

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### J&K and Ladakh High Court declares Eid Holiday Today

JAMMU, Apr 10: The High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh (JKL) has declared that the holiday on account of Eid-ul-Fitr would be observed today. It has been further clarified that April 11, 2024 would be a non-sitting day for the High Court.

### Fire damages 3 residential houses at Rambagh

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): At least three residential houses were damaged in a fire incident that broke out at Rambagh area of Srinagar on Tuesday late evening, officials said.

An official told the news agency that three residential houses were damaged in a fire incident that broke out in Srinagar's Rambagh. He added that, as the fire call was received, the officials from F&ES rushed to the spot and doused off the flames, while the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

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### Two houses, two bakery shops gutted in an overnight fire mishap in Bandipora

BANDIPORA, Apr 10 (Agencies): Two residential houses and two bakery shops were gutted in an overnight fire mishap in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

An official told news agency Kashmir Scroll that a massive fire broke out on Tuesday night in the Ashtangoo village of Bandipora. The fire resulted in the destruction of two residential houses and two bakery shops.

The victims of the fire have been identified as Ghulam Mohammad Ganai, Mohammad Akbar Ganai, Mohammad Rajab, Mohammad Sultan (sons of Habibullah Ganai), and Billal Ahmad Ganai

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## Over 17.67 lakh voters to decide fate of 22 candidates in Jammu Parliamentary Constituency

JAMMU, Apr 10 (Agencies): The fate of 22 candidates will be decided by over 17, 67, 837 lakh voters of Jammu-Samba-Reasi Lok Sabha seat in the second phase of General Elections to be held on April 26. On the last day of withdrawal of candidature in Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, Independent candidate Roop Krishen Dhar withdrew his nomination, leaving a total of 22 candidates in the fray.

As per news agency, the main contest is con-



sidered between candidates of arch rivals BJP and Congress, though other parties having traditional vote banks dent

any players' fortune. The prominent candidates remaining in the contest included sitting member Parliament and BJP

nominee Jugal Kishore, former minister and Congress party's working president Raman Bhalla.

Ankur Sharma of Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal, who is riding on Hindu votes and a prominent face behind Roshani Act abolition, is also trying to make his political debut for Jammu Lok Sabha seat. The 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency is spread over four districts including Jammu, Samba, Reasi and Rajouri with a total number 18 assembly

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## SC says it does not want to be generous, declines to accept affidavits by Ramdev, Balkrishna



NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it declines to accept the

affidavits filed by yoga guru Ramdev and managing director of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd Acharya Balkrishna tendering an

unconditional apology in the misleading advertisements case.

"We don't want to be so generous in this case," a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said during the hearing.

The apex court also came down heavily on the Uttarakhnad State Licensing Authority for not taking action against Patanjali Ayurved.

The hearing in the matter is underway.

Ramdev and Balkrishna

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## BJP Fields Parasnath Rai From Ghazipur Parliamentary Constituency

NEW DELHI, Apr 10: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has released its 10th list of 9 candidates for the Lok Sabha Election 2024. The list has eight new names, while the party replaced its candidate from West Bengal's Asansol. The party has earlier fielded Bhojpuri star Pawan Singh from Asansol, who has now been replaced by SS Ahluwalia.

Of the 8 new names, 7 are from UP and one from Chandigarh. The saffron party has fielded Sanjay Tandon from Chandigarh, while Neeraj Shekhar, son of former PM Chandrashekar, has been given a ticket from UP's

Ballia. The party has fielded Parasnath Rai from Ghazipur, Jaiveer Singh from Mainpuri, Vinod Sonkar From Kaushambi, Praveen Patel from Phulpur, Neeraj Tripathi from Allahabad, and BP Saroj from Machhlishahr.

The BJP on Wednesday announced the nomination of former Union minister SS Ahluwalia from the Asansol Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal. Ahluwalia would take on TMC's heavy-weight candidate and the party's star face, Shatrughan Sinha, in Asansol, an industrial hub encapsulating the state's coal belt.

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## Eid-Ul-Fitr celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir



SRINAGAR/JAMMU, Apr 10 (Agencies): Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated on Wednesday across Jammu and Kashmir with traditional fervour and gaiety.

A large congregation of devotees assembled at Hazratbal Shrine on the banks of Dal Lake in Kashmir.

Former chief ministers of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state

Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were among those who offered prayers at the shrine.

"A genocide of Palestinians is going on while Muslim governments are silent. I hope they wake up and break their silence on this murder of humanity," Abdullah said after offering his prayers at Hazratbal.

On India-Pakistan ties,

he said the two nations can progress only when they have friendly relations.

"We cannot progress if we have hostile and confrontationalist relations," Abdullah said.

Authorities did not allow devotees to offer prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid in the old Srinagar city.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the chief priest of Kash-

mir who was scheduled to deliver the Eid sermon at Jamia Masjid, was placed under house arrest ahead of the congregational prayers.

Mufti condemned the closure of Jamia Masjid for Eid prayers saying "this is interference in religious matters".

Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramzan, is being celebrated across India after the crescent Moon was sighted on Friday evening.

In Jammu, the biggest congregation took place at Eidgah and Mecca Masjid, where hundreds of devotees performed Namaz-e-Eid.

"We congratulate everyone on Eid. We should spread love and brotherhood and not create enmity among people," Mufti Ainayatula Qasmi said.

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## Govt postpones middle standard examination for hard zone

JAMMU, Apr 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has postponed the Middle Standard Examination (MSE) 2023-24 of Hindi and Urdu for Hard Zone which were scheduled to be held on April 10, 2024. These exams would be now held on April 16, 2024.

## Waqf Chairperson greets people on Eid-ul-Fitr



SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi Wednesday offered Eid prayers at Dargah Hazratbal.

Speaking to reporters after culmination of Eid prayers, she said that she prayed for the well being of the whole humanity.

"We all should specially thank Allah for the peace we got after decades of unrest. We all have to put in our efforts for sustaining this peaceful atmosphere.

Today we are celebrating Eid without the fear of any law & order situation. May Almighty save us from the evil eye of disrupters of peace and may harmony and prosperity be our future", said Dr Andrabi.

Dr Andrabi expressed her satisfaction on the arrangements made by Waqf Board for Eid prayers. "People's endorsement of our

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# MBA MOTORS

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**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of **Smt Swam Kanta** W/o Late Sh. Shiv Ram Sharma R/o H. No 94 Raghunathpura Jammu on 30th of March 2024.  
**10TH DAY** will be observed on April 8 (Monday) at our residence at 11.00 AM.  
**KRIYA** will be performed on April 9 (Tuesday) at our residence at 11.00 AM  
**UTHALA** will be performed on April 12 (Friday) at Mahajan Sabha (1st Floor) from 4.00 to 5.00 PM  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**  
Sh. Rajesh Kumar & Smt Vaishno Devi  
Sh. Sohan Lal & Smt Kanchan  
**Daughter & Son in Law**  
Sh. Sarjaj Sharma & Smt Meena  
Sh. Vikas Khajuria & Smt Monika  
**Devar & Devrani**  
Sh. Radhey Sham & Smt Leela Devi  
Sh. Vinod Kumar  
Mobile No: 9419141682, 7006639003, 7006003614



**SMT SWARN KANTA**

**TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI**

With Profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **SMT. SUDESH KUMARI** W/o Late Sh. Sudesh Kumar R/o Kallar Udhampur, who left for heavenly abode on 28/03/2024.  
**10TH DAY** will be performed on 6th April 2024 at 11 AM, **KRIYA** will be performed on 7th April 2024 at 12 Noon & **RASAM PAGRI** will be performed on 12th April 2024 from 3 pm to 4 pm, at our residence H.No 1837, W.No. 21, Kallar Udhampur.  
**Grief Stricken:**  
Vinny Bhargav & Ritika Sharma (Son & Daughter in Law)  
Dr. Meenakshi Sharma & Dr. Deepak Sharma (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Renu Sharma & Uttam Magotra (Daughter & Son in Law)  
**All Bhargav Family**  
Contact No: 9906237037, 9797611301



**SMT. SUDESH KUMARI**

**MASVAR/VAHRWAER**

Year have passed but the mark my Mother left on this world will never fade till my last breathe, I pray to Almighty for you every single day and every single night, may Almighty grant eternal peace to "Your Soul" to live happily in His divine paradise, we all are missing you so very much, with all your teachings and blessings, I am going forward in my life.  
**Masvar on 11th April**  
**Vahrwaer on 12th April**  
of Late Smt Kanta Ji (Asha Ji) of Devi Anjanban Pethal (Kmr) will be performed at our residence B-1115, First Floor, Green Field Colony, Faridabad, Haryana-121010.  
**DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY :**  
Sh. Kash Nath Raina (Husband)  
Mr. Kamal Raina (Son)  
Mrs. Nimi Kalia (Daughter)  
Mr. Vinod Kalia (Son in law)  
Master Shivam Kalia (Grand Son)  
Brother's and Sister in law's  
Smt Dulari Raina W/o Late Sh. T N Raina  
Smt Hasanti Raina W/o Late Sh. M L Raina  
Sh. Durga Nath Raina & Smt Pushparaj Raina  
**SANMATA RAINA PARIVAR**  
Mobile No: 9810296932, 9818889914, 9953261946, 7838725960



**Karma Yogini Smt Kanta Ji (Asha Ji)**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Raj Dulari Pandit (Rani Ji)** W/o. Late Shri Chuni Lal Pandit, originally from Kulgam, Kashmir, presently at Goregoan, Mumbai. She left for her heavenly abode on 09th April, 2024 morning.  
**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 18th April, 2024 at 9.00 am at Bhayandar Beach, Mumbai.  
**GRIEF-STRICKEN**  
**Sons & Daughters-in- Law**  
Bal Krishen Pandit and Lalini Pandit -M: 9796495850  
Shyam Sunder Pandit and Vijay Pandit -M: 9419147804  
Jai Mohan Pandit and Aneeta Pandit -M: 9819393757  
Vijay Pandit & Kavita Pandit -M: 9819393757  
Massa Raina W/o Late Vasudev Raina (Daughter) M: 9469647974  
Sunita Kaul & Nipein Kaul (Daughter and Son in law) M: 9023601048  
**Grand Children**  
**All friends and relatives**



**SMT. RAJ DULARI PANDIT (RANI JI)**

**10th Day Kriya & Prayer Meeting**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Sumati Jatta** W/o Sh. Chaman Lal Jatta, F-702 Park View City II, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurgoan -122018.  
**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Upper Ganga Canal (Chota Haridwar) Murad Nagar at 8.00 am on 14-4-2024.  
**Prayer Meeting** will be held at "V-Club" Tatvam Villa Road, Sector 48, Sohna Road Gurgoan at 12.00 Noon on 14-4-2024.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh. Chaman Lal Jatta - Husband  
Smt. Sharika Jatta - Mother in Law  
Mrs. Nupur & Mr. Nitin Jatta - Daughter in Law & Son  
Mrs. Romi & Mr. Vishal Bharat - Daughter & Son in Law  
Arin, Parth & Tanishq - Grand Children  
**Jatta's / Kakru's/ Raina's**  
Ph : 9312498913, 9560215139, 9810146896, 9810393279



**Smt. Sumati Jatta**

**10th Day, Karam Kriya and Pagdi Rasam**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt Poli Devi** W/o Late Sh. Madan Gopal residence Sector-2, Laxmi Nagar Multis, near Baba Laji Mandir.  
**10th Day** will be on 3 April at 9:30 a.m. and **Satsang of Guru Sachidanand ji** on 3 April at 11.00 a.m.  
**Karam Kriya** will be on 6 April at 10.00 a.m.  
**Pagdi Rasam** will be on 12 April at 1.00 PM.  
**Family members**  
**Sons & Daughters in law**  
Sh. Sham Raj & Suman Devi  
Sh. Sohan Lal & Anu Padma  
Sh. Pawan Kulkarni & Anju Bala  
and **ALL SAJOTRA FAMILY**  
Contact No : 9149743289, 9596973945, 9149107014, 9906045895



**Smt Poli Devi**

**TENTH DAY**

IT IS BEYOND BELIEF & EXTREMELY HARD FOR US TO ACCEPT THAT OUR BELOVED BROTHER **SH. JAGAN NATH KOU** ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF BEER-KANGLING ANANTNAGAR DISTRICT HELD AT 06/07/80 C/O 15B CH. NAGAR UDHWALLA JAMMU, WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 07/04/2024.  
**THE TENTH DAY** WILL BE HELD AT PLACE ON 16/04/2024 AT GAURI SHANKAR MANDIR, NEW PALAM VIHAR GURGAON ASSAM ROAD, HELD AT 06/07/80 C/O 2, OPPOSITE MOTHER DAIRY, VITASTA ENCLAVE NAUFORAN AT 11 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
SMT. JAYAKOUL W/O LSH. BANSHI LAL KOU - 9419121332  
SMT. VIJAY KOU W/O SH. ROSHAN LAL KOU - 9419778241  
SMT. KIRAN KOU  
W/O SH. MAHARAJ KRISHAN KOU - 7006003825  
SMT. SUMAN KOU  
W/O SH. SHIBAN LAL KOU - 7780979159  
SMT. RAJINI KOU W/O SH. SHADI LAL KOU - 9796456750  
**SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW**  
SMT. LOVELY PANDITA W/O SH. MANOJ PANDITA - 9312414065  
SMT. PHOOLA KOU W/O SH. JAGAN NATH KOU - 9312414065  
SMT. BASANTI RAINA W/O SH. PUSHKAR NATH RAINA - 9906274501  
**DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW**  
MRS. VEENA KOU & DR. SANJAY KOU - 987326136  
**SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**  
MR. SURESH KOU & DR. SOHNEY KOU - 798286691



**Sh. Jagan Nath Kou**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Parshotam Khajuria** S/o Late Sh. Vidya Dhar Khajuria R/o H.No. 1-C Bharat Nagar, Rehari Colony Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 02/04/2024.  
**Tenth Day** will be performed on 11/4/2024 (Thursday) at 11 AM at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony Jammu.  
**Kriya** will be performed on 12/4/2024 (Friday) at 12 Noon at our residence House No. 1-C Bharat Nagar, Rehari Colony Jammu.  
**Rasam Pagri Uthala** will be performed on 12/04/2024 (Friday) at 05.00 PM at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony Jammu.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sharda Devi (Wife)  
**Daughter and Son-in-Law**  
Deepali Sharma and Sanjay Sharma  
**Daughter-in-law and Son**  
Neha Khajuria and Raghu Khajuria  
Deksha Khajuria and Ishan Khajuria  
**Sister-in-law and Brother**  
Savtantra Khajuria and Rakesh Khajuria  
**Sister and Brother-in-Law**  
Smt. Binla Sharma W/o Lt. Sh. Mahesh Sharma  
Smt. Shashi Sharma W/o Lt. Sh. Ram Pal Sharma  
Smt. Lalita Sharma W/o Sh. Ram Kumar Sharma  
Smt. Poli Devi W/o Sh. Sham Kumar Sharma  
Smt. Vijay Kumar W/o Sh. Ravi Kant Sharma  
**Grand Children**  
Anurag, Ananya, Noorvi, Saarvi, Poorvi  
**Contacts:** 8716000089, 9086062541



**Sh. Parshotam Khajuria**

**TENTH DAY**

With great agony and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rakesh Bharti (Accountant, SMVDSB)** R/o Jakh (Soungli), who left for heavenly abode on 03/04/2024.  
**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 11/04/2024 at Jakh.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh. Purn Chand Sharma (Father)  
Smt. Sulekha (Wife)  
Mr. Aryan Sharma (Son)  
Ms. Shruti Sharma and Ms. Khushi Sharma (Daughters)  
Smt. Neelam and Sh. Surinder Kumar Khajuria (Parent-in-laws)  
Smt. Anu and Sh. Badri Nath Khajuria (Brother-in-law)  
Smt. Monika Sharma and Sh. Kuldeep Raj Khajuria (Brother-in-law)  
Varun (Brother-in-law)  
Contact No: 7006832924, 9622086260



**SH. RAKESH BHARTI (Accountant, SMVDSB)**

**10TH DAY, KRIYA, UTHALA**

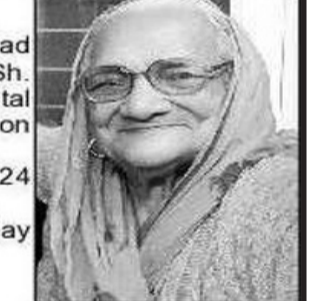
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Harbans Lal Gupta** S/o L. Shri. Badri Nath Kaulo, R/o Main Bazar Kanolik Nagrota, Jammu on 2nd April 2024.  
**TENTH DAY** will be held at Satya Narayan Mandir Nagrota on 11th April 2024 (Thursday) at 10.00 AM.  
**KRIYA:** On 14th April 2024 (Sunday) at our residence.  
**UTHALA:** On 15th April 2024 (Monday) at Satya Narayan Mandir, Nagrota at 3:00 P.M.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Anu Gupta (Wife)  
**SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW**  
Himanshu & Nitesha Gupta  
**DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW**  
Himani & Tarun Sharma  
**BROTHERS & SISTERS IN LAW**  
Dr. Ramesh & Smt. Chandrakala Gupta  
Sh. Bhushan & Smt. Ranjana Gupta  
Sh. Jugal & Smt. Renu Gupta  
**SISTERS & BROTHERS IN LAW**  
Smt. Shubh Laxmi & L. Sh. Yash Pal Gupta  
Smt. Vijay Laxmi & Sh. Yash Pal Gupta  
Smt. Tripta & Lt. Sh. Saish Kumar Gupta  
Contact: 9070036313, 700625653, 9796607295



