"And Ukraine's friends continue to come up with innovative solutions to make key, new commitments to provide Ukraine with urgently needed capabilities -- especially air defence, armour and artillery ammunition."

The United States recently announced USD 300 million more in security assistance for Ukraine. This money was available due to savings in the replacement of US capabilities that have gone to Ukraine since the beginning of Russia's war on Ukraine. Austin said he believes there is a bipartisan consensus in Congress for passing a supplemental bill that will continue to fund US aid to Ukraine, the Department of Defence statement read.

This contact group meeting was the first meeting of the capability coalition leadership group. That meeting discussed progress and looked to coordinate the way ahead for crosscutting issues, the secretary

Leading this group are: Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and the United Kingdom.

# 12 miners killed in coal mine explosion in Pakistan's **Balochistan province**

KARACHI, Mar 20 (Agencies): At least 12 miners were killed and eight others rescued when a coal mine caved in following a powerful gas explosion in Pakistan's Balochistan province, officials said on Wednesday, in the latest accident to hit the resource-rich province in recent months.

The incident happened in the Zardalo area of Harnai district. the Dawn newspaper reported.

Twenty miners were inside the mine when a methane gas explosion took place overnight, the report quoted Balochistan Chief Inspector of Mines Abdul Ghani Baloch as saying.

The rescue operation was completed on Wednesday morning. The rescue teams recovered 12 bodies while the eight survivors have been taken to hospital, he said.

While two bodies were recovered during the night, the remaining 10 were retrieved early in the morning, Baloch

Abdullah Shahwani, the province's director general of mining, also confirmed the death toll, the Dawn report said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed profound sorrow and grief over the loss of lives in the accident.

According to Radio Pakistan, the Prime Minister directed that all possible medical treatment be provided to the injured miners.

Terming such incidents as "very painful and sad", he said the government would provide all possible relief to the injured and affected families.

Balochistan province contributes 50 per cent of Pakistan's coal production.

However, mine accidents, which are caused mainly due to gas buildups, are common in Pakistan. Mine workers have been complaining that a lack of safety gear and poor working conditions are the main reasons for frequent accidents.

In December last year, two coal miners were killed and three others injured when a fire broke out in a private mine in Balochistan's Duki coal field.

In September, three workers were buried under the debris of a coal mine in Sindh's Jamshoro when a mine caved in. In February the same year, three miners were killed and four others injured in two coal-mine accidents in Duki and Sharag coal fields

In 2022, six miners were killed in a gas explosion inside a coal mine in Harnai district.

# DMK releases candidate list for Lok Sabha polls; manifesto pledges to abolish NEET, NEP

CHENNAI, Mar 20 (Agencies) The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday released the list of candidates for 21 seats for the Lok Sabha elections that will see sitting MPs Kanimozhi and A Raja contesting from Thoothukudi and Nilgiris, respectively. It has allotted the remaining 18 seats to its allies--Congress, Left parties and VCK among others.

The party has fielded Kalanidhi Veeraswamy from North Chennai, Thamizhachi Thangapandian from South Chennai and Dayanidhi Maran from Central Chennai. Of the 21 names the ruling party fielded, 11 were new faces.

The party also released its manifesto for the polls, touching upon issues like the appointment of Governors and the abolition of Article 356. The manifesto promises not to implement the Citizenship Amendment



Act (CAA), the National Educational Policy (NEP) and the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state. During the meeting

held in Chennai, Chief Minister M K Stalin said the manifesto was made after taking feedback from the public all over the state. "It is not only a DMK manifesto but the people's manifesto. When the BJP came to power in 2014, they destroyed India. None

of the election promises were fulfilled. We have formed the INDIA alliance and we will form our government in 2024. In our manifesto, we have announced special schemes for TN and schemes for every district are given in this

manifesto," he added.
The manifesto also
made myriad other promises, including granting
statehood to Puducherry
and a ban on the National
appointment of a governor. It says till the office of governor is abolished, a governor of the State should be appointed in consultation with the CM

that Article 361 which provided immunity to governors against criminal proceedings will be abolished. Other key promises include making 'Thirukural' the 'national book', Indian citizenship to Sri Lankan Tamils who returned to India, Rs 1000 monthly money for women all over India and LPG will be sold for □500, petrol for □75 and diesel for □65.

According to the DMK,

the manifesto includes national issues as the party was a part of the INDIA bloc. "DMK is a regional party, at the same time we are a part of the INDIA alliance. So, our manifesto expresses the interests of both the State and the nation When we are advocating for a federal structure, then our manifesto should reflect that and it will address most of the issues of the country," DMK MP T Siva told reporters.

# BMW 620d M Sport Signature debuts in India

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: The BMW 620d M Sport Signature has been launched in India today. Locally produced at BMW Group Plant Chennai, the car is now available in the diesel variant as well and bookings can be made at all BMW India dealerships from today onwards.

The BMW 620d M Sport Signature is available at an attractive ex-showroom price of Rs 78,90,000.

Price prevailing at the time of invoicing will be applicable. Ex-showroom prices inclusive of GST (incl. compensation cess) as applicable but exclude Road Tax, Tax Collected at Source (TCS), RTO statutory taxes/fees, other local tax cess levies and insurance. Price / options are subject to change without



prior notice. For further information, contact an authorised BMW dealer.

The BMW 620d M Sport Signature is available in following metallic paintworks: Mineral White, Tanzanite Blue, Skyscraper Grey and Carbon Black, and upholstered in natural Leather 'Dakota' Cognac with exclusive stitching and piping in contrast and Black combination.

Thanks to BMW India

Financial Services, customized and flexible financial solutions are designed as per individual requirements. Customers enjoy great value and complete peace of mind with BMW 360° Finance Plan. It includes attractive monthly instalments, assured buy-back option up to five years, flexible term-end opportunities, and options to upgrade to a new BMW among other hearefits

# Army distributes stationery to students with theme 'Padhega India to Badhega India at Mendhar

**Top News Report** 

POONCH, Mar 20: Education is the most crucial tool of empowering under privileged students hailing from the Gujjar and Bakkarwal community residing in remote areas south of Pir Panjal and lift them from the existing levels of poverty and help them obtain means for growth and development for their communities.

Indian Army in pursuit of providing quality education to these under privileged sections of society, distributed Books, Stationery &



School Bags to students studying at various schools of Nakka Choti, Mendhar of Poonch District.

