

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

CRPF jawan shoots self dead in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Mar 21 (Agencies): A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel allegedly shot himself dead with his service rifle in Hafiz Bagh area of Central Kashmir Srinagar district, on Thursday officials said. They told Srinagar based news agency Kashmir Scroll that CRPF jawan posted in Hazif bagh shot himself dead with his service rifle this morning. They said that the body has been shifted to hospital for autopsy, while police have taken cognisance of the matter.

CRPF Constable dies in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Mar 21 (Agencies): A CRPF constable died after falling unconscious during physical training at District Police Lines Kupwara on Thursday morning, an official said. The official told GNS that the CRPF constable namely Sreejith J of 162 Battalion fell unconscious during routine PT.

Body found in Anantnag identified

SRINAGAR, Mar 21 (Agencies): A body found at Watnard village in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag has been identified to be an individual from Banihal. An official in the knowhow of things told GNS that a body was sighted by some passersby lying in Watnard village in Kokernag. "A police team reached the site and took the body into its possession for medico-legal formalities," the official said, adding, "After initial assessment the body has come out to be of one Muzaffar Ahmad Shaan, son of Abdul Gani, a resident of Nowgam Banihal. "Inquest proceedings into the matter have been initiated," the official added.

Rain, snow likely in J&K for two Days

SRINAGAR, Mar 21 (Agencies): Rain/snow is likely in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 48 hours, MeT office said on Thursday. As the sky is overcast with clouds, the MeT department said there would be rain/snow at many places in J&K

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Annual Amarnath Yatra likely from June 29 this Year

JAMMU, Mar 21 (Agencies): The annual Shri Amarnath yatra this year is likely to begin from June 29. Official sources said that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also Chairman of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, chaired a meeting here at Raj Bhawan to discuss arrangements and preparations for the yatra. The 52-day long pilgrimage to conclude on August 19—on the occasion of Rakshabandhan.



"After the conclusion of the Lok Sabha Polls, the administration will get busy with Shri Amarnath preparations, which is likely to commence from

June 29 and conclude on August 19," sources added. They said that the registration for the Yatra is expected to begin later next month in branches of various banks," adding they said, "as soon as the official announcement of the Yatra is made, preparations thereafter will be done on war footing." The live telecast of Aarti for the Yatra will start from the month of July. In 2023, around 4.5 lakh pilgrims visited Shri Amarnath Cave.

Model Code | EC asks Govt to stop sending 'Viksit Bharat' messages on WhatsApp

NEW DELHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): The Election Commission Thursday directed the Centre to "immediately halt" sending bulk WhatsApp messages under the "Viksit Bharat Sampark" to highlight the government's initiatives. The Commission issued the direction to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology after it received complaints about the matter. "The move is a part of a series of decisions

taken by the Commission to ensure a level-playing field," the Commission said. It has also sought a compliance report on the matter from the ministry. The ministry had informed the Commission that the messages along with a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi were sent before the Model Code of Conduct came into force on March 16. "... some of them could have possibly been delivered to

recipients with a delay because of systemic and network limitations," the ministry said in a communication to the Commission. The poll authority had received several complaints that such messages highlighting the government's initiatives were still being delivered on citizens' phones despite the announcement of the General Elections 2024 and the MCC coming into force. The Congress and the Trinamool Congress had

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BJP not averse to dynastic politics, has problems with those families that oppose it: Omar Abdullah



SRINAGAR, Mar 21 (Agencies): National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the BJP does not have a problem with dynastic politics but has issues with those families that oppose the saffron party. Abdullah cited the BJP's tie-up with Chirag Paswan in Bihar and

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's meeting with Raj Thackeray amid speculation of an alliance in Maharashtra for the Lok Sabha polls and asked if these were not examples of 'parivarvad' or family politics. "BJP does not have a problem with dynastic families. They have a problem with those fami-

lies which oppose them. And I am proud to say that I oppose the BJP," Abdullah told reporters here. "Did not the BJP tie up in Bihar with Chirag Paswan? Amit Shah recently met Raj Thackeray. Are these not examples of parivarvad. Is there (BJP's) candidate from Guna in Gwalior (Jyotiraditya Scindia), not a dynast?" he asked. In response to a question about NC candidates for the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir, Abdullah said the names will be announced at an appropriate time. "We will announce our candidates at the right

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Class 12th exam lapse: BOSE constitutes in-house committee to fix responsibility

SRINAGAR, Mar 21 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) has constituted an in-house committee to probe and ascertain the reasons that led to "instant irregularity" in holding class 12th examination of Physical Education subject on March 20 of 2024. The committee was constituted immediately after School Education Department (SED) constituted a two-member committee comprising

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Record voter turnout expected in Lok Sabha Elections in Kashmir: Bidhuri

SRINAGAR, Mar 21 (Agencies): Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Thursday said a record voter turnout is expected during the forthcoming Parliamentary elections in Kashmir valley. He said the administration is fully prepared to conduct free and fair

Lok Sabha elections and all arrangements required will be in place adequately. "We are hopeful that there will be a record voter turnout in the upcoming Parliamentary elections this year as we are getting satisfactory inputs from the ground", Bidhuri told media in Sri-

nagar on Thursday. He said the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has been imposed and is aimed to provide a level playing field to all parties. Bidhuri said the conduct of free and fair Lok Sabha elections and Amarnath Yatra in 2024 is a significant task for

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Voting is the only power left with people of J&K: Mehbooba Mufti

SRINAGAR, Mar 21 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said voting is the only power left with people of Jammu and Kashmir as the BJP-ruled Centre is making all efforts to suppress their voices.



"All kinds of injustices are being done and

Jammu and Kashmir has been turned into a jail. To suppress the voice of people here, Amit Shah broke the PDP. They took away legislators, ministers and members of parliament from the PDP so that they can finish

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SSC to conduct Re-Examination for constable recruitment on March 30

NEW DELHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): Citing technical reasons, the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has decided to conduct a re-examination for recruitment of constables in Central Armed Police Forces, Secretariat Security Force and rifleman in Assam Rifles for 16,185 candidates on March 30. The computer-based exam for constable (general duty) in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Secretariat Security Force (SSF) and rifleman (general duty) in Assam Rifles examination, 2024 was conducted by the Commission from February 20 to March 7. "However, due to the venue specific technical reasons noticed in the review of aforesaid examination, a need has been felt to hold

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MBA MOTORS

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DEALS IN SALE, PURCHASE, REPAIRING AND SERVICING OF USED CARS AND ORIGINAL SPARE PARTS

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LS Election: SVEEP awareness programme held for Women field functionaries in Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 21: District Election Office Kishtwar, led by District Election Officer, Dr. Devansh Yadav orchestrated a significant awareness and sensitization workshop under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative for Anganwari Workers, ICDS helpers, ASHAs, and Women Self Help Group Members.

The event took place under the diligent supervision of Women Nodal Officer for Kishtwar Assembly Constituency 49, Chandan Manhas.

The primary objective of the program was to engage women field functionaries and workers in amplifying awareness regarding equitable participation of women in the electoral process, with a special emphasis on upholding ethical voting rights.

The workshop witnessed the presence of



District Information Officer, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, CDPO Kishtwar, Ifat Ara along with Master Trainer, Riyaz Ahmed Butt, among other relevant stakeholders.

In her opening remarks, Nodal Officer, Chandan Manhas underscored the pivotal role of women citizens in the democratic process, particularly in

the upcoming General Lok Sabha Elections of 2024.

He emphasized the indispensable contribution of women frontline workers in galvanizing awareness among women voters to exercise their voting rights, thereby fostering maximum participation in democratic exercise.

He reiterated the commitment towards inclusion of every eligible woman of voting age in the Electoral Roll/Register, leaving no one behind.

He articulated that the active participation of women in the democratic fabric is indispensable for nurturing an inclusive society that genuinely

reflects the diverse needs and perspectives of all constituents.

During the workshop, participants were tasked with identifying women who are yet to be enrolled in the Voters List/Electoral Roll and urged to liaise with respective BLOs to facilitate the registration of eligible women voters and first-time voters alike.

During the programme, Master Trainer, Riyaz Ahmed Butt provided comprehensive guidance on ethical voting practices while elucidating various amenities available at polling stations to facilitate women voters' seamless participation.

Anganwari Workers, Helpers, ASHAs, and Women SHG members were urged to fervently motivate women voters to exercise their franchise and ensure maximum participation on the polling day of the General Lok Sabha Election 2024, slated for 19th April 2024 in the district.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh files Nomination Papers from Udhampur LS



Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 21: Union Minister Jitendra Singh filed nomination papers from the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency today. He filed his nomination papers in Kathua before

the Returning Officer. Dr. Jitendra Singh was accompanied by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

The seat goes to polls in the first phase on April 19. Elections will be held in 102

Lok Sabha seats in 17 states and four Union Territories in this phase. Ahead of filing his nomination from Udhampur Lok Sabha Constituency as a BJP candidate, Dr. Jitendra Singh performed puja at his residence in Jammu.

5th National Conference on Recent Trends in Mathematical Sciences inaugurated at SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 21: A two-day National Conference on "Recent Trends in Mathematical Sciences" inaugurated at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra on Thursday.

The conference was organized by the School of Mathematics in Association with MMTTC-SMVDU. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and Prof. S.D. Sharma, Former Head, Department of Mathematics, University of Jammu were the Chief Guest and Guest of Honor at the occasion, respectively.

Prof. Pragati Kumar recalled some motivational stories of stalwarts in the field of Mathematics and nicely explained the utilization of con-

cepts of Mathematic in Engineering.

Prof. S. D. Sharma highlighted the fundamental concepts in Mathematics and their real-life implications. Dr. Sunil Kumar Wanchoo, Dean, Faculty of Sciences encouraged the organizers to broaden the horizon of the conference. Participants across the nation turned up for the conference to showcase their research work.

Prof. Rakesh Kumar, Punjabi University, Patiala, Prof. Sartaj Ui Hasan, IIT, Jammu, Prof. Ajay K. Sharma, Head, Department of Mathematics, Central University of Jammu, Dr. Varun Jain, Multani Mal Modi College, Patiala, Dr. Navneet Lal Sharma, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara, Gujrat attended the inaugural

session. Dr. Kuldeep Raj, Head, School of Mathematics and Convener of the Conference introduced the theme of the conference and welcomed the delegates.

Dr. Surender Singh, Coordinator of the conference proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. A. K. Das, Coordinator of the conference, Dr. Sandeep Bhoagal and Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Organizing Secretaries smoothly handled all the activities of the inaugural session. Among the audience, Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Dean, Research and Development, Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Dean, Research and Development, Dr. Roop Lal Sharma, Head, School of Economics, Dr. Kamini Patania, Senior Faculty, School of Physics were the eminent faculty colleagues from SMVDU.

Ganesh Sharma attends Sculptor's Camp organized by JKAACL

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: Ganesh Kumar Sharma, eminent Senior Contemporary Sculptor from Hiranagar, attended eight days Sculptor Camp organized by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Jammu w.e.f 12th of March to 20th of March 2024. Total 12 artists Sculptors juniors and seniors belongs to different parts of Jammu region were invited and attended the Camp at Kala Kendra Jammu. Ganesh Kumar Sharma internationally acclaimed Sculptor of the state has made 4 feet height stone sculpture and will be displayed at the lawns of Kala Kendra. Ganesh Sharma has attended so many State, National and International Camps, symposiums and workshops in different parts of the country and have organized 25 solo shows of his art works at different galleries of the country. Many of his art works are in permanent collections in government galleries as well as private galleries in India and abroad.

It is mentioned here that this Sculptor's camp has been organized by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages after so many years. All the participating artists demanded and requested to Secretary of the Academy to organize such camps symposiums and workshops regularly for the promotion of art and culture in the Jammu and Kashmir UT.

Aakash Byju's partners with SPSHS School Doda



Top News Report

DODA, Mar 21: In the picturesque town of Doda, ensconced amidst the breathtaking vistas of Jammu and Kashmir, a groundbreaking collaboration has taken root. Shaheen Public Higher Secondary School, renowned for its unwavering dedication to academic excellence, has forged a transformative partnership with two educational titans, Aakash Institute and Byju's.

