

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**Akshay Kumar to make Telugu cinema debut with 'Kannappa'**



NATIONAL | 7

**Amit Shah commends forces behind Chhattisgarh encounter; promises naxal-free India**

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**"Raising A Kid Is 18 Years Of Prompt Engineering": Elon Musk On Parenting**



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-105 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Restrictions imposed ahead of Lok Sabha General Elections in Ramban

SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): In preparation for the upcoming General Election for the 05-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency in District Ramban, strict restrictions have been put in place by the District Magistrate, Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.PC).

In an order a copy of which is lying with news agency Kashmir Dot Com reads gatherings of five or more persons are strictly prohibited throughout the district, except at designated polling stations during polling hours. This measure aims to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process and prevent any potential disturbances.

However, in a move to facilitate democratic engagement, door-to-door campaigning has been permitted, effective from April 17, 2024, starting at 5:00 PM till 20th of April upto 5:00PM. This allowance offers candidates and their campaign teams the opportunity to interact with voters directly while adhering to the prescribed guidelines.

The polling for general election to the Lok Sabha 2024, for 05-Udhampur Parliamentary constituency in the district Ramban will take place on 19th April.

District Magistrate Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, emphasized the importance of cooperation from all stakeholders to maintain peace and uphold the integrity of the electoral process. He urged residents, political parties, and candidates to adhere to the imposed restrictions and cooperate with authorities to ensure a fair and orderly election.

Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban has been asked to ensure the implementation of the order in letter and spirit.

These measures come amidst heightened anticipation for the electoral process and signify the administration's commitment to conducting free, fair, and transparent elections in the region. With the cooperation of all

Turn to page 9

## Came with hope in 2014, trust in 2019, guarantee in 2024: PM Modi

ASSAM, Apr 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted that he went to people with hope in 2014, trust in 2019 and guarantee in 2024.

Addressing an election rally at the Borkura ground here, he said that the birth celebrations of Lord Ram were being held in the temple at Ayodhya after 500 years with a 'Surya Tilak' ceremony.

Earlier in the day, Modi greeted people on the occasion of Ram Navami on Wednesday



and said Ayodhya is in incomparable bliss as this is the first time the festival would be celebrated there after the consecration of the Ram temple.

"We cannot join the celebrations at Ayodhya

but let us participate in the event by switching on our mobile flashlights and offering our prayers to Lord Ram," the PM said at the rally. The prime minister said that free ration will be provided to all without dis-

crimination for the next five years.

Free treatment of up to Rs five lakh under the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme will be given to people aged 70 and above.

Modi was here to campaign for NDA candidates of three constituencies- Asom Gana Parishad's Phani Bhushan Choudhury for Barpeta, United People's Party, Liberal nominee Jayanta Basumatary for Kokrajhar and BJP's Bijuli Kalita Medhi for Guwahati, who all were present at the rally.

## 8 Union Ministers, Two Former CMs, One Ex-Governor in fray in first Phase of LS Polls



NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Eight Union ministers, two former chief ministers and one ex-governor are among those who are set to test their electoral fate in the first phase of elections on April 19 when 102 seats across 21 states and Union territories will go to polls.

Union Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari is seeking a hat-trick of win from the Nagpur seat. In 2014, he had defeated seven-time MP Vilas Muttemwar by a margin of 2.84 lakh

Turn to page 9

## PM is champion of corruption: Rahul Gandhi



NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on April 17 alleged the electoral bonds scheme was the biggest "extortion scheme" in the world and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the "champion of corrup-

tion". Addressing a joint press conference with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav here, Mr. Gandhi said there is a strong undercurrent in favour of the opposition INDIA bloc in the Lok Sabha elections and the

BJP will be limited to 150 seats.

Mr. Yadav said the winds of change will start blowing from Ghaziabad in western Uttar Pradesh to Ghazipur and the BJP will be given a grand farewell in the Lok Sabha elections.

"We have to ensure that not a single vote is divided in the Lok Sabha polls," Mr. Yadav said.

Criticising the now-scrapped electoral bonds, Mr. Gandhi said the Prime Minister claims that the scheme was brought to bring transparency in poll

Turn to page 9

## IED seized in Poonch

MENDHAR/JAMMU, Apr 17 (Agencies): An improvised explosive device (IED) was seized by security forces during a search operation in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said.

The IED was recovered during a joint search operation by police, Rashtriya Rifles and CRPF from the forest area of Sanai-Gursai in the Mendhar sub-division, the officials said.

They said the IED was found hidden in a cavity covered by boulders.

Turn to page 9

## Consistent efforts are on to search the missing trio: IGP Kashmir VK Birdhi

SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone Vidhi Kumar Birdhi Wednesday said that consistent efforts are on from divers and scan teams to search the missing trio in the waters of river Jhelum.

"Divers and scan teams are consistently searching the area to



trace the missing trio. The rescue operation in this regard continued throughout the night and was also resumed

today morning. We are trying to search and get them." IGP Kashmir Zone VK Birdhi said and added, "However there is no fresh development as of now".

Responding to a query the IGP said these special divers have their own understanding about water and water currents. "These special

Turn to page 9

## DGP J&K RR Swain extends greetings on auspicious occasion of Ram Navmi

SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, RR Swain Wednesday extended heartfelt greetings to the people, the families of police martyrs, all ranks of J&K Police, security forces, and their families on the auspicious occasion of the Ram Navmi.

The DGP said that the teachings of Shri Ram have always guided the humanity regarding righteousness, truthfulness, sacrifice, valour, respect for traditions and values. He has expressed hope that this festival will further foster the spirit of unity, harmony and brotherhood among the people.

Wishing the people a happy Ram Navami, the DGP called upon people to be aware of anti social, anti national elements, whose only

Turn to page 9



Devotees immerse Saakh on the last Navratri Festival at Tawi in Jammu on Wednesday Pic Aman Sharma

## 11 from J&K qualify UPSC Civil Service Exam 2023

JAMMU, Apr 17 (Agencies): Eleven candidates from Jammu and Kashmir have qualified for this year's Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Service exams, the results of which were declared by the Commission on Tuesday.

The notification issued by the UPSC said that 1,016 candidates have passed this year's Civil

Service exam in which Aditya Srivastava from Uttar Pradesh has topped the selection list.

Twenty-four-year-old Anmol Rathore from Doda district has secured seventh All India Rank (AIR) in the examination.

She had also topped the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Examination (JKCSE) 2022 and is currently undergoing

training at the Revenue Training Institute in Jammu.

Anmol said she completed her studies from her house except for some mock tests and the UPSC Mains test series which she attended in Delhi.

"Otherwise, I have prepared on my own using the material available online. I would say

Turn to page 9



**STOP...!**

**MOSQUITO BREEDING**  
Prevent Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya and Stay Healthy

- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Get your blood tested from Govt. Hospital/ Health Workers in case of fever with chills and headache.
- Empty water coolers once in a week
- Discard/destroy junk items like old tyres etc.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds baths weekly.
- Use mosquito repellent creams and bed nets while sleeping.
- Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
- Improve basic sanitation.

In case of positive result, get free treatment from the nearest Health Institution.

PLEASE CO-OPERATE



ISSUED BY PROGRAMME OFFICER /STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K. DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU.

DIP/J-150/24



## TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI

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



Smt Shakuntla Sharma

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 Sharma & Nisha Sharma - Son & Daughter in law  
Rakesh Sharma & Anita Sharma- Son & Daughter in law  
Rajni Sharma & Ashwani Sharma- Daughter & Son in law  
Nikhil Sharma Grand Son  
Akhl Sharma Grand Son  
Abhishek Sharma - Grand Son  
Shreya Sharma- Grand Daughter  
Jaahvi Sharma - Grand Daughter  
Mob. 7006969134, 9107207294, 7006905089, 9149444294

## 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.



SMT. RAJ DULARI PANDIT (RANI JI)

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

### GRIEF-STRICKEN

**Sons & Daughters-in- Law**  
Bal Krishen Pandit and Nalini Pandit -M: 9796495850  
Shyam Sunder Pandit and Vijay Pandit -M: 9419147804  
Jai Mohan Pandit and Aneeta Pandit -M: 9819393757  
Vijay Pandit & Kavita Pandit -M: 9819393757  
Massa Raina W/o Late Vasudev Raina (Daughter) M: 9469647974  
Sunita Kaul & Nipein Kaul (Daughter and Son in law) M: 9023601048  
**Grand Children**  
All friends and relatives

## 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.



Smt. Prabha Shori (Prabhavati/ Durga Jee)

Cremination has been conducted on 11/04/2024 at Kharkhari 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 Yatni Bhawan Trust, Rishikesh Road, Haridwar.

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

As you are with the ultimate divine power now, may your soul attain sadgati.

### REMEMBERED BY

Smt Makshi & Sh J.L. 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 T.N. Kaul - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt Kaki & Sh B.M. Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law  
**Great-Grand Children:**  
Tanush, Krishna, Vaishnavi, Shivakshi (Pan).  
Contact: 9082502054, 9149675676, 9419133092, 9419155691

**Grand Children**  
Smt Vishakha & Sh Vishal Bhat  
Dr Lipy & Dr Abhishek Sharma  
Smt Amrita & Sh Manish Kaul  
Smt Nidhi & Sh Sukshn Pandita  
Smt Preeti & Sh Sandeep Singh  
Smt Nimesha & Sh Shivam Bhat  
Pankit, Rahul, Harsh, Jhaak

## MOURNING FROM MAULIN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Pran Nath Sumbly (Jiga Ji)** S/o Late Raghu Ram Sumbly R/o H. No. 187 Sector 2 Laxmi Nagar Muthi Jammu who attained Moksha on 13th April 2024.



Sh Pran Nath Sumbly (Jiga Ji)

The Mourning from in law's side will be held at above address.

10th Day Kriya shall be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education office at 8:30 AM on 22.04.2024.

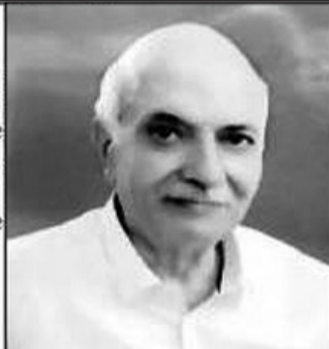
### GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt & Sh Bushan Lal Bhat  
Smt & Sh Mohan Lal Bhat  
Smt & Sh Ramesh Bhat  
Smt & Sh Sanjay Bhat  
Smt & Sh Vijay Bhat  
Smt & Sh Suresh Pandita  
Smt & Sh Anil Pandita  
Smt & Sh Sunil Bhat

Ph No. 9622307652, 9315223911, 9419701617, 9797483898

## 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, Srinagar.



Shree Maharaj Krishen Dhar (Bhayaa Ji)

10TH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Bangalore 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  
**AND**  
Mrinal, Kunal, Rimzim, Tapan, Sparsh and Jilmil.  
M-9426747348, 8320147182.

## ADH BARKHI

Six months have passed, you have earned your place in heaven leaving us in tears. Your smiling face and memories are still fresh.



Late Sh. Ravi Singh Jamwal

**Adh Barkhi** of our beloved **Late Sh. Ravi Singh Jamwal** S/o Late Sh. Chaman Singh Jamwal resident of Birpur near Data Ranpat Dev Ji Mandir will be performed at our residence on 18 April Thursday at 11 AM onwards.

### DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Smt. Padma Jamwal (Mother)  
Smt. Pooja Jamwal (Wife)  
Mr. Dushyant Singh Jamwal (Son)  
Mr. Dev Aryan Singh Jamwal (Son)  
Sh. Bikram Singh Jamwal (Brother)  
Sh. Sudhir Singh Jamwal (Brother)  
Mr. Dhanish Singh (Brother)  
Smt. Anju Charak and Sh. Prabhat Singh (Sister and Brother -in-law)  
Contact No. 9149779051, 9697663980, 6006223221, 7780994356, 8492006892

## 10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Vidya Devi** W/o. Lt Shri Gian Singh Charak, R/o Kothey Hoshiaru, Sarore. Death on 11th of April 2024.



LT. SMT. VIDYA DEVI

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 20 April 2024 at 11:00AM at our residence- Kothey Hoshiaru (SARORE).

### GRIEF STRICKEN

### SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW

Lt. Chhatter Singh Charak & Radha Devi  
Swam Dev Singh Charak & Promila Devi  
Ashok Singh Charak & Neelam Devi  
Balwinder Singh Charak & Rita Devi  
Parshotam Singh Charak & Poonam Devi  
**DAUGHTERS & SONS-IN-LAW**  
Asha Rani & Kartar Singh Chib  
Nisha Rani & Balwan Singh Jasrotia  
**CONTACTS: 9419103313 9419204516 9419106904 9419114106**

## 10TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sri Kanth Bhat** S/o Lt. Sudershan Bhat R/o Ulltersoo Anantnag Kashmir, at present H.No. 340, Lane- N, Sector- 2, Durga Nagar, Jammu on 16-04-2024.



Sh. Sri Kanth Bhat

10th Day will be performed on 25th April 2024 (Thursday) at 8:30 AM at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education Muthi Jammu.

### GRIEF STRICKEN

Vijay Kumar Bhat - Son  
Smt. Babeta Bhat - Daughter-in-law  
Ajay Kumar Bhat & Smt. Babeta Bhat  
**Daughters-in-law**  
Smt. Veena Ji Bhat W/o Lt. P.N. Bhat  
Smt. Sarla Ji Bhat W/o Lt. Sh. K.L. Bhat  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Ramesh Ji Bhat & Smt. Rekha Ji Bhat  
Ashok Kumar Bhat & Smt. Deepa Bhat  
C.L. Bhat & Smt. Renu Bhat  
Sha Ji Bhat & Smt. Babli Bhat  
Smt. Rajni Pandita & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Pandita - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt. Neenu Bhat & Sh. Ashwani Kumar Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law  
**Grand Children** - Karik Bhat, Sanvi Bhat, Micky Pandita  
Rahul Pandita, Ayushi Bhat & Hemanshu Bhat  
Contact No.: 9419087413, 9419224852, 7006347241

## SHADMOS/MASWAR

Six months have passed since you left us so suddenly but your sweet memories and inspiring smile will always remain there in our memories. Your words of wisdom and generous caring ways influenced one and all.



Smt Sharika Devi (BABI)

Shadmos/Maswar shall be performed on 17th/18th April at our residence H No. G-92 Shanti Nagar, Tophsherkanian Jammu.

### Deeply missed by

### All Nears and Dears

Mob No. 9055070160, 9086195572

## 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 Kahl Soktha, Nawakadal, Srinagar, left for heavenly abode on 13th April 2024 at Oberoi Splendor, JVLK, Mumbai.



Smt Kishni Dhar (Asha ji)

10TH 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.**

## MOURNING FROM MALUIN SIDE

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our dear sister **Smt. Dulari (Chandrani)**, D/o Late Smt. & Sh. Raghunath Bhat, R/o Choudri Gund, Shopian, A/P Flat No. 17/18, Block 119, Lane-20, Jagti colony. Mourning From the Maluin side will be held at the above mentioned address.



Smt. Dulari (Chandrani)

### Grief Stricken:

Sh. Mohan Lal Bhat  
Smt. & Sh. Ramesh Ji Bhat  
Contact: 8803743585, 9797156356

## TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform passing away of our beloved father, **Shri Lakhpat Rai, KAS**, Retd Additional Deputy Commissioner R/o House No 114 Street No 5 Shakti Nagar Jammu. He peacefully departed on 8th April, 2024.



Shri Lakhpat Rai, (KAS) (Retd. Addl Dy. Commissioner) 04-05-1936 - 08-04-2024.

The Tenth Day ceremony will be held on 17th April, 2024 (Wednesday) from 11.30 am onwards at our residence.

The Kriya will take place on 18th April (Thursday) at 1.00 pm at our residence.

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

### IN MOURNING:

Mrs. Raj Rani (Wife)  
**(Brothers & Bhabhis)**  
Sh. Kesar Lal Salgotra  
Sh Baldev & Mrs Swaran  
Sh Behani Lal & Mrs Tripta  
**(Daughter-in-laws & Sons)**  
Mrs Raji Rai & Mr Jagjit Rai (Advocate)  
Mrs Suresha & Mr Kuljeet Rai (Retd Bank Manager)  
Dr Kusam & Dr Harjeet Rai  
Mrs Neetu & Mr Manjeet Rai (Sub Judge)  
Mrs Sushil & Mr G R Changoira (Retd AEE) - (Daughter & Son in law)

## Birthday Remembrance



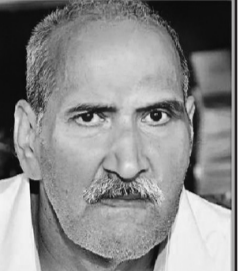
17/04/2009 - 17/04/2016

## Vivasvat Mahajan (Vivu)

Deeply remembered by  
Sweetie Suraj | Tania Arjun | Annie

## TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Shashi Kiran Gupta** S/o Late Sh. JP Gupta (Advocate) R/o 8/5, Hiranagar, Kathua on 09-04-2024.



