

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Traffic movement restored partially on Jammu-Srinagar highway

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, Mar 30 (Agencies): Traffic movement on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was partially restored on Saturday, officials said. They said stranded vehicles between Nashree and Banihal are being cleared on priority basis, and advised commuters to follow lane discipline to avoid any congestion on the highway.

"Traffic update NH-44 at 1030 hrs Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) partially restored, stranded vehicles between Nashree and Banihal are being cleared. Commuters are advised to follow lane discipline, drive with cautiously as apprehension of shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal," the officials said.

DSEK withdraws recognition of private school in Budgam

SRINAGAR, Mar 30 (Agencies): School Education Department has cancelled the recognition of a Private School in Budgam for not 'cooperating and implementing' orders from competent authorities. Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in an order said that the Chief Education Officer Budgam has intimated that the enquiry Committee constituted by him approached the School Management for ascertaining factual position. The directorate also said that the concerned school management however kept the enquiry Officers along with CEO Budgam waiting from 10 am to 5:30 pm on February-24-2024. The CEO Budgam has also intimated that the concerned school management provided documents and material not upto the mark and without seal and signature due to which committee could not ascertain the factual position owing to the non cooperation of the School Management," it reads. DSEK further

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Prez confers Bharat Ratna on Ex-PMs Narasimha Rao, Charan Singh, 2 others Posthumously

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday conferred Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, on former prime ministers P V Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, agriculture scientist M S Swaminathan and two-time former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur, posthumously at a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The awards to Rao, Singh, Thakur and Swaminathan were received by their kin.

P V Prabhakar Rao, the son of former prime minister Rao, received the award conferred on his father from the president. Jayant Chaudhary, Singh's grandson and chief of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), accepted the honour from Murmu. Swaminathan's daughter Nitya Rao and Thakur's son Ram Nath Thakur received the award from the president.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries were present at the ceremony.

This year, the government announced five Bharat Ratna awards, including one to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stalwart and former



deputy prime minister L K Advani. P V Narasimha Rao, who was prime minister from 1991 to 1996 and often referred to as the Chanakya of Indian politics, is known for initiat-

ing far-reaching economic reforms and for his skilful political manoeuvring.

He was the first prime minister from the south, the first Congress leader from outside the Neh-

ru-Gandhi family to complete a full five-year term and the man who steered India through the turbulent early 1990s.

Born in an agrarian family in Karimnagar district, now in Telangana, on June 28, 1921, he was educated at the Osmania, Bombay and Nagpur Universities from where he earned his BSc and LLB degrees.

A staunch and trusted loyalist of the Nehru-Gandhi family before, some say, frictions began, Rao had the distinction of holding important non-economic portfolios at the Centre — External Affairs, Defence and Home — at different times in the 1980s. He died on December 23, 2004, at the age of 83.

Chaudhary Charan Singh, a Jat leader from western Uttar Pradesh, was prime minister between July 28, 1979 and January 14, 1980. He died in 1987. Born on December 23, 1902, at Noorpur in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh in a middle-class family, Singh shifted to Meerut in 1929 and later joined the Congress.

After the Congress split, he became chief minister of Uttar Pradesh

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Congress will usher in 'Rozgar Kranti': Mallikarjun Kharge



NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): The Congress will usher in a 'Rozgar Kranti' by taking concrete steps to increase employment opportunities, enable entrepreneurship and realise the aspirations of the youth, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge said on Saturday.

He said the Congress guarantees that the future of youth will turn from bleak to bright and reiterated the 'Yuva Nyay' guarantee which the party will implement if voted to power. In a post on X, he said, "The Congress party will usher in a 'Rozgar Kranti (employment revolution)' through Yuva Nyay guarantee! We will take concrete measures to increase employment opportunities, enable entrepreneurship and realise the dreams and aspirations of our youth." Kharge listed the

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Party will decide on my Lok Sabha mandate: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Mar 30 (Agencies): National Conference Vice-President Omar Abdullah said on Saturday that the party high command will decide on his Lok Sabha mandate. He stated that the party leadership will determine whether he will be allowed to contest elections and from which constituency.

Speaking to reporters at Nawa-e-Subh in Srinagar, Omar Abdullah reiterated, "The party will decide on my Lok Sabha mandate. Rumors are common during election time. It is the party that will make the decision on whether I will contest polls and from which parliamentary constitu-



ency." Omar emphasized, "It is not up to me personally. The party has to decide on my mandate. I will leave it to the party." Earlier, rumors circulated that former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah would contest polls from North Kashmir's Baramulla constituency. Similar rumors suggested that the National Conference

would nominate a local leader from Kupwara for the Baramulla Parliamentary seat in the upcoming Lok Sabha election, leading Omar Abdullah to contest from Central Kashmir's Srinagar.

Responding to queries, the NC leader stated that the party would announce the list of candidates at an appropriate time and that it was premature to disclose names at this stage.

"The timing of announcing the list of candidates depends on our discretion. Hopefully, the list will be announced after notification, or perhaps it will

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Excise Policy Case | ED summons Delhi Minister Kailash Gahlot for questioning



NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Delhi minister Kailash Gahlot for questioning on Saturday in connection with a money-laundering case linked to the now-scrapped excise

policy for the capital, official sources said.

Gahlot (49), an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Najafgarh, is the minister for transport, home and law in the Delhi government led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has been arrested in the case by the federal agency.

The sources said Gahlot has been asked to appear for questioning in the case and getting his statement recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

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Man shot dead by uncle over 'Domestic Disputes' in Poonch

JAMMU, Mar 30 (Agencies): A 32-year-old man was allegedly shot dead by his uncle in a border village in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Saturday.

Joginder Singh, an ex-serviceman who is currently a member of the village defence guard, had an argument with his nephew Gagandeep Singh (32) over some domestic issues at their house in Dara Dullian around midnight, the officials said.

Joginder Singh opened fire from his licensed rifle in a fit of rage, killing the victim on the spot, they said.

A police team went to the village on Saturday morning to arrest the accused. Further details are awaited, the officials said.

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


TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SH. PREM NATH KOUL** S/O LATE SH. MAHESWAR NATH KOUL, ORIGINAL R/O NARPARISTAN 3RD BRIDGE SRINAGAR KMR, PRESENTLY AT 10 SURYA APPTS. TRIKUTA NAGAR EXT. 1B JAMMU.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON SUNDAY, 31ST MARCH 2024 AT 9 A.M., AT MUTHI GHAT, NEAR DIRECTORATE SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFICE.

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY
ASHOK AND NEELAM (SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
KANWAL AND REETA (SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
NEERJA AND SURESH KOUL (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)
GRAND CHILDREN AND GREAT GRAND CHILDREN.

9419143402, 9419204130, 7889626560, 9469214077, 9797650537




SH. PREM NATH KOUL

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of **Smt Premo Pandita (Kamla Pandita)** W/o Lt Jia Lal Pandita originally resident of Kaloosa Bandpora. Presently R/o H No. 51, Lane No. 5 Amit Nagar opposite Church Muthi.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on Wednesday 03 April 2024 at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN :
Rainu Pandita (Daughter)
PANDITA AND BHAT FAMILY
Mobile No. 6005225376



Smt Premo Pandita (Kamla Pandita)

OBITUARY

A loving husband, a great father, a coach, and a guide. All the golden years you have blessed us will remain etched in our hearts. Your words and the path that you led are a motivation and an example to all of us. We will miss you dearly!


With profound grief and sorrow, we wish to inform you of the sad demise of **Shri Kamlesh Kumar Dhar**, S/o Late Shri Girdhari Lal Dhar, originally from Mandir Bagh near Rattan Rani Hospital in Mumbai, on March 22, 2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed in Mumbai on 31st of March 2024.

THIS SUDDEN LOSS IS DEEPLY MOURNED BY
Smt. Geeta Dhar (Wife)
Kum. Navya Dhar (Granddaughter)
Mr. Kashyap Dhar (Son)
Mr. Navod Dhar (Son)
Mrs. Nidhi Dhar (Daughter-in-law)
Mrs. Ritu Dhar (Bhabhi)
Mrs. Shweta Dhar (Daughter) & Mr. Ashutosh Kaul (Son-in-law)
Mrs. Hitesha Dhar (Daughter) & Mr. Anand (Son-in-law)
Mr. Balraj Anand (Son-in-law)
Mrs. Anjali (Sister) & Mr. Ajay Sapru (Brother-in-law)
Mr. Amit Sapru and Mrs. Namrata Sapru
Dr. Vijay Kumar Zaru & Family
And extended family of Dhar's, Sapru's (Sister's side), and Choudhary's (Wife's side)

Kamlesh Kumar Dhar
1954-2024

MOB: 9820115788, 9820568408

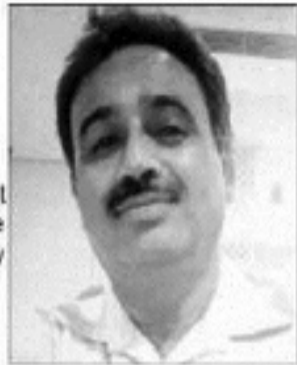


TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father i.e. **Bal Krishan** S/o Shambhu Nath R/o Pohar Teh Mattan Distt Anantnag A/P Qrt No. 26 Block B Nagrota Camp Jammu.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat and assembly will be at our residence i.e. Block B/26 i.e. Community Hall Nagrota on 1st April 2024 Day Monday at 8 AM.

Grief Stricken
Smt. Veena Devi (Wife)
Vipul Pandit (Son)
Priyanka Pandit (Daughter)
Smt. Daizy and Daya Krishen (Brother and Bhabhi)
Sanjay Kumar and Lalita Pandit (do)
Smt. Shanti Jee and Shubal Lal (Sister and Brother in law)
Smt. Lalita Jee and P.L. Ambedkar -do- 9419215460
Smt. Basanti and Jai Krishen Pandit -do- 9796742464



Bal Krishan

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM ABOUT SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **KARAMYOGI SH. ROSHAN LAL KAR** S/O SHUDAR RAM ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF GUND GUSHI KUPWARA KASHMIR A/P LANE 12, BLOCK 62, FLAT 20 JAGTI TOWNSHIP NAGROTA JAMMU.

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 2ND APRIL 2024 AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR D.S.E JAMMU AT 8.30 A.M AND THEREAFTER ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
SMT. VEENA DEVI (WIFE)
SANDEEP KAR (SON) 7006271918
SMT. ANJU & SH. RAHUL AMBARDAR (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) 9797020363
SMT. KISHINI & SH. J.L. KAR (BHABI & BROTHER) 9419789227
SMT. NANCY BHAT W/O LT. SH.K.L. BHAT (SISTER) 7008207745
SMT. JAYA & SH. B.L. KAR (BHABI & BROTHER) 7006892910
SMT. BINDA & SH. DWARIKA NATH (BHABI & BROTHER) 9149698744
SMT. RAJNI & SH. RAJ NATH BHAT (SISTER) 9469219703
SMT. NEERU & SUNEEL KAR (NEPHEW & DAUGHTER IN LAW) 9682591997
SMT. SHIVANI & AMIT PANDITA (NEPHEW & DAUGHTER IN LAW) 9797524403
SAMAST "KAR, BHAT, PANDITA, AMBARDAR, KHAJURIA, PARIHAR" PARIVAR.



KARAMYOGI SH. ROSHAN LAL KAR


TENTH DAY

Those we love do not go away they walk beside us every day. your presence is missed, your memory treasured.

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Jia Kumari Raina** W/o Sh. Bakar Nath Raina of Zangalpora Kulgam Kashmir at present H.No. 19, Lane-5/A, Adarsh Nagar Bantlab Jammu on 25-03-2024 (Monday).

Tenth Day will be performed on 03-04-2024 (Wednesday) at 9 AM at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of Education Office.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:-
Sh. Bakar Nath Raina - Husband
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Deep Raina & Smt. Deepali
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Sushma Bhat & Sh. Rahul Bhat
Sh. Makhan Lal & Smt. Sweetly Raina - Devar & Devarani
Smt. Bimla Ji & Raj Nath Fotedar - Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Smt. Toshia Ji & Sh. Chhri Lal Raina - Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Krishna, Sindhu, Harshu & Pahi
M.No: 9149706261, 941983203, 7889400846, 9717352198



SMT. JIA KUMARI RAINA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is hereby informed that our beloved **Sh. Hirdey Nath Kaw (Bairraaj)** originally from Khana-Kah-Sokta - Safa Kadal A/P S-31A/31, DLF Ph-3, Gurgaon attained Nirvana on the evening of Saturday March 23rd 2024.

The **Tenth Day** shall be performed at Gauri Shankar New Palam Vihar-Gurgaon at 8:00 on Sunday, April 1st 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Prabha Devi Kaw -Wife
Smt. Savitri and V.P. Kaw - Bhabhi and Brother
Smt. Veena & Er. Upender Kaw -Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Richa and Ravinder Kaw - Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Kadambari and Bhupinder Mia -Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children and Great Grand Children
Relatives & Friends
RSVP: 8860096416/9810804748/ 7011893700




Sh. Hirdey Nath Kaw (Bairraaj)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Omkar Nath Bhat** S/o Late Sh. Samsar Chand Bhat (Malla) R/o Hawal Pulwama Kashmir on 23rd of March 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 1st of April 2024 (Monday) at village Hawal Pulwama, Kashmir.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughter in Laws and Sons
Smt. Purnima Bhat/Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat 7889333199
Smt. Deepa Bhat/Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhat 9596258617




Sh. Omkar Nath Bhat

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Rahul Pandita** S/o Lt. Smt. Mahalaxmi and Lt. Sh. Chaman Lal Pandita originally R/o Waterkhani, Kupwara presently residing at Jagti Colony (L.No. 11, Block 59, Flat 22) on 25th March, 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 3rd of April, 2024 (Wednesday) at 9 AM at Tawi Ghat near Sankh School Nagrota.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sunita Pandita -Wife
Master Harshit and Himanshu Pandita -Sons
Smt. Parul & Sh. Vinod Ji Raina - Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Ashok Pandita - Brother & Sister-in-law
Smt. Phoolta Ji W/o Lt. Brijnath Pandita - Aunty & Uncle
Smt. Toosha Ji W/o Lt. Roshan Lal Pandita - Aunty & Uncle
Contact No: 7006334646, 9419100792, 9419828519



Sh. Rahul Pandita
(Retired A.E. PHE)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With Profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Kuldeep Kumar Khar** S/o Lt. Mohan Lal Khar of NADIMARG Dist. Shopian Kashmir at present H.No. 6, Lane No 6 Gurha Keran Barnai Bantalab Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 3rd April 2024 at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 9:00 AM.

Grief Stricken
Smt. Rekha Khar (Wife)
Smt. Lalita Khar & Jawahar Lal Khar (Aunty & Uncle)
Smt. Neetu & Anil K Khar (Bhabhi & Brother)
Mob. 9906777898, 9796536777



Sh. Kuldeep Kumar Khar

DHARAMSHANT/UTHALA

With Profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Pawana Dutta** W/o Sh. Mukand Lal Dutta R/o H No. 134 W/ No 10 Mohalla Naban Rajouri who left for heavenly abode on 20th of March, 2024.

DHARAMSHANT will be performed on Sunday 31-03-2024 at our residence at 12 Noon.

UTHALA on 31-03-2024 at Sanaban Dharam Sabha, Rajouri at 4.00pm

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Sh. Mukand Lal Dutta (Husband)
Son & Daughter in law
Sh. Sanjeev Dutta & smt. Menakshi Dutta
Daughter & Son in law
Smt. Rajni Chibber & Sh. Shakti Chibber
Smt. Monika Bali & Sh. Vikas Bali (Daughter & Son in law)
Smt. Krishna Devi Dutta (Jethani)
Smt. Parja Devi Dutta (Jethani)
Sh. Ram Avtar Dutta (Jethi)
Sh. Yogesh Bali (Nandoe)
Sisters & Brother in laws
Smt. Virja Bali
Smt. Saroj Dutta & Sh. Sudershan Kumar Dutta
Smt. Sushma Dutta & Sh. Rakesh Dutta



SMT. PAWANA DUTTA

Brothers & Bhabhi
Smt. Chanchal Vaid
Sh. Rajesh Bakshi & Smt. Manju Bakshi
Sh. Rakesh Bakshi & Smt. Mili Bakshi
Sh. Vinod Bakshi & Smt. Seema Bakshi
Sh. Vivek Kumar Bakshi & Smt. Bandana Bakshi

Grand Childrens
Mr. Aditya Narayan Dutta, Miss Ananya Dutta, Miss Eva Chibber, Miss Mehal Chibber, Mr. Hitesh Chibber, Miss Gungun Bali & Mr. Vasu Bali.

