# TOP NEWS OF J&K

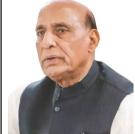
JAMMU, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

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**North Korea's Kim Jong Un Says Now Is Time To Be Ready For War** 



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#### BRIEFLY

#### **Massive fire** breaks out in residential building in **Bandipora**

SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (Agencies): A massive fire broke out in a house in the Zalpora area of Sumbal in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday morning. According to officials, the fire broke out in a double-storey residential building that

Begum. Meanwhile, locals and the fire tenders were trying to control the fire. The upper floor of the

belonged to Fehmeeda

building can be seen completely engulfed in fire, while locals were making efforts to take out valuables from the ground floor.

No injuries or casualties were reported in the fire, and the reason behind it was not confirmed.

#### **SBI** refuses to disclose **Electoral** Bonds' details under **RTI Act**

NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): The State Bank of India (SBI) has refused to disclose under the Right to Information (RTI) Act the details of the electoral bonds furnished to the Election Commission (EC) of India, claiming that it is personal information held in a fiduciary capacity, even though the records are in the public domain on the poll panel's website. Holding that the electoral bonds scheme was "unconstitutional and manifestly arbitrary", the Supreme Court directed the SBI on February 15 to furnish the complete details of the bonds purchased since April 12, 2019 to the EC, which would publish the information on its website by March 13. On March 11, the court dismissed the SBI's petition seeking an extension of the deadline and ordered it to disclose the details of the electoral bonds to the EC by the close of business hours on March 12.

RTI activist Commodore (retired) Lokesh Batra approached the SBI on March 13 seeking the complete data of the electoral bonds in the digital form, as provided to the EC after the Supreme

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# **Profuse misuse of Social Media platforms** matter of concern: Supreme Court

EW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): The Supreme Court has voiced concern over misuse of social media platforms with posting of messages, comments and articles on subjudice matters.

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose (now retired) and Bela Trivedi made the observation while initiating a contempt action against Assam MLA Karim Uddin Barbhuiya for his misleading Facebook post regarding a case

reserved for judgment. "It is a matter of serious



concern that nowadays there has been a profuse misuse of social media platforms on which messages, comments, articles etc. are being posted in respect of matters pending in Court.

"Though our shoulders are broad enough to bear any blame or criticism, the comments or posts published in respect of matters pending in Court, through social media platforms

under guise of right to freedom of speech and expression, which have the tendency of undermining the authority of the Courts or of interfering with the course of justice, deserves serious consideration," the bench said.

The top court said it is very usual for judges to react during the course of arguments being made by lawyers, sometimes in favour of and sometimes against a party to the proceeding. "However, that does

not give any right or Turn to page 9

### **Terrorist** killed in ongoing **Pulwama** gunfight

SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (Agencies): A terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday, police said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Fressipora village in Rajpora area of the south Kashmir district following inputs about the presence of

■Turn to page 9

### **Nominations for Phase** 3 of Lok Sabha polls to begin tomorrow: ECI

NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): The filing of nominations for the third phase of the 2024 general elections will begin on Friday, the Election Commission said.

"Nominations for the third phase of General Elections 2024 will begin tomorrow," the poll commission said on Thursday.

Voting under phase 3 will be held in 94 constituencies in 12 states and Union territories (UT) on May 7. The counting of votes for all polls will done on June 4.

The Lok Sabha elections will take place in seven phases, with voters across the country going to the polls on April 19, April 26, May 7, May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1.

The Gazette notification for 94 parliamentary constituencies (PCs) across 12 states and union territories going for polls in the Lok Sabha 2024 will be issued tomorrow," the statement issued by the ECI said.

Separately, Turn to page 9

### **Security Forces bust let terror** module in Baramulla, 3 arrested



SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (Agencies): Security forces busted a terror module when they arrested three associates of Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) and recovered incriminating material and ammunitions from their possession in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday.

The three individuals were identified as Owais Ahmad Waza and Basit Fayaz Kaloo, both residents of Ganie Hamam Baramulla, and Faheem Ahmad Mir of Mir Sahab Old Town Baramulla, police said.

"The three are

■Turn to page 9

#### LS Polls: NC likely to field Omar Abdullah, Choudhary Ramzan

SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) is likely to field Omar Abdullah and Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan from Srinagar and Baramulla parliamentary segments, respectively.

Quoting sources news agency KNO reported that the party high command has finalized the candidature of Omar Abdullah and Choudhary

Muhammad Ramzan for

these two seats. "The party is likely to

make an announcement in this regard tomorrow," they said.

Omar, who served as CM of Jammu & Kashmir from 2019 to 2014, would be locked in a direct contest with Apni Party's Muhammad Ashraf Mir and PDP's Waheed-Ur-Rehman

In the last assembly election, Omar won

Beerwah assembly segment by a margin of around 1000 votes but lost Sonawar seat to Muhammad Ashraf Mir of PDP, who is now associated with Apni Party.

Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, a former minister, lost the 2014 Assembly election to Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone by a margin of

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## 60% cases admitted to SMHS hospital in 24 hours attributed to road accidents, doctors urge caution while driving

SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (Agencies): Amidist the Eid-ul-Fitr festivities, the valley has witnessed a surge in road accidents, as during the last 24 hours, over 60 per cent of cases admitted to the hospital

were attributed to road acci-

Renowned Doctor, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Saleem, has voiced his concern over the growing number of accidents during festive periods.

According to the news agency, Dr. Saleem stressed upon the importance of safety measures, particularly for the younger populace.

He urged them to prioritize their safety by adhering to traffic regulations and wearing helmets.

Dr. Saleem underscored the significance of responsible driving behavior, especially during celebratory occasions

"A word of advice for my young friends. Idd is a day of celebrations. However, we see an increased number of road traffic accidents during this time. Please wear helmets and drive

winds in a few places. ■Turn to page 9



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

NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K)

**\ +91-9086207123** 

#### light to moderate rain during next 48 Hrs over J&K: **MeT** SRINAGAR, Apr 11

**Widespread** 

(Agencies): Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Thursday predicted widespread light to moderate rain during the next 48 hours over Jammu and Kashmir.

The MeT office said there is a possibility of scattered light rain on April 12 and widespread light to moderate rain on April 13.

On April 13-14, the weather generally remains cloudy, with light to moderate rain or snow (over higher reaches) in many places and thunder, lightning, hailstorms, and gusty

Few plains and higher reaches may receive heavy rain or snow during April 13 and 14, while from April 15-17 there are chances of light rain or snow (over higher reaches) at a few places, the MeT office said.

The erratic weather may cause a temporary disruption of surface transportation over a few higher reaches during April 13-14.

Some low lying areas are likely to get waterlogged due to erratic weather conditions, while there is a possibility of landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones that can disrupt the traffic movement on important highways.

Farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations during the period.

Barring Qazigun and Gulmarg, the nighttime temperature improved in other weather stations in the Kashmir valley. Srinagar had a low of 8.9 degree Celsius recorded during the intervening nights of Wednesday

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TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/

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. Sanjay Sharma & Smt Meena

Sh. Vikas Khajuria & Smt Monika



Devar & Devrani Sh. Radhey Sham & Smt Leela Devi Sh. Vinod Kumar Mobile No: 9419141682, 7006639003, 7006003614

#### **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. SMT. RAJ DULARI PANDIT **GRIEF-STRICKEN** 

Sons & Daughters-in- Law Bal Krishen Pandit and Nalini 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

#### 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/U thala will be performed on 12/04/2024 (Friday at 05.00 PM at Hari Mandir Rehan 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

Savtantrta Khajuria and Rakesh Khajuria Sister and Brother-in-Law Smt Bimla 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 Kumari W/o Sh Ravi Kant Sharma



(RANI JI)

Sh. Parshotam Khajuria

Grand Children Anurag, Ananya, Noorvi, Saanvi. Poorvi Contacts. 8716000089, 9086062541

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA With Profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Shri. Ashok Sapru.

The Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at 8 AM on Saturday, 13th April 2024 at Murad Nagar Ghat, Uttar Pradesh.

The CONDOLENCE meeting will be held at 12 Noon, at our residence - 34 -G, R- Block, 5th Lane, Dilshad Garden, Delhi - 110095.

GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt. Krishna Sapru - Wife

Shri. Abhinav Sapru - Son

Smt. Nimmi & Yoginder Sapru - (Bhabhi & Brother)

Smt. Lucky & Surinder Sapru - (Bhabhi & Brother) Smt. Veena & Vinod Sapru - (Bhabhi & Brother) Smt Kumud & Kiran Langer - (Sister & Jija ji)

Smt. Sunita & Satish Jalali - (Sister & Jija ji) Samast Durani & Sapru Parivaar

Nieces and Nephews - Kapil, Karuna, Komal, Bhoomika, Sakshi, Mudita, Ansh and Vansh Contact Information: 9419186223, 9419007383, 9891451144.

#### 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 Haridwar, Murad Nagar UP on 16th April 2024 at 9

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



SHRL ASHOK SAPRU

Sh Tej Krishan Pandita

Aga Syed Gazanfer Ali

#### MOSVI FAMILY BEREAVED

With profound grief and sorrow we announce the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Aga Syed Gazanfer Ali. The deceased was charisma of compassion, love, humility and tendemess.

Congregational Fatiha Khawani will be held on Friday, 12th of April 2024 at his residential place, Burji Sadaat Bagh i Zainab (S A) Road Arabal Shalimar Srinagar.

BEREAVED:

Aga Syed Fida Hussain

Aga Syed Mohamad Shah, Aga Syed Majid Shah Syed Asif Mosvi, Syed Zaffar Mosvi, Riyaz Hussain Tanvir Ali Munshi, Dr Syed Zammeer Hussain



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.

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

# 10th Day Kriya & Prayer Meeting With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our

SMT. SUDESH KUMARI

Smt. Sumati Jatta

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

### **OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, I would like to inform all my relatives and friends about the sad demise of my beloved wife 'Ratni Dhar' originally from Tulmulla Kashmir Srinagar on 08-04-2024 at 09.31 pm at Pune, Maharashtra.

MOURNING will be held at H.No-34, Lane No-2, Deena Nagar, Barnai,

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed in Pune Maharashtra on 17th April 2024

GRIEF STRICKEN: Husband - Bushan Lal Dhar

Son & Daughter In Law - Puneet Dhar & Esha Dhar Daughter and Son In Law - Supriya Dhar & Rohin Raina Brother - Virinder Nath Dhar & Saiba Dhar

Sisters and Brother In Law -Smt Kishni Raina W/o Late Shri D N Raina Smt Lalita Raina W/o Late Shri Brij Krishan Raina Smt Bimla Bhan W/o Late Shri Sohan Lal Bhan

Smt Babli Bazaz W/o Shri Kuldeep Kumar Bazaz CONTACT NO - 8600246782, 7387221608 AND 6005181973



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. Bansi Lal Pandita

Grand Children Miss. Meenakshi Raina

Mr. Pankaj Raina Sh. Rohit Pandita and Smt. Supriya Miss Ruchi Pandita Mob: 9906169061, 8716021138



RATNI DHAR

Smt Janak Rani

#### BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

੧ੳੇ ਸਤਿ ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ

ਜੇਹਾ ਚੀਰੀ ਨਿਖਿਆ ਤੇਹਾ ਹੁਕਮੂ ਕਮਾਹਿ । ਘਲੇ ਆਵਹਿ ਨਾਨਕਾ ਸਦੇ ਉਠੀ ਜਾਹਿ 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 S. Gurbachan Singh 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

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

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise 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

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Smt. Swaran Kanta & Sh. Govind Ram Gupta - 9419215677

Smt. Sudesh Kumari & Sh. Shiv Kumar - 7298060735 Smt. Bandana & Sh. Jagdish Kumar - 6005193900 Smt. Sweaty & Sh. Rakesh Kumar - 9419158236

Daughters & Sons-In-law Smt. Lalita Devi W/o Sh. Ved Parkash Smt. Nirmal Kumari & Sh. Rattan Chand

Smt. Sudesh Kumari & Sh. Mangat Ram Smt. Vijay Kumari & Sh. Bharat Bushan Smt. Kheama & Sh. Jia Lal

Grand Children Smt. Kanchan & Sh. Atul Gupta Smt. Sumali & Sh. Parkhar Gupta Prathik Mahajan, Shuham, Pratusht, Avykut



(Retired AE PDD)

Smt. Shanti Devi

#### MASVAR/VAHRWAER

ear have passed but the mark my Mother left on this orld will never fade till my last breathe, I pray to Minighty for you every single day and every single light, may Almighty grant eternal peace to "Your Soul" to live happily in his divine paradise, we all are nissing you so very much, with all your teachings and blessings, I am going forward in my life.

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 Anganhari

Perbhat (Kmr) will be performed at our residence B-1118, I

First Floor, Green Field Colony, Faridabad, Haryana-

Karma Yogini Smt Kanta Ji

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY : DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERE Sh Kashi Nath Raina (Husband) Mr Kamai Raina (Son) Mrs Nimi Kalla (Daughter) Mr Vinod Kalla (Son in law) Master Shivam Kalla (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 h Durga Nath Raina & Smt Pushpanjali Raina

SAMAST RAINA PARIVAR obile No. 9810270692, 9818889914, 9953261946, 7838725960

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Smt Poli Devi Wo Late Sh Madan Gopal residence Sector-2, Laxmi Nagar Muthi, near Baba Lalji 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 Sanjay Kumar & Nisha Devi Sh Sham Raj & Suman Devi Sh Sohan Lal & Anu Radha

Sh Pawan Kumar & Anju Bala and ALL SAJGOTRA FAMILY

Contact No : 9149743289, 9596973945, 9149107014, 9906045895

10th Day, Karam Kriya and Pagdi Rasam



(Asha Ji)

Sh. Harbans Lal Gupta

Usha Muku Koul

TENTH DAY

SB OM NAGAR UDIESYWALLA JAMANU, WHO LEFT FOR IEA/VENLY ABODE ON 07 JO 4-2024.

HE TENTH DAY WILL TAKE PLACE ON 16-04-2024 AT THE TENTH DAY WILL TAKE PLACE ON 16-04-2024 AT THE TENTH DAY WILL TAKE PLACE ON 16-04-2024 AT THE TENTH OF THE MOTHER DAIRY, VITASTA ENCLAVE JAJAFOHAR AT 11 AM.

RIURGAON ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT 96-978 BLOCK LAJAFOHAR AT 11 AM.

RIURGE STRICKIE MOTHER DAIRY, VITASTA ENCLAVE LAJAFOHAR AT 11 AM.

MI JAYAKOUL WO LISH BANSI LAL KOUL - 94197178241 WIT KIRAN KOUL WO LISH BANSI LAL KOUL - 9419778241 WIT KIRAN KOUL

WO SH MAHARAJ KRISHAN KOUL - 7700070159

MIT BAJNI KOUL WO SH SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER IN THE SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456750 WITER AB BROTHER AB BROTHER

MT RAJNI KOUL WO SH SHADI LAL KOUL - 9796456759
ISTER & BROTHERIN-LAW
MANOJ PANDITA - 9312414065
MIT LOVJELY PANDITA WO SH MANOJ PANDITA - 9312414065
MIT PHOOLA KOUL WO SH JAGAR NATH KOUL - 9798225583
MIT BASANTI RAINA WO SH PUSHKAR NATH RAINA - 9906274
MIT BASANTI RAINA WO SH PUSHKAR NATH RAINA - 9906274
MICHTER SONNIN-LAW
MICS VEENA KOUL - BR SANJAY KOUL - 9873926136
ON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
MIC VINOD KOUL & MRS SONEY KOUL - 7982886691

10TH DAY, KRIYA, UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sac demise of our beloved Sh. Harbans Laf Gupta, S/o LtShri Badri Nath Kailoo, R/o Main Bazar Kandol Nagrota, Jammu on 2nd April 2024. TENTH DAY will be held at Salya Narayan Mandr, Nagrota on 11th April 2024 (Thursday) at 10.00 A.M. RIYA: On 14th April 2024 (Sunday) at our resi

dence.
UTHALA: On 15th April 2024 (Monday) at Satya
Narayan Mandir, Nagrota at 3:00 P.M.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sml. Aris Gupta (Wife)
SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW
Lines by Mitteds Cluste.

BROTHER & SON IN LAW
BROTHERS & SISTERS IN LAW
Dr. Romesh & Smt. Chanderkala Gupta
Sh. Bhushan & Smt. Ranjana Gupta
Sh. Jugal & Smt. Renu Gupta
SISTERS & BROTHERS IN LAW Smt. Shubh Laxmi & Lt.Sh Yash Pal Gupta Smt. Vijay Laxmi & Sh. Yash Pal Gupta Smt. Tripta & Lt. Sh Safsh Kumar Gupta Contact: 9070036313, 7006625653, 9796607295

#### 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 esidence.

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, Bhat's, Raina's, and Fotedar's

Contact No 7006980233, 9419270977, 7006310740

### 10TH DAY/KRIYA /ith profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demi four beloved **Shri Raj Kumar** S/o Late Sh. Ram Ditta R amian Talab, Shakti Nagar, Dhar Road, Udhampur, w

off for heavenly abode on 31/03/24. 10th Day will be performed at Jagriti Old Age Home, Net Post Office, Udhampur at 11:30 am on 09/04/2024. Kriya will be performed at Devika Ghat on 12/04/202 riday) at 11:00 AM. mt. Sarita Devi (Wife

fr. Karan Gupta (Son) Daughters & Sons-in-law) Mrs. Diksha & Mr. Sahil Mahajan frs. Harshita & Mr. Aayush Sharma mt Anita & Sh. Naresh Gupta (Sister-in-Law & Brother) mt Salya & Sh. Balbir Gupta (Sister-in-Law & Brother) mt Ujala & Sh. Ajay Gupta (Sister-in-Law & Brother)



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sac demise of our beloved father Sh Sher Singh (Retd Principal) S/o Late Sh Bhagu Ram who left for nly abode on 02/04/2024. 10th Day Kriya shall be performed on 11/04/2024

Rasam Pagri shall be performed on 14/04/2024 Sunday) at our residence Kalibari (Kathua). Grief Stricken Sons and Daughter in law

Hardev Singh & Smt Neetu Panotra (Bougal) /irinder Singh Daughters and Sons in law Subhash & Kamal Suman & Suresh Jyoti & Yash



Sh. Rajinder Singh

Manhas (Kaku)

SHRI RAJ KUMAR

Arpna & All Bougal Family No. 9858287989, 7006291325

10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ KARAM With profound grief and sadness, We nformed the unexpected demise of our peloved father Sh. Rajinder Singh Manhas (Kaku) on 31st March 2024. 10TH DAY will be performed on Tuesday 9th April 2024 from 11am onwards at ou

esidence Bhalwal. KRIYA/KARAM will be performed or riday 12th April 2024 at our residence

Deeply Missed and Remembered by: Smt Ishwari Manhas (Wife)

Son & Daughter in Iaw Bharti and Narinder Singh Manhas Son & Daughter in law Sheetal and Abhishek Manhas

(17.3.1951 - 31.3.2024) 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

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# 197th Birthday of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule celebrated

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: All India Backward Classes Federation (AIBCF), Jammu Celebrated 197th Birthday of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, First person who raised voice for social reforms and Women education, in the Chairmanship of Ayodhya Kumar Manawa.

