

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Four-Year-Old Crushed to Death by Speeding Vehicle

SRINAGAR, Mar 23 (Agencies): A four-year-old boy was crushed to death by a speeding vehicle in the Baggar area of Assar subdivision in Doda district Saturday afternoon.

An official said that the boy was hit by a vehicle in the Baggar area, following which he was rushed to the Community Health Centre in Batote.

He added that the boy succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital. He has been identified as Bhanu Pratap, son of Bachan Singh from the Ganota area of Assar.

The police have taken cognizance of the matter and registered a case in this regard.

Youth found dead under mysterious circumstances in Budgam

SRINAGAR, Mar 23 (Agencies): A 23-year-old youth was found dead under mysterious circumstances at Wangwas area of Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Saturday morning. An official said that the body of a youth was found by family near his house in the wee hours of this morning and accordingly informed the police. The body has been recovered from the spot & identified as Shabir Ahmad Jehrah, son of Mohd Yousuf Jehra of Gogjipathri Wangwas Chadoora. In the meantime, family members and the villagers alleged murder and have requested authorities to thoroughly investigate the matter. An official said that police has taken cognizance of the incident and initiated investigation, adding that the body will be handed over to family for last rites after postmortem.

Clouds break, sun peeps through in J&K after 2 Days

SRINAGAR, March 23: Jammu and Kashmir saw partial sunshine on Saturday, after two days of inclement weather.

Met office has forecast dry weather in J&K till March 26.

Ski resort of Gulmarg witnessed fresh snowfall in the past 24 hours. Srinagar had 6.5, Gulmarg minus 2.5 and Pahalgam minus 1.1

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BSF special Director General reviews operational preparedness along LoC

SRINAGAR, Mar 23 (Agencies): Special Director General (SDG) of the BSF's Western Command, Yogesh Bahadur Khurania, concluded a five-day visit in the Kashmir valley which was aimed to assess the security situation and operational preparedness of the force along the Line of Control (LoC), an official said here on Saturday.

The SDG of Western Command Chandigarh undertook a significant five-day visit to the Kashmir Frontier from March 18 to 22, a BSF spokesman said.

The spokesman said the visit aimed to assess the security situation and operational preparedness along the LoC, reaffirming the



commitment of the BSF to safeguard India's borders.

The visit commenced with a detailed briefing by Inspector General, BSF Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav, on the security situation on the LoC and hinterland, he said.

The spokesman said the visit included an

aerial reconnaissance and visits to forward defended localities, as well as to the Sector Headquarters (SHQ) BSF in Kupwara and Srinagar.

At each location, the SDG engaged with the local BSF Commanders and troops gaining first-hand insights into the security scenario and

operational readiness along the LoC.

Khurania also called on General Officer Commanding (GoC) 15 Corps, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, and discussed the collaborative efforts between the BSF and the Army, and underscored the paramount importance of synergy for achieving peace, prosperity and development in the valley, the spokesman said.

The BSF officer visited the Composite Hospital and STC BSF, Kashmir, where he reviewed ongoing physical and professional skill training of recruits.

He commended the professionalism and expertise of the training team at STC BSF.

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Asia's largest Tulip garden opens for visitors in Srinagar



SRINAGAR, Mar 23 (Agencies): Kashmir's Tulip Garden, one of the biggest in Asia, was officially thrown open to the public on Saturday.

According to the officials, this year the garden will bloom with 17 lakh flowers of differ-

ent varieties with a boast of five new flower varieties this year.

An officer from the floriculture department told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that for this year they added five new varieties of flowers and that

the visitors will witness 1.7 million tulips in the garden.

"The moment has come when the tulip garden has been thrown open to the public. Both national and international tourists are visiting

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J&K police establishes 24*7 election helpline

SRINAGAR, Mar 23 (Agencies): In view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls Jammu and Kashmir police has established helpline to address election related queries. In a post on X, Kashmir Zone police said that the dedicated 24*7 election helpline has been setup at PCR Kashmir. "To address election-related queries and concerns, J&K Police Kashmir Zone establishes a dedicated 24*7 'Election helpline' number 8899868589 at PCR Kashmir," it said.

Death toll in Sangrur spurious liquor case rises to 20; SIT Formed

CHANDIGARH, Mar 23 (Agencies): The death toll due to the suspected consumption of spurious liquor in Punjab's Sangrur district has climbed to twenty, with six more persons succumbing, officials on Saturday said.

Meanwhile, a four-member special investigation team (SIT), led by an additional director general of police (ADGP) rank officer, has been set up in connection with the incident.

Eleven people are undergoing treatment at Patiala's Rajindra Hospital and six at the Civil



Hospital in Sangrur.

Sangrur Civil Surgeon Kirpal Singh on Saturday said that 20 people have died so far in the incident.

The officials said that the casualties have been reported from Gujran,

Tibbi Ravidaspura and Dhandoli Khurd villages in Dirba and Sunam blocks.

The police have made six arrests in the case so far, they said.

The AAP government has been under fire from

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Kashmiri Doctor commits suicide in Delhi

SRINAGAR, Mar 23 (Agencies): A doctor from South Kashmir's Anantnag district has committed suicide in Delhi, family sources on Saturday.

Dr Arifat Rashid, who had completed his MBBS in Bangladesh and was coaching for MCI in Delhi's Gautam Nagar, allegedly jumped from a hostel building.

"We have received a call from there that he has committed suicide by jumping from the hostel in Delhi," a family source said.

The body of the deceased is being

brought to his native village. The deceased's father recently passed away due to a cardiac arrest. He was a bank official.

At least 16 Kashmiri students pursuing higher education in colleges and universities outside Jammu and Kashmir have tragically lost their lives to suicide since 2016, according to the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA).

Mental health struggles, particularly depression, are suspected to be a contributing factor in

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8th Class Exams: JKSCERT postpones exam of all papers except for English subject

SRINAGAR, Mar 23 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training (JKSCERT) Saturday postponed examination of all papers of 8th standard except for the English subject. Joint Director Central for JKSCERT said that the postponement was announced in view of the representations made from various quarters for in the UT of J&K.

The official communique in this regard reads, "It is notified for all the concerned that the Middle Standard Examinations scheduled to be held on 24th, 26th and 29th of March in respect of soft zone and 26th and 29th of March in respect of hard zone stand postponed." JKSCERT said that the fresh dates for conduct of these papers of both Hard Zone shall be notified in due course of time. Earlier, the had proposed to conduct examination of regional language paper of 8th standard simultaneously in both soft and hard zones on April-07. JKSCERT had said that it had not received the questions papers from on time and were not in position to supply the question papers of Kashmiri subjects due to paucity of time. The Joint Director of

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K) +91-9086207123

OBITUARY

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



Smt. Suman Sharma (Pinkey)

10TH DAY shall take place on 24 March, 2024.
GRIEF STRICKEN FAMILIES
Sharma's & Koul's
Mob: 9419118588, 9682365964

TENTH DAY

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



Smt. Phoola Ji

10th Day Kriya will be held at Ganpatyaar Ghat (Badyar Ghat) on 25-03-2024.
Grief Stricken
Bal Krishan Pandita
Vimal j Pandita
Salish Pandita
Pinkey Raina

10TH DAY KRIYA

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



Smt. Suman Tickoo (Babli Ji)

Grief Stricken
Sh Maharaj Krishan Tickoo -Husband
Sahil Tickoo & Kajal Tickoo -Son & Daughter-in-law
Sapna & Sahil Sapolia -Daughter & Son-in-law
M.No. 8825010828, 8899980528, 9796267034

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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



Smt. Pitty Pandita

The **10th Day Kriya** will be held at Sainik School Ghat Nagrota on 24-03-2024 at 9:00 AM.
The **Assembly** shall be held at Jagti Community Hall Back side Lane No. 4
GRIEF STRICKEN :
Sons and Daughters-in-law
T.K. Pandita/ Veena Pandita
A. K. Pandita/ Pinky Pandita
Sushheel Pandita/Sheela Pandita
Mob No. 9419261098, 9419853053, 7051206242
Daughters and Son-in-Laws
Vinod Ji Pandita / Kiran Pandita
Inder Ji Wali/ Pamposh Wali
Vinod Ji Pandita/ Rinku Pandita
GRAND DAUGHTERS & GRAND SONS :
Great Grand Daughters & Sons : SAMAST PANDITA PARIVAR

10TH DAY/13TH DAY/ RASAM PAGRI

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



Shri. Rajinder Singh Jamwal

14th November 1935-12th March 2024

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rajinder Singh Jamwal** S/o Late Bhag Singh R/o Raipur on 12th March 2024.

Following days will be observed at our residence 210 Lane No. 6, Adarsh Vihar, (Dillee) Sec-B, Sainik Colony, Jammu (Near Royal Nest Apartment).
10th Day at 11am on 21/3/24.
13th Day/Kriya at 1pm on 24/3/24.
Rasam Pagri at 12 Noon on 25/3/24.

Grief Stricken
Smt. Raj Rani Jamwal - Wife
Col V S Jamwal & Chetna - Son & Daughter in Law
Jitender Singh Jamwal & Kanika - Son & Daughter in Law
Neena & Pardeep Singh Jamwal - Daughter & Son in Law
Grand Children: Navjot, Sonika, Avinash, Manisha, Puneet, Shubhra, Shubham, Soumya, Kriti, Suryansh, Anvika, Karnveer, Nirvaan.
Mob. Nos.: 7006670560, 9810154957

CONDOLANCE

UMA BHAGWATI ASTHAPAN TRUST, UMANAGRI (BRARIANGAN) EXTENDS HEART FELT CONDOLENCE ON THE SAD DEMISE OF **SH SRIKANT BHAT** S/O LT. SH SHIVE JI BHAT ORIGINALLY FROM VILLAGE BRARIANGAN (UMANAGRI), ANANTNAG KMR, A/P PATOLI MANGOTRIAN JAMMU. MAY MATA UMA BHAGWATI BESTOW SADGATI TO THE DEPARTED NOBLE SOUL AND GIVE COURAGE TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE IRREPARABLE LOSS. "AUM SHANTI AUM".
UMA BHAGWATI ASTHAPAN TRUST, UMANAGRI ANANTNAG (KMR)
CAMP JAMMU
M: 70064-13490



Sh. Srikant Bhat

OBITUARY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, IT IS REGRETTED TO INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED **SMT. GUNWATI JEE (BHAABI)** W/O LT. NAND LAL SHARMA ATTAINED HER NIRVANA ON 20-03-2024 AT SHARDHA COLONY PATOLI BRAHMANA. THE MOURN IS BEING HELD AT H.NO.16/A SEC. 2 SHARDHA COLONY PATOLI BRAHMANA.



SMT. GUNWATI JEE (BHAABI)

GRIEF STRICKEN :
SH. ASHA JEE -DAUGHTER
DAUGHTER & SON -IN-LAW
SMT. SUMAN JEE & SH. S.L.PANDITA
GRANDCHILDREN:
SMT. & SH. SANTOSH PANDITA
SMT. & SH. SANJAY PANDITA
SMT. & SH. SUMEET PANDITA
SMT. & SH. ROHIT PANDITA
MOB. NO: 9086119171

TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that sad demise of **Smt. Swaran Kanta Anand** W/o Sh. Gopal Krishan Anand R/o 1A, Sector 3, Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 15-03-2024 Friday.

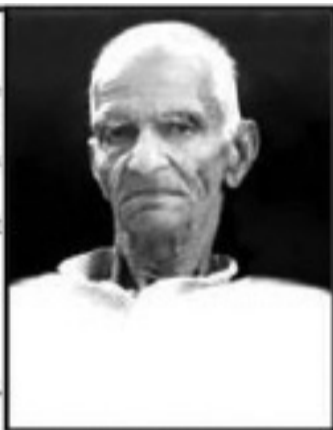


SMT. SWARAN KANTA ANAND

Tenth Day will be held at our residence 1A, Sector 3, Upper Roop Nagar at 11 am on 24-03-2024 Sunday. Kriya will be performed at our residence R/o 1A Sector 3, Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu on 27-03-2024 at 1:00 pm.
Rasam Uthala will be held at Aap Shambhu Mandir Roop Nagar on 27-03-2024 from 4 pm to 5 pm.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Gopal Krishan Anand - Husband
Sh. Sham Lal Anand & Smt. Radha Anand - (Jeth & Jethani Ji)
Sh. Jagdish Raj Anand (Devar Ji)
Sh. Amit Anand (Son)
Sh. Anuj Anand & Smt. Jyoti Anand - Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Anish Anand & Smt. Divya Anand - Son & Daughter-in-law
M/s Anand Builders Roop Nagar
Contact: 9419112566, 9419142567, 9797593704

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Master Surjit Singh Chib** S/o Late Sh. Onkar Singh Chib R/o Ward No.6, Jourian (Near Food & Supplies Store Jourian) expired on 16-03-2024.



LATE SH. MASTER SURJIT SINGH CHIB

DOB: 10-05-1941 - DOD: 16-3-2024

Tenth Day will be performed on 25-03-2024 at Jourian at 12 Noon.
Kriya on 28-03-2024.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Swaraj Rani - Wife
Sarisha Kumari W/o Late Sh. Shamsheer Singh - Daughter
Smt. Anjana Kumari W/o Dharamvir Singh Chib - Son
Smt. Neeta Rani W/o Pardeep Singh Chib - Son
Smt. Sunita Rajput & Narinder Singh Chib - Son
Grand Son: Nitin Chib, Vishavir Singh, Yashav Chib, Yashovardhan Chib, Vrvek Chib
Contact No: 9469170738, 9596803560

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Veena Ji W/o Late Sh. Girdhari Lal Sharma** originally resident of Mohalla Brahman Anantnag on 15/3/2024.



Smt. Veena Ji

Tenth Day will be performed on 24/3/2024 Sunday at Akhnoor Ghat at 7.30 am.
Assembly will be held at current residence at H.No. 32, Lane No. 1, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Jammu from 11.00 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN
M.K. Handoo & Veena Ji
Avtar Krishan Sharma & Babli
Sanjay Sharma & Arti Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Kuldeep Sharma & Santosh (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Rakesh Roshan Sharma & Meenu Pandit (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Arvind Handoo & Akshara
Vimal Ji & Meenakshi
Amit Pandita & Rekha
Anoop Sharma & Jyoti
Amit Sharma & Jeevika
Grand Children : Simran, Sajal, Pavitra, Vanshika, Apurva, Vansh
Great Grand Children : Laksh, Vibhu, Madhvi
Mobile : 9796606133

SHANTIPATH

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **BHABI SMT ANDREE TINGLOO** W/O PREDMAN KRISHAN TINGLOO OF KULGAM KASHMIR, PRESENTLY RESIDING AT HOLLAND AT PRESENT 17/2A DURGA NAGAR SEC II.



SMT ANDREE TINGLOO

SHANTI PATH WILL BE PERFORMED AT T.N. BHAN ASHRAM (NEAR SHARMA MILK SHOP DURGA NAGAR SEC 1 ON 26-3-2024 (TUESDAY) FROM 4 PM TO 5.30 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
SAMAST TINGLOO PARIVAR
MOB. 9419307647

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Jeeta Bhan (Jita Kumari Bhan)** Wife of Maharaj Krishan Bhan originally resident of Sebdan Badgam Kashmir presently at H.No. 57/A, Lane No. 2, Camp Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu on 21/3/2024.



Jeeta Bhan (Jita Kumari Bhan)

GRIEF STRICKEN
Dulari Bhan (Mother-in-law)
Maharaj Krishan Bhan (Husband)
Manish Bhan (Son)
Shikha Bhan (Daughter)
S.S. Bhan & Usha Bhan (Devar & Devrani)
Samast :
Safcoos, Dullcoos, Kouls, Rainas, Duranis, Bazazs, Panditas
Mob.: 9419305309

10TH DAY KRIYA/MOURNING

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



Sh. Sri Kant Bhat

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 25-03-2024 at Muthi Ghat at 9:00 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Mohini Bhat (Wife)
Smt. Asha Ji & Sh. Shambhu Nath Bhat (Bhabi & Brother)
Smt. Uma Shob W/o Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Bhat (Sister)
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Kiran Kumar Razdan
Smt. Sushma & Sh. Manu Jee Raina
Smt. Anjali & Sh. Sunil Jee Raina
Daughters in law
Smt. Vijay Bhan W/o Sh. Jonki Nath Bhan
Smt. Jeeta Pandita W/o Sh. Sohan Lal Pandita
Grand Children
Dulsha, Akshay, Mohit, Manish, Suham

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Kishni Koul** W/o Lt. Jaggar Nath Koul erstwhile Palpora (Wasoor), Pulwama A/p H.No.538, Durga Nagar, Sector -2 Ext. Near Shiv Shakti Guest House on 18th March 2024.



SMT. KISHNI KOUL

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of School Education at 9 AM on 27th March 2024 (Wednesday).
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Sh. Mukesh Koul & Smt. Deepali J
Ph. 7051137617, 9419229210
Daughters & Son-in-Law
Smt. Pinky Ji & Sh. Tej Krishan Koul (9419110162)
Smt. Baby Ji & Sh. Tej Krishan Bhat (980508766)
Smt. Anjali Ji & Sh. Kubbhushan Koul (71040047)
Grand Children: Nitin, Akshay, Vinny, Komal, Vanshika, Vansh, Mudrika, Daksh.
Samast Koul's, Bhat's, Kichloo's

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

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



SMT. PITY PANDITA

MOURNING is being held at community Hall back side of lane no 4 Jagti Township. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 24th of March 2024 Sunday at 9 am at Sainik School Ghat Nagrota.
ASSEMBLY will be held at 10 am at mourning venue.
IN GRIEF
DAUGHTER IN LAWS AND SONS
Smt. Veena Pandita and Sh. K. Pandita
Smt. Pinky Pandita and Sh. A. K. Pandita
DAUGHTERS AND SON IN LAWS
Smt. Sheela Pandita and Sh. Sushheel Pandita
Smt. Kean Pandita and Vinod Ji Pandita
Smt. Pamposh Wali and Sh. Inder Ji Wali
Smt. Rinku Pandita and Vinod Ji Pandita

Bhog and Antim Ardas

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Gurcharan Singh ji** S/o Late S. Kaur Singh ji (Chowk) who left for heavenly abode on March 18th 2024.