CONTACT NO:- 9419329976

TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA


With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Madan Lal Kohli** (Retired A.E. PHE) S/o Late Sh. Shanku Ram R/o 150-A, Shanti Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 29th March 2024.

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence at 11:00 am on 29-03-2024 (Friday).

Kriya will be performed at our residence at 12:00 noon on 01-04-2024 (Monday).

Uthala will be performed at Han Mandir, Rehari, Jammu from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm on 01-04-2024 (Monday).

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sudarshan Kohli -Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Er. Anu Kohli (AEE PWD) and Dr. Kavita Kohli (Dental Surgeon)
Daughter & Son-in-law
Ms. Anjali Kohli
Smt. Anka Khanna W/o Lt. Er. Rajender Khanna
Smt. Sandhya Verma & Sh. Rajender Verma (Australia)
Dr. Ritu Kohli (Lecturer) & Sh. Sanjeev Verma (Asstt. Professor)
Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Smt. Ashi Khanna & Sh. Nalin Gupta (Classic Electric Appliance, Gangyal)
Grand Childrens
Muskan Kohli, Tanvi Kohli, Mehak Verma, Malika Verma, Adarsh Khanna, Agun Verma, Arya Verma
Kohli Abroli Family
Mob. No: 9469793404, 9469647752
M/s A.K. Traders, Bantlab, Jammu



Sh. Madan Lal Kohli
(Retired A.E. PHE)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. S. Makhan Singh** S/o Late S. Dulia Singh R/o 166/1, Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

Programme:
Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 29 March 2024, Friday at 9:00 AM.
Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 31st March 2024, Sunday at 9:30 AM at our residence.
Antim Ardas will be held at Gunodwara Baba Faleh Singh Ji, Gandhi Nagar from 10:30 am to 12 noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sdn. Mansinder Kour (Wife)
Son & Daughter in Law
S. Dharamvir Singh & Poonamdeep Kour (Canada)
Daughter & Son in Law:
Dr. Jaslove Kour & S. Navtej Singh
Bhabhis & Brothers:
Dr. Rajinder Singh (USA)
Sdn. Harbans Kour W/o Late S. Dildar Singh
Sdn. Harvinder Kour & S. Jagjit Singh
Sister:
Sdn. Prem Kour W/o Late Capt. Balwant Singh (Rajbagh)



DR. S. MAKHAN SINGH


Sister in Laws & Brother in Laws:
Sdn. Harvinder Kour W/o Late S. Karanjeet Singh (Agricultural Deptt.)
Sdn. Sabir Kour & S. Harmandir Singh
Grand Children: Disha Singh, Japeet Kour, Rajveer Singh, Harshoon Kour
Mob: 94191-44155, 94191-33870, 94191-88924

TENTH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Bhagwana Devi** W/o Lt Shri Ram Lal Kotwal R/o Village Bhalra, Bhaderwah.

Tenth Day will be held on 31/03/24 and **13th Day** on 3/04/24.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons and Daughter in laws
Baldev Raj & Udesha Kotwal
Balwant Raj & Pritima Kotwal
Daleep & Nirja Kotwal
Satish & Asha Kotwal
Rishi & Anita Kotwal



Smt Bhagwana Devi

Daughters & Son in laws
Kanta Devi & Sh. Surinder Kotwal
Usha Devi & Sh. Mahesh Kotwal
Mob- 9419132452

10TH & 13TH DAY

"With pain and sorrow would like to inform that the **10th and 13th Day** of my Mother **Mrs Lalita Jamwal, Retd Headmistress** W/o Late Sh. S S Jamwal (Retd Distt. Employment Officer), at their Residence Tara Nagar, Kathua, will be performed as under:-

10th Day - 29 March...10.30 am
13th Day (Kriya) - 01 April...10.30 am

GRIEF STRICKEN
Son and Daughter in Law
Vikram Singh Jamwal (Supdt. Of Police) and Rakhi Jamwal
Son in Law & Daughter
Col. Subvir Singh, Manikola and Neera (Lect)
Sons-in-Law & Daughters
Sukhvir Singh Pathania and Bandhana (Teacher)
Dr. Manish and Nidhi
Grand Children:- Dr. Aashwarya Jamwal, Er. Digvijay Singh Manikola, Er. Aditya Vikram Singh Jamwal, Yuvraj Pathania, Surya Pathania, Hansuja, Shreshth



Mrs Lalita Jamwal
(Retd Headmistress)

Mob No. 7896964125/ 9797412886

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sukhdev Singh Sambyal** (Retd. Superintending Engineer, PDD) S/o Late Sh. Sardar Singh on 25.03.2024.

10th Day shall be held on 02.04.2024 at our residence B-51, SBI Colony, Opp UCO Bank Talab Tillo, Jammu, J&K.

Grief Stricken
Smt. Ultra Sambyal -Wife
Brother and Sister-in-Law
Smt. Swarna and Late Sh. Jai Pal Singh Sambyal
Smt. Bhubneshwari and Bng. (Retd) S S Sambyal
Smt. Manju and Sh. Shreshth Singh Sambyal
Smt. Kiran and Sh. Swarna Singh Sambyal
Sister and Brother in Law
Smt. Bimla and Late Sh. Jamail Singh
Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law
Smt. Shoba Jamwal and Sh. Rajinder Singh Jamwal
Daughter and Son-in-Law
Dr. Neetu and Gp. Captain J. Singh
Smt. Bharati Sambyal (Director Finance) and Sh. Raman Gupta (Director Finance)
Dr. Priyanka Sambyal and Er. Sumit Kotwal (AEE)
Grand Children: Aditya, Paras, Chhavi, Anya and Abhinay
Contact Number 9419115953



Sh. Sukhdev Singh Sambyal
(Retd. Superintending Engineer PDD)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

S. Bhisam Singh (Retd SP, Advocate)
Left for his heavenly abode on 25th March 2024
For the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Bhog & Antim Ardas
Will be held on Sunday 31st March 2024 from 12 Noon to 1.30 pm at Gurdwara Maharani Chand Kaur, Gummat Jewel Chowk, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Ravinder Kaur -Wife
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Amarjit Singh (AEE UEED) & Ruby Kour
D.P Singh (Dy. Director Prosecution) & Rupinder Kaur (DSEO Samba)
Daughter & Son-in-law
Satvinder Saini & Dr. Kamal Saini, IPS (Retd IGP)



S. Bhisam Singh
(Retd SP, Advocate)
(16-12-1928 - 25-03-2024)

Grand Children:
Dr. Aditi, Dr. Anumodan Gupta, Jaspreet Kour, Kunal Saini, Jagdeep Singh, Jasleen Kaur, Harjodh Singh
Contact No. 9419131119, 9419137917, 9419131589

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Raj Kumari Kotwal (Lado Mam)** W/o Sh. Asha Kumar Kotwal R/o near Daktar Bunglow Doda A/P H.No 134A, Ram Vihar near Amba theater old Jampur Jammu who left for heavenly abode on Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 11:50 pm.

10TH DAY shall be performed on Monday 1st April 2024 at JDA Park Patoli Mohd Old Janipur near Shiv Mandir Jammu at 8am.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Asha Kumar Kotwal (Husband)
Smt. Shruti & Sh. Arjun Singh Kotwal (Daughter in Law & Son)
Smt. Poonam & Sh. Vishal Kotwal (Daughter & Son in law)
ALL KOTWAL & PARIHAR FAMILY
SUPREMACY COMPUTERS JANIPUR JAMMU
PH: 70069 41206, 6006013306



Smt Raj Kumari Kotwal
(Lado Mam)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Our beloved mother, **Smt Shanta Wali (Bengashi)** W/o late Sh. Makhan Lal Wali, of Charanpora Housing Colony Kashmir and presently at H.No 22, Lane 1-A, Near KV Resorts Udaiwala Bohni left for her heavenly abode on 24.03.2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat near the Directorate of School Education Jammu on Tuesday, 02.04.2024 at 9 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
(Daughter-in-Law)
Smt. Nimi Ji W/o Late Sh. Raies Kumar (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Sanjay Wali & Savita (8825034537) (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Veena & Sh. AK Koul (Brothers & Sisters-in-law)
MK Bakshi & Sunita Bakshi
VK Bakshi & Sarita
JK Bakshi & Arzi
Smt. Santosh Bhat W/O late Sh. Aular Krishan Bhat (Sister)




SMT SHANTA WALI
(BENGASHI)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Babu Ram Mattu** S/o Lt. Smt. Indro Devi and Lt. Sh. Pihri Ram Choudhary R/o House No. 1190, Sector-6, Street No. 3, Nank Nagar, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 22.03.2024.

TENTH DAY will be held on 31-03-2024 (Sunday) at our native place, village Mattu (Khour-Jourian) at 10:30 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Nirmala Devi -Wife
Brothers & Bhabhis
Sh. Khuru Ram and Smt. Preeto Devi
Lt. Sh. Kaka Ram and Smt. Swarna Devi
Sh. Charan Dass (Rtd. Lecturer) and Smt. Kanta Devi
Sh. Rattan Lal (Headmaster, HS Mallah) and Smt. Usha Devi
Sisters and Brother-in-laws
Smt. Chanchali Devi and Sh. Subhash Choudhary
Smt. Rattana Devi (Headmaster, HS Chakral) and Sh. Vinod Khaira (Rtd. Sr. Lecturer)
Er. Rajinder Singh Choudhary (AEE, PDD) -Son
Sh. Skander Choudhary (Manager, MMFSL) and Neelam Kumari - Son & Daughter-in-Law
Smt. Vijay Jyoti and Sh. Sanjeev Kumar (Teacher) - Daughter and Son-in-law
Contact Number - 941919088, 9419101385



Sh. Babu Ram Mattu

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Mistakes committed in 2014 and 2019 to elect BJP candidates won't be repeated: Bhalla

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: JKPC Working President and contesting candidate from Jammu Parliamentary seat Raman Bhalla today said that only Congress Party can fulfill the grievances and demands of OBC community. He was speaking in a meeting of OBC Cell of JKPC held today at party headquarter in Jammu under the guidance and leadership of Gurinder Pal Singh Billa National Coordinator OBC. During the meeting, he explained in detail the difficulties and problems being face by OBC communities. He said that OBCs are deliberately ignored and exploited in all the fields under BJP rule.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Madan Lal Chahlotra OBC Chairman J&K, newly appointed Working Chairman Sandeep Dogra Sonu, Aditya Dogra, Darshan Mehra, Romesh Verma, Shamer, Sanjeev Kumar, Shalu Verma, Rashpal Verma, Darpal Dogra, Vikram Dogra, Sukhvinder Singh Iaddi, Aman Kumar, vishal pangotra, madam Shital, Madam Jeeti Khan, Suisun, Munna Billa, Joginder Jain, Pinki, Radha, Tannu, Vikar Ali, Ganga, Ram Payari and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla appealed all voters of OBC communities to vote and support Congress Party candidates in the elections to achieve the desired goal. He further reiterated the Congress party's belief in the unity of all people, regardless of their religious or regional identities. He appealed to the public to support the Congress party, highlighting that the BJP, in contrast, has proven to be anti-OBC and not a well-



wisher of the community. He expressed great disappointment against the BJP Govt for pursuing anti-poor policies, stating that it has callously ignored the interests of other backward class populations. "The headway made with regard to empowerment of weaker sections during Congress led governments has been undone.

Bhalla said that the initiatives taken by the successive Congress Governments in ameliorating the lot of weaker sections, especially the Other Backward Class segment of the society. Bhalla recalled that during Congress regime in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, the OBC Development Board was constituted with the Chief Minister being the Chairman. He asserted that this Board was specially constituted with the sole aim of addressing the issues of OBC people from time to time to ensure their upliftment. Moreover, this community was granted 4 percent reservation to pave the way for the equitable welfare of these people as an effort to bring them at par with the already uplifted and prosperous sections of the society.

Bhalla said that BJP is running away from the much delayed Assembly elections in UT for fear of backlash and defeat, the

people will teach BJP a lesson in all forthcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He asked the incharges of different districts of the party to hold regular meetings with the representatives of the PRI's including last contested candidates in the Panchayats and Municipal bodies to aggressively prepare for the forthcoming elections. He announced that the Congress party will contest the elections to the Panchayats, urban local bodies, assembly and parliamentary with full force and complete preparations to give a befitting electoral defeat to the BJP in Jammu & Kashmir which has utterly failed to come up to the expectations of the people of the different sections and gave lot of miseries to each and every section of the society.

Bhalla lashed out at the BJP for depriving the people of their basic democratic rights in Jammu and Kashmir. The full fledged Dogra state has been downgraded arbitrarily and unilaterally depriving the people of their identity and rights and for the past 5 years there is no elected government after the dissolution of the assembly in 2018. Bhalla asked party cadres to expose the BJP in all fronts especially for depriving the people of

J&K of the basic democratic rights and ruling Jammu Kashmir by proxy. He said that due to wrong policies adopted by the BJP Govt has failed to provide employment to educated youth, those already employed in different business enterprises have been left jobless due to economic losses. The unprecedented price hike, rising unemployment, economic distress, losses caused to small business enterprises, he added and said under BJP rule people are facing worst on every count.

Bhalla, while addressing the meeting, urged the leaders to continue taking steps in the direction to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. He said that the genuine needs of the public should be addressed openly and that they should enable the public to recognise the ruses of the BJP and its divisive policies. He added that the BJP has failed the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the Congress will step in and take charge. He shamed the BJP government for being incompetent in tackling the economic crisis of the country and ignoring the middle class and poor.

Bhalla said that the BJP has lost the moral right to go to Jammu people after betrayal after betrayal.

Former Minister took a dig at BJP over deceits and a failed government in order to highlight the failures and performance of the Modi Government on various fronts, including economy, foreign policy, communal harmony, inflation, farmers' income, national security, welfare for the Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes, and other backward classes. "It is not BJP but tireless efforts of Congress party that the people of the J&K are on the path of development and prosperity," he said. He said Jammu people are now realizing their mistake committed in 2014 and 2019 as these people who were sent by the voters to raise their voice remained unheard for ten long years. It is hoped that the people of Jammu will surely correct the past mistake and reject such opportunists and exploiters and show them their place in forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Gurinder Pal Singh Billa National Coordinator OBC said that the incumbent regime in J&K led by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha totally ignored the people belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC) and demanded the enhancement of the reservation quota for the members of this backward community. He also demanded that 27 percent reservation as per the Mandal Commission should be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir and a one-time certificate be issued to the OBC community. He also recalled the contribution of Congress towards the upliftment and welfare of the Other Backward Class segment and said that literacy and socio-economic emancipation got impetus during its tenure and the successive Congress governments.

Farooq Abdullah to participate in INDIA Bloc's 'Loktantra Bachao Rally' in Delhi



SRINAGAR, Mar 30 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah will participate in the INDIA bloc's 'Loktantra Bachao Rally' at the Ramlika Maidan in Delhi on Sunday, his son and party.

"There is a programme of the INDIA bloc at the Ramlika Maidan in Delhi. From the NC, our president Farooq Abdullah will participate in it," party vice president Omar Abdullah told reporters here.

Asked about reports that he would

contest the Lok Sabha polls from north Kashmir's Baramulla constituency, the junior Abdullah said rumour-mongering happens during the election time.

"Whether I contest the elections or not, or from where do I contest, this is not my personal choice, this will be a decision of the NC. Whether the party wants to give me the mandate or not, and from which seat, I leave it up to the party and I cannot say anything on that," he said.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the party would announce the names of its candidates when it is in the mood to do so.

"Why are you so desperate to know who our candidates would be? Which party has announced candidates for the three seats in Kashmir except for Sajad Lone. You are only after the NC as if everyone is waiting for us.

"We will announce it when we are in the mood to (do so). It could be after the notification or even on the last day of filing of the nominations," Abdullah added.

Rajinder Gupta retires from GDC Udhampur

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Mar 30: Govt. Degree College (GDC) Udhampur today bids farewell to the outgoing senior Technician Sh. Rajinder Kumar Gupta on his superannuation. Speaking on the occasion Prof (Dr). Romesh Kumar Gupta worthy Principal of the college recalled his tenure as strongest pillar of College and Rajneesh Mahajan expressed his appreciation to the contribution and support provided by him to the College.

Dr. Rupali Sharma and Sunil Kumar Gupta acknowledged his contribution by reciting a poem.

They urged upon all family members to feel proud on his services and his efforts on this Occasion, Vice Principal Sh. Babu Lal Thakur extended warm wishes on his retirement filled with health and happiness.