The program was organised at Prajapati Sabha Hall here in which Hans Raj Jangid (National working President of AIBCF) from New Delhi was Chief guest and Surender Prajapati (Senior executive of UP unit) was Guest of Honour. Large number of people, including women and children participated in the event.

In his opening remarks F.C Satia, President of AIBCF deliberated that Jyotirao Govindrao Phule was born in Maharashtra's Satara district in 1827. In 1848 an incident happened that motivated Jyotiba to fight against the social injustice of caste discrimination. Jyotirao was to accompanying a Barat of his Brahmin friend.

When family learned about Jyotiba's roots, they humiliated and tortured him at the wedding. Mahatma Jyotirao



fled the ceremony and determined to oppose the existing caste system. In the same time Jyotirao found Thomas Paine's well-known book, "The Rights of Man" and read it again and again. He was highly motivated by Thoms Paine's book. He thought that the only way to tackle social ills was to educate women and members of lower castes.

Chief Guest, Hans Raj Jangid told that Savitribai Phule, Jyotiba's wife, backed his efforts to guarantee women and girls the right to an education. Savitribai, one of the few literate women of her day, learned to read and write from her husband Jyotirao. Jyotiba

founded a ladies' school in 1851 and invited his wife to instruct the students there. Later, he established two additional schools for girls as well as an indigenous school for people from lower castes. Female infanticide and child marriage were both common occurrences. Jyotiba, who was distressed by their situation, founded an orphanage in 1854 to protect these poor children from dying at the brutal hands of society.

Ayodhya Kumar Manawa in his speech told that traditional Brahmins were criticised by Mahatma Jyotirao and labelled as "hypocrites. "He ran an anti-authorlist of OBCs for removal of "Rural Tag"; Induction of OBC member in State OBC Commission; Removal of General Castes from OBC list of J&K UT; Announcement of 27% reservation in Panchyats & ULBs and 8% reservation to OBCs J&K is unacceptable.

On this occasion

Joginder Angotra from Shree Vishwakarma Library New Plot, Jammu distributed Note Books and pamphlets on the life history of Mahatama Phule to the children who participated in the function. Organisers team included Raj Chalotra, Manga Ram Parjapati, Vijay Kumar Prajapati, Ravinder Satti, Kewal Fotra, Mehar Singh Labana and Balwant Kataria. Prominent among others who attended the program include Bansi Lal Choudhary (Convener OBC Mahasabha), Sham Lal Bassan (Corporater, Bahu Fort), Madan Lal Baldotra; Ajeet Singh Sangotra; Sunita Bangotra (Savitribai Modern Public School Bari Brahmana), RD Thapa (President Ambedkar Sangthan) from Bishnah; Mohd Shabir Sambyal (Dhobi Welfare Committee); Rajinder Sikka (J&K Sain Samaaj) and others.

# Abstain from voting in parliamentary elections to protest against neglect: Manhas asks Rajput community

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: Yashpal Singh Manhas, Chairman of the All India Rajput Ekta Manch, is urging Rajput brothers and sisters to remember the sacrifices made by the Rajput community throughout history in defending the country's culture.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Manhas highlighted the neglect faced by Rajputs by successive governments, leaving many living below the poverty line without financial assistance or



reservation benefits. Manhas called for political parties to address the plight of Rajputs and is urging Rajput families to abstain from voting in the upcoming parliamentary elections to protest against this

# Rekha anticipates that a sizable throng would attend PM Modi's rally



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: Under PM Narendra Modi's leadership, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has accomplished a significant milestone, and the "lotus" is blossoming in the next Lok Sabha elections, as stated by BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are eagerly awaiting the Prime Minister's historical rally in Udhampur at Modi Ground Battal Ballian in J&K, she said. The meeting was chaired by Rekha Mahajan in RS Pura Miran Sahib Mandal of District Jammu South in the esteem presence of Vice President and Former Minister Shamlal Choudhary, DCC Prof Garu Ram Bhagat, Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, Former Municipal Committe Chairman and Councillor Sat Pal Pappi, including General Secretary Akash Chopra, and Mandal President Bikram

During the interactive session with the media persons, Rekha Mahajan emphasized the need to visit the Union territory to witness firsthand the "sweeping positive changes happening on the ground." Referring to

his visit to Srinagar last month, Rekha Mahajan said, For the first time, people have a new hope in their lives. She asserted that the process of development, good governance, and empowerment of the people is to be seen to be believed. She noted that people are reaping the peace dividend, and she expressed that more than 21 million tourists visited J&K last year. Rekha Mahajan said that the abrogation of Article 370 resulted in 'a new dawn' for women of J&K, who now have the same rights as their male counterparts in terms of inheriting property or transferring property to their children, regardless of their marital status or residency. She highlights that the common masses of all domains of society believe in the ideology of the BJP and the vibrant leadership of PM Modi.

Rekha clarified that for decades, for political gains, Congress and its allies misled people in the name of 370. But today, there are equal rights and opportunities for all. The people know the truth; they were misled. She added that PM Modi's rally in Udhampur to interact directly with the people of the Jammu region sym-

bolized a departure from the conventional political approach, emphasizing a more grassroots connection with the populace.

Sham Lal Choudhary spoke passionately about the developmental initiatives undertaken by the central government aimed at fostering growth and prosperity in the region. He emphasized that the Modi-led government efforts were not merely focused on infrastructural development but also on holistic growth, encompassing education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for the youth of

Gharu Ram Bhagat elaborates that in the last ten years of successful governance, Modi Sarkaar has proven how the country develops and is run effectively. By engaging directly with the people, he sought to bridge the gap between the central government and the residents of the region, fostering a sense of trust and confidence in the administration's inten-

Ayodhya Gupta and Satpal Pappi also spoke on the occasion and were enlightened about the numerous projects laid down by the central government in J&K.

# JU introduces QR Code System for Dhanvantri Library Access

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: Today in a momentous occasion, Prof Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu unveiled a pioneering QR Code System tailored for accessing the extensive database housed within the prestigious Dhanvantri Library. This innovation marks a significant milestone in the University's commitment to providing seamless and efficient services to its students, scholars and faculty members.

Rai, Prof Umesh renowned for his unwavering commitment to advancing academic resources and fostering learning opportunities, expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative. He emphasized that the introduction of QR Code access represents a notable stride towards democratizing knowledge accessibility. This innovation empowers individuals



from diverse backgrounds to conveniently and efficiently engage with scholarly resources. Furthermore, he underscored the Dhanvantri Library's reputation for its vast collection of literature and research materials, which is further enhanced by the convenience and accessibility offered through this initiative. With a simple QR Code scan, all the stakeholders and researchers gain instant access to the wealth of knowledge stored within the Library's archives.

"We are delighted to introduce this new feature to our patrons," said Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi, I/C Librarian, Dhanvantri

Library. "The integration of QR Code perfectly aligns with our mission to embrace innovative technologies that streamline information access and uphold academic excellence."

Those present during the occasion included Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof. Sangeeta Gupta Dean Social Sciences; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Special Secretary to the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ginny Dogra, I/C Director of DIQA, Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi, Ms. Mansi Mantoo, Media Officer and Dr. Kusam Sharma.

### Need to pay special attention to govt schools to raise level of education: Dr. Preeti Bhagat

**Top News Report** 

itarian campaign and

exhorted the "peasants"

and "proletariat" to resist

the limitations placed

on them. He welcomed

guests of different back-

grounds and castes

into his home. Between

1876 and 1883, he was

the Poona Municipal-

ity's Commissioner. After

having paralysis in 1888,

Jyotiba died on 26-11-

1890. Jyotiba Phule

wrote many books, one of

them "Gulamgiri" is most

read. Balwant Kataria,

conducted the proceed-

ings of the event. Other

speakers focussed on

the following local issues

related to weaker sec-

tions of society: Resto-

ration of OBC Scholar-

ship; Updation of Central

JAMMU, Apr 11: Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat has said that serious efforts need to be made to raise the falling level of education in Jammu and Kashmir. Today, the attendance of children in government schools is decreasing drastically. Even the poorest of the poor want to sacrifice their lives and send their children to private schools.

The biggest reason for this is that till date the government has not paid attention to the plight of schools. Neither rooms were made there nor all facilities were provided to the staff. Teachers of government schools are highly educated and leave no stone unturned

in providing quality education to the children as per their capacity, but when they do not have the resources then what education will they be able to give to the chil-

Since independence, big claims have been made regarding changes in education in the country but its impact is not visible at the ground level, due to which today the situation has become such that there are dozens of schools in rural areas which are running in dilapidated buildings.

The claims of developing India and making it a strong nation will not be fulfilled by empty statements, for this there will have to be reforms in the field of education.

# 'Rubroo' Interaction and Release of R S Rajan's Short Stories Collection at JU



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: The Department of Punjabi, University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu Kashmir Punjabi Sahit Sabha, Srinagar, organized 'Rubroo,' an interaction meet with acclaimed author R. S. Rajan. During the event, a collection of Punjabi short stories of R. S. Rajan titled 'Parchawain Nhi Marde' was also released.

tava, Director DD&OE University of Jammu, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while S. Ajit Singh Mastana, Former President Jammu Kashmir Punjabi Sahit Sabha, Jammu, & a renowned Poet, presided over the function. The presidium also included Prof. Sucheta Pathania, HoD Punjabi, R.S. Rajan, S. Mangat Singh Jugnu, President JKPSS, Srinagar, and Sh. Kanwal

Prof. Pankaj K. Srivas-

Kashmiri, a Prominent Punjabi Writer of the First Generation of Modern Punjabi Literature.

The event was attended by a large number of intellectuals, writers, faculty members, and scholars from the department.

While delivering the formal welcome address, Prof. Sucheta Pathania, HoD Punjabi commended the writers for enriching the cultural tapestry of the region's literature. Ph.D. scholars Charan-

jeet Singh and Harpreet Kour presented papers on the released book, shedding light on various aspects of the included stories. Mr. Rajinder Singh Rajan shared insights into his literary journey and creative process, engaging with the audience, faculty members and research scholars.

ars.
In his presidential address, S. Ajit Singh Mastana lauded the role of the Punjabi

Department, University of Jammu in fostering Punjabi literary activities and acknowledged R. S. Rajan's contribution to Punjabi fiction and regional cultural promotion. Prof. Pankaj Kumar Srivastava praised the department's vibrant conduct of Punjabi literary activities and congratulated R. S. Rajan for his work in portraying the social life and challenges faced in the valley through 'Parchawain Nhi Marde.

President JKPSS, Srinagar S. Mangat Singh Jugnu, Baljeet Singh Raina, and Kanwal Kashmiri also shared their perspectives, commending the department for promoting research work among local and state intellectuals, writers, and contributors.

The department also felicitated prominent personalities during the event. Dr. Harpreet Kour and Dr. Pritam Singh conducted the proceedings and delivered the vote of thanks, respectively.

# Home Minister's AFSPA revocation statement develops hope for peaceful, joyous era in J&K: Muzaffar Baig

SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (Agencies): Former Deputy Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig Thursday said that Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks over AFSPA revocation has inculcated hope for peaceful and joyous era in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement to KNS here, Baig said "that momentous changes have taken place in the Union and State relationship. We have had a comfortable relationship with the Union of India for a respectful span of time. There were occasional hiccups but the spirit of good-will endured".

He said, "We had a long historical back age

from the militancy era that inevitably resulted in resort to AFSPA. Hon'ble Home Minister has had graciously announces that such a law would not be required in due course. That will be the occasion of our mutual rejoices. The hitherto psychological wall will become a stepping stone of mutual trust and abiding bond. I hope all responsible political parties will think it fit to endorse this humble

Baig added that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are eagerly and genuinely hoping that a joyous and peaceful era is going to be heralded with deliberate speed. "Further confidence building measures, like restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir and release of prisoners, especially women and youth will be taken as early as feasible", he added

### NORTHERN RAILWAY Sub:- Procurement of Telescopic Boom Crane

Tender No. 15235293 for procurement of 08 Nos. of Telescopic Boom Crane has been published by this office. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled on dated 08.05.2024 in PCMM Conference Room, Stores Branch, Baroda House from 15:00 hrs onwords & tender is due to open on dated 08.07.2024. Please make it convenient to attend the pre-bid meeting. No. 15235293/Telescopic Boom Crane Dt. 09.04.2024 1078/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# **EDITORIAL**

# **Education- key to personal growth**

ducation is the key to personal growth and societal progress. It empowers individuals with knowledge, critical thinking skills, and opportunities, enabling them to fulfill their potential and contribute positively to their communities. Education is the foundation upon which a brighter and more equitable future is built. However, the cost of education can often be a significant barrier to accessing knowledge and opportunities.

Free education is essential as it breaks down financial barriers, ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills. It empowers individuals, promotes social equality, and contributes to a more educated and prosperous society, ultimately fostering progress and innovation. In this article, we'll explore the idea that education should be free and provide sample essays of varying lengths to support this argument.

Furthermore, free education has economic benefits. A well-educated workforce is more likely to contribute to a nation's economic growth. It leads to a higher-skilled labor market, innovation, and increased productivity, all of which are vital for a nation's competitiveness on the global stage.

In conclusion, the idea of free education is not just an idealistic notion but a practical and necessary step for societal progress. It promotes equality, empowers individuals, and strengthens economies, making it a worthwhile investment for any nation.

Education is the key to personal and societal advancement. It has the power to transform lives, break the cycle of poverty, and pave the way for a more equitable and prosperous society. However, the cost of education has become a significant barrier for many, limiting access to knowledge and opportunities. In this essay, we will make a compelling case for why education should be free, discussing the benefits it brings to individuals and society at large.

One of the most compelling arguments in favor of free education is its role in promoting equality of opportunity. Education should not be a privilege reserved for those who can afford it; it should be a universal right. When education is free, it ensures that individuals from all socio-economic backgrounds have the same access to quality learning. This levels the playing field, allowing talent and determination to be the primary factors in achieving success. It ensures that no one is left behind simply because of their financial circumstances.

Education is not just about acquiring knowledge; it is also about fostering critical thinking and civic engagement. Educated individuals are more likely to participate in civic activities, vote in elections, and make informed decisions. They have the tools to analyze complex issues, advocate for positive change, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Education also plays a pivotal role in addressing societal challenges. It equips individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle pressing issues such as climate change, health-care disparities, and social inequality. By investing in education, we empower a new generation to be the problem solvers and change-makers of tomorrow

# India-Sri Lanka tussle: Let sleeping islands lie

By: Padma Rao Sundarji

he silly season is on in full swing. From bawdy to banal, political parties are taking potshots in all directions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems set for an unprecedented third term. The undoubtedly startling speed of arrests by notoriously tardy government agencies in recent months did galvanise the Opposition INDIA bloc into full throttle on March 31, Easter Sunday. But even if the alliance manages to wrest a few seats from the BJP, there is little doubt that Mr Modi and his A-Team, including external affairs minister S. Jaishankar, will return.

Demonetisation, Article 370, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) -- there is heated debate over many aspects of Mr Modi's decade-long premiership. But the exception must be foreign policy. There can be no doubt that both around the world and in the immediate neighbourhood, India has gone places.

So where was the need for Mr Modi to dredge up a non-issue pertaining to Sri Lanka, merely to lash out at an already ailing Congress? And risk decimating the bilateral goodwill that Mr Modi has himself created, after decades of the most legendary bilateral cock-ups in Sri Lanka, primarily by the very same Congress?

In the late 1970 and early 1980s, India armed and trained the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as "Tamil freedom fighters" struggling for rights in Sinhala/Buddhist-dominated Sri Lanka. LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran was a frequent state guest at the government-run Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi. When the civil war erupted in Sri Lanka, India sent troops against the LTTE, ostensibly to "maintain peace". It had disastrous consequences. In 1991, former

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of the Congress was assassinated in Tamil Nadu by an LTTE suicide bomber. The Tigers were now a full-blown terror outfit and were proscribed by many countries, including India. But even after Rajiv Gandhi's brutal murder, Congress-led coalitions succumbed to pressure from their Tamil Nadu partners and offered no help to Colombo. In 2009 and with ample military aid from China and Pakistan, Sri Lanka's armed forces defeated the LTTE. In 2013, the armtwisting continued. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declined to attend even a Commonwealth summit, only because it was being held in Colombo.

A year later, Mr Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister.