This monumental alliance aims to provide students with unparalleled opportunities for growth and success. With access to Aakash Byju's cutting-edge digital learning resources, students can now embark on a journey of self-paced learning, mastering intricate concepts, and excelling in

their academic endeavors.

Moreover, Aakash Institute's seasoned mentors are guiding students towards prestigious entrance exams, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to triumph over academic challenges.

Beyond the realm of academics, this collaboration champions holistic development, nurturing the diverse talents and passions of every student at Shaheen Public Higher Secondary School.

As the sun sets on yet another day of enlightenment and progress, the partnership between Aakash Byju's and Shaheen Public Higher Secondary School continues to illuminate the path towards a brighter and more promising future for the students of Doda.

Shiv Sena alleges no equal playing field in Jammu and Kashmir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has accused the administration of not giving equal playing field to opposition parties, especially Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.

Along with this, some unknown people in police uniform were also accused of breaking the hoarding installed in the party office late last night, regarding which a written complaint has been lodged with the police administration.

While talking to media in the party state office today, state chief Manish Sahni said that Jammu and Kashmir is a highly sensitive area, where terrorism has been active for the last three and a half decades.

He said that Shiv Sena is probably the only active political party in Jammu and Kashmir whose leaders have not been provided security. During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the party had fielded its candidates on both the Lok



Sabha seats of Jammu.

He said that during the expansion and campaigning of the party, our leaders always fear some untoward incident, but perhaps the administration is waiting for something untoward to happen.

Sahni said that on 9th March, police force was used in Srinagar to stop them from interacting with the public and media and late last night, the hoarding of the party founder, revered Bala Saheb Thackeray, installed on the roof of the party office located at Indira Chowk, Ranbir Yatri Bhawan, was demolished. He was informed about this by the hotel staff in the morning.

Sahni said that he thought that perhaps

such an action was taken in view of the code of conduct in view of the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections, but all the officials including the police administration, Jammu District Magistrate and the Election Commission denied having any information about it.

Sahni said that a complaint has been lodged at the concerned police station regarding the above mentioned matter and he hopes that adequate security will be provided with immediate effect to avoid any untoward incident in the party leaders and offices.

On this occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice president Sanjeev Kohli were present.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Assist. Material Manager, N.Railway, ETD/Store Depot/Ludhiana for and on behalf of President of India, Invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the given below item.

Open Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
70235178C	DG Set 250 KVA Capacity; 250 KVA with AMF panel as per attached PCEE/NR specification.	01 Nos.	09.04.2024

NOTE: Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No. 004/2023-24 Dated: 19.03.2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BRO commences opening of Leh-Manali NH

Top News Report

LEH, Mar 21: Every winter, the strategically important National Highway-03, connecting Leh with Manali, witnesses extreme weather conditions leading to heavy snowfall and avalanches, blocking the road starting from November till it is cleared by Border Roads Organisation. This poses significant challenges for the inhabitants and security forces in Ladakh, who rely on the highway for essential supplies, medical emergencies and connectivity to the rest

of the country.

Border Roads Organisation's (BRO) Project HIMANK has commenced Snow Clearance Works to clear the accumulated snow and restore access to Ladakh Region from Manali side. A team of highly skilled engineers of 111 RCC/753 BRTF along with most advanced snow clearing machineries and equipments have been employed for this massive task of snow clearance. The extreme cold climatic conditions, gusty winds and sub-zero temperatures in treacherous ter-

rain at altitudes ranging beyond 17000 ft makes the work more challenging, despite which the Team of Border Roads Organisation is working tirelessly to reopen the highway and timely restore the crucial link to Ladakh.

The efforts of BRO's Snow Clearance Team will not only alleviate the hardships faced by the residents of Ladakh but will also enhance the operational capability of Military

Forces in the region, demonstrating BRO's unwavering commitment towards Nation Building.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER (DEPUTY COMMISSION) JAMMU
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Ph. +91-191-2541818, Fax+91-191-2541818 Website : WWW.jammu.gov.in
Email : entjammu@nic.in

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER Short e-NIT No. DGN/92 of 2023-24 Dated 18-03-2024

For and on behalf of the District Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner), Jammu e-tenders are invited on **Item Rate** from the Agencies/Suppliers to supply the various items required to conduct the training programme and other activities related to Lok Sabha Election 2024 "as and when basis" within the limits of Jammu Municipal Corporation. The required items are mentioned below :-

S.No	Items	Tentative quantity in Nos.	Earnest Money (in Rupees)
1.	Refreshment	Tea with biscuits/Mathi (Per Head)	
2.	Working Lunch (Veg)	Rice/Chapati with Dal/ Rajma/Mineral Water (Per Head)	6000 to 8000
3.	Tent, Chair and Fans	Rates for tents should be quoted for area in Sft/Chair and Fans per piece per day	As Per Requirement

The Bidding documents Consisting of bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://itktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-03-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18-03-2024 to 26-03-2024, 1400 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	19-03-2024 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of the Deputy District Election Officer
4	Bid submission Start Date	18-03-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	26-03-2024 upto 1400 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	26-03-2024 on or after 1500 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu

Terms & Conditions

- Rates offered should be inclusive of all Taxes etc.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason including the lowest one.
- Earnest Money accompanying the tender document should be pledged in the name of the **Deputy District Election Officer**.
- The Firm in whose favour supply order will be issued will have to supply the items for function to be held w.e.f **27-03-2024** onwards.
- The Firms are requested to quote their lowest rate per lot for above mentioned items. Rates for tents should be quoted for area in Sft/Chair and Fans per piece per day.
- The items supplied will be inspected by the Inspection Committee and in case the supply is not found in conformity with the approved specifications, the same will be liable to be rejected and will be required to be replaced with the supply exactly commensurate with the approved specifications.
- The payment will be made only after successful conduct of events as per approved specifications without payment of any advance amount.
- Copy of GST Card, previous Quarter and Last Month.
- Copy of PAN Card.
- The bids shall be opened on **26th March, 2024 at 3.00 P.M.**

No :- ENT/J/2023-24/15875-15877
Dated :- 18-03-2024
DIP/J-16250/23

(Rameshwar Kumar) JKAS
Deputy District Election Officer
Jammu.

EDITORIAL

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Healthy lifestyle is the need of the hour. Previous generations did not have to face so many problems but nowadays people find it difficult to follow a healthy lifestyle. People are working hard, working hard and doing everything except taking care of their health. It is time that we take our health seriously. Some healthy habits can help you develop a healthy lifestyle over a period of time.

It is extremely important to follow a healthy diet plan when you are trying to live a healthy life. Start following a healthy diet plan that includes all the essential nutrients and no junk food.

Most of the people fail to exercise, have breakfast and spend some quality moments with their loved ones in the morning because they are unable to wake up on time. Make a habit of waking up early every morning so that you have enough time to accommodate all these tasks.

Set aside at least half an hour each day to do physical exercise of your choice. You can also walk, swim, practice yoga, deep breathing or anything else you like. It helps in relieving stress.

Since you have to wake up early, it is necessary to sleep on time. You should ensure that you get at least 7-8 hours of sleep every day.

When you are working to increase productivity, make it a habit to keep your phone away from you. Keep your phone at a distance whenever you are at home and spend quality time with your family. The rays emitted by mobile phones are harmful so keep them away especially while sleeping at night.

It is always good to be friends with people who bring positivity in your life and stay away from those who are busy speaking negative words. Also, associate with people who follow a healthy lifestyle rather than those who regularly indulge in unhealthy habits like smoking or drinking alcohol.

As much as it is important to follow a healthy diet plan, it is equally important to eat your meals on time. Make sure that you do not skip your breakfast or any other meal of the day and eat your meals at the right intervals. It is also suggested that instead of eating three times a day, one should eat small meals 5-6 times.

As much as it is important to follow a healthy diet plan, it is equally important to eat your meals on time. Make sure that you do not skip your breakfast or any other meal of the day and eat your meals at the right intervals. It is also suggested that instead of eating three times a day, one should eat small meals 5-6 times.

To achieve good physical and mental health, you should try to follow these healthy habits in your daily routine.

Babu brought in from the cold to head Prasar Bharati

By: Dilip Cherian

The appointment of retired IAS officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal as the chairperson of Prasar Bharati Board has all the signs of the complex and subtly adversarial interplay between the Centre and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath. The post had remained vacant for over four years since the superannuation of A. Surya Prakash.

Mr Sehgal, undoubtedly, brings a wealth of experience, having served in senior roles in Uttar Pradesh. Just before retiring in 2023, he was chief secretary in the department of sports and youth, but also known for his media management skills and his role in organising UP's global investor summit and hosting the prestigious MotoGP in Noida.

But his career trajectory has been marked by remarkable comebacks after periods of being sidelined. Mr Sehgal was once considered one of UP's most influential officers, an integral member of "Team 9", a group of nine IAS officers closely associated with Yogi Adityanath.

However, after retiring it appears that Mr Sehgal was not given a significant position by the Uttar Pradesh government, suggesting that perhaps he had fallen out with Yogi. But observers suggest that Mr Sehgal, no longer in the Yogi's inner circle, has now found favour with the Narendra Modi

government at the Centre.

From being the trouble-shooter for the UP government, Mr Sehgal will now be called upon to contribute substantially to Mr Modi's media management, especially amid a crucial national election.

Surprise reshuffle sparks speculation

Madhup Kumar Tiwari had barely settled into his role as special commissioner of police for law and order when he received a surprising transfer to Chandigarh as DGP in February. At the time, many speculated that his transfer was related to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. However, the recent reversal of his transfer orders, alongside those of D.C. Shrivastava, mere days before the announcement of the polls has left observers scratching their heads about the underlying reasons behind this abrupt reshuffle. Surendra Kumar Yadav, who was reassigned from Delhi to assume the role of DGP in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has now been named the new DGP in Chandigarh.

Sources have informed DKB that Mr Tiwari, upon his transfer from Delhi to Chandigarh, reportedly protested, arguing that his recent assignment of overseeing law and order in Delhi should have precluded the need for relocation. Reportedly, his appeal was successful, allowing him to retain his significant position, a move, some say,

could garner favour among the Poorvanchali community in Delhi ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

There is some speculation that the reversal decision may be linked to the mishandling of the Chandigarh mayoral elections and the ensuing controversy surrounding Anil Masih's role, which caused a lot of embarrassment to the central government.

Meanwhile, the incumbent DG of Arunachal Pradesh Devesh Srivastava, who was initially slated for a transfer to Delhi Police in an earlier notification, finds his Delhi posting is on hold, albeit temporarily.

While such sudden shifts are not infrequent, especially during poll season, these do create some unease among those in khaki.

Ashok Khemka's long battle for justice

The recent Supreme Court verdict on Haryana IAS officer Ashok Khemka's annual confidential report (ACR) has sparked the debate about how bureaucrats are evaluated and who should have the authority to do so. In overturning the Punjab and Haryana high court's decision to uphold Mr Khemka's higher grades, the apex court made a strong case for the specialised understanding needed to assess an IAS officer's performance. It averred that this task should remain firmly within the executive branch's domain.

Back in June 2017, the famed whistleblower received an

overall grade of 8.22 from the state chief secretary, who was the reporting authority. Then, the state health minister, acting as the reviewing authority, bumped up Mr Khemka's grade to 9.22. but matters took a turn when, in December 2017, the then chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, acting as the accepting authority, decided to lower Mr Khemka's grade to 9.

Despite several representations to contest the decision, Mr Khemka first appealed to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), pleading for the removal of adverse remarks and restoration of grades and remarks by the reviewing authority. But CAT dismissed his application. Refusing to give up, he then turned to the high court, which ruled in his favour and overturned the CAT's decision.

But the legal rollercoaster didn't end there. The Supreme Court chimed in, highlighting the unresolved status of Mr Khemka's representation before the accepting authority, which is yet to decide on the matter. The apex court has directed the accepting authority to adjudicate Mr Khemka's representation within the stipulated 60 days.

It is clear that the case of Ashok Khemka isn't just about one officer, but about the broader challenges and complexities of administration and ensuring transparency and justice along the way.

Advantage of School Magazine

By: Vijay GarG

Introduction: The School Magazine is a periodical published once or twice a year. It aims at encouraging the literary and cultural activities of the students. Now a day's many schools have magazines of their own. The students maintain it with the help of their teachers. It contains essays, Poems, and articles.