The aim of the initiative was to spread awareness towards Compulsory Education for all children in

the society, and provide basic educational amenities to children residing in the farthest and remotest locations. The effort of Indian Army has been highly appreciated by the

# Students of SMVDU visit Air Force Station Udhampur

**Top News Report** 

UDHAMPUR, Mar 20: Students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) embarked on an enlightening journey to the Air Force Station, Udhampur, where they were treated to a firsthand glimpse into the operations of the Indian Air Force. Organised by B. K. Bhatia, Training & Placement Officer, SMVDU and Dr. Varun Dutta, Assistant Professor at SMVDU, the visit provided students with an unparalleled opportunity to interact with Air Force personnel and witness the marvels of aviation up close. Students were also engaged in insightful interactions with Air Force personnel, delving into discussions about the roles and

responsibilities of those serving in the Air Force.

From learning about the intricacies of flight operations to understanding the rigorous training undergone by Air Force pilots, students gained invaluable insights into the life and work of these dedicated individuals.

In addition to this, they had the privilege of interacting with the Garud Commandos, the specialized force of the Indian Air Force trained for special operations.

As they engaged in discussions with these highly skilled personnel, students gained a deeper understanding of the rigorous training and unparalleled dedication required to serve in such a specialized unit.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar

expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the organizing team in orchestrating such a memorable visit. Recognizing the significance of experiential learning opportunities, Prof. Kumar emphasized the

The visit to the Air Force Station, Udhampur served not only as a source of inspiration but also as a testament to SMVDU's commitment to providing holistic education. By fostering interactions between academia and real-world practitioners, SMVDU continues to equip its students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in

their future endeavors.

importance of initiatives

that broaden students'

horizons beyond tradi-

tional classroom set-

tings.

# Apni Party's women wing deputation calls on SHO Gandhi Nagar

Test (NEET), which the

state has been vehe-

mently against. It has also

promised the abolition of

Article 356 which allowed

the Centre to dismiss a

Another interesting

mention is regarding the

state government.



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: A deputation of Apni Party's women wing leaders today called on Station House Officer (SHO) Gandhi Nagar, Inspector Sudhir Sadotra.

As per the press release, the deputation comprises Provincial Vice President of Women Wing, Neelam Gupta, and Provincial Secretary, Women Wing, Sheetal Sharma along with other traders from Aquaf Market area in Gandhi Nagar.

The deputation expressed their concern over the increasing theft incidents that have become a threat to the business community dealing with vehicle repair work/ spare parts.

On hearing the concerns of the deputation, the SHO Gandhi Nagar assured them that they will ensure routine patrolling of the market area during night to keep a check on the thieves.

#### **SSP Kishtwar visits Chatroo**

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 20: As part of this initiative, a Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting was convened at Dakbanglow Chatroo, bringing together local residents, youth representatives and respectable persons of the area.

SSP Kishtwar Shri. Abdul Qayoom-JKPS,\* conducted a series of engagements in Chatroo area aimed at enhancing community-police relations and addressing public concerns. During the meeting, participants had the opportunity to raise various issues, ranging from security matters to civil administration concerns. SSP Kishtwar, along with Dy.SP DAR

Sh. Sajjad Khan, SHO PS Chatroo Insp Vikram Singh, and other officers, listened attentively to the grievances and assured swift action on police-related matters. Additionally, the SSP underscored the importance of community vigilance in combating drug addiction, alcoholism, and anti-national activities, urging citizens to remain alert and report any suspicious behavior.

# Election Commission issues notification for first phase of Lok Sabha elections

The polling will be conducted in seven phases across the nation from April 19 to June 1. The counting of votes will be on lune 4.

#### Centre should heed demand for Ladakh's inclusion under sixth schedule, says CPI(M) leader Tarigami

empowerment," the CPI(M) leader added. Tarigami said the charter of demands of the Apex Body, Leh (ABL), and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) include safeguards under the Sixth Schedule — a constitutional provision safeguarding tribal culture as 90 per cent of the region's population is tribal, and protection of rights of land and jobs.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir stand in solidarity with Ladakh, advocating for democratic rights and constitutional assurances. We urge the government of India to recognise that these artificial lines cannot divide us and the arbitrary divisions imposed on August 5, 2019, cannot fracture our unity," he added.

The provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, were abrogated on August 5, 2019, and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

#### 'Modi Ki Chinese Guarantee', Kharge taunts PM amid agitation in Ladakh

Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram through autonomous district councils.

Kharge alleged that the Modi government wants to exploit the eco-sensitive Himalayan glaciers of Ladakh and benefit its

"crony friends" "PM Modi's (

"PM Modi's CLEAN CHIT to China after Galwan Valley, post the sacrifice of our 20 bravehearts, has emboldened the expansionist nature of China at our strategic borders (sic).

"On one hand, Modi government has put our territorial integrity and national security at risk, and on the other hand, it is attacking the Constitutional Rights of our own citizens of Ladakh," the Congress chief claimed in his post.

On the eastern Ladakh standoff, he said despite "at least 19 rounds of one-on-one talks between PM Modi and his Chinese counterpart since 2014, Modi government has failed to ensure status quo ante before 2020".

He claimed that China continues to occupy Indian territory at Depsang Plains, Hot Springs and Gogra regions.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also attacked the government over its China policy and posed questions to the prime minister.

"On June 19, 2020, at the all-party meet on China, the prime minister declared that not a single Chinese soldier had crossed over into Indian territory. However, Chinese forces continue to deny our patrols access to the strategic Depsang Plains to which we previously had unimpeded access," he

"There have been multiple instances of PLA troops kidnapping Indian citizens on Indian soil, with a BJP MP from Arunachal Pradesh also alleging that the PLA had abducted 19-year-old Miram Taron for ten days in 2022," Ramesh said on X.

During the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Itanagar, Rahul Gandhi also met the family of Tapor Pullom, who has been missing since he was abducted by the PLA in 2015, he noted.

"By giving a public clean chit to China, the prime minister has tied his own hands and failed to take action and restore the status quo after Chinese aggression.

"Was the prime minister lying to the people back then? Why have we not been more aggressive and made counter-intrusions that can hold the line and compel the FROM PAGE 1

and 2013?" he said.

When is the government declaring that restoring the pre-2020 status quo is their objective, Ramesh asked.

Chinese to withdraw fully as we did in 1986

Pointing out that India's share of imports from China before 2014 was around 11 per cent and has since then risen rapidly, averaging around 15 per cent in the last few years, Ramesh said the proportion of imports from China has swelled even as the value of these imports has increased, and it has cost our domestic industries tremendously.

