# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

16

Dua Lipa announced as host for 'SNL' May episode



**NATIONAL** 

| 7

India fastest-growing economy during last three financial years: Nirmala Sitharaman **INTERNATIONAL** 

18

UK PM Rishi Sunak faces resistance over his smoking ban plans



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

ng ban plans

Vol.-15 Issue-104 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

#### BRIEFLY

#### Willing to tender public apology, Ramdev and Balkrishna tell SC

NEW DELHI, Apr 16 (Agencies): Yoga guru Ramdev and Patanjali Ayurved managing director Balkrishna on Tuesday told the Supreme Court they are willing to tender a public apology in the misleading advertisements

"I am willing to give a public apology," senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Ramdev and Balkrishna, told a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and

Ahsanuddin Amanullah.
The apex court asked
Ramdev and Balkrishna,
both of whom were present in the court, to come
forward for an interaction
with the bench.

"They should feel they have a connect with the court," the bench said.

The hearing in the matter is underway and the bench is currently interacting with Ramdev.

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

products.
In two separate affidavits filed in the court, Ramdev and Balkrishna have tendered an unqualified apology for the "breach of the statement" recorded in

the November 21 last year

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

to the media in any form"
The top court had said
Patanjali Ayurved Ltd
is "bound down to such

assurance"

The non-observance of the specific assurance and the subsequent media statements irked the apex court, which later issued a notice to them to explain why contempt proceedings be not initiated against

#### Incessant rainfall drenches Kashmir, Snowfall at Gulmarg: MeT

SRINAGAR, Apr 16 (Agencies): Incessant rain caused a flood-like situation in Kashmir, even though the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said there would be overall improvement in weather from

Tuesday.
Incessant rainfall since
Saturday drenched the
Kashmir valley, bringing
down the temperature,
while some higher reach-

es, including the **Turn to page 9** 

## 6 people dead, 5 rescued, 3 missing as boat capsizes in Batawara Srinagar



SRINAGAR, Apr 16 (Agencies): In a heart wrenching incident, 6 people including five minor students were drowned, five were rescued while three others are missing after a boat

capsized in river Jehlum near Batawara Srinagar early on Tuesday morning.

Official sources said that the boat ferrying minor students to a local school capsized leading

to the death of 5 minors and the boat while 5 students were rescued by rescuers. They said soon after the news, a massive rescue operation was launched by SDRF, NDRF, local police diately, 11 people were found and were shifted to hospital however six of them were declared dead on arrival while 5 others have been admitted. They said massive searches are underway to find three other missing students.

They said Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, IGP, Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and SSP Srinagar are at Gandbal Batwara and are monitoring the rescue operations.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed deep grief over the incident." He said in a tweet, I am deeply grieved by the loss of lives due

Turn to page 9

## Amit Shah accuses NC, PDP, Congress of staging fake encounters, handing over guns to Kashmiri Youth



JAMMU, Apr 16 (Agencies): Hinting that BJP won't field candidates for the three crucial Lok Sabha seats of Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday said that BJP was not in a hurry to see Lotus bloom in Valley and urged Kashmiri people especially youth not

to vote for parties like National Conference, Congress and PDP. Shah also accused the Congress, NC and PDP of staging fake encounters and handing over guns in the young hands.

Addressing the mega rally in Paloura area of Jammu, the Union

Home Minister Shah said that BJP was not in a hurry to see Lotus bloom in Valley as the party is in process of winning hearts. "We are not going to conquer Kashmir as projected by our adversaries. We want to win every heart of Kashmir," he said.

Launching a tirade against NC, PDP and Congress, the Home Minister Shah said that these parties are responsible for promoting terrorism and handing over guns in the hands of young boys. "I want to aske Dr Farooq Abdullah, in whose tenure most of the fake encounters took place? Wasn't it Dr Farooq

Turn to page 9

## Agnipath scheme 'Insult' to youth who dream of protecting Country: Rahul

NEW DELHI, Apr 16 (Agencies): Hitting out at the Modi government over the Agnipath military recruitment scheme, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that this scheme was formulated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office and imposed on the armed forces.

Gandhi said that as soon as the INDIA bloc's government is formed at the Centre, the Agnipath military scheme will be scrapped and the old



permanent recruitment process be brought back.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "The Agnipath scheme is an

insult to the Indian Army and the brave youth who dream of protecting the country. This is not a scheme of the Indian

Turn to page 9

#### UPSC Civil Services result out, Click Here for Details

SRINAGAR, Apr 16 (Agencies): The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced the results for the Civil Services 2023 examination on Tuesday on the official websites – upsconline.nic.in and upsc.gov.in.

The notice reads, "Based on the result of the written part of Civil Services Examination, 2023 held by the Union Public Service Commission in September,

eptember,
Turn to page 9

## Five of a family rescued from flood water in Reasi



REASI, Apr 16 (Agencies): Five of a family were rescued by locals and police after a vehicle got stuck in flash flood at Dera Baba in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi

district.

The vehicle, police said, was on way to Reasi and crossing road at Dera Baba in Reasi tehsil area when it got

ea when it got
Turn to page 9

# SRINAGAR, Apr 16 (Agencies): Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with country, was closed due to Heavy landslide at Kishtwari Pather and

shooting stones at many

**Highway** 

**'Heavy** 

shooting

closed after

Landslides',

places, officials said. "Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) blocked due to major landslide at Kishtwari Pather and shooting stones at many places, heavy rainfall on whole NHW," a traffic department official here said. "People are advised to avoid journey on NH- 44 till the weather improves and road is clear. Please ask TCU for latest update," he said, adding, "People are advised to avoid journey. Please ask TCU

Meanwhile Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) on Monday issued an avalanche warning in the higher reaches of two districts of Kashmir valley during the next 24 hours, officials said.

for latest update".

An avalanche with "medium danger" level is likely to occur above 2400 metres over north Kashmir district of Kupwara and central Kashmir's Ganderbal districts in the next 24 hours.

People living in these areas have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders.

Kashmir valley was lashed by widespread rains during the past two days and some upper

Turn to page 9



SHRI RAMAN GUPTA

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI

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

10th Day will be performed on 19th April 2024 at our residence. Kriya 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 Shama & Nisha Shama - Son & Daughter in law Rakesh Sharma & Anita Sharma- Son & Daughter in law Rajni Sharma & Ashwani Sharma- Daughter & Son in law Nikhil Sharma Grand Son

Akhil Sharma Grand Son Abhishek Sharma - Grand Son Shreya Sharma- Grand Daughter Jaahnvi Sharma - Grand Daughter

Mob. 7006969134, 9107207294, 7006905089, 9149444294



Smt Shakuntla Sharma

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

Sons & Daughters-in- Law Bal Krishen Pandit and Nalini Pandit -M: 9796495850 Shyam Sunder Pandit and Vijay Pandit -M: 9419147804 Jai Mohan Pandit and Aneeta Pandit -M: 9819393757 Vijay Pandit & Kavita Pandit -M: 9819393757

Massa Raina W/o Late Vasudev Raina (Daughter) M: 9469647974 Sunita Kaul & Nipein Kaul (Daughter and Son in law) M: 9023601048

All friends and relatives

#### **10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Prabha Shori (Prabhavati) 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 Kharkha

Ghat, Haridwar 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 Bhakli 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 attain sadgati.

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 Lal Bhat - Daughter-in-law & Son Smt Kishni & Sh TN Kaul - Daughter & Son-in-law Smt Kaki & Sh B.M Bhal - Daughter & Son-in-law Great-Grand Children:

Tanush, Krishna, Vaishnavi, Shi vakshi (Pari) Contact: 9082502054, 9149675676, 9419133092, 9419155691



(RANI JI)

Smt. Prabha Shori (Prabhavati/ Durga Jee)

Grand Children Smt Vishakha & Sh Vishal Bhat Dr Lipy & Dr Abhishek Sharma Smt Amrita & Sh Manish Kaul Smt Nidhi & Sh Sukshim Pandita Smt Preeti & Sh Sandeep Singh Smt Nimisha & Sh Shivam Bhat Pankit, Rahul, Harsh, Jhalak

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

**SMT RAMESH** GAIND

#### CODOLENCE MAULIN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Jija ji Shree Maharaj Krishen Dhar S/o Late Shree Prithivi Nath Dhar originally R/o Channapura,

10TH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Banglore on 21st April 2024 (Sunday).

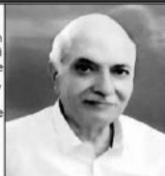
GRIEF STRICKEN:

Brother-in-law: Dr Kundan and Lata Raina

Sh Satish and Nirja Raina SISTER -IN-LAW

Dr Nancy and Satish Pandita

Mrinal, Kunal, Rimzim, Tapan, Sparsh and Jilmil. M-9426747348, 8320147182.



Shree Maharaj Krishen Dhar (Bhayaa Ji)

## SATSANG

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that a SATSANG shall be performed in the Loving memory of SMT. KARTAR KOUR W/o S Mohan Singh R/o Dewer Tral at present Dashmesh Nagar Digiana at GURUDWARA ASHRAM Digiana Jammu on 17/04/2024

(Wednesday) from 4 PM to 5.30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

S Mohan Singh (Husband) Paramjeet Singh (Son) Dhamodar Singh (Son)



SMT. KARTAR KOUR

#### 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 abode on 04-04-2024.

10th Day will be performed on (Saturday) 13-04-2024 Rani Talab (Tutiean) from 10 to 11 AM. Kriya will be performed on (Tuesday) 16-04-2024 at 12 Noon at our residence.

Rasam Pagri will be performed on (Wednesday) 17-04-2024 from 4 to 5 PM at SH. CHARNJET LAL Brahman Sabha Parade. PURI

#### **GRIEF STRICKEN**

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 Mobile: 9419183721, 9419147760

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER SH. MOHAN LAL BHAT SIO LATE SH. LAL BHAT OF TENGPONA PULWAMA AT PRESENT JAGTI COLONY NAGROTA, JAMWU, LANE-25, BLOCK-163, FLAT-19 & 20 WHO EFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 08 APRIL 2024

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT ON 17TH APRIL 2024 AT 09:00 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN

PHOOLA BHAT (WIFE) BROTHER & BHABI)

MAD SUDHAN LAL BHAT & BIMLA BHAT SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW SATISH KUMAR BHAT & RAJINI BHAT

SHADI LAL BHAT & AMRITA BHAT (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW) DEEPAK BHAT & URVASHI BHAT (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW) ASHWANI TURKI & SWEETY TURKI (SON IN LAW & DAUGHTER) RAVI KUMAR ZUTSHI & JYOTI ZUTSHI (SON IN LAW & DAUGHTER) AMINASH BHAT & MEENU BHAT (SON IN LAW & DAUGHTER) SANJAY BHAT & SHEETU BHAT (SON IN LAW & DAUGHTER) GRAND CHILDREN: SHRIYA, JANU, SURAJ, MIKU, AYUSH, MEHAK, KHUSHI, ANMOLTANVI, RIYAN, SHIVI

MOBILE NUMBER: SATISH BHAT - 9419125644 SHADI LAL BHAT - 9596959880 MADSUDHAN LAL BHAT - 9796256641

#### OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, I would like to inform all my relatives and friends about the sad demise of my beloved wife 'Ratni Dhar' originally from Tulmulla Kashmir Srinagar on 08-04-2024 at 09.31 pm at Pine 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 W/o Late Shri D N Raina Smt Lalita Raina W/o Late Shri Brij Krishan Raina Smt Birnla Bhan WoLate Shri Schan Lai Bhan

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

#### OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Kishni Dhar (Asha ji) R/o Trikuta Nagar Jammu, originally resident of Khan Kahi Soktha, Nawakadal, Srinagar, left for heavenly abode on 13th April 2024 at Oberoi Splendor, JVLR, Mumbai.

OTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 22nd April 2024 at Gaimukh, Godbandar Road, Mumbai

**GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Sunita & Ajay Koul (Daughter& Son-in law) Sunil & Anju (Son & Daughter in law) Sanjay & Sonu (Son & Daughter in law) Grand Children

Aarushi, Kritida, Harshit and Ananya Dhar, Koul, Qazi & Raina Parivar.



RATNI DHAR

SH. MOHAN LAL BHAT

(TENGPONA, PULWAMA)

(Asha ji)

Smt. Chanchal Sharma

Shri Lakhpat Rai, (KAS)

(Retd. Add Dy. Commissioner)

04-05-1936 - 08-04-2024

#### FIFTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our sister Smt. Chanchal Sharma W/o Sh. Yageshwar Sharma R/o Malhotra Mohalla, Jammu.

Fifth Day will be performed on Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 11:30 AM at our house Sanson Kunj, W.No. 8, H.No. 51-B, Near Panday Mandir, Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN

All Sanson Parivar

7006092397, 9419796060, 9086866653, 9419917986

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA With profound grief and sorrow we regret to info

passing away of our beloved father, Shri Lakhpat Rai, KAS, Reld Additional Deputy Commissioner R/o House No 114 Street No 5 Shakti Nagar Jammu. He peacefully departed on 8th April, 2024. The Tenth Day ceremony will be held on 17th April, 2024 (Wednesday) from 11.30 am onwards at our

The Kriya will take place on 18th April (Thursday) at .00 pm at our residence.

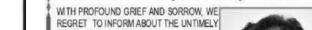
APrayer Meeting (Uthala) will be conducted on 19th April, 2024 (Friday), from 4 pm to 5 pm, at Afsar Guest House, Near A G Office, Shakti Nagar,

Mrs. Raj Rani (Wife) (Brothers & Bhabhis) Sh. Kesar Mal Salgotra Sh Baldev & Mrs Swaran Sh Behari Lal & Mrs Tripta

(Daughter-in-laws & Sons) Mrs Raji Rai & Mr Jagjit Rai (Advocate) Mrs Sureshta & Mr Kuljeet Rai (Retd Bank Manager)

Dr Kusam & Dr Harjeet Rai

Mrs Neetu & Mr Manjeet Rai,(Sub Judge) Mrs Sushil & Mr G R Changotra (Retd AEE) - (Daughter & Son in law)



TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA SAD DEMISE OF SHRI RAMAN GUPTA S/O LATE SHRIK LIGUPTA CHIEF ENGINEER RTD AND LATE SMT. SUBASH GUPTA R/O 12/9 TRIKUTA NAGAR JAMMU. WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 5TH APRIL 2024

10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 14TH APRIL (SUNDAY) AT HIS RESIDENCE 12/9 TRIKUTA NAGAR JAMMU AT 10AM.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 17TH APRIL (WEDNESDAY) AT 12:30 PM AT HIS RESI-DENCE AT 12/9 TRIKUTA NAGAR, JAMMU.

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 17TH APRIL AT 4 PM TO 5PM AT SHIV MANDIR SEC 3. TRIKUTA NAGAR JAMMU.

> **GRIEF STRICKEN:** SMT SHIPRA GUPTA - WIFE GARVIT GUPTA -SON SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW SUPRIYA AND SACHIN SHARMA MOTHER AND FATHER IN LAW SANTOSH AND VIRENDER AGGARWAL **BROTHERS AND BHABHIS**

ASHWANI KUMAR GUPTA IFS AND RASHMI GUPTA PAWAN KUMAR AND BHARTI



#### 17 APRIL WEDNESDAY AT **VASAK DHERA BHADERWAH**

#### **Grief stricken**

Daughters in law and son Smt Suman and sh Manoj Gupta nt Radhika and sh Neel kamal Gupta Smt Sonia and Sh Sanjeev Gupta Bhabhi and brother

Smt. Rama and sh vinod gupta Nephew and his wife Smt Vimlesh and sh Sandeep gupta

Devar and bhabhi

Late Smt Krishna

Sh Yoginder gupta **Grand children** Abhima , Savish , Akshay , Rudrakshi, Akshita,

Jeevesh , Deepak , suhail , Pooja , harshit Phone no 7005059790, 9906071873, 9906391352

#### CHOUBARSI

Choubarsi of our beloved Late Smt. Krishna Devi W/o Late Sh. Amar Nath will be performed on 17th April (Wednesday), at 12.00 Noon at our residence "Amar Niwas", H.No. 219 Sec-B, Sainik Colony, Jammu. DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY: Smt. Santosh Gupta (Daughter in law)

Sons & Daughter in laws) Sh. K.K. Gupta & Smt. Radhika Gupta Sh. Sat Parkash Gupta & Smt. Puja Gupta Smt. Prem Lata (Daughter)

(Daughters & Son in laws) Smt. Parvesh Marwaha & Sh. Surinder Marwaha Smt. Parveen Gupta & Sh. Madan Lal Gupta (Grand Sons & Grand Daughter in laws) Dr. Suresh Gupta & Smt. Ashu Gupta Sh. Vinod Gupta & Smt. Suman Gupta

#### Contact No. 9419219679, 9858562914 10TH DAY/KRIYA

ITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFOR YOU THAT OUR BELOVED FATHER, **SHRI MAHARAJ** KRISHAN DHAR ORIGINALLY FROM LAL NAGAR, CHANNAPORA, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR (AT PRESENT WAS IN BANGALORE) HAS LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 12TH APRIL 2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 21ST APRIL BANGALORE ADDRESS: 6093. SOBHA SILICON OASIS.

HOSA ROAD, BANGALORE-560100 MOB. NO: 8971400148 GRIEF STRICKEN SMT. VUAY DHAR (WIFE) NKUSH AND PREETI DHAR (SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW) RATNI KAUL AND LT. A.K. KAUL (SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW T. GIRJA KAUL AND OPINDER KAUL (SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW)

ROTHER'S AND FAMILY: TK DHAR AND SANTOSH DHAR T. B.K DHAR AND USHA DHAR K DHAR AND VEENA DHAR P.K. DHAR AND ANJALI DHAR

GRAND CHILDREN: AADYA AND AHAAN DHAR

Sh Maharaj Krishan

Dhar (Gasha Ji)



18.04.2024 at 8.30 am at Muthi Ghat ne Directorate of School Education, Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN amast Bakshi Parivar (7006763216)

DAUGHTERS AND SON-IN-LAWS mt Kiran & Sh GK Kaul (9811515925, 9873915925) Smt Babli & Sh BB Bhat (6005128051, 9899591786) Smt Gugee & Sh Sushii Raina (9873978311, 9873978383) Smt Lovely & Sh Suresh Ganjoo(7006513837, 7006982418) nt Rinkey & Sh Rajender Kandroo (9682665358, 9958592211

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow,

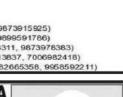
regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Bimla Bhat W/o Sh. Brij Lal Bhat R/o Logripora Aishmuqam, Tehsil Anantnag at present H. No. 55, oppo site Lane No. 28, Tawi Vihar, Sidhra Jammu, on Monday dated 08/04/2024. TENTH DAY/KRIYA will be Performed at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of school Education Jammu at 8:30 A.M on 17/04/2024 (Wednesday).

