

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Two 'Miscreants' booked under PSA in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Apr 6 (Agencies): Police on Saturday claimed to have booked two alleged miscreants in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and shifted them to District Jail at Udhampur. Police said two anti-national elements - Abdul Rashid Sheikh of Lalpora Kharkhal Kunzer & Mohammad Akbar Malik of Wanikhal Kunzer - were booked under the PSA after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority.

"Many cases are registered against these persons and were involved in disturbance of L&O (law and order) and subversion. Despite their involvement in many FIR's they did not mend their anti national & Social activities," police spokesman said.

The booked persons have been detained and subsequently lodged in District Jail Udhampur in Jammu region.

Police bust gang of burglars in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, Apr 6 (Agencies): Ganderbal Police on Saturday busted a gang of burglars and recovered stolen property worth lacs from their possession. The police also arrested three accused involved in the theft cases.

A police official said that on 22.03.2024, Police Station Gund received a written application from one person namely Tajamul Hussain, owner of Hung Park Restaurant stating therein that during intervening night of 21-22/03/2024, some unknown persons have broken locks and barged into his restaurant, and have stolen valuable items like Generator, Two Inverter Units, Transformer, Coffee Machine, Griller/Toaster, Gas Stove, Gas Cylinders, Utensils, Electric Cables and damaged CCTV Cameras and other items.

"On receiving the application, FIR No.11/2024, under relevant sections of law was registered at

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China-based hackers will disrupt India elections with AI-generated content, warns Microsoft

NEW DELHI, Apr 6 (Agencies): With major elections taking place around the world this year, particularly in India, South Korea and the US, a Microsoft Threat Analysis team has warned that China will create and amplify AI-generated content to benefit its interests.

Despite the chances of such content in affecting election results remaining low, China's increasing experimentation in augmenting memes, videos, and audio will likely continue - and may prove more effective down the line.

According to the tech giant, China is using fake social media accounts to poll voters on what divides them most to sow division



and possibly influence the outcome of the US presidential election in its favour.

"China has also increased its use of AI-generated content to further its goals around the world. North Korea has increased its cryptocurrency heists and supply chain attacks to fund and further its military goals and intelligence collection. It has also begun to use AI to make its opera-

tions more effective and efficient," the company said in a blog post.

Deceptive social media accounts by Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-affiliated actors have already started to pose contentious questions on controversial US domestic issues to better understand the key issues that divide US voters.

"This could be to gather intelligence and

precision on key voting demographics ahead of the US presidential election," the company warned.

China's geopolitical priorities remain unchanged but it has doubled down on its targets and increased the sophistication of its influence operations (IO) attacks.

The Taiwanese presidential election in January this year also saw a surge in the use of AI-generated content by China-affiliated cyber criminals.

"This was the first time that Microsoft Threat Intelligence has witnessed a nation-state actor using AI content in attempts to influence a foreign election," said the team.

J&K: Uri infiltration bid aimed at disturbing peace & election process, says Army



SRINAGAR, Apr 6 (Agencies): The infiltration bid that was foiled on Friday in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla indicated desperation on part of Pakistan to fuel unrest in Kashmir Valley ahead of general elections, Army said.

Two terrorists were killed close to the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri

sector of Baramulla district when they were trying to sneak into Kashmir.

Army said intermittent fire was also drawn from Pakistan forward posts, in the vicinity of LoC during the counter infiltration operation.

A statement by the Army said the infiltration bid was success-

fully foiled on Friday in a joint operation led by the Indian Army.

"Numerous inputs were earlier received from multiple intelligence agencies regarding terrorist groups planning and intending to infiltrate across Line of Control in Uri Sector. Based on these inputs and surveillance the counter-infiltration grid was reviewed and strengthened," the Army said.

They said in the early hours Friday, their own ambushes spotted a group of terrorists moving towards the LoC.

"Own forces continuously tracked the hostile

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2 Earthquakes of mild intensity hit Kishtwar, No damage reported

JAMMU, Apr 5 (Agencies): Two earthquakes of mild intensity struck Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Friday, officials said.

There was no immediate report of any damage due to the tremors, they said.

The epicentre of the two quakes was in Kishtwar, the officials added.

According to the National Centre of

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DIG orders action against 3 Cops for poor maintenance of police records in Janipur



JAMMU, Apr 6 (Agencies): Authorities on Friday issued a show-cause notice to a sub divisional police officer, ordered an inquiry against a station house officer and recommend-

ed the suspension of a head constable for not maintenance of police records, officials said on Friday.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Jammu-Samba range, Dr Sunil

Gupta paid a surprise visit to the police station in Janipur, inspected the record room and 'mal-khana', they said.

On checking, most registers were not found to be maintained properly, an official said.

A show-cause notice is being issued against SDPO, Bakshi Nagar on the directions by the DIG, a departmental enquiry is ordered against SHO, Janipur for his poor supervision, and a head constable of Janipur Police Station is recommended for

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Army opens fire after noticing suspicious movement in Rajouri

RAJOURI/JAMMU, Apr 6 (Agencies): Army troops opened fire and subsequently launched a search operation after noticing suspicious movement near their camp in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district early Saturday, officials said.

There was no report of any casualty in the firing at the Srotha Morha village in the Darhal area, the officials said.

They said a sentry fired a few rounds on seeing the movement of a group of unidentified persons towards the

camp under the cover of darkness.

The group retreated into the nearby village, following which a search operation was launched, the officials said, adding the operation was going on when last reports were received but there was no clue of the suspected persons.

The officials said security forces also carried out a search operation in the Sharda Sharief area of Rajouri on Saturday morning but no one was arrested.

ED Jammu attaches property worth Rs 1 Crore in SI paper leak case

JAMMU, Apr 6 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate Jammu has attached property worth Rs 1 crore in Jammu and Kashmir sub-inspector paper leak case.

In a post on X, ED, Jammu has attached movable properties in the form of bank balances relating to accused Yatin Yadav, M/s New Global Fumigation Corporation, Prop. Yatin Yadav and his associate Lokesh Kumar, to the tune of Rs. 1 Crore (approx.) under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002 in a case relates to paper leak of examination conducted by J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for the recruitment of 1200 Sub-Inspectors of J&K Police, against monetary benefits by the accused Yatin Yadav and others.

Bandipora-Gurez road opens for traffic

BANDIPORA, Apr 6 (Agencies): The 85-kilometer Bandipora-Gurez road was thrown open for traffic on Saturday, officials confirmed to Greater Kashmir.

Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gurez, Mukhtar Ahmad told Greater Kashmir that the traffic was allowed on the road on from Sunday morning.

He said that given the Eid celebrations ahead and keeping in consideration the emergency of stranded passengers

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

Kavinder remembers Party Stalwarts on BJP's Foundation Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: On the auspicious occasion of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Foundation Day, Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, fondly remembered the stalwarts of the party and paid heartfelt respect to their contributions towards nation-building.

In a ceremony organised by Rekha Mahajan, District President at Trikuta Nagar in Jammu which attended by party leaders, dedicated workers and prominent people of the society, Kavinder Gupta hoisted the Party's Flag, symbolizing the party's unwavering commitment to its core principles and vision.

Established on April 6, 1980, the BJP celebrates its 44th Foundation Day today. In commemoration of this significant milestone, Kavinder extended his warm wishes to all party workers, acknowledging their unwavering dedication and commitment to the party's ideals.

Addressing the gathering, Kavinder Gupta



affirmed the BJP's steadfast progress, remarking that the party is resolutely moving forward on the path of unparalleled victory in the upcoming general elections. He emphasized the BJP's unwavering resolve to serve the nation and uphold the values enshrined in its foundation.

He said that party cadre in J&K is committed to reach out every single resident and help him or her to avail the benefits of centre's welfare schemes. He said that BJP workers are not only political activ-

ists but they are part of nationalist work force, which always stood for the cause of common man and assists people in need.

Remembering the contributions of Party stalwarts Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, Prem Nath Dogra, Nana Deshmukh and Kushabhau Thakre, Kavinder said that after 43 years of journey we feel indebted to the veteran leaders who contributed in raising its seats from 2 to 300 in the Lok Sabha. He said that

today BJP is the largest party of the world and connected firmly to the people of this nation.

Tracing the roots of the BJP to the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, which was established in 1951 as the political wing of the pro-Hindu group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh by Syama Prasad Mookerjee, he stated that Bharatiya Jana Sang in the general elections of 1951-52 had won only 3 seats but today the party is relishing the colossal support of people, and is doing the best to steer India to new heights of progress and prosperity.

Recognizing the Party's growth and accomplishments, Kavinder expressed confidence in the BJP's ability to secure more than 400 seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. This ambitious aspiration demonstrates the party's commitment to public service and their determination to navigate India towards a brighter future.

"BJP has consistently worked towards the welfare and development of the nation, gaining immense popularity and trust among the people. With a strong leadership and a focus on inclusive growth, the party continues to strive towards achieving its vision for a prosperous and thriving India," he added.

On the occasion, senior BJP leaders Rekha Mahajan, Vinay Gupta and Purnima Sharma also spoke on the occasion.

Among those who were present include Narinder Koki, Bharat Bhushan Mandal President, Joginder Singh, Anuradha Sharma, Ashok Naidu and Bhagwan Chowdhary.

Shrine Board adds robust health care accessibility on Mata Vaishno Devi Track



KATRA, Apr 6 (Agencies): Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) is committed to provide good and easily accessible health care services to the pilgrims visiting to the Holy Shrine.

In the endeavor, the Shrine Board has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Hewlett Packard Enterprise India Private Limited (HPEIPL) and Hewlett Packard (India) Software Operation Private Limited (HPSO) both entities of Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) for the installation of nine numbers cloud enabled state-of-the-art Health ATMs along the revered Vaishno Devi pilgrimage track and one number Telemedicine Studio at Katra.

This initiative is being undertaken by the Shrine Board as per the directions of Sh. Manoj Sinha, (Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT) Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in collaboration with HPE as part of its CSR to enhance Health

Care accessibility for the pilgrims, stakeholders, besides, local inhabitants on the yatra track round the clock.

In addition, installation of one Telemedicine Studio at Katra shall bridge the gap and enhance patient outcomes by enabling seamless virtual consultations between pilgrims and Health Care providers through high definition video conferencing regardless of geographic barriers. This initiative of the Shrine Board provides innovative platforms to the pilgrims as well as the general public of the region by facilitating not only primary care consultations but also enabling specialty consultations by the medical experts.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board inked a Memorandum of Understanding with Rajesh Dhar, Senior Director, Industry Verticals Sales in the presence of Sushil Bhatla, Head, CSR, HPEIPL at Central Office, SMVDSB, Katra.

CEO, SMVDSB said that the installation of Health

ATMs at Medical Units located at main sectors of the yatra track shall be equipped with cutting edge medical technology and linked with RFID to ensure services are being provided to data fetched pilgrims only. Besides, these Health ATMs shall also integrate with Electronic Medical Records of the pilgrims for improving healthcare landscape for the personalized and comprehensive care of the pilgrims with health issues during the pilgrimage. He exhorted that these initiatives underscores our dedication and commitment to leveraging technology for the betterment of pilgrims by providing world class health care services in the pilgrimage to the Vaishno Devi Shrine.

Noteworthy that these ATMs can instantly check 50+ parameters within 10 minutes which includes blood pressure (BP), sugar, body temperature, oxygen level, BMI, body fat index, dehydration and pulse rate and the tests are being done free of cost at Medical Units of Shrine Board.

BJP will cross 400 mark, Modi to helm affairs of world's largest democracy for 3rd time: Khatana

Top News Report

JAMMU, APRIL 6: The welfare schemes launched by PM Modi led government should be seen on ground with the public getting benefit to make our country progressive and strong.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana while talking to a large number of delegations which met him at his residence on Saturday and highlighted the problems faced by a big section of them in their areas.

The main problem highlighted by the delegations was that of poor supply of water and power curtailments in many areas in Jammu.

Problems of urban poor were also raised before the MP while a delegation of move Gujjars demanded their smooth passage on Jammu-Srinagar highway along with their cattle.

They also demanded adequate number of teachers in mobile schools.

Khatana listened the delegations with patience and talked to the concerned officers.

He rang Director Tribal Affairs and gave directions for smooth passage of nomadic Gujjars and others during their movement along with their cattle.

Similar instructions were also given to officers of urban and rural development.

The BJP leader asked the officers to inform and aware the common public about the welfare schemes launched by PM Modi for the welfare of common man.

He said that the PHE and PWD departments should properly inform the public about power cuts.

"The public should also be informed well in advance through print and electronic media about the days when the water supply would not be made in particular areas," he continued.

The BJP leader said that the officers concerned should aware the public about government schemes regarding solar lights so that the public may get benefits of that. "Officers of PDD should give the benefit of amnesty schemes to the power consumers," he further said.

Khatana said that PM Modi has initiated a large number public welfare schemes.

"After the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A from Jammu and Kashmir, historic developments have taken place in J&K under the direct leadership of PM Modi," he maintained adding: "The public is now determined to make PM Modi victorious in

upcoming Lok Sabha elections with a thumping majority and all the five LS seats from J&K will fall into the kitty of BJP along with the one from Ladakh."

Khatana lauded J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for record number of developments and public friendly measures in the Union Territory.

He said that people of J&K had suffered a lot during the regimes of Congress, NC and PDP but now the public is enjoying all the facilities meant for the welfare of masses initiated by PM Modi led regime at the Centre and LG administration at UT level.

"People will never forget the era of terrorism, stone pelting, protest calendars and unemployment ushered by the mis-governance of Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis which had brought immense miseries to the people of J&K," the firebrand BJP leader maintained adding: "The people of J&K will never allow such tyrant dynasts to comeback and again spoil the lives of people here."

He also said that BJP will easily cross the 400 mark in upcoming LS elections and PM Modi will helm the affairs of world's largest democracy for the third time consecutively.

BJP workers have worked tirelessly to ensure agenda of Pak and China does not succeed in J&K: Chugh

SRINAGAR, Apr 6 (Agencies): The BJP workers have worked tirelessly to ensure the agenda of Pakistan and China does not succeed in Jammu and Kashmir, party general secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday said.

Presiding over the BJP's 44th foundation day, Chugh said the list of workers who made the supreme sacrifice is very long from T L Tiploo in 1990s to Waseem Bari last year.

"S P Mookherjee made the sacrifice in this land so that people of Jammu and Kashmir get more rights and also libera-



tion from Article 370 and 35A," Chugh told reporters here.

"I pay tributes to the large number of party workers who worked selflessly for the BJP over the past several decades," he added.

The BJP on the occasion paid tributes to its workers and leaders from Kashmir who laid down their lives for the country's unity and integrity.

MeT forecast dry weather till April 10, Light to intermittent rains thereafter in J&K

SRINAGAR, Apr 6 (Agencies): Generally dry weather has been forecast in Jammu and Kashmir till April 10 even as night temperature recorded a drop at most places barring Gulmarg and Jammu on Saturday.

A meteorological department official here told that on April 11-12, weather is likely to be generally cloudy with possibility of light rain/snow at isolated places.

From April 13-15, he said, generally cloudy weather is

expected with likelihood of intermittent light rain/snow at many places.

Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a minimum of 4.5°C against 7.4°C on the previous night and it was 2.4°C below normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year. Qazigund recorded a minimum of 2.5°C against 6.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.2°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 2.7°C against 4.7°C on the previous night and it was 3.1°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 3.8°C against 1.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.6°C below normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 2.4°C against 5.4°C on the previous night and it was 2.8°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 1.0°C against 0.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.5°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 17.1°C and it was below normal by 0.7°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 5.8°C, Batote 8.5°C and Bhaderwah 4.8°C, he said.

As admin bans rallies in Leh, Activists say 'Border March' not intended to break law



LEH, Apr 6 (Agencies): With the Ladakh administration imposing prohibitory orders banning rallies on Sunday and a 24-hour reduction in internet speed, the Leh-based Apex Body said it has no intention of violating laws and hoped it will be allowed to carry out its proposed 'border march'.

The Apex Body, along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), is spearheading the agitation to demand statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Apex Body announced the 'border (Pashmina) march' to Changthang to highlight the condition of grazers, who are allegedly losing prime pasture land to huge industrial plants to the south and Chinese encroachments to the north.

In an apparent move aimed at countering the march, the District Magistrate (DM) of Leh Santosh Sukhadeve on Friday ordered the imposition of CrPC section 144 on April 7 and directed that no procession, rally or march should be taken without his prior approval.