**Sh. Harbans Lal Gupta**

**TENTH DAY/ KRIYA**

With Profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Savitri** W/o Late Sh. Shiv Ram R/o 13/93 Opp. District Hospital Udhampur, who left for heavenly abode on 2/04/2024.  
**10TH DAY** will be performed on 10th April 2024 Wednesday at our residence at 11AM.  
Kriya will be performed on 11 April 2024 Thursday at Devika Ghat.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Vijay Sharma  
& Late Sh. Bansilal Sharma  
Smt. Santosh Sharma  
& Sh. Ashok Kumar Sharma  
Smt. Anita & Sh. Sudershan Sharma (SKB)  
Smt. Kushla Sharma & Late Sh. Kailash Sharma  
**Late Smt. Veena Sharma & Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma Paryath Family**  
Phn- 9419704299, 7780823346



**Smt. Savitri**

**OBITUARY / TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our Mother **Smt. Janak Rani** W/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Raina of Hermain, Shopian presently at K-19 TRT Nagrota on 06/04/2024.  
**Mourning** is being observed at TRT community Hall Nagrota  
**Tenth Day** will be observed on 15/04/2024 time 8.00 am at TRT Nagrota.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Chaman Lal Raina and Smt. Anita Raina  
**Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Smt. Pushpa Pandita and Sh. Bansilal Pandita  
**Grand Children**  
Miss. Meenakshi Raina  
Mr. Pankaj Raina  
Sh. Rohit Pandita and Smt. Supriya  
Miss Ruchi Pandita  
Mob: 9906169061, 8716021138



**Smt. Janak Rani**

**OBITUARY**

With a lot of sorrow in our hearts and disappointment in our minds we inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Usha Muku Koul (Rtd ZEO)** W/o Ravinder Kumar Koul R/o House no 187 Ward no 14 Opposite Green Bar Dhar Road Udhampur on 6/04/2024.  
**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 15/04/2024 (Monday) at Devika Ghat Udhampur at 10:30 am and assemble at our residence.  
Our entire family pays homage to the departed soul praying for eternal peace.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Ravinder Kumar Koul (Husband)  
Garima Koul & Gaurav Koul (Daughter in Law & Son)  
Ishan Koul (Son)  
Koul's, Bha's, Raina's, and Fotedar's  
Contact No 7006980233, 9419270977, 7006310740



**Usha Muku Koul (Rtd ZEO)**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Raj Kumar** S/o Late Sh. Ram Ditta R/o Gansan Talab, Shaik's Nagar, Dhar Road, Udhampur, who left for heavenly abode on 31/03/24.  
**10th Day** will be performed at Jagriti Old Age Home, Near Post Office, Udhampur at 11:30 am on 09/04/2024 (Friday) at 11:00 AM.  
**Kriya** will be performed at Devika Ghat on 12/04/2024 (Friday) at 11:00 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Sarita Devi (Wife)  
Mr. Karan Gupta (Son)  
(Daughters & Sons-in-law)  
Mrs. Diksha & Mr. Sahil Mahajan  
Mrs. Harshita & Mr. Ayush Sharma  
Smt. Anita & Sh. Naresh Gupta (Sister-in-Law & Brother)  
Smt. Sanya & Sh. Babur Gupta (Sister-in-Law & Brother)  
Smt. Ujala & Sh. Ajay Gupta (Sister-in-Law & Brother)  
Mobile: 8899587271, 7889975526



**SHRI RAJ KUMAR**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Tej Krishan Pandita** S/o Lt. Sh. Janki Nath Pandita, originally from Tulamulla, Ganderbal Srinagar Kashmir presently at 2488, Aster Tower 24th Floor Sandrayam, Greater Noida West UP on 07.04.2024.  
**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Chota Handwar, Murad Nagar UP on 16th April 2024 at 9 AM.  
**Grief Stricken :**  
Veena Pandita - Wife  
Ishan Pandita - Son  
Kalpana and Kiran Handoo - Sister & Brother in law  
Suneeta and Vinod Raina - Sister & Brother in law  
M No. 9625649284, 9354145113



**Sh. Tej Krishan Pandita**

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

ਜੇਹਾ ਚੀਕੀ ਨਿਖਿਆ ਤੇਰਾ ਦੁਖਮ ਰਹਾਇ । ਚਛੋਰੇ ਆਇਓ ਨਾਨਕਾ ਸਦੇ ਉਠੀ ਜਾਇ ।  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Gurbachan Singh (Retired AE PDD)** S/o Late S. Hamam Singh & Late Sd. Prem Kour who left for his heavenly abode on Thursday 4th April, 2024.  
**Antim Ardas** will be performed as :  
**Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib** at our residence Upper Gadi Garh Jammu on 10/4/2024, Wednesday, 9.00 am.  
**Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib** at our residence Upper Gadi Garh Jammu on 12/4/2024 Friday till 9.30 am.  
**Kirtan & Antim Ardas** from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm at Gurudwara Nirmal Ashram Sant Nagar, Upper Gadigarh, Jammu.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sdn. Ravinder Kour (Wife)  
S. Kulbir Singh (Army Contractor) & Sdn. Harvinder Kour (Brother & Bhabhi)  
S. Maninder Pal Singh & Sdn. Guneet Kour (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
S. Harshdeep Singh & Sdn. Jasleen Kour (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Ph. No.: 9419145911, 9419589124



**S. Gurbachan Singh (Retired AE PDD)**

**10TH DAY & RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Sher Singh (Retd Principal)** S/o Late Sh. Bhagat Ram who left for heavenly abode on 02/04/2024.  
**10th Day Kriya** shall be performed on 11/04/2024 (Thursday).  
**Rasam Pagri** shall be performed on 14/04/2024 (Sunday) at our residence Kaliban (Kathua).  
**Grief Stricken**  
**Sons and Daughter in law**  
Hardev Singh & Smt. Neetu Panotra (Bougal)  
Virinder Singh  
**Daughters and Sons in law**  
Subhash & Kamal  
Suman & Suresh  
Jyoti & Yash  
**Arpna & All Bougal Family**  
No. 985827989, 7006291325



**Sh. Sher Singh (Retd Principal)**

**ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late. Sardar Gurmeet Singh** S/o Lt. S. Sardool Singh R/o H. No. 43, Ward No. 8, R.S. Pura, Jammu.  
**SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB AND ANTIM ARDAS** will be held at Gurudwara Sahib Main Bazar R. S. Pura.  
**ARAMB SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** on 09-04-2024 (Tuesday), at 09.30 AM.  
**BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** on 11-04-2024 (Thursday) at 09.30.  
**KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAS** on 11-04-2024 (Thursday), from 10.00 AM to 12.30 PM.  
**Followed by Guru Ka langer**  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Sureshta Devi (Wife)**  
**Sister in Law & Brother**  
Charanjeet Kour and Harvinder Singh  
**Sister & Brother in Law**  
Harjit Kour and Charanjeet Singh  
Parveen Kour and Manpreet Singh  
**Sons**  
Harmeet Singh, Sandeep Singh  
**Daughter & Son in Law**  
Simranjeet Kour and Shashwat  
**Raina Family**  
Mob No: 8492854138, 9796685892



**LATE. SARDAR GURMEET SINGH**

**10TH DAY & KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Shanti Devi** W/o Late Sh. Munshi Ram R/o W.No. 7 Hari Nagar near Pine Villa Guest House Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on 01-04-2024.  
**10th Day** will be performed on Wednesday 10th April 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12 Noon at Jagriti Hall (Oldage Home) near Head Post Office Udhampur.  
**Kriya** will be performed on Saturday 13th April 2024 at Devika Ghat at 10:00 AM.  
**Rasam Pagri** will be performed on Saturday 13th April 2024 at our residence W.No. 7 Hari Nagar near Pine Villa Guest House Udhampur.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Smt. Swaran Kanta & Sh. Govind Ram Gupta - 9419215677  
Smt. Sudesh Kumar & Sh. Shiv Kumar - 7298660735  
Smt. Bandana & Sh. Jagdish Kumar - 6005193900  
Smt. Sweety & Sh. Rakesh Kumar - 9419158236  
**Daughters & Sons-in-law**  
Smt. Lalita Devi W/o Sh. Ved Parkash  
Smt. Nirmal Kumari & Sh. Rattan Chand  
Smt. Sudesh Kumar & Sh. Mangat Ram  
Smt. Vijay Kumar & Sh. Bharat Bushan  
Smt. Khema & Sh. Ja Lal  
**Grand Children**  
Smt. Kanchan & Sh. Atul Gupta  
Smt. Sumali & Sh. Parkhar Gupta  
Prathik Mahajan, Shuham, Pratsisht, Avyukt



**Smt. Shanti Devi**

**10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ KARAM**

With profound grief and sadness, We informed the unexpected demise of our beloved father **Sh. Rajinder Singh Manhas (Kaku)** on 31st March 2024.  
**10TH DAY** will be performed on Tuesday, 8th April 2024 from 11am onwards at our residence Bhalwal.  
**KRIYA/KARAM** will be performed on Friday 12th April 2024 at our residence Bhalwal.  
**Deeply Missed and Remembered by:**  
Smt. Ishwari Manhas (Wife)  
**Son & Daughter in Law**  
Bharti and Narinder Singh Manhas  
**Son & Daughter in Law**  
Sheela and Abhishek Manhas  
Smt. Chanchala and Lal Singh Manhas (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Smt. Raj Rani Wife of Late Sh. Sagar Singh Manhas (Bhabhi)  
Smt. Nirmala and Jaswant Singh Manhas (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Kanvar and Neera (Grand Childrens)  
CONTACT NOS: 7051438384, 7006002323



**Sh. Rajinder Singh Manhas (Kaku) (17.3.1951 - 31.3.2024)**

**DISCLAIMER**

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## Yogi Adityanath praises PM Modi, Amit Shah for abrogation of Article 370 at rally in Kathua

KATHUA, Apr 10 (Agencies): In his address at a public meeting in Kathua, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hailed BJP's top leadership for the decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Yogi has arrived in Kathua to campaign for BJP candidate and Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh from Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency.

"When it's about J-K, the slogans of independent India, 'Jahaan huye balidaan Mookerjee, wo Kashmir hamara hai' echoes. Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee sacrificed himself for this dream to be fulfilled (abrogation of Article 370), but none of the governments could take



a decision in this regard. I am grateful to PM Modi and HM Amit Shah that they have ended the terrorism and ensured that be it Red Fort of Delhi or Srinagar's Lal Chowk, there is enthusiasm and excitement as the region has now been connected to the mainstream of

development." Yogi slammed Congress and said, "Ask these people who were responsible for the Partition of the country, Congress made an unfortunate division of the country a day ahead of Independence in 1947." Addressing the rally

Jitendra Singh said "Kathua is a historic place, Syama Prasad Mookerjee had given his arrest a few kms from here in support of 'ek naam - ek nishan' and he died after that. Shahpur Kandi Dam is in this constituency, the Highest bridge in the

world, the longest road tunnel, and Biotech park are in this constituency."

Earlier, during a visit to Kathua he had predicted that in the next few years, because of its advantageous position being located in the proximity of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, Kathua may develop as a vibrant central point.

The seat is seeing a triangular fight with the Congress fielding Choudhary Lal Singh and the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) pitting three-time ex-MLA G M Saroori against the BJP's Jitendra Singh who is vying for a hat-trick in the constituency. Polling in Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency will be held in the first of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections on April 19.

## "Aditi Bhawan" of Rashtra Sevika Samiti inaugurated



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Rashtra Sevika Samiti (National Woman Volunteers Committee), is a Hindu Nationalist Women's Organisation that Parallels the Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for men. Even though it is often referred to as the sister of RSS, the Organisation claims that it is independent of the RSS while sharing the ideology.

Shanghai Kumari Venkatramaiah Shantha Kumari, popularly called as 'Shanthakka', is National chief (Parmukh Sanchalika of Rashtra Sevika Samiti, came here to inaugurate newly constructed state office "Aditi Bhawan", at Ved Mandir Ambphalla.

State Head -Prant Pramukh Pa kja Didi managed the event while Didi Premlata, Pratt Karyvahika (State General Secretary), Vanita Sharma,

Sampark Pramukh, Ranjna Bazaj-Boudhik Pramukh & Sangeeta-Financial Secretary attended Yagya Hawan & inaugural ceremony.

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner & President Vichar Kranti Manch International alongwith VKMI team, namely Yesh Paul Sharma (Executive Member), KS Samyal (Advisor), Devraj (Member), Anju Bansal Punjab Coordinator & Rajkumari Vats, a Social Activist, participated in the function.

Dr Jain composed history of Samiti, besides welcome to National head, in a poem stating that it was established at Wardha (Maharashtra) on 25 Oct 1936 by Mousi Lakshmi-bai Kelkar, which was presented to National Head. Mousi was the India's noted Social Reformer & was the Nari Shakti behind Samiti. She played an important role in "Cow Protection Campaign" and Plague Con-

trol in early years to save cows from being slaughtered accompanied the temple priest and Dai (Nanny) in the holy crusade.

This campaign taught her the power of speech, the value humility and the ability, to endure insults and negativity, when one was serving a good cause. At the outbreak of plague, she helped her parents and Dai in administering service to sick and needy, irrespective of caste & creed.

Smt Anju Bansal, a Social Activist & Educationist felicitated Didi Shanthakka & Smt Rajkumari felicitated Pankja Didi & other State office bearers.

Dr Shiv Raina, a well known Vedic Scholar, performed Yagya & Hawan besides chanting of Vedic Mantras.

Rupeshji, Prant Parcharak RSS also graced the occasion by his gracious presence, besides many prominent Dignitaries of Jammu in large number.

## Director Agriculture Jammu inspects SM Farm Chakrohi

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: The Director of Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, undertook a comprehensive inspection of the Seed Multiplication Farm Chakrohi, focusing on ongoing projects, infrastructure development and the demonstration of modern farming techniques, including the operation of a combine harvester.

Accompanied by a team of agricultural experts and officials, Director Agriculture Jammu meticulously assessed the progress of various projects underway at the Seed Multiplication Farm. The inspection aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing initiatives, identify potential areas for improvement, and ensure optimal utilization of resources.

A notable highlight of the visit was the demonstration of a combine harvester, showcasing the latest advancements in agricultural machinery. DAJ actively participated in the operation of the harvester, underscoring the department's commitment to familiarizing farmers with modern farming equipment and techniques to enhance efficiency and productivity.

During the inspection, Director Agricul-

ture engaged in fruitful discussions with farm manager Vinod Kumar and workers to gain insights into their experiences and challenges encountered during project implementation. Interacting with the Farm officers and Staff Reen said that all efforts should be made to increase the seed production at the departmental farms to ensure the supply of seed produced in the local conditions with required quality parameters.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvinder Singh Reen emphasized the transformative potential of modern agricultural machinery in revolutionizing farming practices and increasing agricultural output.

He highlighted the significance of leveraging technology and innovation to address the evolving challenges faced by the agricultural sector.

The Director of Agriculture Jammu commended the dedication and hard work demonstrated by the staff at the Seed Multiplication Farm in Chakrohi. He assured them of the department's continued support in their endeavors to promote agricultural excellence and empower farmers with the necessary tools and knowledge.

## Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust celebrates Navratras



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Navratras is amalgamation of two words i.e Nav + Ratri, which basically means Nine Nights. The festival of Navratras holds a great significance in Hinduism as it makes triumphs of good over evil.

Four times Navratras fall in a year i.e two Gupt Navratras and two are celebrated.

Continuing the tradition the nine days Navratras festival commences with Beeza-Ropan ceremony wherein besides President Th. Gulchain Singh Charak (Former Minister) alongwith office bearers S. C.

Rekhi, General Secretary, member Trustees, Special Invitees and large number of Devotees participated in this special occasion with the lighting of Akhand Jyoti reciting religious Mantras and Bhajans.

Every year Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu celebrates the Navratras with different, traditional and religious programmes.

Th. Gulchain Singh Charak in his address highlighted the importance of Navratras in our Hinduism and their religious significance. The gathering including member Trustees, Special Invitees and

devotees appreciated the address.

