

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Srinagar-Jammu highway shut for vehicular movement, restoration work underway

SRINAGAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): After being restored for a short spell, the Srinagar-Jammu national highway has been kept shut once again after rocks and mudslides hit the highway at several places in Ramban district on Saturday.

An official said due to rockslides and mudslide at Dalwas, Mehad, Gangroo and Kishtwari Pather the traffic movement was closed temporarily. He also said that men and machinery have been pressed into service to clear the road as soon as possible.

The official advised commuters not to undertake journey on the highway till the road is fully restored.

"Restoration work is going on at Dalwas, Mehad, Gangroo and Kishtwari Pather on NH-44. People are advised not to undertake journey till the road is fully restored," he added.

Mughal road continues to be shut due to bad weather conditions

SRINAGAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): Mughal road which connects summer capital Srinagar to Poonch and Rajouri districts of Pir Panchal region is continuously shut for traffic movement amid bad weather conditions in the region.

Officials said the road was closed on Wednesday after rockslides hit the highway at several places however the restoration work on the highway has been taken up since and is hoped the traffic movement will be restored soon.

Excise 'scam': Delhi court reserves order on bail pleas of Manish Sisodia

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): A court here on Saturday reserved its order on the bail pleas of AAP leader Manish Sisodia in corruption and money laundering cases, lodged by the CBI and the ED in the

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India set for significant overhaul of criminal justice system with newly enacted laws: CJI

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Saturday expressed his appreciation for the enactment of the new criminal justice laws, describing it as a "watershed moment for society". He emphasized the importance of India undergoing a significant overhaul of its criminal justice system.

During a conference in New Delhi focused on 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System', he highlighted the necessity for citizens to adopt the new laws to ensure their success.



According to Chief Justice of India (CJI) Chandrachud, the newly enacted laws have ushered India's legal framework on criminal justice into a new age.

He further mentioned the introduction of much-needed improvements aimed at safeguarding

the interests of victims and ensuring efficient investigation and prosecution of offences.

"The enactment of these laws by Parliament is a clear indication that India is changing and on the move, and needs new legal instruments to deal with

the current challenges," said CJI.

The conference was organized by ministry of law & justice, "to generate awareness about these legislative enactments, particularly amongst the stakeholders and legal fraternity". Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, attorney general R Venkatarmani, and solicitor general Tushar Mehta also attended the conference.

The newly enacted criminal laws, namely the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya

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Estates Deptt issues show-cause notices of eviction to 42 politicians



SRINAGAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): The Estates Department of Jammu and Kashmir has issued show-causes notices of eviction to 42 political figures.

The department issued these notices on the directions of the court.

These politicians continued to occupy the

government bungalows, even after being directed by the Estates Department to de-occupy them.

The Estates Department evicted hundreds of people, mostly working journalists from their quarters but failed miserably to evict influential politicians, both in Kashmir and Jammu.

A news gathering agency Kashmir News Trust reported that some political and social figures who had been issued show-cause notices include Ghulam Nabi Azad, Muzaffar Hussain Beigh, Kavinder Gupta, Sajjad Gani Lone, Moulvi Imran Raza Ansari, Sat Sharma, G M Saroori, Sunil Sharma, Abdul Gani Vakil, Abdul Majid Padder, Hakeem Muhammad Yasin, Ravinder Raina, R S Pathania, Pardeep Sharma, Vibodh Gupta, Daleep Singh Parihar, Ravinder Sharma, Neelam Langeh, Shoab Nabi

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Time to come forward, safeguard rights of our youth: Mehbooba Mufti



SRINAGAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti Saturday said time has come to give a collective response to the machination of New Delhi, and vowed that every right snatched by

BJP government will be recovered with "full interest".

Mehbooba, who was addressing a public rally in south Kashmir's Pahalgam, said the PDP tried its best to walk together for the rights of people of Jammu

and Kashmir, but others (without naming anyone) didn't behave in a mature way. "Today we have lost everything. Now it is time to come forward and save youth from clutches of tyranny, safeguard opportunities of employment, land, electricity and other resources the J&K have. God forbid they (New Delhi) want to make us worst category of slaves if we do not realize the situation and resist with maturity," Mehbooba said.

She appealed to people to wake up and take on the demand of

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In five years, 69 militants killed in Srinagar, say Official figures



SRINAGAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): In the past more than five years, at least 69 militants have been killed in district Srinagar while more than 200 militants have been arrested in the area.

According to the official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), at least 69 militants have been killed in district

Srinagar from 2019 to January-31-2024.

The official, however, said that in the year 2023 and in the first month of 2024, no militant was killed in the district.

It further said that from 2019 to 2023, at least 204 militants were arrested. However, till the first month of 2024, no militant was arrested in district Srinagar.

This information was revealed by the Public Information Officer (PIO) of district police Srinagar in a reply to Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the activist M M Shuja.

The official figures reveal that in 2019 at least four militants were killed in Srinagar followed by 22 in 2020. In the year 2021, at least 24 militants were killed followed by 19 militant killings in 2022. The official figures further reveal that in 2023 and till month end of January-2024, no militant was killed in Srinagar district.

According to official figures, from the year 2019 to 2022, the lowest

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Militant hideout busted in Reasi

JAMMU, Apr 20 (Agencies): A militant hideout was busted in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Saturday, leading to seizure of some incriminating material, police said.

The hideout was busted in Dalas Barneli area in Armas sub division during a search and cordon operation, which was launched following reliable information about its presence, a police spokesperson said.

Two detonators, 12 rounds of AK assault rifle, one each IED enabled tape recorder and calculator, one battery and few connecting wires were recovered from the hideout, he said.

Reasi Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma said the search operation is still going on in the area and further details are awaited.

Police are committed to neutralise any nefarious designs of anti-national elements, she said.

324 cases of crime against women registered in Sgr from 2019 to Jan-2024

SRINAGAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): In the past more than five years, at least 324 crime against women cases have been registered in district Srinagar.

According to the official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), under the Crime Against Women (CAW) head, at

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

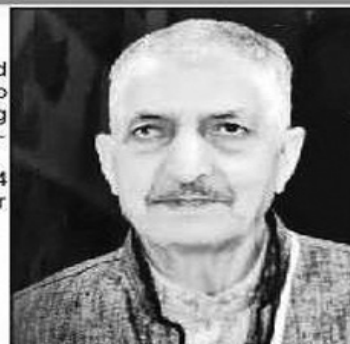
NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K) +91-9086207123

In Loving Memory Of
Ravi Kumar Soni (Bittu JE)
01-09-1962 - 06-04-2020
Choubarsi of Sh. Ravi Kumar Soni (Bittu JE) S/o Lt. Sh. Ambi Parkash Soni, R/o Soni Niwas, Ward No. 5, Basohli will be performed on 21st of April 2024, at 1:00 pm at our residence.
IN REVERENCE & REMEMBRANCE :-
Sh. I D Soni & Smt. Prem Lata (Taya G & Tayi G) (Father & Mother)
Late Sh. Ambi Parkash Soni & Late Smt. Raj Rani Anjali Soni (Wife)
Sunil Soni & Sunita Soni (Bhaiya & Bhabhi)
Anil Soni & Arti Soni (Bhaiya & Bhabhi)
Sumeet Kohli & Sunita Soni (Sister & Brother in law)
Arjun Soni & Ranjana Ghal (Son & Daughter-in-Law)
Akshita (Daughter)
Nephew & Niece:- Anshika, Anshak, Aishwarya
Grand Children:- Aadhya Soni (Cherry)
Contact:- 9419321666, 9419812711, 9103411111



Sh. Ravi Kumar Soni (Bittu JE)

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 Utersoo Anantnag Kashmir, at present H.No. 340, Lane - N, Sector - 2, Durga Nagar, Jammu on 16-04-2024.
Tenth 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
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 - Kartik Bhat, Sanvi Bhat, Vicky Pandita, Rahul Pandita, Ayushi Bhat & Hemanshu Bhat
Contact No.: 9419087413, 9419224852, 7006347241




Sh. Sri Kanth Bhat

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.
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. Dheeraj 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, Ojasvi, Ridhwan, Avighan, Yatharth, Sanidhya, Advitiya, Chaitanya, Aditya
Contact Nos.: 94191-90729, 94692-19020, 94191-07693, 88030-31516, 99061-93100



SH. SHASHI KIRAN GUPTA

TENTH DAY KRIYA
With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Ex Sub Sh Girdhari Lal Chib (Satriyan)** S/o Lt Sh Milap Singh Chib on 11 April, 2024 R/o Toph Sher Khania Mehra Mohalla Ward No 39, Jammu.
Tenth Day will be performed on 20 April 2024 (Saturday) at our residence 10: 00 am
Kriya will be performed on 23 April 2024 (Tuesday) at our residence 12: 30 onwards.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
(Sons & Daughters-in-law)
Sh Rajesh Singh Chib & Smt Neelam Chib
Sh Nanak Singh Chib & Smt Anjali Chib
Sh Gulshan Singh Chib & Smt Anita Chib
Daughter & Son-in-Law
Smt Neelam Manhas & Lt Sh Ajay Singh Manhas (Paloura)
Grand Children: Bhanu Chib, Shallu Chib, Meenakshi, Bhavo, Yuvraj Chib & Jeevika Chib
Mb : 9797373698, 7051200679, 9999073193



Ex Sub Sh Girdhari Lal Chib (Satriyan)

TENTH DAY KRIYA
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Kaushalya Koul** W/o Late Somnath Koul, originally from Lal Nagar, Chanapora, Srinagar on 14th April 2024.
10th Day Kriya will be performed at 8:30 AM on 23rd April 2024, at SHREE GAURI SHANKAR MANDIR TRUST, T-Block, Phase-I, Sector - 109, New Palam Vihar, Gurugram, India, 122017.
IN GRIEF
Son and Daughter-in-law
Veer Ji Koul & Jeeta Koul
Daughters and Son-in-laws
Anjali Raina & Shuban Lal Raina
Pinky Raina & Sanjeev Raina
Lovely Wali & Sanjay Wali
Mobile No's : +919419001013, +919711944610, +919266382721



Smt. Kaushalya Koul

10TH DAY KRIYA
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Krishna Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Dwanika Nath Bhat, originally from Wachi, Shopian Presently residing at TRT CAMP BLOCK 'D' NAGROTA Jammu on 15.04.2024.
10th DAY KRIYA will be performed on 24.04.2024 at 11.00 AM at Nagrota Ghat near TRT CAMP NAGROTA.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Samast Bhat Parivar (7899510740)
Daughter in law & Son
Sh. Sushil Bhat & Lt. Shama Bhat (9330080005)
Sh. Vinod Kumar & Rashmi Dutt
Sh. Davinder Kumar & Jyoti
Sh. Kewal Krishan Bhat & Geeta Bhat (9906193189)
Daughter and Son in law
Manju Pandita & Avtar Krishan Pandita (7780859289)




SMT. KRISHNA DEVI

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 Ragho Ram Sumbly R/o H No. 187 Sector 2 Laxmi Nagar Muthi Jammu who attained Moksha on 13th April 2024.
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




Sh. Pran Nath Sumbly (Jiga Ji)

10TH DAY/KRIYA
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Sh. Rajinder Tickoo** S/o Late Sh. Shambhu Nath Tickoo original resident of Bijbehara, Anantnag present address: H.No. 22 Sidhivinayak Vihar Pouni Chak Police Force Jammu passed away on 17-04-2024.
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on Friday April 26 at 9.00 am.
In Grief:
Smt. Kiran Tickoo- Wife
Paras Tickoo- Son
Upasna Tickoo- Daughter
Brothers & Sisters-in-Law
Mr. Parey Lal Tickoo & Mrs. Renu Tickoo
Mr. Ravinder Tickoo & Mrs. Sweety Tickoo
Mr. Deepak Tickoo & Mrs. Archana Tickoo
Sisters & Brothers-in-Law
Smt. Soni Pandita & Sh. Chuni Lal Pandita
Smt. Shama Dhar & Sh. Manmohan Dhar
Smt. Sunita Mahajan & Mr. Naresh Mahajan
All Kids of Tickoo, Dhar, Pandita & Mahajan Families
Contact No.: 7889333638, 6006577176



Sh. Rajinder Tickoo

10TH DAY/KRIYA
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM YOU THAT OUR BELOVED FATHER, **SHRI MAHARAJ KRISHAN DHAR** ORIGINALLY FROM LAL NAGAR, CHANNAPORA, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR (AT PRESENT WAS IN BANGALORE) HAS LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 12TH APRIL 2024.
10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 21ST APRIL 2024, SUNDAY AT KAVERI SANGAM, SRIRANGAPATNA, KARNATAKA.
BANGALORE ADDRESS:
#6093, SOBHA SILICON OASIS,
HOSEA ROAD, BANGALORE-560100
#9381008149
GRIEF STRICKEN:
SMT. VIJAY DHAR (WIFE)
ANUSH AND PREETI DHAR (SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW)
RATNI KALLI AND L.T.A.K KALLI (SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW)
L.T. GURJA KALLI AND OPINDER KALLI (SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW)
BROTHERS AND FAMILY:
TK DHAR AND SANTOSH DHAR
LT. SK DHAR AND USH DHAR
AK DHAR AND VEENA DHAR
PK DHAR AND ANJALI DHAR
IN-LAWS
RANA'S
GRAND CHILDREN: AADYA AND AHAAN DHAR




Sh. Maharaj Krishan Dhar (Gasha Ji)

CODOLENCE MAULIN SIDE
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Jiga Ji Shree Maharaj Krishen Dhar** S/o Late Shree Prithivi Nath Dhar originally R/o Channapura, Srinagar.
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.



Shree Maharaj Krishen Dhar (Bhayaa Ji)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Iqbal Singh** S/o Late S. Avtar Singh R/o Upper Belicharana Jammu Cantt. Sattwan.
Program:
Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 20 April 2024 (Saturday) at 9:00 AM.
Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 22 April 2024 (Monday) at 09:30 AM.
Antim Ardas and Kirtan at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu on 22 April 2024 (Monday) from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sdn. Gurmeet Kour (Wife)
Harpreet Singh (Son)
Manpreet Kour (Daughter in law)
Komaldeep Singh (Son)
Aneet Kour (Daughter in law)
S. Saroop Singh (Father in law)
Sdn. Paramjeet Kour (Bhabhi)
W/o Late S. Jagdev Singh (Brother)
Dr. Surjit Singh Soodan (Brother)
Sdn. Arvinder Kour (Bhabhi)
S. Harpal Singh (Brother)




S. Iqbal Singh

TENTH DAY KRIYA
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Jai Kishori Pandita (Rani)** Wife of Sh. Badri Nath Pandita originally resident of Hargal Gund Anantnag Kashmir, presently at House No. 49, Lane No. 4/A, Sub Lane-2, Laxmi Vihar Tommal Bohri Jammu on 16-04-2024.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 25/04/2024 at 08.30 hrs at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu.
IN GRIEF
Sh. Badri Nath Pandita - Husband
Smt. Usha Ji W/o Late Sh. Bushan Lal Pandita
Smt. & Sh. Soni Ji & Sohan Lal Pandita
Smt. Phoola Ji W/o Late Sh. T.N. Raina
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. & Sh. Rajni & Rajesh Pandita
Sh. Vijay Kumar Pandita & Son
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. & Sh. Sunila Ganjoo W/o Vijay Ganjoo
Smt. & Sh. Nilu Ganjoo W/o Rinku Ji Ganjoo
Smt. & Sh. Priya Darshani W/o Deep Kumar Bhat
Grand Children - Sunaina, Komal, Aditya, Archit, Arpit, Akriti, Rahul, Rohit
Cell No.: 7006736035, 9149785323, 7051128462



Smt. Jai Kishori Pandita (Rani)

TENTH DAY / KRIYA
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun, of happy memories that I leave when life is done...
In Loving memory of our beloved Father **Professor Dr. Mohan Lal Sharma** Cardio Thoracic Vascular Surgeon July 26, 1938 - April 13, 2024
Prayer Meetings
Tenth Day - April 22 / 10 am at residence.
Kriya - April 23 / 10 am at residence.
Shradhanjali - April 24 / 2 pm at Club, The Resort Sector 75, Faridabad, Haryana.
Fondly Remembered By:- Wife - Menzie / Son - Dipen / Daughters - Mona, Leena,
Sons-in-law - Mathew, Sanjay / **Daughter-in-law** - Samvedna / **Grand Children** - Megha, Siddhant, Nayana, Samartha, Gaurav, Madhav / **Grand Son-in-law** - Christopher
Residence - R 101 The Resort, Sector 75, Faridabad, Haryana.
(M): 9717007448 Dipen Sharma, 9811259110 Leena Sharma



Professor Dr. Mohan Lal Sharma

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Onkar Singh Charak (Retd AC)** resident of House No 145 street No 6 Shakti Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 11-04-2024.
TENTH DAY at our residence H.No. 145/6, Shakti Nagar, Jammu on 20 April 2024 Saturday at 10:30 AM.
KRIYA will be performed at our residence H.No. 145/6, Shakti Nagar on 23 April 2024 Tuesday at 12:30 PM.
RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 24 April 2024 Wednesday at 2:30 PM. at our residence.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter in Law)
Vikram Jeet Singh Charak & Bharti Charak
Brothers & Bhabhis
Late Avtar Singh Charak & Anita Charak
Kulbir Singh Charak & Lalita Charak
Pavitar Singh Charak & Rita Charak
Yudhvir Singh Charak, Bindu Charak
Sister & Brother-in-law
Chander Prabha W/o Late Sh. Bharat Dogra
Daughter & Son in Law
Vinay Jamwal W/o Prilam Singh Jamwal
Anu Radha & Ranjeet
Manisha & Kirpal Singh
Aryavser Singh Charak - Grand Son
Akshita Singh Charak - Grand Daughter)
Mobile No: 9419194290