S. Gurcharan Singh ji

Programme: Anantnag Sri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence La 73, Murshid Chak, Computed total life on 22nd March 2024 at 05:55 AM.
Bhog at Akhand Path Sahib on 24 March 2024 (Sunday) at our residence at 8:10 AM.
Antim Ardas will be held at Gurdwara Charan Sahib, 6th estate from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN.
S. Mohinder Kaur (Wife)
S. Daljit Singh & S. Chharajeet Kaur (Son & Daughter in law)
S. Jasvinder Singh & S. Pardeep Kaur (Son & Daughter in law)
S. Anwarjeet Kaur & S. Navinder Singh (Daughter & Son in law)
Late. S. Gurnam Singh (Nephew) (Father in law)
(Grandchildren) S. Subhdeep Singh, Manpreet Kaur, Diljit Singh, Nageshwar Kaur, Sukhpreet Singh & Harshdeep Singh
Mobile No. 9419263277, 9419149539, 9801152215

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and deep sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna (Kallu) Dhar** W/o Sh. Daljit Dhar resident of Lergala Dhar, currently residing at W/o Park House Durgal, expired on 15-03-2024.



Smt. Krishna (Kallu) Dhar

Tenth Day will be performed on 20-03-2024 (Tuesday) at 05:30 at Mansar Nagar.
Assembly will be held at current residence 385, Pustalika Apartment, Block D, Vikas Park Near DCH from 12:00 noon onwards.
Grief Stricken
Sh. Rajji Dhar - Husband
Sh. Gajraj & Dany Dhar - Son & Daughter-in-law (Mob: 9871743042)
Sh. Ashish & Sarita Dhar - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt. Arshad & Suniti Koul - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Chhoo Shaba W/o Late Randeep Krishan Malik - Bhabhi
Sh. Rajesh Malik & Kiran - Brother & Bhabhi

10TH DAY KRIYA/MOURNING

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Nama Ji Koul** S/o Late Sh. Shambhu Nath Koul, originally from Lok Shastri, Anantnag Kashmir, present residence at S/O 73 Vinayak Nagar, 16th Block Anantnag, on 18-03-2024.



Sh. Nama Ji Koul

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 25-03-2024 at Muthi Ghat at 09:00 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Chhaveri Koul (Mother)
Smt. Suniti Koul (Wife)
Smt. Asha Ji & Sh. Shambhu Lal Koul (Bhabhi & Brother)
Smt. Sushma Koul & Sh. Ranveer Koul (Bhabhi & Brother)
Smt. Saurabh Bhat W/o Late Sh. Sohan Lal Bhat (Sister)
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Simran Koul & Sh. Adarsh Sharma
Sh. Akshay Koul - Son
Mobile Nos.: 982549980, 7889780219, 706061201

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDASS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **S. Manohar Singh (Shanty) Redt. Forester**, S/o Late S. Vakil Singh (Nangal Wale) R/o Ward No. 9, Moh Kamsar, near Distt Hospital Poonch, who left for his heavenly abode on 17th of March 2024.



S. Manohar Singh (Shanty) Redt. Forester

ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB Ji on 22nd of March 2024 at 9:30 am at our residence.
BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB Ji on 24th of March 2024 (Sunday) at 9:30 am at our residence.
ANTIM ARDASS at Gurdwara Baitakh Mahant Mohar Singh Ji near Distt Hospital Poonch from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm followed by Guru Ka Langar.
DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY :
Son Amarjeet Kour (Wife)
Son Taranjeet Kour and S. Talvinder Singh (New Zealand) (Son & Daughter in law)
Son Anveer Kour & S. Karanjeet Singh (Industrial Bank) (Son & Daughter in law)
Son. Salvirjeet Kour & S. Gagandeep Singh (Accountant) (Daughter & Son in law)
Son. Jagjeet Kour & S. Malvinder Singh (Retd Teacher) (Brother & Sister in law)
S. Gurbachan Singh Redt S.O (Brother in law)
Joyvir Singh, Harshawn Singh, Gayya Kour, Uli Baby (Grand Children)
Mob. 990627017, 9055113717, 9622070788

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FFMA pays tributes to Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) organized a programme to remember freedom fighters Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev at Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu.

The programme was presided over by the Association Chairman, Rajiv Mahajan while Patron-in-chief, Ved Gandotra was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajiv Mahajan said that India today needs the principles of the late freedom fighters like never before.

Rajiv Mahajan, while paying glorious tributes to Bhagat Singh who



laid down his life for the sacred cause of freedom at a young age, said that the ideals and principles of Bhagat Singh must act as a torch bearer for the youth in today's society in which people

are playing good and fragmenting human kind on the basis of caste, creed and religion.

He added that the young generation of India will always continue to draw inspiration

from these great revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives with smiles on their face for the freedom of country.

Soluting their martyrdom, Rajiv Mahajan observed that the

sacrifices made by the revolutionaries in India's freedom struggle would always inspire the youth to serve selflessly towards the better interest of the nation.

"Their sacrifice and courage will forever be remembered by the generations to come," he added.

Others present on the occasion included Among others present were R.C Puri (Vice Chairman), S.S Bhalwal (President, FFMA), Karnail Chand Thakur (Working President), J.J Singh (General Secretary), Pritam Sharma, K.L Verma, Nirmal Kishore, Prabhat Kapahi (Office Secretary) and others.

JU organizes interactive session on "Leveraging Water for Peace"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu organized an 'Interactive Session' on the theme "Leveraging Water for Peace" to mark the celebrations of World Water Day 2024.

Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu formally welcomed the experts and briefly introduced the theme of World Water Day. He highlighted the importance of water conservation in our daily lives and stressed on the need for responsible water usage to ensure the sustainability of various water resources.

The first technical session started with an expert lecture by Dr. C.M Seth (IFS), Former Chief Wildlife Warden and former Chairman J&K Pollution Control Board wherein he discussed about the pivotal role played by water resources

in water conservation with particular reference to wetlands of Jammu region. "Socio-economic disparities lead to inequitable distribution of water, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities and aggravating social tensions. Thus, embracing innovation and adopting sustainable practices in agriculture, industry, and urban development can mitigate water stress and enhance water efficiency", he said, while discussing the importance of the theme of World Water Day 2024.

In another technical session, Prof. A.K. Raina, Former Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu spoke at length about the critical role of water in sustaining life and various challenges being faced in ensuring its quality, accessibility, and equitable distribution. The technical presentations were followed by an interactive

session coordinated by Dr. Deepika Slathia.

Participants actively participated in the session, posing several questions to the experts on a wide array of topics such as regional water issues and traditional conservation measures, community-based conservation initiatives, and policy recommendations for water resources. During the interactions, experts emphasized the importance of innovations, start-ups, and collaborative efforts involving policymakers, scientists, local communities, and environmental organizations to address the multifaceted challenges confronting water resources conservation in the Jammu region.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Deepika Slathia. The programme was attended by Dr. Ravinder Kumar, Dr. Ranjan Sharma, Rozi, research scholars, and students of the department.

Opposition seems to be nervous, confused & in frustration amidst unprecedented transformation in J&K: Bali Bhagat



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat emphasised that the entire opposition seems to be nervous, confused, and frustrated due to the massive transformation witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir since the BJP government took over the reins of the country.

Speaking at the meeting held here today, the senior BJP leader underscored the significant strides that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The entire opposition seems to be nervous, confused, and frustrated," Bhagat noted, emphasizing the magnitude of the changes witnessed in the Union

Territory. He pointed out the tangible benefits that have reached the grassroots level through various Central-sponsored schemes. "Jammu and Kashmir has experienced a major transformation under the PM Modi regime," he said, highlighting the positive impact these initiatives have had on the lives of the people.

Moreover, the former minister expressed confidence in the BJP's prospects in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, asserting, "BJP will set a new record by winning Parliamentary seats in the union territory. He shared these insights while presiding over a crucial meeting of Presidents and General Secretaries of three Mandals

Morcha within Jammu's East constituency. Prominent among others East constituency Sanyojak Hari Om and Vistarak Anil Angral were present in the meeting

Bali Bhagat, who is also the In-charge of East Constituency, reviewed the functioning of the Morchas and engaged in extensive discussions regarding poll strategies. Furthermore, he delineated roles and responsibilities for polling booths to participating dedicated party workers.

Encouraging relentless efforts towards securing victory for the BJP, Bali Bhagat urged all the leaders to mobilize and deploy every available resource in ensuring the party's success in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Cyber Cell of District Police Reasi recovers online fraud money amounting Rs 80,000

Top News Report

REASI, Mar 23: Cyber Cell of District Police Reasi has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to combating cyber-crime by successfully solving a case and recovering online defrauded money amounting Rs. 80,000.

During the investigation, the cyber investigation team, led by Inspector(T) Raghuraj Singh I/C Cyber Cell Reasi, exhibited hectic efforts and advanced technical skills which ultimately led to the successful recovery of defrauded amount of Rs. 80,000.

This achievement underscores the unit's expertise, dedication, and tireless efforts in safeguarding the common citizens against

online fraud and cheating.

SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma reiterated in her appeal to the general public to remain extra vigilant and report promptly to the National Helpline number 1930 or Cyber Cell Reasi helpline number 7051003202 if any suspicious call is noticed.

SSP Reasi also encouraged citizens to lodge cyber complaints online at www.cybercrime.gov.in and

www.ceir.gov.in for lost/Stolen Mobile. Emphasizing the importance of awareness and collaboration in effectively combating cyber threats.

District Police Reasi, equipped with advanced technology and skilled personnel, remains at the forefront in fight against cybercriminals.

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

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 23: The 5th national conference on "Recent Trends in Mathematical Sciences" (NCRMTS) concluded at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. The conference was organized by School of Mathematics. Invited speakers from various reputed institutions of the country deliberated on recent trends in Mathematics, and had fruitful interaction with the young researchers. Prof. D. S. Hooda, Former Pro-Vice Chancellor, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra was the chief guest at valedictory session. Prof. Hooda applauded the organizing team and the delegates for organizing the conference in the excellent manner. Prof. Anil K. Vashisth, Chairman, Department of Mathematics, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra motivated the research scholars and delegates to learn the novel methodologies and their inception in their research work. Prof. Rashmi Bhardwaj, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi highlighted the importance of visualization of Mathematical concepts and their implication in industry 4.0.

Dr. A. K. Das, Coordinator of the conference highlighted the outcomes

of the conference. Dr. Surender Singh, Coordinator of the conference received the feedback from the Young participants from various institutions and SMVDU about the conference. All participants were highly satisfied with the overall learning experience at NCRMTS-2024 and aspired to be part of the future events at SMVDU. Dr. Kuldip Raj, Head, School of Mathematics and Convener of NCRMTS briefed about the new program B.Tech (Mathematics and Computing) which is commencing from the session 2024-25. Prof. V. K. Bhat, conference chair of NCRMTS guided the volunteers and organizing team for shaping up the overall organization of NCRMTS.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Organizing Secretary of NCRMTS proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. Sandeep Bhogal, Organizing Secretary of NCRMTS, Dr. Sunil Kumar and Dr. Nitin Bisht were also present at the occasion and smoothly handled the proceeding of the valedictory and other arrangements. All research scholars staff members of School of Mathematics were also present during the sessions and contributed in the successful organization of 5th NCRMTS at SMVDU.

Heartfulness Institute inaugurates Meditations in collaboration with VKMI & SUT



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: Global Spiritual Organisation, Heartfulness in collaboration with Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) & Sarv Uthan Trust (SUT), inaugurated a series of Meditation Sessions at 31/3 Chhanni Himmat.

Dr Ravi Kant, Heartfulness (HFN) Preceptor/Trainer, came forward to practice the Meditation in three subsequent sittings, to members of like minded organizations, including Bharat Vikas Parishad, Bhagwan Mahaveer Physiotherapy & Yoga Center, Indian Yoga Association, Vichar Kranti Manch International, Sarv Uthan Trust, Skill Development & Financial Solutions.

Dr Ravikant explained Heartfulness Meditation as "Inner peace Fellowship" Meditation and suggests 3 following steps viz Sit quietly with close eyes with a suggestion that divine light is present in the heart; Thoughts should not be given attention and if through arises being back your attention back to the heart; and Posture should be comfortable so that the body should not

disturb us during meditation and lying down is also not advised and it will result in sleep.

The whole concept is based on ancient Raj yoga Technique which is known as pranahuti or transmission and that is the beauty of heartfulness meditation as it take you to the Samadhi awastha which is the higher state of consciousness, he said adding that the benefits of meditation come gradually and not a over night transformation from meditating regularly.

Meditation can make you happier, it can make you feel more at ease & calmer, and it can help you get along better with others.

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, President Vichar Kranti Manch International, State Yoga Commissioner & Chairman Indian Yoga Association, explained his experience about Meditation.

By practicing Meditation one get perfection in other activities, he said adding that the HFN offers as in - depth experiential practice focused on the evolution of human consciousness using the ancient technique of Pranahuti (Yogic Transmis-

sion) during Meditation in combination with the more active mental practice of "Cleaning". Both are enabled by irritation into the HFN practices.

Dr Jain also described four fold way to be successful in life viz Gratitude/ Thanks/ Grateful, Say 'Sorry' as & when needed, Say "I am proud of you", "What can I do for you."

Anju Bansal, Swar Kokila, A Social Activist, I/C Child & Woman Sanskar, Bharat Vikas Parishad, recited a song on Shukrana (Gratitude), in her melodious voice.

Others who shared their views were Ashok Gupta (Founder Chairman Sarv Uthan Trust), Abhinandan Jain (Director Mahavir Physiotherapy & Yoga Center), HC Vaid (Finance Secy SCSSC), Ashok Khajuria (Secy BVP Shivalik), Yesh Paul, Founder Skill Development & Financial Solutions, Vijay Gupta, Lavan Gulati, Narinder Wadhwa, President Evening walkers Association Trikutanagar, Janakraj Gupta & Monika Khajuria Nutritional counselor.

Vote of thanks was presented by Ashok Gupta, State Vice President Bharat Vikas Parishad.

BMS two days triennial conference started at Katra



Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 23: 16th state triennial conference of Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMC) Jammu Kashmir started at Chintamani Trust Katra while inaugurating the conference Akhil Bhartiya Sangthan Mantri B. Surendran paid tribute to the sacrifices of Shahid Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and Sukhdev and also welcomed the delegates who came from across the state and said that in the present scenario only those unions will survive those who apart from their full filling of their own demands in organized

sector and also think and work for unorganized sector general problems faced by them and BMS is working equally on both fronts and with the result BMS has become the largest Labour organization among the democratic countries of the world and being recognized by Govt. and with the result chairmanship of L-20 was given to BMS by the Govt of India and main achievement of L-20 was that in this regard three resolutions were adopted in G-20 the international portability of social security Fund for the workers those who are working in

foreign countries for short span of their life and social securities contributions deducted in that country be given back to the workers of their respective countries. Women working world, and unorganized sector particularly GIG Workers and Plate form workers.

He further highlighted that Public sector are going in losses due to the top level managements failure and allegation are leveled upon the workers and closers of public sector is not an solutions which otherwise give employment. In the meeting Neelam Sharma General Secretary also presented general Secretary report for the last three years of Jammu Kashmir BMS.

Finance Secretary Sachin Bali also presented last three years income and expenses report. Sector wise meeting were also held for further expansion of BMS work in the state in next three years said in a press release

EDITORIAL

FREEDOM
FIGHTERS

Sardar Bhagat Singh's name is taken most prominently among the immortal martyrs. Bhagat Singh was born on September 28, 1907 in a patriotic Sikh family of Banga village in Lyallpur district of Punjab (now in Pakistan), which had a favorable influence on him. His father's name was Sardar Kishan Singh and mother's name was Vidyawati Kaur. This was a Sikh family which had adopted the ideas of Arya Samaj. His family was deeply influenced by the ideology of Arya Samaj and Maharishi Dayanand. At the time of Bhagat Singh's birth, his father 'Sardar Kishan Singh' and his two uncles 'Ajit Singh' and 'Swaran Singh' were in jail for being against the British.

The day Bhagat Singh was born, his father and uncle were released from jail. On the occasion of this auspicious moment, happiness increased even more in Bhagat Singh's house. After the birth of Bhagat Singh, his grandmother named him 'Bhago Wala'. Which means 'one of good fortune'. Later he came to be known as 'Bhagat Singh'. He started working in the revolutionary organizations of Punjab from the age of 14. D.A.V. He passed the ninth standard examination from school. After passing the Intermediate examination in 1923, when preparations were being made to tie the knot, he ran away from Lahore and came to Kanpur. Then he was so engrossed in the struggle for the country's independence that he dedicated his entire life to the country. The courage with which Bhagat Singh faced the powerful British government for the independence of the country will always remain a great role model for the youth. Apart from Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and English, Bhagat Singh also knew Bengali which he learned from Batukeshwar Dutt. His thoughts can be gauged from the letters and articles he wrote during his jail days. He expressed grief over the differences created by language, caste and religion in Indian society. He considered the attack by an Indian on the weaker section of the society with the same severity as the atrocities committed by an Englishman. He believed that his martyrdom would further enrage the Indian public, but this would not happen as long as he was alive. For this reason, even after being sentenced to death, he flatly refused to write an apology. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre that took place on 13 April 1919 in Amritsar had such a deep impact on Bhagat Singh's thinking that after leaving the National College, Lahore, Bhagat Singh founded Naujawan Bharat Sabha for the independence of India. Bhagat Singh was so disturbed by the hanging of 4 revolutionaries including Ram Prasad 'Bismil' and imprisonment of 16 others in the Kakori incident that his party Hindustan Republican along with Chandrashekhar Azad joined the association and gave it a new name 'Hindustan Socialist Republican Association'. The objective of this organization was to prepare young men capable of service, sacrifice and suffering. After this, Bhagat Singh, along with Rajguru, killed British officer JP Saunders, who was the Assistant Superintendent of Police in Lahore on 17 December 1928. Revolutionary Chandrashekhar Azad also fully helped him in this action. After this, Bhagat Singh, along with his revolutionary friend Batukeshwar Dutt, threw bombs and pamphlets on 8 April 1929 in the auditorium of the then Central Assembly of British India located at Alipore Road, Delhi to awaken the British government. After throwing the bomb, both of them surrendered themselves to arrest there itself. After this, in the 'Lahore Conspiracy' case, Bhagat Singh and his two other comrades, Rajguru and Sukhdev, were hanged together on March 23, 1931. It is believed that the morning of March 24 was fixed for the death penalty, but the government, afraid of the people, ended the lives of these heroes in the midnight of March 23-24 and in the darkness of the night, they were cremated on the banks of Sutlej. Also performed the rituals. It was a coincidence that when he was hanged and he left this world, his age at that time was 23 years, 5 months and 23 days and the day was also 23 March. Before his hanging, Bhagat Singh had also written a letter to the British government, in which he had said that he should be considered a prisoner of war as a symbol of the war of Indians against the British government and instead of being hanged, he should be shot, but this did not happen. The martyrdom of Bhagat Singh not only gave impetus to the freedom struggle of his country but also became a source of inspiration for the youth. He became the leader of all the martyrs of the country. The people of India and Pakistan see him as a lover of freedom who dedicated his entire life, including his youth, for the country. Many Hindi films have also been made based on his life, including - The Legend of Bhagat Singh, Shaheed, Shaheed Bhagat Singh etc. Even today the whole country remembers his sacrifice with great seriousness and respect.

