

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Kit Harington says he's 'not so interested' in playing heroic roles after 'Game of Thrones'



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Delhi CM Kejriwal given insulin in Tihar jail after sugar levels soar

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North Korean leader Kim leads rocket drills that simulate a nuclear counterattack against enemies



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BRIEFLY

BJP drops Ladakh MP Namgyal, Names local council chief Tashi Gyalson as Candidate

NEW DELHI, Apr 23 (Agencies): The BJP on Tuesday named Tashi Gyalson as its candidate from Ladakh Lok Sabha seat, dropping sitting MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal. Gyalson is the chairman-cum-chief executive councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council in Leh. Namgyal had hit the headlines in 2019 with his viral speech in Lok Sabha to defend the Narendra Modi government's decision to repeal Article 370 and making Ladakh as a separate Union Territory.

The BJP's decision to drop Namgyal comes amid resentment towards the ruling party among a section of Buddhists in Leh.

The local sources said Gyalson, who is also a lawyer, is in a better position to maintain the BJP's hold over the seat, which also includes Muslim-majority Kargil.

Polling is scheduled for May 20 in the constituency.

Panel framed for review of suspension cases of H&UDD Employees

JAMMU, Apr 23 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted an Administrative Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) led panel for periodically reviewing the cases of suspension of the officers/officials under the Administrative control of H&UD Department.

Drone-like object in damaged shape recovered near LoC in Poonch

JAMMU, Apr 23 (Agencies): A drone-like object was seen to have fallen near the fence along the Line of Control in Balakote sector of Mendhar in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on

Judges must act with dignity, not indulge in behaviour that would affect image of judiciary: Bombay High Court

MUMBAI, Apr 23 (Agencies): Judges must act with dignity and not indulge in conduct or behaviour that would affect the judiciary's image, the Bombay High Court said on Tuesday, while refusing to reinstate a civil judge accused of coming to

court in an inebriated state.

Aniruddha Pathak (52) had filed a petition in the high court challenging his removal from the post of civil judge junior division due to alleged improper behaviour and for coming to court in an inebriated state on sev-

eral occasions.

Pathak challenged an order passed by the Maharashtra government's Law and Judiciary department in January 2022, removing him from judicial service.

The order was passed after a report was submitted by the principal

district and sessions judge of Nandurbar.

A division bench of Justices AS Chandurkar and JS Jain dismissed the petition, noting that it did not find the removal order perverse or passed without any application of mind.

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Gujjar Man Killing: Search operation intensified in Rajouri

SRINAGAR, Apr 23 (Agencies): Search operation has been intensified in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir to track down the militants involved in the killing of a man belonging to the Gujjar community, officials said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Monday night when the victim, Mohammad Razaq (40), came out

of a mosque in his village Kunda Top under the Thanamandi police station area. Razaq's brother, Mohammad Tahir Choudhary, is a soldier in the Territorial Army, police said.

While Razaq succumbed to his injuries, Choudhary escaped unhurt, they said.

The police, army, and CRPF launched a cordon and search oper-

ation (CASO) soon after the incident and intensified the searches in the area with the support of sniffer dogs and aerial surveillance to track down the terrorists, they said.

According to the officials, Tahir could have been the target but his brother got shot.

Vehicles are being thoroughly checked, and people are being

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Bleak chances of J&K Assembly polls if BJP voted to power: Dr. Farooq Abdullah



SRINAGAR, Apr 23 (Agencies): Former Chief Minister and President National Confer-

ence Dr. Farooq Abdullah Tuesday said that there are bleak chances of assembly elections in

Jammu and Kashmir if BJP will come to power once again.

"I don't know whether assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will happen or not. Though Supreme Court had set a date for holding elections in JK, but I am disappointed with the designs of BJP, who if voted to power once again will violate the directions of the apex

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North Kashmir trio arrested under PIT-NDPS Act: Police

SRINAGAR, Apr 23 (Agencies): Three persons have been detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1988 (PIT NDPS) in Kupwara district, said an official on Tuesday.

The official said that three persons were recommended and subsequently detained under the PIT NDPS Act for their deep involvement in drug-related activities. "The involvement of the trio was established on multiple instances," the official added.

"Identifying the detainees as Shabir Ahmad Hajam, son of Ghulam Rasool, resident of Chek Halmatpora, Azad Ahmad Khan, son of Ghulam Ahmad, resident of Chalgund Hahama, and Waseem

■ Turn to page 9

Supreme Court orders Patanjali to publish prominent apologies in newspapers for misleading ads

NEW DELHI, Apr 23 (Agencies): The Supreme Court emphasized that the apologies issued by Patanjali Ayurved in newspapers for its misleading advertisements must be prominently displayed. The directive came during proceedings related to a petition filed by the

Indian Medical Association (IMA) alleging a smear campaign by Patanjali and its founders against the COVID-19 vaccination drive and modern medicine.

Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah, presiding over the case, raised concerns about the

visibility of Patanjali's apologies, questioning whether they were as conspicuous as the earlier misleading advertisements.

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Patanjali Ayurved's founders, Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna,

■ Turn to page 9

Terror module member handled by Pak-based operatives held in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Apr 23 (Agencies): Punjab police has arrested a member of a terror module who was allegedly being handled by Pakistan-based operatives, police said on Tuesday.

Click Here To Follow

Our WhatsApp Channel The Director General of Police, Punjab, Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigations reveal that the accused was tasked to carry out target killing in the Jammu and Kashmir region to create fear and

unrest. Pakistan-based operatives were allegedly handling the accused, the DGP said.

"Acting swiftly in an intelligence-based operation, Counter Intelligence (of Punjab police)

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Police booked 2 anti-national activists under PSA in Bandipora

SRINAGAR, Apr 23 (Agencies): Police have booked two alleged anti-national activists under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district.

The duo has been identified as Ghulam Din War, a resident of Naidkhai Sumbal, and Firdous Ahmad Khan

of Ward No. 6 Nebrapora Bandipora, booked under PSA for their continuous involvement in anti-national activities, police said on Tuesday.

Both have been lodged in central Jaikot Bhalwal Jammu, they said.

"Bandipora Police booked two persons under PSA and lodged

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Night temp rises at most places but stays below normal in J&K

SRINAGAR, Apr 23 (Agencies): Night temperature recorded a rise in Jammu and Kashmir except Kupwara and Baderwah but stayed below normal on Tuesday, officials said.

A meteorological department official here told GNS Srinagar recorded a minimum of 8.2°C against 6.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C below normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 5.4°C against 4.8°C on the previous night and it was 2.1°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 2.4°C against 1.9°C on the previous night and it was 1.6°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 5.5°C against 5.4°C on the previous night and it was 2.1°C below normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 6.2°C against 6.5°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 1.0°C against 0.2°C on the previous night and it was below

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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

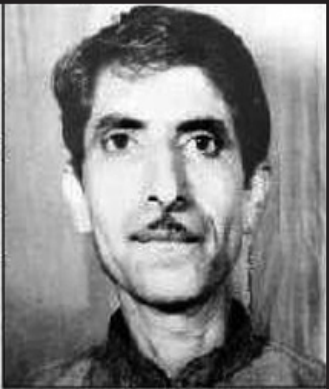
10TH DAY

IT IS INFORMED WITH DEEP SORROW AND PROFOUND GRIEF THAT **SH. SOM NATH KOUL** S/O LT. MAHESHWAR NATH KOUL ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF LOK BHAWAN ANANTNAG KASHMIR. PRESENTLY AT POUNI CHACK NEAR PLAY WAY HR. SEC. SCHOOL.

10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED MUTHI GHAT JAMMU AT 8 A.M ON 28/04/2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

SMT. DURA KOUL (WIFE)
SATISH KOUL & KRISHNA KOUL (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)
SHUBAN JI RAINA & BANTI RAINA (SON-IN-LAW & DAUGHTER)
RAKESH PANDITA & VITTY PANDITA (DO)
GRAND CHILDREN: ISHAN, AYUSH, SIMRAN, SHAGUN & HRITHIK
CONTACT NO. 9796447461, 9103282656



SH. SOM NATH KOUL

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 Utlersoo Ananinag 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
Son & Daughter-in-law
Ajay Kumar Bhat & Smt. Babeta Bhat
Daughters-in-law
Smt. Veena Ji Bhat W/o Lt. P.N. Bhat
Smt. Sarla Ji Bhat W/o Lt. Sh. K.L. Bhat
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Ramesh Ji Bhat & Smt. Rekha Ji Bhat
Ashok Kumar Bhat & Smt. Deepa Bhat
C.L. Bhat & Smt. Renu Bhat
Sha Ji Bhat & Smt. Babli Bhat
Smt. Rajni Pandita & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Pandita - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Neenu Bhat & Sh. Ashwani Kumar Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children - Karik Bhat, Sanvi Bhat, Vicky Pandita
Rahul Pandita, Ayushi Bhat & Hemanshu Bhat
Contact No.: 9419087413, 9419224852, 7066347241



Sh. Sri Kanth Bhat

TENTH DAY KRIYA (Dahim Dooh)

10th Day Kriya of Late Arjan Nath Bhat S/o Late Shamal Bhat and Late Shamrani Bhat, originally from Haal, Pulwama will be held on 24.04.2024. He was an enchanting man, remembered for his generosity, fearless spirit, unshakable faith in God and lived a life destined only for a handful.

Kriya will be held at Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar, UP at 7 am on 24.4.2024.

Assemble at 11:00 am at New Club House (Gate No. 3), Great Value Sharanam Sector 107, Noida.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Jaya Bhat (Wife)
Mohini Koul and M.K.Koul (Sister and Brother-in-law)
Neeraj Bhat and Puja Bhat (Son and Daughter-in-law)
Archana Bhat and Susheel Bhat (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Grand Children: Divit Bhat, Ojasvi Bhat, Bhavik Bhat
And all near and dear ones
Contact: 8920477196, 9810788073



Late Arjan Nath Bhat

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad & untimely demise of **Shri Tej Krishan Koul** S/o Late Shri S.L. Koul, originally from Pampore, Kashmir.

He left for heavenly abode on 20th April 2024 from B-304, Paramount Emotions, Noida Extension, Sector 1, Uttar Pradesh-201306.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 29th of April 2024 at Murad Nagar Ghat (also known as Chhota Haridwar)

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Arun Koul & Simran Koul - Son and Daughter-in-law

Sheetal & Vishu - Daughter & Son-in-Law

Ayaan & Naisha - Grand Son & Grand Daughter

Samast Koul's Pariwar of Pampore, Relatives & Friends

Mob: 9654478859, 9818777940



Shri Tej Krishan Koul

OBITUARY/CREMATION

It is with heavy heart, we in form the sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Dr. Usha Kaul (Dhar)** W/o Dr Pradeep Kaul on 20th April, 2024 at Houston, USA. She fought the battle for two days and finally took last breaths surrounded by her family.

Cremination shall take place on Wednesday, 24th April, 2024.