In the evening a Bhajan Sandhya programme was arranged in collaboration with Bhartiya Sangeet Sansthan, Jammu. Artists from Radio Station enthralled the gathering with Bhajans, and religious songs.

Prominent among others who expressed their views on the occasion and participated in Maha Arti at Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar include S.C. Rekhi Gen. Secretary, Prem Sharma, Jagjit Singh Jamwal, Kapil Slathia, KB Mago-tra, Parshant Sharma, Kiran Rajput, Kulbir Singh Chib, Sandeep Singh, Pritam Singh and Indu Bhushan Sharma.

## Press XI defeated Shiv Sena by 22 runs in a friendly cricket match



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: In a friendly cricket match of 20-20 overs played between Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit and Press Club XI at Nagrota sports ground today in which Press XI won over Shiv Sena by 22 runs.

Press Club captain Naveen Kaul won the toss and decided to bat first and set a target of 182 runs in the stipu-

lated 20 overs while the entire Shiv Sena team was all out at 160 runs. Shiv Sena opening bowler specially Sunny bowled brilliantly and took two wickets in the first 5 overs and kept the batsmen tied down but after that Press Enclave batsmen batted well and set a target of 182 runs.

On the other hand, Shiv Sena had a very bad start in batting. Press Enclave bowlers dismissed the first four batsmen including

captain Manish Sahni cheaply. Press eleven batsman Tejas played the best innings of 89 runs while Nitin scored 60 runs from Shiv Sena.

Tejas was awarded the Man of the Match and Press Enclave's Captain Naveen Kaul was awarded the Winner Trophy.

Press Enclave's wicket keeper Mohit Sharma won everyone's heart by doing excellent wicket-keeping.

## 4000 take part in 13th 'Maat Pita Pujan Diwas'



### Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDIGARH, Apr 10: Over 4000 people including children participated in 13th 'Maat Pita Pujan Diwas' at under construction world first and only Maat Pita Mandir at Khallaur village on Banur-Ambala road in Mohali district on Wednesday.

During the occasion, keynote speaker and a renowned thinker Pushpendra Kulshrestha shared his valuable inspirational thoughts.

The chief guest on the occasion was eminent social worker Jagmohan Garg whereas Preneet Kaur, Patiala MP was special guest of honour. Hirender Budhiraja, Karam Chand Goyal and Satya Bhagwan Singla were guests of honour.

The program started with havan yagya along with other religious rituals. All members of Mahatirtha including Gyan Chand Wallia the founder of Gowdham Mahatirtha along with parents & children par-

ticipated in it.

Bhajana Nandi Swami Devaki Nandan enthralled the audience with his bhajans. Bhandara was organized from morning till night.

The 10 prominent social workers of tricity were also felicitated with appreciation certificates by Pushpendra Kulshrestha.

Among others Mahatirtha members Bashesher Nath Sharma, Amarjeet Bansal, Suresh Bansal, Suresh Singla, Kashmiri Lal Gupta, Jai Gopal Bansal, Subhash Singla, Kuldeep Thakur, Deepak Mittal, Lajpat Rai Garg, Subhash Aggarwal, KK Aggarwal, Suresh Sharma, Kapil Verma, Ekta Nagpal were present during the occasion.

Gyan Chand Wallia said that Mata-Pita Godham Mahatirth is developing as a unique spiritual center.

He said, "In this sacred center where one is taught to love the mother cow, the

message of respecting parents is also being sent to every home of society. The message given by this center is the greatest need of the hour, which can save our beautiful culture with love for cow."

Interestingly Mata Pita Godham Mahatirth is the first & only temple in the world dedicated to the parents where instead of an idol of any god or goddess, one will feel the presence of god in one's own parent. World Book of Records based in London (U.K.) has bestowed Mahatirtha with honour in House of Lords London & registered as the world's first temple dedicated to parents.

The construction work of the temple is going on in full swing with the support of the devotees. It is likely to be completed by 2026. The donations for the Mahatirtha is exempted from tax under Income Tax Act 80G and the organization is also having CSR certificate.

## Mehbooba Mufti offers Eid prayers at Hazratbal, regrets closure of Jamia Masjid

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): PDP President and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti offered Eid prayers at Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar.

Mehbooba expressed regret that people were not allowed to offer prayers at Jamia Masjid. "It's a historical mosque and has big importance in Kashmir. People

should be allowed to offer prayers at every mosque," she said.

Eid-ul-Fitr marks the culmination of the holy month of Ramadhan and symbolises the spirit of austerity, brotherhood, compassion and the joy of sharing.

She was accompanied by ex-minister Aasiya Naqash, ex-MLA Anjum Fazili and state secretary Arif Laigaroo and others.



## EDITORIAL

EID-END OF  
RAMADAN

**E**id is a religious festival celebrated by Muslims around the world. It marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. After 30 days of fasting, Eid is the first day after the month when Muslims do not fast and enjoy their day to the fullest. Muslims celebrate the religious festival of Eid every year. This day marks the end of Ramzan so they eat food heartily on this day. This tradition was first started by Prophet Muhammad in Mecca. It is believed that on this day Prophet Muhammad reached Medina. During Eid, people increase their enthusiasm and enjoy a lot.

Preparations for Eid start months in advance. The excitement starts as soon as Ramzan starts. Women start preparing their dress, bangles, accessories in advance. On the other hand, men prepare for their traditional kurta and pajama. When people see the Eid moon, they wish everyone 'Chand Mubarak' as it confirms the day of Eid. Women and girls also apply mehndi beautifully on their hands. Similarly, painting and decoration of houses is also done. Before Eid, Muslims fast, give charity, offer prayers and do other good deeds during the holy month of Ramadan. Thus, on the day of Eid, everyone enjoys their day. This is a ritual of making sweet vermicelli called vermicelli. It is prepared in two different ways and is famous all over the world.

Similarly, kebabs, biryani, korma and other dishes are also prepared. It is for the guests to enjoy and have a hearty meal with their loved ones. When Eid comes, everyone wakes up early in the morning. They take bath and wear their new clothes. Women offer namaz at home while men go to the mosque to offer namaz.

Meanwhile, cooking starts at home. After offering namaz, men hug each other and wish Eid. They wish each other a happy Eid and hug three times in turn.

Then, people visit the homes of their friends and relatives to exchange greetings. When guests visit their loved ones they eat vermicelli. Another interesting part which is loved by the youth is Idi. Idi is a gift they get in the form of money from elders. Thus, children enjoy receiving Idi and then buy their favorite things with that money. On Eid everyone enjoys a lot and eats to their heart's content. Being a festival of joy and celebration, Eid brings a lot of happiness in everyone's life. It serves as a reward for those who fast throughout the month and enjoy Eid as if it were their feast. In other words, it is a reward for all the good deeds done by people during Ramadan. Thus, it spreads happiness and brotherhood.

## Kashmir: A Shark-Infested Heaven on Earth

By: Major General  
Mrinal Suman

**A**fter having served multiple tenures in J&K, we, a group of three veterans, decided to revisit the pristine Kashmir valley with our wives to experience the post Art 370-abolition environment. It was an eight-day tour from 21 to 28 March 24. We stayed in local 3/4 - star hotels and had a dedicated Innova Crysta for travel.

Kashmir is witnessing an unprecedented rush of tourists. Every single hotel is fully booked. All tourist spots are teeming with hordes of tourists. At some places, even walking is difficult. Surprisingly, most of the tourists were of higher age groups. Apparently, every Indian is keen to get a first-hand experience of the changed environment. All were happy to observe that J&K had been rescued from the abyss in which it had been sliding. CRPF personnel are doing an admirable job through regular patrolling to instil confidence in the populace.

The natural beauty of the valley is unparalleled. It is truly a heaven on earth. But then...Whereas the Centre has made immense efforts to promote tourism, the local administration has failed miserably. It appears to have washed its hands off all the

responsibilities. During our complete visit, we did not come across a single state official or policeman at the tourist places. Local trade unions rule the roost and swindle the helpless tourists. Extortion by the local thugs is rampant and tourists are left to fend for themselves.

It is a well-organised mafia operation. All reputed tour operators issue an advisory to the Kashmir-bound tourists to caution them, "Be very careful while negotiating. Be very clear and certain what you commit and what they commit. Do not get into arguments with them, they can be rude as well. Also beware of vendors like photographers, guides, ponywalas and cab drivers. Remember to take decisions yourself. Do not believe anyone, not even us or the driver or the hotel manager."

Fearing reprisals by the local goons, the tour operators ask the tourists not to tell anyone about the cautionary advice. They beseech, "For any help, call us separately, not in front of anyone

: driver, guide, vendors, etc." Can there be a more damning proof of the dreadful state of affairs in Kashmir, wherein even the tour organisers are scared of the mafia?

**THE MUGHAL GARDENS**  
Most of them are under renovation. Sadly, their upkeep and maintenance are not up to the mark. At many places the steps need urgent attention. There are no railings. Toilets are too far away and poorly kept. There is always a local goon demanding money for their use. There are no garbage bins. At one garden, security staff at the entry gate was retaining the entry tickets for recycling, thereby pocketing the ill-gotten money.

**DOODHPATHARI**  
Although an excellent tarred road exits, taxis are stopped 2km short of the tourist spot

(Shaliganga river site) and the tourists are asked to get down. They are given three options to reach the site - walk both-ways in high-altitude area (8957 feet); or hire a pony by paying the demanded charges; or ride an ATV (a four wheeled all-terrain vehicle) for a fee of Rs 1,000-1,500 per person. With a single pillion rider straddled behind the driver, it is no option for the ladies. Moreover, an ATV ride is an adventure and only the young can dare. As all the three options are unviable for most tourists, especially the elderly, they never reach the river site. The State government is guilty of succumbing to the local

hoodlums and thereby depriving the tourists of reaching Doodhpathari - shameful indeed!

Tarmac Road to Doodhpathari but Tourists are Forbidden to Use Vehicles and are Forced to Hire Ponies or ATV: Exploitation at its Worst

**SONMARG**

It was a lesson in human ingenuity to mint money at the cost of others' helplessness. The area was teeming with thousands of tourists. Heavy snowfall had covered the ground with a thick white blanket and the tourists were enjoying playing in the snow. However, lack of basic facilities made the visit a nightmare for most. There were no toilets at all. A few enterprising hotels had erected a tent in their backyard with a solitary pot, common for men and women. Even the path to the tent was terribly slippery as it had not been cleared of snow. Users had to pay Rs 10

each. As it was freezing cold, the queues were long and the wait unbearable for some.

**A Common Extortion Racket**: Asking a Hapless Lady Tourist to Pay Rs 2,000 for Using Toilet. I have personally witnessed an owner of a third-rate hotel (photo above) declining to let a lady use the toilet unless she hired a room for one hour for Rs 2,000. The hapless lady had tears in her eyes. She paid. It is an open loot of the tourists in connivance with the officials. It defies logic as to why the local authorities cannot build adequate toilet facilities.

**PAHALGAM**  
It is around 90 kms from Srinagar. Srinagar taxis are not allowed to take tourists to Aru Valley, Betaab Valley and Chandanwari. They have to hire a local taxi-union cab for Rs 2,700. Thus, the tourists end up paying for two taxis - one, that they had brought from Srinagar (lying idle in Pahalgam) and the second one from the local union. Although the whole circuit is scheduled to take about 4-5 hrs, the local union drivers keep hurrying up the tourists to save time for the second trip. Worse, they never take the tourists to Chandanwari, stopping 6km short and turning back. It is outright cheating. They charge for Chandanwari but go just one Km beyond Betaab Valley. There are no officials or policemen to help. The local drivers unite to act as bullies.

**BETAAB VALLEY**  
A Picturesque Tourist Spot where Boulders Provide Privacy for Toilet - Shame on the Government!

All through the above trip we did not come across a single toilet or a garbage bin or parking areas. It is chaos all around.

**GULMARG**

It is around 60 kms from Srinagar. It is a beautiful place, famous for its gondola and the ski slopes. On reaching the place, one is attacked by hordes of guides, ponywalas and other vendors. Once again, to visit Bhutaphatri and the Maharaja Palace, one has to hire a local union taxi for Rs 3,500 as Srinagar taxis are not allowed to go there.

Gondola tickets are sold online. Mysteriously, they get sold out within minutes of the opening of sale. According to the local guides, there is a thriving black market in gondola tickets. A ride in gondola is an experience of a lifetime. One is mesmerised by the sheer expanse of the glaciers. Incidentally,

gondola hosted over a million riders in FY 2023-24.

We saw long queues for gondola, entailing wait for up to three hours. There were no shelters or benches for the tourists. Even the snow had not been cleared. Tourists had to hold hands to prevent slipping and falls. One is amazed at the callousness of the organisers. They are minting millions but make no effort to ensure safety and comfort of the tourists.

Finally, As J&K has recently emerged from the decades-long turmoil, it enjoys high curiosity quotient. Understandably, tourists are rushing to Kashmir in lakhs. Once the novelty wears off and the current euphoria abates, people will become aware of the real ground situation. Then, Kashmir will be hard pressed to remain a favourite tourist destination.

**Air-fares are sky-high.** Delhi-Srinagar air-ticket is costlier than Delhi-Dubai. Hotels are

charging exorbitant rentals. A young couple was frank enough to state that Thailand, Dubai and Malaysia were far better organised tourist destinations.

All tourist places in Kashmir are in mountainous high - altitude areas where the weather remains unpredictable. Bright sunshine can suddenly turn into heavy rains or snowfall, and even blizzards. Not one place has any shelter or benches for such eventualities. There are no rescue teams or medical aid posts. It appears that the government has abdicated its responsibility totally and will wake up from its slumber only after a major tragedy.

On the morning of our departure, our houseboat caretaker casually asked for the mobiles of two guests. Without their permission, he cleverly sent feedback on their behalf, grading every aspect as 'excellent'.

Never seen such deviousness.

Despite all my patriotic feelings, I do not recommend a visit to Kashmir as yet. It is ill-organised and ill-prepared to receive the rush of tourists. It lacks elementary infrastructure, basic amenities and essential facilities at present. Worse, the tourists are always at the mercy of the local mafia. They have to remain on guard at every step. Let the government get its act together and make sure that the tourists are not used as easy prey by the sharks that infest the tourism milieu in the much acclaimed 'Heaven on Earth'.

## Role of education in shaping India

By: Vijay GarG

**T**he significance of ethical education and interdisciplinary approaches in promoting societal change and nation-building cannot be overstated

The lives of students are amidst a major transformation, largely due to rapidly changing value systems across the globe. However, this transformation, driven solely by acquisition, is unlikely to yield positive results. Instead, it risks turning education, a highly revered institution, into a mere business venture where success is measured solely by material possessions. Moral and ethical education stands as the key to success, enabling the new generation to embrace values and approaches that can nurture the creative urges of the student community within an environment marked by rapid change. Nevertheless, we must acknowledge the challenges posed by this transitional phase.

Keywords such as knowledge, wisdom, creativity, motivation and encouragement are prerequisites for a successful education system. A competent education system must possess an inner strength capable of deploying myriad strategies to tackle unforeseen challenges. Fostering the latest skills and transmitting new moral codes and cognitive thinking subtly are crucial areas that can lay a robust foundation for the development of India campaign.

While our education system is known for embracing values and approaches that shape the creative urges of students and academicians, it faces increasing challenges during this transitional phase. Efforts must be made to bridge the gap in existing knowledge regarding the contemporary importance of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary studies. Higher education institutions in India need to enrich each discipline with diverse content and ideas. Even science students should be exposed to international, national, socio-political and economic issues through multidisciplinary practices, as initiated by NEP

2020. Such policies serve as catalysts for innovation and foster academic collaboration across multiple disciplines and institutions of higher learning.

In recent years, there has been substantial change in the content and nature of various disciplines, with a focused approach to integrating real-life experiments of democracy, the environment, globalisation and governance into the new education system framework. It's crucial to demonstrate how new higher education approaches can drive change and instil confidence among the masses. The latest research and developments in education globally should be disseminated to upgrade research and teaching accordingly. The strength of the higher education system lies in its internal dynamism, ensuring inclusive growth and contributing significantly to the developed India Campaign.

India's entrepreneurial skills have propelled us forward, overcoming tertiary constraints and fostering innovation. Remarkable initiatives have focused on connectivity and developing new connections, rather than relying solely on the market or cut-throat competition. As Lucy Larcom once said, "If the world seems cold to you, kindle fire to warm it." This sentiment rings true for our forgotten appreciation of traditional values and ethics. The vision of India can be achieved by nurturing creativity and responsibility among students, equipping them with moral knowledge and employable skills. This not only broadens ethical horizons and enhances decision-making capabilities but also clarifies what is ethically and morally correct. Practical approaches and workshops can help develop skills through critical thinking and diverse forms of expression.

