TOP NEWS OF J&K

NATIONAL



JAMMU, MONDAY, APRIL 01, 2024

ENTERTAINMENT

Anupam Kher offers a sneak peek from set of his upcoming directorial 'Tanvi The Great'



|6

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

be trained in anti-terror

'Hard data on BJP's corruption now

available': Congress targets PM Modi over

his remarks on electoral bond issue

|7

Excise Policy-Linked case | Kejriwal remanded in judicial custody till April 15

came to an end.

tive".

country".

The ED had sought

15-day judicial custody

of Kejriwal, saying he

was "totally uncoopera-

Speaking to reporters

before entering court, the

AAP leader said, "What-

ever the prime minister

is doing(referring to his

arrest) is not good for the

8 |

Vol.-15 Issue-90 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY No new

change in income tax regime from April 1: **FinMin**

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): The finance ministry on Monday said there is no change in the new income tax regime for individuals for the current fiscal year and individual taxpayers can opt out of the regime at the time of filing their ITR. Clarifying on social media posts claiming certain changes in the new tax regime effective April 1, the ministry said, "There is no new change which is coming in from 01.04.2024."A modified new income tax regime was rolled out from the financial year beginning April 1, 2023, for individuals under which the tax rates are "significantly lower"

Traffic suspended on section of Jammu-Srinagar **Highway for Aircraft Trial** at Bijbehara

SRINAGAR, Apr 1 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police is all set to train its old batches for rigorous training for antiterrorism operations. All probationary officers of Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) in the ranks of Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs), Sub Inspectors (SIs) and constables after completion of their training in the Police Training Academies and Centres, will, in future, also be trained in counter-terror operations.

Reports said that batches which have already completed training will be gradually trained in the operations



J&K Police to train its personnel for rigorous

said that fresh training will be specific course for anti-terror operations of all kinds including hilly areas, forests, hinterland etc.

The fresh move comes as Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently stated that the Central Government plans to gradually pull back troops from Jammu and Kashmir and leave law and order to the local police force.

The reports said that not only the forthcoming batches but the offices who have already completed training will also

operations batch-wise. "Nearly 1,000 probationary police officers, including 62 Deputy Superintendents of Police, are already undergoing a six-week long training at the Army's counter-terror White Knight Corps battle school in Doda district," reports said. The integrated training programme — a first of its kind in the Union Ter-

ritory has commenced on March 19. According to police, the integrated training programme was aimed at enhancing the coordination and combined Turn to page 9



Daily Evening Newspaper

Benjamin Netanyahu Undergoes

"Successful" Hernia Surgery:

Israel PM Office

INTERNATIONAL

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Monday sent Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till April 15 in the excise policy-linked money laundering case.

Kejriwal was produced in the court of Special Judge Kaveri Baweja after his Enforcement Directorate custody

AAP ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bhardwaj and Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal were present in court.

The federal probe agency had arrested Kejriwal on March 21 in connection with the case.

The next day, Special Judge Baweja remanded him in the custody of the ED till March 28. Following this, the court allowed the ED's plea requesting extension of his custodial interrogation by four days till April 1.

In its remand application, the probe agency has accused the AAP

Turn to page 9

Army opens fire after Pakistani drone spotted along loc in Rajouri

JAMMU, Apr 1 (Agencies): Army troops opened fire after observing movement of a Pakistani drone and suspected persons at two different places along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu

and Kashmir, officials said on Monday. While the drone movement was picked up in a forward area in Sunderbani, the suspicious movement of some persons believed to be terrorists was noticed

in Keri sector during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, the officials said.

They said troops fired at least four rounds to shoot down a Pakistani quadcopter soon after it Turn to page 9

Dr Iffat Hassan given additional charge of **Principal GMC** Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Apr 1 (Agencies): Health & Medical Education Department, Jammu and Kashmir, on Monday

Congress protests against I-T action on party, slams **BJP-led** Centre

SRINAGAR, Apr 1 (Agencies): The Congress on Monday held a demonstration to protest the Income Tax department's actions against the party, saying the moves of the BJP-led Centre are against democratic norms.

The Income Tax department action comes ahead of the seven-phase general elections, which begin

being oppressed. The ED (Enforcement Directorate) raids are only against opposition leaders while not a single BJP leader has been raided."

Ahmad said the law of the land should be uniformly implemented and not selectively against opposition leaders. "They (BJP) are misusing the authorities and the official machinery.

Police said 91 drug

58 cases registered against drug peddlers, 91 arrested in **Baramulla**

SRINAGAR, Apr 1 (Agencies): Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla District said on Monday that it has registered 58 cases against drug peddlers this year.

SRINAGAR, Apr 1 (Agencies): Traffic has been suspended on the Wanpoh-Sangam stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in view of an aircraft trial run on the emergency landing strip at Bijbehara later on Monday, officials said.

The work on the 3.5-kilometre emergency landing strip was started in 2020 and completed late last year.

Officials said that security has been heightened along the emergency landing strip with additional personnel deployed to ensure that people do not stray close to the area.

"Traffic on the highway has been diverted from Wanpoh to Sangam to bypass the Bijbehara emergency landing strip where trial landing and take off of an aircraft is scheduled later in the day," an official said.

The strip can be used by fighter planes and other aircraft in case of war or natural disasters that require massive mobilisation of resources.

Over 1 million tourists took Gulmarg Gondola ride this year

SRINAGAR, Apr 1 (Agencies): For the first time in its history, over

SRINAGAR, Apr (Agencies): The National Conference on Monday named veteran leader Mian Altaf Ahmad as the party's candidate for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat in Jammu and Kashmir.

NC vice president Omar Abdullah made the announcement on



Mian Altaf Ahmad is NC's candidate

for Anantnag-Rajouri Seat

behalf of party president Farooq Abdullah in

a party spokesperson said.

"Senior National Conference leader and veteran politician Mian Altaf Ahmed has been nominated as the National Conference candidate for the South Kashmir Pir Panjal parliamentary Turn to page 9

the presence of Ahmad.

entrusted Incharge Principal Government Medical College Handwara with the additional charge to look after as Principal Government Medical College Srinagar in wake of superannuation of Prof. (Dr.) Tanvir Masood Bhat. The adjustment of April 19. Imtiyaz Ahmad, the Congress' Jammu and Kashmir unit chief, told reporters, "The moves of the BJP government are against democratic norms. They are not freezing their own (BJP) accounts and are also not asking for any taxes. Only the opposition is

We demand immediate restoration of the Congress' bank accounts in the interest of democracy," he added.

During the protest, Congress activists tried to march on the main road but were stopped by security personnel as the party had not been **Turn to page 9**

/Δ MERCEDES - BMW - AU



NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K)

\$ +91-9086207123

peddlers were also arrested during the first three months of the year. "Police have also regis-

tered 58 cases under the NDPS Act and arrested 91 drug peddlers, which include 11 hard-core drug peddlers who have been booked under PIT NDPS, and seized 11 vehicles that were used for NDPS activities in Baramulla district during the first quarter of 2024,' a police statement said. Police said they recovered contraband and psychotropic substances worth Rs 1.37 crore in the black market.

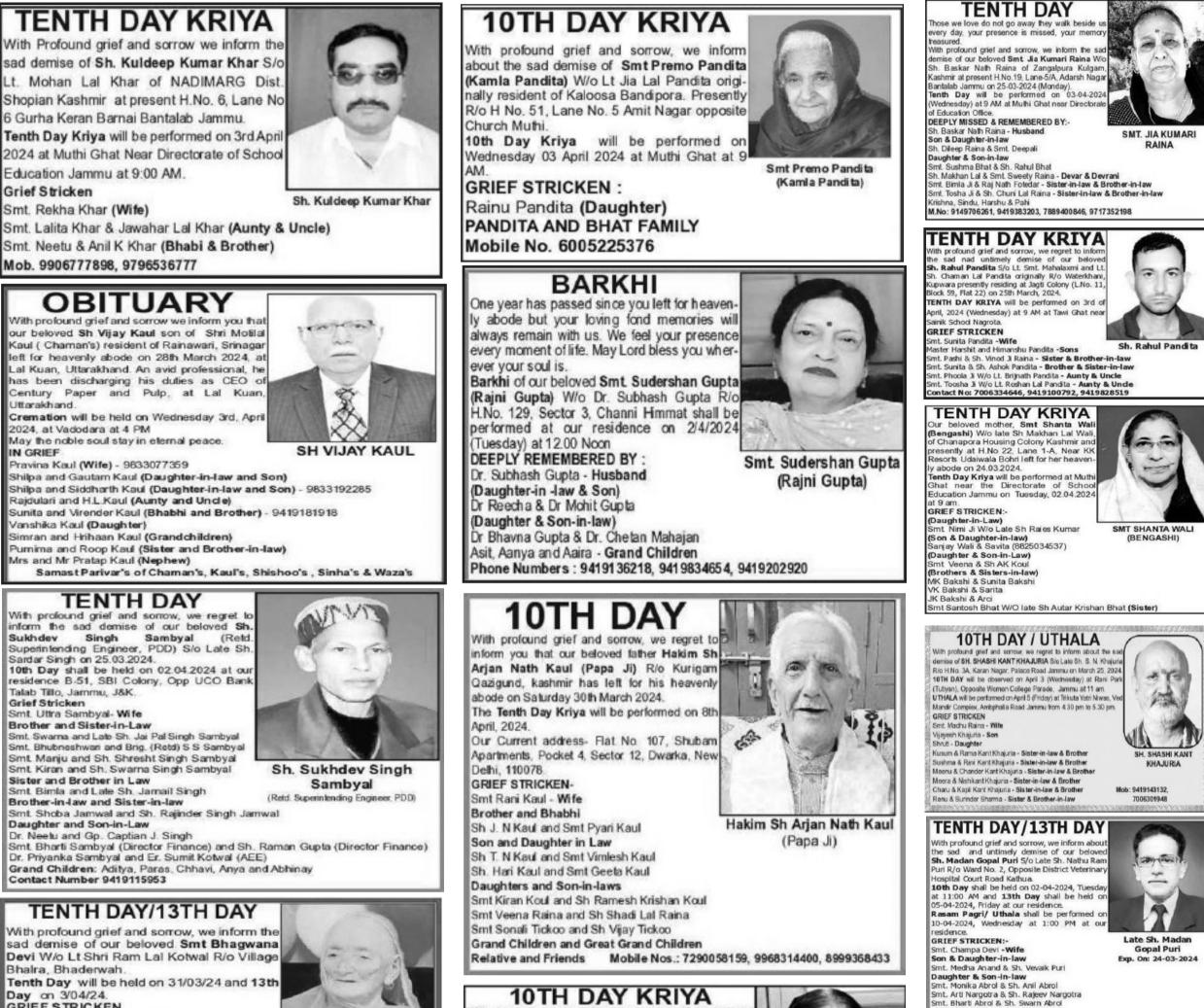
Meanwhile, the police have also attached property worth Rs 1.55 crore to drug peddlers this year in Baramulla district.

The property and vehicles attached to the district included four residential houses, a shopping complex, a land plot, two i20 cars, one Swift car, and a scooter belonging to drug peddlers in the district during the first quarter of 2024, they said.

"The property of the drug peddlers attached is worth Rs 1.55 crore," a police statement said. They said the action was taken under Sections 68-E and 68-F (1) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985.

The police said the properties attached

OBITUARIES



Dr. Neetu and Gp. Captian J. Singh Smt. Bharti Sambyal (Director Finance) and Sh. Raman Gupta (Director Finance)

TENTH DAY/13TH DAY

With deep sorrow, we inform the passing of our beloved mother Smt. Chunni Koul (Prabhawati) Wife of Late Sh. Ramji Koul resident of Bongam, Kunzer-Tangmarg, Kashmir// Neel Sheel Vihar, Paloura Dok, Jammu. the peacefully departed for her heavenly abode at on 29th March 2024 at her daughter's residence E-6/2 Avantika, Sun City Vistar, Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh) The 10th Day Prayer ceremony will be held on 6th April 2024 at Ram Ganga Ghat, Bareilly (U.P.). Grieving Families Dura Koul (Jyot) & Kuldeep K. Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law Girdhari Lal Koul Hio Late Dolly Koul - Son-in-law & Daughter Prana Pandita & Late Sh. O.N. Pandita - Sister & Brother-in-Law Teeja Koul & Pradiman Ball - Daughter & Son-in-Law





Grand Children Divyanshu, Lavanya, Jaisheesh, Vedika, Nanameesh, CONTACT NO. 9419150193, 9419330272, 6006346776

IN GRIEF Pravina Kaul (Wife) - 9833077359

Shilpa and Siddharth Kaul (Daughter-in-law and Son) - 9833192285 Rajdulari and H.L.Kaul (Aunty and Uncle) Sunita and Virender Kaul (Bhabhi and Brother) - 9419181918 Vanshika Kaul (Daughter)

Simran and Hrihaan Kaul (Grandchildren) Purnima and Roop Kaul (Sister and Brother-in-law) Mrs and Mr Pratap Kaul (Nephew)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and somow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Sukhdev Singh 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. Uttra Sambyal- Wife

Uttarakhand.

Brother and Sister-in-Law Smt. Swarna and Late Sh. Jai Pal Singh Sambyal Smt. Bhubneshwari and Brig. (Retd) S S Sambyal Smt. Manju and Sh. Shresht 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

Daughter and Son-in-Law

Dr. Priyanka Sambyal and Er. Sumit Kotwal (AEE) Grand Children: Aditya, Paras, Chhavi, Anya and Abhinay Contact Number 9419115953

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 Smt Bhagwana Devi



Jaleep & Nirja Kotwa Satish & Asha Kotwal Rishi & Anita Kotwal Daughters & Son in laws Kanta Devi & Sh Surinder Kotwal Usha Devi & Sh Mahesh Kotwal Mob- 9419132452

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE

REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER SH. JAGDISH RAJ PADHA R/O H.NO. 42 SECTOR 3 ,ROOP NAGAR JAMMU THE 10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE H.NO.42 SECTOR 3, ROOP NAGAR JAMMU ON 3RD APRIL 2024 WEDNESDAY AT 11:00 A.M.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 4TH OF APRIL 2024 THURSDAY AND UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 5TH OF APRIL 2024 AT 4

PM IN AAP SHAMBU TEMPLE ROOP NAGAR SH. JAGDISH RAJ JAMMU PADHA

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW

MR. DEEPAK SHARMA & MRS. MEENAKSHI SHARMA MR ANKIT SHARMA & MRS.REENA SHARMA MR AMIT SHARMA & MRS SHILPA SHARMA NARAYAN SAROOP - BROTHER M.NO. 9149440482, 9858599066

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. KISHNI & SH. J.L.KAR (BHABI & BROTHER) 9419789227 SMT. NANCY BHAT W/O LT. SH.K.L BHAT (SISTER) 7006207745 SMT. JAYA & SH. B L KAR (BHABI & BROTHER) 7006892910 SMT. BINDA & SH. DWARIKA NATH (BHABI & BROTHER) 9149698744 SMT. RAJNI & S.H. RAJ NATH BHAT (SISTER) 94692 19703 SMT. NEERU & SUNEEL KAR (NEPHEW & DAUGHTER IN LAW) 9682591997 SMT. SHIVAN & AMIT PANDITA (NEPHEW & DAUGHTER IN LAW) 9797524403 SANAST "KAR, BHAT, PANDITA, AMBARDAR, KHAJURIA, PARIHAR" PARIVAR.



Arju, Dimple, Raju, Naveen Bali, Dorothy, Sakhshi, Sameeksha, Runjun Also Deeply Remembered By:

All Koul Families of Bongam and Sh. K.K. Bhat, Restaj, Ajay and Annu Contact Nos: 94123-44945, 91 030-84821, 70064-67691

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Jia Kumari Raina W/o Sh. Baskar Nath Raina of H.C. Gam / Zangalpora Kulgam at Present H.No. 19, Lane 5/A Adarsh Nagar Bantalab Jammu Tenth Day will be performed on 3/4/2024 at 9.00 am at Muthi Ghat near Director Education Office. DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY Sh. Baskar Nath Raina (Husband) Sons & Daughter-in-laws Sh. Dileep Raina & Smt. Deepali Sh. Vishal Raina & Smt. Neha Sh. Vikas Raina and Smt. Nishu Smt Jia Kumari Raina Daughters & Son-in-laws Smt. Sushma Bhat and Sh. Rahul Bhat Smt. Jully and Sh, Opinder Dhar Smt. Veena and Sh. Anoop Ambardar Smt. Dimple and Sh. Sumit Bhat Sh. Makhan Lal Raina & Smt. Sweety (Devar and Devrani) Smt. Bimla Ji and Rajnath Fotedar -Sister & Brother-in-law Smt. Tosha Ji and Chani Lal Raina -Sister & Brother-in-law Mobile : 9419706261, 9419383203, 7889400846



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Smt Asha Ji W/o Sh Manchar Lal Bhat R/o village Chodergund Shopian at present Swam Colony Trilokpur Lane No. 1 near Shiv Mandir Gole Gujral Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 7-04-2024 (Sunday) Time : 8:30 AM at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sh Manohar Lal Bhat (Husband)

Smt Vijay and Sh Bal Krishan Bhat (Devar & Devrani) Daughters and Sons in law

Smt Sunita Raina and Sh Ravinder Raina

Smt Usha Pandita and Sh Pintoo Ji Pandita

Smt Sheetu Malla and Sh Shiv Kumar Malla

Smt Princy and Sh Daleep Ji

Smt Rimpy and Sh Vicky Ji

Smt Preeti and Sh Rahul Ji

Son and Daughter in law

Vinod Kumar Bhat and Smt Bindra Kumari Mob : 9018832558, 9596938794, 9419146603, 9797794937

(Prabhawati)

Smt Asha Ji

Smt. Chunni Koul

13TH 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 Dak Bunglow Doda A/P H.No 134A, Ram Vihar near Amba theater old Janipur Jammu who left for heavenly abode on Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 11.50 pm.