Bereaved Family Member Sh. Brij Lal Bhat (Husband) Smt. Suice to Bhat & Sh. Sandesh Kumar Bhat (Daughter in Law and Son) Smt. Suman & Sh. Kuideep Kumar Bhat (Daughter in Iaw and Son) Sh. Sanjay Raina and Smt. Sethi (Son in Iaw and Daughter) Grand Children: Sumedha Bhat, Shivika Bhat, Simran Raina, Samriti Bha

CONTACT NO: 9419185550, 9419176987

#### DISCLAIMER

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."







## Youth extend support to Apni Party: Manjit

**Top News Report** 

BARI BRAHMANA (SAMBA), Apr 16: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today said that the youth have extended their support to the Apni Party because of its progressive policy to bring peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Former Minister was speaking at a joining program which was organized by Block President Youth Wing of the Party at Bari Brahmana Irshan Choudhary in which two dozen youth joined the

While welcoming the new entrants into the Party fold, he hoped that their joining would strengthen the Party at the grass root level and would encourage others to join the Party.

He said that the youth have joined the Party expressing their faith in the leadership of Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari.

The Party has gained support from the youth



because the Party leadership believes in telling the truth to the people without dividing people on regional or religious

lines," he stated. He further said that the traditional political parties however exploited the youth as vote banks, and did nothing for generating source of income, employment or selfemployment with lack of support from the authorities to provide easy funds ties," he said. to start their business or

to open a shop or industrial unit.

"The aspiring youth are often told to arrange funds by themselves by helping with a minimum amount after completing multiple formalities. These formalities are so complex that the aspiring youth who want to start business changes their heart after looking at the complicated procedure of loan, and other formali-

He said that the Party

ing and arranging visits to the already functional industrial units across the country. Innovative approach is required to encourage youth towards the business, and industrial units, he added.

He further said that "The youth are impressed with the Party's policy and agenda of equitable development, and they have pinned hopes with the Party and its leadership."

He demanded statehood should be restored before the holding of assembly elections so that the confidence of the people in both the regions could be restored.

Meanwhile, he also discussed developmental and drug addiction related issues with the people at Mean Sarkar in Bari Brahmana and expressed gratitude to the people for extending support to the Party.

The meeting cum joining program was also attended by District President, Youth Wing, Samba, Mangat Ram, and others.

State of Kerala, the same

incident happened the

previous year, in which

30 passengers capsized

and drowned. The rea-

sons in such cases are

mostly overcrowded and

inadequate safety equip-

In an appeal to GOI,

he said that the incident

of children drowning

after the boat capsized

in the river Jhelum near

Batwara, Srinagar is

extremely heartbreaking,

appealed to the Govern-

ment of India, especially

LG Manoj Sinha to get

the bridge completed,

so that such situations

would not be happened

He expressed sympa-

thy with the bereaved

families in bearing this

irreparable loss of small

angels and prayed to

Almighty Allah to bless

in the future.

ment.

#### LG Mishra hosts farewell for outgoing Administrative Secretaries Kacho Mehboob Ali, Ravinder

**Top News Report** 

LEH, Apr 16: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) hosted a farewell party to bid adieu to outgoing Commissioner Secretary, Kacho Mehboob Ali Khan, and Secretary to the LG, Ravinder Kumar, at Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat.

Wishing the best for their future assignments, the HLG stated that the administration is bidding farewell to two capable and hardworking 'friends.' He advised both officials to keep their integrity, morality and principles intact no matter what difficulties they encountered during their assignments. He also stated that one's real character is tested when the going gets tough and advised them to carry on despite all the constraints. He further stated that he was impressed with the work undertaken by Ravinder in resolving the issue of mortality of pashmina kids during the winter months.

The LG informed about the distribution and installation of 1000 pashmina goat kids pens in the Changthang area under Shri Ravinder's guidance to save the pashmina goat kids from sub-zero temperatures in the winter months.

The LG also appreciated the commitment and sincerity of Kacho Mehboob Ali Khan and highlighted the vital role by Kacho Mehboob during the UT Foundation Day 2023, where groups of students and teachers from Ladakh were sent to 28 states and 07 UTs to represent Ladakh and perform at various Rai Niwas/Raj Bhawans. The HLG also felicitated both officials with traditional khataks and souvenirs.

ADGP, Ladakh, Dr SD Singh Jamwal, informed his association with Ravinder since the latter was the Deputy Commissioner of Reasi and Udhampur. He stated that both officers have been an asset to all the departments where they had

worked. He expressed his best wishes to both the officers for their future endeavours and called their farewell as 'heart-wrenching." Mehboob

Kacho

expressed his gratitude to the LG for organising the farewell party and for all the support provided by the LG, the Departmental Secretaries and all the government officials. He informed about various initiatives taken by him during his tenure as the Commissioner Secretary of various departments of Ladakh over the past three years, including the development of tourism infrastructure, the Homestay Policy to promote rural tourism, the promotion of tourism and culture department, engagement of labours in Border Roads Organisation (BRO), welfare scheme for labourers,

excise policy, etc. Kumar Ravinder expressed his gratitude for organising the farewell party and for all the support he received from the HLG, the Departmental Secretaries and all the officials. He informed about various initiatives taken by him as the Secretary of various departments over the past four years, including the Leh-Nubra Transmission Line, Ladakh Green House and Milk Pasteurisation Plant. Ravinder also expressed gratitude to both LAHDCs and the District Administration for their constant support during his tenure. He expressed his best wishes to outgoing Commissioner Secretary Kacho Mehboob for the completion of his three-year tenure in UT Ladakh

ADGP, Ladakh, Dr SD Singh Jamwal; Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar; Commissioner Secretary, Dr Laltinkhuma Franklin; Secretary, Amit Sharma; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; Director, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD), Ladakh, Tahir Hussain, besides officers and officials of Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, were present during the farewell event.

### People are fed-up from Jitendra's lack of engagement with public interactions: Rajesh Gupta

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: Bahujan Samaj Party J&K UT general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta today appealed to the voters of Udhampur-Kathua to give chance to new and young face. He appealed to the people of Udhampur-Kathua constituency to vote for young and dynamic BSP candidate Amit Kumar Bhagat 28.

Gupta said Dr. Jitendra Singh has been consistently winning in the Udhampur parliamentary constituency since 2014. However, this time, BSP candidate Amit Kumar Bhagat is contesting on BSP ticket and I am confident of securing his victory by a significant margin. The people are dissatisfied with the Dr Jitendra's lack of engagement with the people - evident by his absence from public interactions.

BSP leader on chang-

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: Senior

BJP leader and Member

of Parliament (Rajya

Sabha), Gulam Ali Khat-

ana on Tuesday said that

Sanklap Patar/Ghoshna

Patar (election manifes-

to) of BJP released by

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has committed to

keep the nation and its

people safe from terror-

ism and other destructive

While addressing at

a rally of Union Home

Minister Amit Shah in

Jammu. Khatana said:

"PM Modi led govern-

ment during its last 10

years of rule has taken a

firm stand to protect the

country and its people

from the threats of terror-

ism and naxalism by fol-

lowing a zero tolerance

He said that BJP mani-

festo 2024 promised for

policy on terrorism."

activities.



es in Udhampur-Kathua constituency post-abrogation of Article 370, he said: "Behanji (BSP national president Mayawati) supported abrogation of Article 370 as she wanted that all the Central laws should be implemented in J&K and the poor should get all the facilities like reservation etc but today even rich and well off are getting benefits of weaker sec-

He said that even after the abrogation of Article 370 there is lot of bungling and J&K has got nothing as expected and

Khatana louds Sanklap Patar of BJP, says

Another tenure of good governance declared in manifesto: MPRS

nation safe-secure under PM Modi

tions so where the poor

even the much talked of Minimum Wages Act is

Gupta also said that if Ministers, Parliamentarians and Legislators get pensions for working only for five years then why not the SPOs get the same.

"Similarly, daily wagers work throughout the day but never get timely salaries and they are also not regularized. So far they only received false assurances," he said claiming that corruption is at its peak in U-K Constituency and poor people have no say anywhere while a Government employee is overburdened and instead of mandatory eight hours, they are being forced to work for tained adding: "School remain shut here for most of the time and the teachers get salaries while staying at home and they mostly remain busy in politics."

#### Hashmi expresses grief over boat capsize tragedy, offers deep condolences



amount that is sanctioned

to start any kind of busi-

ness shall be enhanced

up to Rs 1 crore per indi-

vidual and the formalities

that were demanded by

the banks to release the

funds should be mini-

He said that the Party

believes that everyone

cannot be provided a

Govt job in Jammu and

Kashmir. However, the

Govt can help the unem-

ployed youth with the

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: The prominent Sociopolitical activist Syed Karar Hashmi studying at Qom Seminary in the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed his deepest sympathies with the children's families, and all those affected by the horrible boat incident at Jehlum River in which most of the passengers were children on their way to school.

He said in a press statement that the rope used to quide the boat across snapped and the higher water level due to heavy rains falling in the past two days made this tragedy more vulnerable and imminent.

He observed that in the

#### Dr. Amir Rashid grieved by loss of lives in Boat capsize

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: In a heartfelt response to the tragic boat accident that claimed several lives in Batwara Srinagar earlier this morning, Dr. Amir Rashid has expressed his deep sorrow and extended his condolences to the families of the victims.

The unfortunate incident occurred Tuesday morning when a boat, reportedly overloaded, capsized in Gandbal Batwara Srinagar

Dr. Amir Rashid in a statement said . "My thoughts are with the bereaved families at this extremely difficult time," Amir stated. "I pray to the Almighty to give them the strength to withstand this immense loss

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

> Catalogue No.: EAFZR-SLR24-13A Auction Start: 03/05/2024 at 11:00 Hrs

Name of work: Allotment of contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No. / SLR compartment: 12426-F1,12498-F1,22432-F1,11450-F1,22430-F1,14610-F1,14612-F1,20986-F1,22402-F1,19416-F1,12446-F1,19028-F1,12414-F1,19108-F1

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

them in Jannatul Firdous. MORE SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

05656		rwahati-Jammu Tawi-C nmer Special Train	Guwahati	18 Trips
Train No. 05656		CTATIONS 4	Train No. 05655	
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
_	20:30	GUWAHATI	13:20	_
17:35	_	JAMMU TAWI	_	10:00

In addition to already announced Summer Special

Trains, Railways will run following additional

Summer Special Trains as per following details :-

Days of Run: 05656 Ex Guwahati from 06.05.2024 to 01.07.2024 on every Monday and 05655 Ex Jammu Tawl from 09.05.2024 to

04.07.2024 on every Thursday. Stoppages: Kamakhya Jn, Rangiya Jn, Barpeta Road, New Bongaigaon Jn. Kokraihar, New Cooch Behar, New Jaloaiguri. Kishangani, Katihar Jn. Naugachia, Khagaria Jn. Begusarai, Barauni Jn. Shahour Patoree, Desari, Hallour Jn. Sonour, Chhaora Jn. Siwan Jn. Bhatni Jn. Deoria Sadar, Gorakhour Jn. Gonda Jn. Lucknow Nr, Hardol, Barellly Jn, Moradabad Jn, Laksar Jn. Roorkee, Saharanpur Jn., Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cantt, Jn. Ludhiana Jn, Jalandhar Cantt. Jn., Pathankot Cantt., Kathua stations. Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper

09405/09406 Sabarmati-Patna Jn-Sabarmati 22 Special Train Trips				
Train No. 09405 CTATIONS ATrain No. 0		0.09406		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS '	ARR.	DEP.
_	18:10	SABARMATI	13:30	_
15:35	15:45	LUCKNOW	16:05	16:15
02:00	_	PATNA JN.	_	05:00
Days of Run: 09405 Ex Sabarmati from 16.04.2024 to 25.06.2024				

on every Tuesday and 09406 Ex Patna Jn. from 18.04.2024 to 27.06.2024 on every Thursday. Stoppages: Mahesana Jn, Palanpur Jn, Abu Road, Ajmer Jn,

Phulera Jn, Jaipur, Bandikui Jn, Bharatpur Jn, Achhnera Jn, Agra Fort, Tundla Jn, Kanpur Central, Lucknow Nr, Sultanpur, Varanasi Jn, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar & Ara Jn stations Accommodation: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

Train No.09309/09310 earlier announced between Indore-New Delhi-Indore superfast Bi-weekly special Train will now run between Indore-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Indore as per following details:				
Train No	rain No. 09309 CTATIONS		Train No. 09310	
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
_	17:00	INDORE	21:00	_
04:30	_	HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN	_	08:20
D (D 00000 F 1 1 ( 40 04 00044 00 00 0004				

Days of Run: 09309 Ex Indore from 19.04,2024 to 30.06,2024 on every Friday & Sunday and 09310 Ex Hazrat Nizamuddin from 20.04.2024 to 01.07.2024 on every Saturday & Monday.

Stoppages: Dewas, Ujain Jn, Nagda Jn, Shamgarh, Ramgani Mandi, Kota Jn, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Bharatpur Jn & Mathura Jn stations.

Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings

of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

09064 Gorakhpur JnUdhna Jn. Un-Reserved Special Train		
STATIONS	Train No. 09064	
STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
GORAKHPUR Jn.	_	04:45
LUCKNOW	13:05	13:10
UDHNA JN.	15:30	_

Days of Run: 09064 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. on 16.04.2024 (Tuesday)
Stoppages: Anand Nagar Jn., Siddharth Nagar, Barhni, Gainsari,
Tulsipur, Balrampur, Gonda Jn, Barabanki Jn, Lucknow Nr, Kanpur Central, Orai, Virangana Lakshmibai, Bina, Vidisha, Rani Kamalapati, Itarsi Jn, Khandwa Jn, Bhusaval Jn, Nandurbar Bardoli & Chalthan stations. Accommodation: Sleeper & General

04145/04146 Prayagraj-Anand Vihar TPrayagraj Superfast Summer Special Train				12 Trips
Train No	o. 04145 DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	0.04146 DEP.
_	21:20	PRAYAGRAJ	19:20	_
08:00	_	ANAND VIHAR T.	_	09:30
Days of Run: 04145 Ex Prayagraj from 26.04.2024 to 31.05.2024				

on every Friday and 04146 Ex Anand Vihar T. from 27.04.2024 to 01.06.2024 on every Saturday. Stoppages: Fatehpur, Kanpur Central, Etawah, Tundia & Alicarh.

Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

08475/08476 Puri-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Puri Summer Special Train				20 Trips
Train No. 08475 STATIONS Train		Train No	No. 08476	
ARR.	DEP.	SIATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
_	04:50	PURI	06:55	_
17:40	_	HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN	_	23:35
Dave of Pup : 09475 Ev Pupl from 10.04 2024 to 29.05 2024 on				

Days of Run: 08475 Ex Puri from 19.04.2024 to 28.06.2024 or every Friday and 08476 Ex Hazrat Nizamuddin from 20.04.2024 to 29.06.2024 on every Saturday. Stoppages: Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Naraj Marthapur

Dhenkanal, Angul, Rairakhol, Sambalpur City, Jharsuguda Road Bilaspur, Katni Murwar, Damoh, Saugor, Birangana Laxmibai Jhansi, Gwalior, Agra Cant, Mathura Jn stations

Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier A	C, Sleeper & Ger	neral
05051 Chhapra Jn Unreserved Specia		01 Trip
STATIONS	Train No. 05051	
	ARR.	DEP.
CHHAPRA JN. ▼	_	11:25
LUCKNOW	22:00	22:10

Days of Run: 05051 Ex Chhapra Jn. on 16.04.2024 (Tuesday) Stoppages: Ballia, Indara Jn, Mau Jn, Azamgarh, Khorason Road Shahganj Jn, Ayodhya Cantt, Lucknow, Moradabad & Ghaziabad. Accommodation: Sleeper & General

11:40

RailMadad Visit RailMadad website: Helpline No. Download Railmadad App **NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

#### the establishment of Military Theatre Commands for more efficient operations to safeguard the nation and its people.

The BJP leader further



said that the manifesto assured to accelerate development of robust infrastructure along Sino-Indo, Indo-Pak and Indo-Mvanmar borders and introduction of technological solutions on fenced portions to make fencing smarter.

He also said that in the chapter 'Surakshit Bharat' in the manifesto mentioned about revocation of Article 370 leading to a significant reduction in violence in J&K and enactment of Bhartiva Nvav Sanhita which focuses on justice instead of punishments.

Khatana said that the 'Sankalp Patra' highlight-

ed the achievements of 10 years of BJP Government at the Centre and said PM Modi has delivered on every promise he made so far.

He said that in the last 10 years BJP has implemented every aspect of its manifesto as a guarantee and informed that the 'Sankalp Patra' strengthens four strong pillars of Viksit Bharat-Yuva Shakti, Nari Shakti, poor and farmers.

"Through the manifesto BJP promised to regulate and monitor Bharat's cyber protection agencies and infrastructure besides development and implementation of robust cyber security policies," the MP maintained adding: "It also expressed commitment towards eliminating the threat of drugs in the society, especially among young citizens, through a series of technical, legal and intelli-

gence programmes." He said that in manifesto the BJP has promised to leverage Big Data analytics, Artificial Intelligence, drones and satellite imagery to detect and dismantle drug trafficking networks effectively and to consolidate country's position and commitment to seeking permanent membership in the UN Security Council. "The manifesto talks

about implementing 'One Nation, One Poll' initiative, preparing common electoral rolls, abolishing waiting lists for train travel, expansion of 5G networks and organising Ramayan festivals world over, among others," the BJP leader continued.

He further said that in manifesto BJP expressed commitment to a holistic development of Ayodhya and promised to launch a global outreach programme for promoting the legacy of Lord Ram.

Khatana said that as millions of devotees from around the world visit Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, BJP is committed for the holistic development of the city.

## **EDITORIAL**

## IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARY

ibrary is a very important resource. There are many books which are very ✓ rare. Not every person can buy it. We can easily get such books in the library. There are thousands and lakhs of different types of books in the library. It is no less than heaven for the readers. A huge advantage of the library is that hundreds of books are available on any subject so that students can make good notes and get good marks. Nowadays the importance of library has increased a lot. After the advent of digital revolution, the number of online libraries is increasing rapidly. The objective of the library is to provide different types of books to the students so that they can study well. Libraries provide free books which are of great benefit to the students.

The importance of library was understood in ancient times itself. In this way, there are many ancient libraries in the world. If students do not have books then how will they study? Seeing this need, the library was established. There are many benefits of library. Some of the major advantages are:-

\* Easy availability of books: The big advantage of the library is that you can easily get books on any subject. All schools and colleges have libraries where two or three books are given at a time. After reading books, we collect them and can take another book in its place.

In this way any person can read hundreds of books. One can read any book in the library for many hours. There are no restrictions of any kind. All types of new and old as well as rare books are available in the library. There are many such books which are not easily available in the market. One has to wander a lot to buy them. Such books are also easily available in the library.