SH. SHASHI KIRAN GUPTA

TENTH DAY will be performed on 18-04-2024 (Thursday) at our residence at 11:00 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 21-04-2024 (Sunday) at 3:00 PM at our residence.

UTHALA will be performed on 22-04-2024 (Monday) at 11:00 AM at our residence.

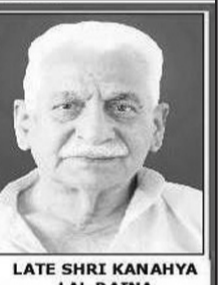
### GRIEF STRICKEN:

**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Adv. Rohini Kiran Gupta (Rtd. Dir. Litigation) & Smt. Anita Gupta  
**Son & Daughter-in-Law**  
Mr. Sohrav Gupta  
Sh. Dhirenj Gupta (Govt. Contractor) & Smt. Meena  
Sh. Neeraj & Smt. Rohini Gupta  
Sh. Deep Singh & Smt. Kirna  
Mr. Ishaan Gupta  
**Daughter & Son-in-Law**  
Smt. Geeta & Sh. Gourav Soni  
Smt. Arti & Sh. Ramesh Gupta  
Ms. Ishita Gupta

**Grand Children**  
Arush, Charu, Qjasvi, Ridhwan, Avighan, Natharath, Sandhya, Advitiya, Chaitanya, Aditya  
Contact Nos. 94191-90729, 94692-19020, 94191-07693, 88030-31516, 99061-93100

## SHADMOS -KRIYA

SIX MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE YOU LEFT US FOR HEAVENLY ABODE BUT THE FRAGRANCE OF YOUR LOVE, AFFECTION AND MEMORIES ALWAYS REMAIN ALIVE IN OUR MIND AND HEARTS.



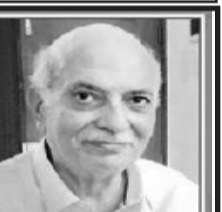
LATE SHRI KANAHYA LAL RAINA

**SHADMOS AND MASWAR KRIYA** OF OUR BELOVED LATE **SHRI KANAHYA LAL RAINA** S/O SHRI SHAMOO NATH RAINA O/R OF KARANAGAR SRINAGAR, PRESENTLY 55 D/C GANDHINAGAR JAMMU SHALL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 18TH AND 19TH APRIL 2024 RESPECTIVELY.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:**  
MRS. SHIVANI RAINA (LALI) - WIFE - 9419191480  
NAVEEN RAINA (V.R.JI) - SON - 9419193315  
SUNITA AND SUNIL RAINA (DAUGHTER AND SON - IN - LAW) - 9899144876  
SHEKHAR AND ANKOL RAINA (GRAND DAUGHTER AND SON) AND  
**(CALL NEAR AND DEAR ONES)**

## 10TH DAY/KRIYA

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



Sh Maharaj Krishan Dhar (Gasha Ji)

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 21ST APRIL 2024, SUNDAY AT HAVVERI SANGAM, SRIRANGAPATNA, KARNATAKA.

**BANGALORE ADDRESS:**  
MRS. SOBHA SILCOP GASSI,  
HOSA ROAD, BANGALORE-560100  
MOB. NO. 8971400148

### GRIEF STRICKEN

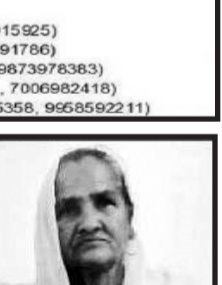
SMT. VIJAY DHAR (WIFE)  
ANKUSH AND PREETI DHAR (SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW)  
RATNI KULL AND LT. A.K KULL (SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW)  
LT. GURIA KULL AND OPINDER KULL (SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW)

### BROTHERS AND FAMILY

TK DHARAN SANTOSH DHAR  
LT. B.K DHAR AND USHA DHAR  
A.K DHAR AND VEENA DHAR  
R.K DHAR AND ANJUL DHAR  
**IN-LAWS**  
RAJIA RAINA  
**GRAND CHILDREN:** AADYAN, AHAAN DHAR

## 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Raj Rani Bakshi** W/o Lt. Sh. Badri Nath Bakshi, originally from Wachi, Pulwama. Presently residing at H.No 13 Aman Vihar, PH-2, Camp Road, Near Ait Colony, Jammu on 9th April 2024.



RAJ RANI BAKSHI

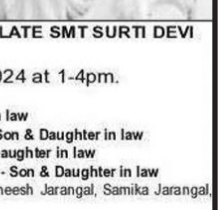
10th Day Kriya will be performed on 18.04.2024 at 8:30 am at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu.

### GRIEF STRICKEN

Samast Bakshi Parivar (7006763216)  
**DAUGHTERS AND SON-IN-LAWS**  
Smt Kiran & Sh G.K. Kaul (9811515225, 9873515225)  
Smt. Sabi & Sh. Bis Bhat (9005123051, 989591786)  
Smt. Gugee & Sh. Sushil Raina (9873578311, 9873978383)  
Smt. Lovely & Sh. Suresh Ganjoo (7006513837, 700682418)  
Smt Rinky & Sh. Rajender Kandror (9682665356, 9658592211)

## CHOUBARSI

FOUR YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE YOU LEFT FOR ETERNAL JOURNEY. A BELOVED WIFE, MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER. We are eternally grateful for the life she built with us and will cherish her memories for forever.



LATE SMT SURTI DEVI

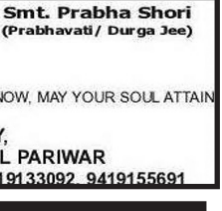
**CHOUBARSI** of our beloved **Late Smt Surti Devi** will be held at Sangam Resort Mela (Hiranagar) on 19th April 2024 at 1-4pm.

### DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:

Smt. Suresh Kumar & Sh. Tara Chand - Daughter & Son in law  
Sh. Ashwani Kumar (Teacher) & Smt. Anju Bala (Teacher) - Son & Daughter in law  
Sh. Vijay Kumar (AE) & Smt. Asha Rani (Teacher) - Son & Daughter in law  
Sh. Rakesh Jaranagal (SSP) & Smt. Rohini Khullar (Lecturer) - Son & Daughter in law  
Savitri, Lalit, Jangal, Varun, Jaranagal, Manyata Jaranagal, Avneesh Jaranagal, Samika Jaranagal, Shailan Jaranagal - Grandchildren's.  
MOBILE NO- 7006447545, 9797562221, 9419089242

## TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. PRABHA SHORI (PRABHAVATI/ DURGA JEE)** OF VILLAGE HAWAL, PULWAMA (KASHMIR) ON 10TH APRIL 2024, AT HER RESIDENCE IN JOLLYGRANT, DEHRADUN.



Smt. Prabha Shori (Prabhavati/ Durga Jee)

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE HELD ON 19/04/2024, 10 AM, AT SARVANAND GHAT, HARIDWAR.

A GREAT SOUL NEVER DIES, YOU WERE THE BACKBONE OF OUR FAMILY, THE VOID THAT YOU HAVE CREATED CAN NEVER BE FILLED. YOUR PREACHINGS & MEMORIES WILL GUIDE US THROUGH OUR LIVES. WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND MISS YOU MOMMY. AS YOU ARE WITH THE ULTIMATE DIVINE POWER NOW, MAY YOUR SOUL ATTAIN SADGATI.

### REMEMBERED BY,

**SAMAST HALI, BHAT & KOUL PARIWAR**  
CONTACT: 9082502054, 9149675676, 9419133092, 9419155691

## 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."



## BJP leaders inaugurate 'Curves N Cuts Fitness Unisex Gym at Domana

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Shamsher Singh Manhas (Ex MP Rajya Sabha) Bali Bhagat (EX Minister) and Braham Jyot Satti (State Incharge BJP OBC morcha) along with other BJP leaders inaugurated 'Curves N Cuts Fitness Unisex Gym at Domana near police station, Jammu.

Sukhdev Singh Jamwal (State Executive Member) Shamasher Kumar Prajapati (State Sec OBC Morcha), Ved Parkash Sharma (Ex Mandal President), Shamsher Singh (ex Sarpanch Domana) Parveen Badyal, Rohit Kumar, Daksh Prajapati, Rohit Manhas, Aryan Karsh, Avinash Chib and other were present on the occasion and extend best wishes to gym owner.

Sarvjeet Singh who is owner of the gym was very happy by this inauguration and he thanked dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion Shamsher Singh and Bali Bhagat congratulated Sarvjeet Singh on this occasion and wished



him better future.

They appreciated all sports lovers said sports persons are our pride because they highlighted the name of Jammu Kashmir globally because of their commendable performances at international and national events.

They said sports is big pillar of society and plays vital role in our daily in both physical and mental aspects.

They said Government is doing best for promot-

ing sports culture and felicitating sports persons across Country.

They said Physical fitness provides strong bones and muscles, leads to better health and well-being, prevents various health problems, reduces the risk of several diseases like blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, Depression, Anxiety etc.

They said PM Modi ji led Government is working alot in field of sports and have installed vari-

ous open gym in Jammu also.

Braham Jyot said Sports Persons are main pillars of society and they are role models for our youth. Government also has opened many open gym for us at many different sites for physical fitness.

He said in past ten years under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi the sports scenario in India has been totally transformed and sports culture has achieved new

heights. He said today India has a maximum number of medals in Olympics, Asian games etc and our para-athletes are also shining in their respective sports disciplines and making us proud.

He said PM Narendra Modi is also sports lover person. Modi ji is also organizing felicitation ceremonies for meritorious sports. He is providing sports facilities in urban as well as remote areas across nation and as a result India is shining in the field of sports and even talent of Jammu Kashmir is excelling at International/National events.

He said our dynamic PM Narendra Modi is working alot in the field of sports and construction work of many sports Stadiums is going on and very soon these stadiums will be handed over to coaches and their trainees very soon.

He extended best wishes to sarvjeet and appealed to the public to join the gym for better physical and mental health.

## Shat Chandi Maha Yagya concludes at Vaishno Devi Shrine



### Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 17: The 9-daylong deeply revered Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) at the Holy Shrine during Chaitra Navratri for universal peace and prosperity concluded on a grand note with "Purna ahuti" on the auspicious occasion of Ram navami.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. Neelam Sareen, Board Member, Vikas Anand, SDM Bhawan, other officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides pilgrims participated in Purna ahuti and other religious ceremonies performed amidst vedic mantras on the occasion. A group of pandits led by Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, performed the Maha Yagya.

More than 3 Lakh devout pilgrims made their journey to the revered Shrine during the auspicious Chaitra Navratri. To ensure accessibility and inclusivity for all devotees visiting the Vaishno Devi Shrine

regardless of their physical abilities, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has been continuing providing free pony, battery car service and assistance in darshans to Divyang pilgrims during Navratri as per directions of Sh. Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT who is also Chairman, SMVDSB.

Elaborate decorations with exquisite fresh flowers of varied varieties brought from various parts of the country and abroad, traditional motifs and ornate lighting captivated the hearts of devotees who thronged to seek the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi ji during these Navratras. Artistically designed huge reception doors were also installed in the Bhawan area.

Besides, the Board had also made impressive arrangements for the pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine including round the clock water and power supply all along the tracks and in the Bhawan Area, Sanitation and Sanitisation, Medicare and availability of special "fast related" food at the catering outlets of

the Board. The Board also made arrangements for free food for the pilgrims at Tarakote Marg, Prasad Kendra at Sanjichhat, and Bhairon Ji. For the ease and comfort of pilgrims, facilities like battery operated vehicles, passenger ropeway and helicopter services were available through both online and offline modes.

Other special features were bhajan and bhaint performances by the renowned artists such as Hansraj Raghuwanshi, Lakhwinder Wadali, Kapil Sharma, Akriti Kakkar, Sagar Bhatia, Roshan Prince besides budding students of SMVD Gurukul during morning and evening Atka Aarti during these Navratras. The live telecast of Atka Aarti witnessed an unprecedented engagement from pilgrims worldwide who partake in the divine rituals from the comfort of their homes. As a special feature, Bhajan Sandhya was also organised by the Board twice a day for the pilgrims at the newly constructed Sheetla Bhawan at Adhkuwari and the same shall be a regular feature henceforth.

## Haier India Introduces S800QT QLED Series



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Haier Appliances India, the No.1 global major appliances brand for 15 consecutive years, has announced the launch of its latest Smart QLED Series S800QT. Designed to elevate the home entertainment experience, the series has a 4K QLED display and comes in 4 sizes 75", 65", 55" and 43". It will be available across all channels starting at a price of Rs 38,990.

The all-new QLED series builds upon Haier India's widespread acclaim of providing an unparalleled entertainment experience, offering enhanced features, and mesmerizing design elements. With quantum dot technology at its core, the S800QT series delivers an exceptional spectrum of colors, incredibly lifelike visuals, and unmatched clarity with a

4K display. This revolutionary series seamlessly integrates cutting-edge technology with a visually captivating look, aiming to immerse consumers in an unmatched cinematic journey from the comfort of their homes.

NS Satish, President, Haier India, stated, "At Haier, we are dedicated to continuously redefining the home entertainment experience, and with the feature packed S800QT QLED series, we're delivering a harmonious blend of cutting-edge technology and aesthetic finesse. Catering to consumers who seek uncompromising visual brilliance and an immersive cinematic haven in their own homes, Haier India aims to meet the evolving needs and preferences of consumers, offering them an unmatched home entertainment solution. The launch of the new QLED series

highlights our commitment to providing consumers with best-in-class technologically advanced products that combine style and innovation."

With Dolby Vision Atmos, you can truly feel an immersive viewing and listening experience with a deeper connection to the movies, shows, music, sports, and games you love. Prepare to hear what you've been missing with an unparalleled immersive experience that will leave you craving for more.

The new series is poised to set a new benchmark in home entertainment, inviting consumers to indulge in the brilliance of advanced technology and superior design. With this latest offering, Haier India reaffirms its position as a pioneer in the industry, consistently driving innovation to meet and exceed the evolving needs of its dis-

## SC rejects return to ballot paper, poses questions on EVMs, counting process

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Dismissing the idea of a return to the ballot paper era, the Supreme Court Tuesday questioned petitioners who raised doubts on the sanctity of voting through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with the judges stating that they have not yet forgotten what used to happen when votes were cast through ballot papers.

"Fortunately, we are now in our sixties. We have seen what used to happen earlier. Have you forgotten that? If you have forgotten that, I am sorry, I have not forgotten," Justice Sanjiv Khanna, presiding over a two-judge bench, told Advocate Prashant Bhushan who appeared for petitioner-NGO Association for Democratic Reforms seeking 100% verification of EVM votes with VVPAT slips. At present, 5 EVMs are randomly verified against VVPAT slips per Assembly segment.

Bhushan wondered if it was booth capturing that the judge was referring to.

To this, Justice Khanna said, "Forget about booth capturing. What happens when ballot papers are... anyway. Let's not enter into a debate."

Bhushan had brought up the idea of ballot papers when the bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, asked him what alternative he had in mind to the EVMs.

"Earlier, there used to be ballot papers. There can be ballot papers. Most European countries have gone back to ballot papers," Bhushan said. He said the German constitutional court had given a judgment on why EVMs cannot be trusted and, therefore, paper ballots should be resorted to.

Junking the suggestion, Justice Datta said the conduct of elections in India is "a humongous task. Not possible for any European country to conduct. Let's not draw analogies and comparisons from Germany and other countries. My home state West Bengal has more population than what Mr Bhushan said about Germany's population. It's a very small state... We have to repose some trust and confidence in somebody. Of course, they are accountable... But don't try to bring down the system like this."

The bench also posed a series of searching questions on the working of the EVMs and the process of storing them and counting the votes.

The petition for 100% verification of EVM votes with VVPAT slips is being heard at a time when the Lok Sabha election process is underway. The Opposition has been asking questions about the foolproof nature of the EVMs and some have even suggested a return to the ballot paper. Currently, 5 EVMs are randomly verified against VVPAT slips per Assembly segment.

## Unemployment rate is highest from last 10 years in J&K: Darshan Rana

### Top News Report

Jammu, Apr 17:- Bahujan Samaj Party is continuously intensifying its election campaign for the Jammu- Reasi- Lok Sabha seat to be held on 26 April. On Friday 17, Bahujan Samaj Party State President Darshan Rana along with BSP' J&K Visited Bishnah vidhansabha Village Chak Arni, Kotli, Tindey, wazira Chak With Tilak Raj Bhagat Coordinator Bishnah vidhansabha

Bansi Lal, Hari Chand and others and appealed to the people to vote for Bahujan Samaj in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Other leaders of Bahujan Samaj Party were also specially present during his visit. On this occasion, State President of Bahujan Samaj Party Darshan Rana raised the issue of Unemployment rate which is highest from last 10 years in



J&K. Voices of Public are unheard by people sitting in power. Favouritism and Corruption at peak in the recruitment Policy. People from all walks of the society listened to the speakers

and promised that they will vote for BSP in this election and every election now onwards in J&K. BSP will regularize daily wagers once they come to power in state and centre.

## Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust Redefines Healthcare Landscape With Generous Contributions

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 17: In a remarkable display of philanthropy and dedication to healthcare improvement, Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust, a prominent NGO based in Kashmir, has recently embarked on a transformative journey to enhance medical services in the Bandipora region. Led by the visionary leadership of Chairman Dr. Amir Rashid Wani, the trust has made substantial strides towards addressing critical gaps in healthcare infrastructure and accessibility.

The latest endeavor of Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust unfolded at the Sub-District Hospital in Hajin, Bandipora, where a significant donation of 10

wheelchairs and 3 trolleys was facilitated under the guidance of Dr. Wani. This invaluable contribution represents a crucial step towards bolstering the hospital's capacity to provide essential mobility assistance and medical support to patients in need. By equipping the hospital with these vital resources, Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust has not only alleviated immediate challenges but has also laid the foundation for sustained improvements in patient care and overall healthcare delivery.

The donation ceremony, which served as a beacon of hope and solidarity, was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Syed Idrees, the Block Medical Officer (BMO) of Hajin. Dr. Idrees' participation underscored the collaborative spirit



between the trust and local healthcare authorities, emphasizing a shared commitment to

advancing the health and well-being of the community. This partnership signifies a powerful synergy between NGOs and healthcare professionals, demonstrating the collective resolve to address healthcare disparities and uplift vulnerable populations.

Beyond the tangible impact of the donation itself, Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust's initiative resonates deeply with the ethos of compassion and empathy that defines its mission. By extending a helping hand to those in need, the trust exemplifies the transformative potential of grassroots efforts in driving positive change and fostering inclusive societies. Moreover, the trust's proactive engagement with local stakeholders reflects a holistic

approach to community development, wherein collaboration and partnership serve as catalysts for progress and sustainability.

As Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust continues to chart new frontiers in healthcare philanthropy, its unwavering commitment to service and social responsibility continues to inspire and uplift. With each act of kindness and generosity, the trust reaffirms its dedication to making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families across Kashmir and beyond. In the journey towards a healthier, more equitable future, Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust stands as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path towards a brighter tomorrow for all.



## EDITORIAL

Ram Navami-last  
day of Navratri

The festival of Ram Navami is celebrated twice a year in India. First time in Chaitra Navratri and second time in Shardiya Navratri. Ram Navami on the Navami Tithi of Shukla Paksha in Chaitra month is celebrated as the birth of Lord Rama, while Ram Navami on Shardiya Navratri is celebrated as the killing of Ravana. Ram Navami is a holy festival of Hindus. This year, Ram Navami in Chaitra Navratri is being celebrated on Wednesday, 17 April 2024, while Ram Navami in Shardiya Navratri will be celebrated in October 2024. The importance of Ramnavmi is very high for the followers of Hindu religion. The festival of Ramnavmi is celebrated with grandeur on the last day of Chaitra Navratri. On this day, Lord Vishnu incarnated on earth in his human form as Lord Rama. According to Hindu scriptures, Lord Shri Ram was born in Ayodhya in Suryavanshi state on Navami Tithi in Shukla Paksha. According to the Hindu calendar, this day was the full moon phase of the moon during the month of Chaitra. This day is considered extremely sacred and hence it is celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout the country. Among all the traditional scriptures and texts enumerating the personality of Lord Rama, Ramanamvi is said to have special significance. In the Ramayana, the most sacred religious text of Hindus, the story of Rama's birth symbolizes the victory of good over evil. After a ritual performed by King Dasharatha of Ayodhya and his three queens, Lord Rama was born as the heir to the Suryavanshi kingdom of Ayodhya. Lord Ram is considered to be the seventh incarnation of Shri Hari Vishnu. Therefore the importance of the birth of Shri Ram is very high. Lord Ram's birthday is celebrated with great love and gratitude. People see Lord Rama as an ideal Purushottam. Lord Ram taught people to live an ideal life under the principles of Ramrajya. This is the reason why even today Hindus across the country consider Lord Ram as their ideal and worship him. This festival holds great significance for Hindus, as it symbolizes the just nature of Lord Rama and his teachings of righteousness. Many different rituals are performed across the country on this day. Devotees across the country observe fast on Ramnavmi. Devotees remember Lord Rama by narrating his story or listening to Ramayana. A grand tableau of Ramlala is also taken out at some places in the country. Kuh people also organize the marriage of Lord Ram and Goddess Sita on this day. This ritual is called Sitarama Kalyanam. Bhajans and kirtans are also sung throughout the day. Lord Ram was born in the holy city of Ayodhya and hence the celebrations of this day are grand events in this city. On this day, devotees come from far and wide to take a holy bath in the sacred waters of the Saryu River. Thousands and lakhs of lamps are lit on the ghats in Ayodhya. The whole city sparkles with lights. On Ram Navami, a Rath Yatra is taken out in many parts of North India with people dressed as Lord Ram, Goddess Sita, Hanuman and Lord Lakshman. The marriage of Lord Ram and Goddess Sita is organized in many temples of South India. Special puja is held in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, Sita Samhita Sthal in Bihar and Telangana. According to the scriptures, King Dasharatha of Ayodhya and his three queens, Kaikeyi, Kaushalya and Sumitra, did not have any children of their own. Then he went to sage Vashishtha and prayed for a son Prati as his successor. The sage advised him to perform a yagya to have a son. After the successful completion of the yajna, kheer was given to the three queens as prasad. Soon after the yajna, on the ninth date of Shukla Paksha of Chaitra month, all three queens became pregnant. Soon after, Queen Kaushalya, the eldest queen, gave birth to Lord Rama, while Kaikeyi gave birth to Bharat and Sumitra gave birth to Lakshman and Shatrughna. Every person should emulate the qualities shown by Lord Rama and try to live life with honesty. The purity of his heart teaches us the true meaning of being divine. By following his footsteps we can take human existence to its highest place.

## Challenge for India, world after Iran strikes at Israel

By: K.C. Singh

Tensions had been mushrooming across the entire West Asian region ever since the October 7 lethal attack by Hamas on Israeli settlements and troops around Gaza, in which they also seized several hostages, many of whom still remain in captivity. Global opinion has gradually swung behind the Palestinians after Israel's "scorched earth" approach as it tried to wipe out Hamas. Israel showed limited concern for civilian casualties as hospitals, churches and mosques were bombed, alleging they were atop an underground labyrinth of hundreds of miles of tunnels. Hamas fighters, its leadership and hostages were supposedly in that maze.

One episode of ceasefire provided some respite to civilians, hounded from one temporary shelter to another, facing disease and starvation. US President Joe Biden, facing criticism at home for pandering to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has only partially and infrequently succeeded in coaxing Israel to moderate its brutal military campaign. In Israel, public demonstrations had reignited over the hostages not being rescued. The Israelis were being just held back from invading Rafah, the last surviving big city in Gaza.

On April 1, Israel bombed the Iranian diplomatic complex in Damascus, killing seven Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps personnel. More significantly, among them were three senior commanders overseeing liaison with Iranian allies like Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Bashar al-Assad government in Damascus. After the killing of Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, a celebrated Iranian commander of the Quds Force, by the US, this was a strategic win for Israel. But it came at the cost of riling Iran and

breaching internationally recognised sanctity of diplomatic missions. The debate then shifted to how and when Iran would retaliate. There were no takers for Iran quietly absorbing the loss.

The Iranian retaliation came on the night of April 13-14, with over 300 ballistic and cruise missiles, including drones, fired at an Israeli air base in Israel's southern desert. The Israeli anti-missile defence, called the Iron Dome, and its Air Force combined with similar defence offered by US naval vessels and aircraft took out all but seven missiles. Israel claimed that the damage was minimal, with only one Arab girl hit by shrapnel. The reaction of G-7 countries, which went into a huddle, was sharper over the Iranian retaliation than the initial Israeli provocation.

The Indian government's positioning is interesting. The Damascus Iranian embassy bombing was not condemned, but mere distress expressed over escalating tension and breach of international norms. This was akin to India seeking observance of international humanitarian law and not vociferously condemning the merciless Israeli targeting of civilians in Gaza.

More disturbing, though hardly surprising, is India's bilateral labour transfer agreement, finalised during last year's India trip of Israeli foreign minister Eli Cohen. In the past Israel employed nearly 80,000 Palestinians from the West Bank, and 17,000 from Gaza. After the attack on October 7, Israel plans to substitute them with workers from China, Sri Lanka and India. Bangladesh is skipped, perhaps due to the workers' religion. From India, Israel seeks 42,000 workers for the construction industry and another 8,000 as health workers. This accord invited attention due to an Indian travel advisory about the danger now of travel to Israel, only days after dispatching the

latest batch of workers. This is a typical case of contradictory policies followed by different arms of the government.

Its implications are in fact wider than simply the security of the workers. It has been obvious since the BJP-led government assumed office in 2014 that Israel has special lure for it. When Lal Krishna Advani began his foreign travel as home minister with Israel, I conveyed informally to his close friend that he needed to moderate his hawkish anti-Muslim image. A trip to Israel did not achieve that.

While Israel has had broad support across India, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi it is more than friendship with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Despite the current Israeli coalition government having rabidly bigoted ministers from the extreme right fringe, the Indian government appears to be unconcerned about close engagement. Israeli finance minister Bezalel Smotrich also oversees the occupied West Bank, despite his known support for expanding settlements.

National security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, convicted in 2007 on terrorism charges, strongly advocated "free fire" authority to the security forces in dealing with Palestinians. The suspected transfer to Indian agencies of Pegasus, an invasive phone-tapping virus, underscores the malignant dimension of the India-Israel bonhomie.

Considering the eight million-plus Indian diaspora in the Arab Gulf countries, the policy of Indian labour depriving Palestinians of their jobs is myopic. The rush to show large recruitment for jobs abroad, as the Lok Sabha election approaches, hardly answers the Opposition's charge of high unemployment. The assumption is that because the ruling families of the UAE and Saudi Arabia

want to engage Israel, they will block any backlash. The six Gulf Coordination Council members met last week in Doha to approve a "Vision for Regional Security", which accepts Israel's legitimate place in a regional security order. But they also could not ignore the Palestinian question. Popular resentment in the GCC nations can lead to quiet scaling back of Indian recruitment by individual entities.

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar has been balancing India's relations with Iran and Israel. But the language of official statements betrays differential empathy for Israel. This will become more difficult if Israel retaliates against Iran directly. Until now, Israel has used cyber sabotage, assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists, etc. But a direct attack can ratchet up tension multi-fold.

The latest Israel-Iran standoff has served Mr Netanyahu's primary purpose of distracting attention from the Israeli killing of civilians in Gaza, especially with the Rafah operation imminent. It also reduces the pressure on him to quit and face fresh elections. The Iranian attack seemed to be carefully calibrated to minimise damage. It came with forewarnings, targeted an isolated airbase and the US played along to negate it. It is a bit like the Pakistani retaliation to Balakot in 2019 when their fighter jets hit an uninhabited part of an Indian military facility. The aim in both cases being to satisfy public opinion without causing excessive damage, thereby avoiding any counter reaction.

If so, any further conflagration may be avoided. If, however, Israel uses the opportunity to decapitate Iran's strategic nuclear infrastructure, then the next Iranian attack would be modulated to hurt. Iran would have gauged weaknesses in the Israeli defensive system after analysing the last attack. The world is keeping its fingers crossed.

## Watermelon The Super Nutritious Summer Fruit

By: Shahnaz Husain

With a lip-smacking taste and having a distinct juicy, sweet and refreshing quality to it, watermelons are synonymous with summertime.

Watermelons and Indian summers are made for each other. High in water content and low in calories, watermelon is a cool option on a scorching afternoon.

A slice of juicy watermelon is one of summer's most delicious seasonal treats. Its refreshing sweetness makes it a versatile ingredient for all kinds of dishes, from salads to salsas to smoothies.

Nothing beats a big, juicy wedge of watermelon on a hot summer day, whether it's berries, mango, peaches, or litchi.

It is rich in salt, potassium, and electrolytes, all of which are essential for maintaining your body's strength. Watermelon is also loaded with the healthy vitamins A, B, and C, as well as the antioxidant lycopene.

Watermelon the 'summer's blessing' contains 90% water by weight and is packed with vitamins and nutrients, especially lycopene, ascorbic acid, and citrulline. Watermelons are tasty, hydrating, and negative calorie food, which helps in burning calories.

When you're incredibly thirsty and need to replenish fluids in your body, watermelon is the ideal summer go-to. Since 90 percent of watermelon is just water, it helps in nourishing the skin and makes it more radiant.

This luscious summer fruit is not only a delicious summer snack, but it also has several advantages for the skin.

From keeping you cool to maintaining your skin health, let us look at some of the benefits of consuming watermelons in summer

Benefits of Watermelon for skin  
Hydrates your skin ----- Whether you apply a watermelon face mask or consume a fresh slice, it has a huge influence on keeping your skin hydrat-

ed. From acne-prone to sensitive, dry to combination, it's a one-fruit-fits-all kind of thing. If you have sensitive, acne-prone skin, the strong anti-inflammatory properties in watermelon can help calm skin irritation, redness, and inflammation. Vitamin A, B6, and Vitamin C in Watermelon help in collagen production, which improves skin texture and suppleness, make the skin brighter, and fade spots and blemishes. Lycopene content in watermelons has a sun-protection effect, so you are less likely to get sunburnt. The vitamin A in watermelon keeps your eyes sparkly and healthy too and can prevent macular degeneration.

At home, you may make your own moisturizing facemask using watermelon and honey. Honey is a humectant that replenishes moisture and works quickly to give you smooth, bright skin. It hydrates and cures dry skin.

Combine two tablespoons of watermelon juice and one tablespoon of honey in a mixing dish. On your face, apply the mixture. Allow it to sit for 10-12 minutes before washing it off. For the best results, do this once a week.

Additionally, watermelon juice helps to calm and lessen the redness of the skin that is prone to acne.

Prevent oily skin  
Watermelon is an excellent skin component, particularly for individuals with oily skin. The delicious red fruit reduces pores and has unparalleled moisturizing effects. It treats oily skin by controlling the oil-producing glands called sebaceous glands, allowing your face to be free of oil and acne.

Watermelon is beneficial for eliminating excess oil from your skin.

Mix one tablespoon of watermelon pulp and one tablespoon of banana pulp in a bowl with a spatula and apply to the face and neck. Allow 20 to 25 minutes for the face pack to dry. After that, wash it with warm water. This is the finest watermelon face mask for those who suffer from acne and pigmentation.

A mixture of mashed watermelon

and tomato pulp can be used by those with oily skin to smoothen the skin. The malic acid in watermelon and lycopene in tomato act as natural exfoliators and soothe the skin

A natural skin toner--Watermelon juice is a natural toner that is as good as rose water for your skin because of its natural extracts.

Vitamin C and antioxidants present in watermelon help regenerate skin cells and protect them from injury. These nutrients prevent free radical damage and also protect your skin from any further disruption.

To tone your skin, gently apply fresh watermelon juice to it and rinse it off.

Watermelon seeds are a good source of magnesium which lowers cortisol levels that help reduce acne and also balances out your hormones.

They also contain protein, fatty acids, and ceramides that help in locking the moisture in your skin.

Natural Exfoliator-- The grainy particles present in the fruit helps gently exfoliate the skin.

Watermelon is rich in vitamin C, which brightens your skin quickly. The gritty particles in the fruit assist in gently exfoliating the skin while also moisturizing it. To naturally scrub off dead skin cells, apply a teaspoon of mashed watermelon to your skin.

To remove dead skin cells, rub watermelon and tomato pulp across the face or body in circular motions. The malic acid in watermelon and the enzymes in tomato help break down the glue that holds the dead skin cells together.

Combining mashed watermelon with yogurt and honey and then leaving the paste on the face for 10-15 minutes can be beneficial. The antioxidants in honey and watermelon can reduce inflammation, while yogurt can exfoliate the skin.

An Anti-Ager  
Watermelons are enriched with antioxidants and vitamins, which all involve offering you glowing skin. Antioxidants help combat free radical damage and enhance suppleness, which

reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles and makes skin appear tighter. Vitamins brighten dull skin and take off that layer that makes it look tired and overworked. Mix watermelon pulp, milk, and honey. Make a paste and apply it to your face. Wash it with running or lukewarm water. Watermelon has potent antioxidants that fight free radicals to prevent premature aging. Milk, on the other hand, is a natural cleanser that deep cleanses the skin and removes dead skin cells.