H.No.134-A, Ram Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu from 9.30 am onwards

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

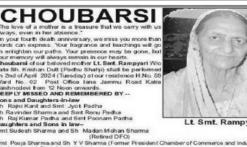
10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we infor the sad and untimely demise of our eloved father Sh. Chuni Lal Kaul S/o Lt. Sh. Keshav Nath Kaul originally resident of Kalwal Mohalla Rainawari at present House No. 259-P, Sector 21C, Faridabad Ex-Director J&K Fire Services who left for heavenly abode on 31st March 2024. The 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Moradnagar (Chotta Haridwar) on 8th April.



Sh. Chuni Lal Kaul

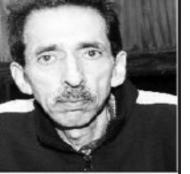
GRIEF STRICKEN Kishni Kaul - Wife Ajay Kaul - Son - 9811484246 Anjali Kaul - Daughter-in-aw Sidharth and Siddhani - Gand Children Anjali Kaul Deb - Daughter Ranjan Deb - Son-in-law ayush & Piyush Deb - Grand Sons Samast Kaul Pariwaar



nt Pooja Sharma and Sh Y V Sharma (For phews and Daughters in law shtha a and SmtShneshtha and and SmtShneshtha Shivam Rupa, Gorish Khushi, Anwesha, Angad, Sv Skivam Rupa, Gorish Khushi, Anwesha, Angad, Sv MrS HortEL RAMA, RDEDR Katra MrS HOrtEL RAMA RTDEDRT Katra Centact Nes-9419195566, 9419199181, 9419



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KARAMYOGI SH. ROSHAN LAL KAR

LOCAL

Congress fighting elections against divisive, anti-people policies of BJP: Bhalla

Says Congress believes in Hindu- Muslim unity and religious brotherhood for peace and harmony in country

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: The INDIA bloc will win all six Lok Sabha seats in the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir. and Ladakh, JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla said on Monday while addressing elections gatherings of Bahu Constituency and Jammu South RS Pura constituency at Kunjwani. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Ex MP Tarlokh Singh Bajwa, Vice President and Treasurer Rajnish Sharma Mian. District President Manmohan Singh, Kanta Baan, General Secretary TS Tony, General Secretary Satish Sharma, General Secretary Amrit Bali, Bushan Dogra, Secretary Dewarka Choudhary Secretary Pawan Bhagat, Hussain Ali Wafa, Secretary Parveen Singh, Blocks Presidents Gurmeet Singh, Latish Sharma, Surinder Singh Dutt, Pardeep Bhalla, Sanjeev Katal, Bushan Kumar Reddy, Balwinder Singh Rinku, Vijay Chib, Ghar Singh, Suman Sandeep Choudhary, Dogra and others. Bhalla expressed con-

fidence that the alliance will win all the six seats -- two seats of Jammu region, three of Kashmir valley and one of Ladakh. Highlighting the significance of Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "Although J-K has six seats in Parliament and 90 in assembly, it is the



most important state for its strategic and secular characters." He said that Congress will emerge stronger enough to form the government with likeminded parties, as no party will be able to form government without Congress which is only secular and democratic party in the country, fighting against dictatorship of Modi Government.The senior Congress leader said that people are fed up with anti- poor and anti- common people policies of the ruling party whose diversionary and divisive politics is exposed before people. Urging party workers to gear up for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections

, Bhalla said Congress believes in Hindu- Muslim unity and religious brotherhood for peace and harmony in the country. He said that record unemployment of last 45 years, price rise, murder of democracy in J&K apart from snatching statehood, rights to land and jobs, failure to regularise daily wagers and stop-

ate forping of old age, widowecularpension and crushingid thatrights of employees arenergeall anti- people actions ofo formBJP government.withBhalla said that BJP

should tell what contribution it made in the independence of this country. He alleged that while the BJP did nothing on serious issues like inflation and unemployment during its 10-year tenure, it left no stone unturned in disturbing the communal harmony of the country. Taking a jibe at GST also, he said that taxes are being collected from the public for everything from salt and sugar to petrol and diesel, but the tax money collected is going into the pockets of capitalists.He said that before 2014, applications were invited for jobs in all departments, but in the last 10 years, only a handful of people were given jobs in the name of employment.

Bhalla lauding the people of J&K, said that they wanted development, investment and employment. While

addressing the rally, he made it clear that Congress has entered the field with great determination and it would move forward taking every grassroots worker into confidence. He alleged that the country was not in safe hands and the end of the politics of dividing people in the name of caste and religion was near. Taking on BJP, he said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were feeling cheated. He said that BJP's politics of regions divided the mutual brotherhood of Jammu and Kashmir. He claimed, "Today the people of Jammu have been deprived of their rights." He also criticised the party for unemployment, inflation and increasing drug addiction, the skyrocketing fares in the name of smart meters, anti-encroachment campaigns and 'illegal toll plazas'.

Bhalla said Jammu and Kashmir was the victim of wrong policies of the BJP Govt and said first BJP Govt dissolved the state

The documentary delib-

erated upon the purpose

to inculcate constitu-

tional obligations and to

encourage staff and stu-

It also deliberated

upon how India runs the

world's biggest democrat-

dents to cast their vote.

zeal

legislature to muzzle the voice, then not allowed the elections to happen till date inorder to hide its nefarious agenda aiming to rule J&K through remote control, so that no genuine voice would not emanate from the ground. The falsehood and tall claims on account of development of J&K, fake narrative built up with regard to employment generation, so called back to village programmes, frequent visit of Central Ministers did not yield any results reflecting the absolute failures on the part of BJP Govt on all fronts, Mir said.

Bhalla further averred that there was chaos and confusion across J&K due to the remote control policy, common people of J&K believe that BJP was settling scores with them by depriving them of democratic rights, so that their voices could go unheard, but the time is bound to change, how long J&K would be left at the mercy of remote control policy of Centre Govt, such undemocratic exercise won't last long, these will have to change, he added.He asked the booth level delegates of the Party to feel strong in their resolve to fight against the discrimination, wrong and anti-people policies of BJP besides defeating the fake narrative with regard to development, etc on the part of State & Centre Govt.

GDC Vijaypur hosts Documentary Screening on 'Voting Awareness'



cantly impact the future of our country.

The event was organized with the full support of the senior faculty members like Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD Political Science), Prof. Mamta Kundal (HOD Commerce) and Dr. Anoop Bhagat (HOD Sociology). The event was coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences), Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri), Dr. Naseem Chowdharv (NSS PO) and Prof. Meetu Sharma (HOD Geography). The event was co-coordinated by Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Dr. Radhika Rasyal, Prof. Renuka Kundal, Prof. Rakesh Kumar, Prof.

Mazid Malik and Dr. Gun-

and urged the students

to act as messengers of

Election Commission of

India to take this voter

awareness campaign to

The Principal of the

College Prof. (Dr.) T. K

Sharma also appealed

participants to come

The event concluded

with the pledge taking cer-

emony. The formal vote of

thanks was presented by

Prof. Rashmi. Prof. Tasl-

eem HOD Zoology and

Prof. Reeta Menia HOD

Economics were also

present in the awarenes

programme.

the maximum reach.

jeet Mahiwal.

Government has no policy to ensure the safe career of youth: Ch Lal Singh



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 1: Choudhary Lal Singh, two times former MP, and three times Ex. Cabinet Minister and Congress candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency addressed a series of meetings at Balpad, Khoon, Dhema, Batal, Manwal, Darsoo, Roun Domail, Batal Balian and Tikri. While addressing gatherings Ch. Lal Singh said that there was neither any vision, nor any plan to create new jobs during the last ten years by the BJP Govt which as disturbed the youth of the area. The youth of J&K fill the form in JKSSB and JKSSB waits for years to conduct the exam

and after conducting the exam, it is cancelled and the process of filling the exam starts again. He also said that JKSSB has deployed the black listed companies to conduct the exam in J&K. He also said that lakhs of youth of J&K is wasting their youthful days in dilemma as the Government has no concrete policy to ensure their safe career. Ch Lal Singh further lambasted the sitting MP on the unattended issues of Udampur Kathua and entire state in particular like daily wagers who are struggling for their demands and protesting but the Government is nonchalant as if it has nothing to do with this section comprising

thousands of individuals and their families. He also said if I am voted to power, the voice of early elections in the state will rise in the parliament and the proxy rule of the BJP will end. Ch. Lal Singh further said, it is very strange that cynics can't see the Tarnah Bridge on the national highways and they are saying that J & K has become the number one state of India. Ch. Lal Singh was Ex. Minister Sh. Harsh Dev Singh and Ex. Minister Dr. Manohar Lal. Sh. Harsh Dev Singh lambasted that the BJP-led government has failed to curb inflation and unemployment, and this government has disappointed every section of the society.

PM Modi to head world's largest democracy for third time: Khatana

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the country will see BJP emerging as the single largest party with more than 400 seats and a consecutive third term for PM Modi to head the world's largest democracy.

He said that the seven phase general elections in the country starting from April 19 have left the opposition parties especially the Congress frustrated and unnerved.

"The 'Save Democracy' rally by the opposition in New Delhi was a clear sign of hopelessness among the opposition have left their stronghold constituencies like Amethi and are looking for the places where they can easily win a seat by befooling the innocent public to remain relevant in politics. "This clearly shows that the h

even the Congress has endorsed that the public has rejected them for their anti-public policies," the firebrand BJP leader maintained adding: "Now the public has shifted their favour towards BJP due to the welfare measures ushered by PM Modi led regime in the country for the last 10

years." Khatana also said that before talking of democracy the Congress should know that it was Indira Gandhi who during her rule clamped emergency in the country and strangled freedom of public. "Only corrupt and antinational elements are put in jails while no opposi-

tion leader has been touched by PM Modi led government even though the opposition abuses badly to the PM every now and then," the BJP leader said advising the opposition to shun the habit of protest for the sake of protest and support developments started by PM Modi in the country.

He further said that in the last 10 years J&K has seen large scale developments with the abrogation of Article 370 as a historic one.

"The people of J&K are now leaving a peaceful and progressive life and they are going to strengthen the hands of BJP in upcoming Lok Sabha elections by excessively voting in favour of BJP candidate and the party will easily win all the five Lok Sabha seats from J&K and the one from Ladakh Union Territory," he continued.

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Apr 1: NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of GDC Vijaypur in organized a screening of documentary on "Types of Elections in India" under the banner of Vote ka Parv Desh ka Garv and Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye to students and faculty members of the college. The documentary was a great inspiration for the students as the students came to know about the

importance of voting and types of elections in India.

NSS volunteers and other college students participated in the documentary screening with great enthusiasm and ic elections. The event was organized under the able guidance of Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta, esteemed Principal of the college where she briefed the students about the fundamental rights and duties of the Indian Con-

stitution. The idea of Voting awareness is to aware the college students about the importance of voting. She further said that voting is an important civic duty that can signifiparties after witnessing a massive public support for the BJP," Khatana said.

He further said that top Congress leaders now

Prof Uppal honoured with International Kalam Award for Education

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: The evaluation board of Kalam Education University, on the recommendations of the board directors and council of administrators by the virtue of the authority vested in them, Professor R.K. Uppal has been nominated the prestigious International Kalam Award in the specialist genre of Education. Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a prolific writer, a Man of Letters, a distinguished Professor of Emeritus, an acclaimed academician, research stalwart, and the more ingenious guide has won accolades not only in the academic field but also in the genre of research.

Presently, he is serving in the most exalted institution, Baba Farid College of Management and Technology (Punjab), as a Professorcum-Principal.

He is also MTC Global Chair Professor: Banking and Finance.

Dr. Uppal is also Research Professor in the Area of Finance at Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi. Professor Rajinder Kumar



change. His research fervor

Uppal stands as an eminent figure, revered for his profound insights, relentless pursuit of excellence, and transformative impact.

Dr. Uppal epitomizes the epitome of academic excellence, a beacon of knowledge, and a guiding force in the realms of banking and finance. Throughout his illustrious career spanning over three decades, Professor Uppal has carved a niche for himself as a beacon of academic excellence, a harbinger of innovation, and a catalyst for societal and academic zeal have culminated in a plethora of scholarly publications, earning him the esteemed World Record for "Maximum Books Written on Economics." Beyond the realms of academia, Professor Uppal's scholarly contributions have reverberated across national and international platforms, enriching academic discourse, fostering intellectual exchange, and shaping the contours of contemporary scholarship.

SVEEP activity/voting awareness programme conducted at GDC Khour



Top News Report

KHOUR, Apr 1: NSS and NCC units of Government Degree College Khour in collaboration with the Department of Political Science conducted SVEEP activity/voting awareness programme sponsored by the office of Sub Divisional Magistrate (Assistant Returning Officer 82-Chhamb) with the theme "My Vote My Duty". The programme was witnessed by a large number of students of the College including Principal, faculty members and the Designated SVEEP team members namely

e Sunil Kumar, AEE Irrigation, Surinder Kumar, AE Irrigation and Mohinder ". Kumar, Master Trainer. s About 09 students of e the College participated e in the symposium on the i- Importance of Voting d in Democracy and P expressed their ideas and y views on the topic and the session was made more interactive.

> All speakers emphasized on the importance and need of voting in the upcoming elections.

The master trainer of the SVEEP team gave the great insight of various guidelines and directions related to elections

forward and uphold the Democratic tradition of our country by casting their vote fearlessly. The whole event was organized by Prof. Himanshu Khajuria NSS PO and Prof. Rashmi Sharma HOD Political Science.

OP-ED

EDITORIAL

MAKE THEM HEALTHY

Te often see around us that some people are excessively fat and some people are excessively thin or weak. Similarly, many children become victims of obesity and many diseases at an early age, while some children suffer from diseases due to being too weak or thin. Have we ever wondered why this happens? It is not that such people or children do not eat or drink or do not get food items. In fact, the biggest reason for such obesity or diseases is not eating a balanced diet. That is, not to use those substances in food which provide nutrients like proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and mineral salts to the body. Not having a balanced diet not only hinders physical and mental development but also significantly reduces the productivity of the person. In such a situation, it is very important to consume a balanced diet to have a healthy body and mind as well as to avoid many serious diseases. In fact, a balanced diet is a diet in which all the nutrients like proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals and water are present in appropriate quantities as per physical needs. A balanced diet not only keeps the body healthy but also provides long life. It is very helpful in keeping a person's weight balanced and also in maintaining good health. Its use develops immunity in the body. For a balanced diet, it is important to include all food groups like grains, pulses, green vegetables, fruits, dairy produce, eggs, meat, fish, fat, fruits and vegetables available in season should be consumed in adequate quantities. Generally, a food is considered balanced only when 50 to 60 percent of the total energy received by the body daily from it comes through carbohydrates, 10 to 15 percent through proteins and 20 to 30 percent through fats. . One thing that everyone should pay attention to is that eating excessive amounts of food is not at all necessary to have a balanced diet. Overeating is always the cause of serious diseases and obesity. Actually, every person needs a balanced diet depending on his physical needs, age, gender. For example, a person who does a lot of physical work should take more carbohydrates in his diet. Protein is essential for the physical growth of children. Similarly, women require iron and calcium. Therefore, it is important to take a balanced diet according to the body's needs and age. There are many benefits of a balanced diet. This supplies all those nutrients to a person's body which are necessary for him to remain healthy and fit. A balanced diet is helpful in preventing many diseases and infections. The nutrients present in it provide strength to fight diseases. It also increases the mental abilities and memory power of humans. A balanced diet is also very helpful in maintaining proper body weight according to age and height. By consuming less food, a person becomes a victim of undernutrition, whereas by consuming more food, obesity and other diseases become home. In such a situation, a balanced diet works to remove all these disorders. A healthy and balanced diet can prevent the development of serious diseases like diabetes, cancer and heart disease. It is also helpful in treating high blood pressure.

A balanced diet provides the body with fiber and antioxidants like vitamin C, vitamin E, beta carotene, riboflavin and selenium. Phytochemicals like flavones and polyphenols are also present in it. Antioxidants and polyphenols provide protection to the body from various types of damage and many diseases. Talking about the nutrients present in a balanced diet, the protein included in it is essential for strengthening the muscles as well as for the overall development of the body. If protein is not available then many diseases like arthritis, heart disease, baldness may occur. To get protein, one should eat meat, eggs, sea food, milk, curd, dry fruits which are good sources of protein. Consuming carbohydrates provides energy to the body. It is helpful in preventing many diseases. whole cereals, brown rice, pulses, beans, potatoes, bananas etc. Are the main sources. We get the vitamins and minerals included in a balanced diet from fresh fruits and vegetables. Iodine, iron, calcium and potassium are important minerals. This removes blood deficiency in the body and makes bones strong. It is also important to have fiber in a balanced diet. Consuming fiber rich diet is very beneficial for the digestive system. According to medical science, an adult must take about 25 to 30 grams of fiber daily. The most important thing for a balanced diet is to drink appropriate amount of water along with food. Drinking less water causes many diseases in the body. Therefore, to keep yourself hydrated, it is important to drink at least eight to ten glasses of water every day. While taking a balanced diet, keep in mind that less than five grams of salt (equivalent to about one teaspoon) and only iodine-rich salt should be consumed every day. Actually, the body structure of every person is different, hence the nutritional requirements of every body are not the same. Therefore, a diet that is balanced for one person may prove to provide more or less nutrients for another. There are many factors that affect a balanced diet. Therefore, there is always a need to pay attention to what is a person's age, gender, physical capacity and lifestyle. What type of climate does it live in? On the basis of these questions, a balanced diet can be determined. Just as there can be a difference in the balanced diet of children and adults, similarly there is a difference in the balanced diet of women and men Eating a balanced diet lays the foundation for a 'healthy and active lifestyle'. This reduces the risk of long-term health problems. Besides, it is also very important for the development of human resources in the country. We all know that a healthy nation can be built only by a healthy society. For this, it is necessary that special attention be paid to the diet and nutrition of not just one person but the entire society. In such a situation, the recently launched 'Aahar Kranti (Good Food - Good Thoughts)' campaign will not only save children, youth, elderly and women from malnutrition and serious diseases but will also prove to be very helpful in building an advanced society and a better nation.