\* Benefits to poor students: There are many students in the country who do not have enough money to buy books. Nowadays even books are very expensive. In such a situation the library proves to be a boon. There any student can read any book and even get it issued and bring it home and continue his studies. Therefore, library is no less than a boon for poor students.

Students can make good notes by going to the library and reading from different books. And you can brighten your future by passing the exam with good marks. It is very important to have good books for studies.

\* Many books on one subject are available: There are many books on the same subject in the library which students read to prepare good study material. They are also able to make good notes. If there is only one book for one subject, it will not make good study material. Reading many books increases knowledge and leads to good marks in exams.

\* Relaxed atmosphere: Library is a place where there is peace. People just read. So if you need peace and want to read, library is the best place. Many people have a large number of people in their homes. Family members always keep talking. Such people get less opportunity to study. Such people can come to the library and study. There are many good books in the library which students can easily take and read. They get these books for free and do not have to pay any money. If all the libraries are removed then the education of the students will be deeply affected. They will not be able to find good books to read and will not be able to get good marks in exams.

Libraries preserve human history: All types of events and informative facts are recorded in history books. In this way it can also be said that books protect our history. Thousands of books are kept safely in the library. Therefore, libraries keep man's knowledge, his culture and all his events in a safe form so that future generations can know about the old times.

Library development in India has been slow. But at present there is a library in every city of India.

1. National Library Kolkata:- Presently it is the largest library of India. The state government operates it. It contains more than 22 lakh books. Before independence, the Governor of Bengal used to stay in this library. This library is also counted among the oldest libraries of India. It was founded by JH Stocker in 1836.

2. Delhi Public Library:- This library was started on 27 October 1951. It was jointly established by UNESCO and the Government of India. This library has made great progress. This includes more than four lakhs. Many of its branches have been opened in Delhi city. This library also has a children's library for children.

### Poll promises vs delivery amid rise in polarisation

By: Shikha Mukerjee

lections serve many purposes. By definition, elections are polarising. In multi-party elections, the competition for votes is fierce because fragmented interests and the representation of these blocs creates greater tensions and confrontations. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections about to get underway will be a great war, of words, principles and agendas, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will face the toughest challenge of his political life.

Having established himself as the "face" of India, on various certificates and other such government documents and made politics a personal contest where he pits himself as the great helmsman against his enemies and "guarantees" to defeat them and their allegedly nefarious plans and activities, the 2024 election will be the biggest gamble that the Bharatiya Janata Party has ever risked. It is understandable that the BJP has invested all its eggs in one basket, namely the persona of its only leader, Narendra Modi, whose electrifying appeal delivered two successive terms in office at the Centre. The 2024 election results will be significant for the BJP's future.

Since the 1980s, the party has promised the electorate three things and grown phenomenally in the years since it became a mainstream national party. The three pillars of the past, and of Mr Modi's 10 years in power, are the materialisation of the Ram Mandir, the mirage of Shining India-Viksit Bharat and prioritising the mystique of religion over the temporal.

As the third election to ensure Mr Modi's return to power at the top approaches, there are signs of anxiety as the old narrative of identity-based polarisation is refashioned to attack the Opposition.

The parties of the anti-BJP Opposition, collectively and separately, are being accused of pursuing a "Mughal" agenda over eating fish and meat. By making purity and pollution in terms of religious practice central to the Indian election, Mr Modi's counter to the Opposition is to stir up the sentiment of core BJP voters and the 17 per cent fence-sitters, who are not sure how they will vote in this election, according to a pre-poll survey by the highly-regarded Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

The Prime Minister and lead campaigner for the BJP's choice of fighting over fish is as illogical as it is inexplicable, unless his agenda is to distract voters by making noise to drive them to a point where error is likely in arriving at a judgment on which political formation will work best for their current and future needs. By diverting from the crisis of the cost of living and joblessness that is an overwhelming concern for the bottom half of India's 97 crore registered voters, does the BJP and its leader Narendra Modi hope to get past the winning post in the 2024 general election?

The highly regarded Lokniti-CSDS survey found that the bottom 50 per cent, including sections of the middle class, are concerned about jobs (27 per cent) and price rise (23 per cent). By that same measure, the bottom of the pyramid is neither likely to be beguiled by the prospect of the celebration of Ram Navami at the newly-built Ram Mandir in Ayodhya (8 per cent) that Mr Modi inaugurated with much fanfare nor enchanted by a future Hindu Rashtra (2 per cent). The bottom of the pyramid does not have the money.

The deliberate avoidance of telling Indians how precisely the next Modi government will guarantee them better food, better wages, better employment and far more opportunities, better health services, better education and a greater sense of well-being makes sense for the BJP. Without a five-year deadline, the Modi government, if re-elected, can duck the problem of accountability. The Viksit Bharat guarantee has to be fulfilled by 2047; the \$5 trillion target has a vague 2027-28 time-frame; in other words, Mr Modi and the BJP have raised expectations without promising delivery.

Elections, however, are an appraisal of performance; after 10 years in power, the buck stops with Mr Modi. The opinion culled by the Lokniti-CSDS survey shows a sharp but not vertiginous decline in Mr Modi's approval ratings. Just under half of Indians, about 48 per cent Indians, think he is the best; the rest are not so certain. A little more than quarter, about 27 per cent, think Rahul Gandhi is a good alternative. For most voters, the most urgent problems are being stuck in dead-end jobs with low wages and no prospects making it difficult to meet the cost of living, with all its consequences.

The fault does not lie entirely with Mr Modi; the fault is of a political strategy that worked very successfully in 2014 and 2019 of conflating the party with the persona of the benevolent but authoritative leader oozing masculinity. He can thunder on about how he will pick out the corrupt and lock up them up after re-election, but that may not cut it. The forced disclosure that the BJP received Rs 6,060 crores from electoral bonds hangs like an albatross from the party's neck, as does the alleged connection between the Adani Group's meteoric rise and the enormous amounts that

the banks have written off as bad loans. Coupled with the targeting of Opposition leaders and the freeze on the Congress Party's bank accounts by the income-tax department, the Modi government has unintentionally prompted voters to think again.

More intriguingly, the concept of the "washing machine", first articulated by Mamata Banerjee, has captivated the popular imagination. Voters seem irritated by the unprincipled politics that allows the BJP to operate as a cleaning outfit where politicians from the Opposition tarred for being corrupt are sanitised after switching sides. The unintended consequence of the BJP's washing machine politics is the perhaps irreparable reputational damage it has done to itself.

The Lokniti-CSDS survey found that voters are turned off by the politics of defection that the BJP has perfected as a mechanism of seizing power by destabilising Opposition governments as in Maharashtra or earlier Madhya Pradesh. The arrests and investigations by "agencies", including the NIA, CBI, ED and income-tax department, has in public perception converted into tools of the ruling party, like the police in the states, to be abused for political purposes.

The 2024 Lok Sabha election will be probably the toughest test that the popular sovereign, the voter, has ever faced in Independent India. It will be a fight of the people and their expressed anxieties versus the mechanisms for distracting noise generated by vast armies of "keyboard warriors" intent on stoking polarising sentiment to induce the necessary error of judgment to uphold Prime Minister Modi as the only alternative against a ragtag Opposition.

#### Job oriented Career options in the Healthcare Industry

By: Vijay GarG

one are the days when healthcare referred to simply doctors and nurses. With the booming medical tourism in India, this sector is also showing growth in all terms. Be it the size of the hospitals or the expertise required for their operation, specialized courses have developed. If you failed to qualify for the MBBS entrance exam or wish to be in the medical field but don't find yourself efficient to handle patients, then also the healthcare sector has a lot of opportunities for you. There is an ever growing demand for super-specialists. Even the engineers are needed. You must have noticed that hospitals have personalized apps. They need skilled engineers to design and maintain them. Here, we will be telling you about the numerous career opportunities in the healthcare sector.

Job Prospects and Career Opportunities in Healthcare Sector

Physician: When we talk about the healthcare sector, a Doctor is the first image that appears. Undoubtedly, doctors are the pillars of healthcare. You can be a doctor by clearing the national level test NEET. Also, you need to have studied physics, chemistry, and biology in your intermediate. There are also many private medical colleges that conduct their separate tests. After completing the four and a half year long MBBS, you can get yourself registered as a practitioner. Nowadays, there is a demand for super specialists. So, it will be better for you to do MD as well. Higher degrees will be better. A doctor's job is one of the highest paying ones. The government hospitals and private hospitals all pay them handsomely.

Dentist: Tooth problems are always there. And to deal with them, we need skilled Dentists. There is an upsurge in dental issues with polluted water, unhealthy eating habits and obviously lifestyle stress. Apart from the traditional dental extractions and implants, we also have now cosmetic dentistry. People opt to undergo knife to fix the misalignment of their teeth, to improve their facial appearance and all such purposes. For being a dentist, you first need to do BDS. Its selection is done through the nationwide medical test NEET. After your BDS, you should go for higher studies for higher prospects.

Nurse: A Nurse is the one who is in charge of doing all the tests and taking care of the patient until he/she is discharged. They can be seen drawing out blood, collecting a urine sample, administering medicines, training patients for some techniques like taking insulin shots etc. if you are passionate towards the ill and ailing, you can get into this career. You first need to have physics, chemistry, and biology in your intermediate. After that, complete a nursing course. In our country, we have a B.Sc.(Nursing), ANM

and GNM courses. On successful completion of the course, you need to get yourself registered with the state nursing registration council. After being a registered nurse, you can work in public as well as private clinics.

Dietician: Most hospitals have a group of Dieticians who prepare the diet chart for patients while their stay in the hospital and also afterwards. They take into account the medical history, current complications and also daily requirements. You must have noticed that patients suffering from kidney dysfunction get a diet chart upon their release from the hospitals. It is the dieticians who prepare that. There are a number of colleges that offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses in food Nutrition and Dietetics. After completing masters, you need to clear the registered dietician exams to get a practising license. After that only you can work as a dietician. This is a very attractive field. A number of people are suffering from lifestyle disorders and need a properly planned diet. With advancement in clinical science, doctors recommend their patients to have a balanced diet throughout their life. As a dietician, you can work with health clinics or even practice independently.

Counsellors: Hospitals don't always get the patients with physical trauma only. They also get the ones who have deep psychological trauma. A Counselor role comes into the picture in these cases. There are cases when a person is so much tortured that they fail to open up to register a police complaint. A couple becomes rigid on conceiving a child even though this may lead to the death of the mother. A counsellor counsels them, works for the betterment of their mental state and also towards a permanent recovery. Their primary role is to ensure a healthy mental state of the patients. To be a counsellor in the healthcare industry, you need to have at least an M.Phil (Psychology). After that, you should get yourself registered with the rehabilitation council of India. Many universities are registered with RCI. So, the students get their license soon after completing their M.Phil. in case your university isn't registered, you can appear for the independent exam conducted by RCI.

Physiotherapist: There are always patients who need physical therapies for getting better. Went here is an accident victim with a damaged spinal cord, their recovery needs a regular physiotherapy. Even the sportspersons need this from time to time. Most hospitals especially the orthopaedic ones have their own team of Physiotherapists. You too can be a physiotherapist if you have studied physics, chemistry, and biology in your intermediate. After that, you can go for a diploma as well as degree courses in physiotherapy. Like all the other streams, it is better to go for the masters and specialization. There is always a demand for physiotherapists who specialize in paediatrics, gerontology, and trauma. The salary starts at 30k per month. Of course, much of it depends on the hospital. And, if you succeed in establishing your own clinic, it can be even better. However, you must ensure that the college in which you are studying is recognized by the Indian Association of physiotherapists.

Medical Lab Technician: All the hospitals have their own pathology lab. Apart from the Pathologists, Lab Technicians are also needed. As a Lab Technician, you will be required to study and detect diseases in the patient's body samples. If your hospital has an oncology department, you will be also required to detect malignancy of the tumours. This is a highly technical and specialized job. Not only that, this one will always remain in demand. Even with all the automation, it will be the human intellect and expertise required in creating slides and studying them. If you find this career thrilling, you can get yourself enrolled either in the Diploma in MLT or related Degree course in medical laboratory technologies. You can start your work with any diagnostic centre or hospital.

Pharmacist: A Pharmacist is a person behind the drug prescriptions to the patients. You can get into this field by completing B.Pharma first. There are government as well as private colleges offering this course. After that, it depends completely on you to choose either in an MNC associated with drug manufacture or some hospital. You can also get into the research field.

Hospital Management: This is a budding career with lots of potentials. The big hospital chains need more than just doctors and ancillary services to function properly. They need to have a proper management. Managing a hospital is completely different from managing a business firm. There are cases of emergency, medical epidemic and constant renewal of technical equipment. The role of a candidate with hospital management comes in the picture here. There are some institutes that specialize in offering MBA (Hospital Management). After doing your MBA (Hospital Management), you can join in the leading private hospitals as their manager.

Veterinarian: When we talk about health care, we can't exclude our pets. If you find yourself more inclined to tend to the medical needs of these speechless creatures, you can become a Veterinarian. You have to clear the AIPVT Entrance Exam, which is the national level test for getting admission in the BVSc. States also conduct their own entrance tests which are subject to the domicile of the candidate.

Genetic Counselor: With the advancement in technology and growing awareness, people now know that many of their health issues are due to their genetic makeup. in the old days, people used to regard every mentally challenged child as the same. But now we know that they can

suffer from Down's syndrome or Klinefelter's syndrome and so on. So, usually, doctors advise the expecting parents to get themselves tested genetically to rule out any such condition. As a genetic counsellor, you will be required to educate them about the pros and cons of getting this test done. You will be counselling them if any genetic anomaly is detected. You will be doing the same with the cancer patients too. To get into this field, you need to have a certification from the board of genetic counsellors in India. Unfortunately, there are very few institutes that currently offer a course in the genetic counselling. VIT offers a full-time M.Sc (Biomedical Genetics) with genetic counselling, Manipal hospitals Bangalore offer a certificate course in genetic counselling, and Kamineni Hospital, Hyderabad offers a post-graduate certificate course in medical and genetic counselling. So the competition to get there is really tough. But the scope is unlimited. If you wish to go abroad, the career prospect is much brighter. They are in high demand there.

Biomedical Engineer: With the growing demand for non-invasive surgeries, robotic surgeries, and accurate surgical devices, the Biomedical Engineers are going to be in high demand. The role of a biomedical engineer is to act as the intermediary between the hospital needs and industrial manufacture. It is more of an R&D job. We have IITs, NITs and some good private colleges offering diploma, certificate, undergraduate courses like B.Tech.(Biomedical Engineering) as well as postgraduate courses. But unfortunately, in our country, it has got a limited scope. But, if you choose to go abroad, it will give you tremendous returns.

Radiation Therapist: With a swift rise in the number of cancer patients, the need for radiation therapists has also risen. You can do a diploma or a full-time graduation in Radiation Technology. Currently, there isn't any national entrance test. Colleges take the candidate based on their intermediate marks or their own entrance test. After completing the graduation, you need to get yourself a post-graduate specialization in medical oncology or radiology or oncology. After that, you will be eligible to work as a radiation therapist. You will get numerous opportunities in cancer-specialist hospitals.

The medical field is a vast arena. There are many untapped professions which are very good paying and have bright prospects. It is always better to look beyond the traditional career choices. You will get to explore a new field and carve a niche for yourself. We hope you have decided what you wish to be.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

## **GDCW Kathua releases of News Letter Iravati-II and College on Wheels**

**Top News Report** 

KATHUA, Apr 16: Government Degree College for Women, Kathua on Tuesday released its Edition of News Letter "Iravati-II" for the month of January to June 2023 and College on Wheels -J&K Gyanodaya Express

On this occasion Dr. Savi Behl, Principal of the college, was the chief guest. The news letter was compiled by newsletter committee headed by Dr. Rachna Devi with active support of committee members, Prof. Romika Bassin, Prof. Surbhi Gupta, Dr. Mukesh Kumari, Dr. Ajay Sanotra and Dr. Satish khajuria, Dr. Gopal Sharma.

Dr. Rachna Devi,



Convener Newsletter committee, delivered welcome address and expressed gratitude to Principal for her guidance, support and cooperation. She also thanked the committee members for their dedication and hard work.

Chief guest of the event, Dr. Savi Behl in her speech congratulated the whole team of news letter committee for timely completion of the work and motivated the students and faculty members to showcase

their achievements and

various activities organised by the institution because news letter is said to be the mirror of the institution.

Dr.Savi Behl also appreciated the efforts of the students who have participated in college on Wheels -An initiative by Government of J&K in which 5 students of the College participated. The College on Wheels initiative, spanning November 19 to December 2, 2023, provided a kaleidoscope of experiences encompassing India's historical, cultural, scientific, and social dimensions. The goal is to facilitate the discovery of the student's inner passions and life's purpose through immersive, collaborative, projectbased learning experiences to address realworld challenges.

Proceedings of the program were conducted by Prof. Romika Baasin along with vote of thanks. Dr. Yashpaul and Prof. Sachin Jeet Singh were also present at this program.

#### Jal Shakti Deptt fails to complete filtration plant in Kulgam's Chambgund, causes hardships to residents

**Top News Report** 

KULGAM, Apr 16: The residents of several villages of Devsar belt in South Kashmir's Kulgam district here have alleged that the Jal Shakti department (PHE) is supplying impure water to them, claiming that the authorities are putting their lives at risk.

According to locals, a water filtration plant, established at Chambgund, Kulgam, is yet to be completed despite several years passing, "the project was sanctioned in 2010, after which the work was started and funds allocated. More than a decade has passed but the work is still incomplete", they said.

According to them, the project after getting



completed will cater to the needs of almost 5000 households in many villages who are using contaminated water from streams and also paying fees for that.

The locals have appealed to the higher authorities to intervene and mitigate their prob-

When Contacted Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Jal gund, Mohd Rafiq said that 80 per cent work of the project has been completed, adding that project had been languishing, leading to slow progress, "We have also issued a notice to the contractor for speedy work on the project, the remaining work would take two months; it shall be completed by June this year," he added.

Shakti department Qazi-

#### **Haq Insaaf Council criticizes election** Commission's handling of Anantnag Rajouri **Parliamentary Constituency Elections**

**Top News Report** 

POONCH, Apr 16: The Haq Insaaf Council strongly condemned the Election Commission of India's indecision regarding the third phase of elections in the Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency.

Advocate Syed Zeshan, Chairman of the Haq Insaaf Council, has demanded the immediate deferment of elections and highlighted the urgent need for attention in the Anantnag Rajouri area.

The ground reality in Anantnag Rajouri dictates the necessity of Monster Trucks for candidate nominations and campaigning.