Ethics transcends clichés, prompting a shift from what is to what ought to be. It's essential to instil a strong sense of responsibility alongside artistic and academic freedom. Despite years of efforts to eliminate major threats, terrorism, caste violence and class conflict persist. Blaming others for these issues is naive;

we must acknowledge our role in them. Preservation of identity is important, but efforts to preserve cultural, linguistic, regional or religious identities sometimes damage the socio-political system's fabric. The world also faces the spread of narrow-minded faith, but history shows that such faith seldom survives. A robust education system is needed to cultivate responsibility among the youth, playing a pivotal role in achieving our nation's development goals.

Sensitising students and society through low-cost, intense webinars can be highly effective in this regard, particularly in an era of rapid globalisation. Mass media can play a role in political and social mobilisation, with student participation facilitating mass sensitisation. Improving course content through academic discourse and introducing innovative mechanisms in social sciences can enhance the relevance of education. Academic programmes and services should provide supplemental support to teaching and learning, fostering community development both inside and outside the classroom. Research centres should be established to ensure academic excellence in social sciences.

Intellectual skills should prepare students to engage with socio-economic and political issues on a global scale, fostering collaboration with stakeholders from other institutions. Community education programmes should encourage lifelong learning. To enhance student standards, self-academic orientation and excellence should be developed, incorporating problem-solving and inquiry-based learning activities in a collaborative environment. A new syllabus should provide insight into the problem of terrorism and its causes, paving the way for a comprehensive strategy to combat it. Understanding the nexus between organised crime and terrorism is crucial. Cultural exchanges among students can promote harmony and creativity, transcending social divisions. It's imperative to focus on empiri-

cal and normative understandings to address societal concerns effectively. The Government's inspiring vision for the future is promising, positioning India at the forefront globally.

In conclusion, the transformative journey of education towards Viksit Bharat@2047 necessitates a holistic approach, emphasising moral and ethical education alongside academic excellence. The challenges posed by rapid global changes require proactive measures to bridge knowledge gaps and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. It is imperative to instil a sense of responsibility and cultivate creativity among students to address contemporary issues effectively.

Efforts should focus on integrating real-life experiences into the education system and fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Embracing diversity and inclusivity in education will strengthen the fabric of society and contribute to national development goals. Moreover, initiatives like low-cost webinars and mass media engagement can amplify the impact of education, promoting social awareness and civic engagement among the youth.

As we navigate through complex socio-political landscapes, it is crucial to uphold traditional values while embracing innovation and progress. By nurturing a generation equipped with moral clarity and practical skills, we can pave the way for a brighter future for India and the world. In essence, the journey towards educators, policymakers and society at large. By prioritising ethical education, fostering interdisciplinary learning and embracing diversity, we can build a strong foundation for a prosperous and inclusive future. Together, let us embark on this journey towards excellence, guided by the principles of integrity, empathy and resilience.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)

## NSF Chairman commends Modi Govt's initiatives for Sikh community, public welfare

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Varinderjeet Singh, Chairman of the National Sikh Front (NSF), embarked on a spirited journey through the heart of Jammu City, encompassing vibrant neighborhoods including Preet Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Ekta Vihar, Kunjwani, Bandurakh, Greater Kailash, Sainik Colony.

Engaging fervently with the local populace, Singh fervently appealed to the citizens to cast their ballots in favor of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), endorsing the transformative vision spearheaded by the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Singh's impassioned outreach underscored a deep-seated appreciation for the Modi government's unwavering commitment to uplifting every section of society, with a special emphasis



on the Sikh community.

Highlighting landmark initiatives such as the historic inauguration of the Kartarpur Corridor and the dedicated train service to Hazoor Sahib, Singh lauded these visionary endeavors as catalysts for fostering communal harmony and spiritual connectivity.

In a resounding testament to the Modi administration's proactive governance, Singh extolled the array of developmental programs and policies aimed at bolstering public welfare.

Noteworthy among these are initiatives such as "Ayushman Bharat," which has revolutionized healthcare accessibility, and the transfor-

mative "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan," a nationwide crusade for sanitation and hygiene.

Furthermore, Singh emphasized the pivotal role played by the government in facilitating the safe return of the revered Guru Granth Sahib from Afghanistan, underscoring the administration's unwavering commitment to preserving the sanctity of Sikh heritage. Singh's endorsement of the Bharatiya Janata Party resonates as a resounding affirmation of the transformative governance paradigm instituted under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

As the nation marches steadfastly towards progress and prosperity, the National Sikh Front stands poised as a steadfast ally, championing the cause of communal harmony, socio-economic development, and inclusive growth.

## Er Sajad extends Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to community



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 10: As the holy month of Ramadan comes to a close, Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi, IT Head of the Jammu & Kashmir BJP Minority Morcha, extended heartfelt greetings to the people of the region on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Eid-ul-Fitr, the festival that marks the end of Ramadan, is a time of joy, reflection, and gratitude.

Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi wishes for this special day to be filled with peace, happiness, and prosperity for all families across Jammu & Kashmir.

In his message, Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi emphasized the importance of unity, com-

passion, and solidarity within the community, especially during these challenging times.

He extended his sincere prayers for the well-being and prosperity of everyone, regardless of caste, creed, or religion.

Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi encouraged everyone to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr responsibly, adhering to health and safety guidelines, and to extend kindness and support to those in need.

As the IT Head of the J&K BJP Minority Morcha, Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi reaffirms the commitment of the organization to serve the interests of all communities and to promote harmony and inclusivity across the region.

On this joyous occasion, Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi extended his warmest wishes to the people of Jammu & Kashmir, praying for a blessed Eid-ul-Fitr filled with peace, love, and happiness.

## GDC Ramnagar conducts 7-day SWAYAM/NPTEL Orientation Workshop

### Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, Apr 10: Govt. Degree College (GDC) Ramnagar successfully concluded its 7-day orientation workshop on SWAYAM/NPTEL. Organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and SWAYAM Cell of the college, the workshop was held from April 4 to 10, 2024, with over 200 enthusiastic students in attendance.

The workshop was organized under the patronage of Dr. Bhavnaish Chand, Principal of the College, and the adept guidance of Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pandit as the convener and Prof. Tanmeet Kour as the coordinator, and it aimed to introduce participants to the invaluable resources available on SWAYAM/NPTEL platforms.

Throughout the workshop, participants actively engaged in interactive sessions tailored to enrich their comprehension of the diverse courses offered on SWAYAM/NPTEL.

These sessions equipped them with knowledge and skills across various fields, fostering a culture of continuous learning and development.

The main highlights of the workshop covered an introduction to SWAYAM/NPTEL, including an overview and understanding of its significance in the education ecosystem. It also delved into exploring the diverse range of courses and specializations available, highlighting their impact on career development.

Interactive sessions allowed participants to navigate SWAYAM/NPTEL platforms,

explore course structures, modules, and assessment methods.

Additionally, the benefits of online learning, such as flexible schedules and credit transfer opportunities, were discussed along with insights into certifications offered by SWAYAM/NPTEL and their recognition by educational institutions.

The workshop concluded with participants not only gaining familiarity with SWAYAM/NPTEL but also expressing enthusiasm for continuous learning and innovation. The event successfully achieved its objectives, empowering attendees to embrace online education for personal and professional growth. A special thanks to all the faculty members for their coordination and support.

## Kaith, others express deep grief over Randhir Singh's death

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Jammu University's Assistant Registrar retired R.L. Kaith and a number of other retired employees, who converged over here today, expressed deep grief over the death of their best University colleague Shri Randhir Singh of village Raya Sachani of district Samba.

Kaith said, while we were in university service, we had shared countless moments over the years, and our bond continued to grow stronger. He had stood by me through thick and thin,

and I considered myself incredibly fortunate to have him as my best colleague. I think the reason I became close to him was because of his amazing qualities. His bravery always inspired me to speak up against unfairness. He was also one of the intelligent employees in the university. But what I admired the most was his kindness.

All present prayed to Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give immense strength to the bereaved family to bear this immeasurable loss boldly.

## Malabar Gold & Diamonds achieves record annual turnover exceeding Rs 50,000 Cr

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's sixth-largest jewellery group and the 19th-ranked brand in Deloitte's Global Ranking of Luxury Products, announces a milestone achievement with an annual retail global turnover of Rs 51,218 Crore Indian Rupees in the last financial year. This remarkable growth underscores Malabar Gold & Diamonds' rapid ascent as a trusted jewellery brand worldwide.

In just three decades, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, headquartered in Kerala, has garnered unprecedented success in the global jewellery industry. The brand's strategic retail expansion plan spans India and overseas markets, aiming to strengthen its position as a global leader. Currently, Malabar Gold & Diamonds operates 345 stores across 13 countries, with plans to open new stores in New Zealand, Egypt, Bangladesh, and more locations in Europe. The company will strengthen its presence in existing markets such as the US, Canada, UK, and



Australia, with a target of opening 100 new stores within the next year. The brand also aims to hire an additional 7,000 employees, increasing the workforce to 28,000. With 21,000 employees representing 26 countries and speaking diverse languages, Malabar offers a dynamic and inclusive work culture.

In addition to opening more stores in its current states of operation in India, Malabar Gold & Diamonds plans to expand its presence

into states such as Jharkhand, Goa, Assam, Tripura, and Jammu & Kashmir. Beyond India, the company currently has stores in the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Singapore, Malaysia, USA, Canada, UK, and Australia. Malabar Gold & Diamonds also has its own state-of-the-art design studio, training centre, and research and development department. The company leverages the services of globally renowned consulting

firms such as Ernst & Young, Deloitte, Accenture, and IBM.

The company operates 14 supply chain management units in 8 countries and 15 jewellery manufacturing units across 5 countries, complemented by design studios showcasing over 25 exclusive brand collections. In India, manufacturing units are located in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, and West Bengal, while internationally, units are in the UAE, Saudi

Arabia, Qatar, Oman, and Bangladesh. Additionally, preparations are underway to establish new jewellery manufacturing factories in Jaipur, Surat, Hyderabad, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. With a customer base exceeding 15 million across 100 countries, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is a hallmark of excellence in the global jewellery sector, guided by the mission 'Make in India, Market to the World'.

Apart from Malabar Group's headquarters in Kozhikode, the International Headquarters is located in Dubai, and the National Hub is in Mumbai. These strategic locations drive the brand to achieve current and future business objectives, encompassing supply chain management, sourcing, e-commerce, digital marketing, CRM, omnichannel operations, corporate gifting, B2B divisions, human resources and legal, merchandising, and bullion. Leveraging these centres enables the brand to take a leadership role in reaching new heights through growth.

## New Command Hospital inaugurated at Udhampur



### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 10: New Command Hospital, Udhampur was inaugurated on Wednesday by General Manoj Pande, COAS virtually amongst presence of Army and civil dignitaries.

Spanning 60 acres, this 274 Crore, 650-bedded hospital, with provisions for an additional 200 beds during crisis, showcases modern infrastructure designed to meet the needs of defence personnel of Jammu and Kashmir.

The main hospital building has a basement, ground floor and four floors on top. For the movement of patients and staff from basement to the top floor, there are multiple

lifts, ramps and staircases.

Notable features include eight state-of-the-art operation theatres, medical gas pipeline system, fire fighting system, central air conditioning system and advanced medical treatment facilities. Environmental sustainability has been kept as key focus area during construction of hospital, with an effluent treatment plant and central sewage treatment plant ensuring responsible water management through recycling.

Beyond medical facilities, the complex includes accommodation for staff, training facilities, and welfare amenities. Patients and guests comforts are prioritised with guest suites, a community

centre and plans for additional facilities like a library and gym within the complex.

The journey to completion faced numerous challenges such as basement flooding during rainy season which was solved by collaborating with experts from IIT Jammu for implementation of innovative solutions. The Command Hospital at Udhampur is poised to be a game-changer for defence personnel in Jammu and Kashmir, providing top-notch medical care. The Northern Command expresses gratitude for the support received from various quarters on this momentous day that will mark a new era in healthcare for the region.

## Trikuta Trek organised for NCC Cadets



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: The Trikuta Trek organised by the Jammu Group of NCC Directorate of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh during the Annual Training Camp of 5 J&K Battalion NCC sounds like a remarkable and pioneering initiative. Led by Lt Col Rajesh Kumar and comprising of various staff members, including Nursing Assistants and ANOs, along with 37 enthusiastic cadets, this trek marked a significant milestone in the annals of NCC activities.

The fact that it was the first-ever trek of its kind organized within the framework of the Annual Training Camp speaks volumes about the visionary approach of the NCC leadership in exploring new avenues for cadet development and adventure.

Such initiatives not only provide an opportunity for physical fitness and outdoor exploration but also nurture leadership skills, team spirit, and resilience among the cadets.

The participation of nursing assistants alongside cadets also highlights the holistic approach towards train-

ing and development within the NCC, emphasizing the importance of healthcare and well-being in expeditionary activities.

Undoubtedly, the Trikuta Trek would have been a memorable and enjoyable experience for all involved, leaving a lasting impression on the cadets and setting a precedent for future adventurous undertakings within the NCC. It's through such innovative and visionary endeavours that organisations like the NCC continue to inspire and shape the leaders of tomorrow.

## Inter Village Volleyball Tournament at Mendhar, Poonch

### Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 10: Sports have always been one of the premier means of developing a healthy body and mind among children and youth alike.

This stays at the forefront as the means adopted to foster meaningful interaction both amongst 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.

As the residents observed Jamat-UI-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 declared open an Inter Village Volleyball Tournament.

Teams from ten villages participating enthusiastically in the tournament. An entirely new Volleyball Court was constructed by Indian Army, 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 respective villages in a bid to be crowned the champions.

The competition also aims at initiating posi-

tive 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 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.

## The Antisocial Network — Memes to Mayhem brings viewers face-to-face with kids who facilitated a mob to storm into the Capitol Building in Washington, DC, back in January 6, 2021

Picture this — a lonely child, bullied at school, ignored by busy parents, low on self-esteem; confidence at the nadir. What does this being do? Find refuge in the dark world of the web, internet, which boosts his ego, soothes his frayed nerves and ignites his hidden fantasies; a real...err... virtual dopamine rush!

This is precisely what Netflix documentary *The Antisocial Network: Memes to Mayhem* is all about. How during the early 2000s, a nondescript website, 2Chan, in the East, namely Japan, impacts children in the West, USA to be precise, in the form of 4Chan — a popular online portal, built by a handle named MOOT, a young chubby boy whose identity is revealed later. Notably, with time and growing popularity 2Chan spawns crime, as a Japanese youth hijacks a bus, even kills one

passenger, in the infamous Neomugicha incident.

These misguided youngsters come up with statements like 'Trolling is like performance art'; 'We didn't know we were right or wrong'; 'I felt like the coolest criminal child in the world'; 'We were dumb kids'. Only that the ramifications are far wider, much beyond they can ever imagine.

Meanwhile, as this online community grows, 4Chan gradually becomes a pressure group, so much so that it flares rebellion, decimating reputations and destroying established rules. From behind the curtains, anonymous is the word; anonymity is what appeals to most of these hackers, some among them even physically challenged. They become a band of chaos-stirrers called QAnon, a word which coalesces into an identity. In escapism, they find solace.



Gradually, 4Chan becomes a hydra-headed monster, fuelling mass delusion of avid internet users; 4Chan leads to 8Chan and the chain grows as 'vigilante justice online'.

Such is their reach, also skill, that they hack CIA website, US Senate's website, FBI, law enforcement websites and more. From

protests on the streets to clashes with the law-keepers, to the final storming of the United States Capitol Building in Washington, DC, on January 6, 2021, based on a thread, QAnon, the phenomena indeed goes from memes to mayhem!

After a major crackdown, a bunch of hackers and mischief-mongers

are brought too book; however, one wonders why the authorities took that long to act? Isn't any anti-state movement supposed to be nipped in the bud, before shrewd politicians, Donald Trump in this case, use it to his or her advantage? It all becomes too political and commercial, with Facebook and Twitter making a quick buck from all this turmoil.

Chris Poole aka MOOT wasn't in it for politics in the first place; all he meant was fun, so he backs out officially. The creators of QAnon ultimately regret the Frankenstein they create. 'Hacking can trick you into thinking that you are fighting for good, but in reality, you are just high on the feeling of having power', says one of them. 'The world of simulation is one where you experience less and less of life', says another. Realisation dawns, but a bit too late, when

things have gone too far, leading to destruction, chaos — 'Anonymous, deanonymised everybody'.

With a runtime of 1 hour 25 minutes, the documentary has been directed well, with neat animation in the backdrop. Real people, real stories, not told through the prism of virtual tools; the faces that narrate the stories are the ones who had lived them live.

The camerawork is sharp and real footage lends much credibility to the narrative.

Habbo Hotel, Black Avatars, Guy Fawkes mask, GamerGate, Otaku community, StopTheSteal, Occupy Wall Street, rise of QAnon, scientology... all these and more find mention; instances crunched amicably to form a wholesome package.

'You can fix code, you can't fix people' is the opening line of this documentary...true that!