Sh. Onkar Singh Charak (Retd AC)

UTHALA
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Anil Kumar Maini** S/o Joginder Nath Maini R/o Mohalla Kalika Temple Poonch who left for heavenly abode on 11- April- 2024.
Uthala will be performed on 22 April 2024 from 3 to 4 pm at Shree Geeta Bhawan Poonch.
Grief Stricken
Smt. Santa Maini (Wife)
Sons and Daughter in laws
Mr. Akhil Maini and Mrs. Devakshi Sharma
Mr. Kashish Maini and Mrs. Shivani Jamwal
Grand Daughter
Adishta Maini
All Family Members and friends
Mob: 9419158044; 7298683501




Sh. Anil Kumar Maini

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




Smt. Kishni Dhar (Asha ji)

TENTH DAY KRIYA
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Lt. Sh. Rajinder Kumar Pandita (Raja Ji)** S/o Lt. Aka Lal Pandita of Qazi Mohalla Anantnag Kashmir at present Flat No. 15, Block No. 50, Lane No. 9, Jagli Colony Nagrota Jammu on 18-04-2024.
The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 27th April 2024 (Saturday) at 8:00 am near Directorate of School Education Muthi Ghat Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Reena Pandita - Wife
Smt. Birmla Ji - Bhabhi
Sh. Rahul Pandita - Son
Sh. Ratish Pandita - Son
Miss Nishu Pandita - Daughter
Smt. Anu & Anil Ji - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Savita & Prafull Ji - Daughter & Son-in-law
Mobile No: 9622338515, 7006240902



Lt. Sh. Rajinder Kumar Pandita (Raja Ji)

TENTH DAY KRIYA
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Nancy Shali** W/o Late Roshan Lal Shali originally from Karan Nagar, Srinagar, Kashmir on 15th April 2024 at 502/ KM10 Jaypee Kosmos, Noida sector -134.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 24th April 2024 at Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar from 8:30 am onwards.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Shali's
Munshi's
Jalali's
Trisal's
Om Shanti
Contact No: 9953120369, 9999298245



Smt. Nancy Shali

BHOG / KIRTAN & ARDAS
with profound grief and sorrow it is to be informed that **S. Mehboob Singh Sasan** S/o Late S. Sampurnan Singh Sasan R/o H.No. 1, Ward No. 9, Parliwandi, Kathua has left for heavenly abode on 13/04/2024.
Arambh Shri Akhand Paath 9:00am Saturday 20-April-2024. **Bhog Shri Akhand Paath** Sahib -12:00 Noon.
Kirtan & Ardas - 12:00 Noon Followed by **Guru ka Langar** Monday 22-04-2024 at Gurudwara Singh Sahib Kathua
S. Mehboob Singh Sasan
Grief Stricken:
Paramjeet Kour Sasan - Wife
S. Daya Singh Sasan & Sdr. Amarjeet kour - Brother & Bhabhi
Hardeep Singh Sasan & Damanpreet Kour - Son & Daughter-in-law
Arvinder Singh & Harneet Kour Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Gurpinder Kour & Ramanpreet Singh Soodan - Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children: Gurrajveer Singh, Tazia Singh and Heavenjot Kour



S. Mehboob Singh Sasan

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NC Minority Cell exhorts displaced electors to cast their votes for strengthening secular ethos

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: Stepping up campaign in favour of National Conference candidates from 1- Baramulla Mr Omar Abdullah, 2- Srinagar Mr Aga syed Ruhullah and 3- Anantnag-Rajouri Mian Altaf Ahmed for the upcoming elections to Lok Sabha, Minority Cell on Saturday exuded confidence that the electors of these constituencies based outside the Valley will join in the democratic process in a big way and become part in the process of bringing about a positive change and ensuring political stability.



Mr Bushan Lal Bhat former MLC, while addressing the meeting at Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Bhavan, Jammu today said that "National Conference has all along stood by the displaced people during difficult times and it will continue to do so, come what may, in the years to come".

Bushan Lal Bhat referred to the lofty ideals of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah and said his cherished slogan of 'Hindu Muslim Sikh Itehad' will always remain a guiding force for the party. He said this spirit is needed to be strengthened by voting and supporting the forces believing in inclusiveness and secu-

lar ethos, for which the State was known across the globe. Addressing the meeting, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, said the progressive policies pursued by National Conference government in its different spells has brought about a positive and discernible socio-economic

change in the state. Due to tireless efforts of the party leadership, the state had made a significant headway towards peace, progress and development.

Addressing the meeting, Jatin Bhat Member Minority Cell JKNC urged the migrant voters to vote and support the party candidates from the Valley, saying this will strengthen the pluralistic ethos of the State.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included:- Ashok Koul, R.L Malla, Sumita Bhan, Surinder Bhan, R. N Fotedar, Veer Ji Bhat, Ravinder Ji, Ashok Kumar Tickoo, Ashok Bali and others.

Liquor mafia openly looted J&K, administration remains mute spectators: Sahni



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: The blatant extortion being carried out by the liquor mafia in Jammu Kashmir and the silent spectator attitude of the excise and police administration forces to think that this extortion and big scam is being carried out in collusion with each other, stated by Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni. In a press conference held today at Jammu Press Club, state chief Manish Sahni said that most of the liquor sellers of Jammu and Kashmir are charging prices higher than the MRP. Sahni said that by charging Rs 10-50 extra on every sale, illegal collection of lakhs of rupees daily and crores of rupees per month is going at the behest of

which invisible power and in whose accounts is it going, is a matter of deep investigation. Sahni said that despite the Excise Department's provision of imposing a heavy fine of up to Rs 40,000 and cancellation of license for charging more than the fixed price, this illegal collection is being done rampantly. He said that despite dozens of complaints to the police, Excise Department and several stings by media persons, the license of any liquor seller involved in the illegal collection racket has not been cancelled. Which shows that this scam is being carried out in connivance with some corrupt officials of the concerned departments. Sahni said that the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir

always claims corruption-free administration and deployment of honest officers, but some officials of the Excise and Police Department are flouting the said claims by ignoring the illegal collection on liquor sales. Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir to completely curb this scam with a thorough investigation. Sahni has also appealed to the public not to pay more than the MRP. Along with this, Sahni has reiterated his demand to close liquor shops near religious places and educational institutions. On this occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Balwant Singh, President Kamghar Raj Singh, Secretary Rakesh Handa were present.

'Unfortunate' that NC Contesting in Anantnag-Rajouri Seat Against Friend Who Turned 'Greedy': Omar



SRINAGAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Saturday said it was "unfortunate" that his party was contesting elections in the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency against a friend who turned "greedy" for a Lok Sabha seat. Omar Abdullah in Ladakh. His two sons sitting in the next row. Abdullah was apparently referring to PDP president Mehbooba Mufti contesting the polls from the seat in south Kashmir. The NC has fielded its senior Gujjar leader Mian Altaf from the seat. "The fight on the south Kashmir seat is not with the BJP. NC's contest there is unfortunately with one of our friends who was with us till some days ago. Unfortunately, they left us for the greed of a seat. Our contest at least in south Kashmir is not with the BJP or its 'B' or 'C' teams," Abdullah said here. He was speaking to reporters after addressing an election meeting in support of the party candidate from Srinagar Lok

Sabha constituency Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi. The NC and PDP, who are part of the opposition's INDIA bloc, were also a part of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), which was formed after the abrogation of Article 370. The alliance broke after the NC announced to field candidates from all the three constituencies in the Kashmir valley, without leaving any seat for the PDP. The PDP also later announced to field its candidates on all the three seats. The NC vice president said while the BJP was not directly contesting the parliamentary polls in the valley, it was supporting parties like the Apni Party and People's Conference (PC). "The BJP is in the field contesting elections, but the only difference is they do not have their party symbol, they are contesting on 'cricket bat' (Apni Party's symbol) and 'apple' (PC's symbol)... We are well aware who the BJP supports here, but they stand no chance of winning," he added. The former J-K chief minister said going by the

response of the people, "I hope that God willing, the NC will win all the three seats." In response to a question about the BJP's claims of the NDA crossing the 400-mark, Abdullah said everything would be clear after the results. The Ladakh seat is slipping away from their hands, he claimed. "After the polling yesterday, it seems they will not be able to save the Udhampur seat. Let us see what will happen on the Jammu seat as well," he said. Asked about BJP's J-K president Ravindra Raina claiming that the party will win both the seats in Jammu, Abdullah said, "Let me remind Raina that the elections have not taken place on the Jammu seat yet and we do not even know how many votes will be polled there. Let the voting take place first, then the BJP should claim its victory. As of now, we feel their Udhampur seat is in danger," he said. The NC vice president alleged the BJP claimed many things in Kashmir, but fled from contesting the polls in the valley. "Why did they leave the field? What was their helplessness? Raina was preparing to contest the polls from the south Kashmir seat, but why did he not contest? What compulsion did they have that they had to push other parties be it 'cricket bat' or 'apple', Abdullah said, adding "these parties were working for the BJP".

IGP Kashmir urges officers to enhance existing strategies to thwart potential terror threats



SRINAGAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone Vidhi Kumar Birdhi along with IGP CRPF, and GOC Victor Force held a joint security review meeting at DPO Awantipora. The meeting was attended by DIG CKR, DIG SKR, all sector commanders of Victor Force, DIGs of CRPF Anantnag/ISKOR and all SSSP of South Kashmir, SSP Budgam and all COs of RR & CRPF units deployed in South Kashmir & Budgam district. At the outset of the meeting, the participating officers briefed IGP Kashmir about the overall security scenario to provide insights into the existing security challenges so as to devise effective mitigation strategies. The discussions encompassed various facets, including intelligence gathering, threat assessments, and emergency response protocols in addition to election preparedness efforts. The meeting focused on devising strategies ensuring public safety and upholding the integrity of the electoral pro-

cess. IGP Kashmir urged SSPs and their counterparts in CAPF and RR to critically evaluate and enhance existing strategies to thwart any potential terror activities. Emphasis was placed on the necessity of revisiting and fortifying area domination tactics to cover any vulnerable areas effectively. IGP Kashmir further directed the officers to work without any prejudice, take stern action against those violating the law, and ensure that law enforcement agencies are well prepared to respond quickly and effectively to any emergent situations. During the meeting, the IGP Kashmir also directed the DIGs to strengthen the security grid of their respective areas and facilitate the safe passage of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) across districts. He emphasized strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) & stressed upon the officers to increase focus on human intelligence gathering along with technical inputs so as to intensify anti-terrorist operations to flush out the inimical elements.

Rains relent as night temp drops in J&K

SRINAGAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): After drenching the Jammu and Kashmir in past two days, rains relented on Saturday but light rain at scattered places are in store during next 24 hours, weather department here said. Also, night temperature saw a drop and most places recorded below normal mercury. A meteorological department official here told GNS that in last 24 hours till 0830 hours this morning, Srinagar received 18mm of rain, Qazigund 30mm, Pahalgam 7mm, Kupwara 13mm, Kokernag 21mm, Gulmarg 15mm, Jammu 11mm, Banihal 40mm, Batote 29mm, Katra 14mm and Baderwah 16mm. The weather department here has predicted light rain at scattered places today while from April 21-25, generally dry

weather has been forecast but afternoon thundershower activity at isolated places has not been ruled out. Generally cloudy weather with light rain coupled with thunder has been forecast at many places from April 26 to 27. Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a minimum of 7.0°C against 9.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year. Qazigund recorded a minimum of 7.0°C against 8.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.4°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said. Pahalgam recorded a low of 1.6°C against 4.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C below normal for the famous resort in south

Kashmir. Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 5.8°C against 7.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C below normal, the official said. Kupwara town recorded a low of 6.0°C against 7.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal there, the official said. Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.5°C against 1.6°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.7°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 16.8°C against 17.9°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 3.4°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 6.4°C, Batote 8.4°C and Baderwah 6.6°C, he added.

BJP expresses gratitude to people for massive turn-out in Udh-Doda, will win Jammu-Reasi seat with record margin: Raina

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: BJP expresses gratitude to people for the massive turn-out in the Kathua-Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary constituency, said Ravinder Raina adding that the party will win the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat with a record margin. Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir, was addressing a Press Conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, former Minister Sat Sharma, former MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia and Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta were also present



on the occasion. Ravinder Raina, on the occasion, expressed gratitude to all the voters for voting massively on the 19th of April for the Udhampur-Doda-Kathua Parliamentary Constitu-

tion. He said that the people in all Districts voted in massive numbers despite bad weather on the poll day. He said that such massive voting in the harsh weather proves the commitment of the voters, who polled

more than 70% votes. While mentioning all the far-flung areas, he said that people from all these areas showed enthusiastic participation in the polling. "People have voted massively in the favour of BJP

and the party is leading in all these areas. BJP activists have dedicatedly worked for this enthusiastic response and have left no stone unturned and the party is equally thankful to the people and the ground

workers". "The BJP is set to get massive votes in the upcoming polling in the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary Constituency on 26th April from all the areas, whether rural or urban. There is a massive wave in favour of BJP and the party will score a record victory margin in this Parliamentary Constituency", said Raina while answering a query. The people have expressed unconditional love and support for the BJP and the party's Parliamentary candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma. This support is clearly visible in the massive rallies by the party leaders in all the parts of this Parliamentary constituency, added Raina. Raina also said that the

BJP has gained a massive organizational base in Jammu as well as Kashmir with all the development initiatives by the Modi gov-

ernment, adding that the BJP has a major political presence in the other Parliamentary constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir now.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-03-24-25	Closing Date/Time: 10.05.2024 15:00		Date: 19.04.2024
Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-03-24-25 Closing Date/Time 10.05.2024 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.			
NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of work	Provision of OFC and associated equipment's in Samloti-Joginder Nagar section (60 kms) of Firozpur Division.		
Tender Closing Date Time	10.05.2024 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	17.04.2024 17:06
Advertised Value (Rs.)	24801259.98	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	26.04.2024
Earnest Money (Rs.)	274000.00	Period of Completion	09 Months
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			
			1171/24

EDITORIAL

DIGITAL
INDIA

Digital India Program is a new initiative of the Government of India towards enriching India. Its main objective is to make the country create new records in the field of science and technology. Through this, the only goal is to empower the country digitally. In the present era, only that country is ahead which has made science and technology the medium of progress of its country. There are often discussions regarding its merits and demerits. For this reason, we are presenting some short and long essays on Digital India here. This project is most useful for those village people who are settled in remote area of the country or far away from urban area, this project reduces their time usage by providing high speed internet service. Which will now allow villagers to do all the work with just one click and avoid traveling to urban office ports. Various government departments have shown interest in this project such as IT, education, agriculture etc. as it gives a glimpse of the country's brighter and more knowledge-equipped future. The journey of e-governance in India saw many ups and downs in the nineties from wide regional experiments with emphasis on people-based services. Later, many states/UTs launched various e-governance projects. Although these e-governance were people-based projects, they were not as effective as they should have been. This initiative of the Government of India, started in 2006, was carrying out 31 mission mode projects covering various domains. Even after successful implementation of many e-governance projects across the country, e-governance has not been able to deliver the success that was expected. It is felt that greater emphasis is required to ensure e-governance in the country, which promotes inclusive growth encompassing electronic services, products, devices and job opportunities. Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen electronic manufacturing in the country. To transform the entire ecosystem of public services through the use of information technology, the Government of India has launched the Digital India program to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Village residents have benefited the most from this. Mukesh Ambani ji changed the face of the country by providing internet facility at very low rates through Reliance India's Jio Network Service. Now every hand has a touchscreen mobile phone, whether in city or village. Due to digitalization, we can now book train, plane and bus tickets sitting at home. Now there is no need to stand in long queues. Now every work is possible online. If you need any information, everything is available on the internet. Don't have time and want to do some shopping, no problem, shop online sitting at home. E-commerce platforms have provided a means of livelihood to many.

Elections 2024: Modi up a steep & slippery slope?

By: Mohan Guruswamy

Be it a democracy or a dictatorship, governments are almost always changed by throwing out the incumbent. The former is called a democratic transition and the latter is inevitably a revolution. Even if it is, as usually is the case, more of the same.

India's electoral process that begins on April 19 will be concluded on June 4 when the results are announced. Most psephologists, commentators, astrologers and bazar gossips are sanguine that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be easily re-elected to a third successive term. I do not agree with that sanguinity.

I think Mr Modi has a hard hill to climb and the slope may be too steep and slippery for him. Look at the objective reality. In 2019, the BJP won 303 seats or almost 56 per cent of the Lok Sabha with 37.4 per cent of the popular vote. This skew is how it usually is in a first-past-the-post system. Even a minority mandate translates into an overwhelming outcome. But the problem with the BJP mandate is that it is concentrated in a minority of states. The saffron mandate is restricted almost entirely to the large Hindi-speaking states (202/235), as well as Maharashtra (41/48) and Karnataka (25/28). It got 268 out of its 303 in just this concentration. Winning these states is not the issue for the BJP. Repeating this performance is.

The BJP governments in these states have not exactly covered themselves with glory. The party got resoundingly thrashed in the recent state elections in Karnataka, where Mr Modi fully deployed his mind spread and

headgears, turning it into a Modi versus Congress contest. In the years after 2014, the BJP has turned every election, including for municipal councils, into a Modi versus the rest contest. It has lost many of these. For Prime Minister Modi to repeat 2019, we have to assume that the electorate is able to selectively choose Mr Modi for Parliament and not for the Assemblies.