Vaikunths Manz Asinas Jaay

GRIEF STRICKEN

Pradeep Kaul : Husband
Bhavika Kaul : Daughter
Ankita Kaul : Daughter
Binaal Kaul : Son
Vijay Kaul & Vamita Kaul
A.K. Kaul & Rajni Kaul
Kuldeep Kaul & Renu Kaul
Dulari Bhan & B.L. Bhan
Dev & Arya (Grand Children)
Samast Kaul & Dhar Parivar
Mobile Nos.: +1(713)428-8013 (USA), +61490905608 (Australia), +97336053634 (Bahrain), +919906095500 (India), +919906095551 (India)



Dr. Usha Kaul (Dhar)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Krishna Devi** W/o L.S.H. Dwarika 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 Pariwar (7889510740)
Daughter in law & Son
Sh. Sushil Bhat & Lt. Shama Bhat (933080005)
Sh. Vinod Kumar & Radhni Dutt
Sh. Davinder Kumar & Jyoti
Sh. Karam Krishan Bhat & Geeta Bhat (9906193189)
Daughter and Son in law
Manu Pandita & Avtar Krishan Pandita (7780852989)



SMT. KRISHNA DEVI

TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Poonam Gupta** W/o Sh. Anil Gupta (Jyoti) on Saturday, 13th April 2024.

TENTH DAY shall be performed on Monday, 22nd April 2024 from 10 AM to 11 AM at Ram Mandir, Shastri Nagar, Jammu.

KRIYA shall be performed on Thursday, 25th April 2024 at 12 PM at residence, H.No. 1/7 Narwal Pain, Satwari, Jammu

UTHALA shall be performed on Friday, 26th April 2024 from 4 PM to 5 PM at Aap Shambu Mandir, Narwal Pain, Airport Road Satwari, Jammu

Grief Stricken:

Mahajan Family

Mob: 9419141564, 9419157784, 9858110492



Smt. POONAM GUPTA
W/o Sh. ANIL GUPTA (JYOTI)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Koushalya Devi** W/o Lt Sh Mohan Lal Parihar (Retd Chief Prosecuting officer) R/o Palmar Kishtwar A/P 96 Sec 1A Channi Himmat Jammu on 13th April 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will take place at 10 AM on Monday, 22nd April 2024 at Jia Pota Ghat Akhnoor.

13th Day Havan and Gow Puja followed by Lunch shall take place at our residence at Channi Himmat Jammu on Thursday 25th April 2024 at 1230 Hours.

Grief Stricken

All near and dear ones.

9419205550, 9419124899



SMT KOUSHALYA DEVI

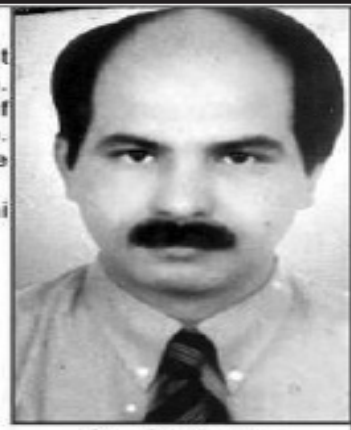
10TH DAY/KRIYA

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. Sweetie Tickoo
Mr. Deepak Tickoo & Mrs. Archana Tickoo
Sisters & Brothers-in-Law
Smt. Sorni 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

SHANTI PAATH

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely and sad demise of **Major General Pran Koul**, S/o Late Smt Lajwanti and Late Sh. Nandlal Koul, R/o G 02 Tower-1 Unitech Heights Sector Chi -3 Greater Noida (Originally from Sopore), who left for heavenly abode on Saturday 20th April, 2024.

Last prayers, **Shanti Paath** will be performed on Wednesday 24th April, 2024 from 11 AM to 1 PM at Community Centre GVCC Near Gate No 2 AWHO Gurjinder Vihar Sector Chi-1 Greater Noida.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Kunti Koul (Wife)
Smt. Tosha Koul (Aunt)
Rishi and Navin (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smriti Kaul (Daughter)
Aftab (Grand Son)
And Samast Koul Parivar and Raina Parivar



Major General Pran Koul
(23-06-1951 to 20-04-2024)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Gurcharan Singh Kala Ji (Retd. Chief Manager J&K Bank)** R/o New Plot A/P Vishal Colony, Near Shaurya International School, Babilana, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 18-04-2024.

Programme
Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib:- 22-04-2024 (Monday) at 9:00 am at our residence (Babilana)

Bhog of Sri Akhand Path Sahib:- 24-04-2024 (Wednesday) at 9:00 am at our residence.

Shabad Kirtan & Antim Ardas will be performed at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha 'Yaadgar Shaheed Sant Bhai Deva Singh' J Near MBS College Darnesh Nagar Jammu from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sd/- Avtar Kaur (Wife)
Sd/- S. Gurabakh Singh Kala (Brother)
Sd/- S. Nirmal Singh Bali (Brother-in-law)
Sons
Sd/- S. Swam Singh, JKAS
Sd/- S. Harbhajan Singh - Advocate
Sd/- S. Sunder Singh
Sd/- S. Gurmeet Singh
Sd/- S. Jagjeet Singh
Daughter & Son in law
Late Sd/- Parmjeet Kaur & S. Davinder Singh
Mobile No. 9419198195 9419197364



S. Gurcharan Singh Kala Ji
(Retd. Chief Manager J&K Bank)

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. 145B, Shakti Nagar, Jammu on 20 April 2024 Saturday at 10:30 AM

KRIYA will be performed at our residence H.No. 145B, Shakti Nagar on 23 April 2024 Tuesday at 12:30 PM.

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 28 April 2024 Wednesday at 2:30 PM. at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter in Law
Veeram Jeet Singh Charak & Bharti Charak
Brothers & Bhabhis
Late Avtar Singh Charak & Anita Charak
Kulbir Singh Charak & Lalita Charak
Parvinder 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
Vrjay Jarnwal W/o Prilam Singh Jarnwal
Anu Racha & Ranjeet



Sh. Onkar Singh Charak
(Retd AC)

Manisha & Kirpal Singh
Anjaveer Singh Charak - Grand Son
Ashika Singh Charak - Grand Daughter
Mobile No: 9419194290

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 Ananinag 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. Bimla 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)

MOURNING FROM MALUIN SIDE TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Surinder Krishan Kuchroo** S/o Late Sh. Maheshwar Nath Kuchroo R/o Dewan Bagh, Baramulla Kashmir at present Kamdhenu Homz Flat No. C-404, Toph Sherkhaniar, Jammu on 18th April 2024.

The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 27th April 2024 (Saturday) at 8.30 AM near Directorate of School Education Muthi Ghat, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sushma Kuchroo (Wife)
Sh. P.N. Dhar (Father)
Sh. Krishan Kumar Dhar (Brother)
Smt. Veena Koul (Sister)
Smt. Rajni Bali (Sister)
Smt. Dimpay Dhar (Sister)
Contact No.: 9868062748, 9070810144



Sh. Surinder Krishan Kuchroo

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

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Sd/- S. Gurabakh Singh Kala (Brother)
Sd/- S. Nirmal Singh Bali (Brother-in-law)
Sons
Sd/- S. Swam Singh, JKAS
Sd/- S. Harbhajan Singh - Advocate
Sd/- S. Sunder Singh
Sd/- S. Gurmeet Singh
Sd/- S. Jagjeet Singh
Daughter & Son in law
Late Sd/- Parmjeet Kaur & S. Davinder Singh
Mobile No. 9419198195 9419197364



S. Gurcharan Singh Kala Ji
(Retd. Chief Manager J&K Bank)

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BJP miserably failed to stand on expectation of common masses: Ajaz Jan

Calls for support for NC Candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed on May 7 polls

Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 23: In the wake of mounting dissatisfaction with the current administration's performance, Ajaz Jan, Provincial President Youth JKNC Jammu and former legislator, convened a crucial meeting on Tuesday to garner support for the National Conference (NC) Candidate, Mian Altaf Ahmed in ensuing Lok Sabha polls.

Speaking at the meeting held at Sathra Mandi in district Poonch, the senior NC leader said that BJP-led government despite securing a significant mandate for the last consecutive two terms, it has miserably failed to stand on expectations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The failure to address critical issues has left many disillusioned and seeking a change in leadership, he said.

Ajaz Jan emphasized that the INDI Alliance stands as the most viable



option for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, presenting a credible alternative to address the region's challenges effectively.

Encouraging citizens to exercise their democratic right, Ajaz Jan urged voters to support NC Candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed in the upcoming May 7 elections.

"NC Candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed's candidacy

represents a commitment to addressing the pressing issues facing Jammu and Kashmir and advocating for the interests of its people," he added.

Senior congress leader Taj Mir in his address, called upon the electorate to make an informed choice and vote for the candidate who will best represent their aspirations and work tirelessly for the betterment of rural and

remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Baghussain Rathore, District President, has unequivocally voiced his support for the National Conference, citing it as the only political entity capable of effectively serving the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Peer Shamim Bukharo, Peer Nissar Hussain, Ch Shabir (Block Presi-

dent) Fazal Hussain, Khurshid Ahmed, and Naveen Singh, endorsed Mian Altaf Ahmed as the candidate best poised to address the pressing concerns and aspirations of Jammu region's residents. They highlighted his proven track record of service and commitment to the welfare of the people, citing him as a capable leader with a deep understanding of the region's needs.

They appealed to the people ensure maximum participation in the upcoming third phase of polling and cast their votes in favor of Mian Altaf Ahmed.

Among those who were present include Sonu Singh, Abdul Jabar Tantar, Aslam Lone, Ishaq Ahmed, Azeem Khan, Sadiq Qureshi, Gulam Hussain Bhatti Block President, Soofi Queem, Ishaq Khan, Rustam, Hafiz Khan, Ch Noor Hussain, Mashooq Khan and others.

Every section of society suffering under BJP's misrule in country: Chib

Urges people to support and vote in favour of Cong Candidate on April 26



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee expressed deep concern over the widespread suffering experienced by every section of society due to the misrule of the BJP in the country.

Speaking at the meeting held at village Kanger falling in Jammu North Assembly segment, Hari Singh Chib emphasized that the BJP's policies and governance have led to immense hardships for people across different segments of society. He decried the suppression of the right to protest, particularly targeting daily wagers, need-based, contractual, and temporary employees, as well as regular

workers who have been betrayed by the BJP.

Chib criticized the Agniveer scheme, which he argued has jeopardized the future of youth in the army. He pointed to record unemployment, unprecedented price hikes, and burdensome taxes on the common people, exacerbating the plight of the masses. Moreover, he also expressed concern over the influx of outsiders benefiting from BJP policies at the expense of local communities, threatening the livelihoods of future generations.

As a response to these challenges, Chib called upon the people to unite and voice their discontent by actively participating in the democratic process. He urged them to support the Congress party, which has always

strived to address the needs and aspirations of all sections of society.

Chib reaffirmed the Congress party's commitment to inclusive governance, social justice, and economic prosperity. He promised a vision that prioritizes the needs of all segments of society, advocating for the protection of local rights to land and jobs.