## Harvard University names Avantika Vandanapu South Asian Person of the Year

Indian-American actress Avantika Vandanapu, who is known for her role in *Mean Girls*, has been honoured with the South Asian Person of the Year award by Harvard University. She said her 'journey has just begun'. She was recognised for her outstanding achievements and impact on both the international and Indian entertainment industries. Vandanapu said, "Being honoured by such a prestigious institution as Harvard University is truly humbling and incredibly motivating. This award not only acknowledges my efforts."



## Ankita Lokhande to star in the web series Amrapali



After Swatantrya Veer Savarkar, Ankita Lokhande is all set to come up with a web

series, *Amrapali*, in collaboration with filmmaker Sandeep Singh. Ankita has been roped in to play Amrapali, the celebrated nagarvadh.

Taking to Instagram, Sandeep Singh treated fans with this exciting news and captioned the post, "Presenting @lokhandeankita as #Amrapali, the epitome of strength, grace, and resilience. This captivating series delves into the untold saga of the royal courtesan, revealing her journey filled with emotions and challenges. Stay tuned for this grand spectacle."

## Warner Bros teases 'Joker' sequel, 'Beetlejuice 2' and more at CinemaCon

Warner Bros isn't resting on its "Barbie" laurels: The 100-year studio has its sights on a record-breaking 2024 as well, with a release slate that includes a new *Mad Max* film, "Furiosa", Kevin Costner's two-part Western epic, "Horizon: An American Saga", the "Beetlejuice" sequel, and "Joker: Folie à Deux," which brings Lady Gaga to Gotham City.

The studio was first up Tuesday night to dazzle theatre owners who are gathered this week in Las Vegas for the annual CinemaCon convention and trade show. They came armed with stars, including the likes of Kevin Costner, Michael Keaton, Robert Pattinson, Anya Taylor-Joy and Chris Hemsworth, as well as footage and trailers to show.

"Joker" director Todd Phillips showed the audience a trailer for "Joker: Folie à Deux," out October 4, which brings Joaquin Phoenix back as the violent and mentally ill Arthur Fleck and introduces Gaga's Harley Quinn. Phillips thanked the exhibitors in the room for helping the first movie become such a big success.

Addressing rumours that the sequel is a musical, Phillips said that he hasn't referred to it as such.

"It's a movie where music is an essential element," Phillips said. "To me that doesn't veer very far from the first film."

Before its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival next month and theatrical release on May 24, "Furiosa" director George Miller, stars Taylor-Joy and Hemsworth, spoke a bit about the prequel and showed some explosive new footage.

"We just finished last week," said the 79-year-old filmmaker, whose first *Mad Max* film came out 45 years ago.

This new film is focused on a young Furiosa, who was



played by Charlize Theron in "Mad Max: Fury Road," the 2015 blockbuster that made over USD 300 million at the box office and won four Oscars.

"This is the story of one woman's relentless commitment to impossible hope," Taylor-Joy said. "We see her go through everything."

Hemsworth plays a warlord named "Dementus". The audience was especially excited to hear from Kevin Costner, who will be back in theatres this summer with a two-part Western, "Horizon: An American Saga", which he directed, co-wrote and stars in. Set during the Civil War, Costner wanted to look at the idea of the promise of America.

"It was the promise that if you could come west, if you could survive it, you could make a home at the expense of a lot of things," Costner said. "To me, that's drama."

The film is getting an unconventional release, with "Part 1" hitting theatres on June 28 followed by "Part 2" on August 16. The ensemble includes Sienna Miller, Sam Worthington, Danny Huston and "Stranger Things" breakout Jamie Campbell Bower.

"A lot of people like plot movies," Costner said. "I have a tendency to like journey

movies."

"Horizon: An American Saga" will premiere at Cannes next month as well.

Tim Burton was also on hand to hype "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice", the sequel to his 1988 hit, which brings back Keaton, Winona Ryder and Catherine O'Hara to reprise their roles, and introduces new characters played by Jenna Ortega, Monica Bellucci, Willem Dafoe and Justin Theroux. It opens in theatres on September 5.

Burton said he always related to Lydia Deetz and wanted to know what happened to the Deetz women over the years and was happy that Ryder, O'Hara and Keaton were on board too. "It was like a weird family reunion," Burton said.

Keaton said they had discussed the possibility many times over the years and they finally got it right. "It's good. It's really, really good," Keaton said. "In fact, it's great."

Oscar-winning director Bong Joon-ho showed a trailer for his new film, "Mickey 17", starring Robert Pattinson, which will be in theatres in January 2025.

"It's about a simple man who ultimately ends up saving the world," the "Parasite" director said through a translator. "It's a very strange type of hero's journey."

Pattinson called the story unusual, funny and bizarre. "I was told, you're going to love the script, but the part is impossible," he said.

Warner Bros is also at work rebooting its DC superhero universe, under the supervision of Peter Safran and James Gunn, who is currently filming the new "Superman" in Atlanta for a summer 2025 release.

Before that, the studio is releasing a documentary about the first cinematic Superman, Christopher Reeve, which they acquired out of Sundance. "Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story" will be in theatres in September.

Three years after the studio's former leaders made the decision to release all of their films day-and-date in theatres and on its streaming service, Warner Bros has re-established itself as a vital part of the movie theatre ecosystem.

In December, they made the unconventional move to release three major films in short order: "Wonka", "Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom" and "The Color Purple". It was done in agreement with theatre owners who said that they needed more films.

Those movies, domestic distribution president Jeff Goldstein said, cumulatively made over USD 1 billion globally, and the studio was responsible for approximately 50 per cent of the box office at Christmas.

This year has gotten off to a strong start too, propelled by "Wonka" and leading into "Dune: Part Two" (both have made over USD 600 million globally) and "Godzilla x Kong" which has surpassed USD 300 million at the box office.

"Storytelling is our business," Goldstein said. "We are committed to making big, crowd-pleasing, event movies."

## In Chandigarh, actor Pankaj Berry says had there been a way to earn a livelihood through theatre, he would have never have left it for cinema and television

On Day 3 of the Chandigarh Music & Film Festival, Tenali Ramafame actor Pankaj Berry graced the event. The veteran actor, who hails from Ambala, surprised the audience with his attire, paired with Himachali topi and cream shawl, while his opening words were Saaryan nu mere vallon Sat Shri Akal.

Berry recalled how he was one of the first gold medallists from the Department of Indian Theatre, Panjab University, Chandigarh. But till college, he was a shy boy who would always want to perform at youth festivals while pursuing graduation from Gov-

ernment College, Kalka, but at the last minute run away from the scene! It was one of his college friends, Vijay Joshi, who in the final year literally pushed him to audition before a director of their college play.

"I read my lines for the lead role, got selected, performed at the youth festival and won the Best Actor award. It drove me to do amateur theatre for many years, until I found my calling in acting. I enrolled myself at the Panjab University for a diploma in drama. There was no looking back and I did Masters in the same field. I opted for a career in the film and television industry

later," he said.

Theatre love Berry feels had there been a way to earn a livelihood through theatre, he would have never left it for cinema and television. But at the same time, every platform is great if you choose good content. He added, "I believe theatre is the toughest medium to perform on. There are no retakes. I think every film actor should do theatre once."

While Berry earned recognition for Gul Gulshan Gulfaam, he had already worked in Govind Nahlan's TV show Tamas in a short role, and essayed 12 different characters in



Shyam Benegal's Bharat Ek Khoj. "It helped me learn a lot of things about the film and television industry, and how it was different from theatre. Only Gul Gulshan Gulfaam released first. In fact, before moving to Mumbai, I had worked in a Punjabi project, which never got released. It was made in Hindi and Punjabi, and had different titles for the same. I think the Punjabi title was Vagde Paani. So, basically I started my career in 1986," he added.

Long innings From Gul Gulshan Gulfaam (1987) to Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak (2024), Berry has

managed to keep the audience entertained. "I always aspire to do tedhe roles," he said.

On changing characters and much-loved character of Tathacharya in Tenali Rama, Berry shared, "I feel blessed to have landed this role, which encapsulates all the nine rasas in one character. I have always enjoyed becoming a new character, and feel make-up and costume has a great role in it. For Dil Diyaan Gallaan, I played a Sikh grandfather. I actually grew a long beard and lived that character for the entire time."

The veteran actor shot for Crime Patrol

Mega Movie for Sony TV, title Varchasva, in which he played a man aged 61, 74, 88 and then 108 years. As for his advice for budding artistes, he said, "If I can make it here after a fatal accident on a film set (Sainik) at the peak of my career in 1992, so can you. I lost 27 signed films and was the first choice to play a young villain, but the accident got me bed-ridden for many months. Except for two or three directors, everybody reclaimed their signing amount. So, have faith in your talent and God. This optimistic approach led me to where I am today," Berry said.



## Fire in large Hong Kong residential building kills at least five people and injures 27

Three males and two females were killed, police said.

HONG KONG, Apr 10 (Agencies): A fire in a large, mostly residential building in Hong Kong on Wednesday morning killed at least five people and left another 27 injured.

The blaze in the New Lucky House in the Jordan neighborhood was extinguished later in the morning, but police said people inside the building still were calling for help.

Firefighters had rushed to the scene after receiving a call about the fire at 7:53 a.m., authorities said.

Three males and two



females were killed, police said.

Local media including the South China Morning Post reported the fire started at a gym on the first floor. The New Lucky House has 200 units and was built in

1964.

Eric Chan, the Chief Secretary for Administration, said he was shocked and saddened by the blaze and told reporters there would be an investigation into the cause of the fire.

## China Rejects US "Criticism Or Pressure" Over Ties With Russia

BEIJING, Apr 10 (Agencies): China vowed Wednesday it would not accept "criticism or pressure" over its ties with Russia, after Washington warned that it will hold Beijing responsible if Moscow makes gains in Ukraine.

Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said Tuesday that Washington would "not sit by and say everything is fine" after Beijing renewed pledges of cooperation with Moscow during a visit by Russia's top diplomat.

In response, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning insisted that "China and Russia have the right to engage in normal economic and trade cooperation".

"This kind of cooperation should not be interfered with or limited, and China also does not accept criticism or pressure," she added on Wednesday.

The two countries have in recent years ramped up contacts, and their strategic partnership has only grown closer since Moscow's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine.

Analysts say China holds the upper hand in the relationship with Russia, with its sway growing as Moscow's international isolation deepens as its war drags on.

On Tuesday, the two said they would strengthen strategic cooperation as Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held talks with President Xi Jinping and top diplo-

mat Wang Yi.

Xi told Lavrov that China attached "great importance" to relations with Moscow and "stands ready, with Russia, to strengthen bilateral communication, (and) strengthen multilateral strategic coordination", according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

Xi and President Vladimir Putin have agreed to maintain "close exchanges" to ensure the steady development of their ties, the readout said.

While China says it is a neutral party in the Ukraine conflict, it has been criticised for refusing to condemn Moscow for its offensive and for indirect support for the war effort by continuing

to trade with Russia.

US officials have recently stepped up warnings to Beijing against providing indirect aid to the Russian war effort.

In Brussels last week, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters that "China continues to provide materials to support Russia's defence industrial base".

And Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who wrapped up a visit to China on Monday, said she had warned officials of the consequences of supporting Russia's military procurement.

Campbell reiterated on Tuesday that "we have told China directly, if this continues, it will have an impact on the US-China

relationship".

"We will see this not as just a Russian unique set of activities but a conjoined set of activities backed by China but also North Korea," he told the National Committee on US-China Relations, an educational group.

"This is antithetical to our interests," he warned.

Beijing responded on Wednesday that it has "always played a constructive role" in seeking a resolution to the war in Ukraine.

"If any country is truly concerned about peace in Ukraine, and hopes for an early end to the crisis, they should first reflect on the root causes of the crisis," Mao said.

## Ratings Agency Fitch Downgrades China Credit Outlook Over Debt Fears

BEIJING, Apr 10 (Agencies): Ratings agency Fitch said Wednesday it had downgraded China's sovereign credit outlook to negative, citing increased risks to the country's public finances, in a move Beijing swiftly called "regrettable".

Chinese officials have struggled for months to kickstart economic growth as they battle a range of headwinds, particularly a prolonged property sector crisis that has fueled fears of wider contagion.

Policymakers have announced a series of targeted measures as well as the issuance of billions of dollars in sovereign bonds, aimed at boosting infrastructure spending and spurring consumption, but analysts have said much more needs to be done.

Beijing last month set a goal of five percent growth for the world's number-two economy in 2024, an ambitious objective that the leaders admitted would be a challenge to meet.

Fitch said its outlook revi-



sion "reflects increasing risks to China's public finance outlook" as the country "contends with more uncertain economic prospects".

"Wide fiscal deficits and rising government debt in recent years have eroded fiscal buffers from a ratings perspective," the agency warned.

And it said "fiscal policy is increasingly likely to play an important role in supporting growth in the coming years which could keep debt on a steady upward trend".

It also said projected lower economic growth "exacerbates challenges to managing high economy-wide leverage".

Beijing's finance ministry immediately said the decision was "regrettable".

"From the results, it can be seen that the indicator system of Fitch's sovereign credit rating methodology has failed to effectively and proactively reflect" Beijing's efforts to promote economic growth, it said in a statement.

Beijing has pledged to do

more to boost employment and stabilise the property market, though an official last month admitted doing that remained "very difficult".

Real estate companies that "need to go bankrupt should go bankrupt, and those that need restructuring should be restructured", Housing Minister Ni Hong told a news conference on the sidelines of a major political meeting.

Fitch also on Wednesday affirmed China's credit rating at "A+".

It said that move reflected the country's "large and diversified economy, still solid GDP growth prospects relative to peers, integral role in global goods trade, robust external finances, and reserve currency status of the yuan".

But, it added, "these strengths are balanced against high economy-wide leverage, rising fiscal challenges and per capita income and governance scores below those of 'A' category peers"

## Iran's Khamenei says Israel 'must be punished' for embassy attack in Syria



IRAN, Apr 10 (Agencies): Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said on Wednesday that Israel "must be punished, and it shall be" for attacking the Iranian embassy compound in Syria.

In a major escalation of Israel's war with regional adversaries, suspected Israeli warplanes bombed Iran's consulate in the Syrian capital on April 1 in a strike that Iran said killed seven military advisers. "When they attack

the consulate, it is as if they have attacked our soil," Khamenei said in a speech marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. "The evil regime made a mistake and must be punished, and it shall be," he added.

In an apparent response to Khamenei, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on Wednesday that Israel will respond if Iran attacks Israel from its own soil.

"If Iran attacks from

its own territory, Israel will respond and attack Iran," Katz said in a post on the social media platform X.

Iran backs groups that have entered the fray across the region since Israel launched its invasion of Gaza following the October 7 attack on southern Israel by Hamas. Some 33,360 Palestinians have been killed in six months of Israeli bombardment of Gaza Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel killed 1,200 people, according to Israeli tallies.

The Iran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah group has exchanged fire on a daily basis with Israel, while Iraqi groups have fired on US forces in Syria and Iraq and the Houthis of Yemen have targeted shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

## Joe Biden says PM Benjamin Netanyahu's approach to the war is a mistake, deepening a rift between the two allies

TEL AVIV, Apr 10 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of the war in Gaza a mistake and called for his government to flood Gaza with aid, ramping up pressure on Israel to reach a cease-fire and widening a rift between the two staunch allies that has worsened as the war has dragged on.

Biden has been an outspoken supporter of Israel's war against Hamas since the militant group launched a deadly assault on October 7. But in recent weeks his patience with Netanyahu has appeared to be waning and his administration has taken a sterner line with Israel, rattling the countries' decades-old alliance and deepening Israel's international isolation over the war. The most serious disagreement has been over Israel's plans for an offensive in the southernmost Gaza city of Rafah and the rift has spiralled since, worsened by an Israeli airstrike last week on an aid convoy, which killed seven workers with the food charity World Central Kitchen (WCK), most of them being foreigners.

Biden's comments, made in an interview that aired late Tuesday after being recorded two days after the WCK strike, highlight the differences between Israel and the US over humanitarian aid to people in Gaza, where a month's long war has led to warnings of imminent famine. "What he's doing is a mistake. I don't agree with his approach," Biden told Spanish-language broadcaster Univision. He was responding to being asked if Netanyahu is prioritizing his political survival over the national interest. Biden said Israel should agree to a cease-fire, flood beleaguered Gaza with aid for the next six to eight weeks and allow other countries in the region to help distribute the aid. "It should be done now," he said.

Hunger in Gaza is overshadowing the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, a typically joyous festival during which families

celebrate the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Israel halted aid deliveries to Gaza in the early days of the war, but under US pressure has slowly increased trucks allowed to enter the territory. Still, aid groups have complained that supplies are not reaching desperate people quickly enough, blaming Israeli restrictions, and countries have attempted other ways to deliver them including air drops and sea. Israel says it has steadily ramped up aid throughout the war, opening up more entry points for trucks to enter and to reach especially hard-hit areas like northern Gaza, an early target of Israel's in the war.