To grab readers, go to BookTok... Cancer can't rob Kate of gravitas

By: Kishwar Desai

have no idea why bestselling authors are get-Lting younger and younger – but it certainly is an uplifting thought. Because if authors are getting younger that means so are readers. I remember when I first started going to book club events I would usually encounter a sea of grey – now you can hear the age group drop and the hair is either green or pink or some other youthful shade. But then many of the reader-grabbing techniques of younger authors are rarely applied by us, the older and not so tech-savvy authors.

But honestly — you have to go where the readers are "hanging out" and grab them — and most of them are on "BookTok". Move over Oprah Winfrey we have a new king /queen maker!

The latest bestselling author, Holly Jackson, used good advice from her well-wishers and agents, and went onto BookTok to make her Young Adult book A Good Girl's Guide to Murder into the phenomena that it is. It is on the top of the crime fiction charts and is being made into a BBC serial. And she has beaten the usual suspects in the category including stalwarts like James Patterson. So yes, the 32-yearold has written Young Adult fiction but she has got herself higher and higher ratings in the overall crime fiction stakes. As a crime fiction author myself — I applaud her for her tenacity and selfbelief that she will continue to beat the very best in the category. Oh to be young and ambitious!

Meanwhile, we are all overwhelmed by Catherine, the Princess of Wales, and the dignity with which she has dealt with the revelation that she has cancer. I know there were many in the media who were quick to mock the use of photoshopping, etc., - but all of us must remember that Catherine has been very serious about her role and image, and that is why there is so much respect for her. She is not the kind of person who would have tried to conceal anything, unless there was a very good reason, and I wish those who tried to belittle her had taken some time to reflect. The signs of a serious illness were all there – as no one who is young, athletic and healthy would require so much time in the hospital, and certainly her seclusion from public life was also a giveaway. For a young mother, the cancer would have been a huge shock – and undoubtedly the family is still coping with the changed reality. One wishes her well and hopes that there is a quick remission, post chemotherapy, so we can see her back in public life once more.

For me one of the greatest sights of London has been the Thames. We are fortunate to live near the river and to enjoy the sight of the boats on the glistening river. I know there has been a time, in the past, when the water was full of filth and in summer the smell was so foul that Parliament needed to be shut. Who could have imagined that the same river could become the pride of the city... But not if it is not looked after and cleaned regularly as it appears that a lot of sewage is being dumped both into it and other rivers of the UK. And water-borne diseases are rising. This is really worrying as we have all enjoyed drinking water straight from the tap – with no filters. Now it seems we should not take our health and safety so lightly, and unless some serious action is taken – raw sewage could be a cause for complaint. Some reports say that there was a 105 per cent increase in the amount of untreated sewage being dumped into the rivers and seas in the past one year. Even boating is becoming a dangerous activity! How will we cope in summer when everyone is sailing down the Thames in boats, barges and kayaks? ... hopefully Thames will get back its glory. Otherwise when you are "taking

the air" on the South Bank you may be imbibing a lot more than you bargained for. Meanwhile – no one looks far for a controversy, you can even start a debate over a bun! Hot cross buns are on sale in the supermarkets and there are articles in tabloids telling you how much jam to smear on the buns before eating them. These buns, made with cinnamon, blueberries and raisins, with a cross across them are symbolic of Christ on the Cross. But then someone selling cheese with those ingredients has been criticised for sacrilege. Buns yes. Jam yes. Cheese no. How do we end this controversy? This is where we need an urgent judgement from Nigella Lawson, maybe?

A final word on books – our favourite classics – which are clearly going to be wrecked by woke inspectors. According to them, there is gender bias and racism in just about every author from the past, whom we have adored in our ignorance! Did you know that Shakespeare is full of characters who are mostly White and male. Peter Pan as well as Alice in Wonderland promote White supremacy. Even Around the World in 80 Days is suspect. It had a colonial narrative! So if you want to read them – do it in stealth and admit your guilt only at a confessional.

Mastering speed and precision in JEE main in second season

By: Vijay GarG

ucceeding in the JEE **C**exam requires a fine **U**equilibrium between quick problem-solving and precise answers, as candidates must tackle numerous questions within a limited timeframe. One of the main ways to tackle the main questions is to maintain speed but also ensure accuracy. explore effective strategies for enhancing both speed and accuracy in the JEE Main exam, ultimately improving candidates' chances of success.

By revisiting essential concepts, formulas, and theories, candidates can fortify their foundation, enabling them

niques

Acquaint yourself with timesaving techniques, shortcuts, and problem-solving strategies for various question types. Implementing these methods can significantly reduce the time spent on complex problems, allowing for more time allocation to other questions. Prioritising easy questions Quickly scan through the questions at the outset of the JEE Main exam and identify those that appear relatively simpler. Resolve these questions first, as they can be tackled swiftly, thereby allowing more time for addressing challenging ones.

speed and accuracy. Employing the elimination technique

When uncertain about the

Recognising the significance of speed and accuracy

Before diving into strategies, it's crucial to grasp the importance of speed and accuracy in the JEE Main exam. Speed ensures that candidates can attempt all questions within the allocated time, while accuracy ensures that their efforts yield correct answers. Striking a balance between these two aspects is paramount for achieving a high score and securing admission to esteemed engineering colleges.

Strategies to enhance speed and accuracy

Mastering the basics

Prior to grappling with advanced concepts, it is vital to establish a robust understanding of the fundamental topics within the JEE syllabus. to solve questions more efficiently and minimising the likelihood of errors.

Efficient time management Allocate the available time for each section based on the number of questions and their difficulty level. Dedicate more time to challenging sections while keeping easier sections relatively shorter. Adhering to this schedule during practice sessions aids in honing time management skills that can be applied effectively on exam day.

Consistent practice

Dedicate a significant portion of time to solving practice papers, previous year's question papers, and mock tests. Engaging in regular practice familiarises candidates with the exam pattern, boosts confidence, and facilitates quicker and more accurate solutions. Replicating exam conditions During practice sessions, recreate the exam environment by sitting in a quiet room devoid of distractions, adhering strictly to allotted section times, and following exam regulations. This practice cultivates mental endurance, enabling candidates to stay focused and maintain a high level of accuracy even under pressure.

Utilizing shortcuts and tech-

Maintaining a positive mindset

A positive mindset plays a pivotal role in enhancing speed and accuracy. Believing in one's preparation and maintaining composure during the exam are crucial. Overthinking or becoming flustered by difficult questions can lead to errors. Remaining optimistic and, when encountering tough questions, moving on and revisiting them later is advisable.

Practicing timed tests

Regularly undertaking timed practice tests aids in acclimatizing to solving questions within stipulated timeframes. Analyzing performance after each test helps identify areas for improvement in both correct answer, utilize the process of elimination. By eliminating clearly incorrect options, the likelihood of selecting the right answer among the remaining choices increases.

Emphasising neatness

Write legibly and maintain organised workings, particularly in subjects like Mathematics and Physics that involve calculations. A tidy presentation reduces the risk of misinterpreting one's handwriting, thereby ensuring accuracy in answers.

Analysing mistakes

After each practice session or mock test, conduct a thorough analysis of errors. Understanding missed concepts and the reasons behind errors aids in avoiding repetition of the same mistakes and reinforces comprehension of subject matter.

Success in the JEE Main exam necessitates a holistic approach that encompasses a profound grasp of concepts, effective time management, and diligent practice.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout PB)

LOCAL

DFSS holds protest against hiked prices of school books that no parents shall be

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena under the leadership of president Ashok Gupta held protest against the hiked prices of the school books as parents are forced to buy book only from selected book shops.

A team headed by Ashok Gupta purchased a set of original books of NCERT from Sahitya Sangam of Class 9th for Rs 850 but on the contrary in Gandhi Nagar & Nai Basti a set of books for class 9th is being sold for Rs 3400 which clearly shows a mark up



of 500%. This is an extortion done by some of the book sellers as they are

looting the parents in broad day light, Gupta said

The order of the government is being violated as it has been clearly stated

Big jolt to NC in Kandi Handwara, top leader, workers joined BJP



Top News Report

HANDWARA, Apr 1 : In a big jolt to National Conference in Kandi, top NC leaders led by Mohd Akbar Khan who was the top National Conference and has served the party for the last 40 years, today joined the Bharatiya Janata Party along with his dozens of supporters.

Amir Sofi, State executive member North kashmir incharge youth wing

while welcoming the new entrants, said that BJP has worked for the welfare of people irrespective of region and religion.

He said that not only in Handwara, but also in Kashmir, the people are holding the symbol of BJP in high esteem having faith in the Modi Government

Sartaj Majeed District Vice President Kupwara said that the BJP welcomes every new entrant

with love and soon every new entrant feels himself/ herself as a party of the BJP family, which reflects the clear heartedness of **BJP** activists

Gulzar Ah Malik said that now the local BJP unit is further strengthened with the joining of Mohd Akbar and added that the development works in the area will be boosted.

The program was organized by Mohd Sultan Magray and others.

Anti Crime Bureau felicitates Priyanka Dogra

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Apr 1: Members of NGO. Anti Crime Bureau led by Chairman Sham Lal Gupta today felicitated Priyanka

He said that it is a proud moment for the family members as well as the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He appreciated the family members of the girl who

forced to buy books other

than the NCERT books.

He further stated that

as per the New Educa-

tion Policy children can

only be admitted at an

certain age but children

of younger age are being

admitted in school by

charging extra money

which is a grieve violation

The party president

demanded stern action

against the book sellers

The party people pres-

ent at the protest were

Ashish, Ganesh, Raju,

Nirmal, Sunita, Satya,

Subash and Abhishek.

& private schools.

he added.

of the NEP.



Dogra for winning the title of Miss Iconic India 2024.

2024.

State President of NGO Sahil Gupta visited her residence and felicitated her for winning the title of Miss Iconic India

extended their support and encouragement to represent her on the renowned platform i.e. Miss Iconic India 2024. Gupta was accompanied by ASI Naresh Digra and other colleagues.

Voters Awareness program under SVEEP held at ANMT Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Apr 1: A mega Voters Awareness programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was today organized at ANMT School Doda.

The awareness programme was aimed to raise awareness about various voting-related activities and promote electoral literacy among citizens, especially firsttime voters in the run up to the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024. The program was attended by CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar, DIO Doda Dr Versha Sharma, Principal ANMT Doda Anusuya Bhan, Dr Javed Parray, Mohd Shafi Attu, Priyanka Manhas, Indra Devi, Naveeda Anjum, Saima Kousar, Ram Raj, Saiad Hussain, Amiad Ali and other health staff of the department participated in the awareness programme. On the occasion,



Faizan A Tramboo highlighted the significance of the programme which aims to educate and inspire active participation in the democratic process

Meanwhile, a Pledge taking ceremony under SVEEP was also held where participants took the pledge to vote enthusiastically in the

upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

While speaking on the occasion, CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar in his speech highlighted the significance of electoral literacy in empowering citizens and urged everyone, especially first-time voters, to exercise their franchise responsibly in the upcoming elections.

ADC Kishtwar conducts comprehensive inspection of Polling Stations in Block Thakraie

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 1: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal, who is also the Returning Officer (RO) 49 Kishtwar, conducted a comprehensive inspection of several Polling Stations viz. Darbadan, Upper & Lower Philler, Pakalan and last polling station Sranwan in Block Thakrie of District Kishtwar, within the Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituency Udhampur. The purpose of the visit was to review and assess the preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha Election and ensure the availability of assured minimum facilities at



these polling stations. ADC emphasized the importance of providing accessibility for differently-abled voters and ensuring all necessary facilities are in place to facilitate smooth participation in the election process. ADC reiterated the District Administration Kishtwar unwavering commit-

ment to facilitate a conducive environment wherein every eligible citizen can exercise their democratic right with confidence.

The visit concluded with instructions to the concerned departments to redouble their efforts to ensure the smooth conduct of Lok Sabha Elections in the district.

Ph.D Scholars of SMVDU organises free medical qualify GATE-2024 in Physics

Manjit Singh demands assembly elections, restoration of statehood to J&K



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Apr 1: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister S. Manjit Singh today demanded restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and holding of assembly elections.

As per the press release, a monthly meeting of the Apni Party workers was organized at Vijaypur which was chaired by Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh to discuss present political situation, and chalk out future course of action in the wake of continuous bureaucratic rules that has become root cause of resentment among the local population against the outsiders.

During the meeting, Manjit Singh was informed about the activities of the Party in Samba district and its public outreach program to address growing issues of the people in the district.

informed the Provincial President, Jammu about the concerns of the people regarding pending compensation cases of the border villagers along the International Border, growing unemployment, unaddressed demand of bunker construction in Ramgarh,

KCC cases of the farmers, canal water issue of tale end villages, electricity etc. While appreciating

the Party workers for their constant efforts to redress the genuine demands of the people, he asked them to intensify their activities and holding corner meetings in every nook and corner of the villages and educate people about the policy of equitable development, and protection of rights of the locals which is adopted

by the Apni Party. He however expressed concern over the delay in holding the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir while terming

it against the aspiration

of the people of both the regions.

He said that the people were expecting the holding of assembly and parliamentary elections jointly in J&K. But it did not happen which has disappointed the people because they are under the regime that is being run by the bureaucracy, mostly outsiders, who have no connection with the local population.

In the wake of the emerging political situation, he appealed to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to hold assembly elections in J&K as early as possible because the situation is conducive and the people are in deep distress without an elected Govt of their choice.

"It becomes imperative for the ECI to declare assembly polls. On the other hand, the Govt of India should also restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir to win the confidence of the people who are unhappy with the downgrading of their historic state," he stated.

camp in Kargam

Top News Report

CRPF 162 Bn

HANDWARA, Apr 1: A free medical health check-up camp was organized on Monday during the Civic Action Programme conducted by the 162 Battalion Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at the Govt girls middle School Kargam in Handwara and distrib-

than 190 people took advantage of the camp. Speaking on the occasion Second in command Shri PK Lal of 162 Battalion remarked, "CRPF runs various schemes for assisting the needy and merging with the local population and for having better coordination with them.



uted free medicines.

The camp was inaugurated by Second in command P K Lal 162 Battalion CRPF along with Lambardar Kargam Showket Ahmad, Assistant Commandant Abhishek Yadav, Assistant Commandant R K Malik, Medical Officer Dr Ajay, Dr Javid Ahmad and other officers graced the occasion by their presence.

During the medical camp a number of people including the ladies, children and senior citizens of the area gathered in large numbers for the health camp and more

ised a free medical camp and consultancy for those who require medical assistance and you see a large number

cal camps were organised in different areas in Kupwara district", added PK Lal

Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 1: Two Ph.D. scholars from the School of Physics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University namely, Meniak Khajuria S/O Puran Khajuria R/O Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu and Arti Khajuria D/O Ashok Kumar R/O City Chowk, Rajouri have qualified Graduate Aptitude Test of Engineering (GATE) - 2024 in Physics conducted jointly by IISc Bengaluru and seven IITs across the nation,



the result of which was declared recently by the National Coordination Board (NCB)-GATE. Both the students now

onwards are also eligible for the award of Ph.D. assistantship from their host institute as per rules.

BSP leaders tour Udhampur segment, open Party Office

and others took a tour of

the Disst Udhampur and

opened a Party Office at

The leaders held

meetings with people at

various places of Disst

Udhampur and apprised

the people about the poli-

cies and programmes of

Darshan Rana while

Udhampur City.

the party.



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 1 : A contingent of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leaders comprising State president, Darshan Rana, Dist President Mangal Dass, Ranjeet Singh, Sunil. Majotra, Suresh Kumar, Vijay Bansal, Gopal Krishan, Sudesh Kumar Sham Lal

speaking at various meetings, said that BSP is the only party which fights for the cause of the poor and downtrodden people and the time has come where people should realize the importance of their vote and bring the party in the power so that they may be able to fight their cause vigorously in the Parliament.

The people of this constituency are still struggling for the basic amenities.

Rana appealed to the people to support BSP and vote in favour of their candidates so that the party may become a major factor in the balance of power or able to form the next Government and redress the real problems of the people.

of people turned up in the programme". "The aim of such programmes is to have good relations with locals and also help them in difficult times. It's a continuous process and 162 Battalion is periodically conducting community outreach programs in one or other way. In the past also such free medi-

ENTERTAINMENT

she is open to returning

even after some recent

disagreements with cast

"I have nothing against

her at all," said the Love

Actually actor. She

continued, "It's just, its

member Erika Girardi.

Karan Johar desires to delve into diverse creative avenues such as music & immersive storytelling

In the dynamic world of Indian cinema, few figures loom as large as Karan Johar. The creative force behind Dharma Productions, Karan has not only shaped the landscape of Bollywood but has also become an influential voice on matters ranging from filmmaking to gender politics. Him being at the concluding session of CIFF was an apt grand finale. The filmmaker was his candid best and offered insights into his journey, the evolution of his production house. He didn't shy away from talking about his failures or sharing the principles on which his company operates. He even spoke about surrounding oneself with diverse perspectives and embracing criticism as a tool for growth.