But a lot of murky waters have flowed down the Ganga, the Narmada and Godavari since 2019. The effects of demonetisation (2016), the Covid-19 lockdowns and general mismanagement have set India on a much lower growth trajectory than the one it was between 2004 and 2014. In that decade India's GDP grew from \$721 billion to \$2.03 trillion, or an increase of 182 per cent; while in 2024 it grew to \$3.75 trillion from \$2.03 trillion, or by 86.6 per cent. But lower growth has not slowed down the accumulation of wealth with the upper class. Income inequality is among the highest in the world now. At the end of 2022, the wealth Gini coefficient of India stood at 82.3, a significant increase compared to 74.7 in 2000.

Joblessness and job dissatisfaction have grown to dominate our economic and social landscape. The ILO's "India Employment Report 2024" paints a bleak outlook for the 7-8 million youth being added to the labour force each year, with youth accounting for almost 83 per cent of India's unemployed workforce. Even more distressing is that among the unemployed, the proportion of educated young people, those who have had a secondary-level education or higher, has doubled to 65.7 per cent now from 35.2

per cent in 2000. Unemployed graduates (29.1%) outnumber illiterates (3.4%) by nine times. This underscores the shortage of jobs requiring skills and education.

The peasantry is disaffected and has taken to the highways again. While the Jat peasantry of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh fattened on assured MSP and near 100 per cent procurement wants more, the peasantry in the rest of the country chafes at state regulations to control prices and hence restrict their incomes. The fragmentation of land holdings has only added to farmer discontent. Ironically, it is widespread even among those who get all and those who get little.

That this general mood will not affect Mr Modi's standing in the saffron belt even somewhat, despite a half-constructed temple in Ayodhya, is to be excessively hopeful. People are natural repositories of discontent. Even after Lord Ram returned to Ayodhya it didn't take people too long to raise uncomfortable questions and Queen Sita had to seek refuge in Valmiki's ashram.

Mr Modi has to deal with discontent and in all likelihood there will be attrition. In each of the saffron states, the BJP won in 2019 with well over 50 per cent of the popular vote. In Gujarat, it polled as much as 62 per cent, in UP it currently holds 64 seats with 49.56 per cent, and in MP and Rajasthan it had over 58 per cent each. Only in Assam did the BJP do well (9/12) with only 36 per cent of the vote. Even in West Bengal, where Mr Modi waged a vicious and personalised campaign against Mamata Banerjee to win 18 seats, it won 40 per

cent. The picture is clear, there is too little room to climb higher, while a drop could be very precipitous in terms of seats.

Presuming Mr Modi will lose support in the BJP's existing strongholds, where can it hope to make up for the losses? Let's start from the South. It is very unlikely to gain any seats in Tamil Nadu and Kerala -- meaning zero will remain zero. It has 25 out of 28 in Karnataka, which is unlikely to be repeated. The Congress is expected to make strong gains here. The BJP has a recently cobbled up an alliance with the TDP, which could mean a couple of seats in Andhra Pradesh. It has four in Telangana and is unlikely to add to it. Thus, even a 10 per cent loss in seats in the saffron heartland and a further loss of, say 10-15 in Karnataka, will leave it well below the halfway mark. Along with its on and off ally, the JD(U), the BJP won 39/40 in Bihar. With the RJD resurgent and a settled alliance with the Congress, that record is unlikely to be maintained. The INDIA alliance is tipped to easily do double digits or even 50 per cent of the seats in Bihar. The AAP/Congress alliance might sweep Delhi's seven seats. The saffron alliance won 41/48 in Maharashtra. With every party split in the state and with an uninspiring state leadership, Mr Modi alone may not be able to pull all the chestnuts out of the fire.

Spread it on a spreadsheet and see how the cookie crumbles. It doesn't look like the BJP is anywhere near 400. Even the halfway mark of 272 looks like a hard climb.

Quantum technology to address national challenges and foster innovation



By: Vijay GarG

The scientific community celebrated April 14 as World Quantum Day to raise awareness of quantum science's impact across diverse fields

The world of science is on the cusp of a transformative era driven by the burgeoning field of quantum technology. Quantum science is founded on several key principles that underpin the behaviour of particles and systems at the quantum scale.

The term "quantum scale" refers to the realm of physics that deals with phenomena occurring at very small scales, typically at the level of atoms, subatomic particles and fundamental particles. It encompasses the principles of quantum mechanics, which govern the behaviour of par-

ticles and systems at these tiny dimensions. At the heart of quantum technology lies the principles of quantum mechanics, a branch of physics that describes the behaviour of particles at the smallest scales. Quantum mechanics introduces uncertainty and the notion of superposition, where particles can exist in multiple States simultaneously. Furthermore, entanglement, another fundamental quantum phenomenon, links the properties of particles regardless of distance, enabling instantaneous communication between them. These counterintuitive phenomena, once relegated to the realm of theory, are now being harnessed to create groundbreaking technologies with the potential to revolutionise numerous fields. India has a long and rich history in quantum science. Pioneering work by Satyendra Nath Bose on quantum statistics laid the groundwork for many modern quantum technologies, including Bose-Einstein condensation, quantum superconductivity and quantum information theory.

Over the past few decades, advancements in quantum science have surged, laying

the groundwork for a new era characterised by unparalleled computational power, secure communication and transformative applications across various sectors. One of the most captivating applications of quantum mechanics is the development of quantum computers. These machines leverage the power of superposition to perform calculations exponentially faster than traditional computers. By manipulating qubits (quantum bits) that can be 0, 1, or both simultaneously, quantum computers can explore a vast array of possibilities concurrently. This unparalleled processing power holds immense promise for drug discovery, where simulating complex molecules can accelerate the development of life-saving medications.

Another revolutionary application of quantum technology is in secure communication. Quantum key distribution (QKD) utilises the principles of quantum mechanics to establish secure cryptographic keys between parties. By encoding information into the quantum States of particles and leveraging entanglement properties, QKD ensures that any attempt to intercept or

eavesdrop on the communication would disturb the quantum State, thereby alerting the parties involved.

Quantum cryptography safeguards sensitive information in critical areas like financial transactions, national security communications and protecting intellectual property.

By exploiting the extreme sensitivity of quantum systems to minute changes, scientists are developing sensors capable of detecting the subtlest variations in magnetic fields, gravity and temperature. This has profound implications for medical imaging, where ultra-high-resolution MRIs can provide detailed analyses of tissues and organs, aiding in early disease detection and personalised medicine. In navigation, quantum sensors can lead to more precise GPS and navigation systems, which are crucial for autonomous vehicles and various scientific endeavours. The Government of India, under the Department of Science and Technology, has initiated the National Quantum Mission (NQM), which aims to harness the transformative potential of quantum technology to address national challenges and foster innovation.

Amit Kapoor exposes under table deal between 5 members of JKFFRC and private schools

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: Amit Kapoor, President of Parents Association Jammu, has said that the five members of JKFFRC have increased the annual charges of private schools in the name of under-table new entrance charges two months ago and have not even uploaded their orders on the website so that parents can be misled about it.

At the same time, parents are being harassed and looted heavily. He said that this exposes the under-table collusion and deal between the five members of JKFFRC and private schools. This shows that an under-table deal of crores has been done between them. He has demanded a CBI inquiry into this entire matter and has also asked to investigate the properties of these five members. Amit Kapoor said this while addressing a press conference in Jammu.

He said that JKFFRC has increased these charges in the name of new entrance fees by flouting the orders of Supreme Court, High Court and its own orders and the surprising thing is that these orders have not been uploaded on the website so that parents do not get any information about it and also Amit Kapoor, the president of Jammu Parents Association, who is fight-



ing against their arbitrariness, does not get any information.

This is because if Amit Kapoor gets to know about it, he will raise his voice against it and make parents aware so that JKFFRC and private schools will come on the back foot.

Amit Kapoor said that Supreme Court, High Court and even JKFFRC have issued orders that no school can charge annual fees. He alleged that in this case, the five members of JKFFRC have made a deal of crores of rupees under the table with these schools and have issued these orders in the name of new entrance charges by ignoring all the orders.

Amit Kapoor took the five members of JKFFRC to task and said that their properties should

be investigated and the whole matter should be investigated by the CBI. Along with this, he has also made serious allegations against JKFFRC member JKBOSE's secretary Manisha Sareen, who has been working as a member for the last several years, and said that during her tenure, many chairmen of JKFFRC have been changed and she is well aware of everything. Apart from this, JKBOSE directors Ashok Kumar Sharma, Shaukat Ahmed Mir, Senior CA and Chairman Sunil Hale were also questioned.

He said that it is possible that Piyush Singla may not be aware of the collusion of these members, but he asked how he signed for this. He said that this clearly shows that they have

done a big deal under the table with private schools, so the whole matter should be investigated by the CBI.

Amit Kapoor made a sensational disclosure and cited DPS Jammu in this matter. He said that this school has declared its income as Rs 19 crore without transport in its audit report, out of which Rs 13 crore has been spent as salary of employees.

The fees of this school have also been increased from Rs 2700 to Rs 4000 in the name of new entrance fee but this has also not been uploaded on the website. At the same time, this school has declared an expenditure of Rs 1 crore 45 lakh 3 thousand 314 for advertisement whereas according to the order no school can advertise itself and here also the orders have been violated. Apart from this, Rs 1 crore 10 lakh 6 thousand 228 has been declared in the name of refreshment and entertainment.

The new entrance charges of this school have been increased to Rs 4000 and there are 4200 children in this school. Whereas according to the order of the Supreme Court, private schools cannot take admission fees and cannot take annual fees in advance. According to the number of children in this school, it requires 150 employees which include teachers,

non-teachers, principal, watchman, peon etc. As per the expenses shown by them, the salary of one employee is more than 72 thousand. So, the question arises whether the employees of DPS school are getting this much salary.

Amit Kapoor said that the salary of a teacher in this school can be from 25 to 30 thousand while the peon can get 10 to 15 thousand while the principal can get more. Amit Kapoor said that there are many schools in Jammu and Kashmir which run in the name of trusts and they get tax exemption from the government, while many are defrauding the government treasury by evading taxes by presenting such figures. And along with this, the chairman of JKFFRC, by playing legal tricks, tells these schools ways to evade taxes and in connivance with other members, makes deals of crores of rupees with them under the table. Amit Kapoor alleged that this is a scam of crores of rupees and government officials are also involved in it, so this case is completely fit for investigation by the CBI.

Therefore, this case should be investigated by the CBI and along with that the properties of the chairman of JKFFRC and its members should also be investigated, he said.

35-yr-old woman undergoes Innovative Daycare Robot- Aided-Surgery; successfully treated for fibroids

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: A groundbreaking Daycare Gynaecology Robot-aided Surgery at Fortis Hospital, Mohali, has successfully treated a 35-year-old woman suffering from fibroids. The Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Fortis Mohali, headed by Dr Swapna Misra, Director, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, has treated several women suffering from complex gynecological ailments through the world's most advanced 4th Generation Robot - Da Vinci Xi.

The 35-year-old patient had been experiencing chronic pelvic pain, heavy menstrual bleeding, and discomfort during urination. Her ultrasound reports revealed seven fibroids of various sizes in her uterus. The Patient was advised to undergo open surgery for removal of the fibroids at another city-based hospital, such a procedure posed risks of uterine damage and bleeding complications.

The Patient then consulted Dr Misra at Fortis Mohali who suggested robot-aided surgery which has more advantages and subsequently underwent the Daycare Gynae Robotic Surgery wherein all her fibroids were removed, and no blood transfusion was required. Remarkably, the Patient was able to walk home merely 12



hours post-surgery and was able to resume her normal activities the following day.

In another case, a 60-year-old woman was diagnosed with cancer of the endometrium. Despite being advised to open surgery at various other city-based hospitals, she too benefitted from Dr. Misra's expertise in robot-aided surgery, resulting in the removal of her uterus, tubes, ovaries, and lymph nodes. She was stable and able to leave the hospital only 10 hours after her surgery.

Dr Misra, who has conducted more than 500 robot-aided surgeries, said, "Day care Robot aided surgeries are safe and allows the patient to walk back home on the same day. There is no blood transfusion, antibiotic use and hospitalization. The Daycare Gynae Robotic Surgery not only reduces trauma for the

patient, but the even cost of stay at the hospital."

On the benefits of Robot aided Surgery, Dr Misra, said, "Robot aided Surgery is the latest form of minimal invasive surgery, which provides a 3D view of the operative field via a special camera inserted into the body of the patient. Parts of the body which are difficult to reach with the human hand can be accessed through robot-assisted arms that can rotate 360 degrees."

Dr Misra further said, "Robot-aided-Surgery has been established as the gold standard procedure for almost all gynecological surgeries - fibroids, endometriosis, vesico-vaginal fistula, ovarian cyst, salpingo-oophorectomy, myomectomy, hysterectomy and all cancers of the uterus, ovary and cervix and has revolutionized the treatment of various gynecological diseases."

STAIRS Foundation launches J&K Chapter to empower local youth through sports



Top News Report

JAMMU, April 20: STAIRS Foundation, a national sports promotion organisation dedicated to fostering youth development through sports, announced the successful inauguration of its Jammu & Kashmir chapter on April 20, 2024.

The grand opening ceremony, held at the Press Club of Jammu, was attended by many sports enthusiasts and dignitaries.

Siddhartha Upadhyay, President of STAIRS Foundation, delivered a significant address highlighting the organisation's commitment to promoting sports among young people in the region.

The newly launched chapter aims to provide a platform for young sports enthusiasts to hone their skills and showcase their talents. It will focus on introducing them to various sports and providing them with the necessary

infrastructure and training support to help them achieve their full potential. The chapter's launch has been greeted with much enthusiasm and is expected to impact the overall sports development in the region positively.

This strategic expansion into Jammu and Kashmir aligns with STAIRS' acclaimed "One India, One Goal" program, which aims to ensure every child can engage in sports and potentially advance to national levels. The focus in Jammu and Kashmir will be on implementing the proprietary Funnel Model of Sports Development, designed to streamline identifying and nurturing young sporting talents from grassroots to national prominence.

Jammu & Kashmir boasts a significant educational infrastructure with over 28,000 schools and 27.18 lakh students, representing a consider-

able demographic dividend. STAIRS Foundation is set to engage and harness this potential to foster social good, ensuring the region's abundant youthful energy contributes to positive community growth and development.

During his visit, Siddhartha Upadhyay will outline the specifics of deploying this model in the region, which includes initiating coordinator, schools, colleges, and stakeholder onboarding processes. The goal is to achieve complete integration with local press, associations, and government departments to establish a robust environment for sports development.

The event will also feature the appointment of Gulshan Rattan as the Chief of Sports Coordinators Schools for Jammu & Kashmir. His role will be instrumental in partnering with educational institutions to promote widespread participation

in sports across the union territory.

Siddhartha Upadhyay stated, "With our foundation's recognition as a National Sports Promotion Organisation, we are thrilled to extend our reach to Jammu & Kashmir. We must provide every child here with the means to play and excel in sports. Through the collective efforts of local communities and stakeholders, we are poised to uncover and foster the next generation of regional champions."

The launch event will discuss strategic plans and aim to foster collaborations with local entities to ensure a successful rollout of sports programs. STAIRS Foundation's commitment to sports education and holistic development has significantly impacted India. The new chapter in Jammu & Kashmir is expected to further this legacy by creating new opportunities for youth in the union territory.

Natrang's Voter Awareness programme through theatre concludes

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: Natrang Jammu's three show series of its highly motivating play 'Loktantra Ka Mantra' concluded here today at the auditorium of Government College for women, Jammu. Earlier Natrang opened this most engrossing play at the Auditorium of Government College for Women in the august presence of District Development Commissioner Jammu Mr. Sachin Kumar and the officers of the team SVEEP, Jammu.

The second show in Jammu was showcased at the Auditorium of Teacher Bhawan, Gandhi Nagar.

Organised by the district administration Jammu and supported by Chief Electoral Office, J&K, this highly motivating electrifying theatre performance effectively educated the masses about the immense importance of voting. Written by Padamshree Balwant Thakur and directed by Neeraj Kant this mesmerising play aims at creating a strong awareness movement ensuring maximum participation of the voters in the electoral process. Theatre is the most powerful medium of mass awareness and today's professional performance by J&K's most popular theatre group Natrang was a testimony of that.

The play 'Loktantra Ka



Asli Mantra' opens with the aggression of the disillusioned, frustrated youth who are struggling to survive in the contaminated air of corruption, scandals and dishonesty.

They do not see any hope in the future as their present is being rotten by the corrupt system. They want to devastate everything around them in rage but when questioned by an educated person that 'what are they doing to come out of this unfortunate situation? Busy in their illusionary world created by the social media, they are speechless as they just want the things to happen but are not ready to be part of that change and want everything without making any required effort. Terming them as the most vibrant human resource of the world, the educated

person prompts them to come forward, take the command and change their fate.

The most effective way of changing the fate of a country is the way of voting, this is the highly peaceful and effective way to bring big reforms of their choices. As the play proceeds, different age groups and varied sections of people are shown in satirical manner who have their petty reasons to not vote and also whom to vote.

This ignorance and arrogance of the masses leaves huge space for the vested interests to exploit this situation. Through this play all the sections of society are prompted not to run away from their ultimate responsibility of voting for the stronger democracy of India. Vote has the only and ultimate

power to change the fate of the country and everyone through this play is motivated to ensure that this right of voting of every citizen should not go waste. Let's pledge to vote! Now Natrang team will travel to Rajouri District where it will present this theatre show at Sunderbani and Nowshera on 21st and 22nd April respectively at 11 am.

The artists who participated in the play Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra included Neeraj Kant, Subash Jamwal, Mohd. Yaseen, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Vishal Sharma, Palshin Dutta, Payal Khanna, Priya Kashyap, Aadesh Dhar, Kushal Bhat, Sanket Bhagat, Amit Rana, Kananpreet Kaur Arun Sharma and Vansh Pandotra. The music of the play was operated by Chaitanaya Shekhar.