He said the Leh senior superintendent of police has reported that there were reliable inputs indicating a possible breach of peace and public tranquillity in the district.

"No one shall use the vehicle-mounted or other loudspeakers without prior approval from the

competent authority. No public gathering without prior approval of the competent authority shall be allowed. No one shall make any statements which have the potential to disturb communal harmony and public tranquillity and which may lead to law-and-order problems in the district," the DM's order said.

"All persons shall ensure that they follow the Model Code of Conduct and that all the activities are according to the law," it added.

In a separate order, Additional Director General of Police of Ladakh S D Singh Jamwal ordered the scaling down of internet speed and mobile data services of 3G, 4G and 5G connections and public 5G Wi-Fi facilities to 2G within a 10-kilometre radius of Leh city from 6 pm on April 6 for 24 hours.

The DM of Leh, in another order, prohibited the posting or sharing such messages that have the potential to disturb communal harmony, peace and tranquillity and may lead to a law-and-order situation in the district.

"It shall be the responsibility of the admins of WhatsApp groups or social media platforms to monitor and filter such content immediately," the order read.

The Leh Apex Body (LAB) termed the restrictions ahead of its proposed border march an "overreaction" by the administration and said it

has no intention of violating the law.

"We have been holding a chain hunger strike for the past 31 days and we feel such a reaction is the result of some misunderstanding," climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, flanked by LAB leader Chering Dorjay, told reporters here.

Wangchuk, who held a hunger strike for 21 days till March 26, said they strongly believe in peace and peaceful ways to highlight their demands, including those connected with the prevailing condition of the Pashmina grazers.

"If they stop us from marching ahead, it shows the government has something to hide and they do not want the real picture to reach the outside world... we are hopeful that the administration will allow our peaceful march if they have nothing to hide," he said.

Wangchuk added that a meeting of stakeholders will be held to decide the future course of action within the next couple of days.

Dorjay said they will go ahead with the march and it will be peaceful.

Wangchuk also alleged that the police administration was calling volunteers to the local police stations and threatening them.

"Our request is not to spread unrest in the name of peace. This is a very sensitive region and we always cared for the country," he added.

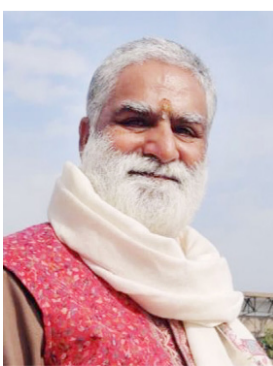
Yogi appeals for permanent representation of Kashmiri Pandits in Shri Amarnath Shrine Board

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: Holy Amarnath Shrine is the pious Hindu pilgrimage place where every year lakhs of Hindu devotees from different parts of India and abroad visit here to perform religious rituals and have the glimpses of Lord Shiva in form of ice Shiv Lingam, the creator of this universe since thousand years. Kashmiri Pandits are also the disciplined devotees and followers of Lord Shiva and his Holy cave - Amarnath Ji.

The role of Kashmiri Pandits in Amar Nath Yatra has remained quite active since many decades and have played a key role in Pooja Archana at the holy shrine during the yatra period with their active participation and were part and parcel of this Holy Voyage.

In a statement issued today, M.K.Yogi senior most KP leader and former two time President of PSM Martand Tirath Improvement Charitable Trust Mattan has appealed the Lt.Governor



J&K to nominate permanent Members from Kashmiri Pandit community in the Amarnath Shrine Board and also ensure their active par-

ticipation during coming Ama Nath yatra.

Yogi has also appealed for participation of Kashmiri Pandits in the Pooja Archana during the Amarnath Nath Yatra and has also added that permanent participation of young volunteers from this micro minority community be also considered for smooth conduct of Holy Amar Nath Yatra period as well employment avenues be worked out for educated unemployed youth of Kashmiri Pandits in the Amarnath Shrine Board.

EDITORIAL

POWER OF SPORT

Every year on 6th April International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2024 (IDSDP) is celebrated to promote global solidarity, social inclusion, the power of sport in promoting and pursuing sustainable development. The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2024 (IDSDP) serves as a catalyst to create a more harmonious world by uniting individuals through sports and athletics. It recognizes the important role that physical activity plays in fostering collaborative and vibrant communities. In addition to promoting peace among participants, sports contribute significantly to our well-being and longevity. Each year, the day adopts a specific theme, which guides participants in their efforts to leverage sport for development and peace-building efforts.

Theme of International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2024:- The theme of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2024 is "Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies", which celebrates the role of sport in promoting social cohesion, reconciliation and inclusivity. Underlines the transformative potential. It emphasizes the role of sport as a medium to promote understanding, respect and tolerance among diverse communities.

History of International Day of Sport for Development and Peace- In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared April 6 as the International Day of Sports for Development and Peace. April 6 was chosen because the first modern Olympics were held on this day in Athens in 1896. Since 2014, this day has been celebrated annually across the planet.

Significance

Promoting global peace: International Day of Sports for Development and Peace, a powerful reminder of the role of sport in promoting peace and understanding between nations. It serves as cooperation and friendly competition by promoting sports tension both locally and globally and contribute to reducing conflict. Social inclusion and equality: The day highlights the importance of sport in promoting social inclusion and breaking down barriers based on gender, race or socioeconomic status. By encouraging participation from all sections of society, sports promote equality and empower marginalized communities.

Health and wellness: Sports promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles, which improves health outcomes and reduces health care costs. The International Day of Sports for Development and Peace underlines the importance of sports in fighting diseases, promoting mental well-being and enhancing the overall quality of life.

Youth empowerment and development: Sports provide valuable opportunities for youth engagement, skill development and leadership training. By participating in sporting activities, youth learn important life skills such as teamwork, discipline and resilience, which are essential to their personal and professional development.

Community building and cohesion: Bringing people together in sports regardless of their background or differences. International Sports Day brings together people to connect, interact by providing opportunities to work toward common goals. Promotes community building and social cohesion which strengthens the fabric of the society.

The playing field for 2024 is level. Opposition should trust the voters

By: Ravi Shankar Prasad

BJP workers holding cut-outs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP leaders Tejasvi Surya and R Ashoka take part in a rally taken out to file Surya's nomination for the Lok Sabha elections, in Bengaluru, Thursday, April 4, 2024. (PTI Photo)BJP workers holding cut-outs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP leaders Tejasvi Surya and R Ashoka take part in a rally taken out to file Surya's nomination for the Lok Sabha elections, in Bengaluru, Thursday, April 4, 2024. (PTI Photo)

Two ideas are dominating the political discourse today — the absence of a level playing field and the credentials of democratic institutions. Several of those raising questions have been at the receiving end of the law because of their indiscretions and corrupt activities. There are also those whose support is waning. The Congress, Left and many regional parties have been losing national elections since 2014, as well as elections to assemblies in big states. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP and NDA won the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and 2019 and by all accounts, the coalition is poised to register a decisive victory once again.

The frustration of being defeated repeatedly in elections should not be aimed at institutions. The irresponsible manner in which Rahul Gandhi castigates the media, the Election Commission and even the judiciary is troubling and shameful. He makes false allegations before the media which telecasts them live. Yet, Rahul Gandhi complains that the media is not free.

Voters who know what they want After 75 years of independence, we must be proud of the evolution of Indian democracy. The people of India know who they are and are confident of defeating any political party or leader, however popu-

lar, both at the Centre and states, in case of non-performance, lack of accountability, and corruption. The Indian electorate has changed the narrative of anti-incumbency. If a party or a leader performs, they repose their trust in them and give a fresh mandate. Similarly, they penalise non-performance.

Such voter behaviour has made Indian democracy more stable. Another important factor is the welcome realisation by the people as to who is fit to govern the country and who can be trusted to run a particular state. The real problem is the refusal of Opposition parties, particularly Congress, to come to terms with the fact that voters do not consider them fit to govern India. The people of India trust the leadership and governance record of Modi. They contrast it with the policy paralysis, corruption and the lack of effective action against terrorism of the previous government. They have seen how a powerful, honest, and performance-oriented leader like Modi can change India's image in virtually every field. Pro-poor governance, remarkable delivery of welfare schemes and sound economic development have made India the world's fifth-largest economy, on its way to becoming the third-biggest. Security has been strengthened and the country gives a befitting reply to border incursions and terrorism. India is no longer seen as a soft state.

A proud, confident nation

The people of India have also seen how PM Modi has upheld the country's civilisational and spiritual values by not resorting to negative vote-bank politics. Despite being invited, Opposition leaders such as Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav chose not to attend the pran pratishtha of Lord Ram at Ayodhya. This speaks of the vice-like grip of appeasement politics on them. The parties these leaders represent opposed the triple talaq legislation which was designed to

free Muslim women.

Festive offer

We are proud of Indian democracy as well as the judiciary, which has upheld the fundamental rights and civil liberties of Indians. It has set aside several laws and decisions and delivered historic verdicts, including on the Ram Janmabhoomi dispute. It validated the abrogation of Article 370 and recently granted bail to an Aam Aadmi Party leader. But Rahul Gandhi has criticised the judiciary for its Rafale judgment. When contempt proceedings were initiated, he had to apologise. The Election Commission has done a remarkable job of holding free and fair elections in a huge country with 97-crore voters and nearly 10 lakh polling booths.

Credible, strong institutions

Hailing from Bihar, I remember the painful days when ballot paper snatching, booth capturing and violence — even murder — were not uncommon during elections. The EC has taken several courageous steps to ensure a level playing field during elections. EVMs have bolstered the sanctity of the voting process. Several Supreme Court and high court verdicts have upheld the validity of EVMs. When the Opposition loses, they find issues with EVMs and call for the reintroduction of ballot paper. But when they win, they have no problems with EVMs. This is absurd. We need to remember that the Manmohan Singh government at the Centre was elected through EVM, as was Mamata Banerjee's government in West Bengal. Akhilesh Yadav became the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh through EVMs and the CPM too has won elections in Kerala through EVMs. Recently, Congress came to power in Karnataka and Himachal through EVMs. The Modi-led BJP has similarly been winning national and several elections.

The Opposition's ludicrous argument on EVMs is also of a piece

with its attitude towards the judiciary — courts giving bail are a sign of a level playing field but when bail is denied, the judiciary is criticised as compromised. This is also a sign of desperation. Let us not forget that Congress imposed the Emergency, jailing leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L K Advani and several others.

PM Modi too fought the Emergency as part of an exemplary underground movement in which he disguised himself as a Sikh. Many eminent editors were arrested and Supreme Court judges were superseded — this included Justice H R Khanna who upheld fundamental rights during the Emergency. I salute Ramnath Goenkaji of The Indian Express for fighting the Emergency. We also need to recall that a section of the Left marched side by side with Congress during those days. Several state governments were dismissed and President's rule was imposed because in many cases, the Congress-ruled Centre developed a dislike for a particular chief minister. Congress's sins in compromising democracy and democratic institutions are numerous.

Let us trust the people of India who will again give a fitting reply to those who blame institutions and a lack of level-playing field for their losses. Such noises have largely been made by dynastic parties, whose leaders have been exposed for corruption and, in many cases, convicted.

(The writer is Lok Sabha MP from Patna Sahib, Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court and a former Union minister)

Wildlife Conflict with Humans

By: Vijay Garg

Elephant attacks are increasing in different parts of the country. Recently, many incidents of disturbance by angry elephants were reported in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Bihar, in which about ten people lost their lives. Incidents of conflict between elephants and humans are being seen every day. The main reason for this is our increasing desire somewhere. In the name of modernization we have destroyed their homes. The forests have started shrinking. This is the reason why elephants are coming into residential areas to satisfy their hunger and thirst. Elephants killed 545 people in 2020-21. Last year, about 605 people lost their lives due to the anger of elephants. It is not that only humans lost their lives in these attacks, if we look at the statistics of the last three years, the lives of about three hundred elephants were taken by humans. This is the situation when elephants have been declared national heritage animals. According to 'The Critical Need of Elephant' report of 'WWF India', at present the number of elephants in the world is only fifty thousand, out of which sixty percent of the elephants live in the wild. India is also included in the organization of eight countries formed for the conservation of elephants around the world. Despite this, elephants are in danger. Elephants are an important link for the ecosystem and biodiversity, but in response to an RTI, the Environment Ministry said that 1357 elephants have died in the forests of India in the last thirteen years. This means that elephants are in crisis in the country and to some

extent this crisis is human-related. In such a situation, it is worth thinking about the importance of worshipping trees, plants, animals and birds in our country. There has been a tradition, so why are we moving away from animals and birds now? The answer is that human sensitivity is rapidly deteriorating. Man's increasing greed and desire for development has increased to such an extent that man is becoming the cause of his own destruction. Increasing modernity and materialism are eager to make humans cruel and merciless. Not only are wildlife suffering the consequences of humans becoming selfish, but it is also creating ecological imbalance. Now humans are also suffering its consequences. Recently in Wayanad district of Kerala The case of a wild elephant entering a house and killing a human being had made headlines in the media. This incident explains the situation of human-animal conflict. In the latest report of Kerala Forest Department, about nine thousand incidents of man-animal conflict have been recorded. Of these, more than four thousand cases are related to wild elephants. In 2018, Periyar Tiger Conservation Foundation conducted a study on elephant violence in Kerala. It concluded that traditional trees have now been destroyed in the forests and trees like acacia and eucalyptus are being planted in their place. Have been. These varieties of trees are also absorbing more water from the ground. This is creating a crisis of both food and water for the elephants. To satisfy their hunger and thirst, elephants are becoming furious and violent. For this we hold innocent animals responsible, whereas the reality is that we ourselves are responsible

for this conflict. According to a government figure, the number of elephants in the country is around thirty thousand. Statistics show that between 2014 and 2019, five hundred elephants died prematurely in the country. Whereas between 2012 and 2017 the number of elephants increased a decrease of up to ten percent has been recorded. If elephants keep decreasing by ten percent every five years, then it will not take much time for around thirty thousand elephants to become extinct. Whereas it is worth noting that the report given by the Environment Ministry about the death of elephants through RTI is not a natural death. According to the report, in the last thirteen years, 898 elephants died after getting entangled in electric wires. Apart from this, the second biggest cause of death of elephants is getting hit by trains. Due to increasing modernization and ever-increasing urbanization, now the railway tracks have been laid till inaccessible areas. This is the reason why a large number of elephants die after being hit by trains. According to information received from RTI, 191 elephants died at the hands of poachers in the last thirteen years. Poachers kill elephants to steal ivory. Some time ago, the brutal killing of a pregnant elephant in Malappuram had made a lot of headlines in the media. Some people had deliberately killed the elephant by feeding it fruits filled with firecrackers. That was not the first incident when citizens He killed animals. According to statistics, 191 male elephants were killed deliberately. If the forest guards remain silent on this, then it is natural that many questions will arise. Actually, electrification of railway lines passing through forests and high speed

of vehicles are the major reasons for the sudden death of elephants. For the conservation of elephants, the Central Government has approved sixty-two new 'Elephant Corridors'. Now the number of Elephant Corridors has increased to 150. This is an important initiative towards wildlife conservation. Since elephant is our 'National Heritage Animal' and three The governments of the states- Jharkhand, Karnataka and Kerala have recognized the elephant as 'State Animal', every possible effort should be made for its conservation. Otherwise, we will have to be prepared to face the most catastrophic effects of human-wildlife conflict. This has already been announced in the joint report of 'World Wild Fund' and United Nations Environment Program on human-wildlife co-existence. Anyway, if seen, the Constitution not only gives freedom to human beings to live life, but Article 48 (A) states that it is the responsibility of the state to conserve and promote the environment and work for the protection of forests and wildlife across the country. Apart from this, Article 51(A) says that it is the duty of every Indian citizen to protect and promote all types of natural environment related things including forests, ponds, rivers, wildlife. Then why does the human society that agitates for rights run away from discharging its duties? This is a big question in itself, because unless there is a feeling of coexistence, the conflict between humans and wildlife will not reduce. About to happen.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab)

Panthers Party to support INDI Alliance

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: Panthers Party has taken a unanimous decision to support INDI Alliance candidates in the Lok Sabha Elections so as to defeat the fascist and sectarian forces that posed a threat to unity and integrity of the country.

This was stated by Harsh Dev Singh former minister and chairman Panthers Party today.