The event was attended by all Staff



members and family members of Rajinder Gupta and function was coordinated by Staff Secretary Dr. Jagjeet Singh.

SSH celebrates 21st Foundation Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: Shiv Sena Hindustan (SSH) here today celebrated its 21st Foundation Day under the leadership of Pandit Rajesh Kesri. On this occasion a plantation drive and Langar were organized.

Speaking on the occasion, Kesri asked the government to keep an eye on elements trying to disturb communal harmony in J&K. He said that violence has no place in a civilized society. Kesri further said that terrorists are acting on the directions of agencies in Pakistan so that Kashmir is kept disturbed and hurdles are put in the path of peace. "I am hopeful that the people in Kashmir will not let this conspiracy to succeed," he maintained adding: "SSH will leave no stone unturned to fight against drug addiction in Jammu."

Kesri highlighted the significance of preventive education, awareness generation, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation of affected persons and greater involvement of society in eradicating the menace. The prevailing situation vis-à-vis drug menace has already

received the priority attention of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Lieutenant Governor has already passed instructions to all the concerned agencies to leave no stone unturned to plug the smuggling routes and generate awareness by involving all the educational institutions.

Kesri made appeal to the society from various platforms to extend all possible assistance to the Government in this regard as it is the collective responsibility of the society to rehabilitate youngsters who have fallen prey to the drug addiction conspiracy hatched by neighbouring country. They appreciated Jammu and Kashmir Police and Anti-Narcotics Task Force for adopting "Zero Tolerance Policy" towards the menace and because of collective efforts of all the concerned agencies large number of drugs have been seized as indicative of the effectiveness of the policy.

Kesri said that young generation have become addicted to drugs in these areas and some people are selling drugs without license due to

which our young generation is getting spoiled because of these hidden drugs. It does not cause bad breath nor does it stumble and the parents think that because their child is not drinking alcohol, hence no one would be intoxicated, he added. By the time the parents come to know about it, it is too late and on the other hand. They also expressed concern over production of desi liquor in these areas which is produced by the people in the desi Bhatti.

Kesri said Police is also doing its work, but it is a matter of big concern that now drug peddlers have also included women in this illegal trade, which is very dangerous for the society besides Police also have to face a lot of problems to catch them. However the government and the police are catching them and putting them in jails but after coming out, they again start doing the same work again because they do not have any other work. He demanded enhancing funds for identification, motivation, counseling, de-addiction, after care and rehabilitation of the drug users.

Residential Property of Narco-smuggler attached in Uri Baramulla

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 30 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police in Baramulla attached a double-storeyed residential house of a hardcore narco-smuggler in Uri Baramulla. "Continuing its action against drug peddlers, Police in Baramulla attached properties (double-storeyed residential house worth approx. Rs. 30.00 lacs) belonging to notorious drug peddler namely Azad Ahmad Mir son of Ab Aziz Mir resident of Dardkote Uri, District Baramulla," reads a statement. "The action was taken under sections 68-E

read with 68-F (1) of NDPS Act of 1985 & is linked with case FIR No.222/2021 u/s 8/21, 29 NDPS Act of PS Uri."

"The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Police. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddler," reads the statement. "This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area hailed the initiative of Police," reads the statement further.

Searches conducted after reports of suspicious movements in Rajouri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30 (Agencies): Security forces have conducted a thorough search operation following reports of suspicious movements in a forward area in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Saturday.

The joint search operation by the Army and police was conducted in Brevi Bajimal and Chrangal-Kabukot in the Dharamsal area on Friday, they added.

The officials said the security forces fired a few rounds during the search of a natural cave at Brevi Bajimal but nothing was found there.

Tawi Trekkers J&K conducts trekking for students



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: Tawi Trekkers J&K, the biggest trekking organization of J&K, in keeping with its policy of promoting heritage sites and lesser frequented beauty spots of Jammu, is regularly sending a group of students to one day short trek to Devi Pindian. In this process four groups comprising about 150

students of PS PS Govt College for Women, Gandhi Nagar and about 50 students of St. Xavier Convent Sr. Secondary School, Barnai, Jammu successfully undertook the trek, today.

Sonam Sidharth, general secretary of Tawi Trekkers J&K and a seasoned organiser of such treks led the group of trekkers along with trained mountaineers Shilpa

Charak & Sunil Chakhar-ia, Prerna Charak, Vikas Singh, Suksham Verma and Ananjan Raghav Khajuria. Advisor of the club Ram Khajuria, Ashpreet Kour, President of Govt College for Women, Gandhi Nagar along with three student group leaders Saloni Kumari, Diya Chib and Mehak Sharma besides three teachers of St Xavier Convent Sr. Secondary School

namely Meenu Badam, Meenakshi and Anita also accompanied the trekkers.

With this group the total participation in this programme has now gone up to about 500 students.

Since some small groups have also enrolled themselves to face the call of the mountains to Devi Pindian the participation is likely to touch the 700 mark

before the club starts Dharamshala Himalayan Trekking Programme in the second week of April, 2024.

During the day long venture the young adventurers besides enjoying the breathtaking views of the sacred Trikuta mountain and the Jajjar rivulet whose pristine waters originate from Devi Pindian they also learnt about the geological and geographical facts and the spiritual importance of the Devi Pindian shrine, believed to be the abode of Goddess Vaishno Devi for nine months in a year according to a legend. It may also be recalled that Tawi Trekkers J&K is a non profit making, voluntary adventure sports and social service organization run by a group of highly dedicated young boys and girls whose only aim is to spread the spirit of adventure and love of nature amongst all strata of society without distinction of color, caste, class or creed.

EDITORIAL

DOCTORS' IMPORTANCE IN SOCIETY

All over the world doctors are given a status next to God. This is mostly because they are life-savers who work tirelessly for the mankind. Furthermore, becoming a doctor is considered to be one of the most sought-after professions. People want their children to become doctors and they inculcate this dream in them since childhood. The profession of doctors is very noble. Furthermore, they are equipped with extensive knowledge and equipment that enable them to diagnose and treat their patients with the right procedures. Doctors need medical staff to help them treat them. They are very efficient and have proven their importance to mankind time and again. The medical scenario of India is famous all over the world. Doctors from India are reaching new heights globally in foreign countries. However, when we talk about the medical scenario within the country, we see how worrying it is. In other words, all the capable and talented doctors are moving abroad in search of better job opportunities and facilities. Therefore, we see that there is a shortage of doctors to meet the ever-increasing population in the country. But if we look at the positive side, we will see how Indian doctors are very altruistic compared to doctors in other countries. Since India has been a country of traditions, the virtues are deeply rooted in our culture. This also reflects on the medical scenario of the country. Indian doctors are in great demand all over the world. Similarly, you will find a good number of Indian doctors working in different countries. Needless to say, India is a storehouse of doctors. It has a large number of medical colleges and produces thousands of doctors every year. Moreover, our doctors work everywhere from small villages to big metros. Apart from allopathic doctors, India has Ayurvedic, Unani and there are also doctors practicing homeopathic medicine. These are very popular practices that do not have any side effects. This is because they are completely herbal which makes them very popular. Although the medical field is developing, unethical practices still exist in the field making it difficult for patients to receive the right treatment. Corruption has not spared this sector either.

India suffers from high illiteracy rate which results in people fooling the citizens for money. There are many wrong and unethical medical practices prevalent in India which bring a bad name to the country. Apart from this, many times patients have lost their lives due to greed for money. Hospitals misdiagnose patients and give them the wrong treatment. This leads to even worse consequences. The public is losing confidence in the medical field and doctors. As a result, this affects the reputation of the medical field. Doctors should be more responsible and alert towards the lives of their patients. The government should provide good medical facilities to the public which can bridge this gap. Additionally, we must also come together to help doctors do their jobs better.

Getting the news from TikTok and social media: Will bid to ban work?

By: Farrukh Dhondy

For many decades of my short and happy life, gentle reader, I believed that TikTok was the infantile representation of the sound that clocks make. And now I am disabused of this notion as I discover that it is in fact, according to some American and British media, a sinister social-exchange platform owned indirectly by the Communist Party of China to subvert the minds of millions of Western youngsters and even gullible oldies.

A recent American poll concludes that the majority of teenagers and young people get their news and comments on current affairs from TikTok. I must admit I am, in regard to the social media, what another generation calls a "dinosaur" (my favourite species name, when I acknowledge being such, would be "Ithinkesaurus") -- like Britain's foreign secretary David Cameron who is reputed to have concluded that "LOL" meant Lots of Love.

Following the statistic alleging that young people in America get their news and views from TikTok, there has been a move in the Senate and the House of Representatives to ban the platform. The move has met with divided opinion. Those in favour of a ban argue that the CPC could brainwash the country's youth and that would be detrimental, dangerous and disas-

trous. Others argue against the ban, saying it would be an assault on free-speech -- but those are the liberals. Donald Trump and the fellow Vivek Ramaswamy who had stood as a Republican candidate for the presidency are against the ban. Why? Surprise, surprise!

Because Jeff Yaas, a donor of millions of dollars to the Republican Party and to Donald Trump's campaigns, owns 15 per cent shares in ByteDance, the company that owns TikTok.

This is actually a bit of a "surprise-surprise" as Mr Trump, when he was President, proposed banning TikTok as his government alleged that it posed a security risk. But donors of course speak louder than the CIA?

As I confessed to start with, I have never accessed TikTok -- or for that matter any other of these platforms. In fact, the editor of my about-to-be-published novel, Deccan Queen -- Take Two, had asked for my "handles" on the social media. I don't know what these are and have told him so. But if TikTok is telling American and European younger generations that the genocide in Gaza is wrong, I am myself against the ban -- even though Jeff Yaas hasn't donated a dollar to forward my campaign to be Baron Dhondy of Sachapir.

But perhaps TikTok is for the invasion of Ukraine by Russia -- as Mr Trump has hinted that he may be. In which case I am for ban-

ning the platform from the UK and India too.

The ownership of media by foreigners is something that is at present occupying the British media and Hedgie Soongone's government.

The particular case involves two newspaper titles, The Daily Telegraph and the weekly magazine The Spectator. They are at present owned by the billionaire Barclay family, whose billionaire status has run into some trouble as they owe Lloyd's Bank a fair proportion of what they own. They propose to sell the two publications and the highest bidder who has declared an intention to buy them is an American media conglomerate financed by the United Arab Emirates, and specifically Abu Dhabi.

Horror of horrors! Arabs, Muslims, possibly-anti-Israeli-genocide-wallas owning the ultra-right titles?

Surely the Soongone government has, as every columnist and cry-baby hypocrite of the Torygraph and pathetically and dishonestly right-focused Spectator demands, should move to ban these potentially subversive foreigners from owning a UK media outlet?

Never mind the fact that the same government is very happy to allow Middle Eastern despots to invest billions in the UK and to sell them armaments? Hey, business is business?

And how are they going to

manage such a ban. A law saying foreigners can't own newspapers, TV channels and social media platforms in the UK? Great! So, what happens to Rupert Murdoch, and the Australian-American's newspapers and TV channels he owns? Banned?

And the other right-wing rag The Daily Mail owned by Lord Rothermere who has chosen to live in France to dodge UK taxes?

Of course, X, Facebook, TikTok and Linked-in are owned by solid UK citizens -- John Smith of Basingstoke, aren't they? (Don't be silly yaar! --Ed)

If the government moves to ban the sale of the two papers to Abu Dhabi, they will have to discriminate between one foreign owner and the other. How? On what basis? Religion, nationality, race...?

If Abu Dhabi's royals do buy the Spectator, I shall look forward to a change of editor and editorial preoccupations. One of their booby columnists is against the exposure or historical criticism of people and institutions who or which profited from the slave trade. Another claims that some idiots at universities wanting to neutralise gender pronouns means the end of civilisation. A female columnist of theirs writes every week about quarrels or exchanges with her English country, and now Irish, neighbours or about feeding her horses. I am sure there is a readership for this sort of writing and opinion. I am equally sure such readership is dwindling.

The Most Important & Popular Science Magazines

By: Vijay GarG

If you have a fascination with science and are intrigued with how the universe works, you should look to find ways to fuel this fascination and expand your scope of scientific knowledge. Now, we know that the internet provides you access to loads of 'scientific information' that you can access from with a simple Google search.

However, we must point out that a lot of this 'scientific information' is made available without scientific research and established experiments to back up these claims. This is why it is essential to only rely on scientific data and research that have been carried out by reputed and trustworthy institutions, individuals and labs.

The best way to keep yourself up to date with the latest scientific happenings from around the world is to tap into a trustworthy source of reliable scientific information. We have put together a list of the top 10 most important and popular scientific magazines that will give you access to the latest discoveries, inventions, experiments and findings.

Who Will Enjoy These Magazines?

The magazines featured on our top 10 list have been around for a long time and are widely respected by the global scientific community. Whether you are just curious and wanting to learn more about science or whether you are a scientist in the making, these magazines will provide you with expert information, advice and stats that will take your knowledge of science to a whole new level.

Our top 10 most important and popular science magazines have been ranked in no order of importance. Some of the criteria that we used to make the shortlist include their reputation in the global scientific community, number of years they have been around, their social media following, scope and quality of scientific content and global appeal.

National Geographic

The National Geographic TV channel has millions of viewers from around the world who tune in on a daily basis to watch some of the most mesmerizing programs that cover environmental science and the exploration of all that is both old and new.

The popularity of the National Geographic TV channel has certainly helped boost the popularity of the National Geographic magazine and it is one of the reasons why we have it first on our list. The magazine content is not heavy and hence perfect for those just getting into the sciences.

National Geographic concentrates mostly on natural sciences and provides fantastic pictures and information about the world we live in, space, animals and inventions. This magazine is available in both print and digital form and can be read by all ages. The magazine is issued on a monthly basis and has a subscription fee.

If you are looking to get your kids or grand kids interested in science, then a great way to do this is to give them a National Geographic magazine subscription as a gift.

Discover Magazine

If you want to get a little heavier with

scientific knowledge and facts, the next step is definitely Discover Magazine. This magazine has been around since the 1980s and focuses on all of the different sciences in order to cover all bases. Different magazine editions are devoted to different scientific topics which range from maths and physics, medicine and health, evolution, life sciences, inventions and space.

Discover Magazine is for all ages and is available in both digital and print form. This magazine in our opinion is most suited for young adults and above as the content is heavy. If you are researching a particular topic or just want to expand your scientific knowledge, you should think about getting a subscription to Discover.

If you are not certain whether to subscribe to Discover, you can check out the Discover website and read some of the free articles that cover physical sciences, natural sciences and environmental sciences. In-depth and well researched articles are also present on the website but they are released every couple of weeks. You can whet your scientific appetite with these articles and then decide if you want to subscribe to Discover.

Popular Science

Has to be on the list as this is one of the oldest scientific magazines that is still going strong. Popular Science has been around since 1872 and has evolved quite a bit over the last 148 years. This magazine has a bigger male following than a female following and one of the reasons for that is due to the fact that the magazine focuses a lot on Technology, Gadgets, Cars and DIY items.

While these themes are dominant, Popular Science also goes deeper and focuses on important issues such as data hacking, space, gene-based treatment discoveries for incurable diseases and the latest cutting edge research and experiments. The magazine is available in both print and digital form. We recommend it for both our male and female readers as it provides a wealth of information on a variety of topics.

If our female readers think that this magazine might be too male oriented, we suggest you check out the digital version and read a few articles that interest you as you could end up missing out on some great information due to the stereotyping that Popular Science magazine has experienced in recent years.

Scientific American

The name of the magazine lets you know that it focuses on the American market but the Scientific American makes useful reading for anyone who is keen on finding out more about the latest research, inventions, discoveries and experiments in the world of science. This magazine is available in both digital and print form.

We believe that this magazine is suitable for those who are familiar with the sciences and are looking to further their research or study into different fields of science. If you are just starting out, the information and content found here might be a little too heavy. However, the writers do a great job in presenting and breaking down their information and insight to make it easy for the readers to grasp.

If you are wondering whether you should subscribe to the Scientific American, we suggest you check out their online

website and spend a little time checking out their blog which is very informative. This will give you an idea into what kinds of scientific topics and content you can expect to find in the magazine.

The Smithsonian

It is another Science magazine that has very strong American influences but will capture the attention of anyone who loves science and research. The magazine is built on detailed research on a variety of topics ranging from paintings, literature, history and the sciences.

This magazine is perfect for those individuals who need access to detailed research. If you are a casual reader, you might find this magazine a little too heavy and detailed oriented. However, the 'Most Popular' section in the magazine should be fine for the casual reader and provide them with interesting information that will make them appear super-intelligent at the dinner table.