6

Karan's pursuit of excellence is one thing, but when it comes to taking decisions, he relies on the superpower of instinct, which 'all of us are born with'. "In my early days, I often relied on mainstream norms and societal expectations. However, as I evolved as a filmmaker and entrepreneur, I learned to trust my instincts more deeply. They often led me to daring and innovative creative choices."

Personal growth and societal awareness have also shaped his evolving nature and creative instincts. "I believe Kuch Kuch Hota Hai has a lot of flawed gender politics. But I didn't know better then. Because I was still growing as a human being. Now you know that a man chasing a woman romantically is not romance, it's stalking," he says.



Criticism is healthy, we all say, but to deal with it when it's thrown at you every so often can't be easy. Being in the public eye, Karan knows it can't be avoided. Instead, he has made it a part of his growth. "It's very easy to operate within a bubble. It's easy to be a victim of delusion. Delusion is a disease - when you feel like you are above it all and want to be away from it all. And do your own thing and pretend that what you are doing is great. At a very early stage, I would read my criticism more than my praise. I remain open to feedback from peers, critics, and even adversaries. Criticism is not a setback but an opportunity for growth," he says, highlighting how insights from industry stalwarts like Anurag Kashyap have contributed to his evolution.

"At Dharma Productions, delegation and trust are the pillars of leadership," he explains. "Empowering team members to take ownership of their work fosters an environment of collaboration and communication." This approach, he believes, not only leads to creative breakthroughs but also nurtures loyalty.

Throughout his career, Karan has been unafraid to challenge traditional Bollywood norms. "I've ventured into diverse genres and storytelling formats, pushing the boundaries of Indian cinema," he states proudly. Projects like Lust Stories and Bombay Talkies exemplify his commitment to diversifying narratives and amplifying underrepresented voices.

Reflecting on his personal journey, he acknowledges both triumphs and struggles. "I faced financial hardships and doubts about carrying forward my father's legacy," he admits. However, with the support of friends and colleagues like Apoorva Mehta and Shah Rukh Khan, he persevered, emerging stronger and more resilient than ever.

While he acknowledges commercial success of films like Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, he longs to create works that resonate as deeply as iconic masterpieces like Lagaan or Dil Chahta Hai. Comparing these three films that released in the same year, he says, "I am proud of what I did as a core of what I believed, what I loved and passionately adored about mainstream cinema. But if you understand the layers and finer nuances of cinema, Lagaan is a way more superior product. Dil Chahta Hai is way more path-breaking. Did I make a path-breaking film? Not at all. Did I conform to synagogue tradition of Indian cinema? Yes, I did. And I did it with all abandon and aplomb. But did I make my Lagaan? No.'

Despite the successes and failures, Karan loves what he does and that's what drives him. Going forward, he has made a promise to himself. "I am going to direct at least five films in this decade. Direction is the key component where my journey began."

Surprise announcement Reema Maya is writing the digital version of Student of the Year. It will be her way and definitely not mine. I just wanted to be her voice and she made it her own. I think I might have given something away right now. For aspiring filmmakers

Just work. If you're not being able to direct your film, if you're not being able to produce your film, if you're not getting greenlit with the story you wrote, just become an AD. Simply get onto a film set.

Denise Richards on possibility of returning to The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills



American model and actor Denise Richards is planning to return to the reality TV series The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. She recently attended the silly fights on the show sometimes. We'll see what happens when they get around to going back for their season." Season 13 finished airing earlier this month. Before telling that she'll 'never say never,' Richards confessed on the March 6 edition of Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen that she still finds it 'unbelievable' that Girardi, 52, mentioned her 19-year-old daughter's OnlyFans account. Although Richards' return is still up in the air, former co-star Lisa Rinna recently said she'd 'never' go back to the reality series. The 60-year-old actress explained during an appearance on The Jennifer Hudson Show that she would not consider returning. 'I'm grateful for that show. I'm the person I am today because of it, but I'll never go back. Nope, I did it. Did it, done it, saw the movie," Rinna said.

Kriti visits Mumbai theatre

Actress Kriti Sanon recently visited a theatre in Mumbai to gauge the audience's reactions to the heist comedy Crew. During her visit, she interacted with moviegoers, adding to the buzz surrounding the film.

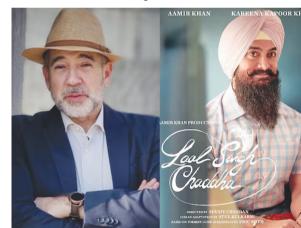
On Saturday, she dressed in a stylish mauve top and denim pants, arrived at a cinema in Mumbai where audiences had just watched her recent-



Aamir Khan my favourite, watched 'Laal Singh Chaddha' 4 times: Turkish envoy Firat Sunel

Ambassador of Turkiye to India Firat Sunel is a fan of Bollywood movies, especially the Aamir Khan-starrer 'Laal Singh Chaddha', a film the diplomat says he has watched at least four times.

'Laal Singh Chaddha', which was an authorised remake of the Hollywood classic 'Forrest Gump', was "more successful" than the 1994



business because it comes with a fair share of challenges for the creator who wants to ensure nothing is lost in translation.

Easter celebration and

spoke about her return

on the show, reported

People. "I always say,

'Never say never,'" said

Richards, adding how

"When you write a novel, thousands or tens of thousands of people will read it. But if it is adapted into a series or film, then the number increases to millions and even tens of millions. "To be able to reach house Family', the recently released English translation of his Turkish novel 'Sarpincik Feneri', to be adapted into a movie. "'The Lighthouse Family' could be an adaptation even in India.

Even then, Sunel said

he wants 'The Light-

Family' could be an adaptation even in India. The book relates to Indian families as well. They would like it, this would make for an emo-

ly released film Crew. Kriti engaged with the audience while asking for their feedback on the film and their overall experience.

Happy to hear the audience laughing and enjoying the film during the screening, Kriti asked a group about their favourite scene, getting a unanimous response for the landing sequence. She teased, "Would you want me to be a pilot? Be careful." Kriti also had heartwarming interactions with some children, exchanging high-fives and smiles, while a lady praised her exceptional acting skills.

original movie starring Tom Hanks, according to Sunel.

The 2022 film received mixed to negative reviews amid boycott calls on social media, something which appeared to have had an impact on its box office business.

"I am a fan of Bollywood movies and my favourite actor is Aamir Khan. 'Laal Singh Chaddha', I have watched this movie at least four times. It is an adaptation of 'Forrest Gump'. But this movie, for me, is more successful than the original one," Sunel told agency in an interview here. "When you watch Bollywood movies, you also see the Indian lifestyle and background. You learn so much about India and Indian people, so that's why Bollywood is getting more and more

successful," he added. The diplomat said 'Laal Singh Chaddha', which was also shot in Turkiye, made him realise about the many similarities between Indian and Turkish cultures.

To explain his point, Sunel talked about the opening scene of the movie where the titular hero, played by Khan, travelling in a train is seen offering golgappas to fellow passengers before having it himself.

"This (the scene) is normal for you and me, because it is a tradition. In Turkiye, we also offer food to people who are in proximity before we eat. But when somebody in America watches this movie, they wouldn't understand it.

"They would think because 'He is not a smart boy, that's why he offered the food to other people'. Maybe because I catch so many similarities between our societies is that I feel so interested about the movies here," he added.

Also a bestselling author, Sunel views adaptations as "risky"

out to more people, it is important that your novel is adapted to a series or movie. But there are losses or changes (in book to screen translations)" he explained.

That's why the 58-year-old diplomat said he wasn't "100 per cent" satisfied with the Turkish TV series 'The Great Exile Caucasia', which was inspired by his novel 'In the Shade of the Weeping Willows'. "As an author, if you are not ready to accept all the changes, I would suggest you not to do this. When the filmmaker comes on board, your duty (as an author) ends," he added.

tional movie.

"Indian audiences, like Turkish audiences, like books or movies when they make them cry and this is one such book. It can be adapted in any country, in India or Western countries. So, if somebody is interested, why not?" he added.

'The Lighthouse Family' is a heartrending tale set in the backdrop of the Second World War. The beautifully told historical fiction centres around a loving family living in an isolated lighthouse in Turkiye's westernmost tip and ripped apart by the consequences of a war that was not even theirs.

Rashmika Mandanna dubs first time in Malayalam for 'The Girlfriend' teaser; director showers praise

Filmmaker Rahul Ravindran has heaped praise on actress Rashmika Mandanna for dubbing in five languages, including Malayalam, for the first time for the teaser of the upcoming film 'The Girlfriend'.

Ravindran, who is known for his films like 'Chi La Sow' and 'Manmadhudu 2', took to X, where he praised the actress and shared that she has dubbed in five languages just for the teaser.

The filmmaker wrote, 'Rashmika has dubbed for the teaser in all five languages. She pulled off dubbing in Malayalam too! A language she's not worked in yet. This won't be the case with the film... but for the teaser all



five languages.'

The teaser of the film will be released on Rashmika's birthday on April 5.

In 2023, Ravindran made the announcement of 'The Girlfriend' as his next directorial project.

Ravindran had shared the poster and captioned it, 'Here's the announcement glimpse of my next directorial project. Very grateful to the universe to be starting another film.

Cannot wait to start shooting with the bundle of positive energy that is @iamRashmika #TheGirlfriend.'

The film is touted to be a oneof-a-kind love story. The male lead is yet to be announced.

Anupam Kher offers a sneak peek from set of his upcoming directorial 'Tanvi The Great'



Veteran actor Anupam Kher, who has returned to directing films after 22 years with his upcoming film 'Tanvi The Great', has shared a glimpse from the set before starting the shoot.

Anupam took to his Instagram stories and shared a clip of the entire cast and crew reciting the Ganesh aarti before starting the shoot of the film.

Japanese DOP Keiko Nakahara was seen alongside the camera while the rest did the puja.

On his 69th birthday, the national award-winning actor announced his next directorial.He made his directorial debut with 2002 film 'Om Jai Jagadish' starring Anil Kapoor, Fardeen Khan and Abhishek Bachchan.

NATIONAL

DMK did nothing to safeguard Tamil Nadu's interests: **PM Modi on Katchatheevu island**

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): After sharing a news article giving a detailed account of events that led to Sri Lanka overtaking the Katchatheevu island, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday slammed the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and said that the new details emerging in connection to the island have unmasked the DMK's double standards

PM Modi shared a statement by late DMK MP Era Sezhiyan expressing anger at the India-Sri Lanka Maritime Agreement signed by the then Indira Gandhi government by which India relinquished its claim on Katchatheevu Island and called it "an unholy agreement.'

"Rhetoric aside, DMK has done NOTHING to safeguard Tamil Nadu's interests. New details emerging on #Katchatheevu have UNMASKED the



away the Katchatheevu island to

Sri Lanka during the tenure of

the Indira Gandhi government in

1974. Prime Minister Modi said

on Sunday that this has infuri-

ated people, adding that the

Congress can never be trusted.

of weakening India's unity, integ-

rity and interests during its years

"Eye opening and startling!

New facts reveal how Congress

of governance.

He also accused the Congress

DMK's double standards totally. Congress and the DMK are family units. They only care that their own sons and daughters rise. They don't care for anyone else. Their callousness on Katchatheevu has harmed the interests of our poor fishermen and fisherwomen in particular," the Prime Minister wrote on X. PM Modi's statement comes a day after he came down heavily on the Congress party for giving

callously gave away #Katchatheevu. This has angered every Indian and reaffirmed in people's minds- we can't ever trust Congress! Weakening India's unity, integrity and interests has been Congress' way of working for 75 years and counting," PM Modi posted on X, citing a news report.

It is pertinent to mention that the island, located between Rameswaram (India) and Sri Lanka, was traditionally used by both Sri Lankan and Indian fishermen. In 1974, then prime minister Indira Gandhi accepted Katchatheevu as Sri Lankan territory under the "Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime agreement". The 1974 Agreement regarding historic waters between Sri Lanka and India in the Palk Strait and the Palk Bay formally confirmed Sri Lanka's sovereignty over the Island.

India needs to become economically self-reliant: PM Modi



MUMBAI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India needs to become economically self-reliant in the next 10 years so that the nation is not impacted much by global factors. Speaking on the 90th

anniversary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Prime Minister also said a lot of work will be generated for everyone once the **BJP-led NDA assumes** office for the third term in June.

"We have to increase India's economic selfreliance." he said. Modi said the banking sector has become profitable and credit growth has been increasing because of efforts taken by his government and the RBI in the last decade.

He further said the gross NPAs of public sector banks, which was around 11. 25 per cent in 2018, dropped to less than 3 per cent by September 2023.

The "twin-balance sheet" problem is now a thing of the past, Modi said, adding that banks are now registering a credit growth of 15 per cent.

The RBI has played a significant role in all these accomplishments, the Prime Minister added.

mation, Ramesh wrote.

Shahid Siddiqui quits Rashtriya Lok Dal, says Constitution and democratic structure under threat

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) vice president Shahid Siddiqui on Monday announced that he has resigned from his post and the party's primary membership, saying the Constitution and democratic structure are under threat and remaining silent is a sin.

Siddiqui's move comes days after the RLD joined the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

'Yesterday I sent my resignation from the membership of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and the post of national vice president to national president Jayant Singh. Today, when India's Constitution and democratic structure are under threat, remaining silent is a sin.' he said in



'I am grateful to Jayant ji but I am forced to distance myself from the RLD with a heavy heart. India's unity, integrity, development and brotherhood are dear to all. It is the responsibility and duty of every citizen to

save it,' he added. He discussed the timing of his move in another post, saying he didn't want to resign immediately as he welcomes the Bharat Ratna accorded to Chaudhry



and Opposition parties when elections have been announced is an attack on Indian democracy and the great institutions that we have built,' he added.

The RLD has declared its candidates for two seats in Uttar Pradesh for the coming Lok Sabha elections.

'Hard data on BJP's corruption now available': Congress targets PM Modi over his remarks on electoral bond issue

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): The Congress on Monday said while "corruption" of the Narendra Modi Government has been known for a while now, the "setback" is that there are now hard numbers to prove it.

Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that what he had done wrong on the electoral bond front to face a "setback", Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Rs 4 lakh crores worth of contracts, projects, and environmental clearances can be linked to thousands of crores in electoral bond donations made by corporate donors to the BJP.

"The Government of India has been reduced 'Chanda Do, Dhanda Lo'," Ramesh wrote.



"At least 40 ED/IT/CBI raids on firms have been followed by hefty electoral bond donations by these firms to the BJP. The Prime Minister and his cronies have been engaged in a systematic Hafta Vasuli", the Congress leader alleged.

"Unfortunately, we can expect the Prime Minister to continue his fulltime job of lying to the Indian people to cover it", Ramesh said. According to Ramesh,

the Prime Minister

claimed during an interview with a Tamil television channel that the source of funds and how these are being used is known only due to the Electoral Bond Scheme instituted by him.

Stating that the reality is vastly different, Ramesh said the Electoral Bond Scheme was designed to be fully anonymous.

"In other words, Modi wanted to hide from the public the details of where funds have come from [to political parties], and how these funds are being used", Ramesh said in a statement posted on X.

"For six years, between 2018 and 2024, not a single detail of which party got funds from which donor was revealed to the public", the Congress general secretary wrote.

In 2024, the Supreme Court intervened to reject the Electoral Bond Scheme as unconstitutional. Up until the last day in court, the Modi Government tried to defend the anonymity of the scheme, Ramesh wrote.

When the Supreme Court demanded that the SBI publish the details of who donated to which party, "the remote-controlled SBI" lied to the court, saying it did not collect this infor-

The SBI then requested three months' time to collate the data, conveniently seeking an extension until after the election, Ramesh wrote saying it was only the Supreme Court's strong intervention that forced the SBI to release the data publicly within days "The SBI was lying in the Supreme Court when it demanded a 3-month extension to match donor data with the political parties. It took our team five lines of Python code and less than fifteen seconds to match each donor with the political party they

donated to", Ramesh said. Ramesh said the data has revealed monumen-

tal corruption by the BJP and the Modi Government.

4-Year-Old Dead, 2 Missing After Boat Capsizes In Assam's Brahmaputra River

GUWAHATI, Apr 1 (Agencies): A four-yearold child died and two persons were reported missing after a boat capsized in the Brahmaputra river in South Salmara-Mankachar district. amid heavy rain and hailstorm across Assam, a senior official said on Monday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah dialled Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to enquire about the situation in the state. and assured of all assistance, he said.

The sudden storm accompanied with hail and a downpour lashed several parts of the state since Sunday evening, uprooting trees, electric poles and damaging houses, Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) CEO Gyanendra Dev Tripathi said.

"A country boat sank at 5 pm yesterday at Nepurer Alga village while travelling from Sishumara ghat to Nepurer Alga ghat. A child's body was recovered by locals and two people are missing," he told agency.

The victim has been identified as Samin Mondal (4), while Kobat Ali Mondal (56) and Ismail Ali (8) are missing, Tripathi said.

"An SDRF team started a search operation this morning and deep divers from Dhubri and

Goalpara districts also joined them. An NDRF team is en route to the site to assist in the rescue efforts." he said. The ASDMA is sending drones with pilots for surveillance during the operation, the CEO said. He said there were 15 passengers in the boat, and the rest of them swam to safety with the help of locals from nearby 'Char' areas (riverine vegetative

islands). Tripathi also said a number of lightning incidents have taken place in several districts, but no report of any casualty has been received so far.

"We are still compiling reports from different districts, while some are yet to send their assessment. Once the exercise is complete, only then will we be able to give a complete picture of the damage," he said.

Several houses, schools and shops along with scores of vehicles were damaged across the state due to the rain and storm, officials said. Hundreds of visitors were stranded inside the Garbhanga Reserve Forest near Guwahati till the early hours of Monday, as uprooted trees blocked roads, they said.