Lok Adalat for MACT, Bank Recovery Cases held

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: In compliance to the directions of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, a Special Lok Adalat for MACT and Bank Recovery Cases was held today under the guidance of Incharge Chairman District Legal Services Authority Jammu, Sh. Jatinder Singh Jamwal

3rd Additional Distt. & Sessions Judge Jammu, and overall supervision of Ms. Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority. Wherein 03 benches were constituted in their Courts to deal with the matters of MACT and Bank Recovery cases. Bench No. 01 comprised by Abdul Nasir, PO Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal, Jammu

and Mr. Gurdeep Singh Gill, Panel Lawyer. No. of cases were taken up 20 out of which 07 cases were disposed of and their settlement amount is 74,80,000/-. Bench No. 02 comprised by Sh. Kamlesh Pandita, Addl. District Judge, Bank Court Jammu, Mr. Arvind Khajuria, Panel Lawyer & Ms. Kavita Raina, Panel Lawyer. No. of cases were taken

up 50 out of which 36 cases were disposed of and their settlement amount is 2,62,89,604. Bench No. 03 comprised by O.P. Bhagat, Addl. Session Judge Anti Corruption, Jammu (MACT Cases) and Ms. Shahla Rafiqi, Panel Lawyer. No. of cases were taken up 10 cases out of which 02 cases were disposed of and their settlement amount is 11,75,000/-

. Lok Adalat on Bank Recovery Cases was also held at Court of Munsiff/JMIC Akhnour also taken 08 cases out of which 01 case was disposed of and their settlement amount is 1,39,360/-. A total 88 cases were taken up by 03 benches out of which 46 cases were settled and an amount of Rs. 3,50,83,964/- was also settled.

LPEF holds condolence meeting

Top News Report

DODA, Apr 20: Condolence meeting held under the chairmanship of Ghulam Hassan pampori in the office of LPEF Nehru Chowk Doda city. Shakeel Ahmad Dev said that the death of Abdul Majeed Khan, resident of Gatha Baderwah, Brother in law of Niaz Ahmad Rahi distt. president Lowpaid Govt.

Employees Federation Doda. Er.Nazir Ahmad Sheikh distt.president JK pensioner Association (LPEF) Doda said that late Abdul majeed khan Baderwahi was great man honest Brilliant in his depth.finance deptt.we are standing with his family on this crucial time.May God grant him high place in jannah.who were Present in meeting including

Ghulam Hassan Bagwan. Gopal Singh. Nizam ud din Butt General Secretary of LPEF Doda. Santosh Kumar, Surishtha Devi, Faizan Ali Trambooo President NHM health deptt. Ishtiaq Ahmad Dev, Dr. Matloob Ahmad Tak, Manzoor Ahmad Butt president Youngster Cricket Club, Mohd Shafi Butt and Sad ullah Khani, Ghulam Rasool.

Anushka Kaushik, who was recently seen in courtroom drama Patna Shuklla, believes understanding the world of any character she essays on screen is very important for her

As Patna Shuklla opens to positive reviews on Disney+Hotstar, actress Anushka Kaushik cannot contain her happiness. One of the central characters in the film, it's as much her story as is it of the lead star, Raveena Tandon. Together, these women lead a fight against the corrupt education system. From humble beginnings to soaring popularity, Anushka's journey is all about her dedication to the craft.

Anushka's brush with spotlight began with a simple desire to express herself through movement and performance. "I started my journey as a dancer," she recalls, reflecting on her early days in Saharanpur. "In my hometown, Saharanpur, we did not have much exposure to theatre, so I thought I would start as a dancer and then pursue acting." Dancing then led her to the stage, where she honed her craft through college plays and local productions.

As opportunities in traditional theatre became scarce, Anushka turned to auditions as her gateway into the world of acting. "For outsiders like us, there is no other alternative apart from giving auditions," she explains. Embracing the digital age, Anushka found a new platform for her talents, collaborating with various channels and accumulating a massive viewership of over 300 million. "I played a lot of urban characters during my initial days on YouTube," she recalls, "but I had this underlying desire to try and do varied things, which I had learnt in theatre."

OTT zone
That desire for diversity and depth found its fulfillment on OTT with the movie Thar, and shows like Crash Course and



Garmi, where Anushka delved into complex characters with nuance and sensitivity. Reflecting on her preparation for roles like the Bundelkhandi character in Lust Stories, she focuses on the importance of understanding the world of her characters. "To know the world of a character is very important," she asserts, acknowledging the challenges of portraying a sex worker with empathy and authenticity.

Beyond her on-screen efforts, Anushka is a passionate advocate for self-defence training, believing it should be a fundamental aspect of education. "Self-defence is an extremely important element in itself," she

insists, sharing her own journey of learning Wing Chun, a martial art developed by a female monk. "I strongly feel we all should consider learning and practicing martial arts."

In her cinematic collaborations, Anushka has had the privilege of working with some popular directors and actors who have left a profound impact on her craft. Describing her experience with Tigmanshu Dhulia, she says, "The moment I knew it was his project, I was in. The best part about working with him was his ability to connect the scenes, I loved that."

Working alongside icons like Kajol, Raveena Tandon, and the late Satish Kaushik has been

an enriching experience for Anushka. Recalling her interaction with Kajol, she marvels at the actress' ability to appreciate even the smallest nuances of her performance. "I have grown up dancing to Kajol's songs," she smiles.

Story of courage
In her latest film Patna Shuklla, Anushka takes on the role of Rinki Kumari, a character whose resilience and determination resonate deeply with her. "It is a story of her courage and bravery," she explains, highlighting the importance of fighting for justice and truth. Working alongside Raveena Tandon, Anushka found inspiration not only in her co-star's technical expertise, but also in her wisdom and perspective on life. "I learnt life lessons from her," Anushka reflects.

Talking about Satish Kaushik, who she worked with in Thar and Patna Shuklla, Anushka recalls fondly, "He used to always call me Kaushik. Once a junior artiste came up to me and asked whether I was from Satish Kaushik's family...I wish I was his relative. But I feel somewhere he became a part of my family, while we made this film."

As she lives the highs and lows of her profession, Anushka remains grounded in her commitment to storytelling and connection. "The most difficult part is there are no set timelines for work," she admits, acknowledging the challenges of balancing personal and professional life. Yet, it is precisely this unpredictability that fuels her passion for acting, reminding her of the transformative power of storytelling.

Here's what Rihanna has to say about her potential new album



Grammy-winning singer Rihanna has given fans another sneak peek into her highly anticipated upcoming album, teasing that the new songs she's been crafting are "so good."

This revelation came during a recent red carpet interview obtained by The Hollywood Reporter.

"I already got stuff that I feel like I can make hits out of. Yeah, really,"

Rihanna exclaimed, hinting at the quality of the tracks she's been working on.

She further revealed that her partner, rapper A\$AP Rocky, shares her enthusiasm for the new music, adding, "Me and Rocky are really trying to figure out who is going to use what because it's so good." However, when asked about the album's release date, Rihanna remained coy, jokingly stating, "I

wanna know, too."

Her latest remarks come amidst mounting anticipation from her devoted fanbase, who have been eagerly awaiting new music since her last studio album, 2016's 'Anti.'

In addition to discussing her musical endeavours, Rihanna shared insights into her parenting journey with A\$AP Rocky.

The couple shares two sons, RZA, 23 months old, and Riot, 7 months old.

Rihanna revealed that when it comes to dressing their sons, she draws inspiration from A\$AP Rocky's style, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

"When I dress them, I always try to dress them like Rocky," Rihanna explained.

She elaborated on the challenges of dressing boys, expressing how she initially envisioned dressing a girl but found inspiration in A\$AP Rocky's fashion sense.

Earlier, Rihanna also discussed her creative process, revealing that her ideas for visuals are driving her music-making process this time around.

"It's weird. My brain is working backward right now. I don't have the songs for them yet. But maybe that's the key, this time. Maybe the visual ideas are leading me to the songs that I need to make," Rihanna admitted.

Mansi in a negative role

While popular actor Ulka Gupta and heartthrob Karan Vohra will be playing leads in Zee TV's upcoming show Main Hoon Saath Tere, featuring alongside them will be prominent television actress Mansi Srivastava. She will be seen playing Aryaman's sister, Raina. Although she is the youngest daughter of the Bundela family, she is very ambitious and works hard to achieve her goals.

But she despises Aryaman and doesn't want him to own any part of the Bundela property, as he is the son from her father's second marriage. Her character in the show will be the source of a lot of conflict and complications in Aryaman's life.

Says Mansi, "I am back on Zee TV after my stint in Kundali Bhagya, and my role in Main Hoon Saath Tere is even more exciting.



My character, Raina, will keep the audience on the edge of their seats with her wicked-

ness. The look is classy and sharp with straight, silky hair and designer sarees."

Taylor Swift's 11th studio album The Tortured Poets Department is out!

Fourteen-time Grammy winner Taylor Swift has once again captivated audiences with her latest musical offering, The Tortured Poets Department, which she unveiled on Friday.

The album, comprising 16 tracks, offers a profound exploration of the stages of grief and heartbreak, inviting listeners to navigate through a spectrum of emotions. In a notable collaboration, Swift joins forces with acclaimed artistes Post Malone and Florence + The Machine on two tracks. Additionally, fans can expect bonus tracks such as The Manuscript, The Bolter, The Albatross, and The Black Dog, featured on various vinyl versions of the album.



Describing the album as 'an anthology of new works that reflect events, opinions and sentiments from a fleeting and fatalistic moment in time', Swift shared her reflections on her official Instagram handle. She emphasised the closure of a chapter in her life, asserting, "There is nothing to avenge, no scores to settle once wounds have healed." The anticipation surrounding the album reached unprecedented heights, with Spotify announcing it as the most pre-saved album in the platform's history. Swift's strategic album teasers on social media only added to the fervour, with fans eagerly deciphering clues about the themes and inspirations.

Speculation about the album's focus on Swift's personal experiences, particularly her breakup with actor Joe Alwyn, intensified as fans dissected song titles and lyrics.

Swift herself confirmed heartbreak as a central theme, unveiling exclusive Apple Music playlists that delve into the five stages of grief.

Amidst the excitement, Swift's return to TikTok marked a resolution in the dispute between the platform and Universal Music Group, her music distributor.

The album's release follows her previous Grammy-winning success with Midnights in 2022, further solidifying her status as a powerhouse in the music industry.

Vidya Balan spent two weeks dancing to 'Mere Dholna': 'Took time to just memorise sargam'

Actress Vidya Balan has shared that it took a good amount of time just to memorise the sargam of the song 'Mere Dholna', adding that she spent two weeks learning the dance moves for the song.

Vidya appeared on the stage of the kids' singing reality show 'Superstar Singer 3' along with her 'Do Aur Do Pyaar' co-star Pratik Gandhi.

Indian Navy veteran, Commander Prabha Lall, also graced the show to extend her sup-

port to Nishant Gupta from Gurugram in Haryana, and Devanasriya K from Kozhikode in Kerala.

Sharing her own journey and the challenges she faced, she expressed her admiration for Vidya and requested Nishant and Devanasriya to perform on 'Mere Dholna'.

The song is originally sung by Shreya Ghoshal and MG Sreekumar and is from the 2007 comedy horror film 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa', starring Akshay

Kumar and Vidya.

In a mesmerising display of talent, the dynamic duo, along with their captain Mohd Danish, gave a stunning performance that left everyone spellbound.

Amazed by the performance, Vidya shared, "Thank you for singing this song. It's one of my all-time favourites, and again, I will be a part of the film 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3'. I was so excited to hear you guys. Both of you delivered that prelude flawlessly. I'm curi-



ous, how much practice do you both put in? Your performance seemed so seasoned, almost as if you've been doing this for ages. God bless you both for such an incredible performance."

Recalling the shoot of the song, the actress, who was last seen in 'Neeyat', added, "You know, when I performed this song, it took a good amount of time just to memorise the Sargam, and it took me two weeks to dance to this

song.

And here you, as singers, master it in just four days. That's truly impressive."

Stunned by the performance, judge Neha Kakkar said, "Historic indeed. Danish, you've done a fantastic job. And these two kids have no idea how incredible they were. It's almost unbelievable. They sang with such passion and delivered an outstanding performance. I'm stunned." Echoing Vidya's

thought, Pratik said, "You guys pulled off this challenging song with such ease. I feel like you've been preparing for this moment for many lifetimes. Also, the mentor-mentee relationship between you guys is truly remarkable. Danish Bhai, what an incredible team you've got. I can't wait to see this team perform on bigger stages."

'Superstar Singer 3' airs every Saturday and Sunday at 8 pm on Sony.

PM Modi targets Rahul Gandhi, says after Amethi, Congress' 'sahabzade' will lose Wayanad seat also

Modi says some INDIA bloc leaders left Lok Sabha and moved to Rajya Sabha as they have no courage to contest election

NANDED, Apr 20 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, saying that in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, "Congress' sahabzade" will lose from Wayanad constituency in Kerala and he will have to look for a safer seat after that.

Addressing a rally at Nanded in Maharashtra to campaign for BJP candidates from Nanded and Hingoli seats, Modi said the information available for the first phase of Lok Sabha polls indicates that there has been a one-sided voting in favour of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Referring to Rahul Gandhi, Modi said, "After losing Amethi, the Congress' sahabzade will lose Wayanad as well. So he will have to look for a safe seat after April 26."

In an apparent reference to Sonia Gandhi, he said some INDIA bloc leaders left the Lok Sabha and moved to the Rajya Sabha as they have no courage



to contest elections.

"For the first time, the family will not vote for a Congress candidate in the constituency where they live as there is no party candidate there," he said.

Modi said he has spent 10 years fixing the bad governance of the Congress regimes. "A lot of work needs to be done," he added.

The Congress has been a barrier in the development of farmers and poor people, he alleged.

"The agriculture crisis did not happen now. It happened

because of the flawed policies of Congress," Modi said.

Targeting the INDIA bloc, he said it has no face to project and people do not know whom to entrust the country's future.

"They may claim anything, but the reality is that Congress leaders have accepted defeat even before the announcement of polls," he said.

He termed the opposition alliance a grouping of selfish people who have come together to protect their corrupt practices.

He appealed to voters to come

out in large numbers to exercise their voting right in the Lok Sabha elections.

"You are not doing any favour by voting. You are securing the country's future. I want to boost the morale of the party workers from the opposition. You (opposition leaders) are sure to lose the polls, but you will get a chance some day. But you must appeal to voters to vote," he said.

Modi said the INDIA bloc constituents were contesting the elections against each other in 25 per cent seats.

"After (the election results on) June 4, they will be fighting more with each other," he said.

He said that without the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, what fate would have befallen Sikhs who came from Afghanistan.

The NDA under PM Modi is seeking a stronger majority for a third consecutive term, while the constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc are hoping for a rebound after facing reverses in the 2014 and 2019 elections.

"When We Talk About Crossing 400, Congress Gets Stomach Ache": Amit Shah



KOTA (RAJASTHAN), Apr 20 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that the people gave BJP full majority in the 2014 and 2019 elections, and they used that to abolish Article 370, build Ram Mandir, implement CAA and give 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

Addressing the Vijay Sankalp Mahasammelan here today, Amit Shah said, "You gave us full majority in 2014 and 2019, we used the majority to abolish 370, build the temple at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi, implement CAA and give 33% reservation to women in Lok Sabha and Assemblies."

"If you had voted for Congress in 2019, Kota would have become

the house of PFI. You voted for PM Modi and he ended PFI and put them behind bars. They say that they will lift the ban on PFI. Congress is an anti-development party. For five years there was Gehlot government but they did not let the Eastern Rajasthan Canal project move ahead for five years. After the Bhanjanlal Sharma government came to power, within three months we signed the agreement for the Eastern Rajasthan Canal project," Mr Shah added.

Further, the Home Minister slammed Congress and said that the first phase of elections concluded, on Friday and on all the seats in Congress has been wiped off.

"When we talk about crossing 400, Congress

gets stomach ache. They are spreading lies that if BJP gets 400 seats then they will end the reservation. Modi ji gave 20 thousand crore to 87 lakh farmers in Rajasthan as Kisan Samman Nidhi. Made 3 lakh lakhpati didi. Tap water was supplied to the homes of 51 lakh poor people. 2 crore people were given the benefit of Ayushman Bharat scheme. Work was done to build toilets in the houses of 86 lakh poor people. Congress is an anti-development party," Amit Shah said further.

The remaining 13 seats in Rajasthan will be contested in the second phase on April 26.

The remaining phases will be held on May 7, May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1 accordingly. The last general elections in 2019 were also held in seven phases.

In 2019, BJP registered a sweeping victory winning 24 out of 25 seats, while the remaining one seat was won by Rashtriya Loktrantik Party Candidate Hanuman Beniwal.

BJP won't cross 150 seats; INDIA bloc will foil its attempt to scrap Constitution: Rahul Gandhi

NANDED, Apr 20 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accused the ruling BJP at the Centre of trying to "scrap" the Constitution, but vowed that the opposition bloc INDIA would foil its attempt.

Addressing an election rally in Bhagalpur, his first in Bihar, Gandhi also scoffed at the claims of the BJP that it will win more than 370 seats in the Lok Sabha elections, asserting that "their tally will not go past 150."

"These BJP people have kept saying that they will secure this many or that many seats. Let me make it clear: they (BJP) won't get more than 150 seats. Not even a single seat more than 150," he said.

"The INDIA bloc is fighting to save democracy and the Constitution, which the BJP-RSS combine is trying to scrap," Gandhi continued.

The former Congress president also alleged, "Whatever the country's poor, Dalits and tribals have got, it is because of the Constitution. If the Constitution is scrapped, all things will come to an end."

