TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Kartik Aaryan on his role in 'Chandu **Champion**



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Congress' Jairam Ramesh poses questions concerning TN to PM Modi ahead of his LS poll campaign

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US President Joe Biden says he expects Iran to attack Israel soon. warns 'not to proceed'

LG Sinha pays tributes to

General Zorawar Singh on his



wreath at the statue of

General Zorawar Singh

Ji at a commemorative

event organized by J&K

Ex-Services League.

The Lt Governor said

that General Zorawar

Singh was a true nation-

al hero and remain a

source of inspiration for

the people across the

"The unparalleled cour-

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age, valour and dedica-

tion of one of the

country.

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BRIEFLY

Gujrat tourist dies of cardiac arrest in **Pahalgam**

SRINAGAR, Apr 13 (Agencies): A tourist hailing from Guirat died due to cardiac arrest at Pahalgam in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday officials said.

Reports said that a 63-year-old woman identified as Vangikar Anagha, wife of Mahesh, a resident of Gujrat, was staying in a

hotel in Pahalgam. This morning, she felt unconscious and was immediately taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead on arrival.

Police arrest two drug **Peddlers** in Handwara

SRINAGAR, Apr 13 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested two drug peddlers in Handwara and recovered contraband substances from their

possession. The Police spokesperson said that a police party of the Police post magam led by IC PP Magam under the supervision of SDPO Handwara and SHO handwara intercepted a vehicle (Tata sumo)bearing Reg no JK09 4301 at Khanpora Crossing driven by Irshad Ahmad Ione S/O Ab Gani lone R/O Taratpura and a passenger who disclosed his identity as Shabir Ahmad Marazi S/O Gh Rasool Marazi R/O Summer Bug Lasjan Srinagar.

"Upon seeing the police party, duo tried to flee from the spot but were apprehended tactfully. During the search of the vehicle, charas-like substance weighing about 106 grams was recovered from their possession. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized. In this regard, Fir No 68/24 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act registered in ps Handwara and investigation has been initiated," the police said.

"Community members are requested to come forward with any information regarding Drug peddlers in their neighbourhood. Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt with as per law. Our consistent actions

against drug Turn to page 9

PM Modi, President Murmu pay tribute to **Jallianwala Bagh massacre victims**

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to the people killed in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919 and shared a video defining the incident and showcasing the unparalleled courage and sacrifice of the victims.

In a post on X PM said, "On behalf of my family members across the country, I pay my heartfelt tribute to all the brave martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre."

President Droupadi Murmu also remembered the victims of massacre and said, "My heartfelt tribute to all the freedom fighters who sacrificed everything for the motherland in Jallianwala Bagh! The countrymen will always



erations. Hundreds of people protesting peacefully against the Rowlatt Acts, which granted the colonial administration repressive powers, were gunned down by British

inspire the coming gen-

forces without any provocation in what became one of the most brutal turns in their occupation of India.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also paid tributes to the victims and said, "Tributes to the brave martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh who made an invaluable contribution to the country's freedom movement.

"Jallianwala Bagh is

cruelty and inhumanity of the British rule. This massacre awakened the revolutionary flame hidden in the hearts of the countrymen and made the freedom movement a struggle of the people. The lives of the self-respecting people of Jallianwala Bagh are an eternal source of inspiration for sacrifice and dedication for the nation first," he added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also recalled the sacrifices made by the people at Jallianwala Bagh.

"Remembering the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar who were massacred on this day in 1919. I salute their supreme

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Ladakh Apex body organises foot march to protest land loss

schedule.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchu who is part of the LAB said the march will be undertaken "verv soon" but the dates are yet to be decided.

to demand Statehood for

Ladakh and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

and military strategist

"Over 40,000 acres of prime pasture land is being handed over to industrialists for setting up solar projects. We want to show this reality and have decided to undertake a foot march to Changthang...Only 10 to 20 leaders involved in the ongoing agitation will be part of the march who will go from village to village to show how much land was taken away," the Daily Excelsior quoted Wangchuk as saying.

He said the administration will allow the march, considering the statement of the home Minister that not a single inch of land was taken by China.

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cies): Lieutenant Gov-General Zorawar Singh on his Birth Anniversary. ernor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to great warrior The Lt Governor laid

Birth Anniversary

SRINAGAR, Apr 13 (Agencies): Days after withdrawing its call for border march amidst imposition of restrictions by administration, Leh Apex Body (LAB) said a small group of their representatives would undertake a foot march in coming days to Changthang near China border to show the reality of farmers losing their pasture land in the absence of sixth

JAMMU, Apr 13 (Agen-

The LAB, along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), is spearheading an agitation over the past four years

Polling staff, police personnel airlifted to snowbound areas of Kishtwar

in J&K JAMMU, Apr 13 (Agencies): The first batch of 189 poll officials and 69 police staff were airlifted from the district headquarters in Jammu to the snow-bound areas of Marwah and Warwan in J&K's Kishtwar district, an official statement said on Friday.

Marwah, Warwan, and Machail are the remotest areas in Kishtwar district, which remain cut off for 3-4 months during the winters. There are 34 polling stations in these areas.

"Preparations are in full swing with elaborate security measures in place, including the deployment of Indian Air Force's Mi-17 helicopters for the transportation of polling officers and the establishment of helipads," the statement said.

"The airlifting operation being conducted by three IAF helicopters is a collaborative effort between the **Election Commission** of India and the Indian Air Force," it added.

On Thursday, 188 security personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and J&K Police (JKP) were dispatched to the district

"The dispatch of polling staff will continue in a phased manner, prioritising the far-flung areas like Marwah, Warwan, Machail, etc.,' the statement said.

Kishtwar falls under the Udhampur-Kathua Lok Sabha constituency, which will go to the polls on April 19 with 12 candidates in the fray.

Indian Army marks 4 decades of presence in Siachen Glacier

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): The induction of heavy-lift helicopters and logistic drones, deployment of all-terrain vehicles and laying of an extensive network of tracks are among a host of measures that have enhanced India's combat prowess in Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, officials said on Saturday.

As the Indian Army marks the 40th year of its presence on the strategically-significant Siachen glacier, the officials said there have

been extensive improvements in the operational capabilities of the force due to the enhancement of infrastructure in the region in the last few years.

The Siachen glacier at the height of around 20,000 feet in the Karakoram mountain range is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where soldiers have to battle frostbite and high winds.

Under its "Operation Meghdoot", the Indian Army established its full control over the glacier on April 13, 1984. "The Indian Army's

control over the Siachen glacier has not only been a story of unparalleled valour and determination but also an incredible journey of technological advancements and logistical improvements that transformed it from one of the most formidable terrains into a symbol of indomitable spirit and innovation," said an official.

The initiatives, especially laid out in the last five years, have made

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Weather in J&K to be intermittently wet till Tuesday

SRINAGAR, Apr 13 (Agencies): Widespread to moderate rain is expected over Jammu and Kashmir till Tuesday, officials said

During this period, snow is also expected in the higher reaches of the Union territory. The Meteorological

Centre Srinagar predicted widespread light to moderate rain and thunderstorms over Jammu and Kashmir in the next

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10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the

sad demise of our beloved father Sh.

Charnjet Lal Puri S/o Paras Ram Puri 148

Gali Afgana Jammu, who left for heavenly

10th Day will be performed on (Saturday) 13-

04-2024 Rani Talab (Tutiean) from 10 to 11 AM.

Kriya will be performed on (Tuesday) 16-04-

Rasam Pagri will be performed on

Arti Puri - Deepak Puri - Daughter-in-law & Son

Neelam Gandral - Madan Gandral - Son-in-law & Daughter

Bimla Verma - Ramesh Verma - Son-in-law & Daughter

Manik Puri, Manvi Puri, Udhey Puri - Grand Children

(Wednesday) 17-04-2024 from 4 to 5 PM at SH. CHARNJET LAL

10th Day Kriya & Prayer Meeting
With profound grief and sorrow, we_____

2024 at 12 Noon at our residence.

Mobile: 9419183721, 9419147760

regret to inform the sad demise of our

beloved Smt. Sumati Jatta W/o Sh.

Chaman Lal Jatta, F-702 Park View

City II, Sector 49, Sohna Road,

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

Sh. Chaman Lal Jatta - Husband

Jatta's / Kakru's/ Raina's

Smt. Sharika Jatta - Mother in Law

abode on 04-04-2024.

Brahman Sabha Parade. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Gurgoan -122018.

on 14-4-2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With deep sense of grief and sorrow we regret to inform that our dear Smt Sunita Bazaz W/o Sh Bushan Lal Bazaz D/o Late Smt Janak Rani Wali and Late Sh Janki Nath Wali R/o Habba Kadal, Srinagar (Kmr) A/P 1/4, Vikas Nagar, Sarwal Jammu left for heavenly abode on Saturday 6th April 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat (near Director of School Education Office Jammu) on Monday 15th April 2024 at 8.30 AM

IN GRIEF

Sh Bushan Lal Bazaz (Husband) 9810471629 Daughter in laws & Sons Shivani & Anil Bazaz Amrita & Sandeep Bazaz

Sister in laws and Brother in laws Smt Santosh & K L Bazaz 9419110379 Smt Anupma & S K Bazaz

Smt Sunita & D K Bazaz Smt Sweety & Veer Ji Bazaz

Sister & Brother in law

Smt Girja and Surinder Kak Niharika Bazaz & Akshay Dhar, Chitra Bazaz & Shailesh, Ankit Bazaz, Esha Bazaz, Tanya Bazaz Grand Children : Anhat & Aditya Bazaz WALI'S, KALU'S & HANGLOO'S

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Raj Dulari Pandit (Rani Ji) W/o. Late Shri Chuni Lal Pandit originally from Kulgam, Kashmir, presently at Goregoan, Mumbai. She left for her heavenly abode on 09th April, 2024 morning.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 18th April, 2024 at 9.00 am at Bhayandar Beach, Mumbai. GRIEF-STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in- Law Bal Krishen Pandit and Nalini Pandit -M: 9796495850 Shyam Sunder Pandit and Vijay Pandit -M: 9419147804

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

10TH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Prabh as 10024 other (see

Durga Jee) of Hawal, Pulwama, on 10th April 2024, at her residence in Jolly Grant, Dehradun. Cremation has been conducted on 11/04/2024 at Kharkhari

Ghat, Handwar. 10th Day Kriya will be held on 19/04/2024 at 10.00 AM, at

Haridwar Ganga Ghat. Rest days will be performed at Jammu Yatri Bhavan Trust, Rishikesh Road, Haridwar.

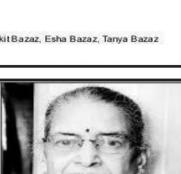
Mommay, It's hard to believe that you are physically no longer with us. You have been our shield and guiding light all your life. You were really kind and no one could value the family & relations the way you always did. Your Bhakti towards Almighty was extraordinary. You may not be physically with us but you will stay

in our hearts forever. As you are with the ultimate divine power now, may your soul (Prabhavati/ Durga Jee) attain sadgati.

REMEMBERED BY

Smt Makhni & Sh JL. Bhat - Daughter-in-law & Son Smt Pupa & Sh Roshan Lal Bhat - Daughter-in-law & Son Smt Reeta & Sh S.L Bhat - Daughter-in-law & Son Smt Khema & Sh Ratin Lai Bhat - Daughter-in-law & Son Smt Kishni & Sh T.N Kaul - Daughter & Son-in-law Smt Kaki & Sh B.M Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law Great-Grand Children:

Tanush, Krishna, Vaishnavi, Shivakshi (Pari). Contact: 9082502054, 9149675676, 9419133092, 9419155691



Smt Sunita Bazaz

SMT. RAJ DULARI PANDIT

Smt. Prabha Shori

Smt Vishakha & Sh Vishal Bhat

Dr Lipy & Dr Abhishek Sharma

Smt Amrita & Sh Manish Kaul

Smt Nidhi & Sh Sukshm Pandita

Smt Preeti & Sh Sandeep Singh

Smt Nimisha & Sh Shivam Bhat

Pankit, Rahul, Harsh, Jhalak

Grand Children

(RANI JI)

Jai Mohan Pandit and Aneeta Pandit -M: 9819393757

Grand Children All friends and relatives

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

Arin, Parth & Tanishq - Grand Children

Mrs. Nupur & Mr. Nitin Jatta - Daughter in Law & Son

Mrs Romi & Mr. Vishal Bharat - Daughter & Son in Law

Ph: 9312498913, 9560215139, 9810146896, 9810393279

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 Maharashira on 17th April 2024

GRIEF STRICKEN: Husband - Bushan Lai 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 Wlo Late Shri D N Raina Smt Lalita Raina W/o Late Shri Brij Krishan Raina

Smt Birnla Bhan W/o Late Shri Schan Lal Bhan Smit Bablii Bazaz W/o Shrii Kuldeep Kumar Bazaz CONTACT NO - 8600246782, 7387221608 AND 6005181973



Smt. Sumati Jatta

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you the demise of our beloved Mother Smt Ramesh Gaind W/o Late Sh. J.P Gaind R/o H. No 258, Jollaka Mohalla Jammu on 06th April 2024.

TENTH DAY will be held at our residence H. No 258 Jollaka Mohalla at 10.00 AM on 14th April Sunday. KRIYA will be held at our residence H. No 258 Jollaka Mohalla at 12.00 Noon on 17th April Wednesday. UTHALA will be held at Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha on 17th April Wednesday from 4 to 5 Pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN Son & Daughter in Law V.B Gaind (JE PDD) and Pooja Gaind

Daughter & Son in Law Dr Rewa Gaind and Adv. Salil Sachdeva Grand Daughters & Grand Son

Mobile No: 9419112899, 9419253389, 9419200766 Kamya, Aaliya, Kavish

OBITUARY / TENTH DAY With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our Mother Smt. Janak Rani W/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Raina of Hermain, Shopian

presently at K-19 TRT Nagrota on 06/04/2024. Mourning is being observed at TRT community Hall Nagrota

Tenth Day will be observed on 15/04/2024 time 8.00 am at TRT Nagrota.

GRIEF STRICKEN Son and Daughter-in-law

Sh. Chaman Lal Raina and Smt. Anita Raina Daughter and Son-in-law Smt. Pushpa Pandita and Sh. Bansi Lal Pandita

Grand Children Miss. Meenakshi Raina

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



Smt Janak Rani

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



SMT RAMESH

GAIND

Sh Tej Krishan Pandita

Asha Babi Kaul

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sudden and sad demise of our beloved Asha Babi Kaul W/o Late Makhan Lal Kaul originally from Naquashpora Sathu Srinagar at present Baijnath Kangra (HP) on 6th April 2024.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Shree Gauri Sankar Mandir, T-Block Phase-1 Sector 109 near Palam Vihar Gurugram Haryana on 15th April (Monday) at 5.30 am.

Grief Stricken:

Smt Dulari Kaul - Sister in law

Dr Jyoti and Dr M K Matoo -Daughter & Son in law Mrs Renu and Mr K K Kaul-Daughter & Son in law Mrs Indu and Mr Shailesh Raina- Daughter & Son in law

SAMAST KAUL PARIVAR

Contact: 9596958456, 9876384453, 9418002820, 9418041272

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Shakuntia Sharma on 10th of April 2024, W/o Sh S M Sharma Ex Sub/Maj. Ex QM Sainik School Nagrota.

10th Day will be performed on 19th April 2024 at our residence. Kriva Karam /Uthala will be performed 20 April at our residence 72/6 Lane-7 Nanak Nagar Jammu between 9 AM to 12.30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN: S M Sharma-Husband

Pardeep Sharma & Nisha Sharma - Son & Daughter in law Rakesh Sharma & Anita Sharma- Son & Daughter in law Rajni Sharma & Ashwani Sharma- Daughter & Son in law Nikhil Sharma Grand Son (U.K) Akhil Sharma Grand Son

Abhishek Shama - Grand Son Shreya Sharma- Grand Daughter Janvi Sharma - Grand Daughter

Mob. 7006969134, 9107207294, 7006905089, 9149444294



Smt Shakuntla Sharma

SMT. ROOPA DEVI

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Roopa Devi W/o Sh. Amar Nath Ganjoo original resident of Pinglena, Pulwama presently at H.No. 156 Sector-3 Durga Nagar, Jammu on Sunday dated 07/04/2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at 8:30 AM on 16/04/2024 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu.

IN GRIEF:

Sh. Amar Nath Ganjoo (Husband)

Smt & Sh. Rajesh Ganjoo (Daughter-in-law & Son) Smt & Sh. P.K. Koul (Daughter & Son-in-law)

CONTACT NO: 7006232576, 7055507507



MITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW REGRET TO INFORM YOU THE SAD DEMISE OUR BELOVED MR C.L. GANJU (K.A.S.) RETI CAC/FINANCIAL ADVISOR-J&K GOVT ORIGINAL FROM HABBA KADAL SRINAGAR, PRESENT RESIDING AT PAMPOSH COLONY JAMMU. He passed away on the 7th of April 2024, in Bangak 10th day Kriya would be performed at Yediyur Vaid Kendra, 22nd Cross Road, Yediyur Sakamma Garo Jayanagar, Bangalore, at 7 am, 16th April 2024. IN GRIEF

Jayanagar, Bangakore, at 7 am, 16th April 2024.