Row it is published: The publication of a school magazine is a hard task. Its circulation is limited to students only. At first, it is eventual to form a magazine committee. It is formed consisting of the editor some advisor and some student members. The headmaster is the Chairman of this committee. An assistant teacher becomes the editor and he helps the students in raising funds in selecting articles and correcting them. The articles

for the magazine are written by both the teachers and the students. The editor invites essays, poems, stories, etc. from the students. The students send their articles to the editor. But each and every article is not published. The articles are selected by the editor and the assistant editor. They are corrected and then published in the magazine. Then he selects the good writings and sends them to the press. They are then printed after necessary correction. Some of the students supervise the printing work of the magazine. Each school magazine has a statement about the progress of the students.

It contains: In a school, a magazine the students write poems, essays, short stories, one-act play, some students write humorous pieces. Most of the students write poems. It has the name of those who bought

a frame to the institution. Along with academic studies, students are encouraged in games and athletics, art and craft, science clubs, dramatics, and various other activities.

Importance: The school magazine gives a vivid picture of the school and school affairs. It helps the extra-academic qualities of the students. It trains up the students in "the art, of printing and publication. It develops the power of thinking. The literary and intellectual abilities of the student compile him to read books on a variety of subjects. Such students are quick to realize the value of their time and learning. It brings students close to one another and erects some of the responsibility. They get a habit of reading and writing. The writing makes their knowledge accurate. It is a great joy for the student to see his name pub-

lished in the magazine. Not all students can be good writers but those who have the ability to form opinions can develop their power of expression by writing for their school magazine. So, the school magazine is helpful to the students in many ways.

Conclusion: The school magazine plays an important role in building up the career of the school. It makes creative power among the students. Unfortunately, only a few schools continue to bring out their school journals. The students should be encouraged bringing out such magazines. Every school must consider the importance of the school magazine for the benefit of its students.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

CMO Doda pays surprise visits to various health facilities in District Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Mar 21: On the directions of Administrative Secretary Health, DHS Jammu and Deputy Commissioner Doda, to assess the provision of health services being provided to the public, the Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar took a surprise inspection of various health facilities in the District including AAM- SC Dranga, Drudhu, Beraru, Chakrabati, Sindra and Shiva and reviewed the functioning there. During his visit, the CMO enquired about



the facilities being provided to the patients and checked the attendance register and supply position of medicines and

other relevant record of the facilities. He stressed to the staff present there that they should provide the best

medical facilities to the visiting patients in an efficient and hassle-free manner besides he called upon the staff to work with extra zeal and dedication, be friendly with the patients and serve them with missionary spirit.

He also directed the staff to maintain complete hygiene in and around the hospital and provide better medical care facilities to the patients.

Speaking on the occasion, CMO Dr Om Kumar urged upon health functionaries to ensure better healthcare facilities

to the patients and come up to the expectations of the patients and enjoined upon the hospital administration to focus on quality assurance, accessible affordable health care so that satisfaction level among the users of Govt health facilities is enhanced and people repose faith in public health. He assured all possible support related to better health care services being provided at the hospital.

During the visit, the CMO was accompanied by Priyanka Manhas (VCCM).

Northern Command honours its gallant and distinguished soldiers at Investiture Ceremony



Top News Report

PRAYAGRAJ, JAMMU, Mar 21: Indian Army's Northern Command honoured its gallant and distinguished soldiers and units at a grand Investiture Ceremony held at Prayagraj Military Station, Uttar Pradesh on Thursday under the aegis of Red Eagle Division.

The awardees were felicitated for their exceptional bravery, commendable devotion to duty and distinguished service to the nation. Northern Command is the most operationally active and challenging commands of Indian Army and is at the forefront of the Nation's efforts to counter the most serious challenges to its security and the scourge of terrorism.

Thus, whether officially at peace or in operations, the troops of the Command have been always on active duty, truly representing the motto of the formation "Always in Combat".

Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, General Officer Commanding in Chief,

Northern Command, felicitated officers and soldiers of the Indian Army with gallantry and distinguished service awards for their acts of bravery beyond the call of duty and distinguished service to the nation.

He also conferred GOC-in-C Unit Appreciations to units in recognition of their exceptional professionalism and unparalleled achievements. During the Ceremony, 58 awardees including 45 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Sena Medals (Distinguished), one Yudh Seva Medal and nine Vishisht Seva Medals were presented with medals. In addition, 64 units were awarded Unit Citations. The indomitable spirit and indefatigable courage of each valiant soldier when read out during the event, made hearts of all present swell with pride and gratitude.

On this momentous occasion, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command congratulated awardees and exhorted

all ranks to give their best in all the spheres and keep up the high traditions and values of the Indian Army. The General Officer Commanding in Chief Northern Command acknowledged the contribution of all family members of the awardees for their unstinted support to service personnel in the performance of their duties. He also urged all ranks, ex-servicemen and their families to rededicate themselves in service of Nation. The Army commander later interacted with the award winners and acknowledged their invaluable contribution in upholding the highest traditions of Indian Army. A large number of military personnel, civilian dignitaries and the proud families of the award winners attended the solemn ceremony. The Nation in general, and the Indian Army in particular never fail to honour and care for its brave soldiers and this concept was aptly showcased in the right spirit through the events conducted as a part of this ceremony.

Police seizes 2 vehicles, arrests 2 drivers in Kulgam

Top News Report

KULGAM, Mar 21: Cracking a whip on illegal mining of minerals, Kulgam police under the close supervision of SSP Kulgam have seized 2 vehicles and arrested 2 drivers in Kulgam.

A police party of police station DH Pora headed by SHO Police Station DH Pora seized 2 vehicles (tractors) and arrested 2 drivers, involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals from Kandi Nala, near Sarmarg. The accused drivers have been identified as Mohd Asif Malik son of Mohd Ashraf Malik and Nadeem Ahmad Malik son of Ghulam Ahmad Malik residents of DK marag.

Subsequently, Case vide FIR No 22/2024 under relevant sections of law stands registered



at police station DH Pora and investigation has been taken up.

People are requested not to indulge in any kind of illegal mining activities from any Nallah as it is the violation of Government rules. Persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt as per law.

BJP holds workers meeting at Lammer, several workers from NC, PDP and Congress join BJP

Top News Report

KULGAM, Mar 21: BJP senior leader and Executive Officer Waqaf Board Kulgam, Aabid Hussain Khan organised workers meeting at Lammer in South Kashmir Kulgam district wherein a large number of NC, PDP and Congress joined before the Chief Guest Kashmir Seh Prabhari Waqaf Board executive office Anantnag Rafiq Wani.

During the program Abid Khan in his speech said BJP work for the welfare of common people and also general public decide to vote and support BJP.

Rafiq Wani said people of Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency know BJP can help poor sections educated youth, so voters decided to support BJP candidate.

The other leaders remain present are co



Convenor Syed Ahmad Malik, Ex Chairman MC Devser Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat, Election incharge Peer Arif, Choudhary Qasim Vice President ST, Gh Nabi coordinator, block president Qaimoh Mubark Ahmad, Haji

Mohd Hussain district vice president youth, election Compainer Dr Shabir, Muzafar Ahmad, Shabir Ahmad, Gh Hassan Bhat, Choudhary Nazir, Shah Mohd Dhoi, Mohd Rafiq, Bilal Lone, Suhail Ahmad and others present.

Border dwellers' miseries surged manifold times in absence of popular regime: Sadhotra

Top News Report

RS PURA, Mar 21: Additional General Secretary and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Thursday voiced the concern of border dwellers claiming that their miseries have swollen manifold times on account of absence of popular government in J&K for the last many years.

The senior NC functionary was addressing the party's women meeting here at Village Kothey Salahar (R.S Pura). The event was organized in wake of ensuing Lok Sabha polls by Bharti Devi, Vice President NC Women Wing District Jammu Rural B.

In the Meeting, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu, Bimla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President women wing, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Sham Lal Sadhotra Block President Bishnah, Jyoti Devi and Raj Kumari were present.

At the outset of the Meeting, Dajeet Sharma, District President NC Women Wing Jammu Rural B apprised the senior functionaries about the problems being faced by border dwellers in general and women in particular due to hollow policies of the present government.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, while garnering support of the people for the upcoming political contest, maintained that only NC has the will and capacity to ensure women empowerment as other political outfits rely on rhetoric rather than implementing change on ground. He said that opponents of NC are solely relying on commu-



nal politics and divisive mindset thus making it imperative for the people of J&K to reject this trajectory and strengthen NC for all the good things for which this party has always remained at the forefront. He said that NC has a track record of taking all communities together creating bonhomie whereas its opponents are trying hard to disturb the social fabric for political gains without giving a thought to the repercussions of this dangerous maneuvering.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President J&K NC Jammu, in his address, asserted that women have a significant role to play in shaping the better and peaceful future of Jammu and Kashmir and as such women cannot be ignored in any way.

He said that the present governance is marked by widening gender disparity in the region besides rising unemployment, development deficit and deepening uncertainty having affected everyone in the region. However, women are the worst sufferers amongst them as the prevailing political or social issues have had a devastating effect on their dignity and lives in J&K. Lauding the women for their marvelous role despite all odds, he urged them to continue their relentless fight for their rights.

The Provincial President said that along with the restoration of democracy, the struggle for the return of special privileges can be fought only when the National Conference is strong for which women have a crucial role to play. The Provincial President also asserted farmers' plights especially with regard to lack of irrigation facilities, border dwellers woes,

poor healthcare edifice and phlegmatic attitude towards world famous Gharana wetland are the few examples of startling indifference of the government which call for change in the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls as those elected last time have shown utter disregard towards people's concerns.

Rattan Lal asserted that National Conference is the sole guarantor of J&K's interests and for this it is necessary to remain present among the people, enquire about their problems and solving them.

Bimla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women wing also hit out at the government for undermining the aspirations of the people, she categorically raised the issue of the

government abandoning the hapless widows and Old aged persons of the region by stopping their pension. She said that only NC has the potential to take care of all categories of underprivileged society without any prejudice towards any among these. She said that NC is moving steadfastly in the direction for winning all the Lok Sabha seats in J&K as no other political entity can stand against this people-friendly political party when merit is the consideration.

The senior NC leaders urged the party cadre to gear up their activities in view of upcoming polls and ensure victory of Party in all the Lok Sabha seats in the impending political battles in the Union Territory.

JD(U) Leaders greet people on Navroz e Alam

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 21: Janata Dal (United) State President G M Shaheen and State General Secretary Vivek Bali greeted people on Navroz-e-Alam. While extending warm wishes to Navroz e Alam.

G M Shaheen prayed for peace, tranquillity, brotherhood and development of J&K and prayed that this day brings hope and light to the lives of the people of J&K, and the whole region in particular. Navroz e Alam signifies a time of spiritual renewal and physical rejuvenation, as well as a spirit of gratitude for blessings and an outlook of hope and optimism.

Vivek Bali said that Navroz-e-Alam comes with the vitality and



freshness of nature and conveys the beautiful message of the green and blooming spring season. Navroz commemorates a centuries-old, agrarian custom that over time was integrated into various cultures and faith traditions.

Extending greetings on Navroz e Alam to the people of Jammu &

Kashmir, Shaheen and Bali has said that "The celebration of this festival is a valuable part of our rich cultural heritage which strengthens the bonds of brotherhood and amity."

JD(U) leaders also prayed for peace and prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir on this occasion.

Fearless Knight Doda beat Doda Royal by 7 runs in Friendly Cricket Match

Top News Report

DODA, Mar 21: Today a Friendly Match played between Fearless Knight Doda Vs Doda Royal Team at Sports Stadium Doda. Both team played T-20 match The Fearless Knight Team captain Vikas won toss and elected bat first, and set a challenging target of 178 runs in 20 overs.

The opening pair for the Fearless Knight Team, Ajay Katoch (WK) and Vikas Manhas (C) took charge of the innings. while Vikas Manhas, scored 18 run off 11 balls got out, and Ajay Katoch contributed 37 runs off 32 balls got out. Salam Sheikh scored 29 runs off 18 balls got out. Wasif Sheikh 5 scored off 4 balls and got out.



Arman scored 13 runs off 13 balls not out. Sanjay Rana, scoring 6 runs off 4 balls got out. Arjun Singh contributed 14 runs in 5 balls, after that Harjot Singh contributed 6 runs in 3 balls got out, Sahil scored 31 runs

in 17 balls and got out. the fearless Knight team set a target of 178 runs in 20 overs.