Given the challenging circumstances, it is imperative to consider

deferring the elections. This move is essential to ensure fairness. especially when those who have exploited state resources for decades can effortlessly file nominations and manipulate

Advocate Syed Zeshan

emphasized the plight of the Peer Panjaal region, comprising the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, which has been turned into a political laboratory. He noted that individuals who were unsuccessful in previous parliamentary elections are attempting to re-enter the electoral arena from Anantnag Rajouri. This manipulation of democratic processes exacerbates the trust deficit already prevalent in the region. Questions arise regarding the whereabouts of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration and mainstream politicians who advocate for hasty elections without considering the suffering of the common masses. Advocate Syed Zeshan urged the Election Commission of India to establish a committee to address the genuine issues faced by the electorate of Rajouri and

Poonch. The Haq Insaaf Council calls upon the Election Commission of India to act swiftly and decisively to ensure the integrity and fairness of the electoral process in Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency.

#### NABARD issues statement to dispel misinformation regarding 'Dairy Loan Yojana'

**Top News Report** 

MUMBAI/JAMMU, Apr 16: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) issues a statement to address the recent misinformation circulating about the NABARD Dairy Loan Yojana.

A series of false claims suggesting that NABARD is directly providing loans to farmers for dairy farming ventures under their Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme. NABARD, categorically and unequivo-

cally states that these assertions are fake. NABARD, as an apex development finance institution functions by extending financial assistance and support to various financial institutions and cooperatives involved in rural development. It does not extend loans directly to individual farmers. All stakeholders are strongly urged, particularly farmers and rural entrepreneurs, to exercise utmost caution and refrain from believing or propagating such misinformation. Unverified information can lead to financial risks and misunderstandings. Accurate information can be obtained from NABARD's official website, www.nabard.org.

NABARD remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting rural development and agriculture through various initiatives and schemes aimed at fostering sustainable livelihoods. Hence, cooperation of all stakeholders is solicited in ensuring the dissemination of accurate information and discouraging the spread of misinformation.

#### Bhajan "Satkaar Maa Bawe Wali ka" released



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: In a momentous event the Bhajan launch of "Satkaar Maa Bawe Wali ka" by the talented artist Nisha Gupta resonated with the spirit of cultural unity and heritage. The unveiling ceremony, graced by prominent figures such as Sohail Kazmi, Meenu Mahajan, and Sahil Mahajan attended by artists Lyrics Sunny Udhampuria

**Director Model Actress** concept by Nisha Gupta. During the event, Sohail Kazmi, in a heartening declaration, emphasized the significance of the bhent as a representation of Jammu and Kashmir's rich tapestry of diversity. He lauded the act of a artist presenting a Hindu

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Apr

devotional song, highlighting the ethos of coexistence and unity. As the auspicious occasion of Navratra coincides with the upcoming Navratra, Kazmi expressed optimism about witnessing more such soulful renditions that bridge communities together.

Sahil Mahajan BJP JK UT Co-Convenor Sanskriti Art Culture Cell, echoed a similar sentiment, underscoring the importance of nurturing and promoting the sanctity of Sanatan Dharma. Embracing the bhent as a cultural treasure, Sahil Mahajan underscored the duty of all to cherish and propagate the essence of this timeless heritage.

Ajay Singh Chib, the soulful voice behind "Sat-

Apni Party leadership mourns loss of

lives in tragic boat capsizing incident

Bukhari urges administration to conduct thorough investigation

kaar Maa Bawe Wali ka ," urged the audience to engage with his creation. Encouraging viewers to like, share, and subscribe to his channel, Nisha production Jammu, he emphasized the role of each individual in preserving and celebrating the diverse cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event, characterized by an aura of camaraderie and mutual respect, served as a testament to the power of art in fostering interfaith harmony and preserving cultural legacies. As "Satkaar Maa Bawe Wali ka Bhent" resonates across communities, it stands as a beacon of unity and reverence in the beautiful landscape of Jammu and

#### **DPS Kathua Hosts Special** Ramnavami Assembly Celebrating Spirit of Shree Ram



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: Delhi Public School Kathua proudly organized a special assembly on the auspicious occasion of Ramnavami, dedicated to honoring the revered deity Shree Rama. The event showcased the school's commitment to cultural enrichment and spiritual values, as students engaged in various performances and presentations centered around the revered figure of Shree Rama.

The assembly commenced with the serene chanting of the mantra

"Om asto maa sadgamya" followed by the heartfelt rendition of the prayer "Hey shaarde maa..." Setting the tone for the program, a class XI student eloquently shared insights into the significance of the day, highlighting its relevance in Hindu culture and

mythology. As the program unfolded. students from classes UKG & VI to VIII captivated the audience with their portrayal of the iconic characters of Lord Rama, Laxman, and Sita Ji. Their heartfelt performances, coupled with a soul-stirring group song titled "Ram Aayenge," filled the atmosphere with devotion and rever-

Adding a visual spectacle to the event, the stage decoration featured a striking standee of Lord Rama, flanked by elegant marigold flower chains, symbolizing the festive essence of Ramnavami. Mr. Vivek Arora, the esteemed Principal of DPS Kathua, took the opportunity to commend the students for their exemplary efforts and encouraged them to imbibe the timeless virtues embodied by Shree

#### Sajad Lone express grief on the tragic boat capsize incident, offers heartfelt condolences

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: J&K Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone extended his heartfelt condolences to the families affected by the devastating boat capsizing incident in Gandbal-Batwara on Tuesday morning.

Expressing deep distress over the tragic news, he particularly empathised with the loss of numerous minors in the

"It is such distressing news. My heart-

felt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. So many minors have lost their lives. My prayers and thoughts are with the parents during this unimaginably difficult time," stated Lone.

Furthermore, he called upon the administration and SDRF teams to expedite rescue operations and ensure the survivors receive prompt and best possible medical care. He also urged the authorities to provide all possible help to the bereaved families during this difficult

#### **KDP** Wing of **DPAP** hails **Notification of Draft Roll Extract** 2024 for Kashmiri Migrant Voters

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: In a

joint statement issued by the KDP Wing of DPAP through Shri Sanjay Dhar President, Piaray Lal Pandita Chairman, Roop Krishen Koul Vice President, Raj Kumar Ticku General Secretary, Daizy Dhar Mahila, President Renu Razdan Mahila Vice President ,Naveen Gosani Youth President ,Rahul Raina Youth Vice President have expressed their gratitude to the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner, AERO Migrants to issue a Notification NO.01 AERO(M) of 2024, regarding publication of Draft Roll Extract-2024, regarding 20 Zones under 20 Poling Stations through out Jammu region for enabling the migrant Voters to poll their Votes nearer to their residential places with also issuance of deployment of Nodal Officers and BLOs.

The leaders have whole heartedly thanked the CEO J&K,who has for the first time get these easier voting procedures published as per the discussions held by all Political Parties in his good office chambers on 09.04.2024 and have hailed the RRCM, AERO Migrants to coordinate with their frequent meeting with migrant polical leaders latest by 15.04.2024.

The Leaders have appealed the Migrant Voters of all Valley Constituencies to get

downloaded this Draft Roll Extract on website www.jkmigrantrelief. nic.in and if any case any type of claim arises regarding missing of name,corrections,or any objection regarding change of polling station, a form annexed at Annexure A to this Extract Roll Notification is to filled upto one week to be returned to AERO, Migrants, Concerned Nodal(Zonal officer) or BLO for doing needful, and will be got processed/intimated before Voting date.

The leaders have expressed their satisfaction over this year's coordination of the Election and Relief Authorities to ease out all voting procedures and have not kept our disposal of the voting procedures in the hands of Valley District Election Officer which happened to be cumbersome expensive process for migrant Voters. In view of making all voting procedures effective and efficient the KDP Wing of DPAP appeal to all the enlisted votes of each Constituency of Valley to exercise their voting in full swung to elect a strong Contesting Candidate whose manifesto contains proper resettlement, rehabilitation of the Displaced kashmiri

people and who can

fight for restoration of 34

year lost constitutional

rights, loss of property,

employment, education

and development of our

community

16: Apni Party leaders, including President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, Provincial President Mohammad Ashraf Mir, and other esteemed leaders, have expressed profound grief and sorrow over the loss of at least six lives, including four minors, in the incident of a boat capsizing on the river Jhelum near Batwara, Gandabal, in Srinagar. According to a party

statement issued here, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, Ghulam Hassan Mir, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, and other esteemed party leaders have expressed their utmost grief and sorrow over the boat capsizing

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "The loss

of at least six precious lives, including four children, in this tragedy is heartbreaking. I am in deep shock and sorrow. My heartfelt sympathies go out to the families who have lost their loved ones in this horrific incident. May Allah grant them the strength they need to endure this devastating debacle."

He urged the administration to ensure adequate compensation and all possible help for the bereaved families who lost their kith and kin in this unfortunate incident.

He said, "I request the LG administration to provide adequate compensation as well as all possible help to the families of the deceased.

Also, I urge the administration to conduct a thorough investigation to uncover the details, facts, and causes of this tragedy. It is essential to take necessary measures to prevent any such incident from occurring in the future." In his message, Ghulam Hassan Mir

said, "This is a monumental tragedy for all of us. I am shocked and profoundly grieved over the loss of lives in this tragic incident. I extend my deepest sympathies to the affected families. May the Almighty grant them the strength to endure the pain of this irreparable and inconsolable loss."

In his statement, Mohammad Ashraf Mir said, "I am devastated by this tragic incident. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families who lost their loved ones in this tragedy. This painful incident has left the whole area in deep shock and trauma. I feel deeply traumatized. Personally, I am deeply affected and stand in unwavering solidarity with the grieving families."

## Salman Khan house firing: 2 arrested from **Gujarat**; both residents of Bihar

A preliminary probe suggested that both Pal and Gupta were hired by the gang of incarcerated gangster Lawrence Bishnoi to open fire at Khan's house

Two persons--including a man--who allegedly opened fire outside Bollywood actor Salman Khan's residence in Mumbai have been arrested from Gujarat, police said on Tuesday.

The two persons -Vicky Gupta (24) and Sagar Pal (21) - both residents of Bihar, were nabbed late Monday night from Mata No Madh village in Gujarat's Kutch district, Deputy Inspector General of Kutch-West, Mahendra Bagadiya, said.

Based on technical surveillance, joint teams of the Kutch-West and Mumbai police nabbed the duo, he said.

They were handed over to the Mumbai police as the complaint is registered there, Bagadiya said.

A preliminary probe suggested that both Pal and Gupta were hired by the gang of incarcer-

ated gangster Lawrence Bishnoi to open fire at Khan's house, he said. While Pal did the firing, Gupta was in touch with

the gang members,

Bagadiya said.

At around 5 am on Sunday, two motorcycleborne persons fired four rounds outside 58-yearold Khan's house at the Galaxy Apartment in Bandra area of Mumbai and fled the spot.

They had rented a house for a month in Navi Mumbai's Panvel, where the actor has a farmhouse, an official said on Monday.

The police on Monday questioned three persons from Navi Mumbai, including the house owner, the previous owner of the two-wheeler used in the crime, the agent who facilitated the sale, and several others as part of the probe into the firing incident, the official said.



The motorbike was abandoned near Mount Mary Church in Mumbai, a little over a kilometre from the actor's house.

the police said. A Facebook post claiming responsibility for the firing surfaced at around 11 am on Sunday.

The IP (Internet Protocol) address of the FB post was traced to Portugal and the police were verifying it, a senior official said on Monday.

Prima facie, the shooters had conducted a recce around the Galaxy Apartment in Bandra a few days ago, he said.

Police suspect a VPN (virtual private network) was used for uploading the Facebook post, allegedly by Anmol Bishnoi, the brother of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi on Sunday, he said.

A VPN establishes a digital connection between a computer and a remote server owned by a VPN provider, creating a pointto-point tunnel that encrypts personal data, masks IP addresses, and allows the user to sidestep website blocks and firewalls on the Internet.

#### 'I don't want to get typecast,' says Tanuj Virwani



It is easy for an actor to be typecast and Tanuj Virwani, best known for Prime Video series Inside Edge, says he is careful about not choosing similar kinds of projects.

The actor is looking forward to a string of interesting outings, including Murshid, a series with Kay Kay Menon, a film with Vijay

are growing as artistes."

Neeru also feels she has

adapted some of his

good qualities — one to

Raaz titled Johnny Jumper, a light-hearted film Puppy Love, and a short film with Gajraj

He will also be seen in Applause Entertainment's untitled crime thriller series alongside

Rahul Dev.

"I'm trying to keep things fresh and attempt different things. I can promise the audience that with every project that I do, whether it's a small or big role, I'll try to do something different.

"I don't want to get typecast or slotted. Getting slotted or typecast in our industry is perhaps the easiest thing," Virwani said.

The actor, who starred as the hot-headed star cricketer Vayu Raghavan in Inside Edge in his digital debut, said the OTT platforms helped him grab diverse work opportunities, including the ongoing Season 15 of reality show Splitsvilla. The actor co-hosts Splitsvilla X5: ExSqueeze Me Please with Sunny Leone.

#### Sanya Malhotra speaks up for neurodivergent people

Actress Sanya Malhotra has shared that it is critical to find a structured yet flexible learning environment for neurodivergent people. focused on life skills and independent living. April marks Autism Awareness Month, a period dedicated to raising awareness about autism, a developmental disability stemming from differences in brain functioning.

Sanya, who was last seen in the movie Sam Bahadur, attended the opening ceremony of 'So-Hum Smiles', a special school for neurodivergent individuals.

The actress said, "I am truly happy that this centre is opening, which is the need of the hour to provide help for neurodivergent individuals. It is critical to find a structured vet flexible learning environment for these people focused on life



skills and independent living. It is imperative to find acceptance and a place for these kids and adults in society, not just for these kids, but also for society to do better. I am sure the centre will create a fruitful impact

on numerous lives." Sanya will be next seen in Mrs, which is a remake of the Malayalam film The Great Indian Kitchen. The Arati Kadav directorial is already making waves internationally

#### Neeru Bajwa and Satinder Sartaaj have paired up once more for the upcoming Punjabi film Shayar about each other. We

Gladly, Sartaaj and I get

along too well and with

the second film, we got

to explore much more

The hit jodi of 2023 Neeru Bajwa and Satinder Sartaaj is back with another film, Shavar, as Seero and Satta, to entertain the audience of Puniabi cinema worldwide. Releasing this Friday, as they gear up for film's promotion, we started with the most obvious question — what made them unite again, their previous film Kali Jotta's success or the off screen camaraderie?

Neeru says, "A bit of both. With the release of Kali Jotta last year, when the audience accepted our on screen chemistry, it was natural that we had to work together on something soon. So my team had approached Sartaaj for Shayar and he also related to the idea. It's easier to work with someone you can connect to, especially when you have to spend 15-16 hours of the day for more than 40 days



while shooting a project. Similarly, it's difficult to pretend when you don't like your co-stars. be more patient and the other to be non-reactive to situations or people that don't demand your time and energy! Playing a poet

Presented by Neeru Bajwa Entertainment, Shayar is helmed by director Uday Pratap Singh. The screenplay is by Jagdeep Singh Warring. For the film, Sartaaj played a poet (shayar), but being a Sufi poet and singer in real life he says the role demanded him to unlearn a lot of things. "As my character in Shayar is learning to become a shayar, there were many things that I had to pretend that I did not know. It was actually hard to underperform in areas you excel in. The opening scene in the trailers when I am singing out of tune,

is not how I am in real life but that's the boon of acting — you get to play so many characters that you are not."

Sartaaj adds, "I want to play a serial killer on screen, it's a role even audiences would be surprised to see me in." There's another thing that is hard to pull off for Sartaaj, shares Neeru, who starts preparing Sartaaj for making reels one day in advance. "He just hates these promotional gimmicks of making trending reels ahead of theatrical release, which has become a necessity as everyone today is on social media," she adds.

In a mood to bare it all, Neeru, when asked her opinion on what's pulling the Punjabi industry back, replies, "Besides not respecting time, industry never stood up on the strong foundation of professionalism."

#### Artist Kajal Nalwa picks her subjects carefully to radiate hope and energy. Here's a glimpse into her solo exhibition, Seeing Consciously...

It's the contrast that hits us. And the colours! As the capsule lift navigates through the floors of the tastefully decorated posh Sector 16 house to open at the makeshift art gallery, it takes a minute or two to leave the buzzing cityscape behind and absorb the beauty of the village life on canvas. Green, in all its glory, dominates the room.

Kajal Nalwa, the artist, prefers to call her solo exhibition Seeing Consciously. We do 'see' why she adds the word 'consciously'. Kajal is conscious while choosing her subject, rather subjects — nature, village life and ordinary people. While the 'seeing' process is a conscious decision on her part to see what she wants to see, like a countryside or women in bright attire, the execution part is left to the creative entity that dwells in her sub-conscious.

"When I see a scene that holds my attention, I click pictures from the angles I want. Then I study and juxtapose them and from there starts the creative process, which takes its own



course on the canvas," she explains

And we get a glimpse of that creative persona as she explains the process behind the painting called Black & White Sunset. "I was watching the sunset sitting on a Goa beach, which remained etched on my mind. It was so spectacular that I wanted the sun to be the centre piece of my painting. So, I painted the rest around it in black and white using a charcoal."

That particular frame stands

out with just a pop of colour radiating hope and surrealism. There are a few more in this series which deviate from the her Fields series and Harmony series in terms of the technique she uses — oil or acrylic applied roughly with a brush and a palette knife for a textured feel, a technique that complements her themes. Now, that we know the conscious beginnings and sub-conscious executions of her works, we ask how does a particular painting end — on a connote?

"More or less on a conscious note," the self-taught artists explains the process. "I paint a scene and then I leave it for a day. Then I go back to it. I repeat the process till I am sure that there is nothing much I can add to it. That it's the time to wrap the creative process for that particular painting," she explains.

Her words are as honest and as passionate as her brush strokes. And in her words and her canvas, we see the form of an artist who was born in Kolkata, brought up in Sri Lanka, educated in Lawrence School, Sanawar, and then Sophia Polytechnic, Mumbai; who shifted through different stations with her Army husband to gather experience and wisdom, and now is ready to call Chandigarh home. And what's a better way to announce her 'arrival' both in the city and the city's art scene but throw open a solo exhibition showcasing her creations? All

33 of them!

#### Dua Lipa announced as host for 'SNL' May episode



The stage is set for a dazzling Saturday Night Live episode, as popstar Dua Lipa gears up for a sensational return to the iconic show, not just as a musical guest, but as its host as well. Set to air on May 4, this special episode promises an electrifying blend of music, comedy and star power.

The announcement of Lipa's dual role as host and musical guest came as a delightful surprise during the recent episode of Saturday Night Live, which was hosted by Ryan Gosling.

"Dua Lipa's electrifying performances and infectious energy have always been a hit with our audience. We're thrilled to welcome her back to the SNL stage, and this time, as both host and musical guest.," remarked an SNL spokesperson.

With an impressive track record boasting seven Brit Awards and three Grammy Awards under her belt, Dua Lipa has firmly established herself as a global pop sensation. Her charttopping hits have captivated audiences worldwide, and now, she's poised to conquer the SNL stage once again.