During the meeting, Hari Singh Chib appealed to the people of Jammu North Assembly segment to cast their valuable votes in favor of the Congress candidate Raman Bhalla and ensure his victory in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls.

The meeting was attended by Sarpanch Mohd Ameen, Panches, as well as dedicated party activists.

Rajni Bala highlights significance of women's role in shaping future of Nation

Urges women to support & vote Raman Bhalla on April 26



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Rajni Bala, a senior Congress leader and former councillor, organized a meeting of women folk in the Jammu North Assembly segment with an aim to garner support for the Congress candidate, Raman Bhalla, in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The meeting brought together women from diverse backgrounds, representing various sections of society.

Rajni Bala, known for her tireless commitment to women's empowerment and social justice,

addressed the attendees and highlighted the significance of their role in shaping the future of the nation.

During the meeting, the senior Congress leader threw light on the pressing issues faced by women and underscored the need for strong representation and dedicated leadership to address their concerns. She expressed confidence in Raman Bhalla's ability to champion the cause of women's rights, welfare, and development.

Rajni Bala urged all those present to actively engage in spreading

awareness about the Congress party's vision and the positive impact it can have on the lives of women and the community as a whole. Additionally, she emphasized the importance of women exercising their voting rights to ensure a brighter and inclusive future for all.

She urged the women of Jammu North Assembly segment to come forward and vote in favour of Congress Candidate Raman Bhalla to get rid of misrule of BJP Govt in the country and give Congress again a chance to serve the country dedicatedly.

Health & Sanitation officials of JMC visits KCPS on World Earth Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Dr. Vinod Sharma (Health Officer, JMC), Harjeet Singh (Sanitation Officer, Zone-II), Anoop Sharma (Sanitary Inspector) and Vijay Tiwari (IEC Expert, JMC) visited KC Public School on the World Earth Day 2024 to interact with members of the KC Paryavaran Sadan -- the Environmental Club of the school. The interactive event was held in the activity hall of the school with a gathering of dedicated individuals committed to environmental conservation in alignment with this year's Earth Day theme, 'Plastic vs Planet.'

The event commenced with members of KC Paryavaran Sadan presenting Dr. Vinod Sharma with a jade planter as a token of their appreciation for his dedication to environmental causes. It was followed by the performance of a captivating 'nukkad natak' by members of the Sadan, thereby setting a powerful tone to the proceedings.

Dr. Vinod Sharma, known for his expertise in environmental issues, took up the stage to address the audience. In his enlightening speech, he emphasized the crucial role of citizens in contributing to the betterment of the nation, particularly in managing waste

efficiently. His insights resonated deeply with the attendees, inspiring them to take proactive steps towards a cleaner and greener future.

After several interactive discussions, the visiting JMC officials were then led out on a guided tour of various sustainable initiatives taken up KC Paryavaran Sadan such as a compost pit, a vermicompost pit and a hydroponics setup which demonstrate school's commitment to innovative solutions for waste management. The JMC officials were quite impressed with these environmental initiatives taken up by the students of KC Public School and praised them for their concern for environmental issues faced by the world of today.

The event also coincided with the ongoing 'Green Fortnight' initiative launched by KC Paryavaran Sadan from April 8 to 22 to encourage students and staff to turn off lights and fans for 30 minutes every day to conserve energy and spread awareness about the importance of energy conservation for a sustainable future.

Vice Principal Sanjay Pandey thanked the JMC officials for visiting the school and inspiring the students to maintain and sustain the fragile environment of the planet Earth.

NSS Units of GDC Udhampur celebrate Earth Day

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 23: NSS Units of GDC Udhampur in collaboration with Department of Zoology and Department of EVS celebrated Earth Day under the Patronage of Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta.

The observance of Earth Day began in 1970 with the aim of preventing environmental pollution and making Earth a beautiful place by reducing the burden of pollution on the planet.

On the occasion various activities were conducted including cleanliness drive and beautification of college campus with special emphasis on Vastika and botanical garden, slogan writing competition and interactive lectures were the main attractions of the Earth Day observance.

The prestigious event commenced with the lightening of lamp and singing of NSS song and



Bhajans and enthralled the audiences and filled the atmosphere with emotions.

NSS PO Prof. Sanjeet Singh welcomed the audience by his welcome address, NSS PO Dr. Gurpreet Kour from Department of Zoology briefed the audience about the importance of celebrating Earth Day, so as to protect our environment which is in need of hour. Dr. Jagjeet Singh from Department of Chemistry and Prof. Asha Sohil, H.O.D EVS also sensitized the volunteers about the importance of the Day. Principal Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta also sensitized the students about the impor-

tance of the day and exhorted the student to work for its cleanliness and make atmosphere pollution free, he rallied students to advocate for environmental cleanliness.

The lecture was followed by the interactive session where in student asked questions and cleared their doubts.

The prize distribution ceremony was also held wherein Sonu Singh of semester 4th and Mohit of semester 4th clinched first and second position in slogan writing. Staff Secretary NSS volunteer Rishika present vote of thanks and the function concluded with National Anthem.

Jindrah Roller Athlete Skating Club's Abhinav excels in 67th SGFI

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Abhinav Bakshi, speed skater of Roller Athlete Skating Club, Jindrah, again excelled in the 67th SGFI National roller skating championship held at Satna, Madhya Pradesh.

Abhinav, student of Shaurya International School, participated in the 500 metres Rink race as well as 2000 metres Road Race and won Gold and Bronze respectively.

On this remarkable feat, Jindrah club honoured him with professional equipment and members of club requested all the schools to honour their medal winning students financially also as they are continuously bringing laurels for their schools and as well as entire J&K.

On the other hand all the club members also appreciated the efforts of Abhinav and their parents for their hard work.

Ex-CAPF Welfare Assoc holds annual function, forms district committees



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Ex-Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association Jammu and Kashmir (UT) celebrated its 12th Annual Day at Baba Makhan Shah Lubana Hall, Kotli Shah Doula, R S Pura, here on Tuesday wherein various demands and problems of the retired Paramilitary personnel were highlighted.

The programme started with paying floral tributes to the soldiers who were martyred in terrorist attacks. Ex-personnel from Paramilitary forces, their family members and dependents were also present in the meeting.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Ashok Kumar while on the occasion Chief Patron Harinder Mahajan and Chief Guest, Dalip Kumar Ex-BDC Chairman honoured the Veer Naris and Ex-Central Paramilitary force personnel.

On the occasion, Chairman All India Confederation of Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces, V.K Sharma highlighted day to day problems being faced by the paramilitary force personals.

He advocated for One Rank One Pension (DROP), improving medical facilities to be on par with those

provided to Army personnel, access to CSD canteen facilities, universalization of facilities and assistance to Ex-Servicemen at par with those provided to personnel across India, including the provision of Rs 8500 assistance for the cremation of Ex-Servicemen from Paramilitary forces, especially noting the lack of funds provided by BSF units in J&K.

President CAPF Punjab, P.S. Sandhu emphasized the central government's negligence towards the burning demands of Ex-Servicemen.

Additionally, General Secretary CPMF J&K UT, D.K Chauhan highlighted the imposition of maximum GST in the master canteen by the government and urged the Lt. Governor to reduce excise duty in

J&K (UT), particularly for Ex-Servicemen of paramilitary forces.

At the conclusion of the event, district committees of the Ex-Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association were formed with the consent of participants, under the supervision of stakeholders present, including Harbans Lal Sharma, Vice President (CPMF); Noor Muhammad, General Secretary District Samba; P.S. Sandhu, President Punjab Association; Nirmal Singh Mann, Comdet. Chairman (GSP); Manbir Katoch, National Spokesman (HP); M.L. Thakur, Chief Petron Ex-CAPF (HP); Sajawal Shah, District Kupwara; Naseer Ahmed Khan, District Baramulla; Mohd Ashraf Lone, District Bandipora; and Farooq Ahmed, District Anantnag.

| NORTHERN RAILWAY | | | |
|--|--|------------------------|-------------|
| E-TENDER NOTICE | | | |
| The Deputy Chief Engineer/BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt., for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-Tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:- | | | |
| Tender Notice No. | OT-04-JRC-2024 | | |
| Name of work | Replacement of corroded members of Br. no. 188 DN (14x45.7 m) on JUC-PTK Line under SSE/BRIDGE/M/PTK. | | |
| Approx. Cost | ₹1,04,46,755.24 | Earnest Money | ₹2,02,200/- |
| Date of Opening | 13.05.2024 | Cost of Tender form(₹) | 0.00/- |
| Bidding start date on IREPS | 29.04.2024 to 13.05.2024 | | |
| Completion period of work | 06 months | | |
| Date & Time for Submission of tender and opening of tender | Up to 15:00 hrs. on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs. on same date. | | |
| Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded | The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in | | |
| No.: 80-W/30/Bridges/Invitation Dated: 19.04.2024 1196/2024 | | | |
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EDITORIAL

Book Day: A
Literary Revolution

In the annals of human history, there are few inventions as transformative and enduring as the written word. From ancient scrolls to modern e-books, books have served as vessels of knowledge, imagination, and inspiration, shaping civilizations and transcending boundaries. It is no wonder then, that on this auspicious occasion, we gather to celebrate the inaugural World First Book Day, a momentous occasion heralding the power and significance of literature in our lives.

As dawn breaks on this historic day, cities around the globe come alive with the buzz of excitement and anticipation. Libraries, bookstores, and community centers throw open their doors, welcoming book lovers of all ages to partake in the festivities. From literary-themed parades to author readings and book signings, the day is abuzz with activities designed to ignite a passion for reading and foster a deeper appreciation for the written word.

At the heart of World First Book Day lies a profound recognition of the role books play in fostering empathy, understanding, and connection. In a world often divided by differences, books have the power to bridge gaps, transcend borders, and unite us in our shared humanity. Through the pages of a book, we can walk in someone else's shoes, see the world through their eyes, and empathize with their experiences, fostering a greater sense of empathy and compassion.

But World First Book Day is not just about celebrating the past; it is also about looking to the future and envisioning a world where every individual has access to the transformative power of literature. In an age where digital technologies are reshaping the landscape of publishing and reading, it is more important than ever to ensure that books remain accessible to all. Whether in print or digital format, books have the ability to empower, educate, and inspire, and it is incumbent upon us to ensure that they remain within reach of every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances.

As we celebrate World First Book Day, let us also pay tribute to the countless authors, publishers, librarians, and educators who work tirelessly to bring the magic of books into our lives. Their dedication and passion are the driving force behind the literary revolution that continues to enrich and transform our world.

But perhaps, above all, World First Book Day is a celebration of the joy of reading—the simple pleasure of losing oneself in the pages of a captivating story, the thrill of exploring new worlds and ideas, and the profound sense of wonder that accompanies the discovery of a truly great book. In a world that often seems chaotic and uncertain, books offer solace, refuge, and hope, reminding us of the enduring power of the human imagination and the boundless possibilities that lie within the pages of a book.