Israel and Hamas are currently engaged in talks meant to bring about a cease-fire in exchange for the release of hostages captured by Hamas and others who stormed across the border on October 7. But the sides remain far apart on key issues, including the return of Palestinians to hard-hit northern Gaza. Netanyahu has vowed to achieve "total victory" in the war, pledging to destroy Hamas' military and governing capabilities to prevent a repeat of the October 7 attacks and to return the hostages. He says that victory must include an offensive in Rafah, which Israel says is Hamas' last major stronghold, but more than half of Gaza's 2.3 million people are currently seeking shelter there. Six months into the war, Israel is growing ever more isolated, with even its closest partner increasingly vocal about its discontent in the war's direction and longtime trading partners like Turkey taking potentially painful economic steps to express dismay.

Netanyahu is under pressure to decide on a post war vision for Gaza but critics say he is delaying because he doesn't want to anger his ultranationalist governing partners, who support resettling the Gaza Strip, which Israel withdrew from in 2005 and an idea Netanyahu has ruled out.

## How the EU wants to reshape its asylum system

Under the new rules, the Dublin III principle of first-country responsibility would be maintained, but with extra criteria that could shift the asylum-seeker's file to another EU country.

BRUSSELS, Apr 10 (Agencies): The European Parliament votes Wednesday on a landmark reform of EU laws on asylum-seekers and irregular migrants.

Here are the main changes which, if adopted, will come into force from 2026:

Border filtering

The new EU Asylum and Migration Pact will see migrants irregularly entering the EU undergo identity, health and security checks and have biometric readings of their faces and fingerprints recorded, which can take up to seven days.

Children will get special treatment, and member countries are to have independent monitoring mechanisms in place to ensure rights are upheld.

The procedure aims to determine which migrants should receive an accelerated or normal asylum application process, and which ones should be sent back to their country of origin or transit.

Streamlined vetting  
Asylum-seekers with lower chances of receiving protection status -- defined as those coming from countries whose nationals' asylum applications are, on average, rejected in at least 80 percent of cases -- will be processed faster.

Nationals from countries such as Tunisia, Morocco and Bangladesh figure in that category. Their streamlined applications



would be processed in centres not far from the EU's "external borders" -- meaning mostly land frontiers and ports, but also airports -- so they could be quickly sent back if their request is judged to be unfounded or inadmissible.

This would require using detention centres, though alternative measures can be used, such as confinement in residences.

Up to 30,000 people can be held in the centres at any period, with the EU expecting up to 120,000 migrants annually to pass through them.

Unaccompanied minors believed to pose a security risk and families with children would also be held in them.

Solidarity mechanism  
The new system would reform the EU's so-called Dublin III mechanism under which, generally, the country in which an

irregular migrant first sets foot is responsible for handling their case.

Currently that places stress on Italy, Greece and Malta, which have received the bulk of land and sea arrivals in recent years.

Under the new rules, the Dublin III principle of first-country responsibility would be maintained, but with extra criteria that could shift the asylum-seeker's file to another EU country.

And a mandatory solidarity mechanism would oblige member states to take in a certain number of asylum-seekers arriving in the outer-rim EU countries.

If they choose not to, those other countries could instead provide money or other material or personnel contributions.

At least 30,000 asylum-seekers a year will come under this relocation system. An annual financial compensation of 600

million euros (\$650 million) would be fixed for those preferring to pay instead of host.

Surge response

The package establishes an emergency response in the event of unexpected migration surges -- the same sort of crisis the EU faced in 2015-2016 when more than two million asylum-seekers entered the bloc, many of them from war-torn Syria and Afghanistan.

Asylum requests stood at 1.14 million in 2023, the highest level since 2016.

It would allow member states to reduce protections for asylum-seekers, making it possible to hold them longer than usually permitted in detention centres on the EU's external borders.

EU members also want to address the "instrumentalisation" of migratory flows by outside countries. Belarus and Russia, for example, have been accused of encouraging migrants to try to enter the EU to destabilise the bloc.

'Safe third country'

The concept of a "safe third country" will be allowed when vetting asylum-seekers.

That could mean that an irregular migrant who came to the EU via a country deemed "safe" enough to lodge a request for protection there could have their EU application rejected. But for that to be invoked, a sufficient "link" has to be established between the asylum-seeker and the transit country.



# Ahead of Eid, Kashmir Bakers Association rue decline in sales

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): Amidst the uproar over the escalating bakery prices in Kashmir and consumer complaints of exorbitant rates ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, the Kashmir Bakers Association has shed light on a deeper issue, highlighting a significant decline in bakery sales over the past decade. Shahid Mir, President of the Kashmir Bakers Association, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that they are witnessing a steady decline in bakery sales, notably during festive occasions over the past

decade. Mir attributed this decline to a multitude of factors, including heightened health consciousness among consumers and intensified competition within the market.

“Over the last ten years, bakery sales have experienced a noticeable downturn. Beyond mere competition, people have become increasingly health-conscious, opting for fewer sugary items,” stated Mir. He highlighted changing dietary preferences, influenced by concerns over health and wellness, have led consumers to exercise caution, particularly with prod-

ucts high in sugar or salt content.

Responding to swift depletion of bakery stock from shelves and freezers from bakery shops during Eid festival, Mir clarified that the association's production strategy has been meticulously calculated over the years. “Our bakery production has always been strategic, aligning with the previous sales trends. The apparent scarcity of stock should not be misconstrued as a deliberate act rather, it reflects our measured approach to production,” he asserted. Moreover, Mir highlighted the emergence of a new wave of home-based

bakers, contributing to an expanded landscape of competition, expressing support for the new entrants, and acknowledging their role in diversifying the market.

“We are adapting our approach to bakery manufacturing in light of evolving consumer preferences and the shifting health landscape of the valley,” Mir remarked. He underscored the association's commitment to meeting consumer demands while prioritizing health considerations and also assured of action against any baker associated with their association, found involved in selling the bakery items

beyond the prescribed rates of association.

It is pertinent to mention that in recent years, Kashmir has witnessed a surge in lifestyle-related diseases attributed to the overindulgence in sugary and salty foods. According to the experts, high sugar intake has been linked to a rise in cases of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular ailments among the locals. Similarly, the liberal use of salt in traditional cuisine has contributed to elevated blood pressure levels and a greater incidence of hypertension, further exacerbating the health challenges faced by the community

# Girl dead, three injured in Bandipora road accident

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): A 11-year-old girl lost her life, and three others were injured when a load carrier was involved in an accident near Churtungoo Saderkoot area in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday afternoon.

An official said that the speeding load carrier, named Furqana, overturned at Churtungoo Saderkoot area, resulting in the immediate death of a girl identified as Furqana Daughter of Altaf Ahmad of Ajas, while three others sustained injuries.

He said that the injured people were promptly transported to a nearby hospital, and legal medical procedures are underway for the deceased girl.

Following the incident, a police team swiftly arrived at the scene to initiate an investigation.

# Man injured in bear attack in Baramulla

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): A man was injured after he was attacked by a wild bear in Barnate forest area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday late night. Reports reaching

to Kashmir Scroll said that one person namely Mohammad Yousuf Kumar a resident of Barnate was attacked by a wild bear in forest area of Barnate.

They said the injured has been shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla for treatment.

# Muslim lives matter, whether here or in Palestine: Farooq Abdullah

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): National Conference chief and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday said that muslim governments are silent despite people being killed in Palestine. The NC Chief after offering Eid-ul-Fitr namaz at Hazratbal



shrine in Srinagar while speaking to media persons said that whether it is our country or Pales-

tine, Muslims are facing difficult times

“May Allah have mercy on Muslims. Whether it is our country or Palestine, Muslims are facing difficult times. I regret that Muslim governments are silent despite people being killed in Palestine. May Allah give them some wisdom,” he said.

# Opening of Dispensary at M.A.Stadium, Jammu & Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Secretary of Vansh Sabre Sports foundation Kuldeep Kumar Gupta requested to Sh.Manoj Sinha Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir to open a dispensary and providing the services of one

physician and Nurse at M.A.Stadium, Jammu & Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar. During the practice time in all games approx. 1000 players of all age groups, both boys and girls come to M.A.Stadium in Jammu and Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar.

During the practice

session if any player gets injured their is no option to take first aid and the player has to be shifted to Govt. Hospital for first aid also.

A timely first aid can be a life saver or can save the carrier of a player if immediate first aid is provided to them.

So with this facility of

dispensary if any player gets injured then immediate first aid can be provided to them.

Secretary of Vansh Sabre Sports foundation Kuldeep Kumar Gupta requested to open a dispensary to provide First Aid for players with the ser-

vices of one Physician and one Nurse (Sister) in the morning and evening session from 8 AM to 10 AM and 4 PM to 6.30 PM on daily basis except holidays including Sunday in the premises of M.A.Stadium, Jammu & Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

# Stay vigilant against anti-national elements, uphold communal brotherhood: Kavinder urges Muslim Community

## Extends Warm Eid Greetings to Muslim Brethren

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister today urged the members of Muslim community to maintain unity against anti-national elements to foster communal brotherhood in the union territory.

While exchanging Eid greetings with members of Muslim community, the BJP stalwart said that under the dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a transformative shift towards inclusive governance, ensuring that every community, including Muslims, receives the attention and benefits they rightfully deserve. “The BJP's commitment to the welfare and development of all sections of society, irrespective of their religious or cultural background, has started



resonating deeply with the Muslim community and that is the reason behind this community reposing faith in BJP's leadership”, he said, adding that party's initiatives have not only empowered the community but also provided them with a sense of belonging and security, which was lacking in the past.

The senior BJP leader stated that BJP firmly believes in the principles of equality, justice, and progress for all and it is heartening to see

that Muslims in Union Territory have recognized and embraced these values. He said that BJP leadership wanted to ensure that people should become part of the party's mission to build a peaceful, prosperous, and harmonious society, where every individual can thrive and contribute towards the growth and development of the nation.

Kavinder emphasized that to ensure camaraderie and solidarity, which are prerequisite

for developed India, it is imperative that everyone, irrespective of religious affiliations must unite against elements that pose a threat to the nation's integrity. He underscored the significance of collective efforts to build a harmonious society where every citizen, regardless of religious background, plays a role in preserving the nation's unity and integrity. He stressed on the importance of dispelling misunderstandings and building bridges of trust

to strengthen the fabric of the nation.

Kavinder said by fostering an environment of trust and understanding, the diverse communities within the country can work collaboratively for the nation's progress. He expressed optimism about the power of unity, asserting that collective efforts to denounce anti-national elements would contribute significantly to building a stronger, more resilient India where communal brotherhood prevails.

# Need to strengthen secular fabric of J&K: Rattan Lal

## Extends Eid greetings to members of Muslim brethren

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Provincial President of J&K National Conference, Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, while extending Eid greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, laid stress on strengthening the secular fabric of the Union Territory.

The senior NC leader exchanged pleasantries with Muslim brethren during the Eid celebrations here at Eidgah Road on Tuesday. He anticipated that the auspicious occasion of Eid will usher Jammu and Kashmir in a new era of peace, prosperity and

harmony. “Pray for such festivals to be an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to strengthen the bonds of inclusiveness, share our joys with others and serve humanity”, the Provincial President said.

Gupta was accompanied by several NC leaders including Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lochan Chairman JKNC SC Cell and Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Jammu Central Zone.

Extending Eid greetings, Gupta said “I am confident that the festival of “goodness and humanity” will help in

bringing peace, prosperity, understanding, brotherhood and happiness in Jammu and Kashmir and pave the way for a new dawn where in people irrespective of caste, colour and creed will live together peacefully and participate in each other's festivals.

Describing Jammu as a symbol of communal harmony and secularism, he said all efforts must be made to strengthen the secular fabric of the region, which is pluralistic in nature. “Jammu has all along fought the forces which have been trying to create communal disharmony or promote divisiveness”, he asserted. He appealed to one and all to uphold the traditional values of brotherhood and coexistence and together identify, isolate and defeat those, who are hell-bent upon disturbing peace and harmony in Jammu.



## FROM PAGE 1

# Over 17.67 lakh voters to decide fate of 22 candidates in Jammu Parliamentary Constituency

constituencies.

The segment has 17, 67, 837 voters out of which 9, 15, 010 are male and 8, 52, 796 are female and 18 transgenders. Election administration has set-up 2416 polling stations to felicitate voters. This important constituency is going to elections in the second phase of General Elections to be held on April 26, 2024.

# SC says it does not want to be generous, declines to accept affidavits by

## Ramdev, Balkrishna

Balkrishna have tendered an "unconditional and unqualified apology" before the apex court over advertisements issued by the firm making tall claims about the medicinal efficacy of its products.

In two separate affidavits filed in the court, Ramdev and Balkrishna have tendered an unqualified apology for the "breach of the statement" recorded in the November 21 last year order of the apex court.

In the November 21, 2023 order, the top court had noted that counsel representing Patanjali Ayurved had assured it that "henceforth there shall not be any violation of any law(s), especially relating to advertising or branding of products manufactured and marketed by it and, further, that no casual statements claiming medicinal efficacy or against any system of medicine will be released to the media in any form".

The top court had said Patanjali Ayurved Ltd is "bound down to such assurance".

## BJP Fields Parasnath Rai From Ghazipur Parliamentary Constituency

The BJP had previously replaced Ahluwalia, the party's sitting MP from the Burdwan-Durgapur seat, with former state president Dilip Ghosh as candidate for the constituency. Ghosh was, in turn, moved from his erstwhile winning seat Medinipur to fight for his prospects in Ahluwalia's turf.

Although the BJP had initially announced the name of Bhojpur singer-actor Pawan

Singh as its candidate from Asansol, the seat remained unrepresented by the party till now following Singh's refusal to contest from the constituency. Pawan Singh withdrew from the Lok Sabha race last month after he drew the ire of Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders for allegedly "mocking and targeting" Bengali women in his videos and movies.

## Eid-Ul-Fitr celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extended his greetings to the people on the occasion.

“The auspicious day inspires us to dedicate ourselves to the service of humanity. May the holy festival bring good health, happiness and prosperity in everyone's lives,” he said.

# Waqf Chairperson greets people on Eid-ul-Fitr

satisfactory services encourages us all. Public cooperation is our strength and together we have to go ahead with more zeal and dedication”, said Waqf Board Chairperson.

# Two houses, two bakery shops gutted in an overnight fire mishap in Bandipora

(son of Mohammad Sultan Ganai). The official added that the cause of the fire is currently unknown. However, a case has been registered, and further investigation is underway to determine the cause of the incident.

## Markets rebound in early trade amid ongoing optimistic trend in equities

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 273.65 points to 74,957.35 in early trade

MUMBAI, Apr 10 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices rebounded in early trade on Wednesday amid the ongoing optimistic trend in equities and buying in largecap stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 273.65 points to 74,957.35 in early trade. The NSE Nifty advanced 83.85 points to 22,726.60.

From the Sensex basket, Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank and State Bank of India were the major gainers.

HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, UltraTech Cement, and Wipro were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Shanghai traded lower while Hong Kong quoted in the positive territory. Wall Street ended mostly with gains on Tuesday.

"Positive factors such



as expectations of robust Q4 corporate earnings and a pre-election rally are supporting the market," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.04 per cent to USD 89.46 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 593.20 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

"A significant recent healthy trend in the market is the outperformance of the fundamentally strong large-

caps over the mid and smallcaps. This trend is making the market healthier and, therefore, has the potential to continue," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

The BSE benchmark declined 58.80 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at 74,683.70 on Tuesday.

The benchmark breached the historic 75,000-mark for the first time ever during the day. The NSE Nifty dipped 23.55 points or 0.10 per cent to 22,642.75. It hit the record peak of 22,768.40 during the day.

## Leakage reported in Oil India's well in Assam



TINSUKIA, Apr 10 (Agencies): Oil explorer Oil India Limited reported leakage in the x-mass tree assembly on top of a crude oil well at Dighaltarang Tea Estate in the Tinsukia District of Assam. The x-mass tree on top of a well comprises an assembly of valves that control the flow of oil and gas from the well.

The incident occurred at approximately 11:30 pm on April 9, 2024 and was controlled by 2:20 am.

The District Administration was promptly informed, and officials were present at the site to assess and address the situation, OIL said. As a precautionary measure, the fire service was mobilized and kept on standby.

Upon examination, a hole was discovered on the flow path from the X-mass tree, which is currently under investigation, it said.

The leak resulted in the spread of gas and crude oil over nearby areas within a radius of approximately 100 meters from the wellsite. OIL has formed an on-site assessment team to evaluate the affected areas and initiate remediation measures.

OIL said it is conducting an internal enquiry to thoroughly investigate the incident. The company said the well is now completely controlled and closed, and there is no cause for panic.

Oil India Ltd is a government-controlled oil producer that is primarily active in eastern India.