IN GRIEF

Mrs Grija Ganju-Wife
Sisters in Law and Brothera

Mrs Lalita Ganju (Wo Late MrTK Ganju)

Mrs Asha and Mr BM Ganju

Mrs Usha and Mr BM Ganju

Mrs Usha and Mr DN Ganju

Mrs Wan Law and Brothers in Law

Mrs Rajni Chakoo (wo Late Manchar Chakoo)

Mrs Nancy and Mr Rajender Zajpuri

Mrs Usha and Mr BN Marikoo

Mrs Sange and Mr Anil Moza

Mrs Sunita and Sanjay Bhat-Daughter and Son-in law

Mrs Shally and Sandeep Ganju- Daughter in Law and Son

Mrs Sangeeta and Sudhir TS- Daughter and Son in Law

Atharva Ganju and Avyukt Sudhir- Grand Children



BHAN'S, TK SHIVASHANKAR, KACHROO'S, JAILKAHN'S AND KAUL'S.

TENTH DAY KRIYA "Forever in our hearts, your love lives on."

SMT. SHEELA DASS W/O LATE SH. BANSI LAL DASS ATTAINED MOKSHA ON 05-04-2024 at her residence.

TENTH DAY KRIYA SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 14-04-2024 AT 9 AM AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE SCHOOL EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT, JAMMU. IN GRIFF:

DASS & BHAT FAMILY



Sh. Harbans Lal Gupta

Usha Muku Koul

Contact Numbers: 9888965597, 9876074248

TENTH DAY BEYOND BELIEF & EXTREMELY HARD FOR US TO SEPT THAT OUR BELOVED BROTHER SH. JAGA H KOUL ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF SEE DID ANALTH WAS KAS HAIR PRESENTLY AT HAI NACAR UDEN YWALLA JAMAU, WHO LEFT FO LY ABCOE ON 01-2024. WHO LEFT FO LY ABCOE ON 01-2024 PALAM VIHA SHANKAR MANDIR NEW PALAM VIHA SHANKAR MANDIR NEW PALAM VIHA ON ASSEMELY WILL BE HELD AT 800/70 BLOC POSITE MOTHER DAIRY, VITASTA ENCLAV HARRAT II AM

EF STRICKEN
JAYAKOUL WOLT SH. BANSI LALKOUL - 9419121132
JTHER & BHABI
VUAR KOLL WOSH. ROSHAN LALKOUL - 9419778241
KIRAN KOUL
SH MALKAN KOUL - 7006003825

WO SH MAHARAJ KRISHAN KOUL - 7060003825
SMT SUARAN KOUL
WO SH SHEDAN LAI, KOUL - 7780979159
SMT RAJIN KOUL WIO SH SHADI LAI, KOUL - 9796456750
SISTER & BROTHERIN-LAW
SMT LOVELY PANDITA WIO SH MANOJ PANDITA - 9312414655
SMT PHOOLA KOUL WO SH JAGGAR NATH KOUL - 9766225538
SMT PHOOLA KOUL WO SH JAGGAR NATH KOUL - 9766225538
SMT BASANT T SAINA, WO SH PUSHAKAR NATH RAINA - 996622
MER VERNA KOUL - 0 R SANJAY KOUL - 9873929136
SON & DAUGHTERIN-LAW
MER VIRNOD KOUL & MES SONEY KOUL - 7682886601



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sat demise of our beloved Sh. Harbans Lai Gupta S/o LLShif Badri Nath Kailoo, R/o Main Baza Kandoli Nagrota, Jammu on 2nd April 2024. TENTH DAY will be held at Salya Narayan Mandir Nagrota on 11th April 2024 (Thursday) at 10.00 A.M. KRIYA: On 14th April 2024 (Sunday) at our resi

dence.
UTHALA: On 15th April 2024 (Monday) at Satyl
Narayan Mandir, Nagrota at 3:00 P.M.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Arli Gupta (Wife)
SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW
Lipperschi & Nitocka Gupta

Himanshu & Niteeka Gupta
DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW
Himani & Tarun Sharma
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 & LtSh Yash Pal Gupta Smt. Vijay Laxmi & Sh. Yash Pal Gupta Smt. Tripta & Lt. Sh. Safish 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 residence.

Our entire family pays homage to the departed soul praying for eternal peace. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Ravinder Kumar Koul (Husband) Garima Koul & Gaurav Koul (Daughter in Law & Son) Ishan Koul (Son)

Koul's, Bhat's, Raina's, and Fotedar's Contact No 7006980233, 9419270977, 7006310740

TENTH DAY, KRIYA, RASAM PAGRI Nith profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sac

emise of our beloved Sh Angrez Singh Jasrotia i/o Late Mustaq Singh R/o Barwal, Kathua on 06 Tenth Day will be held at Barwal near J&K Grameen Bank on 15 April 2024 (Monday) at 10.00 Kriva on 18 April (Thursday) at our residence

tasam Pagri on 19 April (Friday) at our residence Son & Daughter in law Jeepak & Sunita - Mob No. 8082686774 Rajeev & Neelam Jaughters & Sons in law

ndhu and Joginder Singh Ranju and Rakesh Singh GRAND SON AND GRAND DAUGHTER PRINCE, RIYA, PARV AND RIDHU

eavenly abode on 02/04/2024

Suman & Suresh

Jvot & Yash

10TH DAY & RASAM PAGRI With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father Sh Sher Singh (Retd Principal) S/o Late Sh Bhagu Ram who left for

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 Hardey Singh & Smt Neetu Panotra (Bougal) Arinder Singh Daughters and Sons in law Subhash & Kamal

Arpna & All Bougal Family No. 9858287989, 7006291325



Sh Angrez Singh

SHADMOS AND MAASVAR 'Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen,

unheard, always near, still loved, still missed & very dear" Dear Papa, we pray to God to grant the highest peace and Vaikunth Vaas to

your compassionate soul. Shadmos and Maaswar of our beloved father, Late Sh H.L Bhan, Late Sh H.L Bhan IPS (Retd) will be performed on

IPS (Retd) April 15/16, 2024 at our residence -1674A, Housing Board Colony, Sec 10A, Gurgaon.

Deeply Missed & Remembered By: **Bhan Parivaar All Friends and Relatives** Ph: 0124-4221870, +91 9971880686

DISCLAIMER

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FFMA pays tributes to Jallianwala Bagh martyrs

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) on Saturday paid tribute to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh massacre at Maheshpura Chowk,

FFMA Chairman Rajiv Mahajan, speaking on the occasion, described the Jallianwala Bagh massacre as one of the most brutal incidents in the history of India, which resulted in the martyrdom of nearly 1,000 people. Highlighting the incident, Prof.

S. S Balwal President of Association said, "On 13th April, 1919 people began to gather in Jallianwala Bagh to celebrate Baisakhi. On that day 1000 people were thronged in the Bagh. General Dyer had kept eagle eyes on all the developments and was prepared to pounce on his prey at any moment. As he saw small ferment in Bagh he intruded there by narrow lane led to Bagh. He came there with a picket of fifty Army Platoons comprising of twenty five Gorkhas and twenty five of Balochis. As he entered he sealed the only exit of Bagh. Without warning he ordered his picket to take position and fire on unarmed innocent civilians. The sound of guns and cries of crowd rent the air. Few people jumped



over the wall, many dived into well, women bravely faced bullets while looking for their children, some old people took shelter under erected podium and many laid down on ground to avoid the volley of bullets."

Rajiv Mahajan further added, "The barbarity of General continued for consecutive ten minutes.

After ten minutes when firing was ceased the appearance of Bagh was giving the glimpses of holocaust. Human blood was sprawling on the ground, human bodies strewn upon everywhere."

Paying rich tributes to the martyrs among whom many were from J&K, Rajiv Mahajan observed that their sacrifice will be remembered

by the generations to come and will always serve as an inspiration for people to safeguard their sovereignty which came after so much struggle and sacrifices.

Others present on the occasion included Karnail Chand (Working President), Pritam Sharma (Vice President), Parbhat Kapahi (Office Secretary) and others.

Assembly polls, Statehood assurance by PM closed opposition's shop: Khatana Cong, NC, PDP inciting trouble in Ladakh: BJP MP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (RS), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that after the assurance of PM Modi that Assembly elections will be held in J&K soon and the Statehood will also be restored, the opposition parties have now nothing to say and their shop has been closed.

"These opposition parties like Congress, National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have always divided the people of J&K and Ladakh on regional lines," Khatana said while addressing a number of delegations which met him at his residence with certain issues

The BJP leader said that things have changed now and the people have realised the evil designs of Gandhis, Abdullahs and Muftis and the public is presently pinning all hopes on BJP as far as public welfare and development are concerned.

"The outcome of upcoming Lok Sabha elections will prove the popularity of BJP among the public as BJP is all set to secure over 400 seats to pave the way for PM Modi for the third term to helm the affairs of world's largest democracy," he maintained adding: "Whatever the BJP had said it has accomplished and the performance of the last ten years of PM Modi led government is a testimony for that."

Taking a dig on Congress, NC and PDP, Khatana said that these political parties never digest peace and progress in J&K and Ladakh that is why they are triggering unrest in Ladakh and are dividing the people of Ladakh on regional grounds by making Kargil fight against Ladakh and vice

"People of J&K and Ladakh should keep in mind that PM Modi has a special place for them in his heart and he thinks a lot about the welfare of these people," he further said adding that BJP will win all the five Lok Sabha seats from Jammu and the one from Ladakh.

The firebrand BJP leader has asked the people of Ladakh not to fall in the divisive trap of NC, Congress and PDP as the government led by PM Modi thinks a lot about these people while the inciters like NC, Congress and PDP have done nothing so far for these people.

Khatana said that soon J&K and Ladakh will emerge as the most progressing and advanced places in the country.

BSF DG stresses on further strengthening the anti-infiltration grid along LoC

SRINAGAR, Apr 13 (Agencies): Director General of Border Security Force (BSF) Nitin Agrawal has stressed on further strengthening the anti-infiltration grid along the Line of Control (LoC) in close cooperation with the Army.

Agrawal said this during a meeting at Frontier headquarters of the Force at Humhama on the outskirts of Srinagar.

A spokesman of the Force said that BSF DG accompanied by Special Director General (DG) of BSF's Western Command in Chandigarh Yogesh Bahadur Khurania, visited Kashmir Frontier between April 11 and 12 to review the security situation and operational preparedness of the force along the LoC as well as for the general election.

"During the visit, he held discussions with the senior BSF official at Frontier HQ Humhama,



visited high altitude forward locations along the LoC," the spokesman

said.

Agarwal stressed on further strengthening the

anti-infiltration grid on the LoC in close cooperation with the Army.

On LoC, the BSF works under Army's operational control.

'This is not end of Farooq Abdulah's career,' says son Omar on NC Leader's skipping election Mian Altaf Still NC Candidate From Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha Seat: Omar

SRINAGAR, Apr 13 (Agencies): National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Saturday said his father Farooq Abdullah's not contesting the Lok Sabha polls does not signal an end to his electoral career.

"With my father, I have learnt over time that you never say never, ever. So until the very last breath, and may God give him many more of them, do not ever write him off for anything," Omar said.

The National Conference vice president was responding to a question whether the senior Abdullah might stage a comeback when assembly elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir.

In response to a guestion about his sons - Zahir and Zameer politics, the former J-K chief minister said they have done nothing that warrants such a conjec-

"As far as my sons are concerned, what have they done? Have they made speeches, have they got mandates, have



they done any active politics? As sons or grandsons, they help out wherever they are needed. We hosted a party (Iftar party), if they help as part of the family, being hosts, is there a problem with that?" he said.

"They are trained lawyers, if once in a while the party takes legal advice from them, where you seen them actively campaigning, seeking a mandate? I have not seen it," Omar added.

On the BJP accusing their rivals of promoting dynastic politics, Omar said the ruling party at the Centre does not have problem with politi-

cal families as one-fifth of its candidates for Lok Sabha polls come from such families.

"Look, I cannot help propaganda. But I continue to maintain that the BJP has no problem with families in politics. The BJP's problem is with those families that oppose the BJP.

"Otherwise, you tell me families in politics? I was reading a newspaper article the other day that suggested that one-fifth of the mandates that the BJP has distributed in this Parliament election all belong to BJP political families," he said.

"How is it that Pawar

sahab's family is a dynastic party, but Ajit Pawar is not dynastic? When Ajit Pawar's wife fights against Supriya Sule, that is not dynastic politics? The BJP has no problem with that," the politician said, and drew similar examples from the Thackeray family and the family of N. Candrababu Naidu.

"When the Home Minister of India and others meet Uddhav Thackery's cousin, Raj Thackery, that is not dynastic? Other than having the Thackerey surname, what else is there? When the BJP ties up with Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh. Naidu is NTR's son-in-law, that is how he got entry into politics, is that not dynastic? "How many second and third there in BJP today ... all these youngsters who are now coming up, whether it is Sushma Swaraj's daughter, or the minister from Hamirpur in Himachal (Anurag Thakur). How many names do you want me to list out for you, there is no end to it," the

from No 27 Squadron

commenced operations in September 1984. In

the next couple of years,

the Hunters flew an

NC leader said.

Meanwhile, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah Saturday said Gujjar leader Mian Altaf was still the party's candidate from Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary constituency amid reports that he was not keeping well.

"We have not heard about it. If he had taken such a decision, then he would have informed us. Now that you have raised it, we will find out about it," Abdullah told reporters here.

He said Altaf is the party's first choice for the seat "and unless we won't hear from his mouth, he will be our party's face." "We will see what has to be done. Media reports are not always true, some-I said, unless I won't hear it from Altaf that he won't be able to contest citing health issues, I won't be able to comment on it.' he said.

The party vice president said if Altaf does not contest then the party will hold consultations over it.

Security forces recover arms, ammunition from terrorist hideout in Reasi

JAMMU, Apr 13 (Agencies): Security forces on Saturday recovered cache of arms and ammunition, including Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and explosives, from a terrorist hideout in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

A police spokesman said that acting on the reliable information regarding presence of a hideout in Mahore sub division area, a joint operation was launched jointly by Police and Army in the Lancha area of Mahore to sanitise the

He added that during the search and cordon operation, security forces recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition from the hideout in Lancha area of Shajroo. The recovery included

one tiffin IED with two electric detonators, two pistols, two magazines, 19 rounds of pistol. 400 grams of explosive powder, 40 rounds of AK 47, four pictures of LoC, five rounds sixer pistol,

one electric detonator, six (9 volt) D C batteries, two lithium ion 12 volt batteries, two bundles of 40 meters electric wire, 5 meters plastic rope, one steel plate, steel glass, a bag and three torn bedsheets.

Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi Mohita Sharma shared that joint operation with the army is still going on in the area of Mahore and security forces in Reasi are committed to neutralise any nefarious designs of anti-national elements.

IAF in operation Meghdoot

Top News Report JAMMU, Apr 13: Oper-

ation Meghdoot was launched on 13 April 1984, when the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) advanced to the Siachen glacier to secure the heights dominating the Northern Ladakh region. The operation involved the airlifting of Indian Army soldiers by the IAF and dropping them on the glacial peaks. Although the operation began in 1984, IAF helicopters were already operating in the Siachen Glacier since 1978, flying the Chetak helicopters which was the first IAF helicopter to land in the Glacier in October 1978.

By 1984, Pakistan's cartographic aggression in the uncharted territory of Ladakh, allowing foreign mountaineering expeditions in Siachen, was becoming a cause of concern. Having received intelligence inputs about an impending Pakistani military action in the area, India decided to thwart Pakistan's efforts to legitimize its claim on Siachen. The Indian Army launched Operation Meghdoot, to



secure strategic heights on Siachen with the deployment of troops. Playing an irreplaceable role in this effort, IAF's tactical and strategic airlifters, An-12s, An-32s and IL-76s transported stores and troops and air-dropped supplies to high altitude airfields, from where Mi-17, Mi-8, Chetak and Cheetah helicopters ferried men and material to dizzying heights on the glacier, far above the limits set by the helicopter manufacturers. Soon, about 300-odd troops were positioned on the strategically important peaks and passes of the glacier. By the time the Pakistan army reacted by advancing its own troops, the Indian Army was occupying strate-gically crucial moun-

tain peaks and passes, thereby gaining a tactical advantage.

In extending valuable support to the Army's fight for maintaining military dominance on this desolate glacier since April 1984, the IAF's incredible performance at the extremes of temperature and altitude remains a continuing saga of fortitude and skill. While the initial operations involved only the use of transport and helicopter aircraft transporting men and material, the IAF gradually expanded its role and presence in the region with the deployment of fighter aircraft as well. The IAF's Hunter aircraft kick-started fighter operations from the high altitude airfield at Leh. when a detachment of Hunters

impressive total of more than 700 sorties from Leh. As an increasingly large number of fighter sweeps and simulated strikes began to be carried out over the glacier itself, it served as the ultimate morale booster for Indian troops deployed on the glacier, and sent a stern message to the adversary to avoid any misadventures in the area. Later. live armament sorties were carried out at the high altitude firing range at Kar Tso, south of Leh. With the ground infrastructure becoming more conducive for fighter flying, MiG-23s and MiG-29s also started operating from Leh and Thoise. The IAF also inducted the Cheetal helicopters for operating in the glacier in 2009. The Cheetal is a Cheetah helicopter which is re-engineered with a TM 333 2M2 engine having better reliability and load carrying capability at high altitude. More recently, on 20 August 2013, in a

significant show of capa-

bility, the IAF landed one of its latest acquisitions, the Lockheed Martin C-130J Super Hercules four-engine transport aircraft at Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), the world's highest airstrip, near the line of actual control in Ladakh. Today, nearly all the aircraft of the IAF including Rafale, Su-30MKI, Chinook, Apache, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk III & Mk IV, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand, MiG-29, Mirage-2000, C-17, C-130 J, IL-76 and An-32 operate in support of Op Meghdoot.