He was leading a protest in Jammu today wherein dozens of Panther Party activists torched the copies of newspaper English daily for acting at the behest of BJP and other political syndicates for undue and illegitimate favours and publishing false, misleading and defamatory material against the opposition parties.

The protestors raised slogans against English Daily newspaper and its management for promot-



ing the political interests of BJP and its allies while conspiring against the opposition.

Speaking on the occasion, Harsh Dev Singh said that newspaper had stopped covering 'JKNPP' for the last about one year when the latter vociferously exposed the BJP for its frauds, blunders, omis-

sions and commissions. And contrarily it published derogatory, malicious and motivated stories against JKNPP. And now when the name 'JKNPP' has been frozen by ECI, the said newspaper is publishing two column news on page 3 of the paper today that "JKNPP announces participa-

tion in Lok Sabha Polls". This has deliberately been done to mislead the people. ECI has categorically ruled not to use the name of 'JKNPP' in view of prevalent dispute but a modified version of JKNPP was permissible by making changes in the said name.

The newspaper howev-

er has intentionally used the word 'JKNPP' in the title of the said news and even mentioned someone as its General Secretary. The news paper further states that 'JKNPP' is fielding candidates in all five Lok Sabha seats. This is not only false, misleading and contemptuous of ECI order but also constitutes a culpable offence punishable under law.

Harsh Dev Singh said that Panthers Party under his chairmanship has already taken a decision to support INDI Alliance candidates in all constituencies in J&K. He appealed the people to vote for Lal Singh on Udhampur Lok Sabha and Raman Bhalla on Jammu Lok Sabha seat. He said that he contemplated to take legal action against the delinquent paper as well as the notorious characters who were trying to mislead the public.

GDC Thathri organises seminar on SVEEP

Top News Report

THATHRI, Apr 6: NSS unit of GDC Thathri in collaboration with the College Literary Committee and Electoral Literacy club organised a seminar on Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral participation (SVEEP) under the overall patronage and supervision of Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal, Principal of the college. The Principal addressed the NSS volunteers and students of the college and laid emphasis on the importance of Vote in a democratic system. All the staff members were present in the event. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Programme Officer NSS introduced briefly about the program and highlighted the significance of each and every vote and voter. Prof Deepak Raj, HoD English gave a



detailed lecture about the program titled "SVEEP" and motivated the students to participate in this festival of democracy. He also undermined the role of the youth in enlightening the ignorant and illiterates about the value of election participation in a democratic setup.

The Program was managed by Dr.Sanjay Kumar NSS PO and Prof Arshad Ayoub (Nodal

officer Electoral Literacy club). Prof Arshad Ayoub addressed the NSS Volunteers with a pledge to uphold the democratic values by making every vote count. The HoDs present on the occasion were HOD Urdu, EVS, Education, Dogri, Economic, political science, Sociology and Hindi.

The Program concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Dr.Javid Iqbal HOD Urdu.

SPPND GDC Samba launches Signature Campaign to promote voter awareness



Top News Report

SAMBA, Apr 6: The Pravaad Electoral Literacy Club of SPPND Government Degree College Samba launched a signature campaign under SVEEP highlighting the importance of voting and encouraging citizens to exercise their democratic right. The campaign

was organized under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the college. The signature campaign, titled "Your Vote, Your Voice," seeks to engage students, faculty members and the local community in discussions around the significance of voting in a democracy. Participants had the

opportunity to pledge their commitment to vote and advocate for increased voter turnout in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections. The campaign aimed to spread the message of electoral literacy and voter empowerment towards a more vibrant and participatory electoral process.

Ahead of Eid-Al-Fiter Market checking conducted in Waltangoo Kund



Top News Report

KULGAM, Apr 6: On the direction of District Development Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan.Naib Tehsildar Chowgam along with Revenue staff conducted a surprise market checking in the main market of Waltangoo kund and its adjacent areas.

Naib Tehsildar Chowgam Mohd Amin Najar carried intensive market

checking at Waltangoo Kund Kulgam. During the course Expire items were also destroyed.

The checking was aimed to ensure quality, to curb black marketing, profiteering of essential commodities, to keep vigil on erring shopkeepers.

Naib Tehsildar Chowgam told that traders have been requested to display rate lists at their respective shops," he said.

Sheikh Jamsheed extends wishes to all Muslims on Shab-e-Qadar

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Apr 6: : Laylat-al-Qadr is also known as the Night of Power. During this night, Almighty Allah revealed the Holy Qur'an's first verses to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This night falls within Ramadan's final 10 days, and although the exact date is unidentified, it is commonly thought of as the Holy month's 27th day.

In Quran Majeed Allah Almighty Says, "Verily! We have sent it (this Quran) down in the night of Al-Qadr,And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is? The night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allah in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months, Therein descend the angels and the Ruh [Jibrael (Gabriel)] by Allah's Permission with all Decrees,Peace! (All that night, there is Peace and Goodness from Allah to His believing slaves)



until the appearance of dawn.

In his message, Sheikh said that this Holy night is the night of forgiveness and atonement. It is an extremely pious night, and it is believed that the Almighty readily forgives those who supplicate sincerely, and ask for their sins to be purged.

"In this holy night, Almighty Allah chose to reveal the Holy Quran to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) so that the whole mankind takes guidance from it. The night is spent in asking for the Almighty Allah's mercy for any transgressions. Sheikh said that, "I pray that all our sup-

plications are accepted and prayers answered. May the night augur well for increased prospects of peace and prosperity in J&K, and rest of the country. Sheikh said that, "Dargah (Hazrat-bal), Jamia Masjid, Imam Bargah Zaidibal, Imam Bargah Hasanabad, Imam Bargah Bemina and other Masjids will have the largest gatherings where thousands of people will participate in special prayers on this night and will listen to sermons on the teachings of Islam.

Emphasizing on special arrangements including adequate water and electricity supply during these nights is quite essential.

Sheikh appealed to the administration to ensure these arrangements for the smooth celebrations in these places across the valley. I hope the auspicious night acts as a harbinger of peace, prosperity, stability, integrity, harmony in J&K and in the rest of the country.

AGS Hajinar students, teachers engage in National-Level IDE Boot Camp



Top News Report

KUPWARA, Apr 6: Teachers and students of the Innovation Club at AGS Hajinar delved into a transformative experience at a 2-day Innovation, Design & Entrepreneurship boot camp hosted by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell. Held from April 4th to 5th, 2024, at SSM College of Engineering in Baramulla, the event witnessed the presence of Pooja Rawat, Innovation Officer at MoE's Innovation Cell, during

its inaugural function. Distinguished speakers, design experts, and incubation heads from across the nation led technical training sessions, aimed at nurturing student innovators, teachers, and principals from both PM SHRI and Non-PM SHRI Schools nationwide. With 18 centers spread across 14 states/UTs, the boot camp emphasized a human-centric approach to identify opportunities, develop customer-centric products and services, and foster creative thinking among participants.

The support extended by the Bharti Airtel Foundation, particularly towards nurturing innovation in schools, including AGS Hajinar, was highlighted. Special appreciation was also accorded to Lt. Col. Mohit Joshi for his steadfast support and guidance, as well as to the School Management and Principal, Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khawaja, for facilitating AGS Hajinar's participation in this prestigious national-level event at SSM College of Engineering, Pattan, Baramulla.

Notorious drug peddler arrested, Ganja recovered

Top News Report

REASI, Apr 6: In continued drive against Drug Abuse launched by District Police Reasi under operation Jeevandam, surprise Naka & Checking is being conducted to check the offenders & Criminals.

Static Surveillance Team -1 of District Reasi laid a surprise naka at Nomain area, while conducting surprise checking, apprehended one person namely Shotu Lal S/O Krishan Lal R/o Mountri District Udhampur and upon frisking of said person, 59.5 grams (approx.) of Ganja like substance was recovered from his possession.

On this FIR No. 98/2024 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Katra and investigation is going on to unearth the backward

and forward linkage.

SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma while sharing the details conveyed that Reasi Police is working on multipronged strategy to deal with the problem of drug abuse, on one hand awareness programs are being organized in every nook and corner of the district and on the other hand drug peddlers are being booked under PIT NDPS Act on regular basis, whereas Reasi Police also started Anti Drug Helpline Number 9070907017 for general public where identity of caller will be kept secret.

SSP Reasi while giving tough message for drug peddlers added that there is no space for Drug Peddlers in Reasi. Drug peddlers should shun the path of spoiling our generation and must return to mainstream otherwise they will be dealt with Iron hand.

Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali launches Super Speciality OPD Center in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali on Saturday launched super speciality OPD center at Triveni Nursing Home, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The specialized OPD launch is yet another patient-centric step taken by the healthcare provider to enable access to quality healthcare services, to communities beyond Mohali.

The OPD Center will host esteemed specialists, Dr. Jatinder Singla, Director-Orthopaedic & Joint Replacement, and Dr. Anupam Goel, Consultant-General Surgery, GI & Robotic Surgery. Both doctors bring a wealth of experience and expertise in their respective fields, ensuring patients receive top-notch medical care and personalized attention.

Patients in Jammu and

surrounding areas will now have convenient access to specialized consultations and treatments offered by Dr. Singla and Dr. Goel on every 4th Sunday of the month. This initiative aims to bridge the gap in healthcare services and cater to the growing healthcare needs of the region.

Dr. Jatinder Singla, renowned for his proficiency in orthopaedic and joint replacement surgeries, expressed his enthusiasm about extending services to Jammu, stating, "We are excited to bring Max Hospital's renowned orthopaedic care closer to the people of Jammu. Our goal is to enhance accessibility to advanced healthcare solutions and improve the quality of life for patients suffering from orthopaedic conditions like Arthritis, Bursitis, Fibromyalgia,

Foot Pain, Fractures, Hip Fracture, Lower Back Pain, Hand Pain, Knee Pain, Neck Pain, Osteoporosis Shoulder Pain and Problems along with Soft-Tissue Injuries."

Similarly, Dr. Anupam Goel emphasized the significance of the OPD Center in providing specialized gastrointestinal and surgical care to the community. "With the launch of our OPD services in Jammu, we aim to address the diverse healthcare needs of patients, offering advanced treatment options in gastrointestinal disorders like Abdominal Pain Syndrome, Acid Reflux, Heartburn, GERD, Bloating, Biliary Tract Disorders, Gallbladder Disorders and Gallstone, Pancreatitis, Dyspepsia/Indigestion, Peptic Ulcer Disease, Hernia, Hemorrhoids and other Anal Disorders," said Dr. Goel.

District Police Reasi recovered lost mobile phone and handed over to owner

Top News Report

REASI, Apr 6: Reasi Police under the overall supervision of SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma work vigorously to prevent the social evils and timely service to the complainants in the hour of need.

One missing mobile costing Rs 30000 model Samsung which was lost on February 3, 2024 has

been traced out by Police Post Adhkuwari and the same has been handed over to the owner of the Mobile namely Mamta Sharma w/o Vrinder Singh R/o Panchkula Chandigarh after obtaining proper receipt.

The complaint of missing report of mobile which was registered at Police Post Adhkuwari by the owner of mobile has been closed.



The efforts of the Police Team in tracing the Mobile Phones were appreciated by owner of Mobile Phone.

SSP Reasi further appeal people to take care of their belongings during Yatra and in case of any loss/ theft report immediately to the nearest police establishment. Safety and security of Yatris is of utmost priority of Reasi Police.

Young filmmaker Mukul Kapoor's upcoming short film Tatva explores the transformative power of art

Ask writer and filmmaker Mukul Kapoor how the idea for his upcoming short fictional film, *Tatva*, cropped up, and pat comes the reply, "Years ago, I embarked on a journey to explore the vibrant 800-year-old Kumbhar community, nestled within the ancient alleys of Kumbharwada in Dharavi. It was there amid the artistry of pottery that I found myself captivated by the process, rather than the mere outcome."

The 23-year-old reflects, "I have always been one to fall in love with the process and how beautifully flawed it can be." He fondly recalls, "The Kumbhars, with their deft hands, seamlessly melded the five elements of nature into vessels of beauty and utility. Immersing myself in their daily lives and staying with a local family, I realised the profound narrative woven into their existence—a story too compelling to overlook."

The film, which is set for release on Jio Cinema this month, delves into the intricate dynamics of legacy preservation and individual aspirations, exploring the transformative power of art amid the trials of life. At the heart of the story are Dheeraj and Vinayak, a father-



son duo navigating the delicate balance between tradition and modernity. Dhara, the insightful aunt, serves as a guiding beacon that encourages Vinayak to mend the frayed bonds with his father. "Guided by veteran director Subhash Ghai and his institution, the production journey began, soon translating the essence of Kumbharwada onto the silver screen," Kapoor shares, before hastening to

add, "Alok Ulfat, Amardeep Jha, Smaran Tiwary and Anuj Shaw infused life into the characters."

Resilient act

The youngster from Chandigarh, Mukul, however, concedes, "From conceiving a compelling narrative rooted in authenticity to garnering belief in its vision, each step demanded resilience. It took six months of relentless dedication in 2022—scribbling, refining

and assembling the team—before our vision materialised into reality."

About the genres he likes, Kapoor promptly says, "Rather than tethering myself to a specific genre, I gravitate towards narratives that wield the power of compelling storytelling. A well-crafted tale, irrespective of its genre, leaves an indelible mark, provoking introspection and igniting one's imagination. If it leaves me with something to think about, it falls under the umbrella of my favourite genre."

"*Tatva* has scooped up multiple national and international film festival accolades and reached the semi-final stage at the Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival," Kapoor adds with an air of humility.

Notably, he has written and directed numerous short films in both fiction and non-fiction categories. His previous works have been featured on multiple OTT platforms, such as Amazon Prime, Jio Cinema, Epic On, Airtel Xstream, Hotstar and Shorts TV. Among his notable works is a 2020 documentary film, *Ankuran: The Art of Idol Making*, which dwells on the dying art form of murti kala.

Neha Kakkar's 'good morning' is all about 'head banging, Korean hearts' in car



Singer Neha Kakkar on morning was seen doing "head banging" and making Korean hearts in the car, while

she was going to pick her husband Rohanpreet Singh, whom she lovingly calls "Rohu". Neha took to Insta-

gram stories and shared a video.

In the clip, she was seen grooving to some reggaeton music and then suddenly started hilariously head banging, which means shaking one's head in rhythm with music.

Dressed in a white fluffy crop top paired with sweatpants, Neha said: "Goodmorning... Bhangra paa... aa rahe hai Punjabi aa rahe hai... We are going to pick Rohu."

Neha, who has belted out hits such as 'Second Hand Jawaani', 'Sunny Sunny', 'Manali Trance', 'London Thumakda', 'Dilbar', 'O Saki Saki', started her journey in singing by participating in the second season of the singing reality show, 'Indian Idol'.

Apart from playback singing, she has been a part of several television reality shows as a judge including 'Indian Idol' and 'Superstar Singer' season 3.

Alfia Jafry opens up on her debut with 'The Tribe'

Alfia Jafry is all set for her debut role in *The Tribe*, which will soon premiere on Amazon Prime Video.

Alongside fellow Indian social media influencers like Alaviaa Jaaferi, Srushti Porey, Alanna Panday, Aryana Gandhi and Hardik Zaveri, *The Tribe* offers a glimpse into their lives in the bustling city of Los Angeles.

Alfia, brimming with excitement about her big break, shares, "The *Tribe* is not just a show; it's a journey of self-discovery, growth and embracing new experiences. I'm thrilled to share this part of my life with the world and hope to inspire others to pursue their passions fearlessly."

It has been a complete rollercoaster ride, and I can't wait for the world to watch all of us."



Angelina Jolie claims Brad Pitt's physical abuse 'started before' 2016 plane incident

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie is claiming that her former husband Brad Pitt's physical abuse toward her "started well before" the 2016 plane incident that led her to file for divorce. The claims are as per documents obtained by Page Six.

The actress' legal team made the claims in an attempt to release communications that would prove the Pitt refused to allow his ex-wife to sell her portion of their Chateau Miraval French winery unless she signed an "onerous" and "expansive" NDA.

"While Pitt's history of physical abuse of Jolie started well before the family's September 2016 plane trip from France to Los Angeles, this flight marked the first time he turned his physical abuse on the children as well. Jolie then immediately left him," the document reads.