## Prostate cancer cases to double between 2020 and 2040, deaths to rise by 85 per cent: Lancet study

NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (Agencies): Prostate cancer cases worldwide are projected to more than double and deaths are expected to increase by 85 per cent between 2020 and 2040, with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) likely to bear the "overwhelming brunt" of this spike, according to The Lancet Commission on prostate cancer.

The surge in cases is "inevitable", with actual numbers likely to be much higher because of under-diagnosis and missed opportunities for data collection in LMICs, researchers said.

They said ageing populations and improving life expectancy will lead to more cases of prostate cancer in older men, and given that being 50 years or older is a risk factor, lifestyle changes and public health interventions may not be able to prevent the upcoming surge.

"As more and more men around the world live to middle and old age, there will be an

inevitable rise in the number of prostate cancer cases. We know this surge in cases is coming, so we need to start planning and take action now," said lead author of the commission, Nick James, professor of prostate and bladder cancer research at The Institute of Cancer Research, London.

The commission called for evidence-based interventions, including early detection and diagnosis, along with education and awareness programmes, to help save lives from prostate cancer in the coming years.

"This is especially true for low- and middle-income countries which will bear the overwhelming brunt of future cases," said James.

The authors called for improving the "poor" levels of awareness in LMICs about the dangers and symptoms of metastatic prostate cancer, such as bone pain, among men and their families.

"One of the common pains in prostate cancer

comes from spine metastasis, where the cancer spreads to the spine. While this usually presents in the later stages of the disease, it could even be the presenting symptom. Other pains may be associated with urination or treatment, such as post-surgical or chemotherapy-induced pain," said pain specialist Dr Lakshmi Vas, director of the Ashirvad Institute for Pain Management and Research, Mumbai.

Similarly, there is a low general awareness that treatments available in LMICs can prolong survival and decrease suffering, including cheap, effective ones such as hormone therapy.

Acknowledging the "fear of suffering" that comes with a cancer diagnosis, Vas advocated for consulting with a pain specialist.

"The greatest fear is the suffering associated with cancer and patient education in this regard is very vital. I strongly suggest that right after being diagnosed with prostate cancer, take

## Maruti Suzuki hikes prices of Swift, Grand Vitara

The prices of the Swift have been increased by up to Rs 25,000, while the Grand Vitara Sigma variant will see a price hike of Rs 19,000.

NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (Agencies): In a move that may impact consumers, Maruti Suzuki, India's largest car manufacturer, has announced a significant price hike for its popular models, the Swift and selected variants of the Grand Vitara, effective immediately.

The prices of the Swift have been increased by up to Rs 25,000, while the Grand Vitara Sigma variant will see a price hike of Rs 19,000. This announcement comes just months after the company had raised prices across its model range in January 2024, citing mounting inflationary pressures and increased input costs.

At the time, Maruti had said: "We have been trying to absorb



the increased input costs for a while now, but the current market conditions have compelled us to pass on some of the hikes to our customers. The price increase will be substantial in some models."

The Swift, which has been one of the best-selling cars in the Indian market, is likely to

see a significant impact on its sales due to the price hike. The Grand Vitara, a relatively new entrant in the compact SUV segment, may also face challenges in attracting buyers with the increased prices.

Industry experts believe that the price hike could be a result of various factors, including the

rising costs of raw materials, global supply chain disruptions, and the overall economic slowdown. The Indian automobile industry has been grappling with these issues for some time now, and the latest move by Maruti Suzuki is a reflection of the challenging market conditions.

It is not clear why these models were chosen, but the hatchback segment (Swift) and the compact SUV segment (Grand Vitara) may be facing unique challenges, such as increased competition or changing consumer preferences, which could have influenced the decision to hike prices for these specific models.

## Warburg Pincus buys majority stake in Chennai-based ophthalmic device manufacturer Appasamy

CHENNAI, Apr 10 (Agencies): Appasamy Associates, the largest domestic manufacturer of ophthalmic devices and lenses, Wednesday said the global private equity major Warburg Pincus has picked up stake in the firm.

In a statement, which did not disclose either the value or the percentage of equity being acquired, the firm claimed that this is the

largest investment in the domestic healthcare sector by the PE fund.

A source in the know of the deal details told news agency that the Chennai-based Appasamy, which is the largest domestic manufacturer of ophthalmic equipment and intraocular lenses, has received close to Rs 2,000 crore for the majority stake.

Appasamy is present across the entire value

chain of ophthalmic devices—diagnostic, surgical equipment, and intraocular lenses. Its vertical integration into manufacturing and its strong R&D capabilities allow it to offer products that meet global standards at comparatively affordable prices.

Appasamy will continue to be led by the recently appointed chief executive Senthil Kumar with the support of the

promoter family and in partnership with Warburg.

Arvind Kasthuri, from the promoter family, said, Appasamy, from being just an idea of PSN Appasamy, the founder, has over the past forty years become the market leader in the ophthalmic space.

Narendra Ostwal, the head of private equity at Warburg Pincus India, said, Warburg recogniz-

es the substantial potential within the domestic ophthalmic space and is excited to collaborate for Appasamy's next phase of growth.

Warburg, which has been here since the past 25 years, has investments in the domestic healthcare sector include Meril Life Sciences, MedPlus, Laurus Labs, and Metropolis Healthcare.

## Apple assembles \$14B worth of iPhones in India during FY 2024, comprising 14% of global production

NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (Agencies): In a significant development for India's mobile manufacturing sector, American tech giant Apple reportedly assembled \$14 billion worth of iPhones in India during fiscal 2024. This constitutes 14% of Apple's global iPhone production, meaning 1 in 7 of its devices are now manufactured in India. The move reflects Apple's strategy to diversify its production base away from China due to geopolitical tensions between the US and China.

Last year, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal mentioned

that Apple would start 25% of the total iPhone production in India by 2025. Apple began manufacturing iPhones in India in 2017 and has since scaled up production. Currently, Apple is assembling iPhones ranging from the legacy 12 to its latest iPhone 15 in India, but not the higher-spec Pro and Pro Max models.

In India, the iPhone is manufactured by three contract manufacturers: Foxconn, Pegatron Corp., and Tata Group (formerly Wistron Corp.). According to the report, Foxconn is the biggest manufacturer as it assembles

nearly 67%, while Pegatron Corp. makes about 17% of the India-made iPhones.

The surge in production also means that Apple will increase exports from India. According to the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association, India's mobile phone exports are expected to cross 1.2 trillion at the end of this financial year, led by Apple and Samsung. Now, mobile phones have become India's fifth-largest export as an individual commodity.

Last year, India's conglomerate Tata Group acquired Taiwan's Wistron plant in Karna-

taka. The company is also in talks to take control of another iPhone manufacturing facility owned by Pegatron in the country. Tata plans to hold at least a 65% stake in a joint venture that will operate the Pegatron plant near Chennai.

Tata, one of the largest conglomerates in India, will operate the joint venture through its Tata Electronics unit.

Meanwhile, Apple's market share in India grew from 4.6% in 2022 to 6.4% in 2023, a 38.6% increase. In 2023, Apple opened its first two stores in New Delhi and Mumbai.

## New study discovers link between men with infertility and families' cancer risk

The study found that the families of men with infertility are most susceptible to cancer of the bone and joint, soft tissue, colon and the testis, among others.

NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (Agencies): Families of men diagnosed with infertility could be at a higher risk of certain cancers, including those of colon and testis, according to a new study.

While it is known that men experiencing infertility tend to have more health problems, including cancer, heart and related diseases, and autoimmune conditions, researchers said they wanted to examine if their families were at a higher risk for these conditions.

The team said the results, arrived at through algorithms, could help develop a more personalised approach to assessing cancer risk, thus helping prevent cancer more effectively.

The findings could also prompt further conversations between the families of men having infertility and their doctors, they said.



The study found that the families of men with infertility are most susceptible to cancer of the bone and joint, soft tissue, colon and the testis, among others.

For the study, the researchers used Utah Population Database, containing genetic and public health information. Hosted at Huntsman Cancer Institute in University of Utah, US, the database carries an extensive set of Utah family histories, in which family members are linked to demographic and medical information.

The team looked at parents, siblings, children, along with aunts, uncles and cousins of men diagnosed with

infertility. These patterns were discerned by observing similar multi-cancer risks across families, rather than looking at one cancer type, they said.

"Both cancer and subfertility are complex diseases and processes," Ramsay said. "This method helps create similar family groups, making it easier to uncover the reason behind a family being at high risk for certain diseases over others."

She added that while the link between male infertility and cancer risk is not fully understood, it is important to have these conversations with families and bring the concerns to doctors.

Further research on establishing the link is needed, as understanding the causes could ultimately lead to more personalised courses of treatment, screening and prevention, Ramsay said.

The researchers observed several types of cancers to develop an algorithm, which could group similar cancers by identifying about 13 characteristic patterns.

## IPL 2024: Desperate times for Royal Challengers Bengaluru as they take on equally struggling Mumbai Indians

The RCB are just a rung below MI in points table at the ninth position with MI winning just one out of their four games so far

MUMBAI, Apr 10 (Agencies): Desperate Royal Challengers Bengaluru will be under tremendous pressure to get their act together against an equally struggling Mumbai Indians when the two teams face-off in an Indian Premier League match here on Thursday.

Four losses in five matches have not only vindicated how poor RCB were in the last IPL auction, but they have also missed the opportunity to make it up with better on-field showing.

However, there is nothing much to separate the two teams as RCB are just a rung below MI in the points table at the ninth position with MI winning just one (29-run victory over Delhi Capitals) out of their four games so far.

Virat Kohli's brilliance, notwithstanding, RCB's campaign is under threat of falling apart even before they could register enough wins to have a real shot at the knockout.

With the halfway mark of the ongoing IPL approaching rapidly, it is imperative for RCB's overseas stars, including skipper Faf du Plessis (109 runs), Glenn Maxwell (32) and Cameron Green (68) to find form. Kohli's imperious form -- 316



runs with one century and two fifties at a strike rate of 146.29 -- has been the lone bright spot for RCB.

With the memories of his 50th ODI century in the World Cup semifinal at the Wankhede Stadium just five months ago still fresh, Kohli would be keen to flourish again at the same venue on Thursday.

Any bowling attack would be left searching for answers if one of their part-timers is topping the list of wicket-takers. And in RCB's case, whose bowling looked threadbare even before they hit the ground running, Maxwell's four scalps neither provide any respite nor assur-

ance. But their recent record against MI could boost RCB, who have won four of their last five games. The overall record in 32 matches, however, is tilted in favour of the five-time champions, who enjoy 18 wins against RCB's 14. MI would know present circumstances provide them with a ripe opportunity to build up on their recent success and move further up in the points table after a rough start.

For a side which invariably starts IPL with a few losses, MI know their way around these lanes. A contest against a floundering RCB could bring about their second win on the trot

and some further boost in confidence, before facing defending champions Chennai Super Kings.

But it would be imperative for MI not to get too far ahead, since they also have their share of concerns.

Even though Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan have set the scoring tempo at the top, the middle-order has failed to carry the momentum for which skipper Hardik Pandya is answerable to a large extent.

It remains to be seen if the anger of MI fans against Pandya persists when he takes the field next, as he got some respite in their last game which was attended by thousands of children and not regular supporters. Suryakumar Yadav's return amid a lot of attention ended in a damp squib, but the world's no. 1 T20 batter would be itching to hit the strides and get a big score.

Romario Shepherd's blitz against Anrich Nortje for 32 runs in an over clearly proved to be the difference against DC here, since the visitors managed to go past the 200-run mark despite not looking threatening enough while chasing an imposing 235-run target.

## Sunrisers almost eclipsed

SRH survive late assault, prevail over Punjab Kings by 2 runs in another thriller



MULLANPUR, Apr 10 (Agencies): It was a close call but Sunrisers Hyderabad pulled off a two-run win over Punjab Kings at the Mullanpur stadium.

With 29 runs to defend in the last over, SRH almost handed over the match to the hosts as their fielders dropped three catches and Jaydev Unadkat conceded 27 runs in a nine-ball over that included three wides.

Chasing a 183-run target, Shashank Singh (46 off 25 balls) and Ashutosh Sharma (33 off 15 balls) nearly got their team over the line with an unbeaten 66-run partnership. But with the top-order failing to click, the task proved too big for the duo. Sam Curran

(29) and Sikandar Raza (28) provided some stability in the middle overs.

Earlier, everything was going as planned for the PBKS bowlers until young Nitish Kumar Reddy's brilliantly-paced innings took the game away from the hosts. Despite being three down in the powerplay, Reddy showed tremendous character to play a vital knock of 64 off 37 balls and guide his side to 182/9. The highlight of Reddy's knock came late in the innings as he smashed 22 runs off a Harpreet Brar over.

Left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh (4/29) was the standout bowler for PBKS.

The match got underway on an eventful note as Travis Head (21 off

15 balls) would have been out on the first ball but Punjab did not ask for the DRS and replays showed a clear edge.

Despite getting a lifeline, Head failed to capitalise the chance. It was local boy Arshdeep who lured Head to go over long-on but the miscued shot went high and skipper Shikhar Dhawan ran back from mid-off to take a breath-taking catch. Just two balls later, Aiden Markram walked back to the dugout for a duck after Arshdeep got an edge that was collected by wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma.

Abhishek Sharma, another local boy and big-hitting opener, was expected to do some wonders. He hit Sam Curran for a six and a four but fell on the next ball.

The powerplay yielded only 40 runs as SRH batters played 23 dot balls.

Brief scores: SRH: 182/9 in 20 overs (Reddy 64; Arshdeep 4/29, Harshal 2/30, Curran 2/41); PBKS: 180/6 in 20 overs (Shashank 46\*; Bhuvneshwar 2/32).

## GMs rate young Indians' display as satisfactory

TORONTO, Apr 10 (Agencies): Indian Grandmasters Dibyendu Barua and Pravin Thipsay are quite impressed with how the country's five-member contingent, led by the prodigal R Praggnanandhaa, has performed so far at the prestigious Candidates chess tournament here.

The Candidates has a rest day after four rounds of intensive chess with Ian Nepomniachtchi from Russia leading the standings. India's D Gukesh is joint second on the table with Praggnanandhaa at fourth along with Vidit Gujrathi.

With 10 rounds still to go, Barua feels that Koneru Humpy can still strike back in the women's competition after succumbing to her first defeat at the hands of lowest seed and youngest participant Nurgyul Salimova of Bulgaria.



"Vidit can bounce back and Gukesh can score well. I would not rate Humpy out of equations as yet, she has the acumen and a great will to win, we will know in a few days," said Barua, a three-time national champion and the second Indian chess player after Viswanathan Anand to become a GM.

In the women's section, R Vaishali holds the joint third position. Humpy slipped to joint sixth on 1.5 points.

GM Thipsay said the Indians are in with a

good chance. "Nakamura is not motivated so that leaves the Indian trio plus Nepo and Fabio Caruana," he said.

Praggnanandhaa's long-time trainer RB Ramesh said that it's a good beginning for the 18-year-old. "I think Praggy did exceptionally well coming out with that loss and I also feel bad that he could have done better against Gukesh," he said.

When asked about his absence from Praggnanandhaa's corner, Ramesh said that it was a conscious decision.

## IPL 2024, RR vs GT: Gill, Samson in focus as in-form Royals face struggling Titans

JAIPUR, Apr 10 (Agencies): It's a good time to be a fan of RR at the moment. The Royals look like genuine title contenders and have responded well to challenges this season. They have had people step up for them over the last few games and in the win against RCB, it was captain Sanju Samson and Jos Buttler who nullified a valiant effort from Virat Kohli to hand RR their 4th consecutive win of the campaign. However, the same can't be said about GT.

The Gujarat side, who finished at the top of the table in the last two seasons at the end of the league phase, find themselves in 7th this season as Shubman Gill has struggled to inspire the team as captain. Key players like himself and Rashid Khan are yet to hit their stride while the absence of Mohammed Shami has hit the team hard. Mohit Sharma's form and Sai Sudharsan's resilience have been the hallmarks of an underwhelming campaign so far, but they would want to bounce back



in Jaipur.

The focus will be on both captains, Gill and Samson, who are looking to get into prime form with the T20 World Cup 2024 on the horizon.

RR vs GT: Head-to-Head

The head-to-head record is clearly in favour of Gujarat, who have won 4 out of the 5 games against Rajasthan, including the IPL 2022 final. RR's only win against GT came last season in Ahmedabad, after Samson and Shimron Hetmyer played blinders to deliver the win.

RR vs GT: Team news

There are a few injury concerns in the GT camp, with David Miller and Wriddhiman Saha missing the loss to LSG. Gujarat are hopeful of Miller coming back soon, but the RR game could be a little too early for him. This could pave the way for Matthew Wade to make his bow for the side this year, and he could take up the gloves if Saha continues to be sidelined.

RR currently have no reason to change their winning combination but will be hoping that

Sandeep Sharma will be returning soon. If that's the case, Nandre Burger will be back as the impact player for the side.