Dream Man CJI, Lottery King and a missing royal

By: Shobhaa De

Confession: I have the biggest senior citizen crush on our CJI. What is there not to love about a man who provides daily inspo to millions each time he opens his mouth. In court. During interviews. And, most of all, when he delivers tight public thappads and puts the pompous in their place. Like Hema Malini is India's forever Dream Girl, D.Y. Chandrachud is our hameshawala Dream Man. Suave, cerebral, sharp, sensitive -- sub kuch! I have started taking an exaggerated interest in all things law ever since our CJI took over and captured my weary heart. Last week, he put Mukul Rohatgi on the mat so smoothly, it's a wonder that Rohatgi didn't go into hiding! A friend commented: "These high-profile lawyers remind one of Disraeli's wonderful put down of his rival, Gladstone, whom he described as being "inebriated by the exuberance of his own verbosity..." I watched the clip with glee -- nothing personal. But it's good to see a few bigwigs squirm and eat crow.

"No case is too small for the highest court," declared the CJI, and he meant it. "Our mission is to stand by the common people..." These are not empty words going by the CJI's track record. Sure, the knives are out for the outspoken man, and Dilliwallas love whispering behind his back, pointing out how arrogant and aloof he is. Why not? Why should he waste precious time on fools and flatterers -- Delhi is full of them. Why should he hobnob with dodgy netas and dodgier moneybags -- Delhi is infested with both. He has candidly stated that his best

friend is his wife Kalpana. I am so "j" of Kalpana. They share so much in common, being vegan and followers of a strict ayurvedic diet. For a man whose day begins with yoga at 3.30 am, 64-year-old Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud is India's Superhero No. 1. We have till December to fawn over him as he presides over India's complex and convoluted justice system. He retires at the year-end. Sighhhh! A lot of heavy-duty stuff is scheduled to happen before that momentous retirement day. But let's not spoil this moment by bringing in the national elections. Jo hoga, who hoga!

The electoral bonds ka monumental joke is actually on us -- tax-paying citizens/bakras... A clever meme featuring Ratna Pathak had the last word on the perplexing subject: "Monisha Beta, Electoral bond bolo... hafta vasooli is so middle class..." Still haven't quite wrapped my head around all the luminaries featured. But one particular name intrigued me no end -- "Santiago". How many Indian parents would name their son Santiago, after a capital city in South America? Unless the child was born in Chile, which is not the case with Santiago Martin, who was born in the Andamans (1961), was a daily wage worker in Myanmar and came back to India to start working in a tea shop. The lottery craze was taking off big time and Santiago soon figured where the money was! Another smart chaiwalla! Today, Santiago's name is known across the country for a dodgy reason. As the founder of Future Gaming Pvt Ltd, Santiago heads the list of donors to political parties, released by the Election Commission, with a whopping donation of Rs 1,368 crores. Chances

are, till Santiago popped up prominently across media platforms as a generous donor, nobody outside the shadowy world of gaming had much of an idea about the mysterious man's existence. Admission: I still don't know what "gaming" involves, apart from placing bets.

I promptly Googled him, captivated by his antecedents and exotic name. Santiago sounds like an incredibly smooth operator, capable of tackling the most formidable political opponents and swiftly changing sides. As it happened in 2003 when then Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalalitha banned the lottery trade in the state, believing it was destroying the lives of countless underprivileged people addicted to lotteries. At the time, Santiago's lottery fortunes were riding high, after he successfully launched his own lottery business with multiple brands and attractive prizes. Santiago moved his operations to Nepal, Bhutan, the Northeast states and Kerala. By this time, the glib talker was on a roll, hanging out with top politicians, along with his wife Leena Rose, who joined politics after Santiago's arrest in 2011, when he was charged in 14 cases of land grabbing, illegal lottery sales and cheating. There's a picture of Leena Rose on the dais with Narendra Modi when he visited TN back then. Just saying...

The I-T guys raided his Coimbatore home last year, leading his loyal wife to claim: "Maybe the searches were meant to intimidate him. But we conduct our business legally." Of course you do, honey!

The electoral bond disclosure has put the spotlight on a man, whose life reads better than any masala film script. More so, since Santiago's modus operandi is so unique. India

is familiar with several self-made business tycoons, who rise from obscurity and succeed spectacularly. But Santiago is in a league of his own.

His various "accomplishments" include an honorary doctorate of business, a gold medal for excellence in business and his appointment as consul-general for the Republic of Liberia. The "Lottery King" was publicly credited for "uplifting and providing credibility" to the lottery business in India. The Great Gambler (1979) was a fun film starring Amitabh Bachchan, Zeenat Aman and Neetu Singh... but Santiago Martin's biopic is way funnier, though I don't really see Leena Rose in Zeenat's stilettos...

In a line: Santiago Martin gamed the system. Shabaash!

On to some more salacious and sizzling breaking news: At the time of writing, Kate Middleton was still missing. People asked me: "Are you her chaachi? Why do you care where she is?" No, dearies, I am not the chaachi of the future Queen of England, but I am madly interested in the story of her disappearance, now that a fresh angle has been introduced and one more conspiracy theory added. I'm spilling the tea like any other neighbourhood aunty with no other kaam dhandha: If indeed the 40-year-old Sarah Rose Hanbury, mother of three (official title: Marchioness of Cholmondeley -- and no, it's not in Tamil Nadu, but Norfolk), the rumoured mistress of Prince William, is indeed pregnant with his child, will the offspring be officially "next in line" for the throne -- provided, of course, that the throne continues to exist??? Just asking for a friend.

Challenge of saving forests

By: Vijay Garg

Apart from humans and animals, trees and forests also have a very important contribution in maintaining ecological balance. In fact, forests are the natural habitat for many species of animals as well as a source of food. Oxygen is the most essential element for life on earth. It is the forests on earth which absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in large quantities and convert it into oxygen. Forests provide rainfall, control temperature, prevent soil erosion and protect biodiversity. They are helpful in preserving and in fact the biodiversity found on earth is due to forests. Forests play an important role in controlling the earth's temperature. However, due to indiscriminate deforestation across the world, the forests on Earth and the habitats of the animals living in them have reduced significantly. Due to the fires that occur every year, millions of hectares of forest and many species of animals are destroyed. According to a United Nations report, about one billion acres of forest area has been lost worldwide in the last three decades. R has been destroyed. Till a few decades ago, about fifty percent of the earth's land area was covered by forests, now it is reduced to only thirty percent. If forests continue to be destroyed at this pace, it will decrease further. According to environmental experts, decreasing number of forests will have a direct impact on biodiversity. While this will have a deep impact on the water cycle, soil conservation and biosphere in the times to come, there will also be a threat to the habitat of animals and the irregular weather

will have dire consequences. Due to indiscriminate cutting of forests on earth, along with 'global warming' the intensity of natural disasters is continuously increasing. Forests act like the lungs of the earth, which absorb pollutant gases like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, ammonia, ozone etc. from the atmosphere and release vital air into the atmosphere. This is the reason why 'International Forest Day' or 'World Forestry Day' is celebrated every year at the global level with the aim of making people aware of the importance of forests, getting society's contribution for their conservation and promoting tree plantation. Is. For this, a theme is determined every year by the United Nations General Assembly, which is chosen by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. This year its theme has been set as 'Forest and Innovation'. This theme highlights the important role of technology and creative approaches in protecting, managing and restoring forests and places special emphasis on the important role played by innovation. If we look at the contents from the beginning till now, between 2014 and 2021 the international forest themes of the day are 'Our Forests, Our Future', 'Forests, Climate Change', 'Forests and Water', 'Forests and Energy', 'Forests and Cities', 'Forests and Education', 'Forests and Biodiversity' respectively. 'Forest Restoration: Pathway to Recovery and Well-Being' and 'Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption' have been put forward. India mainly has evergreen forests, mangrove forests, coniferous forests, deciduous forests, temperate forests. Evergreen forests are also called rain forests,

which are found in high rainfall areas in India like the Western Ghats, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and North-East India. Are. In these areas, trees grow together and form such a roof that sunlight cannot reach the ground and hence a large number of trees and plants grow on the ground. Mangrove forests grow in deltaic areas and along the banks of rivers and grow easily in salty and fresh water along with soil carried by the rivers. Coniferous forests with fairly straight and tall trees with pointed leaves are found mostly in low temperature areas such as the Himalayan Mountains. of these trees The branches are inclined downwards, so snow cannot remain on their branches. Deciduous forests are found in areas with moderate rainfall, where rainfall occurs only for a few months. When monsoon arrives, when there is heavy rain and sunlight reaches the ground, these forests grow rapidly and they grow densely during the monsoon itself. The leaves of these trees fall during summer and winter seasons and new leaves start growing on them in the month of Chaitra. Plants like date palm, cactus, hawthorn and small, thick and waxy plants. Thorny forests with thick leaves are found in areas with low moisture, whose fibrous roots are deeply embedded in the soil. In these forests, thorny trees are located far apart, which conserve water. Tropical forests are found near the equator, while temperate forests are found at medium altitudes and boreal forests near the poles. Since 1987, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate publishes a report every two years taking stock of the status of forests and trees in the

country. After 2019 in 2022 In the 'Seventeenth India Forest Status Report 2021' released by the Ministry, it was said that the area of forest and tree covered land across the country would increase by 2261 square kilometers in the two years between 2019 and 2021. Although an increase of 5188 square kilometers was recorded in forest and tree cover in 2019 as compared to 2017, in that respect the increase between 2019 and 2021 was quite less. According to the report, the forest covered area in the country has now reached 809537 square kilometers. According to the new survey report, now 24.6% of the total geographical area of the country 2 percent of the land area is covered with forests and trees, whereas in the National Forest Policy - 1988, a target was set to cover 33 percent of the total land area of the country under forest cover, that is, we are still far away from the target. At the 2021 Glasgow Climate Conference, more than a hundred countries had pledged to impose a complete ban on deforestation by the year 2030. Due to indiscriminate deforestation and increasing pollution, many glaciers around the world are now on the verge of extinction and the threat of 'global warming' is continuously increasing, due to which in the last few years Big changes are being seen in the weather all over the world. This is the reason why the whole world has started feeling the dire need to unite and take meaningful initiatives to stop the destruction of forests.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

GDC Kathua conducts educational trip to Aquarium Cum Awareness Centre, Bagh-E-Bahu

Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 23: Department of Industrial Fish and Fisheries of Govt. Degree College Kathua conducted a one day educational trip to Aquarium Cum Awareness Centre, Bagh-E-Bahu, Jammu.

The main objective of the trip was to apprise the students about the indigenous and exotic ornamental fishes being reared at the centre and the maintenance of aquaria as it is one of the largest tunnel aquarium centre of India.

The overall programme was conducted under the patron-ship of Principal, Govt. Degree College, Kathua (Boys)



Prof Seema Mir. The tour was coordinated by Dr. Jageshwar Dutt, HOD (Industrial Fish and Fisheries) and accompanied by Dr. Rumeet Kour and Pratibha Mahajan along with 78 students of different semesters of Industrial Fish and Fish-

eries subject. The staff and students were given a warm welcome by officer in charge, Chief Project Officer Fisheries Marketing/Aquarium Jammu, Masood Hus-sain Sheikh. He informed stu-

dents that the Centre being one of the largest underground Aquarium is spread over an area of 30 kanals.

The various components of aquarium are multimedia hall, Aqua tunnel, museum, fish mount and fish tail. He

also said that more development is going on under the Jammu smart city project which will strengthen the centre and will boost the tourist attraction in near future.

After the conclusion of event, Prof. Seema Mir and the senior faculty of Govt. Degree College Kathua appreciated the efforts of Department of Industrial Fish and Fisheries in general and Dr. Jageshwar Dutt in particular in making this event a successful one. Prof. Mir further stated that such field trips have productive outcomes which will go a long way in enhancing skills of students and can guide them about alternate career options.

Forest Deptt starts Mega Plantation Drive at Baderkali

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Mar 23: Langate Forest Division in Range Rajwar took a major initiative to promote environmental sustainability through an impactful plantation drive.

The plantation drive was carried by forest division Lanagte range rajwar in collaboration with 21RR Army.

The plantation drive was Kick Started by DFO Langate Aehzaz Ahmad and was accompanied by RO Rajwar Tariq Nazir along with others.

They planted a variety of saplings, including indigenous tree species, flowering plants, and shrubs, at Range



Rajwar Compartment 04.

He mentioned that by coming together for the plantation drive, their aim is to enhance the green cover in their division and create a more welcoming and soothing atmosphere for future generations.

"We believe that a green and clean environment is the cornerstone of a prosperous community," said RO Rajwar. Forest officials of Range Rajwar also participated in the event. The event was hosted by BO Baderkali Sajad Ahmad Tantry and field staff.

Shiv Sena warns illegal mining mafia! Religious sentiments of devotees visiting "Har Ki Pauri" are being hurt by illegal mining



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: The Har Ki Pauri (Chhota Haridwar) temple built on the banks of the Surya Putri Tawi river in Jammu, the city of temples, is being affected by illegal mining, the religious sentiments of the devotees are being hurt, this is stated by Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni said.

Party state chief Manish Sahni, in a media briefing at party office today, issued a warning to the illegal mining mafia active in the Surya Putri Tawi river to refrain from this illegal business.

Sahni said that as soon as information was received about the said illegal act, a team under his leadership visited the grand "Har Ki Pauri"

temple day before yesterday. He found that the flow of water of the Tawi river near "Har Ki Pauri" is being affected due to illegal mining near the Tawi river and the temple. Due to the dryness near the stairs, the religious sentiments of thousands of devotees and religious tourists coming here are being hurt.

Sahni told that the Mahant of the temple, Shri Mahadev Saraswati ji is also very angry about illegal mining near the temple. He has to spend 20-25 thousand rupees every month to divert the flow of water towards the temple with the help of JCB.

Along with this, the condition of the roads coming towards Har Ki Pauri is very pathetic. He also raised questions on

the deployment of a few security personnel for the security of the temple located on the outskirts of the city and on the banks of the Tawi river.

Sahni, while demanding complete control from the administration, said in a warning tone that he will not tolerate any act that hurts religious sentiments, if the illegal mining active in the Surya Putri Tawi river is not stopped, then Shiv Sainiks will take action on it. in their own way and during this time the administration will be responsible for the deterioration of law and order.

On this occasion president Mehila wing Meenakshi Chhibber, Gen secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice president Sanjeev Kohli, Secretary Rajesh Handa were present.

Doda police seizes illicit liquor in Ranote area

Top News Report

DODA, Mar 23: Doda Police said that based on a specific information regarding manufacturing of illicit liquor, a police team of Police Station Gandoh headed by Inspector Parvaiz Ahmed Khanday SHO PS Gandoh, assisted by PSI Avinash Khajoria raided the house of one Lekh Raj, S/O Uda Dass R/O Ranote and during search, 10 Ltrs of illicit liquor, around 40 Ltrs of Lahan and apparatus was recovered from the spot.

In this connection, case FIR No. 18/2024 under relevant section under excise act has been registered at PS Gandoh and investigation started.

Doda Police has



launched a special drive against bootleggers, drug smugglers, bovine smugglers and has reiterated the appeal to general public to cooperate and assist the police so that drug smuggling, manufacturing/selling of illicit liquor and other crime related activities are rooted out from the society and crime free atmosphere is built up.

Dogra Sanstha Jammu invites books for Prof. Ram Nath Shastri Memorial Award-2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: Dogri Sanstha Jammu has invited books for Prof. Ram Nath Shastri Memorial Award 2024.

Prof. Lalit Magoitra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu while briefing about the prestigious award said that this award is given to a dogri writer for his first book in any genre written by the writer during the last five years.

This year it will cover the time span from January 2019 to December 2023. The writers may submit three copies of their publications at Dogri Sanstha, Karan Nagar Jammu by 5 PM



on March 31st 2024.

He further added that a jury is constituted to evaluate the submitted books.

However the book should not have been awarded by Sahitya Akademi, State Academy or any Government or Non-Government organization to qualify for the award.

As per Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary Dogri Sanstha Jammu, in

order to encourage the new writers, the family of Prof. Ram Nath Shastri had started this initiative in 2014 in collaboration with Dogri Sanstha Jammu.

This annual award carries a cash prize of Rs 21,000, a memento and a shawl and is bestowed upon the awardee on 15th April, which happens to be birthday of father of Dogri Literature, Prof. Ram Nath Shastri.

He said that all dogri writers who have got their first book published during the qualifying period should submit their books well in time so that a deserving book should be awarded from the lot.

Bhagat asks people of Chenab Valley zone to defeat Dr. Jitender in LS Polls

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 23: Senior Leader, Spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat said that we strongly appeal to both the communities of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban districts of Chenab Valley Zone to Vote and support Choudhary Lal Singh,

to defeat BJP candidate in upcoming parliamentary elections for Kathua-Udhampur constituency. During his two tenures, he sadly ignored the concerns of the people of our valley and failed to deliver meaningful development. It is clear that he has not contrib-



uted significantly to the well-being of our community. So, we request you to cast your vote and rally behind Congress candidate Choudhary Lal Singh from Kathua-Udhampur segment.