Making headlines with her recent collaborations and solo releases, Lipa's musical prowess knows no bounds. From her infectious Elton John duet Cold Heart (Pnau remix) to the groovy anthem Dance the Night featured in the blockbuster film Barbie, where she also made her acting debut, Lipa's star continues to rise.

### **PM Modi claims 90 percent of Constituent Assembly** members were 'Sanatanis' in Bihar poll rally

Modi dismissed accusations from the opposition, which has charged that the BJP is aiming to alter India's Constitution for political gain.

PATNA, Apr 16 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday refuted the opposition's allegation that the BJP was trying to change India's Constitution and reiterated that even Baba Saheb BR Ambedkar, who had drafted the Constitution, cannot alter it.

PM Modi's reactions came a day after Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief and former Union minister Lalu Prasad alleged that the BJP was planning to change the Constitution. The RJD chief had remarked that Dalits, poor and backwards would not forgive the BJP and PM Modi if it happened.

Addressing an election rally in Bihar's Gaya, PM Modi took a jibe at Lalu and other opposition leaders by contending that they were using the Constitution as a political weapon and spreading lies that the BJP would change the Constitution if voted to power for the third consecutive term.

"Those who want to use the Constitution as political power and spread distorted narratives for the last three decades with an intention to intimidate and



scare people like the country will burn and will not survive if the BJP and RSS come to power," the prime minister claimed, adding: "...even Dr BR Ambedkar, who had drafted the Constitution, cannot change the Constitution of India. Stop spreading lies. Those insulting the Constitution do not have the right to remain in public life."

Modi further said, "When I brought the proposal to Parliament to observe the Sambhidhan Diwas, Congress president Mallikariun Kharge opposed it by arguing what the need for it was when we celebrated Republic Day. Kharge could not understand that we should constantly keep generating 'shraddha' and creating 'sanskar' towards the Constitution."

Modi highlighted that Dr Rajendra Prasad had led the Constituent Assembly, with Dr BR Ambedkar chairing the drafting committee, supported by Sanatanis. He emphasised the inclusion of numerous eminent figures in the assembly who diligently worked to shape the constitution, considering the sentiments of the people. "In the Constituent Assembly,

more than 80-90 percent of the members were Sanatanis as they extended their support to Ambedkar to draft such a great Constitution of India," he remarked

Meanwhile, Modi claimed that global instability necessitated a strong government capable of making bold decisions. He also appealed to the people to make the BJP candidate from Aurangabad Sushil Kumar Singh and NDA ally Jitan Ram Manjhi victorious in the election.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had last month alleged that the "ultimate goal of Narendra Modi and the BJP is to destroy Babasaheb's Constitution" after BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde's statement that the party needs a two-thirds majority to amend the Constitution.

Monday, RJD chief Lalu accused the BJP and PM Modi of trying to change the Constitution of India. Lalu had alleged that the people of the country. especially Dalits, OBCs and EBCs, would not forgive the BJP and PM Modi if the Constitution was changed for political gains.

#### Bus accident in Odisha's Jajpur district due to 'driver negligence': Official



BHUBANESWAR, Apr 16 (Agencies): The bus accident in Odisha's Jajpur district in which at least five people were killed and 40 others injured was mainly due to "negligence" of the driver, a senior transport department official said on

This was stated by Additional Commissioner Transport(Road Safety) Lal Mohan Sethi after a preliminary investigation at the accident site.

Tuesday.

The West Bengalbound passenger bus from Puri fell off the flyover at Baraabati in Jajpur district on Monday evening. Stating that the bus

was in "good condition", having been registered in 2020, Sethi said the fitness certificate for the vehicle was also issued in March 2024.

"The accident might have taken place either due to rash driving or while overtaking a vehicle from the left side or the driver using a mobile phone while driving," Sethi said.

This apart, the official said the driver didn't apply brakes, leading to the bus falling off the 15-foot-high bridge.

"There was also no engineering deficiency. There were proper barricades on the flyover and required signage,' he said, adding that a criminal case will be filed against the driver.

Meanwhile, the authorities of the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack said that 46 people were brought from the accident site of which 19 injured were presently at the hospital

The remaining people were discharged after initial treatment. Of the 19 injured persons, five were in the ICU. Two of the injured persons admitted to the ICU were stated to be very critical, a hospital official said.

While the identity of the deceased persons was yet to be ascertained, the official said most of the passengers were from neighbouring West Bengal.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced Rs 3 lakh ex-gratia for the kin of each deceased and free treatment to the injured.

#### 7 killed in Bihar's Patna as autorickshaw rams into bulldozer

PATNA, Apr 16 (Agencies): At least seven people were killed on Tuesday in Bihar's Patna when an autorickshaw collided with a bulldozer.

The vehicle had a direct collision with the bulldozer, which was working at the site of the Patna Metro Rail project in the Kankarbagh area. Visuals of the accident show the autorickshaw



hitting the bulldozer and overturning multiple

The vehicle was com-

pletely destroyed. Details about the victims are yet to be confirmed by the police.

#### One Assam Rifles personnel injured in encounter with militants in Assam

TINSUKIA, Apr 16 (Agencies): At least one Assam Rifles personnel was injured in an encounter with suspected militants in Assam's Tinsukia district on Tuesday, officials said.

According to Tinsukia Superintendent of Police Gaurav Abhijit Dilip, the incident took place near the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border this morning near Namdang in Margherita.

"A convoy of 31 Assam Rifles was coming from Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh towards Margherita when unknown miscreants fired at them. The force also retaliated," he told agency.

In the encounter, one Assam Rifles personnel was injured, Dilip said.

"There is also a report of one injury from the attackers' side, but we are not able to confirm it yet. Joint search operation is going on at present," he said.

Dilip said although the identity of the militants is not known immediately, "but NSCN and ULFA(I) are active in that area".

A senior official of Assam Rifles confirmed the incident and said the injured person was evacuated by a chopper for medical treatment.

"There were three vehicles and it was when some militants ambushed them. The ambush was successfully thwarted. There was a minor injury to one soldier and he is stable now," he told PTI on condition of anonym-

a patrol convoy

The official said more details are awaited at the moment.

"We are yet to receive inputs from the spot and we can share further details only later," he said.

Meanwhile, an email purportedly from United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) Publicity Department Member Captain Rumel Asom took responsibility for the attack.

It claimed that 'Operation Pratishodh' was carried out to take revenge on behalf of two deceased cadres of the banned militant outfit.

#### IAF scouts for medium range air defence radars that have inbuilt drone detection capability

CHANDIGARH, Apr (Agencies): The Indian Air Force (IAF) is scouting for advanced medium range surveillance radars that would be deployed at various strategic locations to beef up its air defence capabilities, including countering the threat from drones.

The IAF is looking at procuring radars through indigenous sources that have a primary detection range of at least 200 km and a secondary detection range of over 300 km, which is more than the estimated detection range of similar radars in service.

The radars should be 4D Active Phased Array System with integrated Identify Friend and Foe (IFF) system capable of providing high quality air situation picture with 360-degree coverage under tough environmental conditions including capability of deployment at



altitudes over 16,000 feet," a request for information issued by the IAF on April 15 states.

The main radar system would operate on the S-band frequency within the approved defence band, but would also be required to have an X-band radar co-mounted with the main

antenna for detection of drones. The IAF wants the radar system to be vehicle mounted and capable of high mobility in all types of terrain, as well as be air transportable along with its associated equipment by the C-17 class heavy-lift aircraft.

The radars are also required to be compatible for integration into the IAF's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) in real time with no loss

IACCS connects all of space, air and ground surveillance and communication assets of the Air Force to provide total situational awareness.

Other requirements listed by IAF include an independent energy system with UPS and captive power capable of highaltitude operations, state-of-theart operational work stations, environment adaptability from minus 30 degrees Celsius to 55 degrees Celsius with wind speed up to 125 kmph and data recording and storage.

The IAF is using different radars, including short range, long range, fire control and weapon locating, to meet different operational requirements.

Several variants of medium range radars are already in service, which include the indigenously developed Indra I and II, Rohini, Ashwini and Air Defence Tactical Control Radar.

#### **India fastest-growing economy** during last three financial years: Nirmala Sitharaman



(Agencies): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Tuesday that India has been the fastest-growing economy in the last three consecutive financial years and this growth can continue in the coming years as well.

She said the next 25 years will be critical for India. In the financial vear 2023-24, India witnessed a growth rate of eight per cent in three quarters and is expecting a similar level of growth in the fourth quarter, she said, adding it has been a sustainable growth.

"India has been the fastest growing economy in the last three consecutive financial years and this growth can continue in the coming years as well. The next 25 years will be very critical for India," Sitharaman said in a dialogue programme with industrialists and businessmen.

She said that foreign investors are coming to invest in India due to the credibility of its economy.

"Due to the economic policy, larger macroeconomic stability, stable government, stable taxation policy, transparent tenders and procurement, there has been immense credibility of India's economy abroad. So, the investors are coming here to invest," she said.

#### 1,016 candidates clear UPSC exam, Aditya Shrivastava secures top rank

NEW DELHI, Apr 16 (Agencies): The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Tuesday declared the results for the Civil Services Exam 2023, with Aditya Srivastava securing the top rank, the UPSC said.

Animesh Pradhan and Donuru Ananya Reddy secured the second and third ranks respectively, it said.

A total of 1,016 candidates cleared the examination and have



been recommended for different central government services.

The Civil Services Exam is conducted annually in three stages—preliminary,

main and interview—by the UPSC to select officers of Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service and Indian Police Service, among others.

#### AAP shares Delhi CM's message from Tihar NEW DELHI, Apr 16 (Agencies): "My name is Arvind Kejriwal and I am not a terrornot a terrorist", Singh said.

ist," is the Delhi chief minister's message for the countrymen from Tihar jail, AAP leader Saniay Singh said Tuesday, slamming the BJP for the treatment being meted out to him in custody.

The BJP is trying to break him out of "malice and vendetta," but he will emerge stronger from all of this, Singh said.

Addressing a press conference here, Singh alleged that a "notorious criminal" lodged in Tihar jail was allowed to meet his lawyer and wife in the barrack, while Kejriwal had to meet Punjab Chief Minster Bhagwant Mann across a glass screen.

Hurt by the treatment being given to him, Kejriwal has sent a message for the countrymen: "My names is Arvind Kejriwal and I am

'My name is Arvind Kejriwal and I'm not a terrorist':

The Delhi chief minister's assertion borrows from Shahrukh Khan-starrer 'My Name is Khan' in 2010, in which the actor famously said: "My name is Khan and I am not a terrorist."

"Kejriwal is being treated like a terrorist. He was allowed to meet Punjab Chief Minster Bhagwant Mann only through a glass screen," Singh alleged.

Singh, who walked out of jail recently after spending six months in a money laundering case, alleged, "In jail number 2 of Tihar, a notorious criminal meets his lawyer and wife inside the barrack. Meetings of other inmates are also held in the office of the jail." He did not take any names, though.

Director General (prisons) Sanjay Baniwal said on Monday that no distinction is made in the treatment meted out to the inmates and it is ensured they get the same basic rights.

Mann met Kejriwal in prison on Monday and alleged that he was not getting the amenities that even a hardcore criminal is allowed in Tihar.

Responding to this, Baniwal said, "There is no distinction between a hardcore or a normal criminal. In the jail manual, there is no distinction between the inmates. Every inmate has basic rights and it is my duty to ensure that. These are being ensured to

Nobody is accorded special treatment and there is no such provision, he said.

## UK PM Rishi Sunak faces resistance over his smoking ban plans

LONDON, Apr 16 (Agencies): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faces very vocal resistance against his plans to effectively ban smoking for anyone aged 15 and younger as a new bill comes up for a vote in the House of Commons on Tuesday.

The British Indian leader proposed the Tobacco and Vapes Bill last year and declared his vision for creating a "smokefree generation" by making it an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone born after January 1, 2009, which covers children aged 15.

Once it clears its parliamentary journey, the new legislation will introduce some of the world's strictest anti-smoking laws in the country.

"I propose that in future we raise the smoking age by one year, every year. That means a 14-year-old today will never legally be sold a cigarette and that they — and their generation — can grow up smoke-free. We know this works," Sunak had declared at the Conservative Party conference in October last year

As there is Opposition backing for the bill in Parliament and governing Conservative MPs



have a free vote on the bill, any Tory votes against the bill will not be seen as a full-blown rebellion against the Prime Minister.

But two of Sunak's immediate predecessors, Liz Truss and Boris Johnson, have been leading a very vocal group of Tories who plan to vote against the bill as "un-Conservative" and taking away choice from the public.

"The truth is that there is no safe level of tobacco consumption. It is uniquely harmful, and that is why we are taking this important action today to protect the next generation," said UK Health Secretary Victoria Atkins.

"This Bill will save thousands of lives, ease the strain on our NHS [National Health Service], and improve the UK's productivity," she said.

Under the new law, smoking itself would not be criminalised, and anyone who can legally buy tobacco will not be prevented from doing so.

The ban aims to stop people from smoking even before they start as the government pointed to its highly addictive nature, with four in five smokers picking it up before the age of 20, remaining addicted for life.

If passed, the bill will progress to the next stage, bringing the UK closer to creating the first smoke-free generation, the government says.

Under the plans, trading standards officers would get new powers to issue on-the-spot 100-pound fines to shops sell-

ing tobacco or vapes to children, with all the money raised going towards further enforcement.

"This historic legislation will consign smoking to the 'ash heap of history'," said Deborah Arnott, head of the charity Action on Smoking and Health (ASH).

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill would also give the government new powers to tackle youth vaping by restricting flavours and regulating the way that vapes are sold and packaged to make them less appealing to children.

The UK's Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) said while vaping can play a useful role in helping adult smokers to quit, non-smokers and children should never vape.

The long-term health impacts of vaping are unknown, and the nicotine contained within them can be highly addictive, it warned.

According to official figures, responsible for around 80,000 deaths annually, smoking is the UK's single biggest preventable killer and costs the NHS and economy an estimated GBP 17 billion a year — more than the GBP 10 billion annual revenue from tobacco taxation.

## Stabbing at Sydney church a 'terrorist act': Australian police

16-year-old boy, who had been restrained by members of the public, was arrested by police.



SYDNEY, Apr 16 (Agencies): Australian police are treating a stabbing at a Sydney church as a terrorist attack, New South Wales Police Commissioner Karen Webb

said on Tuesday.
Police were called to
Christ The Good Shepherd Church in Wakeley, western Sydney,
on Monday evening,
following reports of

a stabbing where two people had been injured, Webb said.

A 16-year-old boy, who had been restrained by members of the public, was arrested by police.

Webb said the boy allegedly made comments as he launched the attack. "After consideration of all the material, I declared that it was a terrorist incident."

The boy was taken

to hospital where he remained under police guard. He had undergone surgery for injuries sustained during the alleged attack.

While police were responding to the incident, a large crowd gathered outside the church, Webb said.

Projectiles were thrown at officers, with a number of injured and hospitalized, she said.

"This is unacceptable. Police attended the incident in Wakeley last night to assist that community in response to calls for assistance, and the crowd turned on police," Webb said.

The attack came two days after six people were killed and dozens injured in a stabbing at a Sydney shopping centre. Police said that the attack was carried out by a man suffering poor mental health and was not thought to be terror-related.

#### Fire engulfs Copenhagen's historic Stock Exchange, spire collapses

COPENHAGEN, Apr 16 (Agencies): A fire hit Copenhagen's Old Stock Exchange on Tuesday, one of the Danish capital's most iconic buildings, engulfing its spire which collapsed onto the roof. There were no reports of injuries.

Live video from local media showed people carrying large paintings away from the building to save them from the flames. The historic building, whose spire was shaped as the tails of four dragons intertwined, had been under renovation when the fire



broke out.

The Dutch Renaissance style building no longer houses the Danish stock exchange, but serves as headquarters for the Danish Chamber of Commerce.

"We are met by a terrible sight. The Bourse is on fire," the Chamber of Commerce wrote on X. Copenhagen police asked people to avoid driving in the inner part of the city.

#### Philippines seizes 1.8 tonnes of meth in drug bust

MANILA, Apr 16 (Agencies): The Philippines has seized 1.8 tonnes of crystal methamphetamine, President Ferdinand Marcos said Tuesday, describing the bust as a record and the

"right approach" to the drug war. Police found the illegal drugs, estimated to be worth more than \$230 million, on Monday during a search of a van in Batangas province, south of Manila. The driver was arrested.

Marcos inspected the drug haul on Tuesday and said it was the "biggest shipment of shabu ever caught" in the Philippines.

Shabu is the local name for cheap and highly addictive crystal meth. It was not clear if it was a record value or quantity of drugs.

"But not one person died, no one died, no gunfight, no one got injured." Marcos told report-



ers.

"We did the operation carefully. That's the right approach, for me, that should be the approach in the drug war."

Police were tracing the source of the drugs, but Marcos said they were not made locally.

Thousands of people were

killed in anti-drug operations under former president Rodrigo Duterte, sparking an international investigation into alleged

human rights abuses.

The drug war has continued under Marcos even though he has pushed for more emphasis on prevention and rehabilita-

tion.

More than 600 people have been killed in drug-related killings since he took power in June 2022, according to figures compiled by Dahas, a University of the Philippines-backed research project that keeps a count of such killings.

Human Rights Watch senior researcher Carlos Conde said Monday's drug bust proved that going after narcotics "can be done without violence, if authorities really do their job and follow due process".

Conde challenged the Marcos administration to declare an end to the violent drug war and rescind Duterte's orders for the bloody crackdown.

"It's time for Mr Marcos to walk the talk on drug policy reform," Conde said.

## Charges against Trump and Capitol Hill rioters at stake as US SC hears debate over obstruction law

WASHINGTON, Apr 16 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday is taking up the first of two cases that could affect the criminal prosecution of former President Donald Trump for his efforts to overturn his election loss in 2020. Hundreds of charges stemming from the Capitol riot also are at stake.

The justices are hearing arguments over the charge of obstruction of an official proceeding. That charge, stemming from a law passed in the aftermath of the Enron financial scandal more than two decades ago, has been brought against 330 people, according to the Justice Department. The court will consider whether it can be used against those who disrupted Congress' certification of Joe Biden's 2020 presidential election victory over Trump.

The former president and presumptive nominee for the 2024 Republican nomination is facing two charges in the case brought by special counsel Jack Smith in Washington that could be knocked out with a favorable ruling from the nation's highest court. Next week, the justices will hear arguments over whether Trump has "absolute immunity" from prosecution in the case, a proposition that has so far been rejected by two lower courts.

The first former U.S. president under indictment, Trump is on trial on hush money charges in New York and also has been charged with election interference in Georgia and with mishandling classified documents in Florida.

In Tuesday's case, the court is hearing an appeal from Joseph Fischer, a former Pennsylvania police officer who has been indicted on seven counts, including obstruction, for his actions on Jan. 6, 2021, when a mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol in a bid to keep Biden, a Democrat, from taking the White House. Lawyers for Fischer argue that the charge doesn't cover his conduct.