According to the filing, the NDA Pitt reportedly asked Jolie, that she would cover his "personal misconduct, whether related to Miraval or not," in an attempt to prevent her from speaking on his alleged abuse. Her lawyers also claimed that



Pitt wanted her to "contractually bind herself" to silence after he discovered in 2021 that she submitted a sealed filing, consisting of "emails, summaries of the family's expected testimony and other evidence" to help settle their child custody dispute.

At the time, Pitt agreed to purchase Jolie's shares of the

French winery but backed out as he feared his ex's sealed documents "could eventually become public," the documents continue.

"Pitt refused to purchase Jolie's interest when she would not be silenced by his NDA," Jolie's attorney Paul Murphy said in a statement.

"By refusing to buy her inter-

est but then suing her, Pitt put directly at issue why that NDA was so important to him and what he hoped it would bury: his abuse of Jolie and their family," he continued, referencing Pitt's 2022 lawsuit against Jolie for selling her shares of the winery to another party.

The documents also claim that Jolie "never pressed charges" against her "Mr and Mrs Smith" co-star because "she believed the best course was for Pitt to accept responsibility and help the family recover from the post-traumatic stress he caused."

However, a source familiar with Pitt said that Jolie "continually tries to distract from legal losses by offering irrelevant or inaccurate information" in further court filings.

"There's a pattern that every time she loses, she continues to come back to this... there's nothing new here," the source added.

Aside from their vineyard, Jolie and Pitt are also fighting over the custody of their children Maddox, 22, Pax, 20, Zahara, 19, Shiloh, 17, and twins Vivienne and Knox, 15.

Urvashi Upadhyay's essays a mother-in-law in 'Mangal Lakshmi'



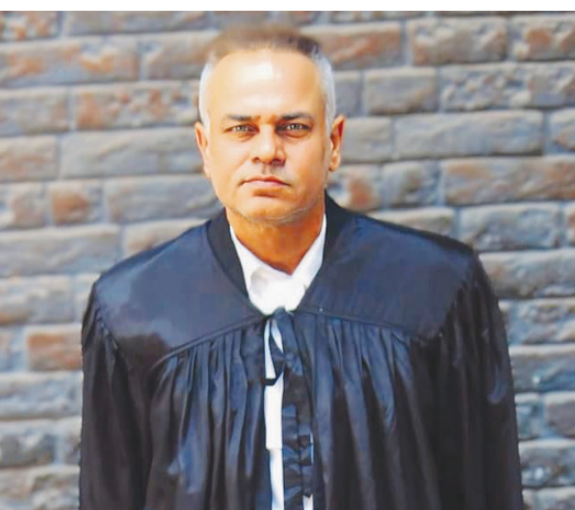
Breaking away from the saas-bahu trope seen on television, Colors' show *Mangal Lakshmi* is winning hearts with an emotionally loaded tale of sisters, who want to secure

respect for each other in their relationships.

Talking about her role in *Mangal Lakshmi*, Urvashi says, "I was drawn to the script because it offered a fresh perspective on

familial relationships. As an artiste, it is very fulfilling to be part of a show that defies conventions by putting an entirely new spin on family drama. Many women have husbands like Adit, but only a small percentage have a mother-in-law like Kusum. So I'm grateful for all the love that I have received for portraying the role of a supportive mother-in-law for the first time. I've observed that mothers-in-law are usually shown as nosy and vicious, but I view my role as an opportunity to highlight their often-ignored good qualities. I aspire to bring a change in the society through my character. That's what makes this show, based around women who have different strengths, so special."

Veteran actor Manish Khanna will soon be making his entry in 'Pushpa Impossible'



Known for his negative roles, veteran actor Manish Khanna will soon be making his entry in *Pushpa Impossible*. He will essay the role of the opposition lawyer, hailing from Delhi. With a towering presence and a voice that commands attention, Somnath strikes fear in the hearts of his opponents the moment he steps into the courtroom.

Manish Khanna, who will be essaying the character of Somnath Suryavanshi, says, "I am excited to be a part of *Pushpa Impossible*. My character Somnath is a very interesting one. He has a sharp tongue and doesn't shy away from a snide remark. It's an out-and-out negative character and also very intimidating."

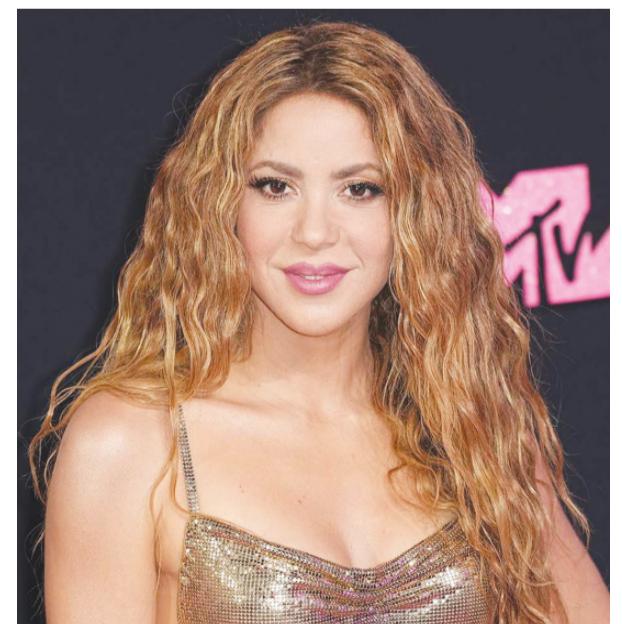
Shakira lost lyrics for an entire album when her suitcase went missing at an airport

Grammy winner Shakira lost an entire album when her suitcase disappeared from an airport in Bogota and had to start from scratch.

The pop star had written enough lyrics for her fourth album when she was 21-year-old in the 1990s which she kept in her suitcase.

"When I was like, 21, I had written a whole body of work. And it got lost at an airport in Bogota. I had all my lyrics in my dad's briefcase because I used to travel with my parents back in the day. And I think that it just disappeared at the airport," she said on 'The Hot Ones' YouTube series.

"So that's why I named our album 'Where are the Thieves?' After that story, I had to reconstruct all of the lyrics in my head. When I was able to, like after a great deal of effort."



The 'Hips Don't Lie' hitmaker doesn't think she was the target of an attack and feels she was just put in an "unfortunate" situation at the time, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She said: "I wasn't targeted specifically. I know. I think just you

know, the bag just disappeared. The suitcase disappeared with my lyrics. I was unfortunate. It was so painful."

The 47-year-old songstress recently said that her voice is "so much better" now than when she first hit the music scene.

PM Modi's "Flop Film" Swipe At Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav At UP Rally

PM Modi said the BJP government works without discrimination and noted that the government also brought the bill to abrogate triple talaq.

SAHARANPUR, Apr 6 (Agencies): In a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav over the tie-up between the two parties for the Lok Sabha polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday referred to their unsuccessful partnership in 2017 assembly polls in the state and said "do ladkon ki flop film" has been released again.

Addressing a rally here, the Prime Minister also attacked the INDIA alliance and said while they are for "commission", his government is on a mission.

Attacking Congress, he said the party is finding it difficult to find candidates even from its strongholds and that there were instances where party candidates did not file nominations.

"This is the first election I am witnessing where the opposition is contesting not to win but to contain the BJP below 370 seats and NDA 400. Samajwadi Party is in such a condition that they have to change the candidates every hour and for Congress, it is even worse, they aren't finding candidates, even at their strongholds... 'Do ladkon ki film jo pichali baar flop ho chuki hai, un do ladkon ki film ko in logon



ne fir se release kiya hai (the film of two boys, which flopped last time, that these people have launched again)," he said.

Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav had held a roadshow in Agra in February this year, almost seven years after the Congress and Samajwadi Party tied up for the 2017 assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh in which they did not do well. The supporters of the two parties described their leaders as "UP ke ladke" during the 2017 poll campaign.

PM Modi said the BJP has won the trust of the people through its actions.

"Today is the foundation day of BJP. In just a few decades, record numbers of our countrymen have joined the BJP. The party has won the trust of

the people, BJP has won the hearts of the people. The biggest reason for this is that the BJP does not follow politics but follows national policy. For BJP, the nation comes first, this is not BJP's slogan but our article of faith," he said.

He also attacked the UPA rule saying that the country was going through a "period of despair and crisis".

"Ten years ago, I came to Saharanpur for an election meeting. At that time, the country was going through a period of great despair and great crisis. I had guaranteed you at that time that I would not let the country bow down. I had resolved that with your blessings, I will turn despair into hope, hope into faith. You left no stone unturned in your blessings and Modi left

no stone unturned in his hard work," he said.

PM Modi said the BJP government works without discrimination and noted that the government also brought the bill to abrogate triple talaq.

"Abrogating article 370 has been our mission and this mission has also been completed. The stones thrown by stone-pelters in Kashmir, Modi took that stone and started building Vikasit Jammu and Kashmir... Today, every Indian says, 'Niyat sahi to natije sahi'. BJP government works without any discrimination, we want our policies to reach everyone and for this, we have worked for 10 years. Our mantra is 'saturation', which means people should benefit 100 per cent, that's the real secularism and social justice," he said.

Referring to allegations of the opposition about the misuse of probe agencies, PM Modi said the action "against corruption" will continue.

"INDI alliance is for Commission. Whereas NDA, Modi government is for the mission..." he said.

Saharanpur along with seven other seats in Uttar Pradesh will go to the polls in the first phase of Lok Sabha polls on April 19.

Country's democracy in danger, conspiracy being hatched to change Constitution: Sonia Gandhi



JAIPUR, Apr 6 (Agencies): Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of tearing apart the country's dignity and democracy and claimed that various tactics were being used to force opposition leaders to join the BJP.

Addressing an election event of the party here, the former Congress chief claimed that for the last 10 years, the country has been in the hands of a government that left no stone unturned to promote unemployment, inflation, economic crisis and inequality.

"Today, our country's democracy is in danger. Democratic institutions

are being destroyed and a conspiracy is being hatched to change our Constitution," she alleged, adding, "This is a dictatorship and we all will give a reply to this."

"Considering himself great, Modi ji is tearing apart the dignity of the country and its democracy," Sonia Gandhi said.

She also criticised the Modi government's decade-long tenure, highlighting issues of unemployment, inflation, discrimination, and atrocities.

"There's darkness of injustice everywhere. We all should fight against this, seeking light of justice.

For the last 10 years, our country has been

under the leadership of a government that has promoted unemployment, inflation, discrimination, and atrocity. What the Modi government has done is in front of us all," the former Congress President said.

Addressing the event earlier, the party's national general secretary, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, referred to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren's arrest by federal agencies to claim that the opposition was under attack under BJP rule at the Centre.

"Unemployment and inflation at peak and paper leaks are happening in every state. There no one to listen to the poor and the farmers," she said.

Priyanka Gandhi also said, "We have named our manifesto 'Nyay Patra'. This manifesto is not just a list of announcements that we will forget after the elections. This is the voice of the nation that wants justice."

Security forces kill 3 Naxalites in encounter along Chhattisgarh-Telangana border; arms recovered

RAIPUR, Apr 6 (Agencies): Security forces gunned down three Naxalites in an encounter in a dense forest in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district bordering Telangana on Saturday and recovered arms and ammunition from the scene, a senior police official here said.

The exchange of fire took place around 5.30 am near Dolliguda village under the Usoor police station area along the interstate border when a team of Greyhounds, Telangana's elite anti-Naxal force, was out on an operation, he said.

A team of Chhattisgarh police was also present in the area to extend auxiliary support to the Greyhounds team, he said.

"After the exchange of fire stopped, bodies of three Naxalites along with one



LMG (light machine gun), one AK-47 rifle and a cache of other arms and ammunition were recovered from the spot," the official said.

A search operation is still underway in the area, he added.

Earlier this week, at least 13 Naxalites, including three women, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district.

17 Indians, lured into unsafe work in Laos, on way back home: EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, Apr 6 (Agencies): Seventeen Indian workers, who were lured into unsafe and illegal work in Laos, are on their way back home, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday.

He also complimented the Indian embassy in Laos for its successful efforts in the case.

In a post on X, he said, "Modi ki Guarantee works for all at home and abroad. Seventeen Indian workers, lured into unsafe and illegal work in Laos, are on their way back home." "Well done, @IndianEmbLaos. Thank Lao authorities for their support for the safe repatriation," he added.

The external affairs ministry



on Thursday cautioned Indian nationals against falling prey to human traffickers promising lucrative job opportunities in Cambodia.

In an advisory, the ministry called upon Indians looking at job opportunities in the south-east Asian country to thoroughly check the background of the

prospective employer.

"It has come to attention that Indian nationals, lured by fake promises of lucrative job opportunities in Cambodia, are falling into the trap of human traffickers," it said.

The ministry said these Indian nationals are "coerced" to undertake online financial scams and other illegal activities.

"Indian nationals intending to visit Cambodia for employment are cautioned to do so only through authorised agents. It is also advised that the background of the prospective employer in Cambodia is checked thoroughly," it said.

PM Modi doesn't know history, Syama Prasad Mookerjee himself was part of government with Muslim League: Congress

NEW DELHI, Apr 6 (Agencies): The Congress on Saturday hit back at Narendra Modi over his remarks that the party's manifesto bore a Muslim League imprint, saying the prime minister "does not know his history" as it was none other than Jan Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee himself who was part of a coalition government in Bengal with the League in the early 1940s.

The opposition party also accused the BJP of practising "politics of divisiveness".

Addressing an election rally in Saharanpur, Modi said the Congress manifesto bears a Muslim League imprint while a part of it is dominated by the leftists.

Reacting to the prime minister's remarks, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "The prime minister does not know his history as it was, in fact, none other than Mookerjee, the president of the Hindu Mahasabha then, who was himself part of the coalition government in Bengal with the Muslim League."



The Hindu Mahasabha was also in coalition with the Muslim League in Sindh and North-West Frontier Province.

"It is the BJP, not the Congress, that believes in and practices the

politics of divisiveness," Ramesh said.

The prime minister's attack on the Congress came a day after it released its manifesto, focusing on five "pillars of justice" and 25 guar-

antees under those, at the party headquarters in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Right to apprenticeship, a legal guarantee for MSP, passing a constitutional amendment to raise the 50 per cent cap on reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs, a nationwide caste census and scrapping of the Agnipath scheme are among the promises made by the Congress in its Lok Sabha polls manifesto.

55-year-old woman assaulted, paraded semi-naked by her son's in-laws in Punjab's Tarn Taran

TARN TARAN, Apr 6 (Agencies): A 55-year-old woman was assaulted and paraded semi-naked in Valtaha village here, allegedly by her son's in-laws, after he got married against the wishes of the bride's parents, police said on Saturday.

A purported video of the victim being paraded surfaced on social media on Friday. The incident occurred on March 31, a few days after the victim's son eloped with a woman and married her against her family's wishes, police said.

According to the complaint filed by the victim, she was alone at her home when her son's in-laws allegedly assaulted her and tore off her clothes. They paraded her in the village in a semi-

naked condition, the victim alleged.

Five people have been booked in the case and three of them have been identified as Kulwinder Kaur Mani, Sharanjit Singh Shanni and Gurcharan Singh, police said.

Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered on April 3 under the Indian Penal Code sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354B (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 354D (stalking), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 149 (unlawful assembly).

No arrests have been made in the case so far, police said.

Very serious situation, has to be dealt with all seriousness: West Bengal Governor on attack on NIA team

KOLKATA, Apr 6 (Agencies): Describing the attack on NIA officers as a "very serious issue", West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on Saturday said the matter should be treated with the "all seriousness that it deserves".

He also said such an "attempt to bully the investigating agencies



does not bring credit to anyone down the line" and the matter has to be dealt with an iron hand.

"This is a very serious

situation which has to be dealt with all the seriousness that it deserves. This kind of 'goondaism' should not be allowed.

Muscle power should not replace legal power. This has to be dealt with an iron hand," Bose told agency at the Raj Bhavan.

A vehicle carrying NIA officials was on Saturday attacked by villagers in Purba Medinipur district's Bhupatinagar when they went there to investigate a 2022 bomb blast case.

Three killed, 26 injured as bus carrying SAF jawans collides with car in Madhya Pradesh

SEONI, Apr 6 (Agencies): Three persons were killed and 26 others injured when a bus carrying Special Armed Forces (SAF) jawans overturned after colliding with a car in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district early on Saturday, police said.