He has proved himself to be an able leader and has contributed substantially to public welfare during his tenure as MP and Health Minister.

K.C. College of Education celebrates Holi at Old Age Home, Ambphalla

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: Cultural Club and NSS unit of K.C. College of Education celebrated the upcoming festival of Holi, a popular and significant Hindu festival celebrated as festival of colours and spring. It signifies the triumphs of good over evil.

This year, students and faculty of K.C. College of Education celebrated the festival of colours with the residents of old age home to break their sadness and to give them a reason to smile.

Students of the college during their visit at Old Age Home, Ambphalla Jammu, presented cultural items like songs, dance, bhajans involving the senior citizens living there.

Later on, they applied



gugal on the faces of residents of old age home and seek their blessings.

A Rangoli competition was also organized there, wherein students of the college showcased their artistic talent through their rangolis.

The senior citizens of old age home judged

Team 12 (Roshi & Srishti), Team 1 (Gouri and Vaishali) & Team 11 (Sanjana and Shivani) first, second & third winning team respectively.

Staff and students of the college also presented things of daily use like toiletries & eatables to them.

BJP pays tribute to Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: BJP Talab Tillo Mandal pays Tribute to the bravery and dedication of Shaheed Sardar Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, Sukhdev Thapar who laid down their lives for the Nation. The Programme was organized by BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra in which Former Minister Sat Sharma CA, Former Councillor Hardeep Singh Mankotia, Mandal President Rehari Bakshi nagar Atul Bakshi and other leaders remembered and Paid tribute to Martyrs.

Sat sharma while paying tribute said that the Nation will never forget the supreme Sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, their Martyrdom was a milestone in India's Struggle for Independence he further added.

H.S Mankotia while speaking said that their passion to die for the nation will always inspire the countrymen and these heroes fought for the welfare of people and sacrificed their lives for the same.

Keshav Chopra while paying tribute to the Shaheed E Azam Bhagat Singh, Rajguru

and Sukhdev said that the young generation of India will always continue to draw inspiration from these great revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives with smiles on their face for the freedom of the country.

Krishan Lal Sharma, Vikas Bali, Gurcharan Singh, Jatinder Khajuria, rajesh Saini, Parveen Ghai, Sudesh Gupta, Deepak Kumar, Raman Sharma, Kushant Dafara, Krishan Lal, Jugal Kishore, Rajinder Tiku, Kali Bhagat, Sanjeev Gupta, Bhupinder Gupta, Jatin Gupta, Dr Sanchit Sharma and others also paid their tribute.

JKNPP celebrates Foundation Day, Pays homage to Prof Bhim Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: The Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim) marked a significant milestone as it celebrated its Foundation Day today, honouring the legacy of its founder, Prof. Bhim Singh, and paying tribute to the heroic martyrs Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, and Sukhdev. The celebrations were held under the chairmanship of party President Vilakshan Singh.

On this auspicious occasion, members and supporters of the party gathered to commemorate the vision and contributions of Prof. Bhim Singh, a stalwart leader who dedicated his life to the empowerment and



upliftment of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Prof. Bhim Singh's unwavering commitment to social justice and democratic principles continues to inspire the party and its supporters in their pursuit of a more equitable and inclusive society.

During the event, heartfelt tributes were also offered to the brave martyrs Bhagat Singh,

Raj Guru, and Sukhdev, who sacrificed their lives for the freedom and independence of the nation. Their courage, patriotism, and sacrifice serve as a timeless reminder of the enduring values of freedom, justice, and equality that the J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) stands for.

Speaking at the celebration, Vilakshan

Singh emphasized the importance of upholding the ideals and principles championed by Prof. Bhim Singh and the martyrs, urging all citizens to strive for a society based on equality, justice, and unity.

As the J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) looks ahead to the future, it remains committed to advancing the cause of

social justice, democracy, and peace in the region, guided by the principles of its esteemed founder and the spirit of the valiant martyrs.

Vilakshan Singh announced that the party shall soon announce its candidates for the parliamentary elections and urged the public to vote for candidates of the party to enable the party to serve the people in a better way.

Other prominent leaders who addressed the gathering included Naresh Chib, Balwan Singh, Sham Gorkha, Kesar Parveen, Rajesh Gandhi, Jahangir Khan, Peerzadza Mudassar, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Rakesh Gupta, Navin Bali etc.

Prince Kanwaljit's upcoming web series Plaster is inspired by a real-life instance

Actor-writer Prince Kanwaljit is back with another engrossing crime thriller, *Plaster*, which is currently streaming on Chupaal. Directed by Mehul Gadani, the cast of this Punjabi web series was all praise for Prince KJ, as it has not only been well-written but also happens to leave an impression on minds of the audience. After all, *Warning*, *Panchhi* and *Outlaw* wouldn't have been a success if Prince KJ hadn't thought of it in the first place.

He shared, "It is a very happy moment for me. The title *Plaster* came to me when I was once having a chat with Gippy Grewal, and he was mentioning a story about his friend, who broke his leg and had to get a plaster done. The story was so interesting that the word plaster stuck with



me. When you watch the series, you will love each character. All the actors have done a fantastic job, and we had fun during the shooting. I have a special bond with each actor, and they fit perfectly into their characters."

The extensive star cast includes Ashish Duggal, Sukhdeep Sukh, Diljot, Iqbal

Charik, Deep Mandeep, Gurinder Makhna, Aman Cheema, Sukhwinder Chahal, Rangdev, Harpreet Bhoora, Lucky Mistry, Surinder Narula and Sanjeev Kaler. The series revolves around four young boys with low-income jobs, Bunty (Navdeep), Gora (Bharat), Mistri (Gurjit Lucky), Pradeep (Dharampreet Gill)

and Honey (Mohanty Sharma). Their involvement in a fraudulent drug deal that revolves around the mysterious 'plaster' and the jigsaw puzzle that they're stuck in is what the story is all about.

Fun time

Actor Sukhdeep Sukh calls his role a unique one, something that people haven't seen

much of in Punjabi films or series. He adds, "I am a stylised drug lord who is very conscious about what he wears and how he looks. It was hard to sit for long hours to get my hair bleached and coloured for the scenes. But then it is part of the career I chose."

Actress Deep Mandeep, who is a part of this male-dominated star cast, shares, "It is fun being on the sets with all those male actors. In no way did I feel performance pressure, in fact, being less in numbers, only three or four actresses in this one, we got a special treatment. I am happy that OTT allows us to be experimental."

Deep feels a lot has changed from when she began working in the industry, but there's still need to be talks on pay parity.

Rashami Desai to be a part of the film Jahangir National University



Actress Rashami Desai will reportedly be seen in the upcoming movie Jahangir National

University (JNU), where she will be seen playing a character based on the life of writer and professor Nivedita Menon. The actress said: "First of all, a huge thanks to all my fans and supporters for waiting so patiently to see me on screen. It was a conscious decision to take a bit of a break in order to do the kind of things I wanted to do. I have truly put my blood, sweat and all my efforts to get into the skin of my character and do complete justice to it."

"A lot of people's faith and belief is associated with me and the project, and it's my moral responsibility to take care of all of it. As an actor, right from the research and preparation stage to doing everything that's needed to get deep into the character, I have done it all," she said.

I had no backing, says Sharvari

Actress Sharvari has said when she ventured into the world of cinema, she had no backing and knew that for surviving in the industry, her work needed to either be a hit or receive acclaim. Sharvari, who is gearing up for the release of the film *Vedaa*, took to Instagram and shared a still from the film, featuring actor John Abraham.

The actress captioned it, "Every time anyone asked me what I wanted to become when I grow up, I only had one answer — I wanted to be an actor! Well it is easier said than done... years of patience, keeping the fire burning inside for the love of the craft, honing my skills, controlling my insecurities, going through days of self-doubt and introspection, coming out of that crashing down feel-



ing, because well... the stars have to really align to get that one project. That empowers you to

deliver the best." Sharvari stepped into the industry with the 2020 film *Bunty Aur Babli 2*.

Drew Barrymore shares how she overcame the 'shame' of divorce



Hollywood star Drew Barrymore does not shy away from talking about her personal life. Bar-

rymore was first married to Jeremy Thomas from 1994 to 1995. She then got married to Tom Green from 2001 to 2002.

In 2012, she married Will Kopelman and two welcomed two daughters together before divorcing in 2016.

Divorce became a topic of conversation after discussing Jennifer Lopez's *Can't Get Enough* music video, in which she "pokes fun at being a four-time bride." "I had so much shame around divorce and, for some reason, something happened, and I said, 'I'm no longer willing to feel this way.' And it just lifted from me," said Barrymore about her own experience with divorce.

She added that she views divorce as a way to save "the precious commodity we have on this planet, which is only our time."

The actress said, "And, when you're truly in a situation that isn't functioning the way that, optimally, it hopes and wishes to be, we accept that, and we improve our quality of life by moving forward. Divorce now, to me, I don't have shame around it. I'm totally liberated."

'Popcorn & Company' owner shushes Peyush Bansal; Anupam Mittal says 'seat ki izzat hoti hai'

The new episode of 'Shark Tank India 3' witnessed a flurry of excitement as the gourmet popcorn brand, 'Popcorn & Company' sealed a lucrative deal worth Rs 75 lakh with shark Namita Thapar.

However, tensions ran high when the pitcher silenced shark Peyush Bansal, sparking a reaction that left Anupam Mittal visibly frustrated.

Founder Vikas Suri started his pitch, saying, "Popcorns sold in 99 per cent of the multiplexes use our machines, seeds, and spices. 'Munna Bhai is incomplete without Circuit'. Similarly, the experience of watching a film is incomplete without eating popcorn. We can't enjoy a film without popcorn. When 'Sholay' was released 50 years ago, salty popcorn was sold in small packets. And even now, when films like 'Jawan' and 'Pathaan' were released, popcorn was sold in cinemas."

"For instance, caramel, cheesy sriracha, and butter salted popcorn. However, nowadays, people don't just watch films in the theatre. They also watch films on OTT at home. So I decided to deliver the experience of popcorn to people at home. And that's how 'Popcorn & Company' was born. 'Popcorn & Company' delivers both ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook popcorn," he said.

He asked for Rs 75 lakh for 7.5 per cent equity.

Executive Director Namita of Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd said, "I go to the theatres along with my family regularly. All of us want popcorn. My children always prefer the caramel-flavoured one. I like the butter salted popcorn and so does my husband. You rightly said we want the same experience at home. You have a great business and a great product."

"When did you begin your



journey," asked Namita.

Replying to her, Vikas said, "My journey began in 2019. I used to live in the US. After returning to India in 1996, I launched a company called Kitchenrama, which designed hotels, restaurants, catering companies, and food courts. I also provided them with equipment."

"Earlier, while working in the US, I used to work for a similar company called Gold Medal. I used to export popcorn to the whole world while working there. That's how the whole association started," shared Vikas.

The founder also owns another venture — 'Kitchenrama', which imports and distributes machines, popcorn kernels and spice mixes to other businesses.

Vikas then treated the Sharks with the popcorns. Founder and CEO Anupam of Shaadi.com said, "Boss, the strawberry popcorn is a class apart. Generally, I think a few food items including coffee and popcorn shouldn't be flavoured. But this has a solid taste. It's

more suitable for couples on Valentine's Day."

Vikas replied, "We make stupendous sales on Valentine's Day."

Namita then offered two conditions to the founder—firstly, no new company-owned or franchise QSR kiosks will be opened in the future; secondly, seasonings will be the primary focus.

Co-Founder and CMO Aman Gupta of boAt said, "My suggestion is to know your competition better and also your numbers. It's not my USP and it's an expensive category for me. So I'm out."

Co-founder and CEO Peyush of Lenskart.com went on to say, "Isn't there a kiosk chain in the popcorn business? I'm surprised because the real margin is in the retail market. Its manufacturing cost is less than Rs 20. It's a business with 90 per cent margin: I'm saying hypothetically. If your sales are worth Rs 6 lakh, your gross profit should be Rs 5 lakh."

"Suppose I pay Rs 1 lakh of Rs 5 lakh in salaries. In reality, I could be making 30 per cent

profit from a kiosk. The cost of setting it up... That's not hard," said Peyush.

That's when the founder Vikas said to Peyush, "Shhhhhh.....", leaving everyone in shock.

Co-Founder and CEO Vineeta Singh of SUGAR Cosmetics said, "No! No! No! Aapne chup kara dia unko (You just shushed him)."

Anupam said, "Did he say that?"

Vineeta asked Vikas, "Were you a teacher or in the army before?"

Anupam lost his cool and said, "Sir, why are you here? You are Vikas Suri. The one who knows everything. We have been here for three years. Do you know this? Do you know about our work? You shushed a Shark abruptly here."

Peyush said, "It's okay. He is older than me."

Anupam said, "Umar ki baat nahi hai, seat ki izzat hoti hai (It's not about age. Position matters)."

Vikas apologised, saying, "I'm sorry if I hurt you, but I didn't really say that."

Anupam then said, "You know what we do. We invest money and give advice because we are experienced. We open a few doors. We help your business grow in the quick commerce segment. Simultaneously we learn too. After meeting you, I feel that you lack learning agility and humility. How will we build a business together?"

"Suri, your business structure is messy, besides all the personal issues I pointed out, That's one big reason I'm out," added Anupam.

The owner finally sealed a conditional deal with Shark Namita at Rs 75 lakh for 15 per cent equity plus 3 per cent royalty until Rs 75 lakh is recouped.

'Shark Tank India 3' airs on Sony LIV.

Ricky Martin says his father encouraged him to publicly come out of the closet



Singer Ricky Martin has shared that his father, Enrique Martin Negroni, encouraged him to come out as gay and added that his professional team encouraged him to continue concealing his sexuality.

"This is gonna be the end of your career," he recalled being told. "You don't have to tell the world. Your friends know, your family know. Why do you need to stand in front of the camera and talk about it?" While his team "didn't understand the importance" of coming out, the singer's father did, especially

after the 'Maria' hitmaker welcomed his twin sons, Matteo and Valentino, in 2008.

"He said, 'What are you gonna (do), teach your kids to lie? You gotta be open. You gotta go out... I want to help you. How can we do this?'" said the Grammy winner.

"And I'm like, 'All right, Dad, I'm working on it. Gimme a second. I don't know how. I don't know if it's through an interview. I don't know if I want to write a letter and tweet it. I don't know. Gimme a break. It'll come.'"

Will take affirmative action to ensure safer Indian Ocean Region: Navy chief on anti-piracy ops

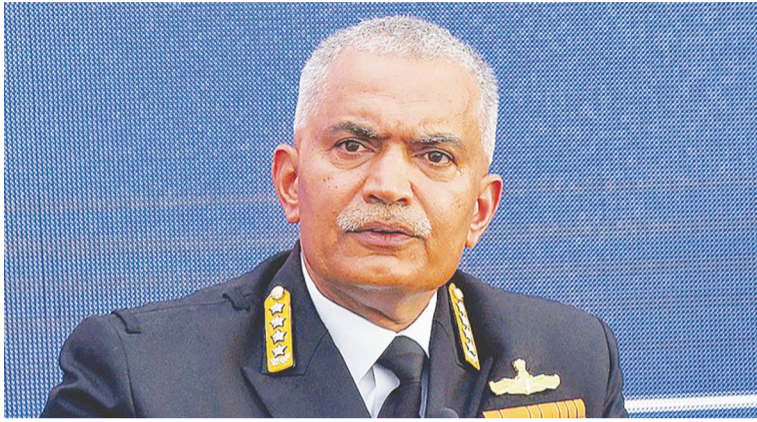
In response to a query, he said 'no Indian-flagged vessel' has been targeted by the Houthis at sea

NEW DELHI, Mar 23 (Agencies): Indian Navy will take "affirmative action" to ensure a safer and more secure Indian Ocean Region, its chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Saturday while citing the anti-piracy operations undertaken by the naval force in the last 100 days.

In response to a query during a press conference at the newly-built Nausena Bhawan here, he said "no Indian-flagged vessel" has been targeted by the Houthis at sea.

Earlier in the day, INS Kolkata, carrying 35 pirates who were apprehended in a recent operation off the coast of Somalia, reached Mumbai, the Navy said. These pirates were handed over to the Mumbai police for further legal action under Indian laws, specifically the Maritime Anti-Piracy Act, 2022.

The Navy chief cited the dramatic mid-sea operation undertaken by the Navy along with the IAF that ended a three-month hijacking of a bulk carrier with the deployment of its warship



INS Kolkata, long-endurance Sea Guardian drones, P-8I surveillance aircraft and airdropping of elite MARCOS commandos from a C-17 plane.

The Navy seized the former Maltese-flagged vessel, rescued 17 hostages and captured 35 armed pirates in the nearly 40-hour operation around 2,600 km from the Indian coast that experts say was the first such successful takeover of a cargo ship from the Somali pirates in the last around seven years.

In the last 10 years, this was

the largest operation in which the Indian Navy caught 35 pirates, the Navy chief said.

Admiral Kumar also said the Maritime Anti-Piracy Act, 2022, has been a "great enabler" for security forces, especially the Indian Navy which involved is in anti-piracy operations.

He had recently said the Navy has got a shot in the arm because of this legislation and underlined the deployment to counter-piracy attempts.

Asked if this has elevated the image of the Indian Navy as the

first responder, Admiral Kumar said, "Bharat is on the trajectory to becoming a great power."

With "great power, comes great responsibility", he said, while asserting that the "Indian Navy is determined to protect, preserve, promote and pursue our national interests in maritime domain".

Asked how long these operations will continue, Admiral Kumar replied, till the Indian Ocean is safe and secure. "Indian Navy will take affirmative action to ensure safer, more secure Indian Ocean Region."

So, whether it is Indian nationals or vessels, "we will ensure their protection", the Navy chief said.

"We are the largest resident naval power in the Indian Ocean. Indian Navy's responsibility is to ensure the Indian Ocean Region remains safe, secure, and stable and we will ensure that it is free, open, inclusive, and rules-based order is maintained," he added.

'No bar can keep me inside': Arvind Kejriwal writes from jail, wife reads out message

Delhi CM says don't hate BJP members because of my arrest; they are our brothers



NEW DELHI, Mar 23 (Agencies): AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita, in her first address following his arrest, on Saturday read out a message in which the Delhi chief minister asserted that every moment of his life has been dedicated to serving the country.