"For instance, almost 30-35% of India's stainless steel MSMEs in the prime minister's home state of Gujarat have had to shut down between July and September 2023 due to the heavy influx of cheaper Chinese imports. Gujarat represents 80 per cent of the MSMEs in the sector," he said.

"This decimation of a crucial domestic industry like steel is not just an economic challenge amidst the unemployment crisis of Modi's Anyay-kaal, it is also a national security threat," Ramesh claimed.

What is the prime minister's plan to rescue the country's domestic industries from being inundated by cheap Chinese imports, he asked.

"Suspiciously, quite a few China-based or Chinese-owned firms have donated to Modi's pet project, the PMCARES Fund," he claimed.

Since 2017, China has released at least three sets of Chinese names for places in Arunachal Pradesh, Ramesh said.

"In 2023, the Chinese Government issued 'stapled' visas to wushu athletes from Arunachal Pradesh travelling to China for the World University Games. Why has the Modi Sarkar been so silent in the face of these unprovoked aggressions? Why has the Prime Minister met Xi Jinping at least 20 times since coming to office in 2014?"

to and actively succeeded in disrupting India's long-standing ties with the Maldives. China has become Maldives's largest external creditor, with an outstanding debt of about USD 1.37 billion, he pointed out. "Maldives has also deployed Turkish-

Ramesh said that China has also sought

made military drones with attack capabili-

ties to replace the Indian aerial watch. "What is the prime minister's plan to salvage India's strategic position against Chinese interference in its own neighbourhood?" he said and asked the prime minister to break his silence on these issues.

#### Sikhs in Kashmir announce formation of Gurdwara Co-Ordination committee

status for Sikh-inhabited areas of Kashmir, special job packages for Sikh youngsters and political reservation for the community, said Jaspal Singh, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee's chief in Srinagar, said in a statement.

The other objectives include implementation of Punjabi language in schools and heritage status for gurdwaras in Amira Kadal and Maharajganj.

#### CA exam dates rescheduled in view of 18th Lok Sabha Polls: ICAI

May 3, 5 and 9. Earlier, the exam was scheduled on May 3, 5 and 7. For Group 2, the intermediate course exam will be held on May 11, 15 and 17. Earlier, the exam was planned on May 9, 11 and 13.

For the final exams, the ICAI has announced May 2, 4 and 8 for Group 1 which was earlier scheduled on May 2, 4 and 6. For the Group 2, the exam will be held on May 10, 14 and 16 which was earlier supposed to be conducted on May 8, 10 and 12. The decision to revise the exam timetable was taken after the Election Commission on Saturday announced the schedule of elections for the 18th Lok Sabha in April – June 2024. Polling for 543 Lok Sabha seats will be held in seven phases, starting with 102 in the first phase on April 19. The votes will be counted on June 4.

"It may further be noted that there would be no change in the examination schedule in the event of any day of the examination schedule mentioned above, being declared a public holiday by the Central Government or any State Government/Local Authority," the ICAI said.

#### Widespread light to moderate rain over J&K during next 24 Hrs: MeT

period

The MeT said the weather will generally remain dry on March 23, while it will turn generally cloudy with light rain and snow at a few places over Jammu and Kashmir on March 24, while light rain and snow at a few places on March 27 and 28.

The weather is pleasant, with a bright sun shining on Wednesday in Kashmir Valley amid the spring season and buds on flower trees blossoming in various parks and gardens.

The night temperature improved further at most of the stations but remained below normal, while the day temperature recorded 5-8°C above normal in Kashmir Valley on the previous day.

Srinagar recorded a low of 4.2°C against 2.2 °C recorded during the intervening nights of Tuesday and Wednesday. It was still 0.5°C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway had a low of 2.4°C, and the picnic spot of Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of 4.0°C on Wednesday.

Pahalgam remained the coldest place in the Kashmir Valley, with a low of -1.1°C against the -0.9°C recorded a day ago. It was 1.2°C below normal for the famous tourist hot spot of south Kashmir.

The night temperature improved at Gulmarg and settled at -0.8°C against -1.0°C the previous night, and it was 1.3°C above normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday.

Kupwara recorded a low of 1.9°C against the 1.5°C on the previous night. It was 1.2°C below normal for the frontier Kashmir district on Wednesday, the MeT office

# **One new electric car every 4 months: Jindals'** aggressive plans after MG Motor India takeover

(Agencies): One new car, mainly electric, every three to six months, starting this September. Premiumisation. localisation and an aggressive roadmap to capture one-fourth of India's nascent new energy car market before the decade is out. Jindals announced their takeover of MG Motor's India business with a a slew of big ticket announcements on Wednesday

"Not only for India but exported to global markets," said Sajjan Jindal, chairman of Jindal Steel "That is my passion, that is my dream.

He called it the 'Maruti moment' for India's new energy and electric vehicle segment, pointing to how the market leader's launch of a small car in the early '80s energised India's dormant automobile sector, now the third largest in the world.

"We can give the Indian



consumer what they want — world class cars at affordable prices," said Jindal.

Production capacity will be increased from the current 1 lakh to 3 lakh cars a year.

JSW becomes the majority shareholder of MG in India after taking over the stakes of Chi-

nese owner SAIC, which was forced to dilute its majority stake after India's string of de-Chinaisation rule amendments following 2020's Ladakh

JSW-MG Motor India. "I really believe in India," he said, adding the company will go for deep

clashes. The com-

pany will now be called

localisation in technology and parts

MG under JSW intends to bring in hybrid plugins to alleviate the fundamental range anxiety that EVs have in consumer's minds. JSW officials said that soon enough, charging points will become as commonplace as PCO booths used to be at one

Parth Jindal added that

the company intend to have one third of all electric cars in India by the close of this decade

"We always had dreams of building a car," said Parth. "When new technology came in 2016-17, we thought, this is our opportunity," Sajjan Jindal reminisced.

MG Motor India is already, as CEO Emeritus Rajeev Chaba put it, "nation's fastest growing" car maker in less than a decade, with hit models like Hector and Aster, as well as a reputation for internet technologies and its push for electric cars.

MG India's Chinese parent SAIC is a biggie by itself, selling 50 lakh cars last year, a quarter of them electric. The giant is also into insurance, e-commerce, battery making and even ride rental.