As the sun sets on this momentous day, let us carry the spirit of World First Book Day with us into the days and weeks ahead, as we continue to champion the cause of literacy, celebrate the written word, and spread the joy of reading to every corner of the globe. For in a world where books are celebrated and cherished, anything is possible.

BJP dominance in political discourse sees adjustments

By: Shikha Mukerjee

Intriguingly, the Bharatiya Janata Party's dominance over the political discourse by establishing the frames of meaning and the order or even disorder of things, including interpretations and contexts, seems to be undergoing a not-so-subtle change. Instead of telling the voters that there is only a singular order of things and the rest is irrelevant, the BJP is reacting to the relentless, consistent Opposition attack on its intentions and actions. New guarantees are popping out that were never on the list. The two most significant are, first, the guarantee that the Constitution will not be rewritten and the word "secular", over which controversy has raged for decades between the BJP and the secular Opposition, will not be amended and erased. The other not quite guarantee, but nevertheless a confirmation of commitment, is on democracy. The second guarantee that has been added as the election process unrolls is reservations and quotas for tribals on the scheduled list.

The chinks in the BJP's armour are not all on account of the ferocity and multiplicity of a unified Opposition's counter offensive. It is in trouble with its vote banks among the Kshatriyas or the Rajputs, a caste that is spread across several key states in the Hindi heartland. The assiduously cultivated tribals by the RSS Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram as a vote bank are also vocal in questioning the BJP's intentions on removing reservation quotas. Whether a Narendra Modi government in its third term will extinguish reservations is not material; tribals are suspicious of what will happen in the future.

In recent public speeches and in

one-on-one interviews, the two major campaigners and masterminds of the BJP, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, have been at pains to tell voters that the Opposition attack is unfounded that a third term for the regime would usher in an end to democracy and discarding the existing Constitution. There are, however, missteps that the party has taken, over nominations to certain caste categories and statements on reservations by the RSS that appear to have queered the pitch of the campaign. The coverup may or may not work, but its necessity suggests that the BJP, despite its organisation and masterminds and backrooms, has problems.

This may not be the same as conceding that the Modi government and the BJP are accountable to the voters and the Opposition for everything that has been said and done, it is, nevertheless a concession that seems almost conciliatory. From a party and a leader who declared in 2014 that India would be liberated from the yoke of Congress rule, recall the slogan "Congress Mukht Bharat," the need to clarify, explain and placate suggests a climbdown. As examples of how much more the BJP is committed to the Constitution, Amit Shah in the course of an interview on television the day he filed his nomination in Gandhinagar, talked about implementing the non-justiciable Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in Part IV such as the ban on triple talaq and its promise to bring in a Uniform Civil Code.

The 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign of all the parties in the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance -- the Congress, the Left, the DMK, the Trinamul Congress, the Samajwadi Party the Rashtriya

Janata Dal and others -- has centred around the danger to the Idea of India as the founding generation constructed it from the BJP and the Sangh Parivar, intent on establishing a Hindu Rashtra, hollowing out democracy and institutionalising autocracy. By reacting to the attack and making a public declaration, a "Modi ki guarantee", that the Constitution would not be changed, the BJP is no longer dominating the discourse; it is reacting to an alternative discourse.

The strength of the alternative discourse may or may not be reflected in the final seat tally on June 4, but its existence is undeniable. The other issue on which the BJP's reaction to the Opposition is significant is electoral bonds. It suggests that the Opposition's dogged pursuit -- Rahul Gandhi labelling it as extortion to the entirely personal attack by DMK leader and Tamil Nadu chief minister M.K. Stalin's branding of Modi as "Vasool (fund recovery) Raja" -- has paid off probably because it has

captured voters' attention to the extent that clarifications and explanations are strategically necessary to reassure some sections of the public.

The clarifications have ranged from Mr Shah's aggressive reaction that if it was extortion, then the electoral bond funding to the Congress and other Opposition parties was also extortion, and Nirmala Sitharaman's follow-up that revisions would be made to the electoral bonds scheme after consultations and reintroduced in the BJP's third term.

For a party that railroaded the Opposition by suspending a total of 146 Members of Parliament in the 2023 winter session, expelling Rahul Gandhi, passed 65 per cent

of the 221 new laws with less than three hours of discussion, including the abrogation of Article 370, triple talaq and the three farm laws, the BJP's newfound faith in consultative politics is tweaking the narrative to nullify Opposition criticism of the Modi government as autocratic.

Pitches to win a third term are notoriously difficult: the first five honeymoon years are a distant memory and there is a buildup of frustrations or disappointments over the total 10 years. Unveiling visions of "Viksit Bharat" 23 years down the road will not obviously satisfy the voter who is subsisting on five kilogrammes of free foodgrain every month. Youth who joined up under the 2022 Agnipath scheme of short-term recruitment in the Army are preparing to plan for a future outside the military as they near retirement. Voters will weigh these lived realities against the "guarantees" made earlier and new ones offered in 2024 by the Modi government.

It is not just the steady stream of denunciations from the collective Opposition that is contributing to the pressure on the BJP to revise, modify and modulate its campaign. After 10 years in office, anti-incumbency and indifference are factors, especially as Phase I of the seven-stage process of the general election indicates voter turnout has been significantly lower across the country, with an average decrease of four per cent.

As polling for the next six phases proceeds, the tweaks and adjustments in the BJP's campaign will be worth tracking. Will there be more unseen stumbling blocks? In campaign mode, the problem is that the leadership has to maintain a steady flow of words on everything, unlike in Parliament where silence or brevity is possible as a strategic retreat.

If India becomes a Hindu Rashtra, will there be any difference at all?

By: Aakar Patel

At a civil society meeting in Bengaluru last week, the question was asked if a Hindu Rashtra was on the horizon with a third term of the Narendra Modi government impending. To see if it is possible, one must begin by asking what it is, and how Hindu Rashtra will be different from what we have now.

Till 2008, after which it became it republic like ours, Nepal was a Hindu Rashtra, the only one in the world. Why was it a Hindu Rashtra? Because executive power flowed from a Kshatriya (Chhetri) King as prescribed in the Manu Smriti. Nepal's 1959 Constitution identifies the head of state as someone who is an "adherent of Aryan culture and Hindu religion".

The 1962 Constitution defines Nepal as an "independent, indivisible and sovereign Hindu state" and repeats the formulation of the King as being Aryan and Hindu. The Raj Sabha, or governing council, includes the head Brahmin (Bada Gurujyu) and the officiating priest (Mool Purohit).

Nepal's 1990 Constitution defines the country as being "multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, democratic, independent, indivisible, sovereign, Hindu and constitutional monarchical kingdom". It restates the "Aryan-ness" and "Hinduness" of the King. The Raj Sabha was now called Raj Parishad and the Mool Purohit excluded though the Bada Gurujyu remained.

The 1959 Constitution had no religious freedom as such and "no person shall be entitled to convert another person to his religion". A citizen may only "practice and profess his own religion as handed down from ancient times", meaning no propagation was allowed, a principle still followed in Nepal.

The ban on conversion was rephrased to close the loophole surrounding the words "his religion" and the new text read: "No person shall be entitled to convert another person from one religion to another".

To conclude, Nepal was a Hindu Rashtra because of three things. First, that rule was caste-based through a hereditary Kshatriya; second, this King had caste-based advisers in his court; three, that there is no religious freedom and propagation is banned.

Here Nepal was and is more honest than India. Our Constitution through Article 25 says that the right to freely propagate religion is a fundamental right, but across India's states are laws which also make religious propagation a criminal offence. Therefore, the right exists mostly on paper.

Nepal was only to this extent a Hindu Rashtra. No other parts of the prescribed caste hierarchy and caste-based discriminations as required by the texts were applied to the State in Nepal and they could not have been. It would have gone against the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and every single modern law and practice that gives indi-

viduals liberty and equality and freedom.

For this reason, it is difficult to see how it can be replicated here. We do not even have the hereditary King that Nepal did. But if this is not Hindu Rashtra, then what are the BJP and RSS talking about? Here we do not have a proper answer because they have never defined it, though they speak of it often. There is no draft or charter or constitution of the RSS Hindu Rashtra and what its laws would be and how they would differ from the present. The reason is that their only focus is on minorities.

A Hindu Rashtra of the type they speak of might mandate by law that no non-Hindu can become Prime Minister or chief minister, and only Hindus can hold certain offices. We should consider here that though we have no such law, it is not required. There is no Muslim chief minister in this country, that no Muslim has ever even served a full five-year term as CM in any state, besides Jammu and Kashmir, and of course there has never been a Muslim Prime Minister in India.

This type of Hindu Rashtra can also adopt some other discriminatory aspects against its religious minorities. Germany in the 1930s adopted a set of laws that prevented inter-marriage between communities. In India, after 2018, seven BJP states have passed laws that also criminalise marriage between Muslims and Hindus. German laws excluded Jews from citizenship, and India has of course adopted the CAA

excluding Muslims.

Many of the things India has done, especially since 2019, with targeted laws and policy on namaz (in the National Capital Region in 2021), hijab (in Karnataka in 2021), beef (since 2015), bulldozers (across India now), talaq (in 2019) and so on would also be something that we can see in an exclusionary Hindu Rashtra.

So the question is, if we have already excluded Muslims from political office by default, and if we are already harassing our minorities daily through laws, like Nazi Germany did and like Pakistan did, then why do we need a Hindu Rashtra or a change from the present set of laws? The answer is that we do not. The present Constitution and laws give us enough freedom to apply discrimination against non-Hindus legally, while still pretending to be pluralist, democratic and secular. There appears to be no particular advantage or benefit that we get in officially changing our constitutional and legal state from a secular state to a Hindu Rashtra.

So, then what can we expect from the third term, if it should come? I must recount a reply, most likely apocryphal, given by the poet Ahmed Faraz, when someone asked him the classic question: "Yoon hi chalta raha to kya hoga?" (What will happen if things continue in this fashion).

Faraz's reply was: "Darr to is baat ka hai ke kuch bhi nahin hoga, yoon hi chalta rahega" (The real fear is that nothing will happen: That what is around us will continue).

BJP neglected rural development in J&K: Sadhotra

For unity, stability, integrity of country, vote and support Raman Bhalla: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference launched a scathing attack on the ruling government at the Centre, accusing the BJP-led administration of neglecting the crucial development needs of rural areas in the Union Territory.

In this regard, a day-long convention of JKNC Jammu Rural-A was held here today in support of the INDIA Alliance candidate for the Jammu Reasi Lok Sabha seat, Raman Bhalla, at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu.

During the convention, Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary of JKNC and former Minister, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of JKNC Jammu, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Surjit Singh Manhas, Ghar Singh Joint Secretaries Jammu, Bimla Luthra former MLA, Zeeshan Rana Additional Spokesperson Jammu and several party leaders and workers were present.