When Doda Royal Team came out to chase target, Captain Rajeev Rana Scored 30 runs in 34 balls, Rafi scored

32 runs in 30 balls, Arif scored 12 runs in 6 balls other etc but could not chase a target Doda Royal Team was able to score only 171 runs and lose by 7 runs and Fearless Knight Team Doda won by 7 runs in this

match.

The Bowling of Fearless Knight Team Doda showcased their bowling. The main bowler of Team Harjot Singh took 3 wickets giving 19 runs in 4 overs, while Wasif Sheikh took 4 wickets giving 20 runs in 4 overs. Harvinder Singh took 1 wicket and gave 28 runs in 4 overs. Arman took 1 wicket in, conceding 27 runs in 3 overs. Sahil could taken any wicket in 4 overs, All the Players of Fearless Knight Team Doda showed their good bowling and all played very well in the fielding.

Wasif Sheikh outstanding performance with Bowling earned him the well-deserved Man of the Match award; he took 4 wickets.

Expressing their delight after the victory, the Fearless Knight Team pledged to continue their excellent performance after winning, the whole team held a small party at Iqra Sports Academy in Evening Team 7:00 pm.

This Match today played only in a Friendly way in cricket, in which everyone can show their talent so that they can win their team by performing in the upcoming tournament so this match was played and this Friendly Match is played every week winning and losing goes on in cricket and every day one gets to learn how to play in the Ground. So that children can showcase their talent in future.

From Zeenat Aman, Rakhee Gulzar to Urmila Matondkar, these yesteryear's femme fatales are all set to reclaim their space on the big screen after a break

They say 'turn every setback into a comeback' and Bollywood actresses know how to spot an opportunity amid a number of casual offers. The recent buzz of Zeenat Aman making a filmy re-entry for a Manish Malhotra project, Rakhee Gulzar finishing the shoot for an upcoming Bengali film and Urmila Matondkar making a comeback with an OTT series, Tiwari, we can't help but discuss what makes their comebacks more popular than their debuts. As we list some iconic comebacks in the recent past, we also give you a peek at this year's most-anticipated returns.

Coming up next

Last year, veteran actress Zeenat Aman made an Instagram debut and turned many heads. There are reports that Bun Tikki, her comeback film, will release this year. The 72-year-old actress will be seen alongside Shabana Azmi and Abhay Deol. She was in Shimla to shoot for the project in January and Manish Malhotra announced the project on Instagram too. In the post, Malhotra wrote, "The Great @azmishabana18 and @thezeenataman both I have been a huge fan of... from their movies to their songs to their clothes... they are so



different from each other and both have memorable movies and cinema moments that we all love. It gives me so much happiness that they are coming together after decades."

Veteran actress Rakhee Gulzar is also finally returning and that too with a Bengali film after a 20-year hiatus in Shiboprosad Mukherjee's Amar Boss. The shooting for the film began in Sector Five, Kolkata, and some scenes have been shot at various locations around the city. Her last theatrical release was Rituparno Ghosh's Shubho Mahurat (2003). She was also seen in Gautam Haldar's Nirban, which did rounds at several film festivals in 2019.

And then we have the Rangeela girl, Urmila Matondkar, who has given hits like Satya. She has apparently rejected more than 50 scripts to plan her 'perfect' re-launch with the web series, Tiwari to be released this year. Just like Sonali Bendre (The Broken News), Karisma Kapoor (Mentalhood),

and Raveena Tandon (Aranyak) who returned with web series, it would be interesting to see what Tiwari brings for her. Urmila last did EMI, in 2008 and after that a few cameo appearances before returning to the glamour world as a judge of dance reality show, DID Super Moms (2022).

Buzz is that Aashiqui (1990) fame actress Anu Aggarwal is also looking for scripts to make a dramatic comeback. She was last seen in Dev Anand starrer, Return of Jewel Thief (1996).

Pushing the envelope From Neena Gupta making a powerful comeback by playing a pregnant woman in her '60s in Badhaai Do to Sridevi's English Vinglish or Sushmita Sen dishing out three seasons of Aarya (her debut web series) Bollywood ladies ace in their comeback game. Neetu Kapoor had mostly stayed away from camera post her marriage to late actor Rishi Kapoor. While every now and then she chose to do a supporting role alongside Rishi

Kapoor in movies like Love Aaj Kal, Do Dooni Chaar, Jab Tak Hai Jaan, and Besharam, it was only after her husband's death that she was ready to embrace acting all over again. Not only did she return to movies with Jugjugg Jeeyo, which was a hit, she also appeared as a reality show judge on TV.

Shilpa Shetty continues to enjoy her celeb status but didn't appear in films after Apne (2007). Although there were some item numbers here and there, it was in 2021 when she made her acting comeback with franchise film Hungama 2, in which she played the lead role. Her recent theatrical release Sukhee was admired by the masses as was her role as a super cop in digital debut series, Indian Police Force.

Director and actor Divya Khosla Kumar made her acting debut in 2004 with Bollywood film Ab Tumhare Hawale Watan Saathiyao and Telugu film Love Today. She took a formal course in filmmaking

and shifted her focus to direction after marrying producer Bhushan Kumar. But in 2021, she made her acting comeback with John Abraham in Satyameva Jayate 2. Last year, she was seen in her home production, Yaariyan 2.

Comeback queen

When you talk about the on and off relationship of actresses with silver screen, Dimple Kapadia is the first name that pops up. The actress, hailed as the comeback queen, had married Rajesh Khanna even before the release of her debut movie, Bobby which became a huge blockbuster of its time. Kapadia made the first comeback of many a decade later in 1984 when she separated from her husband. The very next year, she delivered a hit Saagar. The actress has continued to work but it's the past few years that have been a different ball game for her. First a Hollywood debut with Christopher Nolan's Tenet, then a significant part in SRK's comeback film Pathaan and who can forget her as the lead in web series Saas Bahu Aur Flamingo. It won't be wrong to say Saas Bahu... is the first series showcasing a drug cartel run and operated by women in India. So, her gangster vibe in approaching versatile roles is hard to miss!

10 Indian cities screening films showcasing LGBTQIA+ narratives till March 24

The 'Five Films For Freedom' selected for screening are 'The First Kiss', 'Little One', 'Compton's 22', 'Cursive' and 'Halfway'.



Five short films from India, Spain, the Philippines, the UK and the US showcasing LGBTQIA+ narratives that resonate with resilience and authenticity are being screened in 10 cities across India.

The British Council in partnership with British BFI Flare: London LGBTQIA+ Film Festival launched the 10th edition of 'Five Films for Freedom' last week.

In India, in partnership with The Queer Muslim Project, 12 screenings for the films will be held. At the launch event in Delhi, the first screening was held, showcasing diverse narratives and fostering dialogue on LGBTQIA+ issues.

"We are very happy to be working together

with BFI Flare, and The Queer Muslim Project once more on 'Five Films For Freedom', a celebration of diversity and cross-cultural understanding," said Alison Barrett, director (India) of British Council.

"At British Council, we think there are no boundaries to love. 'Five Films For Freedom' respects creativity and expressiveness and stands in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community. We are proud of our continued support of this programme, which not only spotlights fresh stories but also creates new connections and understanding," she added.

The films selected for screening are 'The First Kiss', directed by Miguel

Lafuente (Spain); 'Little One', directed by Clister Santos (Philippines); 'Compton's 22', directed by Drew de Pinto (US); 'Cursive', directed by Isabel Steuble-Johnson (UK); and 'Halfway' directed by Kumar Chheda (India).

Chheda said there could have been "no greater joy than to see my film reach audiences around the world".

These films will be promoted across the British Council's extensive global digital networks and made accessible via BFI Player. In India, the films are being screened till March 24 in Delhi, Kolkata, Gangtok, Agartala, Shantiniketan, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Goa.

Triptii Dimri shares update on Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3

Actress Triptii Dimri, who has been crowned 'national crush', has shared an update about her upcoming film 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3', co-starring Kartik Aaryan.

The actress said, "You will see a lot of mystery. You can expect a lot of spooky elements and comedy."

"It's going to be something new, fresh and beautiful, of course," she added, while talking about the film on the sidelines of Lakme Fashion Week x FDCI.

Other details about the film are still under wraps.

The film, which also stars Vidya Balan, is



the third instalment of the Hindi horror-come-

dy franchise film 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa'.

'My heart aches': Kris Jenner shares tribute after her sister Karen Houghton's sudden demise

Kris Jenner mourned the demise of her younger sister Karen Houghton after her sudden death at the age of 65. She shared a heartfelt tribute in her honour and announced that her sister had died 'unexpectedly' the day before, reported People.

With 'the heaviest heart' and the 'deepest sadness', Jenner posted a carousel of pictures from their cherished sisterhood. They included baby photos, self-portraits and moments from various family events.

'My heart aches for my mom MJ and my niece Natalie and I pray that God guides us all through this difficult time,' she captioned the post. 'Karen was beautiful inside and out. She was the sweetest, kindest, the most sensitive and vulnerable



and so so funny.'

She described her sister as someone who was 'grateful and thankful' for her life and treasured not only her family and friends but 'especially her beautiful daughter'.

'She holds such a huge part of my heart and I cherish

every single memory we have together. Karen's passing is a reminder that life is so short and precious and tomorrow is never promised. We must tell those we cherish how much we love them,' she concluded. 'I love you my beautiful sister.'

According to People, Jenner's

mother Mary Jo 'MJ' Shannon was previously married to Robert Houghton—with whom she welcomed the reality star at the age of 20 and Houghton shortly afterward. Shannon's marriage to Houghton was short-lived and the matriarch raised her two daughters as a single mom before she met and married her third husband Harry Shannon.

MJ and Harry's union lasted for 40 years, up until his death in a car crash in 2003.

Though he was her stepfather, Jenner revealed in a 2015 Haute Living profile that she considered Harry to be a father figure. She previously referred to him as "my dad" while acknowledging that his death "was so devastating for my family," reported People.

World Poetry Day: Kalki Koechlin says writing poetry is like therapy for her

Kalki Koechlin doesn't remember exactly when she started writing poetry, but it has turned out to be a way of living for her. The actor says the craft helps her get in touch with her feelings, and address them.

On World Poetry Day, the actor opens up about her journey of finding words to express her emotions.

"I don't remember how it all started for me. I was very young when I started writing poems. And the only reason I know about it is because my mom kept all of it. I wrote when I was six about butterflies and other things that a kid can write," Koechlin tells us.

The 40-year-old shares reading poetry as a kid helped her get inclined towards the craft, as she says, "My mother gifted me books

on poems when I was a kid. I enjoyed spending time reading and then writing poems".

As she started writing poetry as a kid, is her daughter, Sappho, also following in her footsteps? "Well, I am not doing it consciously. She is curious about drawings. hShe has emotions to describe which she does by drawing. She has not started on poetry yet, but she has some introduction to storytelling," she says.

Talking about her own experience, she admits that her writing reflects her experiences. "It is like therapy for me... It is a way for me to articulate my deep emotions. There are times when you might be feeling certain emotions, like anger, sadness and anxiety, on the outside, but don't exactly know



why you are feeling those emotions. When I write poems, I feel like I am peeling the layers one by one and getting in touch with my deep emotions and feelings,"

says the mother of one, calling it "writing poems as self examination".

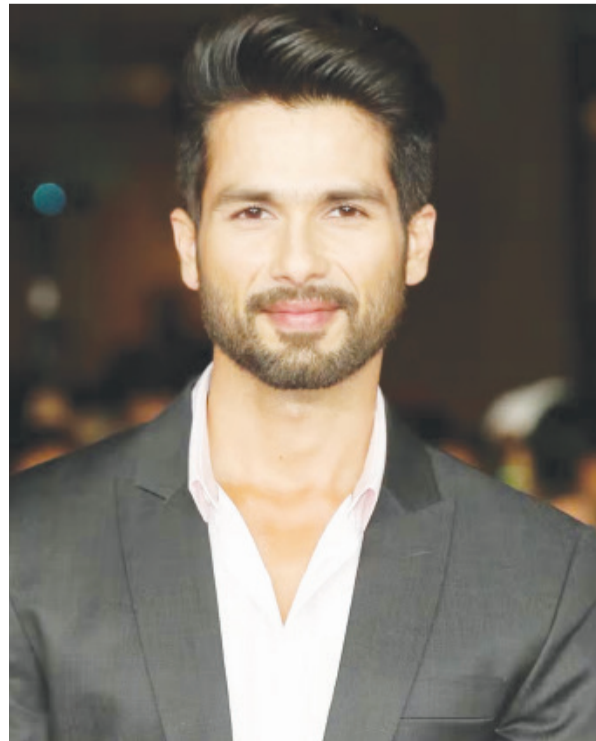
When it comes to the topics, the actor reveals everything about her inner turmoil and the

world around her inspires her.