# Bharti Hexacom gets Sebi's approval to float IPO

NEW DELHI, Mar 20 (Agencies): Bharti Airtel's arm Bharti Hexacom has received capital markets regulator Sebi's nod to mobilise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO will not have any fresh issuance of equity shares, and since it is an offer for sale or OFS, Bharti Hexacom will not receive any proceeds from the issue.

Under the OFS, 10 crore equity shares will be offloaded by Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. The offer represents 20 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital of Bharti Hexacom.

Bharti Hexacom, which filed draft papers with the markets regulator in January, obtained its observation letter on March 11, an update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed on



Tuesday.

In Sebi's parlance, obtaining the observation letter means its go-ahead to float the public issue.

Bharti Hexacom provides telecommunication services in Rajasthan and the Northeast.

According to the company's website, Bharti Airtel holds 70 per cent of the equity share capital of the company and the government through Telecommunications Consultants India holds 30 per

It is among the top global mobile operators in terms of number of customers and India's largest integrated communications solutions provider in terms of consolidated operating revenue as of fiscal 2023.

SBI Capital Markets Ltd, Axis Capital, BOB Capital Markets, ICICI Securities and IIFL Securities are the book-running lead managers to the issue.

The company's shares are proposed to be listed on the BSE and NSE.

## 'Casteist': Outrage over 'Pure Veg Fleet' puts Zomato on damage control mode

NEW DELHI, Mar 20 (Agencies): With widespread outrage on social media over the launch of the "Pure Veg Mode", Zomato said it will retain the red dress code for its new fleet instead of green.

CEO Deepinder Goyal on Wednesday clarified that all its delivery partners will continue to wear red a day after he hinted that the company may "roll it back in a heartbeat" if there are negative social repercussions.

Trying to clear the air, Goyal took to X, saying Zomato's regular fleet may be barred by some

societies and RWAs. "There's an opinion that some societies and RWAs will now not let our regular fleet in. We will stay alert for any such cases and work with these RWAs to not

let this happen. "We understand our social responsibility due to this change, and we will not back down from solving it when the need

arises," he said "Please note that this Pure Veg Mode, or the Pure Vea Fleet doesn't serve or alienate any religious, or political prefer-



introduced its "Pure Veg Fleet", Goyal said, "But why did we need to separate the fleets? Because despite everyone's best efforts, sometimes the food spills into the delivery boxes. In those cases, the smell of the previous order travels to the next order, and may lead to the next order smelling of the previous order. For this reason, we had to separate the fleet for veg orders.

He clarified that delivery partners in the veg fleet will not be decided on their dietary preferences.

"I would like to repeat that this feature strictly

serves a dietary preference," he added. **Explaining why Zomato** ence. And I know there are a lot of customers who would never order food from a restaurant which serves meat, irrespective of their religion/

> caste," Goyal said. "And I promise, that if we see any significant negative social repercussions of this change, we will roll it back in a heartbeat," Goyal said.

However, many on social media pointed out that Zomato's new fleet can result in discrimination based on religion. "There have been multiple instances of people rejecting food deliveries because the delivery agent was a Muslim.

The argument used by them was also 'we didn't want our food purity to be tarnished'. I won't be surprised if 'pure veg' Zomato initiative lead to more discrimination." Fatima Khan, a journalist,

zomato

posted on X. Dalit activist Shalin Maria Lawrence said, "Deleting the App. I will never use Zomato again. This is Casteist and criminal. Hope someone files

a case on them". Another user, Mini Nair, posted, "'Only Zomato green-fleets are allowed entry.' Soon this will be written across many places in India. @deepigoval gives another reason to divide us.'

# Tata Chemicals shares tumble over 9.3% amid F&O ban lift and fading IPO outlook

(Agencies) Shares of Tata Chemicals tumbled more than 9.3 per cent on Wednesday morning after it was removed from list of stocks banned from trading in the futures and options (F&O) sector. The stock touched the intraday low of Rs 1021.80 per share around 10.55 am on Wednesday.

According to CNBC-TV18, exit from the F&O ban will help create new positions in the company's stock and it was impossible during the ban period. A stock is prohibited in the F&O sector when it exceeds 95 per cent of the market wide positions limit (MWPL) and the ban is reversed when the open interest falls below 80 per cent.

The Tata Group stock had seen a hike of more than 40 per cent in March first week amid reports that Tata Sons may opt for IPO in 2025 in adherence with RBI's upper layer NBFC norms. As per RBI rules, an upper layer NBFC will have to list within three of being notified and Tata Sons



was notified in September 2022.

For the unversed, Tata Sons holds around 80 per cent of the market valaution of Tata Chemicals and company could be the primary means for Tata Sons to tap into the potential value unlock-

However, reports in the second week of March hinted that Tata Sons is unlikely to enter the primary market in the near future. This caused Tata Chemicals stock to plunge by 10 per cent as the excitement surrounding the potential IPO was dampened.

In order to avoid the potential IPO, Tata Sons is reportedly mulling to restructure its balance sheet by paring debts and transferring holdings to another entity. This could help Tata Sons deregister as an upper layer NBFC, thereby skirting the compliance to enter the primary market, reported

With the chances of a Tata Sons public issue becoming unlikely, Tata Chemicals, which would be largest beneficiary of the IPO is set to lose out on the potential value, causing the shares to plummet.

As part of its move to pare debts, Tata Sons on Tuesday sold a minority stake in Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for nearly Rs 9.000 crore. Other than TCS, Tata Group stocks were mostly in the red on Wednesday with Tata Motors shares tanking up to 3.7 per cent.

# Vape pens heighten risk of periodontal disease

(Agencies): On this World Oral Health Day, March 20, the focus shifts to the alarming impact of vape pens on oral health.

Developed in 2003, e-cigarettes or vape pens were initially touted as devices that could help give up smoking. There is however mounting research that not only can vape pens be as addictive as normal cigarettes. they contain nicotine and other harmful chemicals such as marijuana. Long term effects include lung damage, asthma and cardio-vascular diseases:

#### Why are e-cigarettes (vape pens) a cause of concern?

Their rise has sparked concerns among healthcare professionals worldwide. Initially marketed as a safer alternative to traditional tobacco smoking, vape pens have gained popularity, particularly among young adolescents and adults. However, recent studies suggest that the perceived lower risk associated with vaping compared to smoking may not hold true. A study published in 2019 that reviewed trends in risk perception of vaping versus smoking cigarettes from 2012 to 2017 revealed shifting attitudes towards the safety of e-cigarettes.