Cure sunburn

Applying a watermelon and cucumber face pack to cure sunburn is recommended. Both watermelon and cucumber are excellent for your skin. Cucumber is a cooling substance that aids in the removal of tan. Watermelon has various aesthetic advantages, including moisturizing and soothing inflammation and itching. It also contains lycopene, protecting the skin from sunburn and skin cancer. It blocks UV rays at least twice as well as an antioxidant.

Mix a spoonful of cucumber pulp with watermelon juice to make the face mask. Apply the pack evenly to your face and leave it on for 15-20 minutes before washing it off.

The best time to eat watermelons is in the morning between 10 am to 12 pm, as breakfast or between breakfast and lunch. You can also have it as an evening snack, before 5 pm. Do not consume it at night or with your meals.

It must be avoided by diabetics and everyone with digestive issues. Have it in moderation and never too much, otherwise, it sure can make you feel bloated, and gassy and even give you a stomach ache.

It's totally safe, to use it for skin care. The only people who can't use it are those who are allergic to watermelon.

*(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)*





A large number of devotees visiting Bawe Wali Mata Temple on Ramnavmi to pay obeisance to Maa Kali in Jammu on Wednesday..

Pic by AMAN SHARMA

## Every vote to BJP candidate will strengthen PM Modi for making 'Viksit Bharat': Khatana

### 'Vote to INDI alliance may push J&K back to bloodshed, loot'

#### Top News Report

DODA, Apr 17: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has appealed to the public to vote for BJP candidates in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections starting from April 19, 2024.

Khatana was addressing different public meetings in Dessa and Bhadarwah areas of mountainous district Doda on the concluding day of election campaign on Wednesday in favour of BJP candidate Dr Jitendra Singh contesting from Kathua-Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary Constituency.

The BJP MP has said that every vote to BJP candidate will directly strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which in turn will pave the way for 'Viksit Bharat' (progressive India).

Khatana asked the people of Kathua-Doda-Udhampur Lok Sabha Constituency to just note the performance of BJP led Union Government in last 10 years before casting votes.

"Medical Colleges in almost all the districts of J&K, AIIMS, NIT, IIM, IIT and much more have been given to J&K in the last 10 years of PM Modi led government while improved roads

have further eased the lives of people in the Union Territory," the senior BJP leader said.

He said that any vote casted to Congress or any of the candidate of INDI alliance will destroy the hard earned peace and progress in the last 10 years and may push J&K back to the era of bloodshed, loot and corruption.

"The public of J&K will never forget how the regimes of National Conference (NC), Congress and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) worked and brought bloodshed to the State with a culture of lawlessness," the firebrand BJP leader maintained

adding: "The prudent people of J&K will never allow such black days to return and for that they will surely vote overwhelmingly in favour of BJP candidates so that the mission of crossing 400 mark as far as number of Lok Sabha seats are concerned from across the country in favour of BJP is accomplished."

The firebrand words of Khatana and his staunch favour for PM Modi triggered sloganering of "Modi, Modi; Ab Ki Baar, 400 Paar" etc from the crowd.

In his hard tone Khatana further said that Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis were

exclusively responsible for the killings of 40,000 innocent peoples in J&K during their mis-rule which brought miseries for all.

The Rajya Sabha member also said that PM Modi in his third term will completely change the scenario of the country by more remarkable developments which the opposition INDI alliance can't even think of in their remote dreams.

"Voting to BJP candidate will clearly mean voting for peace and progress and for strengthening the bonds of brotherhood," Gulam Ali Khatana further said.

## GDC Vijaypur conducts drive to clean River Tawi

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Eco Club (Green Warriors) and Department of Environmental Sciences of GDC Vijaypur in collaboration with DISHA Volunteer Organisation under the guidance of the Principal of the College, Dr. Vandana Gupta organized two days awareness cum cleanliness drive on the banks of Suryaputri Tawi near Har-Ki-Pauri on April 16 and 17, 2024.

The program was organized by the convener of Eco Club Prof. Poonam Kundan (Head, Department of Environmental Sciences).

During cleanliness drive she briefed the students about the above said

activity and explained the various ways by which people can protect water bodies and how our little contribution can save our environment.

Further the students of Semester II were also briefed regarding various biotic and abiotic components of the aquatic ecosystem as it is one of the practical in their Curriculum.

She further focused on the characteristics of Lotic ecosystems including its biotic and abiotic components.

Nearly 35 Green Volunteers of the college actively participated in the two days cleanliness cum awareness drive at Har-Ki-Pauri where they were involved in different types of activities.

They were involved in sensitising the general public regarding ill effects of plastic and other waste materials in the water bodies. Some volunteers were involved in the segregation process where they segregated different categories of the waste materials.

Principal of the College, Dr. Vandana Gupta congratulated all the volunteers and organisers for organising such type of activities for the students that is the need of the hour.

The drive was coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan and co-coordinated by Prof. Anita Jamwal and Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo. Refreshment was also distributed to all the volunteers.

## Samsung announces new era of AI TVs in India, launches Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED 4K & OLED TVs with powerful AI features



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics company, today announced a new era of AI TVs with the launch of its ultra-premium Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED 4K and OLED TVs at the 'Unbox & Discover' event. The 2024 line-up of Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED 4K and OLED TVs elevate your home entertainment experience with powerful, AI-driven solutions.

"Samsung is bringing the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across product categories to improve consumers' lifestyles. That's why we have integrated AI to home entertainment to offer exceptional viewing experiences for our consumers. Our 2024 range of Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED 4K and OLED TVs redefine the home entertainment experience and offer new innovations across accessibility, sustainability and enhanced security with the power of AI," said JB Park, President and CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia.

"Televisions have emerged as the cen-

trepieces of modern living, seamlessly integrating technology and lifestyle. The rising demand for larger screen sizes in India reflects consumers' preference for premium TVs. We are launching AI TVs that have been designed to set a new standard in visual immersion and sound quality. With the launch of our new range of AI-powered 8K Neo QLEDs, 4K Neo QLEDs and OLED TVs, we are confident of extending our market leadership in India," said Mohandeep Singh, Senior Vice President, Visual Display Business, Samsung India.

The new AI TVs also provide a highly personalized experience with apps and platforms. With the latest addition of widgets, TV screens are now personalized dashboards that allow users to easily monitor home status, camera feeds, energy usage, weather updates and more. Security is paramount, and with Samsung Knox, every feature, app, and platform benefits from robust protection, allowing connected experiences to remain private

and secure.

Samsung also announced the all-new Music Frame, marrying premium audio with artistic design inspired by The Frame. This versatile device allows users to display personal pictures or artwork while enjoying wireless audio with smart features. Whether used as a standalone device or paired with a TV and sound bar, the Music Frame promises an enhanced auditory experience that complements any space.

As part of pre-order offer, consumers purchasing the Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED 4K and glare-free OLED range will receive a free sound bar worth upto INR 79990, Free-style worth INR 59990, Music Frame worth INR 29990, depending on the model, until April 30, 2024. Consumers can also avail upto 20% cash back depending on the model. Samsung's Neo QLED 8K range starts from INR 319990. Samsung's Neo QLED 4K range starts from INR 139990. While Samsung's OLED range starts from INR 164990.

## J&K at threshold of mega development under PM Modi's leadership: Slathia

#### Top News Report

SAMBA, Apr 17: With peace gaining momentum across the Valley, Pradesh BJP Vice President and former minister Mr Surjeet Singh Slathia today said Jammu and Kashmir is at the threshold of mega transformation after large scale investments pouring in various sectors and focus shifting on holistic development and implementation of welfare schemes.

Welcoming new entrants into BJP in village Nehari in Block Sumb Samba here this afternoon, Mr Slathia said the initiatives underway will open up vistas of opportunities in terms of jobs and economic upliftment across the Union Territory.

Slathia said rapid industrialization and infrastructure upgradation is the preamble for Naya Jammu and Kashmir under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He referred to the cherished agenda of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vish-



was and said the BJP is working towards realizing this vision by ending discrimination and ensuring holistic development of all the regions and sub-regions irrespective of caste, creed and religion. He said the BJP is a mass movement, standing for empowerment of the people and support from all sections of the society. Public goodwill and support is the

biggest strength that enables the party to fight for the just cause of the marginalised segments and stands steadfast in resolving issues confronting them. As a result of sustained efforts, the BJP has emerged as a force to reckon with, he added.

Mr Slathia said the BJP's focus would be to usher Jammu and Kashmir in a new phase of progress and develop-

ment with restoration of complete normalcy and peace remaining a focal point. The BJP is committed to address the issues of the youth, the marginalized and weaker sections besides women, he said and asserted that the party will ensure to remove the disparity between region and sub regions with regard to allocation of funds for development and oppor-

tunities to flourish.

The Pradesh Vice President said the BJP has paved the way for the people to have access to all the privileges, rights and facilities available to their fellow citizens across the country. This is something not known in this part of the country due to wrong policies adopted over the decades, he said adding that continued support of the people to the BJP will help in expediting the development and making Jammu and Kashmir part of the country's growth story, he added.

Mr Slathia said the joining of public spirited activists will further strengthen the BJP at the grassroots level, enabling it to face the challenges faced by the nation with resilience and courage.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Vice President BJP Samba Mohan Lal Sharma, Vijay Singh Mandal President, Balbinder Singh Naib Sarpanch, Thodu Ram and others.

## Insha Majeed qualifies Ph.D

#### Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 17: Insha Majeed, Daughter of Mukhtar Ahmad Wani, has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in the school of Computer Science and Engineering by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU).

The candidate has worked on the topic entitled "Detection of Osteoporosis in X-Ray images

using Intelligent vision-based models" under the supervision of Dr. Sakshi Arora, Assistant Professor, School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU.

Insha Majeed has published various research papers in SCI/SCIE-indexed journals, presented her research papers at international and national conferences and published various book chapters. The

scholar expresses her gratitude to her parents, and supervisor for guidance, and to the school of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU University, for providing all necessary facilities and support during her research.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Insha Majeed and wished her a bright future.





## Celebs come out in support of Zeenat Aman's statement on live-in relationship before marriage

Zeenat Aman recently made a statement in which she said couples should go for a live-in relationship before they tie the knot. She feels that will give them a better picture of how compatible they are and whether they will be able to spend their lives together. She even shared that she gave the same advice to her sons. We asked celebrities about their opinion on the same, and here's what they have to say.

For a healthy married life  
Shivangi Verma

Absolutely, I completely agree. Knowing your partner, even just a bit, before getting married is important for a long and healthy married life. It's important to understand your partner's strengths and weaknesses. I totally agree with live-in concept. It's unfortunate that our society tends to be quite judgmental about couples living together. I don't see why it's such a taboo. In fact, I believe it could actually reduce the chances of divorces because it allows couples to learn and understand each other better before getting married. It's a way for them to strengthen and build a healthier relationship.

Totally agree

Namita Lal

I am a huge fan of Zeenat Aman. Her recent post on couples living together resonates with me. I totally agree with her. I believe that marriage is a commitment and should be entered into when both parties are completely sure, with clear reasons for doing so. Living together provides an opportu-



nity to assess how the other person likes to live. With more and more women becoming financially independent, live-in is now accepted in metros and even in small towns. Legal frameworks around it exist in most countries now. I totally subscribe to that, and kudos to Zeenat Aman for expressing her opinion. I am in total agreement with her.

Change with time

Charrul Malik

Times have changed, and there are more divorces and separations happening now. I don't have a problem with what Zeenat ji said. She's known for her strong statements, and there's nothing wrong with that. Separation and divorce come with problems like depression, police complaints, court battles and even suicides. This is a way

to avoid those issues. Although many people might say it goes against Indian culture, we need to change with times. Even in the court of justice, living together grants you equal rights. I don't see any problem with it; in fact, it's a solution to many problems people face later on. Zeenat ji made a good point, and I agree with it.

Figure it out

Ankit Bathla

After a couple of failed relationships, I feel it's not a bad idea to move in together, figure out, and understand each other better. I believe that no amount of time is ever enough to know somebody, but, yes, I think living together is a good option to figure out if people are actually compatible, rather than spending a life together in a toxic relationship or always feel-

ing that you could have saved yourself from the toxicity. So, this is a better option for me.

Save yourself in time

Sara Khan

I completely agree with what she says, as it's important to know the person's routine, lifestyle, and nature before you decide to get together. What if he snores (laughs)! Many times, you realise that your choice wasn't right, and you end up getting divorced. So, to save yourself from that extreme situation, one must know the person and accept all the bad along with the good.

Before you commit

Megha Sharma

She is absolutely right. Living together before marriage is a great idea because it helps you understand whether you can adjust with your partner's habits and preferences or not. Small differences can lead to conflicts in a relationship. Nowadays, divorce rate is increasing, and it's essential to know your partner well before committing for a lifetime. It's important to prioritise our mental peace over societal norms, as, ultimately, our happiness matters the most. Families might have their opinions, but the decision to marry or live together should be solely ours.

Know your partner

Simple Kaul

Of course, that's what everyone should do. I advocate that. You only get to know a person when you start living with him or her. You know what you are getting into once you share your space with that person.

## Richa Chadha drew inspiration from Meena Kumari's Pakeezah for her role in Heeramandi



Richa Chadha, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming streaming series Heeramandi — The Diamond Bazaar, has revealed that she referred to the iconic performance of legendary actress Meena Kumari to craft her character in the

series.

In the series, Richa essays the role of Lajjo, a courtesan with a captivating persona. She shared that she found inspiration in Meena Kumari's portrayal of Shahibjaan in the timeless classic Pakeezah. She studied

Meena Kumari's character, drawing parallels between Sahibjaan and Lajjo.

Talking about her preparations for the character, Richa said, "Carefully observing, learning from and taking lessons from Meena Kumari ji's character in Pakeezah was a truly enriching and deeply transforming experience for me ahead of shooting for Heeramandi. In Pakeezah, Meena Kumari's character has a certain tragic depth and complexity that resonated with Lajjo, the character that I play in the show. I worked on the voice and diction, while studying Meena ji's work, to the point of imitation sometimes."

"I felt like I was walking in the footsteps of a cinematic legend, and it was an honour to pay tribute to Meena Kumari ji through my portrayal of Lajjo," she added.

Heeramandi — The Diamond Bazaar marks the webseries debut of auteur Sanjay Leela Bhansali, and delves into the world of courtesans.

The series will Drop on Netflix on May 1.

## Jennifer Lopez stuns in white as she catches Broadway revival of Cabaret

Actor and singer Jennifer Lopez visited the spectacular new Broadway production of John Kander and Fred Ebb's legendary musical with her longtime manager, Benny Medina. JLo visited the Kit Kat Club for the Broadway Revival of Cabaret.

Cabaret is a musical with the notes by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, and a book by Joe Masteroff. It is based on the 1951 play I Am a Camera by John Van Druten. Her visit coincides with reports that the actress is working on her own Kander and Ebb musical, a cinematic adaptation of Kiss of the Spider Woman. Lopez will appear in the film with Andor's Diego Luna and Promised Land's Tonatiuh.



## He-Rose, a theatrical performance which connects the Bhagavad Gita to the Iliad, to be staged at the Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh

He-Rose, a theatrical performance which connects the Bhagavad Gita to the Iliad, will be staged at the Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh. The Cultural French Network in India and the National School of Drama are presenting He-Rose show, which premiered in Lyon, France a few months ago.

Written by Nimmy Raphel and directed by Vinay Kumar of Adishakti and assisted by Amaud Guennad of ENSATT, He-Rose depicts the tragic saga of two mythological heroes, Arjuna from Veda Vyasa's Bhagavad



Gita and Achilles from Homer's Iliad.

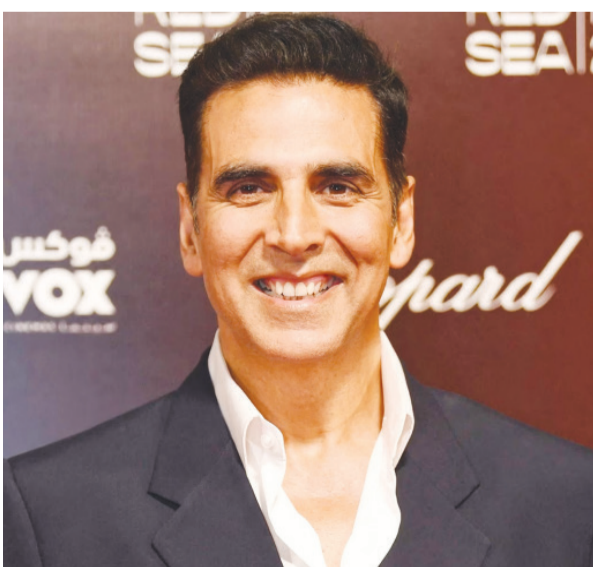
After a three-week residency that took

place last August at Auroville in Pondicher-

ry, eight students from French school ENSATT were invited to train and work on the staging of the play with Adishakti professionals, under the mentorship of director Nimmy Raphel.