In the highest battlefield in the world, known for its extreme climatic conditions, IAF helicopters form the lifeline and the sole link of Indian troops with the outside world, playing a critical role in continuing the four decade old military operation; responding to emergencies, supplying essential logistics and evacuating the sick and wounded from the 78 km long glacier. Flying in such ruthless terrain, records of human endurance, flying and technical proficiency are being set by the IAF nearly every day.

BJP OBC Morcha holds public programme in support of Jugal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: A huge number of people gathered in the public program of the BJP OBC Morcha which was organised in support of Jugal Kishore at Gorkha Nagar , Bahu fort Jammu South.

People of Baazigar Samaj and Gorkha Samaj participated actively in this program and extend their support to Jugal

Kavinder Gupta (Former Dy CM), Vikram Randhawa (Former MLC), Rajeev Charak (Prab-



hari Jammu), Anuradha Charak (Vice President BJP). Rekha Mahaian (Dist President Jammu South), Braham Jyot Satti (State Incharge BJP OBC Morcha), Sunil Prajapati (State president OBC Morcha), Lucky Puri (Mandal President

BJP), Sunny Sangotra Senior leader BJP, Ram Lal (Dist President OBC) and Other Senior leader BJP present.

The program was organised by Sunny Sangotra (Senior leader BJP) Ram Lal and Karuna Devi (leader of Gorkha Samaj)

EDITORIAL

Jallianwala Bagh massacre

oday marks 105 years of Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The country is remembering the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh on the 105th anniversary. Thousands of people were killed in the massacre that took place in Amritsar in 1919, but according to the British government figures, only 379 people were killed. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre is a dark chapter in the history of British India. 104 years ago, on April 13, 1919, British officer General Dyer had opened indiscriminate fire on the unarmed crowd present in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar. More than a thousand people were killed in this massacre, while more than 1,500 were injured. The day this cruel incident happened, it was Baisakhi. After this massacre, the end of British rule began. After this, the country got a revolutionary like Udham Singh and a wave of patriotism ran in the hearts of many youth including Bhagat Singh. On April 13, 1919, a meeting was being held to protest against the Rowlatt Act in Jallianwala Bagh, a small garden located one and a half kilometers away from the famous Golden Temple of Amritsar. There was also Baisakhi that day. For many years, a fair was organized in Jallianwala Bagh on the day of Baisakhi, in which hundreds of people reached there on that day to participate. At the same time, Brigadier General Reginald Dyer of the British Army reached there with 90 soldiers. The soldiers surrounded the garden and without any warning started firing on hundreds of people, including unarmed old men, women and children. The people present there also tried to get out, but the path was very narrow, and Dyer's soldiers were standing there stopping them. For this reason no one could come out and the Indians failed to save their lives. On the orders of General Dyer, the British Army opened fire without stopping for about 10 minutes. About 1,650 rounds were fired in this incident. It is said that when the soldiers ran out of bullets, their hands stopped. Many people jumped into the well built in the garden to save their lives, which is now called 'Shaheedi Kuan'. It is still present in Jallianwala Bagh and reminds us of those innocent people who became victims of the evil designs of the British. More than a thousand people were martyred. According to the British government, about 379 people were killed and 1,200 people were injured in this firing, but according to the Indian National Congress, more than 1,000 people were martyred that day, out of which the bodies of 120 were found in the well and more than 1,500 Many people were injured. General Dyer wanted to scare Indians. General Dyer was a great supporter of the Rowlatt Act, and he did not approve of its opposition. His intention was that Indians would get scared after this massacre, but on the contrary, the entire country should stand together against the British government.

The massacre was criticized all over the world. Ultimately, under pressure, the Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu, formed the Hunter Commission in late 1919 to investigate. After the commission's report came, Dyer was demoted to Colonel, and he was also sent back to Britain. The House of Commons passed a censure motion against Dyer, but the House of Lords passed a citation praising him for the massacre. Later, under pressure, the British government passed a motion condemning him. Dyer had to resign in 1920 and died of brain hemorrhage in 1927.

Course corrections vital to steer India's ship of state

By: Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Big business prefers elections with minor ripples, leaving unperturbed the mighty ship of state and preserving an image of democratic vigour. Middle-class India — much of it dependent directly on big business or the government — about 121 million strong, agrees.

Consider the case of electoral bonds (EBs) - a device legislated in 2017 and started in 2018 - to anonymize donations to political parties. They were struck down by the Supreme Court in February this year - a justly acclaimed decision, a plus for transparency but a minor ripple in party financing. Layered shell companies can serve corporates chary of public disclosure. Despite tall claims of ending black money via electoral bonds in 2018, the amounts channelled through the scheme are trivial - Rs 0.17 trillion over five years. Since April 2019, the market valuation of the

National Stock Exchange has doubled to about Rs 400 trillion. The annual flow of donations via EBs was just 0.011 per cent of the median market value of Rs 300 trillion over the five years starting in 2019. This "quasi good-relations tax" amounted to 1.1 paise per Rs 100 of corporate market value.

Compare this with the bonanza the government gave to corporates in 2019-20. Corporate tax was reduced from 30 to 22 per cent if existing firms gave up tax exemptions and from 18 to 15 per cent for new firms. Fortune magazine July 2021 referenced a research paper by the State Bank of India, which estimated that the tax cut added 19 per cent to corporate top-lines — not a bad bargain at all for an investment worth just 0.011 per cent of their market value. Government support for large corporates has continued

apace and is the primary driver of the near doubling in the market value of listed stocks since May 2019. The party isn't over yet.

If the government was to impose a wealth tax at the same rate, the average middle-class person (per international standards, monthly income between Rs 1 to 4.8 lakhs for a family of four) would gain even after paying Rs 110,000 per year on every Rs 1 crore (10 million) of wealth if the income-tax rates range between five per cent for Rs 12 lakhs (1.2 million) to 22 per cent for Rs 60 lakhs (6 million) per year. It would also encourage the financialisation of savings, now overweight in low-return real estate.

Middle-class folks are the government's cash cow. Income tax and Goods and Services Tax on purchases eat up 40 per cent of their income, leaving them with just Rs 600 for every Rs 1,000 of income.

Big business — growing at about 13 per cent per year (current terms) since 2019, has bolstered annual economic growth (excluding the Covid-19 slump 2020-2021). Nor was the government shy in pressing the spend button to combat Covid-19. The fiscal deficit widened from Rs 9.3 trillion in 2019-20 to Rs 18.2 trillion in 2020-21 and remains at 17.8 trillion in 2023-24 (current terms). Versus the doubling of the fiscal deficit, the economy grew by about one half in current terms from Rs 200.7 trillion to Rs 294 trillion.

Private consumption benefited from the trickle-down effect of rapid growth in business market valuations. By March 2024 there were 151 million demat accounts, though the number of stockholders is lower because having multiple demat (online) accounts is allowed. Stockholders and stock-owning employees have enjoyed the income effect of surging market valuations. The share of private consumption in

GDP increased from about 59 per cent earlier to 60-61 per cent but remains far from the 62-64 per cent share in the Atal Behari Vajpayee years 2000-2004.

One major downer for private investment is the high-inflation busting RBI policy rate of 6.5 per cent, which translates into personal loans at between 10 to 12 per cent. Reducing the interest rate can accelerate the rate of private consumption and investment. But this step is dependent on the government normalising its high fiscal deficit quickly, after the ongoing general election. The difficult part is junking low economic efficiency and politically-driven Budget allocations. The window for fiscal tightening is narrow — a hard Budget once the votes are in — for three continuous years, before the familiar quinquennial spending spree.

Party-boosting votes are with the 1.2 billion low-income earners in India, who are one-third of the global low-income population, much higher that our share of 17 per cent in global population. At income levels below Rs 1 lakh (Rs 0.1 million) per month, for a family of four and at least about one half of it being spent on food — freebies matter significantly. Aspiring families — as this set of Indians is labelled by kind spirits — spend out of their pockets on education and health. Public facilities are tragically derelict. Freebies provide an illusion of equity, responsiveness and demonstrate a caring government.

Most freebies could, however, be "given up" if high-quality, education linked to employment, health, and social security benefits were available — a chicken and egg problem. Enhancing outlays for these sectors means cutting back on non-merit political subsidies. Future value lies in productivity via research and development capac-

ity, for which, our children must be evenly equipped with globally competitive, STEM capabilities.

India's stately ship of state can sail smoothly if four course corrections are made.

First, shrink State ownership of industrial, infrastructure and financial assets to guarantee resources for education, health, and social security via public private partnerships with government providing land, partial guarantees to de-risk projects and state level facilitation. Second, restart the abandoned programmes to make doing business in India easier.

President Xi Jinping's China did the opposite — by cutting business to size — and is reaping what it sowed, in low growth.

Third, scale back tariff walls and open the economy to competition. India is too populous and too poor to follow the US template for creating jobs and stalling the rise of China. The welfare loss for Indian domestic consumers, and prohibitive import cost for producers from high import taxes, in a global economy with surplus capacity and low demand, exceeds the production benefits to narrow sections of Indian and foreign business, mostly focused on domestic supply. Minimising the cost of doing business in India should precede enlarging a debt-funded, oversize external engagement. Our time shall come, but not if we ignore fiscally stability or sustainable asset endowments.

Finally, China has only one defacto constitution: the wish of the Paramount Leader.

India is different. Constitutional power is spread widely. Usage has deepened institutional roles for checks and balances. Better to preserve and promote this legacy, not subvert it for narrow near-term gains.

Look Beyond MBBS

By: Vijay GarG

here are innumerable equally important, challenging and rewarding careers in healthcare. It is always better for the students who could not crack NEET or score well to have a plan B.

There are nearly 1000 medical colleges in India, and their total annual intake is about 100,000. Every year about 26 lakh students take the NEET UG exam. This means less than 10% of the students who appear for the exam have a chance to get admission in a medical college.

For various reasons (some are purely external), many students do not perform up to the mark. But it is important to know that it is not the end of the world. A significant percentage of students who land on their dream medical college do so only in their second attempt at NEET.

Skipping an academic year is not easy. Sometimes it is not advisable – because it takes a tremendous amount of self-discipline and focus for students to prepare for NEET while not in a school or any other academic environment.

It is essential for repeaters to make an informed decision and be well aware of the repercussions. Invariably, they will have to chart a different study plan and religiously follow it. Another option is to go to foreign countries to pursue higher education in medicine.

Even otherwise, an MBBS (or a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree) is not the only ticket for a student to launch a career in healthcare. There are innumerable equally important, challenging and rewarding careers in healthcare. It is always better for the students who could not crack NEET or score well to have a plan B.

AYUSH Doctor

The opportunities students can consider include becoming a physician of Indian traditional medicine. Five and a half year medical courses in alternative medicines include Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS), Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS), Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yoga Science (BNYS) and Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS).

There is a wide variety of courses to choose from the list of paramedical courses. Students can opt for Physiotherapy (BPT), Occupational Therapy (BOT), Bachelor of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology (BSLPA) and BSc in Radiography, Optometry, Medical Lab, Operation Theatre Tech, Cardiac, Dialysis Tech, Public Health,

Nuclear Medicine, Orthotics & Prosthetics, Sports Science, among others. There are many short-term paramedical courses such as Dialysis Technician, ECG Technician, X-Ray Technician, and Operation Theatre Technician. They offer lucrative career opportunities for students, especially in foreign countries.

Biotechnology

Students opting for biotechnology develop a wide knowledge in microbiology, chemistry, biochemistry, immunology, virology, genetics engineering, food technology and many more that broadens their horizon and opens doors to numerous industries. Admission to undergraduate courses in biotechnology can be through a college-based entrance exam. This research-based field is gaining immense traction with varied lucrative career opportunities in fields such as medicine, FMCG, and research.

Nutrition and Dietetics

A UG program in this field (B.Sc. in Nutrition and Dietetics) entails the study of food management, nutrition and dietetics. The course primarily focuses on the relationship between the body and food. The course duration may vary between 3 and 4.5 years, depending upon the institute offering it. Students

gain knowledge on how to improve health by dietary modifications and reduce the risks of diseases with proper diet and nutrition. A qualified nutritionist helps people to make the right food choices, promotes healthy eating and helps to prevent malnutrition and other nutrition-related deficiency conditions. This course offers a solid and bright future in our developing health-conscious nation. Biological Sciences

If you are keen to study indepth about life and living organisms, then biological science is a discipline that you should look at. The discipline deals with studying living forms including their conception, structure, work, development, growth, origin, evolution, distribution and more. A UG course (B.Sc – Biological Science) allows students to move into research in pharmaceuticals and other related industries.

Students can always find a beautiful career in healthcare, if only they widen their aperture and look beyond MBBS.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)



Jammuites thronged in the Baisakhi Festival Fair held at Canal Head in Jammu on Saturday.

Pic by AMAN SHARMA

'Glam Squad' revolutionizes Luxury Home Salon services unveiled in Kashmir

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 13: In a groundbreaking venture, Hina Chowdhary and Maliha Javaid have unveiled Glam Squad, a premier luxury home salon service, catering exclusively to the discerning clientele of Srinagar. Since its inception in November, the venture has rapidly gained traction, offering a blend of opulence and convenience to the doorstep of its patrons.

Glam Squad aims to redefine the beauty industry landscape in Kashmir by providing personalized, top-tier salon services in the comfort and privacy of clients' homes. With a team of highly skilled professionals meticulously trained in the latest beauty techniques, Glam Squad ensures an unparalleled experience tailored to individual preferences.



Hina Chowdhary, cofounder of Glam Squad, expressed her excitement, stating, "We recognized the need for a premium salon service that offers both luxury and convenience, especially in a market like Kashmir. Glam Squad is not just about beauty treatments; it's about delivering an indulgent experience that exceeds expectations."

Maliha Javaid, the other half of the dynamic duo behind Glam Squad, added, "Our goal is to elevate the standard of beauty services in Srinagar. From hair styling to makeup artistry, we bring the expertise of a high-end salon directly to our clients' homes, ensuring they feel pampered and glamorous."

With a keen focus on quality and customer sat-

isfaction, Glam Squad offers a diverse range of services, including hairstyling, makeup application, skincare treatments, and more. Each appointment is meticulously curated to meet the unique preferences and requirements of every client.

The launch of Glam Squad comes at a time when the demand for personalized beauty

services is on the rise reflecting a shift towards luxury and convenience in the industry. By leveraging technology and innovation, Hina and Maliha have successfully tapped into this growing market, setting a new standard for salon services in Kashmir.

Clients can now book appointments with Glam Squad through their user-friendly website or whatsapp, making the entire process seamless and hassle-free. Whether it's for a special occasion or a regular beauty regimen, Glam Squad promises to deliver excellence with every visit.

As Glam Squad continues to garner attention and accolades, Hina Chowdhary and Maliha Javaid are poised to lead the charge in revolutionizing the beauty industry in Kashmir, one glamorous appointment

End monopoly of private schools by improving Govt schools: Shiv Sena



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded to take strict steps to curb the looting being done by the nexus of private schools, book and uniform sellers and to improve the level of education and facilities in government schools.

Party State Central Office State Chief Manish Sahni and Meenakshi Chhibber jointly

addressed the media. Sahni said that every year with the beginning of the academic session, the Nexus of private schools, book and uniform sellers becomes

active by flouting the administrative orders. Meenakshi Chhibber said that after a lot of complaints from students and parents, the administration wakes up from its Kumbhakaranlike sleep, takes action against some book and uniform sellers and forms an investigation and complaint cell to fulfill the formalities and this process continues every year. . She said that strict action should be taken against the schools which are pres-

surizing the students to

buy books other than NCERT, collecting

annual and monthly fees

without the approval of

the Fee Fixation Committee and carrying out this loot with the book sellers, and strict action like Cancellation of recognition should be taken and demanded to improve the level of education and facilities in government schools.

On this occasion, Sahni wished the countrymen a very happy Baisakhi festival along with the birth anniversary of the architect of the Indian Constitution, Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on April 14. Vice President Sanjeev Kohli and President Kamgar Raj Singh were also present on this

SSP Reasi pays obeisance at Gurudwara Baba Banda Singh Bahadur on Baisakhi

Top News Report

REASI, Apr 13: SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma along with Dy.SP Hqrs. Reasi Neeraj Padyar and SHO Reasi Chaman Gorka on Saturday visited Police Post Talwara/ Dera Baba and Gurudwara Dera Baba Banda Bahadur & took stock of preparedness of Police units in view of upcoming Parliamentary Elections and Baisakhi festival. SSP Reasi took stock

of various units, where she interacted with the Officers & Jawans and asked them to work with dedication, zeal & zest. She further asked the

of the work & function

officers to remain available round the clock for assistance of the pilgrimage & general public. SSP Reasi also checked all the Nakas enroute and on spot directions issued for following proper SOP

A threadbare discussion was held with officers on all the aspects preparedness related to upcoming General Parliamentary Elections-2024, besides review on crime and other allied things as

Officers were directed to personally visit each Polling Station of their area of responsibility to conduct physical inspection to maintain surveillance/area domination

as per vulnerability and critically mapping of the Polling Stations. The officers were emphasized upon to remain fully geared and brief the manpower at their command and activate their sources for efficient surveillance on ground.

SSP Reasi also paid obeisance at the historic Gurudwara Baba Banda Singh Ji Bahadur and prayed for peace, progress, prosperity and well-being of people.