In January 2015 and in response to an RTI query, Mr Modi's government reaffirmed that Katchatheevu island was a part of Sri Lanka. In March 2015, Mr Modi arrived in Sri Lanka with a superbly-crafted itinerary. It was the first visit by an Indian PM since 1998, and came at a time when Western outrage over alleged human rights violations by the Sri Lankan Army upon Tamil civilians was at its peak. Mr Modi landed when controversial former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa -- seen as the villainous architect of that alleged Tamil massacre -- was riding a populist wave, especially among Sri Lanka's Sinhala-Buddhist majority. He arrived at a time when India-Sri Lanka relations were at an all-time low.

For the first time in the history of India-Sri Lanka relations, an Indian Prime Minister paid homage to, and acknowledged, Sri Lanka's Sinhala Buddhist majority. Mr. Modi underlined the Buddhist link between India and Sri Lanka and met with the Buddhist clergy, before proceeding

to inaugurate several development projects in Tamil-Hindu Jaffna.

Whether it enraged the woke elements or not, there is no denying that Mr Modi's 2015 visit -- and several subsequent ones -- were the turning point in India-Sri Lanka ties and generated enormous goodwill in Sri Lanka.

Colombo is grateful for the \$4 billion assistance extended by India to help tide over its recent economic crisis, and has been trying its best to protect India's strategic interests in the Indian Ocean, in the face of an increasingly aggressive China. But there is no denying that China's stranglehold over its Belt and Road-Initiative (BRI) partner has also increased exponentially.

Mr Modi's latest charge, that the Congress Party had "given away" Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka several decades ago, was reckless.

Though the misfired pre-election jibe is hardly likely to destroy the bilateral relations he himself built up with Sri Lanka, there is, indeed, a real issue. But it lies elsewhere and is begging for India's urgent attention.

Indian "bottom trawlers" relentlessly poach in, and "outfish" in Sri Lankan waters. Bottom trawling involves scraping the bottom of the ocean with nets. The practice damages marine ecology and depletes fishing grounds of fish and corals. It is banned in most countries, including Sri Lanka, but not so in India.

"It's not about the size of Katchatheevu or the number of coconut trees on it," said the convenor of Sri Lanka's National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NFSM), Herman Kumara, over the phone from Colombo, pointing out that the waters near the uninhabited, 1.6-km-long island are not particularly fish-rich anyway. "There was a clear exchange of fishing grounds in

the 1970s. India got Wadge Bank, we got Katchatheevu -- perhaps because there were fewer fishermen, more primitive technology, less pressure on resources those days. Whatever it was, it's our land, and there's no going back now."

Mr Kumara, who is also the general secretary of the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP), says that Indian fishermen have powerful political support in Tamil Nadu, and poach undauntedly between the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Mannar. "Between 500-600 fishermen routinely cross the international maritime boundary into Sri Lanka every day, leaving hardly any catch for our locals," he says.

The arrests of Indian fishermen, even inadvertent strayers, by a trigger-happy Sri Lankan Navy are played up in the Indian media. But Mr Kumara says these are "token arrests" as Colombo invariably orders the Navy to release them. "Sri Lanka is bound, after all, to respect its Big Brother", he says.

Mr Modi will almost certainly be re-elected. To deepen relations with both Tamil and Sinhala Sri Lanka, he must revive a joint working group on fisheries that has been defunct since 2016. He must ensure Indian fishermen respect Sri Lankan sovereignty. Bottom trawling must be banned in India too, not "restricted" and ignored. Protecting the fragile ecology of the Palk Straits will also protect the livelihoods of Tamil Sri Lankan fishermen, battered by three decades of the bloody civil war.

It is best for India to let sleeping islands lie. Otherwise, there's another player only too eager to pour (snake) oil over the Palk Strait's troubled waters: the People's Republic of China.

# Kimchi for health and glowing skin

By: Shahnaz Husain

ove spicy food? Want a healthier gut? Are you tempted?

There's nothing like indulging in a meal that tastes sour, salty, and zingy and is full of numerous beauty benefits, right?

Fermented food Kimchi is full of the good bacteria responsible for keeping things running smoothly in our gut and has gained a well-deserved reputation for making your outer appearance appear excellent as well.

Kimchi is a salted, fermented vegetable dish that's a staple in Korean cuisine. It was invented thousands of years ago as a way to preserve vegetables.

With attention focused firmly on inner health in 2024, Kimchi make your inner beauty shine through 'glass skin' -- clear, acne-free, smooth, and hydrated.

The spicy kick dish is made by napa cabbage, carrots, radish and other ingredients from cucumber to pumpkin which are left at room temperature from a few days to a few weeks to ferment in salted brine with seasonings such as sugar, salt, onions, garlic, ginger, and chilli peppers. However, other foods can also be used to make kimchi, such as celery, beetroot, bamboo shoots, eggplant, broccoli, and even apples!

Kimchi, especially when fermented for a long time, has the most significant anti-aging prevention effect. Alongside its natural probiotic effect, it boasts a high activity of lactic acid and zymogens.

The fermentation process involved in making kimchi produces bioactive compounds such as flavonoids and phenolic acids, which have anti-inflammatory properties. It can treat skin conditions like acne, rosacea, and premature ageing. Kimchi has plenty of antioxi-

dants to fight free radicals and prevent the oxidative damage they cause. In other words: it keeps those premature wrinkles away from your face for way longer.

The selenium found in garlic in kimchi keeps your skin and hair healthy, and eating kimchi helps you prevent wrinkles in the long run.

Kimchi contains various antioxidants, including vitamins A and C, which are essential for skin health. Antioxidants help protect the skin from damage caused by free radicals, environmental stressors, and UV radiation. kimchi contributes to a more radiant and youthfullooking complexion

"Kimchi has a high quantity of 'good' bacteria which occurs as a result of the fermentation process that it undergoes." The good bacteria help your microbiome to thrive. Kimchi contains of vitamins including vitamins A and C, 10 different minerals, and amino acids.

To start, fresh vegetables such as Chinese cabbage and other fresh vegetables like carrots, radish, and onions are chopped to a large bowl with salt and tossed to distribute the salt evenly in the cabbage. Stirring

it every half hour to ensure that the cabbage has wilted down completely. When the salt has completely dissolved after few hours then they're rinsed and drained to remove the extra water. Spread other ingredients like ginger, garlic, sugar, salt, rice flour, chilli oil, chilli powder or pepper flakes, fish sauce in between the layers of cabbage leaves and let it sit for 2-3 hours. Use a ratio of 1/2 cup (72 grams) of salt to every (2.7 kg) of cabbage. Pack the mixture into a large sterile container or sealed jar for storage. Close the lid and let ferment at room temperature for a few days depending on how deep you want the flavours to be. Make sure you let the jar breathe regularly by unscrewing the lid to let accumulated air escape and then closing it up again. Once you see bubbles beginning to form (usually after 3 days), store them in the fridge so they can continue to ferment for another 2 weeks or so where they'll develop the deep, complex flavours kimchi is known for. Don't forget to occasionally unscrew the lid to let the air out!

The probiotics in kimchi are "beneficial for immune function because the majority of immune function takes place in the gut,

kimchi can also do your heart good by upping the levels of antioxidants especially vita-

in your body, thanks to ingredients like ginger and hot red peppers. Antioxidants help stabilize damaged cells that can accelerate the disease process, so having a high antioxidant status can protect you from chronic conditions, like heart disease.

The anti-inflammatory properties of vitamin C-rich foods may help decrease the risk of heart disease.

Kimchi is full of healthy bacteria like probiotics which may improve heart health by reducing cholesterol and inflammation. The fibre, antioxidants, and nutrients in kimchi can also help lower blood sugar and cholesterol levels, which can boost heart health

Eating kimchi every day may help people tackle a bulging waistline. The "good" bacteria in kimchi can have an effect on weight.

Kimchi is high in sodium, with about 500 milligrams per cup. That's more than 20% of all the sodium that you're supposed to get in a day. Too much sodium can raise your risk of high blood pressure. If kimchi isn't prepared or stored properly, it can cause food poisoning.

Kimchi can be eaten on its own, as a side dish, or as an ingredient in other foods. Its spicy, tangy flavour is an excellent complement to savoury foods, and it's often paired with rice dishes to add contrast to a meal.

kimchi can go bad if it isn't kept at a cool, stable temperature, it can grow harmful bacteria or mould. Don't eat any soft, slimy kimchi; toss it out.

# 30 lakh people in India suffer from cancer, 14 lakh new cases: Dr Jatin Sarin

**Top News Report** 

CHANDIGARH/ JAMMU, Apr 11: Around 30 lakh people in India are suffering from cancer, of which 14 lakh cases are new. Cancer claims 9.10 lakh lives each year in India. Talking to media here

on Thursday Dr. Jatin Sarin, director medical oncology at Ivy to diagnose head & neck Hospital, Mohali said cancer is diagnosis by that April month is tissue biopsy, some observed as Head & under local and some Neck Cancer Awareeven require general ness Month worldwide anesthesia. The extent and it's a form of cancer, of spread may be detectwhich is largely driven ed through imaging such by our lifestyle choices as PET scan or Con-& addiction to betel nuttrast enhanced MRI, CT chewing, tobacco and scans, he maintained. alcohol consumption, Dr Vijay Bansal, Direcmaintaining poor oral tor Surgical Oncology

hygiene. The gold standard test



to report the highest prevalence of oral cancers globally with 1.75 Lac new cases of such cancers reported every year. Chewing tobacco and gutkha contribute to 90 per cent of oral cancer cases in the country,"

Dr. Bansal also shared that treatment of head & neck cancer involves all the 3 modalities of surgical oncology, medical

oncology & radiation oncology.

Head & Neck cancers can originate from pharynx, nasal & paranasal sinus, oral cavities, larynx & salivary glands, said Dr Priyanshu Chaudhry, Consultant Medical Oncology.

Dr Minakshi Mittal, Director Radiation Oncology said, "The recent advancements have substantially improved treatment outcomes. Radiation therapy involves delivering high energy X Rays to body to kill the cancer cells and disrupting their ability to grow and divide without having untoward side effects on nearby normal organs."

Dr Hemkant Verma, Consultant Surgical Oncology said that Ivy Hospital Mohali is 1st Hospital in tricity to start comprehensive cancer care under one room.

General signs of head

and neck cancer are a lump on the back of neck, jaw or mouth; A mouth ulcer; Pain or weakness in the face; neck pain; Difficulty moving the jaw; Difficulty swallowing; Speech problems and Ear pain or hearing loss.

### **Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated at Sankoo**

**Top News Report** 

KARGIL, Apr 11: Marking the end of Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with fervour by Anjuman -E-Sahib Zaman Kargil at Sankoo.

A congregation Prayer was held where as the people's assembled at Eidgah, Sankoo.

Thousand of people's including men, women's and children participated in this prayer and celebration events.

On this occasion people's were seen hugging each other and felicitation each other on this happy and auspicious occasion.

The Congregational Eid prayers was felicitated by Chairman Anjuman -E-Sahib Zaman Hujatul-Islam Walmuslimeen Sheikh Sadiq Balagi.

Eid-ul-Fitur were also celebrated by Maktab-E-Tabligah Imam Reza (MTIR) Sankoo, Kargil at on Wednesday with religious gaiety.



The main Congregation were held at at Mini Sport Stadium Sankoo where the thousand of people including man, women's elders participated in this prayer and celebration events.

The congregational prayer was followed by \*Hujatul-Islam Walmuslimeen Aga Syed Towha Rizvi\*

Speaking on the occasion Aga syeed Towha Rizvi said, that holy month of Ramadan teaches us patience and compassion and these virtues should be followed in the day to

Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the most celebrated festivals in Islam, marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, a month when Muslims across the world hold fast from dawn to dusk.

The day falls on the first day of Shawwal, the tenth month according to the Islamic calendar.

The Celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr were also held, at Various Locations of Sankoo Sub Division included Trespone, Saliskote, GMPORE, Lankerchey, Sankoo, Barsoo, Pan-

# Delhi Wrestler Yudhbir lifts Gun Dangal Title

at Ivy Hospital, Mohali

said, "India continued



**Top News Report** 

KATRA, Apr 11: Wrestler Yudhbir of Delhi lifted 31st Gun (Reasi) Dangal Title 2024 by defeating wrestler Ajay Sharma of Udhampur in the main bout that lasted for 11 minutes. Shiv Kumar Sharma former Joint Secretary J&K State Sports Council and President J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association was the Chief Guest who gave away cash prizes to the wrestlers. Former Sarpanches Goutam Kumar, Ratten Singh and Rafiq were the Guests of Honour. Dangal was organized by Gun (Reasi) Dangal Committee in association with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association under the overall supervision of Tilak Raj, President Gun Dangal Committee, Karnail Singh, Sarf Singh, and other members.

The bouts were officiated by Prbhat Singh, Pawan Singh, Anil Kumar, Murli Dhar (Munna) and Harbans Lal. Wrestler Yudhbir, the winner of 1st malli was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 8,000 by chief quest Shiv Kumar Sharma while runer-up wrestler Ajay Sharma got cash prize of Rs. 5,000. In all, 51 bouts were played in the said dangal and total Rs. 1,00,000 was distributed as cash prizes among the wrestlers. Second main malli bout was fought between Kulbir Singh of Kot Bhalwal Jammu V/s Youv Raj of Jammu. This bout ended in a draw that

Third main bout was won by Sunil Kumar of Kot Bhalwal Jammu who defeated wrestler Bunty

lasted for 20 minutes cash

prize Rs. 11,000 jointly dis-

tributed among the both

wrestlers.

of Utter Pardesh. Winner Sunil Kumar was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 6,000 while runner-up Bunty got cash prize of Rs. 4,000.

Members of Gun Dangal Committee who helped in the conduct of dangal included President Tilak Raj, Karnail Singh, Sarf Singh, Jaswant Singh, Balwan Singh, Kuldeep Raj, Ex. Sarpanch Deya Karan Singh, Ram. Bharat Bushan, Ashok Singh, Yash Paul, Babu Ram, Mukesh Kumar, Mohd. Hanief (Ex. Panch) Salinder Kumar and Devinder Singh. Shiv Kumar Sharma appealed all the youths to adopt sports as part of life. He also said the event has become cemetery force between people of different regions and provides encouragement to the local wrestlers

# Nirankari programme illuminates Chimney Chak with divinity

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: Chimney Chak, Pandorian - A spiritual wave swept over Village Chimney Chak. as the Sant Nirankari Mission Branch Pandorian hosted its highly participated Mega Open Nirankari Satsang Program today. The gathering, which welcomed countless devotees from various nearby villages, was graced with the holy presence and enlightening discourse of Rev. Ajit Singh Ji. He conveyed a profound message that resonated deeply with the participating devotees. He shared, "The Supreme Being (GOD) that the world seeks outside, Actually resides in the hearts of the saints and is obtained through the spiritual utterings of the Saints," struck a chord with everyone present.

The Sant Nirankari Mission, known for its message of universal brotherhood and the oneness of God, once again demonstrated its dedication to spreading love, peace, and understanding through this Grand Satsang. The program



provided a platform for participants to immerse themselves in devotional songs, prayers, and reflected in fostering a deeper connection with the divine.

Today's event not only enriched the spiritual lives of the attendees but also highlighted the mission's commitment to weaving a tapestry of unity among diverse communities. The Sant Nirankari Mission extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who joined today's program, either in person or in spirit, and invites one and all to continue on the path of spiritual awakening and

universal love. Lekh Raj Mukhi Pandorian expressed gratitude towards all devotees who have arrived.

## HDFC Bank opens branch at **Kavaratti Island**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: HDFC Bank, opened a branch at Kavaratti Island in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. This makes it the only private sector bank to have a branch in the Union Territory.

It was inaugurated by Captain Lovekesh Thakur, Commanding Officer, Indian Navy and Dr K P Muthukoya, a well-known resident. S Sampathkumar, Group Head- Retail Branch Banking, HDFC Bank and Sanjeev Kumar, Branch Banking Head, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry and other local dignitaries were present on the occasion.

This branch is aimed

at upgrading the banking infrastructure in the Union Territory by offering wide range of services with focus on personal banking, digital banking which also includes customised digital solutions including QR based transaction to retailers.

Commenting on the new branch launch, S Sampathkumar, Group Head- Retail Branch Banking, HDFC Bank said, "HDFC Bank has branches in the cold climes of Kashmir, the southern tip of Kanyakumari and now the island of Lakshadweep.

This reaffirms our commitment to serving customers wherever they in an extremely convenient fashion. We look forward to serving the financial needs of individuals. families, and businesses in Lakshadweep and becoming a trusted partner in their financial journey and contributing to the overall development of the island."

As of December 31, 2023, the Bank's distribution network was at 8,091 branches and 20,688 ATMs across 3,872 cities / towns as against 7,183 branches and 19,007 ATMs across 3,552 cities / towns as of December 31, 2022. 52% of our branches are in semi urban and rural areas. In addition, we have 15,053 business correspondents, which are primarily manned by Common Service Centres (CSC).

# **INC** commemorates birth anniversary of Jyotiba Phule

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11 The Indian National Congress party commemorated the birth anniversary of Jyotiba Phule. National President (OBC) Ajay Singh Yadav and National coordinator & incharge Jammu Kashmir (OBC) Gurpinder Singh Billa and State Vice Chairman (OBC) Raj Mohd Salaria said the Jyotiba Phulle was revolutionary and always work for the right of OBC and he motivated us to move on that way there was he walked.

Ex corporator Bachan Lal, Yashpal Yasmeen Malik, Nazam Choudhary and Shabir Malik were also present.

# VC JU releases brochure of **DLL for year 2023-24**



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor (VC), University of Jammu (JU) on Thursday released brochure of Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL) for the year 2023-24.

The brochure highlights all the achievements and activities organised by different units of Department of Lifelong Learning during the year 2023-24.