The obstruction charge, which carries up to 20 years behind bars, is among the most widely used felony charges brought in the massive federal prosecution following the

deadly insurrection. Roughly 170 Jan. 6

Roughly 170 Jan. 6 defendants have been convicted of obstructing or conspiring to obstruct the Jan. 6 joint session of Congress, including the leaders of two far-right extremist groups, the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers. A number of defendants have had their sentencings delayed until after the justices rule on the matter.

Some rioters have even won early release from prison while the appeal is pending over concerns that they might end up serving longer than they should have if the Supreme Court rules against the Justice Department. That includes Kevin Seefried, a Delaware man who threatened a Black police officer with a pole attached to a Confederate battle flag as he stormed the Capitol. Seefried was sentenced last year to three years behind bars, but a judge recently ordered that he be released one year into his prison term while awaiting the Supreme Court's ruling.

The high court case focuses on whether the anti-obstruction provision of a law that was enacted in 2002 in response to the financial scandal that brought down Enron Corp. can be used against Jan. 6 defendants.

Fischer's lawyers argue that the provision was meant to close a loophole in criminal law and discourage the destruction of records in response to an investigation. Until the Capitol riot, they told the court, every criminal case using the provision had involved allegations of destroying or otherwise manipulating records.

But the administration says the other side is reading the law too narrowly, arguing it serves "as a catchall offense designed to ensure complete coverage of all forms of corrupt obstruction of an official proceeding," including Fischer's "alleged conduct in joining a violent riot to disrupt the joint session of Congress certifying the presidential election results."

Smith has argued separately in the immunity case that the obstruction charges against Trump are valid, no matter the outcome of

Fischer's case.

Most lower court judges who have weighed in have allowed the charge to stand. Among them, U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich, a Trump appointee, wrote that "statutes often reach beyond the principal evil that animated them"

But U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols, another Trump appointee, dismissed the charge against Fischer and two other defendants, writing that prosecutors went too far. A divided panel of the federal appeals court in Washington reinstated the charge before the Supreme Court agreed to take up the case.

While it's not important to the Supreme Court case, the two sides present starkly differing accounts of Fischer's actions on Jan. 6. Fischer's lawyers say he "was not part of the mob" that forced lawmakers to flee the House and Senate chambers, noting that he entered the Capitol after Congress had recessed. The weight of the crowd pushed Fischer into a line of police inside, they said in a court filing.

Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Reps. Jim Jordan of Ohio, Lauren Boebert of Colorado, Matt Gaetz of Florida and Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia are among 23 Republican members of Congress who say the administration's use of the obstruction charge "presents an intolerable risk of politicized prosecutions. Only a clear rebuke from this Court will stop the madness."

The Justice Department says Fischer can be heard on a video yelling "Charge!" before he pushed through a crowd and "crashed into the police line." Prosecutors also cite text messages Fischer sent before Jan. 6 saying things might turn violent and social media posts after the riot in which he wrote, "we pushed police back about 25 feet."

More than 1,350 people have been charged with Capitol riot-related federal crimes. Approximately 1,000 of them have pleaded guilty or been convicted by a jury or judge after a trial.

## China's economy grew 5.3% in first quarter of 2024, beating expectations



BEIJING, Apr 16 (Agencies): China's economy expanded at a faster than expected pace in the first three months of the year, helped by policies aimed at stimulating growth and stronger demand, the government said Tuesday.

The world's second-largest economy expanded at a 5.3% annual pace in January-March, beating analysts' forecasts of about 4.8%, official data show. Compared to the previous quarter, the economy grew 1.6%.

China's economy has struggled to bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a slowdown in demand and a property crisis weighing on its growth.

The better-thanexpected data Tuesday came days after China reported its exports sank 7.5% in March compared to the year before, while imports also weakened. Inflation cooled, reflecting deflationary pressures resulting from slack demand amid a crisis in the property sector.

Industrial output for the first quarter was up 6.1% compared to the same time last year, and retail sales grew at an annual pace of 4.7%. Fixed investment, in factories and equipment, grew 4.5% compared to the same period a year earlier.

The strong growth in January-March was supported by "broad manufacturing outperformance," festivities-boosted household spending due to the Lunar New Year holidays and policies that helped boost investments, according to China economist Louise Loo of Oxford Economics.

"However, 'standalone' March activity indicators suggest weakness coming through post-Lunar New Year," she said. "External demand conditions also remain unpredictable, as seen in March's sharp export underperformance."

Loo noted that an unwinding of excess inventory, normalization of household spending after the holidays and a cautious approach to government spending and other stimulus will affect growth in this quarter.

Policymakers have unveiled a raft of fiscal and monetary policy measures as Beijing seeks to boost the economy. China has set an ambitious gross domestic product (GDP) growth target of about 5% for 2024.

Such strong growth usually would push share prices across the region higher. But on Tuesday, Asian shares fell sharply after stocks retreated on Wall Street.

The Shanghai Composite index lost 1.4% and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong lost 1.9%. The benchmark for the smaller market in Shenzhen, in southern China, lost 2.8%.

Stronger growth in the region's biggest economy normally would be seen as a positive for its neighbors, which increasingly rely on demand from China to power their own economies. However, strong growth figures are also viewed as a signal that the government will hold back on further stimu-

## Airtel celebrates 1.2 million 5G customers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, on Tuesday announced that it has 1.2 million customers enjoying 5G service in the Union Territories of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The company has successfully deployed 5G service across all cities and districts in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh reflecting a

promising shift towards offering next-generation mobile connectivity.

Airtel has registered a significant increase in 5G users in the past 6 months in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The company's expansive network deployment has effectively extended its services across the entire Union Territories, greatly simplifying the process for customers to embrace 5G. From the iconic architectural marvels of Mubarak Mandi

pilgrimage site of Vaishno Devi Temple, and the breathtaking vistas of tourist hotspots like Patnitop, Dal Lake, Zanskar Valley, Pangong Lake, Sangam, Magnetic Hill, Hall of Fame, Diskit and Gulmarg., Airtel continues to complete its rollout across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Commenting on the milestone, Adarsh Verma, COO- Jammu and Kashmir, Bharti Airtel said, "We are making sig-

the network infrastructure required to facilitate widespread adoption of 5G in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. We express our gratitude to our valued Our tireless efforts are to keep our customers consistently connected to the Union Territories' fastest, most reliable, and cutting-edge network.

The rapid deployment and adoption of 5G in the country is due to multiple factors including rapid

network enhancement, accelerated 5G rollout and increasing availability of 5G devices. In order to make affordable devices accessible to users, Airtel also collaborated with Poco to offer sub-10K 5G smartphones, which helped to grow its overall 5G user base in the country. Retail expansion in the region to increase physical format of stores has further augmented consumer connect to help customers upgrade conveniently to 5G service.

### JKCA's pace sensation Mariya Noorain in NCA's U-23 Women's high performance camp

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: Hailing from district Kulgam of South Kashmir, pace sensation of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), Mariya Noorain, has been selected by the National Women Selection Committee to attend the U-23 Women High Performance Camp, being organised by the National Cricket Academy (NCA), under the auspices of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The Camp will be held at Bengaluru from April 26 to May 16, 2024. The Camp is being

conducted under the supervision of quality coaches to train the players. Mariya has represent-

ed JKCA in U-19, U-23 and Senior Women's **National Tournaments** and has done fairly well, especially, in the U-23 National T20 Tournament in the league phase, wherein she took 11 wickets in seven matches with an economy rate of 5.06.

Mariya apart from generating good pace, has the distinction of wobbling the ball both ways and purchasing bounce even from the docile tracks.

Mariya bowled some Extraordinary spells in Senior Women's One-Day Trophy also.

#### LG Sinha expresses condolences over Srinagar boat tragedy

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, APRIL 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed condolences over the Srinagar boat tragedy.

In a tweet, the Lt Governor said:

"I am deeply grieved by the loss of lives due to a boat accident in Srinagar. My thoughts are with the bereaved families & I pray to the Almighty to give them strength to

withstand this immense loss. Team of SDRF. Army & other agencies are carrying out relief & rescue work

Administration is providing all possible help to the bereaved families who have lost their near and dear ones and medical facilities to those who have been injured. Marcos teams have also been alerted. I am constantly monitoring the situation and guiding the team on the ground".

#### **RRC** meets representatives of Kashmiri Migrant community

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: In a meeting with Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (RRC) Migrants J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani, group of representatives from the Kashmiri migrant community presented a series of proposals aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the ration distribution system.

The delegation highlighted the challenges faced by migrants due to current monthly ration distribution framework and proposed shift to an annual distribution

The representatives also put forth several

alternatives and recommended the exploration of technology-driven solutions. These measures are expected to streamline the process and ensure that the distribution is conducted without any discrepancies, directly benefiting the legitimate relief

recipients. Dr. Karwani provided a thoughtful and attentive response to the delegation, assuring them that their valuable suggestions regarding the improvement of ration distribution system will be considered and discussed with higher authorities for potential implementation.

#### Ram Navmi Celebrations Infuse Shiv Public Hr Sec School with Zeal and Fervour

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: Shiv Public Hr. Sec School Sari Rakwalan Ghou Manhasan Road Jammu, reverberated with joyous celebrations as students, faculty, and esteemed quests gathered to commemorate the auspicious occasion of Ram Navmi. The event, held on 16th of April, 2024 was a vibrant display of cultural richness and spiritual fervour.

Led by the dynamic leadership of Principal Mehak Manhas and Chairman Shri B.S Salaria, the festivities unfolded with immense enthusiasm. The school campus echoed with the rhythmic chants of hymns and devotional songs, invoking blessings and spreading a message of harmony and peace.

Mehak Principal Manhas, in her address,



emphasized the significance of Ram Navmi as a symbol of righteousness, courage, and devotion. She expressed her gratitude towards the students and staff for their dedicated efforts in making the celebration a grand success.

Chairman Shri B.S Salaria extended his warm wishes to all the students and participants, encouraging them to imbibe the values of Lord Rama

in their lives. He commended the school community for preserving the rich cultural heritage and fostering a spirit of inclusivity.

Amidst the vibrant festivities. Shiv Public Hr. Sec School reiterated its commitment to academic excellence and holistic development. Admission is now open to students from nursery to 12th grade, offering a nurturing environment

conducive to growth and learning.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Mehak Manhas invited aspiring learners and their families to experience the unique ethos of Shiv Public Hr. Sec School. She encouraged them to embark on a journey of discovery and enlightenment, where every individual is empowered to excel and make a difference.

#### **Meeting on MietY Project and Community Innovation in Ladakh** effectively respond to **Top News Report**

**Amit Sharma Chairs Crucial** 

LEH, Apr 16: Administrative Secretary of the Information Technology Department, UT Ladakh Amit Sharma today chaired a crucial meeting addressing various significant initiatives aimed at fostering technological advancement and community development within the region, in the VC Conference Hall, Civil Secretariat, Leh. The Meeting, held in the presence of key stakeholders, focused on the progressive steps made in the MietY Project of UoL (University of Ladakh) and the Atal Community Innovation Centre, under

the aegis of NITI Aayog. Secretary IT Amit Sharma emphasized the crucial role these initiatives play in boosting Ladakh towards a technologically empowered and innovation-driven future in the presence of the Vice Chancellor and other stakeholders.

Highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts. Amit Sharma stressed the need for synergy among academia, administrative bodies, and industry stakeholders to harness the full potential of these projects. He praised the proactive involvement of UoL and NITI Aayog in driving innovation and fostering a culture of entrepreneur-

ship within the region. Furthermore, it was explored in the Meeting to jointly organize a Disaster Management Workshop tailored to the students of UoL, aiming to equip the youth with essential skills and knowledge to

emergencies and mitigate risks.

Secretary Amit Sharma reiterated ensuring the safety and resilience of the local community through such proactive measures. The discussions also covered the vital topic of Hydro-Carbon, exchanging insights on sustainable energy practices and the exploration of renewable energy sources to meet Ladakh's growing energy demands while preserving its pristine environment.

As the meeting concluded. Secretary Amit Sharma expressed confidence about the transformative impact of these initiatives and called upon all stakeholders to intensify their efforts in realizing Ladakh's vision of inclusive growth, technological excellence, and sustainable devel-

opment. The Meeting was attended by Prof. S. K. Mehta, Vice Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Phunchok Paldan Director of NIC Ladakh, Mohit Sharma, Under Secretary, RDD, UT Ladakh, AO, IT Department, Dr Subrat Sharma, Dean Research, UoL, Dr Joldan, Dean Academics, UoL, Showkat Ali. Scientist-B. NIC Ladakh. Dr Mohd Rafee, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce and Management, UT Ladakh, Dr Stanzin Mentok, Assistant Professor, Jigmet Stobdan, Assistant Professor, Konchok, IT Expert, UoL, IT Consultant of IT Department, UT Ladakh and concerned

#### "Saga of Valour and Sacrifice"- Kargil Vijay Diwas

**Top News Report** 

POONCH, Apr 16: Kargil War ensured a feeling of Nationalism, Patriotism and unity amongst every Indian. A motivational lecture by Sub (Hony Capt) Mohd Shaukat was organized by Indian Army at Govt Secondary School, Chhatral, Poonch (to remember the glorious history of our people, culture, achievements and also create awareness amongst the students on Karqil War Heroes, who



fought against the enemy in Kargil War in 1999).

The attendees were enlightened on the brayery and sacrifices made by the soldiers of Indian Army, who fought in harsh terrain and unfavorable weather conditions of Kargil, Drass and Batalik Sub sectors of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). We pay tribute to those soldiers who

The event started with unfurling of the National Flag, which was followed by Singing of 'Rashtra Gaan' to lead the message of unity, integrity, brotherhood and patriotism amongst all. Interaction was also carried out with the residents, which include encouraging children to pursue their aim in their respective fields & contribute towards environment, society and country as a responsible citizen.

laid down their lives for

sake of the motherland.

#### FROM PAGE 1

#### 6 people dead, 5 rescued, 3 missing as boat capsizes in Batawara Srinagar

to a boat accident in Srinagar. My thoughts are with the bereaved families & I pray to the Almighty to give them strength to withstand this immense loss. Team of SDRF, Army & other agencies are carrying out relief & rescue work.

Administration is providing all possible help to the bereaved families who have lost their near and dear ones and medical facilities to those who have been injured. Marcos teams have also been alerted. I am constantly monitoring the situation and guiding the team on the ground.

#### **Amit Shah accuses NC.** PDP, Congress of staging fake encounters, handing over guns to Kashmiri **Youth**

Abdullah's government then?," he asked. The Home Minister said that Assembly elections in J&K will be held on the dates announced by Supreme Court of India. "There will be no delay," he said. The SC had stated that Assembly polls will be held in J&K by September 2024.

Taking a jibe at PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, the Home Minister said she would say that if Article 370 is rolled back, nobody will pick tri-colour. "Today, Article 370 is buried forever and yet Tiranga is flying high with dignity and honour," he said.

He said that today, Dr Shyma Prassad Mukherji's dream of Ek Vi Vidhan, Ek Pradhan, Eik Nishan stands fulfilled. Shah said that today terrorism is on its deathbed, stone pelting, bandh calls and street protests are a history. "PM Narendera Modiji has handed over laps in the hands of youth who were earlier holding stones," Shah said, adding that "this is the change we have brought in Kashmir."

Shah said that he had stated on the floor of the Parliament that he will ensure that without cutting the share of Gujjars and Bakerwals, due reservation will be given to Paharis. "We gave due reservation to all— Gujjars, Bakerwals, Paharis, Valmikis, and OBCs. We gave reservations to women as well," he said.

He said BJP mulls to ensure every border village of Jammu looks like Jammu city. "Today, Jammu is progressing. It was Jammu first, where E-buses started plying. Today, AIMS, IIMs, IITs are in J&K and students from across the country are coming here to study," he said. "We are also committed to convert Suchegarh border like Wagah border." At the end, Home Minister raised slogan: "Jis Kashmir kay liye Mukherji nay diya balidan, wo Kashmir hamara hai."

#### Agnipath scheme 'Insult' to youth who dream of protecting Country: Rahul

Army but a scheme that was formulated in Narendra Modi's office which has been imposed on the Army."

"Martyrs cannot be treated differently,

every person who makes the supreme sacrifice for the country should be given the status of a martyr." he said.

"As soon as the INDIA government is formed, we will immediately scrap this scheme and bring back the old permanent recruitment process," the former Congress chief said.

In June 2022, the Centre rolled out the Agnipath scheme for short-term induction of personnel into the armed forces with an aim to bring down the age profile of the three services.

The scheme provides for recruiting youngsters in the age bracket of 17 years and a half to 21 years for a four-year period with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years.

#### **UPSC Civil Services** result out. Click Here for Details

2023 and the interviews for Personality Test held in January-April 2024, list has been released in order of merit, of candidates who have been recommended for appointment"

Candidates can check the result PDF here: https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteRead-Data/specificdocs/documents/2024/apr/ doc2024416331301.pdf

This year, Aditya Srivastava clinched the first position with AIR 1, followed by Animesh Pradhan securing AIR 2, and Donuru Ananya Reddy at AIR 3. As many as 1,016 candidates have cleared Civil Services Exam 2023.

Five of a family rescued

#### from flood water in Reasi

stuck in flash flood.

Locals and police teams rushed to the spot and carried out a rescue operation with driver, his wife, his mother and two children got stuck in the vehicle.

In the incident that happened in late evening hours on Tuesday, said locals, all five passengers had a narrow escape of life.

#### **Highway closed after** 'Heavy Landslides', shooting stones

reaches also received a fresh snowfall prompting authorities to issue a fresh avalanche warning as a precautionary measure for the people.

The authorities have also asked the people living in these districts to dial 112 for help in case of any emergency.

#### Incessant rainfall drenches Kashmir. **Snowfall at Gulmarg:** MeT

tourist resort of Gulmarg, received fresh snowfall during the past 24 hours.

Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir Valley witnessed the heavy downpour that caused flash floods at various places and inundated several nallahs, roads, and lowlying areas, disrupting normal activities in the in the prevailing wintry conditions.

The higher reaches of Kashmir Valley, including the ski resorts of Gulmarg and Sonamarg, received fresh snowfall during the past 24 hours.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar said that Srinagar received 28.3mm, Qazigund 44.2mm, Pahalgam 39.0mm, Kupwara 28.6mm, Kokernag 28.9mm, and Gulmarg 32.8mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours.

IT Managers.

The MeT office said that the weather is likely to remain partially to generally cloudy with a spell of rain, thundershowers at scattered, isolated places towards late afternoon or evening today. The weather will remain dry on April 17.

On April 18?19, the MeT predicted light to moderate rain and light snow over higher reaches at most places with thunder and lightning during the period, while there is a possibility of light rain at scattered places on April 20.