AJKYF appoints Sourav Singh Bhou as Incharge Jammu District (Rural)

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: All J&K Youth Federation (AJKYF) appointed Adv. Sourav Singh Bhou as Incharge Jammu District (Rural), All J&K Youth Federation.

While appointing Incharge Jammu District (Rural), AJKYF Convenor, Arjun Sharma said that Adv.Sourav Singh Bhou hailing from Saharan, Marh remained contributing for the general public especially youth since his school days and has also remained associated with several social/non-political organizations working for betterment of the society.

He further assured that Bhou will work for betterment of the future of youth of J&K and will strengthen the federation on grass root level.

AJKYF, Convenor further stated that federation has developed a strategy which is working for bringing youth from disparate parts of J&K to one rostrum and collectively succour and raise the voice of deprived and underprivileged youth of

Sahib Singh, Alankrita win Jammu division U-17 category selection events

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Sahib Singh and Alankrita Sharma won first position in Jammu division U-17 category selection events in boys and girls category respectively. Tanmay Jamwal and Ashwiina Raina were runner ups. Gurfateh Singh and Saibhan Singh won 1st and 2nd

position respectively in U-7 age category. Champions in all above categories will represent J&K

in forthcoming Nationals. The events were organised by Jammu division selection committee under the direct supervision of chairman of organizing committee S.P. Sharma. Bindu Pathania was

technical support. Baldev Raj President AJKCA and Atul Kumar Gupta working president AJKCA extended best wishes to participants for forthcoming Nationals.

chief Arbiter of the event while Arvindu Sharma provided

BVMHS celebrates ATL Community Day 2024 Top News Report drones etc. UDHAMPUR, Apr 13:

ATL Community Day 2024 was organised in Bhartiya Vidya Mandir Higher School (BVMHS) Udhampur under the supervision of the School Principal Renu Sharma and ATL In-charge, in collaboration with Vidva Bharti Schools through online Zoom meeting, Govt.Girls School Udhampur and Govt. High School Badali Rakh Udhampur staff members and students were

also present. The aim of ATL Community day was to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar and took this opportunity in promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship among the students and sensitizing them about its significance.

The orientation session kickstarted with an introduction to the Atal Tinkering Lab, followed by an insightful discussion on the importance of entrepreneurship and its role in fostering economic growth and development. The students were encouraged to participate in the various activities planned for the day, based on the theme

of "Entrepreneurship." Next up was the ATL Tour, where the students got a chance to explore the dynamic world of tinkering, 3D printing, Led Glowing Activity ,understanding the sensors, motors and other components to what it takes to build an RC Planes to

They were also amazed by the various physical and digital prototypes built by the students of Bhartiya Vidya Mandir higher secondary school Udhampur, which showcased the creative and innovative potential of the students.

The day continued with a captivating Science Show, which left students in awe of the wonders of science.

They learned that science is everywhere, and that the key to understand is to keep it simple. The students were thoroughly engaged, participating in the science show with great enthusiasm.

The highlight of the day was the Entrepreneur-

The students came up with some incredible products, such as a multipurpose chain, a powerful ring and a magical pen, and super-powered eyeglasses, complete with unique features and impressive designs.

The ATL Community Day 2024 was an exceptional event that not only promoted entrepreneurship but also encouraged young minds to think creatively and innovatively. Overall, the day was a roaring success, encouraging and promoting entrepreneurship among the students and highlighting the significance of innovation in driving economic growth and development.

Aditya Gupta qualifies Ph D

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Aditya Gupta, son of Jagdish Raj Gupta and Vijay Gupta, resident of Ward No. 4, Near Government District Hospital Samba, has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Computer Science and Engineering by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology Jalandhar, Punjab.

He worked on the topic, titled "Design and Analysis of a Centric Intelligent Framework for Healthcare 4.0," under the supervision of Dr. Amritpal Singh.

Siachen Warriors celebrates **40th Siachen Day**

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 13: Siachen Warriors on Saturday celebrated the 40th Siachen Day with traditional solemnity and reverence. Deputy Commander Siachen Brigade laid a wreath on behalf of GOC Fire and Fury Corps and paid rich tributes to the Bravehearts at the Siachen War Memorial, Base Camp to commemorate their courage and fortitude in securing the highest and coldest battlefield of the

World. On this day in 1984, Indian Army troops first unfurled the tricolour at Bilafond La launching the Operation Meghdoot.



Since then, it has been a saga of courage and grit in the face of enemy braving the extreme weather conditions and harshest of terrains. To this day, the Siachen Warriors continue to guard the Frozen Frontier with determination and

resolve against all odds. Siachen Day honours all the Siachen Warriors who served their motherland while successfully thwarting enemy designs over the years. The nation shall always remain indebted to these Bravehearts.

Finely edited and well-paced, Scoop takes you into the heart of the infamous Prince Andrew interview and the working of television studios

When Jeffrey Epstein scandal broke out and his connections with the rich and famous, including Prince Andrew, Duke of York, member of the British royal family and Queen's 'favourite child', unfolded, all hell did break loose. Scoop, however, isn't about Epstein's unpardonable crimes involving minor girls but the BBC interview, scoop if you please, that did Prince Andrew in.

The starting point of this Netflix film is a paparazzi photographer chasing and managing a snapshot of Epstein with Andrew in 2010 in New York. The scene shifts to 2019. We are in the newsroom of the BBC studios. The broadcasting giant is apparently facing a crisis, which will lead to an axe falling on its employees.

While bickering among colleagues begins, we are introduced to key players of the team, including Emily Maitlis (Gillian Anderson), lead anchor of Newsnight, the current affairs programme that created history.

Sam McAlister (Billie Piper) is one of the junior producers who keeps her job by 'booking people we just can't call up'. She manages a foot in the Palace door where Prince Andrew (Rufus Sewell) is conducting Pitch@ Palace, an endeavour to back young entrepreneurs. Clearly the dirt on him has not settled yet. His PR team includes his press secretary Amanda Thirsk (Keeley Hawes), whose faith in him and his charm is touching,



even if misplaced. She is busy strategising ways and means to contain the bad press created by his association with a convicted sex offender, Epstein. Damage control involves an outreach bid to 'friendly journalists,' though we see Prince Andrew rightly wondering aloud, 'isn't the term contradictory?'

Hustle begins for an interview and we get many authentic snapshots of how things work in actual studios. Of course, with the real explosive interview out in public domain, how do you make its dramatic recreation as arresting? But director Philip Martin, who directed many episodes of first two seasons of the royal drama The Crown, rises to the challenge. For one he moves behind the scenes, into, as he said in an interview, 'the headspace' of real men and women.

The prep that went in the

enough to reignite our interest, much credit for which goes to Rufus Sewell for that unflattering depiction of Andrew. Sam's one-liner, 'An hour of television can change everything' hits the nail. It did for Andrew only, not as he expected. The disastrous interview ended up painting a very sorry picture of him.

And the one hour and 40-odd minute film, finely edited and well-paced, takes you into the heart of the infamous interview

surprising, for Scoop is based

on Sam McAlister's memoir,

Scoops: Behind the Scenes of

the BBC's Most Shocking Inter-

In fact, though we see Gillian

Anderson as polished and tough

as diamond Emily Maitlis, excel-

ling as she always does, the real

heroine here is attractive Billie

playing Sam. She is ambitious,

empathetic and persuasive. They band together and con-

vince Prince Andrew to grant

them an interview. Can they

catch him on the wrong foot?

Can 'Randy Andy' salvage his

The think-tank on both sides

is in overdrive. And on the

side-lines, we the audience

too prepare for the showdown,

the climatic high. Though we

don't get a complete sense of

what Prince Andrew actually

fast plummeting reputation?

minute film, finely edited and well-paced, takes you into the heart of the infamous interview and the working of the television studios. One of the telling moments in the film is when the three women, Emily, Sam and Esme Wren, and Newsnight editor (beautiful Romola Garai), step out in unison, like a formidable force.

If victims were young nubile

from grace and relinquishing of

his royal duties. For that, per-

haps, the real interview would

be more enlightening. But its

dramatic rendering is striking

If victims were young nubile girls, those who lent them a voice too came from their own gender. This says a thing or two about women power. Emily's comment about Monica Lewinsky and Bill Clinton saga, 'he got his life back. She got decades of vicious misogyny' too shares where the movie stands vis-avis sexual offenders. Besides, like the pointed question Emily asks Andrew, 'is there anything you feel has been left unsaid', much might be unsaid, but never ambiguous. The stance is clear and we hear it.

'I had fun with all the parathas Imtiaz Ali fed me': Parineeti Chopra on 'Amar Singh Chamkila' shoot



Parineeti Chopra, who essays the role of Amarjot Kaur in 'Amar Singh Chamkila', has opened up on the fun she had while shooting for the movie under the guidance of director Imtiaz

The team of 'Amar

fun I have had shooting this film with all the food and parathas he has fed me, I don't think I will have so much fun doing any other film."

guidance, the amount of

On her transformation for the role, the 35-year-old actress added, "There is no fun in looking like your own self in a biopic. I gained 15 kg immediately because I wanted to look like Amarjot. She performed at shows during her pregnancy, and I had to look the part."

The film charts the untold true story of Punjab's original rockstar of the masses, the highest record-selling artist of his time, Amar Singh Chamkila, often referred to as the 'Elvis Presley of Punjab'.

Shot in real locations, the film promises to transport audience to the vibrant and rhythmic world of Punjab's folk music, right to the rustic Akhadaas (live music performances in villages) where Chamkila's voice would once roar.

Produced by Mohit Choudhary, Select Media Holdings LLP, Saregama and Window Seat Films, it is streaming on Netflix.

'The Great Indian Kapil Show' airs at 8 pm on Netflix.

Shruti Anand talks about her role in Mehndi Wala Ghar

Actress Shruti Anand is happy to essay her role in family drama Mehndi Wala Ghar. Shedding light on the ongoing track, Shruti says, "Mauli currently stands at a crossroad, torn between love and duty. Discovering Manas'plan to stake a claim to the Agrawal family's wealth leaves ever, her love for Manoj papa and her promise to Janaki maa to shield Mehndi Wala Ghar from more chaos fuels her determination to keep this family together, even if it means sacrificing her own happiness; I believe that's what you call pure love. I'm excited for viewers to see if Mauli will marry Manas or whether she will successfully reveal Manas's true intentions."

When asked about her



off-screen camaraderie with her co-star Ayaz Ahmed, Shruti shared, "Despite our on-screen conflicts, off the screen we share a warm and friendly relationship. We are friends who

support and encourage each other. Ayaz is not just a talented actor, but also an amazing human being. I can turn to him for advice and guidance, and he's become a friend I can rely upon."

Amritsar women get a glimpse of No Filter Neha, as Neha Dhupia honours women from Punjab's rural community

Crowned Miss India in 2002 and debuting in Bollywood in 2003. Neha Dhupia has had a successful run in the entertainment industry for the past 20 years. During this time, the actress had never shied away from changing gears — from acting to TV to talk shows. she has done it all, unapologetically. Shar ing excerpts from her journey and more, Neha recently interacted with members of FICCI FLO, Amritsar chapter, at a specially curated evening, Agaaz...Ek Nayee Subah Ka, dedicated to honouring women from Punjab's rural commu-

While commending women, Neha, who is also a vocal advocate for body positivity, candidly shared how she has faced body shaming, rejections and more,



but still felt quite confident and settled as an individual now. "I believe in being a realist. I feel that you have accept yourself; I enjoy myself as I am. Over the years,

I have found gratitude and I feel my kids give me that confidence to continue, despite the criticism. So, none of the other stuff matters She also encouraged women to see themselves beyond the flaws that are often thrown at them unsolicited. She also spoke about the issue of too much social media, "I feel that there is a generation, especially today, which thrives on external gratification, but we need to cut the noise out. That is very important in life." Hands full

Dosanjh, Parineeti, and

Imtiaz, appeared on

the stage of 'The Great

Indian Kapil Show' in

Talking about her

experience portraying

Amarjot's role, Parineeti

shared, "Under Imtiaz's

the recent episode.

Work-wise, remains busier than ever with another season of her talk show No Filter Neha, an international project Blue 52, an OTT project that deals with the issue of mental health, while she also has another one in the pipeline with Dharma productions, along with Vicky Kaushal. Neha has recently turned investor and is co-owner of a sustainable crockery brand.

During the event, she also launched the FLO Amritsar Rural livelihood initiative by honouring women from rural community in Punjab. These included Prabhjot Wadala, former sarpanch of Wadala constituency and exorganising secretary of Punjab Women's Cell, who has helped create opportunities for women to start their own businesses, Gurvinder Kaur, sarpanch of village Chamak, Sawinder Kaur, the sarpanch of Dal Kotla village and Navshant Chinna, a farmer by profession, and women rights' advocate Kushwinder Kaur.

Earlier in the day, Dhupia paid obeisance at the Golden Temple, a ritual that she shared has become an annual affair, with her kids, Gurik and Mehr.

Kartik Aaryan on his role in 'Chandu Champion' Actor Kartik Aaryan, scripts, the right people

Actor Kartik Aaryan, who is all set to come up with never-seen-beforeavatar in the upcoming film Chandu Champion, recently got candid about his preparations for the film during the finale episode of Neha Dhupia's talk show No Filter Neha Season 6. During a chat with the host Neha, Kartik opened up about the film and his preparations. He said, "This is also a genre film. The meaning of genre is that this is a sports film... It's not just transformation, there are even skill sets required to essay the role. Mujhe boxing seekhni padi, swimming seekhni padi, dangal seekhna pada (I had to learn boxing, swimming and wrestling.)"

Kartik added, "You have to have the right

who put you with the right trainers, which is what Kabir sir does. When he narrated this film, he came along with a bunch of people who were experts at their skills. I think Kabir sir has this knack of being real, but still he goes into great detailing."

Kartik Aaryan transformed himself to get into the shape of his character in Chandu Champion and has prepared very hard for his titular character. The actor has also focused on the Marathi dialect for 14 months. He had a language coach throughout to help him.

The film is based on the extraordinary reallife story of a sportsperson and his spirit of never giving up.

Kartik unveiled the



first look from the movie last year in August. In it, Kartik could be seen donning the India blazer with short hair and an intense expression with some injury marks on his face. The film is all set to hit the theatres on June 14, 2024. Kabir Khan has directed the

Kartik will also be seen in director Hansal Mehta's upcoming film Captain India and Anees Bazmee's Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3.

Pooja Hegde to move to Rs 45-crore, 4,000 square feet sea-facing home in Bandra

Actress Pooja Hegde, who will be soon seen in the upcoming movie 'Deva' along with Shahid Kapoor, is set to move into her new house.

The sea-facing property is worth Rs 45 crore and has 4,000 square feet of living space.

The pan-India star's new property is in Bandra in Mumbai. This move marks a

significant transition for the actress, who previously lived in another residence within the city.

The actress has a discerning eye and impeccable taste, with a flair for design and aesthetics

A source close to the actress shared, "Pooia



Hegde has relocated to a stunning sea-facing mansion, boasting a sprawling 4,000 square feet of living space. Nes-

tled in a prime location, this opulent abode not only offers panoramic vistas of the sea but also serves as a sanctuary of comfort and elegance in the heart of Mumbai."

Earlier, Pooja went on a vacation to Goa. The diva, who enjoys 26.6 million followers on Instagram, dropped a series of pictures of herself basking in the Goan sun while sporting a no-makeup look.

The actress also dished up glimpses of some of the culinary delights of Goa and a picture of her chilling by the poolside.

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress has a slew of highly anticipated films in the pipeline. Apart from 'Deva', she has 'Sanki' and three major South Indian projects on her plate.

"Who Is Noob In Politics?": PM Modi Attacks Opposition **During Chat With Gamers**

"If I use this word (noob) during elections, people will wonder who am I referring to... If I say it, you will think of a particular person," PM Modi said.

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today, during an interaction with some of the country's top gamers, took a swipe at the opposition referring to them as 'noob', a term used for someone who is a newbie or not very skilled at a game.

"If I use this word (noob) during elections, people will wonder who am I referring to... If I say it, you will think of a particular person," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister also discussed the future of the gaming industry and how the government could aid them grow. PM Modi also asked about the challenges gamers face in India and the distinction between skill-based games and those



offering quick income. The gamers suggested clarity on these types of games and also discussed concerns about video game addiction.

The seven gamers PM Modi

met today were - Naman Mathur (Mortal), Animesh Agarwal (Thug), Anshu Bishu (Gamerfleet), Ganesh Gangadhar (SKrossi), Tirth Mehta (Gcttirth), Payal Dhare (Payal Gaming) and Mithilesh Patankar (Myth-

During the freewheeling chat, the gamers gave PM Modi a new name 'NaMo OP', where OP stands for overpowered.

"We all have gamer tags. Since you are a Gen Z like us, we would now call you 'NaMo OP' (overpowered), as you are the most powerful person in the country, in our livestream chats," the gamers said.

PM Modi also learnt several gaming phrases like GTG (Got to Go) and AFK (away from keyboard), among others, which are used during live-streaming by the creators.

Later, PM Modi also played some indigenous games with the creators.

Home Minister Amit Shah holds roadshow in Kanyakumari



NAGARKOVIL, Apr 13 (Agencies): Senior BJP leader Amit Shah held a roadshow in Kanyakumari Lok Sabha constituency on Saturday in support of the party candidate Pon Radhakrishnan for the April 19 parliamentary election.