"The struggles that I am going through. Motherhood, I was reborn as a mother. I am in toddler years of motherhood. So, that is inspiring me at the moment. All the changes in life, especially in women as we turn 40, be it mental or physical change... How we see things... All of that is inspiring me at the moment," says the Made in Heaven actor.

What about publishing her poetry? "People have asked me about it. At some point, it could be true when I think they are worthy of getting printed. I don't feel that way yet. I feel there is more to the craft. I am working on it. Maybe at some point, I will have a collection of poems long enough to publish," she ends.

Shahid Kapoor to star in Ashwatthama-The Saga Continues



Actor Shahid Kapoor, who is gearing up for his upcoming movie Deva, now is all set to headline

the mythological drama Ashwatthama — The Saga Continues. Taking to Instagram, Shahid

treated fans with the exciting news and captioned the post, which read, "Myth and reality will blur, as past and present collide, when an ancient legend meets this modern marvel! This is the story of #AshwatthamaTheSagaContinues, the immortal warrior a Magnum Opus you cannot miss."

The film delves into the legend of the immortal warrior Ashwatthama from the Mahabharata, believed to walk among us even today. Set in the present era marked by rapid technological advancements and humanity's remarkable capabilities, Ashwatthama is slated to be released in 5 languages — Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada.

Congress's bankruptcy is moral, not financial: BJP on party's funds charge

The BJP has slammed former Congress President Sonia Gandhi accusation against Prime Minister Narendra Modi of a "systematic effort to cripple Congress financially" before the Lok Sabha elections.

NEW DELHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): The BJP on Thursday said that the Congress's "bankruptcy is moral and intellectual, not financial" while slamming the party's former President Sonia Gandhi's attack against Prime Minister Narendra Modi of a "systematic effort to cripple Congress financially" before the Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing a press conference earlier in the day, Sonia Gandhi accused the Prime Minister of a "systematic effort to cripple Congress financially", while party MP Rahul Gandhi alleged, "All our bank accounts have been frozen. We can do no campaign work, we cannot support our workers, we cannot support our candidates".

In response to the scathing attacks by the top Congress leadership, BJP national president JP Nadda said, "Congress is going to be totally rejected by the people and fearing a historic defeat, their top leadership addressed a press conference and ranted against Indian democracy and institutions."

In a lengthy tweet, Nadda also



said the Congress is "conveniently blaming their irrelevance on 'financial troubles'. In reality, their bankruptcy is moral and intellectual, not financial".

"Instead of correcting their own errors, Congress is blaming authorities for their troubles. Be it the ITAT or the Delhi HC, they have asked the Congress to comply with the rules, pay the taxes due but the Party never did so."

The BJP national president went on to say that "for a party which has looted from every sector, in every state and at

every moment of history, to talk of financial helplessness is comical".

Congress can use the money accumulated from all their scams starting from jeep to chopper scam via Bofors for their electioneering. Congress part-time leaders say India being a democracy is a lie - may I humbly remind them that India was not a democracy only for a few months between 1975 and 1977 and that time the Prime Minister of India was none other than Mrs. Indira Gandhi."

On his part, BJP leader and

party MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "If we summarise the press conference of Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, we can say that in the utter desperation of defeat, the Congress party has created an alibi today."

"Gentle advice to Congress is the more you allow Rahul Gandhi to speak, the more ground you lose," he added

Also slamming the Congress, the BJP's national spokesperson and Supreme Court lawyer Nalin Kohli said, "Who's to blame for this? The Congress party."

"This is the Income Tax which acts for all people equally. Many years ago Congress party got a notice, but they didn't respond to it. Delhi High court recently also observed that this is your own fault, they should have responded. Why is the Congress party blaming the BJP? Congress believes that the Income Tax act which applies to all citizens equally should not apply to the Congress party in the same manner because they are the Congress party"

Sadhguru recovering well, his parameters are stable: Isha Foundation

Sadhguru also posted a video on his Instagram account from his hospital bed.



NEW DELHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): Spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, who underwent an emergency brain surgery at a private hospital here after suffering "life-threatening" bleeding in the skull, is recovering well and making steady progress, Isha Foundation said on Thursday.

In an Instagram story posted on Wednesday, Sadhguru's daughter Radhe Jaggi wrote,

"For those asking, Sadhguru is doing well and recovering quickly."

In an official statement, "Sadhguru has been recovering well and making steady progress. His parameters are normal and stable."

The 66-year-old spiritual guru is the founder of Isha Foundation and has launched campaigns such as 'Save Soil' and 'Rally for

Rivers' for environment conservation.

Indraprastha Apollo Hospital said in a statement on Wednesday, "The surgery was carried out on March 17 to remove bleeding in the skull. Sadhguru was weaned off the ventilator post-surgery."

He has shown "steady progress" and his "vital parameters have improved", the hospital said.

Sadhguru also posted a video on his Instagram account from his hospital bed. "The Apollo Hospital neurosurgeons cut through my skull to try and find something but found nothing — totally empty. So they gave up and patched it up. Here I am in Delhi with the patched-up skull but no damaged brain," he said in a lighter vein.

Two killed, one injured in building collapse in North East Delhi's Kabir Nagar

NEW DELHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): Two persons were killed and one was critically injured after a building collapsed in the Welcome area of North East Delhi in the wee hours of Thursday.

Police said that a call was received around 2:16 am regarding the collapse of a two-storey building at Kabir Nagar, Welcome.

According to preliminary inquiry, while the first floor was vacant, the ground floor was being used for cutting jeans. "Three workers who were trapped under the debris were taken



out and rushed to GTB Hospital, where two of them were declared dead. The third worker is critical and is undergoing treatment at the hospital," said an official.

Police said that the owner of the building has been identified as Shahid and efforts are on to trace him. "Legal

action will be taken in the matter. Further investigation is under way," they said.

The deceased have been identified as Arshad (30) and Tauhid (20), both residents of Kabir Nagar. Rehan (22), who is currently undergoing treatment, is also a resident of Kabir Nagar.

IISc researchers develop algorithm for drone swarms to control forest fires, natural disasters

NEW DELHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): The researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have designed an algorithm that seeks to use multiple swarms of drones to tackle natural disasters like forest fires.

Forest fires are becoming increasingly catastrophic across the world, accelerated by climate change.

"A swarm of drones could be the solution. By the time somebody identifies and reports a fire, it has already started spreading and cannot be put out with one drone. You need to have a swarm of



drones. A swarm that can communicate with each other," said Suresh Sundaram, professor in Department of Aerospace Engineering,

IISc. The solution was to design a special kind of algorithm that would allow the swarm to communicate with each

other as well as make independent decisions. When an alarm is raised about a potential fire, the swarms can be sent in, each drone armed with cameras, thermal and infrared sensors, and temperature detectors, to spot the fires. Once the fire is discovered, the drone closest to it becomes the centre of the swarm and attracts others towards it. Interestingly, each drone will also have autonomy to calculate the fire's size and potential spread, and decide how many drones are needed to quench the fire, the researchers say.

"These decisions are

made by the drones. They figure out which cluster of fire is going to spread faster, and allocate the required number of drones to put out that fire while the others look for other fire clusters," Sundaram said.

The advantage of using drones, Sundaram points out, is that the decision-making is decentralised, based on data, and aimed at maximum efficiency. No more than the required number of drones will be assigned to a fire cluster, allowing others to fan out in search of other clusters.

Madhya Pradesh man, inspired by Ramayana, gets mother footwear made from his skin

A man made footwear using part of his skin and gifted it to his mother in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain

UJJAIN, Mar 21 (Agencies): A man, once a history-sheeter in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, underwent a profound transformation, inspired by the teachings of the Ramayana.

Raunak Gurjar, who was once shot in the leg by the police, made footwear using part of his thigh's skin and gifted it to his mother.

He expressed that he was inspired by the story of Lord Rama's devotion to his mother. "I recite the Ramayana regu-



larly, and I am deeply influenced by the character of Lord Rama," Rounak shared.

"Lord Rama himself said that even making sandals from one's own skin is not enough for one's

mother. So, this idea came to my mind, and I decided to make footwear from my skin and gift them to my mother," Raunak said.

He had his skin surgically

removed at a hospital, without informing anyone in his family, and then took it to a cobbler who made the footwear.

Raunak then presented the slippers to his mother during a Bhagwat Katha organised near his house between March 14 and 21.

The sight of Raunak's sacrifice moved everyone present, including Guru Jitendra Maharaj, who was seated on the vyas peeth, and his mother, who could not hold back her tears.

Case against Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje over 'Tamilians' remark



BENGALURU, Mar 21 (Agencies): A case has been registered against Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje in Karnataka on Thursday on the directions of the Election Commission.

Karandlaje came under fire from the Opposition over her remarks over the Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe blast, where she blamed "Tamilians" for coming to Karnataka to plant bombs. The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu

approached the Election Commission against Karandlaje, accusing her of violating the Model Code of Conduct and the Representation of People Act.

The BJP leader apologised for the remarks and announced retracting them.

"To my Tamil brothers & sisters, I wish to clarify that my words were meant to shine light, not cast shadows. Yet I see that my remarks brought pain to some - and for that, I apologize. My remarks were solely directed towards those trained in the Krishnagiri forest, linked to the Rameshwaram Cafe blast. To anyone from Tamil Nadu effected (sic), from the depths of my heart, I ask your forgiveness. Furthermore, I retract my previous comments," she said in a post on 'X' late on Tuesday.

Police arrest second accused in Budaun double murder case

BUDAUN, Mar 21 (Agencies): A man accused in the Budaun double murder case was arrested from Bareilly on Thursday, police said.

Javed surrendered at Satellite Police outpost of Baradari police station of Bareilly, said Badaun Senior Superintendent of Police Alok Priyadarshi.

Budaun SSP Alok Priyadarshi says, "The second accused, Javed - who is the brother of accused Sajid, has been arrested by the District Police...He surrendered in Bareilly, his video is viral... After talking to the officers, our team is bringing him back. Further action will be taken after questioning him."

In a video shared by ANI, sourced to Police, he is heard saying, "...I ran straight to Delhi and from there I have to come to Bareilly to surrender. I have received phone calls from people about what my brother did..."

Two minor boys --- Ayush (13) and Ayaan aka Honey (6), were murdered gruesomely by a local barber Sajid (30), at their home in Badaun's Baba Colony on Tuesday night.

According to UP Director General of Police (DGP) Prashant Kumar, Sajid was shot dead when he opened fire on the police as he fled following the horrifying act.

Couple, 3 Children Burnt Alive As LPG Gas Leak Causes Fire At Jaipur Home: Cops

JAIPUR, Mar 21 (Agencies): A young couple and their three children were burnt alive when a fire broke out due to an LPG gas leak in their house while changing cylinders in Jaipur on Thursday, police said.

The fire engulfed their rented room in the Vishwakarma police station area of Jaipur and none of them could escape,

they said.

The incident occurred on Thursday morning when Rajesh Yadav (25) was changing the gas cylinder, SHO Rajendra Kumar said.

Gas was leaking from the cylinder and suddenly a fire broke out, he said.

The SHO said Mr Yadav, his wife Rubi (24), their daughters Ishu (7), Khushamani

(4) and son Dilkhush (2) were present in the room and none of them could come out.

All of them were burnt alive, he added.

The SHO said the family were staying in one of the rooms in a residential building that had 17-18 rooms in total. Mr Yadav, a native of Motihari, Bihar, was working in a factory and had been living there for

the last four months, the officer said.

No other room was damaged in the incident, he said.