Notably, in March, Rahul claimed that the "ultimate goal of Narendra Modi and the

BJP is to destroy Babasaheb's Constitution" after BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde's statement that the party needs a two-thirds majority to amend the Constitution.

Meanwhile, Gandhi also charged the Narendra Modi government with being pro-super rich, claiming that "under its rule, merely 22 people hold wealth that is equivalent to what 70 percent of the population has. We want to change that."

He also spoke about promises made by the Congress in its manifesto, like scrapping the 'Agniveer' scheme and the right to apprenticeship.

"As soon as the INDIA alliance government comes, we will end the Agniveer scheme. India does not need two types of martyrs. Everyone should get a pension," he said.

The Congress leader promised to implement a minimum tax after coming to power. "We will change GST. There will be one tax, the minimum tax. We will double the salary of Asha and Anganwadi workers," he said.

He also promised to waive off farmers' debts and provide a guaranteed minimum support price to the farmers after the INDIA



bloc came to power.

"We are giving two guarantees to the farmers. The Congress party is going to waive off the farmers' debts, and secondly, we are going to provide a guaranteed minimum support price to the farmers of India," he said.

Rahul also promised that his government would provide all graduates and diploma holders in India with the right to an apprenticeship. He added that under the right to apprenticeship, each person will receive an apprenticeship in the public, private, and government sectors for one year with a salary and if they perform well, they will secure a permanent job.

21 police and Home Guard jawans injured as bus carrying them after poll duty overturns in Madhya Pradesh

BETUL (MP), Apr 20 (Agencies): Twenty-one police and Home Guard personnel were injured when the bus carrying them overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district in the wee hours of Saturday, an official said.

These jawans were returning to their home district Rajgarh in the state after performing their election duty when the accident occurred near Baretha Ghat on

the Bhopal-Betul highway, the official said.

The incident took place around 4 am, Sub Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Shalini Paraste said.

"It happened when the bus carrying a total of 40 jawans, including five policemen and remaining home guard, was on its way to Rajgarh after their election duty in Chhindwara," she said.

Eight of the personnel

who received serious injuries are being treated in the district hospital at Betul, while those with minor injuries are being treated in Shahpur hospital, the police official said.

The incident took place when the bus swerved to avoid a truck that crossed its path, she said.

Polling for the Chhindwara Lok Sabha seat was held on Friday.

Will Modi deliver on his 'promise' to put Ashok Chavan in jail: Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): The Congress on Saturday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking whether he would deliver on his promise to put the BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Chavan in jail.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed a few questions for Prime Minister Modi ahead of his rally in Nanded and Parbhani. "Today's questions for PM Modi as he heads to Nanded and Parbhani: Will the PM deliver on his promise to put BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Chavan in jail? What is the BJP's plan to deal with Marathwada's worsening drought and water scarcity? Why has the Indian Railways performed so poorly in Nanded division," Ramesh said in a post on 'X'.

Elaborating on what he dubbed as "jumla details", the Congress leader said the prime minister should revisit his words from his campaign in Nanded on March 30, 2014, when he launched a ferocious attack on Chavan -- "now the latest labaarthi of the 'BJP Washing Machine Yojana'".



"The PM declared Chavan an 'Adarsh candidate', and said that 'the Congress is shameless' for having given him a ticket while he was under investigation," Ramesh said.

He said that Modi had announced that he would send Chavan to jail "within six months" if he became the prime minister. A decade later, Chavan is not in jail, continues to be under investigation, and is a Rajya Sabha MP from the BJP.

"Does PM Modi hold the BJP to be 'shameless' as well? Will he conspire to get Mr Chavan a clean chit soon? Will he deliver on his promise to put the BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Chavan in jail," Ramesh asked.

Jairam Ramesh also

said that after suffering from drought conditions over the last four months, the Marathwada region has now been hit by unseasonal rains and hailstorms, which have caused severe crop losses. The ruling BJP government has not declared this event a national disaster or announced any relief measures. This is no surprise from a government that has also failed to care for the lifeline of Marathwada, the Godavari river.

"Although Rs 88 crore were allocated for the cleaning of the river in 2022, there has been no tangible improvement," Ramesh added.

"Why has PM Modi ignored the plight of Marathwada's farmers? Does his government have any plans to pro-

tect the river that is so crucial to the environmental and economic health of this drought prone area," Ramesh further asked.

He also claimed that the railway infrastructure in the Nanded division, which serves many areas in Marathwada, has collapsed under the Modi government's supervision.

According to data furnished by the South Central Railway (SCR) in 2021, Nanded has only 35 kilometres of route electrification and 83 kilometres of track-doubling. This puts it at the bottom in terms of electrification and only marginally ahead of the bottom in track doubling compared to other SCR divisions. Additionally, it is the only division in its zone that still has 130km of colonial-era meter-gauge tracks," Ramesh said.

Why has crucial railway infrastructure been neglected in Nanded, he asked.

"Does the PM have any real vision for bringing development to the Marathwada region," Ramesh said and asked the prime minister to break his "silence" on these issues.

Sarath Reddy gave Rs 60 crore to BJP, ED took no action: AAP on liquor scam case



NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Saturday assailed the BJP, alleging that it took Rs 60 crore from an accused in the "so-called" liquor scam

case but the Enforcement Directorate took no action in the matter.

At a press conference here, Singh said Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and himself, were arrested in the liquor scam case without any evidence.

"Sarath Reddy, whom the ED in its charge sheet termed the kingpin of the liquor scam, gave Rs 60 crore through electoral bonds. But the agency took no action against anyone in this matter," Singh alleged.

There was no immediate reaction from Reddy or the BJP on this.

Singh claimed that after his arrest in the liquor scam case, Reddy gave Rs 5 crore to the BJP on November 15,

2022, as a donation. After six months in jail, Reddy got bail on May 8, 2023, and within the next few days, he gave Rs 50 crore to the BJP through electoral bonds, the AAP MP added.

Singh also claimed that before his arrest, Reddy donated Rs 5 crore to the BJP in parts in 2022.

He alleged that soon after the details of the electoral bonds became public on March 21 and it was revealed that the BJP took money from Reddy, the ED raided Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal's residence.

Toll in Odisha boat capsizing rises to 7 with recovery of 5 more bodies

BHUBANESWAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): The toll in the boat capsizing in Odisha's Jharsuguda district rose to seven with the recovery of five more bodies on Saturday, a senior official said.

Personnel of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force and fire services, who launched a search operation immediately after the boat capsized on Friday



evening, recovered five more bodies from the Mahanadi river, he said. "Five more bodies were recovered from the

Hirakud reservoir of the river," the official said. All deceased persons hailed from Kharseni area of neighbouring

Chhattisgarh.

The incident occurred when around 50 passengers hailing from the neighbouring state returned in the boat after visiting a temple in Patharseni Kuda in Odisha's Bargarh district.

The boat capsized as it was about to reach Sarada Ghat in Rengali police station in Jharsuguda district, a police officer said.

US sanctions Chinese suppliers for providing critical components of Pakistan's ballistic missile programme

As a result of the action, all property and interests in property owned by these institutions will be frozen

WASHINGTON, Apr 20 (Agencies): The US has cracked down on Pakistan's ballistic missile programme by sanctioning four companies from China and Belarus that provided critical components especially for the region-destabilising long-range missiles.

The US Department of State said it has sanctioned Belarus-based Minsk Wheel Tractor Plant which allegedly supplied special vehicle chassis to Pakistan's long-range ballistic missile programme being implemented by its National Development Complex (NDC).

China-based Xi'an Longde Technology Development Company, it said, has supplied



a filament winding machine to produce rocket motor cases for ballistic missiles.

Another Chinese company, Tianjin Creative Source International, supplied stir welding equipment which can be used

to manufacture propellant tanks used in space launch vehicles.

It also allegedly supplied a linear accelerator system, most likely for Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO),

which develops and produces Pakistan's MTCR Category I ballistic missiles, said the Department of State.

China's Company Limited worked with Pakistan's SUPARCO to supply equipment for testing of large diameter rocket motors.

As a result of the action, all property and interests in property owned by these institutions will be frozen.

Also, all those on the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List (SDN) List with 50 per cent or more ownership by indirect or direct owners will also be blocked. They also cannot enter the US.

Iraq's popular mobilization forces post hit in air strike, sources say



BAGHDAD, Apr 20 (Agencies): Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces, an official security force, said its command post at Kalso military base about 50 km (30 miles) south of Baghdad was hit by a huge explosion late on Friday, and two security sources said it resulted from an air strike.

One PMF fighter was killed and six were wounded, two sources at a hospital in the nearby city of Hilla said.

"The blast has caused material damage and injuries," PMF said in a statement, adding that a team was investigating.

The two security sources said it was not known who was respon-

sible for the air strike. A US official said there had been no US military activity in Iraq.

Israel carried out an attack on Iranian territory on Friday, sources said, days after Iran struck Israel with a barrage of drones and missiles.

The PMF started out as a grouping of armed factions, many close to Iran, that was later recognized as a formal security force by Iraqi authorities.

Factions within the PMF took part in months of rocket and drone attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq amid Israel's Gaza campaign but halted attacks since early February.

Elon Musk's X Fights Australian Watchdog Over Church Stabbing Posts

SYDNEY, Apr 20 (Agencies): Elon Musk's X said Saturday it will fight an Australian watchdog's order to take down content related to the brutal stabbing of a priest during a live-streamed Sydney church service.

Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel was allegedly slashed in the head and chest by a 16-year-old suspect on Monday, sparking a riot by followers of the Assyrian Christian church in western Sydney.

The bishop has since issued a message from hospital saying he is recovering from his wounds and has forgiven his assailant.

Video of the bloody attack, which spread widely on social media platforms, has been blamed by Australian authorities for feeding tensions in the community.

X's government affairs department said it had complied with an initial eSafety directive, "pending a legal challenge", to remove "certain posts in Australia that commented on the recent attack".

But the social media platform said it later received a demand from Australia's eSafety commissioner Julie Inman Grant to "globally withhold the posts".

X said it had been warned it faced a daily fine of Aus\$785,000 (US\$500,000) for failure to comply.



"The Australian censorship commissar is demanding 'global' content bans!" Musk wrote as he reshared the company's response.

"The eSafety Commissioner does not have the authority to dictate what content X's users can see globally. We will robustly challenge this unlawful and dangerous approach in court," X said.

"Shocked" X said the posts did not violate its own rules on violent speech.

The eSafety watchdog said Friday it was working to ensure X's "full and complete compliance" with Australian law.

"We are considering whether further regulatory action is required," it said.

The authority said it was "disappointed that process has been unnecessarily prolonged rather than prioritising the safety of Australians and the Australian community".

eSafety said it was also working with major

social media platforms over the reposting and sharing of content that shows or encourages terrorism or other extreme violence.

New South Wales Premier Chris Minns has been scathing of the role played by some platforms in making violent images of the attack available.

"I'm shocked but I'm not surprised," he said Saturday when asked about X's statement.

"That is exactly what I would expect from X or Twitter or whatever you want to call it: a disregard for the information that they have pumped into our communities, lies and rumours spreading like wildfire," Minns said.

"And when things go wrong, throwing their hands up in the air to say they're not prepared to do anything about it." Minns called for a strengthening of the rules governing social media companies.

"We have had enough. Sydney has had enough."

'Not afraid of monkeys': Bilawal Bhutto assails opposition for using 'abusive language' during Pak Prez Zardari's address

ISLAMABAD, Apr 20 (Agencies): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, has slammed the opposition for using derogatory language during President Asif Ali Zardari's speech at parliament and added that his party has a history of opposing dictators and that they are not afraid of the "jungle's monkeys," reported news agency.

In his address at a press conference, Bilawal termed the opposition's conduct and use of abusive language in the joint session as "unparliamentary" behaviour.

The PPP chairman, who held the position of



foreign minister in the previous administration, stated that the president presented a plan of action to lead the nation out of its economic crisis in his speech.

The PPP leader criticised the opposition, saying, "Unfortunately,

the opposition made its own history." Additionally, he stated that they would accept criticism from the opposition in the legislative branch, according to Geo News.

His comments were made the day after Sunni Ittehad Council

(SIC) legislators, backed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), mounted a loud protest during the first joint sitting of parliament following the general elections on February 8.

PTI leader Omar Ayub Khan called President Asif Ali Zardari "illegal" in reaction to the "olive branch" he had extended in his first parliamentary speech.

Additionally, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, the PTI Chairman, described their demonstration and commotion in the joint session of parliament as a "21-cannon salute" to President Zardari. "We presented a 21-cannon salute to Zardari," he

had said, according to news agency.

Backing the National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's disciplinary action against MNAs Jamshed Ahmad Khan Dasti and Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Bilawal said: "It was necessary to set a precedent." Earlier today, the NA speaker suspended the memberships of the two parliamentarians for the current session due to their use of abusive language during the president's address.

Stressing the need for unity on foreign affairs, the PPP leader said: "Politics is your right but everyone should be united on foreign policy."

A third of China's urban population at danger due to land sinking, finds new study

BEIJING, Apr 20 (Agencies): About a third of China's urban population is estimated to be at risk due to land subsidence, shows a new finding which researchers said is indicative of a global phenomenon.

China's urban area below the sea level could triple by 2120, potentially affecting 55 to 128 million residents, it found.

Using satellite data, the research team studied 82 cities, including

Shanghai and Beijing, with a collective population of nearly 700 million people.

The team, including researchers from the University of East Anglia in the UK, found that 45 per cent of the urban land area analysed was sinking, with 16 per cent sinking at the rate of 10 millimetres a year.

Hotspots included Beijing and the coastal city of Tianjin, they said.

The study estimated that 270 million urban residents could be

affected, with nearly 70 million experiencing rapid subsidence of 10 millimetres a year or more. The findings are published in the journal 'Science'. Caused mainly by human activities in cities, land sinking can also reinforce climate change and sea-level rise, thereby specially affecting coastal cities including Tianjin, the findings showed.

Subsidence is considered to be primarily driven by groundwater withdrawal, which

lowers the water table, along with geology and weight of buildings.

Upon combining subsidence with sea-level rise in their analysis, the researchers found that China's urban area below the sea level could triple by 2120, potentially affecting 55 to 128 million residents. This could be catastrophic without a strong societal response, they said.

Shanghai, China's biggest city, was found to have subsided up to 3

metres over the past century.

The researchers said that while consistently measuring the sinking of land is important, models predicting subsidence should consider all factors, including human activities and climate change.

Not accounting for land sinking in adaptation and resilience plans now could potentially risk destruction of lives and infrastructure in the coming decades, they pointed out.

Moscow says 50 Ukrainian drones shot down as attacks spark fires at Russian power stations

KYIV, Apr 20 (Agencies): Ukraine launched a barrage of drones across Russia overnight, the Defence Ministry in Moscow said Saturday, in attacks that appeared to target the country's energy infrastructure.

Fifty drones were shot down by air defences over eight Russian regions, including 26 over the country's western Belgorod region close to the Ukrainian border.

Two people — a woman with a broken leg and the man caring for her — died during the barrage, after explosions sparked a blaze that set their home alight, Belgorod Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov wrote on social media.

Drones were also reportedly destroyed over the Bryansk, Kursk, Tula, Smolensk, Ryazan, Kaluga regions across Russia's west and south, as well as in the Moscow region.

Ukrainian officials normally decline to comment about

attacks on Russian soil. However, many of the drone strikes appeared to be directed toward Russia's energy infrastructure.

The head of the Kaluga region, Vladislav Shapsha, said Saturday that a drone strike had sparked a blaze at an electrical substation, while Bryansk Governor Alexander Bogomaz and Smolensk Governor Vasily Anokhin also reported fires at fuel and energy complexes.

In recent months, Russian refineries and oil terminals have become priority targets of Ukrainian drone attacks, part of stepped-up assaults on Russian territory.

Ukrainian drone developers have been extending the weapons' range for months, as Kyiv attempts to compensate for its battlefield disadvantage in weapons and troops.

The unmanned aerial vehicles are also an affordable option while Ukraine waits for more

US military aid.

Moscow also said Friday evening that an American citizen known to have fought with Kremlin-backed separatists in Ukraine between 2014 and 2017 had died in the Russian-occupied Donetsk region.

Russell Bentley, 64, was no longer involved in military operations and previously worked for state-owned Russian news agency Sputnik. His death was confirmed by his former battalion and by Margarita Simonyan, head of the state-funded television channel RT, who described him as "a real American."

He used the call-sign "Texas" and had spent time in prison on charges of drug smuggling before leaving the United States.

No information has been released as to the cause of Bentley's death, but local police had previously reported the American as missing on April 8.

Meanwhile, Russia attacked Ukraine overnight with seven missiles, and air defences downed two missiles and three reconnaissance drones, the Ukrainian air force said Saturday.

Governor Oleh Kiper, head of Ukraine's Odesa region, said that ballistic missiles had damaged infrastructure overnight, but did not provide further details.

Previous attacks on the Black Sea city on Friday damaged port infrastructure, including two food export terminals, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Russian shelling also killed a 50-year-old man in the city of Vovchansk, said Governor Oleh Syniehubov, head of Ukraine's Kharkiv region.

A 60-year-old woman was also injured after shelling struck a nine-story apartment block, he said.

Cash-strapped Pakistan makes formal request to International Monetary Fund for another bailout

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD, Apr 20 (Agencies): Pakistan has made a formal request to IMF for seeking the next bailout package in the range of USD 6 to USD 8 billion with the possibility of augmentation through climate financing, a media report said on Saturday.

Cash-strapped Pakistan also requested to dispatch the International Monetary Fund (IMF) review mission next month to firm up details of the next bailout package for three years under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

However, the exact size and timeframe of the new package will only be determined after evolving consensus on the major contours of the next programme in May 2024, Geo News reported from Washington. A high-level Pakistani delegation led by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb is currently visiting Washington to attend the annual spring meetings of the IMF/World Bank.