In a message from the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) custody, the Delhi chief minister said no bar can keep him

inside and he will soon return.

He also assured that it has never happened that he failed to fulfil any promise, assuring women about the implementation of a scheme that will provide an honorarium of Rs 1,000 per month to eligible beneficiaries.

The Delhi chief minister is in ED custody till March 28, following his arrest by the agency in connection with a

money-laundering case linked to Delhi's now-scrapped excise policy. "Whether inside or outside, every moment of my life is dedicated to serving the country. Every drop of my blood is dedicated to the country," Kejriwal said.

He added that he was born for struggles and is destined for bigger challenges in future as well.

Kejriwal also asserted that India has to be shaped into the strongest and greatest country in the world. There are internal and external forces that are trying to weaken the country and these need to be fought, he said.

The AAP leader also appealed to the women to visit temples and seek blessings for him.

Cash-for-query case: CBI conducts searches at premises of former TMC MP Mahua Moitra

NEW DELHI, Mar 23 (Agencies): The CBI on Saturday conducted searches on the premises of former TMC MP Mahua Moitra in multiple locations, including Kolkata, in connection with the alleged cash-for-query case, officials said.

Teams of the central probe agency reached Moitra's residence in Kolkata and other cities early on Saturday, informed about the search proceedings and started the operation, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered an FIR against the former Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP on Thursday on the directives of the Lokpal, which has instructed the agency to file a report within six months, they



said. Moitra was expelled from the Lok Sabha in December for "unethical conduct".

The former MP has challenged her expulsion in the Supreme Court and will again be in the hustings during the upcoming general elections as a TMC candidate from the Krishnanagar seat in West Bengal.

The Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, issued the direc-

tions to the CBI after receiving the findings of its preliminary inquiry into allegations made against Moitra by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey.

Dubey, a Lok Sabha member, alleged that Moitra had asked questions in the House in exchange for cash and gifts from Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hiranandani to mount an attack on industrialist Gautam Adani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among others.

IAF's Chinook heavy-lift choppers to have underslung disaster relief platform for mass casualty evacuation, fire fighting

CHANDIGARH, Mar 23 (Agencies): The IAF's Chinook heavy-lift helicopters would be equipped with a specially designed 'humanitarian assistance and disaster relief platform' that would be carried in the underslung mode for evacuating people, ferry relief teams and equipment, and undertake fire-fighting operations.

The Ministry of Defence has reached out to the industry through its Innovation in Defence Excellence (IDeX) scheme to develop a lightweight modular underslung platform for mass casualty evacuation with seating capability of minimum of 30 that can be underslung to rescue a large number of casualties.

The platform would also have a module with rapid water suc-



sion, storage and dispensation capability for carrying out firefighting operations from aircraft. Besides dealing with calamities in built up areas, this could also be used to combat forest fires.

The platform, slung under the helicopter with a cable of requisite length, would be positioned close to the ground and enable quick evacuation from build-

ings, flood hit areas, hilly terrain and other disaster affected areas where a helicopter may not be able to land, Air Force sources said. The other option in such a situation is to individually winch up casualties, which is time consuming and also difficult if a person is injured.

The platform, according to the IDeX document, would have multiple safety features to

ensure protection of rescued persons, individual restraints or seat belts, technology to preserve human life like ballistic parachute, communication system with the helicopter crew and ground teams, good visibility to enable carriage of rescue assistance teams, rapid ingress and egress design and stability in flight to prevent any swing.

The IAF had inducted the US-made Boeing CH-47F(I) Chinook tandem-rotor multi mission helicopter in March 2019 with the Chandigarh-based No.126 Helicopter Unit. A total of 15 Chinooks were procured, with half the fleet operating with No.124 Helicopter Unit based at Mohanbari in Assam.

Chinooks have a payload capacity of up to

55 persons, 24 stretchers or 12,000 kg cargo. These are deployed regularly for air maintenance missions to the Himalayan frontier in the northern as well as the eastern theatres, ferrying in troops, artillery guns, equipment and road construction machinery, as well as disaster relief operations.

Chinooks have also been tasked for special operations and other logistical missions across the country. In addition, they have been called upon to assist other government agencies, the most recent being the test flight of Indian Space Research Organisation's Pushpak Reusable Launch Vehicle, where a Chinook was used to drop the craft from an altitude of 4,500 meters.

Congress' disqualified Himachal MLAs join BJP

With the disqualification of the six Congress MLAs, the strength of the ruling party came down from 39 to 33 in the now 62-member assembly.

NEW DELHI, Mar 23 (Agencies): Six former MLAs of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly, who were disqualified as Congress legislators after defying a party whip, joined the BJP on Saturday amid the continuing political crisis in the state.

They joined the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Anurag Thakur, former Himachal chief minister Jai Ram Thakur and its state unit president Rajeev Bindal.

Welcoming the former lawmakers into the party, Thakur said their presence will strengthen the BJP further as he accused the Congress government in the state of failing to fulfil its promises, leading to all-round anger among people.

Thakur said these leaders supported the BJP in the recent Rajya Sabha election, reflecting "public anger" against the Congress.

Those who joined the BJP are Sudhir Sharma, Ravi Thakur, Rajinder Rana, Inder Dutt Lakhnani, Chetanya Sharma and Devinder Kumar Bhutto -- all elected on a Congress ticket and disqualified on February 29 for defying a party



whip to be present in the House and vote in favour of the state government during a cut motion and budget.

The Election Commission has announced bypolls for their constituencies and they are expected to contest as BJP candidates.

Three Independent MLAs -- Ashish Sharma, Hoshiyar Singh and KL Thakur -- who submitted their resignations on Friday, are also likely to join the BJP soon.

The Congress government led by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was last month plunged into a crisis after the BJP won the Rajya Sabha poll for the state's lone seat due to the support of these nine MLAs.

Though Sukhu has been putting

up a brave face and there appears to be no immediate threat to his government, the BJP is looking to bring down his dispensation with bypoll wins amid a view that it may draw more legislators of the ruling party into its fold.

With the disqualification of the six Congress MLAs, the strength of the ruling party came down from 39 to 33 in the now 62-member assembly.

Its original strength is 68. The BJP has 25 members.

The Speaker, who can vote only in the case of a tie during a floor test, is affiliated to the Congress.

The resignations of the three Independent MLAs have further reduced the assembly's strength.

Gangster Prasad Pujari brought back to India from China; placed under arrest by Mumbai cops

MUMBAI, Mar 23 (Agencies): Gangster Prasad Pujari, accused of being involved in several serious crimes including murder, extortion and kidnapping, was brought back to India after his deportation from China in the wee hours of Saturday, and was then placed under arrest by the Mumbai police, an official said.

Gangster Pujari alias Subhash Vitthal Pujari alias Siddharth Shetty alias Siddhu alias Sidh alias Johny is a former member of the gangs led by gangsters Kumar Pillai and Chhota Rajan.

He was staying in China, and was arrested there last year. After that, the Mumbai police's Crime Branch continuously tried to bring him back to the country, he said.

Pujari is allegedly involved in eight serious cases in Mumbai, including firing, extortion and murder. A resident of Tagore Nagar in Vikh-



roli, he had fled from the country years ago. He had allegedly targeted builders and businessmen in eastern Mumbai, the crime branch official said.

Pujari's name came up in the case of firing on Shiv Sena worker Chandrakant Jadhav, who lived in the Vikhroli area, in December 2019. He was apprehended by authorities in Hong Kong in February 2023.

"Following a tip-off by the Interpol, Pujari was arrested in March last year in Hong Kong on the charges of possessing a fake passport. He

was held when he was preparing to board a flight from Hong Kong to Shenzhen (city in China). Pujari, who is married to a Chinese national, was residing in Shenzhen with his wife and a child at the time of his arrest," the official added.

In 2020, the Mumbai police's crime branch had arrested Pujari's mother, Indira Vitthal Pujari, for her alleged involvement in the case of extortion of a builder from Vikhroli.

She was arrested under the Maharashtra Control of Organised

Crime Act (MCOCA) for allegedly extorting Rs 10 lakh from a developer, the official said.

Prasad Pujari used to extort money from businessmen and known people using international numbers as well and gave death threats to some of the leading film directors, producers and Bollywood actors. His gang is very active in Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai localities, he added.

After being deported from China, he was brought to India shortly around 1 am on Saturday.

He was then placed under arrest by the Mumbai police in one of the cases registered against him at the Vikhroli police station under sections including 307 (attempt to murder), 120-B (conspiracy) as well as the MCOCA. The Anti Extortion Cell (AEC) of the crime branch took him into custody, the official said.

Russian detains suspects after deadly Moscow concert hall attack that killed 115 people

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on affiliated channels on social media

MOSCOW, Mar 23 (Agencies): Russian officials say the death toll has risen to 115 in an attack by assailants who burst into a concert hall and sprayed the crowd with gunfire.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack in a statement. The attack was the deadliest in Russia in years and left the concert hall in flames with a collapsing roof.

The head of Russia's Federal Security Service told President Vladimir Putin on Saturday that four people directly involved in the attack were among 11 detained, Russian state news agency Tass said.

Images shared by Russian state media Saturday showed a fleet of emergency vehicles still gathered outside the ruins of Crocus City Hall, a shopping mall and music venue with a capacity of more than 6,000 people in Krasnogorsk, on Moscow's western edge.

Friday's attack came just days after President Vladimir Putin cemented his grip on power in a highly orchestrated



electoral landslide.

Videos posted online showed gunmen in the venue shooting civilians at point-blank range. The roof of the theatre, where crowds had gathered Friday for a performance by the Russian rock band Picnic, collapsed in the early hours of Saturday morning as firefighters spent hours fighting a fire which erupted during the attack.

In a statement posted by its Aamaq news agency, the Islamic State's affiliate in Afghanistan said it had attacked a large gathering of "Christians" in Krasnogorsk. It was not

immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the claim.

However, a US intelligence official told The Associated Press that US intelligence agencies had confirmed that IS was responsible for the attack.

The official said US intelligence agencies had gathered information in recent weeks that the IS branch was planning an attack in Moscow, and that US officials had privately shared the intelligence earlier this month with Russian officials.

The official was briefed on the matter but was not authorised to pub-

licly discuss the intelligence information and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Messages of outrage, shock and support for those affected have since streamed in from around the world.

On Friday, the UN Security Council condemned "the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack" and underlined the need for the perpetrators to be held accountable.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also condemned the terrorist attack "in the strongest possible terms", his spokesman said.

Meanwhile, in Moscow

itself, hundreds of people stood in line Saturday morning to donate blood and plasma, Russia's health ministry said.

Putin, who extended his grip on Russia for another six years in this week's presidential vote after a sweeping crackdown on dissent, had publicly denounced the Western warnings of a potential terrorist attack as an attempt to intimidate Russians.

"All that resembles open blackmail and an attempt to frighten and destabilize our society," he said earlier this week.

In October 2015, a bomb planted by the Islamic State downed a Russian passenger plane over Sinai, killing all 224 people on board, most of them Russian vacation-goers returning from Egypt.

The group, which operates mainly in Syria and Iraq but also in Afghanistan and Africa, also has claimed several attacks in Russia's volatile Caucasus and other regions in the past years. It recruited fighters from Russia and other parts of the former Soviet Union.

Kate Middleton releases 1st video after cancer diagnosis; elegantly shuts up skeptics' cynical gossip around her



LONDON, Mar 23 (Agencies): Support to Kate Middleton has started pouring in from all over the world after she said tests following abdominal surgery showed cancer had been present and she was undergoing preventative chemotherapy. Seated on a bench at Windsor, dressed in casually jeans and a nautical striped sweater, the Princess of Wales delivered her personal address. This was perhaps enough to shame and shut up skeptics and cynically rumours and gossip on the social media surrounding her. "I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you, personally, for all the wonderful messages of support and for your understanding whilst I have been recovering from surgery," she said in the video message, adding that it has been an "incredibly tough couple of months" for the entire family.

"In January, I underwent major abdominal surgery in London and at the time, it was thought that my condition was noncancerous. The surgery was successful. However,

tests after the operation found cancer had been present. My medical team therefore advised that I should undergo a course of preventative chemotherapy and I am now in the early stages of that treatment," she added.

The Princess of Wales said that this has come as a shock to the entire family and thanked the love and support of her husband Prince William and all others.

"As you can imagine, this has taken time. It has taken me time to recover from major surgery in order to start my treatment. But, most importantly, it has taken us time to explain everything to George, Charlotte and Louis in a way that is appropriate for them, and to reassure them that I am going to be OK," she further said.

She also requested for time, space and privacy as she undergoes the cancer treatment and also extended her wishes for others suffering from the disease.

"We hope that you will understand that, as a family, we now need some time, space and privacy while I complete my treatment. My work has always brought me

a deep sense of joy and I look forward to being back when I am able, but for now I must focus on making a full recovery," the Duchess said.

She added, "At this time, I am also thinking of all those whose lives have been affected by cancer. For everyone facing this disease, in whatever form, please do not lose faith or hope. You are not alone." This comes as another shock to the British Royal Family after King Charles III was diagnosed with cancer. It was said that he was caught with an unspecified type of cancer that was caught while undergoing a procedure for a benign enlarged prostate. Charles (75) has withdrawn from public duties while he is undergoing cancer treatment.

Kate issued an apology and said that she was 'experimenting' with editing the photograph. "Like many amateur photographers, I do occasionally experiment with editing. I wanted to express my apologies for any confusion the family photograph we shared yesterday caused," she posted on X. "I would hope it would put the speculation to rest," royal biographer Claudia Joseph said in an interview. "Obviously, they would hope the speculation ends but, in reality, it's social media and people are often incredibly viral and troll people left right and centre... They speculate and, talk absolute nonsense."

Philippines says China attacks supply vessel with water cannon

MANILA, Mar 23 (Agencies): The Philippines said the China Coast Guard blocked a Filipino supply vessel and damaged it with water cannon Saturday morning near a reef off the Southeast Asian country.

The Philippine military said the nearly hour-long attack occurred off Second Thomas Shoal in the contested South China Sea, where Chinese ships have unleashed water cannon and collided with Filipino vessels in similar stand-offs in recent months.

The military released video clips that showed a white ship repeatedly dousing another vessel sailing alongside it with a water cannon. One clip showed two white ships simultaneously firing water at the same vessel.

Another clip showed a white ship marked "China Coast Guard" crossing the bow of a grey vessel it identified as the Philippine supply boat Unaizah May 4, which was damaged in a China Coast Guard water cannon attack in the same area on March 5 that left four crew members injured.

It said the videos were taken Saturday morning while the Unaizah May 4 was on its way to Ayungin Shoal -- the Filipino name for the outcrop garrisoned by a small unit of Philippine troops that is also claimed by Beijing.

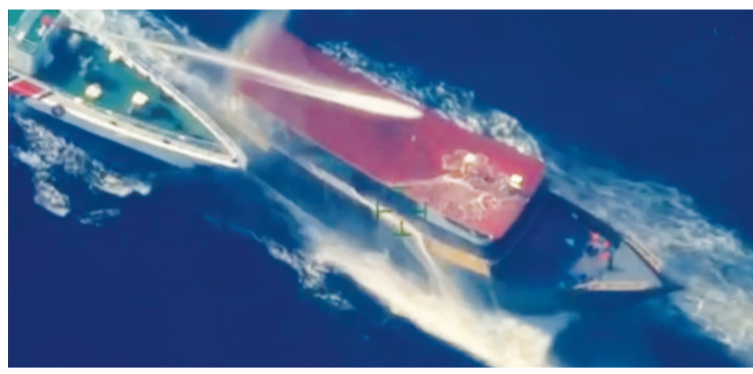
"The UM4 supply boat sustained heavy damages at around 08:52 (am) due to the continued blasting of water cannons from the CCG vessels," the military said in a statement, without describing the nature of the damage or whether there were any casualties.

Despite the attack, the damaged vessel and a coast guard escort ship that came to its aid later delivered its cargo as well as six navy personnel to the Filipino outpost, the military said in an update.

The military also released another video clip which it said was taken after the water cannon attack and showed a Chinese vessel deploying "floating barriers to prevent further entry of any vessels in the shoal".

The Philippine soldiers stationed on the shoal live on a derelict navy ship, the BRP Sierra Madre, and require frequent resupplies for food, water and other necessities as well as transport for personnel rotations.

China Coast Guard spokesman Gan Yu said in a statement that the Philippine convoy "forcibly intruded into the area despite the Chinese side's repeated warnings and route controls", adding the Chinese carried out "control, obstruction and eviction in accordance with



law".

"We sternly warn the Philippine side: those who play with fire will bring shame on themselves. The Chinese Coast Guard is ready at all times to resolutely safeguard our country's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests," Gan added.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, brushing off rival claims from other countries including the Philippines and an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis. "Impeded and encircled"

The latest confrontation came four days after visiting Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the United States stood by its "ironclad" commitments to defend longtime ally Manila against armed attack in the South China Sea. Two days after Blinken's visit to Manila, the China Coast Guard also tried to drive away Filipino scientists who landed on two cays near Scarborough

Shoal, another contested South China Sea outcrop.

The Unaizah May 4 was joined Saturday by an escort of two Filipino coast guard vessels and two Philippine Navy ships, a Philippine military statement said.

"This particular mission was set up to ensure a full troop complement on board BRP Sierra Madre after one personnel needing serious medical attention was recently evacuated," it added.

Commodore Jay Tarriela, a Philippine coast guard spokesman for South China Sea issues, said in a separate statement that its escort vessel, the BRP Cabra, was "impeded and encircled" by three Chinese coast guard and other vessels early Saturday.

As a result, Cabra was "isolated from the resupply boat due to the irresponsible and provocative behaviour of the Chinese maritime forces", he added.

Taiwan Declares Chinese Social Media App TikTok A National Security Threat

TAIPEI, Mar 23 (Agencies): Taiwan's Minister of Digital Affairs, Audrey Tang, has declared TikTok, the social media platform owned by a China-based company, as a significant national security threat, Central News agency Taiwan reported.

Tang emphasised that the platform's association with foreign adversaries aligns with the United States' perspective, which deems TikTok a potential risk to national security.