While many users believe vaping poses fewer health risks than traditional smoking, emerging evidence points to potential harm, particularly concerning periodontal (gum) health.

#### How do vape pens harm the mouth?

Vape pens alter the biofilm (microorganisms growing on the surface) in the oral cavity, leading to an increase in certain inflammatory biomarkers (signs of normal or abnormal change/progress) such as interleukin  $(IL-\beta)$  and IL-8. These alterations contribute to inflammation of the gum (gingival inflammation), bleeding on probing, and deterioration of periodontal health. Additionally, the use of e-cigarettes has been linked to a decrease in saliva's antioxidant capacity, comparable to the effects of smoking traditional cigarettes. Use of e-cigarettes can also lead to dry mouth or reduced salivary secretions, also known as xerostomia which increases, the risk of dental caries.

#### What are the inherent risks in vape pen composition?

One of the significant complications is the risk of malfunction, including spontaneous failures and explosions within the oral cavity, resulting in severe injuries to both hard and soft tissues. Moreover, the presence of metals and metalloids in vape aerosols raises concerns due to their serious health effects, including cancer and cardiovascular dis-What about the liquid

#### used in these pens?

These liquids, com-

monly referred to as vaping juice, contain solvents such as propylene glycol (PG) and vegetable glycerin (VG), which are known airway irritants. High concentrations of nicotine in e-liquids pose toxicity risks, especially to children and adults upon exposure through inhalation, dermal (skin) contact, or ingestion. The addition of various flavors to e-liquids may also contribute to tooth discoloration, highlighting additional concerns for oral health.

#### Some tips for maintaining oral health in light of growing e-cigarette use?

Dental professionals play a crucial role in educating patients about the detrimental effects of vaping on oral health. Through regular dental check-ups dentists can raise awareness about the risks associated with e-cigarette use, particularly regarding periodontal disease. Teaching patients about the impact of vaping on gingival inflammation, dental caries (chronic infection), and other oral health issues should be integrated into preventive care strategies for patients of all age groups. Dental health professionals must incorporate discussions about e-cigarette use into routine patient assessments to gather valuable information to tailor preventive strategies and educate patients effectively.

#### How do vape pens compare with traditional cigarettes?

Recent investigations have highlighted the adverse effects of vaping on periodontal health. Studies have shown that smokers who switched to vaping experienced a significant increase in gingival inflammation within a short period. While vape pen users may exhibit fewer oral symptoms compared to traditional cigarette smokers, they are still prone to oral mucosal lesions (damage of tissue), black tongue, burns, nicotine stomatitis (inflammation of salivary glands), and hairy

Long-term use of vape pens has been associated with deteriorating periodontal health, gingival diseases, and marginal alveolar (part of jaws from where teeth arise) bone loss. Although vape pen users may experience relatively less destruction of periodontal tissues compared to smokers. the overall impact on oral health warrants further investigation through comprehensive, long-

term studies.

### Sensex, Nifty rebound in early trade on rally in global equities, foreign fund inflows



MUMBAI, Mar 20 (Agencies) Benchmark equity indices rebounded in early trade on Wednesday after a sharp decline in the previous trade amid a rally in global markets and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded 237.36 points to 72,249.41 in early trade. The NSE Nifty climbed 74.25 points to 21,891.70.

From the Sensex basket, Maruti, Power Grid, Nestle, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, and Wipro were the major gainers. JSW Steel, Tata Steel,

Hindustan Unilever, and Tata Motors were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai, and Hong Kong were trading in positive territory. Wall Street ended with gains on Tuesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,421.48 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said in his pre-opening market comment that this Wednesday morning brings optimism with positive catalysts such as

FII's buying activity and favorable Wall Street performance

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.17 per cent to USD 87.23 a barrel. "Fed's rate decision, more importantly, the Fed commentary tonight, will decide the trend in the mother market US," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

The 30-share BSE benchmark tanked 736.37 points or 1.01 per cent to settle at 72,012.05 on Tuesday. The NSE Nifty slumped 238.25 points or 1.08 per cent to finish at 21,817.45

# "Runs Will Be Leaked": Sunil Gavaskar's Major 'Weakness' Warning For Hardik Pandya's Mumbai Indians

The Mumbai Indians will be led by Hardik Pandya in the IPL 2024

MUMBAI, Mar 20 (Agencies): For Mumbai Indians, the buildup of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024, has been all about the captaincy change. From Rohit Sharma to Hardik Pandya, that's the one big shift that everybody is talking about. But beyond that too, there are pressing concerns for the fivetime champions. Senior batter Suryakumar Yadav is reportedly out of the first match of the franchise in IPL 2024 due to an injury. Former Indian cricket team captain Sunil Gavaskar has raised another concern.

According to the batting great, their death over bowling is an apparent 'weakness' for the Pandya-led MI. "Death over bowling. Bumrah is there but maybe from the other side runs will be leaked. So this I think is a weakness in the Mumbai Indians side," Sunil Gavaskar said on Star Sports.

However, he added that given MI's batting line-up, their bowl-



ers will get extra cushion.

Mumbai Indians skipper
Hardik Pandya on Monday said
his predecessor Rohit Sharma
will continue to be a guiding
force for him during the IPL
despite the unexpected change
of leadership that the franchise
announced ahead of the upcoming season, triggering a "backlash" from the fans.

Pandya, who led Gujarat Titans in the past two seasons,

is back at Mumbai Indians as captain for the 2024 edition. Having led Mumbai Indians to five titles, Rohit was surprisingly replaced by Pandya going into the upcoming season.

"It will not be any different, he will always be there to help me. You mentioned that he is the captain of the Indian team, which helps me because this team, what it has achieved, it has achieved under him "...from now onwards, it is (about) what he has achieved, I just have to carry forward that," Pandya said at a media interaction here.

"I don't think it will be any awkward or any different. It will be nice feeling because we have been playing for 10 years. I have played my whole career under him and he is going to have his hand on my shoulder throughout the season," he added.

Pandya admitted his move of leaving the Gujarat Titans' captaincy and replacing Rohit at the helm in Mumbai Indians did upset a section of fans.

"The backlash...To be very honest we respect fans but at the same time, we focus on the sport and what is required. I focus on the controllables and I do not focus on what I cannot control," Pandya said.

"At the same time, we are very grateful to fans. A lot of fame and love comes from them and they have every right and I respect their opinion," he added.