The weather will remain generally dry from April 21 to April 25, with afternoon thundershower activity that can't be ruled

It has also advised farmers to resume farm operations on April 17 and after April 21. The night temperature at Srinagar recorded during the intervening nights of Monday and Tuesday was 0.3 degrees Celsius below the normal of 7.9 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature at Srinagar was recorded at 14.5 degree Celsius on Monday, which was 5.6 degree Celsius below normal of 20.1 degree Celsius. The davtime temperature at other weather stations in the Kashmir valley was also recorded at 5 to 11 degree Celsius below normal on the previous day.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 8.1 degree Celsius against the 5.7 degree Celsius the previous night, Kupwara recorded a low of 6.4 degree Celsius against the 7.2 degree Celsius a day ago and Gulmarg had a low of 3.2degree Celsius against the 1.2 degree Celsius recorded on previous night and it was 2.8 degree Celsius below normal for the ski resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the MeT office said.

## **NueGo launches first long haul electric AC** seater & sleeper bus service

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Apr 16: NueGo, a pioneer in sustainable mass mobility, is set to revolutionise the long-distance travel journey with the launch of India's first intercity electric bus service

This is a significant step towards decarbonization and creating a more sustainable public transportation ecosystem in India

There is growing adoption of electric buses amongst consumers, as they produce zero tail pipe emissions and reduce air pollution.

NueGo deployed multiple seater + sleeper buses on its major routes across India such as Bengaluru - Chennai, Bengaluru - Coimbatore, Vijaywada - Vizag, Delhi - Jaipur, Delhi - Amritsar. NueGo is planning to expand its operations by launching new routes and build charging infrastructure to ensure smooth on-road operations.



NueGo is also actively hiring across genders to increase inclusivity in its workforce and is the only bus brand to have women coach captains.

Devndra Chawla, MD & CEO GreenCell Mobility, commented on the debut, saying, "NueGo is revolutionizing intercity bus travel with launch of India's 1st long-haul Electric AC Sleeper Bus service. This marks a significant milestone to advance sustainable mass mobility across India and is consistent with our commitment to provide innovative solutions that benefit both the travellers and the environment. We are also elevating long-distance travel experience for our guests by incorporating smart technologies and emphasising on comfort, safety, and world class

amenities.' The cutting-edge buses have an aerodynamically designed FRP

Likewise, inside the bus, guests can have a comfortable journey

abled passengers are all notable features.

with a variety of amenities such as bigger seats (1220mm), soft-touch ABS interiors, LED strips for ambient lighting, and individual amenities such as night reading lamps and USB charging connections for each berth. The buses are outfitted with advanced safety features such as a driver monitoring system, passenger saloon cameras, emergency buttons, and fire detection and sup-

pression systems. NueGo's electric sleeper buses are also an environmentally friendly transportation alternative with zero exhaust emissions. The quiet and vibration-free nature of these buses, combined with developing technology such as regenerative braking, contribute to a soothing and enjoyable journey experience for passengers.

## Marvel lays off 15 employees

NEW DELHI, Apr 16 departments. The move comes after Disney CEO Bob Iger said that the company would reduce output. No more layoffs its Avengers superhero films is refocusing its in production.

front fascia, a rollover-

engineered structure

to enhance passenger

safety, and a weight-

optimised GI tubular con-

struction for better cruise

mileage. The mono-

coque chassis design

provides greater han-

dling and stability for a

smoother and safer ride.

An electronically adjust-

able exterior rear-view

mirror, lowered passen-

ger step height for simple

boarding, and a kneeling

option for elderly or dis-

The studio has just one movie opening this year, Deadpool and Wolverine in July, which stars Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman. The studio is also expected to have just two live-action shows this year. Iger had recently indicated that he expected Disney to lower its output overall and

The last few projects by Marvel, including

"We've reduced output,

#### **Vodafone Idea Ltd to open** its bid on April 18



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: Vodafone Idea Limited ("Vi" or The "The Company"), shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its Further Public Offering ("FPO") of Equity Shares on Thursday, 18th April, 2024.

The Total Offer Size comprises of fresh issue of Equity Shares aggregating up to □ 1,80,000 million [Rs 18,000 crore]. (The "Fresh Issue") ("The Total Issue Size")

The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at Rs 10 to Rs 11 Per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 1,298 Equity Shares and in multiples of 1,298 Equity Shares thereafter. (The "Price Band")

The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Tuesday, 16th April, 2024. The Bid/Offer will open Thursday, 18th April, 2024 for subscription and close on Monday, 22nd April, 2024. (The "Bid /

Offer Period") The Company proposes to utilize net proceeds from fresh issue of Equity Shares towards funding - (i) Purchase of equipment for the expansion of its network infrastructure amounting to Rs. 1,27,500 million [Rs. 12,750 crore] which includes (a) setting up new 4G sites; (b)

expanding the capacity of existing 4G sites and new 4G sites and (c) setting up new 5G sites; (ii) Payment of certain deferred payments for spectrum to the DoT and the GST thereon amounting to Rs. 21,753.18 million [Rs. 2,175 crore] and (v) balance amount for general corporate purposes. (The

"Objects of the Offer"). The Equity Shares offered through this Red Herring Prospectus dated April 11, 2024 are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. The Company has received 'in-principle' approvals from BSE Limited ("BSE") and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSF") for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to letters each dated April 8,

The Offer is being made through the fast track route in terms of Regulation 155 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations. The Offer is being made in accordance with Regulation 129(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and through a book building process wherein not more than 50% of the Offer shall be allotted on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs", and such portion, the "QIB Portion"). Our Company in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations ("Anchor Investor Portion"), out of which at least one-third shall be reserved for allocation to domestic Mutual Funds only, subject to valid Bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price. in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations. In the event of undersubscription, or nonallocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the portion of the QIB Portion less the number of Equity Shares Allotted to the Anchor Investors ("Net QIB Por-

tion"). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only, and the remainder of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIB Bidders other than Anchor Investors, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from Mutual Funds at or above the Offer Price.

## Nissan shows in-construction all-solidstate battery pilot line in Japan

#### **Top News Report**

CHANDIGARH/ JAMMU, Apr 16: Nissan today showed its inconstruction all-solidstate battery pilot line to members of the media at its Yokohama Plant in Kanagawa Prefecture. The pilot line is aimed to further promote development and innovative manufacturing technologies for the batteries.

Under the Nissan Ambition 2030 long-term vision, Nissan aims to launch EVs equipped with the batteries by fiscal year 2028

All-solid-state batteries, which will be gamechangers for EVs, have the potential for energy density approximately twice that of conventional



lithium-ion batteries, significantly shorter charging time due to superior charge and discharge performance, and lower costs due to less expensive materials. Nissan plans to use all-solidstate batteries in a wide range of vehicle segments, including pickup trucks, making its EVs more competitive.

Nissan is conducting wide ranging research and development, from molecular-level battery material research to electric vehicle development, and even city development using EVs as storage batteries. Utilizing this experience, Nissan is stepping up development with the goal of practical implementation.

## across departments

(Agencies): Marvel, on Monday, laid off 15 employees across are expected as of now. The company known for slate after a recent boom

focus on quality content.

Madame Web, did poorly at the box office.

particularly at Marvel. When you fix or when you address these issues with movies, you do three things," Iger said, Hollywood Reporter reported. In 2021 the studio released four films and five TV shows, while in 2022, it put out three films. three TV shows, and a few specials. In 2023, it put out three films and three TV shows.

"Sometimes, you kill projects you don't believe in. And, of course, you put new things in the pipeline that you do believe in that you have much more confidence in — and we're doing all of that," Iger added.

## Jugal pays obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi Temple

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Apr 16: On the holy festival of Navratri. Member of Parliament representing the Jammu-Poonch constituency, Jugal Kishore Sharma visited Mata Vaishno Devi Temple located in Bhagwati Nagar in Ward No 31 to seek blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi.

The festival of Navratri was organized by Mahant Lucky Baba every year in the temple. Mahant Lucky Baba has played a pivotal role in organizing the event, ensuring that devotees have the opportunity to seek blessings during Navratri.

Devotional songs and



Bhajans dedicated to Mata Rani would have filled the air, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere for all attendees.

Devotees, including the political dignitaries, had the opportunity to seek blessings from Mata Vaishno Devi. reflecting the core purpose of their visit.

Chander Mohan Gupta former Mayor and Sahil Sharma were also present and they also payed obeisance at the temple.

Sahil Sharma's presence highlights the involvement of grassroots workers in such gatherings

Hundreds of devotees come every Navratri to seek blessings of Mata

### IT Literacy Course: Gool, Ramban District

#### **Top News Report**

RAMBAN, Apr 16: Indian Army concluded a two week long Skill Development Course on IT Literacy at Gool in Ramban district which had commenced from 01 Apr 24 to 15 Apr 2024. A total of 30 students including girls were benefitted from this training.

The IT Literacy training was initiated with an intent of empowering the local students with necessary skills of computers. The capsule was organised over a period of 15 days wherein the basic computer education was imparted to the students. The noble initiative was well received by local students by subscribing to the IT training. The IT Literacy programme is an extension



of Central Government flagship project of Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan. This cadre not only facili-

tated modernising the education but was directed towards creating awareness of Government

nance, said an Army official present during the event. Army had provided laptops for the IT Cadre. During the closing

initiatives of transparent gover-

address, the students were also informed about various courses and schemes promulgated by both State and Central Govt which can benefit them in utilizing the recently acquired skill set in future. The curriculum of this training was a mix of theory and practical sand was biased towards later to ensure maximum handling of IT assets. The students as well as prominent members of civil society were appreciative of the unique initiative undertaken by the Indian Army and requested for more such type of course.

#### Flipkart's annual sale for ACs, refrigerators and air coolers to begin from April 17



NEW DELHI, Apr 16 (Agencies): Flipkart on Tuesday announced its annual week-long summer sale starting from April 17 to April 23, 2024, offering a wide selection of cooling home appliances such as air conditioners (ACs), refrigerators, air coolers, and fans at affordable prices

The e-commerce marketplace's 6th edition of Super Cooling Days 2024 will provide customers with deals on cooling home appliances to beat the summer heat, Flipkart said in a statement.

As part of the sale, Flipkart will offer a broad selection of cooling appliances catering to diverse customer needs and budgets through the participating brands and sellers.

From showcasing India's biggest refrigerator store to an expansive range of ACs and fans, Super Cooling Days provide an opportunity to upgrade appliances, while saving on electricity bills with energy-efficient features.

"With products starting at Rs 1,299, customers can avail of exciting deals and offers such as cashback, exchange offers, new customer offers, tap and win, and offers on SuperCoins, among many others," it said.

Payment options like no-cost EMI, down payment, cash on delivery, and Flipkart Pay Later EMI and more will be available. "To help customers

make informed decisions and make their shopping experience more engaging, features such as 'View in 360', FireDrops Gamification, 3D viewing, and video assistance on premium selection will be offered," it said.

"Additionally, Flipkart Jeeves will provide convenient, reliable, and cost-effective after-sales services, including installations, ensuring a seamless experience from purchase to use.'

The sale will showcase India's biggest refrigerator store with a selection of single-door, side-byside door, bottom mount, frost free, and triple door refrigerators across leading brands such as Samsung, LG, Whirlpool, Haier, Godrej, and IFB, with prices ranging between Rs 9,990 to Rs

2.00.000 A premium store will be showcased for a variety of brands for ACs of the likes of LG. Voltas. Godrej, Daikin, Panasonic, and Blue Star in the price range of Rs 25,000 to Rs 65,000. The sale will feature an extensive range of Inverter ACs ranging from 0.8 ton to 2 ton with advanced tech features like Wi-Fi connectivity and energy-efficient ratings.

Flipkart will also offer a vast array of choices on ceiling fans ranging from Rs 1,299 to Rs 15,000. Kunal Gupta, Vice Pres-

ident, Large Appliances

at Flipkart, said, "Over the last year, Flipkart has witnessed a huge spike in demand for a variety of cooling appliances with the latest technology and new features at affordable price points. The 6th edition of Super Cooling Days will offer customers a wide-range of value-based products from multiple reputed brands." Furthermore, customers can avail various exchange offers such as up to Rs 22,000 off on exchanging old refrigerators and Rs 8,000 off on the exchange of old ACs.

### **549 Runs, 81 Boundaries: Full List Of Records Broken During RCB vs SRH IPL 2024 Match**

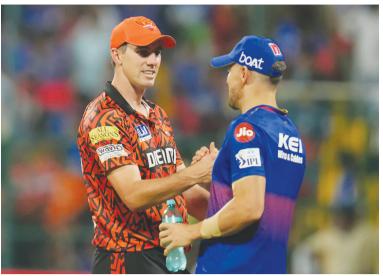
A total of 549 runs were scored at the M Chinnaswamy stadium as RCB took on SRH in the IPL 2024 match. Here's a look at the records that were broken.

BENGALURU, Apr 16 (Agencies): The Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Sunrisers Hyderabad match in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 turned out to be a run-fest that saw both teams scoring in excess of 250 runs in a T20 match. The Sunrisers Hyderabad bettered their own record of scoring the highest team total in IPL history as they put 287 runs on the board, with the previous best being 277. In reply, RCB scored 262 runs on the board, thanks to Dinesh Karthik's 35-ball 83.

The match, which was a runfest, saw plenty of records being broken as the two teams put on a stunning show with the bat. While the batters made headlines, it was also an unforgettable night for the bowlers, though not for the right reasons.

List of records broken in RCB vs SRH IPL 2024 match:

1. Sunrisers Hyderabad posted the highest total in IPL history, improving on their own total of 277/3 they had posted



against Mumbai Indians a few weeks ago.

2. RCB and SRH aggregated a total of 549 runs in the match, which is the highest in T20 cricket history. The previous best was 523 runs between Sunrisers and Mumbai Indians.

3. SRH batters struck 22 sixes in the match, which is the most by any team in an IPL innings.

The record was earlier held by RCB for their 21 sixes against

4. SRH and RCB batters hit

struck a total 81 boundaries in the match cumulatively, also the joint-most for a T20 match. The same tally was earlier achieved during a match between South Africa and West Indies in 2023.

6. RCB's 262/7 is the highest total in a losing cause in T20 cricket. The previous best was West Indies' 258/5 against South Africa in 2023.

7. SRH became the first team in IPL history to have two 250plus totals in the league. RCB then joined them later in the match.

8. It's the first time that 4 bowlers of the same team went for 50-plus runs in their overs. RCB's Reece Topley (68), Yash Dayal (51), Lockie Ferguson (52) and Vijaykumar Vyshak (64) all conceded more than 50 runs against SRH.

9. In the match there were seven fifty-plus partnerships put together by the two teams. This has never happened in a T20 match before.

## Pune Warriors in 2013.

38 sixes cumulatively in the match, the joint-most in any T20 match, equalling the tally of sixes recorded during Hyderabad and Mumbai earlier this season

5. SRH and RCB batters

#### **Glenn Maxwell Takes Indefinite Break From IPL 2024, Explains Decision To RCB**



BENGALURU, Apr 16 (Agencies): Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Australia allrounder Glenn Maxwell has decided to take an indefinite break from the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 campaign. Maxwell revealed the news as he spoke to media during the press conference after RCB's bitter defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Monday night. Maxwell, who has courted plenty of criticism owing to his poor form with the bat, wasn't part of the XI against SRH, with Will Jacks taking his place. After the game, Maxwell explained that he asked skipper Faf du Plessis to try someone else himself.

In the press conference, Maxwell said that he isn't in a good 'mental and physical space' at the moment. Hence, decided to take a break. The Australian all-rounder didn't specify the length for which he decides to sit out.

"For me, personally, it was a pretty easy decision," Maxwell said after RCB's sixth defeat in seven matches. "I went to Faf [du Plessis] and the coaches after the last game and said I felt it was probably time we tried someone else. I have been in this situation in the past where you can keep playing and get yourself deeper into a hole. I think now is actually a good time for me to give myself a bit of a mental and physical break, get my body right. If I'm required to get in during the tournament, I can hopefully get back into a really solid mental and physical space where I can still have an impact.

"We have had a pretty big deficiency straight after the powerplay, which has been my area of strength over the last couple of seasons. I felt like I wasn't contributing in a positive way with the bat, and with the results and the position we find ourselves on the table, I think it's a good time to give someone else an opportunity to show their wares, and hopefully, someone can make that

spot their own." It isn't the first time Maxwell has taken a break from the game over mental fatigue. With things not going right for the veteran cricketer, he decided it's best for the franchise to use other options while he rejuvinates and looks to bounce back with strength.

"T20 cricket can be like that sometimes - it's a pretty fickle game," he said. "Even if you look at the first game, I ran one off the middle of the bat to the keeper. I picked up the length really well, saw a scoring opportunity, but opened the face a little bit too much. When you are going well, that goes wide of the gloves. you get a boundary, you are 4 off 1, and you are away for the tournament.

"I probably just haven't got away - it's as simple as that. In the first few games, I feel I made reasonably good decisions, but I was still finding ways to get out. It can happen in T20 cricket and when it snowballs like that, you can go searching and try too hard and forget the basics of the game."

Earlier, Indian cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar had also criticised Maxwell for his poor show in the IPL, saying the Aussie is just not able to play fast bowling.

"He has been unable to play fast bowling, period," former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar told Star Sports

"Balls bouncing to his chest or shoulder height are troubling him. He can whack every ball below his waist height, but not the ones above that."

#### IPL 2024: Rajasthan Royals brace for Narine spin treat as Kolkata Knight Riders eye top spot

KOLKATA, Apr 16 (Agencies): Rajasthan Royals' (RR) star-studded batting will face the serious challenge of decoding Sunil Narine's mystery at Eden Gardens when they take on two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in a top-of-thetable IPL clash here on Tuesday.

Narine, who is onemonth shy of turning 36, had played a pivotal role in KKR's twin triumphs under former skipper Gautam Gambhir in 2012 and 2014.

Ever since joining the side way back in 2012. Narine has sizzled at Eden Gardens with his crafty bowling, proving to a big threat to opposi-

Now after reuniting with Gambhir, who returned to the team as their mentor, Narine dished out an all-round show, reigniting their title hopes again and a win against RR will hand them the pole position in the 10-team standings ahead of the halfway stage of the season.

His 1/19 against the Sunrisers Hyderabad or 1/17 against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) may have failed to grab attention but those eight overs where he did not concede a single boundary made all the difference in the end for KKR.

Phil Salt may have walked away with the player-of-the-match award in their solid eightwicket win over LSG here on Sunday, but it was Narine, who choked LSG in the middle overs to limit them to a belowpar 161 for 7.

Come Tuesday, the likes of Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag and Shimron Hetmyer — who all have struck at the rate of more than 155 this season — will be up against the Narine challenge.

It remains to be seen if Jos Buttler is fit to be included in the playing XI after missing their last fixture against Punjab



strike-rate of 183.51 and averages 33-plus this season, has a Rashid Khan-like aura at KKR. Their IPL record buy

Mitchell Starc has also shut all the noise to return to his elements, claiming two wickets in the last over for his 3/28 against LSG.