Police said that the fire department doused the flames and the dead bodies were shifted to the mortuary of a hospital.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari condoled

the loss of lives in the incident. "The news of the untimely demise of 5 civilians due to the massive fire at Vishwakarma in Jaipur is heart-wrenching. I pray to God to give place to the departed souls at his feet and strength to the family members to bear this tragedy and speedy recovery of the injured," Mr Sharma said in a post on X.

Two Pakistani soldiers, 8 Baloch terrorists killed in attack on Gwadar Port Authority complex

The strategically located Gwadar Port is one of the focal points of billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project

KARACHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): At least two soldiers of the Pakistani Army were killed and eight Baloch terrorists were "sent to hell" when security personnel foiled an attempt by heavily armed Baloch insurgents to storm the Gwadar Port Authority complex in the restive Balochistan province, the military has said today.

The port complex hosts several government and paramilitary offices and the strategically located Gwadar Port remains one of the focal points of the billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Project.

A press release from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, said a group of terrorists attempted to enter the Port Authority Colony but were successfully thwarted by security forces personnel on Wednesday.

"Own troops employed for security responded immediately and effectively engaged the terrorists, and in ensuing fire exchange, all eight terrorists were sent to hell," the statement said late on Wednesday.

Two sepoys were killed in the exchange of fire, the statement said.

A large quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives was also recovered from the possession of the militants from the separatist Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA).

Balochistan, bordering Iran and Afghanistan, is home to a long-running violent insurgency. Baloch insurgent groups have previously carried out several attacks targeting the USD 60 billion CPEC projects.

The BLA is opposed to China's investments in Balochistan and



accuses Beijing and Islamabad of exploitation of the resource-rich province, a charge rejected by the authorities.

Thousands of Chinese personnel are working in Pakistan on several projects being carried out under the aegis of the CPEC.

BLA's Majeed Brigade, which was formed in 2011, is a particularly lethal guerrilla cell of the BLA.

It was named after a guard of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who was killed while attempting to assassinate the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) founder.

It has been alleged that the group also maintains sanctuaries in areas along the Pak-Iran border.

The brigade, which is the suicide squad of the BLA, mostly targets security forces and Chinese interests in Pakistan. It also claimed responsibility for the April 2022 suicide attack outside the Karachi University's Confucius Institute.

The outfit had also claimed responsibility for three coordinated attacks launched using rockets and sophisticated weapons in Balochistan's Mach town in January, some 70 kilometres from the provincial capital of

Quetta.

The attack comes on a day when Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif asserted that his government will not tolerate any acts of cross-border terrorism.

Gwadar Senior Superintendent of Police Captain (ret) Zohaib Mohsin said the situation is now under control.

A large contingent of police and security forces had arrived at the scene when the intense firing was ongoing, he added.

A statement from the United Nations Department for Safety and Security said "several explosions followed by continuous firing" were reported during the attack on the complex.

The statement confirmed there were no immediate reports of civilian casualties, elaborating that seven personnel from three UN agencies based in Gwadar and two UN agencies on missions were "safe and accounted for".

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, commending the security forces for thwarting the attack, appreciated the valour and professional skills of the personnel and officers of the police and security forces.

He paid tribute to the soldiers who laid down their lives during the operation, the PM Office

Media Wing said in a press release.

Shehbaz further said those trying to target Gwadar and Balochistan wanted to interrupt the process for the country's economic prosperity and vowed to foil all internal and external conspiracies with the help of the people.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti hailed security and law enforcement officials for their response against the attackers and said "the message is loud and clear" that "whosoever chooses to use violence will see no mercy from the state".

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in the past year, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan after the banned militant Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) outfit ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

Balochistan faces a double threat by the banned TTP as well as Baloch militants.

The incidents of terrorism have increased in Pakistan since the Taliban took over the government in Kabul, dashing hopes in Islamabad that a friendly government in Afghanistan would help to tackle militancy.

Wednesday's attack comes after a lull in violence and terror activities in the Balochistan province since the February 8 general elections.

According to an annual security report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies, Pakistan witnessed 1,524 violence-related fatalities and 1,463 injuries from 789 terror attacks and counter-terror operations in 2023 - marking a record six-year high.

Italy PM Giorgia Meloni Seeks Over \$100,000 In Damages Over Deepfake Videos

The indictment claims that the videos were uploaded on a pornographic website in the United States and watched "millions of times" over several months.



ROME, Mar 21 (Agencies): Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is seeking 100,000 euros (\$109,345) in damages after deepfake porn videos of her were created and circulated online. Investigators claim that the two men made pornographic videos of Ms Meloni by superimposing her face on another person's body and then uploaded them on the internet. The 40-year-old man and his 73-year-old father are charged with defamation, according to the BBC.

According to the police, they were able to locate them by tracking the smartphone that was used to upload the videos. The deepfake video in question dates back to 2022, before she was appointed as the country's Prime Minister.

Notably, certain defa-

mation cases in Italy may be criminal and result in a jail sentence. Ms Meloni will testify before a court on 2 July. The indictment claims that the videos were uploaded on a pornographic website in the United States and watched "millions of times" over several months.

The legal team of the Italian PM said that the request for damages was "symbolic". They added that Ms Meloni would donate the entire amount to "support women who have been victims of male violence." Maria Giulia Marongiu, Ms Meloni's lawyer, said the demand for the compensation will "send a message to women who are victims of this kind of abuse of power not to be afraid to press charges."

A deepfake is a type of synthetic media that

uses artificial intelligence to manipulate or generate visual and audio content, often with a malicious motive, to appear authentic.

The word "deepfake" originally appeared in late 2017, according to MIT, when a user of the same name on Reddit established a platform for sharing pornographic videos made with open-source face-swapping technology. With deepfake, artificial intelligence (AI) is used to create photos or movies that appear to be fake occurrences. It uses a form of AI called deep learning to make images or videos of fake events. Deepfakes have become more realistic and commonplace due to advancements in artificial intelligence.

They have become a danger to public confidence and the truth. Deepfakes are a powerful tool for spreading misinformation, twisting public opinion, and damaging reputations because they can be used to create convincing audio and video recordings of individuals saying or doing things they never did. Many world leaders have expressed their concern about the growing nature of deepfakes.

3 Killed In Suicide Bombing In Afghanistan's Kandahar, 12 Injured

Firefighters and security personnel were clearing the area, where blood, scraps of clothes and shoes littered the ground.



KANDAHAR, Mar 21 (Agencies): A suicide bombing killed three people and wounded 12 others on Thursday in the Afghan city of Kandahar, a provincial official said, the heartland of the Taliban authorities that rule the country.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, and while multiple explosions have been reported around the country since the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on March 11, few have been confirmed by Taliban officials.

Afghanistan's capital is Kabul but Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada lives in Kandahar city, for decades the stronghold of the Taliban movement.

"A suicide attack occurred in which three compatriots were killed and 12 others were wounded, according to preliminary informa-

tion," said Inamullah Samangani, director of information and culture of Kandahar province.

The explosion at around 8:00 am (0330 GMT) targeted a group of people waiting outside the New Kabul Bank branch in central Kandahar city.

"Commonly our compatriots gather there to collect their salaries," Samangani told agency, adding that the "victims were civilians".

Taliban authorities had surrounded the area outside the bank and did not let journalists close to the site.

However, an agency journalist saw what appeared to be unconscious people or dead bodies being loaded into ambulances in the wake of the blast.

Firefighters and security personnel were clearing the area, where blood, scraps of clothes and shoes littered the ground.

Hospitals did not respond to requests for information, saying they had been told not to speak to the media.

Samangani said "the situation is under control" at one of the city's hospitals where wounded were transported, denying that the need for blood donations was urgent as had circulated on social media.

"There is no such issue, and the wounded people are not in serious condition, they have superficial injuries," he said in a message to journalists.

The number of bomb blasts and suicide attacks in Afghanistan has markedly declined since the Taliban ended their insurgency after seizing power in August 2021, ousting the US-backed government.

However, a number of armed groups -- including the regional chapter of the Islamic State group -- remain a threat.

Dozens of Rohingya refugees rescued after a night on hull of capsized boat

MEULABOH, Mar 21 (Agencies): An Indonesian search and rescue ship on Thursday located a capsized wooden boat that had been carrying dozens of Rohingya Muslim refugees, and began pulling survivors who had been standing on its hull to safety.

An agency photographer aboard the rescue ship said 10 people had been taken aboard local fishing boats and another 59 were being saved by the Indonesian craft.

Men, women and children, weak and soaked from the night's rain, wept as the rescue operation got underway and people were taken aboard a rubber dinghy to the rescue boat.

It was unclear how many refugees were aboard the small craft when it capsized off of Indonesia's northernmost coast on Wednesday, with six survivors initially rescued by local fishermen estimating between 60 and 100 people.

It was unclear whether all managed to cling to the cap-



sized craft overnight or whether some had drowned.

Indonesia's search and rescue team only left Banda Aceh city in the evening Wednesday, many hours after the capsizing, and initially had difficulty locating the boat in the choppy waters off the coast.

It finally found the boat and the survivors about midday on Thursday.

Amiruddin, a tribal fishing community leader in Aceh Barat district, said those rescued indicated that the boat was sailing east when it started leaking and

then strong currents pushed it toward the west of Aceh. The six others said they were still trying to survive on the capsized craft.

About 740,000 Rohingya were resettled in Bangladesh to escape the brutal counter-insurgency campaign by security forces in their homeland of Myanmar.

Thousands have been trying to flee overcrowded camps in Bangladesh to neighbouring countries, with Indonesia seeing a spike in refugee numbers since November, which prompted it to call on the international commu-

nity for help. Rohingya arriving in Aceh face some hostility from some fellow Muslims.

Indonesia, like Thailand and Malaysia, is not a signatory to the United Nations' 1951 Refugee Convention outlining their legal protection, and so is not obligated to accept them. However, they have so far provided temporary shelter to refugees in distress.

Last year, nearly 4,500 Rohingya — two-thirds of them women and children — fled their homeland of Myanmar and the refugee camps in neighbouring Bangladesh by boat, the United Nations refugee agency reported. Of those, 569 died or went missing while crossing the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, the highest death toll since 2014.

Returning safely to Myanmar is virtually impossible because the military that attacked them overthrew Myanmar's democratically elected government in 2021. No country has offered them any large-scale resettlement opportunities.

Neuralink's first patient controls computer, plays chess just by thinking

SAN FRANCISCO, Mar 21 (Agencies): Elon Musk's brain-chip startup Neuralink on Thursday showed its first patient being able to play online chess and video games just by his thoughts, using the Neuralink device. A video widely shared on the internet also showed the patient implanted with a chip.

In the video, the patient introduced himself as 29-year-old Noland Arbaugh, who was paralysed below the shoulder after a diving accident.

He could be seen playing chess on his laptop and moving the cursor using the Neuralink device.

"If you all can see the cursor moving around the screen, that's all me," he said during the livestream as he moved a digital chess piece. "It's pretty cool, huh?", he added.

The video also showed Arbaugh describing the process of using the brain-computer interface.

"I would attempt to move, say, my right hand, left, right, forward, back, and from there I think it just became intuitive for me to start imagining the cursor moving," he said.

Arbaugh also says he feels lucky to be part of the Neuralink study.

"I just can't even describe how cool it is to be able to do this," he said.

Founded by Musk in 2016, Neuralink is a brain-chip startup. It is a device, the size of a coin, which is surgically implanted in the skull. Its ultra-thin wires go into the brain and develop a brain-computer interface (BCI).

The disk would register brain activity and send it over to a device, such as a smart-

phone, through a common Bluetooth connection.

In February this year, the startup's founder Musk said the first human patient implanted with a brain chip from Neuralink appears to have fully recovered and was able to control a computer mouse using their thoughts.

"Progress is good, and the patient seems to have made a full recovery, with no ill effects that we are aware of," Musk said.

"The patient is able to move a mouse around the screen by just thinking," Musk said in a Spaces event on social media platform X.

Musk also said Neuralink was now trying to get as many mouse button clicks as possible from the patient.

“Come Down To Earth”: Sachin Tendulkar’s Message To India Star Pacer Which Impacted His Performance

Cricketing great Sachin Tendulkar has been an inspiration to many, be it on or off the cricket field.