The Department is involved in various lifelong learning activities, skill based activities,

ties and coaching etc. It offers a post graduate Masters of Rural Studies, which has huge potential for research. The DLL through its units not only prepares the students for the world of work but also plays a facilitative role in fulfilling social needs as well as human resource requirements.

career counselling activi-

The Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of Department of Lifelong Learning for providing field based educational and skill development programmes.

Those present during the release of the brochure were Prof. Neelu Rohmetra (Dean Research Studies), Prof. Meena Sharma (Dean Planning and Development), Prof. Sangita Gupta (Dean Social Sciences), Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Incharge Director (Department of Lifelong Learning), Prof. Kavita Suri, Dr. Vivek Sharma, Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Dr. Sandeep Singh, Dr. Rewa Khajuria and Dr. Anshu Khajuria

#### Samsung launches season-3 of 'Solve for Tomorrow'; Offers grants of over Rs 90 lakh **Top News Report** tainability". The track More importantly, with

JAMMU, Apr 11: Samsung. India's largest consumer electronics brand, has announced the third edition of its flagship CSR initiative -'Solve for Tomorrow', in strategic collaboration with the Foundation for Innovation & Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, and the United Nations in India. With Solve for Tomorrow. Samsung aims to usher in a culture of innovative thinking and problem solving amongst the country's youth.

Solve for Tomorrow 2024 was inaugurated by JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia, Dr. Sandip Chatterjee, Sr. Director and Scientist 'G', Ministry of Electronics & IT, and Mr. Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, in the presence of other dignitaries.

The CSR programme recognizes the power

of innovative solutions

and their ability to trans-

strong social impact, and strengthens Samsung's vision of #Together For Tomorrow and #Enabling People.

This year, the 'Solve for Tomorrow' programme introduces two distinct tracks - School Track and Youth Track, each dedicated to championing a specific theme and targeted towards different age groups. Both the tracks will run simultaneously, ensuring equal opportunity and a level playing field for all students. The School Track, is

tailored for students aged 14-17, focusing on the theme "community and inclusion". The track underscores the importance of uplifting underprivileged groups, improving accessibility to health & social inclusion for all through social innovations and hence 'Solving for India'.

The Youth Track on the other hand, targets individuals aged 18-22, with a focus on the theme "environment and sus-

seeks innovative ideas for reducing carbon footprint, protecting the environment & promoting sustainability and hence 'Solving for the World'.

JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia, said, "At Samsung, we strive to inspire and shape the future through innovative ideas and transformative technologies. Our mission revolves around fostering the next generation of innovators and catalysts for social change. Solve for Tomorrow is truly shaping up as a platform for India's youth to come up with meaningful innovations that can improve the lives of people.

In the first two editions. we have seen this CSR initiative have a positive impact on our next generation, who scaled greater heights, embarking on their social entrepreneurship journey. In its third edition, with the introduction of two separate tracks, we aim to solve simultaneously for India and for the world.

this flagship CSR programme, we want to play our part in strengthening the innovation ecosystem in the country.'

Dr. Sandip Chatterjee, Senior Director and Scientist 'G', The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) said, "Environment and sustainable development are amongst the priority agenda of Government of India. It is an opportune moment to combine technology with the human capabilities for accelerating economic growth. Indian youth, having innovative mind and skills, cares deeply for the environment. Using radical innovations, various global grassroots issues and challenges could be addressed. Programmes like 'Solve for Tomorrow' are a testament to realise the vision of the Government of India, by harnessing the power of youth."

Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi said, "We are honoured to continue our partnership with Samsung as their key partner in the 'Solve for Tomorrow' programme. This collaboration underscores the commitment to fostering innovation and empowering young minds to drive positive change in the society."

Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India, said, "I am delighted to participate in the third edition of the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow programme, an exciting initiative which encourages and promotes youth-led innovation to solve challenges related to the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN system in India works with and supports initiatives by the private sector that promote the ambitions and leadership of young people, like The Solve for Tomorrow programme. With the greatest youth generation in history, ever, India has more young minds bringing their energy & solutions than ever before! This means that Indian solutions will also be alobal solutions.'

# 'Eid Mubarak' — wishes pour in from celebs, who leave their sets and hectic schedules behind to celebrate Eid with their family and friends

Ali Fazal

Eid was always an extended family get-together. Our celebrations usually lasted two-three days at my mother's home in Lucknow. I have also great memories of spending time in Prayagraj with my father. All of us cousins, all the family, aunts, everybody under one roof! Of course with some incredible food and a lot of laughter. Really have to be some of the best memories of my life! Now I ensure, no matter where I am, the two-three days of Eid are always an off for me. It's a general practice I have made. You could work as much as you like, but family has to always be priority, and for me Eid every year is jetting off to Lucknow.

Joyous occasion

Vaquar Shaikh

Eid is really special to me because it marks the end of Ramzan, a month of fasting and spiritual reflection. It's a time when I express gratitude for the blessings received during Ramzan and celebrate with family gatherings, charity and forgiveness. It is a



joyous occasion, as it signifies a fresh start after a month of spiritual renewal.

Cultivate patience Sheezan Khan

Ramzan has always been very special and the whole 30 days feel like a festival for us. Although, nowadays, the festive season is not celebrated as much as we used to during our childhood days, but we have so many memories. We used to visit our grandparents' home and exchange Iftaari with our neighbours. One thing which Ramzan teaches us is that you should know how to cultivate patience in life, and I believe that the best way to test patience is by fasting! I try to fast for all 30 days, but sometimes I miss it, yet I am always present with my family during Iftaari.

Special moments Sumbul Touqeer

Ramzan is a period of purification, a holy month during which I feel good and positive. It is a cleansing period for the soul. As I have a show on air currently, I will be shooting too. But whenever pos-

sible, I fast. I believe in the power of prayers and wish happiness for everyone. Iftaari is like a feast, and I enjoy eating fruits, seviyan, sheer korma and phirni. My only wish is to celebrate Eid with my entire family. These moments become so special.

Divine glory Adaa Khan

Experiencing the glory of the holy month of Ramzan with all of the fasting, reciting the holy Quran, prayers, charity and piety in itself is a reward to every believer. Eid is a joyous and special occasion. Festive spirit Gulfam Khan Hussain

Eid holds great significance for me as it's a time for spiritual reflection, family gatherings, and spreading joy within the community. Some of my favourite memories associated with celebrating Eid include waking up early for prayers, exchanging heartfelt greetings with loved ones, enjoying delicious homemade food, and creating lasting memories with family and friends. This year, I plan to celebrate Eid by

(if possible), spending quality time with family and friends, indulging in festive meals, and engaging in acts of charity and kindness.

Great celebration

Romiit Raaj

Although I'm not a Muslim, Eid holds significance for me as a celebration of diversity, unity and cultural richness. It's a time to learn about and appreciate different traditions, values, and customs. Some of my favourite memories associated with Eid include witnessing the joy and sense of community among my Muslim friends and colleagues, as well as experiencing the warmth and hospitality during Eid gatherings. Some of the dishes I enjoy eating during Eid include biryani, kebabs and sheer khurma (vermicelli pudding).

Happy time Sara Khan

For me, Eid is happiness in simple words. You meet everyone with love and forget all the grudges, if any. It's a day to celebrate love and affection. This year, I am going to celebrate Eid with my mom, dad, sister, and a few close friends, who are like family.

# Diljit Dosanjh 'avoids carbs', reveals he would cheat meals and then 'regret'

Actor and singer Diljit Dosanjh, who often gives a sneak peek into his kitchen via social media, revealed that, just like anyone else, he too experiences "regrets" when he cheats on a meal.

Diljit said, "I can have anything. If there's cutlery kept in front of me, I would use that. If not, then I wouldn't wait, I would just have my food like

Diljit keeps his meals simple, going by his social media. However, he shared that he "avoids carbs" and does not "eat rice"

"I don't eat rice. I have dal every day. I avoid carbs. I would take carbs in the morning, and then try to avoid them after that. Sometimes after four-five days, I would crave something, and I would eat something wrong at night."

"Then I regret it in the morning, but then I fix it in the morning," said the 'Lover' hitmaker.

Speaking of his upcoming work, Diljit is all set to showcase his acting prowess in 'Amar Singh Chamkila' directed by Imtiaz Ali.

The film is based on the slain singer, who was tagged as the 'Elvis Presley



Chamkila was considered a controversial figure, as the themes of his songs majorly consisted of women's objectification, sexual and domestic violence, and alcoholism.

In 1988, Chamkila and his wife, Amarjot Kaur, were assassinated.

'Amar Singh Chamkila', a Hindi biographical drama, also stars Parineeti Chopra as his wife.

The film is set to release on Netflix on April 12.

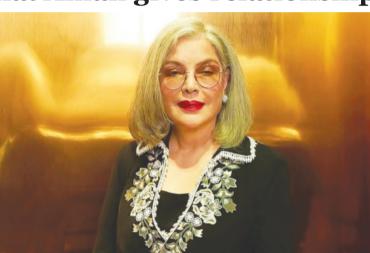
### Strongly recommend that 'live together' before getting married': Zeenat Aman gives relationship advice

Veteran actor Zeenat Aman, who is known for her strong opinions, on Tuesday, advised her fans and followers to choose a live-in relationship before getting married.

Zeenat took to her Instagram handle and shared pictures of her pet along with a long note on relationships.

The note read, "Two birds, one post! First, by popular demand, here's my madcap Lily having a caper in the garden this afternoon. Lily is a good ole desi dog rescued from the streets of Bombay. She is my darling shadow, and the reason that I am a firm advocate of pet rescue and adoption." Sharing her opinion, Zeenat recommended to her fans in a relationship that they should live together before getting married.

She added, "On a different note, one of you asked me about relationship advice in the comments section of my last nost Here's a personal oninion I haven't previously shared - if you're in a relationship, I strongly recommend that you LIVE



TOGETHER before getting married!" The actor also revealed that she gave the same advice to her sons.

"This is the same advice I've always given my sons, both of whom have had, or are in, a livein relationship. It just seems logical to me that before two people get their families and the government involved in their equation, they first put their relationship to the ultimate test. It's easy to be the best version of yourself

for a few hours a day. But can you share a bathroom? Weather the storm of a bad mood? Agree on what to eat for dinner every night? Keep the fire alive in the bedroom? Work through the million tiny conflicts that inevitably arise between two people in close proximity? In short - are you actually compatible? I'm aware that Indian society is a little uptight about "living in sin" but then again, society is uptight about so many things!" she con-

She ended her note by saying, "Log kya kahenge?" As soon as the note was shared, fans and industry members chimed in the comment section.

Bhumi Pednekar dropped a heart emoji.

One of the users wrote, "Need Zeenat Aman to be my life coach."

Another user wrote, "You are forward looking, been always!" Zeenat Aman became a household name during the 70s and 80s after bagging the title Miss Asia Pacific International pageant in 1970, is known for her bold personality, and was one of the actors who set the fashion

trend with her satirical choices. Zeenat has given several hits such as 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram', 'Don', 'Yaadon ki Baraat', 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna', 'Qurbani, Dostana', 'Dharam Veer', among others.

Meanwhile, Zeenat will be seen in 'Bun Tikki' alongside Shabana Azmi and Abhay Deol. The release date of the film is

vet to be announced.

# Janhvi Kapoor confirms relationship with Shikhar Pahariya, wears neckpiece with 'Shikhu' written on it



Actress Janhvi Kapoor has finally confirmed

her relationship with Shikhar Pahariya at

the Maidaan screening. The actress, who looked every inch beautiful in a cream-coloured pantsuit, completed her look with a custommade neckpiece with the inscription 'Shikhu', which caught the attention of many.

At the screening, the actress was seen posing with her father, Boney Kapoor, who has produced the project, and her brother, Arjun Kapoor, at the red carpet of the event. Maidaan is a biographical sports drama film written and directed by Amit Ravindernath Sharma. It stars Ajay Devgn, Priyamani and Gajraj Rao. The film talks about the life and journey of the esteemed football coach Syed Abdul Rahim.

Rahim revolutionised the sport in the country, and it was because of Rahim that the Indian football team, which played in the 4-2-4 combination, was once called the Brazil of Asia.

### Kartik Aaryan was spotted shooting for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 in Kolkata



Director Anees Bazmee is leaving no stone unturned to put together his upcoming directorial Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. The director, who was earlier seen shooting the first schedule of the film with an injured leg, is currently in Kolkata to scout locations for the upcoming schedule.

In the pictures, the director can be seen doing recce inside a graveyard, as he walks around with a walking stick. wearing a leg cast.

The film features Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan alongside Tripti Dimri and Vidya Balan. The first schedule was completed in Mumbai. At the time, Kartik took to Instagram and shared a picture of himself with Triptii, holding a white clapper board. The upcoming shoot of the film will encompass diverse locations across Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and West Bengal.

### Tisca Chopra's stay-fit mantra: Eating well in small portions, exercising like a devil

Actress Tisca Chopra shared her key to staying fit, which includes eating on time and in small portions, along with working out like a devil.

Tisca took to Instagram and shared a video montage.

In the clip, which was tagged 'actors don't eat the say', the actress is seen gorging on croissants, avocado toasts, pastries, and eggs.

For the caption, Tisca wrote, 'Forever been a fan of eating on time, eating well but in small portions and exercising like a devil...

The 50-year-old actress made her acting debut with '15th August' in 1993. She gained the spotlight with the Aamir Khan-starrer 2007 film 'Taare Zameen Par', which was India's official entry to the Academy Awards.

The actress was then seen in films including 'Firaaq', 'Qissa', 'Rahasya', 'Ghayal Once Again', 'Ankur Arora Murder Case', 'Good Newwz', 'Jugjugg



Jeeyo' and 'Murder Mubarak'. She was also seen in the short film 'Chutney', which was lauded by critics and audience alike.

On the web, the actress was seen in shows such as 'Hostages', 'Beecham House' and 'Dahan', among many others.

# Terrorists killed on their own turf under 'strong' Modi govt, claims PM in Uttarakhand poll rally

The Prime Minister also said the "weak" Congress governments in the past could not strengthen the border infrastructure.

RISHIKESH, Apr 11 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said under the "strong" BJP-led government at the Centre, the country's security forces are eliminating terrorists on their turf.

Addressing an election rally here, Modi said the echoes of 'Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar' were being heard across the country as people have seen the benefits of having a stable government.

"Enemies took advantage and terrorism spread whenever there were weak and unstable governments in the country. But under a strong Modi gov-



ernment, our forces are killing terrorists on their own turf."

Modi said.
The prime minister said he

stopped the corrupt from looting the country and their anger against him was at its height.

He also asked the people of Uttarakhand to give a befitting reply to the Congress for talking about eliminating "Shakti" which is symbolised by the revered goddesses of Uttarakhand -- Maa Dhari Devi and Jwalpa Devi.

He also said the "weak" Congress governments in the past could not strengthen the border infrastructure.

Now roads and tunnels are being built along the borders, Modi said.

### Akali leader Sikander Maluka's daughter-in-law Parampal Kaur joins BJP, likely to contest against Harsimrat Badal from Bathinda

NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): Parampal Kaur Sidhu, the daughter-in-law of former Shiromani Akali Dal minister Sikander Singh Maluka joined the BJP here on Thursday and is likely to be fielded from Bathinda Lok Sabha seat.

Rohan Gupta, former head of Congress social media department, party spokesperson and confidante of late Congress veteran Ahmed Patel, also quit the Congress to join the BJP.

Gupta had earlier pulled out of the race for Lok Sabha election in Ahmedabad East where the Congress had fielded him.

Parampal's BJP foray has intrigued observers in Punjab as her father-in-law, the former Punjab education minister, is still an active member of SAD.

He is also a member of Akali Dal's manifesto panel for the 2024 Lok Sabha poll, and is involved in arranging poll rallies of sitting Bathinda MP Harsimrat Badal, who will defend

BJP has been struggling to find a candidate in Bathinda ever since Manpreet Badal's health deteriorated.

her seat.

BJP is fighting Lok Sabha election alone in



Punjab for the first time since 1998.

All these years it

All these years it stayed in alliance with the Akali Dal.

hbhum district today,

The Maoists were

operating in Saranda

and Kolhan, Asia's

densest Sal forest area.

"Twelve Maoists have

police said.

BJP has so far declared six out of 13 Punjab candidates. Punjab votes in the last phase on June 1.

### 13 children electrocuted during chariot procession in Andhra Pradesh

KURNOOL, Apr 11 (Agencies): At least 13 children were injured after a chariot, part of Ugadi procession in Andhra Pradesh, came into contact with an overhead high-voltage electric wire. The incident took place at Tekur village in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district.

The children electrocuted in the incident were taken to a nearby hospital in Kurnool for treatment. The doctors confirmed that there was no immediate threat to the children's lives.

Ugadi marks the beginning of the New Year in the Telugu calendar. It is celebrated on the first day of Chaitra Navratri by people of



Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. "13 children suffered injuries from elec-

trocution after the culmination of the Ugadi Utsavam celebrations this morning. All injuries were reported to be below 10 per cent severity, with no fatalities recorded," Kurnool Rural Police Station Circle Inspector Kiran Kumar Reddy said.

YSRCP leader and Panyam MLA Katasani Ramabhupal Reddy and Nandyala TDP candidate Byreddy Shabari visited the hospital to meet the injured children.

Expressing concern over the incident, TDP's Byreddy Shabari emphasised the need for preventive measures to avoid such incidents in the future.

# India ready to cooperate to stop terrorism if Pak incapable: Rajnath Singh



NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): In a fresh attack on Pakistan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India was ready to cooperate to stop terrorism if the neighbouring country "feels incapable". In an interview to agency, Rajnath Singh also warned that Pakistan would have to suffer consequences if it tries to destabilise India

using terrorism.

"If Pakistan feels incapable, India is ready to cooperate to stop terrorism," the Defence Minister said.

In the interview, Rajnath Singh also spoke about the Emergency period during the Indira Gandhi era. The veteran BJP leader recalled how he was not even given parole during his mother's demise.