One of the jawans sustained serious injuries and has been referred to Nagpur in neighbouring Maharashtra, an

official said.

The accident occurred around 1 am near Dhanagadha village on the Seoni-Mandla State Highway, some 50 km from the district headquarters. A bus carrying personnel from the state police's 35th Battalion of SAF from Mandla to Pandhurna (Chhindwara) collided with a car with five occupants including its driver, Keolari police station

in-charge Chain Singh Uikey told agency.

Kanhaiya Jaswani (75), Niklesh Jaswani (45) and driver Purushottam Mahobia (37) who were travelling in the car were killed in the accident, he said. The deceased were residents of Mandla.

Two other car occupants, who suffered injuries, are being treated at Keolari Government Hospital.

Those travelling in the car were returning from Nagpur after some hospital-related work there, the official said.

The bus carrying the SAF jawans overturned after the accident. A total of 26 SAF jawans were injured and taken to the Keolari hospital.

One of them who suffered serious injuries was referred to Nagpur, he said, adding that a probe was underway.

Slovakia elects new president amid deep divisions over Ukraine war

Ivan Korcok, a pro-Western former foreign minister, and Peter Pellegrini, a Ukraine-sceptic backed by the ruling populists, are vying to replace the outgoing liberal President Zuzana Caputova.

BRATISLAVA, Apr 6 (Agencies): Slovaks voted Saturday to choose a new president with the outcome determining whether the EU and NATO member shifts further towards Russia amid deep divisions over the war in Ukraine.

Ivan Korcok, a 60-year-old pro-Western former foreign minister, and Peter Pellegrini, 48, a Ukraine-sceptic backed by the ruling populists, are vying to replace the outgoing liberal President Zuzana Caputova.

They are squaring off in a decisive second round as neither won the minimum 50 percent in last month's ballot.

Though the office is largely ceremonial, Slovakia's president ratifies international treaties, appoints top judges, is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces and can veto laws passed by parliament.

The final pre-election poll by the Focus agency put Korcok and parliament speaker Pellegrini neck-and-neck, with Pellegrini gaining 51 percent of the vote and Korcok 49 percent.

"This is the tightest ever presidential race," said Vaclav Hrich, managing director of the AKO polling agency.



Stefan Harabin, who placed third after criticising the European Union and hailing Russian President Vladimir Putin, did not formally back either candidate.

"It is an important 12 percent that Harabin got," political analyst Tomas Koziak told agency, adding that "Korcok is unlikely to win those votes".

According to AKO, over two thirds of Harabin voters intend to support Pellegrini.

Yet Hrich said the election was "too close to call" and said turnout will be decisive.

"The more people vote, the more chances Peter Pellegrini will have as this would mean he had succeeded convincing Harabin's voters," he said.

War and peace Bratislava voter Frantisek Hazik cast his ballot for Korcok just after polling stations

opened at 7:00 am (0500 GMT).

"I don't want Fico and his friends to occupy everything in Slovakia, so I chose Ivan Korcok. He's a truly democratic politician," the 31-year-old auditor told agency. Pensioner Helena Vaclavova, 67, backed Pellegrini, saying he "only wants good for this country".

"He will defend us from everything and will be a good president," she said.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine became a fixture of the electoral campaign in the country of 5.4 million after Prime Minister Robert Fico questioned Ukraine's sovereignty and called for peace with Russia.

Pellegrini was a minister in Fico's previous governments and was head of government from 2018 to 2020 when his long-time ally was

toppled.

"I am running for president to rescue the government of Robert Fico," Pellegrini said in a televised debate.

Korcok fired back: "You want to protect the government. I want to protect Slovakia."

Fico's government that took office in October includes his Smer party, Pellegrini's Hlas and the small far-right SNS, and has discontinued military aid to Ukraine.

"Korcok is a warmonger, who will support everything the West tells him without hesitation, including dragging Slovakia into the war," Fico said in a video.

He expressed support for Pellegrini, calling him "a moderate candidate who recognises the value of peace".

Government ally vs critic

Pellegrini said "the Slovak political scene is

divided between those who are in favour of the continuation of the war at all costs, and those who demand the start of peace negotiations".

"I belong to the latter," he told agency.

Korcok, a vocal government critic backed by the opposition, is staunchly pro-Ukraine.

"The Russian Federation has trampled on international law. I do not think Ukraine should give up part of its territory to achieve peace," he told agency.

Pavol Turanec, an electrical designer from Martin, northern Slovakia, hailed Korcok.

"Korcok is a real pro: pro-democratic, pro-Western, pro-European. His values do not change depending on polls," the 50-year-old told agency.

"This criminal government is leading us to a pro-Russian autocracy, devastating the judiciary, and public finances. They really need a counterweight."

Jana Mozolova, a retired teacher from the eastern city of Kosice, said Pellegrini had her vote.

"He has been around for years and never let anyone down," the 66-year-old said.

Provisional results are expected around midnight.

Philippines, US, Australia, Japan To Hold Joint Naval Drills In South China Sea

MANILA, Apr 6 (Agencies): The United States, Australia, Japan and the Philippines will hold joint naval and air drills in the disputed South China Sea on Sunday, their defence chiefs said in a statement, as they deepen ties to counter China's growing assertiveness in the region.

The exercise will take place in the disputed waterway -- which Beijing claims almost entirely -- days before US President Joe Biden is due to hold the first trilateral summit with the leaders of the Philippines and Japan.

"Our combined defense/armed forces will conduct a Maritime Cooperative Activity within the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone on April 7, 2024," they said in a joint statement Saturday.

They said it would demonstrate the allies' "collective commitment to strengthen regional and international cooperation in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific."

The drills named the "Maritime Cooperative Activity" will include naval and air force units from all four countries, the joint statement said.

The four defence chiefs said they would "strengthen the interoperability of our... doc-

trines, tactics, techniques, and procedures."

There were no details on what the drills would precisely include.

The Japanese embassy in Manila said in a statement that "anti-submarine warfare training" would be included in the drills.

Earlier this week Australian warship HMAS Warramunga arrived at the Philippine island of Palawan, which faces the hotly contested waters.

The exercise and summit follow repeated confrontations between Chinese and Philippine vessels near disputed reefs off the Southeast Asian country in recent months.

China has blamed the Philippines for raising tensions in the hotly contested waterway, where Beijing and Manila have a long history of maritime territorial disputes.

"Peace and stability"

Top US officials have repeatedly declared the United States' "ironclad" commitment to defending the Philippines against an armed attack in the South China Sea.

"These activities with our allies Australia, Japan, and the Philippines underscore our shared commitment to ensuring that all countries are free to fly, sail, and operate wherever

international law allows," US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in the joint statement.

"Our operations together support peace and stability at the heart of our shared vision for a free and open region."

Marcos issued a strongly worded statement on March 28, vowing the Philippines would not be "cowed into silence, submission, or subservience" by China.

Talks between the Philippines and Japan for a defence pact that would allow the countries to deploy troops on each other's territory were "still ongoing", a spokesman for the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Manila already has a similar agreement with Australia and the United States.

In an interview with the Nikkei business daily on Thursday, Kishida said Japan needs to show a bigger presence and "take greater responsibility" for providing options for the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries.

He also said Tokyo, Washington and Manila "will work together to proceed with trilateral cooperative projects", including in semiconductors, digital technology and next-generation nuclear energy.

Longevity is 'just luck' says 111-year-old Briton, world's new oldest man

LONDON, Apr 6 (Agencies): The world's oldest living man, 111-year-old Briton John Tinniswood, said his longevity was "just luck" and there was no special secret to his diet - although his favourite food was fish and chips every Friday.

Tinniswood, who has been retired for more than half a century, inherited the Guinness World Records title from Venezuelan Juan Vicente Perez Mora, 114, whose death was announced earlier this week.

Born in 1912 in Merseyside, northern England, retired accountant and former postal service worker Tinniswood clocks in at 111 years and 222 days.

He gave a pithy reply when asked for the secret to his longevity,



however: "You either live long or you live short, and you can't do much about it."

Guinness World Records said in a statement that Tinniswood's claim to the record was assessed by its experts and by the Gerontology Research Group, which catalogues the world's confirmed "supercentenarians".

The oldest man ever was Japan's Jiroemon Kimura, who lived to

116 years and 54 days. The oldest living woman and oldest living person overall is Spain's Maria Branyas Morera, aged 117.

Tinniswood gave a somewhat measured view on the state of the world.

"The world, in its way, is always changing. It's a sort of ongoing experience... It's getting a little better but not all that much yet. It's going the right way."

Maldives thanks India for allowing limited essential exports amid tensions

MALÉ, Apr 6 (Agencies): Maldivian Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer on Saturday thanked India for its decision to increase the export of essential supplies to the island nation for the fiscal year 2024-25, despite diplomatic tensions between both countries.

In a post on X, Zameer said the gesture signified a "longstanding friendship" and a strong commitment to expanding bilateral trade between India and the Maldives.

"I sincerely thank EAM @DrSJaishankar and the Government of India for the renewal of the quota to enable Maldives to import essential commodities from India during the years 2024 and 2025," he wrote.

"This is truly a gesture which signifies the



longstanding friendship, and the strong commitment to further expand bilateral trade and commerce between our two countries," he said.

The Indian government lifted the restriction on the export of essential items to the Maldives despite growing tensions, underscoring its 'Neighbourhood First' policy. This decision comes against the backdrop of rising geopolitical tensions in the Indian Ocean region, particu-

larly concerning China's growing influence and the 'India Out' campaign led by the Mohamed Muizzu administration in the Maldives.

A statement released by the Indian High Commission in the Maldives detailing the Centre's decision to increase the export of crucial goods said, "Upon the request of the Government of Maldives, the Government of India has allowed for export of certain quantities of

essential commodities for the year 2024-25 under a unique bilateral mechanism, wherein, the quotas for each of these items have been revised upwards. The approved quantities are the highest since this arrangement came into effect in 1981."

Responding to Zameer's tweet, External Affairs S Jaishankar said India stood firmly committed to its 'Neighbourhood First' and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) policies.

"You are welcome FM @MoosaZameer. India stands firmly committed to its Neighbourhood First and SAGAR policies," he wrote on X on Saturday.

The revised export quotas mark a notable increase in the supply of critical commodities

such as river sand and stone aggregates — which are vital for the Maldives' construction sector — by 25 per cent to 10 lakh metric tonnes. Additionally, there's a 5 per cent increase in the export limits for essential food items like eggs, potatoes, onions, sugar, rice, wheat flour and pulses.

The move also comes amid a diplomatic row which began after three Maldivian ministers were suspended for their derogatory remarks against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he posted pictures of his visit to Lakshadweep and promoted it as a tourist destination.

Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leading leader, has asked all Indian troops stationed in his country to leave by May 10.

Over 600 people still stranded in Taiwan, 3 days after earthquake

TAIPEI, Apr 6 (Agencies): Rescuers were planning to bring in heavy equipment on Saturday to try to recover two bodies buried under boulders on a hiking trail, three days after Taiwan's strongest earthquake in 25 years.

Four more people remain missing on the same Shakadang Trail in Taroko National Park, famed for its rugged mountainous terrain. Search and recovery work was set to resume, after being called off Friday afternoon because of aftershocks.

At least 12 people were killed by the magnitude 7.4 earthquake that struck Wednesday morning off Taiwan's east coast, and 10 others were still missing.

More than 600 people, including about 450 at a hotel in the Taroko park, remained stranded in various locations cut off by rockslides and other damage.

Survivors have told harrowing tales of rocks tumbling onto roadways, trapping them in tunnels until rescuers arrived to free them. In the city of Hualien, a building left tilting over a street at a precarious angle was being carefully torn down.

The relatively low number of deaths from such a



powerful quake has been attributed to strict construction standards and widespread public education campaigns on the earthquake-prone island.

A magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck in 1999 killed 2,400 people.

The two dead and four missing on Shakadang Trail include a family of five. The trapped bodies found on Friday were a man and a woman, but they have not been identified, according to Taiwanese media reports.

Six dead, 10 injured in Russian strike on Kharkiv, officials say

KHARKIV, Apr 6 (Agencies): A Russian strike on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, killed six civilians and injured 10 early on Saturday, regional officials said.

Ukraine's national police said the attack was launched by drones. It published pictures of blazes that had broken out on city streets and next to buildings. "As of this morning, there are 6 dead and 10 wounded as a result of the night strike on Shevchenkivskyi district," Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Tereshkov said on the Telegram



messaging app.

"The attack hit residential areas - at least nine high-rise buildings, three dormitories, a number of administrative buildings, a shop, a petrol station, a service station and cars were damaged," he said.

The strike had occurred just after midnight, news reports said.

Kharkiv, in Ukraine's northeast, has been a frequent Russian target, with attacks intensifying in recent weeks. On Wednesday, a drone attack on the city killed four people and badly damaged apartment blocks.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of Staff, Andriy Yermak,

told the news outlet Politico in an interview published on Thursday, that he saw Kharkiv as the most likely target for any new Russian offensive in May or June.

Kharkiv regional Governor Oleh Synehubov reported a strike on a residential building and a missile attack on a village north of Kharkiv city. No casualties were reported in either incident.

Air raid alerts remained in effect for Kharkiv and most of the country, including the capital Kyiv, for several hours after the strikes.

VRS employees hold protest, project demands

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: All J&K RTC Volunteer Retired Employees Association held a strong protest here today near Maharaja Hari Singh Park, Jammu for not clearing their pending dues.

The protest was held under the leadership of Dev Raj Bali, President of VRS Union Jammu. He strongly criticized the behavior of the Finance Department and Higher Authorities of the Transport Department. They claimed that they have time and again raised their long pending demands of arrears of COLA, 6th Pay Commission and DA arrears, but authorities



have turned blind eye and completely failed to address their issues. "We are struggling for the same for the last

more than 12 years and during this time, 55 retired employees from Jammu province lost their lives because they

were unable to afford proper medical treatment due to financial constraints, causing irreversible losses to

their families." Bali said. Protesters urged Central Government to personally take the cognizance of their long pending legitimate demands and send a package especially for the retired employees of JKRTC, Jammu as they have already suffered a lot and are still struggling for the same as there is nobody here to listen to their miseries. The total liability of 740 VRS/retired employees of Jammu province are Rs 66, 24, 21,998.08. Sat Bhushan Singh, Surinder Singh, Shiv Kumar, Surjit Singh, Balwinder Singh, Suraj Singh, G.S.Tohra and others were present on this occasion.

Army hosts Lecture on benefits of Agniveer Scheme



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Apr 6: The Indian Army successfully organized a compelling lecture at the Gharota Cricket Stadium in Akhnoor, aimed at showcasing the myriad benefits of the Agniveer Scheme and motivating youth to consider a career in the Indian Army. The event, attended by 58 participants, provided invaluable insights into the opportunities and advantages offered by the Agniveer Scheme. The Agniveer Scheme, a flagship initiative of the Indian Army, was presented as a transformative platform designed to empower and encourage young individuals to join the forces, serving the nation with pride and dedication. Through the lecture,

attendees gained a deeper understanding of the scheme's focus on fostering a sense of duty, patriotism, and camaraderie, along with offering avenues for personal growth, skill development, and service to the nation. Distinguished speakers from the Indian Army shared their personal experiences, insights, and success stories, shedding light on the remarkable journey of serving the nation through the Agniveer Scheme. Through interactive discussions and engaging presentations, the lecture emphasized the importance of patriotism, leadership, and selfless service, instilling a sense of pride and responsibility among the attendees. The event success-

fully inspired and motivated the youth of Akhnoor and beyond, urging them to consider the noble profession of defending the nation's sovereignty and upholding its integrity. Attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and a greater awareness of the rewarding career opportunities available through the Agniveer Scheme. The Indian Army expresses its gratitude to all participants and stakeholders for their enthusiastic participation and support in making the lecture a resounding success. The event exemplified the army's commitment to engaging with and empowering the youth, as well as its dedication to building a stronger, more resilient nation through inspired leadership and service.

CCI urges Govt to expedite Jammu Based tourism projects



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: In the meeting of the office bearers of CCI held on Saturday at Chamber House, Arun Gupta President CCI urged the government to prioritize and accelerate the completion of key tourism projects in Jammu, including the Artificial lake, Tawi river front project, the restoration of Mubarak Mandi, and other critical initiatives aimed at promoting tourism in the region.