RR vs GT: Pitch report

Jaipur has been one of the high-scoring grounds this year, with teams having won by defending targets and while chasing. The evening is also expected to be a bit cooler and assistance for spinners as well.

RR vs GT: Predicted XI

RR Predicted XI: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Jos Buttler, Sanju Samson (capt & wk), Riyan Parag, Shimron Hetmyer, Dhruv Jurel, R Ashwin, Trent Boult, Avesh Khan, Nandre Burger, Yuzvendra Chahal, Impact Player: Shubham Dubey.

GT Predicted XI: Shubman Gill (capt), Sai Sudharsan, Kane Williamson/Matthew Wade, BR Sharath (wk), Vijay Shankar/Abhinav Manohar, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan, Darshan Nalkande, Noor Ahmad, Umesh Yadav, Spencer Johnson.

Impact Player: Mohit Sharma.

## 'Old but gold': For Djokovic and Bopanna, dedication, experience is mantra for success

MONTE CARLO, Apr 10 (Agencies): For Rohan Bopanna, experience counts a lot while unflinching dedication towards the game is paramount for Serbian great Novak Djokovic to be successful on the challenging ATP Tour as the two oldest world number ones in singles and doubles formats engaged in a fun chat at Monte Carlo Masters.

Bopanna, at the age 44, was already oldest player to hold number one rank in the world in the doubles and 36-year-old Djokovic surpassed Roger Federer to become the oldest number one in the latest singles rankings chart.



as they prepared for the prestigious tournament.

"Tennis teaches us so many wonderful things. Experience wins and that is where I have got it," Bopanna told Djokovic in a video posted by ATP.

The Serbian responded by saying it is not just all about experience.

"I would say experience but also still being dedicated and devoted to the game every single day.

"I see him (Bopanna) in the gym for countless hours and also more hours with the physio, bit more than before (laughs) but it is amazing to share the tour with you for so many years.

"What an incredible moment to be oldest number in singles and doubles. It is great for Serbian and Indian tennis," said Djokovic, who has won a record 24 men's major titles.

Djokovic has not

played in India since featuring in the now defunct International Tennis Premier League (ITPL) which was held from 2014 to 2016.

"Hopefully we can do something in India soon, we can play there, have not been to India for many years. It is a huge and amazing country.

"To have tennis at high level of popularity in India is extremely important for our sport and you are contributing to that along with Sania Mirza, (Mahesh) Bhupathi and (Leander) Paes paved the way," he said to Bopanna, who won the Miami Masters title last month.

"We are old but gold," said Djokovic and ended the conversation with a 'Namaste'.

## On This Day: Legendary Rohit Sharma makes his debut for Mumbai in the IPL

NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma's journey with the Mumbai team in the Indian Premier League (IPL) has been nothing short of spectacular. It has been 14 long years since Rohit has been playing for MI in the cash-rich T20 league. Back on April 10, 2011, he made his debut for the 5-time champions during the match against Delhi Daredevils, now Capitals, at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

Back then, Rohit was one of the most promising batters in Indian cricket, but had struggled to find his feet in international cricket. He also missed the bus for the 2011 ODI World Cup that India won after beating Sri Lanka in the final. MI showed faith in him and shelled out Rs 2 million US dollars in



the mega auction. Rohit played 3 years for the now defunct Deccan Chargers before making a move to MI.

As far as his debut for MI was concerned, he had a decent enough outing as MI beat Delhi by 8 wickets. After being sent in to field first, Mumbai bowled Delhi out for 95 in 17.4 overs. Lasith Malinga was the wrecker-in-chief after he finished with figures of

3.4-1-13-5. Harbhajan Singh lent him support by picking up the wickets of Aaron Finch and Umesh Yadav.

Rohit Sharma keeps calm under pressure. MI lost the early wicket of Davy Jacobs, after which Ambati Rayudu also perished cheaply. Rohit came to bat at No.4 and did not show any nerves whatsoever. He built a handy partnership of 68 runs with the

legendary Sachin Tendulkar off 10.4 overs as MI chased down the target with 19 balls to spare. Rohit stayed not out on 27 runs off 30 balls with 3 fours.

Rohit had a decent season with the bat as he scored 372 runs from 14 matches at an average of 33.81 and a strike-rate of 125.25 with 3 half-centuries and a top score of 87 to his name. In 2013, Rohit took over from Ricky Ponting as the skipper of the MI team and the rest is history.

In 202 matches for MI, Rohit has scored 5159 at an average of 29.31 and a strike-rate of 130.44 with a top score of 109 to his name. Hardik Pandya recently replaced him as the MI skipper. As the Mumbai captain, Rohit won 91 out of 163 matches and lost 68. 4 matches ended in ties.

# JMC and doctors of SHD conducts surprise meat inspection

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: On the directions of Commissioner, JMC, Mr. Rahul Yadav, IAS, a joint team of Jammu Municipal Corporation and Doctors deputed by Sheep Husbandry Department viz. Dr. Ramandeep Singh, Dr. Jiwan Lal & Dr. Gishali Khullar along with Municipal Veterinary Officer, Dr. Divya Sharma, conducted various surprise Meat inspection drives on the eve of Eid-ul-fiter 2024 in different areas of Jammu City to ensure the sale of wholesome, good quality meat and meat byproducts to the consumers. The surprise drives were conducted in Talab Tillo, Bohri, Muthi, Bantala, Paloura, Janipur, Ambphal-



la, CPO chowk, Narwal, Gandhi Nagar, Gangyal, Satwari, Talab Khatikan & Shahidi Chowk etc. During the drives, various meat shops, chicken shops & fish mongers were inspected

and about 25 Kg of substandard meat was seized and later on disposed off scientifically. Also a fine to the tune of Rs. 10,000/- was imposed to the meat sellers for selling unstamped, unhygienic & substandard meat. Meat & chicken shop vendors were also instructed to keep separate bins to collect the daily waste generated on account of refused/inedible meat & chicken parts for further proper disposal through JMC vehicles. MVO, JMC, Dr. Divya Sharma also sensitize all the shopkeepers/ Vendors dealing with meat/chicken products to maintain hygienic environment in and around their shops and adhere with the various provisions of Food Safety Act, 2006, Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 and other directions & guidelines issued by the JMC from time to time so that good quality hygienic meat shall reach to the consumers.

# BLSKS celebrates nine days Chaitra Navratra festival



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: To Celebrate the Nine Days Chaitra Navratra Festival 2024 and to promote the traditional folk cultural of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) staged 413th Regular Series Musical Play "MAA SHERANWALI" in collaboration Sangam Tru Art Production and National College of Computer Education at open air theatre Durga Bhawan, Janipur. During the Nine Day Navratra Festival . Devotional programs will be presented like Bajans-Kirtan, one act play including Kanya Pujan on Nav Navratra's. The function was inaugurated after lighting the Traditional Lamp by the Chief Guest Davinder Chadha, Head Pujari, Durga Bhawan Jammu and VK Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India, Dr Tara Singh Charak, Former Deputy Director, Health Department, J&K Government, JK Raina, Freelancer Producer Director and Dr Anju Dogra from Health Department, J&K Government were the Guests of Honor. The programme commenced

with welcome song "Jai Jai Sheranwali", "Maya he Mahiya meri Mahiya", "Tum Durga Tum Laxmi Tum Hi Maa Sheranwali". Speaking on the occasion Chief Guest said Navratra in India is a big religious festivity for nine propitious days. The worshippers adore their mother in beautiful incarnations with incompatible celebrations for nine consecutive days of Navratra and lauded the role of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (NGO) for underlining the importance of staging such plays in all parts of the state in generating awareness among the masses about various social evils through musical play/theatre/drama which are still very powerful medium of communication. "MAA SHERANWALI" musical play written, produced and directed by ML Dogra (Chairman BLSKS) and highlighted the importance of the play, the music was assisted by Raju Bajgal. Welcoming the dignitaries ML Dogra, explained aims and objectives of the programme and said Navratra festival is celebrated twice in a year with great devotion and fervor in all over India. First time it is celebrated as Chaitra Navratra or Vasant Navratra in March-April and second time as Sharad Navratra in the months of September-October. During Chaitra Navratra ninth day is celebrated as Ram Navami while after Sharad Navratra next day is celebrated as Dussehra or Vijaydashami, the victory of good over evil. The devotees worship these nine incarnations of goddess Durga till nine days to get blessing of Maa Durga. One Jagran whole night will also be presents by the renowned artist of Jammu & Kashmir on concluding of the Navratra festival on April 17. MC Kotwal, Gen Secty. (BLSKS) said that Navratra is considered as an important sacred festival in Hindu religion. The singers, musician, actors and students of Music and Computer institute who performed in the musical play were Usha Raina, Mahesh Chander Kotwal, Rajni Gupta, Sudesh manhas, Bindia Okheda, Kuldeep Raj, Sanjeev Kumar Sodhi, and many others presented the enthralling performance. Master Deepak Kumar presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.

# DADAA continues signature campaign demanding Satellite Duggar Channel

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Seeking redressal of long pending demand of Satellite Duggar Channel, Doordarshan Approved Drama Artists Association (DADAA) continued signature campaign at Bakshi Nagar, here on Wednesday. Large numbers of people from different community put their signatures in support of

Satellite Duggar Channel.

The general public appreciated the efforts of DADAA for organizing the Signature campaign and also assured all support in this regard. The President of the Association J.S.Babli said DADAA will continue its struggle till achieve the targate and also appealed all Dogras to join their

hands to get your due share and the next signature campaign will be held at Kachi Chhawani Jammu and requested Jammuites to extend their support for this noble cause. Madan Rangila, Janak Khajuria, Kamal Sharma, Rajinder Narang, Harbans Sharma, S Kumar and J.S. Babli were present at the campaign.

# Shri Matsya Jayanti to be celebrated on April 11: Mahant Rohit Shastri

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Shri Matsya Jayanti is observed on the third day of the Chaitra month's Shukla Paksha. Regarding this, Mahant Rohit Shastri, the President of Shri Kaliakh Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan trust, explained that this year, the third day of the Chaitra month's Shukla Paksha will begin on Wednesday, April 10 at 5:32 PM and will conclude on Thursday, April 11 at 3:02 PM. Due to the Chaitra Shukla Paksha's Suryodaya occurring on Thursday, April 11, Shri Matsya Jayanti will be celebrated on that day. Shri Matsya Puja provides relief from financial constraints, resolves family troubles, and liberates from the fear of death. Offering wheat grains and kneaded flour to fishes brings benefits, especially if there are any doshas or planetary obstacles in one's horoscope. Feeding fishes is considered very auspicious, leading to the accumulation of infinite merits. Lord Vishnu took the first Matsya (fish) incarnation on the third day of the Chaitra Shukla Paksha, elevating the importance of fishes. Besides, it's also an excellent practice for seeking blessings from all deities and planets. Feeding fishes with small balls of flour daily brings immense peace to the mind, promoting happiness and tranquility. On this day,

first, wake up during the Brahma Muhurta (auspicious time before dawn) and take a bath with pure water. Then, clean the prayer room or any sacred place and purify it with Ganga water or cow urine. Place a clean pedestal, fill it with water, and adorn it with seven types of clay, betel nuts, coins, and mango leaves. Underneath the pedestal, sow seven types of grains and barley. On the same pedestal, establish the idols of Ganesh, Lord Vishnu, Matsya (fish) idol, Varuna, Navagraha, Shodasha Matrika, and Sapta Ghruta Matrika. After that, take the vow of fasting and perform the worship of Lord Vishnu and Matsya idol with the Shodashopachara method (16 steps of worship) using Vedic mantras. Offerings include invocation, seating, water for washing the feet, sipping water, bathing, clothing, sacred thread, sandalwood paste, vermilion, Durva grass, bilva leaves, ornaments, flower garlands, fragrant substances, incense, lamps, food offering, fruits, betel leaves, dakshina (offering to the priest), arati, circumambulation, and mantra pushpanjali. Finally, distribute prasad (sanctified food) and conclude the worship. Mantra Chanting: Chant the mantra "Om Matsyaya Manupalakaya Namah" or "Om Matsyarupaya Namah" for one mala (108 times).

# Jalmeria demands District Status to Billawar

## Top News Report

BILLAWAR, Apr 10: Convener of the Billawar Zila Andolan, Hari Chand Jalmeria advocate, conducted four days tour of various areas of Billawar, Ramkote and Lohai Malhar tehils. He visited Macchedi, Kindli, Badnota, Lohai, Baggan, Billawar, Sukral, Dewal, Dungara, Mandli, Gurha, Sialna, Aglidhar, Nagrota, Kasher, Panjirthi and interacted with people. Speaking to the press, Jalmeria expressed anguish over denial of District Status to Billawar and demanded early district status for Billawar. Billawar is situated in the center of the area for District headquarters, emphasized Jalmeria. He condemned the decision of the Govt. to shift Jail from Kathua to Billawar at Dambra where beautiful meadow of two three villages running

into hundreds of Kanals has been destroyed along with hundreds of trees and protest of the local people has been ignored. He asked the Government to give up the anti-people plan of constructing jail at Dambra and instead construct Agriculture University there to boost agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry potential of the area besides saving its healthy environment. He reiterated the demand of construction of Sundrikote Tunnel to connect Billawar area with National Highway at Kathua. Tunnel at Chochru Gala will connect Macchedi-Lohai-Malhar with Basantgarh Sudhmahadev and another Tunnel at Dehri Gala will connect Billawar Katli with Dhaggar Bani. These measures will boost comprehensively the tourism potential of the hilly areas of Bani,

Macchedi, Basantgarh, Chaneni belt. Jalmeria supported the peoples' demand for opening Degree College at Badnota being located in the center of the area. He expressed anguish over the bad condition of Sukral-Macchedi road and Billawar-Katli roads. There was almost no connectivity of BSNL which has halted the pace of socio-economic and intellectual growth in the area. Govt seems strangulating Public Sector BSNL to benefit private sector companies. He demanded improving connectivity of BSNL in the area. Jalmeria opposed the proposal of constructing hydroelectric dam at Panjirthi of Ujah. There is scarcity of water and people of Billawar area will be unnecessarily disturbed and uprooted causing devastating effect on their lives besides on environment.

# Tilak Shan seeks votes for BJP candidates in LS polls

## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 9: Tilak Raj Shan, Shiv Sena President Chenab Valley has appealed the people of the Kathua, Doda, Udhampur constituency to vote for BJP candidate and Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh enmass in the April 19 elections. Addressing the meeting of his party, he urged all the activists of the party to launch a door to door campaign in favour of Dr Jitendra Singh and Narendra Modi's BJP so that he (Modi) becomes the Prime Minister for third consecutive term and fulfil the dream of people of the country to make India one of the developed countries and third economy of the world. Shan said every voter in the Kathua, Doda and Udhampur constituency irrespective of their religion and caste should vote for BJP and ensure the victory of Dr Jitendra Singh for the revo-

lutionary steps taken by him for the development of the constituency. He said the development witnessed by the constituency in last 10 years was not seen over six decades earlier. Shan said Dr Jitendra Singh created a record by getting three medical colleges in his constituency, besides he got engineering colleges, biotech park, seed processing plant, rejuvenation of Devika, reservation for youth living along IB, New National Highway 244 from Khillani to Sudhmahadev touching Goha Kalota, approval resuming work on Shahpur Kandi and constructed many roads, bridges and flyovers in his constituency. Shan said people need to vote for the candidate who will guarantee development and prosperity of the inhabitants of his constituency instead of those who cheated the people through catchy slogans and exploited them for vote politics for decades together.

# NCC Unit of GDC Paloura started campaign against Smoking

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: NCC unit of GDC Paloura started campaign against smoking in the college. The event was the part of National Tobacco Control Programme under which various measures were being taken to control the use of tobacco. The event started with the opening address of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Ashu Vashisht who informed the students that smoking is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths worldwide, and its

important to understand its devastating effects on our health. Smoking not only harms the smoker but also those around them, including their family, friends and co-workers. It not only affects our physical health but also our mental health. The National cadet corps cadets then installed the No Smoking signage boards inside the premises of the college. The programme was conducted by Prof. (Lt.) Arun Sharma under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ashu Vashisht, Principal, GDC Paloura.

# Dimple celebrates Eid with Muslim brothers



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Sunil Dimple, the president of the Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, visited Eidgah Residency Road in Jammu and various Masjids to celebrate Eid with Muslim brothers, expressing wishes for peace, progress, and

prosperity in Jammu Kashmir and India. He emphasized the beauty of communal harmony in J&K and welcomed statements from the Prime Minister and Home Minister regarding the revocation of AFSPA and Article 370. Dimple urged the Home Minister to announce the revocation of AFSPA and the release of innocent youths from Kashmiri jails. He also called for the restoration of J&K's special status, implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions, and inclusion of POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan into J&K. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of implementing the Instrument of Accession conditions signed by Maharaja Hari Singh and prayed for the restoration of J&K's statehood and universal peace.