At the beginning of the meeting, Raghbir Singh Manhas, District President of JKNC Jammu Rural-A, apprised the senior functionaries of the Party about the deplorable condition of rural areas due to the callous attitude adopted by the incumbent gov-



ernment in providing basic amenities.

Addressing the party workers, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister expressed anguish against the BJP government's decade-long tenure, lamenting its failure to uplift rural areas despite ample time in power. He deemed it unfortunate that even after a substantial period; basic amenities continue to elude the people residing in rural areas, plunging them into enduring hardships. He minced no words in condemning the hollow promises of unprecedented development made by the government. Despite their tall claims of development, the reality remains grim for the majority of villages across the Union Territory, grappling with severe infrastructural deficiencies ranging from lack of sewerage systems, dilapidated roads, unreliable drinking water supply, to abysmal sanitation conditions.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President,

in his address, urged the people to support the INDI Alliance Candidates in the ensuing polls with an aim to safeguard the unity, stability, and integrity of the nation. He said that the Alliance is committed to uniting people from diverse backgrounds, aiming to strengthen the social fabric of the nation and promote solidarity among all its inhabitants.

Amidst political uncertainty and upheaval, the Alliance pledges to provide stability and continuity in governance, he said, adding that by promoting integrity in governance and combating corruption, the Alliance endeavors to restore public trust in the political system and safeguard the moral integrity of the nation.

Overall, by emphasizing the significance of unity, stability, and integrity, the INDIA Alliance aims to inspire confidence among the people and lead the nation towards a brighter and more promising future, he added.

The Provincial President emphasized that the need of the hour is to support the Alliance Candidate Raman Bhalla in the Jammu Reasi Lok Sabha seat with an aim to safeguard the Union Territory from impending challenges.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary, urged people to prioritize communal harmony and brotherhood above all else. Emphasizing the inherent strength found in unity and mutual respect, he underscored the importance of fostering bonds of understanding and tolerance across all communities. Upholding communal harmony not only ensures social cohesion but also reinforces the shared values that define our nation's rich tapestry of diversity, he added.

NC leaders Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik, and Surjit Singh Manhas reiterated the Party's commitment to hold the government accountable for its negligence and vows to fight tirelessly until every village

in the region receives the attention and resources it rightfully deserves.

Among those who were present include: Dr. Gafoor Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Vijay Laxmi Datta Sr. leader, Ram Parshotam District President Udhampur Rural, Rita Gupta Vice President Central Zone, Kuldeep Kour District President Women wing Jammu Rural A, Bishan Dass Block President Mandal, Charanjeet Singh Block President Marh, Balwant Singh Block President Bhalwal, Mohinder Singh Block President Khour, Madan Lal Block President Akhnoor, Rakesh Kumar Phalwan District President Jammu Rural A YNC, Randhir Singh Chib District Vice President Jammu Rural A, Devi Dyal Jogi Block Secretary Khour, Satpal Kralopia former corporator, M.K Rana, Manmohan Singh, Kuldeep Sharma, Khajoor Ram Sarpanch, Omkar Singh District Secretary Jammu Rural A, Tilak Raj Bhagat, Randhir Singh, Sahib Chib District Secretary District Jammu Rural A YNC, Som Raj Taroch, Randhir Singh Jamwal District Secretary Jammu Rural A, Ramesh Messi, Ashok Kumar, Charanjeet Singh, Natha, Gurdev Singh, Karan Singh, Akbir Singh and others.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor announces launch of Fortuner Leader Edition



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: The Toyota Fortuner needs no introduction, and to celebrate the success of this most admired SUV, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Tuesday launched the Leader Edition of the Fortuner in the India market. Building upon its renowned features, Fortuner Leader Edition brings distinctive design with many add-on features.

The Fortuner Leader Edition stands out with its commanding presence, accentuated by varied style elements. Featuring a dynamic front and rear bumper spoiler, this vehicle exudes an aura of boldness and sophistication, reflecting the true essence of leadership. One of the key highlights of the Fortuner Leader Edition is its prominent dual-tone exterior, available in a palette of 'black, white, and clarity'. This unique combination not only enhances the exterior appeal but also underscores its premium craftsmanship. The interior boasts dual-tone seats that offer unmatched comfort and elegance, elevating the driving experience to new heights. With every detail meticulously curated, from the plush upholstery to the ergonomic design, the Fortuner Leader Edition makes every journey, filled with awesomeness.

In addition to its perfect styling, the Fortuner Leader Edition is equipped with an array of advanced features designed to enhance convenience, safety, and connectivity. From a wireless charger and TPMS (Tire Pressure Monitoring System) to auto-folding mir-

rors, this vehicle is aimed at fulfilling the diverse needs of the aspiring customers. Moreover, the Fortuner Leader Edition comes with black alloy wheels that make a bold statement with every turn. These wheels not only enhance the vehicle's aesthetics but also reinforces its status as a true leader on the road. Certain accessories developed by TTIPL will be installed by authorised dealers, including rear and front bumper spoilers, to enhance the exterior appeal of the vehicle.

Commenting on the launch of Fortuner Leader Edition, Sabari Manohar – Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "Our customers are at the heart of everything we do. Their evolving preferences and desires for enhanced features and driving experiences motivates our relentless pursuit of excellence. The Fortuner Leader Edition is crafted to elevate its bold style statement with more add-on features, while imparting an unparalleled sense of power and distinction. The Fortuner Leader Edition is a testament to Toyota's resolute commitment in providing best-in-class offerings, leading the way with power & style.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the passionate Fortuner fan base in India, for their trust in our brand. We will continue to excite the SUV enthusiasts with the Fortuner Leader Edition offering bold exterior design, eye-catching and comfortable interiors, and advanced high-tech features, positioned to 'Lead in Power' " he added.

Since its debut in 2009, the Toyota Fortuner has been the most-loved SUV in the country for over a decade, maintaining its unrivalled position in the segment. With its premium features, sleek and trendy interiors, top-notch safety standards, and robust performance, the Fortuner has consistently set the benchmark, captivating SUV passion across generations.

Public hailed Inclusion of 43 Schools in central scheme from Bhalessa Zone

Top News Report

DODA, Apr 23: The Public of Gandoh Bhalessa has extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Department of Education for accepting our demand to include 43 schools from Bhalessa in the central scheme of PM Shri. While we had initially represented for the inclusion of 50 schools, the inclusion of 43 schools marks a significant step forward in our mission to improve education accessibility and quality.

We are deeply indebted to the Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir and the Commissioner Secretary of Education for recognizing the importance of our demand and taking prompt action to address it said a local Arif Ali.

The public has hailed the efforts of Nadeem Sharief Niazi Local DDC for his efforts. This decision will undoubtedly benefit countless students in Bhalessa, providing them with improved educational opportunities and resources.



We believe this is a positive step towards building a brighter future for our students and communities. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Department of Education to further enhance educational outcomes across the region.

Various organizations jointly condemn talked about statements of Prime Minister

Questions raised on Election Commission's notice on "Jai Bhavani"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Various political and social parties in Jammu have strongly condemned the Election Commission's notice regarding the much talked about statements of the Prime Minister and BJP's star campaigner and the use of "Jai Bhavani" in the campaign song of Shiv Sena (UBT).

While jointly addressing the journalists in Jammu today, leaders of various parties

Speaking at an election rally in Rajasthan and Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that if Congress comes to power, their land, gold and all their property will be snatched away and distributed among infiltrators and those having more children.



He also mentioned the Mangal Sutra, which is a tribute to our mothers and sisters and said that the Mangal Sutra will also not remain safe.

Speakers said that due to lack of voting in its favor in the first phase, BJP has resorted to its familiar hate speeches and Narendra Modi is tarnishing the dignity of the post of Prime Min-

ister in his speeches. Along with this, raising questions on the Election Commission's notice regarding "Jai Bhavani" in Shiv Sena's campaign song, he said that the Election Commission's claims of providing a level playing field are as hollow as the BJP's.

In the country only one party is allowed to say and say any-

thing. In the last two days, thousands of people have lodged their complaints through various communication mediums against the Prime Minister's hate speech.

All the leaders present have demanded the Election Commission of India to take strict action against such hate speech. On this occasion, Shiv Sena (UBT) state president Munish Sahni, senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Safir Chaudhary, famous journalist and social worker Mir Shahid Saleem, Aam Aadmi Party spokesperson Nirmal Mahna, political workers Altaf Hussain Shah, Amrik Singh Sasan, Kuldeep Singh, Sikh analysts and many other dignitaries were present and addressed the journalists.

Bharat Vikas Parishad, Tridev Branch, organises 'Parivar Milan' at Reasi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: BVP Tridev Branch Shastri Nagar organized Parivar Milan at Reasi.

About 100 persons comprising members and their families participated in the programme.

The main programme was held at Sanjog Ghar, Reasi. Shiv Ram Sharma, General Secretary, Prant anchored the proceedings and introduced the members to each other.

M.L.Padha, President

Bharat Vikas Parishad, Tridev Branch welcomed the members and thanked for their participation in the programme in large. He also informed them about the activities of Sanstha to be performed by all Branches during the current year besides informing them of its main five principles i.e. Sampark, Sehjog, Sanskar, Sewa and Samarpan.

Arun Sharma, Regional Joint General Secretary also addressed the members giving detailed informa-

tion of the activities of BVP in the country at National, Regional and Branch level. Brita Ram Sharma, Secretary, Tridev Branch presented vote of thanks. He thanked the members as well as Shri Madan Magotra and management of the Sanjog Ghar Reasi for making the function successful.

Other prominent persons who were present in the function were Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Prant President, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Jagdish Singh Slathia. Treasurer,

Tridev Branch, Jagdish Sharma District Coordinator BVP Reasi and Darshan Gupta patron Tridev Banch.

The participants also visited World's highest Railway Bridge at Buckle.

The members were very glad to visit the holy place of Baba Shiar Devta located near a beautiful waterfall on the bank of river Chenab. They also had Darshan of ancient Mahdev Temple. The tour concluded in a cheerful atmosphere.

MAAsterG Vaanis can be freely accessed at YouTube channel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Renowned Life Coach and Spiritual Guide, Rajesh Kumar, popularly known as MAAsterG decided to go public through his Mission 800 crore wherein he has pledged to reach till the last person in the world, to uplift him/her from all the stress of the world through his simple but powerful Vaanis.

MAAsterG decided to go public in December 2023 to share his Vaanis with the entire world through various social media and other platforms.

In the same context,



MAAsterG is travelling across the length & breadth of the country for interactive sessions on Stress Management & Mental well-being, & fortunately he is present in Jammu & giving his precious time to the people and institutions of Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua and Katra in the month of April-May

2024. During his time in Jammu, MAAsterG was invited to deliver lectures at some of the leading educational and professional institutions like SKUAST Jammu, J.K. Public School, Indira Gandhi Government Dental College, Government Woman College Udhampur etc

and also at renowned spiritual centers of the city like Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (Counter no. 2), Shri Bawe Wali Mata Mahakali Mandir (Bahu Fort Temple), etc.