NEW DELHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): Cricketing great Sachin Tendulkar has been an inspiration to many, be it on or off the cricket field. Meanwhile, the legend himself has always been supportive towards the players he played with. Recalling the encouraging words of Tendulkar, pacer Varun Aaron revealed how the cricket veteran boosted his morale and that “changed” his Test debut in 2011. In Aaron’s first match in the format, India were playing against West Indies at Wankhede and the pacer was struggling to get his maiden Test wicket. This is when Sachin motivated him to keep going. “We were playing at the Wankhede Stadium. It was a really flat wicket, and the West Indies were 500 something for four. And I was really down. I was 21 years old and had



never bowled 21 overs without a wicket. Sachin Tendulkar was standing at mid-off, he looked at me and asked, ‘why are you looking so down?’ I was like, you know what, Paaji, I’ve never bowled 21 overs for no wickets. I can’t believe this is happening on my debut,” said Aaron in an interview to BCCI.

“He (Sachin) is like, come here. We stopped mid-over and he said, ‘Do you know I waited 22 years for my first World Cup Trophy? So you can wait 21 overs for your first wicket, there’s no problem with that. Please come down to earth and get bowling. I was like, Mar, seriously, that makes so much

sense. The very next ball, I got Darren Bravo (166) out, caught behind. Then got two other wickets - Carlton Baugh and Daren Sammy. And that just changed my debut. “Just a few words from Sachin Tendulkar. I had also induced an edge off Marlon Samuels, but it was dropped. I was bowling flat out, gas out in my 26th over. If I had gotten that wicket, you never know, I would’ve gotten one more over from MS Dhoni and may be a fiver as well. It was just a great spell inspired by the great Sachin Tendulkar. And it just shows you that these very small things can actually change careers, change a debut for somebody.” Aaron played 9 Test matches for India and took 18 wickets. He called time on his red-ball cricket career in February this year.

Rohit was lost in joy of Test debutants



MUMBAI, Mar 21 (Agencies): Skipper Rohit Sharma said that he revelled in the company of his young “mischievous” teammates and was overwhelmed by emotions as many made their debuts during India’s monumental 4-1 Test series triumph over England. In the absence of some big stars, including Virat Kohli, the five-Test home series saw five players — Rajat Patidar, Dhruv Jurel, Sarfaraz Khan, Akash Deep and Devdutt Padikkal — make their debut as India showed resilience to fight back after losing the opening Test. “Personally, I really loved playing with them. All of them are very mischievous,” Rohit said. “I knew most of them well and what their strengths are and how they want to play the game. It was just for me to give them the comfort by talking about how good they are and the good things they have done in the

past. The way they responded to me and Rahul bhai (coach Rahul Dravid) was superb,” he added. The India skipper cited the example of Sarfaraz Khan, saying he had seen his journey, having played against his father as a youngster. “I was just lost in their debuts. I was enjoying their debuts so much because their parents were there. There was so much emotion,” he said. “I have played with Sarfaraz’s father in Kanga league when I was very young. His father was a left-handed batter. He was an aggressive player and very well known in Mumbai cricket circles. I wanted to acknowledge his effort and hard work that had paid off with his son playing for India. I just wanted to tell him that his son’s Test cap belongs as much to him as his son,” he added. He was high on praise for Indian spin ace Ravichandran Ashwin who returned with 26 wickets in the series. “Ash’s career speaks for himself. He’s a matchwinner for Team India be it overseas or at home. Imagine the pressure he goes through, to come out on top and keep delivering series after series says a lot about him. I loved it. I hope we play a lot of cricket together in future as well,” he said.

Former Pakistan Test captain Saeed Ahmed dies at 86

LAHORE, Mar 21 (Agencies): Saeed Ahmed, the former Pakistan Test captain and a dashing batsman of his time, passed away here after leading a largely reclusive life away from cricket since his retirement. He was 86.

Ahmed played 41 Test matches, scoring 2,991 runs with five centuries and 16 half-centuries. He also took 22 wickets with his off-spin bowling.

Ahmed made his Test debut against the West Indies during the famous drawn Bridgetown Test in 1958 when he was 20 and played his last Test for Pakistan in Melbourne against Australia during the 1972-73 tour.

However, his Pakistan career had an undignified end during that tour. The Pakistan board believed that Ahmed faked a back injury to avoid playing against Dennis Lillee on a green



top at Sydney after his altercation with the pacer in that Melbourne Test. Ahmed was subsequently recalled from the tour on disciplinary grounds and he was never selected for Pakistan again. But before that Ahmed was known for his elegance, particularly those drives down the ground, and penchant for big scores. In his debut Test against the Windies, Saeed featured in a 150-plus runs partnership with Hanif Muhammad, who made his historic 337 in the second innings to help Pakistan walk away with a draw.

Muhammad batted for 970 minutes during that knock, while Ahmed made a resolute 65. He was Pakistan’s sixth Test captain and replaced Muhammad as skipper of the side during England’s tour of Pakistan in 1969. He only led Pakistan for three Tests and all were drawn.

PCB chairman Mohsin Naqv said: “The entire cricketing fraternity is saddened over the demise of one of our former Test captains. We are conveying our deep condolences to the family of Saeed Ahmed. “He served Pakistan with all his heart and the PCB honours his record and services for the Test team.” Saeed’s half-brother, Younus Ahmed, also played four Tests for Pakistan. He was called up by Imran Khan to the 1987 tour of India and played in a Test.

Fit Shreyas Iyer’s return big boost for KKR: Chandrakant Pandit

CHENNAI, Mar 21 (Agencies): Kolkata Knight Riders, in their quest for the third IPL crown, have been making the right moves. First, they brought back their two-time winning captain Gautam Gambhir as mentor and later, picked the world best left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc to bolster their attack. KKR chief coach Chandrakant Pandit, too, insists that things are going smoothly and assures that his team is on track to perform to its potential in this edition of the Indian Premier League. “The preparation is going on nicely. All the boys are focussed and eager to perform. They are aware of their roles and are keen to deliver,” Pandit told this daily. While there have been some reports that Shreyas Iyer has had some recurring back problems, Pandit said that the captain is “absolutely fine.” He’s already played a prac-

tice game as well and he’s been practicing, so he’s absolutely fine. His (Iyer) coming back into the team is a big boost for us as he is a class batter and an able captain,” revealed Pandit. Gambhir has already joined the team and been interacting with Pandit and Iyer, passing on his inputs as a mentor. “Obviously, it’s a great inclusion (Gambhir as mentor) and he is a very experienced man who has been with the KKR. He not only has experience of being around in the circuit but has also won the two titles for KKR. It’s a big boost for everyone,” opined the former India wicketkeeper. The return of Iyer, who missed out on the last season due to injury, and with the likes of Manish Pandey, Venkatesh Iyer, Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh, Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford, Phil Salt and Rahmanullah Gurbaz KKR has a solid line-up of batters. Starc leads the

attack, with Dushmantha Chameera, Chetan Sakariya, Harshit Rana, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarty, Mujib-Ur-Rahman, left-arm spinner Anukul Roy and Suyash Sharma for support. “The team composition is very good, we have a very balanced side. The team combination will be decided on the day of the game keeping in mind the surface we are going to play and against whom,” said Pandit. “As you mentioned we have some exciting batters and some quality spinners in Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarty. Both of them are different and are quality spinners. Both have the ability to bowl anywhere. Plus our fast bowling attack is also second to none with Starc leading the attack,” added the 62-year old. Russell on a given day can be a gamechanger with his aggressive batting. He, along with Rinku, can be a good finisher for KKR. “Rus-

sell is in good form. He’s been batting well. If you see his past performance this season, he’s been playing in particular when he played for West Indies. He’s well experienced and has played other leagues too,” Pandit insisted. Pandit’s mantra for success is to focus totally on one game at a time and then take it from there to build momentum. “Yes, of course we’ll have to focus on one match at a time rather than just thinking over the entire season. Of course, it is a long journey and we’ll have to prepare in such a way that we win a game and then carry forward the momentum. So it is a continuous process where one tries to constantly improve in order to achieve the goal,” explained Pandit. Pandit has been one of the most successful coaches in domestic cricket having helped several teams win the Ranji Trophy. However,

IPL is a different ball game. “It’s more than challenging. In the IPL you deal with experienced and matured players. They have enough experience under their belt. I don’t try to change (their game), I try to guide them and give them direction in order to achieve the target,” he said. Several team’s support staff are under pressure from their team owners. KKR co-owner is none other than Shahrukh Khan. In fact, it has been reported the superstar took a keen interest in bringing back Gambhir. “Absolutely no pressure from any of the owners. Shahrukh Khan just comes and watches the games, speaks with the boys and encourages them. Ever Since I joined the team there has never been any kind of pressure from Shahrukh. In fact, he is always a great motivator and not only for me, but the entire team,” signed off Pandit.

IPL 2024 new rules: Two bouncers per over to smart replay system

The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 is set to introduce several significant rule changes that promise to enhance the excitement and competitiveness of the tournament

NEW DELHI, Mar 21 (Agencies): The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 is gearing up for an electrifying season with several groundbreaking rule changes aimed at elevating the excitement and competitiveness of the tournament. The Chennai Super Kings (CSK), captained by MS Dhoni, will begin their title defence against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), led by Faf du Plessis, in the season opener at Chennai’s iconic MA Chidambaram stadium on Friday, March 22.

While Dhoni last played cricket in the IPL 2023 final, leading the team to victory over the Gujarat Titans, Kohli has been out of action since January of this year. Days before the match, the RCB changed their name, replacing ‘Bangalore’ with the city’s present name, Bengaluru. TWO BOUNCERS PER OVER One of the most signifi-



cant alterations involves allowing bowlers to unleash two bouncers per over, a departure from the previous limit of just one. While T20s closely adhere to ICC regulations, which allow only one short ball per over, Tests and One Day Internationals (ODIs) allow two bouncers per over. This strategic tweak aims to level the playing field between bat and ball, offering bowlers a new avenue to challenge

batsmen. The decision to implement this rule follows a successful trial in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, India’s domestic T20 championship, signaling widespread approval from players and officials. SMART REPLAY SYSTEM Alongside the introduction of the second bouncer rule, IPL 2024 will unveil the Smart Replay System, a cutting-edge technology set to revolutionize umpiring

decisions. Powered by eight high-speed Hawk-Eye cameras stationed around the ground, this system provides real-time images to aid the TV umpire, facilitating quicker and more accurate judgments. By bypassing the need for a TV broadcast director as an intermediary, the system grants the umpire direct access to a wider array of visuals, including split-screen images. This innovative leap

forward is poised to streamline the review process, enhancing the overall efficiency of decision-making during matches. Moreover, the continuation of the Impact Player rule, introduced in the previous season, allows teams to strategically substitute a player mid-match, injecting an additional layer of tactical depth into the game. The BCCI has decided to keep the provision of verifying a catch when a referral for stumping is requested during IPL 2024 matches. This ruling deviates from ICC norms, which state that the on-field umpire only examines stumping calls. Notably, while the IPL embraces these progressive changes, it has opted not to adopt the stop clock rule, a departure from recent ICC playing conditions for white-ball international matches.

“This Is A Pride Project”: R Ashwin’s Perfect Explanation Of ‘Hungry’ Mumbai Indians’ Decision To Trade Hardik Pandya



MUMBAI, Mar 21 (Agencies): India and Rajasthan Royals off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has opened up on the debate surrounding Mumbai Indians decision to replace Rohit Sharma as captain. MI traded Hardik Pandya from Gujarat Titans as part of an all-cash deal before naming him as the skipper of the franchise ahead of IPL 2024 players auction. Rohit is the most successful captain in the history of IPL, alongside MS Dhoni, having led MI to five titles. MI’s decision to axe Rohit and take Hardik on board, however, faced severe backlash from the fans. Ashwin while refrain-

ing himself from getting into the “right or wrong” debate, said that MI’s move shows how desperate they are to regain the IPL crown. “The Hardik Pandya buy shows how hungry they are for number 6. Many people might have opinions about why it is right or wrong, or they might have taken it too easy. I am not going into that. This is a pride project. They play to win. And they’ve gone to that extent to buy a player. And you can say so many things, but when a team pulls off such a buy, you tend to think more,” Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. “Think about it, if MI got Rashid Khan from

GT instead of Pandya, It is unthinkable, right? In the EPL or the rest of European football, it happens like this. If this also goes like that, some teams will have the financial strain to match up to those teams, and equality is a question mark. But nevertheless, as MI has done this, it looks pretty clear that they are going for number 6,” he added. Ashwin, however, went on to praise Hardik, who led GT to the title in their first season in the IPL in 2022. He said that the star all-rounder played with a lot of intent in the middle overs. “He (Hardik) has always been a combination player, giving a few overs and scoring runs when required. In GT, a lot of the team’s success came from his transition as a player who plays the middle overs with intent and leaves the finishing to (Rahul) Tewatia and Rashid Khan,” Ashwin added.