#### IPL to get smarter, introduce new system to help TV umpires



MUMBAI, Mar 20 (Agencies): A smart replay system will be introduced in the upcoming IPL to bolster speed and accuracy in decision-making.

The TV umpire will get inputs directly from two operators of the Hawk-Eye system who will sit in the same room as him and help with images captured from eight hispeed cameras placed

across the ground, according to a report.

Under the new system, the role of the TV broadcast director becomes redundant who serves as a 'conduit' between the umpire and the Hawk-Eye operators.

The new system will enable the TV umpire to analyse more visuals than before, including split-screen images, and will also broadcast live

his interactions with the Hawk-Eye operators so that the viewers have a clear understanding of the thought process.

The system will be able to help the umpire with more and clear visuals from different angles when it comes to judging catches near boundary ropes, caught behind, leg-before, stumping or even those catches which are taken inches off the turf.

The BCCI recently conducted a two-day workshop here for select umpires as about 15 of them, comprising both Indian and overseas umpires, would work with the Smart Replay System in this IPL. A similar referral system was trialled by the England and Wales Cricket Board in The Hundred competition.

# Here is what Pakistan Super League prize money is as compared to WPL and IPL



CHANDIGARH, Mar 20 (Agencies): The Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2024 concluded with Islamabad United winning the title for the 'record' third time in the

league's history.
Recently, Women's
Premier League (WPL)
2024 title was won by
Royal Challengers Bangalore for the first time.
Indian Premier League
(IPL) will start on March

Islamabad United

earned a prize money of 14,00,00,000 Pakistani rupees, which is close to Rs 4.13 crore, and the runners-up Multan Sultans won Rs PKR 5,60,00,000 (Rs 1.65

In the WPL 2024, RCB were given a prize money of Rs 6 crore for winning the title while the Delhi Capitals, the runners-up in WPL 2024, earned Rs 3 crore as prize money.

as prize money.

In IPL 2023, the win-

ners Chennai Super Kings got Rs 20 crore, while the runners-up Gujarat Titans Rs 13 crore.

In WPL 2024, the winners Royal Challengers Bangalore won Rs 6 crore, and runnersup Delhi Capitals Rs 3 crore

While in PSL 2024, the winners Islamabad United fetched Rs 4.13 crore and runners-up Multan Sultans Rs 1.65 crore.

### "Don't Call Me That Word": Embarrassed Virat Kohli's Plea to RCB Fans

Indian cricket team star batter Virat Kohli received a rousing ovation from the fans during the RCB Unbox event at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

BENGALURU, Mar 20 (Agencies): Indian cricket team star batter Virat Kohli received a rousing ovation from the fans during the RCB Unbox event at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Tuesday ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. Kohli has been a part of the Royal Challengers Bangalore franchise since the first IPL season back in 2008 and over the years, the fans honoured him with the nickname 'King Kohli'. However, during the event, Kohli asked the host Danish Sait and the fans to not call him 'king' as he feels embarrassed every time he hears it and even revealed a conversation with Faf du Plessis about the topic.

"We need to get to Chennai pretty quickly tonight. We have a charter flight, so we don't have much time."

"Firstly, you need to stop calling me that word (King). Please call me Virat. Don't call me that word (king), I was just telling



Faf du Plessis that I feel embarrassed every year when you call me that word. So just call me Virat, please, from now on, don't use that word, it's very embar-

rassing for me," Kohli said.

Kohli hoped to emulate the
Royal Challengers Bengaluru
women's WPL winning feat and

add the IPL trophy to the team's cabinet in the upcoming edition of the league, starting from March 22.

The Royal Challengers defeated Delhi Capitals on Sunday to clinch the Women's Premier League in the second edition itself, but their male counter-

parts have been waiting for the title-winning moment for the last 16 years.

"It was absolutely amazing. When they won it (WPL), we were watching. Hopefully, we can double it up with the trophies and that will be something truly special," said Kohli during the RCB Unbox event.

Kohli, who will start his 17th season with the RCB in IPL 2024, said he would bank on his skillsets and experience to translate the dream of winning the IPL trophy into reality this year.

"That's a dream of mine to know what it feels like winning an IPL trophy. I will be here, be a part of the team that wins the trophy for the first time. "I will try my very best with my abilities, my experience to be able to do that for the fans and the franchise," said the former captain of RCB.

# Spurs ace Son back on road to World Cup after turbulent Asian Cup

HONG KONG, Mar 20 (Agencies): Son Heung-min and South Korea must move on from their turbulent Asian Cup when they return to World Cup qualifying Thursday, while Japan face North Korea in a double-header that sees them travel to Pyongyang.

Asian football is back on the road to the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico, a month after Qatar retained the continental crown on home soil with a 3-1 victory over Jordan.

Much has happened since South Korea were dumped out 2-0 by unfancied Jordan in the semi-finals of the Asian Cup, including the sacking of coach Jurgen Klinsmann.

It emerged that skipper Son and Paris Saint-Germain attacking midfielder Lee Kangin had been involved in a fracas on the eve of the match, leaving the Tottenham attacker with a dislocated finger.

Legendary German striker Klinsmann was dismissed after having promised to take South Korea to their first Asian title in 64 years. He was replaced on an interim basis by Hwang Sun-

Son and Lee have since made up, and Hwang included the duo in his squad for the home game with Thailand on Thursday and the return fixture five days later.



"Lee Kang-in wanted an opportunity to apologise to fans and his team-mates from the bottom of his heart, and Son Heung-min said we should all embrace Kang-in and move forward," Hwang, South Korea's under-23 coach, said.

"Based on my experience as a national team player, I think issues like this can end up making the team even tighter," he added.

Before Klinsmann's departure, South Korea thrashed Singapore 5-0 and won 3-0 in China to top Group C and will be fully expected to collect six more points against Thailand.

Japan are also eager to move on from the Asian Cup, where

they went out 2-1 to Iran in the quarter-finals and never justified their tag as pre-tournament favourites.

Hajime Moriyasu remained coach despite the disappointment and Japan face two matches against North Korea, travelling into the unknown on March 26 when they play at Kim II-sung Stadium in Pyongyang.

Moriyasu will have to make do without Brighton winger Kaoru Mitoma, who looks set to miss the rest of the Premier League season with a back injury.

Winger Junya Ito has been left out of the squad after an allegation of sexual assault. He denies the claim and is suing for 200 million yen (\$1.3 million) in

damages.