At the heart of He-Rose lies a profound inquiry into the nature of heroism. Drawing parallels between iconic figures such as Arjuna from the Mahabharata and Achilles from the Iliad, the production challenges conventional notions of heroism, inviting audiences to contemplate the interplay between vulnerability and courage.

## Akshay Kumar to make Telugu cinema debut with 'Kannappa'



Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar has boarded the cast of the Vishnu Manchu-starrer 'Kannappa', the makers announced on Tuesday. While details about Kumar's role are unknown, the film marks the actor's Telugu cinema debut.

Manchu, who plays the titular role in 'Kannappa', shared the news of Kumar's casting on his official X page.

"The #Kannappa journey just got more thrilling as we welcome the Superstar Mr. Akshay Kumar to the Telugu Film Industry. Thrilled

to announce his debut in Telugu cinema with Kannappa. Get ready for an unforgettable adventure!" the actor captioned his post.

Based on a true story, the upcoming movie will follow the journey of Kannappa, an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva.

'Kannappa' is directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh and produced by Manchu's banners AVA Entertainment and 24 Frames Factory.

The film also stars Preity Mukhundan, Mohanlal, Prabhas, Mohan Babu, R Sarathkumar, Brahmanandam, Madhoo, and Mukesh Rishi. It will be released in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi and English.

Kumar's latest release is action film 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'.

## Wicked-fame actor Jonathan Bailey in talks to lead new Jurassic World movie



The Wicked star Jonathan Bailey is in talks to join Universal's new Jurassic World movie. Scarlett Johansson has already been cast in the film, which will be directed by Gareth Edwards. It is written by Jurassic Park's David Koepp.

Johansson played Black Widow in several Marvel Studios films, including the Avengers films, but unlike some of her superhero co-stars, she has found it easy to break into other projects. She has received two Oscar nominations, for Marriage Story and Jojo Rabbit. Bailey plays prince Fiyero in Wicked.

## Taiwanese film Demon Hunters, featuring Arjun Bajwa, heads to Cannes

The Taiwanese film Demon Hunters, which stars Indian actor Arjun Bajwa, is heading to Cannes Film Festival.

The film is an action-comedy, and its first look will be unveiled at the French Riviera next month. The film is headlined by Arjun Bajwa and JC Lin. It has been directed by Mei-Juin Chen, who is known for her work on The Gangster's Daughter. With a stellar international cast and crew, including Regina Lei and seasoned actor Jack Kao and Harry Chang, the film is set to captivate audiences worldwide.

Arjun Bajwa said, "Being a part of Demon Hunters has been an incredible experience. The opportunity to col-



laborate with such talented individuals from across the globe has been truly rewarding. I can't wait for audiences

to join us on this wild adventure."

Demon Hunters is set to premiere globally in the later part of 2024.



## Ayodhya is in incomparable bliss: PM Modi in Ram Navami greetings

*He said the memories of that moment continue to pulsate within him with the same energy*

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted people on the occasion of Ram Navami on Wednesday and said Ayodhya is in incomparable bliss as this is the first time the festival will be celebrated there after the consecration of the Ram temple.

This is the fruit of the hard work and sacrifices made by the people of the country for so many years, he said in a series of posts on X.

Ram Navami celebrates the birth of Lord Ram and a temple was recently consecrated at the place where he is believed to have been born in Ayodhya.

Modi said he feels over-



whelmed and grateful on this occasion as he along with a huge number of people in the country witnessed the consecra-

tion ceremony in Ayodhya.

He said the memories of that moment continue to pulsate within him with the same energy.

Lord Ram is deeply embedded in the hearts of Indians. Ram Navami is also a time to remember and respect those saints and devotees who dedicated their lives to the construction of the temple in Ayodhya, Modi said.

"I am confident that Maryada Purushottam Bhagwan Ram's life and ideals will become a strong basis for constructing 'Viksit Bharat'. His blessings will provide new energy to the resolve of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'," the prime minister said.

## Amit Shah commends forces behind Chhattisgarh encounter; promises naxal-free India



NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah came out in praise of the joint security forces a day after 29 Naxals were gunned down during an encounter with the Left-wing outlaws in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district, saying that Red Terror will soon be rooted out of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Briefing reporters on the fierce exchange of fire that went down on Tuesday, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said 29 Naxals were killed. At the same time, no deaths were reported on the side of the forces, in what he dubbed as one of the most successful anti-Naxal operations in the recent past.

Speaking to agency on Wednesday, the Union Home Minister, while hailing the forces, said that they were getting more support from the Chhattisgarh police in terms of the hard and actionable intelligence in the ongoing crackdown on Naxal terror.

"Yesterday, the security forces achieved huge success in Chhattisgarh. Ever since Modi-ji became Prime Minister, the BJP government has been waging a campaign against Naxalism and terrorism. The campaign gained further momentum after the coming of the BJP government here. We started setting up camps (of joint security forces) since 2014. After 2019, at least 250 camps have been set up. We are getting more support from the Chhattisgarh Police (in the fight against Naxalites) than before," Shah told agency.

"Within a span of about three months

after the formation of our government in the state, more than 80 Naxalites have been killed in Chhattisgarh, 125 were arrested while more than 150 laid down their arms. I have full confidence that the ongoing crackdown on Naxal terror will continue going forward, and, very soon, the country will be rid of the Naxal threat under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi," the Union Home Minister added.

Meanwhile, casting aspersions on the Chhattisgarh encounter, the Congress claimed on Wednesday that during the previous BJP regime, several innocent villagers had been labelled Naxals and killed.

Former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, who is also the Congress candidate for the Lok Sabha elections, raised doubts over the operation claiming that there had been several 'fake encounters' under the erstwhile BJP regime, adding that innocent villagers were tagged as Naxals and arrested.

He claimed that the police have been threatening villagers as well, adding that during his tenure as CM, too, several Naxals had been killed or had surrendered.

Echoing the refrain, the Congress's state chief Deepak Baij said the government should clarify beyond any reasonable doubt that those killed were all Naxals and not villagers. However, dismissing the Congress charges, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said those casting aspersions on the operation were also questioning the bravery of the security forces involved in it.

"It is sad to hear former CM Bhupesh Baghel

claiming the encounter to be fake. What did he mean? That the security force personnel, who were involved in the operation and receiving treatment in hospitals, are faking their injuries? Were all the weapons recovered from the slain Naxals fake too? All the dead Naxals were clad in their guerrilla uniforms. Was that fake too?" Dy CM Sharma said.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Bastar Inspector General of Police (IG) P Sundarraj said 71 Naxals had been gunned down to date since January, adding that the fight against the Left-wing ultras was at a 'decisive stage'.

Addressing a press conference here, Sundarraj said Tuesday's encounter in the Binagunda-Koragutta jungles of the Kanker district was one of the most successful operations recorded in the offensive against the Naxals in Chhattisgarh.

"Yesterday, an encounter broke out between security forces and Naxalites at 2 pm, lasting about 4 hours. A joint team of DRG and BSF personnel cordoned off the area and engaged the Naxalites. As many as 29 bodies of Naxals were recovered, of which 15 were women. A huge cache of arms and ammunition were also recovered from the spot," he said.

He informed further that prime facie, one of the dead Naxals was identified as feared commander Shankar while a woman cadre was identified as Lalita.

"As many as 71 Naxals have been gunned down to date since January, this year. The operation marks one of the biggest successes recorded in our continuing crackdown on Naxalites. The fighting against Naxalites has now reached a decisive stage. Our endeavour, going forward, will be to keep going after the Naxals with full force. The erstwhile Naxal strongholds are taking on a new identity and so are the people inhabiting these areas," IG Sundarraj said.

## Security tightened in Kolkata for Ram Navami processions

KOLKATA, Apr 17 (Agencies): Kolkata was wrapped under blanket security cover on Wednesday in view of the processions to be taken out in the city on the occasion of Ram Navami.

A senior official of the city police said that a total of 2,500 police personnel, which include personnel from the armed police forces, have been deployed on the streets to main law and order situation for the day.

At the same time, one unit of the Heavy Radio Flying Squad (HRFS) has been deployed

before each of the police stations, who will rush to any spot of trouble or tension near its location instantly and take control of the situation.

Similar precautions, sources said, are being adopted in areas under the three police commissionerates adjacent to Kolkata namely Bidhanagar, Howrah and Barackpore.

At the same time, considering the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, the first phase of which will be on Friday, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, as per the instructions of the Elec-

tion Commission, is also keeping a close watch on the development over Ram Navami processions this year.

The CEO, West Bengal Ariz Aftab has himself confirmed that there will be special security arrangements this year. It is learnt that the sensitive pockets in the state have been identified and special security arrangements have been deployed there.

To recall, last year there had been two separate incidents of violence over Ram Navami processions in the Howrah and Hoogh-



ly districts. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is also conducting a probe into those matters.

Meanwhile, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee issued a statement in the morning urging the

people of the state to maintain on the occasion of Ram Navami. "Greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami. I appeal to maintain peace, prosperity and development for all," her statement read.

## "Peace Talks Can't Compromise Manipur's Territorial Integrity": Chief Minister N Biren Singh

IMPHAL, Apr 17 (Agencies): Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh today said any form of peace talks between communities should not compromise the territorial integrity of the state and must ensure protection of the indigenous population.

"The peace talks should not compromise the territorial integrity of the state and the well-being of our indigenous people. We will not accept peace negotiations that dilute these fundamental issues," Mr Singh said at the launch

of the 'Sankalp Patra' at the BJP office in the state capital Imphal.

"During his recent visit, Home Minister Amit Shah had unequivocally said the BJP is committed to preserving the unity of Manipur," Mr Singh said.

He highlighted Mr Shah's acknowledgment of attempts by illegal immigrants to disrupt the demographic balance in the state.

"This fact is unknown to the Opposition," the Chief Minister said.

On the contents of the BJP manifesto, Mr



Singh said whatever Prime Minister Narendra Modi promises is always implemented.

"Modi's compassion

was evident when the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) was lifted from 19 police station areas in

the state, considering its impact on the youth and sections of society," Mr Singh said.

He appealed to people to ensure the victory of BJP's Inner Manipur candidate Basantakumar Singh, who is also a member of the cabinet subcommittee set up by the state government to identify illegal immigrants in the state.

Formal peace talks between top civil bodies of the Meitei community and the Kuki-Zo tribes to find an amicable solution is yet to begin.

## Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik to contest from two assembly seats

BHUBANESWAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): BJD president and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will also contest from the Kantabanji assembly constituency in Bolangir district of Western Odisha along with his traditional Hinjili seat in Ganjam district.

This was announced by Patnaik himself on Wednesday while releasing the 5th list of nine candidates for the Assembly elections in the state.

Patnaik in 2019 assembly elections had also contested from two seats.

He won from both the Hinjili and Bijepur assembly segment in Bargarh district of western Odisha.

However, Patnaik later resigned from Bijepur and retained the Hinjili seat.

Announcing the latest list of assembly candidates, the chief min-



ister said that seats between veteran party leader Prasanna Acharya and Rohit Pujari are swapped. Rairakhol assembly seat has been allotted to Acharya instead of the Sambalpur segment while the sitting MLA from Rairakhol Rohit Pujari has been shifted to Sambalpur from Rairakhol.

The swapping of seats came following reports that Acharya was unhappy with the party's decision to field him

from Sambalpur and was instead interested in contesting from Rairakhol from where he was elected in 2009. He had met Patnaik on April 12 and requested him to reconsider the decision to field him from Sambalpur. Besides, the BJD has dropped former minister Sameer Das from the Nimapara seat and has replaced him with Dilip Nayak.

Former minister and senior leader of the party Rabi Naray-

an Nanda has been replaced in the Jey-pore seat by his wife Indira Nanda. Similarly, the party has dropped former deputy speaker Rajani Kanta Singh from Angul and replaced him with his wife Sanjukta Singh. Rajendra Kumar Chhatra has also replaced the sitting MLA from Kuchinda Kishore Nayak.

Arundhati Devi, wife of sitting BJP MP from Sambalpur Nitesh Ganga Deb who joined BJD on Tuesday has been fielded from the Deogarh assembly seat. At the same time, Sulakshana Geetanjali Devi has been nominated for the Sanakhemundi seat. The party has repeated Barsha Singh Bariha from the Padampur seat while it has dropped Purna Chandra Baka and replaced him with Laxmipriya Nayak from the Chitrakonda assembly seat.

## 10 killed as car rams trailer on Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway

AHMEDABAD, Apr 17 (Agencies): Ten people were killed and one is reported to be in critical condition after a car ramed a trailer truck on the Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway on Wednesday, officials said.

The incident occurred when a car veered off behind a trailer truck. The car was en route from Vadodara to Ahmedabad.

The incident occurred when a car veered off behind a trailer truck. The car was en route from Vadodara to Ahmedabad. All 10 occupants of the car lost their lives in the accident, police said.

Upon receiving news of the accident, two ambulances rushed to the spot and moved the bodies to hospital.

While 8 occupants of the car were killed on the spot, two succumbed to their injuries while being transported to the hospital.

A massive traffic congestion ensued on the expressway following the incident.

Police have initiated an investigation to ascertain the reason of accident.



## There won't be any democracy, elections if Modi wins again: Mamata in Assam poll rally



SILCHAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday alleged that there will be "no democracy and elections if Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns to power" for the third consecutive term.

Addressing an election rally here in support of four TMC candidates in Assam, Mamata alleged that the BJP has made the entire country a "detention camp" and asserted that CAA and NRC will be scrapped if opposition bloc INDIA forms government at the Centre. "They (BJP) made the entire country a detention camp... I have never seen such a dangerous election in my life," Banerjee said.

She asserted that her party, TMC, loves all religions and does not want people to be divided on religious lines. "If the INDIA bloc wins, there will not be the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and Uniform Civil Code. We will repeal all discriminatory laws," Banerjee said at the rally. She appealed to people to vote for all four Trinamool Congress candidates in Assam in the Lok Sabha polls and announced that her party would contest all 126 assembly seats in the 2026 state polls.

"This is just a trailer and the final is yet to come. I will come again," Banerjee added.



## Jailed Myanmar Leader Aung Suu Kyi Moved From Prison To House Arrest

*The 78-year-old Nobel laureate is serving a 27-year sentence for a host of criminal convictions ranging from corruption to breaching Covid-19 rules.*

YANGON, Apr 17 (Agencies): Jailed Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been moved from prison to house arrest, a military official said Wednesday, as the junta announced a heatwave had prompted measures to protect inmates.

The 78-year-old Nobel laureate is serving a 27-year sentence for a host of criminal convictions ranging from corruption to breaching Covid-19 rules.

Suu Kyi has largely been hidden from view since the military detained her as they seized power in a 2021 coup, and she has reportedly suffered health problems.

A military official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to speak to the media, said Suu Kyi and former president Win Myint had been moved from prison to house arrest.

Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun said that a spell of hot weather had prompted authorities to take measures to protect vulnerable detainees.

"Not only Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Win Myint but also some old prisoners were given necessary care because of very



hot weather," Zaw Min Tun told agency.

The temperature in capital Naypyidaw, where Suu Kyi is believed to be in custody in a specially constructed compound, is expected to hit 41 C (105.8 F) on Wednesday, with even hotter weather forecast for the coming week.

The junta also announced on Wednesday that 3,300 prisoners would be freed as part of a regular amnesty to mark the country's new year festival.

Outside Yangon's Insein Prison, about 200 to 300 relatives and friends waited to greet prisoners as they were taken out of the compound in buses.

- Health problems -  
It was not immediately clear how long Suu Kyi would be

allowed to remain under house arrest beyond the heatwave, or whether the move represented an official reduction in her sentence.

Local media reported that during her months-long trial, Suu Kyi had suffered dizzy spells, vomiting and at times had been unable to eat because of a tooth infection.

Her son Kim Aris told agency in February that she was still being held at the special compound in Naypyidaw.

The compound had no air conditioning in the searing heat and the concrete cells leaked during the monsoon, according to Australian economist Sean Turnell, a former advisor to Suu Kyi's government who was detained there for months.

Suu Kyi spent about 15 years under house arrest at her family's colonial-era lakeside mansion in the commercial hub Yangon after she shot to fame during huge demonstrations against the then-junta in 1988.

Wednesday's prisoner amnesty includes 13 Indonesians and 15 Sri Lankans who will be deported, the junta said.

Remaining prisoners will have their sentences cut by one-sixth, the junta said in a statement, except for those convicted of serious offences, including murder, terrorism and drugs charges.

Myanmar's military ousted Suu Kyi's civilian government in a lightning coup in February 2021, ending the country's 10-year experiment with democracy after decades of army rule.

The coup triggered a huge outpouring of public opposition, which the military attempted to crush with force, unleashing a spiralling conflict that has left more than 4,800 civilians dead.

The army is now struggling to maintain its grip on the country in the face of resistance from civilian anti-junta fighters and long-established ethnic minority armed groups.