"I was not given parole to attend my mother's last rites during the Emergency, and now they (Congress) call us dictators," Rajnath Singh said.

The remarks on Pakistan come days after Rajnath Singh, in an interview with a TV channel, said India won't hesitate in entering the country to kill terrorists who escape by crossing the border.

The Defence Minister's remarks came in response to a report in The Guardian that claimed the Indian gov-

ernment carried out "targeted killings" in Pakistan since 2020 in a bid to eliminate terrorists.

In the interview, Rajnath Singh said that if terrorists tried to disturb peace in India, then "ghus ke maarenge (We will enter Pakistan and attack them)".

However, Singh maintained that India never attacked any country.

"India has never attacked any country or tried to capture their territory. But if anyone threatens India or its peace, they will not be spared," he said.

Pakistan was quick to pounce on Singh's remarks, calling them "provocative". Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said such rhetoric only "impedes the prospects of constructive engagement in the long term".

"History attests to Pakistan's firm resolve and ability to protect and defend itself," the ministry further said in a statement.

# CBI arrests BRS leader K Kavitha in corruption case linked to Delhi liquor 'scam'

NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): The CBI arrested Bharat Rasthra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha on Thursday in connection with a corruption case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, officials said.

The daughter of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao was held in Tihar Jail, where she was lodged after her arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), they said.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials had recently questioned Kavitha inside the prison after obtaining permission from a special court.

The BRS leader was questioned about the WhatsApp chats recovered from co-accused Buchi Babu's phone and documents related to a land deal, after which an amount of Rs 100 crore was allegedly paid to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in kickbacks to swing the excise policy for the national capital in



favour of a liquor lobby.

on March 15.

The CBI officials had gone to Tihar Jail on Saturday to question Kavitha on these aspects of the case, sources said. The ED arrested Kavitha (46) from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad

# Elderly couple found burnt to death in Kerala's Pathanamthitta; police suspect suicide



PATHANAMTHITTA (KERALA), Apr 11 (Agencies): An elderly couple was found burnt to death in their home at Mallappally here on Thursday morning, police said.

The couple, aged 78 and 74, were living alone and it is suspected that it was a case of suicide, they said.

Neighbours noticed smoke coming from the house in the morning and when they broke open the doors, they found the couple burnt to death.

The gas cylinder was found to be open and is suspected to be the cause of the fire, police said.

# District: Police RANCHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, twelve Maoists surrendered before security personnel in Jharkhand's West Sing-

surrendered before security personnel. They were operating

in the Saranda and Kolhan regions and belong to the group of

12 Maoists Surrender In Jharkhand's West Singhbhum

Maoist Misir Besra, who carries a bounty of one crore on his head," a senior police officer told agency.

West Singhbhum is considered one of the most left-wing extremist-affected districts in the country.

It had witnessed 46 Maoist-related incidents, resulting in 22 deaths last year.

Come May 13, many interior areas in the Maoist den of Singhbhum Lok Sabha seat in Jharkhand will witness voting for the first time, or after decades-long

Polling teams and materials will be air dropped from helicopters to enable people living in Saranda to exercise their franchise.

# Six students dead, several injured as school bus overturns in Haryana

CHANDIGARH, Apr 11 (Agencies): Six school students were killed and around 20 sustained injuries after a bus carrying them met with an accident near Unhani village in Kanina sub-division of Mahendragarh district in Haryana.

The school was reportedly open despite a holiday for Eid-ul-Fitr.

The accident took place when the bus was on its way to the GL public school (private school) in Kanina town after picking up the children from their houses. The driver of the bus was allegedly drunk and he lost balance while overtaking another vehicle when the bus reached near Unhani village.



There were 35 to 40 students from Class 4 to Class 10 in the bus. After hearing the screams of children, the passerby rushed to the spot and took out the

injured children from the bus.

The injured students were rushed to a nearby hospital, according to sources.

Sources said that five children were brought dead while one child who was injured was put

on the ventilator but died after a few minutes. The condition of some of them is also stated to be critical.

The bus driver has been arrested and is being questioned to ascertain the exact reason for the mishap.

The senior police and civil officers of the district rushed to the hospitals in Mahendergarh and Narnaul on getting information about the accident.

The parents of the students and also the school staff reached the hospital.

Meanwhile, the official documents show that the bus's fitness certificate had expired six years ago in 2018, said sources.

#### Will not accept CAA, NRC, Uniform Civil Code: Mamata Banerjee



KOLKATA, Apr 11 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said she will not allow implementation of the CAA, NRC and the Uniform Civil Code in the state.

Addressing a gathering here on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, she claimed that some people will try to "engineer riots" during elections and urged those who

participated in the programme "not to fall prey to the plot".

Eid-ul-Fitr marks the culmination of the fasting month of Ramzan.

"We will not accept the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, National Register of Citizens and Uniform Civil Code. If we will live unitedly, nobody will be able to cause harm to us," Banerjee said while addressing the gathering at the Red Road. She asserted that her party TMC's fight is against the BJP.

"We will decide about the INDIA bloc later. But in Bengal, please see that no vote goes to any other party," the TMC supremo said. She also slammed the BJP government at the Centre for "using the central probe agencies against the opposition parties".

TMC national general secretary and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee accompanied her at the Eid meet.

# 17 pilgrims killed, 38 injured as bus falls into ravine in Pakistan's Balochistan province

The pilgrims were going to pay homage at remote Muslim Sufi shrine Shah Noorani in Khuzdar district

KARACHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): At least 17 people were killed and 38 others injured when a bus carrying pilgrims fell into a deep ravine near a border town of Pakistan's Sindh and Balochistan provinces, police said on Thursday.

The pilgrims were going to pay homage at the remote Muslim Sufi shrine Shah Noorani in the Khuzdar district of Balochistan when their bus fell into the ravine in the Hub town on Wednesday.

The place where the accident took place is almost 100 kilometres from Karachi.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed condolences at the inci-



dent and said the driver apparently lost control at a bend and the bus fell into the ravine.

All the passengers belonged to Thatta town in the Sindh province.

"The vehicle left Thatta around 2 in the afternoon on Eid day and met with the accident around 8 pm on Eid day (Wednesday)," Naqvi said.

A local police official in Hub said the dead and injured were taken to the Civil Hospital in Karachi, where their bodies were identified, some of them as belonging to the same families.

Poor roads, lack of safety awareness and blatant disregard for traffic rules often cause fatal accidents in Paki-

#### Thieves Set Off Fire Alarms To Steal Legos Worth \$12,000 In New Zealand

The haul of brightly coloured interlocking plastic bricks was stolen, police said, in recent months from numerous stores across Auckland, New Zealand's largest city.



WELLINGTON, Apr 11 (Agencies): New Zealand police said Thursday they have built a strong case against a pair of Lego-loving shoplifters, charged with stealing NZ\$20,000 worth (US\$12,000) of the popular tov.

The haul of brightly coloured interlocking plastic bricks was stolen, police said, in recent months from numerous stores across Auckland, New Zealand's largest city.

The thieves constructed an audacious way of pinching sets of the build-

ing blocks

"In each instance, the alleged thieves brazenly created a diversion in the store by setting off the fire alarm," sergeant Karen Tabb said in a statement.

A 45-year-old woman and a 34-year-old man have been charged with 30 counts of shoplifting.

The thieves also face charges under the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act, police said, for using fire alarms as a distraction.

A police team raided an address in South Auckland, where the pair were arrested and some of the stolen Lego was recovered, Tabb added.

Lego kits in New Zealand retail up to NZ\$1,499 -- for a model of the popular Star Wars spaceship, the Millennium Falcon, which is made of 7,451 pieces.

Lego cemented its position as the world's biggest toymaker in 2023. The Danish toy giant posted results last month of US\$9.6 billion, a record sum for the family company.

## North Korea's Kim Jong Un Says Now Is Time To Be Ready For War

SEOUL, Apr 11 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said unstable geopolitical situations surrounding his country mean now is the time to be more prepared for war than ever, as he inspected the country's main military university, KCNA news agency said on Thursday.

Kim gave field guidance on Wednesday at Kim Jong II University of Military and Politics, named after his father who died in 2011, which KCNA said is the "highest seat of military education" in the country. North Korea has stepped up weapons development in recent years under Kim and has forged closer military and political ties with Russia, allegedly aiding Moscow in its war with Ukraine in return for help with strategic military projects.

Affirming that if the enemy opts for military confrontation with the DPRK, the DPRK will deal a death-blow to the enemy without hesitation by mobilizing all means in its possession," KCNA quoted Kim as telling the university staff and students.



DPRK is short for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

"Outlining the complicated international situation ... and the uncertain and unstable military and political situation around the DPRK, he said that now is the time to be more thoroughly prepared for a war than ever before," KCNA said.

Earlier this month,

Kim supervised the test launch of a new hypersonic intermediaterange ballistic missile using solid fuel, which analysts said would bolster the North's ability to deploy missiles more effectively than liquidfuel variants.

North Korea has accused the United States and South Korea of provoking military tensions by conducting what it called "war maneuvers" as the allies have conducted military drills with greater intensity and scale in recent months

# On Nijjar killing, Justin Trudeau tells public inquiry panel, 'We have stood up for Canadians'

OTTAWA, Apr 11 (Agencies): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who testified at a public inquiry looking into foreign interference in Canada's electoral process said that his government was firm on the issue of protecting Canadians, including addressing the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was shot dead in Surrey last June.

During a hearing of the Foreign Interference Commission which is headed by Quebec judge Marie-Josee Hogue, Trudeau accused the previous Conservative government in the country of being "cosy" with the current Indian government.

Asked about foreign interference during the 2019 elections and redacted parts in the 2019 annual report of the NSI, Trudeau said, "In a public setting, I can't speak to redactions made for national security. But, I will say that the principle that anyone who comes to Canada from anywhere in the world has all the



rights of a Canadian to be free from extortion, coercion, interference from a country that they left behind and how we have stood up for Canadians, including in the very serious case that I brought forward to Parliament of the killing of Nijjar, demonstrates our government's commitment to defending the rights and freedoms of Canadians."

"And the suggestion that we haven't and we won't do everything we can to defend Canadian rules and values and defend Canadians from foreign interference is simply misplaced," Trudeau is heard in a video of the inquiry proceedings shared by Canadian newspaper The Global and Mail

"Our government has always stood up to defend minorities in Canada and the rights of minorities to speak out even if it irritates their home countries over-

seas," Trudeau said.
An investigation into the allegations of foreign meddling in Canadian politics was triggered by several media reports that cited unnamed sources and leaked documents.

A briefing document from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) says that China "clandestinely and deceptively" interfered in the last two federal elections.

Trudeau appeared before the national public inquiry after several days of testimony

from members of his cabinet, political party representatives, intelligence officials and senior bureaucrats.

During the hearing, the Canadian Prime Minister spoke about the measures his government had taken to address foreign interference since assuming power in 2015.

Asked whether appro-

priate steps were not taken to expose foreign interference, Trudeau said, "I think that's certainly a question one needs to ask of the previous conservative government that was known for its very cosy relationship with the current Indian government. Whereas our government has always stood up to defend minorities in Canada and the rights of minorities to speak out, even if it irritates their home countries overseas," according to the video shared by The Global and Mail.

In a classified February interview with the Commission of Inquiry, Trudeau called it extremely damaging to the confidence of the people of Canada

in the democratic process. A public summary of the interview was revealed at the inquiry on Wednesday, where Trudeau testified at an open hearing.

Trudeau expressed his frustration that intelligence leaked to media had been "sensationalized" and taken out of context, Canada-based CTV News reported.

According to the summary, Trudeau noted that these leaks were "particularly frustrating" as the Liberal government had placed robust mechanisms to track and combat interference, however, it was "painted as negligent in the media."

Trudeau also considered that the leaks showcase the dangers of making conclusions based on a single piece of intelligence, without sufficient context and without analysing its reliability.

Allegations of foreign interference in the past two general elections - suggestions triggered by anonymous leaks to the media resulted in calls for a public inquiry.

#### Feuds, gridlock: South Korea's post-election 'politics as usual'

Yoon becomes the first South Korean president whose party didn't have control of the legislature for at least a portion of their term.

SEOUL, Apr 11 (Agencies): South Korean voters handed President Yoon Suk Yeol a stinging defeat Thursday, as his party failed to win back control of parliament, leaving him a lame duck for the remainder of his term.

Yoon becomes the first South Korean president whose party didn't have control of the legislature for at least a portion of their term, local reports say, and experts warn he'll struggle to get anything done, with gridlock, party feuding, and personal attacks set to rise.

Agency takes a look at what

we know: Yoon's a lame duck?

Since he won power by the narrowest majority in South Korean history in 2022, Yoon has been hampered by recordlow approval ratings and his party's lack of control in the country's parliament.

Hopes of bringing fresh momentum to his reform plans with a victory in the legislative elections have now been dashed by his People Power Party trouncing by a resurgent opposition.

His party's election defeat means Yoon's government "will be paralysed in terms of lawmaking and budgeting," Yonsei university professor Chung-in Moon said.

"If Yoon shows political entrepreneurship, he can avoid the collision course with the opposition party," Moon said, adding, however, that this was not likely. "Yoon, being a former prose-

cutor, is not accustomed to logrolling and muddling through. It is so because of his ideological rigidity. He will face gloomy days ahead," said Moon who was a special advisor to former president Moon Jae-in. What's next?

More political gridlock, experts say.

Without a so-called supermajority, the opposition can't override Yoon's veto -- but they can continue to significantly obstruct the president's legis-

lative agenda.

"Political polarisation and mistrust" will make compromise near-impossible, Andrew Yeo, a politics professor at the Catholic University of America,

told agency.

Neither party will be able to "push any meaningful domestic agenda forward that can tackle high inflation, rising prices, and falling birthrates," he added.

Yoon has liberally used his presidential veto to scupper opposition bills, but now they'll likely re-introduce legislation to probe authorities' handling of the 2022 crowd crush -- and target Yoon's family.

"The opposition will try to appoint a special counselor to investigate the first lady," Gi-Wook Shin, a sociology professor at Stanford University, told agency -- rebooting the cycle of revenge in South Korea's famously adversarial politics.

New president?

With his party's landslide win, controversial opposition leader Lee Jae-myung, who lost to Yoon in 2022, now has another shot at the top job when Yoon's term ends in 2027.

However, like former US president Donald Trump, Lee "is facing a lot of legal problems but is still a leading candidate for the next president," said Stanford's Shin.

"Korean voters will face a similar dilemma as American voters will in November. Despite his legal problems, Lee still maintains high popular support."

tains high popular support."

Despite the slew of cases against him, including corruption allegations, his party's stunning success shows that "candidates charged with crimes can still become winners in the world of South Korean politics," the Catholic University of Amer-

ica's Yeo said. New feuds?

Another of the election's big winners was former justice minister Cho Kuk, whose newly-founded Rebuilding Korea party capitalised on discontent with the two main parties to pick up 12 seats.

Once a rising political star, Cho was tipped to run for president before an academic admissions scandal in 2019 engulfed his family -- investigated by President Yoon, then the country's top prosecutor.

After the victory, rather than announcing fresh policies,

Cho vowed to introduce a bill to target the PPP's head, Han Dong-hoon -- who resigned early Thursday anyway, in response to the party's defeat.

This personal "vendetta" between the two men sums up, for many Koreans, the endless "liberal versus conservative struggle" in the country's politics, Vladimir Tikhonov, professor of Korean Studies at the University of Oslo, told agency.

"Regardless of who ends on the top, this personalisation of politics reveals a weakness of the country's existing party system."

And North Korea?
Seoul's political gridlo

Seoul's political gridlock is good news for Kim Jong Un, experts say.

"Pyongyang has little reason to comment directly on election outcomes but could intensify efforts at sowing divisions in South Korean society," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

Kim may also be looking ahead to America's November elections, and hoping for a victory by Trump.

"We can assume that a Trump 2.0-Lee dynamic bodes well for" North Korea, Soo Kim, policy practice area lead at LMI Consulting and former CIA analyst, told agency.

"The two leaders may work together on 'common interests,' which, ironically, won't be for protecting allied security interests -- but to each their own."

# Turkiye seizes its third largest cocaine haul



ISTANBUL, Apr 11 (Agencies): Turkish Police have seized the third largest haul of cocaine in the country's history, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya announced on Thursday, as groups monitoring organised crime warned that the country was becoming an entry point for drugs reaching Europe.

Some 608 kilograms (1,340 pounds) of cocaine, most of it in liquid form, were confiscated in an operation across three provinces, Yerlikaya posted on the social media platform X.

Nearly 830 kilograms (1,830 pounds) of precursor chemicals used to process the drug were also seized.

Yerlikaya said the police operation targeted an international gang allegedly led by a Lebanese-Venezuelan national, who was among four foreign members of the "organised crime group"

detained, along with nine Turks.

"The amount of cocaine seized in the ... operation was the third largest amount of cocaine seized at one time in Turkiye," the minister added.

Groups monitoring organised crime say Turkiye is growing as a transit hub for cocaine coming from South America to Europe as security at ports such as Rotterdam in the Netherlands becomes tiahte

In a report dated October last year, the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime said a 44 per cent rise in cocaine seizures in Turkiye between 2021 and 2022 was not reflected in data on domestic consumption, "suggesting that the country is likely to serve as a drug corridor."

Officials made Turkiye's largest seizure - 1.1 tons of cocaine hidden in a consignment of bananas from Ecuador - at the Mediterranean port of Mersin in 2021.

Since coming to office in June last year, Yerlikaya has overseen a clampdown on organised crime in Turkiye to counter claims the country has become a haven for foreign gangsters.

He regularly posts details of the latest police operation to target drug traffickers, fraudsters and other criminals.

Thursday's social media post included a video, overlaid with dramatic music, showing apparent surveillance footage, large plastic containers and a pressing machine.