In a recent legislative hearing, Tang stated, "Taiwan has classified TikTok as a dangerous product." She explained that any product susceptible to control by foreign adversaries, either directly or indirectly, poses a threat to national information and communication security according to Taiwan's standards, as reported by CNA Taiwan.

The move in Taiwan follows a similar trend in the United States. The US House of Representatives recently passed a bill targeting ByteDance, TikTok's parent company, giving it a timeline to divest its US assets or face a nationwide ban. This legislation mirrors Taiwan's concerns about foreign influence over digital platforms.

Tang disclosed that Taiwan's Ministry of Digital Affairs (MODA) has proposed an amendment to the Cyber Security Management Act, echoing apprehensions voiced in the U.S. House bill regarding indirect foreign influence.

This amendment reflects Taiwan's commitment to safeguarding its digital infrastructure from external interference.

TikTok's usage is already restricted within Taiwanese government agencies and their premises. However, Tang hinted at the possibility of extending this ban to schools, non-governmental agencies, and public spaces, pending a decision by the Cabinet. She emphasized that such a decision would entail a comprehensive assessment, considering legal processes and practical feasibility.

"The final decision will be made by the Cabinet after extensive consideration of opinions in the various sectors," the ministry asserted. It highlighted ongoing inter-ministerial discussions convened by the Cabinet to address this issue effectively.

Additionally, the digital ministry disclosed its vigilance regarding the progress of the TikTok bill in the US Congress, indicating a keen interest in international developments shaping digital security policies.

In line with existing regulations established in 2019 and revised in 2022, any information and communication system or service with the potential to disrupt government operations or societal stability is classified as a product endangering national information and communication security, CNA Taiwan reported.

170 Gaza Gunmen Killed In Hospital Raid, Says Israel

JERUSALEM, Mar 23 (Agencies): Israeli forces fighting in Gaza have killed more than 170 gunmen during their days-long raid at the Palestinian enclave's main hospital, the military said on Saturday.

Israeli troops entered Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City in the early hours of Monday morning and have been combing through the sprawling complex,

which the military says is connected to a tunnel network used as a base for Hamas and other Palestinian fighters.

"Thus far, the forces eliminated more than 170 terrorists in the area of the hospital, questioned over 800 suspects, and located numerous weapons and terror infrastructure," the military said.

Al Shifa, the Gaza Strip's biggest hospital

before the war, is now one of the few health-care facilities even partially operational in the north of the territory, and had also been housing displaced civilians.

More than 350 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants have so far been detained at the hospital, the largest number captured at the same time since the war began in October, the military said on Thursday.



Hamas and medical staff deny that the hospital is used for military purposes or to shelter fighters.

In recent days, Hamas spokespeople have said that the dead announced in previous Israeli statements were not fighters but patients and displaced people and have accused Israel of war crimes.

The Israeli military,

which has lost two soldiers in combat at the hospital, says it is preventing harm to civilians, patients and medical staff there.

Israel faced heavy criticism last November when troops first raided the hospital. The troops uncovered tunnels there, which they said had been used as command and control centres by Hamas.

IIM Jammu's Education Leadership Training Program for College Principals of J&K (IV Batch) concludes

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: The 'Education Leadership Development Training Program' hosted by the Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C) division of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, culminated on 22nd March 2024, marking the successful completion of its intensive five-day schedule.

Tailored specifically for the College Principals of Jammu and Kashmir, this program aimed at enriching participants with essential leadership skills crucial for navigating contemporary educational landscapes and meeting the evolving needs of students and communities.

Dr. Rambabu Lavuri, Program Director at IIM Jammu, commenced the proceedings with a comprehensive presentation of the program report, setting the stage for participants to share their enriching learning experiences.

Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of the



Srinagar Campus, addressed the participants, underscoring the significance of the program and IIM Jammu's commitment to educational excellence in the region.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, joining on online mode expressed his pleasure in engaging with fellow academicians and emphasized key aspects such as youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and the delivery of quality education.

He advocated for a shift towards nurturing job creators and encouraged participants to inspire students to pursue academic excellence in esteemed institutions like

IITs and IIMs. He assured unwavering support and emphasized the importance of collaboration and politeness in fostering a conducive learning environment.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu highlighting the program's significance, stressed the importance of continuous learning and collaboration among participating colleges.

He urged the participants to disseminate the knowledge gained to their students, contributing to the broader educational community and nation-building efforts.

The program aimed to achieve various objectives, including the imple-

mentation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, enhancing instructional leadership, fostering effective communication, promoting cultural competence, encouraging innovation and adaptability, and instilling data-informed decision-making skills.

The valedictory ceremony, held at the IIM Jammu Srinagar campus, saw the distribution of certificates to all participants who successfully completed the program.

Dr. Parvathy, B, Program Director at IIM Jammu, extended gratitude to all participants and supporters, marking the event's conclusion with the national anthem.

The event was a testament to IIM Jammu's dedication to fostering educational leadership and excellence in the region. Coordinated by the EE&C division, it reflected the institute's commitment to driving positive change in the educational landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Army conducts advance course for women of Ladakh



Top News Report

LEH, Mar 23: An Entrepreneurship Awareness Program was organized by Leh Sub Area at Women Empowerment Centre, Leh from 18 to 23 March 2024. 30 ladies from Leh attended the program including dependents of veterans and serving personnel, Veer

Naris and Widows. The program was conducted by qualified trainers from 'I Create NGO' based at Bengaluru, on behalf of Bajaj Allianz Insurance Co Ltd.

The ladies were trained on modalities for establishment and running business ventures successfully and imparted knowledge on support

available from various Government and private agencies for such ventures. Guidance and support by the NGOs will continue, even post completion of the training, for establishing any business ventures.

Women Empowerment Centre at Leh has emerged as a major initiative for empowerment of

ladies of Ladakh assisting them in becoming self-reliant in line with the broader national vision of Nari Shakti. This recent initiative by Fire and Fury Corps is a testimony to the commitment of Indian Army towards welfare of Veer Naris, widows and female dependents of veterans and serving personnel of Army.

BJP trying to hijack democracy in country: Vikar Jammu suffered most under ten years BJP regime: Bhalla



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: JKPC President Vikar Rasool Wani has said that BJP is trying to hijack democracy in the country by using all foul means against the opposition which is very dangerous for the future of the democratic system in largest democracy of the world.

Addressing a meeting of party functionaries of district Jammu urban and Jammu rural at party headquarters today along with working President Raman Bhalla, Shri Vikar Rasool Wani said that future of democracy in India is in danger under the BJP regime as politics of vendetta is at its peak.

The top opposition leaders are being implicated in false cases and are being jailed on the eve of election's and the main opposition party congress has been financially crippled by the illegal seizure of

accounts. The ruling party has collected huge funds through the illegal electoral bond scheme which is unconstitutional now as per supreme Court Judgment.

It is the biggest corruption scandal of the independent India under BJP regime and the agencies were used to collect money through donations while the entire opposition is under target especially congress is being snatched of its legitimate funds & resources.

The meeting was convened over by JKPC President Vikar Rasool Wani and attended by prominent leaders of the party including Senior Vice President PCC Mula Ram, Vice Presidents Yogesh Sawhney, T.S. Bajwa, Indu Pawar, Rajnish Sharma (Treasurer), Hari Singh Chib, General Secretaries Narinder Gupta (Org), Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, T.S. Tony, Narinder Sharma, Arashad Ahmed Tantery,

Suresh Dogra, Amrit Bali, Kanta Bhan, Th. Balbir Singh, Thomas Khokhar, Satish Sharma, Th. Manmohan Singh President DCC Jammu (Urban), Th. Shamsheer Singh Chib- President DCC Jammu (Rural), Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Jatin K Raina (Social Media), Bhavishya Sudan (RTI), Karan Bhagat (SC), PCC Secretaries Sanjeev Panda, Rajvir Singh, Sahil Sharma, Hoshiyar Singh, Bhushan Dogra, Anoop Gupta, Shamsheer Chand, Working President Jammu (9R R), Badri Nath Sharma, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Sat Pal Sapolia, R.P. Magotra, Block Presidents Latish Sharma, Ajaib Motton, Gurmeet Singh, Ajay Kumar, Nageshwar, Deep Bhardwaj, Darshan Verma, Munish Sharma,

Raman Bhalla lashed out at BJP for the sufferings of the people as he said Jammu region suffered the most under ten years of BJP regime.

He said Dogras lost their identify & rights to land, jobs, trade and resources which are being taken over by outside people leaving locals high & dry. Urging people to measure the loss to the coming generations who shall face very difficult times and identity crisis besides going out in search of jobs & bread and butter, Bhalla asked people to vote out BJP from centre to reverse the trend.

Earlier meeting paid floral tributes to three great heroes of the freedom movement Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar - on their death anniversary, which is known as Martyrs' Day.

On March 23, 1931 - three revolutionary freedom fighters, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, all in their early twenties, were hanged in the Lahore jail. The three were sentenced to death by the British colonial rulers.

Govt should ensure employment to local youth in industrial sector, says Manjit Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Saturday appealed to the Govt to ensure reservation of skilled and unskilled jobs for the local unemployed youth in the industrial sector in District Samba.

As per a press release, a meeting was organized at Baingalar village in Ramgarh, Samba which was organized by District President, Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti.

During the meeting, the Party leaders discussed the existing political situation and the issues being faced by the people, especially the unemployed youth and the increase in drug addiction/drug peddling inci-



ents. While chairing the meeting, the Former Minister said that he was disheartened with the situation of growing unemployment among the educated youth in Govt as well as private sector.

He criticized the traditional political parties for not supporting the local population's right to get employment at the local industrial level.

He said that the local industrial sectors are provided facilities and sub-

sidies for opening their units in Jammu's Samba, Bari Brahmana and other parts of the Jammu and Kashmir with a condition that they would improve infrastructure, and provide employment to the local youth on priority.

Contrary to what they had assured the authorities, he said that these industrial sectors have employed outsiders by denying job opportunities to the local youth in skilled and unskilled employment in their

respective units. "This deliberate negligence regarding employment to local unemployed youth has given rise to many issues in these industrial areas from criminal incidents, drug addiction, and growing unemployment among the educated youth," he said.

He demanded that the industrial sector must cooperate with the authorities and help in redressing the issue of unemployment among the youth by providing them equal opportunity.

The meeting was also attended by District President of the Party, Samba, Raman Thappa, Block President, Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary, Block President Vijaypur, Mohan Lal Sharma, and others.

CUJ faculty presented paper in International Conference TAGC 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: Dr. Narendra K Bairwa, Associate Professor of the Centre for Molecular Biology, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) who is a member of the Genetic Society of America (GSA), presented a paper titled "A Simple Assay for the Detection of Late-Stage Apoptosis Features in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*" in the recently concluded international conference "The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC)" in the session of the "Novel Methods, Tools and Technology." The TAGC was held at Metro Washington DC, organized by the Genetic Society of America (GSA).



In the presented paper Dr. Bairwa and his associates reported about the developed method to the wider international scientific community and described a simple process for the detection of apoptosis upon chemical treatment using simple, single-cell organisms (*Saccharomy-*

ces cerevisiae) in the settings of labs that are equipped with fluorescence microscopy facility.

The described method can be used for the toxicity assessment of the chemical compounds and as a teaching tool to students for concepts of apoptosis, a programmed cell death that is crucial for the development of the organism. The method has already been published in the prestigious Journal "Current Protocols".

The Director of the Centre for Molecular Biology, Dr. Swarkar Sharma and the honourable Vice-chancellor of the CUJ, Prof. Sanjeev Jain congratulated Dr. NK Bairwa for representing the CUJ at the prestigious conference.

FROM PAGE 1

BSF special Director General reviews operational preparedness along LoC

Kashmir, highlighting their role in shaping the future of BSF personnel. During the visit, Khurania interacted with senior officers, subordinate officers and jawans through a "Prahari Sammelan". The BSF SDG lauded the high level of professionalism exhibited by the BSF personnel and urged them to maintain high vigili to thwart any attempts to disrupt peace and harmony in the valley. Khurania's visit to the Kashmir Frontier underscores the BSF's unwavering commitment to safeguard India's borders and ensure the safety and security of its citizens, the spokesman said.

Asia's largest Tulip garden opens for visitors in Srinagar

the garden the cherish the beauty of tulips," he said. As locals and tourists jostled to get a glimpse of the iconic garden on it's opening day, the officials said that in the coming days the garden will be it's full bloom.

The picturesque garden, located on the foothills of the Zabarwan mountain range and banks of majestic Dal Lake - has multiple varieties of red, yellow and pink early blooming and late blooming tulip bulbs.

Notably, ahead of opening of the garden this week, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri convened a meeting to review the arrangements at Asia's largest Tulip Garden for visitors.

The meeting was attended by Director Floriculture, SSP Traffic Srinagar, Joint Commissioner SMC, officers of Tourism department and Srinagar Smart City Limited.

The meeting held threadbare discussion regarding opening of garden for visitors, traffic management, parking space, sanitation, cleanliness drive, fixing of potholes, online ticketing and other arrangements.

Death toll in Sangrur spurious liquor case rises to 20; SIT Formed

the opposition parties Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) over the Sangrur hooch tragedy. A case has already been registered under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Excise Act.

The police on Saturday said that a high-level committee has been set up to supervise uncovering of the backward and forward linkages in a professional and scientific manner to unearth the nexus behind the whole matter.

A four-member SIT headed by ADGP (law and order) Gurinder Singh Dhillon will supervise the investigations. Deputy Inspector General (Patiala Range) Harcharan Bhullar, Senior Superintendent of Police, Sangrur, Sartaj Chahal, and Additional Commissioner (Excise) Naresh Dubey will be part of the SIT.

"The SIT will go to the bottom of the conspiracy. No person found involved will be spared," police said.

The district administration has already formed a five-member committee, led by the Dirba sub-divisional magistrate, to investigate the matter. The police had earlier recovered 200 litres of ethanol, 156 bottles of alcohol, 130 bottles containing suspected spurious liquor with labelling, 80 bottles containing spurious liquor without labelling, 4,500 empty bottles and a bottling machine etc. The police had said with the arrests made until Thursday it had busted a gang which had just started selling spurious liquor in the area in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

The gang could have affected the conduct of the elections by luring the voters, the

police had said in a statement. A survey was also being conducted in the affected villages to find out if anyone else reported symptoms of deterioration in health.

Kashmiri Doctor commits suicide in Delhi

most of these cases. The Mental health experts believe that various challenges faced by Kashmiri students studying outside JK, including personal setbacks, can contribute to feelings of isolation and depression, increasing the risk of suicide.

8th Class Exams: JKSCERT postpones exam of all papers except for English subject

JKSCERT of Kashmir division in a communique said that in view of Middle Standard Examination 2024 and furnishing the stock position of question papers and reference, it is submitted that the confidential material of MSE 2023-24 shall be dispatched on 23-03-2024 in respect of Kashmir Division. "It is here to mention that regional language paper of soft zone already notified to be held on March-24-

2024 needs to be rescheduled as the regional language paper shall not be supplied on the said date due to paucity of time," it reads. The joint director of the council further said, "Keeping in view the matter, it is requested that the regional language paper scheduled on March-24-2024 in respect of soft zone may kindly be rescheduled and shall be conducted on 7th of April along with Hard zone paper of regional languages." Meanwhile a complex head in Srinagar said, "Normally we used to get the entire confidential material including the question papers before the commencement of examinations." He said, "This year, the complex heads received the confidential materials at the 11th hour and a portion of it is yet to be received including the question papers of Kashmiri and English subjects."

Clouds break, sun peeps through in J&K after 2 Days

degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature today. Leh town in Ladakh region had 0.4, Kargil 6.2 and Drass minus 6.7 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature. Jammu city had 14.4, Katra 15.2, Batote 9.1, Bhaderwah 7 and Banihal 7.6 as the minimum temperature.

'Mere Sheher Ke 100 Ratan' scholarship program for Punjab launched



Top News Report

CHANDIGARH / JAMMU, Mar 23: Crack Academy's scholarship program 'Mere Sheher Ke 100 Ratan' for Punjab was inaugurated at a hotel here on Saturday. Punjab cabinet ministers Chetan Singh Jouramajra and Lal Chand Kataruchakk along with former minister Pargat Singh were chief guests during the occasion. Speaking during the occasion Pargat Singh said that initiatives like 'Mere Sheher Ke 100 Ratan' will help Punjab

students in a big way. Chetan Singh Jouramajra while highlighting the pressing need for accessible education said that Crack Academy's initiative for 117 constituencies involving 11,700 scholarships across Punjab is a beacon of hope. We appreciate the academy's outlook on uplifting underprivileged students by offering them access to education, he maintained. Lal Chand Kataruchakk stated: "This program will help the hidden talent of our country to emerge victorious and contribute

to the nation's development. This will also help the underprivileged students get access to a global standard of education, just like those in metro cities." "The scholarship program is designed to select 100 outstanding students from each constituency, totaling 11,700 beneficiaries in Punjab. We aim to empower underprivileged students across the nation and shall host similar programs in future as well," said Neeraj Kansal founder of Crack Academy.

BJP Jhuggi-Jhopdi Sampark Abhiyan team holds meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: Jhuggi-Jhopdi Sampark Abhiyan team under J&K BJP State Election Management Committee led by its convener Jeet Angral held a meeting in the party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary J&K BJP, Priya Sethi, former minister, Prem Dogra state co-convener, Gurmeet Randhawa and Ajay Gupta addressed the meetings. Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, while addressing the meeting, stressed upon the party leaders to meet with the Pravasi families living in Jammu and Kashmir. He asked the party leaders to apprise all the Pravasi families living in their designated areas as well as nearby areas of all the achievements of the Modi government. He asked them to seek support of the Pravasi families to and to cast their votes in favour of the BJP candidates in order to further strengthen the nation and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the poor and the needy. He also asked the party lead-

ers to follow the guide lines of the election commission while conducting these meetings. Priya Sethi, in her address, shared various methods to work with coordination with the Pravasi families in the run up to the Parliament elections. She asked them to visit every area inhabited by the labour class in their areas. She impressed upon the members to plan their timing according to their suitability. She also asked to organize the Nukkad Sabha, Choti Baithak, Ghar-Ghar Sampark, Labharthi Sampark, in the localities around them. Jeet Angral impressed on the team members to gear up the work in speedy manner, reach to the people in their respective areas in their Abhiyan which is going to be started from 26 March to 31 March. The committees of the parliamentary Lok Sabha constituencies, Jammu-Reasi and Udhampur-Kathua have been framed in consultation with the high command. The members have been nominated in all the Vidhan Sabha (Assemblies), he shared.