## 800 People Evacuated After Volcano Erupts In Indonesia

*The volcano, located on Ruang Island about 100 km (62 miles) from the provincial capital Manado, has erupted more than three times since Tuesday.*



JAKARTA, Apr 17 (Agencies): At least 800 people in Indonesia's North Sulawesi province have been evacuated after multiple eruptions of the area's Ruang volcano, which for days has spewed lava and ash clouds into the sky, the country's volcanology agency said on Wednesday.

The volcano, located

on Ruang Island about 100 km (62 miles) from the provincial capital Manado, has erupted more than three times since Tuesday.

Authorities have raised the alert level to the second highest level following the increased activity, Heruningtyas Desi Purnamasari, an official at Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard

Mitigation (PVMBG), told agency.

The eruption of Mt. Ruang were triggered by recent earthquakes on the island, with the mountain emitting dangerous and "explosive hot clouds" as high as 1.8 km (1.1 miles) into the sky, she said.

"We must clear the island because we anticipate there could be more eruptions. No activity is allowed within four kilometres from the crater," she said.

Footage seen by Reuters showed flows of red lava streaming down the mountain, reflected in the waters below, and billowing clouds of grey ash above its crater.

Ruang island is home to about 838 residents, most of whom have now been evacuated to the nearest island Tagulandang, said Heruningtyas.

Indonesia straddles the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire," an area of high seismic activity that rests atop multiple tectonic plates.

## "Raising A Kid Is 18 Years Of Prompt Engineering": Elon Musk On Parenting

SAN FRANCISCO, Apr 17 (Agencies): Raising a kid is 18 years of prompt engineering, said Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Wednesday.

"Whoa, I just realised that raising a kid is basically 18 years of prompt engineering," he wrote in a post on X.com.

The father of 11 children, Musk had earlier said: "Having children is saving the world."

In his post on Wednesday, Musk also cautioned on what schools can teach the children.

"Our first child will be born next month - what's your biggest piece of advice?" asked a user.

"Be super careful



about what schools teach your kids," Musk replied.

The billionaire had earlier also talked down about education, noting that colleges are for fun and not learning.

"You don't need college to learn stuff. Everything is available basically for free. You can learn anything you want for free. It is not

a question of learning. I think colleges are basically for fun and to prove you can do your chores. But, they're not for learning," he was seen saying in a video.

"You can learn anything you want, thanks to the internet. College degrees just show completion, not understanding," Musk shared in a post on X.

## Death toll from 4 days of rains rises to 63 in Pakistan with more rain on the forecast

PESHAWAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): Lightning and heavy rains led to 14 deaths in Pakistan, officials said on Wednesday, bringing the death toll from four days of extreme weather to at least 63.

Most of the deaths were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in Pakistan's northwest. Collapsing buildings have killed 32 people, including 15 children and five women, said Khurshid Anwar, a spokesman for the Disaster Management Authority. Dozens more were also injured in the northwest, where 1,370 houses were damaged, Anwar said.

The eastern province of Punjab has reported 21 lightning- and collapse-related deaths, while Baluchistan, in the country's southwest, reported 10 dead as authorities declared a state



of emergency following flash floods. On Wednesday, Baluchistan was bracing for more rains

amid ongoing rescue and relief operations.

Pakistan is seeing heavier rain

in April due to climate change, said Zaheer Ahmed Babar, a senior official at the Pakistan Meteorological Department.

"So far there has been 256 per cent above normal rainfall in Baluchistan," Babar told news agency. "Overall, there has been 61 per cent above normal rainfall this month across Pakistan, and it shows climate change has already happened in our country." In 2022, downpours swelled rivers and at one point flooded a third of Pakistan, killing 1,739 people. The floods also caused USD 30 billion in damages, from which Pakistan is still trying to rebuild.

Neighbouring Afghanistan also witnessed heavy rains this month. So far, 33 people have died in rain-related incidents there.

## Croatia votes after bitter PM-president fight

*For months, Plenkovic and his ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) seemed poised for an easy victory that would secure his third term as premier.*

ZAGREB, Apr 17 (Agencies): Croatia began voting in a parliamentary election on Wednesday after a bitter campaign between a prime minister seeking a new term and a populist president who wants to be head-of-government despite a court warning.

The showdown between Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, a conservative, and President Zoran Milanovic, a left-wing populist, comes as the European Union nation wrestles with corruption, a labour shortage, the highest inflation rate in the eurozone and illegal migration.

For months, Plenkovic and his ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) seemed poised for an easy victory that would secure his third term as premier.

But in mid-March, Milanovic made the shock announcement that he would challenge Plenkovic and become candidate prime minister for the Social Democrats (SDP).

Milanovic was prime minister shortly before Plenkovic and his role as president is largely ceremonial.

"Croatia has never had such a corrupt government," Milanovic, 57, said in his final address ahead of the vote.

Labelling the elections a "referendum on the country's future" he urged citizens to "go out and vote for anyone but the HDZ".

Milanovic called Plenkovic the "godfather of crime" and highlighted the recent appointment of the country's new chief prosecutor, a judge with alleged ties to corruption suspects.

Corruption has long been a problem for the HDZ.

Several of Plenkovic's ministers have stepped down following accusations and the anti-graft fight was key to Croatia's bid to join the EU in 2013.

"Russian world" But Milanovic canvassed across Croatia despite the country's



top court ruling that he could only stand in the election if he steps down as president first.

Plenkovic -- who has served as premier since 2016 -- accused his rival of violating the constitution, making hate speech and called him a "coward" for not resigning.

The prime minister insisted on his role in guiding the country of 3.8 million people into the eurozone and Europe's passport-free Schengen area last year.

But with an average monthly wage of 1,240 euros (\$1,345), the country remains one of the EU's poorest.

Plenkovic, 54, has also

lambasted Milanovic over his criticism of EU backing for Ukraine against Russia's invasion and the president's opposition to training Ukrainian soldiers in Croatia.

"Milanovic is pushing Croatia and the Croatian people into the Russian world," Plenkovic told one rally.

Milanovic has argued that he was protecting Croatian interests and sought to prevent the country being "dragged into war".

The president tops political popularity surveys and his entrance in the campaign has boosted the SDP.

But no party is expected to secure an outright

majority in the 151-seat assembly, according to polls that say the HDZ will be the biggest party with about 30 percent of the vote.

The SDP follows with 20 percent while the nationalist right-wing Homeland Movement comes third, making it a possible kingmaker in forming a new government.

The HDZ has dominated Croatian governments since the country's independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, while the SDP has been the opposition mainstay.

Milanovic, who served as prime minister from 2011 to 2016, is known for his fiery rhetoric and profanity in tirades against HDZ opponents, EU officials and his critics.

His mandate expires in January but he said he would step down if the SDP and its allies secure a majority to form a new government.

Polling opened at 0500 GMT and closes 12 hours later.

## Eight killed in Russian strike on Ukraine's Chernigiv: mayor



KYIV, Apr 17 (Agencies): A Russian strike on the northern Ukrainian city of Chernigiv left eight dead and more than a dozen wounded on Wednesday, as Kyiv appeals to allies for better air defence systems.

The Chernigiv region, which borders Belarus to the north, was partially occupied at the beginning of Russia's invasion but has been spared fierce fighting for around two years since Moscow's army withdrew.

Mayor Oleksandr Lomako told state media that the strike had ripped into a "very populated area" of the city.

"There are eight dead and 18 injured as a result of Russian missile strikes on Chernigiv. The search and rescue operation continues," he said.

The mayor said there was a direct hit to an infrastructural facility and that an eight-storey building had been badly damaged in the strike. Russian forces over

recent weeks have increased large-scale attacks on Ukraine's energy grid but Lomako said the damaged building was not linked to energy production.

"Russian terrorists attacked Chernigiv, civilians were affected," the head of the Ukrainian president's office, Andriy Yermak, said on social media.

"The terror must be stopped. Air and missile defense is what Ukraine needs right now," he added.

Chernigiv city lies some 145 kilometres (90 miles) north of Ukraine's capital Kyiv and had a pre-war population of around 285,000 people.

Many buildings in the city were left damaged when Russian tanks swept into Ukraine from Belarusian territory in February 2022.

Ukraine has been appealing to its allies abroad to supply it with more sophisticated air defence systems to ward off systematic Russian strikes on key infrastructure.





Impressive Shobha Yatra being taken out on Ramnavmi in Jammu on Wednesday.

Pic by AMAN SHARMA

## Indian on board ship captured by Iran speaks to family: 'Have enough food, doing duties as usual'

CHENNAI, Apr 17 (Agencies): For the first time since Israel-linked cargo ship 'MSC Ariès' was seized by Iran's military near the strait of Hormuz in the Gulf of Oman on April 13, one of the 17 Indian sailors on board the ship was allowed to speak to his brother Monday evening after the Indian Embassy in Iran intervened.

Michael, the brother of one of the sailors, told The Indian Express. "He spoke for about 30 minutes yesterday (Monday) evening, reportedly after Indian officials visited the Iranian officers guarding the ship. They seem to have made a request to allow the crew to use phones and laptops for an hour every day. They were in custody and not allowed to use any communication equipment."

Michael's brother assured the family they were not harmed by Ira-



nian officers. "They have a proper supply and enough stock of food. The ship is anchored off the coast of Bandar Abbas Port. He said they are performing operational duties on board as usual," Michael said.

"We are worried about his safety as tensions in that region seem to be escalating. We hope that

the Indian authorities will take immediate steps for their rescue and return to India. We are waiting for a response (from the Indian authorities)," he said.

The ship, with 25 crew members on board, owned by an Israeli businessman and flying the Portuguese flag, was reportedly leased for operations by a Swiss

company. Among the 17 Indians are four Tamils. An official with the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Non-Resident Tamils said two of the Tamils on the ship are from Thoothukudi, one from Cuddalore, and another from Mannargudi.

The Tamil Nadu government has written to

the Ministry of External Affairs seeking information and help for the crew members on board the ship, which was headed for India.

The ship's capture comes amid tensions between Israel and Iran, which escalated following an Israeli airstrike on April 1 on the Iranian embassy in Damascus, killing 16 people, including senior officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

On Sunday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar dialled his Iranian counterpart H Amir Abdollahian and demanded the release of all the 17 Indian crew members. "Discussed the current situation in the region. Stressed the importance of avoiding escalation, exercising restraint, and returning to diplomacy. Agreed to remain in touch," Jaishankar had tweeted.

## Two more Pawars, including Ajit, pick up nomination forms for Baramati

PUNE, Apr 17 (Agencies): In an election that will decide who from the Pawar family will rule Baramati, both sides contesting the seat are not taking any risk. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar of NCP and Sunanda Pawar of NCP (SP) have collected forms from the election office to submit their nominations in case the declared candidates, Sunetra Pawar of NCP and Supriya Sule of NCP (SP), are disqualified on technical grounds.

The NCP has declared Sunetra Pawar, wife of Ajit Pawar, as its candidate while the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) has declared sitting MP Supriya Sule as its candidate for Baramati. The contest within the Pawar family due to the split in the NCP after Ajit Pawar joined the NDA has become an interesting battle in the Lok Sabha elections.

The voting for Baramati



is on May 7 while filing of nominations is going on with April 19 as the last date. The scrutiny of forms will be done on April 20 while the last date of withdrawal is April 22.

Two more Pawars, including Ajit Pawar, likely to file nomination for Baramati. The contest within the Pawar family due to the split in the NCP after Ajit Pawar joined the NDA

has become an interesting battle in the Lok Sabha elections. (Photo: X/@Sunetra\_Pawar)

As per the election office, forms for Ajit Pawar and Sunanda Pawar have been collected from its office. This most probably is a precautionary step in case their respective declared candidate fail to be eligible for contesting the election.

## FROM PAGE 1

### 8 Union Ministers, Two Former CMs, One Ex-Governor in fray in first Phase of LS Polls

votes and retained the seat in 2019 by defeating current Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole by 2.16 lakh votes.

Union minister Kiren Rijiju is contesting from the Arunachal West seat. The 52-year-old has represented the constituency thrice since 2004. Rijiju's main rival is former chief minister and present president of Arunachal Pradesh Congress Nandan Tuki.

Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, is seeking a return to Lok Sabha from Dibrugarh in Assam. Sonowal, a Rajya Sabha member, was fielded from Dibrugarh after Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Rameswar Teli, was not given a ticket.

Muzaffarnagar, known for its intricate caste dynamics, is witnessing a three-cornered electoral battle, with Union minister Sanjeev Balyan locked in competition against Samajwadi Party's Harindra Malik and BSP candidate Dara Singh Prajapati.

Jitendra Singh, a two-time parliamentarian and a junior minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet, is aiming for a hat-trick in Udhampur.

Bhupendra Yadav, Union minister and Rajya Sabha member who replaced sitting MP Balak Nath, is in a contest with sitting Congress MLA Lalit Yadav, who belongs to Matsya region of Alwar district in Rajasthan and enjoys the support of the Yadav community.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal is pitted against former Congress minister Govind Ram Meghwal from Bikaner parliamentary seat in Rajasthan.

The Nilgiris Lok Sabha constituency in Tamil Nadu is witnessing one of the keenly watched battles between A Raja, the incumbent DMK MP, and former telecom

minister, and L Murugan of the BJP, who is the Union Minister of State for Fisheries. This will be the first time that Murugan, who was elected to Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh, is contesting from here.

Sivaganga MP Karti Chidambaram is aiming for a re-election from a seat his father won seven times, competing against BJP's T Devanathan Yadav and AIADMK's Xavier Dass.

Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai is set to take the ballot test in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore where she is pitted against DMK leader Ganapathy P Rajkumar and AIADMK's Singai Ramachandran.

Tamilisai Soundararajan, who recently resigned as governor of Telangana and Lt Governor of Puducherry to return to active politics, is contesting from Chennai South Lok Sabha constituency. Daughter of veteran Congress leader Kumari Anantha, Soundararajan had contested 2019 Lok Sabha elections against DMK's Kanimozhi, but lost by a huge margin in Thoothukudi.

This time, Kanimozhi is seeking a re-election from the seat. NDA ally Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar) has fielded SDR Vijayaseelan and AIADMK has fielded R Sivasami Velumani from the constituency. Nakul Nath, son of Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath, is seeking a re-election Chhindwara.

The seat has remained firmly with Kamal Nath, who has won the seat nine times since 1980. In the 2019 polls, the BJP bagged 28 seats out of the state's 29, but missed out on picking Chhindwara, where Nakul beat the BJP's candidate by 37,536 votes to emerge as the lone Congress MP in the state.

Of the two Lok Sabha constituencies in Tripura, the seat of West Tripura that votes in the first phase on April 19 will see a high-voltage clash between former chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb and state Congress president Ashish Kumar Saha.

Having won Lok Sabha elections twice since 2014 from Kaliabor constituency in Assam, Gaurav Gogoi, Congress' deputy

leader in Lok Sabha and son of former chief minister Tarun Gogoi, finds himself as the new candidate in neighbouring Jorhat, where BJP's Topon Kumar Gogoi won in 2019.

Gaurav Gogoi's shift to Jorhat came after the impact of delimitation exercise in his 2019 constituency, Kaliabor.

Manipur Law and Education Minister Basanta Kumar Singh is BJP's nominee for the Inner Manipur constituency and is pitted against JNU professor and Congress candidate Bimal Akojam.

Singh, who belongs to the Meiti community, is the son of Thounaojam Chaoba Singh who served as the Union Minister of State for sports, youth affairs, culture and food processing in the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The BJP stronghold of Churu, in northern Rajasthan, is readying for an interesting match between BJP candidate Devendra Jhaharia, a two-time Paralympic gold medalist javelin thrower, and Rahul Kaswan from the Congress. Kaswan is a turncoat who has made the fight for Churu interesting. The two-time left the BJP only in March after he was denied a ticket by the party.

Polling for the 543 seats for electing the 18th Lok Sabha will be held in seven phases. The votes will be counted on June 4.

### PM is champion of corruption: Rahul Gandhi

funding but then why was it struck down by the Supreme Court.

"The electoral bonds scheme is the biggest extortion scheme in the world. India's businessmen know it very well. No matter how much the prime minister clarifies, it will have no impact because the entire nation knows that the prime minister is the champion of corruption," Mr. Gandhi said.

On Mr. Modi's criticism of his remarks that the Congress will end poverty in no time, Mr. Gandhi said no one said that poverty will end in one go but we can make strong efforts for it.

To questions on contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Uttar Pradesh's Amethi, the former Congress chief said he will abide by his party's decision on this.

Such decisions are taken by the Central Election Committee of the party, he said.

The SP and the Congress are fighting the Lok Sabha polls in alliance in Uttar Pradesh. The Congress is fighting on 17 seats while the SP and some other allies are contesting the remaining 63 seats in the politically crucial Uttar Pradesh, which sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha.

The seven-phase Lok Sabha polls will begin on April 19 and the counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

### IED seized in Poonch

and a bomb disposal squad was summoned to neutralise it.

No one was arrested in connection with this matter, the officials said, adding the search operation in the area was still on when the last reports were received.