Japan have a perfect six points from two games with 10 goals scored and none conceded

Qatar skipper bows out China's Asian Cup was also a letdown, bundled out in the group stage with two points and

no goals.
The Croatian coach Branko Ivankovic took over from Aleksandar Jankovic and China travel to Singapore for his first game in charge.

Of the Asian Cup finalists, Qatar will be expected to make it four wins from four in Group A when they play Kuwait home and away.

They will do it without Hassan Al-Haydos, who captained them to a second Asian Cup crown in a row last month but retired at the weekend from international duty aged 33.

He made a record 183 appearances for his country, scoring 41 goals.

While Qatar are on course for the next round of World Cup qualifying, Asian Cup runners-up Jordan sit third behind Roberto Mancini's Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan in Group G on an areit from two metabos.

one point from two matches.
With only the top two progressing, Jordan need to pick up six points in back-to-back games against basement side Pakistan.

# Jasprit Bumrah needs rest due to bowling action: Glenn McGrath



CHENNAI, Mar 20 (Agencies): Jasprit Bumrah needs an "off-season" since his bowling action with an "extensive effort" could result in ace India pacer suffering further injuries, warned legendary Australian pacer Glenn McGrath here.

Bumrah spent a lengthy period on the sidelines after undergoing a surgery for back stress fracture in March 2023, while being already out of action since September 2022. In between, he also missed the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia as well as last year's IPL.

"The last two strides that he takes, he just powers into the crease. Thus, his momentum increases, and that's where he gets the pace," McGrath said.

"Someone like Bumrah needs an off-season because he puts so much into every ball. With so much extensive effort, he needs a break. If he keeps playing, the amount of pressure created given the bowling action he has, he is bound to get injured, which he has in the past," he added.

Meanwhile, McGrath backed Australian quicks Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins, two of the costliest players in IPL auction history, to not get bogged down by the price tag.

# Health Talk organised by BVP Shivalik Branch

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: In an effort to promote comprehensive wellness and inspire individuals to embrace a holistic approach to health, Bharat Vikas Parishad Shivalik Branch proudly organised a transformative health talk: "Holistic Approach Towards Health and Wellbeing" in collaboration with Panch Mandir Trust at Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat, Jammu

Ashok Khajuria Secretary in a press release said that this enlightening event aimed to empower attendees with valuable insights and practical strategies to enhance their physical, mental, and emotional health.

Renowned expert in the field Dr. Gaurav Vaid, Consultant Physiotherapist, Chiropractor and Osteopath, shared his expertise, guiding participants on a journey towards optimal wellbeing. It is a matter of pride that Dr. Gaurav Vaid had



recently participated

International Conference and presented papers in on this subject.

Dr. Vaid in his address covered diverse range of topics, including, understanding the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit, integrating nutrition, exercise, and mindfulness for holistic wellness, harnessing the power of alternative therapies and natural remedies, cultivating resilience and

managing stress effec-

tively, fostering healthy

relationships and com-

munity connections.

Audience from different walks of life was engaged in interactive discussions, and actionable tips to incorporate holistic practices into their daily lives. Whether seeking to improve vitality, reduce stress, or achieve a greater sense of balance, this event offered something for everyone committed to holistic wellbeing.

"We believe that true health encompasses more than just the absence of illness - it involves nurturing every aspect of our being,

Guest of the event.

H.C. Vaid, President Shivalik Branch said that our goal is to inspire individuals to embrace a holistic approach to health, empowering them to thrive and live life to the fullest. Bharat Vikas Parishad is dedicated to promoting health and wellbeing through education, advocacy, and community engagement. We believe in empowering individuals to take charge of their health journey and thrive in all aspects of life, he further added.

Ashok Khajuria, Secretary, Shivalik Branch conducted the whole program and welcomed all the dignitaries. Vijay Sharma, Media Head presented the vote of thanks.

T.R. Soi, Patron BVP, Ashok Gupta, Vice President, Prant, Rakesh Sharma, Treasurer, Shivalik Branch and many more office bearers, members and general public graced the occasion.

# **J&K Police Mountain Rescue** Team imparts training to NDRF personnel



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: Jammu & Kashmir Police which has always played its pivotal role not only in containing insurgency and maintenance of Law & Order all across the UT of J&K but has also been busy on other police works whether it is dealing crime, traffic management, providing security to VIP's, protection of vital installation, etc and last but not least disaster management, be it the deadly earthquake of 2005 or the devastating floods of 2014. J& K Police has been ready to move force during call of duty.

The J&K Police Mountain Rescue Team has proved its metal during various rescue operations notably during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) duties by saving the lives

of a number of devotees. In its latest Venture J&K Police Mountain Rescue team is imparting training to 40 Personnel of NDRF of 13Bn at Nud Samba under the guidance of Insp. Ram Singh Incharge MRT J&K Police.

1st batch of 40 NDRF personnel are being imparted 15 days specialized training from 15th March 2024 and various aspects of training are imparted to the trainees which include mountain climbing, rescue & search operations along with live demonstrations, rescue of civilians trapped in avalanches and other natural

The personnel are also being trained in Basic Life Support System (BLS) protection, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and other first aid techniques.

# GDC Kathua organises Interactive | GDC Udhampur opens CUET Facilitation cum **Career Counselling**

**Top News Report** 

KATHUA, Mar 20: Department of Commerce, Government Degree College (Boys) Kathua organised an Interactive Career Counselling and Student Development Program under the patronage of worthy principal Prof. Seema Mir on Wednesday. The session was conducted in collaboration with Get Online College (GoC), College Career 360 and Shoolini University

The program started with the formal welcome address by Prof. Charandeep Handa, Head, Department of Commerce. The main speaker for the session was Divay Mahajan. regional head, Shoolini University, an expert in the field of online education and career counsel-

The session primarily delved into exploring the myriad career opportunities available in higher



education, with a specific emphasis on the domain of online education. A large number of students participated in the event

The session commenced by addressing the significance of opting for online education in today's fast-paced world. Mr. Mahajan highlighted the flexibility, accessibility, and convenience offered by online learning platforms. Participants were enlightened about the numerous benefits associated with online education, such as self-paced learn-

ing, cost-effectiveness, and the opportunity to acquire new skills. He also addressed the doubts and queries of the students pertaining to the validation and credibility of online degrees. Additionally, the session shed light on the diverse admission processes, various examination modes prevalent in online education, guiding the students on how to navigate through these procedures effectively.