His Vaanis and highly engaging Q&A sessions are extremely thought provoking to his audience, and has inspired them to listen to his Vaanis for at least 30 days to experience the guaranteed transformation. His Vaanis can be freely accessed by subscribing to the YouTube channel MAAsterG as well as at other popular social media platforms.

From Karan Johar to Badshah to Prince Narula to The Great Khali, celebs bring their brands to the region

Out of many things that Covid taught us, one is to generate a source of secondary income. In case of professionals from the film industry, it's a survival skill to sustain longer in a creative career. As director Karan Johar, during his recent visit to Chandigarh, inaugurated a jewellery store and rapper Badshah opened a restaurant a few months ago, here's a look at celebrity-run businesses in Punjab, Chandigarh and Haryana.

Accessories man

Known for his unique taste in fashion and accessories, it was expected of Karan Johar to venture into a partnership with a jewellery brand. KJo announced his entrepreneurial venture Tyaani by Karan Johar. The celebrated director launched his fine jewellery brand back in 2017, but it is only last year that he took it more seriously by opening a store in Mumbai. He even included exclusive designs of Koffee with Karan gift hampers for the celeb guests. Expanding his business further, KJo on March 30 inaugurated the store Tyaani by Karan Johar at Sector 17, Chandigarh.

Big-time foodie

His love for Chandigarh is evident from his songs and now he has turned to hospitality business, bringing his first-ever fine dining restaurant to the city. If you haven't guessed it still, we are talking of Chandigarh Mein hit-maker, Badshah. The rapper offers three branches — Sago Spice Symphony, an



Indian fine-dining joint, Seville, a Continental-Lebanese spot, and Sidera, a pan-Asian cocktail bar, all under one roof at Sector-26, Chandigarh.

Old gems

Cricketer Kapil Dev, who captained Indian cricket team to win our first World Cup trophy in 1983, owns a hotel, Elevens — The Captain's Retreat, Sector 35, Chandigarh. The intriguing information on Kapil's hotel is

that instead of numbering the rooms, they are named after landmark moments of his cricketing career, such as Port Elizabeth, Tied Test, 4 Sixes, 9 Wickets, 434 and Kapil's Retreat!

Another star from Punjab, Dharmendra had launched his franchise restaurant Garam Dharam back in 2017. The filmy ambience with artefacts showcasing famous dialogues and scenes from his popular

films, it's a perfect North Indian family restaurant. It has two branches now — one in Sector 26, Chandigarh, and the other in Sector 117, Mohali.

Dhaba delight

WWE fame The Great Khali is known for making a mark in international wrestling circuits. He then took up the onus of training young students in pro-wrestling at the WWE The Great Khali Academy, which was first opened in Jalandhar, Punjab. After another branch came up at Karnal, Haryana, WWE Sports Academy and Gym, he simultaneously launched The Great Khali Dhaba, which has become a hotspot for commuters on National Highway 44. Opened in October 2022, fans are enticed to try out dry fruit milkshake, kesar milk, the Great Khali Punjabi thali and king-size Khali parantha at his dhaba, which in a way goes with his huge persona.

Talking fitness

Actor and singer Prince Narula tasted fame for the first time after he appeared in MTV's Roadies X2, which he won. The winning streak continued in other reality shows, including MTV Splitvilla 8 and Bigg Boss 9. But much before he appeared in Splitvilla, he participated in Mr Punjab.

As this Chandigarh boy opens his gym, Modern Akhada by Prince Narula at Zirakpur, his fondness for fitness continues. Having inaugurated it in 2022, he now offers a franchise model of the same too.

Taylor Swift celebrates success of her 11th studio album 'The Tortured Poets Department'



Famous singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has all the reasons to celebrate and expressed her excitement over the success of her new album. Taking to Instagram, the Fortnight singer, shared some

positive reviews of The Tortured Poets Department.

Swift first reposted Rolling Stone's review, titled, Come for the Torture, Stay for the Poetry with an Instant Classic stamp added. In

response, she quoted a line from the title track of TTPD, "And that's the closest I've come to my heart exploding." The singer then re-shared a five-star review of TTPD from a UK newspaper and quoted her song The Alchemy by writing, "These chemicals hit me like whiiiiiiiine." Swift released her 11th studio album TTPD on April 19 in a surprise double album drop with 31 tracks listed on the project.

Taylor, who is dating NFL star Travis Kelce, has much to celebrate following the album's release, after breaking multiple Spotify records with the project.

On the day of the album's release, Spotify shared that Swift had become the most streamed artiste in one day and she was an artiste with the most streamed album in one day with her new album, achieving over 300 million streams!

On April 20, Spotify also announced that Swift's single Fortnight, featuring Post Malone from the new album was the most-streamed song in a single day in the streaming platform's history.

Kit Harington says he's 'not so interested' in playing heroic roles after 'Game of Thrones'

British star Kit Harington says it's tough to play a hero on screen and that's why he has consciously sought that he would enact 'anti-hero-ish' roles after Game of Thrones.

The actor rose to international prominence with his portrayal of the upright warrior Jon Snow, one of the pivotal characters in Game of Thrones, the HBO epic fantasy show that concluded in 2019 after eight seasons.

Ever since he wrapped Game of Thrones, Harington said he had lost interest in playing the classic hero. "I'm not so interested in heroic roles, and even if I am, they have to be pretty anti-hero-ish," he said.

The actor got his wish with Rod Blackhurst's Blood for Dust, a neo-Western crime thriller set in snowy Montana. In his latest film, Harington plays Ricky, a



sociopathic drug-slinging arms dealer sporting a handlebar moustache and gold chain.

"He's sort of a devil-on-the-shoulder character,

the antagonist who's with you all the way through.

He's like a good-time guy in a bad world," he said.

Ranveer Singh gives shoutout to Deepika Padukone's Lady Singham look, calls her 'sherni'

Deepika Padukone left everyone impressed with her new look as the lady Singham from Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again'.

Husband and actor Ranveer Singh can't stop gushing over his wife and gave a shout-out to his 'sherni'. Taking to Instagram stories, Ranveer shared Deepika's poster and wrote, "Sherni".

Building more anticipation about the upcoming action thriller 'Singham Again', Rohit Shetty treated fans with a new glimpse of "Lady Singham" Deepika on April 19.

Rohit took to Instagram and shared a motion poster of Deepika.

The video captured Deepika, who is donning the role of fierce Shakti Shetty in the film, striking Ajay Devgn's iconic singham pose.

Sharing the poster, he wrote, "my hero... reel mein bhi aur real mein bhi lady singham!!! @deepikapadukone." Last year, on the occasion of the first day of Navratri unveiled the first look of Deepika as the lady cop Shakti Shetty.

Taking to Instagram, Rohit shared a couple of pictures which he captioned, "naari sita ka bhi roop hai aur durga ka



bhi... Meet the most brutal and violent officer of our cop universe... Shakti shetty... My lady singham... Deepika padukone." In the poster, Deepika donned the cop uniform for the first time. She is seen sitting in front of what it seems like a burning vehicle and holding the guy with a gun in his mouth.

In the second post, the 'Pathaan' actor is seen holding a gun with a bandage on her hand and a smile on her face.

Helmed by Rohit Shetty 'Singham Again' also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan, Deepika Padu-

kone, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Ranveer Singh in the lead roles. 'Singham Again' is the third instalment of the super-hit franchise and the film is all set to hit theatres on the occasion of Independence Day 2024.

'Singham' was released in 2011, starring Kajal Aggarwal and Prakash Raj in lead roles, followed by 'Singham Returns' in 2014. Both projects were declared box office hits.

Meanwhile, Deepika will also be seen in the sci-fi action film 'Kalki 2898 AD' opposite Prab-

has.

Ranveer, on the other hand, Ranveer will also be reprising his role of Simmba in Rohit Shetty's cop drama 'Singham Again'.

He will also headline Farhan Akhtar's 'Don 3'. 'Don 3' will arrive in 2025.

While announcing the film, Farhan requested the audience to give the same love to Ranveer as they showered on previous Don installments.

"In 1978, a character created by Salim-Javed and portrayed by Amitabh Bachchan with effortless elan, captured the imagination of theatregoers across the country. That enigmatic character was Don. In 2006, Don was reimaged and brought to life by Shah Rukh Khan in his own irresistibly charming way," he wrote.

"The time has now come to take the legacy of Don forward and joining us in this new interpretation will be an actor whose talent and versatility I have long admired. We hope that you will show him the love you have so graciously and generously shown to Mr Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan," the post further read.

Big B plays Ashwatthama in mythological sci-fi epic 'Kalki 2898 AD'

After the recent poster featuring Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, the makers of the upcoming mythology sci-fi film 'Kalki 2898 AD' unveiled a new video asset. The special video introduces the character of Big B as Ashwatthama.

The video was unveiled in a projection in Nemawar, Madhya Pradesh, along with an exclusive glimpse on Star Sports amid the ongoing IPL 2024.

The video features multiple Indian languages spoken, with Amitabh Bachchan in his Ashwatthama avatar speaking Hindi, alongside a child conversing in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada.

The video shows the character of a child inquiring Big B about who he is. Big B who's shrouded in ban-



dages has different wounds, one from a gunshot, and tells the kid that his time has come to fight the ultimate battle.

The film also stars Kamal Haasan, Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, and Disha Patani in pivotal roles.

The film, helmed by Nag Ashwin, made waves after its groundbreaking debut at San Diego Comic-Con last year.

The film is bankrolled by Vyjayanthi Movies and is a mythology-inspired sci-fi spectacle set in the future.

Esha Deol brutally trolled over her lip job on her visit to Mathura during Hema Malini's campaigning

Esha Deol, accompanied by her sister Ahana Deol, recently visited the Banke Bihari Temple in Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh.

This comes at a time when their mother Hema Malini is campaigning in Mathura for the 2024 Lok Sabha election as a BJP candidate.

According to a video that the news agency shared on X, Esha Deol shared her views on the development in Mathura, highlighting the preservation of heritage and tourism in the region.

However, the video stirred a different kind of reaction among netizens.

Social media users expressed disappointment and shock over Esha's alleged lip job, diverting



attention from her political commentary.

One of the users wrote, "Once upon a time, Esha Deol looked beautiful. What happened to her

now?" Another added, "Why do I feel like a dog has bitten Esha Deol on her lips?????" A third comment said, "That's how you shouldn't do a lip job."

Even listening to Hanuman Chalisa becomes crime under Cong rule: PM Modi

The prime minister charged that it is difficult to follow one's faith under Congress rule.

JAIPUR, Apr 23 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday sharpened his attack on the Congress, saying it is difficult to follow one's faith under the party and again accused it of hatching a deep conspiracy to snatch people's wealth and distribute it among "select" people.

Referring to the 'redistribution of wealth' remarks made by him at a rally in Rajasthan's Banswara on Sunday, the prime minister said it has angered the Congress and INDI Alliance so much that they have started "abusing" Modi everywhere "I have put forth the truth before the country that Congress is hatching a deep conspiracy to snatch your wealth and dis-



tribute it among the 'select' people," he said at a rally in Tonk.