Although Pakistani authorities are pitching a rosy picture of the economy, the IMF in its latest Regional Economic Outlook (REO) released by Middle East and Central Asia (ME and CA) said the cash-strapped country's external buffers deteriorated, mostly

reflecting ongoing debt service, including Eurobond repayments. "Where inflationary pressures persist, monetary policy should remain tight and follow a data-dependent approach (Egypt, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan), while closely monitoring risks of a reversal of inflation developments," it added.

After contracting in 2023, growth in Pakistan is projected to rebound to 2 per cent in 2024, supported by continuing positive base effects in the agriculture and textile sectors. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Aurangzeb told the World Bank in Washington that with the reform agenda fully implemented in key areas, Pakistan's economy has the potential to grow to USD 3 trillion by 2047. Pakistan's current USD 3 billion arrangement with the IMF runs out in late April and the government is seeking a longer and bigger loan to help bring permanence to macroeconomic stability and an umbrella under which the country can execute much-needed structural reforms.

The IMF however emphasised that prioritising reforms to revitalise the Pakistani economy outweighs the size of the new loan package being negotiated.

All Kashmir Folk Artists Association organises folk programme

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 20: A grand programme was organised by All Kashmir Folk Artists Association here today at Tagore Hall Srinagar.

In addition to Kashmiri culture lovers Former deputy Speaker LLC JK Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, DDC chairman Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan, Mushtaq Ali Khan, Nisar Naseem, G M Sofi, Manzoor Ahmad Mir, NSD representative Guzar Ganaie and other dignitaries were present during the occasion.

The occasion was marked by captivating performances showcasing



ing the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir. As the association embarks on its journey, it aims to preserve and promote the traditional folk arts of the region, fostering a vibrant

community of artists. The event was held with the participation of over 60 folk theatre cum Dhambali Dance groups who also designed a

Managing Body of association. The association made Shah-e-Jahan Ahmad Bhagat was elected as Chairman of the association, Farooq Ahmad Shah as deputy chairman, Fayaz Ahmad

Rather as General secretary, Manzoor Ahmad Shah as joint Secretary, Manzoor Ahmad bhat as cashier, Nazir Ahmad Gulgami as Organiser and Mohd Dilawar Bhat as patron.

Speaking on the occasion, Shah-e-Jahan Ahmad Bhagat said that he would work for the young artists, for the development of folk art forms and traditional heritage of Kashmir.

He further stated that 'Culture is a binding factor that ties people together'. Our culture and tradition is the face of ourself and it's our moral responsibility to preserve it.

Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan remembered on birth anniversary

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 20: The 35th birth anniversary of Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan was celebrated with devotion and patriotic fervor by Martyr Tushar Mahajan Memorial Trust on Thursday.

On the occasion, heartfelt tributes were paid to the martyr who sacrificed his life for the motherland.

A function was held at Shivalik College of Education in which students of college and Happy model Higher Secondary School participated. Students threw light on life of the martyr and his sacrifice for the nation. Students also presented patriotic songs in his memory.

A painting and speech competition on theme "Nation First" was also held on the occasion. Prizes were distributed among those who secured first, second and third positions in both the competitions.

Chairman Tushar Memorial Trust, Profes-

sor Dev Raj Gupta, Secretary Shewatketu Singh, Principal Shivalik college of Education Dr Vikram Gulati, Principal Happy Model Muneesh Gulati, along with the Trust members Ranjit Parihar, Vikas Manhas, Dr Yogeshwar Gupta, Satish Chopra, Deepanker Gupta, Adv Karun Raina and large number of school and college students were present on the occasion.

Chairman of trust Prof Dev Raj Gupta, Dr vikram gulati and Ranjit parihaar Speaking on the occasion, said that it is imperative to honour our heroes especially the martyrs who have laid down their lives for safeguarding the nation as it imbibes a sense of patriotism and linkage to ones country. He added that his courage, devotion and sacrifice for the nation will always be remembered and keep inspiring all of us.

Gupta also highlighted various activities being carried out by trust throughout year for the welfare of society after the

martyrdom of captain tushar.

On the occasion drawing competition, Speech competition and Poetry competition was held in which students of BED College and school students participated. Shivansh Parihar, Maheshben and Arun secured first, second and third position in speech competition in junior group respectively while Arushi, Ritika and Divyanshi secured first, second and third position in senior wing. Harkirat Singh, Ansh Sharma and Nahi Manhas secured first second third in drawing competition respectively while Rudransh, Piya and Saneha ist second and third in poetry competition respectively.

Earlier a wreath laying ceremony was held at the statue of the Martyr at Tushar Morh Udhampur where trust members and large number of people paid rich floral tribute to brave heart. Candles were lit up in the evening and a cake was also cut by the Trust.

INDIA Bloc sole viable option for Nation's future: NC



Top News Report

SAMBA Apr 20: J&K National Conference today advocated for the India Bloc as the sole viable option for the people of our cherished nation, citing widespread disillusionment with the misrule of the Modi Government over the past decades.

In this regard, J&K National Conference today organized series of meetings at Samba Urban, Samba Rural, Ramgarh, Vijaypur, Raya Morh and Pyt. Meen Sarkar (Bari Brahmana) Industrial Area falling in district Samba.

During the meetings, Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary JKNC and former Minister along with Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, JKNC, Jammu, Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President, Mohd Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary, Surjit Singh Manhas Joint Secretary, Nar Singh President Labour Wing, Bimla Luthra former MLA. Sawant Dogra Provincial President Women wing Jammu, Vijay Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Sudagar Gupta District President Samba.

These meetings were organized by Party's dedicated functionaries Mohinder Singh, Chandar Uday Singh, Ashok Attri, Dr Harmesh Singh Slathia, Ravinder Slathia, Surjit Singh Manhas, Joginder Pal and Bharat Bhushan.

At the beginning of the meetings at several places, the NC workers apprised the senior functionaries about the problems being faced by general public in absence of basic amenities across the Samba district.

Addressing the meetings at several places in Samba, Ajay Sadhotra, astutely acknowledging the pressing need for a united front in addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting the people due to BJP's anti-people policies, declared the India Bloc as the sole viable option. He underscored the imperative for collective action under the banner of the India Bloc, emphasizing the urgency of consolidating support behind Raman Bhalla, the INDI Alliance candidate for Jammu Reasi Lok Sabha seat, as a beacon of hope and progress.

Emphasizing the need for a cohesive political front, Sadhotra urged voters to rally behind the INDI Alliance Candidate in the ensuing elections for a better future.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC, in his address, advocated for a transformative change under the banner of the India Bloc. He highlighted the INDI Alliance's commitment to fostering economic growth, promoting social cohesion, and upholding democratic principles as foundational pillars of its agenda. "Now more than ever, we need leadership that is principled, vision-

ary, and responsive to the needs of the people," he stated.

As the nation stands at a crossroads, Rattan Lal Gupta urged voters to exercise their democratic right with diligence and foresight. "The choices we make in the upcoming elections will shape the trajectory of our nation for years to come. Let us unite behind the India Bloc, let us rally behind Raman Bhalla, and let us forge a path towards a stronger, more prosperous India."

Babu Rampal also threw light on the hardships being faced by the marginalized and vulnerable segments of society under the BJP's governance. From economic disparities to social injustices, the plight of the weaker sections has only deepened under the BJP's rule, driving home the imperative for a new direction, he said and underscored the urgent need for change to uplift and empower these communities.

Senior NC women leaders Bimla Luthra, Satwant Dogra, Laxmi Dutta, Rajni Devi and Shahnaz Akhter, asserted that true empowerment for women can only be realized through the INDI Alliance. They asserted that only through their collective leadership can the barriers hindering women's advancement be dismantled. Encouraging women voters to rally behind the alliance's candidates, they envisioned a future where women's voices are not just heard but actively shape the trajectory of the nation.

Those who were present in the meeting included, Ajay Sharma, Rama Samy, Dev Raj Kapoor, Ashwani Abrol, Sandeep Singh youth Leader, Krishan Dutt, Ch. Showket and others.

DDC hosts farewell for graduating students

Top News Report

SAMBA, Apr 20: Dogra Degree College (DDC) Bassi Kalan, Bari Brahmana, hosted a heartfelt farewell for the graduating students of session 2021-24 on Saturday. The event, held at the college auditorium, was marked by enthusiasm and togetherness. It offered a platform for teachers and students to engage in discussions spanning various topics, including their future endeavors. As the outgoing students reflected on their journey, they expressed gratitude for the education and personal growth experiences that prepared them to tackle life's challenges.

The Vibrant event commenced with a warm welcome from Akshita Sharma, a fourth-semester BA student, followed by the ceremonial lamp lighting by esteemed dignitaries: Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, Chairman DET, Dr. Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary, DET, Dr. Gitika Sehgal, Coordinator, DET and Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal, Dogra Degree College.

Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, Former Minister and Chairman Dogra Educational Trust was the Chief Guest of the occasion. The Chief Guest, in his address applauded and appreciated the talent exhibited by the students. He wished the passing batch success for their future endeavors. He emphasized on the fact that Dogra Educational Trust stands for promotion of quality and inclusive education for all and is not a profit making organization. Dr. Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary, Dogra Educational Trust, wished all the best to the outgoing students for success and accomplish-

ments in all their future endeavors and uphold their core values and congratulated the faculty and the students for putting up a memorable event for the outgoing batch. Dr. Gitika Sehgal, Coordinator, Dogra Educational Trust encouraged students to excel in their future endeavors.

The event progressed with a captivating Hindi dance performance by the juniors, followed by an array of dance, music, and laughter, showcasing their impressive skills. Addressing the audience, the Principal of Dogra Degree College wished luck to the outgoing batch, encouraging students to refine their technical abilities, uphold moral values, and strive towards their goals. Juniors including Taniya Khajuria, Taniya Rajput & Khushi Bhagat from B.A Semester 4th, along with her group delivered vibrant performances, including group dances and skits, delighting the audience with melodious musical renditions.

Outgoing students enjoyed moments of joy and celebration on stage, participating in various rounds to earn titles. The evening culminated in the crowning of Chiranjeev Singh of BA 6th Semester and Mansakshi Thakur of BBA 6th Semester and Akul Gupta of B.Com 6th Semester as Mr., Ms. & All-rounder of Dogra Degree College, respectively, selected by the esteemed panel of judges: Priyanka Sharma, Palak Gupta, and Amarpreet Kaur. The faculty's coordination ensured the event's success, and Daksha Kaushal of B.Com 4th Semester delivered the vote of thanks before concluding with the National Anthem.

GDC Purmandal organizes Parents Meet & Prize Distribution function

Top News Report

PURMANDAL, Apr 20: Parents Meet and Prize distribution function was organized at GDC Purmandal on 20th of April, 2024 in the presence of chief guest, Prof. Ashok Aima [Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu], Guest of Honor, Prof. B.L. Zutshi [President of Hindu Education Society Kashmir], Dr. Bharat Bhushan Sharma [former Principal and Head Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti] and Special Guest, Gurmeet Singh from Bharat Vikas Parishad. The function began with the lighting of the tradition lamp and the release of college Newsletter RISE of session 2023-24 by chief guest and other

guests. The Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Raj Shree Dhar formally welcomed all the guests especially parents of the students and presented the Annual Day report highlighted the all round achievements of the college during the year 2023-24.

The Chief Guest, Prof. Ashok Aima in his speech appreciated the college authority for taking various initiatives for overall growth and progress of the students. Prof. B.L. Zutshi emphasized the importance of holistic development and encouraged students to not only excel academically but also to engage in extra-curricular activities. Prof. [Dr.] Bharat Bhushan Sharma also shared his valuable views on the

occasion and applauded the achievements of the students across various discipline. The parents were quite happy as they got opportunity to interact with faculty members of the college. The event showcased the rich cultural heritage of the region through a series of vibrant and captivating cultural performances. The students who had brought laurels in academics and extra-curricular activities were rewarded with certificates and trophies. The proceedings of the day were conducted by Prof. Shahima Akhter [Convener, Dean Students Welfare]. The whole programme was coordinated by Prof. Shahima Akhter, Dr. Preeti Rachna, Prof. Pallavi & Dr. Nazia Bibi.

Hyundai Motor India introduces 'Grameen Mahotsav'

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH/JAMMU, Apr 20: Hyundai Motor India today introduced 'Grameen Mahotsav' a vibrant initiative celebrating the essence of rural India. With rural sales accounting for over 19% of its total sales, Hyundai is committed to fostering strong bonds with rural communities.

Under Grameen Mahotsav, Hyundai is orchestrating an array of engaging activities, including captivating product displays, interactive demonstrations and attractive customer experiences like nukkad natak, live music, folk dance and regional talent shows.

The 2 day Grameen Mahotsav carni-

val will be hosted at 16 locations across India, exhibiting a vibrant market place featuring artisanal crafts, carnival rides, gaming zones and delicious food stalls.

Beyond celebration, Grameen Mahotsav serves as a platform for Hyundai to delve into the vast potential of rural markets. By closely engaging with communities and discerning market trends, HMLI aims to not only cater to evolving aspirations but also identify and welcome new customers into the Hyundai family.

Tarun Garg, COO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd., said, "Our sustained efforts towards bolstering rural connect are bearing great fruits and company has witnessed a remarkable growth in rural markets in financial year 2023-2024."

FROM PAGE 1

India set for significant overhaul of criminal justice system with newly enacted laws: CJJ

Sakshya Act replace the earlier criminal laws namely, the Indian Penal Code 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

The laws are set to completely overhaul the country's criminal justice system starting from July 1.

However, the provision concerning cases of hit-and-run by vehicle drivers will not be implemented immediately.

The three laws received approval from Parliament on December 21 last year, and President Droupadi Murmu granted her assent on December 25.

Estates Deptt issues show-cause notices of

eviction to 42 politicians

Lone, Abdul Rashid, M S Panditpuri, Raja Manzoor, Nizamuddin Bhat, Mir Muhammad Fayaz, Zafar Iqbal Manhas, Abdul Rahim Rather, Bashir Ahmed Dar, Muhammad Amin Bhat, Sofi Yousaf, Muhammad Yusuf Tarigami, Yasir Reshi, Surinder Ambaradar, Muhammad Abbas Wani, Shafiq Mir, Shilpi Verma, Tariq Ahmed Keen, Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar, Zahid Hussain Jan, S S Channi, Sonallah Lone, and Reyaz Ahmed Mir.

The Estates Department has directed these occupants to appear before the Director Estates in person or through virtual mode to give the written response along with the documentary evidence, if any, in support of the continuation of accommodations of allotment at Srinagar and Jammu or otherwise within 10 days from the date of receipt of these notices.

Time to come forward, safeguard rights of our

youth: Mehbooba Mufti

the hour otherwise there will be no evidence of our existence in future. "My voice is worthless till you will not support me. The struggle has become inevitable for us. You people must vote for PDP to take this people's voice to the Parliament," she said.

"In past you were thinking POTA, Task Force, Ikhwan won't be over, but Late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed did it. Today you are concerned about rights snatched by New Delhi on August 05, 2019, but I want to assure you that every snatched right will be recovered with full-interest," Mehbooba Mufti added.

In five years, 69 militants killed in Srinagar, say Official figures

number of killings of militants in Srinagar was in the year 2019 and highest numbers of militants were killed in the year 2021.

324 cases of crime against women registered in Sgr from 2019 to Jan-2024

least 324 crime against women cases have been registered in district Srinagar from 2019 to January-31-2024 including one dowry case in the year 2022.

This information was revealed by the Public Information Officer (PIO) in a reply to Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the activist M M Shuja.

According to the official figures, in the past more than five years, the highest number of cases registered under the Crime Against Women (CAW) head in Srinagar was in the year 2023 wherein at least 113 such cases have been registered.

Similarly, the lowest numbers of such cases in the region were registered in the year 2021.

The official figures reveal that in the year 2019 at least 48 cases of crime against

women were registered in Srinagar under the crime head CAW followed by 47 cases in 2020. In the year 2021, at least 41 such cases registered in the region followed by 70 cases in 2022 and 113 in 2023.

It further reveals that in the first month of 2024; at least five cases of crime against women were registered in Srinagar under the crime head CAW.

Excise 'scam': Delhi court reserves order on bail pleas of Manish Sisodia

Special judge for CBI and ED, Kaveri Baweja, reserved the order for April 30 after hearing arguments from the central probe agencies as well as the counsel appearing for Sisodia.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader had also moved interim bail pleas in both cases to campaign for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Govt kicks off consultations with domestic industry, Tesla reps, to evolve guidelines for new EV policy

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Ahead of Tesla CEO Elon Musk's visit to India, the Centre on Thursday held the first consultation meeting with the automobile industry players, including Tesla representatives, to evolve guidelines to operationalise the new electric vehicles (EV) policy released last month, industry and official sources aware of the development told The Indian Express.

The participants in the meeting, the first of the more such deliberations, included officials from Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Finance Ministry, along with car manufacturers such as Tata Motors, Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Volkswagen, Mercedes and Toyota, as well as Tesla representatives.

"The EV policy was launched last month but the draft guidelines are yet to be released. The consultation with the automobile industry was to prepare the guidelines



for the policy. This was the first such meeting and more are scheduled to take place to prepare the guidelines," an industry executive who attended the meeting said.

The guidelines are expected to provide more clarity on investments in EV manufacturing in the country, which is at a nascent stage and is expected to grow into a major category within the automobile sector in the coming years.

Tesla's participa-

tion comes after India eased duty for a limited number of EV imports for manufacturers setting up facilities in India with a minimum investment of Rs 4,150 crore under the new EV policy. The Texas-based Tesla, Inc., had been seeking tariff concessions as a precondition for building a manufacturing plant in India.

Musk is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 22 and is also scheduled to

interact with a number of Indian startups from several sectors.