"The district administration carried out rescue operations till around 3 am and cleared the



roads. The rush was a little more as it was a Sunday," an official said. People had a harrowing time to reach their

destinations in the morning hours, as several roads were blocked and electric poles and trees lay scattered.

Meanwhile, Sarma in a post on X said Shah's assurance of full support and assistance for relief and rehabilitation is deeply appreciated. The India Meteorological Department

had on Sunday issued an 'Orange Alert' and forecast "heavy to very heavy" rainfall across several states of the northeast, including Assam, over the next five days.

In a special bulletin, IMD's Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Guwahati issued the alert for Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh for Sunday.

The states are likely to witness thunderstorms with lightning and heavy to very heavy rain accompanied with gusty wind at speeds of 30-40 km per hour, it said. For the next four

davs, the RMC issued a 'Yellow Alert' for these states.

An 'Orange Alert' implies "be prepared for action" and 'Yellow Alert' stands for "watch and be updated" The weather report said a cyclonic circulation lies over Assam at 1.5 km above the mean sea level.

"Under the influence of the above synoptic conditions and moisture incursion from the Bay of Bengal to Northeastern region, light to moderate rainfall at many to most places with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall will occur," it said.

The sudden downpour accompanied by storm also wreaked havoc at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport here on Sunday, prompting the authorities to briefly halt operations and divert six flights to other destinations.

Storm wreaks havoc in northern West Bengal; 5 killed, more than 100 injured

JALPAIGURI (WB), Apr 1 (Agencies): The death toll due to a storm that wreaked havoc in parts of Jalpaiguri district in northern West Bengal has risen to five, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said.

Over 100 people were injured while several hutments and houses were damaged, trees uprooted and electric poles came crashing down as strong winds accompanied by hail struck most parts of the district headquarters town and many areas of neighbouring Mainaguri on Sunday.

The Chief Minister, who rushed to the district late on Sunday night, assured the people of all help from the administration.

"So far, we have reports of the death of five people. The number of injured is guite high. I met the injured and the family members of those who died in the storm. The state administration will do everything to help the affected families," she said.

When asked about providing compensation, Banerjee said, "As the model code of conduct is in place, I can't say anything about it. You have to talk to the district administration."

The CM on Sunday night visited those injured and undergoing treatment at the hospital. She also spoke to the family members of those killed in the storm and assured them of all sorts of assistance.

"This is a disaster, an emergency situation. I have visited the families of those who have been killed and also those who are undergoing treatment at the hospital. I will thank the administration for their prompt action in the rescue operation. We are beside the people and



will take care of their treatment and rebuilding the houses," Banerjee said, adding that the rescue operation is over.

Banerjee, accompanied by TMC party leaders, went to Jalpaiguri Medical College and Hospital and on her way also spoke to those in the relief camps in other parts of the districts through video call.

Among the most affected areas in the district were Rajarhat, Barnish, Bakali, Jorpakdi, Madhabdanga and Saptibari, officials said, adding that several acres of agricultural land and crops suffered damage.

Governor C V Ananda Bose also left for the northern districts of Bengal early Monday morning.

"This is very unfortunate. There is loss of lives in the storm. All the agencies are working together. I will be visiting the area and speak to the people there. Everything will be done," Bose told reporters before boarding the flight.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives in the storm and said he had spoken with officials and asked them to ensure proper assistance to those affected by it.

"Disaster response team has been deployed and helpdesks set up," a senior official of Jalpaiguri district said.

However, not much damage happened in Cooch Behar and Alipurduar districts, another official added.

Dhupguri MLA Nirmal Chandra Roy told agency that several people have been admitted to hospital with injuries.

An emergency cell has also been opened at the Raj Bhavan to deal with the situation in Jalpaiguri, officials said.

According to an official statement, the governor is in touch with the disaster management authority in Delhi and has requested them to rush more reinforcement by way of manpower and materials to Jalpaiguri.

"He will camp in Jalpaiguri tomorrow and visit ground zero and houses of the victims," it said.

INTERNATIONAL

South Korea's Yoon vows not to back down in the face of doctors' strike over medical school plan

About 12,000 medical interns and residents in South Korea have been on strike for six weeks, causing hundreds of cancelled surgeries and other treatments at university hospitals.

SEOUL, Apr 1 (Agencies): South Korea's president vowed Monday not to back down in the face of vehement protests by doctors seeking to derail his plan to drastically increase medical school admissions, as he called their walkouts "an illegal collective action" that poses "a grave threat to our society." About 12,000 medical interns and residents in South Korea have been on strike for six weeks, causing hundreds of cancelled surgeries and other treatments at university hospitals. In support of their action, many senior doctors at their teaching schools have also submitted resignations though they haven't stopped treating patients

Officials say they want to raise the yearly medical school cap by 2,000 from the current 3,058 to create more doctors to deal with the country's rapidly aging population. Doctors counter that schools can't handle such an abrupt increase in students and that it would eventually hurt the country's medical services. But critics say doctors, one of the best-paid professions in South Korea, are simply worried that the supply of more doctors would result in lower future incomes.

Public surveys show that a majority of South Koreans support the government's push to create more doctors. But observers say many people are increasingly fed up with the protracted confrontation



between the government and doctors, threatening to deal a blow to governing party candidates ahead of next week's parliamentary elections.

In a nationally televised address, President Yoon Suk Yeol said adding 2,000 medical students is the minimum increase needed to address a shortage of physicians in rural areas, the military and essential but low-paying professions like pediatrics and emergency departments. Yoon said South Korea's doctor-to-patient ratio - 2.1 physicians per 1,000 people — is far below the average of 3.7 in the developed world.

"Increasing the number of doctors is a state project that we can't further delay," Yoon said.

Yoon urged the striking doctors to return to work, saying they have a responsibility to protect people's lives in line

with the local medical law. He also said the government remains open to talks if doctors come up with a unified proposal that adequately explains why adding 2,000 more students is

too steep of an increase. "I can't tolerate an attempt to carry through their thoughts by force without due logic and grounds," Yoon said. "The illegal collective action by some doctors has become a grave threat to our society."

Yoon said the recruitment plan won't lead to lower earnings for doctors, citing what he called expected increases in national income and demand for medical services in the fastaging society. He said the average income of South Korean doctors is the highest in the developed world.

Yoon's speech is expected to draw an angry response from doctors, who have maintained they can have serious talks only when the government drops its increased enrollment plan. They deny opposing the plan over worries about future incomes.

Yoon said the government is taking final administrative steps to suspend the licenses of the strikers but added he doesn't want to punish the young doctors. This implies that his government is willing to soften punitive measures on the strikers if they return to work soon.

Yoon recently ordered officials to pursue "a flexible measure" to resolve the dispute and seek constructive consultations with doctors at the request of ruling party leader Han Dong-hoon.

The striking junior doctors represent a fraction of the total doctors in South Korea — estimated at 115,000 by Yoon and 140,000 by a doctors' association. But in some major hospitals, they account for about 30% to 40% of doctors, assisting qualified doctors and department chiefs during surgeries and other treatments while training.

Doctors say the government enrollment plan lacks measures to resolve key medical issues such as how to increase the number of physicians in some key but unpopular professions. They say newly recruited students would also try to work in the capital region and in highpaying fields like plastic surgery and dermatology. They say the government plan would also likely result in doctors performing unnecessary treatments due to increased competition.

Palestinians say Israeli troops have withdrawn from Gaza's main hospital after 2-week raid

Hundreds of people returned to Shifa Hospital and the surrounding area after the withdrawal early Monday, where they found bodies inside and outside of the facility.

weapons and valuable

Mohammed Mahdi,

those who returned,

described a scene of

"total destruction." He

said several buildings

had been burned down.

He counted six bodies

in the area, includ-

ing two in the hospital

Another resident,

Yahia Abu Auf, said

there were still patients,

medical workers and

displaced people

sheltering inside the

medical compound. He

said several patients

had been taken to the

nearby Ahli Hospital.

He said army bulldoz-

ers had plowed over

a makeshift cemetery

inside the hospital com-

"The situation is

indescribable," he

pound.

was among

intelligence.

courtyard.

who



PALESTINIAN TER-RITORIES, Apr 1 (Agencies): Palestinian residents say the Israeli military has withdrawn from Gaza's main hospital after a two-week raid, leaving behind a vast swath of destruction.

Hundreds of people returned to Shifa Hospital and the surrounding area after the withdrawal early Monday, where they found bodies inside and outside of the facility.

There was no immediate comment from the military, which has described the raid as one of the most successful operations of the nearly six-month war. The army says it killed scores of Hamas and other militants, including senior operatives, and that it seized

said. "The occupation destroyed all sense of life here."

Israel has accused Hamas of using hospitals for military purposes and has raided several medical facilities. Critics accuse the army of recklessly endangering civilians and of decimating a health sector already overwhelmed with war wounded.

The military had previously raided Shifa, Gaza's largest hospital, in November, after saying Hamas maintained an elaborate command and control center inside and beneath the compound. It revealed a tunnel running beneath the hospital that led to a few rooms.

The war began on Oct. 7, when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 people hostage. Israel responded with an air, land and sea offensive that has killed over 32,000 Palestinians, displaced most the territory's population and driven a third of its residents to the brink of famine.

This Country Will Now Allow Adults To Carry Upto 25 g Cannabis

The Netherlands, known for its permissive attitude to the drug, has in recent years taken a stricter approach to counter cannabis tourism.

BERLIN, Apr 1 (Agencies): Germany on Monday became the biggest EU country to legalise recreational cannabis, despite fierce objections from opposition politicians and medical associations

Under the first step in the muchdebated new law, adults over 18 are now allowed to carry 25 grams of dried cannabis and cultivate up to three marijuana plants at home. The changes leave Germany with some of the most liberal cannabis laws in Europe, alongside Malta and Luxembourg, which legalised recreational use in 2021 and 2023, respectively.



Japan's Moon Lander Put To Sleep After Second **Ultra-Chilly Lunar Night**

TOKYO, Apr 1 (Agencies): Japan's valiant Moon lander was put to sleep again after unexpectedly surviving its second ultra-chilly long lunar night, the space agency said Monday.

The Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) -- dubbed the "Moon Sniper" for its landing precision -touched down in January, making Japan only the fifth nation to achieve a soft lunar landing.



But the unmanned Defying pessimistic

peratures as low as -130 degrees Celsius (-200 degrees Fahrenheit), it repeated the feat last week and transmitted new images back to Earth.

On Monday, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) announced the probe has been put back to media platform X. "Although there are some malfunctions in some functions of MBC,

JAXA said on social

it still works, so we are carefully checking its status," it said, referring to the Multi-band Camera used to examine lunar rocks.

Some types of rocks

The Netherlands, known for its permissive attitude to the drug, has in recent years taken a stricter approach to counter cannabis tourism.

As the law took effect at midnight, hundreds of people cheered by Berlin's iconic Brandenbrug Gate, many of them by lighting up joints in what one participant, a very happy 25-year-old Niyazi, called "a bit of extra freedom".

As the next step in the legal reform, from July 1 it will be possible to legally obtain weed through "cannabis clubs" in the country.

These regulated associations will be allowed to have up to 500 members each, and will be able to distribute up to 50 grams of cannabis per person per month.

Until then, "consumers must not tell the police where they bought their cannabis" in the event of a street check, Georg Wurth, director of the German Cannabis Association, told agency.

'Disaster'

Initial plans for cannabis to be sold via licensed shops have been ditched due to EU opposition, though a second law is in the pipeline to trial the sale of the drug in shops in pilot regions.

The German government, a three-way coalition led by Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats, argues that legalisation will help contain the growing black market for the popular substance.

But health groups have raised concerns that legalisation could lead to an increase in use among young people, who face the highest health risks.

Cannabis use among young people can affect the development of the central nervous system, leading to an

increased risk of developing psychosis and schizophrenia, experts have warned.

"From our point of view, the law as it is written is a disaster," Katja Seidel, a therapist at a cannabis addiction centre for young people in Berlin, told agency. Even Health Minister Karl Lauterbach, a doctor, has said that cannabis consumption can be "dangerous", especially for young people.

The government has promised a widespread information campaign to raise awareness of the risks and to boost support programmes.

It has also stressed that cannabis will remain banned for under-18s and within 100 metres of schools, kindergartens and playgrounds.

'Responsible'

The law has also led to criticism from police, who fear it will be difficult to enforce.

"From April 1, our colleagues will find themselves in situations of conflict with citizens, as uncertainty reigns on both sides," said Alexander Poitz, vice-president of the GdP police union.

Another potential issue is that the law will retroactively declare an amnesty for cannabis-related offences, creating an administrative headache for the legal system.

According to the German Judges' Association, the pardon could apply to more than 200,000 cases that would need to be checked and processed.

Conservative opposition leader Friedrich Merz has said he would "immediately" repeal the law if he and his party formed a government following nationwide elections in 2025.

But Finance Minister Christian Lindner, from the liberal FDP, said legalisation was a "responsible" move that was better than "directing people to the black market".

The new law "will not lead to chaos", Lindner told public broadcaster ARD.

lightweight spacecraft, carrying a mini-rover that moves like a turtle. landed at a wonky angle that left its solar panels facing the wrong way.

predictions, the probe was revived in late February once the lunar night -- which lasts about 14 Earth days -- ended. Despite facing tem-

sleep again on Sunday. "During this operation, we mainly checked the status of several devices by turning on switches and applying loads,"

around the lunar craters are thought to contain material from its mantle, which could give clues on how the Moon was formed.

Benjamin Netanyahu Undergoes "Successful" Hernia Surgery: Israel PM Office

JERUSALEM, Apr 1 (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu underwent "successful" hernia surgery, his office said on Monday.

Netanyahu was "in good shape and beginning to recover", his office said in a statement after the operation on Sunday evening, which was closely watched as the war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip nears six months.

Doctors discovered the hernia on Saturday during a routine checkup, and after consultations the decision was made for the premier to undergo surgery after completing his daily schedule, his office said. Thousands of Israelis

demonstrated in Jerusalem on Sunday evening to call for Netanyahu's resignation and the release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza.



The war in Gaza was sparked by Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7 that resulted in about 1.160 deaths in Israel, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally of Israeli official figures.

Israel's retaliatory campaign has so far killed at least 32,782 people, mostly women and children, the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Sunday.

2 Pakistani soldiers killed, 4 injured as armed men open fire on security personnel in Balochistan

KARACHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Unidentified armed men opened indiscriminate fire on a Pakistan Army bomb disposal team near the port city of Gwadar in the restive Balochistan province, killing two soldiers and injuring four others.

The bomb disposal team of the Pakistan Army was busy clearing landmines in the Ankara Dam area of Gwadar district when gunmen opened fire on them on Sunday, news agency reported on Monday.

Two security personnel were killed and four others injured in the attack in the Ankara Dam area on Sunday, officials said.

"The firing incident took place some 25km from the port city [Gwadar], which claimed two lives and injured four others," said Gwadar SSP Mohsin Zohaib, adding that after the incident, the bodies and the injured were shifted to a nearby hospital.

Security forces have launched a search operation in the area to trace the attackers. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The separatist Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) has, in the past, claimed most of the attacks in Gwadar.

The BLA is opposed to China's investments in Balochistan and accuses China and Pakistan of exploitation of the resource-rich province, a charge rejected by the authorities.

On March 24, the BLA also

claimed responsibility for an attack on the Gwadar Port Authority Complex.

Security forces had killed eight militants of the banned separatist group in the gunfire.

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

LOCAL/CONTD....

Opp. pursuing vendetta against Modi: Dr Varinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Dr Varinder Sharma, Coconvenor Professional Cell Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) today said that INDIA bloc leaders rally organized by Aam Aadmi Party at Delhi wherein entire opposition in one voice opened front against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and not the ruling BJP establishes that their failed leadership led by Congress is pursuing "politics of vendetta". Their hatred against Modi speaks of a volume of personal vendetta against one person. Instead of playing a constructive role of an opposition, these leaders are trying to project themselves as saviours of 'corrupt'

The BJP leader said

this rally of opposition leaders named 'Loktantra Bachao' is actually a "Corrupt Bachao" rally. He said the opposition leaders including those from Jammu and Kashmir were vocal against Modi but silent on corruption of their own leaders, ministers and chief ministers. some of whom are behind bars. Having lost ground and also the faith of people in their leadership, these INDI block leaders are trying to pitch against Narendra Modi who has led India to become one of the largest economies

in the world The kind of development that India witnessed during the past ten years was exemplary and now that issues like Article 370 and construction of Ram Temple are over, the BJP led coalition govern-

ment is fighting elections on the plank of development and future course of action it intends to take in next forty years. This far sightedness of Narendra Modi is irking opposition leaders who have now gone issueless as well as directionless, Dr Varinder Sharma said adding that time has come to repeat Narendra Modi government for third consecutive year to pave way for future development.

All those issues that were a stumbling block in the path of progress of India stands removed and corrupt stands nailed. The next on agenda is empowerment of people and strengthening of the three-tier system of governance in India for which the Narendra Modi government is committed to the people. Dr Varinder

Sharma said BJP is sure to get 400 plus seats in these elections which will give it powers to take many strong decisions in the larger interest of the Nation. India under the leadership of Narendra Modi is progressing and we the people of India will not let this chain break, he added.

The leaders of various parties including TMC, DMK, NC, PDP and Shiv Sena (UBT) are all accusing the government of misusing central agencies such as Enforcement Directorate (ED), CBI and Income Tax (I-T) department to target the opposition but are not speaking truth as to how they looted public money which is why agencies are doing their job. Why is it that common people or those who haven't

done anything wrong are not finding any flaws in these raids and catches but only the chosen few are crying hoarse" this is because Narendra Modi has assured that influence and power won't do anything when it comes to putting corrupt behind bars Dr Varinder Sharma

said today also opposition is trying to m misguide people by raising slogans of providing electricity, world-class schools in villages, Mohalla clinics in villages and multispeciality hospitals in districts besides fair price (MSP) for farmers knowing that majority of these issues stands already fulfilled by Narendra Modi who is not thinking head of getting the country rip of poverty and establish it as a developed nation.