"Two-three days ago, I exposed this vote bank politics

of Congress as appeasement politics; this has angered Congress and its INDI Alliance so much that they have started abusing Modi everywhere," he

said while asking "why the Congress is scared of the truth and hiding its policies".

"It is written in their manifesto that they will survey the wealth. Their leader had said in a speech that X-ray of wealth will be done," he said, adding, "When Modi exposed the secret, your hidden agenda came out and you are trembling".

The prime minister also charged that it is difficult to follow one's faith under Congress rule.

"Even listening to Hanuman Chalisa becomes crime under Congress rule," he said.

His remarks come on a day when the country is celebrating Hanuman Jayanti.

Delhi CM Kejriwal given insulin in Tihar jail after sugar levels soar



NEW DELHI, Apr 23 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was given insulin in Tihar jail for the first time after ED arrest, AAP sources said on Tuesday.

"Kejriwal's sugar level was continuously getting high and his sugar had gone up to 320," claimed AAP sources.

However, the Tihar jail administration is yet to comment on it.

Meanwhile, the AAP leader took to X and shared information regarding the insulin given to Kejriwal, who is lodged in Jail no 2, in the alleged excise scam.

"Good news on Hanuman Jayanti. News is coming that finally the

jail administration gave insulin to the Chief Minister for his increasing sugar level. Today, the Chief Minister of the country's capital has to go to court even for insulin. Officers under the BJP and the Central government say that all prisoners are the same," Delhi AAP Minister Saurabh Bhadrwal wrote on X.

"Do all Tihar prisoners go to court for insulin? Do all prisoners have to go to court for medical treatment? Do all prisoners have to spend a week on TV and in newspapers debating about insulin?" he further stated.

"Tihar administration finally gave insulin to Arvind Kejriwal. This is

the result of Hanumanji's blessings and the struggle of the people of Delhi. Even during this period of struggle, the blessings of Bajrang Bali remain on all of us," Atishi wrote on X on Tuesday.

This comes a day after a Delhi court turned down the application moved by incarcerated Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking permission to consult a private doctor of his choice daily for 15 minutes through video conferencing for his "acute" diabetes and "fluctuating" blood sugar levels.

However, Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of Rouse Avenue Court stressed that the AAP leader be provided with adequate medical treatment while he remains under judicial custody.

The court ordered that in case CM Kejriwal requires special consultation in jail, the prison authorities will consult the medical panel to be constituted by the Director of AIIMS Delhi.

Karnataka man gave Rs 65 lakh 'supari' to murder family; gang accidentally killed 4 close relatives

GADAG (KARNATAKA), Apr 23 (Agencies): The Gadag police have cracked the mystery behind four murders that took place on April 19, with the arrest of eight people, including kingpin Vinayak Bakale, who allegedly gave a contract Rs 65 lakh contract to assassinate his parents and brother Karthik Bakale.

The plot went awry and the parents survived. However, Karthik Bakale and the family's close relatives were hacked to death in the early hours of April 19.

Karthik (27), Parashuram Hadimani (55), Lakshmi Hadimani (45) and Akanksha Hadimani (16) were found murdered at Dasara

Oni in Gadag, police said today.

Karthik was the son of BJP leader Prakash Bakale and Sunanda Bakale, who is the vice-president of Gadag-Betageri City Municipal Council.

Police sources said Karthik's marriage had been fixed, which the Hadimanis had come to attend.

Since the jewellery, valuables and cash were intact in the house, police doubted that the motive was not robbery but something else, police sources said.

They said that a property dispute among the siblings was suspected to be the reason behind the murder as Prakash was to give all his properties to Karthik, which

irked Vinayak, who allegedly decided to wipe out his parents and brother.

On Monday, Inspector General of Police (North Zone) Vikas Kumar told reporters that they had arrested Vinayak Prakash Bakale (35), Fairuz Khazi (29), Jishan Khazi (24), all from Gadag; twin brothers Sahil Ashfaq Khazi (19), Sohail Ashfaq Khazi (19), Sultan Jilani Sheikh (23), Mahesh Jagannath Salunke (21) and Waheed Liyaqat Bepari (21), all from Miraj in Sangli district of Maharashtra.

Vinayak had given a Rs 65 lakh contract to Fairuz, who arranged vehicles and weapons and carried out surveillance, Kumar said.



The assailants broke into the house thinking that only three people were present, the IGP said, adding that the targets were Vinayak's parents and brother.

The agreement between Vinayak and the contract killers was such that the proceeds of the loot after killing the trio would belong to the contract killers.

"Vinayak gave the contract to eliminate his parents and brother

Karthik. Fairuz organised the entire gang. It was a short term plan. But as Prakash Bakale raised an alarm, the panicked assailants fled the spot. Otherwise he was also a target," IGP Vikas Kumar said.

He said that four of the accused were caught in Miraj while others were nabbed in Gadag.

The police officer said Vinayak tried to escape when he was caught.

Man accidentally reverses car over daughter in Bengaluru, toddler dies

BENGALURU, Apr 23 (Agencies): It was a tragic incident for a family returning home after attending a relative's wedding in Channapatana when a child was fatally crushed in Bengaluru's HSR Layout after her father accidentally drove the car over her. He didn't realise that his one-and-a-half-year-old girl was behind the car.

The incident took place at 11.30 last night. As they kept the luggage inside the house, the child stood there behind



the car as her father reversed the car, he tragically crushed her. They took the child to a hospital, but she passed away. The horrific incident was captured on CCTV. The police have registered a case.

Diamonds hidden in noodle packets, gold valued at Rs 6.46 crore seized at Mumbai airport; 4 held

MUMBAI, Apr 23 (Agencies): The Customs department has seized diamonds concealed in packets of noodles and gold hidden in the body parts of passengers and baggage, collectively valued at Rs 6.46 crore, at the Mumbai airport, an official said.

Four passengers were arrested after the seizure of more than 6.815 kg of gold valued at Rs 4.44 crore and diamonds of Rs 2.02 crore over the weekend, the Customs official said in a release issued late Monday night.

An Indian national travelling from Mumbai to Bangkok was intercepted and found smuggling the diamonds concealed in packets of



noodles inside his trolley bag. The passenger was later arrested, the official said.

A foreign national travelling from Colombo to Mumbai was intercepted and found carrying gold bars and a cut piece, with a net weight of 321 grams, concealed inside her undergarments, he said.

Besides, 10 Indian nationals - two each travelling from Dubai

and Abu Dhabi, and one each from Bahrain, Doha, Riyadh, Muscat, Bangkok and Singapore - were also intercepted and found carrying 6.199 kg gold, valued at Rs 4.04 crore, "concealed in the rectum, on body and inside the baggage," the release said without providing further details.

Three of them were subsequently arrested, it said.

Not scared of expulsion from BJP, says ex-Deputy CM Eshwarappa

SHIVAMOGGA, Apr 23 (Agencies): Former Deputy Chief Minister K S Eshwarappa on Tuesday said he is not scared of expulsion from the BJP as he reiterated his resolve to contest the Lok Sabha elections as an independent with full vigour.

He said his expulsion was on the expected lines.

BJP on Monday expelled Eshwarappa for six years for violating party discipline and contesting Lok Sabha polls as an independent candidate.

"Ignoring the party's directions, you are contesting as a rebel candidate from Shimoga Lok Sabha constituency, causing embarrassment to the party. This is a violation of party discipline," state disciplinary committee president Lingaraj Patil



said in the expulsion order.

It said, "So, you have been relieved from all the responsibilities and have been expelled from the party for six years, with immediate effect."

Eshwarappa has remained steadfast on his decision to contest, spurning efforts by party leaders to pacify him.

The party's decision to expel the former Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council came on the last day for withdrawal of can-

didature for the second phase of Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka on May seven.

Eshwarappa along with Yediyurappa and late H N Ananth Kumar is widely credited with building the BJP from the grassroots in Karnataka.

Ahead of the Assembly polls last year, opting out of the contest, he had asked the party's central leadership that he wished to retire from electoral politics and requested it to not consider fielding him from any con-

stituency. Modi had then dialled Eshwarappa and spoke to him over a video call and expressed appreciation for his move to retire from poll politics, as per the instructions from the party.

"I have not received any communication from the party regarding my expulsion. The fact is that I was wondering why I was not expelled yet," Eshwarappa told reporters here on Tuesday, in an apparent sarcastic note.

He said, "I will not be scared of expulsion. My contesting is clear, winning from Shivamogga (Shimoga Lok Sabha seat) is clear and strengthening (the hands of) Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also clear," the 75-year-old said.

He added that he has been allotted the elec-

tion symbol of "farmer with sugarcane", which indicates blessings for him from the farmers of his constituency.

Eshwarappa was eyeing a ticket for his son K E Kantesh from neighbouring Haveri constituency.

After the denial of the ticket, Eshwarappa rebelled against former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and BJP's Parliamentary Board member accusing him of scuttling his son's political prospects.

Targeting Yediyurappa and his two sons -- B Y Raghavendra who is contesting the election on a BJP ticket from Shivamogga and B Y Vijayendra, BJP state president and Shikaripura MLA, Eshwarappa said BJP has turned into a 'Father-Son' party in Karnataka with nepotism galore.

PM will never tell you this...: Jairam Ramesh

In a post on X, Jairam said, "More than 40 per cent of the wealth created in the country from 2012 to 2021 has gone to just 1 per cent of the population."

NEW DELHI, Apr 23 (Agencies): Congress leader Jairam Ramesh slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government on Tuesday and alleged that the PM will never tell you that today, 21 billionaires together have more wealth than 70 crore Indians.

In a post on X, Jairam said, "More than 40 per cent of the wealth

created in the country from 2012 to 2021 has gone to just 1 per cent of the population. About 64 per cent of the total goods and services tax (GST) in the country comes from the poor, lower middle class and middle class."

"Over the past ten years, most of the public assets and resources have been sold to one or two companies-

-economists have pointed out that the growing monopolies in the economy have led to inflation. Today, 21 billionaires together have more wealth than 70 crore Indians," Jairam alleged.

Further, the Congress leader added that India needs rapid economic growth, needs much more inclusive economic growth and needs



more sustainable environmental development. "Only INDIA can and will do all three," he

emphasised. Meanwhile, senior Congress leader and advocate Abhishek

Manu Singhvi said that the party in its petition to the Election Commission of India has urged to take 'appropriate action' against Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'irrespective of the status of the person' over the PM's recent speech in Rajasthan's Banswara.

Singhvi said that the Prime Minister's statement was 'seriously, ridiculously objection-

able".

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress party, PM Modi earlier on April 21 alleged that the Congress wants to take away the gold and property of people and distribute it among "those having more children."

In his speech in Rajasthan's Banswara, the Prime Minister said that if the Congress came to

power, it would redistribute the wealth of people to Muslims and cited former PM Manmohan Singh's remark that the minority community had the first claim on the country's resources. Modi further alleged that the Congress plans to give people's hard-earned money and valuables to "infiltrators" and "those who have more children".