### Consistent efforts are on to search the missing trio: IGP Kashmir VK Birdhi

divers are searching the area where they find high probabilities of the body. Generally it has been seen that body comes to surface itself after sometime due to decomposition," he said.

"We have already alerted all Police Stations in Srinagar located along the banks of river Jhelum and directed them to keep eye on developments they observe if any," IGP Kashmir Zone added.

Notably six persons including four children lost their lives in a boat capsized in River Jhelum on the outskirts of Srinagar on Tuesday morning. The incident occurred in Gandbal, Nowgam area of Srinagar.

### DGP J&K RR Swain

### extends greetings on auspicious occasion of Ram Navmi

motive is to disturb the hard earned peace and destroy the lives of new generations.

"J&K Police, Security agencies are committed to protect the prevailing peaceful atmosphere and also to secure the future of generations", DGP said.

The DGP appealed the people to continue their support in the fight against the terrorism, narcotics, and gangsters to provide a secure environment for peace and development of the UT.

### 11 from J&K qualify UPSC Civil Service Exam 2023

the youth of this region have huge potential provided their energy is channelled in the right direction," she added.

Another candidate, Arjun Gupta of Kathua district has achieved 32nd rank in the select list.

Manan Bhat of Srinagar district has secured 88th rank this year. He had earlier also qualified for the civil services exam securing 231 AIR. At present, Bhat is an IPS officer in the Telangana cadre.

Harnit Singh Sudan of Jammu has secured an AIR of 177, Mohammad Haris Mir an AIR of 345, Mohammad Farhan Seh AIR 369, Aparajita Aryan AIR 381, Ghulam Maya Din AIR 388, Suvan Sharma AIR 412, Seerat Baji AIR 516 and Dinesh Kumar AIR 1,003.

### Restrictions imposed ahead of Lok Sabha General Elections in Ramban

parties involved, Ramban aims to set an example of democratic excellence in the upcoming General Election.



## Ahead of FPO, Vodafone Idea garners Rs 5,400 crore from anchor investors

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 : Just ahead of its mega FPO opening to public investors, Vodafone Idea (VIL) has announced closure of its anchor book allocation, raising about Rs 5,400 crore from marquee global as well as domestic investors, according to a statutory filing by the telco.

This could be the third-largest anchor book after One 97 Communications and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

One 97 Communications and LIC had raised Rs 8,235 crore and Rs 5,627 crore in the anchor round, respectively.

In a notification to the exchanges on Wednesday, VIL said it has allotted 490.9 crore shares to 74 funds at Rs 11 apiece, which is also the upper end of the price band. This translated into a transaction size to Rs 5,400 crore.

Of the total allocation to anchor investors, 79.52 crore stocks, or 16.2 per cent of the total, were



allocated to five domestic mutual fund through a total of 11 schemes.

Those who were allotted shares include GQG Partners Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Fidelity, UBS Fund Management, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Australian Super, Troo Capital, Morgan Stanley, Citigroup Global Markets Mauritius, and Jupiter Fund Management.

Additionally, domestic investors, including Moti-

lal Oswal Mutual Fund, HDFC Mutual Fund, SBI General Insurance and Quant Mutual Fund, were allocated shares in the anchor round.

The Rs 18,000-crore FPO of Vodafone Idea will open for public subscription on April 18 and conclude on April 22, marking the biggest FPO in the country. The price band has been set at Rs 10-11 per share.

Prior to this, the largest

FPO in the Indian market was a Rs 15,000 crore share-sale by YES Bank in 2020.

The fundraising would give the ailing telco the firepower to improve its positioning in the Indian telecom market, where it currently trails larger rivals such as Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, by a wide margin.

The funds will also help VIL shore up finances for the much-delayed 5G roll-

out and strengthening 4G services, and payment of vendor dues.

On April 6, the VIL Board approved raising Rs 2,075 crore from promoter Aditya Birla Group and increasing its authorised share capital to Rs 1 lakh crore.

Earlier this year, Vodafone Idea had outlined plans to raise Rs 45,000 crore through a mix of equity and debt as it looked to match services offered by rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel and arrest an alarming and prolonged subscriber churn.

VIL has also been fighting a desperate battle for survival, saddled with debt of Rs 2.1 lakh crore and quarterly losses.

According to Trai data, Vodafone Idea continued to bleed on the subscriber front. VIL lost 15.2 lakh wireless subscribers, plunging its mobile subscriber base to 22.15 crore in January, in sharp contrast to subscriber gains by Jio and Airtel.

## Oil prices hover below \$90/barrel as demand concerns outweigh Middle East supply fears



NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Oil prices extended losses in early trade on Wednesday as worries about global demand due to weak economic momentum in China and a likely rise in U.S. commercial stockpiles outweighed supply fears from heightened tensions in the Middle East.

Brent futures for June slipped 56 cents, or 0.62%, to \$89.46 a barrel by 0337 GMT, while U.S. crude futures for May fell 63 cents, or 0.74%, to \$84.73 a barrel.

Oil prices have softened so far this week as economic headwinds pressured investor sentiment, curbing gains from geopolitical tensions, with eyes on how Israel might respond to Iran's attack over the weekend.

"With oil prices highly sensitive to geopolitical risks, the past week has seen some wait-and-see consolidation in place as Israel's response will determine if there may be a wider regional conflict, which could significantly impact oil supplies," said IG market strategist Yeap

Jun Rong.

"For now, the near-term weakness in oil prices may reflect some expectations that tensions may still be contained and that other key oil producer such as Saudi Arabia may jump in to mitigate any global supply shock," Yeap added.

In China, the world's biggest oil importer, the economy grew faster than expected in the first quarter, but several March indicators, including property investment, retail sales and industrial output, showed that demand at home remains frail, weighing on overall momentum.

"Apart from that, a build-up in US crude inventories overnight and a mixed set of economic data out of China also offered some reservations, alongside near-term overbought technicals which prompts some profit-taking," Yeap said.

U.S. crude oil inventories rose last week more than expected by analysts polled by Reuters, according to market sources citing American Petroleum Institute fig-

ures on Tuesday. Official data from the Energy Information Administration, the statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Energy, is due on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. (1430 GMT).

In the Middle East, a third meeting of Israel's war cabinet set for Tuesday to decide on a response to Iran's first-ever direct attack was put off until Wednesday, as Western allies eyed swift new sanctions against Tehran to help dissuade Israel from a major escalation.

Analysts however do not expect Iran's unprecedented missile and drone strike on Israel to prompt dramatic sanctions action on Iran's oil exports from the Biden administration due to worries about boosting oil prices and angering top buyer China.

"Sanctions are already in place, the issue is that they have not been strictly enforced for the last couple of years. And the big question is whether they will be enforced more rigorously now," said ING analysts in a client note.

## Blinking may be helping us process big, slow-changing patterns: Study



NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Along with keeping eyes moist, blinking may be helping us better notice big, gradually changing patterns, according to a new research.

Blinking provides information to the brain about the overall big picture of a visual scene, researchers said.

The act of blinking changes the visual input to the retina, thereby effectively re-arranging the visual information being processed, according to Michele Rucci, a professor in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, the University of Rochester, US.

"By modulating the

visual input to the retina, blinks effectively reformat visual information, yielding luminance signals that differ drastically from those normally experienced when we look at a point in the scene," said Rucci, corresponding author of the study published in the journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences'.

For the study, the researchers tracked eye movements in humans. Combining this data with computer models, they studied how blinking affects what the eyes see compared to when the eyelids are closed.

They found that the rapid eyelid movement while blinking changes

the light patterns that activate the retina. This created a different kind of visual information for the brain to process, compared to when our eyes are open and focused on a specific point.

"We show that human observers benefit from blink transients as predicted from the information conveyed by these transients," said Bin Yang, a graduate student in Rucci's lab, and the study's first author.

"Thus, contrary to common assumption, blinks improve -- rather than disrupt -- visual processing, amply compensating for the loss in stimulus exposure," said Yang.

## MG Motor India plans to expand network in tier III, IV to drive next phase of growth

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): MG Motor India is driving towards tier III and IV cities of the country with plans to establish 100 new touchpoints by the end of the ongoing fiscal year as part of its strategy to fuel the next phase of growth, a senior company official said on Wednesday.

With JSW Group coming in as an investor and becoming a joint venture partner with China's SAIC, last month the company announced plans to invest Rs 5,000 crore and had set a target of selling one million units of passenger electric vehicles in India by 2030 when the total market is expected to be 10 million units annually. The company is targeting 520 sales and service touchpoints overall in 270 cities by the end of 2024-25.

"There is a very clear roadmap...we have put in place which we are calling as MG 2.0, the next phase of growth for MG Motor India," MG Motor India Chief Commercial Officer Satinder Singh Bajwa told PTI.

As part of that, the company has set plans for enhancing production capacity and more model introduction going forward, he added.

Bajwa further said to supplement these plans the company also has to improve its footprints in the Indian market to be closer to the consumers for the brand to gain their confidence and trust.

"So keeping that objective in mind, we are now looking at how we can improve our reach and depth in terms of our network as a first step," he said.

Currently, Bajwa said, "We have about 380 touchpoints, which cover about 170 odd cities. Now we are very clear that we have to go closer to 300 cities going forward as part of our expansion plan and these 380 touchpoints obviously, will go beyond 500 touchpoints in this financial year." Apart from existing dealers, the company will also onboard new partners for the network expansion, he said.

In terms of geography, he said, "While we are fairly well represented, in tier one, metro and super metro towns but beyond that in tier three or four towns, presence is missing. That's the area where we want to really focus on and move forward in those areas and get closer to the customers."

## IIFL Finance to raise \$152 million via rights issue amid ban on gold loans

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): India's IIFL Finance will raise 12.72 billion rupees (\$152 million) by selling shares, the non-bank lender said on Wednesday, aiming to shore up capital a month after the central bank barred it from offering gold loans.

In mid-March, IIFL had said it would raise up to 15 billion rupees via a rights issue, which gives preferential treatment to existing shareholders, but had

not finalised the amount. That plan came nine days after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ordered the company to stop sanctioning, disbursing and selling gold loans due to "material supervisory concerns" in its portfolio.

Since then IIFL's stock has sunk 30 per cent through its closing price on Tuesday. The company will sell shares at 300 rupees each, a 29 per cent discount to the last close.

IIFL said shareholders will get one rights share for every nine shares they hold. The issue runs from April 30 to May 14.

Fairfax India, IIFL's top shareholder with a 15 per cent stake, had said it would provide up to \$200 million in liquidity to support the lender.

IIFL's gold loans under management stood at 246.92 billion rupees as of Dec. 31, accounting for 32 per cent of its total assets.

## Breast cancer to cause a million deaths a year by 2040: Lancet commission

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Breast cancer is now the world's most common carcinogenic disease with the ailment likely to cause a million deaths a year by 2040, according to a new Lancet Commission on breast cancer.

Around 7.8 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer in the last five years until 2020 and about 685,000 women died from the disease the same year, it said.

Further, in 2020, women around the world on average had a 1 in 12 risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer before turning 75 years old, and this incidence is rising, researchers found.

They estimated that cases of breast cancer will increase from 2.3 million in 2020 to more than 3 million by 2040, with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) being "disproportionately affected".

By 2040, deaths due to the disease will be a million a year, the team added.

"This is neither acceptable nor inevitable as action now can prevent many of these future cancers," the authors wrote.

Knowledge gaps, such as unknown numbers of women with metastatic breast cancer in which the cancer spreads to other parts, continue to prevent effective action, they said.

The scale of suffering associated with breast cancer, along with other costs, are not well-measured, with the society and policymakers only seeing the "tip of an iceberg," the authors of the commission said.

"Recent improvements in breast cancer survival represent a great success of modern medicine," said the commission's lead author, Charlotte Coles, University of Cambridge, UK, referring to 40 per cent reduced



deaths due to the disease achieved in some high-income countries (HICs).

"However, we can't ignore how many patients are being systematically left behind," said Coles.

The commission builds on previous evidence, presents new data, and integrates patient voices to shed light on a large unseen burden, according to the authors.

It points to "glaring inequities" and suffering from symptoms, despair and financial burden due to breast cancer, which are often "hidden and inadequately addressed".

Laying out recommendations for tackling these challenges in breast cancer, the commission suggested better communication between patients and health professionals as a crucial

intervention that could improve quality of life, body image, and adherence to therapy, and positively impact survival.

"Women's fundamental human rights have historically been accorded lesser respect than men's in all settings, with implications for patient agency and autonomy," said Reshma Jagasi, Emory University School of Medicine, US.

"Every healthcare professional should receive some form of communication skills training. Improving the quality of communication between patients and health professionals, though seemingly simple, could have profound positive impacts that extend far beyond the specific setting of breast cancer management," Jagasi said.

"Patients should be encouraged to exercise their voices, choosing their level of involvement in care decisions," she added.

The commission also advocated for developing new tools and metrics that can capture the costs associated with breast cancer, including physical, psychological, social, and financial costs.

"Global data are essential to expose and better understand and address the multiplicity of needs of all people affected by

breast cancer and significantly reduce the global burden of preventable suffering," said author Carlos Barrios, Oncology Research Center, Hospital So Lucas, Brazil.

In countries lacking affordable health care facilities, patients experience these costs more commonly and intensely, too often leading to catastrophic spending and impoverishment, said Barrios.

The 40 per cent reduction in deaths from breast cancer seen in HICs has not been achieved in most LMICs, where advanced stages at diagnosis and low diagnostic and treatment capacities contribute to poorer breast cancer survival rates, the authors said.

While these survival rates exceed 90 per cent in HICs, the rates are 66 per cent in India and 40 per cent in South Africa, they said.

The authors also found that every country suc-

cessful in improving breast cancer survival rates between 1990 and 2020 has the ability to diagnose at least 60 per cent of invasive breast cancers at stages and thus, argued for improved early detection programs.

The authors further called for "bold policy changes" that can reduce the population exposed to risk factors in their control such as alcohol consumption, being overweight and physical activity.

Up to one-quarter of breast cancer in HICs could be prevented by modifying risk factors for breast cancer, they said.

"We hope that, by highlighting these inequities and hidden costs and suffering in breast cancer, they can be better recognised and addressed by health care professionals and policymakers in partnership with patients and the public around the world," said Coles.



## In Rohit Sharma Meeting, BCCI Sets Strict Hardik Pandya T20 World Cup Selection Condition: Report

*As things stand, Hardik Pandya might not get a straightforward entry into the Indian squad for the T20 World Cup 2024.*

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): An already-troubled Hardik Pandya could be in for a big setback if things don't go his way in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. While the batter Hardik is yet to fire, having only scored 131 runs in 6 matches at an average of 26.20 this season. With the ball, Hardik has been fairly inconsistent to even take up the responsibility. He has barely bowled in the last 4 matches, and when he has, the opponent team's batters have ripped him apart. With a place in India's T20 World Cup 2024 squad, Pandya has reportedly been sent a clear message from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selection committee.

As per a report, a meeting was held between India head coach Rahul Dravid, chairman of the



selection committee Ajit Agarkar and captain Rohit Sharma at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai last week. In the meeting, the topic of Hardik's selection came up, with the management

asserting the need for him to bowl regularly in order to be selected.

Hardik has bowled in different phases this season but is yet to leave a positive mark. As a power

play bowler, he has conceded 44 runs in 4 overs, while in the middle-overs, he has gone for 62 runs in 6 overs. As a death bowler, he has given away 26 runs in just 1 over.

Among the contenders for the spot Hardik holds in the team, Shivam Dube's name tops the list. But, the selectors reportedly also have an issue with the Chennai Super Kings star, that he only plays as an Impact player for them. Dube is an all-rounder but hasn't been used for his bowling by CSK this season.

The left-handed batter has impressed many with his power-hitting, especially against spinners, this season. If he does get picked for the T20 World Cup, he is likely to be used as a part-time bowler and not as a full all-rounder who can give the team 4 overs.

## Delhi look to carry confidence after LSG win, Gujarat vying for top 4 spot

AHMEDABAD, Apr 17 (Agencies): Delhi and Gujarat will be facing each other in Match No.32 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 on Wednesday, April 17 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Delhi will be brimming with confidence after taking down Lucknow in their previous Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match at the Ekana Stadium. However, they still have a long way to go as they are looking to get themselves off the bottom half of the points table. Rishabh Pant's DC also need to improve their net run rate, which is currently at -0.975.

Delhi will be delighted with the way two of their most talented youngsters, Jake Fraser McGurk and Tristan Stubbs have played of late. McGurk did not show any signs of nervousness on debut after he hammered 55 off 35 with 5 sixes against LSG. But it was Kuldeep Yadav who won the Player of the Match award for his stupendous figures of 4-0-20-3.

Gujarat, on the other hand, need to show consistency to think about breaking into the top 4. Back-to-back losses at the hands of Punjab and Lucknow did not help them by any

stretch of the imagination. But the 3-wicket win over Rajasthan at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium is expected to inject some momentum into their camp.