In light of the upcoming annual Amarnath Ji Yatra, Arun Gupta, President of CCI Jammu, emphasized the need for expediting the ongoing tourism projects in the city. He stated that timely completion of these projects would enable tourists to extend their stay in Jammu and explore the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty that the region has to offer. He further highlighted the significant economic benefits that a flourishing tourism industry

can bring to the region. Increased tourist footfall would translate into improved business opportunities for local entrepreneurs, generate employment, and boost the overall economy of Jammu, he added. Arun Gupta has requested the government to give utmost importance to the development of the Artificial lake, Tawi river front project, restoration of the iconic Mubarak Mandi, and the timely execution of other tourism-related

projects in the city. This would not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the region but also contribute to positioning Jammu as a premier tourist destination in the union territory, he added. The Jammu Chamber has also welcomed the recent decision of the government to abolish the Urban Transport Environment Improvement Committee (UTEIC), which was responsible for the complicated process of obtaining 16 NOCs for building permission. Gupta said the aforesaid law was uniquely applicable to Jammu only and had placed a significant burden on the business houses. He expressed his appreciation for this decision and stated that it would go a long way in easing the regulatory framework for businesses and facilitating Ease of Doing Business in Jammu. "This step by the government is expected

to provide a significant relief to the local business houses and create a more conducive environment for investment and economic growth," he added. Arun Gupta extended his heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Martyred Police Officer Deepak Sharma who lost his life in the line of duty while protecting the citizens. He praised the bravery and dedication of the J&K Police Force, which has been working tirelessly to maintain law and order in the region. He recognized the immense sacrifice made by Deepak Sharma and acknowledged the risks that law enforcement personnel face every day to protect the community. The other office bearers present in the meeting include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

Dr Gautam attends Advance Dental Workshop at AIIMS, Delhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: Dr Gautam Sharma, Dental Specialist at the University of Jammu and President of Indian Dental Association (IDA), Jammu, attended a three days high end dental workshop at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He is regularly attending workshops and hands-on training programs at the prestigious AIIMS, New Delhi. This workshop offered a unique opportunity to learn from and interact with the legendary periodontist and implantologist Prof. Mariano Sanz from University Complutense of Madrid, Spain and renowned periodontal and implant microsurgeon Dr. Hsun-Liang Chan from Ohio State University College of Dentistry, USA. Dr. Hsun-Liang Chan, provided first hand insights into the intricacies of root coverage procedures and soft tissue augmentation around implants. Hands-on sessions on animal models facilitated by Prof. Mariano Sanz and Dr. Hsun-Liang Chan, allowing participants to refine their microsurgical skills



and gain practical experience in soft tissue augmentation. Dr. Kunaal Dhingra was workshop convener. Dr. Dhingra is Additional Professor, Periodontology Division, Centre for Dental Education and Research, AIIMS, New Delhi. Hands-on microsurgical exercises under surgical microscope in animal jaw for root coverage, autogenous tissue harvesting (free gingival graft, connective tissue graft, de-epithelialized gingival graft, tuberosity graft) with coronally advanced and tunneling flaps, soft

tissue substitutes with coronally advanced and tunneling flaps, suturing techniques, soft tissue augmentation in edentulous site, non-graft flap techniques, increase of soft tissue volume applying autogenous connective tissue grafts, increase of keratinized tissue area using free gingival graft, increase of keratinized tissue area using soft tissue substitute, achieving tension-free primary wound closure, suturing techniques were demonstrated by the experts and then performed by the participants.

Awareness programme organized by Civil Defence Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: One day awareness programme was held at NCC camp Nagrota, which was organized by Civil Defence, Jammu under the supervision of Dy. Controller Civil Defence Jammu. Awareness about the basic knowledge of First Aid, CPR, Chocking, Fire fighting especially on drugs addiction were given by the Civil Defence expert to the NCC students. During the programme demonstration on the above said topics was also presented by the Civil Defence team. The main aim of the awareness programme was to educate students with regard to preventive measures during natural or Man-made disasters. The programme was



organized in the premises of the NCC Camp, Nagrota where 400 NCC cadets including 90 Girls have participated. Col. Naresh Kaushi, 5JK Bn. NCC appreciated the role of Civil Defence

organization and thanked the Civil Defence team for organizing such important awareness-cum-demonstration programme. During the programme a lecture was also

delivered by Paramjit Kumar, Chief Warden Civil Defence, Jammu on the topic disaster management and role of CD wardens in Civil Defence organization. R. Vijay Magotra, Dy. Chief

Warden Civil Defence, Jammu, Ram Dayal Saini, Sub-Inspector, In charge Trainings Civil Defence and other staff of the NCC Camp Nagrota were present on the occasion.

FROM PAGE 1

J&K: Uri infiltration bid aimed at disturbing peace & election process, says Army

movement and established contact resulting in heavy exchange of fire. While the operation was under progress, intermittent fire was also drawn from Pakistan forward posts, in the vicinity of Line of Control," the Army said. They added the operation resulted in neutralisation of two terrorists and recovery of two AK rifles, three magazines, four hand grenades, ammunition and other war-like stores. "The infiltration bid by terrorists indicates desperation on part of Pakistan to fuel unrest in peaceful Kashmir Valley at a time when general elections have been scheduled and the democratic process is unfolding," the Army said, adding the operation is a testimony to the synergy between various

security and Intelligence agencies who are committed to ensure peace and tranquility in Kashmir. Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency, which is slated to go to polls on May 20, in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections, is the most sensitive due to its proximity to the Pakistan occupied Kashmir. The Baramulla parliamentary constituency encompasses three districts of Kupwara, Bandipora, and Baramulla and all of them share a border with Pakistan occupied Kashmir. **2 Earthquakes of mild intensity hit Kishtwar, No damage reported** Seismology (NCS), an earthquake of 3.2 magnitude occurred in Kishtwar at 11:01 pm. The depth of the earthquake was 10 kilometres below the surface of the earth at 33.34 degrees latitude and 76.62 degrees longitude, the NCS said.

Another earthquake of 3.8 magnitude occurred at 5:20 pm. The depth of the quake was 10 kilometres from the earth's surface at 33.37 degrees latitude and 76.69 degrees longitude, the NCS said.

DIG orders action against 3 Cops for poor maintenance of police records in Janipur

suspension, the official said. During the inspection, the DIG stressed upon the SDPO and SHO, other staff to maintain extra vigil in their area due to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. He also directed the SDPO and SHO to redress public grievances in a time-bound manner.

Bandipora-Gurez road opens for traffic

traffic on Sunday will ply on both sides.

"By afternoon we have allowed traffic from Gurez to Bandipora, by late afternoon traffic will be allowed from Bandipora to Gurez," the official said.

He said from Sunday onwards one-way traffic would be allowed on the road as the conditions were slippery. The official said the vehicles with antikid chains are being allowed to cross the TCP's (Traffic control points) at Tragbal and Kanzalwan.

Police bust gang of burglars in Ganderbal

Police Station Gund and investigation was set into motion. After strenuous efforts and by taking the technical support, a Special Police team was constituted on the directions of SSP Ganderbal Sandeep Gupta under the supervision of SDPO Kangan Muzaffar Jan. The Police Party of PS Gund led by SHO Lateef Ali zeroed on the few suspects and starts to hunt them. In the process, suspect namely Irshad Ahmad Kalwatho S/o Ab

Rashid Kalwatho R/o Naninara, Sumbal was apprehended and during sustained interrogation, he confessed to the crime and also disclosed the identity of the other accused persons namely Feroze Ahmad Kalwatho S/o Farooq Ahmad Kalwatho and Mohd Saleem Kalu @Jana S/o Abdul Khaliq Kalu both residents of Naninara, Sumbal, who were with him during the commission of the crime. On the disclosure of the accused persons, the stolen property worth lacs was recovered from different spots at Naninara, Sumbal," the official said. On further questioning, more stolen property was recovered which unveiled the non-reported theft cases in the JD by this notorious Gang. Moreover, a Tata Mobile bearing Registration No. JK01M-6083 used for the commission of crime has also been seized, the official said. He added the further investigation is going on and arrest of few more accused and recovery of more stolen property is expected.

Oust BJP for the sake of democracy: Javed Rana

Urges people to vote & support INDI Alliance candidate in ensuing LS polls

Top News Report

MENDHAR, Apr 6: Javed Ahmed Rana, President JKNC Pir Panjal Zone and former MLA, has passionately called for the reinforcement of democratic values and the urgent need to oust the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from power. He highlighted the crucial importance of safeguarding democracy and ensuring the preservation of fundamental rights and freedoms.

He was speaking while intensifying an election campaign meeting



in favour of Party's Lok Sabha candidate Mian Altaf for Rajouri Anantnag constituency.

The senior NC leader expressed deep concern about the current state of democracy in the country and the perceived erosion of democratic principles under the BJP-led

government. He emphasized the importance of upholding the values of pluralism, inclusivity, and respect for the Constitution.

He said that BJP's policies and actions have raised serious questions about the essence of democracy, such

as curbing freedom of expression, suppressing dissenting voices, and weakening institutional checks and balances. He urged the people to unite and take a stand against these concerning trends by electing representatives who uphold democratic ideals.

The National Conference leader's impassioned plea comes amidst growing concerns about the future of democracy and the need for a strong opposition to ensure accountable governance. He highlighted National Conference's commitment to protecting democratic principles and

representing the aspirations and interests of the people.

Javed Rana appealed to the people of Pir Panjal to exercise their democratic right to vote wisely and support the INDI Alliance candidate in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls, expressing confidence that a united effort can safeguard the democratic fabric of the nation. He emphasized the urgency of ousting the BJP from power to ensure the preservation of democracy and the welfare of all citizens.

Ch. Wali Dad and Ch. Nazir Hussain also spoke on the occasion.

DFSS holds protest against black marketing of school books, admission fees



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of president Ashok Gupta held a protest against the black marketing of school books and admission fees being charged under different names from the students.

The new session has started some of the students are going to the school without the books as there is a shortage of stock on the market. The shortage is either due to hoarding or some mal-

practice as the books are being sold at very high prices to the parents, he said.

The party president stated that a set of books which costs Rs 850 is now being sold at Rs 5000 by some booksellers.

He further stated that JK Board books from class 1st to Class 5th are not available while only 80 to 90 percent books of higher classes are available.

The JK Board has ordered schools to follow a curriculum in govt & private schools, the private

schools are asking parents to purchase additional text books from private publisher as well. There is no clarity and parents have been left at the receiving end.

Gupta appealed that the department should take cognisance of the matter as complains are pouring on social media in the form of videos and initiate actions against the erring schools.

The people who were present in the protest were Abhishek, Raju, Ashish, Rampal, Vikky, Geeta, Naresh, Kalu, Prem, Vinay, Ganesh.

Inter Village Volleyball Tournament: Hanjanwali

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 6: As the residents observed Jamat-ul-Vida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, Hanjanwali Battalion of Indian Army brought more reasons to bring cheers to the residents of villages of Panjrain and Rajdhani panchayat. The battalion under aegis of Mendhar Brigade declared open an Inter Village Volleyball Tournament. Teams from ten villages are enthusiastically participating in the tournament which has created quite a buzz amongst the youth.

An entirely new Volleyball Court was constructed



by the Indian Army, not far away from the Line of Control, for conduct of this competition. Overlooking the mighty Pir Panjal ranges, at the centre of

picturesque Sarola Bowl, the volleyball court bore witness to the excitement of the youths who sweated it out for the teams of their villages in a bid to be

crowned the champions.

Sports have always been one of the premier means of developing a healthy body and mind among children and youth alike. Same stays at the fore front of the means adopted to foster meaningful interaction both among the people and security forces. In resonance with the vision of Khelo India, this initiative aims to identify and nurture young talents and give them a platform to hone and showcase their skills. The competition also aims at initiating positive dialogues to spread Anti-Drug Awareness among children and youth who form part of significant

population that resides close to the Line of Control in Rajouri Sector. This will safeguard their and in turn the nation's bright future.

It will be a week long tournament culminating with the conduct of final match on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr. Indian Army is sanguine that this tournament will take us a step ahead at contributing positively to the society in general and people of Rajouri in particular. It further strengthens its commitment to keep conducting such events in future too and keep engaging the residents and youth towards a shared nation building.

PM Modi's third term will consolidate gains of peace in J&K: Slathia



Top News Report

SAMBA, Apr 6: Former minister and Pradesh BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Slathia today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hat-trick in the upcoming general elections will consolidate the gains of peace in Jammu and Kashmir and steer the Union Territory to the highest pinnacles of progress and development.

Addressing the Karykatas at Village Sarna, Chila Danga and Gujjar Nali in Samba, on the occasion of the BJP's Sathapana Diwas, Slathia said that

it's a moment to reflect on the party's journey since its inception to becoming the world's largest political force.

He said rooted in the ideology of nationalism and cultural resurgence, the BJP has evolved into a significant political force shaping India's destiny. Its commitment to development, good governance, and inclusivity has been pivotal. This is an occasion to renew dedication by the cadre to the principles of democracy, integrity, and progress, ensuring a brighter future for the nation in general and Jammu and

Kashmir in particular, he added.

Slathia said the BJP has been working for the upliftment of all with focused attention towards weaker and marginalized segments of the society. He said social justice is key to harmonious growth of the society and referred to various initiatives by the BJP led NDA government during the past over nearly a decade in this regard. These have resulted in discernible transformation in the lives of the people across the country as also in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the path breaking

initiatives undertaken in the Union Territory have given unprecedented fillip to infrastructural development, industrialization and reinvestment.

Exhorting the Karykatas to fan out in their areas and generate awareness among the people about the measures taken with regard to development and economic emancipation of the people in the first two tenures of the Modi Government. He said a strong and vibrant BJP is answer to surmounting challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir, he maintained.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included President women BJP Samba Sonia Thakur, Vice President Mohan Lal Sharma Vijay Singh, Rajeshwar Singh President Sports Cell Samba, Mandal Vice President Satpal Sharma, Naik Ram, Mohinder Singh Mankotia, Karan Singh Mandal President, Vikas Sharma District General Secretary BJP Samba Sarpanch Ramesh Singh, Surinder Singh, Gulzar Singh and others.

Director Horticulture Jammu conducts tour of Sub-division Bani

Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 6: Director Horticulture Jammu Chaman Lal Sharma, conducted a two days extensive tour of far flung areas of sub-division Bani of District Kathua. He was accompanied by District Horticulture Officers, Subject Matter Specialists, Horticulture Development officer and other officers & officials of the Department.

The Director inspected the site for development of Hi-Tech Frosty Fruit Cultivar Centre at Dhar Sarthal, Kathua span over an area of 450 kanals. The area being of temperate climate, the nursery is suitable for production of temperate fruit plants. The Hi-Tech nursery to be developed will have State of the art facilities for the production of quality fruit plants. He informed that the development of the project will be completed in three years and the fruit plants to be produced

here will not only cater the requirement of the farmers / orchardists of the Jammu & Kashmir, but will also supply the fruit plants to the adjoining states.

During the tour, the Director inspected the Modified Ultra High Density Plantation of Apple at Sarthali & Assu and guided the farmers about the technical know how in its cultivation for increasing their income. He inspected the departmental nursery situated at Tipri village and inaugurated Hi-Tech Poly Green House constructed under HADP.

The Director inspected the site for development of Hi-Tech Frosty Fruit Cultivar Centre at Dhar Sarthal. He was accompanied by the technical team comprising of I/c of Frosty Fruit Cultivar Centre Shakeel Ahmed, DLSMS Jyoti Parsad, Divisional Training Officer Pawan Thakur, Agriculture Engineer Ajay Gupta, MCC Anil Chhib-

ber, District Horticulture Officer Bharat Bushan Gupta, & HDO Sanjeev Singh from the department and officers from Public Works as well as Revenue Department.

The director informed about the different components/ works to be executed for development of nursery viz: Establishment of Mother Blocks, Protected Cultivation Structures, Creation of Irrigation source, Roads/ Paths, Chain link Fencing etc. He said that the Mother blocks of Apple, Pear, walnut & Cherry will be established under HADP in the FFCC at Sarthal. He exhorted upon officers to work with zeal and enthusiasm so that the project of development of Hi-Tech Frosty Fruit Cultivar Centre may be completed well in time so that the production of fruit plants can be started at an earliest.