Hundreds of party cadres, invigorated by his visit, joined Shah in the road show from Mettukadai Junction, Thuckalay, to the Old Bus Stand in Kanyakumari.

Shah greeted the cadres from his specially-designed vehicle and flashed the party's Lotus symbol throughout the stretch, as party members chanted "Modi again", "Bharat Mata Ki Jai"

and "Ponnar again." Radhakrishnan, a former union minister, is fondly addressed as

Ponnar by supporters. In his address, Shah said Modi was taking the country on the path of progress.

People in Tamil Nadu were chanting the "chaar sau par" (over 400 seats), he said, alluding to the BJP's target of achieving the

said number of constitu-

encies.

Shah also sought the people to vote for the party's candidate for the Vilavankode bypoll, V S Nandini, and ensure her victory.

Congress' Jairam Ramesh poses questions concerning TN to PM Modi ahead of his LS poll campaign

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha poll campaign in Tamil Nadu, the Congress posed several questions to him on Saturday, asking why is he so eager to privatise the Salem Steel Plant and why the ruling BJP has not set up a single educational institute in the southern state.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also asked Modi whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Madurai is merely a publicity stunt.

"Today's questions for the PM as he heads to Tamil Nadu: AIIMS Madurai: Premier institute or publicity stunt? Why hasn't the BJP set up a single premier educational institute in TN? Why was the PM so eager to privatise Salem Steel Plant," Ramesh

asked in a post on X. Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of giving "jumlas" (rhetoric), he said the saffron party proudly announced the establishment of the AIIMS, Madurai in the 2015-16 Union budget and for four years since the announcement, no action was taken.

"Then just before the 2019 election, PM Modi finally laid the foundation stone at a muchpublicised event.

Another five years have now passed, and once again no action was taken.

Now that elections are upon us again, construction work has finally begun on the much-awaited hospital



and college.

been engaging in publicity stunts, the students of 'AIIMS Madurai' have been set up at a temporary campus 'without any basic facilities'.

Five students share a single room, students are not allowed to visit OPDs or operation theatres, and libraries only have books for first year students," Ramesh claimed.

"Is this the premier medical institution that PM Modi had envisioned for Tamil Nadu? How many elections will it take for the real AIIMS to finally be built?" he asked.

The Congress leader also alleged that not a single premier educational institution was built in Tamil Nadu in the 10 years that the BJP has been in power at the Centre.

All the premier institutes, including the IIT-Madras, the NIT-Tiruchirapalli, the IIM-Tiruchirapalli and the Tamil Nadu National Law University, were established during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) era, he claimed.

"Whither 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', Modiji? Has your government created anything but problems for

the students of Tamil Nadu?" he asked. "While the PM has

Ramesh also said in 2019, the Centre decided to privatise the Salem Steel Plant and a massive rally of almost 2,000 people was taken out to oppose the move.

The rally consisted of workers, their family members and farmers who had sacrificed their land for the plant's construction, he said.

The plant covers an area that had around 25 villages, 18 or 19 of which have disappeared since it was built and the workers have alleged that the plant is being intentionally mismanaged and the leadership of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been reduced to a mouthpiece of the ruling

party, Ramesh said. "Once again, the BJP has put the interests of its capitalist cronies before the livelihoods of the working man.

Fortunately for the protestors, the Centre has been unable to sell the plant so far.

But the question remains, why was the BJP so eager to get rid of this plant?" the Congress leader asked, using the hashtag "#ChuppiTodoPradhan-Mantriji".

Tamil Nadu goes to polls on April 19.

Excise 'scam': Supreme Court to take up on Monday Kejriwal's petition against Delhi HC verdict upholding his arrest by ED

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): The Supreme Court will on Monday take up Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's petition challenging the Delhi High Court's verdict upholding his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money-laundering case linked to Delhi excise policy scam.

Kejriwal's petition is listed before a Bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta for hearing on April 15.

A day after the Delhi High Court dismissed his petition against his arrest by the ED, Kejriwal had on April 10 moved the Supreme Court challenging the high court's verdict.

A Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud had agreed to consider Kejriwal's request for urgent hearing on his petition after senior counsel AM Singhyi on April 10 mentioned his petition for immediate listing. Singhyi had said the high court's order was based on certain mate-



rial that was suppressed from the petitioner.

The ED had arrested Kejriwal on March 21 after the Delhi High Court refused to grant him protection from coercive action by the probe agency in the money laundering case.

On April 1, a Delhi Special Court sent Kejriwal to 14-day judicial custody till April 15 on the expiry of his ED custody.

The ED alleged that Keiriwal was the kingpin and the key conspirator of the excise scam and there were reasons to believe on the basis of material in its posses-

sion that the AAP leader was guilty of the offence of money laundering.

Spelling further trouble for beleaguered Delhi Chief Minister, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court had on April 9 dismissed his petition challenging his arrest by the ED, saying there was no violation of law or the Supreme Court's ver-

Justice Sharma held that Kejriwal's arrest by the ED and his subsequent remand in Enforcement Directorate's custody and later in judicial custody can't be held to be illegal as the probe agency was in possession of "enough material" that led to his arrest, and the trial court remanded him in the custody of the agency by a well-reasoned order.

"Material collected by the ED reveals that Kejriwal conspired and was involved in formulation of the excise policy and used the proceeds of the crime. He is also allegedly involved in his personal capacity in formulation of the policy and demanding kickbacks in the capacity of national convenor of AAP," the HC had said.

It said there was evidence to show that the proceeds of crime were used for political campaigning in the 2022 Goa legislative assembly elections.

Rejecting his allegation of political vendetta on the eve of Lok Sabha elections, Justice Sharma said "Courts are concerned with constitutional morality and not political morality." The court had to apply the law as it existed, she

added.

"This Court is of the opinion that the accused has been arrested and his arrest and remand has to be examined as per law and not as per timing of elections... Political considerations cannot be brought before the court as they are not relevant... The Court must remain vigilant that it is not influenced by any extraneous factors," the HC

It said Kejriwal's challenge against his arrest was not sustainable in the absence of any mala fide on part of ED.

"In the case at hand. it is important to clarify that the matter before this court is not a conflict between the central government and petitioner Kejriwal. Instead, it is a case between Keiriwal and the Directorate of Enforcement,"

The court also relied on the statements of witnesses and approvers to uphold his arrest and the remand to be "legal".

5-year-old girl sexually assaulted, murdered in Goa; 20 labourers detained

PANAJI, Apr 13 (Agencies): The body of a five-year-old girl was found behind a construction site in South Goa's Vasco area, with the police confirming that she was sexually assaulted and strangulated to death. Some 20 labourers from the construction site have been detained for questioning.

According to information, the victim's parents found her body on Friday behind the site in Vaddem after she had been missing

They immediately shifted their daughter to Chicalim Sub-District Hospital, where she was declared brought dead.

The Vasco Police started a probe after the girl's mother alleged that her daughter might have been raped and murdered.

Superintendent of Police (SP) South Goa, Sunita Sawant said that post-mortem examination of the body revealed that the victim was sexually assaulted first and then smothered to death.

"We have rounded up 15 to 20 labourers working at the construction site, and our investigations and interrogations are on. The Vasco Police, on behalf of the state, has registered an offence of sexual assault and murder under sections 376, 302 of the IPC, under the POCSO Act, and also under the Goa Children Act," she added.

She also said that all the workers that were present at the construction site, as well as those who reside there, are being questioned in connection to the case

Borewell accident: Efforts to rescue 6-year-old boy continue

Meanwhile, chairman of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Priyank Kanoongo said they have issued a notice to the Goa government after taking note of the incident and would provide a detailed report soon.

Speaking to news agency in Delhi, he said, "We need a strict law and its implementation. Stringent implementation of every law, especially of the POCSO and the Juvenile Justice Act, is the way to protect children."

"In India, POCSO is itself a strict law. We don't need a new law; but we need its (POCSO) implementation in a better convergent manner... Once the detailed report is out, then we will see the further course of action."

EC takes care of electoral rolls, not me, says Owaisi on allegation of bogus votes

HYDERABAD, Apr 13 (Agencies): Rejecting BJP Hyderabad Lok Sabha candidate K Madhavi Latha's allegation of about six lakh bogus votes in the constituency, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday said the Election Commission takes care of the issue of voters' lists.

Owaisi, who is seeking re-election from Hyderabad constituency, wondered what his role was in the matter.

The AIMIM leader said the process of addition of names and publication of final voters' list is carried out every year by the Election Commission which he does not head.

He was responding to a query from reporters about Madhavi Latha's charge that Owaisi wins with the help

of the six lakh bogus votes The allegation amounts to "abusing" the Election Commission, he added.

"By speaking like this, you are insulting Hyderabad electorate, which includes brothers from backward class and Dalits, minority Muslims, Christians who are going out to vote. Because of their votes, every party is getting votes and AIMIM is successful," he told reporters.

Asked about the reported comments of a Congress leader in Hyderabad that he has to be friends with the AIMIM, Owaisi said his party does not have any alliance with any party in Telangana for the Lok Sabha elections.

His party has formed PDM in Uttar Pradesh and his colleague MP in Maharashtra Imtiaz Jaleel is holding talks on the issue in the western state.

Owaisi launched his campaign on Friday and undertook door-to-door canvassing in the Bahadurpur assembly segment.

for more than 20 hours in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa BHOPAL, Apr 13 (Agencies): near the Uttar Pradesh border Efforts to rescue the six-year-

old boy from a borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa disopen borewell. trict continued for more than 20 hours on Saturday, with a team from the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) and local administrapost on X. tion working overnight, an offi-

cial said. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said he was monitoring the situation and is in constant touch

with the local authorities. According to officials, the incident occurred at Manika village around 3 pm on Friday, when the boy was playing near the

The news of an innocent child falling into a borewell in Manika village of Rewa district was unfortunate, Yadav said in a

"An SDERF team and district administration were trying to get the child out safely. I am also in constant touch with the local administration," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla has been instructed to visit the site, he added.

The rescue operation continued throughout Friday night, an official said.

Pits about 35 feet wide have been dug on both sides of the borewell, through which the team is trying to bring the boy out, he said.

Rewa Collector Pratibha Pal and Superintendent of Police Vivek Singh monitored the situation at night, the official said.

The SDERF was pressed into service to save the boy stuck at

a depth of around 40 feet, Pal had said on Friday night. Additional Superintendent of

Police Anil Sonkar had earlier said oxygen was being supplied to the boy through a pipe, and a CCTV camera was lowered into the well to monitor his condition, but it could not reach him due to some obstruction.

The borewell is about 70 feet deep, and a parallel pit is being dug to rescue the child.

A team from the National Disaster Response Force has been called in from Varanasi, he said, adding that unseasonal rains also affected the rescue operation.

US President Joe Biden says he expects Iran to attack Israel soon, warns 'not to proceed'

As per reports, US rushed warships into position to protect Israel and American forces in the region, hoping to head off a direct attack from Iran

WASHINGTON, Apr 13 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden said that he expected Iran to attack Israel "sooner, rather than later" and warned Tehran not to proceed.

Asked by reporters about his message to Iran, Biden said simply, "Don't," and he underscored Washington's commitment to defend Israel.

"We are devoted to the defence of Israel. We will support Israel. We will help defend Israel and Iran will not succeed," he said. Israel braced for an attack by Iran or its proxies as warnings grew of retaliation for an attack on Iran's embassy compound last week in Damascus that killed a senior commander in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' overseas Quds Force and six other officers.

Israel did not claim responsibility for the airstrike on April 1. But Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Israel "must



be punished and shall be" for an operation he said was equivalent to an attack on Iranian soil. Biden said he would not divulge secure information, but said his expectation was that an attack by Iran could come "sooner, rather than later." He spoke to reporters at the White House after a virtual speech to a civil rights conference.

The US rushed warships into position to protect Israel and American forces in the region, hoping to head off a direct attack from Iran on Israel that could come as soon, the Wall Street Journal reported.

The moves by the US that are part of an effort to avoid a wider conflict in the Middle East came after a warning from a person familiar with the matter about the timing and location of the potential Iranian attack, the newspaper said.

However, a person briefed by the Iranian leadership said that while plans to attack are being discussed, no final decision has been made, the Journal said.

Countries including India, France, Poland and Russia have warned their citizens against travel to the region, already on edge over the war in Gaza, now in its seventh month. Germany called on its citizens to leave Iran.

Earlier, White House spokesperson John Kirby said the reportedly imminent attack by Iran on Israel was a real and viable threat, but gave no details about any possible timing.

Kirby said the United States was looking at its own force posture in the region in light of Tehran's threat and was watching the situation very closely.

Militants kidnap, kill 11 people in Pakistan's Balochistan province

KARACHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): At least 11 people, including nine bus passengers, were killed by unknown militants in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, authorities said on Saturday.

In the first incident, armed men stopped a bus on the highway in Noshki district and kidnapped nine men at gunpoint on Friday, police said.

"The bodies of these nine men were later found with bullet wounds in the nearby mountainous areas near a bridge," one official said.

"The bus was going from Quetta to Taftan when armed men stopped it and after identifying passengers took the nine men to the mountainous areas," he added.

In a separate incident a car was fired upon on the same highway in which two passengers were killed and two others injured.

Balochistan's Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that the terrorists involved in the killing of the 11 people on Noshki highway would not be forgiven and hunted down soon.

Bugti that the terrorists involved in the attacks would be chased, adding that their aim was to sabotage the peace of Balochistan.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also condemned the incident, saying that the government stands with the families of the deceased

this time.

"There is no room for such a tragic incident...," he added.

No banned outfit has claimed responsibility for the killings but in recent weeks this year there has been a surge in terror attacks by banned outfits and terrorists in the province in which security forces and installations have also been brazenly targeted.

The banned Balochistan Liberation Army has claimed to having carried out three major terror strikes in the province in recent weeks in Mach town, Gwadar port and a naval base in Turbat in which security forces killed some 17 militants.

5 killed in Sydney shopping centre stabbing attack, suspect shot dead, say police

SYDNEY, Apr 13 (Agencies): Five people and a suspect were killed in a Sydney shopping centre stabbing attack on Saturday that left multiple people, including a small child, injured, police said.

A single person began stabbing people in the mall, attacking nine people, before a police inspector shot him, Assistant Police Commissioner Anthony Cooke told reporters. Five victims died, he said.

Cooke said the suspect acted alone and there was "no continuing threat." He said officials didn't know who the offender was yet, and there was no indication of motivation. "This is quite raw," he said.

Multiple people were stabbed Saturday, and police shot someone, at a busy Sydney shopping center, media reports said.

ABC TV in Australia reported Saturday that police evacuated shoppers at Westfield Shopping Centre in Bondi Junction, which is in the city's eastern suburbs.



A New South Wales ambulance spokesperson said that one of two alleged offenders had been shot by police and they were searching for the other, ABC reported. The spokesperson said people were still inside the shopping centre.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that four people died in a stabbing. Police couldn't be immediately reached to confirm the report. The newspaper said one person was also shot, but it wasn't clear if the person had died.

Video showed many ambulances and police cars around the shopping centre, and people streaming out. ABC

reported that armed police were searching a rooftop parking lot. Paramedics were treating patients at the scene.

Witness Roi Huberman, an ABC sound engineer, told the network that he sheltered in a store during the incident.

"And suddenly we heard a shot or maybe two shots and we didn't know what to do," he said.

"Then the very capable person in the store took us to the back where it can be locked. She then locked the store and then she then let us through the back and now we are out."

Donald Trump to host rally on President Joe Biden's home turf in northeast Pennsylvania, the last before his trial begins

WASHINGTON, Apr 13 (Agencies): Donald Trump plans to hold a rally on Saturday in northeast Pennsylvania, venturing into an area President Joe Biden considers his home turf in what will be the Republican's last rally before his criminal hush money trial begins on Monday.

The presumptive GOP nominee and former president is scheduled to speak at the Schnecksville Fire Hall in Lehigh County. It will be Trump's third visit this year to the vital swing state, one that could decide who wins this year's presidential race. He also plans to attend a fundraiser in nearby Bucks County before the event.

Pennsylvania is a critical battleground in the rematch between Trump and Biden, with both candidates expected to visit the state frequently through November. Trump flipped the state to the Republican column in 2016 but lost it four years after to Biden, who was born in the northeast city of Scranton and has long talked about his roots in the city. Biden plans to deliver a major address on Tuesday in Scranton on tax fairness.

Trump is navigating four separate criminal prosecutions while running to avenge his loss



to Biden, creating an unprecedented swirl of legal and political chaos.

Jury selection starts in New York in his trial where he is charged with seeking during his 2016 campaign to bury stories about extramarital affairs by arranging hush money payments.

It will be the first criminal trial ever of a former US president. And it will limit Trump's availability on the campaign trail, though he is expected to speak to the media after court often and has for months fundraised and campaigned on the felony charges he faces, arguing political opponents are pursuing them to stop him from winning the White House again.

Biden has argued Trump's lies about losing the 2020 election are dangerous for the country. He has said Trump poses a fundamental threat to democracy and US alliances abroad — rhetoric that Trump has argued applies to Biden.

In recent weeks, both

candidates have tried to stir up their voting bases and tear apart their opponent's coalitions, a strategy that will be tested over the coming months.

Trump recently said that any Democratic-leaning voters who support Israel should back him instead, as Biden has criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's actions in his war against Hamas. The Republican said on Wednesday that "any Jewish person who votes for a Democrat or votes for Biden should have their head examined."