EJCC appoints Naresh Kumar as Secretary Media Cell

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 23: In the meeting of Employees Joint Consultative Committee (EJCC) held on Saturday at Srinagar approved and announced the appointment of Naresh Kumar employee of Fisheries Department as Secretary Media Cell of EJCC vide Order No.EJCC/2024/03 dated 23.03.2024 for smooth process of the media work of Employees Joint Consultative Committee. This information has



been shared by Aijaz Ahmad Khan Chairman of Employees Joint Consultative Committee, Javed

Ahmad General Secretary EJCC and Mr Khalid Mehmood Khan Chief Spokesperson of EJCC. Naresh Kumar telephonically said that he will work hard towards strengthening the EJCC by print and electronic media. He thanked Aijaz Ahmad Khan Chairman of Employees Joint Consultative Committee, Javed Ahmad General Secretary EJCC and Khalid Mehmood Khan Chief Spokesperson of EJCC and other members of EJCC for entrusting him with the responsibility.

JKTF Deputation welcomes CEO Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 23: A high profile deputation of Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Forum (JKTF) District Kishtwar led by "Provincial President Jammu Sanjeet Sharma accompanied by District President Kishtwar Imtiyaz ul haq called on Chief Education Officer Kishtwar Shri Romi Kumar Vashantha in his office chamber". The Forum members welcomed the Chief Education officer for his new assignment, assured for full cooperation and wished him great success ahead. They also presented him a bouquet of flowers as a token of Love and Respect on the occasion.

While interacting with the Chief Education officer Kishtwar forum leaders highlighted the genuine issues of all the Teaching & Non Teaching Community. Worthy Chief Education Officer Kishtwar gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured to redress all the issues raised by JKTF leadership on the priority basis. While interacting with deputation of JKTF in a very healthy environment, the Chief Education officer Kishtwar assured full cooperation with teachers for disposal of all district level issues in a proper time bound manner and stressed upon teaching fraternity to explore their talent for the betterment of our future generation.

India needs advanced BESS ecosystem to support 500GW of non-fossil energy target by 2032

NEW DELHI, Mar 23 (Agencies): In its endeavour to meet the ambitious 500GW of non-fossil energy target, India needs some bold steps and an advanced BESS ecosystem with over 238 GWh of capacity. Experts at the 4th Edition of the International Conference on Stationary Energy Storage India 2024 emphasised on the rising penetration of renewables in the energy mix and addressed various system integration challenges affecting the energy storage capacity expansion. Over 250 industry leaders, government officials, and 10 partner countries including USA, Norway, Germany, Scotland, Australia and Singapore participated and discussed the future roadmap for Renewable, electricity grid, rooftop solar, and decarbonise the C&I sector. India's leading industry body India Energy Storage Alliance organised this biggest international conference to support India in integrating renewable energy in the power system which is crucial for the country to meet its climate goals. "From capacity expansion to being a global investor-friendly destination in the segment, India has achieved a lot in less than a decade. Our existing 190 GW of non-fossil-based capacity is a testament to this growth story. At one end we are trying to get more and more solar and wind into the grid, but also we are bringing in a lot of other energy

mix. The flavour is changing and the flavor now requires much effort from the manufacturing side. And that's where MNRE's role is now coming into play. We do need good best practices followed in the manufacturing industry. We do need advanced chemistry cells for stationary storage applications to be manufactured in India," says Shri Dinesh Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. "India is poised for rapid deployment of BESS and pumped hydro to complement the renewable energy deployments as part of the ambitious targets set by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. With the Stationary Energy Storage India Council, the India Energy Storage Alliance is all ready to work with a various set of policies. The most exciting part is that now we are entering into the execution part of our plans," said Dr. Rahul Walawalkar, President, IESA. For close to a decade, IESA has been working with central and state government agencies like CEA, CERC, Grid-India, SECI, and others to accelerate the growth of the energy storage sector in India and to address potential system integration challenges that may arise from the rising penetration of renewables in the energy mix through its Stationary Energy Storage India Council. Addressing the need for an integrated policy for storage systems, Shri

Rajnarain Ram, Adviser, NITI Aayog said, "Today's storage infrastructure is capable of storing energy but we need to figure out ways to store more energy as and when the demand and energy generation increases. Let's imagine that we have about 1800 gigawatt per hour energy demand by 2047, then we need to expand on the energy storage systems as well. We need to have a very integrated policy for building the storage system within the country." "The rising penetration of renewables in the energy mix also necessitates increasing energy storage capacity to address system integration challenges arising from the variable nature of renewable energy and supply-demand mismatch. It's high time for us to now look at how can we bring in firmness, flat curves, and that extra energy which can probably be looked at as the tailwind today into the storage space," said, Debi Prasad Dash, Executive Director, IESA & Secretary, US-India Energy Storage Taskforce secretariat. The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited has recently commissioned the biggest grid-connected storage yet in the country which is a 100-megawatt/120 megawatt-hour battery energy storage system project. The enabled capacity is around 152 megawatt-hours that is in the Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh. "Pricing is

a major factor in battery energy storage and we are estimating that the prices would fall for batteries close to 140 dollars per KWH, but the estimations also say that the prices would further reduce to 50 dollars per KWH which is the need of the hour," says Prashant Upadhyay, Senior Manager, SECI. "Just like the Solar Energy sector, we are now looking for energy storage through the Integrated RE module and still we are exploring the viability of that. To make this sector more sustainable government, industry, and people need to work together. Since banks today as well, don't know the economics of this sector, so that's why a plan that integrates as a whole makes this sector more viable and efficient," said Mani Khurana, Senior Energy Specialist, The World Bank. Organized under the esteemed Stationary Energy Storage India Council, key stakeholders from the stationary energy sector from regulators and policymakers to industry leaders and experts discussed and collaborated on advancements in the stationary energy storage. Key participants include MNRE, MoP, MEITY, DST, CEA, SECI, NTPC, GEP, World Economic Forum, Department of science & Technology, World Bank, Good Enough Energy, SMA, Envision Energy, Ampyr Energy, DCM Container, Maestrotch Energy, GIZ, Government of Australia and others.

Ajatshatru lauds Indian Govt's decision to abrogate Art 370 in J&K at Geneva Convention

Seeks UN intervention to ameliorate people living under Pakistani occupation

Top News Report

GENEVA, Mar 23: Ajatshatru Singh, senior BJP leader and former minister, commended the Government of India's bold decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. This historic move corrected the longstanding injustice endured by the people of the region over the past seven decades. Speaking in his address at UN, the senior BJP leader said "Since the constitutional reforms in 2019, there has been a significant decline in terrorist incidents in the region. From 2004 to 2014, Jammu and Kashmir experienced a total of 7,217 terrorist incidents. However, thanks to the reforms, terror incidents have decreased by over 70%. This improvement underscores the effectiveness of the government's actions in restoring peace and stability to the region." "Moreover, on the socio-economic front, the reduction of poverty



in Jammu and Kashmir from 40.45% in 2005-2006 to a mere 2.81% in 2022-2023 is a testament to the optimal utilization of development funds. The recent interim budget for 2024 allocated a substantial \$14 billion for Jammu and Kashmir, further demonstrating the government's commitment to the region's prosperity," he added. Ajatshatru Singh said over the past nine years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a remarkable revolution in infrastructure development, including the establishment of

new medical colleges, tunnels, railway lines, and civic infrastructure. These advancements have been achieved while preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region, he added. However, it is essential to acknowledge that not all parts of Jammu and Kashmir have benefited equally. Recent protests in regions under Pakistani occupation highlight the growing awareness of economic disparities compared to those under Indian administration. As the son of Dr. Karan Singh, the titular king of undivided Jammu and

Kashmir and Grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh ji, he expressed deep concern for the plight of those living under Pakistani occupation. The former minister appealed to the United Nations to take concrete steps in accordance with Security Council resolutions to ameliorate the situation faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir under Pakistani occupation. It is imperative that the international community addresses their grievances and ensures their fundamental rights are upheld, he concluded.

India's outlook for next fiscal positive: Finance ministry

NEW DELHI, Mar 23 (Agencies): The finance ministry, on Friday, said with an uptick in private investment and inflation trending down, India's outlook for the next fiscal looks positive. The monthly economic review also said inclusion of Indian bonds in Bloomberg bond index from January 2025 should bolster inflows. It said robust investment activity is driving growth amid a steady rise in consumption. "The continued focus on public investment seems to have crowded in private investment," said the February edition of the review by Department of Economic Affairs. The National Statistical Office (NSO) has revised upwards the GDP growth estimate for current fiscal to 7.6 per cent from 7.3 per cent. India grew above 8 per cent for three consecutive quarters, reaffirming its position as a standout performer amid sluggish global growth trends. Various agencies echo a similar sentiment revising the FY24 growth esti-



mates of India closer to 8 per cent, the ministry said. "On the whole, India looks positively towards the dawn of FY25," the review said. It said increased demand for residential properties in tier-2 and tier-3 cities augurs well for furthering construction activity. Non-farm employment has revived, improving the capacity to absorb the labour leaving agriculture. "The ascent of manufacturing sector employment is expected to be marked by upscaling of enterprises and sunrise sectors emerging as catalysts for generating quality employment," it added.

It said strong growth accompanied by stable inflation and external account and progressive employment outlook will help the Indian economy close the current financial year on a positive note. "There are headwinds like indications of hardening crude oil prices and global supply chain bottlenecks to trade. Nonetheless, India, on the whole, looks forward to a bright outlook for FY25," the monthly review said. It said India's inflation outlook for the upcoming months is positive. Core inflation is trending downwards, indicating a broad-based moderation in price pressures. The pick-up in summer sowing is likely to help reduce food prices, it added.

GDC Ramnagar observes 'Martyr Day'

Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, Mar 23: Under the patronage of Principal GDC Ramnagar Dr Bhavnai Chand Anthal, Department of History GDC Ramnagar observes 'Martyr Day'. This day is celebrated as Martyr's Day to commemorate the sacrifice of Sardar Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. In this connection an online symposium was organised by the Department of History on the topic 'Yuva Krantikariyon ka Azadi mein Yogdan'. The programme started with the formal welcome address by Head Department of History Prof. Manmohan Singh. More than ten students participated as speaker in the symposium. Students presented their views on the topic and remembering the contribution of trio in the Freedom struggle. This programme was organised under Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

Principal GDC Ramnagar also expressed his views on this occasion. He apprised us that martyrs are the source of inspiration for the youth of India. At such a young age, they came forward for independence, and fought with bravery. As a youth of nation, all of us should never forget our freedom fighters who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of Nation. He further added, we should follow the foot imprints of these trio against any injustice in the society as well as nation. The students who presented their views were Kiran Bandral, Thakur Veenayak Singh, Anita Devi, Mohaika Sharma, Shruti Angral, Manju Devi, Bhavishan Singh Soniaka Devi, Sunil Kumar and Ramesh Singh. The programme was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr Zaid Ahmed Mir Department of History GDC Ramnagar.

DPS Junior Kathua's Special Graduation Ceremony for Academic Year 2023-24 held

Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 23: Delhi Public School Junior, Kathua held a remarkable graduation ceremony for the special batch of 2023-24, hosted by the vibrant Sonam Gupta, teacher of the UKG class. The event, graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including the School Principal, Vivek Arora, and the School Administrator Gauri Thakur, was a heartwarming celebration of the students' journey. The ceremony commenced with a solemn lighting ceremony, where the School Principal, Vivek Arora, and the School Administrator Gauri Thakur, along with the School Incharge, Monika Singh, illuminated the lamp, symbolizing the enlightenment of knowledge. Monika Singh, School Incharge, delivered a warm welcome address, extending gratitude to the beautiful mothers of the UKG students, the School Principal, Administrator, and all the attendees. She expressed her pride in the graduating students and gratitude towards the parents and teachers for their unwav-



ering support and importance of early education in shaping the future of the children and commended the students for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. The highlight of the event was the delightful performances by the young talents of the UKG class. The students danced and sang with joy, showcasing their skills and spreading happiness. They were looking pretty good dressed in their graduation robes and caps. A touching video presentation stirred emotions as it captured memorable moments from the students' journey, evoking nostalgia and gratitude among the parents and teachers. The event also featured a heartwarming speech by the Principal, congratulating the graduates and appreciating the efforts of the staff in

nurturing the students' growth. Principal, Vivek Arora, in his speech, highlighted the values instilled in the students at Delhi Public School Junior Kathua, emphasizing the school's commitment to providing a holistic education that nurtures not only academic excellence but also moral and ethical values. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Aadhya Verma, one of the graduating students, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to the school management, the Principal, the School Incharge, the teachers, and the parents for their unwavering support and guidance. Monika Singh thanked everyone present over there. The graduation ceremony was indeed a testament to the school's commitment to excellence in education, nurturing young minds.

IPL 2024: Mustafizur executed plans beautifully, says CSK bowling consultant after Bangladesh pacer rattles RCB top-order

Mustafizur Rahman returned with his best ever IPL figures as CSK restricted RCB to 173 for six

CHENNAI, Mar 23 (Agencies): Chennai Super Kings' bowling consultant Eric Simons has heaped praise on Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman for executing the plans perfectly to set up their comfortable six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL opener here.

Mustafizur (4/29) rattled the RCB top-order, dismissing Virat Kohli (21), skipper Faf du Plessis (35) and Rajat Patidar (0) -- besides also getting rid of Cameron Green (18), to return with his best ever IPL figures as CSK restricted RCB to 173 for six.

"We always wanted to look at the conditions and the balance of the side. He does suit the conditions, but it's the simplicity of the plan that we put in place, and he executed that beautifully today (Friday)," said Simons during the post-match press conference.

While RCB was reeling at 78 for five, Anuj Rawat (48) and Dinesh Karthik (38 not out) pair added 95 crucial runs to propel the side to an encouraging total. Asked why spinner Rachin



Ravindra was not introduced to arrest the flow of runs, Simons felt it was a bit late to hand over the ball to him.

"They were 78-5, and the spinners had done a good job. Two overs went for a few, and the momentum shifted, and it was probably late at that stage to throw the ball to him in that situation. From what we have seen in the nets, he can certainly bowl; but at the right time," the South African said.

Simons stressed on the importance of controlling the power-

play and death overs but credited the RCB batters for dictating terms in the fag end of their innings.

"From the seam perspective, to control the Powerplay and to control the death is a very important aspect of the game. We have a lot of discussions not just about skills but educating ourselves and the bowlers about how to use variations, field placements and tactics," he said.

"DK (Dinesh Karthik) is a daunting guy to bowl to in those

moments. Some credit must go to the (RCB) batters as to how they manipulated us. We will then look at it, did we allow to happen too much?"

"My question is who's controlling the tactics? Are the (opponent) batters dictating it to us, or vice versa? and you walk away from today thinking that we allowed the batters dictating too much.

"We will review some of those match footage and have discussions about it, along with (Dwayne) Bravo, who has a lot of knowledge."

Chasing 174, CSK batters looked aggressive and Simons said they wanted the batters to play with freedom.

"The important thing in competitions like this is for the batters to be themselves, and that's the way they like to play, with freedom and be intimidating to the opposition. The batting lineup that we have gives us confidence as to what we can do.

"Rahane will be aggressive, but he will be different to Dube. So, you go and play your game with freedom and expression."

IPL 2024: Manish Pandey 'pretty sure' of India comeback with stellar run for KKR



KOLKATA, Mar 23 (Agencies): Manish Pandey said that he has not give up on his hopes of making a comeback for India. The veteran is set to play for the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) after returning to the franchise in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. In the auction that took place in December 2023, the Knights picked Pandey at his base price of INR 50 lakhs. Pandey made his debut for India back in 2015 on the tour of Zimbabwe. But he has never been able to cement his place in the national side.

The 34-year-old batter last donned the national jersey on the tour of Sri Lanka in 2021. Pandey reckoned that an excellent season with the bat for KKR could help him find his place back into the Indian team.

"Yes, definitely. India are playing a lot of games with multiple squads. So I'm pretty sure, if you have a good IPL or a string of good performances, you can come back into the side anytime," Pandey told Sportskeeda.

"You obviously don't want anybody to get injured, but that's how the doors open for any

player to make a comeback. But for me, it'll be important to play good cricket, to start with," he said.

Pandey also sounded happy after reuniting with Gautam Gambhir. Earlier, Pandey played under Gambhir before making a move. While Pandey has returned as a player, Gambhir has made his comeback as a mentor.

"He is somebody who always wants his players to do well. That's what I've learnt from GG. He's been very passionate about the game and his energy on the field is unmatched. And that's what we learn as players, when your captain or leader is leaving everything on the field. I've made sure I try to replicate that in every game I play," he added.

The Knights will play their first match on today, against the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

'Still hurts, haven't been able to get over it': Savita Punia on lost Olympic dream

NEW DELHI, Mar 23 (Agencies): The crying didn't help, living in denial didn't help, what helped was picking up the hockey stick again to make a fresh start.

The 'Great Wall' of Indian women's hockey and captain Savita Punia has been an emotional wreck ever since the team failed to qualify for Paris Olympics, a massive downfall after the superb fourth-place finish in Tokyo just three years ago.

"Good moments in life are not forgotten but neither are the bad ones. Losing the Olympic qualifiers is such a bad moment that we will probably not be able to forget our entire life," the 33-year-old goalkeeper told agency in an interview.

"I haven't been able to get over it yet," she admitted rather candidly, the disappointment audible through her soft voice.

The heartbreak is now almost two months old.

Punia was among those who were seen sobbing when the final hooter went off in the third-place match against Japan, India down by a solitary goal ending their Paris hopes.

"I didn't want to talk about it because it still hurts a lot. I still can't believe that we are not going to Olympics. We were confident and well-prepared but you cannot predict anything in sports."