The operation was led by anti-narcotics officers based in Kocaeli, which lies southeast of Istanbul, but also included investigations in Tekirdag to Istanbul's northwest and in the Mediterranean

province of Antalya.

The gang used vineyards in Tekirdag and Antalya to store chemicals and process the cocaine, which had been disguised in fertiliser, according to Yerlikaya. A shotgun was also recovered

by police, he added.
"We will not tolerate poison traffickers, organised crime groups and gangs, whether national or international," the minister wrote.

# We are convinced of realistic politics: **Zafar Iqbal Minhas**

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Apr 11: A convention was held today in Imam Sahib area of South Kashmir's Shopian district, in which a large number of people participated, apart from local office-bearers and workers of the party. Jammu and Kashmir vice-president of his party and Anantnag in the convention. Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency candidate Zafar Iqbal Minhas attended as special guest. In his speech on this occasion and later speaking to media representatives, he said that Jammu and Kashmir, especially the valley, has been deprived of real democracy since 1947. And those who came to the field with the



flag of democracy and freedom, as soon as they got power. He assumed the garb of Tana Shahi and threw thousands of people into jails or forced them across the border to live in exile. And here too, he did not allow his political opponents to participate in the elections and pretended to win 100 percent of the seats.

Under the shadow, a certain group is riding on the necks of the people and when one of them is out of power, they start to see darkness everywhere, but as soon as they get the chair, everything is fine. According to Munhas. These parties and leaders are responsible for the current situation in Kashmir. He said

that our mission is to do realistic politics, not playing with people's feelings on the basis of religion and region.

He said that history is a witness that in the politics of Jammu and Kashmir, it has always been the case that politicians have been accusing each other of being A-team and B-team and thieves themselves bread by calling themselves thieves. He said that the people who used to be BJP's sidekicks and bastards until yesterday, their mouths of A-team and B-team are not only stupid, but also shameful. 370 soil and paved the way for the burial of 370 by playing a fixed match at the last stage, they are still waiting to mislead the people of God by using it as a weapon, but with the help of Allah Almighty, this will not happen. They will give and leave no stone unturned to enlighten the new generation with their dark names. And according to their plan, they will make every effort to bring some kind of relief to the people, especially the young generation.

have been baking their

# Time demands that Kashmiri Pandits, other nationalist forces vote, support Modi: Kundan Kashmiri

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: In a democratic society like ours, the act of voting is indeed a deeply personal choice, reflective of one's values, beliefs, and priorities. It is a fundamental right that embodies the essence of freedom and individual autonomy. However, there are moments when the broader context of the nation's well-being necessitates a collective consciousness, urging citizens to rise above personal grievances and consider the larger interests of the country.

brothers, the Dear plight of the Kashmiri Pandit community, particularly those who have been displaced, is a story of pain, loss, and unfulfilled promises. For decades, they have grappled with the trauma of forced exile, yearning for justice, rehabilitation, and a sense of belonging. Despite their legitimate grievances, the political landscape has often failed to adequately address their concerns, leaving them disillusioned and margin-

In the backdrop of this

historical injustice, the call to support Prime Minister Modi and his government may seem contradictory to the aspirations of the Kashmiri Pandit community. Indeed, the absence of significant attention to their plight over the past decade under the BJP's rule has bred skepticism and frustration among many.

However, the current juncture demands a nuanced understanding of the prevailing circumstances and a pragmatic approach towards safeguarding the nation's interests. The rise of divisive forces, both within and outside the country, poses a formidable threat to India's unity and integrity. The insidious agendas of external powers, coupled with the opportunistic maneuvers of certain domestic elements, seek to weaken the very fabric of our nationhood.

Kundan Kashmiri said, in this critical moment, where the specter of discord looms large, the imperative to fortify the hands of leadership becomes paramount. Prime Minister Modi, with his resolute commitment

to national security, economic progress, and cultural resurgence, emerges as a steadfast guardian of India's interests, he said adding that PM's unwavering dedication to the nation's welfare, coupled with his astute diplomatic maneuvers

on the global stage, has

earned him both admira-

tion and acclaim. For the Kashmiri Pandit community, extending support to Modi Ji transcends mere political allegiance; it embodies a strategic choice driven by a profound sense of duty towards the nation, he said.

By rallying behind a leader who epitomizes strength, resilience, and vision, they align themselves with the broader ethos of national resurgence and collective empowerment.

Moreover, acknowledging the legitimate grievances of the Kashmiri Pandits, it is essential to recognize the multifaceted strides made by the government in diverse spheres. From economic reforms to infrastructural development, from boistering defense capabilities to promoting cultural heritage, the trajectory of progress under Modi's leadership has been robust and transforma-

Nevertheless, the concerns of the Kashmiri Pandit community remain valid and urgent. It is incumbent upon the government to prioritize their rehabilitation, address their grievances, and ensure the rightful place in the social and political fabric of the region. The upcoming parliamentary elections of 2024 present an opportune moment to reassert these demands and hold the authorities accountable

He said that the decision to support Prime Minister Modi transcends narrow partisan considerations; it embodies a broader commitment to the nation's well-being and collective aspira-

By lending you voice and vote to a leader who embodies strength, integrity, and resolve, the Kashmiri Pandit community reaffirms its stake in the nation's destiny and a brighter, more inclusive Hence it is need of

charts a course towards

the time and situation demands that Kashmiri Pandits and other nationalist forces should vote and support to Modi.

# Caste certificates are not being given to Valmikis in Jammu: Chandel

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: A successful conference of Scheduled Caste intellectuals was organized by Bharatiya Janata Party Delhi State President Mohanlal Ghahra today at NDMC Convention Hall, Delhi

in which the idea of honoring all the intellectuals of the Scheduled Caste society and the contribution made by the intellectuals of the society has been specially discussed in the conference.

And intellectuals of all the society were hon-

On this occasion, the chief guest, National President of Scheduled Caste Morcha, Lal Singh Arya and National General Secretary Tarun Chugh chandarpal Chandel, Motilal Puspender Mansi Chandel Advocate and Pawan Singh Rana were pres-

While talking to all the intellectuals on this occasion, Tarun Chugh said that today our Modi government is working with guarantees for the Dalit society, which includes employment for Scheduled Caste



students and people. All facilities are being provided by the government for education abroad etc. and today our government has built a huge memorial of Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar in Delhi and has nominated the airport in Ayodhya in the name of Lord Valmiki. On this occasion, he mentioned various such beneficial schemes and gave information to the society

Scheduled Caste Morcha's National President Lal Singh Arya while speaking said that today the previous government has been doing the work of breaking the Dalit society as a part of a conspiracy and the BJP government is trying to connect every single person in the Dalit community and Working shoulder to shoulder to protect the rights Raju Chandel, National

Chairman of Rashtriya Valmiki Sena, while speaking on the stage, said that our Modi government is most seriously concerned about our Dalit Valmiki community, its development work, education of its children etc. and the welfare of our society. But ever since the \*"Modi government has removed Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the administrative officers have been negligent in giving caste certificates to the people of Valmiki

### Kashmir Waqf Board removes Dargah Hazratbal Imam, his role in 'Conversion' case under scrutiny

SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (Agencies): In the aftermath of an FIR registered over an alleged forced conversion incident, the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has taken swift action, relieving the cleric of Hazratbal shrine from his duties and initiating an enquiry to probe his role.

A view of Dargah Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar on Friday, May 22, 2020. KL Image By Bilal Bahadur

The controversy unfolded on Jumat-ul-Vida, the last Friday of Ramazan, when a video surfaced showing a non-local purportedly converting to Islam and reciting Kalima at Srinagar's revered Hazratbal shrine. The incident quickly caught the attention of authorities, leading to the filing of an FIR at Nigeen police station against a Srinagar resident accused of coercing his domestic help, a non-local named Sandeep, into converting to Islam.

Responding to the gravity of the situation, the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board convened an emergency meeting at its Central Office to address the incident and chart a way forward. The meeting, attended

by leading Imaam-o-Khateebs of the Board, unanimously concluded that the incident had caused confusion and potential discord among the public. Additionally, concerns were raised about the lack of adherence to due process, both in terms of Islamic law and government regulations, during the alleged conversion.

In light of these findings, the Waqf Board took decisive action, relieving Kamal-ud-din Farooqui, the cleric accused of presiding over the conversion, from his duties as Imaam-o-Khateeb, Aasar-i-Shareef, Hazratbal, pending the completion of the inquiry. The Waqf said there were allegations that Farooqui presided over forcible conversion during Friday prayers. Furthermore, the Board sanctioned

the formation of an Enquiry Committee to investigate the matter thoroughly. The committee, chaired by Syed Mohammad Hussain, a Board Member, includes Ghulam Nabi Haleem, another Board Member, and Mohammad Yaseen Khan, Imaamo-Khateeb of Syed Karam Shah Sahib in Karan Nagar, Srinagar.

The committee has been tasked with examining the incident and submitting a factual report within seven days. The decision reflects the Board's commitment to upholding the sanctity of religious practices while ensuring compliance with legal and ethical standards.

As the investigation unfolds, all eyes are on the inquiry committee to shed light on the circumstances surrounding the alleged forced conversion, to preserve public harmony and restore confidence in the religious institutions of Jammu and Kashmir. The Jammu and Kashmir Police

had initiated legal proceedings fol-lowing a viral video showing Sandeep Kumar, a Haryana resident, purportedly converting to Islam at Hazratbal shrine during Friday prayers. FIR no 55/2024 was registered at Police Station Nigeen under several sections of the Indian Penal Code. The video's dissemination, police said has sparked public unrest and concerns about religious harmony. Police said Sandeep was alleg edly coerced into converting by his employer, Anayat Muntazir.

#### **Profuse misuse of Social Media platforms matter** of concern: Supreme Court

leeway to either of the parties or their lawyers to the proceedings to post comments or messages on social media distorting the facts or not disclosing correct facts of the

"The matter is required to be taken up more seriously when any such attempt is sought to be made by the party to the proceedings," the bench said while issuing contempt notice to the MLA and directing the presence of the MLA from All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) in the

The apex court listed the matter next after four weeks and asked the registry to place the matter before the CJI for appropriate orders on the administrative side for listing the case before the appropriate bench.

The SC initiated contempt proceedings against Barbhuiya for his Facebook post on March 20 in which he had falsely claimed a favourable ruling from the court in an election petition while the court had on that day only reserved its judgment in the matter.

Later on April 8, the apex court allowed Barbhuiya's plea and quashed the election petition filed against him.

#### Terrorist killed in ongoing Pulwama gunfight

terrorists there, they said.

They said the search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists fired upon the forces, who retaliated.

In the ensuing encounter, the terrorist was killed, the police said.

The identity and group affiliation of the slain ultra was being ascertained, the police added.

"Body of one #terrorist retrieved. Identification being ascertained," the Kashmir Zone Police said in a post on X.

The police said arms, ammunition and incriminating material was recovered from the site of the encounter.

"Search going on. Further details awaited," the police said on X.

#### **Nominations for Phase 3 of Lok Sabha polls to** begin tomorrow: ECI

notification for the adjourned poll in 29-Betul (ST) PC of Madhya Pradesh will also be issued tomorrow, it added.

The Lok Sabha poll in Betul seat of Madhya Pradesh, which was to be held on April 26 in phase two was adjourned following the death of a BSP candidate.

The BSP candidate died on April 9 and the election was adjourned under Section 52 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by the returning officer.

The states and the union territories included in Phase 3 are Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The last date for filing nominations for phase 3 is April 19 and scrutiny of nominations is April 20.

The last date of withdrawal of the names is April 22.

#### **Security Forces bust let** terror module in Baramulla. 3 arrested

assisting and providing information about security force movements and their intentions was to disturb the peace process in the Baramulla given forthcoming Parliamentary elections, orchestrated by their handlers across the border", Police said

and added, "The involvement of these three individuals posed a threat to the sovereignty and integrity of India".

FROM PAGE 1

They said, "Baramulla Police received credible intelligence indicating that some unidentified terrorists affiliated with the banned LeT organization are moving in Baramulla town with intentions to target security forces".

Upon receiving this information, a case under sections of the UA(P)Act was reqistered in Police Station Baramulla and investigations were started.

"During investigation, the accused persons were apprehended in Old Town Baramulla and upon their disclosure three hand grenades were recovered from their possession", police said.

Investigation of the case is in process, they added.

#### **LS Polls: NC likely to Field Omar Abdullah. Choud**hary Ramzan

5423 votes.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, National Conference was trailing by a margin of more than 8000 votes against Peoples Conference in Choudhary's native assembly segment of Handwara.

#### **60% cases admitted** to SMHS hospital in 24 hours attributed to road accidents, doctors urge caution while driving

as per the rules. Your life and well-being are precious for your parents as well as the society. God bless," he remarked in a

In another post on X, Dr. Saleem revealed that the surgery department at SMHS Hospital had attended to 1155 patients within

the last day, with 56 requiring admission. Among these cases, a significant portion comprised victims of road accidents, reaffirming the urgent need for caution and responsible driving practices.

Meanwhile, netizens on social media have showered praises on the doctors who on the occasion of Eid rendered a 24-hour

A X user on his account while reacting to the post of Dr. Saleem wrote. "Your team's selfless service along services of all Doctors on the Eid day and commitment to patient care is truly commendable and makes a significant difference in people's lives. Thank you for your selflessness and

#### **Widespread light to** moderate rain during next 48 Hrs over J&K: MeT

Thursday. It was 1.3 degree Celsius above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 4.5 degree Celsius and Gulmarg 0.6 degree Celsius, and it was 0.9 degree Celsius below normal for the ski resort of north Kashmir on Thursday, the MeT office said.

#### **SBI refuses to disclose Electoral Bonds' details** under RTI Act

Court's order.

The bank denied the information citing two exemption clauses given under the Right to Information (RTI) Act — Section 8(1)(e) that is related to records held in a fiduciary capacity and section 8(1)(j) that allows withholding personal information.

"Information sought by you is contain-

ing details of purchasers and political parties and hence, cannot be disclosed as it is held in fiduciary capacity disclosure of which is exempted under sections 8(1) (e) and (j) of the RTI Act," the response furnished by the central public information officer and deputy general manager of the SBI said on Wednesday.

Mr. Batra had also sought the details of the fees paid by the SBI to senior advocate Harish Salve to defend its case against the disclosure of the electoral bonds' records, citing that the records are held in a fiduciary capacity and the information is personal in nature.

"It is "bizzare" that the SBI denied the information that is already on the EC's website," Mr. Batra said.

On the question of Mr. Salve's fee, he said the bank has denied information that involves taxpayers' money. The EC published the data furnished by the SBI on its website on March 14, with the details of the donors and political parties that redeemed the bonds.

On March 15, the apex court pulled up the SBI for not furnishing the complete information by withholding the numbers unique to each electoral bond that would help match the donors with the recipient political parties, saying the bank was "dutybound" to reveal the information.

A five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice D. Y. Chandrachud said it had directed the disclosure of all the details of the bonds, including the names of the pur-

chasers, amounts and dates of purchase. "All details have to be furnished by the SBI," the CJI observed, as the court admonished the bank for furnishing incomplete information, a day after the EC put out the entire list of entities that purchased

the bonds for making political donations. The SBI had said a total of 22,217 electoral bonds of varying denominations were purchased by the donors between April 1, 2019 and February 15 this year, of which 22,030 were redeemed by political parties.

# 'Worst is behind us': Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan tells staff that operations have stabilised

(Agencies): About 10 days after Vistara witnessed flight cancellations and delays over pilot shortage, its CEO Vinod Kannan on Thursday told the staff that the "worst is behind us"

The full-service carrier temporarily scaled back 10 per cent of its flights daily after pilots reported sick over salary revision and complained of "fatigue" after reportedly flying beyond stipulated hours. The airline earlier revealed that most of the cancellations were in the domestic network.

Acknowledging that it was a "learning experience", he told the staff, "We were stretched in our pilot rosters and there was not enough resilience to withstand injects that we would oth-



erwise have weathered. We could and should have planned better, and this has been a learning experience for us which we will review thorough-

"The anxiety and frustration felt by our customers was matched in even measure to the pain that all of us felt in seeing our much-loved brand drawing negative commentary from various quarters... I assure you that the worst is behind us, and we have already stabilised our operations, with our on-

time performance (OTP)

increasing to 89 per cent on 9 April 2024 (second highest among all Indian airlines)," he added.

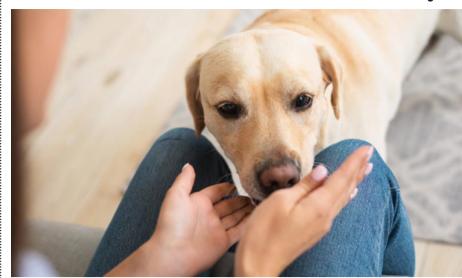
Following flight disruptions, the Vistara management had held a virtual meeting with the pilots to address their concerns and promised

order ensure that they are not exhausted.

"While the events of the last week may seem like a setback, the hallmark of our organisation has always been that we have bounced back from tough situations and emerged stronger... I trust each of you to continue to put in all efforts to ensure that we do not let our brand, and our customer, down, Kannan said.

The Vistara CEO also reached out to its worried customers impacted by the disruptions, saying "We have provided the necessary compensation as per the regulatory mandate, and have also offered additional service recovery vouchers for passengers whose flights were significantly delayed."

# Why Indian businesses are on all fours for National Pet Care Day



NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): It's National Pet Care Day today. And while you can mumble about alien 'Amreekan' celebrations being pushed on to desi shores, perhaps it is more fun to surrender to some pawsome fun with the furry babies and join the excitement.

India Inc surely believes so. From a special store on Amazon to insurance packages for dogs, and of course, pet business companies like Mars (which has brands like Pedigree) to Drools going all out, it is no puppy game anymore.