So if you are looking for a magazine that focuses on the sciences as well as provides detailed research on different topics, The Smithsonian will be perfect for you. You can subscribe online to The Smithsonian. The Scientist

If you are looking to become a scientist, you should definitely think about subscribing to The Scientist Magazine. If you are already a scientist but have never heard about this magazine, then read on to learn why this should be a must read for you.

Life science professionals will enjoy this magazine that stresses on providing accurate, factual and entertaining scientific content. The topics range from molecular biology, stem cell studies, genetics and a range of life science interests. The team at The Scientist are highly qualified and get readers up to date with the latest research methods, scientific discoveries, latest technology and innovative procedures being adopted around the world.

If you would like to get a glimpse of what The Scientist is all about, do check out the online website as there are numerous article posts made throughout the week. The Scientist Magazine Facebook page also provides interesting information and currently has over 2 million followers.

New Scientist Magazine

This magazine has its roots in the United Kingdom and has been around since 1956. New Scientist promotes itself as the most popular weekly science and tech magazine in the world. The magazine has a growing fan base in multiple parts of the world including the UK, Australia and the United States. The magazine is available in both online and print mode.

Some of the common topics addressed by this magazine include what it is to be human? Life questions and scientific answers, latest scientific discoveries and the latest scientific news in the industry.

Do check out the online version of the New Scientist as multiple articles are posted on a daily basis that keep you up to date on the most important scientific research and breakthroughs across the globe. The New Scientist Magazine has a thriving Facebook page with over 3.6 million fans and a Twitter following of over 3 million.

Cosmos Magazine

It focuses on the Science of Everything and is perfect for those who are just wet-

ting their feet in the vast ocean of the sciences as well as for those hardcore science nerds. The magazine covers a number of different themes ranging from core sciences, health, nature, earth, space, technology and history.

There is something for everyone at Cosmos Magazine as the writers put out light and heavy content to appeal to their growing list of subscribers. Cosmos Magazine has its roots in Australia and has been around since 2005. You can sign up for the free newsletter or go ahead and subscribe to the magazine.

Cosmos Magazine will give online subscribers the opportunity to go into the archives and dig up old issues that will keep them busy for a long time. The Cosmos Magazine Facebook page currently has over 500,000 followers.

Popular Mechanics

This pop-science magazine definitely favours a male audience as it focuses on 'how your world works'. The topics cover a wide range of do-it-yourself topics covering outdoor, technology, electronics and science related topics. The content can be both light and heavy in order to appeal to readers who are not very hands on as well as those who can quickly grasp the DIY model.

The magazine has been around since 1902 and has continued to evolve in order to stay relevant and in demand. The US version of the magazine has only 10 editions per year. The magazine is available in both English and Russian. Readers who would like to learn more about the latest gadgets, tools, space and aviation will enjoy this magazine.

Popular Mechanics has won the National Magazine Award in 1986 and 2008. If you would like to know more about Popular Mechanics, check out its website as there are two podcasts that also shed more light on the topics covered by the magazine.

Science News

This magazine was established in 1921 and since then has been providing readers around the world with the latest news on science, medicine and technology. The magazine requires a subscription fee as the tagline makes it clear that trustworthy journalism comes at a price.

This magazine is suitable for all readers as the focus of the magazine is to inspire, inform and educate readers about science. The magazine can be accessed in print and digital form. If you would like to check out some of the science news that has been published in recent weeks, check out the online website. You will find breaking news on topics such as space, physics, earth, life and humans.

The magazine is published by the Society for Science & the Public and an annual subscription to the magazine gets you a 12 month free membership into the Society. The annual subscription to Science News gives you access to 22 issues. There is also a free digital newsletter that gets delivered to your inbox providing you headlines and summaries of the latest scientific news.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

NYK Doda organises District Level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament in GDC Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 30: Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Doda, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India organised "Neighbourhood Youth Parliament" on the theme "Nasha Mukht Bharat" in collaboration with Govt Degree College, Kishtwar.

Prof. Basharat Qayoom, Principal GDC Kishtwar inaugurated the programme along with District Youth Officer Khushal Gupta, Associate NCC Officer Prof. Prithvi Raj, NSS PO Prof. Esarul Haq and other staff members. The programme witnessed participation of hundreds of 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 themselves on MY Bharat portal. TOT Jugnu Bhagat

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

Prof. Prithvi Raj delivered an awareness lecture on Voter Awareness and New India - New Initiatives focussing on the various developments made by the nation during the recent years

and focused on various women who are leading the nation in numerous fields.

Prof. Esarul Haq delivered an awareness lecture on Voter Awareness and New India - New Initiatives focussing on the various developments made by the nation during the recent years

and the significance of individual votes for the making of a nation.

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

The team led by Prof. Prithvi Raj comprised Cdt. Mehak Sharma, Vivek Sharma, Ankush Thakur, Nitin Shan, Vivek Shan, Rohit, Sarika Rathore, Madhvi, Purvya, Sonika, Anish, Simran Thakur and Muskan Bhagat. Comparing of the programme was done by Cdt Muen Raja and Cdt. Mehak Sharma.

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

Plantation drive held at ANMT School Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Mar 30: With the aim of reducing global warming and as a part of the Green J&K campaign, the ANMT School Doda organized a massive plantation drive in the school premises at CMO Office Doda on Saturday.

The drive was held under the supervision of Principal ANMT Doda Smt Anusuya Bhan, which saw active participation from both students and staff members of ANMT Doda.

Principal Anusuya Bhan commenced the event by enlightening the students and staff about the significance of tree plantation, added that the aim of plantation drive was to make people aware of the importance of trees and to enhance the 'Jan Bhagidari' in planting trees so that everyone can realize their responsibilities

towards planting trees. Following this, a variety of plant species were diligently planted across the college campus.



On this occasion, the students and staff planted trees with great enthusiasm.

Those present included Indra Devi (Sr Tutor), Naveed Anjum (Tutor) and Saima Kouser (Tutor).

A plea was also taken for a greener environment with focus on taking care of planted trees.

One of the notable aspects of this programme was the emphasis on nurturing a sense of environmental advocacy among the students.

PTTI Vijaypur accords send off to SI Amolak on superannuation



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Mar 30: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur on Saturday organized an impressive farewell function upon superannuation of Sub Inspector Amolak Singh, on the completion of almost 36 years of services in Jammu and Kashmir Police. Principal

PTTI Vijaypur applauded the services rendered by the retiree and termed him as an honest, dedicated and sincere officer.

Principal PTTI Vijaypur extended his best wishes to him and wished all the best for future life.

Among others, Zia Ul Haq, Dy.SP (Outdoor), Davinder Gupta, Dy.SP (R&D), Khushwant Singh,

Dy.SP (Admn.), Surinder Paul, Dy.SP (Tech/Indoor), Inspr. Surinder Singh (CDI), Inspr. Javed Hussain (RI), Inspr. Ram Lal (CLI), Inspr. Kanwal Raina, Inspr. Bhopinder Singh, Inspr. Rakesh Kumar, Inspr. Pawan Kumar, Inspr. Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Kapil Raina, Inspr. Shehbaz Ahmed were present on the occasion.

The Aash Foundation expresses grief over passing away of Mehak

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: The Aash Foundation expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic passing away of Mehak, a young girl, in Canada on March 7, 2024 along with her parents Rajiv Warikoo and Shilpa Kotha in a devastating fire in their house at Toronto, Canada.

While expressing condolence, Foundation members said, "Mehak's appealing qualities of head and heart will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Mehak was an inspiration to all her friends, relatives, and acquaintances.

Though her time with us was cut short, the memories she left behind will continue to bring a smile to our faces. We will remember Mehak who was a potential football player and an ace athlete, for her overall conviction that brought laughter and warmth to the hearts of many people living in India, Canada, and the UK."

They offered heartfelt condolences during these difficult times to Mehak's extended family and loved ones. May the Almighty rest her soul in eternal peace in heaven and bestow strength on the bereaved families during this period of immense grief, they prayed.

In this regard, the foundation members, in a condolence meeting at Press Club Jammu, passed a resolution to raise the 'MEHAK FUND' that shall grant scholarship to the deserving meritorious girl child belonging to underprivileged families.

Over 200 teachers participated in 5-Day School Health & Wellness Training Program in Sankoo Zone



Top News Report

KARGIL, Mar 30: In Ladakh, to foster a healthier and safer environment within schools, the Sankoo Zone recently concluded a comprehensive 5-day Block Level Training Program for School Health & Wellness Ambassadors.

Over 200 enthusiastic teachers participated in the training, which was held at the Community Health Center Sankoo, marking a significant milestone in promoting holistic well-being among students.

Under the guidance of Dr Zahida Khatoon, Block Medical Officer of CHC Sankoo, and Hadi Ali, Zonal Education Officer, the training aimed to equip educators with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively implement the Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Programme across various government and private schools in the region.

Throughout the program, participants engaged in rigorous sessions covering a wide array of crucial health topics, including safety and security, mental health awareness, gender equality, sanitation practices, substance abuse prevention, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Dr. Villayat Ali Chinmo, Senior Lecturer from DIET Kargil, served as the resource person, delivering insightful presentations and facilitating interactive discussions to enhance understanding and application of the curriculum.

The School Health and Wellness Program not only serves as a proactive initiative to address prevalent health challenges but also underscores the importance of cultivating positive relationships and values among the youth. By empowering teachers as Health Ambassadors, the initiative aims to instil

a sense of responsibility and awareness among students, thereby fostering a conducive learning environment conducive to overall growth and development.

As the curtains drew to a close on the training program, attendees expressed their gratitude for the enriching experience and vowed to champion the cause of health and wellness within their respective educational institutions. With their newfound knowledge and enthusiasm, these dedicated educators are poised to make a lasting impact on the lives of countless students, paving the way for a healthier and brighter future in the Sankoo Zone and beyond.

Radio News Kargil Nhm Ladakh Gulistan News Ladakh Department of Information & Public Relations, Kargil, Ladakh Ladakh Tourism Mansoor Beigh.

Distribution of Certificates of 2nd Batch of Assistant Barber under PM Vishwakarma Scheme held

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: 2nd batch of Assistant Barber comprising of 16 Trainees completed their training under PM Vishwakarma scheme.

The certificates to the successful Trainees were distributed by Er. Suket



Gupta, Principal, Govt. Polytechnic for women, Jammu in presence of the faculty of the Institution.

While interacting with the pass outs, Principal apprised them about the procedure of getting the toolkits and availing loan facility in respect of the scheme.

Farewell accorded to Madan Gopal Gupta Principal HSS Koti' Doda



Top News Report

DODA, Mar 30: Staff and students of Govt. Hr.Sec.School Koti Doda along with other dignitaries bade a rousing farewell to principal Sh Madan Gopal Gupta on his attaining superannuation.

Prominent personalities of Koti including Dr Abdullah, Jaffer Bashir, Om Parkash, Jagdish Singh, Rattan Singh, Mohd Iqbal Maik, Yogesh Singh and others along with staff and students of HSS Koti were present in the farewell program organized

today in his honour. Speaking on the occasion the speakers lauded the services rendered by Madan Gopal and wished him for a happy and healthy post retirement life.

In his address the retiree expressed gratitude to all the staff members, students and guests.

The staff members and students of HSS Koti presented a memento and gifts to the retiree as a token of love and respect. They wished him a very happy and peaceful post retirement life ahead. It

is pertinent to mention that Madan Gopal Gupta served the Education Department with devotion and dedication for more than thirty-eight years in different capacities. He has worked as a Teacher, Lecturer, Sr. Lecturer and Principal in different reputed institutions of J & K including the SIE Jammu, and is retiring on superannuation on March 31, 2024 after giving his devoted services in the far flung and under staffed school of Doda district as Principal.

Kulbhushan Goyal to inaugurate evening OPDs at Paras Health today

CHANDIGARH, Mar 30 (Agencies): Mayor Kulbhushan Goyal will inaugurate evening multi specialities OPD at Paras Health, Panchkula tomorrow. The RWA presidents will also attend the program. The hospital is launch-

ing evening OPD in internal medicines, gynecology, neurology, general and gastro surgery, nephrology, orthopedics, pediatrics and pulmonology.

Dr. Pankaj Mittal Facility Director said that



experts from each of these specialties will be available at Paras Health for evening OPD from Monday to Saturday between 5 pm to 7 pm. Dr. Jatinder Arora Zonal Director said, "Being a leading health care provider in the

region, Paras Health Panchkula has taken another big step in ensuring quality medical consultations in evening hours also. We are hopeful that this evening OPD will help people of the area in a big way."

Rains lash J&K for 2nd day, Snow blankets Pahalgam

SRINAGAR, Mar 30 (Agencies): Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed widespread rainfall in the last 24 hours, while the upper reaches experienced snowfall, bringing down the temperatures.

The Meteorological Department's (MeT) centre in Srinagar predicted widespread light to moderate rain or snow and thunderstorms over Jammu and Kashmir in the next 24 hours, and a decrease in precipitation from March 31.

In the last 24 hours, Srinagar received 29.7 mm of rain, Pahalgam 35.4 mm, Gulmarg 26.6 mm, Qazigund 22.6 mm, Kokernag 30.2 mm, and Kupwara 20.2 mm.

In the Jammu region, Banihal received 43.8 mm, Bhaderwah 16 mm, Batote 29.2 mm, Katra 37.4 mm, and Jammu 8 mm.

The upper reaches,



including the tourist resort of Pahalgam, received light snow last night.

The night temperatures also witnessed a dip, with Srinagar recording a minimum of 6.8 degrees Celsius against the previous night's 8.2 degrees Celsius.

MeT said Pahalgam had 1.3 and Gulmarg had minus 0.5 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature.

The MeT has predicted wet weather till Sunday. The weather is generally expected to remain dry between April 1 and 5, with light rain at isolated places on April 3.

On the third day of CIFF, Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha celebrate the success of their maiden production 'Girls will be Girls', director Sudhir Mishra talks about his deep love for films

Cinephiles are in for a treat, as every new day at the Cinevesture International Film Festival (CIFF) is bringing some thought-provoking interactions based around the film industry. Actors, directors, producers... some known names from Mumbai have made a beeline for Chandigarh to share their insight into the world of filmmaking. Whether you are interested in production, acting, direction or scriptwriting, these insiders are happy to talk about the process.

The third day began with a heartfelt conversation, where actor Suvinder Vicky shared excerpts from his journey laced with some funny anecdotes. Even as a kid, he knew acting it was. "I always wanted to be an actor. As a child, I would play Amitabh Bachchan, thanks to my baritone voice and lanky structure, while my brother would act as Dharmendra." Thanks to Chauthi Koot, it changed the course of life and career

for Suvinder. "That was the turning point. And I owe it to Gurvinder."

An enthusiastic audience wanted to know his acting chops and what went into the preparation for the role of Balbir Singh in Kohrra. The actor said, "I am director's actor. And I believe in living the vision of my director-screenwriter. All that is in my hands is to do my best as an actor."

Ali-Richa shine

Accomplished actors Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal are celebrating the success of their maiden production Girls will be Girls, which has won two awards at the Sundance Film Festival. To take up production was a conscious choice. As Ali explained, "We wanted to make some cool stuff, be a part of narratives that have the potential of designing our futures."

Richa wanted more creative control over the things she was doing and thus their production house, Pushing Buttons, was born. "I wanted to lessen the gap between what I was watching and what I was acting



in. Sometimes what you watch are not the parts that come to you." Aware of the huge responsibility it entails, Richa and Ali understand it has to be a sustainable business, "We'll do our best to marry both."

Man from the heartland

Next was a peek into direction and the love for movies that Sudhir Mishra has. His upbringing in the Indian heartland, Madhya Pradesh to be precise and his habit of internalising everything reflected brilliantly in the thought-pro-

ducing film, Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi. "I knew every character and person in the film." But he identified most with the character of Geeta. "All of us are Geetas."

While he lives and breathes films, and there are many favourites, the one he wants people to remember is, "Khoya Khoya Chand. It is autobiographical and somehow show my family structure and upbringing." To those who dream of making films or are already filmmakers, his message

is, "Keep on making films because some of us exist only when we make films."

It's the right venue

To debut in Chandigarh was a conscious choice by CIFF team. Highlighting the many reasons that make it a perfect city for an international event surrounding the science and mathematics of filmmaking, Neena Lath Gupta, founder-CEO of Cinevesture, says, "It's a city whose genesis lies in design, it's also a city which has a high rate of literacy. I was a Panjab

University student and we had a really vibrant cultural scene at that time. I am sure those cultural activities are still happening here. But films are ultimately a culmination of all arts and it makes sense to bring them together in a city that already has so much happening."