He also has new ammunition to criticise Biden's handling of the economy, as the government said that inflation jumped 0.4 per cent in March to 3.5 per cent annually.

But Biden has also put Trump on the defensive over the issue of abortion, a key weakness for the GOP as many voters have opposed new restrictions that some states have placed on the procedure after justices that Trump appointed to the Supreme Court helped overturn Roe v Wade in 2022.

Trump tried to defuse the controversy and appease women voters by saying the matter should be settled by the states, instead of the federal government.

But that argument became problematic this past week as Arizona's top court ruled that the state could enforce an 1864 law criminalizing abortion, prompting Trump on Wednesday to suggest the 19th century law was too restrictive for his taste.

Trump has instead tried to make immigration the central issue of the campaign. The Republican has sought to portray Biden as feckless on border security, given the record-high numbers of individuals who have crossed the southern border illegally during his administration. He also attacked the president for not doing more to ramp up oil drilling, even though domestic production is at an all-time high.

The area around Lehigh County has enjoyed job growth under Biden. The Bureau of Labor Statistics said it contains 4,45,200 jobs, up from a prepandemic total of

4,29,900 jobs during the Trump administration.

The area's unemployment rate is a healthy 3.9 per cent, meaningfully better than the 4.6 per cent achieved before the coronavirus pandemic struck during Trump's presidency.

Still, the Democrat has not been able to convince people that he has successfully shepherded the economy. Only 37 per cent of US adults approve of his economic leadership, according to a March poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs.

And inflation has persistently dogged Biden's reputation. Higher costs for shelter, gasoline, auto insurance and other factors pushed up annual inflation in March, as the annual rate has increased since January. The increase to 3.5 per cent reversed the decline seen over the past year in inflation, which in 2022 reached a four-decade peak.

Biden said he still expects the inflation rate to fall and the Federal Reserve to respond by cutting its benchmark interest rates.

"We have a plan to

deal with it, whereas the opposition — my opposition — talks about two things," he said. "They just want to cut taxes for the wealthy and raise taxes on other people."

Australian Airline Redirects London Flight To Avoid Iran Airspace Amid Tensions

A Qantas spokesperson told agency the airline would temporarily adjust the flight paths due to "the situation in parts of the Middle East".



SYDNEY, Apr 13 (Agencies): Australian airline Qantas said on Saturday it would redirect its long-haul flights between Perth and London to avoid Iran's airspace amid soaring Middle East tensions.

Middle East tensions.

A Qantas spokesperson told agency the airline would temporarily adjust the flight paths due to "the situation"

in parts of the Middle

"We'll reach out to customers directly if there's any change to their booking," the spokesperson said.

The Perth-London flight, which is usually a non-stop 17-and-a-half hour journey, will now stop in Singapore to refuel, allowing it to carry a full load of pas-

sengers on an alternate route. The return service -- London to Perth -- will continue to fly non-stop on a readjusted path due to prevailing winds. All other flights are not affected. Qantas joins other airlines including Lufthansa and its subsidiary Austrian Airlines in redirecting flights to avoid Iranian airspace.

The move comes after Iran blamed arch-foe Israel for a strike in Syria this month that killed two Iranian generals, and threatened reprisals.

Israel has stepped up strikes against Iranlinked targets in Syria since the war in the Gaza Strip began in October.

Foreign Secretary Kwatra meets senior US officials, reviews progress of global strategic partnership

WASHINGTON, Apr 13 (Agencies): Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra has met several US senior officials, including Deputy Secretary of Defence Kathleen Hicks, to undertake a detailed review of the progress on further consolidating the bilateral strategic ties and discussed their shared efforts to promote stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

Kwatra is in the US this week for a series of meetings with senior officials of the US government and interaction with industry leaders to advance bilateral cooperation in areas like defence and technology.

Hicks and Kwatra discussed priorities for strengthening the US-India defence partnership, including the implementation of the roadmap for the US-India Defence Industrial Cooperation, Pentagon spokesperson Eric Pahon said.

The two officials underscored the historic momentum in the Major Defence Partnership in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific, according to an official statement.

according to an official statement.

They applauded the efforts by both countries to advance the co-production of fighter jet engines and armoured vehicles, as well

as the continued success of the India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) in promoting innovation and partnerships between US and Indian researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors, it said.

Kwatra and Hicks also spoke about the importance of expanding the scope of US-India military engagements to strengthen cooperation across all domains while highlighting the shared efforts to promote stability and security in the Indo-Pacific, Pahon said.

They also discussed a range of regional security issues and committed to collaborating closely in support of a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, the statement said, amidst China's aggressive moves in the region.

"The visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and provided an opportunity to further advance our growing and future-oriented partnership," the statement issued by the Indian Embassy here said.

During his visit from April 10 to 12, Kwatra undertook a detailed review of the progress made towards further consolidating the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partner-

ship, it said.

Kwatra held meetings with Richard Verma, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, Kurt Campbell, Deputy Secretary of State, as well as other senior officials.

He also held discussions with key officials at the National Security Council, the Department of Defence, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Energy.

"These discussions spanned the entire gamut of India-US ties, growing defence and commercial ties, supply chain resilience and contemporary regional developments," the embassy said.

The top Indian diplomat also met with representatives of leading think tanks and chambers of commerce.

"USIBC was delighted to host Foreign Secretary @AmbVMKwatra for a breakfast meeting with our Board Chair and @ Nasdaq Executive Vice Chairman Ed Knight. They engaged in discussions on deepening investment channels, fostering innovation and technology, and strengthening the commercial ties between our countries," the US-Indian Business Council had said on X.

Cong Party is fast emerging choice of people: Wani

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: The All India Kashmiri Hindu Forum headed by Rattan Lal Bhan ,Chairman (A.I.K.H.F.) along with Shri Brij Lal Hali - State President Omkar Nath Raina - State General Secretary, Baby Kaul -President Women Wing J&K, Ramesh Chander along with other functionaries of the Forum, today visited the Congress HQ Jammu to join the Congress party. The Forum has the membership of more than ten thousand members.

Another prominent Social Worker Shri Rajesh Dogra along with hundreds of workers, today joined congress party, in presence of PCC Chief and other senior leaders. Earlier he was in BJP.

PCC President Shri Vikar Rasool Wani,

Senior Vice President Shri Ravinder Sharma, Vice President Naresh Gupta, General Secretary (Org) Narinder Gupta, Media Coordinators Kapil Singh, Neeraj Gupta, Secretary Michael Wazir, and others welcomed them

in the party. Vikar Rasool Wani said people of India has

given 10 year to Modi led BJP Govt. at the centre but it failed on all fronts. After experiencing over these 10 years full of miseries, the more and more people are joining Congress party with the hope that Congress is the only party who has history of its service and sacrifices for the nation.

He said that Congress

party is fast emerging as the only choice of people because of its progressive policies, democratic and secular values being strengthened by the party, adding that secularism is the strength of Indian Nation and only Congress can lead the JKUT and the entire Nation to the path of peace, progress and prosperity by strengthening secular fabric of this country.

Wani said that after abrogation of special status, the lands of poor being snatched, the protection to jobs have gone and there are no jobs in government and private sector. In this situation the BJP government and UT administration has put additional burden of all sorts of taxes on poor. When the people raise their voice, they were booked on frivolous charges and crushed to suppress their voice.

PCC Chief said that it is the right time for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to punish BJP for its misdeeds, by casting their valuable votes in favour of I.N.D.I.A. alliance candidates, so that the rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir are protected

SC/ST Atrocities Act can't be misused to cause harassment to individuals of other communities: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) General Secretary and Media head today said SC/ST Atrocities Act was enacted with the aim of providing protection to the Shedule Cast and Schedule Tribe community from social disabilities.

The same provisions which have been laid down to cure the atrocities of the SC/ ST community cannot be misused to cause harassment to individuals of other communities Gupta, added

BSP leader referred the Supreme Court judgement dated 20 March 2018 says, "the anti-atrocities law, which protects Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes from casteist slurs and discrimination, has become an instrument to "blackmail" innocent citizens and public ser-

Besides this precaution, a preliminary inquiry should be conducted before the FIR is registered to check whether the case falls within the parameters of the Atrocities Act and if it is frivolous or motivated.

"Innocent citizens are termed accused, which is not intended by the legislature. The legislature never intended to use the Atrocities Act as an instrument to blackmail or to wreak personal vengeance," the Supreme Court observed.

Instead of blurring caste lines, the Act has been misused to file false complaints to promote caste hatred, the apex court said. The current working of Atrocities Act may even "perpetuate casteism" if it is not brought in line and the court needs to intervene to check the "false implication of innocent citizens on caste lines."

"The Act cannot be converted into a charter for exploitation or oppression by any unscrupulous person or by the police for extraneous reasons against other citizens. Any harassment of an innocent citizen, irrespective of caste or religion, is against the guarantee of the Constitution. This court must enforce such a guarantee. Law should not result in caste hatred," the Supreme

Court held.

SPF to organise National Level Invitational **Hockey Tournament from April 15**



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Balvinder Singh, President Sikh Progressive Front (SPF) along with other organising Committee members namely Manjit Singh Organising Secretary, Iqbal Singh, former National Player, Surinder Singh Wazir, Jaswinder Singh Kuku, P.P Singh National Umpire, Jasbir Singh, Janak Singh Former national M. S Reen International Umpire, Ravinder Singh Bitta Former national Player, and Paramjit Singh, Baljit Kour Hockey Coach & Soniya Coach while addressing media persons stated that SPF is organizing Invitational National Hockey Tournament namely "Sarbat Da Bhalla" sanctioned by Hockey India, dedicated

to the 550th birth anniversary (Parkash Purab) of Sri Guru Nanak dev Ji from April 15 to 21, 2024 at K.K Hakku Stadium Jammu

Singh stated that tournament is being organised to spread Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of love, peace, equality and universal brotherhood in a unique way by organizing a mega sports

While sharing detail of the participating teams Singh said that out of a total 18 participating teams 8 teams from out the state are Puniab Police, SGPC Amritsar, Punjab & Sind Bank, Roundglass Hockey Academy, Bathinda XI, Y B Hockey Club Sujjanpur, HFB NCR Hockey Society, Army XI, Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala (RCF) Singh

further stated that some reputed teams from J&K are J&K Police, Vijay Club, GNN Hockey Club, Power House Club Poonch, Sangar Sales Hockey Club Anantnag

Kashmir Wonderer Hockey Club, Bandu Rakh Hockey Club, Srinagar XI, Khalsa Club Gole Guiral. The tournament shall be played in knock out basis. The tournament will be supervised by the officials of носкеу

Sikh Progressive Front appealed to the all peoples especially hockey Clubs, hockey lovers and students from various colleges and Schools to come witness & promote hockey and watch national and some international players in action at K.K Hakku Stadium Jammu from 15th April to 21st April 2024.

Avalanche Warning Issued In Kupwara and Ganderbal for next 24 hrs

SRINAGAR, Apr 13 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir State Disaster Management Authority on Saturday issued a low-danger level avalanche warning for Kupwara and Ganderbal districts for the next 24

The warning said that the avalanche is likely above 2500 metres over the Kupwara and Ganderbal districts.

The JKDMA has advised people living in these areas to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas.

The weather conditions in Jammu and Kashmir are expected to remain intermittently wet until Tuesday

Bhalla, Lal Singh will win Jammu, Udhampur seats: **Daleep Kumar**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Former BDC chairman and Vice Chairman of kissan dept.jkpcc daleep Kumar has said that like Jammu and Kashmir, the wave of Congress is going on across the country.

People have made up their mind for change and this time are ready to show the way out to BJP to bring Congress to power. He said that Raman Bhalla and Choudhary Lal Singh are getting huge support from the people in Jammu and Udhampur seats of Jammu and Kashmir. Both the Congress candidates will win by a huge margin and will live up to the expectations of the people. He said that at present the people of the country are

very angry with the BJP after the electoral bond scam came to light. They have come to know that election donations were the biggest reason behind rising inflation. This was a huge scam which would not have happened anywhere in the country or even in the world.

People have come to know that during its 10 year tenure, BJP only promoted corruption and worked to establish dictatorship by destroying democratic institu-

People now have a big reason to bring Congress back to power.

FROM PAGE 1

Inter Village Volleyball Final at Hanjanwali, Rajouri



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 13: Eid-UI-Fitr cheers had barely diminished before giving way to the excitement created by the teams of Upper Sarola and Upper Mangalnar fighting it out for ultimate glory in Inter Village Volleyball intense final was a fitting end to a week long tournament, in which ten teams participated, with Upper Mangalnar team emerging victorious. All the matches were conducted in the newly constructed Volleyball Court by Indian Army at Sarola Village, very close to Line of Control in Rajouri Sector.

A large number of people from all the nearby villages gathered to witness the final match and they cheered their respective teams. The tournament was conducted by the Hanjanwali Battalion of Indian Army. The prizes were distributed to the winners and runners-up followed by interaction by the chief guest with all the participants during which he highlighted the positive impact of sports on each individual and society as a whole and motivated them to put in hard work to excel in all aspects of life and career.

The chief guest also

interacted with the Sarpanch, Panch and elders of the villages present in the audience. The tournament was a huge success and saw enthusiastic participation from all factions of the villages. Indian Army has identified talented youth during the tournament for their nurturing, promotion and participation at higher levels. A positive impact and awareness could also be seen because of initiation of a positive dialogue against use of drugs amongst the youths. These events go a long way in improving the bonhomie and fraternity among the populace.

PM Modi, President Murmu pay tribute to **Jallianwala Bagh** massacre victims

courage and sacrifice. Their sacrifice will always be remembered" he posted on X.

LG Sinha pays tributes to General Zorawar Singh on his Birth Anniversary

greatest military commanders of the world will continue to inspire the generations," the Lt Governor said.

RR Swain, DGP; Maj Gen Gaurav Gautam, GoC 26 Infantry Division; Lt Gen RK Sharma (Retd.) President J&K Ex-Services League and other prominent personalities also paid their homage to General Zorawar Singh.

Indian Army marks 4 decades of presence in Siachen Glacier

significant strides in improving the living conditions and operational capabilities of the personnel deployed in Siachen, he said

on the condition of anonymity. In January last year, Captain Shiva Chauhan from the Army's Corps of Engineers was posted at a frontline post in the

Siachen glacier, in the first such operational deployment of a woman Army officer at a key battlefield. The official cited above said there has

aspect of mobility in Siachen. "The development of an extensive network of tracks and the introduction of all-

been a noteworthy improvement in the

terrain vehicles (ATV) have significantly improved mobility across the glacier," he said. Another official said innovations like

the DRDO-developed ATV bridges have enabled the Army to overcome natural obstacles, while high-quality "Dyneema" ropes in aerial cableways ensure seamless supply lines to even the most-remote outposts.

"The induction of heavy-lift helicopters and logistic drones has vastly improved the supply of essentials to the personnel deployed in posts that are cut off, especially in winters," he said.

"The availability of special clothing, mountaineering equipment and advanced rations has enhanced the ability of the soldiers to withstand the harsh conditions of the world's coldest battlefield," the official

He said gadgets, such as pocket weather trackers, with each soldier provides timely weather updates and warn them about possible avalanches.

"Recent initiatives concerning the improvement of connectivity have ensured that the personnel in forward posts in the northern and central glacier regions have

access to fresh ration and vegetables instead of tinned ration, an aspect that could not have been imagined a few years ago," the official said.

"Fresh ration and vegetables are now a reality for our forward posts, thanks to new logistic initiatives," he added.

There has been a focus on improvement in mobile and data connectivity in the region as well.

"The introduction of the VSAT technology has revolutionised communication on the glacier, providing the troops with data and internet connectivity," the second official

"This leap in technology has enhanced real-time situational awareness, telemedicine capabilities and the well-being of our soldiers by keeping them connected with their families," he said.

The VSAT or very small aperture terminal is a data-transmission technology. The Army has also been focusing on

boosting the medical infrastructure in The Indian Space Research Organisa-

tion (ISRO) has established telemedicine nodes that provide critical medical support not only to the troops but also to the local populace and tourists in the Nubra valley.

"The medical facilities in Partapur and the base camp boast of some of the best medical and surgical specialists, state-of-the-art HAPO chambers and oxygen generation plants, besides life-support systems. This has ensured that all endeavours are made to save every life in this challenging terrain," said a third official

The HAPO (High Altitude Pulmonary Oedema) chamber is a life-saving device that provides emergency treatment in medical conditions relating to breathlessness and accumulation of fluids in the lungs etc.

Weather in J&K to be intermittently wet till Tuesday

24 hours and widespread light to moderate rain and thunderstorms for the subsequent two days.

"Partly to generally cloudy with light rain or snow is expected in higher reaches at many places during April 15 evening to 16 morning," MeT said.

The weather is likely to remain dry, with late afternoon thundershower activity at a few places between April 17 and 18.

"During April 19-20, partly cloudy days with light rain or snow are expected at many places," MeT said.

The wet weather forecast is likely to disrupt traffic on the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir and also trigger landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones.

"There is a possibility of temporary disruption of surface transportation over a few higher reaches during April 13-14, and travellers & tourists are advised to plan accordingly," the MeT advisory said.

It also asked farmers to suspend farm

operations until April 16. Meanwhile, the minimum temperature during the intervening nights of Friday and

Saturday was 10.2 degrees Celsius in Srinagar, 2.6 in Gulmarg, and 3.2 in Pahal-

Jammu city had 20.5, Katra 18.1, Batote 3, Bhaderwah 9, and Banihal 9.8 as the night's lowest temperatures.