For example, Amazon has launched a special section on the e-commerce site for the special day on April 11, Thursday, with special offers, subscription programmes and a vast range of products from brands like Whiskas, Royal Canin, The Birds Company, BarkOut Loud as well as traditional pharma com-

panies like Himalaya. "On National Pets Day, we have curated a special store with shopping guides and great deals for pet lovers," says Nishant Raman, director (Core Consumables), Amazon India. "Customers can also shop from our wide range of imported products, fresh pet food from local kitchens and even try customisation on products they buy

for their pets." Adds Shashank Sinha veterinarian & CEO of Drools, one of the lead-

ing pet care companies in the country, "With the surge in pet adoption during the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a notable increase in the usage of pet care salons, tovs, chewables, and value-added products and services among Indian pet parents. The pet care and pet food industry in India has experienced robust growth in recent years.

It's not just products.

From kennels to dogfriendly cafes to hotels and vacation stays where you can take your pets along, a range of businesses have woken up to the possibilities of catering to pet parents. Many insurance companies have also popped up with insurance packages for dogs, like HDFC ERGO's 'Paws & Claws' plan. Bajaj Allianz, New India & Oriental also offer similar insurance scheme

for pets. And why shouldn't it be not? With increasing adoption of pets across the country, the pet care business is truly booming in India. Estimates put the business anywhere between 4,000 to 20,000 crore rupees presently, and it is growing rapidly. There are more than 3 crore pets in India (the actual numbers could be much more), increasing at the rate of 11 per cent every year.

Cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad are said to be some of the leading markets for pet businesses, with increasing pet adoption among nuclear families. "Compared to previous years, there has been a significant uptick in spending on pet-related expenses, indicating a growing prioritisation of pet wellness and happiness among Indian households," pointed out Sinha of Drools. Expenses of Rs 5,000 rupees on pets per month or more is not uncommon anymore, with one estimate putting the average expenditure on pets in Bengaluru at Rs 3,000 per month.

Besides conventional pet food companies and American giants entering India to cater to this market, a plethora of startups focusing on pet care have also sprung up in the country. A study last year says as many as 70 new pet care startups came up in India between 2021 and 2023 This has also attracted the attention of investors who have poured in money, turning startups like 'Heads up for Tails' into national chains. L.Catterton, an investor specialising in pet care businesses, recently made a record breaking 500 crore rupees investment in the Indian pet care company Drools.

Originally started back in 2006 as a day to raise awareness about pet care and increase adoption of dogs particularly from shelters by animal welfare activist Colleen Paige in the US, 'National Petcare Day' has become increasingly 'international' over the years.

# Asian Development Bank raises India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for FY25



NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday raised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7 per cent from 6.7 per cent earlier, saying the robust growth will be driven by public and private sector investment demand and gradual improvement in consumer demand.

The 2024-25 growth estimate is, however, lower than 7.6 per cent projected for the 2022-23 fiscal. Strong investment drove GDP growth in the 2022-23 fiscal as consumption was muted, the ADB said

The ADB had in December last year projected the Indian economy to expand 6.7 per cent in the 2024-25 fiscal.

"The economy grew robustly in fiscal 2023 with strong momentum in manufacturing and services. It will continue to grow rapidly over the forecast horizon. Growth will be driven primarily by robust investment demand and improving consumption demand. Inflation will continue its downward trend in tandem with global trends," said the April edition of the Asian Development Outlook released on Friday.

Growth will be robust despite moderating in FY2024 and FY2025. it said. For the 2025-26 fiscal, the ADB has projected India's growth at

7.2 per cent. The ADB said exports are likely to be relatively muted this fiscal as growth in major advanced economies slows down but will

improve in FY2025. Monetary policy is expected to remain supportive of growth as inflation abates, while fiscal policy aims for consolidation but retains support for capital investment. On balance, growth is forecast to slow to seven per cent in FY2024 but improve to 7.2 per cent in FY2025," it said To boost exports in the medium term. India needs greater integration into global value chains, the ADB

The ADB's growth forecast for FY25 is in line with the projections made by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The RBI last week had said GDP growth in the current fiscal is projected at seven per cent on expectations of normal monsoon, moderating inflationary pressures and sustained momentum in manufacturing and services sectors

rates to be kept high for

longer until September,"

added Yeap, referring to

Higher-for-longer rates

could dampen economic

arowth and suppress

Minutes from the U.S.

Federal Reserve showed

officials worried that

progress on inflation

might have stalled and

a longer period of tight

monetary policy would

be needed to tame infla-

tion in the world's largest

Investors who had ear-

lier expected a rate cut in

June now see September

as a likelier timing for the

easing cycle to begin,

following a third straight

U.S. interest rates.

demand for oil.

economy

### Political parties doing politics on unnecessary issues instead of education, health and employment: Goyal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 11: Social activist Rajkumar Goyal has said that education, health, employment, inflation should be the biggest election issues in the country's politics, but on the contrary, all parties doing politics on religion, caste and nonessential issues.

He said that education, health and employment play the biggest role in the prosperity of any country, but it is being seen that politics is not being done on these issues but on unnecessary issues. All political parties work to divert public attention by accusing each other.

This is the reason why education and health

facilities in the country have become worse. It is the duty of every citizen of the country that whenever leaders come to them for votes, they should ask them what they did for the development of the country and the upliftment of the people in the last tenure.

The aim of politics should be to serve the people and not to grab power by entangling them in unnecessary issues. He said that people should also elect leaders with educated, honest and clean image.

The day educated and honest people start reaching Parliament, all the problems of the country will be solved.

### Crude oil prices extend gains on escalation in Middle East tensions stronger-than-forecast



MUMBAI, Apr 11 (Agencies): Oil prices extended gains on Thursday, after rising a dollar a barrel in the prior session, as investors braced for a worsening of the Middle East crisis, potentially involving Iran, the thirdlargest oil producer in OPEC.

Brent crude futures advanced by 30 cents, or 0.3%, to \$90.78 a barrel by 0325 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 25 cents, or 0.3%, to \$86.46 a barrel.

Both contracts rose more than 1% in the prior session after three sons of a Hamas leader were killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza, feeding worries that ceasefire talks between the two sides might stall. Earlier this week, Israel and Hamas began a fresh round of negotiations in their more than six-month-old Gaza war but those discussions have yielded no agreement

"Prices remain sensitive to geopolitical developments in the Middle East, with market participants pricing for the risks of supply disruptions if tensions were to drag for longer," said Yeap Jun Rong, market strategist

"This aids to offset some risk-off sentiments overnight, as markets recalibrate their rate expectations to price out upward trend may persist

inflation

as the Middle East geopolitical situation remains tricky. The region is on alert for possible Iranian retali-

reading on consumer

Yeap added that oil's

ation over a suspected Israeli airstrike on Iran's embassy in Syria at the start of the month. A Bloomberg report on Wednesday said the U.S. and its allies believe major missile or drone strikes by Iran or its proxies against Israel are imminent.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has told Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant that the United States will stand with Israel against any threats by Iran, the U.S. State Department said later on Wednesday.

"The market has become increasingly concerned that the Israel-Hamas war could escalate across the Middle East, putting oil supply at risk," ANZ analyst Daniel Hynes said.

Oil traders will also be looking out for a monthly oil market report from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) due later on Thursday, and the International Energy Agency's oil market report due on Friday

# Zangtrai observed at Bhagawaan Gopinathji **Ashram**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: A festival of Kashmiri Pandit Community, Zangtrai, a day of great significance, was observed on Thursday at the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram, Udaiwala, Bohri, Jammu.

Dr. Sushil Kumar Wattal introduced the Chief Guest, Principal and Session Judge, Smt. Kalpana Revoo. The programme started with lighting of the Jyoti and with offering of flowers at Bhagawaanji's photograph kept on the platform in the lush green lawn (Vatika) of the Ashram followed by Guru-Vandana.

The Chief Guest was decorated with a Shawl on this occasion by the President and Secretary of Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust. Hundreds of ladies participated in the function who paid obeisance at the lotus feet of the Master. A great enthusiasm was noticed in the ladies who were seen thronging the Ashram during the whole

The Trust exhorted the gathering to follow the teachings of the Bhagawaan in letter and spirit.

Artists of repute Vijay, Deepali Wattal, Shanti Lal Sid, R.K. Saproo, Ravi Bhan, Darmesh Nargotra, Naina Saproo, Veerji Bhat and others presented melodious devotional songs on this occasion.

They held the gathering captive and each artist was greeted with thunderous applause at the end of their performance. Dr. Sushil Kumar Wattal conducted the proceedings of the programme

As a ritual, a small packet of salt and Rs. 5/- each were distributed among the ladies as a token of love and Prasad from Bhagawaanji.

The ladies left the premises satisfied and in a state of bliss with visible joy on their faces. A gathering was served with tea and kulcha during the celebrations.

It was also observed at the other Ashrams / Centres of the Trust viz: Pamposh Enclave, New Delhi; Vikaspuri, West Delhi, Kharyar Srinagar, Kashmir, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad and also at various other Santsang Mandals spread across the country.

### Dance, music therapy could help Parkinson's patients, caregivers: Indian study

NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): Rajiv Mehta, 70, had a very active life. He's a businessman in customs and shipping, he had been practising yoga on a daily basis and would travel frequently for work. However, he began feeling 'rigidity' in his body for a few days and opted to get himself tested for arthritis. the results came negative and that's when alarm bells went off-- could this be something more sinister? This happened three years ago when he was 67. In time, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's and the symptoms began showing -- tremors on the left side, rigidity of movement and the inability to walk and move normally.

Mehta then registered for a dance therapy session at Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre. These were one hour in-person sessions that would take place thrice a week, for three months offline (and three months online). "It was immensely helpful; I could feel an improvement in the coordination on both left and the right side. During those six months of therapy, I could feel that I was a changed person and my condition had improved by leaps and bounds," says Mehta. This was a part of a clinical trial helmed by Dr Paresh Doshi aimed at slowing the progression of Parkinson's disease by exploring the potential of transformative approaches such as dance, music and meditation in a bid to manage symptoms and improve overall well-being.

This was a six-month study, in which patients and their caregivers attended in-person classes for three months and once a week for the next three months online. Patients were evaluated for the impact of these recreational activities on their motor functions, behaviour, mood and cognitive functions, even as patients in both, the controlled group and the trial group, continued with their daily medicines alongside. A patient diary was maintained to ensure adequate compliance and those who could not follow the schedule were excluded from the trial.

Dr Paresh Doshi, principal investigator of the trial and the director of neurosurgery and stereotactic and functional neurosurgical program at Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre said that the trial demonstrates the potential of alternative therapies in not just managing symptoms but in potentially slowing down the progression of this debilitating disease. "This is one of the few trials in the world that has evaluated not only Parkinson's disease but also the caregivers' burden in the management of Parkinson's disease through dance and music therapies and meditation." Commenting on how this trial was different than many others that have been done in the past especially abroad, Dr Doshi said that "this level of detailed evaluation of motor disability, mood, behaviour and cognition has always been performed in surgical interventional trials or medical interventional trials but never in any trials where no intervention except dance and music were offered.

# Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson fined Rs 12 lakh for slow over rate during match against Gujarat Titans

The Royals' four-match winning streak was broken by Shubman Gill-led Titans, who won the match in a last-ball thriller

JAIPUR, Apr 11 (Agencies): Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson has been fined Rs 12 lakh after his team maintained a slow over rate during the Indian Premier League match against Gujarat Titans here.

The Royals' four-match winning streak was broken by the Shubman Gill-led Titans, who won the match by three wickets in a last-ball thriller on Wednesday.

"Sanju Samson, the Rajasthan Royals captain, has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during their TATA Indian Premier League



(IPL) 2024 match against Gujarat Titans at the Sawai Man

Singh Stadium, Jaipur on April 10," said an IPL statement.

"As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences, Samson was fined Rs 12 lakhs," the statement added.

Samson scored an unbeaten 68 off 38 deliveries and was ably assisted by Riyan Parag (78) as the Royals scored an imposing 196 for 3.

However, GT skipper Gill's fine 72 at the top and a cameo innings by Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (24 off 11 deliveries) at the back end took the former IPL champions past the finish line off the last delivery.

#### India cricketer Hardik Pandya duped of Rs 4.3 crore, stepbrother Vaibhav in police net for forgery

MUMBAI, Apr 11 (Agencies): The Mumbai Police have reportedly arrested Vaibhav Pandya, the stepbrother of cricketers Hardik Pandya and Krunal Pandya, for allegedly duping them of Rs 4.3 crore by diverting funds in a business partnership.

According to a report by agency, 37-year-old Vaibhav is accused of diverting money from a partnership firm based in Mumbai, leading to financial loss for Hardik and Krunal Pandya.

The agency report states that the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai police has charged Vaibhav Pandya with cheating and forgery in connection with these actions.

According to the report, the three had jointly set up a polymer business in 2021, in which the cricketer brothers were to invest 40 per cent of the capital each, while Vaibhav would contribute 20 per cent and manage daily opera-

tions as part of the partnership terms. However, the accused stepbrother reportedly established another firm in the same trade without informing Pandya brothers, violating the terms of agreement. With this, the profits of the original partnership firm came down and caused a loss approximate Rs 3 crore, said an official.

It was also alleged that Vaibhav secretly increased his own profit share to 33.3 per cent, further causing loss to Hardik and Krunal. He also diverted funds from the partnership account to his own, which is around Rs 1 crore, added an official.

Officials said when Vaibhav was confronted by Hardik, he allegedly threatened to tarnish the cricketer's reputation. A case was registered on a complaint lodged by the accountant of the cricketer and it was transferred to the EOW.

#### MI vs RCB: Virat Kohli nears major records, looks to join Chris Gayle in elite IPL list

MUMBAI, Apr 11 (Agencies): Veteran Virat Kohli is on the verge of a few major milestones in the Indian Premier League (IPL). And given the form he has been in, it should not raise eyebrows if the 35-year-old achieves the feats in Bengaluru's IPL 2024 match on Thursday, April 11 at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Kohli is only 73 runs away from becoming only the fourth batter to score 4000 or more runs in the IPL as an opener.

In 103 innings, the right-handed batter has racked up 3927 runs at an average of 45.66 and a strike-rate of 136.26. Interestingly, all of Kohli's 8 hundreds in the IPL have come while opening the batting. Shikhar Dhawan (6362), David Warner (5900) and Chris Gayle (4480) are the top 3 batters in the list of most runs by an opening batter in the IPL. Virat Kohli on the cusp of 6-hitting

milestone
The Delhi-born Kohli is also 4 sixes away from becoming only the fourth batter in the history of the IPL to hit 250 sixes. Chris Gayle (357), Rohit Sharma (264) and AB de Villiers (251) are leading the 6-hitting charts for the



time being.

Kohli has been in scintillating form in the ongoing edition of the IPL. He is currently the Orange Cap holder, having scored 316 runs from 5 matches at an average of 105.33 and a strike-rate of 146.29. Apart from his half-centuries against Punjab and Kolkata, Kohli racked up an unbeaten 113 against Rajasthan at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

But despite his superhuman efforts with the bat in hand, RCB have struggled to find their feet in the tournament. Bengaluru are currently struggling at ninth in the table with 2 points and a net run rate of -0.843 courtesy of wins in 1 out of 5 games.

# Candidates: Gukesh makes the right moves to pull alongside Nepo at top

TORONTO, Apr 11 (Agencies): Grandmaster D Gukesh grabbed a share of the lead alongside Russia's lan Nepomniachtchi by becoming the only Indian to post a win in the fifth round of the Candidates chess tournament, outwitting Azerbaijan's Nijat Abasov in a hardfought contest here.

With nine rounds to go in the double round-robin event, the 17-year-old Gukesh and Nepomniachtchi share the top spot with 3.5 points and are followed by top-seeded American Fabio Caruana who is half-apoint behind.

American Hikaru Nakamura was the other winner on the day against Firouzja Alireza of France, while Indian teen R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with overnight sole leader Nepomniachtchi.

Vidit Gujrathi also put an end to his losses by settling for a draw with Caruana.

Praggnanandhaa and Naka-



mura share the fourth spot with 2.5 points followed closely by Gujrathi on two points. Alireza and Abasov share the last position on 1.5 points apiece.

In the women's competition, nothing changed in terms of standings with all the four games ending in draws.

games ending in draws.
Praggnanandhaa's sister
R Vaishali could not dent the

defence of Anna Muzychuk and Koneru Humpy recovered with a draw against Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia.

Tournament leader Zhongyi Tan of China was held to a draw by an improved Nurgyul Salimova of Bulgaria as Russian Kateryna Lagno signed peace with Tingjie Lei of China.

vith Tingjie Lei of China.

Tan remained in front follow-

ing the drawing melee with 3.5 points and Goryachkina moved up to 3 points to remain right behind the leader.

Lagno, Vaishali and Salimova shared the third spot with 2.5 points, half-a-point ahead of Humpy, Muzychuk and Lei.

Gukesh in joint lead Gukesh started off with the

king's pawn and faced the Petrov defence.
The Indian ensured a complex

middle game and had an edge right till the time the players hit the first time control. However, on the 40th move, Gukesh erred and what seemed like a walk-in-the-park became a tough game.

Abasov fought hard and was close to a draw by the 80th move but a blunder by the Azerbaijani on the 83rd turned it decisively in Gukesh's favour with an extra pawn in the queen and pawn endgame.

The game lasted 87 moves and went on for a marathon six hours.

# Double delight: Neeraj Chopra dreams of sharing Paris Olympics podium with Kishore Jena

NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): Neeraj Chopra was brimming with confidence and as relaxed as ever when he spoke to the media from Turkey on Thursday. Having shifted base to Antalya in the last leg of his off-season preparation for the Olympics year, the javelin star is hopeful of another record-breaking season. His dreams are not just limited to defending the Olympic Gold in Paris, but also seeing more than one Indian on the podium at the Games. Like always, Neeraj spoke highly of his compatriots and said he is hopeful that Kishore Jena can also make the country proud at the biggest sporting spectacle, starting July

While Neeraj Chopra kickstarted the javelin revolution in the country, the likes of Kishore Jena and DP Manu have worked hard to earn themselves a place at the top level. Kishore, 29, won a silver medal at the Asian Games last year and finished 5th in the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, sparking hopes of more glory in the Olympic year.