"After the qualifiers, we were at home for a week and told all the players that this break is a for them to cry and feel sad as much as they want. Keeping it inside will do no good and it is necessary to vent it out. No one talked about the Olympic qualifiers during this break," she revealed.

The first step in the recovery process was to get back to the game.



So, she competed in the FIH Pro League just 10 days after the qualifiers and then came the ongoing Nationals in Pune.

She turned up for her state Haryana after a good six years, continuing the healing process.

"The good thing about sports is that you have to forget the past and move forward very quickly. That's why I came to Pune to play the Senior Nationals because hockey is my passion and the more I stay away from the field, the more it will bother me," she said.

"When the team gathered in Bhubaneswar for the Pro League, in the first team meeting we asked how everyone was feeling. It was important for the morale of the youth to remain high. It is also credit to the team that we came together and played well."

"I was constantly thinking that we deserved to be in the Olympics but we don't have the answer as to why we couldn't qualify. The Dutch team was also surprised why we couldn't do it," she recalled wistfully.

"We all did our best and our preparation was very good. It's a lot about luck also. We are more dejected than anyone else."

Aside from getting

back to hockey, what helped Punia stay afloat was her reliance on yoga and meditation.

"I was not feeling good. Tried a lot but the body was not cooperating. Then I took the help of yoga and pranayam and focused on fitness," she said.

The Indian team will play Pro League matches in Belgium in May-June and the focus will be on fitness.

Punia understands that a new core group will take shape after the Nationals and she is prepared for the churning.

"Now a new core group will be formed and some new players will also come. The focus will be on fitness and drag flicks. We have to work on our game continuously," she said.

"My husband came after the Olympic qualifiers and gave a lot of encouragement. He said that we could not change what happened but can look ahead and play as long as you want to play. It was a very good thing for me that both my families supported me," she said.

IPL 2024: RCB's Dinesh Karthik pleased to get some runs despite challenging build up

CHENNAI, Mar 23 (Agencies): Veteran wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik is pleased about getting some runs in the IPL opener despite limited game and preparation time going into the tournament due to his commentary commitments.

Since the last IPL, the only competitive cricket Karthik played was in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

He was on air in the recently concluded India-England Test series and admitted finding training time in between his commentary duties was tough.

Karthik, who is playing his last IPL, made an unbeaten 38 off 26 balls to help RCB recover to 173 for six against CSK on Friday night. By his own admission, he was rusty in the middle.

"It's been extremely challenging, doing a bit of commentary and to keep practising cricket



between Test matches and in between the time that I get, it's been a lot of hard work.

"So, I am happy that Game 1 has gone positively for me, and it feels good to score some runs," Karthik told reporters after the game.

The 38-year-old is hoping that play-offs happen at his home ground here and he can return to Chepauk to

play his last IPL game.

"Time will tell, I guess. I genuinely wish it's not because the last couple of (playoff) games will be here, so I could be back for that, which could then be my last (here)," he said when asked if it could be last game in Chennai.

Defending champions CSK was able to chase down 174 comfortably on a good batting track. CSK pacer Mustafizur

Rahman produced his best IPL figures of 4-29 to make the difference.

Karthik was all praise for the left-arm pacer from Bangladesh. "He bowled brilliantly. He showed his skills in all the three spells," he reckoned.

"He is bowling a lot quicker than he normally does and hits the right lengths. The slower balls came out well. It was a very good pitch. Not the usual slow Chepauk turner that we are visualising in our mind.

"The ball skid on a lot more, and it was good for batting, and he (Rahman) bowled well. What makes it tough is that he can bowl at 138/139 (kmph), and then he has a slower one, which is very deceptive. And he bowls it at 121/125 (km/h), which makes it hard to line him up.

"People can see how much talent Anuj has"

For RCB, Anuj Rawat was the top scorer with 48 and his 95-run stand with Karthik allowed the team to post a fighting total.

"I couldn't be happier for him. He has been a part of this team for two years, and people can see how much talent he has. The ball flies off his bat. He has got great bat speed and is a strong boy. He works hard at the nets," said Karthik.

"The last two years haven't exactly panned out. Last year, he showed towards the end how good he is, but today (Friday), he showed what skills he has got.

"I just wish he keeps continuing this form because he is a key player for us. A left-arm hander through the middle and hits the long ball with a lot of power. So, it's great to see him do so well," he added.

IPL 2024: Hardik Pandya begins high-profile Mumbai Indians captaincy stint against former team Gujarat Titans

AHMEDABAD, Mar 23 (Agencies): Hardik Pandya will aim to build on the rich legacy of his predecessor Rohit Sharma when he begins his Mumbai Indians captaincy stint with a match against Gujarat Titans, a team that the star all-rounder himself marshalled over last two seasons, in the IPL here on Sunday.

Such are the professional ways of IPL that Pandya, having led Titans to the title and runners-up finish in the previous two seasons, has gone to back to the Mumbai Indians where he made a name for himself.

The tournament also marks Pandya's comeback from a 'freak' ankle injury he picked up in the middle of the ODI World Cup in October.

The form of the injury-prone all-rounder with both bat and ball will be closely tracked in the tournament that precedes the T20 World Cup in the USA and Caribbean.

With Pandya moving on to the other side, Titans will be led by Shubman Gill, who assumes the responsibility with very little captaincy experience.

Mumbai have been grappling with fitness issues to their key players including star batter Suryakumar Yadav, who is yet to get fitness clearance from NCA.

Left-arm pacers Jason Behrendorff and Dilshan Madushanka are already ruled out of the IPL while new recruit Gerald Coetzee, nursing a groin injury, might not be available

for the first few games.

Having led Mumbai to as many as five IPL titles, India skipper Rohit will be turning up as a player this season and would be expected to hit top form ahead of the ICC event in June. Another player whose performance will be scrutinised is Ishan Kishan, who will have a point to prove after losing his BCCI central contract for defying the Board's diktat on domestic cricket.

The southpaw, who missed the entire Test series against England, preferred to train on his own for the IPL and did not turn for his state side Jharkhand in the Ranji Trophy. The fight for the wicket-keeper batter's slot in the World Cup squad will be intense and Kishan needs to be at the top of his game over the next two months.

Besides Pandya, Mohammad Nabi and Romario Shepherd are the other quality all-round options Mumbai possess.

Domestic players like Akash Madhwal and Nehal Wadhwa will be looking to build on their performances of the previous season.

On the Titans' front, Gill has been tasked to ensure that the team maintains the remarkable consistency it showed in its first two seasons. Gill could be one of the future leaders for India but for that to happen, he must prove himself on the IPL stage.

He was the leading run-getter last season and the franchise would be hoping that captaincy doesn't impact his batting in anyway.

Titans are bound to miss the services of Mohammed Shami, who recently underwent a surgery to repair Achilles tendon and will be back only in the second half of the year.

The return of trump card Rashid Khan from a back surgery is a massive boost for Titans. The Afghanistan spinner made his comeback in the series against Ireland last week.

Among the new joiners, left-arm pacer Spencer Johnson and Azmatullah Omarzai, will be looking to make a mark in the world's biggest T20 league.

Squads: Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Dewald Brevis, Jasprit Bumrah, Piyush Chawla, Gerald Coetzee, Tim David, Shreyas Gopal, Ishan Kishan, Anshul Kamboj, Kumar Kartikeya, Akash Madhwal, Kwena Maphaka, Mohammad Nabi, Shams Mulani, Naman Dhir, Shivalik Sharma, Romario Shepherd, Arjun Tendulkar, Nuwan Thushara, Tilak Varma, Vishnu Vinod, Nehal Wadhwa, Luke Wood, Suryakumar Yadav.

Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill (c), Azmatullah Omarzai, Spencer Johnson, Kartik Tyagi, Josh Little, Abhinav Manohar, David Miller, Sushant Mishra, Darshan Nalkande, Noor Ahmad, Rashid Khan, Wriddhiman Saha, Sai Kishore, Sai Sudharsan, M Shahrukh Khan, Vijay Shankar, BR Sharath, Mohit Sharma, Manav Suthar, Rahul Tewatia, Matthew Wade, Kane Williamson, Jayant Yadav, Umesh Yadav.

Prof Uppal awarded Lifetime Achievement Award in Academia and Research - 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: The Math Tech Thinking Foundation, in collaboration with the Poonima University Jaipur, organized the prestigious International Entrepreneurs, Academicians, and Research Awards -2024.

The ceremony was graced by esteemed guests and prominent figures including Chief guest Prof S.K. Singh, Vice-chancellor of Rajasthan Technical University, Kota, Guest of Honour Prof. Sudhi Rajiv, Vice-Chancellor University of Journalism and Mass Communication, Jaipur, Guest of Honour Prof. V.P. Sexena ex- Vice-Chancellor Jiwaji University, Indore. Prof. R. K. Uppal was honored with the Life Time Achievement Award in Academia and Research.

In the intricate tapestry of academia, where intellectual innovation intertwines with schol-



arly contributions, Professor Rajinder Kumar Uppal stands as an eminent figure. His profound insights, relentless pursuit of excellence, and transformative impact have earned him much respect.

Dr. Uppal epitomizes the epitome of academic excellence, a beacon of knowledge, and a guid-

ing force in the realms of banking and finance. Dr. Uppal's inspiring journey begins from humble beginnings in a Punjab town. From facing adversities in his childhood to emerging as a trailblazer in the academic sphere, his unwavering passion for learning has propelled him to suc-

cess in summits. Born on November 10th, 1960, in the vibrant tapestry of Malout, Punjab, Prof Uppal embarked on a journey marked by scholarly brilliance, unwavering dedication, and visionary leadership.

Prof Uppal's intellectual odyssey, marked by an illustrious educational

journey, spans diverse domains, mirroring a kaleidoscope of knowledge and expertise. With a Master of Arts in Economics, an MBA, a Master of Arts in Education, a Master of Philosophy, and a Ph.D., his scholarly repertoire spans the intricate landscapes of banking, finance, and education. For Professor Uppal, academic excellence is a journey marked by a relentless pursuit of knowledge, unwavering commitment to scholarly pursuits, and distinguished alumni status from esteemed institutions.

Throughout his illustrious career spanning over three decades, Professor Uppal has carved a niche for himself as a beacon of academic excellence. He is a harbinger of innovation and a catalyst for societal change. Dr. Uppal thanks the president, Dr. Mehar Chand Ji for this prestigious award.

SKJAVS trust honours DIG Dr Sunil Gupta



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust honoured DIG Jammu, Sambha and Kathua Range Dr. Sunil Gupta (IPS).

Mahant Rohit Shastri said DIG Jammu, Sambha and Kathua Range Dr. Sunil Gupta (IPS) is an honest police officer and keep on inspire his subordinate staff to serve for general wellness in this pandemic, department did tremendous job by launching operations against the drug trafficking which

are engaged in carrying out illegal activities.

He said that these drug traffickers are playing with the future of our young generation and department needs to launch more such type of operations against these traffickers.

Jammu and Kashmir Police is doing remarkable work in every field. Apart from playing an important role in crushing terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the police is also playing an important role in preventing crime in the city.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the drug menace was

increasing a lot in the last few years but police is being successful to a great extent in controlling drugs smuggling.

Shastri said that today the people of Jammu and Kashmir are feeling safe because of the policemen deployed day and night on the roads of Jammu and Kashmir.

DIG Dr.Sunil Gupta (IPS) appreciated the work being done by the trust and assured that police will work day-night to serve the society.

On occasion Ajay Sharma and Adhitya abhiraj sharma were also present.

NYK Doda organises District Level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament in GDC Ramban

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Mar 23: Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Doda, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India organised "Neighbourhood Youth Parliament" on the theme "Nasha Mukh Bharat" in collaboration with NSS Unit of Govt Degree College, Ramban.

Principal I/C Prof. Satish Kumar inaugurated the programme along with District Youth Officer Khushal Gupta, NSS PO Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Ram Parkash (HOD Mathematics), Prof. Chanakya Sharma (HOD Music), Dr. Rabinder Kumar (HOD Hindi) and other staff members. The programme witnessed participation of 800 youth belonging to different parts of the district.

The event started with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony followed by the welcome address by District Youth Officer Khushal Gupta.

He briefed the audience about the objectives of organising such programmes and urged the youth to get registered in MY Bharat portal. All the participants were given MY Bharat badges and they registered them-



selves on MY Bharat portal.

Prof. Ramesh Chander briefed the audience about MY Bharat portal and its relevance in the present era of digitalization.

Dr. Vishal Baloria (HOD History) delivered an awareness lecture on New India - New Initiatives focussing on the various developments made by the nation during the recent years. Dr. Aashiq Hussain

Malik of Political Science delivered an awareness lecture on Sports - India's Soft corner.

The volunteers of GDC Ramban participated in the Mock Parliament organised on "Nasha Mukh Bharat" thereby propagating important message of parliamentary procedures and steps taken by the govt. to make India, a drug free nation.

Prominent among others present on the

occasion included Prof. Neetu Sharma (HOD Dogri), Dr. Javed Sarvar (HOD Botany), Dr. Shivali Gupta (HOD Zoology), Prof. Ajay Kumar (HOD EVS), Dr. Kirpal, Dr. Javed, Ms. Ronika Devi, Dr. Abid Ali Rather, National Youth Volunteers Inshfaq Ashraf, Bittu Ram and Mohd Fayaz.

The event ended with distribution of certificates and mementoes among the participants.

Neera Bakshi making waves in Delhi Municipal Corporation

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: On the auspicious occasion of Holi Mangal Milan, a cultural program of colors of Holi in the official language was organized in an excellent manner by the artists and employees of Sabrang Foundation and Corporation under the direction of Neera Bakshi. Jammu and Kashmir's daughter Neera Bakshi is making waves in Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Till now, she has made a name for herself by excellently directing many cultural programmes, musical dramas, plays and dance presentations depicting social issues.

On the occasion of Holi, cultural programs were presented with the colors of Holi in Satyanarayan Bansal Auditorium, Delhi along with Municipal Corporation, which were greatly liked by the Municipal Corporation officials and other spectators.

The mesmerizing Radha Krishna Holi Raas presentation by the artists of Sabrang at Satyanarayan Bansal Auditorium Delhi was most liked by the audience who said that we felt that we were not playing Holi with Radha and Kanhaiya in



the bridge but in the auditorium of Delhi.

Sabrang Foundation Delhi Holi Mangal Milan program was organized with the Official Language Department of the Municipal Corporation at the Satya Narayan Bansal Auditorium of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Headquarters. This Holi celebration was done under the able direction and management of Neera Bakshi, Founder of Sabrang. Neera Bakshi is a successful director, writer and R. J. (All India Radio) which has written and staged many successful plays so far.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner of Official Language BP Bhardwaj, Administrative

Officer Official Language Rajesh Nigam and other corporation employees were also present. Deputy Commissioner BP Bhardwaj highly appreciated the program and said that such programs keep us connected with Indian culture and also congratulated Neera Bakshi for the successful program.

Various cultural programs were presented in the programme. Everyone liked Radha Krishna's Rasleela in the cultural programs. All the spectators present in Krishna Leela got lost and felt a divine feeling.

After the program Holi of flowers was played. On this auspicious occasion of Holi, a comedy

poet conference was also organized in which everyone participated enthusiastically.

Programmes were presented in all genres of poetry, recitation, dance, singing and Holi of flowers was played, everyone congratulated and wished each other a happy Holi.

Thereafter, all the artists were honored by giving them citations and their enthusiasm was boosted. Everyone sent Holi wishes to each other.

The cultural programs organized by Sabrang added to this celebration by giving it a divine form full of devotion, all the spectators enjoyed the Holi celebration filled with devotion.

GS Sports Club organised Free Ayush Medical Camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 23: In commemoration of the Martyrs' Day of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, GS Sports Club, in collaboration with the Directorate Of Ayush Jammu, organized a Free Ayush Medical Camp at Govt High School Ranjan. The event, held on March 23rd, aimed to pay homage to the great sacrifices of these iconic revolutionaries while providing vital healthcare services to the community.

The Chief Guest of the occasion, SHO Gharota Police Station Sukhbir Singh, along with esteemed dignitaries including President Krishan Lal of Gramin Brahmin Sabha, Chairman Sushil Sharma of Disable Welfare Trust, and Social



Activists Pintu Chib and Ankush Sharma, graced the event with their presence.

The solemn proceedings commenced with the offering of floral tributes to the valiant martyrs Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, symbolizing the nation's enduring gratitude for their selfless contributions to India's freedom struggle.

Subsequently, attendees benefited from free medical check-ups and

the distribution of essential medicines.

The medical team, comprising Dr. Neena Sharma, Dr. Komal Wazir and Supervisor Pharmacist Rajan Khajuria from the Ayush Department, diligently examined patients and provided them with invaluable medical advice and medications at no cost.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of Govt High School Principal Rakesh Raina and the dedicated

staff, the success of the camp was further underscored by their significant contributions and unwavering support.

Notable community members including Madan Lal, Ramesh Kumar, Neelkanth, Captain Vijay, Bhagwan Dass, and numerous others also lent their presence, fostering a spirit of unity and compassion towards the noble cause.

The event underscored the collective commitment towards promoting public health and honoring the indomitable spirit of our national heroes. Such initiatives epitomize the enduring legacy of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, inspiring generations to uphold their principles of courage, sacrifice, and service to the nation.

SMVDU Faculty delivers keynote speech at seminar in Madhya Pradesh

Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 23: Dr. Rashi Taggar shared her insights as the keynote speaker at the ICSSR sponsored National seminar organised by Dr. Harsingh Gour Central University.

The seminar, themed 'Building a Sustainable Future: Strategies for Progress and Prosperity,' was organized on March 15-16, 2024, in Sagor, Madhya Pradesh. During her address, Dr. Taggar discussed pathways toward sustainability, urging citizens to embrace responsible environmental practices and assume stewardship roles.

She highlighted the importance of responsible resource consump-



tion for the well-being of both present and future generations.

This discussion resonated with over 160 paper presenters, including scholars and researchers from various colleges and universities across India. Dr. Rashi Taggar has

been serving as Assistant Professor in the School of Business of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for the last seventeen years and has authored papers published in reputed journals and conducted sessions, representing her commitment

to advancing knowledge in business management and sustainability.

Dr. Taggar acknowledged the Seminar convener, Dr. Pushpa Suryavanshi of Sagor University, for organizing such significant and noble events.