In such a scenario, the top-of-the-table contest may well boil down to KKR's bowling versus RR's batting.

KKR's only weaklink

could be their skipper Shreyas Iyer's poor form with the bat. Even though he

> remained unbeaten on a run-a-ball 38 in their 162-run chase against LSG, Shreyas looked tentative both against the pacers and spinners and KKR's batting may well get exposed if RR manage to give early breakthroughs.

> KKR's batting has largely depended this season on Salt-Narine's fireworks at the top and Andre Russell's blitz at

the death, as their Indian batters have not been tested much.

Rinku Singh has had a quiet season with 63 runs from four innings and has not got much opportunity, while team vice-captain Nitish Rana is sidelined with an injury.

RR have a formidable bowling lineup in Trent Boult, Avesh Khan, Yuzvendra Chahal and Keshav Maharaj, while it remains to be seen if Ravichandran Ashwin is fit for the match.

#### Candidates: Vidit Gujrathi does a double over Nakamura, Pragg & Gukesh share spoils



TORONTO, Apr 16 (Agencies): Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi came back firing on all cylinders after the previous match defeat and crashed through the defences of second seed Hikaru Nakamura of the United States in the ninth round of the Candidates chess tournament here.

The all-Indian duel between D Gukesh and R Praggnanandhaa ended in a draw without much ado as the day saw no other decisive games.

Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia lived by the sword against Frenchman Firouzja Alireza before signing peace, while Nijat Abasov of Azerbaijan showed that he was almost impregnable as white and held his own against American Fabiano Caruana.

With five rounds and two rest days still to come, Nepomniachtchi and Gukesh continued to be joint leaders on 5.5 points out of a possible nine while Praggnanandhaa is the sole third half-a-point behind. Nakamura, Gujrathi and Caruana share the fourth spot on 4.5 points and are all within a chance to win with Alireza on 3.5 and Abasov on three points.

The Candidates had begun with four draws on the opening day and served a brilliant victory by Gujrathi over Nakamura. The second half was just a déjà vu as Gujrathi was in his element yet again to score a win over the American again.

Back in hunt

The Indian might have been predictable as far as the openings are concerned with either colour but clearly, he

knows his stuff. Despite losing to Gukesh in the previous round, Gujrathi decided to continue with the Italian opening and got rewarded as Nakamura went for a side variation by pushing his king side pawns too early.

With a timely breakthrough in the centre, the dynamics in the position remained but Gujrathi was quick to spot a trick missed by Nakamura. What followed was mayhem for black on the board, and Nakamura called it a day when checkmate became inevitable.

Gukesh tried his hands at the Ruy Lopez as white but did not get much against Praggnanandhaa. Both the teenagers have been showing great skills here against the world's best and there was nothing to choose between them when pieces flew off the board in tandem. The game was drawn in 41 moves.

In the women's section, R Vaishali's hope for a turnaround ended with another loss coming at the hands of Zhongyi Tan of China. The Chinese shot back into sole lead on six points in nine games. Tan-Vaishali contest was the lone decisive game of the day.

India's Koneru Humpy improved her position a bit after drawing with Kateryna Lagno of Russia, while overnight joint leader Tingjie Lei was held to a draw by Nurgyul Salimova of Bulgaria.

#### Ex Australia Cricketer Michael Slater Collapses In Court **After Being Denied Bail**

QUEENSLAND, Apr 16 (Agencies): Former Test cricketer Michael Slater reportedly collapsed in an Australian court on Tuesday after being refused bail on more than a dozen charges, including some relating to stalking. The 54-year-old had to be helped to his



falling to the floor when

a Queensland magistrate turned down his bail application, local media reported. The television commentator and former batsman is accused of domestic violence offences as well as common assault and unlawful stalking. Among the allegations

against him, police said

text messages and made intimidating phone calls over the last six months. He is due to appear in court again at the end of

Slater sent unwanted

The court heard Slater has mental health conditions that can result in "impulsive and reckless"

behaviour, ABC News reported.

Slater played 74 Test matches from 1993-2001, chalking up more than 5,000 runs for Australia including 14 centuries.

He also played 42 one-day internationals before retiring from all cricket in 2004.

#### Gujarat missing Mohammed Shami, he made our job easier in middle overs: Rashid Khan

AHMEDABAD, Apr 16 (Agencies): Rashid Khan admitted that Gujarat have missed the services of their ace pacer Mohammed Shami in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. Shami hasn't played form of cricket since the 2023 ODI World Cup final against Australia as he has been struggling with injuries. The speedster will also miss the upcoming T20 World Cup to be played in the USA and West Indies.

As far as GT are concerned, the team, led by Shubman Gill, is currently hanging in the middle of the table with 6 points thanks to wins in 3 out of 6 games. Rashid said that Shami made life easier for him and the other Gujarat bowlers in the middle overs.

"Shami played a main role for us in the last two seasons, both with the new ball and old ball, and the way he has delivered for the team actually made mine and others job easier, especially in the middle overs," Rashid said in an interview with agency.

Shami won the Purple Cap last year after he finished with 28 scalps. Overall, he is second in the list of leading wicket-takers for GT with 48 wickets to his name from 33 matches at an economy rate of 8.01 with 2 four-wicket hauls.

'Sometimes result does not go your way' Placed sixth in the table, GT have had their troubles, but Rashid was happy with the way the players have come forward and put their

hands up in a crisis. He also lauded the GT bowlers for stepping up in the absence of Shami.

"We have started the season with a positive mindset and everyone is taking responsibility and delivering best for team but sometimes result doesn't go your way but we are quite happy with bowling unit," Rashid said.

"T20 is all about making right decisions at the right time. Spencer Johnson, Darshan Nalkande, Azmat (Omarzai), Umesh (Yadav) have all delivered and most importantly, Mohit (Sharma) bhai as well," Rashid added. GT will next be up against Rishabh Pant's Delhi on Wednesday, April 17 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

## **BJP cannot befool people for all times: AAP**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Sr. AAP leader, Jammu, in a press statement issued here, on Tuesday said that the people from all the strate of society in India are fed up with Modi's repetition of the word Guarantee. What about the Modi's all the promises/Guarantees of 2014 Lok Sabha elections?

He said that none of the promises made by our PM has been fulfilled. the debt over India has risen to three times high than it was before 2014, the rupee has fallen down tremendously as compared to US Dollar, India is lagging behind in various parameters than its neighbors' like poverty, hunger, malnutrition & promising 15 lacs into the accounts of each house hold, doubling the income of farmers by ending 2022, MSP to the benefit of farmers, 2 crore jobs every year, removing corruption, decriminalization of politics, lowering prices of Diesel, Petrol, domestic gas, sand, Bajri, stones,



making 100 smart cities, running of Bullet trains, constructing 1 model village in each constituency every year etc.

Reacting to the chest thumping guarantee of PM Modi, at Bhopal, regarding taking stringent action against corrupt politician in the country, the BJP government at the centre instead, is admitting all the scamsters & fraudsters into his Party and shamelessly claiming to give a guarantee to the countrymen to take strict action, is now fully exposed the countrymen as also the world that whatever BJP leaders assert is a Jumla & nothing short of it, the AAP leader said.

Rao further said that the main agenda of BJP is to stop the growth of AAP in India. It is indulging in undemocratic method of arresting the popularly elected AAP leaders on filthy grounds. The main agenda of undemocratic BJP government is to tarnish the image of AAP leaders & to stop them from election campaigning in general elections, 2024.

He said that almost all media houses of India & the International Media have reported that the arrest of a popular Chief Minister having the backing of two crore people and the CM of the Capital of Nation is the darkest event and chapter in the history of our great Democracy. Inspite of the stiff competition from opposition parties Kejriwal managed 67 out of 70 seats & BJP managed only 3 seats in 2015 Assembly elections in Delhi & AAP managed 62 seats out of 70 seats & BJP managed only 8 seats in 2020 Assembly Election in Delhi and also formed the government in Punjab after getting 92 seats out of 117 seats, which is the

leading state of Indian

Union. Thrice AAP managed a crushing defeat to opposition Parties including BJP in Delhi Assembly elections from time to time.

The Party is spreading its ideology to other parts of the Nation. It has become a National Party for excellence in the shortest period of time. In India 99% of the people are living a measurable life & fall in Aam Aadmi category.

The wealth has accumulated in a few hands -1%. The 99% of people in India are with AAM AADMI PARTY and want justice at every level for common man-Aam Aadmi. The AAP Democratic model in India is the latest & the greatest democratic model at National & International level.

In Lok Sabha election 2024, BJP cannot get even 40 seats if voted through Belt papers, as the people are against the policies of the BJP government and 99% people are against the BJP government. In order to check the growing popularly of AAP at National & International

level BJP is using unethical politics of Vendetta and misusing the power through impartial investigating agencies – ED, CBI, In-Come Tax etc. BJP is using pick & choose policy to remain in power by appointing top Posts in violation of Model Code of Conduct, which is enforce even

All most all the poli-

cies of BJP government are un-democratic and needs to be re-studied by veterans and constitutional exports. All the guaranties given by the BJP headed by PM, Modi, till date are fake & for from reality. The word Guarantee has been stolen from the vocabulary of Arvind Kejriwal a highly Educated, dynamic, Honest versatile and most scientific and successful leader of the masses and CM of the Capital of the largest democracy of the World. Rao further said that CM, Arvind Kejriwal is treated as a criminal and his inhuman treatment in Tihar Jail is against the fundamental rights of any elected Chief Minister.

### Lord Ram is celebrating his birthday in Ayodhya after 500 years : Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: Hinduist BJP leader Guruji Raju Chandel while appealing to all Sanatani Hindu countrymen to wake up said that 90% Hindus of the country have woken up, children 10 percent, I want to tell your Hindu brothers to wake up.

Lord Shri Ram is going to celebrate his birthday in Ayodhya for the first time after 500 years on the occasion of Ram Navami which is his birthday. After so many thousands of years, Lord Shri Ram is going to celebrate his birthday in his house in Ayodhya. We should not forget how much the Mughals loved Lord Ram. They were made homeless and deprived of their homes. Today, whoever has brought Lord Ram, all of us Sanatani Hindus who are divided on caste lines should unite and work to bring him back, only then the



life of us Sanatani Hindus will be successful. The time has come today, if Sanatani Hindus do not wake up then it is certain that Sanatan Dharma will disappear from this country and those who are giving the slogan of Ghazwa-e-Hind and are talking about making this country an Islamic country, they will destroy this country on the strength of their numbers. Then they will make slaves and Hindu Sanatani Hindus will again become slaves.

Shri Chandel said that there is only one religion on this earth, that is Sanatan Dharma and whatever else is there, all are paths and all the people living in this country divided on caste lines, we have to unite and show that unity today. We do not want to fight with anyone nor do we have to wage war. Understand through gestures only that we have to work to bring Ram devotees and the one who brings Ram Ji to this country.

Shri Chandel said that our future Sanatani children of our country and their future are safe only in the hands of Ram Rajya and united India. Today our country has become a world guru. Big politicians of the world seek advice from us and in an epidemic like Corona. We also take life saving medicines from Indians only. Today our country has become a solution to the problems and a provider of food to the whole world. To further strengthen such a world guru, we have to further strengthen Sanatan Dharma for peace in the whole world.

## Former AICTE Vice Chairman, Prof (Dr) MP. Poonia, Joins BFGI as Campus Director

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: In a landmark move that signifies BFGI's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, eminent educationist and former Vice Chairman of AICTE New Delhi, Prof. (Dr.) M.P. Poonia has joined the esteemed institution as its Campus Director. Dr. Poonia's appointment ushers in a new era of exceptional leadership and strategic direction for BFGI.

Dr. Poonia brings to BFGI an unparalleled wealth of experience spanning over 37 years. Distinguished for his expertise in mechanical engineering, renewable energy and sustainable development, he holds an impressive academic record with an M.Tech. (Thermal Engg.) from IIT Delhi and a Ph.D. in IC engines. Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Poonia has held esteemed positions in various national-level organizations, demonstrably shaping the landscape of technical education in

Elated by Dr. Poonia's appointment, BFGI Chairman Dr. Gurmeet Singh Dhaliwal stated, "This is



a momentous occasion not only for BFGI but for the entire region. Dr. Poonia's distinguished career and proven track record make him an ideal leader to spearhead BFGI's journey towards becoming an institution of international

repute. Dr. Dhaliwal praised Dr. Poonia's remarkable achievements, including his pivotal role in transforming Government Engineering College, Bikaner, from a struggling institution to a thriving center of Poonia's visionary leadership not only increased student enrollment from 500 to a staggering 7000 but also spearheaded crucial industrial collaborations, significantly boosting the college's revenue and reputation. These remarkable accomplishments culminated in the college being recognized as the best college in Rajasthan by the state assembly

His contributions to MNIT, Jaipur, were instrumental in propelling the institution to a position of prominence in North India. His exceptional leadership abilities were further recognized with his appointment as the Director of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh, Dr. Poonia's commitment to empowering future generations is further exemplified by his dedication to the inclusion of differently-abled students. During his tenure, he was conferred the prestigious National Award by the Hon'ble President of India for his remarkable work towards fostering the educational advancement of disabled persons.

With Dr. Poonia at the helm, BFGI is poised to

embark on a new chapter of growth and development. His vast experience, coupled with his unwavering commitment to academic excellence and student well-being, promises to propel BFGI to even greater heights. The entire BFGI fraternity warmly welcomes Dr. Poonia and extends its unwavering support in his endeavors to shape the

future of education.

Upon assuming his position, Prof. (Dr.) M.P. Poonia expressed profound gratitude to the entire management of B.F.G.I. for their unwavering support. He praised the institution's distinguished reputation in academics, sports and culture at national and international levels and reaffirmed his dedication to fostering overall student development and academic excellence through a visionary 15-year plan.

#### Pawan Verma honoured with Prof Ram Nath Shastri Memorial Award 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: Dogri Sanstha Jammu in collaboration with family members of Padmashri Prof. Ram Nath Shastri honoured Pawan Verma, a young dogri poet with prestigious Prof. Ram Nath Shastri Memorial Award-2024 for his collection of dogri poetry 'Jo Katteya So Mahlein' in ak function organized at Dogri Bhawan, Dogri Sanstha Karan Nagar Jammu.

Suresh Kumar Gupta (IFS) Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, Govt. of UT of J&K was Chief Guest on the occasion whereas Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu presided over the func-

The award that was started in 2014 in the memory of father of dogri literature carries a cash award of 21,000, a shawl and a memento and is given to a dogri writer every year for his/her first book written in the last five years on the birthday Prof. Ram Nath Shastri that falls on 15th



of April.

While speaking on the occasion Suresh Kumar Gupta said that the way young generation is getting connected to their mother tongue Dogri and young poets like Pawan Verma are inspiring others to pen down their creative work in their mother tongue is an indication of bright future. Before that Prof. Lalit Magotra in his welcome address talked about the importance of such a prestigious award

which inspires a lot.

He added that Sanstha was founded by

Prof. Ram Nath Shastri along with five others to preserve and promote mother tongue dogri and the efforts are going on for the last almost 80 years now.

Prof. Veena Gupta, Vice President Dogri Sanstha Jammu presented a citation on the works of Pawan Verma.

Pawan Verma, the awardee also shared his literary journey and recited a few poems from the book.

The program was conducted by Susheel Begana. While presenting vote of thanks

Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary Dogri Sanstha Jammu said that the life of Shastri Ji was full of struggle but he never allowed his personal problems to overshadow the struggle for mother tongue.

He led the movement and others followed him. The program was graced by auspicious gathering comprising of litterateurs, literature lovers, Ajeet Khajuria, Dinesh Khajuria both sons of Prof. Ram Nath Shastri and other family members of Shastri Ji and Pawan Verma.

#### Rich Harvest celebrates Ram Navami



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: Ram Navami- the Birth Anniversary of Lord Ram, was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the staff and students of RHS on the eve of the pious festival. In a special assembly, students sang bhajans, danced and Role plays in praise of the 7th incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

The Director of the School Ruchi Charak and the Head of the Institute Anita Bhatia blessed the students on the occasion.

## **APUM appeals to vote in favour of Congress candidates**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: All Party United Front (APUM) organized a meeting in Jammu and jointly appealed to the people to vote in favor of Congress candidates from both the Lok Sabha seats of Jammu division. The leaders of all the

parties present in this meeting resolved to teach a lesson to those who snatched the state status of Jammu and Kashmir, divided it into two parts and kept the people away from the democratic process along with violating the rights of the local people.

The meeting was

chaired by former MP

Sheikh Abdul Rehman.

Those who addressed

Kazmi, Secretary IDP, Manish Sahni president Shiv Sena(UBT), Comrade Sukhdev Singh, Comrade Nirdosh Uppal CPIML, Sunny Kant Chib HR, Comrade Pritam Singh, Gittan Singh, Lok Manch, Balkar Singh, IDP Kuldeep Singh DOM, Prof Shivraj Singh Civil Society, Shahid Salim

included Advocate JA

Mir, Civil Society UPA, Kali Das IDP. In the end Convenor APUM ID Khajuria IDP requested all present members and especially voters of both constituencies to support and vote in favor of Choudhary Lal Singh and Shri Raman Bhalla. A poster was also released on the occasion appealing for support.

## Nine days 'Shiv Sahej Yog Sadhna' to commence from May 1

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 16: A nine days mega religious event, 'Shiv Sehaj Yog Sadhna' by Sh. Sh. 1008 Rajguru Acharya Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishwatmanand Saraswatiji Maharaj from Sunderbani will commence at R.V. Resorts near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Railway Line Gagian, Main Road R. S. Pura.

The programme is scheduled for 01 to 09 May, 2024. Swami Vishwatmanand Saraswatiji Maharaj, a divine saint with celestial powers, a social reformer, a Sanskrit intellectual par excellence, a beacon of enlightenment for the masses suffering from miseries and pain

of life has been working for the upliftment of humanity since last three decades irrespective of caste, colour and creed. Besides an Ashram at Sunderbani, Swamiji has also established various educational as well as medical institutes in this Union Territory.

Krishan Lal, Chairman of the management committee told that Swamiji Maharaj will daily bless the devotees by reciting Shiv Puran from 5 pm onwards. The event will witness participation of 1000-1500 devotees on a daily basis from Jammu and Kashmir as well as from across different corners of the country. A grand Shobha Yatra will also be undertaken on

first day of the nine days event. The Yatra will start from Bana Singh Stadium R. S. Pura and after covering main market will finally culminate at R. V. Resort. Besides devotees, this Yatra will be attended by scholars, saints, students, women, Officers/Officials of the administration and VIPs including political personalities. The management committee has made elaborate arrangements for transport, meals and stay of the

The masses are thus invited to come in large numbers to listen to Swamiji and to get the blessings of Bhagwan Shiva.

devotees from outside.

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office: 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor: M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor: Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No: (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

(All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).