The director interacted with the farmers at different far flung locations

of Bani viz: Plail, Marapatti, Poonda, Kagrode, Mahanpur, basholi, Bani, Assu and briefed them about the various Centrally and UT sponsored schemes of the department especially Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

He urged them to come forward, associate with the horticulture department and avail the benefits on different components viz: Plantation, Protected cultivation, Water harvesting tanks, Drip irrigation, Custom Hiring Centres, Machinery, Nursery establishment etc. for upliftment of their socio-economic status.

Further, he impressed upon women entrepreneurs to form Self Help Groups (SHG's) for setting up of small fruit and vegetables processing units with the financial assistance from the department, henceforth which can play an important role in enhancing the family income.

RSETI Ramban concludes entrepreneurship development programme for women tailors

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Apr 6: The Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Ramban, operated by the State Bank of India, successfully concluded a training program aimed at empowering women tailors with entrepreneurial skills. The program saw the participation of 59 trainees from the region.

Throughout the training, participants acquired diverse skills essential for entrepreneurship, including Entrepreneurship Competencies, Effective Communication Skills, Marketing Management, Problem Solving, Time Management, Banking, and Government Schemes. Additionally, they received practical training in dress designing, stitching techniques, and basics of sewing

machine repairs. The valedictory function was graced by the presence of Chief Guest, General Manager of District Industrial Centre (DIC) Ramban, Ravinder Kumar Anand, and Guest of Honor, Branch Manager of State Bank of India Ramban, Sachin Kumar Mahajan. Deputy Manager of State Bank of India Ramban, Shashi Paul Sudan, also attended the event.

During the interaction, GM DIC highlighted the benefits of government-sponsored schemes such as the Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) and Prime Minister Vishwakarma Schemes. Branch Manager Sachin Kumar enlightened the trainees about banking schemes, online banking frauds/lotteries, and

social security schemes including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

Senior Faculty from RSETI Ramban, Amrik Singh Raju, also engaged with the trainees, emphasizing the benefits of self-employment and elaborating on various loan schemes. He wished them success in their future endeavors.

Expressing gratitude, the trainees thanked SBI RSETI Ramban for organizing the 30-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Women Tailors, acknowledging the institute's efforts in enhancing their skills and empowering them towards self-reliance.

GHSS Rajgarh leads electoral awareness drive under SVEEP

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Apr 6: Government Higher Secondary School Rajgarh demonstrated proactive engagement in fostering civic responsibility towards the electoral process by organizing a series of innovative Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities.

Under the guidance of District Election Officer Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, and the supervision of Nodal Officer SVEEP (ACP) Ramban, Ashfaq Khanji, these initiatives aimed to instill the significance of electoral participation among the youth and to ensure their participation in General Election Lok Sabha, 2024.

The event garnered enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff members, including many first-time voters. Resource Persons from the district SVEEP Cell emphasized the institution's unwavering commitment to nurturing democratic values and fostering civic engagement among the youth, highlighting the pivotal role educational institutions play in shaping responsible citizens and fortifying the democratic ethos of our nation.

The campaign underscored the crucial role of robust civic engagement in shaping the democratic landscape. The vibrant participation of youth, alongside members of the public and election personnel, reiterated the collective dedication to nurturing an informed electorate.

DC Ramban leads high-level meeting to review festival arrangements

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Apr 6: Today, Deputy Commissioner Basser-Ul-Haq Chaudhary led a comprehensive meeting with key officials to evaluate preparations for the upcoming celebrations of Eid-ul-Fitr, Navratras, and Baishaki. Held at the District Administrative Complex, the meeting focused on ensuring seamless arrangements and strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct, particularly relevant in light of the General Election Lok Sabha, 2024.

Prominent officials including ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, SDMs, Tehsildars, CMO, DIO, and Dy.SP Hq, EOs of MCs, Ex En PDD, Ex En Jal Shakti, along with other concerned participated actively in the deliberations, underscoring the collective effort required to

ensure successful festivities district-wide.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the necessity of meticulous arrangements and execution to ensure the safety, pleasure, and religious enjoyment of all participants during the upcoming festivities. He asked all officers to enforce stringent measures outlined in the Model Code of Conduct, reaffirming the commitment to uphold democratic principles during this pivotal period.

The Deputy Commissioner gears up police and all the departments to embrace the spirit of diversity and communal harmony through these vibrant festivals, the administration remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a conducive environment for peaceful and joyous celebrations.

Reviewing arrangements

concerning water and power supply, availability of essential commodities, traffic regulation, cleanliness and sanitation, and security arrangements, the Deputy Commissioner, Chaudhary directed concerned officers to ensure comprehensive arrangements well in advance as per the directives issued during today's meeting and previous discussions.

The DC instructed the CMO to have all health-care facilities ready in case of emergencies and directed the Fire and Emergency department to station their fire tenders at identified locations within celebration venues. Additionally, SDMs, Tehsildars, and other enforcement agencies were tasked with intensifying market checks to prevent overcharging on essential commodities and ensure the quality of eatables.

Shashank leads PBKS to second-highest successful chase against Gujarat Titans

AHMEDABAD, Apr 5 (Agencies): Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill's unbeaten half-century was overshadowed by uncapped Shashank Singh's fiery knock as Punjab Kings registered a thrilling three-wicket win in an IPL match here.

Gill made 89 off 48 balls, the highest individual score this season, and in the process hit six fours and four sixes to guide GT to an imposing 199/4.

He was also helped by B Sai Sudharsan's 19-ball 33 and Rahul Tewatia's eight-ball unbeaten 23.

But there was a heartbreak in store for GT as Shashank played the knock of his life, remaining unbeaten on 61 off 29 balls during which he hit six boundaries and four sixes to guide PBKS home with a ball to spare.

"Yet to sink in. Visualised all these things, but when it turned



into reality... proud of the effort," said Shashank, who was named the Player of the Match.

He was ably supported by Ashutosh Sharma (31 off 17) as the duo shared 43 runs off just 22 balls to raise PBKS' hopes, which eventually came true.

Chasing a big total, PBKS suffered an early jolt in the form of captain Shikhar Dhawan,

who played an Umesh Yadav delivery onto the stumps while going for a shot through the cover region.

Jonny Bairstow (22 off 13) was then cleaned up by Afghanistan left-arm wrist spinner Noor Ahmad.

PBKS kept on losing wickets at regular intervals as the next to follow was Prabhsimran

Singh (35 off 24), caught by Mohit Sharma at short third-man, as the batter went for a heave against a tossed-up delivery from Ahmad only to get a top edge as PBKS slid to 64/3 by the end of the eighth over. Sikandar Raza was dropped twice in Umesh Yadav's 11th over, albeit both were difficult chances.

But it was Shashank who capitalised on the lives, clobbering Umesh for two fours and a six to pick up 17 runs in the 11th over. He kept on using his long handle, picking up a few boundaries and sixes to keep PBKS in the hunt and brought up his 50 off just 25 balls.

Brief Scores: GT: 199/4 in 20 overs (Gill 89, Sudharsan 33 Williamson 26; Rabada 2/44); Punjab Kings: 200/7 in 19.5 overs (Shashank 61*, Prabhsimran 35, Ashutosh 31; Ahmad 2/32).

Sindhu pulls out of Uber Cup, Thomas Cup team looks strong



NEW DELHI, Apr 5 (Agencies): Double Olympics medalist PV Sindhu and the two top women's doubles pairs have opted out of the Uber Cup but a strong men's team will take the court for its title defence in the Thomas Cup, commencing in Chengdu from April 27.

Sindhu, who has played six tournaments since returning to action at the Badminton Asia Team Championships in February, pulled out of the event to give herself more time to recover and be battle-ready for the Paris Olympics.

Top women's doubles pairs — Treasa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand and Ashwini Ponnappa-Tanisha Crasto — also withdrew since it is not a full strength team with Sindhu missing. They chose to focus on the

other assignments as they strive to earn the Olympics qualification.

Following the withdrawal of Sindhu and the two pairs, Badminton Association of India (BAI) decided to reward the players who performed at the Senior National Championships by giving them the India cap.

"Sindhu opted out as she is coming back from an injury and she wants to give herself enough time to prepare for Paris Games where she will hope to win another medal for the country," BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra said. "The doubles pairs also decided to skip the event as they too have been playing a lot of tournaments and want to focus on their qualification, so we have rewarded the semifinalists of the

national championships by including them in the team."

The 17-year-old Anmol Kharab, who is India's latest badminton sensation, will be watched keenly at the big stage where she will have Ashmita Chaliha and Tanvi Sharma as her teammates in singles. The doubles pairs will be Shruti Mishra and Priya Konjengbam, and Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker.

India are the defending champions in the Thomas Cup, having clinched the crown in 2022. The selectors decided to field a strong squad with a perfect mix of youth and experience.

A 10-member team for Thomas Cup will have five singles players with Kiran George joining HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth and Priyanshu Rajawat, while Sai Pratheek will be the back-up doubles player to the two first-choice combinations, namely world No. 1 pair Satwicksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, and MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila.

SRH vs CSK, IPL Preview and Prediction: Wounded Super Kings look to bounce back

HYDERABAD, Apr 5 (Agencies): Chennai take a trip to Hyderabad for their fourth IPL 2024 match of the season and the two wounded sides will look to bounce back in what promises to be a blockbuster on Friday evening. The clash at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium comes days after a record 523 runs were scored when SRH posted the highest-ever IPL total of 277 and MI came close with 246.

If Hyderabad offers another batting beauty, both the Super Kings and the SunRisers are equipped with the batting firepower to make use of it. However, both teams would want to make amends after their much-famed batting units failed in their previous encounter. While the Super Kings failed to chase 191 against Delhi in Vizag, SunRisers lost by 7 wickets after managing just 162 on the board in their away game vs Gujarat earlier in the week.

All eyes will be on the pitch at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium as SunRisers head coach Daniel Vettori said he expected 200 runs to be made despite it being a black soil surface for Friday's game. On the other hand, CSK batting coach Michael Hussey said the visit-

ing team will assess the conditions well and adapt accordingly, something he felt the Super Kings did not do in Vizag.

"It looks a good pitch and historically it has been a nice batting pitch here and we are going to come with a clear mind and assess the conditions and play accordingly. The team that adapts the quickest will come out on top," Hussey told the press on the eve of the match.

Chennai have to sort their combination out quickly as they will be without their left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman, who has flown home to sort out visa issues ahead of T20 World Cup. It gives an opportunity for Chennai to bring back Maheesh Theekshana or use someone like Mitchell Santner, who has not had an opportunity yet in IPL 2024. However, Chennai will also be wary of the SunRisers batting unit, which has spin destroyers of the likes of in-form Abhishek Sharma, Heinrich Klaasen and Aiden Markram.

On the other hand, SunRisers would want to treat the defeat in Gujarat as a rare blip as their batting has clicked with two scores of 200 and above, including the record-breaking 277. The 2016 champions look a settled unit which seems to



have cracked the team combination early in the season.

HEAD-TO-HEAD: SRH vs CSK

Chennai enjoy an incredible head-to-head record against Hyderabad, having beaten the 2019 champions 14 times out of 19 meetings. Chennai have won 5 of their last 7 meetings.

TEAM NEWS AND PREDICTED XIs

It remains to be seen if Chennai will bring back Shardul Thakur to add a bit more firepower to their pace-bowling line-up in the absence of Mustafizur Rahman.

Shardul, who has returned to the Super Kings for the first time since 2021, will be keen on making a mark again with the yellow team after having had a good domestic season.

On the other hand, SunRisers would be looking to make better use of their bench, which has the likes of Umran Malik and Washington Sundar waiting for opportunities.

SRH: Mayank Agarwal, Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Aiden Markram, Heinrich Klaasen, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Pat Cummins, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mayank Markande, Jaydev Unadkat.

Impact Sub: Abdul Samad.

CSK: Rachin Ravindra, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ajinkya Rahane, Shivam Dube, Daryl Mitchell, Ravindra Jadeja, MS Dhoni, Deepak Chahar, Maheesh Theekshana, Tushar Deshpande, Matheesha Pathirana.

Impact Sub: Sameer Rizvi.

Jofra Archer a concern but Ben Stokes has taken right call to miss T20 World Cup, says Stuart Broad

LONDON, Apr 5 (Agencies): Former England pacer Stuart Broad has backed talismanic all-rounder Ben Stokes' decision to opt out of this year's T20 World Cup due to fitness reasons but expressed concerns about fast bowler Jofra Archer's never-ending injury woes.

"Supporting Stokes' pullout from the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and the USA, Board said the defending champions will miss his aura but have enough resources to replace him as a player.

"Whatever Ben decides to do for the well-being of himself is the right decision. Ben Stokes has made some incredible decisions in his career that have paid off for him," Broad, a member of the Star Sports Incredible Star Cast, told agency in an exclusive interaction at their studio here.

"He wants to get back to (being) the all-rounder that he was and he feels like getting some workload through the knee in a controlled environment, without the help of a scale to pressurise the nature of a T20 World Cup, is the best choice," he said.

While Archer has found it difficult to cope with the elbow injury to his bowling arm, getting an England contract for two years is a sign that the management believes the ace pacer would be back to his best soon.

Broad said he is hoping to see him back in the World Cup.

"Yeah, it's a concern. First of all, (he is) a friend of mine, a teammate of mine, an amazing talent for world cricket. He has got genuine pace, he moves the ball. He's a match winner," Broad said.

"We've not seen the best of Jofra Archer on the field now, for coming



on, nearly four years. He's played bits and bobs, but he's had awful injury problems which is very difficult for him to cope with.

"I think there's positivity from him and the England camp that there's a chance we might see him in the T20 World Cup, which would be a great lift for England fans and cricket fans around the world," he added.

Archer pulled out of this year's IPL from the Mumbai Indians' squad after he suffered another injury setback in November 2023, but he surprised everyone by turning up to play a match for his school team in Barbados, since they were on the verge of being relegated.

The England and Wales Cricket Board was not aware when Archer answered the SOS call and went on to play the game in December.

Broad said it is concerning that Archer's injury keeps coming back but hoped that there would be an end to it eventually.

"It's a concern that his injury keeps coming back, but he's got some really good people around him to help lift him up and drive him forward. Ultimately, he's signed a two-year contract with England cricket, so they must believe that he'll come back to his best as soon as possible," Broad said.

Talking about the T20 World Cup in June, Broad said the only aspect which England might miss about

Stokes is the leadership he provides.

Stokes said his pullout from the World Cup is a sacrifice that he is making to be able to remain an all-rounder.

"England, of course, will miss a player of that aura. But England have got the quality to cover that. They've got the batting line-up that's full of hitters and they've got some good pace bowling options and spin bowling options," he said.

"They'll miss the aura and the leadership skills of Ben Stokes, but they can cover him as a player," Broad added.

Having recently retired, Broad said he wants to explore all opportunities to remain associated with the game and remains open to taking up coaching gigs as well.

"I'm interested in everything. I think having only retired from the playing side in August, I wanted to see...I didn't want to sort of dive into anything really specifically straight away. I wanted to see loads of different career paths, to see what I really enjoy," he said.

"Ultimately, cricket is my greatest hobby. I love talking about the game. I love being a part of the game. Whether that's being a pundit, commentary, coaching, just being part of the sport is incredible.

"I love the game of cricket. I love watching it. I love playing it and I will always be a part of it," he added.

Under-strength not under-confident: Allen says New Zealand will come good against Pakistan

WELLINGTON, Apr 5 (Agencies): Eight of their senior players are missing from the line-up due to IPL duties but young New Zealand batter Finn Allen is confident that the new-look side would still be a handful for hosts Pakistan when the two sides clash in a five-match T20 International series starting April 18.

Trent Boult, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner and Kane Williamson are all missing from the line-up for the away engagement due to the ongoing league.

"It is an awesome opportunity with players being away at the IPL, for young guys such as Tim Robinson, who have shown their talent and had a good Super Smash tournament here in New Zealand during the summer," Allen told PTI Videos in an interaction facilitated by Sony Network which has acquired broadcast rights of New Zealand cricket's home engagements.

"...it is rewarding for those guys and allows them to get an opportunity at the top level to see where they stand against a formidable Pakistan side," he said.

All-rounder Michael Bracewell will be leading the side.

He has not been seen in international cricket since March last year following a ruptured Achilles and a broken finger and returned to domestic engagements only recently.

"I guess with the upcoming series, we batted out with them at home not too long ago but it is on their turf now and we know from tours in the past, that they are pretty tough to beat at home,"

the 24-year-old said.