Former Martand Sun Temple Mattan President hails Union Govt decision for restoration of old religious temples in Valley

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: The recent historical decision of the union government in respect of the protection, conversation, and protection of ancient temples in Kashmir Vallev with the installation of a statue of emperor Lalitaditaya Muktapida in the premises of Martand Sun Temple situated at Mattan in Anantnag Kashmir is a matter of great pride and honour for people of Jammu and Kashmir in general and Kashmir Pandits in Particular.

In a Press Statement issued today by former two time President of **PSM Martand Tirath** Improvement Charitable Trust Mattan and senior most leader of Kashmiri Pandit has expressed his heartiest gratitude to Prime, Home Minister of India and Lt Governor union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for initiating such landmark move to restore ancient culture, ethos and civilization of minority community of Kashmiri Pandits by way of preservation, conservation and renovation of old temples of Kashmir

ferent parts of the country and globe to perform religious rituals and voyages here as well will surely improve the tourism sector on a high scale to boost the econ-

omy of J&K. Yogi demanded that for the facilitation of pilgrims and Tourists to the Historic Martand Sun Temple shrine, proper advertisement and signs boards at main entry points en route to it be placed to attract pilgrims and tourists on mass scale

Financial Assistance To Next of Kin (NOK) of Army Porter Sarsot, Reasi

Top News Report

REASI, Apr 1: The life of Mr. Raj Singh, Father of Late Porter Chand Singh came to a stand still with the loss of his son the sole breadwinner of the family.

deceased The belonged to a backward class. However, in

Tarun Sharma felicitates singer Ajay Chib



a great display of care and gratitude for the civilians, Indian Army facilitated a compensation for the ailing family of Late Porter Chand Singh. The father of Late Chand Singh, Mr. Raj Singh expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for timely financial assistance pro-

vided to the family.

'Fight against blindness to ensure brighter future for all'

individuals can reduce

their risk of developing

this condition and protect

their vision for years to

Diabetic retinopathy is

another leading cause of

blindness, affecting indi-

This condition occurs

when high blood sugar

levels damage the blood

vessels in the retina,

leading to vision loss. By

managing blood sugar

levels through diet, exer-

cise, and medication.

individuals can reduce

their risk of developing

diabetic retinopathy and

Cataracts are another

common cause of blind-

ness, affecting millions

of people worldwide.

protect their vision.

viduals with diabetes.

come.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Blindness is a condition that affects millions of people around the world, with many cases being preventable

To raise awareness about the importance of preventing blindness, organizations and communities around the globe come together to observe Prevention of Blindness Week

This annual event serves as a reminder of the steps that can be taken to protect our vision and ensure a brighter future for all.

One of the leading causes of blindness is age-related macular degeneration, a condition that affects the central part of the retina and can lead to severe vision loss. This condition is often linked to ageing, but some steps can be taken to reduce the risk of developing it.

Eating a healthy diet rich in fruits and vegetables, exercising regularly, and avoiding smoking can all help to protect the eyes and prevent macular Legeneration

loss. UV exposure, eye injuries, and genetic factors can all play a role in the development of eye conditions that can lead to blindness By taking steps to pro-

tect the eyes, such as wearing sunglasses, using protective eyewear, and knowing your family history of eye diseases, individuals can reduce their risk of developing vision problems and maintain healthy eyesiaht.

Prevention of Blindness Week serves as a reminder of the importance of taking care of our eyes and protecting our vision. By spreading awareness about the steps that can be taken to prevent blindness, we can help individuals around the world maintain healthy

eyes and enjoy clear vision for years to come. From regular eye exams to healthy lifestyle choices, there are many ways to protect our eyes and reduce our risk of developing vision problems.

As we observe Prevention of Blindness Week, let us all take a moment to reflect on the importance

NNK Jammu stages 'Ghalib at Quarantine' in New Delhi

surely pave a way for

strengthening the secu-

lar fabric of J&K for which

it is famous all over the

Yogi also added that

with such a historic

development it will also

attract people from dif-

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Apr 1: A captivating portrayal of the life and legacy of Mirza Ghalib, the iconic Urdu poet of the Indian subcontinent, unfolded on the stage of Shri Ram Centre, New Delhi, by the dynamic team of Natraj Natya Kunj Jammu. Titled 'Ghalib in Quarantine', the play witnessed two consecutive shows in response to overwhelming public demand in Delhi

Crafted by Rohit Verma and helmed by director Dr. Abhishek Bharti. the production offers a vibrant narrative of Mirza Asadullah Beig

Khan Ghalib's life. Set

against the backdrop

of the Covid crisis and

sudden lockdown, the

play intricately weaves

the tale of a character

grappling with confine-

ment, drawing parallels

to Ghalib's own historical

predicament during the

events of 1857. Through

poignant recitations of

Ghalib's poetry, letters,

and life anecdotes, the

play illuminates fascinating facets of his persona and deep-rooted connection to Delhi

An homage to Ghalib's poetic genius and a window into his era, the play unfolds his journey in a visually striking and immersive manner. Energetically portrayed by actor Balwinder Singh, the character of Mirza Ghalib comes to life on stage, while music, masterfully composed by Vishal Pandita, forms the soulful backdrop, seamlessly blending contemporary sensibilities with

the essence of bygone

The meticulous atten-

tion to detail extends

to the play's production

design, with Virii Sumbli

crafting evocative sets,

Anu Thakur curating

authentic costumes, and

Aaditya Bharti orchestrat-

ing atmospheric lighting.

Vocal performances by

Vishal Pandita, Anjali

Sharma, Shobhana

Sharma, and Karan,

accompanied by the

rhythmic beats of tabla

by Nitish Kumar and nout

eras.

by Vineet Raina, further enrich the theatrical experience.

through lens, Sheetal

Raina's photography

preserves the magic

of the play for poster-

ity. Ultimately, under the

visionary direction of Dr.

Abhishek Bharti, 'Ghalib

in Quarantine' emerges

as a poignant tribute to

the timeless legacy of

Mirza Ghalib, captivating

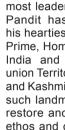
audiences with its artis-

tic brilliance and profound

Capturing the essence

performance





valley in general and Martand Sun Temple Mattan in Particular to revive them back to pristine glory Yogi further added that with such laudable decision, new spirit will be infused among the community people and it will

world.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Actor, Director, President Nat Manch, Social, Sports and Political activist Dr. Tarun Sharma felicitated Ajay Singh Chib, a renowned and versatile singer from Jammu and Kashmir UT, who won The Voice of BSF 2024 Singing Talent Hunt.

Ajay Singh Chib is also serving the nation as a soldier in 59 Bn BSF FTR HQ BSF.

Famous artist Rajinder Singh Samyal was also present on this occasion.

Another common cause of blindness is glaucoma, a group of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve and can lead to vision loss if left untreated. Regular eye exams are essential for detecting glaucoma early and preventing further damage to the eyes.

By monitoring eye pressure and taking ness many other factors prescribed medications, can contribute to vision

This condition occurs when the lens of the eye becomes cloudy, leading to blurred vision and difficulty seeing clearly. Cataract surgery is a safe and effective treatment for this condition, allowing individuals to regain their vision and improve their quality of life. In addition to these common causes of blind-

of our vision and the steps that can be taken to protect it. By raising awareness about the causes of blindness and the ways to prevent it, we can help individuals around the world maintain healthy eyes and enjoy clear vision for years to come. Together, we can make a difference in the fight against blindness and ensure a brighter future for all.

FROM PAGE 1

in Government Medical College Srinagar & Associated Hospitals, it is hereby ordered that Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan, I/c Principal Government Medical College Handwar. shall look after the charge of Principal Government Medical College Srinagar, in addition to her own duties, till further orders," reads an order.

Congress protests against I-T action on party, slams BJP-led Centre

granted permission for holding the protest

The Congress had on Sunday said it received fresh notices from the Income Tax department, raising a tax demand of Rs 1.745 crore for the assessment years 2014-15 to 2016-17.

With this latest notice, the Income Tax department has raised a total demand of Rs 3,567 crore from the party, it had said. On Friday, the party had said it received notices from the department, asking it to pay around Rs 1,823 crore. The tax authorities have already withdrawn Rs 135 crore from the party's accounts for a tax demand relating to previous years.

The Income Tax department on Monday told the Supreme Court that it will not take any coercive action against the Congress over the tax demand notices in view of the Lok Sabha elections.

58 cases registered against drug peddlers. 91 arrested in Baramulla

were identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigations and inquiries conducted by the police.

"The properties were prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddlers," the statement said.

This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace, the statement said.

The police have requested that community members come forward with any information regarding drug peddling in their neighbourhood.

"Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt with as per law. Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of the drug menace," police

Mian Altaf Ahmad is NC's candidate for Anantnag-**Raiouri Seat**

seat," the spokesperson said. Omar emphasised Ahmad's widespread popularity across various segments of society and expressed confidence that he would garner substantial support from the people.

storytelling.

of the

The Anantnag constituency, which spreads across the Pir Panjal range to include Rajouri and Poonch areas after the delimitation, will go to polls on May 7 in the third phase of Lok Sabha elections. The notification for the third phase will be

issued on April 12 and the last date for filing nominations will be April 19.

The National Conference, which is part of the opposition INDIA bloc, will be contesting three Lok Sabha seats in the Kashmir Valley.

The PDP — which is also part of the INDIA alliance — is likely to field its own candidates for two of the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir but the party has not made a formal announcement so far.

Over 1 million tourists took Guimarg Gondola ride this year

one million tourists took the Gulmarg Gondola this year earning a revenue of over Rs 110 crore.

"Gulmarg Gondola soars to new heights! For the first time ever more than 1 million tourists took the Gulmarg Gondola Cable Car Ride in FY 2023-24. Revenue crosses more than Rs 110 crores. J&K Tourism sees unprecedented growth which continues to surpass all previous figures," the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department posted on X.

J&K Police to train its personnel for rigorous antiterrorism operations

operational capabilities of both forces, which for over three decades have com-

The training is focussed on operational tactics, intelligence sharing, and counterterrorism strategies, drawing on the Indian Army's extensive experience in these fields. This joint training marks a continued commitment to security and the well-being of the region's residents.

Of those undergoing training, 128 are female officers, including 19 DySPs and 109 Sub-Inspectors.

Such training, as per the reports, will go a long way to help police independently take on terrorism in different areas of Jammu and Kashmir including twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri.

Excise Policy-Linked case | Kejriwal remanded in judicial custody till April 15

leader of "being involved in the entire conspiracy of Delhi liquor scam, in drafting and implementation of the policy, for favouring and benefiting the quid pro receiving kickbacks and eventually using part of proceeds of crime generated out of the

scheduled offence in the election campaign for Goa Assembly elections".

entered Indian territory but it returned to

the other side of the LoC in the face of

Troops also fired a few rounds after

detecting suspicious movement of some

persons trying to infiltrate from across the

border in Keri sector but they fled towards

A massive search operation has been

launched to ensure there is no drone drop-

ping or anything suspicious left behind by

the suspected persons, the officials said.

The operation was continuing when last

Dr Iffat Hassan given

additional charge of

Principal GMC Srinagar

has been made amid enforcement of

Model Code of Conduct amid upcoming

"Consequent upon the superannuation of

Prof. (Dr.) Tanvir Masood Bhat, Principal

GMC Srinagar on 31-03-202, and due to

the Model Code of Conduct being in place,

because of General Elections to Lok Sabha

- 2024 and in order to ensure patient care

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

reports came in.

Lok Sabha elections.

Army opens fire after Pakistani drone spotted along loc in Raiouri

firing.

bated terrorism side by side.

BUSINESS

In first meet for FY25 in April, why MPC will likely keep repo rate unchanged

MPC to keep the policy

repo rate unchanged at

the April 5 meeting at

6.5%, retain the mon-

etary policy stance of

'withdrawal of accommo-

dation', sound optimistic

on growth, and continue

to reiterate the commit-

ment to the 4% head-

line inflation target," the

Strong growth in fiscal

year 2024 and higher

growth projections for

FY25 give leeway to the

RBI to wait for actual

monetary easing in

advanced economies,

said Deepak Agarwal,

Chief Investment Officer,

Debt, Kotak Mahindra

Finance Minister Nir-

mala Sitharaman Sat-

urday said she expects

growth in the fourth

quarter (January-March

2024) to be 8% or above

8%, which will push FY24

GDP growth to an aver-

age of 8% or more. The

report said.

AMC

MUMBAI, Apr 1 (Agencies): The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will hold its first meeting for the financial year (FY) 2024-25 between April 3 and 5. The panel is widely expected to keep the repo rate, the key policy rate, unchanged and maintain the 'withdrawal of accommodation' policy stance. Analysts said the central bank will be cautious as continuing risks to food inflation could affect consumer price index (CPI) or retail inflation

What is expected from RBI's forthcoming monetary policy meeting?

The MPC will likely keep the repo rate - the rate at which the RBI lends money to banks to meet their short-term funding needs - unchanged at 6.5%. After a 25-basis point (bp) hike in February 2023, the rate has remained unchanged at this level over seven straight MPC meetings. One basis point is onehundredth of a percentage point.

The MPC meeting comes after the US Federal Reserve decided to hold its interest rate steady at a range between 5.25% and 5.2% and the Bank of Japan



(BoJ) raised its rate for report. "We expect the RBI

the first time since 2007 - and ended an eightyear negative interest rate regime. The BoJ hiked the interest rate to a range of zero to 0.1% from (-) 0.1%

Why is the RBI expected to remain cautious? The government has mandated the RBI to keep inflation at 4% with

a comfort band of 2% in both directions. In February, retail inflation staved largely flat at 5.09% against 5.1% in January. Analysts said unless the 4% target for inflation is achieved on a durable basis, RBI is unlikely to cut the repo rate. "We expect the RBI

to take comfort from declining core inflation, slightly soften its hawkish forward guidance, but remain cautious given upside risks to food inflation from weather shocks, and repricing of the Fed funds rate easing path,"

said a Goldman Sachs

economy expanded by 8.2% in Q1, 8.1% in Q2, and 8.4% in Q3. For FY25, the RBI's real GDP growth projection is 7%. What about the monetary policy stance? While it is widely expected that the MPC

will continue with the 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance, some analysts see a chance that the panel will change it to 'neutral'.

"Both repo rate and stance (are) likely to remain unchanged under base case scenario; but can't rule out the possibility of a change of stance to neutral, given past evidence of the central bank surprising with its decision, particularly in April." said Kaushik Das, Chief Economist, India & South Asia, Deutsche Bank.

If RBI indeed changes its stance to neutral, the accompanying statements and comments are expected to be hawkish. On the other hand, if the central bank maintains the 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance — as a majority of the market participants expect - the commentary may be less hawkish, Das said. Will RBI change inflation and growth projec-

tions? According to Deutsche Bank's Das, the RBI is

expected to keep its FY25 CPI inflation forecast unchanged at 4.5%, while the next fiscal year's growth forecast could be raised to 7.4% from the current 7%. "Our own CPI forecast for FY25 is 4.6% similar to RBI's, but our real GDP growth forecast for next fiscal year is 6.5%, lower than the central bank's estimate," he said.

What happens to lending rates if the repo rate is unchanged?

With the RBI expected to leave the repo rate steady, all external benchmark lending rates (EBLR) that are linked to the repo rate will not increase. This will come as relief to borrowers as their equated monthly instalments (EMIs) will not increase.

Lenders, however, may raise interest rates on loans that are linked to the marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR), where the full transmission of the 250-bp hike in the repo rate between May 2022 and February 2023 has not happened. When is **RBI** expected

to cut the repo rate? The Goldman Sachs report forecasts a 25-bp cut each in the third and fourth quarter for the 2024 calendar year.

Domestic consumption demand, Govt capex lent support to India Inc's credit profile: ICRA

NEW DELHI, Apr (Agencies): Rating agency ICRA on Monday said domestic consumption demand, government's infrastructure spending and healthy balance sheets lent support to India Inc's credit profile in the 2023-24 fiscal, even though rise in borrowing cost, sluggish exports and certain global events posed challenges.

In the just-concluded fiscal year, ICRA upgraded two entities for every entity downgraded, in continuation of the upgrade momentum that had been set in motion in FY22. Aviation, hospitality, auto and auto components, and banks were the few sectors in 2023-24 where the rating upgrades were induced mostly by industry tailwinds.

The domestic rating agency said India Inc bore direct and the indirect effects of multiple challenges in FY24, including inflation, rise in borrowing costs, sub-par monsoon, supply-effects of the continued war between Russia and Ukraine, start of another conflict between Israel and Palestine, the Red Sea crisis, and slugaish exports.

Yet, these did not feel heavier as domestic consumption demand across several sectors, government spending on public infrastructure, and healthy balance sheets lent support to the credit profiles of



entities, ICRA said. ICRA Chief Rating Officer K Ravichandran said "a large majority of rating upgrades were driven by company-specific factors such as expansion in market share or order book, improvement in the cost structure, reduction in project risk, or fresh equity infusion that strengthened the balance sheet". ICRA maintained a posi-

tive outlook for the hospitality sector for 2024-25. Sectors where industry headwinds played spoilsport in FY24 and may continue to do so in the near term include chemicals, cut and polished diamonds, and bulk tea, the agency said. Overall, as credit pro-

files continued to improve last year, the number of instances of defaults dipped to five in FY24, compared with 22 in FY23 and 42 in FY22, ICRA said. The agency expects India's GDP to expand 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal year, lower than 7.6 per cent in the last year.

shown a high resilience to withstand the rise in borrowing costs over the past two years and is seen to have the capacity to bear the current level of interest rates, before the rate cut cycle likely begins in the latter part of the year," Ravichandran said. The asset quality of

"Corporate India has

banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) has also been at its decadal best with the profitability and the capitalisation indicators expected to remain healthy in the near term.