Leh town in Ladakh had minus 0.5, Kargil 1.2 and Drass minus -0.5 as the minimum

Ladakh Apex body organises foot march to protest land loss

Wangchuk said the aim of the march is to convey a message to the people in Ladakh and outside that the people are losing their home land in absence of any protection under the Sixth Schedule.

"We have not yet decided the dates for the march but it will take place very soon. It will be a peaceful march like Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi or Salt March," he said.

He said the meeting also decided to continue the ongoing struggle through chain hunger strikes and protests without affecting the farming activities and tourism which has started picking up with the onset of

Police arrest two drug Peddlers in Handwara

peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace," the police added.

Jammu's Pride Sana Dua appointed as State Director for Miss Universe India

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: In a remarkable advancement towards women's empowerment and the celebration of talent, Sana Dua, distinguished for placing Jammu and Kashmir on the global map, has been appointed as the State Director for Jammu and Kashmir at Miss Universe India.

This significant achievement not only underscores her personal success but also symbolizes a beacon of hope and opportunity for aspiring women across the region.

In 2017, Sana Dua won the prestigious crown at Femina Miss India, making history as the first Miss India from Jammu and Kashmir, representing the state on an international stage in Ecuador. Subsequently, she founded 'Image And Beyond By Sana Dua,' a grooming and empowerment company that has transformed the lives of over 10,000 individuals, emerging as one of India's premier grooming academies

Under Sana Dua's guidance, Image And Beyond



has nurtured talents like Sargam Kaushal, who clinched the prestigious title of Mrs. World India 2022, hailing from Jammu and Kashmir. As the pageant grooming expert for Sargam Kaushal, Dua's expertise and mentorship have garnered acclaim both nationally and inter-

nationally. Additionally, Sana's expertise has resonated globally, earning her roles as the grooming expert for esteemed pageant winners in the Teen, Miss, and Mrs categories and official partnerships with prestigious organizations like Mrs. India,

Miss India Organization

& more.
Beyond her individual

achievements, Sana Dua's recent appointment as the State Director for Miss Universe India heralds a new era of possibilities for the women of Jammu and Kashmir. By assuming leadership of the pageant realm in the region, Sana is set to revolutionize the pageant industry in Jammu and Kashmir. Her leadership promises to open doors for aspiring women, providing them with world-class training and opportunities right in their homeland.

Commenting on her groundbreaking role, Sana Dua expressed her commitment to transforming the pageant landscape in J&K, stating, "This appointment is not just a personal triumph, but a testament to the potential and talent abundant in our region. I am dedicated to providing world-class training and opportunities for women right here in Jammu and

Kashmir."
Sana Dua aims to provide accessible and toptier training to aspiring pageant contestants, empowering them to real-

ize their fullest potential. Additionally, her collaboration in the past with the top-notch Pageant Organizations underscores her unwavering dedication to fostering talent and confidence among women.

As Jammu's own, Sana Dua's ascendancy to the role of State Director for Miss Universe India is a source of immense pride for the region. As J&K celebrates the elevation of one of its own to a global platform, Sana Dua's journey stands as a testament to the limitless potential of its daughters. Embraced by millions for her trailblazing accomplishments, with her at the helm, the future of J&K's pageant industry shines brighter than ever, promising a new era of empowerment and excellence.

In essence, Sana Dua's directorship represents a paradigm shift in the pageant industry, opening doors for inclusivity, diversity, and empowerment. As she continues to champion the cause of women's empowerment, her legacy serves as a guiding light for aspiring individuals across Jammu and Kashmir.

INDI Alliance will sweep ensuing Lok Sabha J&K: Sadhotra, Rattan Lal



Top News Report

DODA, Apr 13: INDI Alliance will sweep the upcoming Parliamentary elections in Jammu and Kashmir by winning all the Lok Sabha seats as the present dispensation has miserably failed to stand on the expectations of general public.

This was stated by Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary and former Minister while addressing a party meeting in Assar area of Doda District. In the meeting, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu, Sajjad Ahmed Kitchloo, senior NC leader and former Legislator and several senior leaders of the Party were present.

The meeting of party functionaries of JKNC Doda and Batote in Ramban Constituency was organized by Dr Chaman Lal Bhagat, Zonal Secretary Chenab Valley and former Legislator and the meeting of Batote was organized by Arif Mir District Secretary Ramban. Both the senior functionaries apprised the senior leaders of the Party about the hardships being faced by people of rural and remotes areas of Doda district. They emphasized that the grievances of the people have been ignored, leaving them without proper basic

amenities.
While addressing party workers meetings, Ajay Sadhotra lamented the

state of affairs under the LG Administration in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that this era would be remembered for its rampant corruption and misgovernance. He emphasized that the people are fed-up with the present government for its alleged corruption, loot, and misgovernance.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President in his address, asserted that the Government at the Centre had promised moon to the people of Jammu and Kashmir but delivered a big zero on ground. Moreover it arrogantly and arbitrarily continues to follow the anti people policies with the result that it has met the same fate as that in Valley with people of Jammu region having totally discarded this party. The worst part of the things is that BJP betrayed the trust reposed by the people of the Jammu region and they are now feeling

party, he added. The Provincial President asserted that the people of Chenab Valley have high hopes from the INDI Alliance as well as from the National Conference and promised that the party will provide better amenities than the present dispensation. He urged the party cadre to ensure maximum participation of people in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, confident that the INDI Alliance will emerge victorious.

cheated by the saffron

Sajjad Ahmed Kitchloo expressed his disappointment with the local administration, accusing it of being non-supportive. He emphasized that the National Conference is the only party capable of fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Kitchloo urged the public to rally behind INDI Alliance candidates in order to bring about positive change and progress in Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, the senior NC leaders also took stock of the upcoming tour of Party's Vice President Omar Abdullah and directed the party cadre to ensure maximum participation of people of the area.

Among those who were present include: Abid Magrey District Vice President Ramban Akhter Hussain Zonal Vice President, Mohd Ayoub Khan District Vice President, Mangtulla Lohar District President OBC Cell, Bashir Ahmed Block President Bagwa, Advocate Bagirath District President Legal Cell, Mokund Lal Block President Dessa, Rieyaz ahmad Block President Bagwa YNC, Gh. Hussain ex Block President, Aslam Parrey, Azhar Sheikh, Gh. Mohi Ud Din, Saleem Jaffer, Saddam Butt, Asif Nawaz, Nafice Mir, Babber Malik, Arshad Mir, Rajneesh Pargal, Sheikh Usman, S. Harneet Singh, Rashid Malik, Hafiz Qadoos, Abdul Majid, Om Parkash, Haji Sadig and others.

NCC Cadets of 2 J&K Bn commemorate Gen Zorawar Singh's 238th Birth Anniversary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: The NCC Cdts of 2 J&K Boys Bn participated fervently in the commemoration of Gen Zorawar Singh's 238th Birth Anniversary organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Ex-Servicemen League.

The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries including the Chief Guest, Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Mr Manoj Sinha.



The Chief Guest, Lt Gov Manoj Sinha and other dignitaries, including President JKESL Lt Gen RK Sharma, AVSM, SM (Retd), Maj Gen GS Jamwal, AVSM, SM (Retd), GOC 26 Inf Div, Maj Gen Gaurav Gautam and several Veterans of JAK RIF, were present to pay their respects to the valiant Gen Zorawar Singh.

During the event, the NCC cadets gained valuable insights into the heroic legacy of Gen Zorawar Singh and the indomitable spirit of the armed forces. The Lt Governor and other esteemed guests shared their experiences and wisdom, fostering a deeper understanding among the cadets about the sacrifices made by

our brave soldiers.

The participation of NCC cadets in this commemorative event not only demonstrated their respect for the country's heroes but also reflected their commitment to imbibing the spirit of sacrifice and duty. The cadets, along with the dignitaries and veterans, collectively paid rich tributes to Gen Zorawar Singh, ensuring that his legacy continues to inspire generations to

Potential Parliamentary Candidate Emerges from the Valley: Aditi Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: As the political landscape in the Valley undergoes a potential transformation, esteemed social and political activist, Aditi Sharma, emerges as a frontrunner in the forthcoming parliamentary elections. With deep roots in the district of Jammu, Sharma's leadership prowess and her affiliations with the Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) position her as a formidable contender for the parliamentary seat.

Sharma's journey as a catalyst for change and a voice for the marginalized has earned her widespread recognition throughout the region. Born and raised in the heart of Jammu, Sharma's commitment to serving her community has been unwavering since her formative years. Her tireless advocacy for social justice and equitable representation has resonated with constituents across diverse

demographics. A stalwart within the political arena, Sharma's association with the BJP underscores her dedication to advancing the party's vision and values. Through her strategic collaborations and steadfast determination, she has established herself as a trusted ally within the party ranks, garnering support and admiration from both peers and constituents alike.

With the upcoming parliamentary elections looming on the horizon,



Sharma's potential candidacy has ignited a palpable sense of anticipation and excitement within political circles. Her track record of transformative leadership and her ability to effectuate meaningful change position her as a beacon of hope for the electorate.

Sharma's decision to throw her hat into the political ring signifies a pivotal moment in the . Valley's socio-political landscape. As a seasoned activist and community leader, she brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to the table. Her unwavering commitment to amplifying the voices of the marginalized and addressing pressing societal issues has earned her widespread

acclaim and admiration.
Throughout her illustrious career, Sharma has championed causes ranging from women's empowerment to environmental conservation,

leaving an indelible mark on the fabric of society. Her ability to bridge the gap between disparate communities and foster dialogue has been instrumental in fostering unity and harmony amidst diversity.

As Sharma embarks on this new chapter in her journey, she remains steadfast in her resolve to uphold the principles of integrity, transparency, and inclusivity. With a steadfast commitment to serving the interests of her constituents, she pledges to be a tireless advocate for progress and prosperity in the

Valley. In the days leading up to the parliamentary elections, Sharma's candidacy promises to inject a renewed sense of vigor and vitality into the political discourse. Her ability to galvanize support and mobilize resources underscores her efficacy as a catalyst for positive

Army organizes 'Lecture on Women Empowerment' in Topa Pir

Гор News Report

POONCH, Apr 13: Women empowerment is fundamental to the progress of the Nation and society. No nation or community can progress socially or economically if its women are left behind. As part of its efforts to uplift Topa Pir village socially and economically into a model village, Indian Army organized a 'Lecture on Women Empowerment' in remote Topa Pir Village of Poonch.

The event was conducted to spread awareness amongst girls, women as



well as resident populace about employment campaign/ various initiatives for employment by State and Central Govt, an interactive session was also conducted on the various Educational and

Scholarship Schemes of Central/ State Government to address the problems of unemployment in our country.

Initiatives like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) have been launched to boost the employment including skill development programmes, job fair and entrepreneurship.

This gesture and effort by the Indian Army to transfigure Topa Pir into a model village was highly appreciated by the Awam.

Baisakhi celebrated at Gillco International School

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH/JAMMU, Apr 13: Baisakhi was celebrated with fervour and enthusiasm at Gillco International School, Mohali on Saturday.

Students and faculty came together to celebrate the spirit of unity, gratitude, and harvest associated with the vibrant festival. The assembly during the occasion not only highlighted the cultural significance of Baisakhi but also emphasized its relevance in fostering communal harmony and appreciation for nature.

The students showcased their talents through captivating speeches while celebrating the rich heritage of our country and imbibing values of unity, gratitude, and sharing. Moreover, the significance of Baisakhi extends beyond its cultural and religious aspects.

The special assembly also provided an opportunity for students to learn about the history and traditions associated with Baisakhi.



Through interactive sessions and educational activities, students gained a deeper understanding

of the festival and its significance in our lives.

n our lives. gratit
Baisakhi celebration served amor

as a platform to instil values of gratitude, unity, and cultural pride among students.

IPL 2024: Fraser-McGurk, Kuldeep steer DC to their second win of season

Kuldeep (3/20) sizzled with a three-wicket haul

LUCKNOW, Apr 13 (Agencies): Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk announced himself with a belligerent half-century on his IPL debut after spinner Kuldeep Yadav dazzled with the ball as Delhi Capitals recorded a morale-boosting six-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants

Ayush Badoni (55 not out off 35 balls) smashed a quick-fire unbeaten half century to help the Super Giants recover to a respectable 167/7 after Kuldeep (3/20) sizzled with a three-wicket haul.

Fraser-McGurk (55 off 35 balls) and skipper Rishabh Pant (41) struck a 77-run partnership to take the match away from the hosts and secure DC's second win of the season.

The 22-year-old Australian, known for his aggressive approach, smoked a shot of length delivery off Yash Thakur over deep mid-wicket to get his first-ever runs in the IPL. He followed that with another six in the next over.

Prithvi Shaw (32) was looking in good nick but Ravi Bishnoi made an instant impact as he entered the game, getting rid of the opener, as DC fell to 63/2. The LSG bowlers were able to dominate the visitors for sometime as Fraser-McGurk also struggled to find the boundaries.

But Pant hoisted the ball over



(8) and the dangerous Nicholas

Khaleel Ahmed (2/41), who

landed the early blow, Ishant

Sharma (1/36) and Mukesh

Kumar (1/41) also took wickets

But then Badoni took the

onus upon himself to resurrect

the LSG innings. He smashed

five boundaries and a six and

alongside Arshad Khan (20

off 16 balls) stitched a 73-run

Opting to bat, Quinton de Kock

(19) had started strong with four

boundaries but was dismissed

by Khaleel with a leg-before

wicket decision in the third over.

Devdutt Padikkal's (3) wretch-

ed run continued as he became

Khaleel's second victim of the

day. The pacer pinned Padikkal

in front of middle and leg for his

unbeaten stand.

to leave LSG reeling at 94/7.

Pooran (0).

Bishnoi's head for a straight six to not only reach the 3.000-run milestone in IPL but also collected Delhi's first boundary in 29 deliveries in the 11th over.

The dashing wicketkeeperbatter gave a glimpse of his vintage self, playing some audacious shots, including a reverse scoop off Marcus Stoinis.

Pant's power-hitting eased the pressure of Fraser-McGurk who slammed compatriot Stoinis for a hat-trick of sixes to bring the equation to almost a run a ball.

Earlier, returning to the side after missing three matches due to a groin niggle, Kuldeep picked three wickets while giving away 20 runs and conceding no boundaries in his quota of four

His victims included skipper KL Rahul (39), Marcus Stoinis Khaleel had the opportunity to

fifth consecutive single-figure

make it two out of two but the pacer dropped Stoinis on 0 off his own delivery in the very next

However, Rahul continued to collect boundaries at the other end, taking his side to 57/2 in the powerplay.

But the introduction of Kuldeep in the eighth over helped trigger a batting collapse, The left-arm spinner first bowled a nicely tossed up delivery with Stoinis throwing his hands at it only to get a leading edge that flew straight to Ishant at backward point.

He then bamboozled the inform Pooran, who looked clueless as the ball uprooted the off stump.

The batting collapse forced the hosts to send Deepak Hooda (10) as an Impact Substitute but Kuldeep picked up his third wicket in eight balls to get ride of Rahul, completely deflating the LSG batting.

Delhi bowlers choked the LSG batters as the boundaries dried

Ishant and Mukesh, who also returned to the Delhi playing XI after recovering from an injury, joined the act accounting for Hooda and Krunal Pandya (3) respectively.

MC Mary Kom steps down as chef de mission



NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): MC Mary Kom has stepped down from her assigned role of the Indian contingent's chef de mission for the Paris Olympics. The six-time world champion wrote to IOA president PT Usha about her wish to be relieved of the responsibility. Before writing the letter, Mary Kom apprised Usha of some of the developments that forced her to take this extreme step.

"We are sad that Olympics medal winning boxer and chairperson of the IOA Athletes Commission Mary Kom has stepped down citing personal reasons. I shall make the appropriate consultations and soon make an announcement about the replacement for Mary Kom," Usha

said. "I completely understand her request and respect her decision. I have also conveyed to her that she will always have my own support and that of the IOA. I also request everyone to respect the legendary boxer's privacy," she added.

Mar Kom's decision comes at a time when a majority of the executive council, including treasurer Sahdev Yadav, vice-presidents Ajay Patel, Rajlaxmi Singh Deo and Gagan Narang, and members Yogeshwar Dutt, Amitabh Sharma, Bhupender Singh Bajwa and Lt Gen (retd) Harpal Singh, have been openly revolting against the IOA president.

In fact, they had opposed the naming of Mary Kom and luge legend Shiva Keshavan as the chef de mission and deputy chef de mission, respectively.

In her letter, Mary Kom said she was grateful to the IOA for the honour. "I consider it an honour to serve my country in every way possible, and I was mentally prepared for it. However, I regret that I will not be able to uphold the prestigious responsibility and would like to resign, owing to personal reasons. It is embarrassing to retreat from a commitment. which I seldom do, but I am left with no choice,'

MS Dhoni and CSK fan craze takes over Mumbai ahead of MI clash

MUMBAI, Apr 13 (Agencies): The MS Dhoni and CSK fan craze has taken over the city of Mumbai ahead of the much-anticipated clash against MI in the IPL 2024 on April 14. Dhoni has once again been grabbing the limelight during the course of the season, as even opposition fans have chanted his name and cheered for the legendary wicketkeeper during the matches so far. CSK reached the city of one of their main rivals in the IPL and the craze for Dhoni and the side completely took over.