"Hopefully, Mark Chapman can pull through for the boys again like last time, but I think it will be a good challenge and a good series," he added.

Other first-choice players like Devon Conway, Will Young, Tim Southee, Colin Munro and Tom Latham are also missing for various reasons including injuries.

The big-hitting Allen, who has played 43 T20Is and has the highest score by a New Zealander in the format, all-rounder Jimmy Neesham and veteran spinner Ish Sodhi would be expected to be the guiding force for the side.

"...conditions will definitely be different, every game is a new game, and you have to start again, so I am looking forward to the challenges and different conditions, and seeing what we can come up with," he said of his own role.

Allen hoped that a solid performance against Pakistan would also help him in T20 World Cup selection.

"Every chance you get to play for New Zealand or represent your country is a try-out, and an opportunity to showcase your skills...hopefully, selection takes care of itself, just clear minded on going over to Pakistan and trying to contribute to winning a series," he said.

Allen, who is an occasional wicket-keeper, is also quite impressed with how Rishabh Pant has bounced back after surviving a life-threatening accident in 2022.

"I have been amazed at how Rishabh Pant has come back, coming from what he has had to a year later coming out and showing that he has still got it is pretty awesome to see," he said.

Never rule out 'phenomenal' Vettel, says Mercedes boss Wolff

SUZUKA, Apr 5 (Agencies): Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said Friday that "you can never discount" Sebastian Vettel, after the four-time world champion hinted he could return to Formula One to replace Lewis Hamilton. Vettel, who retired in 2022, said earlier this week that he had held talks with Wolff, who needs to replace seven-time world champion Hamilton at Mercedes next year. Hamilton said in February that he was leaving to join Ferrari at the end of the season after 11 years with the Silver Arrows.

Speaking ahead of Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix, Wolff said Vettel's track record was "phenomenal" but stressed that his team have not chosen Hamilton's successor yet. "It's not something that we plan to do in the next few weeks," he said.

"The driver market is very dynamic. Some of the really good guys are about to sign for some of the other teams. We want to continue to have discussions and keep the options open, but at this stage it's much too early to commit to a driver," he added.

Vettel won his four world championships with Red Bull from 2010-13. He bowed out of Formula One at the end of the 2022 season after six years at Ferrari and two with Aston Martin. Hamilton gave his former rival his seal of approval on Thursday, saying he would "love for Seb to come back" and calling him "an amazing option" for Mercedes. Wolff also had words of praise for the 36-year-old German.

"Sebastian is someone that you can never discount," he said. His track record is phenomenal. "Sometimes taking a break is also good to re-evaluate what is important for you and find your motivation." Mercedes have been linked with several drivers to replace Hamilton, who will take Carlos Sainz's seat at Ferrari.

Triple world champion Max Verstappen is reportedly top of Wolff's wish list. Highly rated young Italian F2 driver Kimi Antonelli and Mick Schumacher, son of seven-time champion Michael Schumacher, have also been mentioned. Wolff said his team have a shortlist in mind but refused to say how many names were on it.

He also said he was looking forward to assessing the 17-year-old Antonelli. "He's been our young boy for a long time and we're keen to see what he is able to do in a Formula One car," he said.

BJP celebrates 44th Foundation Day in Ward 50

Top News Report

Jammu, Apr 6: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) marked its 44th Foundation Day with fervor and enthusiasm in Ward No. 50 Channi Himmat today. The occasion was celebrated by hoisting the party's flag at the roof top of the booths presidents of Ward No. 50. Prominent party leaders including former Corporation Neena Gupta, BJP J&K State IT Head Adv. Ishant Gupta, Convenor Sanskrit and Art Cell Kulbir Charak, Mahila Morcha Leaders Poonam Gupta, Kamlesh Magotra & Sunita Gupta, Ward President



Pawan Kumar Dhunna, Ward General Secretary Amit Gandotra, as well as Booth Presidents Ashudeep Kohli & Vishal Gupta.

Reflecting on BJP's remarkable journey since its inception in 1980, Neena Gupta highlighted its growth into the world's largest political party with over 11 crores members. She credited the dedi-

cation and nationalist spirit of party workers for this achievement, emphasizing their unwavering commitment to the nation.

Adv. Ishant Gupta extended congratulations to all party workers for their tireless efforts in strengthening the BJP. He called upon everyone to contribute to the party's cause and the nation's

development by making micro-donations ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 2000 through the Narendra Modi (Namo) App.

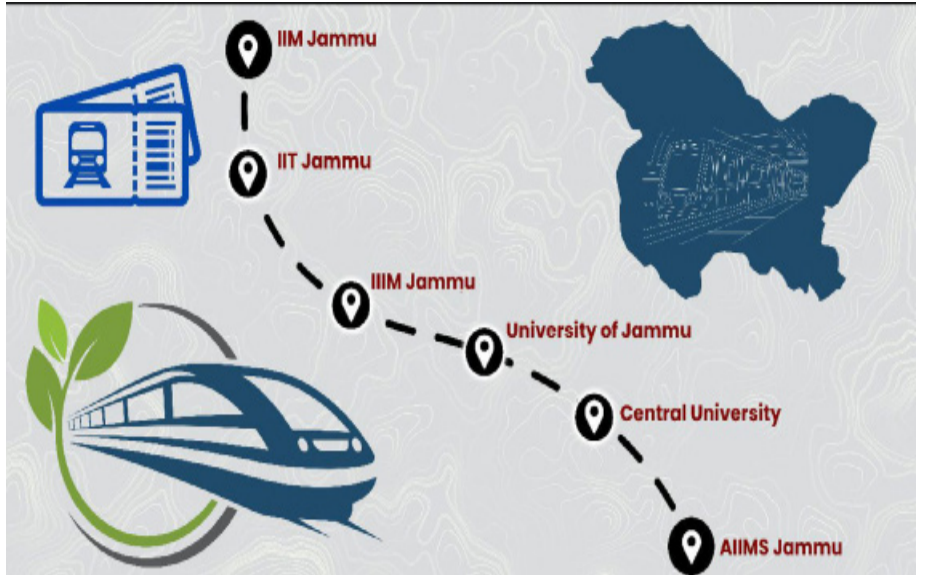
Kulbir Charak congratulates BJP workers on the eve of foundation day, emphasizing the party's inclusive vision encapsulated in "Saab Ka Saath, Saab Ka Vikas, Saab ka Vishwas, Saab ka Paryas." Poonam Gupta & Kam-

lesh Magotra underscored BJP's commitment to women's welfare, applauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi for introducing numerous beneficial schemes for women across the country.

Pawan Dhunna emphasized BJP's unique focus on uplifting the underprivileged, highlighting the party's "antayodaya" vision.

Amit Gandotra, Ashudeep Kohli, and Vishal Gupta expressed pride in hosting the party's Foundation Day celebrations at their residence, underscoring their allegiance to the BJP, the world's largest political organization.

Need for "Extended-Metro-Connectivity" linking prestigious educational, Healthcare Institutions in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: "The one public service "besides AIIMS", that holds the power to change lives for Delhiites and people visiting Delhi, is none other than the "Delhi Metro". I have personally witnessed this transformation during my 27 years of stay in Delhi. "Delhi Metro Services", with its inception in 2002 is witnessing its continuous expansion over the years. It has seamlessly woven itself into the fabric of daily lives, becoming an indispensable part of routines of many. I have realized, "Delhi Metro" not only connects destinations but also connects dreams, and aspirations of countless Delhiites", said Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Founder Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu.

The Executive Director conveyed his gratitude saying, "A heartfelt thanks to all the individuals, organizations, and authorities involved in planning, funding, constructing, and operating the "Metro Projects". Your dedication and efforts have significantly improved the quality of life for the residents of India".

In enumerating the myriad advantages and potentials that the metro service bestows upon residents, Dr Shakti Gupta articulated several key points. Metro lines alleviate traffic congestion, reduce vehicles on roads, lower carbon emissions, promote cleaner air and health, save time by bypassing traffic, offer a reliable commute, ensuring cost-efficiency, eliminate fuel and parking expenses, operating in all seasons and ensure dependable transportation. Metro lines spur economic growth, create jobs, attract tourists, improve safety, reduce road traffic and accidents, foster community integration, promote public health, and empowering individuals.

Above all, metro networks facilitate access to educational institutions and learning centres, empowering students and lifelong learners to pursue academic and intellectual endeavours with ease.

Dr Gupta, recalled his communication with DMRC addressing his letters to Metro Man, Mr. E Sreedharan (Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation), which played a pivotal role in

persuading DMRC to link AIIMS New Delhi with Trauma Centre. Additionally, he reminisced about his endeavours to establish a Metro station near the AIIMS Jhajjar, National Cancer Institute.

Talking about "AIIMS Jammu", he added, "I envision AIIMS Jammu as a global village with international student support and training programs. It's anticipated to serve 6000-8000 patients from Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab. The institute will cater to various travellers including patients, students, guardians, and staff commuting daily to Vijaypur from Jammu and surrounding areas.

AIIMS, Jammu is about 30 kms from the Central Bus Stand, approximately 26 kms from Jammu Railway Station and 27 kms from Airport of Jammu. Metro connectivity has already been planned up to Bari Brahmana which is only about 10 miles from the AIIMS, Jammu site.

To lessen the hardship of the people travelling from Jammu region, nearby areas and states, a need for extending the metro connectivity till Vijaypur is already been proposed.

He said, given the rapid pace of development in Jammu, particularly on its emergence as an educational centre housing INIs like AIIMS, IIT, IIM and other prestigious institutions, like University of Jammu, Central University, Agricultural University, Indian Institute of Integrated Medicine the erstwhile Regional Research Laboratory and our Government Medical College Jammu to name a few, there arises a pressing need for a swift, cost-effective, secure, and dependable transportation system such as the "Jammu Metro".

Dr Gupta also highlighted several on-going initiatives across various institutions, such as the joint MBA program in Hospital Management administered by IIM in partnership with IIT and AIIMS. Likewise, there are other collaborative endeavours like the Joint PhD Program involving IIT and several others, all necessitating the mobility of students and faculty among participating institutions. The proximity of these esteemed institutions fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange among

students, faculty, and researchers. The metro line acts as a catalyst for interdisciplinary interactions and partnerships, leading to innovative solutions and advancements in various fields.

Dr. Shakti emphasised his proposal of extending metro service not only to healthcare facilities, particularly hospitals like AIIMS, but also to prestigious educational institutes like IIM-Jammu, IIT-Jammu, University of Jammu, Central University, Indian Institute of Integrated Medicine, GMC-Jammu and others.

As articulated by Dr Gupta, this extension will be a boon for students as discounted fares and fixed schedules ensure affordable and punctual commutes, while enhanced security measures offer peace of mind, especially during late hours. Improved accessibility to major educational hubs simplifies navigation for foreigners and visitors, with added cultural immersion opportunities. Safety features like surveillance cameras and women-only compartments cater to the needs of female passengers, while accessibility features such as wheelchair ramps benefit specially-abled individuals, while local staff experience time and cost savings, fostering community connection and sustainability. Overall, the extended metro network plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for diverse societal groups.

As Jammu aims to position itself as a global educational hub, tourist magnet, and religious centre, the anticipated influx of people underscores the urgency of investing in robust transportation infrastructure. Now is the time to turn this vision into reality, shaping a future where Jammu stands as a beacon of progress and prosperity.

Prof Shakti Gupta concluded saying, Jammu, as a smart City, must embrace this opportunity to extend the Metro Rail connectivity to link Prestigious Educational and Healthcare Institutions in Jammu, and the need is compelling and urgent. By investing in this transformative project, we will not only address upcoming transportation needs but also lay the foundation for a sustainable and prosperous future, contributing to the city's vibrancy, appeal and development.

Support Congress candidate to end BJP's misrule in the country: Mula Ram, Chib

Hold series of meetings at Marh Constituency



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: Mula Ram, Senior Vice President of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and former minister, along with Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of JKPC, conducted a series of meetings in Marh Constituency to garner support for the party's candidate for the Jammu Lok Sabha seat. During their visit, the senior Congress leaders held indoor meetings in several villages including Kalyanpur, Pakhiyan, Jhiri, Chak Dabbain, and Bachiyal. They engaged with prominent individuals to discuss the party's achievements in serving the people and elevating the nation.

Mula Ram criticized the BJP government, asserting that its policies had led to the transformation of Jammu from a sacred Temple City into a hub of liquor consumption. He pointedly accused the government of showing favoritism towards external contractors, neglecting the interests

of indigenous inhabitants in the process. He underscored the heavy burden placed upon the people of Jammu due to exorbitant taxation, encompassing levies on essential services such as electricity, water, and taxes, exacerbating the financial strain on local residents.

Furthermore, the former minister voiced deep concern regarding the detrimental repercussions of BJP's governance on the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting potential adverse effects on their future prospects and well-being. He urged for a reconsideration of policies to alleviate the mounting challenges faced by the populace and to safeguard the cultural integrity and socio-economic welfare of the region.

Hari Singh echoed these sentiments, highlighting the public's dissatisfaction with the BJP's autocratic rule and tax terrorism. He criticized the BJP leaders for turning a blind eye

to the harassment faced by ordinary citizens at the hands of bureaucrats. He lamented the lack of empathy and action from those in power, highlighting the need for a more compassionate and responsive approach to governance.

Hari Singh Chib emphasized that the people are determined to remove the BJP from power and send a resounding message about the hardships they have endured under the current regime. He expressed discontent over the delayed restoration of statehood, failure to protect land and job rights, and the prolonged absence of assembly elections.

The senior Congress leader appealed to the people of Marh Constituency to exercise their democratic right by endorsing and voting for the Congress party's MP candidate during the upcoming elections scheduled for April 26, 2024, with an aim to get rid of anti-people policies adopted by the BJP government.

Vote in favour of BJP candidates in Parliamentary elections for allround dev of J&K: Ajay Jamwal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: Er. Ajay Jamwal, Co-Convenor of J&K BJP Professional Cell urged the people of J&K to vote in favor of BJP in Parliament elections. Jamwal said that BJP has done a great favor to the people of J&K by scrapping 35-A and Art-370 and created a new hope for the youth of J&K for better opportunities in government and private field. The previous governments never bothered about the development of J&K they always cared about the chair of power which was stronger due to Article 370, now that chair

of power is broken that is why the opposition is crying and misguiding the people of J&K about 370.

Jamwal said BJP has launched various path breaking schemes for the betterment of all segments of society such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Saubhagya, 100 % toilet coverage, Har Ghar Bijli, Har Ghar Jal, Ayushman Bharat Health insurance to all the citizens of J&K and there are many other initiatives of BJP government. Looking at the initiatives by BJP government it has become our duty to vote in favour of BJP candidates in Parliament elections.

Reasi police seizes two vehicles for illegal mining

Top News Report

REASI, Apr 6: In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, Reasi Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources.

In random checking, Police teams of Reasi Police inspected at different locations and seized 02 Vehicles engaged in illegal mining.

In a surprise operation which was carried out at different locations team of Police Station Reasi seized one tipper bearing registration number JK14E-8052 (Tipper) involved in transportation of illegal mining material.

In a separate incident, team of Police Station Chassana laid surprise naka on Chassana-Sungri road and seized one tipper bearing registration number JK02CX-6435 involved in transportation of illegal mining material.

After Seizure of these Vehicles Mining Officer was informed for necessary legal action.

While giving the details SSP Reasi conveyed that Reasi Police is committed for protecting the public property and to eradicate the menace illegal mining in the area.

K.C. College of Education observes 'World Health Day'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 6: Environmental Club of K.C. College of Educa-

tion observed World Health Day, a day observed every year on 7th April to mark the anniversary of the foundation day of World

Health Organization (WHO).

Keeping in view the theme of World Health Day 2024 - "My Health, My Right" which empha-

sizes access to good health is a basic human right, club members along with the convenor of the club, Dr. Puja Sharma visited Primary Health Centre, Gol Gujral and during the visit the Block Medical Officer of the centre Dr. Anjali helped the club members to understand the functioning of the Primary Health Centre and about the facilities and services provided by them to rural communities including Lab tests, immunization, antenatal checkups etc.

Later on the club members interacted with the out patients present there at the centre and guided them about the importance of personal hygiene and health & physical education which determines the health of an individual and interrelated aspect of physical, mental and social health and well being. The whole programme was convened by Dr. Puja Sharma.