CUJ launches Short Term Training Program in Tourism for Women

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu launched Short Term Upskilling Training Programme for Women candidates in collaboration with Government Degree College Vijaypur, Samba under the guidance and mentorship of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Mission Director, Department of Skill Development, UT of J&K.

The programme was inaugurated in presence of Prof. Vandana Gupta, Principal, GDC Vijaypur, Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dr. Neelika Arora and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq from School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu and faculty members of college. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Vandana Gupta, chief guest of the inaugural session appreciated the efforts of Central University of Jammu under the dynamic and visionary leadership of its Vice Chancellor for organizing an upskilling outreach Programme in the College for the benefit of



female candidates. She talked about Nari Shakti as India jumps significantly on gender inequality Index as an outcome of the decisive agenda set by the Government for ensuring women's empowerment through policy initiatives spanned across women's lifecycle including large scale initiatives for girls' education, skill development, entrepreneurship facilitation and safety in the workplace aimed at their long-term socio-economic and development.

Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean, School of Business Studies in her address said that for realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 there is a need to focus on gender equality along with gender

equity for overall economic independence and participation of women in decision making. She stated that the women-led development should make the women logical, expressive, rational and the progress of a society is dependent on the progress of women. She pointed out that in the fast-changing technological world there is a need to learn, unlearn and relearn skills to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Dr. Neelika Arora, Associate Professor while speaking in the inaugural function highlighted the need for women to have more financial dependence along with a change in the mindset to become an entrepreneur.

She further spoke about the primary role of women towards parents, society and nation besides giving tips to participants to choose the courses carefully depending on the available opportunities. She stressed on knowledge, skills and attitude as key to become successful in life and also elaborated the concept of Kaushal Bharat - Kushal Bharat.

Earlier Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Assistant Professor in her welcome address briefed the participants about the short-term upskilling initiative being launched by the University to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir UT to learn employable skills. He further pointed out that the University is

hand-holding youth to promote self-entrepreneurship for income and employment generation. Speaking on the occasion he further said that the Tourism sector generates maximum employment with minimum investment and is the backbone of J&K economy. He introduced the trainer for the Programme S. Gupta having diverse industry experience of working in reputed corporate houses.

S. Gupta, Trainer for the upskilling programme illuminated the path for aspiring Multipurpose Associates (Tourism), setting the tone for the enriching journey ahead. The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of HoDs, and faculty members of the College. The entire program was coordinated by Dr. Neelika Arora, and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq under the supervision of Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Project Director, DHE Project on Employability Training and Dr. Vandana Gupta, Principal, GDC Vijaypur. S. Gupta proposed a formal vote of thanks expressing gratitude to all the contributors and supporters of this initiative.

Ex-CPMF Welfare Association projects demands, seeks early redressal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: Chairman, Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association J&K, Ashok Kumar has urged the Central Government to redress long pending demands of ex-paramilitary forces personnel at the earliest.

Flanked by General Secretary D.K Chauhan, Ashok Kumar, while addressing press conference here today, said, "The Cabinet Committee on security (CCS) GI vide GoI Order No 23-11-2012 has approved the proposal MHA to declare CAPF Personal from BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP Personal and directed to Government to extend suitable benefits extended by the State / UT Governments Ex- service-men of Defence Forces." Speaking on 7th Pay Commission Recommendations, he urged the BJP led Central Government to release payment of 18 months DA arrears before the Parliament elections.

"The serving and former members widows and dependent of the paramilitary forces are being downgraded in front of their fellow citizens and family members while they are exposed to similar risk patterns as defense forces," he further said.

He demanded that



Paramilitary Forces being Armed Forces, should be exempted from New Pension Scheme (NPS).

He urged upon the Union Home Ministry to consider their demands which also include One-Rank One Pension and CSD canteen facilities instead of Central Police Canteen at State/District level.

The Association chairman also demanded extension of proper medical treatment facilities for retired personnel of Paramilitary Forces at district level and all post retirement benefits to them which are available to Defense Forces Ex-Servicemen/ Widows and dependents.

He said that a deputation of Ex Central Paramilitary Forces also met Members of Parliament Jugal Kumar Sharma and Dr. Jatinder Singh and highlighted their most essential and genuine demands continuously in 2014 and 2016.

He expressed disappo

pointment with MPs for ignoring their genuine demands despite repeated efforts and submissions.

"Our depulment also submitted demands to MP Rajya Sabha Shamsar Singh Manhas, but the efforts of Ex. CPMF depulment found disappointments," he said. The delegation of Ex. CPMF had a lot of hopes from our most popular representatives which results nothing.

In the 110th parliament standing committee a recommendation for medical allowances to the pensioners from Rs. 1000 to 5000 but PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh (MP) had not responded in his two tenures, he added.

Others present in the press conference included Harbans Lal Sharma, Charan Singh Chahal, Noor Muhammad, Harvinder Kour, Gulam Nabi Shah, Sajawal Shah, Kirtan Singh emphasizing a unified front in advocating for their demands.

Last date for online admission, re-registration for Jan 2024 session extended till March 31

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for fresh admission as well as re-registration for the January 2024 session till 31st of March, 2024. The date of re-registration has been extended with a Late Fee of Rs.500 only. The admission date for short term six-month duration and semester-based programmes has not been extended further.

To enroll in the next year or semester, learners need to register on the Portal and click the "New Registration" button to proceed and provide the correct mobile number and e-mail ID so that the University is able to send confirmation and other important updates only if the correct mobile



number and e-mail ID are entered.

In case the learners face difficulty in registering on the portal (not getting OTP/ forgot Username/Password or any other difficulty), they need to approach Regional Centre Jammu for re-setting of their account/ updating email ID or mobile number. They can apply for IGNOU re-registration January 2024

by visiting the official website of the IGNOU www.ignou.ac.in. The direct link for online re-registration is https://onlinerr.ignou.ac.in/ which can be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online" on IGNOU website.

For filling the admission form online, candidates need to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal and

be ready with a Mobile No., Email ID, properly scanned academic documents, photograph and Bank Debit /Credit/ Net Banking for payment of fee. Applicants can access the IGNOU admission portal 2024 at IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in or by directly following the link https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in.

To enroll in the next year or semester, candidates must fill and submit the IGNOU re-registration January 2024 form by the submission deadline. The students who did not attempt the term-end examinations or did not submit their assignment can also apply for re-registration for January 2024 provided the minimum duration is completed and programme validity has not expired. They

can apply for IGNOU re-registration January 2024 by visiting the official website of the IGNOU www.ignou.ac.in. The direct link for online re-registration is https://onlinerr.ignou.ac.in/ which can be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online" on IGNOU website.

"The desirous learners who wish to seek admission or re-register themselves for subsequent year/semester must avail this extended opportunity and apply online well before the last date and eligible learners can apply for Government of India Scholarships on the National Scholarship Portal at https://scholarships.gov.in/ after confirmation of admission", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director.

Tiger Division honours Late Maj Gen Atma Singh on 82nd Raising Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: Honouring the legacy of Late Maj Gen Atma Singh, First Indian GOC of Jammu Division (now Tiger Division), a wreath was laid at his memorial at Jammu-Udhampur Highway by Brig Gautam Segan, SC, SM, Offg GOC 26 Infantry Division in a solemn ceremony on the occasion of 82nd Raising Day of Tiger Division.

Late Maj Gen Atma Singh was a distinguished officer, who laid down his life in the service of the nation where he died in harness in an unfortunate incident where the memorial stands.

During his tenure as the GOC of the 26 Infantry Division, Late Maj Gen Atma Singh displayed



exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication and an unyielding commitment to the welfare of his troops. His memory

will forever remain etched in the annals of the Indian Army's history, serving as a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

Do not vote for leaders who own schools: Amit Kapoor

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 21: Amit Kapoor, President of Parents Association Jammu has said that in this election season, various leaders will come to the people to ask for votes. He has urged the people not to vote for leaders who own schools or if any school owner comes to ask for votes. These leaders silently watch the spectacle of parents being looted and go to various schools as chief guests and cut ribbons. Along with this, he also reiterated the demand to tighten the rein of the nexus of books, fees and uniforms. Amit Kapoor said these things while addressing a press conference in Jammu. He said that this is the only way to teach a lesson to the leaders in this period of elections. This is because these leaders cut ribbons as chief guests in private schools and watch the spectacle of parents being looted. Apart from



this, these leaders do not raise their voice against the private school mafia, due to which private schools do whatever they want and loot the parents. Along with this, he also said that these leaders do not raise their voice to end the nexus of books, uniforms and fees, due to which private schools have become so unbridled that they are looting the parents. Amit Kapoor also reiterated his demand to form a task force to rein

them in. Along with this, he also said that if the owner of any school comes to ask for votes, then do not vote for him either.

Amit Kapoor has expressed hope that keeping these things in mind, people will leave no stone unturned to teach such leaders a lesson. He also urged LG Manoj Sinha to take immediate concrete steps to stop the looting of private schools so that parents can get some relief.

Workshop on Sanger Sequencer held at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 21: Two -Day workshop on Sanger Sequencer- jointly organized by coordinators of Higher Education project funded by HEI's Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir and MMTTC on March 20 and 21 held at SMVDU, Katra. The Inaugural Session was attended by participants from various educational institutions of JK, Research scholars, and Faculty of SMVDU. Prof. Manoj K Dhar, Director, ACSIR and Ex Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu was the Chief Guest and keynote speaker for the occasion. The presence of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, lent weight to the event, emphasizing the institution's dedication to fostering a culture of scientific exploration.

Prof. Kumar's welcome address resonated with attendees, instilling a sense of purpose and direction. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Work-



shop was held at Matrika Auditorium, SMVDU. Dr. Sharada Potkuchi, Coordinator of the workshop welcomed all the guests and participants and made delegates aware about the mandate of the capacity building project under which the Workshop was conducted, wherein introduction of MMTTC by Prof. Suparn Kumar Sharma underscored the importance of collaborative initiatives in driving innovation in biotechnology. Among the audience were Dr. Sunil Wanchoo, Dean Faculty of Sciences, as special invitee.

Prof. Uma Bhamadipati, Prof. Balbir Singh, Dr. VV

Tyagi, Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Dr. Sunanda, Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Dr. Parvaz, Dr. Preeti Sharma, Prof. Baba Potkuchi and Dr. Raju were among the august gathering.

The workshop featured a series of captivating lectures, starting with Prof. Manoj K Dhar, ACSIR, Director, Delhi who deliberated on the "Role of Capacity Building in Biochemical Science". Prof. Dhar's insights provided a solid foundation for understanding the fundamental principles driving biochemical research, inspiring participants to think critically about their work.

Technical Experts, Dr. Anil Kumar and Dr. Vibha Pandey from Thermofisher delivered the Lecture on the nuances of Sanger Sequencing and introduced the features and applications of the recently acquired Sanger Sequencer-SeqStudio. Dr. Shweta from Shiva Scientific life sciences discussed the specialized domain of Devyser Fragment Application, offering valuable insights into this cutting-edge field.

The interactive session provided a platform for participants to engage directly with speakers and experts, fostering lively discussions and the

exchange of ideas. The Co-coordinator of the workshop, Dr. Rakesh Thusoo presented the vote of thanks and informed all present that such workshops in the school will be held regularly to train and educate the Faculty, Staff and other medical professionals from UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Furthermore, Hands-on training sessions were conducted by Dr. Anil Kumar, Application Scientist from Thermofisher, who provided participants with practical experience in Sanger sequencing techniques. The training sessions, held at the Central Facility Mass Array Lab, School of Biotechnology, equipped attendees with valuable skills and insights.

Dr. Rakesh, organizing secretary acknowledge the support of Coordinators and staff of RP-127, RP-128 along with Mr. Rajeshwar, Bhawani, Tanvi, and Minerva for smooth conduct of the workshop.