Conversation between a father and a daughter Shekhar Kapur and his daughter, singer-songwriter and actress Kaveri Kapur also shared notes during the last session, on Day 3. Titled Films

and Music—A Family Jam, the conversation began on a happy note when the two admitted they were nervous to hold the discussion.

"I am going to ask you what people haven't asked you," began Kaveri. And ready to 'grill' dad, she asked, "Tell something that people don't know about you?" Shekar replied, "They don't quite know about how fearful I am. A man who is scared every morning." But where does this fear come from? "It's the fear of not knowing who I am."

This set the mood of the conversation. From creativity being an accidental act to constantly trying to define time with the help of art... the father-daughter duo left the audience spellbound.

Kaveri expressed her intrigue about her father's spirituality and Shekhar humbly said 'we all are each other's guru'. Self-enquiry, dropping the ego and holding on to it to create art, changing landscape

of cinema, the need to question the process... the conversation was honest, fun and deep all, at the same time.

Shekar also got talking about his movie Masoom - The New Generation when someone from the audience enquired about his next. While the title comes from his first directorial Masoom that went on to become a cult classic, the references for this one he has picked from the way today's generation approaches life and family. "What's the idea of a home, how do they bond with family... teenagers today talk about anxiety and therapy, where does that stem from...it all brought me the ideas to create a second Masoom."

Pain & victory
Writer-director Tahira Kashyap spoke about how she courageously fought cancer, "I want people to know that if detected at an early stage, cancer is treatable. You can continue to live a disease-free life after that."

Mahir Pandhi gets injured on sets of Vanshaj

Recently, Mahir Pandhi, known for his role as Digvijay, aka DJ, met with an accident while shooting for a crucial scene in the show Vanshaj. During a shot, he was required to run swiftly while chasing an ambulance and accidentally pulled his hamstring badly. However, Mahir continued shooting, albeit his scenes were altered so that he could sit and rest on a chair, to avoid straining his hamstring. Since the incident, Mahir is slowly inching back to recovery.

Says Mahir, "I had a very intense scene where I was required to run fast. While getting into the character and feeling the emotion, this swift movement caused an injury to my hamstring. There



was severe pain in my leg, but still I continued shooting the scene as the telecast for the same was a day after. The production house and channel have been very supportive. I didn't want the shooting to get hampered because of this and the team really helped me

finish my scene within the deadlines. That's just how it is for actors sometimes — you have to keep going, no matter what. But I still enjoy it as I'm working with a really cooperative and supporting team. I love being on sets and filming, even when it's tough at times."

English song lyrics analysed to have become simpler, word variety in rap, rock fallen

The lyrics of English-language songs have become simpler and more repetitive, a new research analysing 12,000 songs released between 1980 and 2020 has found.

A team of researchers, led by University of Innsbruck, Austria, has found that in general, lyrics have become simpler and easier to understand over time and the number of different words being used in the songs has fallen, especially those belonging to the rap and rock genres.

The study suggested that the increasingly repetitive lyrics of songs across multiple genres have made them simpler overall. The team analysed 2,400 songs each from rap, country, pop, R&B and rock genres.

It has also speculated that the trend of simpler lyrics could reflect changes in how music is being consumed, such as being mostly listened to in the background. The findings are published in the Scientific Reports



journal.

For the analysis, the researchers characterised the song lyrics based on style - words, complexity, structure and rhyme - and emotions. For gathering the lyrics, they relied on the LFM-2b dataset, one of the largest publicly available ones containing music listening data.

Employing statistical tools, the team conducted two analyses - one to investigate how lyrics style and emotions have evolved over time and the other

to investigate their interplay with regards to the release year and lyrics view count.

The researchers also found that lyrics have become more emotional and personal over time.

The team found that while emotional words in rap - both positive and negative - have increased, for R&B, pop and country songs, emotionally negative lyrics have increased.

Further, the team observed an increasing use of anger-related

words in the lyrics of songs across all genres.

Looking at viewership of lyrics on the online platform Genius, the analysis revealed that the lyrics of older rock songs were viewed more than those of the newer ones.

However, the trend was reversed in country songs, where the lyrics of newer songs were viewed more than those of older ones.

The researchers said this could indicate the preference of rock listeners for older songs, and that of country listeners for newer songs.

On last.fm, an online social network and streaming platform for music, users can opt-in to share their listening data. It provides various connectors to other services, including music streaming apps like Spotify, Deezer, Pandora, iTunes, and YouTube, through which users can share on last.fm what they are listening to on other platforms.

Sana Sayyad pampered by the Kundali Bhagya crew during Ramadan

As the holy month of Ramzan unfolds, Kundali Bhagya actress Sana Sayyad has been fasting through the day amidst her busy shooting schedules.

The evening prayer marks the end of her fast, and she eagerly looks forward to indulging in the array of iftar delicacies together with her team.

She shared that fasting was not just about refraining from physical nourishment, but also about cultivating a deeper connection with spirituality and being grateful to God for everything. What stands out though is the touching manner in which the team has been considerate of Sana

She shared, "For me, fasting is not just about abstaining from food

and drink; it's about exercising patience, empathy and self-control. The unit and our co-stars have been incredibly supportive.

On the sets, my beloved team ensures that they are taking extra care of me and other members of the unit who have been fasting.

They see to it that we get proper rest and work only for a limited number of hours comfortably, especially during the fasting time. I appreciate the camaraderie and support among the cast and crew, as we all gather to share meals and break our fast together.

They understand the significance of Ramzan for us and ensure that the atmosphere remains positive and pleasant."



Alia Bhatt hosts Hope Gala for Salaam Bombay Foundation in London

To help the Salaam Bombay foundation, actress Alia Bhatt hosted her first charity event, Hope Gala, in London. She raised money for underprivileged adolescents in India at the event. Alia said in a statement, "I'm happy to have played a small part in helping these children reshape their narratives. Furthermore, holding the Hope Gala at such a prestigious venue is a genuine privilege, as I've always been a fan of Mandarin Oriental's exceptional hospitality. The actress added, "Today marks just the beginning of our efforts and with the support of our generous contributors, I'm confident we'll make significant strides in empowering future generations."

Along with Alia, the guests included actress-



model Poppy Delevingne, director Gurinder Chadha, Natasha Poonawalla of Serum Institute of India, among

many others. The evening saw performances by Indian singer Harshdeep Kaur, Usha Jey, the innovator behind

Hybrid Bharatham, and the Yehudi Menuhin School Quartet. It also saw a conversation between Alia and comedian Rohan Joshi.

Attendees were treated to a culinary experience inspired by the best of Indian and British cuisines, created by Michelin-star chefs Vineet Bhatia and Jason Atherton, as well as dishes from Chef Francisco Hernandez, Executive Chef at the hotel. Alia added, "Hosting my inaugural charity gala in collaboration with the Salaam Bombay Foundation and Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group has been an incredible experience. I've long admired Padmini Sekhsaria's unwavering dedication to uplifting at-risk youth in India's slums, offering them hope and opportunity."

PM Modi Pays Homage To Freedom Fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma On Death Anniversary

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to revolutionary freedom fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma on his death anniversary on Saturday, lauding him as a stalwart of the independence movement.

Varma's indomitable spirit and commitment to the cause of freedom will never be forgotten, Modi said on X.

"His establishment of the India House served as a cradle for the freedom struggle overseas. As we remember his con-



tributions, let us also pledge to uphold the ideals he fought for," the prime minister said in a post on the microblogging platform.

Born in 1857 in Gujarat, Varma founded the Indian Home Rule Society, the India House and The Indian Sociologist in London to promote the cause of Indian nationalism and freedom.

As the Gujarat chief minister, Modi had in 2003 brought back Varma's ashes from Switzerland, where he died in 1930.

Man kills live-in partner for insisting to marry him; held from West Bengal

The police had initially registered a case of accidental death, however the autopsy report confirmed that it was caused by strangulation

PALGHAR, Mar 30 (Agencies): A 22-year-old woman was allegedly strangled to death by her live-in partner in Palghar district of Maharashtra for insisting to marry him, with the police arresting the accused from West Bengal days later, an official said.

The crime came to light on March 15 after the woman's decomposed body was found in a room that they had rented in Dahanu town of Palghar district, he said on Friday.

The 26-year-old accused, Minazuddin Abdul Aji Mulla alias Ravindra Reddy, was arrested on March 22 from South 24 Parganas

district of West Bengal, from where he and the victim hailed, the police official said.

Addressing media on Friday, District Superintendent of Police Bala-sahab Patil said, "The woman, Anisha Barasta Khatun, was found dead on March 15 in a room located in a chawl at Dahanu where she lived with her live-in partner, who was untraceable. The police sent her body for post-mortem and initially registered a case of accidental death."

"However, the autopsy report confirmed that the death was caused by strangulation. After that, it was converted into a case of murder," he said. Soon, a police team

was formed with Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dahanu division) Ankita Kanse leading the investigation, he added.

During the probe, the police found that accused Mulla hailed from West Bengal and adopted the name Ravindra Reddy in order to get a room in Dahanu on rent and pretended that the victim was his wife, another official said.

The crime came to light after the neighbours complained of a foul smell emanating from the room and informed the owner.

As there was no response from inside the room, the owner opened the door and



they found the woman's decomposed body lying inside. They immediately alerted the police, he said.

A team of the Dahanu police station was sent to West Bengal to trace and nab the accused.

After seven days of persistent efforts, they apprehended Mulla in the early hours of March

22, he added. Additional Superintendent of Police Pankaj Shirsat said the accused killed the victim as she kept insisting on marrying him, although he was against the idea.

Following his arrest, a court in Palghar has remanded Mulla in police custody till April 2, he said.

ED files first chargesheet in Delhi Jal Board money-laundering case

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed its first chargesheet in connection with a money-laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), official sources said on Saturday.

The prosecution complaint was filed by the federal agency before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Delhi on March 28, the sources told agency.

Four individuals and a company have been named as the accused in the chargesheet -- former DJB chief engineer Jagdish Kumar Arora, contractor Anil Kumar Agarwal, former NBCC general manager D K Mittal, one Tejinder Singh and NKG Infrastructure Limited.

The ED has alleged that bribe money generated from corruption in a contract issued by the DJB was "passed on" as election funds to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi. The agency had also summoned Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for questioning in the case, but he did not depose before it.

Kejriwal was arrested by the ED on March 21 in another money-laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the excise policy for the national capital.

The agency had raided



the premises of Kejriwal's personal assistant Bibhav Kumar, AAP's Rajya Sabha MP and treasurer N D Gupta, former DJB member Shalabh Kumar, chartered accountant Pankaj Mangal and some others as part of the probe in February.

An FIR lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which accuses Arora of awarding a DJB contract to NKG Infrastructure Limited for a total cost of Rs 38 crore despite the fact that the company "did not meet" the technical eligibility criteria, is the basis of the ED case.

The ED arrested Arora and Agarwal in the case on January 31.

NKG Infrastructure Limited bagged the contract by submitting "forged" documents and Arora "was aware of the fact that the company does not meet the technical eligibility", the agency has claimed.

An ED statement has alleged that Arora "received" bribe in cash and in bank accounts after awarding the contract to NKG Infra-

structure Limited and "passed on" the money to various people managing the DJB affairs, including "persons connected with the AAP".

"Bribe amounts were also passed on as election funds to the AAP," the federal agency has alleged.

This is the second case in which the ED has charged the AAP with taking kickbacks. It has alleged that bribe money of Rs 45 crore, out of the total of Rs 100 crore, from the scrapped excise policy of 2021-22 was used by the Kejriwal-led party for campaigning in the Goa Assembly polls.

The agency has said the DJB contract was awarded at "highly-inflated rates", so that the bribes could be collected from the contractors.

"As against the contract value of Rs 38 crore, only about Rs 17 crore were spent towards the contract and the remaining amount was siphoned off in the guise of various fake expenses.

"Such fake expenses were booked for bribes and election funds," the ED has alleged.

Delhi minister Atishi had denied the charges at a press briefing and claimed that the case was another attempt to tarnish the image of the AAP and its leaders.

LPG cylinder blast kills woman, her 3 kids in Uttar Pradesh's Deoria

DEORIA (UP), Mar 30 (Agencies): In a tragic incident, a 42-year-old woman and her three children were killed after an LPG cylinder exploded in a village of this Uttar Pradesh district on Saturday, police said.

The incident occurred around 4 am in Dumri village located within the Bhaluani police station limits, they said.

The cylinder exploded when tea was being prepared by Aarti Devi, police said.

Senior officials arrived in the village after the incident and the bodies were sent for post-mortem, they said, adding that forensic and fire department teams are also at the spot.

Shivshankar Gupta, the deceased woman's husband, was getting ready to step out of the house and tea was being



prepared when the cylinder exploded, police said.

Besides Aarti, the couple's daughters -- Aanchal (14) and Srishti (11) -- and son Kundan (12) were killed in the incident, they added.

Congress Veteran's Daughter-In-Law Archana Patil Joins BJP In Maharashtra

MUMBAI, Mar 30 (Agencies): Archana Patil Chakurkar, the daughter-in-law of former Lok Sabha speaker and Congress leader Shivraj Patil, joined the BJP today.

Archana Patil is the chairperson of Lifecare Hospital and Research Centre in Udgir, and her husband Shailesh Patil Chandurkar is state secretary of the Congress.

"I have joined BJP to work in the political sphere. I was greatly influenced by the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam brought by PM Modi. It gives equal opportunity to women," Archana Patil told reporters after joining the



BJP today in a formal event. "I have worked at the grassroots level in Latur, and I will

work at the grassroots level with the BJP also. I was never officially in the Congress. I joined

the BJP because its ideology has a great influence on me," Archana Patil said.

She had met Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis at his official home 'Sagar' in south Mumbai on Friday.

Archana Patil had planned to join the BJP along with former state minister Baswaraj Murumkar, an aide of Shivraj Patil, on Monday, but postponed the plan due to her daughter's wedding.

Shivraj Patil was Union Home Minister between 2004 and 2008 in the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government.

AAP alleges link between Delhi liquor policy case traders, BJP

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): The AAP on Saturday claimed there was a link between one of the witnesses in the Delhi liquor policy case and the BJP, and challenged the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to initiate an investigation into it.

Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, whose son Raghava Magunta Reddy was arrested by the ED in the liquor policy case, has been fielded by the BJP's ally, Telugu Desam Party (TDP), in the Lok Sabha polls, senior AAP leaders and Delhi ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj said in a press conference.

"I challenge the ED if it is an independent agency to bring in record this connection and probe it," Atishi said, adding that the BJP had "alleged" connections with the so-called 'South Lobby' of liquor traders.

"(Delhi Chief Minister Arvind) Kejriwal was arrested based on four statements, including



by the Maguntas," the AAP leaders claimed.

On March 21, Kejriwal was arrested by the ED in the liquor policy case. He is presently in ED custody till April 1.

"Earlier, another witness against Kejriwal in the excise policy case, Sarath Reddy, had paid Rs 55 crore to the BJP through electoral bonds which proves the party has a connection with the 'South Lobby'," Atishi further alleged.

She asserted that the ED had been "tortur-

ing" the witnesses till it got statements from them against Kejriwal.

Reacting to the questioning of Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot by the ED in the liquor policy case, Atishi said that more AAP leaders may be summoned and "we are not afraid of going to jail".

"They may summon me, Bharadwaj and other AAP leaders and arrest us, but we are not scared of going to jail," she said.

She also said Kejriwal's arrest was an "assault on democracy" in the country and the INDIA bloc had opposed it.

The BJP did not respond to AAP's allegations at the time of writing this story.

Meanwhile, the INDIA bloc will hold a 'maha rally' in Delhi's Ramliya Maidan as a mark of protest against Kejriwal's arrest on March 31 (Sunday). Several leaders, including those from AAP, Congress and Trinamool Congress, are expected to attend the rally.

Woman Caught With 24 Laptops She Stole From Bengaluru Paying Guesthouses



BENGALURU, Mar 30 (Agencies): Bengaluru police have arrested a 29-year-old woman from Rajasthan for allegedly stealing laptops from multiple paying guest accommodations across the city since 2022.

According to Bengaluru Police Commissioner, B Dayananda, "The woman identified as Jassu Agarwal was arrested with 24 laptops worth 10 lakh."

Sharing details about the thefts, the Police Commissioner said,

"A laptop, charger and mouse were stolen from a rented house under the HAL police station and a case was registered at the HAL police station in October last year."

The official further said that the investigation of the case was carried out and the accused woman was arrested and interrogated at length.

Subsequently, the woman, identified as Jassu Agarwal, was arrested with 24 laptops worth 10 lakh. The theft included 3 laptop cases

of 1 HAL station each from Koramangala and Indiranagar.