The new EV policy released last month makes way for import of completely built-up (CBU) cars at a 15 per cent import duty. In 2021, Tesla had written to nodal central ministries seeking a reduction in import duties on fully assembled cars and had asked for duties to be cut to 40-15 per cent depending on the price of the car. The new policy effectively ful-

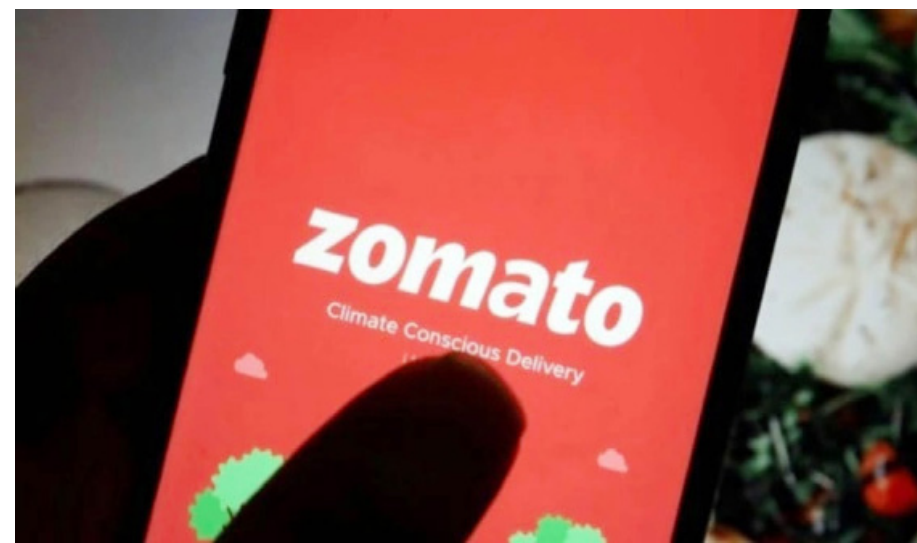
fills that demand.

"Under this scheme, EV passenger cars (e-4W) can initially be imported with a minimum CIF value of \$35,000, at a duty rate of 15 per cent for a period of 5 years from the date of issuance of approval letter by Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)," the new EV policy said.

However, the maximum number of e-4W allowed to be imported at the reduced duty rate has been capped at 8,000 per year. The carryover of unutilised annual import limits would be permitted, the policy read.

India is currently the world's third largest automobile market and one of the fastest growing automotive markets in the world. The current market size of the automotive sector is Rs 12.5 lakh crore and the sector is expected to cross Rs 24.9 lakh crore by 2030. The automotive sector contributes over 7.1 per cent to the country's GDP.

Zomato gets Rs 11.82 cr tax demand notice



NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Online food delivery platform Zomato has received a tax demand and penalty order of Rs 11.82 crore related to GST on export services provided to its subsidiaries located outside India from July 2017 to March 2021.

The order was passed by the Additional Commissioner, Central Goods and Services Tax, Gurugram, raising the GST demand of Rs 5,90,94,889, with applicable interest (not quan-

tified) and penalty of Rs 5,90,94,889.

"We believe that we have a strong case on merits, and the company will be filing an appeal against the order before the appropriate authority," Zomato stated in a regulatory filing late evening on Friday.

It informed that the demand order has been received, "confirming demand of GST on export services provided by the company to its subsidiaries located outside India during

the period July 2017 to March 2021 by upholding that such services do not fulfil the conditions for the supply to qualify as export of service under GST".

"The company, in its response to the show cause notice, had clarified on the allegations, along with supporting documents and judicial precedents, which appears not to have been appreciated by the authorities while passing the order," it added.

Bitcoin halving done, spurs mixed reactions among enthusiasts and analysts

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, has recently undergone its much-anticipated "halving," a significant event occurring roughly every four years.

Following the halving, Bitcoin's market performance remained relatively stable, experiencing a slight decrease of 0.47% to settle at \$63,747. Enthusiasts of Bitcoin eagerly awaited this event, which marks a pivotal change in the cryptocurrency's underlying technology aimed at reducing the rate of new Bitcoin creation. Satoshi Nakamoto, the pseudonymous creator of Bitcoin, incorporated the halving mechanism into the cryptocurrency's code from its inception.

For some proponents of cryptocurrency, the halving underscores Bitcoin's value as an increasingly scarce asset. Nakamoto had stipulated a finite supply of 21 million tokens for Bitcoin. However, sceptics perceive the halving as merely a technical alteration hyped by speculators to artificially inflate the virtual currency's value.

The halving process entails reducing the rewards received by cryptocurrency miners for creating new tokens, thereby making it costlier for them to introduce new Bitcoins into circulation. Parth Chaturvedi, Investments Lead, CoinSwitch Ventures said, "Today, we are at the cusp of Bitcoin's era. The network is getting better utilised as Layer 2 solutions like Stacks bring broader adoption for the network. Other innovations like new token standards (Runes) and the re-staking of Bitcoin will also propel the ecosystem forward. If the landscape changes as anticipated after today's halving event, it could 'for the first time' drive BTC's annual inflation rate below that of gold. Such a scenario holds transformative potential, particularly among the younger generation, who may increasingly view Bitcoin as a modern-day store of value akin to

how preceding generations regarded gold. This shift in perception could fundamentally reshape investment attitudes and strategies for years to come."

Manhar Garegrat, Country Head India & Global Partnerships at Liminal Custody Solutions said, "The upcoming 4th Bitcoin halving may not be immediately discernible, there are several second-order effects to consider. Past halvings have often triggered heightened market volatility and increased trading activity. This time, we anticipate similar dynamics, potentially leading to price fluctuations and shifts in investor sentiment. The Bitcoin halving could influence the price of Bitcoin due to its increased scarcity leading to upward price pressure and influx of new investors in the crypto market. In addition to the potential impacts on altcoins, it's worth considering the possibility of new products being introduced into the crypto market. Just as spot ETFs are being launched around the world, innovative financial instruments may emerge in response to the dynamics surrounding the Bitcoin halving offering investors alternative avenues for exposure to digital assets."

Shivam Thakral, CEO of BuyUcoin, India's second-longest-running digital asset exchange said, "Bitcoin's price may experience short-term corrections or dips following a halving, but historical precedent suggests that the halving could catalyse significant shifts in the crypto market leading to a new all-time high in the upcoming months. Observing previous cycles, we may witness a notable decline in BTC dominance accompanied by a surge in interest and investment in altcoins within 12-18 months of the halving."

Jyotsna Hiriyani, South Asia Head at Bitget said, "Following the Bitcoin halving, the cryptocurrency market often experiences a period of heightened volatility and price discovery.

Historically, post-halving phases have been characterised by significant market movements, with Bitcoin frequently reaching new all-time highs (ATH). The market's resilience and the growing institutional interest in Bitcoin have fuelled optimism among investors, leading many to speculate on the potential for Bitcoin to reach unprecedented price levels."

Rahul Pagidipati, CEO, ZebPay said, "With reduced block rewards, the Bitcoin protocol ensures that the asset remains deflationary through the halving process. In the long term, this supply reduction could attract more institutional and retail capital while amplifying Bitcoin's stock-to-flow ratio. ZebPay is bullish about both the short-term as well as the long-term outlook for Bitcoin and the wider crypto market."

Rajagopal Menon, VP, WazirX said, "Historical analysis of Bitcoin halving events reveals distinct market phases: a pre-halving rally driven by speculation, followed by a phase of reaccumulation post-halving, leading to a parabolic surge to new highs. This parabolic curve is already being witnessed with Bitcoin reaching its all-time high even before the halving event. This is an optimistic move given that usually the ATH is reached 6-12 weeks after the halving occurs."

Edui Patel, CEO & Co-Founder, Mudrex said, "Historically, Bitcoin halving events have been associated with substantial price surges. For instance, during the first halving in 2012, Bitcoin's price skyrocketed from \$13 to a peak of \$1,152 the following year. Similarly, the second halving in 2016 witnessed a surge from \$664 to \$17,760 in the subsequent year. The most recent halving in 2020 saw a surge from \$9,734 to a staggering \$67,549 in the following year. In April 2024, the fourth halving will reduce the mining reward to 3.125 BTC per block. Remarkably, Bitcoin has already breached the \$73,000 mark in anticipation of

this event. Investors should continue to do their own research and diversify their portfolio."

This development follows Bitcoin's recent surge to an all-time high of \$73,803.25 in March, after gradually recovering from the dramatic plunge it experienced in 2022. As of Thursday, the leading cryptocurrency was trading at \$63,800.

The excitement surrounding the US Securities and Exchange Commission's approval of spot Bitcoin exchange-traded funds in January, coupled with expectations of interest rate cuts by central banks, has provided additional support for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

Previous halving events occurred in 2012, 2016, and 2020, with some crypto enthusiasts pointing to subsequent price rallies as indicators of potential post-halving price surges. However, many analysts remain sceptical of such predictions.

"We do not expect bitcoin price increases post halving as it has been already priced in," stated analysts at JP Morgan earlier this week, attributing their stance to Bitcoin's "overbought" status and subdued venture capital funding in the crypto industry this year. Financial regulators have consistently cautioned against the high-risk nature of Bitcoin as an asset with limited real-world applications, though an increasing number have begun approving Bitcoin-linked trading products.

Andrew O'Neill, a crypto analyst at S&P Global, expressed scepticism regarding the predictive value of previous halving events on Bitcoin's price trajectory, highlighting that multiple factors influence market dynamics.

Bitcoin has faced challenges in establishing a clear direction since reaching its record high in March, experiencing declines in recent weeks amidst geopolitical tensions and expectations of prolonged higher interest rates by central banks.

SEBI proposes framework for price discovery of investment companies

MUMBAI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Friday proposed to lay a framework for price discovery of shares of listed investment companies (ICs) and listed investment holding companies (IHCs) whose market price is at significant discount to their book value.

ICs are companies that earn major revenue from interest, capital appreciation from investments made, and do not include rental income which is classified under diversified commercial services. IHCs are holding companies with holding of 51 per cent or more in other company.

In the draft norms, SEBI said a special call-auction mechanism without price band may be enabled for listed ICs and IHCs, whose shares are trading beyond a certain discount to their book value.

For this, stock exchanges will co-ordinate amongst themselves and provide the special call-auction mechanism for such companies, it recommended.



The concept of price bands had been put in place as a risk management and surveillance measure for ensuring orderly trading, appropriate price discovery and promote market integrity.

Currently, shares of a few listed ICs or IHCs are getting traded infrequently but at a price which is significantly lower than the book value disclosed by the listed entities in their last audited financial statements.

SEBI also suggested certain criteria for iden-

tification of ICs and IHCs eligible for special call auction. "The scrip should have been listed and available for trading at least for a period of 1 year and the company should have been compliant with all the LODR (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations including submission of audited financial results," the draft norms said. Total assets of the company invested in shares of other listed companies may at least be 50 per cent. The

6-month VWAP (volume weighted average price) of the security may be less than 50 per cent of the book value of such companies.

The norms proposed that once the companies are identified, the stock exchanges shall initiate the process for special call-auction without price band for shares of such companies with a 7-day prior notice.

The markets regulator has sought comments from various stakeholders by May 10, 2024.

HDFC Bank Q4 net profit jumps 37% YoY to Rs 16,511 cr, declares Rs 19.5 dividend

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): The country's largest private sector lender, HDFC Bank, on April 20 reported a 37.05 per cent jump in its standalone net profit to Rs 16,511.85 crore for January-March quarter.

Its net interest income (interest earned less interest expended) during the quarter recorded a 24.51 per cent growth at Rs 29,076.82 crore from Rs 23,351.83 crore a year ago. Core net interest margin stood at 3.44 per cent on total assets, and 3.63 per cent based on interest earning assets.

On a consolidated basis, HDFC Bank's net profit stood at Rs 17,622.38 crore, up 39.92 per cent against Rs 12,634.01 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2023, according to a BSE filing.

The bank's net revenue registered a 47.3 per cent growth at Rs 47,240 crore (including transaction gains of Rs 7,340 crore



from stake sale in subsidiary HDFC Credila Financial Services Ltd) for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 from Rs 32,080 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2023.

Other income (non-interest revenue) for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 was Rs 18,170 crore as against Rs 8,730 crore in the corresponding quarter ended March 31, 2023. Operating expenses for the quarter ended stood at Rs 17,970 crore, an increase of 33.5 per-

cent over Rs 13,460 crore during the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The operating expenses for the quarter included staff ex-gratia provision of Rs 715 crore.

Credit performance across all segments continues to remain healthy, and GNPA at 1.24 per cent has shown an improvement over the prior quarter, the bank said in its filing.

The lender also declared a dividend of Rs 19.50 per equity

share. "The Board of Directors, at its meeting held today, has recommended a dividend of Rs 19.50 per equity share of Re 1 each fully paid up (i.e. 1,950 per cent) out of the net profits for the year ended March 31, 2024, subject to the approval of the shareholders at the ensuing Annual General Meeting of the Bank," the bank said in the filing.

Shares of HDFC Bank closed at Rs 1,531.30 on April 19, up 2.46 per cent in BSE

Vinesh Phogat, Reetika, Mansi Ahlawat, Anshu Malik inch closer to Paris Olympics qualification

Last chance to win Paris Games quota will be at World Qualifiers in Turkey from May 9

BISHKEK (KYRGYZSTAN), Apr 20 (Agencies): Looking as dominant as ever, Vinesh Phogat made full use of an easy draw to demolish her opponents, placing herself one win away from securing a Paris Olympics quota, while Anshu Malik and U23 world champion Reetika too made it to the semifinals at the Asian Olympic Qualifier, here on Saturday.

Vinesh, as is her wont, looked for that one opportunity to subdue her Korean rival and grabbed it after measuring Miran Cheon for about 30 seconds in her opening bout.

Once she grabbed Cheon and pushed her down for a take down, the bout ended in a jiffy, in one minute and 39 seconds.

It was difficult to wriggle out of Vinesh's strong hold. The Indian employed gut wrench moves thrice and mixed that with one 'expose' to finish the bout.

The next bout lasted a mere 67 seconds. Cambodia's Smanang Dit was an easy prey. Vinesh pinned her in no time to move to the women's 50kg semifinal.

Vinesh is competing in 50 kg category after winning the selection trials. Even if she misses the chance, she can later be



in contention for a berth in 53 kg where Antim Panghal has already secured a quota. Antim may be asked to appear in one final trial to prove her worth.

The finalists at this competition will win quota for their respective countries.

The 2021 World Championship silver medalist Anshu Malik got a direct entry into the quarter-finals and she had no problem whatsoever to put it across Kyrgyzstan's Kalmira Bilimbekova by technical superiority.

U23 world champion Reetika (76 kg) did not have to break much sweat in outclassing Eunju Hwang. She won the first round by technical superiority as the Korean had no answer to

Reetika's class and got a similar win under belt against Mongolia's Davaanasan Enkh Amar.

In the final group bout against China's Juang Wang, Reetika raced to a 8-0 lead but the Chinese fought back and logged six straight points. She effected another move at the dying moments but much to the relief of Indian camp, that point was not awarded because it came at the end of stipulated time on clock.

Mansi Ahlawat (62 kg) also made it to last-four as she needed to win just one bout. Up against Kazakhstan's Irina Kuznetsova, she emerged a 6-4 winner.

The only Indian wrestler who

could not reach the semifinals was Nisha Dahiya (68 kg).

Nisha had to work hard for her opening win against Sol Gum Pak from North Korea. The Indian had raced to a 5-0 lead and maintained that till the first period, but the Korean put the pressure back on her rival with a strong resistance.

Immediately at the start of the second period, Pak successfully got a take-down move to get on the scoreboard. However, Nisha kept pushing Pak out to extend her lead and eventually won 8-3.

Already exhausted, Nisha was outclassed by local favourite Meerim Zhumanazarova in the second round, in which she suffered a heavy defeat. After falling behind 1-9, she was pinned by Meerim losing her final group bout, Nisha did not have enough points to stay in top-four.

The last chance to win Paris Games quota will be at World Qualifiers in Turkey from May 9.

IPL 2024: LSG skipper KL Rahul, CSK's Ruturaj Gaikwad fined Rs 12 lakh each for slow over rate



LUCKNOW, Apr 20 (Agencies): Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul and his Chennai Super Kings counterpart Ruturaj Gaikwad have been fined Rs 12 lakh each as their teams maintained a slow over rate in their Indian Premier League match here.

Playing at home, LSG beat defending champions CSK by eight wickets in the match at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium on Friday.

As it was the teams first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, both Rahul and Ruturaj

were fined 12 lakh, an IPL statement read.

"Mr KL Rahul, Captain, Lucknow Super Giants has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match 34 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 against Chennai Super Kings at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow," the IPL said.

Regarding the other penalised player, the IPL said, "Mr Ruturaj Gaikwad, Captain, Chennai Super Kings has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match 34 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 against Lucknow Super

Giants at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow."

Openers Rahul and Quinton de Kock, who made classy fifties on a slow pitch, produced a chasing masterclass to power LSG to a comfortable win over CSK.

Asked to bat first, Ravindra Jadeja came up with a solid unbeaten 57 before Moeen Ali (30 off 20) and Mahendra Singh Dhoni (28 off 9) went on a six-hitting spree to take CSK to a fighting 176 for six.

In reply, Rahul (82) and De Kock (54) batted with authority during their match-winning alliance of 134, the highest partnership for any wicket at the Ekana Stadium, as LSG scored 180 for 2 in 19 overs to recover from back-to-back defeats and consolidate their position in the table.

CSK, who came into the match with twin wins, on the other hand, slumped to their third loss in this IPL.