CSK posted a video on their official X account showing the travel of the team bus in the city of Mumbai. Fans were seen chasing the bus with their mobile cameras on, in a bid to get the glimpse of their favourtite stars and Dhoni. The bus found it a bit difficult to make it to the ground as the fans had surrounded it in a bid to cheer the players



on ahead of their practice sessions. CSK went on to call Wankhede, 'Wankheden' revealed they were overwhelmed by the support they got.

"The WankheDEN Vibes! Overwhelmed!" said CSK on X.

Ajinkya Rahane had recently explained how every game feels like a home match for CSK and claimed Dhoni to be the main reason behind it. The India batter also revealed how they have been able to learn from Dhoni as well during the course of the season.

"In a different perspective, when we are trav-

elling everywhere just because of one man, we are playing a home match just because of and Mahi Bhai (MS Dhoni). That's a wonderful feeling, obviously. When we are playing with him, so many things you can learn as a cricketer, as a human being, how he conducts himself... Mumbai guys, Maharashtra guys playing in CSK, the atmosphere which we have in the dressing room within

> Rahane said. Dhoni has been getting a big response from the fans as seen during the win over KKR recently.

the group is fantastic,"

Candidates Chess Tournament: D Gukesh misses a trick as Ian Nepomniachtchi regains sole lead, R Praggnanandhaa holds Fabiano Caruana

TORONTO, Apr 13 (Agencies): Grandmaster D Gukesh slipped from the joint top spot after suffering his first defeat, at the hands of Frenchman Firouzja Alireza, but teen prodigy R Praggnanandhaa played out an easy draw with American Fabiano Caruana in the seventh round of the Candidates

chess tournament here. Following the loss, the 17-year-old Gukesh was down to the joint second spot on four points along with Caruana and Prag-

gnanandhaa. Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi regained his slender half-point lead at the halfway stage following a draw with American Hikaru Nakamura.

After a draw with Nijat Abasov, Vidit Gujrathi took his tally to 3.5 points to share the fifth spot with Nakamura, while Alireza has 2.5 points to take the seventh spot. Abasov, with two points, is still in the



last place.

In the women's section, R Vaishali seemed to have run out of steam as she suffered her third loss in the event. Tingjie Lei of China proved too

good for the Indian on a day when the other three games ended in draws.

Zhongyi Tan of China remained half-a-point ahead of the pack after

drawing with closest rival Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia.

Russia's Kateryna Lagno played out a draw with Nurgyul Salimova of Bulgaria and Anna Muzychuk signed peace with India's Koneru Humpy.

The Indian challenge in the women's section might already have ended as Zhongyi stood firmly ahead on five points while Goryachkina had 4.5 points in her kitty. Lagno and Lei shared the third spot on four points each and Salimova, on three, was occupying the sole fifth position.

Humpy, Vaishali and Muzychuk need a miracle in the second half of the event to make a comeback as the trio has just 2.5 points each.

Stroke of luck Alireza was a bit lucky to beat Gukesh out of a London system. It was one of those days for Gukesh when things did not go as planned and even though the Indian enjoyed a good position in the middle game, going for unwarranted complications proved costly.

Gukesh ended up losing a piece but his position would still have been intact despite the material deficit. However, as things unfolded, Alireza won this race with some timely checkmate threats.

Praggnanandhaa employed the French defence and it was already a surprise for Caruana, who went for the advance variation. The 18-year-old Indian did not have much trouble in maintaining the balance in the ensuing middle game as the players reached an equal endgame with no chance of a breakthrough. A draw was agreed to after 41 moves.

"Paris 2024 Will Be Ultimate Test": Anush Agarwalla On Olympics Dream

The 24-year-old Anush Agarwalla will carry the hopes of a billion when he straddles an equine at the Chateau de Versailles in Paris.

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): The only current Olympic event that involves an animal is equestrianism. In ancient Olympics, chariot races and horse racing used to be part of the program. Horses continue to remain in focus and this year at the Paris Olympics in July-August, an Indian, for the first time ever, will represent the nation in the dressage event. The 24-year-old Anush Agarwalla will carry the hopes of a billion when he straddles an equine at the Chateau de Versailles in Paris. Horses are entwined in almost every chapter of India's rich history. In Mahab-

harata, Arjun's chariot

was drawn by four white horses.

In Paris, Agarwalla will be India's proverbial 'Arjun' astride Sir Caramello, the horse that enabled him win a historic dressage quota for Paris 2024.

"It's been just surreal. From winning India's first medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games to becoming the first Indian to clinch a dressage quota for the upcoming Olympics has been a tremendous experience. At every step, the relationship with my horse has been special, almost perfect. The circle will be completed only when I can finish on the podium in my favourite city, Paris," said Anush Agar-

walla during a chat with Shrimati Ekta Vishnoi, the host of the Fit India Champions Podcast.

The 'Fit India Champions' podcast series is aimed at spreading the message on wellness through conversations with athletes and health influencers. The 10-episode series is in partnership with GOQii. a major stakeholder in the fitness sector that proactively manages health through its digital and multimedia technol-

Agarwalla's career has been a story of sacrifices. Born in a business family where no one played sport, Agarwalla has been living and training in Borchen, Germa-



ny ever since he turned 17. With less than two weeks at home in Kolkata in December-January every year, it has been a lot of hard work for Agarwalla, who secured two historic medals - a team

gold and a bronze - on

his Asian Games debut last vear.

Agarwalla credits his family and coach Hubertus Schmidt for his journey as an equestrian so far. Schmidt, a 2004 Olympics gold medallist and a 2005 European

champion, has "been entirely responsible for transforming me from a low-level rookie to my current position," said Agarwalla, who added that Schmidt's patience levels were "amazing".

Interestingly, Schmidt was 'discovered' by Agarwalla's Sriram School Aravalli accounts teacher Adarsh through the internet! Anush Agarwalla

emphasized that "bonding with the horse was critical to good results." The best of horses can get nervous and flustered like human beings do ahead of big events and crowds, said Agarwalla, whose six to seven hours of training

time every day included a big portion on "looking after the horse and building trust."

"The trust level with your horse has to be immaculate. Bonding is key and I have been lucky both in Hangzhou and when I got the Olympic quota because both mental and physical health of the rider and his animal have to match perfectly. You can't whip the horse and

get good results. "Bonding, like human relationships, happens over time and these are like secret affairs really," said Agarwalla, who has gone back to Sir Caramello, the horse he had bought five years ago to qualify for Tokyo Olympics but missed by a whisker. In Hangzhou, Agarwalla was atop Etro, who now "needs a break after doing all the hard work in the Asian Games."

Since the quota is won for the country, Agarwalla will have to wait until June 24 when the Equestrian Federation of India sends the name of the rider who will represent the country in the Summer Games. Two dressage riders - Shruti Vohra and Major Jolly Ahluwalia - are contenders for Paris too but if form and experience are contributing factors, Anush Agarwalla looks like a frontrunner.

Atul Kumar Gupta: Doyen of Chess in J&K

MAKES J&K PLAYERS BLOSSOM AT INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: In the present era, the budding sportspersons of Jammu and Kashmir leave no stone unturned to carve a space on the country's sports map, thus keeping their Stat's/UT's flag high at the National and International scene.

Though, from the last few years, J&K athletes prove their mettle in almost all the games, yet the players of a few games including Gymnastics, Wushu, Fencing, Judo and Chess make the entire sports community proud by winning medals at the International level.

There are people who work day-in and day-out for the success of these players and serve as the beacon-lights to guide and goad them in excelling at the National level.

Atul Kumar Gupta is one of these dovens of



sports fraternity who

shaping the careers of burns midnight oil in the Chess players in Jammu and Kashmir, promoting this game in every nook and corner of the Union Territory and guiding the talented players to flourish at the highest level.

The Working President of All Jammu and Kashmir Chess Association (AJKCA) and former 3-time Joint Secretary of All India Chess Federation (AICF), Mr Atul has the distinction of organizing a record number of 132 Chess events in Jammu and Kashmir, including the historical South Asian Amateur Championship and over 15 National and All India level events

He has been instrumental in providing basic Chess training to more than 10,000 players in J&K including the tough terrains of Tangdhar, Kishtwar etc.

Under Atul Gupta's guidance and support, besides the provision

of the proper platform, J&K produced International champions like Meenal Gupta, Soham Kamotra and Arushi Kotwal, apart from the emerging players like Pazhany Kohli, Hamza Malik and likes.

Atul has the honour of serving as the Chief Protocol Officer in 44th Chess Olympiad at Chennai in 2022, involving 185 countries across the globe, besides accompanying the Indian team as Coach cum Manager---two times to Moscow and once to Bulgaria.

He has also the honour of being the former State Chess Champion.

Atul has been instrumental in helping his trainees to get employment opportunities and earn handsome sala-

All in all, an asset to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kaith, others interact with **NIMR Scientist Dr Parvin Atul**



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Jammu University's Retired Assistant Registrar R L.Kaith and others after attending Dr B.R. Ambedkar Birth Commemorative Function held in Brigediar Rajinder Singh Auditorium on Friday, interacted with NIMR Scientist Dr Parvin Kumar Atul, who had come from New Delhi on a special invitation of JU SC/ST Cell.

During the interaction, Dr Atul talked about Buddhism. He said, Buddha emphasized that he was not a god.. although buddhism is not obsessed with wiping out other systems or their gods, which as buddhism spread often became part of a religion based on old gods and, the buddhist peaceful way. Adding further Dr Atul said, buddhism doesnt care about your choices of belief in gods. They

have their long lasting practices especially various forms of meditation which are way more beneficial. If interested in buddhism, visit any nearby buddhist meeting place, learn basic meditation, practice that regularly without any brainwashing typical of religions, see how you feel after a few weeks of just meditating the way they teach novices, take it from there, Dr Atul advised.

Dimple celebrates Baisakhi, Navratri festivities at Bawe Wali Mata Temple



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Sunil Dimple, the president of Mission Statehood, led a celebration at the Bawe Wali Mata Temple in Jammu on the occasion of Baisakhi and Navratri.

Dimple offered prayers at the temple, invoking blessings for peace, happiness, and progress in the lives Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of communal harmony and brotherhood, highlighting the unity of various religious

communities in the region. As part of the festivities, Dimple and the Mission Statehood group organized a "Langar" (community kitchen) to share food and foster a sense of community among the attendees.

In his prayers, Dimple also expressed aspirations for the early restoration of J&K Statehood, echoing the sentiments of many in the region who have been advocating for political representation.

Dimple welcomed Prime Minister Modi's announcement regarding the restoration of J&K statehood and the upcoming assembly elections, viewing it as a victory for the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have long campaigned for these rights.

He acknowledged the challenges and pressures faced in achieving this milestone, emphasizing the significance of the decision in fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Prominent individuals Ramesh Chander Kohli, Sanyam, Sahil, and others were also present.

Durga Ashtami on April 16: Mahant Rohit Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Shri Durga Ashtami falls on April 16th, Tuesday, and Shri Durga Navami/Shri Ram Navami falls on April 17th, Wednesday.

In case due to any reason devotees are unable to perform Kanya Puja on the Ashtami or Navami date, they can perform it on Chaturdashi.

This was stated by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan Trust.

He explained that Shri Durga Ashtami will be celebrated on April 16th, Tuesday, and

Shri Durga Navami Shri Ram Navami will be celebrated on April 17th, Wednesday.Some devotees of Goddess Durga perform puja on Ashtami while some do it on Navami. If due to any reason, they cannot perform puja on these days, they can do it on Chaturdashi.

All materials used during the nine days of Navratri, including Kalash, grains sown in pots (symbolizing Devi Durga's idol), soil, and other items, should be immersed in a pond or river, he said adding that avoid using polythene with the idol as it leads to water pollution.

Aryans organises Fashion show on Baisakhi

Aryans students from JK, Punjab, Haryana declared winners for various titles



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: On Baisakhi, a plethora of events were organized by Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh for the excited new students, including rounds of singing, dance and drama. The top 50 contestants from Engineering, Law, Pharmacy, Nursing, Management, and Paramedical were seen putting their best foot forward to win the titles spiritedly walked the ramp to be the winner.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group, congratulated the title winners and

appreciated the efforts put in by one and all for actively participating in extracurricular activities and making the event memorable.

Punjab.

Civil Society celebrates Baisakhi festival at SAMBA



Top News Report

SAMBA, Apr 13: The annual festival Baisakhi was organised by civil society, Samba today, based on promoting local culture & language at Rajput Sabha Bhawan.

On the occasion Keshav Sharma, Chairman DDC Samba graced the as chief guest.

Amardeep Singh, President Amar Kshtriya Rajput Sabha and Satpal Gupta were Guests of

Ravi Dutta, a famous music director of the town, started the program with Saraswati Van-

dana by the students of Saraswati Swar Sangeet Vidyalaya Samba, followed by various Dogri songs. A special dance perfor-

mance was also staged by junior artists on this baisakhi festival. A Dogri skit was staged

by Naresh Kaka, Jyoti Hansa, Ravi Dutta & Rampaul Dogra which gave relevant Baisakhi festival message.

Speaking on occasion, chief guest said that Baisakhi festival reminds us our olden days when everyone were after putting up new dresses joined mela for open dance leaving message

of brotherhood. Now today also civil society Samba has given vibrant message after organising program of different colours

He appreciated the efforts of society which arranged such a decent program.

The society members who attended the program were president Amardeep Singh, Charan Singh, patron of society, Dr. Jagdeep Singh (retd.) Lecturer, Rajneesh Pargal, cashier, Ranjeet Singh. Local residents, parents, senior citizens joined the program.

All artists were given mementos by society.

DADAA delegation calls on President YRS Chandel support for fielding Ravindra Raina as BJP candidate the ministries of Home **Top News Report** nel as they too want to Affairs, Information and remain in touch with their

JAMMU, Apr 13: A deligation of Doordarshan Approved Drama Artists Association Jammu comprised of Madan Rangila Vice President, Janak Khajuria spoks person, Harbans Sharma organizing Secretary and Sher Singh executive member led by its President J. S. Babli met with the President of Yuva Rajput Sabha Jammu Vikram Singh, ex president Rajan Singh (Happy), General. Secretary Bhanu Partap Singh, District President Jammu Avtar Singh and Secretary Daljit Singh at Top Sherkhaniyan Jammu and apprised them that our association is for the cause of protection, preservation and development of rich cultural Heritage ,art and languages of Duggar land in general and welfare of artists fraternity in particular.

In this regard, they said, we are demanding Satellite Duggar Channel since 2013 and handover the correspondence made

Broadcasting, Defence and Prasar Bharti

The spoks person of DADAA Janak Khajuria said that the Duggar's rich composite cultural heritage, art, and various sub-regional aspirations like multi-languages, developmental needs crave for a Satellite Duggar Channel in this part of the country. It has stoutly been pleaded by the general masses as well as different social, cultural and literary organisation. The Doordarshan Approved Drama Artists Association (DADAA) and all other social-cultural organisations and numerous prominent citizens have raised their voice for it in the past years. This demand has now

caught the imagination of the people residing not only within Duggar region but also living outside the State and even abroad. The Non Resident Dogras too have been advocating the necessity

of satellite Duggar Chan-

traditions, social conditions and vibrant cultural roots through this potent telecast medium.

But strangely they have been deprived of their rights in many sectors including Satellite Duggar Channel, so far. Why is it so? How their legitimate demand for Satellite Duggar Channel has not been met by the governments till this day? It is still not too late to do the needful by the present Governments, in Jammu and Kashmir as also at the Centre.

In this regard more should be done for the people living in the Jammu region and seek their support. The President Vikram Singh of Yuva Rajput Sabha and others listen the delegation of DADAA carefully and said that this is not the demand of artists only but of all Dogras and assured the delegation of DADAA to their full support till achieved the long pending demand of Satellite Duggar Channel.

The students' excitement knew no bounds when various titles were announced including Student of the year-Meenakshi from Haryana; Face of the year - Sahil and Parul from Jammu; Mr.Talented - Ishan Manhas from Jammu; Miss talented - Gagan Bagga from Punjab; Mr Personality -Uday from Jammu; Miss Personality - Renuka from Punjab; Shining star - Harman from

for Rajouri Anantnag LS seat **Top News Report** JAMMU, Apr 13: Raju Chandel, a prominent

figure within the Hindu-

tva BJP leadership, has expressed fervent support for fielding Ravindra Raina as the BJP candidate for the Rajouri Anantnag Lok Sabha

Chandel's endorsement of Raina stems from his belief that Raina is the most capable candidate to secure victory in that particular constituency. He emphasized Raina's

popularity across various demographics, including Gujjar, Bakarwal, Dogra, Rajput, and Muslim communities, suggesting that Raina's appeal transcends traditional political divides

Chandel's confidence in Raina's potential success is evident in his assertion that no other candidate has the capacity to win



the Rajouri Anantnag seat apart from Raina. He urged Home Minister Amit Shah, renowned for his political acumen, to consider Raina as the BJP's candidate for the seat.

Chandel portrayed Raina as a beloved and respected leader whose candidacy would significantly bolster the BJP's

chances of victory in the constituency. Furthermore, Chandel

predicted that if Raina was to contest the seat, opposition candidates would face the risk of losing their security deposits. This bold claim underscores Chandel's conviction in Raina's electoral strength and the potential impact of his candidacy on the political landscape of the region. Chandel stakes his own political future on Raina's candidacy, stating that if Raina fails to win the seat, he would retire from politics for the rest of his life.

This statement not only highlights Chandel's unwavering confidence in Raina but also underscores the high stakes involved in the upcoming election for both Chandel personally and the BJP as a whole.

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