As per details, the Rajasthan woman used to conduct the robberies in paying guests (PG) around software company localities and PG areas of the city such as Tin Factory, Marathahalli, Bellandur, Silkboard Hebbala, Whitefield, Mahadevpur, etc.

It was revealed during the investigation that the stolen laptops were being sold to laptop shops in Marathahalli, Yalahanka and Hebbal by the accused, said the official.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Whitefield Division, Sivakumar, under the guidance of the HAL Police Inspector and others, have succeeded in cracking the case against the accused.

Court in Kerala acquits 3 RSS workers in Madrassa teacher murder case

KASARAGOD, Mar 30 (Agencies): A court here on Saturday acquitted three RSS activists in a case relating to the murder of a Madrassa teacher inside a mosque in the district in 2017.

Kasaragod Principal Sessions court judge K K Balakrishnan acquitted the three accused in the case.

The detailed verdict of the case is yet to come out.

Thirty four-year old Mohammed Riyas Maulavi, a muez-zin (person who proclaims the Islamic call to prayer) and madrassa teacher from nearby Choori was found murdered

in his room in the mosque on March 20, 2017.

His throat was allegedly slit by a gang which had entered the compound of Muhayuddin Juma masjid of Choori.

Canada's Trudeau on back foot over carbon tax

Seven provinces have asked the government to pause or cancel the increase, which would add about three cents per liter (quarter gallon) to the price of gasoline.

OTTAWA, Mar 30 (Agencies): Polluters should pay up, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau insists. But pressure is mounting to scrap his signature climate policy, a federal levy on CO2 emissions, as ordinary Canadians see the law increase their own cost of living.

The levy, applied to a myriad of fossil fuels used by both industry and consumers, is scheduled to rise from Can\$64 to Can\$80 (US\$48 to US\$59) per metric ton of carbon on April 1, in a bid to see Canadians slash their total carbon emissions by 40-45 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

But it's adding to household costs at the same time that people are feeling the bite from inflation.

Seven provinces have asked the government to pause or cancel the increase, which would add about three cents per liter (quarter gallon) to the price of gasoline.

Newfoundland Premier Andrew Furey -- a liberal from Trudeau's own party -- was the latest this month to join his conservative peers in seeking a reprieve "at least until inflation stabilizes."

Saskatchewan, meanwhile, is refusing to collect and remit the tax to Ottawa.

In some ways Trudeau has already caved to pressure, issuing in October a three-year exemption of the tax on home heating oil. The Atlantic region, where 24 Liberal House of Commons seats are at stake, benefits the most from



the change.

In parliament recently, a mushroom farmer's hefty gas bill became the focal point of sparring match between Trudeau and his main rival, conservative leader Pierre Poilievre -- who vowed to "axe the tax" if he defeats the Liberals in elections next year.

Mike Medeiros paid Can\$16,668.39 for the federal carbon tax on his February natural gas bill that hit a total of Can\$62,441.95.

His Osgoode, Ontario, farm employs 160 workers producing 200,000 pounds of mushrooms per week, and uses 1.3 million cubic meters of natural gas per year to sterilize and control the heat and humidity in 50 growing rooms.

By contrast, the average Canadian home uses 2,400 cubic meters of gas.

By the time the carbon tax increases to \$170, set for 2030, "our carbon tax costs for heating alone will be half a million dollars," Medeiros told agency. "I can't absorb that cost."

Climate disasters

Ottawa has rolled out more than 10 climate plans since 1990 but all have failed to achieve their goals, making Canada an outlier among G7 nations, with its greenhouse gas emissions rising 13.9 percent to 670 megatonnes from 1990 to 2021.

The environment commissioner in November said its latest efforts could also fall short of the 2030 target, despite government assurances.

According to the Angus Reid Institute, a public opinion research group, Canada's soaring cost of living is the top concern for 56 percent of Canadians, outweighing climate change, which polls as the top concern for 31 percent of respondents.

And 40 percent of those polled want the carbon tax abolished versus only 27 percent who say it should increase as planned.

Ottawa waitress Rima Sab, 54, said she doesn't like paying the federal levy, but supports it.

"The carbon tax sucks. But climate change sucks more,"

she said. "If we don't do something now, what will be left for my kids?"

During a visit to oil-rich Alberta, Trudeau called out "short-term thinker politicians" opposed to the levy that is projected to account for one third of Canada's emissions reductions, telling reporters "doing the right things today... will deliver a better future."

In a letter to wayward provinces, he said carbon pricing is "the most efficient way to reduce emissions across the economy" while adding only 0.1 percent to inflation.

Most Canadians get a carbon rebate or "more money back than they pay," he added, while "the devastating effects of floods, wildfires and droughts are escalating costs annually" for all.

On the heels of Canada's worst ever fire season that saw more than 18 million hectares (45 million acres) scorched and 200,000 people displaced last summer, 2024 disaster preparations have already started -- months earlier than usual.

The Liberals last week survived a no-confidence vote over the carbon tax.

Still, Lori Turnbull, a Dalhousie University politics professor, doesn't think the next election can be won by championing climate action.

"People are feeling the pinch at the grocery store, at the pump, on their rent or mortgage, and so a carbon tax hike risks making the government look tone-deaf on the affordability crisis," she warned.

Bulgarian Cruiser With 160 Onboard Crashes Into Wall On Danube In Austria

VIENNA, Mar 30 (Agencies): Eleven people were injured when a Bulgarian cruise ship crashed into a concrete wall in a sluice on the River Danube in the northern Austrian town of Aschach an der Donau overnight, local police said on Saturday.

Some 160 passengers were aboard the ship traveling from Bavaria in Germany to the Austrian city of Linz, a spokesperson for police in the nearby

town of Eferding said.

The 11 injured were taken to hospital and the ship was able to continue onwards after the accident, the spokesperson said.

It was not immediately clear how serious the injuries were, the spokesperson said.

Local media said another six people suffered lesser injuries that did not require hospital treatment.

State of emergency in Canada's Niagara as it braces for record influx of solar eclipse viewers



ONTARIO, Mar 30 (Agencies): Ontario's Niagara Region has declared a state of emergency as it prepares to welcome up to a million visitors for the solar eclipse in early April.

The total solar eclipse on April 8 will be the first to touch the province since 1979, and Niagara Falls was declared

by National Geographic to be one of the best places to see it.

The city is in the path of totality, where the moon will entirely block the sun's rays for a few minutes. Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said earlier in March that he expects the most visitors his city has ever seen in a single day.

The regional municipi-

pality of Niagara is proactively invoking a state of emergency to prepare for the event.

The declaration announced Thursday sets in motion some additional planning tools to prepare for the day, which could involve major traffic jams, heavier demands on emergency services and cell phone network overloads.

The eclipse will reach Mexico's Pacific coast in the morning, cut diagonally across the United States from Texas to Maine, and exit in eastern Canada by late afternoon. Most of the rest of the continent will see a partial eclipse.

Several held hostage at club in Dutch town by man with 'weapons, explosives'

DUTCH, Mar 30 (Agencies): Several people were taken hostage at a club in the eastern Dutch town of Ede on Saturday by a man with weapons and explosives, reported news agency, citing a local newspaper. Police said 150 homes have been evacuated in the area and special units had been deployed to the scene.

People have been asked to stay away from the area. Police in a statement said there is no indication that the hostage situation has a terrorist angle, according to agency.

The 'Petticoat night club' is located in the



centre of the town, reported the news agency.

It added that a remote-controlled robot, anti-explosives units and police are at the scene.

Trains to and from Ede have been cancelled. Further, the municipality said all shops in the center of Ede would remain closed, reported news agency.

Pakistan International Airlines suspends crew member after being detained in Canada

ISLAMABAD, Mar 30 (Agencies): Pakistan's ailing flag carrier PIA has suspended a crew member after she was briefly detained by Canadian customs authorities along with two others for carrying the passport of an unrelated person, according to a media report on Saturday.

The incident comes as Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) grapples with flight attendants' disappearances amid a crew shortage.

Hina Sani was detained along with two other crew members who were also on duty with her on flight PK-789 from Lahore to Toronto, the Dawn newspaper reported.



However, the three crew members were later freed and allowed to travel back to Pakistan following investigations.

Later, the PIA management suspended Sani and announced it would take further action in line with the Canadian

customs' investigation report, the report said.

It is against international law to carry someone else's passport while travelling abroad.

PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez Khan said the airline management was in touch with the Canadian authorities

and cooperating with them in the case. He said the suspended crew member would face further departmental and legal action in light of the Canadian authorities' inquiry report.

The spokesman said the three female crew members freed by the Canadian customs authorities after investigation would return to Pakistan on Saturday.

Last month, PIA crew member Maryam Raza, who was on duty, slipped away after landing in Canada. According to the PIA, at least eight flight attendants disappeared over the last year and a half.

They have abandoned their jobs and are

believed to have sought asylum in Canada, a spokesperson for the government-owned airline told Canada's CTV News.

PIA spokesman Khan said at least eight flight attendants "have gone missing" after flying to Pearson International Airport in Toronto.

He said these incidents have been happening over the last 10 years, but are now occurring more frequently.

"Since probably October of 2022, the number of the people that have opted for asylum has increased tremendously," Khan said in an interview with CTV News from Karachi, where the airline is based.

Bulgaria, Romania take first steps into Europe's vast visa-free zone

Despite the partial membership, the lifting of controls at the two countries' air and sea borders is of significant symbolic value.

BUCHAREST, Mar 30 (Agencies): After 13 years of waiting, Bulgaria and Romania are to partially join the Europe's vast Schengen area of free movement on Sunday, opening up travel by air and sea without border checks.

But land border controls will remain in place due to Austria's opposition to the eastern European countries becoming full members of the Schengen zone for fear of an influx of asylum seekers.

Despite the partial membership, the lifting of controls at the two countries' air and sea borders is of significant symbolic value.

Admission to Schengen is an "important milestone" for Bulgaria and Romania, sym-

bolising a "question of dignity, of belonging to the European Union," according to foreign policy analyst Stefan Popescu.

"Any Romanian who had to walk down a lane separate from other European citizens felt being treated differently," he told agency.

Ivan Petrov, a 35-year-old Bulgarian marketing executive who lives in France, said he was enthusiastic about less stressful travelling and the time he would be able to save.

- And they were 29 - With Bulgaria and Romania joining from Sunday, the Schengen zone will comprise 29 members -- 25 of the 27 European Union member states, as well as Switzerland, Norway,



Iceland and Liechtenstein.

According to the Romanian government, Schengen rules will apply to four sea ports and 17 airports, with the country's Otopeni airport near the capi-

tal Bucharest serving as the biggest hub for Schengen flights.

More staff ranging from border police to immigration officers will be deployed to airports to "support passengers and detect those who

want to take advantage to leave Romania illegally," the government said.

Random checks will also be carried out to expose people with false documents and combat human traffick-

ing, including of minors.

Bulgaria and Romania both hope to fully integrate into Schengen by the end of the year, but Austria has so far only relented about allowing them to join by air and sea.

Croatia, which joined the EU after Romania and Bulgaria, beat them in January 2023 by becoming Schengen's 27th member.

Created in 1985, more than 400 million people can travel freely inside the Schengen area without internal border controls.

- 'Irreversible process'

While some have reason to celebrate, truck drivers, faced with endless queues at the borders with their European neighbours, feel

left out.

Earlier this month, one of Romania's main road transporter unions called for "urgent measures" to achieve full Schengen integration as soon as possible, deploring huge financial losses caused by the long waits.

"Romanian hauliers have lost billions of euros every year, just because of long waiting times at borders," secretary general Radu Dinescu said.

According to the union, truckers usually wait eight to 16 hours at the border with Hungary, and from 20 to 30 hours at the Bulgarian border, with peaks of three days.

Bulgarian businesses have also voiced their anger over the slow

progress.

"Only three percent of Bulgarian goods are transported by air and sea, the remaining 97 percent by land," said Vasil Velev, president of the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA).

"So we're at three percent in Schengen and we don't know when we'll be there with the other 97 percent," he told agency.

Bucharest and Sofia have both said that there will be no going back.

"There is no doubt that this process is irreversible," Romanian Interior Minister Catalin Predoiu said this month, adding it "must be completed by 2024 with the extension to land borders".

Tech layoffs March 2024: Apple, Dell, IBM and other companies cut jobs

KOCHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): Tech layoffs March 2024: The technology industry saw layoffs in the month of March as major companies downsized their workforces amid challenges faced by the sector. Ericsson, Dell and Apple saw job cuts in March due to various factors. While Ericsson cut 1,200 jobs in Sweden amid declining demand for 5G equipment, Dell reduced its workforce as part of cost-cutting measures.

Ericsson layoffs: Ericsson announced that it will lay off about 1,200 employees in Sweden as



demand for 5G network equipment slowed down. The cuts are a part of the Swedish telecom giant's cost-saving plan for 2024. Ericsson cited expectations of a "challenging mobile networks market" this year and had laid off 8,500 workers, or 8% of its workforce, last

year as well.

Dell layoffs: Dell cut its workforce as part of broader cost-cutting measures, the company said. In February, Dell's headcount stood at nearly 1,20,000, which is down from about 1,26,000 in 2023. The layoffs come at a

time when there is slow demand for Dell's PCs which resulted in a 11% drop in Q4 revenue.

Apple layoffs: Bloomberg reported that Apple ceased its internal efforts to develop microLED displays for a future Apple Watch model owing to which it reorganised its display engineering teams and laid off several dozen employees across the United States and Asia.

IBM layoffs: International Business Machines Corp (IBM) announced layoffs without informing about the specific number of job cuts in

the company's marketing and communications division. The decision was disclosed in a seven-minute meeting by Jonathan Adashek, the chief communications officer at IBM, CNBC reported citing unnamed sources.

Turnitin layoffs: Plagiarism detection firm Turnitin laid off around 15 people earlier this year, TechCrunch reported after the company's CEO Chris Caren said last year that Artificial Intelligence would enable Turnitin to reduce its engineering headcount by 20% within 18 months.

22 laid off US techies claim TCS replaced them with Indian H1-B visa holders

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): A group of Americans have accused their former employer, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), of replacing them with Indian staff on H1-B visas, said a report.

At least 22 Americans have filed complaints with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) against the Indian tech giant, reported The Wall Street Journal.

The laid off US citizens include White, Asian and Hispanic Americans aged in the range of 40s and 60s and many if they are graduated in MBA or other advanced degrees.



The complainants claimed that TCS targeted them on the basis of their age and race and even went on to allege that TCS gave "preferential treatment" to H1-B visa-holders from India. Responding to the claims, a TCS repre-

sentative told WSJ that the allegations are "meritless and misleading". TCS has "a strong record of being an equal opportunity employer in the US, acting with integrity in its operations," added the spokesperson.

Procurement through centre's GeM portal crosses Rs 4 trillion mark in FY24



NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): The procurement of goods and services through the centre's Government e-Market (GeM) portal has crossed Rs 4 trillion so far this fiscal as buying activities by various ministries and departments have picked up pace, a senior government official said on Friday, March 29.

Currently, government departments, ministries, public sector units (PSUs), state governments, and central armed police forces are allowed to carry out transactions through this portal. The portal provides a wide range of products from office stationery to vehicles. Automobiles, computers, and office furniture are some of the major product categories that are purchased by the

government bodies for their use.

The GeM portal was launched on August 9, 2016, for online purchases of goods and services by all central government ministries and departments with the objective to bring transparency and competitiveness to procurement activities.

GeM CEO P K Singh, at a press briefing, said that as of March 28, the procurement has crossed Rs 4 trillion and that the procurement of services from the portal has jumped from Rs 66,000 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 2.05 trillion so far in FY24. The procurement value had crossed Rs 2 trillion last financial year.

Singh said that the procurement of services from the portal has jumped from Rs 66,000

crore in 2022-23 to Rs 2.05 trillion so far this fiscal. Meanwhile, goods worth Rs 1.95 trillion have been bought from the platform till March 28 this fiscal.

Notably, GeM has over 63,000 government buyer organizations and over 6.2 million sellers and service providers offering a wide range of products and services.

South Korea's KONEPS is the largest such platform in the world. GeM stands at the third position after Singapore's GeBiz. States or Union Territories such as Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Odisha, Bihar, Assam, and Uttarakhand have placed significant procurement orders in the current fiscal.

Zee lays off 50% staff at its Bengaluru-based Technology and Innovation Centre

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): Zee Entertainment on Friday said it has "pruned" its Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC) by about 50 per cent following the guidance of a special committee, which had conducted a critical assessment of its several business verticals.