Prof. Seema Mir, principal of the college lauded the efforts of the department for providing such

opportunities to the students for their career advancement. Overall, the career counselling session proved to be an enlightening and informative experience for all students, equipping them with valuable knowledge and insights to make well-informed decisions regarding their educational and career pursuits.

The proceedings of the program were conducted by CA (Dr.) Rahul Gupta while formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Pinkey of commerce department.

# **Counseling Cell for UG students**

**Top News Report** 

UDHAMPUR, Mar 20: In a bid to provide hassle free experience of the forthcoming centralized admission for the NEP session 2024-25, the College under the leadership of Principal Prof.(Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, has opened a Facilitation cum Counseling Cell for all undergraduate students, who are desirous to seek admission to the Programs (FYUGP) offered by the University of Jammu at its affiliated Colleges for the Academic Session 2024-25, which shall be done purely on the basis of Common University Entrance Test (CUET).

In this regard a special orientation program was organized today in the college. The whole program was convened under the guidance of Principal, Prof (Dr) The program commenced with the formal welcome address pre-



sented by Prof Sanjeev Kumar, Head Department of Urdu, who also apprised all about the importance and objectives of the Cell. Prof (Dr) Romesh

Kumar Gupta in his address said that the cell will provide support and assistance to students, helping them to choose their subjects according to their interests as it will lead to improve academic achievement, personal development and overall well-being. He further said that the cell will offer emotional and psychological support to the students that would help them in resolving est. He also added that the cell will help in tailoring counselling sessions to tackle issues such as academic stress and career choices. It will also help in directing individuals to appropriate resources or professionals for further assistance if needed. The cell will promote mental wellbeing by educating individuals about coping mechanisms and stress management techniques. He instructed all the members involved in the facilitation cum counseling cell to gear up and prepare aptly for a totally

hassle-free.

It is pertinent to mention that the Counselling and facilitation committee has been constituted with several faculty members including Prof Verinder Singh, Dr Bandana Mazal, Prof Bhanu Priya, Prof Sanjeev Kumar, Prof Anoksha Sharma, Dr Jasmeet Kour and Prof Rajesh Singh Manhas.

The orientation program concluded with Dr Jasmeet Kour delivering concluding remarks, and Prof Rajesh Singh Manhas, tendered the formal vote of thanks The event's proceedings were conducted by Dr Bandana Mazal

## Five-Day Skill Development Programme on 'Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning' concluded at SMVDU



**Top News Report** 

KATRA, Mar 20: The valedictory session and closing ceremony of the Five-Day Skill Development Programme on Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning concluded successfully at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University,

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Chief Guest, Dr. Govind Prasad Gupta from NIT Raipur and Guest of Honor, Dr. Abhishek

Dr. Manoj Kumar Gupta,

the insightful and enriching five-day journey. Distinguished speakers from various renowned institutions shared their expertise, and enriching experience during the event, including Dr. Shitala Prasad from IIT Goa, Dr. Vipin Pal from NSUT, Dr. Yogita from NIT Kurukshetra, Dr. Karan Singh from JNU, Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav from NIT Srinagar, Shakti Shandilya, Vice President

SIMPLY ASK Canada,

Dr. Yamuna Prasad from

IIT Jammu, Dr. Abhishek

Co-coordinator of the

programme, summarized

Gupta from CSIR, and Dr. Govind from NIT Raipur.

The organizing committee including Dr. Pooja Sharma and Manoj Kumar along with guest speakers distributed certificates to the participants and the organizing committee members, acknowledging their dedication and hard work and expressed sincere thanks to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Registrar, Ajay Kumar Sharma and Deptt. Of Higher Education, Govt. of UT J&K for giving such opportunities at such platforms which would certainly help to imbibe our young minds with startup and entrepreneurship skills development.

The success of the event was also attributed to the diligent efforts of the student coordinators: Subhag Sharma, Tushar Taggar, Rajat Godara, Achyut, Hridyanshu, Vanshika, Rudraksh, and Mihika.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Subhag Sharma, expressing gratitude to all participants, guests, and volunteers who contributed to making the programme a resounding success.

#### **Army organises** motivational lecture to join **Armed Forces** at Kandi

**Top News Report** 

RAJOURI, Mar 20: career in defence forces promises one of the most prestigious and respected position in the country. Army has relentlessly endeavoured to motivate the youth of rural areas, build their confidence and promote their talent.

As part of the sustained efforts to empower the youth, Indian Army conducted a motivational lecture regarding career options for students and youth at Kandi on Wednesday. Special emphasis was laid on preparation for NDA & IMA exams and other available options to join

Indian Army. A total of 11 teachers, 61 Girls and 39 Boys attended the motivational lecture.

# **World Theatre Day honours** for Balwant Thakur

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Mar 20: Eminent playwright and Theatre Director Padamshree Balwant Thakur is being honoured on the occasion of 'World Theatre Day' in two different places in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. In Himachal Pradesh, The Beginners, in association with Language and Culture Department, Government of HP and Gaiety Theatre Society has invited Balwant Thakur as Chief Guest on the occasion of the celebrations of world theatre day featuring a Theatre seminar, play performances and felicitations at the iconic Gaiety The-

The 2nd event is being held at the prestigious Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak (Haryana) where Balwant Thakur is being conferred with the best theatre promoter award entitled 'Devender Trikha Best Theatre Pro-

atre, Shimla.



motor Award-2024' on the occasion of world theatre day.

On 27th of March, 2024 World Theatre Day is being celebrated globally under the aegis of International Theatre Institute, UNESCO Paris. The theme of the world theatre day celebrations is 'Theatre and a culture of peace'. World Theatre Day is celebrated world over to enable theatre communities to promote their work on a broad scale so that the governments and the opinion leaders are made aware

of the value and importance of theatre.

In Jammu & Kashmir Balwant Thakur is credited for creating a new renaissance for theatre and through his sheer hard work and foresightedness, he outstandingly brought the theatre of this lesser known region to the international limelight. Dogri Theatre in particular got global recognition through his highly innovative plays which were creditably featured in Frankfurt International Theatre Festival, Year of India in Russia, Theatre Olympics and Commonwealth Games. Conferred with the highest Indian honour in performing arts in addition to Padmashree, Balwant Thakur holds a distinctive position in the country with his remarkable over 350 National/ International theatre participations as director and holding of over 6500 shows/events, which is a record in India.

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