"The series of proactive actions taken by the regulators (RBI and Sebi) in the recent years would work to further strengthen the financial system and the capital markets. The key downside factors that could throw a spanner in the works to this radiant prognosis would be how the monsoon pan out this year and how the complicated geopolitical landscape evolves". Ravichandran added.

Aviation security watchdog issues new guidelines, Why have Sensex, Nifty hit all-time allows passenger exit through airport departure gates

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Aviation security watchdog BCAS has issued new guidelines that will allow exit of passengers from an aircraft through an airport departure gate in case there is a long delay in operating the flight after boarding.

The latest directive from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) comes against the backdrop of rising instances of congestion and flight delays, resulting in passengers getting stuck in



gers having food on the mitted to exit through the airport tarmac. A penalty of Rs 1.20 departure gate of the aircrore has been imposed "Airport operators have on IndiGo, while the fine on MIAL is Rs 60 lakh. to make arrangements Many passengers rushed out of an IndiGo aircraft at the Mumbai airport, sat on the tarmac, and some were also seen having food there as soon as their diverted Goa-Delhi flight landed after a long delay on January 14. Domestic air traffic is on the rise and around 3,500 flights take-off every day. Earlier, Hasan said congestion at airports is "unwelcome" and that the agency has developed optimum standards and tools to tackle the issue. The aviation security

watchdog will also put in place smart security lanes as part of efforts to ensure better experience for passengers at the airports.

According to him, fullbody scanners are likely to be operational at Bangalore airport this month. In due course, these scanners will be rolled out at airports having annual passenger traffic of more than 5 million.

To deal with congestion at airports amid rising air traffic, BCAS and other authorities have taken

peaks in intra-day trading today?

MUMBAI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Indian stock markets on Monday (April 1) started the first day of the financial year 2024-25 on a bullish note with key indices, Sensex and NSE Nifty, hitting all-time highs on strong buying in intra-day trades.

The Sensex opened at 73,968.62 against the previous close of 73,651.35 and rose about 0.82 per cent to hit its fresh all-time high of 74,254.62 within the first two hours of trade. The Nifty Index, on the

similar lines, opened at



10

aircraft after boarding for long hours.

BCAS Director General Zulfiquar Hasan on Monday said the guidelines were issued to airlines and airport operators on March 30 and are now in force.

The guidelines will help in ensuring "less harassment" for passengers and they would not have to keep sitting inside an aircraft for long hours after boarding, he said.

In case of long flight delays and other emergencies after boarding,

for the infrastructure, including for screening, for implementing the guidelines," Hasan said and added that a decision on deboarding the passengers will be taken by airlines and security agencies concerned.

port concerned.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the function to mark the 38th Raising Day of the BCAS. On January 17, BCAS had slapped fines totalling Rs 1.80 crore on IndiGo and Mumbai airport operator MIAL over the incident of passenvarious steps.

Hasan said the changes due to the measures are visible even as he stressed that "keeping pace with growth is a challenge"

Among other measures, in February, the BCAS directed seven scheduled airlines to ensure timely arrival of baggage at airports after landing of aircraft. The directive had come against the backdrop of complaints of delay in passengers getting their baggage after arrival of flights.

22,455 against the previous close of 22,326.90 and jumped 0.90 per cent to hit its new record high of 22,529.95

> The Sensex is trading at 74,062.40, up by 4,161 or 0.56 per cent, and the Nifty at 22,470.80, higher by 144, or 0.64 per cent at 12.40 pm. The rally in frontline

indices in the last few sessions suggest that markets have now recovered from the recent correction triggered by market regulator Sebi's caution on the 'froth' in small and mid-cap stocks.

Markets edged higher on the back of a firm trend in the Gift Nifty index and optimism in other Asian indices. "Investors are likely to resort to bargain hunting, and the recent reiteration by the US Fed that it is still looking at 3 rate cuts this

year despite challenges from the inflation front is expected to keep the markets in good stead," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

There are reports of mutual funds introducing restrictions on redemptions from the small-cap schemes. "This is in response to the 'frothy' valuation in this segment and the concerns expressed by the regulator. The consequence of this action would be higher flows of funds into the large caps, which, in turn, can lift the large caps. So, watch out for large caps in automobiles, capital goods, financials, and select pharma which are likely to post good Q4 numbers," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

a roughly 64 per cent chance the US Fed will cut rates by at least 25 basis points (bps) in June. according to CME's Fed-Watch Tool. Fed Chair Powell noted that the Fed is not tolerant of higher inflation and hinted rate cuts verv much remain

Moreover, foreign port-

folio investors (FPIs) are

showing positive senti-

ments for the market.

FPIs invested over Rs

35,000 crore in equities

Analysts say markets

are likely to remain vola-

tile as India heads for the

2024 general election.

While intra-day volatil-

ity could continue in the

near term, the focus will

slowly shift to fourth-

quarter corporate earn-

ings which will start roll-

ing in the next few days'

The RBI monetary

policy meeting sched-

on the table.

in March.

time.

April 5 is likely to keep rates unchanged and. therefore, is unlikely to impact the market in a big way. However, markets will keep an eve on the RBI's commentary on inflation and growth forecasts and the withdrawal of the accommodative monetary policy.

uled to be unveiled on

On the other hand, investors are likely to focus on large-cap stocks in the coming days as some fund houses have put restrictions on inflows and outflows in small and mid-cap stocks. FPIs are also likely to step up buying.

Moreover, investors are likely to resort to bargain hunting, and the recent reiteration by the US Fed that it is still looking at 3 rate cuts this year despite challenges from the inflation front is expected to keep the markets in good stead.

Millions of recalled Hyundai and Kia vehicles with dangerous defect remain on US roads

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): In September, Hyundai and Kia issued a recall of 3.4 million of its vehicles in the United States with an ominous warning: The vehicles should be parked outdoors and away from buildings because they risked catching fire, whether the engines were on or off. Six months later, most of those autos remain on the road — unrepaired putting their owners, their families and potentially other people in danger of fires that could spread to garages, houses or other vehicles

Hyundai and Kia have acknowledged that there's little hope of repairing most of the affected vehicles until June or later, roughly nine months after they announced the recalls. (Hyundai owns part of

Kia, though the two companies operate independently.)

The two companies attributed the delays, in part, to the huge number of vehicles involved, among the largest recalls they've ever done. The fires, they say, have occurred when brake fluid leaked onto the circuit boards of antilock braking systems, triagering an electrical short and igniting the fluid.

The companies say they've been unable to obtain enough of the needed parts - fuses that reduce the boards' electrical currents - to fix most of the affected vehicles. Among them are some of their topselling models for the 2010 through 2017 years, including Hyundai's Santa Fe and Elantra and Kia's Sportage and Forte.

Hyundai and Kia have urged the vehicles' owners to contact the companies or dealers if they see dashboard warning lights or smell something burning. In

the meantime, both companies contend that despite the ongoing risks, the cars remain safe to drive

When they announced the recalls in September, the two automakers reported that the defect had caused 56 vehicle fires and "thermal incidents," which include burning, melting and smoking. No injuries or deaths have been reported, either before or since the recalls were announced.

Safety advocates complain, though, that the repairs are taking far longer than fixes from auto recalls normally do. Typically, such repairs

begin in 10 weeks or less, though some can take longer if automakers cannot quickly determine the cause, which isn't the case with the Hyundai-Kia problem.

While awaiting repairs, owners of the affected vehicles need to park outside and away from other vehicles to minimize the risks. In the meantime, safety advocates note that if too much brake fluid leaks, it could impair braking or lengthen the distance required to stop a car.

The long-delayed repairs mark the latest in a long series of recalls involving engine fires on Hyundai and Kia vehicles that have bedevilled the two Korean automakers since 2015. All told, 13 million of their vehicles have been recalled for engine problems since 2010.

Toyota records highest-ever monthly sales at 27,180 units in March

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Monday reported its highest-ever monthly wholesales at 27,180 units in March.

The company's total dispatches to dealers increased 25 per cent last month to 22,910 units as compared with 21,783 units in March 2023.

For the 2023-24 fiscal the company reported the highest-ever wholesales of 2,63,512 units, an increase of 48 per cent as against 1,77,683 units in 2022-23.

"We are thrilled to close both our wholesales for 2023-24 fiscal year and March 2024 by recording the



highest-ever units of 2,63,512 and 27,180 respectively," Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business Sabari Manohar said in a statement. With a customer-oriented

approach, the company has always remained ahead in assessing and understanding the diverse needs of varied customers and market trends, serving them the best with our wider range of quality products and services, he added.

"We will continue to do so with an emphasis to meet the rising consumer demands across segments. Further, energising our customer centricity will be our focus to move even more closer to our customers on both product as well as service fronts by enhancing customer touchpoints," Manohar said.

Markets are pricing in

SPORTS

Comeback man Pant, Warner lead DC to 20-run win over CSK; Dhoni special in vain

Pant belted four boundaries and three maximums for his first fifty in 15 months

VISAKHAPATNAM, Apr 1 (Agencies): Comeback man Rishabh Pant hit a muchawaited fifty after David Warner's well-constructed 52 to set up Delhi Capitals' convincing 20-run win over Chennai Super Kings for whom veteran MS Dhoni's vintage knock was not enough to cross the line in their IPL match here.

Faced with a tough 192-run target, the Super Kings tried to scale it down through Ajinkya Rahane (45), Dhoni (37 not out) and Daryl Mitchell (34) but the Capitals carried far too many guns for them on the night. CSK ended up at 171 for six.

In the first session, Warner and Prithvi Shaw (43) overcame a slow start to share a 93-run opening stand before Pant's 32-ball 51 powered DC to a competitive 191 for 5.

Pant, who came into the tournament after recovering from a life-threatening road mishap in December 2022, belted four boundaries and three maximums for his first fifty in 15 months.

Left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed (2/21) set the tone for DC's defence with his twin strikes in the Power Play which led to its fruition by pacer Mukesh Kumar (3/21).

While Ruturaj Gaikwad's (1) trouble against left-arm seamers continued as he was done in by a superb inswinger, a frustrated Rachin Ravindra (2) holed out to Tristan Stubbs after a 12-ball stay as CSK slumped to 32 for 2 in six overs.

Rahane and Mitchell provided some stability with a 68-run stand, which included a 17-run over off DC's impact sub Rasikh



conceded just 5 runs in the 19th

over to crush CSK's dream,

leaving them to make an impos-

Dhoni, who turned the clock

back, however, gave his fans

enough to cheer with a four and

a one-handed six off the first two

balls before producing another

four and a last-ball six as CSK

But the Dhoni hurricane came

Earlier, the in-form Warner

slammed five boundaries and

three maximums during his

35-ball 52, while Shaw, play-

ing his first game this season,

smashed two sixes and four

However, Pathirana produced

a sensational catch to dismiss

Warner and then returned to

strike twice in three balls to bring

But Pant, who had looked

in fine fettle in his two earlier

CSK back into the game.

boundaries in his 27-ball 43.

sible 41 off the last over.

racked up 20 runs.

a trifle late

Salam's second over but leftarm spinner Axar Patel ousted the New Zealander to break the alliance.

It was a Mukesh show thereafter as coming on to bowl after the 13th over, he struck twice in two balls to remove Rahane and Sameer Rizvi (0), leaving CSK at 102 for 5 in the 14th over.

Shivam Dube (18) was next to go as Mukesh kept bowling wide outside off and varied the pace as the batter eventually sent one straight to long-off.

With CSK needing 58 off 18 balls, Dhoni walked out to bat for the first time this season amid chants of "Dhoni Dhoni" and treated his fans to some delightful shots.

The former CSK skipper blasted two fours in the first three balls with Ahmed dropping a sitter in the second ball.

Dhoni then clobbered a six over extra cover off Ahmed, who ended up with three wides innings, took his time to settle and then exploded in the end overs to take them close to a 200-total.

DC had a watchful start as they were going at run-a-ball rate for the first four overs.

Warner then picked Deepak Chahar for the special treatment, depositing him twice into the stands on the leg side. He also hit two fours on the off side to accumulate 18 off the fifth over.

Mustafizur Rahman was then taken to the cleaners with Shaw hitting three successive fours as DC posted their highest powerplay score of 62/0 of this IPL.

It took the brilliance of Pathirana to send Warner back as the Sri Lankan dived to his right and plucked the ball from thin air, leaving the Aussie stunned as Mustafizur drew first blood. Shaw smashed another six to take DC past the 100-run mark but Jadeja dismissed him next ball, inducing an edge as Dhoni did the rest for his 300th dismissal -- the highest by a keeper in T20s. With the two openers gone,

the scoring rate dropped as skipper Pant struggled for early momentum.

Pathirana then unleashed a 150kph thunderbolt to uproot the middle-stump of Mitchell Marsh and then rattled Stubbs' timbers with an in-swinging yorker to leave DC at 134 for 4 in 15 overs.

Pant then stepped up, plundering a four and a six off Mustafizur and then launched into Pathirana, clobbering him for a six and two fours in the 19th over as 43 runs came off the final three overs.

International body to make space in calendar for HIL

League likely to return in January 2025

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Hockey India has the blessings of the international hockey federation (FIH) to hold its much-delaved Hockev India League (HIL). It is understood that as per the agreement between HI and FIH, an exclusive window will be given to the organisers of the league, which is slated to start in January 2025. Subject to an official confirmation, the FIH calendar will have no major competitions between December 28 and February 1, a window in which the league can be held. Further, Hockey India has also come to an

understanding with the federation officials of major hockey nations, including Netherlands and Australia, so that no local competition is held during the same time period.

"We are to get a window in FIH's calendar for the league. This will free major international stars for the tournament in India," HI secretary general Bhola Nath Singh said.

Further, Bhola Nath said that there will be eight teams in the men's league, while the women's league will have only six teams in fray. "We will announce the team names and player

auctions after the Olymeverybody in the team pics. League matches is focused to do well," he said. Janneke Schopman

for men and women will be played simultaneously," he said. "Let me make it very clear, no one will be allowed to own teams in men's and women's leagues. The owners have to be different for all teams," he said. Bhola Nath was talking on the sidelines of the annual awards

function in which midfielder Hardik Singh and Salima Tete were named the men's and women's players of the year. Hardik, who picked

up the FIH player of the year award in December, said he was happy that he was being recognised for his game. "I am very happy for the honour and I hope I continue to play well and help the team," he said. The India vice-captain echoed his skipper Harmanpreet Singh's assertions that the team has been working hard to show that the Tokyo Olympics bronze medal win, a first for India in 41 years, was not a one-off. "We stay in camps for around 300 days to work hard on the game. Everyone has to sacri-

fice a lot to learn, anal-

yse what is required to

play at this level. We

are building up to the

Paris Olympics and

might have resigned from her post as the women's team coach accusing Hockey India of differential treatment but men's coach Craig Fulton said he hasn't faced such problems and has got "solid support" from all quarters. "I have had no problems so far. I have got good solid support, I have clarity in selection. I have got the backing of the senior players and they have got a good understanding of my stuff. From the existing staff to the new staff we are all on the same page," Fulton said. "Once you have that trust in the group, trust with players and have a really bright vision about what you want to do, what are your goals, what's the timeline, then I think you have a good chance of doing well in India."

Fulton though added that life is a bit different in India for foreign coaches like him. "It's obviously difficult for my son, my daughter. It's not easy. I am based in Dublin. It's different of course, if you come from Europe, it's a different culture, different environment," he said.

Struggling Mumbai Indians look for happy homecoming against Rajasthan **Royals in IPL 2024**

receiving end of the car-

nage that SRH handed

to MI in their last game

but the 17-year-old

South African will only

learn from experience of

the hard ways that come

to the bowlers' way in

such a competitive T20

On their part, Rajas-

than Royals will look

to keep ticking all the

boxes after two wins at

Samson remains

dangerous in the early

stages of the IPL while

the immensely talented

Yashasvi Jaiswal would

be keen to get his first

big score of this season.

his home ground where

he had blazed a 62-ball

124 albeit for a losing

cause in their last meet-

ing here, and he will

be eager to stamp his

Riyan Parag is primed

to continue his ascent

as a mature middle-

order batter, whereas

for Mumbai, Tilak

Varma, Tim David and

Naman Dhir would aim

to make the most of their

Apart from having

a long batting line-up

which also boasts of

the dangerous Jos But-

positive starts.

Jaiswal is returning to

league.

the start.

class.



tler at the top and Dhruv Jurel to provide finishing touches, it is their all-round bowling attack which puts forth a lot of promise. While Nandre Burger

Faltering RCB eye collective improvement; LSG monitor Rahul's fitness

BENGALURU, Apr 1 (Agencies): An inconsistent Royal Challengers Bengaluru would be eager to hit the turnaround button when they host Lucknow Super Giants, who will keep an eye on regular skipper KL Rahul's fit



ecosystem too, will be delighted to see the emergence of Mayank Yadav, a fast bowler who can effortlessly touch 150 clicks.