The MD & CEO has pruned TIC staff strength by 50 per cent to achieve a cost-effective structure, a Bengaluru-based business vertical of the company that offers technology solutions, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) said in an official statement.

Though the company has not shared the exact number of employees impacted by the move, ZEEL in its latest annual report said, "The centre has over 650 engineers who give us an unparalleled edge in the race to win the digital ecosystem."

ZEEL has formed a monthly management mentorship, called 3M Program, which will guide



and enable the management team to achieve key performance metrics.

"Basis the guidance received from the board during the recently conducted 3M Program, the MD & CEO (Punit Goenka) has pruned the TIC's structure by approximately 50 per cent and streamlined its scope of work," ZEEL said in the statement.

Going forward, TIC will maintain a sharper focus on enhancing the overall content creation, distribution and monetisation process for the company by utilising technology-led tools to gain deeper insights into consumer preferences, it said.

"We are laser-focused

towards creating exceptional content that is rich and engaging for our viewers. We have a huge responsibility on our hands to live up to the expectations of billions of viewers across the globe and we will continue to win their hearts... To achieve this, we need the blend of a creative approach, detailed consumer insights and futuristic technology," said Goenka.

Earlier this week, ZEEL had said the committee conducted a detailed analysis of TIC, which had incurred an expenditure of about Rs 600 crore last year.

The committee has advised to "reduce the

expenditure at the TIC by 50 per cent, for the Financial Year 2024-25 and utilise its services to enhance the company's content development, distribution, and monetisation approach.

Though TIC has developed a substantial level of technology and tools, it needs to focus on return on investment, it said.

The committee further advised the management to "stay focused on its core expertise, ethos and DNA ie. content" and to utilise the services of TIC to enhance its content development and distribution process.

"It has also advised that the management should leverage the TIC's Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) tools to gain a deeper insight into the consumer profiles," it had said.

ZEEL had recently announced a strategic realignment of its revenue vertical, that is being directly driven by the MD & CEO.

Earlier this month, in an investor's conference

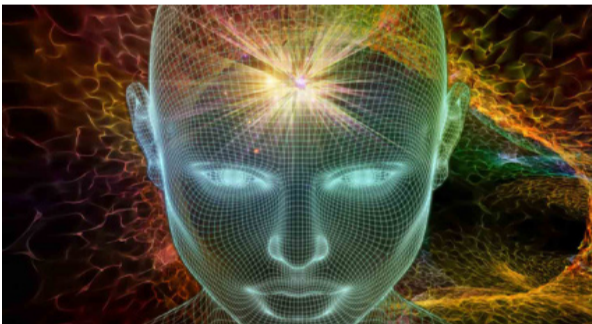
call, Zee Chairman had said since 2020, ZEEL's performance has been impacted due to industry-wide macro slowdown, transitory issues, and management bandwidth constraints due to merger activities.

The board has also decided to closely monitor the business model and plan presented by the MD & CEO of the company, wherein he has provided the roadmap to improve the performance and efficiency of each of the businesses to achieve higher EBITDA.

Zee had earlier announced a merger with Sony Pictures Network India that would have created a USD 10.5 billion media entity in the country. However, it was called off the Sony Group in January, and both sides are mired in litigation and arbitration.

Last month, ZEEL reported a 2.36 per cent decline in consolidated total income to Rs 2,073.36 crore for the third quarter of the current fiscal year.

Neuroscientists uncover mechanism for memory consolidation



NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): Neuroscientists from NYU Grossman School of Medicine have uncovered a fascinating mechanism that determines which memories are deemed important enough to be permanently etched into the brain. This mechanism, detailed in a study published in the prestigious journal Science on March 28, sheds light on the intricate processes at play when the brain decides which experiences to retain and which to discard.

The study, led by senior author György Buzsáki, the Biggs Professor of Neuroscience in the Department of Neuroscience and Physiology at NYU Langone Health, delves into the intricate workings of brain cells known as neurons. These neurons are responsible for encoding memories by transmitting electrical signals through rhythmic cycles of firing, creating complex sequences of signals within the brain's hippocampus region.

At the heart of this mechanism are "sharp wave-ripples," which are essentially the simultaneous firing of 15 per cent of hippocampal neurons. These sharp wave-ripples, aptly named for the

distinctive shape they take when captured by electrodes and recorded on a graph, have been linked to the formation of memories during sleep. The new study, however, unveils a crucial finding: daytime events immediately followed by five to 20 sharp wave-ripples are more likely to be replayed during sleep and thus consolidated into permanent memories, while events followed by very few or no sharp wave-ripples tend to fade away.

Dr. Buzsáki says, "Our study finds that sharp wave-ripples are the physiological mechanism used by the brain to 'decide' what to keep and what to discard." This discovery represents a significant step forward in understanding the intricate processes governing memory consolidation and retention.

The study is rooted in the observation that mammals, including humans, experience the world in brief intervals followed by pauses, a pattern that forms the basis for the brain's computation and assessment of experiences. The research team, building on their prior work, observed that sharp wave-ripples occur during these idle pauses

after waking experiences, with the tagged neuronal patterns reactivated during post-task sleep.

Importantly, sharp wave-ripples are constituted by the firing of hippocampal "place cells" in a specific order that encodes the layout of environments, such as rooms or maze arms. These cells play a pivotal role in the reactivation of memories during sleep, effectively "playing back the recorded event thousands of times per night," which serves to strengthen the connections between the cells involved.

The study's findings were underpinned by meticulous tracking of successive maze runs by study mice, using electrodes to monitor the firing patterns of hippocampal cells during waking pauses and subsequent reactivation during sleep. Notably, sharp wave-ripples were frequently recorded when a mouse paused to indulge in a sugary treat after a maze run, highlighting the brain's shift from exploratory to idle patterns conducive to memory consolidation.

In their quest to unravel the complexities of memory formation, the research team encountered the challenge of recording up to 500 neurons simultaneously in the hippocampus of animals during maze runs. However, by reducing the dimensions in the data, they were able to gain a deeper understanding of neuronal activity and form hypotheses without compromising the integrity of the data.

MHT CET 2024 revised dates announced for PCM, LLB, other programme

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): The Maharashtra State Common Entrance Test (MHT CET) Cell has announced the revised date for the MHT CET 2024 for PCM, LLB and other courses. MHT CET 2024 for PCM group was originally scheduled for May 5, which conflicted with NEET UG 2024. To address this, the PCM group exam will now be held from May 2 to 17. There will not be any exam on May 5.

This is the second time, the exam schedule has been revised. The MHT CET PCM group examination will now be conducted between May 2 and May 16, 2024. The MHT CET (PCM and PCB) examinations were initially scheduled to be held between April 16 and April 30, 2024. Then the PCM group exams were rescheduled to



be held between May 2 and May 16 and now, it will be held from May 2 to 17.

According to the revised schedule, MAH 5-year LLB CET 2024 will be held on May 18 instead of May 17 and MH Nursing CET 2024, which was scheduled for May 18, will now be held on May 24 and 25.

The PCB group exam will take place between April 22 and April 30, 2024.

The admit cards for MHT CET will be made available to candidates 10 days before the commencement of the exam. Candidates will require their MHT CET login credentials, including their registration number and date of birth, to access their admit cards.

Candidates are advised to thoroughly review their admit cards, ones receive in case of any discrepancies or errors, candidates are advised to notify the concerned authorities for rectification.

'Diversified investment strategy can minimise risk, cannot completely eliminate it': Corporate Affairs Ministry



MUMBAI, Mar 30 (Agencies): The government on Friday (March 29) advised investors to diversify their investment across different assets as it can help minimise risks, but does not completely eliminate negative returns.

The advisory, posted as "reality check" on social media platform X, was issued by Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), which comes under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and was also shared by the Ministry of Finance.

The ministry also said that investors should keep reviewing their financial plans to align with their financial goals.

The message said a diversified investment strategy can mitigate certain risks, it cannot completely eliminate the potential for negative returns.

Another tweet which was reposted by the

Finance Ministry said that investors should review their financial plan to ensure it aligns with their goals and adjust as needed. As part of financial awareness and finance well-being, investors should regularly educate themselves about personal finance concepts and trends.

According to the tweet, the five mantras of personal finance are income, controlled expenditure, savings, investments and protection.

Over the last few weeks, market regulators have issued several advisories for investors amid concerns of a bubble in small and mid-cap stocks. Stocks of small companies listed on the exchanges have started to show signs of becoming bubbles which, upon bursting, can badly impact investors — and regulators have sounded the warning bells.

Securities and commodity market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had said there is evidence of price manipulation in the initial public offerings (IPOs) and trading in the shares of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and the apex body of mutual funds (MFs), the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI), last month asked fund managers to act proactively to protect the interests of investors.

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) was established in September 2016 by the government for the administration of Investor Education and Protection Fund.

The authority is also entrusted with the responsibility of making refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, matured deposits/debentures etc to investors and to promote awareness among investors.

IPL 2024: Kolkata Knight Riders pummeling reveals lack of variety in Royal Challengers Bengaluru bowling

The match against KKR on Friday offered the latest and largest footprint of this particular weakness as RCB bowlers failed to check set of free-hitting batters while defending 183

BENGALURU, Mar 30 (Agencies): Three matches might be too small a sample size to form an opinion but going by the lack of variety that has been on show in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's bowling attack, they might just be staring at a long, tiring IPL season this year.

The match against Kolkata Knight Riders on Friday offered the latest and the largest footprint of this particular weakness as the RCB bowlers failed to check a set of free-hitting batters while defending 183.

The immediate defence will be to project the presence of dew and an improved M Chinnaswamy pitch during the second innings. But a deep dive will give a different picture.

Defending a total, even a competitive one like 183, demands a tight beginning, however, the RCB bowlers were profligate.

Mohammed Siraj's length ball was walloped over mid-wicket for a six by Phil Salt, and the Englishman was served with two more juicy offerings on the fifth stump which were carted for a six and four each. The first over produced 18 runs.

Alzarri Joseph was introduced in the third over. But the pacer gave Sunil Narine a length ball on leg-stump which was dispatched for a six over long-on and two balls later a short-



pitched delivery was sent in the same direction for a maximum.

These are the balls that will be punished at this level -- dew or no dew, whether it is easy pitch or tough pitch.

There was an exception in Vysakh Vijayakumar who used knuckle balls and pace-off deliveries to good effect to return with excellent figures of 1/23, but the more experienced names were reluctant to bring in those variations -- at least consistently.

"The second innings was slightly better to bat because the ball came on to the bat a bit quicker because of the dew. I was trying to use hard-length balls and short balls banged into the pitch to contain batters," Vijayakumar said in the post-match press conference.

"But it was still gripping from both the ends. We did try to mix it up but they (KKR batters) got away with it."

There's some truth in his words. The stats show that KKR bowlers used 22 balls under 120 kmph and conceded just 20 runs off them to pick up three wickets.

Meanwhile, the RCB bowlers bowled 19 balls under 120 kmph, but gave away 40 runs and could bag only a wicket.

The primary reason for this contrast was the areas where the KKR and RCB bowlers pitched their slower balls as the latter set landed those deliveries predominantly well outside the off-stump or on the leg-side for comfortable pick-ups for batters. It reflected in their cumula-

tive figures on the night too. The three RCB pacers -- Siraj, Joseph and Yash Dayal -- leaked 126 runs from nine overs, while KKR's Mitchell Starc, Harshit Rana and Andre Russell conceded 115 runs from 12 overs for four wickets in return.

But it also tells us that KKR had planned better for the pitch and the bowlers.

"The far end (from Vijayakumar was bowling) was still tricky. But the other end (the media box side) certainly got better and the communication was to target the bowlers from there," said KKR batter Venkatesh Iyer, who made a 30-ball 50.

Unfortunately, RCB did not have enough options, especially in spin department, to try a new run-checking ploy that can lead them to wickets.

"We've tried (Glenn) Maxwell. Finger spinners are effective here but today there wasn't much spin. With KKR having a left-right combination, spinners can find it tricky," RCB captain Faf du Plessis said. "We needed a wrist-spinner who could turn it both ways."

They had two excellent options -- Yuzvendra Chahal and Wanindu Hasaranga -- but chose to let go both of them, and cricket often is unforgiving to such callous decisions.

Madrid Masters: PV Sindhu crashes out in quarters after valiant fight



MADRID, Mar 30 (Agencies): In an electrifying showdown at the Madrid Spain Masters 2024, India's badminton star PV Sindhu displayed remarkable resilience but ultimately succumbed to Thailand's Supanida Katethong in a nail-biting women's singles quarter-final clash. The match, which extended over 77 minutes, saw Sindhu, ranked 11th globally, engage in a fierce battle with the world No. 17 Katethong, with the final scores reading 26-24, 17-21, 20-22 in favor of the Thai player.

The encounter began with Katethong taking an early lead, but Sindhu, known for her fighting spirit, clawed back from an 8-4 deficit to lead 11-8 at the break, after securing seven con-

secutive points. Despite facing game points against her, Sindhu showcased her tenacity by saving five game points in a marathon first game that swung dramatically before she clinched it.

The intensity remained high in the second game, with both players locked at 13-13 at one point. However, Katethong managed to pull ahead and maintained her lead to push the match into a decisive third game.

In the final game, Sindhu initially seemed in control with a 10-5 lead, but Katethong fought back to level the score at 12-12. Gaining momentum, Katethong then surged to a 20-15 lead. Despite a valiant effort from Sindhu, who saved five match points, it was Katethong who

emerged victorious, marking Sindhu's fourth defeat in nine encounters against the Thai shuttler. This loss was particularly poignant as Sindhu had been sidelined for four months due to an injury sustained during a match against Katethong the previous year.

Elsewhere in the tournament, the Indian mixed doubles duo of B Sumeeth Reddy and N Sikki Reddy advanced to the semi-finals with a hard-fought victory over Lisa Ayu Kusumawati and Rehan Kusharjanto, setting up a clash with Indonesia's Rinov Rivaldy and Piha Mentari.

However, the journey ended for the third-seeded women's doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa, who were edged out by the sixth-seeded team of Lee Chia Hsin and Teng Chun Hsun from Chinese Taipei.

The men's doubles team from India, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, also faced disappointment as they were narrowly defeated by Malaysia's Junaidi Arif and Yap Roy King in a gripping quarter-final match.

WFI decides to fund itself if suspension continues

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): As the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) could not obtain consensus from its secretary Prem Chand Lochab to hold an annual general meeting, it organised a special general meeting and made a few important amendments to the constitution. According to the constitution, president can call a special general meeting anytime. It was held on the sidelines of the ongoing U-15 and U-20 national championships in Noida.

Neither Lochab nor senior vice president Devender Kadyan -- the two members from another faction who won the elections -- attend the meeting. Kadyan contested as an executive member of the Assam unit but the state body was apparently not recognised by the WFI. The remaining 13 posts were won by the faction, which had the backing of former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.



Incidentally, Karan, son of Brij Bhushan, who is president of the Uttar Pradesh unit, too didn't attend the meeting. Incumbent WFI president Sanjay Kumar Singh and the UP association secretary represented the state. During the meeting, the WFI decided to arrange funds for its functioning, hosting national camps and sending teams abroad if the sports ministry doesn't consider its request to revoke the suspension of the federation.

"The WFI has already sent a request in this regard and will do so again. The United World Wrestling revoked the suspension and even the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) dissolved the ad-hoc committee formed to

manage WFI's affairs so the WFI should be recognised by the ministry as well. But if suspension continues, the WFI will have no option but to arrange funds and run its affairs," a source in the know of developments told this daily. Notably, the government grants funds for training, competitions and foreign exposure trips of the wrestlers under heads like the Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC).

Apart from this, a few key amendments were also made to the constitution. The WFI decided that from now on a candidate contesting for the second time but for a different post would not be required to win by a two-third majority or more. Another change is the removal of a clause from the constitution that made it mandatory for a state unit to obtain recognition from its respective state Olympic body to get affiliation from the WFI.

Battle of Unequals: Delhi Capitals needs Prithvi Shaw boost against formidable Chennai Super Kings

VISAKHAPATNAM, Mar 30 (Agencies): Delhi Capitals will be aiming to rejig their out-of-depth batting order by bringing in the flamboyant Prithvi Shaw in the mix against defending champions Chennai Super Kings, in what could be safely termed as a 'battle of unequals' on Sunday's Indian Premier League match.

In T20 format, reputations do go for a toss but DC in their last four meetings haven't been able to get past CSK and the margins of defeat -- 91, 27 and 77 runs respectively paints a sorry picture. One also needs to take into account that in those three heavy losses, the core of the Delhi team has been more or less the same, save their last meeting when Rishabh Pant wasn't available.