IPL 2024: MI batter Tim David, coach Pollard fined for providing illegal assistance to Suryakumar Yadav against Punjab Kings

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians batter Tim David and batting coach Kieron Pollard have been fined 20 percent of their respective match fees for breaching the IPL's Code of Conduct during the game against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur on April 18.

The fine was imposed after a viral video of the match sparked controversy where members in the squad and support staff in the dugout of five-time champions were seen allegedly providing illegal assistance to batter Suryakumar Yadav in asking for a review.

"David and Pollard committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.20 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. David and



Pollard were each fined 20 percent of their respective match fees," an IPL release said on Saturday.

"Both admitted to the offence and accepted the match referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the match referee's decision is final and binding."

In the 15th over of MI's innings, an Arshdeep Singh delivery was full and way outside off-

stump, very close to the line. Suryakumar, who was batting on 67 off 47 deliveries, tried chasing it but the onfield umpire deemed it a legal delivery.

But TV cameras showed MI head coach Mark Boucher was gesturing to Suryakumar that it was a wide, following which David and Pollard was seen urging the right-hander to take a review, which is illegal as per rules.

His mind is staying up to date, but body might give way, says former India batter Uthappa on MS Dhoni

LUCKNOW, Apr 20 (Agencies): Amazed at Mahendra Singh Dhoni's longevity, former India batter Robin Uthappa says the Chennai Super Kings talisman's "mind is staying up to date" and the only thing that could end his prolonged run in competitive cricket is his body.

Dhoni has showed tremendous form this IPL season, powering CSK with his blistering cameos, the latest coming in the match against Lucknow Super Giants in which he slammed a nine-ball 28 here on Friday.

Speaking on JioCinema, Uthappa said, "The only thing stopping him is his health. His fitness will be the only thing that stops him from playing any further."

He loves the game, is deeply passionate about it, and wants to continue playing it.

"If there's anything that will stop him, it will be his own body that will give way. The mind is staying up to date."



Dhoni slammed a four and a six off Mohsin Khan before smashing Yash Thakur for another maximum. He finished the innings with two more fours as 19 came off the last over.

Speaking of Dhoni's exploits, former India pace spearhead Zaheer Khan said, "The roar is getting bigger, better, and louder, and so is MS Dhoni's presence on the field."

"He's getting better and better with every innings he is playing. The sheer impact of him,

it's unbelievable to see him go out there and put this kind of pressure on the bowlers. It was just phenomenal."

Asked to bat first, Ravindra Jadeja came up with a solid unbeaten 57 before Moeen Ali (30 off 20) and Dhoni (28 off 9) went on a six-hitting spree to take CSK to a fighting 176 for six.

In reply, KL Rahul (82) and Quinton de Kock (54) batted with authority during their match-winning alliance of 134,

the highest partnership for any wicket at the Ekana Stadium, as LSG scored 180 for 2 in 19 overs to recover from back-to-back defeats and consolidate their position in the table.

Uthappa also praised Rahul's innings, saying the knock has boosted his prospects of getting picked in the T20 World Cup squad.

"Absolutely delightful. What I love about this innings is that he played to the merit of the ball. He didn't try to do too much, didn't try to manufacture shots, and just played to the merit of the field... He led from the front."

"Over the last couple of weeks, I thought he wouldn't figure in the World Cup squad. But if he continues batting the way he is right now, he'll find himself a spot," Uthappa said.

"Whether it's as a reserve opener or a wicket-keeper, I think you might see him back among the frontrunners of the squad."

Dominant Max Verstappen takes Red Bull's 100th F1 pole at Chinese Grand Prix

SHANGHAI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Triple world champion Max Verstappen won Formula One's first sprint of the season and then secured Red Bull's landmark 100th pole position after dominating qualifying for Sunday's Chinese Grand Prix. The pole was the Dutch driver's fifth in five races this season and sixth in a row, including last year's Abu Dhabi finale.

Mexican teammate Sergio Perez qualified second fastest in a front-row lockout for Red Bull, 15 years after the team took their first win at the Shanghai International Circuit with Sebastian Vettel. Verstappen, who beat old rival Lewis Hamilton by 13 seconds in the morning sprint, was the first driver since double world champion Mika Hakkinen in 1999 to start a season with five successive poles.

"I think after the sprint race it gave us a few more ideas for the car and I think the car worked even better in qualifying now... The car was really nice to drive," said the 26-year-old. "That final lap felt pretty decent and (I'm) also very happy to drive here in the dry. The conditions were



pretty good so it was a lot of fun."

Verstappen's pole time of one minute 33.660 seconds was 0.322 quicker than Perez, who came close to being knocked out in the very first phase when he hit traffic. Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso and McLaren's Lando Norris shared the second row but Mercedes seven-times world champion Hamilton went out in the first phase after making changes to the car and will start 18th.

DIFFERENT LEAGUE
"I'll give it my best shot," Hamilton, winner a record six times in China, said of his prospects for the race. "18th is pretty bad. When I was making the setup

changes I was like 'It can't get any worse, surely?' and it did." Norris had been on pole for the earlier sprint but went wide at the start and ended up only sixth. Sunday's race gives him another chance for solid points. "I'm very happy. It was close with Fernando. Not a lot more I could ask for," said the Briton.

"The Red Bull is clearly in a different league this weekend both in qualifying and race pace." Alonso's third was a strong reply to his retirement in the sprint, when stewards also handed him three penalty points for a clash with Ferrari's Carlos Sainz when they were battling for third place.

"I had a moment in Turns One and Two and I was thinking

about whether to abort or not, but we kept going and I set a good lap time. The car improved since this morning and we made a few changes," said the double champion. Australian team mate Oscar Piastri will line up fifth on the grid with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Sainz sixth and seventh. Sainz brought out the red flags 6.44 seconds from the end of the second phase of qualifying when he went onto the gravel, spun and crashed at the final turn.

The Spaniard managed to keep the engine running and returned to the pits, where Ferrari were able to change the tyres and front wing and send him back out to set the third-fastest lap and qualify for the top 10 shootout. Hamilton's team mate George Russell qualified eighth with Haas's Nico Hulkenberg ninth and Sauber's Valtteri Bottas completing the top 10.

Australian Daniel Ricciardo qualified 12th, his best performance of the season, with Japanese RB team mate Yuki Tsunoda trailing in 19th. Sunday's race will be the first in China since 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

It will be an emotional period: Brian Lara excited for Pant's homecoming in Delhi



NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Legendary cricketer Brian Lara is looking forward to the homecoming of Rishabh Pant at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi. He called this moment an emotional one for the local boy Pant as well as the fans. DC gear up for the very first official home game of the season as their fans will roar in joy to welcome the team to their den.

Lara, while speaking on Star Sports, reckoned that it would be an electrifying atmosphere in the stadium when Pant would walk out on the field. He also praised Pant for his form this season and said that, as a cricket fan, one would want to witness his emotional return to Delhi.

"Getting the opportunity to go home and play in front of your own crowd after so long, it's going to be an emotional period. Rishabh Pant is doing so well in

the IPL, his first season back. And it's something that you want to experience as a cricket fan. Rishabh Pant, going back to that stadium, it's going to be just electric. And I think it's going to be an awesome match," Lara said.

The fans already looked upbeat as they gave a rousing welcome to DC as they arrived in Delhi from Ahmedabad. With DC flags in their hands, the supporters chanted Pant's name to give him a warm welcome. The decibel levels are only going to go high when Pant will arrive at the stadium.

Pant is set to receive loud cheers as Delhi's home boy will take the field during the match against SRH. DC will be hosting the Pat Cummins-led side in a high-octane clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi.

This will be the first time when Pant will be back on his home soil after he met with a car accident in December 2022. Pant showed his unwavering commitment and made a miraculous comeback after undergoing multiple surgeries in his right knee. Pant's hard work and resilience paid dividends as he was deemed fit by the medical team just in time ahead of the IPL. After a bit of a fidgety start, Pant slowly grew on confidence to return to his vintage style. The fans will hope Pant to produce yet another entertaining knock and make a memorable return.

Health Minister Punjab inaugurates Aryans Pharmacy Conference

Around 150 delegates participated across the world in this Int'l Pharmacy Conference



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: An international pharmacy conference on "Recent advances, opportunities & Challenges in Pharmaceutical sectors" was held at Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh. Health Minister, Punjab, Dr. Balbir Singh inaugurated this conference and Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chair-

man, Aryans Group presided over. Health Minister, Punjab, Dr. Balbir Singh while highlighting the immense potential of this sector said that the pharmaceutical industry is robust, resilient and responsive. India's pharmaceutical sector, called the Pharmacy of the World, will be contributing more in the coming years for domestic needs and to cater to global demand too. Declared

as a sunrise sector, this is an emerging manufacturing hub that has seen phenomenal progress with the implementation of production linked incentive schemes and investments for medical drug parks, the Health Minister emphasized. On the occasion, eminent speaker of the session was Dr Upendra Nagaich, National Secretary Society of Pharmaceutical Education &

Research. The Guests of Honour were S. Gurdayal S Buttar, President, Nursing Training Institute Association, Punjab; Dr GD Gupta, Director, ISF College of Pharmacy Moga; Dr Shailesh Sharma, Director, College of Pharmacy, Bela; Dr Tejvir Kaur; Head of Pharmacy Department Medical College, Patiala Dr. Anshu Kataria mentioned that over the last two decades

particularly, the pharmaceutical industry has grown from strength to strength, turning into a major sector of education & for job opportunities. The industry has contributed immensely in increasing life expectancy too. At Aryans out of 3500, more than 1500 students are studying in healthcare courses including pharmacy, nursing, paramedical, physiotherapy etc. Not only the nation but our state will soon be the hub of the healthcare force, asserted Kataria. Dr. JS Badhan, Principal Aryans College of Pharmacy said that in this international conference, around 150 delegates across the world participated. During this, presentations, interactive sessions, poster presentations, along with enlightening keynote sessions were organised by esteemed professionals from both industry and academia.

Kishtwar police solved burglary case, recovers stolen property worth Rs 6 lakh



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 20: District Police Kishtwar have achieved a significant breakthrough in the investigation of a burglary case of a Hardware Store in Kishtwar town. Stolen property amounting to Rs. 6.00 lakhs has been successfully recovered. SSP Kishtwar, Abdul Qayoom-JKPS, while divulging the details said that on 16-04-2024, a written complaint was lodged by one Vikar Ahmed S/O Mohd Irfan R/O Shahidi Mohalla Kishtwar regarding theft in his Hardware Store situated near ITI Kishtwar on 12/13-04-2024 and 15/16-04-2024 by some unknown burglars. In this regard, an instant FIR 103/2024 u/s 457/380 IPC of P/S Kishtwar was registered, and the investigation was set into motion. SSP Kishtwar constitut-

ed a special team led by SHO PS Kishtwar Insp Firdous Ahmed, assisted by PSI Anil Sharma under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Dr. Ishan Gupta JKPS. During the investigation, the team ascertained the CCTV footage and interrogated the suspicious persons. After hectic efforts made by the special team, leads were prevailed, and the main accused, namely Rahul Singh S/O Gopal Singh R/O Near TRC Kishtwar, was arrested. During his questioning, he disclosed that he had sold all the stolen property to the following accused persons, namely: Naseer Elahi S/O Chandi Sheikh R/O Cherhar, Mohd Hussain S/O Mohd Akbar R/O Malipeth Kishtwar, Javed Iqbal Sheikh S/O Ghulam Haider Sheikh R/O Malipeth Kishtwar, Sheikh Aqib Ishtiaq S/O Sheikh

Ishtiaq Ahmed R/O Hudri Kishtwar. Upon revealing the names, they were called at PS where they disclosed that they had purchased the stolen items from the accused and kept them at their shops/residences. On their disclosure, a police party along with magistrate visited at the spot where stolen property is stored and recovered all the stolen items like, electric motors, water tanks geysers, motorized cutters, sinks, pipe rolls, Paint, showers etc. SSP Kishtwar has issued a stern warning to all potential burglars and emphasizing the extensive CCTV coverage and round the clock monitoring by specialized teams. The successful apprehension of this gang of thieves underscores the effectiveness of the CCTV surveillance unit of Kishtwar Police.

Few ticket counters result in long queues at District hospital Kulgam, patients suffer



Top News Report

KULGAM, Apr 20: The patients at the District Hospital Kulgam are aghast over the availability of only a few ticket counters. The huge rush and long queue of patients is forcing most of the patients to return back without availing health services. Most of the patients visiting the hospital complained that ever since the hospital switched to online ticketing and declared the prescription valid for a single visit only, the patient rush at the ticket counters has

increased manifold. Waiting for hours in a queue is extremely painful for the sick patients," said Suhail Ahmad bhat a patient from Churat kulgam. "Sometimes patients faint here while standing in long queues," he said. The patients from far-flung areas who visit the hospital for specialised treatment are worst affected and sometimes some of the patients owing to huge rush are forced to return back without getting an appointment with the doctor. Upon contacting, Medi-

cal Superintendent district hospital Kulgam, Gulzar Ahmad Dar acknowledged that they have already established five tickets counters in the hospital, adding that due to online registration and prescription system was time consuming but it has been resolved for the convenience of the patients and to tackle patient rush at the hospital. "Due to lack of Manpower in the hospital, they are trying to make alternative measures so that patients don't have to suffer in future", he said.

APS Damana organizes CBSE Workshop on 'Science of Reading'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: Army Public School Damana organized an Offline Workshop cum Orientation Session - 'Science of Reading' in collaboration with COE Chandigarh under the aegis of CBSE Reading Mission on 20 April 2024. The face to face workshop was aimed to sensitize and orient 'Reading' among the educators envisaging NEP's stand on Literacy and Reading and Nipun Bharat.

Bhanu Poudel -a certified ELT Trainer, Author and a Linguist was the Resource Person whose expertise served as a beacon of inspiration amongst all the participants.

The workshop was attended by almost 75 Educators from various CBSE affiliated Schools.

The session began with the welcome address given by Ms Ekta Gupta, PGT English followed by ceremonial lighting of lamp

and seeking the spiritual invocation through Saraswati Vandana. The Resource Person, Bhanu Poudel gave an insight into fostering a reading culture and cultivating a lifelong passion of reading amongst the children. He also highlighted to prioritize and improve the reading skills to ensure a literate and knowledgeable society, laying the foundation for future academic and professional achievements. The key takeaways of the session were to build the Skill and Will of Reading in students, CBSE Reading App, Components of Reading and many more.

Shallu Kapoor, Vice Principal APS Damana applauded the CBSE Reading initiatives and the knowledge shared by the Resource Person during the session. The vote of thanks was given by Ms Manu Jamwal, PGT Hindi. The session culminated with the National Anthem.

Appeals people to break records of voting Voters celebrating festival of democracy enthusiastically in J&K: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: Despite inclement weather conditions, voter turnout touching almost seventy percent in Udhampur Parliamentary constituency establishes that the roots of democracy are stronger in Jammu and Kashmir. Right from the first-time young voters to the aged ones, majority of the eligible voters in this constituency, which comprises of Districts Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban, exercised their right to vote even in far flung areas of this segment, that went to polls during the first phase of Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

Congratulating the Election Commission of India (ECI), the officers on duty for elections, and the voters for such a meticulous arrangement and voting pattern in this constituency, Raman Suri hoped that during the second phase of polling on April 26, eligible voters will cast their votes in large numbers and strengthen the democratic values.

The BJP leader said that the enthusiasm displayed by youth and aged besides women during the first phase of polling is highly appreciable and establishes that bad weather conditions or anything else cannot become a hurdle in their resolve to cast vote and celebrate the spirit of democracy. He



said that the awareness programmes launched by the ECI and the UT authorities proved beneficial in bringing out the voters and enabling them to exercise their right to franchise.

Raman Suri said that the world always keeps an eye on J&K elections, and typical geographical areas, threat of militancy besides bad weather conditions always play their negative role in polling, but this time, the vigilant security personnel joined by the efforts of election authorities and people's undying spirit ensured almost seventy percent polling in this constituency, which proved that nothing can stop people from being a part of the largest democracy of the world.

Lauding the efforts of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Indian Army, BSF and other security agencies for ensuring

smooth and comfortable polling in Udhampur Parliamentary constituency, Raman Suri said that the people have also sent a strong message across the length and breadth of the country, especially the rest of J&K, that democracy provides common platform and opportunities to everyone to participate in elections without fear and favour.

The BJP leader appealed to the people of Jammu Parliamentary Constituency to vote in the favour of Jugal Kishore Sharma in the second phase of polling on April 26, to bring strong and able Prime Minister Narendra Modi to power once again, so that the programmes and policies that are leading India to become the third largest economy in the world are continued in the larger interest of the nation and its people.

JKSACS launched Index testing campaign in J&K, Ladakh

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 20: Index testing campaign in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has been launched by Project Director, JKACS Dr. Abdul Rouf Bhat in order to reach out to the at-risk population with unknown HIV Status. This campaign will help in achieving the National goal of achieving the 1st 95 (95% People living with HIV should know their status). JKACS has conducted a one day orientation cum training programme for all the ICTC, Targeted Intervention Projects/STI & ART Counsellors / data managers on Index



testing and its reporting in SOCH portal on 20th April. The campaign was also launched in Jammu

division by Dr. Manu Bhatnagar Additional Director, JKACS. Index testing services

(ITS), or partner notification services, is a voluntary case-finding approach where trained

providers, with the consent of the HIV-positive client, focus on the elicitation of sexual and/or needle sharing partners and biological children of the client and offer them HIV Counselling and Testing Services.

Project Director JKACS stressed upon all the facilities that index testing when implemented appropriately and safely, can identify undetected HIV infection earlier and link them to Antiretroviral treatment services, break the chain of transmission and linking HIV negative At-Risk population to comprehensive combination prevention services at TI, ICTC/STI/ OST etc.