"This might be a big dream-come-true moment for India. From our country, at the Olympics, two people standing on the podium, it will be a huge moment. If there are more than two, then it's even better. At the Asian Games, it happened. If it happens in

the Olympics, it will be a huge moment of joy. It will bring a different level of satisfaction for all of us, all of us Indians," Neeraj said in an interaction organised by JSW Sports on Thursday.

"Let's see. We have a lot of time for it. I am also sure that Kishore Jena is working hard. He will throw well. He will do well," he added.

Both Neeraj Chopra and Kishore Jena will begin their 2024 seasons at the Doha Diamond League in May and Neeraj is hopeful that his compatriot will continue to improve after a breakthrough season in 2023.

"Last year, he had tremendous progress. First in the world championships and then at the Asian Games. He has improved a lot in terms of his distance."

Kishore threw 87.54 in the Asian Games to win the silver medal even as Neeraj Chopra defended in Gold medal in Hangzhou with a best effort of 88.88m. In fact, Kishore was leading Neeraj midway through the closely-fought final last year before the Olympic gold medalist took the pole position with the winning throw in his 4th attempt.

'HAPPY IF KISHORE GETS 90M FIRST'

Neeraj joked about his wait for the magical 90m throw and said he would not be surprised if Kishore gets there

before him.
"I have been stuck



between 88m and 90m from 2018. Who knows you guys keep asking me the 90m question, who knows Kishore achieves the landmark before me. It would be great. Yes, we have come a long way in javelin, but that 90m mark has to be achieved," Neeraj said.

"Yes, it has felt great competing with Kishore Jena. We will the meet again in Doha. For the first time, there will be two Indians in the Doha Diamond League. It will be fun. (Murali) Sreeshankar will also be there. See, if many Indian athletes are competing and winning in Diamond Leagues, then we can think about the Olympics also," he added.

90M BEFORE THE PARIS GAMES?

Consistency has been Neeraj Chopra's biggest strength. Despite missing out on the 90m mark, the Tokyo Olympics champion has always found ways to better the competition with his ability to assess the conditions and deliver his best.

Neeraj might put an end to all the questions over the wait for the 90m throw. Yes, the Diamond Trophy winner seems to be quite confident about getting the big throw out even before he heads to Paris for this title defence.

"I will try and go for it before the Games. If something like that has to happen, hopefully it happens before the Olympics. 90m mark. Everything is going well. I hope we don't have to wait till the Olympics. If it has to happen, hopefully, it happens before the Olympics," he said. 'IT'S A BORING ROU-

Neeraj has been working hard in the off-season to make sure he is geared up for the upcoming competitions, which include a couple of Diamond League

meetings and the Paavo Nurmi Games before the showdown in Paris.

Neeraj has been specifically working on strength and conditioning in Antalya after having begun his preparations in Potchefstroom, South Africa. The soft-spoken javelin star joked about the boring routines while training overseas, stressing it's not as rosy as it seems from the outside.

"It's a boring life. Many people think that athletes have fun when they are training outside the country. The routine can be boring. Wake up, train, have food and then relax. I was in South Africa and I am now in Turkey, I can tell you that I stepped out of my center only once in 3-4 weeks.

weeks.
"Otherwise, I have a fixed map in my training centre, from the training ground to the canteen and to the hostel. We don't get a lot of time. If there's some appointment with the physio on Sunday then it also gets booked. This time it's the Olympic year, so it's important that the focus is more on the preparations," he said.

Reflecting on his journey from winning the Gold in Tokyo to preparing for his title defence in Paris, Neeraj said the experiences in the last two years have only made him more confident and less anxious about competitions.

"There is a change in the mindset. My self-confidence has improved. I have played two World Championships, one silver and one gold. I have won the Diamond Trophy, I have won the Asian Games Gold as well. Because of all these experiences, I have a belief that I can do well among the elite

athletes.
"My mind automatically knows that this is my second Olympics, I want to be be prepared better. I want to make sure I do better. It's all fine-tuned inside now. I am not doing anything special for mental training," he added.

NEERAJ WELCOMES WORLD ATHLETICS CALL

Neeraj needs no extra motivation to add to his decorated trophy cabinet at the Paris Olympics. However, the Indian superstar welcomed the World Athletics body's historic decision to award USD 50,000 to gold medallists in track and field events at the Games. With the move, Track and field is set to become the first sport to introduce prize money at the Olympics.

"It's a good start. I think they have announced prize money only for gold medal winners. But yes, World Athletics is becoming very active. They are taking care of other competitions also very well. I hope that these things are also added slowly to Diamond Leagues and other competitions in the Continental Tour," Neeraj said.

#### India's T20 World Cup Squad: Sunil Gavaskar Says Selectors Have "Eye On" Youngster With 10 50s In 15 Games

NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): Amidst the IPL 2024 action, there is a great intrigue over India's 2024 T20 World Cup squad. The squad is expected to be announced by the end of April, with the deadline for naming it being May 1. India have not won any ICC trophy since 2013, and the 2024 T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies is a massive chance for the Rohit Sharma-led side to change that record. When it comes to T20s, there has been an increasing call to induct young blood and players who can be fearless in the format.

Keeping that in mind, it will be interesting to see who gets picked for the squad.

Riyan Parag is one of the players who is in focus with a stellar display in the IPL. The Rajasthan Royals player has scored three half-centuries in his last four matches, including one on Wednesday against Gujarat Titans. In his last 15 T20 innings Parag has scored 10

fifties (771 runs, average 90, 170.7 strike-rate). "He is somebody that the selection committee has kept an eye on. All he needs to do is keep playing," Sunil Gavaskar said about Riyan Parag in Star Sports' mid-innings discussion.

Not much time is left before the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) finalises the India squad for the T20 World Cup 2024. There remains a debate over a number of players in the team, including the talismanic Rohit Shrama. The wicket-keeper's spot is also wide open, with a number of players competing for the spot. Former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad, however, has a concrete idea about the batting unit he wishes to see in the Indian team.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Prasad advocated the inclusion of lesser-experienced stars like Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, and Suryakumar Yadav while also asserting the importance of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the team. It's only the wicket-keeper's spot that Prasad isn't clear about.

"Shivam Dube for his striking ability against spinners, Surya for being the best T20 international batter and Rinku Singh for his exceptional finishing ability. It will be great if India finds a way to have these 3 in the 11 in the T20 WC. With Virat and Rohit, this will leave a spot for just a keeper batsman. Interesting to see how it pans out," he posted on social media.

It's interesting to see that Prasad didn't mention the names of Hardik Pandya, Shreyas lyer and KL Rahul in the batting unit.

# Congress opposed to rights for Valmikis, OBCs, STs, refugees: Dr Jitendra

**Top News Report** 

UDHAMPUR, Apr 11 Making a scathing attack on the appeasement policy followed by Congress Party, Union Minister and BJP Candidate for Udhampur-Doda-Kathua Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Thursday that Congress is opposed to the grant of the rights for Valmikis, OBCs, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and refugees.

Addressing a series of public meetings during the election campaign in the Udhampur Panchayat and urban areas here today, Dr Jitendra said, it was because of the discriminatory approach of the successive Congress governments that for 60 to 70 years after independence, the Valmikis did not get their Citizenship rights and were also denied the opportunity to apply for jobs equivalent to their qualifications or merit. He said, it was

only after Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi took over, the constitutional changes were brought about and Valmikis in Jammu & Kashmir today have an equal opportunity to aspire for the highest level of placement depending upon their merit, aptitude and hard work.

Asking the Congress

Party to make its posi-

tion clear, Dr Singh said, the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency had been before 2014 represented by Congress candidates for several years and decades but they deliberately denied the genuine rights to these sections of society. Similarlv. he said, it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who gave political reservation to Scheduled Tribes so that the people belonging to these sections of society can also now aspire to become MLAs and Ministers.

Dr Jitendra recalled that the Congress Party has a long history of giving lip service to Scheduled Castes only

but on the ground, it has always worked against the interests of Scheduled Castes. So much so, he said, it is the Congress Party which was responsible for the defeat of Baba Sahab Ambedakar in the Lok Sabha election. Not only this, he said, Jawa-

Sabha election. Not only this, he said, Jawaharlal Nehru was also not in favour of making Baba Sahab Ambedakar a Minister in the interim government and it was only after the insistence of Mahatma Gandhi that Ambedakar got a berth in the Cabinet.

It is a unique case, and Dr. Singh, that for

said Dr Singh, that for more than six decades after having moved over to India following partition of the subcontinent in 1947, the refugees coming from the West Pakistan were not given Citizenship rights by the Congress governments even though the same section of society produced two Prime Ministers namely Inder Kumar Gujral and Dr.

Manmohan Singh who

had chosen to settle in parts of India other than J&K.

Dr Jitendra said, the first two terms of the Modi government have been consumed in correcting the fallacies of the past and filling up the gaps left by the Congress and allied governments. Whether it was development or for social justice, in both the cases, course correction was done and things were put back on the right track, he said.

Elaborating further,

Dr Singh said, the third term of Prime Minister Modi will be dedicated to consolidating gains of the earlier two terms and Udhampur-Kathua-Doda constituency will emerge as an important hub of North India. He expressed confidence that the weaker sections of the society neglected by the Congress governments will very soon be at par with their counterparts in other sections of society.

Dr Jitendra said that in order to achieve the

goal of 'Viksit Bharat' as envisaged and visualised by Prime Minister Modi, it is important that each and every Indian makes a contribution depending on his capabilities and potential regardless of whichever strata of society he belongs to. It is with this understanding and motivation that Prime Minister Modi has provided an equitable level playing field to weaker sections of the society so that

they can all become a

part of the growth story

of India over the next 20

years, he said. Accompanying Dr Jitendra in today's election tour were former BJP President Arun Gupta, OBC President Sunil Praiapati, MLA B S Mankotia, MLA RS Pathania, DDC Amit Sharma. DDC Parikshit Singh, DDC Jatto Ram, DDC Babli Sharma, Mandal Presidents Dinakar Gupta, Mohinder Singh.PRIs,important leaders of BJP and

# On Birth Anniversary of Jyotiba Rao Phule, BJP leaders pay tribute, reminds his works

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: On the birth anniversary of Jyotiba Phule, BJP leaders organized a program and paid floral tribute and remembered his works at Shakti Nagar, Jammu.

Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir), Ravi Mehra (Vice President OBC), Kewal Verma (State Secretary OBC), Rakesh Pandey (Mandal President OBC), Social Activists Nath Pal Choudhary, Bharat Bushan, Ram Kumar and others were present on the occasion.

The program was organised by Parveen Badyal (District Vice President OBC) and Sanjay Verma (Mandal President OBC). In the program Dignitaries paid floral tribute and reminded the life story of Jyotiba Phule and his ideology.

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot greets public on the jayanti of Jyotiba Phule and



said Jyotiba Phule, also known as Mahatma Jyotiba Phule . He was an Indian social activist, thinker, anti-caste social reformer and writer from Maharashtra.

He said that Jyotiba Phule's Whole life was dedicated to the upliftment of the underprivileged and everyone be aware of Jyotiba Phule's life story and struggles.

He said Phule along with his followers, formed the Satyashodhak Samaj to attain equal rights for people from lower castes and fight against malpractices like untouchability and child marriage etc and We should follow Phule's ideology and rise above casteism and religions and work towards society and nation.

Satyashodhak Samaj was aimed to focus on rights of depressed groups such women, the Shudra, and the Dalit. Through this the samaj he denounced the caste

He said Nation's first ideology of BJP is best and it works in the nation's interest and prominent citizens are joining hands with BJP which is highly appreciable.

# Councilor Sahil Gupta takes blessings at Jagran



Top News Report
BISHNAH, Apr 11:
Bharatiya Janata Party
leader and Municipal
Committee Bishnah
Councilor Sahil Gupta
today bowed his head
and took blessings at the

Mata Jagran which was

held in Village Kareil Manhasan.

Chief Guest Sahil Gupta was accompanied by Special Guest Priyanka Dogra and Social worker Naresh Digra ASI in the program

in the program.

The Chief Co-ordinator

of the Jagran Committee Honored Councilor Sahil Gupta and Priyanka Dogra by giving them Mata's Chunari and presented them a picture of Mata Vaishno Devi.

Sahil Gupta thanked Jagran Committee for inviting him to attend the Jagran, for which he is very grateful and he also thanked the Committee Maa Bhagwati Vishal Jagran.

Gupta also thanked the Committee members Ripan Singh, Anil Singh, Jimmy, Happy, Romesh, Happy, Vijay Singh and Sunil Singh.

Priyanka Dogra, the special guest at the Jagran, also thanked for being honored. Priyanka Dogra has won the title of Miss Iconic India 2024.

# JKDAU promotes J&K delicacies in Uganda

others.

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: One more milestone by Jammu Kashmir Dogra Association Uganda (JKDAU) in promoting J&K culture & food in Uganda.

Rajasthani Association
Uganda in conjunction
with Indian Association
Uganda organised the
Holi celebrations and
JKDAU participated in
the event with their food

They served the J&K delicacies like Rajma Chawal with anardana chatani & Ghee served on patal, Chhole Kulche, Nimbu Shikanji ,Desi Pink Tea & Kashmiri Kahwa. The Bhaderwahi Rajma,

Patal, Anardana, Kesar, Desi chai & Kashmiri Kahwa leaves were specially imported from J&K to give real taste of J&k to the public in Uganda. The Indian high commissioner, Uganda Upender Singh Rawat also visited their stall & tasted their food. It was most loved and admired by the dignitaries & common public.

Indian Idol 13's fame Vineet Singh and Siraksha Rakshit also graced the event with their wonderful singing performances.

Team JKDAU felt so motivated & pleased to see that our native food was whole heartedly admired by public in Uganda.

# NC, Congress seek votes for Congress candidates



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 11: INDI Alliance J&K National Confrance and Congress Leaders continuing Campaign at Halqa Panchayat Pochhal (A-2) for Lok Sabha Election 2024.

Today a Door to Door campaign was started.

They spoken regarding Parliamentary Election and Support for Choudhary Lal Singh Contesting Candidate Kathua-Udhampur Constituency.

# Shiv Sena demands to curb dictatorship, recovery of dues in interest-free installments

People of J&K are entitled to free electricity and water



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded to stop the dictatorial attitude of disconnecting electricity connections and to give relief to consumers by paying their dues in interest-free instalments.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that Jammu and Kashmir is rich in immense water resources. Where thousands of megawatts of electricity are being generated and can be generated from hydro-electric

projects. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are entitled to free electricity and water.

But the electricity department is forcing its consumers to live in scorching heat and darkness by changing electricity meters, increasing electricity rates and now issuing arbitrary orders to disconnect connections if the dues are not paid in lump sum.

He said that the people struggling with maximum unemployment, economic recession and inflation are expecting relief from the government. Sahni said that the people are

suffering the consequences of not having an elected government.

Sahni has demanded relief from the administration like interest waiver on outstanding amount of ten thousand and above and paying the bill in 10-12 instalments.

Sahni said that the public should not be forced to come on the streets. On this occasion Women Wing President Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Kamgar Wing President Raj Singh and Secretary Rakesh Handa were present.

# The Bhaderwahi Rajma, Uganda. KCPS students attend

round square conference

at Chandigarh
Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 11: Four students of KC Public School, namely, Diya Dubey, Panache Gupta, Aryaveer Pal Singh and Aviral Kapoor attended a Round Square Conference hosted by Vivek High School Chandigarh from April 3 to 7.

They were escorted to it by Manoj Kapoor, Round Square Rep of the school. The theme of the Conference for students of classes 8 to 10 was 'Discover More'. 25 Round Square schools from India and abroad participated in the Conference.

On the 1st day of the event on April 3, delegates met for informal ice-breaking sessions at the host school.

The second day of the Conference on April 4 commenced with an opening ceremony, followed by a keynote address delivered by Vikram Agnihotri – an eminent and globally acclaimed disabled person – who inspired the young delegates with his heart-touching account of his struggle against severe physical disability suffered at young age. After the opening cer-

emony, student and adult delegates split into smaller groups for barazza discussions on the theme of the conference in general and the keynote address in particular.

The rest of the day was devoted to hands-on activities revolving round the Japanese Kintsugi concept of art and creativity.

The second part of the conference was held on April 5 at a hill resort in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh where the delegates interacted with Lama Yeshe Rabgae who led a session on mindful awareness and reconnecting with nature, offering practical exercises aimed at alleviating stress and anxiety. After the session, the spiritual leader led them on a nature bathing walk through the pine

forest.
The conference concluded on April 6 at the host school with a cultural show by all participating schools and a concluding

ceremony.
The KCPS delegates returned home enriched with experiential learning at the Conference and new friendships fastened during the global event.

# DFSS holds protest against CAPD



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 11: Activists of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of its president Ashok Gupta held a protest here against the CAPD for the hiked prices of the flowers and adulteration in the fasting staple of the festive

Specially in Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Eid the prices are fixed by the government of the items which are used during the Muslim festival which is

welcome step as people are safeguarded from inflation, Gupta said.

But on the contrary, he added, during the Navratri season the mostly used thing are the flowers which are now currently being sold at a price of Rs 200 per kg.

He further stated that the price fixed by the government of the Cheese is Rs 290 kg but in the market adulterated milk products are being sold to the consumers as they are fasting during Navratras and have to ouy them.

"Special flour (Kuttu Ka Atta), which is the prime staple during the Navratri festival, is adulterated and full of sand particles, he said.

Gupta stated that people who are indulged in the black marketing and adulteration of goods should be punished and the metrology as well as JMC should increase checking of the food items so that the people can be saved from the adulteration of basic festive staples.

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