But the 21-year-old Delhi quick will have a different kind of test at Chinnaswamy as compared to the Ekana Stadium, the venue of his IPL debut against Punjab. Here, Mayank will have to nullify a smoother pitch and shorter boundaries but the current form of RCB batters will certainly fill him with the hopes of swelling his tally of wickets. Teams (from): Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Faf du Plessis (c), Glenn Maxwell, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Suyash Prabhudessai, Will Jacks, Mahipal Lomror, Karn Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Mayank Dagar, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Cameron Green, Alzarri Joseph, Yash Dayal, Tom Curran, Lockie Ferguson, Swapnil Singh, Saurav Chauhan. Lucknow Super Giants: KL Rahul (c), Quinton de Kock, Nicholas Pooran, Ayush Badoni, Kyle Mayers, Marcus Stoinis, Deepak Hooda, Devdutt Padikkal, Ravi Bishnoi, Naveen-ul-Hag, Krunal Pandya, Yudhvir Singh, Prerak Mankad, Yash Thakur, Amit Mishra, Shamar Joseph, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan, K.Gowtham, Shivam Mavi, Arshin Kulkarni, M.Siddharth, Ashton Turner, Matt Henry, Mohd.Arshad Khan.

MUMBAI, Apr 1 (Agencies): IPL's perennial slow-starters Mumbai Indians (MI) under new captain Hardik Pandya will hope for a happy homecoming when they take on a confident Rajasthan Royals at the Wankhede Stadium here on Monday.

Despite the change at the helm with Pandya replacing five-time titlewinning skipper Rohit Sharma—a move that has sparked brutal attack on the former-MI have once again made a familiar disappointing start to their IPL campaign as they lost their first two matches. A six-run defeat to Pandya's former team Gujarat Titans was followed by a walloping by Sunrisers Hyderabad who won the record runfest by 32 runs in Hyderabad, with MI plummeting to the last spot in the 10-team points table.

These are still early days in the 17th edition of the T20 league but Pandya's MI will need to end their losing streak and improve their net run rate which is the worst among all teams at -0.925.

Among the odds stacked up against them is the absence of Suryakumar Yadav, who remains on the sidelines as he is recovering from two separate injuries which have kept him away from the MI camp this IPL.

Even though MI enjoy a 4-1 head-to-head record in their last five meetings with Rajasthan Royals, the home side will have a tough task at hand given Sanju Samson's team has turned up all guns blazing to begin their IPL season with two wins.

A big score is due from Rohit who has provided strong starts to Mumbai but what they truly need is Pandya to get his decisions right. Pandya has evidently not used Jasprit Bumrah to the best way possible and MI will have a chance to iron out such flaws.

Bumrah and Piyush Chawla bring the element of experience to the table in the MI bowling attack which has shown trust on local boy Shams Mulani, who is relatively new at the IPL stage but immensely experienced when it comes to playing at the Wankhede Stadium. The young Kwena

has teamed up well with Trent Boult for early inroads, the spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal can control the flow of runs in the middle.

Avesh Khan's control at the death along with Sandeep Sharma is Royals' forte and has been among crucial factors for Rajasthan's fine show so far.

The Squads:

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

Sanju Samson ©, Abid Mushtaq, Avesh Khan, Dhruv Jurel, Donovan Ferreira, Jos Buttler (wk), Kuldeep Sen, Kunal Singh Rathore, Nandre Burger, Navdeep Saini, Ravichandran Ashwin, Riyan Parag, Sandeep Sharma, Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dubey, Rovman Powell, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Trent Boult, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Yuzvendra Chahal, Tanush Kotian.

ness, in the IPL here on Tuesday.

The Royal Challengers are currently eighth on the table with two points from three matches, and alarmingly, their net run rate too has dipped to -0.71 after a heavy defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders here last

week. This is not to undermine the side under Faf du Plessis, who himself is struggling for big runs, but its ability to dish out consistent cricket is a matter of debate at this

point. Several reasons are there for that overbearing feeling. It starts with the RCB

example.

immediately.

2023.

in three matches, con-

ceding 10 runs an over

and he needs to step up

Siraj's lack of bite has

robbed RCB of a chance

to take some early wick-

ets in the Power Play

and put the opposition

under pressure, some-

thing he had done quite

consistently during IPL

The situation has

turned even grimmer as

Siraj's new-ball partner

Alzarri Joseph, RCB's

Rs 11.5 crore buy in the

auction, has been totally

rudderless, taking a soli-

tary wicket and leaking

So, the hosts might

ponder the inclusion of

either Reece Topley or

Lockie Ferguson against

Lucknow in place of the

9.4 runs per over.

West Indian.

batting line-up in which Virat Kohli is the only constant with two fifties from three matches. But Du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell, Rajat Patidar and Cameron Green, who constitute the cream of RCB's top and middle-order, have so far made up for a faltering coalition.

The quartet's collective returns from three matches stand at--Du Plessis (46, Avg: 15.33), Maxwell (31, Avg: 10.33), Green (54, Avg: 18) and Patidar (21, Avg: 7), and terming them underwhelming is an understatement. It meant that RCB had to often rely on their late-order batters like Dinesh Karthik, Anuj Rawat and Mahipal Lomror to add meat to the total.

The spin unit of RCB In that context, the RCB might give a break offers an even more to Patidar for this game bewildering view as and bring in someone none among Glenn like Suyash Prabhudes-Maxwell, Karn Sharma sai, who can also roll his and Mayank Dagar, the most impressive of the arm for an over or two. lot, have bowled their The senior batters' struggles have percofull quota of four overs lated to their bowling in any of the three previdepartment too. ous matches. Mohammed Siraj

In fact, Maxwell's offers the most glaring off-spin was not even employed in their last The lead pacer has match against the taken just two wickets Knight Riders.

To make matters worse, they don't have many reliable choices in the dugout too.

Rahul under scanner On the other hand, the Super Giants have their own set of worries as the fitness of regular captain Rahul, who came in as an Impact Sub in their 21-run win over Punjab Kings, will be closely monitored.

Will the LSG continue to use Rahul as an impact player with Nicholas Pooran wearing the captain's armband or will he return to his normal three-in-one role of skipper, batter and wicketkeeper? We will have to wait for the answer.

Be that as it may, the Lucknow side, the whole of the Indian cricket

LOCAL

400+ SEATS KEY TO INDIA'S PROGRESS Modi's vision is to develop India, Opposition stands with corrupt: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: "For a developed India, wherein poverty is done away with, youth have enormous opportunities, women are empowered, farmers are progressing and corruption is eradicated completely, there is a dire need of re-electing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and that too with 400+ seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections

This result will strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his team, which in turn will lead India to a new height of progress and prosperity." This was stated by BJP J&K Executive Member Raman Suri, who added that the past ten years' governance was just a model and the real game of building a strong nation is going to begin from here onwards.

Raman Suri said, the entire opposition including Congress and other regional parties have come on a single platform against Narendra Modi, which establishes their hatred for the individual who is having a clean image, is taking India to new heights and enjoys a good



reputation around the globe for being a decision-taking Prime Minister.

The opposition is clueless, is trying to save the corrupt and is just targeting an individual as they do not have any agenda which is aimed at helping people or taking Bharat to a level where the world recognizes its might and capability in every field.

The BJP leader said that each and every Lok Sabha seat, be it that of Kathua-Udhampur or Jammu-Poonch where Dr Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma are contesting respectively is important as 400+ seats will empower Narendra Modi government to bring new laws which are very important for the country and its progress.

Having abrogated Article 370 or brought in laws which are equally beneficial for the entire nation, BJP has now decided to work for the empowerment of women, youth, farmers and, also strengthen our military might

Raman Suri said that during the past ten years, hostile neighbours got a clear message that terrorism and talks cannot go together. The way India progressed on all fronts and strengthened its borders, the country remained safe and became capable to deal with any challenge coming from the enemies. In a country where earlier only small fish were caught in net and influentials escaped the arrest for their misdeeds, today rich and powerful are also behind the bars for their wrongdoings. Ironically, the entire opposition is standing behind the corrupt and instead of seeking action against them, it is seeking their release.

This is the new Bharat, where Narendra Modi by his ability has exposed the corrupt and brought them on one platform from where they are showing their true colours to the entire nation. Jammu and Kashmir, according to the opposition leaders, was a complex issue which would have never been settled and would have continued to affect India like a chronic disease.

Contrarily, Narendra Modi and his team of able administrators not only solved this complex puzzle but also gave people their rights and empowered women.

Seeking votes for Dr Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma, Raman Suri said that the time has come to strengthen the hands of Narendra Modi by electing these leaders to the Lok Sabha. He said, each and every vote counts and so do the seats.

This is why every eligible voter must go to the polling station on the day of election and exercise her/his right to vote, so that good turnout and a vote in favour of BJP could complete the desired or magic number of 400+. This will prepare ground for the next era of progress of mighty Bharat in every field, be that infrastructure, foreign policy, space technology, health, agriculture. or education.

Alpine Snowboarding Indian Athlete Mehraj-ud-Din Khan Secures Bronze at FIS VIA Stars Cup 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: SBI General Insurance is delighted to extend our warmest congratulations to Mehraj-ud-Din Khan, for his exceptional achievement of securing a third-place finish at the FIS VIA Stars Cup 2024 in Kopaonik, Serbia. His achievement marks a significant milestone as the first Indian to claim an international snowboarding medal, and we are immensely proud to have supported him on this remarkable journey. Mehraj-ud-Din Khan's stellar performance in the ongoing FIS VIA Stars Cup 2024 not only underscores his exceptional talent but also symbolizes the growing prominence of Indian athletes in winter sports on the global stage. His dedication, perseverance, and unwavering commitment have propelled him to this historic moment, inspiring aspiring athletes across the nation.

In addition to securing the Bronze in Serbia, he has now become the first Indian to win medals in two consecutive FIS snowboarding races, showcasing his consistency and prowess in the sport.SBI General Insurance, through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, has partnered with Inspire Institute of Sport(IIS)



to support the Inspire at the FIS VIA Stars Cup Winter Sports Excellence 2024. Programme (IWSEP).

His remarkable performance not only brings pride to our nation but also embodies the spirit of excellence that we at SBI General Insurance are committed to nurturing.

Through our CSR initiative, we aim to empower individuals like Mehrajud-Din Khanto realize their full potential and make a positive impact in the world of sports. His success serves as an inspiration to us all, and we look forward to continuing our support for the growth of sports in India.'

BJP betrayed the people of Jammu, people are ready to teach a lesson: Cong

Through this partner-

ship, SBI Generalhas

nurtured and supported

talented athletes like-

Mehraj-ud-Din Khan,

Arif Khan, Zain Syed, and

Faizan Ahmad Lone.SBI

General aims to create

more such opportuni-

ties for Indian athletes to

excel on the international

stage and inspire future

Kishore Kumar Polu-

dasu, MD & CEO, SBI

General Insurance said,

"We extend our heart-

felt congratulations to

Mehraj-ud-Din Khanfor

his historic achievement

generations.



Sanjeev Sharma and

Top News Report State Congress Party's

talked about supporting the Congress Party. **District Samba President** Addressing the people,

Because the ground reality is that now the graph of BJP in the state is falling day by day. He said

NCC, NSS units of GDC Udhampur organises **Voter Awareness Campaign under SVEEP**



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 1: NCC cadets and NSS volunteers of GDC Udhampur in collaboration with team of District Election Officer Udhampur organised awareness programme under the theme ' Right of casting Vote for the 1st time voters'. The programme was organised under the patronship of Principal Prof.(Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta. The programme started with formal welcome address presented by Dr. Revika Arora, coordinator of the programme.

Singh, an NSS volunteer also presented his views for casting 1st vote with the aim "Mera Pehla vote

Desh ke Naam". He said that vote is not only a right , but also a responsibility as it is required for building a strong base for a vibrant

motion song by team of District Election Officer on the theme 'Mera pehla vote Desh ke Naam'.

The song had a clear message to aware the young students of the right of casting vote for the 1st time voters. The faculty members

who expressed their

views and graced the

occasion were Dr. Babu

Lal Thakur, Dr. Gurpreet

Kour NSS PO, Dr. San-

jeet Singh, NSS PO, Prof.

Vijay Kumar NCC Officer,

Dr. Jasmeet Kour, Prof.

Rajesh Singh Manhas,

Dr. Anil Kumar Thapa,

Dr. Sanjay Singh and Mr.

Put revocation of **AFSPA on hold: SSP**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Sainik Samaj Party Col SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party, JKUT expressed his serious concerns on the statement of Home minister about revocation of AFSPA from JKUT. Home Minister statement has been welcomed and appreciated by Kashmir based political parties, as it helps them in projecting their relevance and clout to their vote bank.

Surely, there is a huge improvement in the militancy related activities, which is duly supported by data, but certainly nowhere support the logic of considering the removal of AFSPA wholly or partly. Statement of Home minister appears to politically motivated and inspired by the current improved situation but it could be lull before the storm, as threat and nefarious design of Pakistan looms large, supported by its deep rooted proxies existing within and outside the government. Pathania said, that geopolitical situation and internal situation of Pakistan, failing econ-

omy, confirmation with

Afghanistan and Iran combined with frequent

attacks being launched by Pakistan's Taliban and Baluchistan freedom fighters has fully destabilize the Pakistan.

Only option left to Pak army is to create more trouble in JKUT, which will divert the attention of its citizens and ensure the relevance and importance of Army and ISI. Increased attack on Army and civilians in Poonch and

Rajouri districts, clearly indicates a shift in the epicentre of militancy from Kashmir to Jammu. Local Police and CAPF, no doubt are carrying out joint operations with army and doing a great

12

In her address, she apprised the importance of casting vote and role of 1st time voters in the electoral process. Baljeet

democracy Principal, Prof.(Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta in his address highlighted three main reasons of voting.

First, voting is a right that many generations have fought hard for. Secondly, voting allows citizens to have their

beliefs and issues rep-Shashi Sharma. More than 100 cadets resented in government. Finally, every voter and volunteers attended matters in deciding the the programme. The prooutcome of an election. gramme was held under The programme ended the coordinatorship of Dr. with the shoot of a pro-Revika Arora.

work, but are they capable of managing the internal and external threat at present. remains highly questionable and a matter of debate. Revocation of

AFSPA, certainly a noble thought but too premature to do in near future and should only be considered when infrastructure of with in is fully disman-

tled and our border management assures zero infiltration.

Sanjeev Sharma said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has betrayed the people of Jammu and soon the party will have to face the consequences. Congress District Samba President Sanjeev Sharma said this sentence in a meeting organized in ST Basti in a remote area under Samba Assembly. In this meeting, a large number of people of ST Basti joined the Congress under the chairmanship of District President

Sanjeev Sharma told the people of ST Basti that BJP made only false promises to the people, especially to the minority community. The ground reality is that now the people of Jammu are fully aware of the real face of these leaders. The minority community has always been a victim of BJP's neglect. He told the party workers that this is the time to go among the people and make them aware of the party's policies.

that the employees working temporarily in different departments have also been cheated. The unemployment rate is the highest recorded in the country since independence. Sanjeev Sharma said that only Congress can take all the sections along and the assembly can achieve uniform development. District Vice President Balram Kundal, senior leaders Rashpal, Vinod Kumar, Avinash Attri were present on this occasion.

Electoral Bonds monuments of BJP corruption: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: In a meeting organized by Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Sr. AAP leader in Marh Assembly Constituency, several Join AAP in presence of Sr. AAP leaders Romesh Lal Bhagat, Adv.Arvind Bandral, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Suresh Bhagat & Ashni Matoo. Welcoming new entrants into Party fold, the Sr. AAP leaders said that the AAP is serious to give a clean time tested alternative to the electorates of J&K-UT to get rid of 75 years misrule of corruption, nepotism, casteism & divisive politics of religion & region.

They appealed to the general masses to read between the lines and take a historical

decision to throw away these spent forces in the coming Assembly elections as the poor & only poor people of both Jammu & Kashmir regions are the most suffers. They also appealed the Women and Youths to come forward and join and support AAP for a clean and pro-people government.

While hailing the historical verdict of Apex Court banning electoral bands & there by applying a full stop against influx of black money into political life for turning it White through infamous electoral bond, in a joint statement issued here have accused ED of arresting Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal over Aurobindo Pharma owner, Sarath Chandra Reddy's statement and added that



Reddy, who turned approver, had changed his statement under the pressure of ED. They further said that Reddy's company and its two subsidiaries had donated over Rs 50 crore to BJP through electoral bonds. The Electoral bond issue will gain much more momentum than what it is today in social media. Everybody now understands that it is not only the biggest scam in India but it is the biggest scam in the world. Because of this issue, this government will, be severely punished by the electorates.

The BJP has remained the major beneficiary of the electoral bonds as per the data available on the official website of the Election Commission of India. The BJP received the maximum amount via electoral bonds at 6986 crore between April 12, 2019 & Feb 15, 2024.

The AAP leaders further said that as per social media report 41 companies facing probe by CBI, ED & the Income Tax departments gave 2.471 crores to the BJP through Electoral bonds and 1698 crore of it was donated after raids by these agencies. The government first conducted raids by these agencies while running extortion racket on the companies and later forced them to give election donations through electoral bonds. The government has looted the country under the slogan that you give us donation through electoral bonds and we will give you business.

The AAP leaders further said that an undeclared emergency like situation has arisen in the country and the BJP is trying to eliminate the opposition Parties.

They further expressed great surprise and concern over continuous and organized attack on small traders, farmers, laborers', unemployed youths, workers etc by the ruling dispensation encouraging by Corporate Houses by way of selling them the property of the Nation earned by our National Heroes be it Railways, Air Ports, Highways, LIC, BSNL,

Banks, HAL, Hospitals, Refineries, privatizing so many profit earning public units.

The AAP leaders said that people were smartly befooled in 2014 and 2019 Parliamentary elections, promising 2 crore jobs every year, removing corruption, decriminalization of politics, lowering prices of Diesel, Petrol, domestic gas, sand, Bajri, stones, making 100 smart cities, running of Bullet trains, constructing 1 model village in each constituency every year etc, they said and added that enough is enough now and that all the people can't be befooled for all the time as the people have seen through the game of polarization, of all traditional Political Parties so called the savior of Hindus & Muslims.

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