Hence a win against CSK would be considered as a big upset in the tournament.

If CSK once again looks like a team to beat with all its bases nicely covered, it has been quite the opposite for the Ricky Ponting-coached DC, which has been outplayed in both departments of the game.

DC's co-owners GMR and JSW have been completely messing up the team composition at the auction table itself for some years and there is hardly anything that Ponting or Director of Cricket Sourav Ganguly could do with domestic talent



that lacks quality. CSK got an uncapped Sameer Rizvi for Rs 8.40 crore and the two sixes in his first IPL innings against Punjab Kings showed why the franchise was desperate to get him on board.

Among all franchises, DC probably has had the weakest talent scout program and it is paying a huge price.

The gulf between domestic cricket and IPL once again became evident with Ricky Bhui, the highest scorer in Ranji Trophy with 902 runs in the just-concluded season, fairs poorly in their last game.

That Bhui is out-of-depth at this level was cruelly exposed by young South African pacer Nandre Burger of Rajasthan Royals.

The manner in which he set up with a fast full delivery to peg Bhui on the backfoot and then a well-directed bouncer that was aimed for his skull left the burly Andhra captain both scared and

scarred. Shaw, who made a comeback to competitive cricket during second half of Ranji Trophy, might not exactly conform to the fitness standards set by Ponting and his support staff but even the most biggest 'punter' in the DC change room knows where to put his money if the choice is between Shaw and Bhui.

There is too much on the plate of David Warner, who is well past his prime and skipper Pant, who will take some time to find his groove.

Mitchell Marsh's time with DC for the past two seasons can't exactly be termed consistent and the presence of Shaw will indeed add some muscle to DC's batting against an attack comprising Mustafizur Rahman, Deepak Chahar, Matheesha Pathirana and Ravindra Jadeja.

Add to it, there is Daryl Mitchell's seam-up stuff and Rachin Ravindra, whose bowling potential hasn't been unlocked by

CSK's 'spiritual captain' Mahendra Singh Dhoni yet.

If DC bring in Shaw, they can push Marsh as one down, which could lend a bit more solidity to the top-order but the real challenge will be facing the pace-off deliveries bowled by Mustafizur, who cleverly mixes his variety of cutters to make life miserable for the batters.

The problem with DC is lack of quality power hitters among domestic talents in case Pant fails to fire and also there isn't much difference between Shai Hope and Tristan Stubbs, both of whom take time before going for the jugular.

Similarly DC's death bowling is also a concern and save Axar Patel, whose economy rate is less than six in two games, none of the other bowlers have gone for anything less than 7.50 per over.

Anrich Nortje couldn't hit the right length in the Royals game where DC lost it in the last five overs of their bowling innings.

DC would need Ishant Sharma to come back as he could pose some questions for Ravindra, who has started the tournament in imperious fashion.

Shivam Dube's pyrotechnics will meet its match in Kuldeep Yadav's guile and that will be one battle that cricket lovers would be waiting for.

Chirag Shetty-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy Break Saina Nehwal's BWF Number One Ranking Record

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (Agencies): The top-ranked Indian men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has overtaken the record of Saina Nehwal for spending the most number of weeks at number one in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) world ranking by an Indian. The hard-hitting duo, which has secured several landmark BWF titles and other championship wins/medals since 2022, has been at the top for 10 weeks. Nehwal, who held the previous record,

secured the top position on August 18, 2015, and stayed there for nine weeks till October 21, 2015, as per Olympics.com.

The Asian Games champions secured the top spot this year after they made it to the finals of the China Open, Malaysia Open and India Open. A French Open title win solidified their stronghold of the number one ranking.

The ranking system takes into account the 10 highest-scoring events by a player/pair in the preceding 52 weeks.



Currently, Chirag-Satwik have 1,02,303 points to their name on the leaderboard and are over 5,000 points clear of the second-ranked South Korean pair of

Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae.

In October last year, following their triumph at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, 'Sat-Chi' became the first Indian

doubles pair ever to reach to the top of the BWF Rankings. But they could hold the top spots for just three weeks.

In the men's singles, Kidambi Srikanth reached the top in April 2018 but could last only a week there.

Legendary shuttler Prakash Padukone, the first-ever Indian to secure the prestigious All England Open title in 1980 was regarded as number one during his prime, but the computerised ranking point systems came much later in the sport.

Arsenal eager to end winless drought at City

LONDON, Mar 30 (Agencies): Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta wants his team to enjoy the moment in Sunday's Premier League clash against a Manchester City side he believes have pushed the level of the game globally and who have the world's best coach in Pep Guardiola.

Arsenal, who face an anxious wait to see if Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Magalhaes will be fit for the match, top the Premier League table with 10 games to go in



a nail-biting title race on 64 points, while holders City are third on 63. Liverpool are second with 64.

A victory would end Arsenal's nine-year winless drought at the

Etihad and be a massive boost to their title hopes. "We've done a lot already to be in the position that we are and now we have to embrace and enjoy the moment and go for it," Arteta said. "(City) have raised the bar in this league, I think in football in general, to a level that hadn't been seen before," he added.

"And that's the beauty of the sport, that makes you better, that challenges you more and you have to keep up with that pace. And that's what we are trying to do," he added.

Congress District Jammu Rural team holds workers meeting

Widespread anger towards Modi Govt throughout country: Badrinath

Top News Report

RS PURA, Mar 30: Congress District Jammu Rural Working President Badrinath Sharma on Saturday targeted the and the Centre for spreading confusion among the masses and said that the BJP will never understand the pain of poverty.

"Congress understands what poverty is and works wholeheartedly for the poor and farmers. But the BJP cannot even think about the work that the Congress party does for villages, poor laborers and farmers. They just spread confusion," Sharma said while addressing workers meeting in wake of JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla's nomination filing on 2-4-2024 at DC Office Jammu in shape of huge rally at Kotli Shah Doula in RS Pura Jammu South constituency.



Speaking on the occasion, Sharma said people are fed up with the false promises made to them by the Prime Minister and there is a lot of resentment against the BJP. It will reflect in the upcoming elections, he claimed. He accused the government of looting money from the common people in the name of GST (Goods and Services Tax) and distributing it among its favourite businessmen. The government promoted unemployment in the name of privatisation. The BJP is working on a system to destroy small regional parties and the

government is suppressing democratic values, he said, citing the recent Chandigarh mayoral election where the Supreme Court raised serious objections over the process.

Sharma said Congress is confident of putting up a good show in the upcoming elections as there is widespread anger towards the Modi Government. He said that there is strong resentment among people of Jammu region towards BJP which has miserably failed to address even basic issues of the people of the area.

He said that majority of people maintained that no new developments but only facelifts of previous works were done in the area. "BJP was in power at the Centre and in the erstwhile J&K State too, it was easy for the party to forward issues of common masses through their Government in the State to the Union Ministry concerned, for mitigating the sufferings of people but they took them casually," Sharma said.

Sharma pointed out that there was total chaos and confusion among people as BJP leadership has failed to remove peoples' apprehensions. "On the one hand, there is complete uncertainty in J&K, while on the other hand people are confronting with failure of the administration to solve day today problems", he said, adding that most parts of the city are facing scarcity

of potable water and power.

He blamed BJP for betraying the people of Jammu on the issue of statehood and misleading the people on various emotive issues. He asserted that BJP Government has betrayed people of Jammu by reducing status of a state to union territory and Govt is also not coming clear on many issues. Sharma said that only Congress is a secular party and never believes in caste, creed and colour. He claimed that it is only Congress which can keep the whole J&K united. He said that it is most unfortunate that the common people have no medium to raise their voice for their basic necessities due to the neglect of the BJP representatives. The people have to come on roads to express their anger and seek redressal of their genuine grievances.

JKNPP (Bhim) appoints Hakim Arif Ali as Election Incharge for three Parliamentary Constituencies

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) on Saturday announced the appointment of Hakim Arif Ali as the Election Incharge for the crucial Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri parliamentary constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir.

The decision was made by Vilakshan Singh, President of J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim), in a move aimed at strengthening the party's presence and strategy in these key regions.

Hakim Arif Ali brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise in political campaigns and election management. His proven track record in grassroots organizing and mobilization makes him a valuable addition to the party's leadership team as they gear up for the upcoming elections in the state.

In his new role, Hakim Arif Ali will be responsible for overseeing the party's election campaign, coordinating with party workers and volunteers, and implementing strategic initiatives to ensure a strong showing in the Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri parliamentary constituencies.

Vilakshan expressed confidence in Hakim Arif Ali's abilities and leader-



ship qualities, stating, "We are pleased to have Hakim Arif Ali on board as the Election Incharge for these crucial parliamentary constituencies. His dedication, commitment, and strategic acumen will be instrumental in driving our party's electoral success in the region."

Utilizing Hakim Arif Ali's experience and vision, J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) aims to connect with voters, address their concerns, and present a compelling vision for the better future of Jammu & Kashmir.

CBC and PIB Jammu bid farewell to Accountant Shobha on her retirement after 4-decade long service



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) and the Press Information Bureau (PIB) bid warm adieu to Ms. Shobha Gupta Ji who attained superannuation after an illustrious career of more than 40 years, at a function held in Conference Hall of PIB here today. Speaking on the occasion, Director, CBC/PIB, Shri Ghulam Abbas stressed the importance of maintaining discipline in both one's professional as well as in private life. "A disciplined

life is always fruitful and fulfilling", he stated. Shri Abbas also underscored the significance of striking a right work-life balance by a government employee in order to discharge his or her official duties and fulfill commitments of domestic life, without the former compromising the latter.

The Director commended Ms Shobha for her rendering exemplary services during her career, saying her vast experience she gained from her postings in various government departments enriched the CBC. He also hailed her for her

professionalism, punctuality and dedication to the service, adding that she was the go-to person for her colleagues to seek advice on official matters.

Among others, the function was attended by Media and Communication Officer, PIB, Shri Zakir Nazeer, several Field Publicity Officers, officials and staff of CBC and PIB.

It is pertinent to mention that Smt. Shobha Ji has rendered more than 41 years of service in CBC. Her first appointment was in Field Office Udhampur in the year 1982. During her service career, she has served in Udhampur, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Jammu. In Udhampur, she was posted from 1982 to February 2015. Later, she joined Regional Office, Jammu on 20th February, 2015. After her promotion to the post of Accountant, she was posted in Bengaluru in 2019, where she served for two months. Afterwards, she was transferred from Bengaluru to Chandigarh where she was posted as an accountant for a month.

Congress appoints Rissam as Chairman J&K RGPRS

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: J&K Congress leader, Sandeep Singh Rissam has been assigned the new responsibility as Chairman of Congress Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan (RGPRS). In a communique issued by All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary (Organisation) & Member of Parliament K.C. Venugopal, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the appointment of Sandeep Singh Rissam as Chairperson of J&K unit of RGPRS with immediate effect. It is pertinent to mention here that Sandeep started his journey with NSUI and was elected as State General Secretary in J&K Pradesh Youth Congress and also served as Spokesperson & Media Incharge of J&K Youth Congress.

He also worked in National Team of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) as Co-Incharge of Delhi Pradesh Youth Congress, Training Incharge of Punjab & Himachal Pradesh Youth Congress and Training Coordinator of AICC trainings department. Due to his



organisational experience in the recently concluded Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections Sandeep was appointed as AICC Observer. In the past congress party had also given him various assembly election duties in the state of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and J&K.

Rissam after his appointment has thanked Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi under whose guidance Congress is bringing forward youth from non political background to serve the nation. Sandeep also thanked AICC Gen.Secy K.C. Venugopal, National Chairperson RGPRS Meenakshi Natarajan, PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani and all others who have reposed faith in him and given him the chance to work for party.

KP delegation calls on Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: A delegation of prominent socio-political activists of Kashmiri Pandits under the leadership of M.K.Yogi Senior most leader of the community today called on Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner J&K in his office Chamber at Jammu in connection with genuine problems of the migrants facing in exile for their redressal.

The issues highlighted by M.K.Yogi during the meeting before the officer in Chair were bifurcation cases, minor additions/deletions in Ration cards, relief benefits to deserving migrants, allotment of Shops to the deserving unemployed youth in Jagti and other camps, problems of Non-Camp migrants, issuance of Ration slip coupons forthwith, facilitation of filing of M forms of migrants living in Jammu and other parts of the country well in time, awareness about the parliament elections in migrants by way of advertisement and publicity, prompt disposal of migrant problems at various Relief zone offices and streamlining their



work culture fort with. Yogi appealed Relief Commissioner to address these public issues forthwith for the sake of justice and equity and also appealed to conduct public Darbar in camps and non camps for speedy disposal of public grievances.

Dr. Arvind Karwani Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner after giving a patient hearing to the delegation told them that various immediate concrete steps for resolving the genuine problems of migrants have already been taken which will yield the tangled results very shortly and assured them no stone will left unturned in mitigating the genuine aspirations and problems of the community.

He also said they have already chalked out the strategy for conducting

public Darbars in camps and non-camps.

M.K. Yogi and Vinod Pandita also highly appreciated the steps taken by the Relief commissioner overall in the larger interest of the migrants and expressed satisfaction on holding daily public darbar so that on-the-spot resolution of problems is worked out on a prompt note.

The officers who were also present in the meeting were Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma DC Relief Sh Sanjeev ji ACR Relief & Ms Retika Arora ACR Relief.

The others who were part of the delegation were Vinod Pandita, Vishal Jotshi, Vinod Bhat, Moti Lal Pandita, Ashwani Bhat, Rajesh Labroo, Balkrishan Bhat, Virender Sathu, Rattan Bhat, Hira Lal Bhat and others

KDP Wing of DPAP appeals Kashmiri Displaced people to file, fill M.Forms

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: In a joint statement issued by the Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) through its President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piary Lal Pandits, Roop Krishen Koul Vice President, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, Gawhar Wani Spokesperson and Naveen Gosani Youth President have appealed the Kashmiri Displaced People to file and fill their M.Forms or Form 12/C, to get voting rights, as specified by the Notification

issued by the Chief Electoral Officer J&K recently.

The Leaders have appealed the Kashmiri Displaced People to fill their M.Forms for getting votes which is the only right of identity as Kashmiri inhabitance and the only voting right is linked to our right of real residence of Kashmir Valley, and hope that by voting, our Displaced community can now get rid of the genocidal sufferings of last thirty four years.

The Leaders have also appealed the Contesting candidates of Parliamentary Constituencies to visit at Jammu before elec-

tions for seeking votes, as during the past no candidate has visited Displaced people outside valley to seek votes, and this election for the Candidates, the vote of Kashmiri Displaced People will decide the success to a winning candidate.

The Leaders have appealed the Kashmiri Displaced People voters to contact their respective Parliamentary Constituencies candidate to visit Jammu for seeking votes which this year will fetch a good result regarding Kashmiri Displaced People votes.

The Leaders have

appealed the Kashmiri Displaced People voters not to fall preys to some vested agencies while filling their M.Forms, as being our community an intellectual one does not require any help to fill such a petty form and how a particular political party become sympathiser of the community only during elections and whole of the community knows the achievement of that particular political party for mitigation of the sufferings of Displaced People since last ten years

The Leaders have once again appealed the Com-

munity to come and fill M.Form and to vote for a good candidate from whom expectations of resettlement and rehabilitation are felt in a time bound future.

The Leaders have demanded that Election Authorities and Model Officers connected to the Migrant Cells may not support any such procedures being exercised by any Political party indulging intervention for filling M.Forms/Form 12/C involved under garb of so called help with foul motives to disturb the sanctity of free and fair elections.

Rajesh Gupta concerned over rising road accidents in Jammu region

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 30: General secretary of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and media head in Jammu and Kashmir, Rajesh Gupta has expressed deep concern regarding the rising number of road accidents in the region.

In a statement, Gupta specifically referred to the recent Ramban accident, in which 10 persons killed. He held the Administration responsible for rising road accident deaths in the region. The BSP leader said despite repeated road accidents happening every other day the Administration is least bothered about these accidents.

Expressing shock and anguish, Gupta urged the



authorities to implement a preventive strategy to curb accidents rather than relying solely on post-accident measures.

He highlighted the poor condition of roads in hilly areas, emphasizing that their deteriorated state makes them prone to accidents.

Gupta stated that numerous lives have been lost, and many people have

suffered severe injuries due to road accidents in these areas.

Gupta called upon the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to prioritize human lives, emphasizing that a person's life is more valuable than anything else.

He further emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant number of fatalities last year, marking the highest toll in a decade.

Gupta acknowledged that while the conflict in the region often dominates headlines, it is essential to address the issue of road accidents, which disproportionately affects the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.