GT vs DC: Head-to-Head  
The Capitals and the Titans have faced each other 3 times since their first meeting back in 2022. GT have won 2 games while DC finished on the winning side only once. In their previous meeting, the Capitals beat the Titans by 5 runs.

After scoring 130 for 8, DC restricted their opponents to 125 for 6 at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Mohammed Shami won the Player of the Match award for his figures of 4-0-11-4, although he was on the losing side.

GT vs DC: Team News  
David Warner is uncertain of taking part in DC's next game. It's a huge blow for the Capitals as Mitchell Marsh has already returned home due to a hamstring tear. Warner is recovering from an injury on his left finger. Head coach Ricky Ponting said that the southpaw would go through a fitness test before a call on his participation is taken.

David Miller has missed 3 games for the Titans due to a niggle. However, he is available



for the game against DC, confirmed by Sai Sudharsan before the game. If he plays, Matthew Wade is likely to be dropped from the playing XI.

GT vs DC: Pitch Report  
The pitch in Ahmedabad is expected to be a decent one for batting. PBKS chased down 200 with a ball to spare against GT, meaning that bowlers may not find it easy even in the next game. Teams need to score around 180 to give themselves a decent chance of winning the match.

GT vs DC: Predicted XI  
GT Predicted XI: Shubman Gill (c), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Sai Sudharsan, Vijay Shankar, David Miller, Rahul Tewatia, Shahrukh Khan, Rashid Khan,

Umesh Yadav, Spencer Johnson, Noor Ahmad

Impact Player: Mohit Sharma  
DC Predicted XI: Prithvi Shaw, David Warner/Abhishek Porel, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Shai Hope, Rishabh Pant (c & wk), Tristan Stubbs, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mukesh Kumar, Ishant Sharma, Khaleel Ahmed  
Impact Player: Jhye Richardson

GT vs DC: Prediction  
The Capitals will be depleted if Warner doesn't play the next game. GT, meanwhile, have been bolstered with the return of David Miller. Also, since the Titans will be playing at home, one can consider them as the favourites for the next encounter.

## I would have Rishabh Pant in Indian team every day of week: Ricky Ponting on T20 World Cup selection



NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): In Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting's Indian team for the upcoming T20 World Cup, Rishabh Pant will feature "every day of the week" despite some established keeper-batters staking claim with their exploits in the ongoing IPL.

Ponting was not sure whether Pant would be able to play again after the horrific car accident in December, 2022.

But having seen the manner in which Pant has been making an impact since returning to action on the back of his remarkable resilience, the DC head coach is left with no doubt about who should board the plane to New York at the end of the IPL.

"Do I believe whether Rishabh should be there in the World Cup squad? Absolutely I do.

He deserves to be in that WT20 squad by the end of the IPL," Ponting told agency in an exclusive interview.

"I think we have seen Rishabh play the way we have seen him play in last five or six years in IPL, and now back playing for India," added the Australian batting great.

While he acknowledged that there are lots of options for Indian selectors as far as choosing a keeper-batter goes, Pant remains the No.1 choice for him.

"One thing we certainly know that there is lot of depth around Indian cricket. With keeper-batters, I feel some guys are in really good form at the moment. (Ishan) Kishan is playing well, (Sanju) Samson is playing well and KL Rahul is playing well.

"There are a lot of options but if I was pick-

ing a team, I would have Rishabh Pant in every day of the week," the 'Punter' made his call.

Since his entry as DC coach, Ponting has shared a special bond with Pant and he is a touch emotional seeing him in full flow once again.

"Rishabh's comeback to international cricket is nothing short of remarkable. I spent a lot of time with him during last IPL and a lot of us were actually sceptical that whether he will actually play the game again, such a horrific accident and I had spoken to him about it, I wasn't sure whether he will play again."

But like with all champions, Pant refused to throw in the towel.

"There was never any doubt in his mind that he will be back playing again. As each game goes by, we are starting to see a better and better version of Rishabh Pant, his batting has had more impact in last couple of games compared to start of the tournament, he is starting to move well behind the stumps," the coach sounded ecstatic.

## Knight Riders vs Royals: Buttler's ton overpowers Narine's hard work as Rajasthan win a thriller

KOLKATA, Apr 17 (Agencies): Jos Buttler's unbeaten century (107 not out) paved the way for Rajasthan Royal's thrilling two-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens, Kolkata.

Buttler's calculated assault left KKR bowlers high and dry. The English captain's self-belief and ability to play with the tail helped Rajasthan romp home in style. For KKR it was a case of so near so far. Sunil Narine's ton set the tempo for them, but a poor 19th over by Harshit Rana where he gave 19 runs cost them the match.

Many of the top order batters for Rajasthan Royals got the start but never really got going at they kept losing wickets at the other end.

Buttler kept strike for the last three overs to first take the game deep and later single-handedly won it for Rajasthan to complete highest successful chase in the history of IPL. This was Buttler's second ton of the season, both coming up while chasing.

Earlier, buoyed by the



return of R Ashwin and Jos Buttler, Rajasthan opted to bowl. KKR began in earnest and when they were slowly trying to get familiar with the conditions, Phil Salt fell. After that, Sunil Narine forged a good partnership with Raghuvanshi and kept the scoreboard ticking.

Narine is in good form and thus his confidence level is high. This has helped him choose the right delivery to assault.

Kuldeep Sen learnt the hard way as Narine carted a short ball from the Tamil Nadu speedster over mid wicket for a huge six, which had a lot of grace written over hit. Sanju Samson, in order to bring down the strike rate, brought in his experienced spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and R Ashwin. But it

was of no use, Narine picked up boundaries at will of both Ashwin and Chahal. His six off Chahal that went straight over the bowler's head for a huge six into the stands was the shot of the evening.

In the next over, a huge six off Ashwin ringed in Narine's 50 and the team's 100-run mark. His 50 came off 31 balls.

It looked like Rajasthan had exhausted all their plans for Narine the batter.

The West Indies all-rounder could judge the length of the ball early and could pick boundaries through the gaps as he brought up his century in 49 balls. Once he fell for 106, Rinku Singh hit an unbeaten 20 off nine balls to take KKR to 223/6.

## Gukesh and unbeaten Nepo neck and neck at top after 10 rounds



TORONTO, Apr 17 (Agencies): Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh held on to the joint top spot with Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi after they played out an easy draw in the 10th round of the Candidates chess tournament here.

The all-Indian duel between R Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi also ended in a draw, while Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura defeated Firouzja Alireza and Nijat Abasov, respectively, to come back within striking distance of the two leaders.

With just four rounds to come in the biggest event of the year, Gukesh and Nepomniachtchi have six points each with Praggnanandhaa, Caruana and Nakamura close on their heels with half-a-point behind.

Gujrathi, on six points, is sole sixth while for all practical purposes, Alireza and Abasov are out of the race with 3.5 and two points, respectively. Nepomniachtchi has not been taking many risks in the event with either colour and his solid play makes him the only player who

is unbeaten after 10 rounds.

The Ruy Lopez as white gave the Russian just an optical advantage after the opening and the 17-year-old Gukesh ensured parity with some timely exchanges leading to a rook and pawns endgame.

The contest was almost uneventful other than the opening part and in the endgame, the players exchanged another pair of rooks and a few pawns to reach a theoretically drawn position.

Praggnanandhaa has also been very solid with

just one loss early in the second round against Gukesh.

The 18-year old faced the Berlin defence by Gujrathi who equalised easily as black.

With three minor pieces and the queen off the board early, the rook and opposite colour bishop endgame did not quite offer chances to either player.

The game was drawn after 39 moves.

Caruana faced the Sicilian Najdorf by Alireza and secured the advantage out of a side variation.

The players over-

looked a simple tactic but Caruana still remained ahead in endgame after winning a pawn on the 29th move. Alireza fought on but the result of the game was never in doubt.

In the women's section, Tingjie Lei of China ended the unbeaten run of Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia and regained joint lead with compatriot Zhongyi Tan, who played out a draw with Koneru Humpy.

R Vaishali bounced back after a string of losses in a rollercoaster game with Nurgul Salimova of Bulgaria, while Russian Kateryna Lagno drew with Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine.

With 6.5 points apiece, the Chinese duo of Lei and Tan are sitting pretty with a point's lead over Goryachkina and Lagno. Humpy is a distant fifth on 4.5 points, half-a-point ahead of Salimova and Muzychuk and Vaishali, despite the victory still holds the last spot on 3.5 points.

## Pep warns players of pitfalls on way to double treble

MANCHESTER, Apr 17 (Agencies): While Manchester City midfielder Bernardo Silva said he and his teammates are motivated by the possibility of winning their second consecutive treble, manager Pep Guardiola cautioned against dreaming too far ahead.

City host Real Madrid in the second leg of their Champions League quarterfinal tie at the

Ethad having overcome them in the semifinals last season on their way to winning the competition for the first time.

They also lead the Premier League standings and are in the final four of the FA Cup.

"I am not going to say 'don't feel this' to my players, but I have a different opinion. We are far away from those hypothetical dreams," Guardiola said. "When

we are in the final of the FA Cup and two or three games (remaining) in the Premier League and in the final of the Champions League I will start to think about that," he added.

Silva said being on the brink of history can drive the squad for the rest of the season. "Obviously, it is an inspiration and motivation," he said. "We want to create the legacy."



## DPS Kathua NCC Cadets shine bright with NCC A Certificate Qualifications

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 17: The NCC cadets of Delhi Public School Kathua have proudly qualified for the prestigious NCC A certificates, marking a significant milestone in their journey of excellence.

The cadets displayed exemplary dedication and perseverance, which culminated in this remarkable achievement.

Upon receiving their certificates, the cadets expressed immense joy and gratitude, thanking Principal Vivek Arora for his unwavering support and guidance throughout their NCC training.

Principal Arora, in turn, congratulated the cadets on their outstanding accomplishment and commended their commitment to service and discipline.



Acknowledging the pivotal role of Jagmohan, the NCC instructor, and the PGT PHE, Principal Arora extended his appreciation for

their invaluable contributions to the success of the NCC program at DPS Kathua.

Their expertise and dedication have been instrumental in nurturing and mentoring the cadets, leading to their commendable performance.

The achievement of the DPS Kathua NCC cadets underscores the school's commitment to holistic development and the nurturing of future leaders. It reflects the spirit of excellence and dedication that permeates through the school community.

The entire DPS Kathua family extends its heartfelt congratulations to the NCC cadets on their well-deserved success. Their achievement serves as a source of inspiration and pride for the school and the local community.

## Ramnavmi celebrated in Durga Mandir Bakshi Nagar Jammu



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Sandeep Maharaj Ji celebrated Ramnavmi in Durga Mandir Bakshi Nagar.

People of all regions, prominent leaders, women, children in thousands participated in the celebrations.

Sandeep Maharaj blessed the devotees with blessings.

Sandeep Maharaj

taught the religion of the Ramnavmi and organised Langar on the occasion.

Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood said this is the beauty of our J&K, that we all celebrate all religions festivals together and live with communal harmony and brotherhood.

Dimple prayed on Ramnavmi for communal harmony, brotherhood

in Jammu Kashmir and India.

He also prayed for the early and immediate restoration of J&K statehood.

Prominent people present were Yogesh Sawhney former minister, KB Jandial ret'd IAS officer, BL Gandotra, actor / model Sanyam Pandoh, many ret'd IAS, IPS officer, high dignitaries of all religions.

## Ganesh Sharma honoured by Liesel Cerna Studio Brazil on World Art Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Ganesh Kumar Sharma Eminent senior contemporary internationally acclaimed Sculptor, son of the soil honoured with "International Certificate of Excellence" by World Art / Liesel Cerna Studio Brazil, on "World Art Day" celebrated on 15th of April, each year throughout the world.

World Art and Liesel Cerna Studio, Brazil, organized an International Art Exhibition titled "Faces of Art" A Visual Tribute to Artists of the world, on the occasion of World Art Day, i.e. 15th of April 2024. Entries were invited from across the globe from eminent senior artists with their detailed journey of art.

Amongst the received entries from across the world, only 82 artists belongs to 39 countries were selected by the International Jury Members appointed by the management of organization.

The participating countries are Greece, Argentina, North Macedonia, Paraguay,



Georgia, Germany, Venezuela, Belarus, Nicaragua, Colombia, Egypt, Uruguay, Mexico, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Malaysia, Costa Rica, USA and Cuba.

## BSP intensifies election campaign for Jammu-Reasi Lok Sabha seat

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Bahujan Samaj Party is continuously intensifying its election campaign for the Jammu-Reasi-Lok Sabha seat to be held on 26 April.

On Friday 17, Bahujan Samaj Party State President Darshan Rana visited Bishnah constituency village Chak Arni, Kotli, Tindey, Wazira Chak with Tilak Raj Bhagat Coordinator Bishnah vidhansabha Bansil Lal, Hari Chand and others and appealed to the people to vote for Bahujan Samaj in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Other leaders of Bahujan Samaj Party were also specially present during his visit.

On this occasion, State President of Bahujan Samaj Party Darshan Rana raised the issue of Unemployment rate which is highest from last 10 years in J&K.

Voices of Public are unheard by people sitting in power. Favouritism and Corruption at peak in the recruitment Policy. People from all walks of the society listened to the speakers and promised that they will vote for BSP in this election and every election now onwards in J&K.

## Er. Sajad Mushtaq expresses grief over tragic boat capsizing incident

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 17: Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi, the esteemed IT Head of Jammu and Kashmir BJP Minority Morcha saddened by the heartbreaking loss of lives resulting from the recent boat capsizing incident in the River Jhelum of Srinagar.

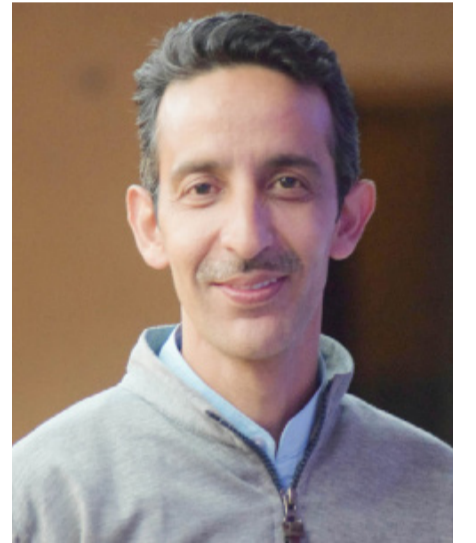
In this moment of profound sorrow, Er. Sajad extends his heartfelt condolences to the families affected by this tragic event.

He shared in their grief and prays fervently for them to find the strength and solace needed to endure this immense loss.

Er. Sajad earnestly appealed to the LG Administration to swiftly mobilize all available resources and extend comprehensive assistance to the bereaved families.

Additionally, he emphasized the urgent need for medical aid to be provided to those who have been injured in this unfortunate incident.

As a dedicated advocate for the welfare



of the community, Er. Sajad reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the affected individuals and families during this challenging time.

## BJP leaders join Shiv Sena Eknath Shinde

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: In major boost to the Shiv Sena Eknath Shinde

party joining program was organised by Sanjay Bhat where scores political member of different

Political Parties joined Shiv Sena in the presence of Sh. Ashwani Gupta State President,

Sh. Satish Kachroo State Vice President, Sh. Rakesh Kak State General Secretary & Sanjay

Bhat State Secretary (Organisation). Ashwani Gupta welcomed the new member

in the party fold & take forward with the teachings of Balasaheb and Eknath Shinde.

He further told them to reach to public and bring the genuine problem of the public to the notice / knowledge of administration, so that the relief be provided to general public.

While addressing the function State General Secretary Rakesh Kak said that ShivSena is rapidly expanding its base in JKUT and the party will approach each and every corner of the state. He further appealed the youth to aware the public about the importance of taking part in electoral process

as every vote matters.

While addressing the function Sanjay Bhat said Shiv Sena party is for the public and development is our main agenda & further he emphasized the need for conducting skill development programs in the Districts for the benefit of the youth.

Newly nominated State Secretary Ramesh Koul & State Secretary Rohit Munshi thanked the Party Leadership for giving them chance the Serve the public.

Others present were Manohar Lal, Sunil, Vikas, Amit and Ajay.

# MBA MOTORS

## MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI



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

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

## Woman, brother found dead in east Delhi flat; husband held

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): A woman and her brother were allegedly stabbed to death by her husband using a screwdriver at their house in east Delhi's Shakarpur area, police said on Wednesday.

Kamlesh Holkar (29), a teacher at a school in Ghaziabad, and Ram Pratap Singh (18) were found in a pool of blood

on the second floor of a residential building in Shakarpur on Wednesday morning, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Apoorva Gupta said.

A police officer said that prima facie it is suspected that Holkar and her husband, Shreyansh Kumar Pal, got into an argument on Tuesday night following which he fatally stabbed her and Singh.