10 dead as 2 helicopters crash during military rehearsal in Malaysia

The incident took place at the navy base in Lumut

LUMUT, Apr 23 (Agencies): Malaysia's navy said two military helicopters collided and crashed during a training session on Tuesday, killing all 10 people on board.

One of the helicopters is believed to have crashed onto a running track, while the other crashed into a swimming pool around.

The navy said in a brief statement that the helicopters were training at a naval base in northern Perak state for the navy's 90th anniversary celebration next month



when the accident occurred.

"All victims were confirmed dead on site,"

it said, adding that the remains have been sent to the hospital to be identified.

US ready to restart supply of military equipment to Ukraine

The US Senate, will take up the bill this week before it is approved by President Joe Biden

WASHINGTON, Apr 23 (Agencies): The Russia-Ukraine conflict is set to extend further. The US is poised and ready to begin delivering the needed military capabilities to Ukraine, said the Press Secretary Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder.

The US Department of Defence put out the remarks of Maj Gen Ryder on Tuesday morning.

The Gen was referring to 'supplemental budget legislation' passed by the US House of Representatives, the lower Chamber of the US Congress.

The US Senate, will take up the bill this week before it is approved by President Joe Biden.

Ryder said the legislation will



make the United States and its allies and partners more secure. This new legislation is proof to Russian President Vladimir Putin that his supposition that the group supporting Ukraine in its fight against the Russian invasion would fall apart was

absolutely wrong, the general said.

This week on Friday, US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and Air Force Gen CQ Brown will host the 21st meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group.

The group is composed of 50 nations, and it has remained unified in opposition to Russia's 'invasion' of Ukraine.

On Saturday, the US House of Representatives okayed a whopping \$ 60 billion and \$ 26 billion aid to the two countries, respectively, for Ukraine and Israel. The package for Israel includes a \$ 9 billion aid for Gaza.

Funds for Ukraine come at a time when that country is slowly running out of resources and was expected to 'cede more ground' to Russian forces and casualties.

The legislation will allow the US Department of Defence to surge lifesaving security assistance to help Ukraine.

North Korean leader Kim leads rocket drills that simulate a nuclear counterattack against enemies

SEOUL, Apr 23 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised salvo launches of the country's "super-large" multiple rocket launchers that simulated a nuclear counterattack against enemy targets, state media said Tuesday, adding to tests and threats that have raised tensions in the region.

The report by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency came a day after the South Korean and Japanese militaries detected the North firing what they suspected were multiple short-range ballistic missiles from a region near its capital, Pyongyang, toward its eastern seas.

Analysts say North Korea's large-sized artillery rockets blur the boundary between artillery systems and ballistic missiles because they can create their own thrust and are guided during delivery.

The North has described some of these systems, including the 600mm multiple rocket launchers that were tested Monday, as capable of delivering tactical nuclear warheads.

KCNA said Monday's launches represented the first demonstration of the country's nuclear-weapons management and control system called "Haek-bangshoe," or "nuclear trigger." The report described the drill as aimed at demonstrating the strength and diverse attack means of North Korea's nuclear forces amid deepening tensions with the United States and South Korea, which it portrayed as "warmongers" raising tensions in the region with their combined military exercises.

State media photos showed at least four rockets being fired



from launch vehicles as Kim watched from an observation post. It said the rockets flew 352 kilometres before accurately hitting an island target and that the drill verified the reliability of the "system of command, management, control and operation of the whole nuclear force." KCNA said Kim expressed satisfaction, saying that the multiple rocket launchers were as accurate as a "sniper's rifle." He said the drill was crucial for "preparing our nuclear force to be able to rapidly and correctly carry out their important mission of deterring a war and taking the initiative in a war in any time and any sudden situation." The comments reflected North Korea's escalatory nuclear doctrine, which authorises the military to launch preemptive nuclear strikes against enemies if it perceives the leadership as under threat.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the weapons from Monday's launches flew about 300 kilometres before crashing in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. The ranges suggested the weapons would likely target sites in South Korea.

The latest launches came as

South and the United States have been conducting a two-week combined aerial exercise that continues through Friday aimed at sharpening their response capabilities against North Korean threats.

When asked about the North Korean claims, Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it remains unclear whether the North perfected the designs for small, battlefield nuclear weapons that could fit on its rockets.

He insisted the North was likely exaggerating the accuracy of its multiple rocket launcher systems and that South Korea would be able to detect and intercept such weapons, without elaborating on specific missile defense capabilities.

Lee said it was possible that the North used the drill to test the multiple rocket launchers it potentially plans to export to Russia as the countries expand their military cooperation in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with the United States.

The US and South Korea have accused North Korea of transferring artillery shells, missiles and other munitions to Russia to help extend its warfighting in

Ukraine.

North Korea in recent months has maintained an accelerated pace in weapons testing as it continues to expand its military capabilities while diplomacy with the United States and South Korea remained stalled.

Outside officials and analysts say Kim's goal is to eventually pressure the United States into accepting the idea of the North as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

In response to North Korea's evolving nuclear threats, the United States and South Korea have been strengthening their bilateral military drills and trilateral exercises with Japan. The countries are also sharpening their nuclear deterrence strategies built around strategic US assets.

In past years, North Korea has test-fired nuclear-capable missiles designed to strike sites in South Korea, Japan and the mainland US. Many experts say North Korea already possesses nuclear missiles that can reach all of South Korea and Japan, but it has yet to develop functioning intercontinental ballistic missiles that can travel to the continental US. The latest launches came days after North Korea announced Saturday it tested a "super-large" cruise missile warhead and a new anti-aircraft missile in a western coastal area earlier last week.

In early April, North Korea also test-launched what it called a solid-fuel intermediate-range missile with hypersonic warhead capabilities, a weapon that experts say is meant to attack remote targets in the US Pacific territory of Guam and beyond.

Elon Musk accuses Australia of censorship after court bans violent video

In an after-hours hearing Monday, Justice Geoffrey Kennett suppressed the footage from all X users until Wednesday, when an application for a permanent ban will be heard



MELBOURNE, Apr 23 (Agencies): Tech billionaire Elon Musk accused Australia of censorship after an Australian judge ruled that his social media platform X must block users worldwide from accessing video of a bishop being stabbed in a Sydney church.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese responded Tuesday by describing Musk as an "arrogant billionaire" who considered himself above the law and was out of touch with the public.

X Corp., the tech company rebranded in 2023 by Musk after he bought Twitter, announced last week it would fight in court Australian orders to take down posts relating to a knife attack on Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel in an Assyrian Orthodox church as a service was being streamed online on April 15.

The material was geoblocked from Australia but available elsewhere.

But the regulator that made the orders, Australia's eSafety Commission, which describes itself as the world's first government agency dedicated to keeping people safer online, successfully applied to the Federal Court in Sydney for a temporary global ban on sharing the video of the bishop being stabbed.

In an after-hours hearing Monday, Justice Geoffrey Kennett suppressed the footage from all X users until Wednesday, when an application for a permanent ban will be heard.

Hours later, Musk posted on his personal X account a cartoon that depicted a fork in a road with one path leading to "free speech" and "truth" and the other to "censorship" and "propaganda."

Musk cited Albanese telling reporters Monday

that other social media platforms had largely complied with the regulator's orders to take violent content down.

"I'd like to take a moment to thank the PM for informing the public that this platform is the only truthful one," Musk posted.

Albanese berated Musk in several television interviews Tuesday. "We'll do what's necessary to take on this arrogant billionaire who thinks he's above the law, but also above common decency," Albanese told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"The idea that someone would go to court for the right to put up violent content on a platform shows how out of touch Mr. Musk is. Social media needs to have social responsibility with it."

Albanese told Sky News, "This is a bloke who's chosen ego and showing violence over common sense."

"This isn't about censorship. It's about common sense and common decency. And Elon Musk should show some," Albanese told Seven Network.

The regulator's lawyer, Christopher Tran, had argued Monday in court that geoblocking Australia did not meet the definition of removal of the footage under Australian law.

Tran said the footage was a "graphic and violent video" that would cause "irreparable harm if it's continuing to circulate."

X's lawyer, Marcus Hoyne, said he was unable to get instructions from his San Francisco-based client because it was early Monday morning in the United States.

Musk has described eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant as the

"Australian censorship commissar."

Albanese said on Monday that social media posts, misinformation and dissemination of violent images had exacerbated suffering from the church attack, which the two clerics survived, as well as a knife attack at a Sydney shopping mall two days earlier that killed six people.

X's Global Government Affairs team said Saturday that Inman Grant ordered it to remove some posts that commented on the church attack, but it said the posts did not violate X's rules on violent speech.

X said the Australian regulator had demanded the platform "globally withhold these posts or face a daily fine of USD 785,000."

"X believes that eSafety's order was not within the scope of Australian law and we complied with the directive pending a legal challenge," the Global Government Affairs account said.

"While X respects the right of a country to enforce its laws within its jurisdiction, 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," it added.

The live feed of the church attack and social media posts that followed attracted a crowd of 2,000 people and fuelled a riot against police, who barricaded the young suspected attacker inside the place of worship.

The rioting injured 51 police officers and damaged 104 police vehicles, officials said.

Three alleged rioters were arrested by Sunday and police released images Monday of 12 suspects they accuse of being the main instigators of the violence, taken from video of the riot.

A 16-year-old boy accused of the stabbings has been charged with terrorism offenses. He has received online condemnation and praise for the attack.

Highest-level rainstorm warning issued in south China's Guangdong

BEIJING, Apr 23 (Agencies): More than 100,000 people have been evacuated due to heavy rain and fatal floods in southern China, with the government issuing its highest-level rainstorm warning for the affected area on Tuesday.

Torrential rains have lashed Guangdong in recent days, swelling rivers and raising fears of severe flooding that state media said could be of the sort only "seen around once a century."

On Tuesday, the megacity of Shenzhen was among the areas listed as experiencing "heavy to very heavy downpours", the city's meteorological observatory said, adding the risk of flash floods was "very high".

Images from Qingyuan -- a city in northern Guangdong that is part of the low-lying Pearl River Delta -- showed a building almost completely submerged in a flooded park next to a river.

Official media reported Sunday that more than 45,000

people had been evacuated from Qingyuan, which straddles the Bei River tributary.

State news agency Xinhua said 110,000 residents across Guangdong had been relocated since the downpours started over the weekend.

Four people have so far died and 10 are missing, according to state media.

Climate change driven by human-emitted greenhouse gases makes extreme weather events more frequent and intense, and China is the world's biggest emitter.

Aerial shots from the province showed brown gashes in the side of a hill -- the aftermath of landslides that had occurred behind a town on the banks of a swollen river.

Soldiers could be seen operating excavators in an attempt to clear away the muddy debris produced by the downpour.

"Take precautions"

Guangdong is China's manufacturing heartland, home to



around 127 million people.

"Please quickly take precautions and stay away from dangerous areas such as low-lying areas prone to flooding," authorities in Shenzhen said in issuing Tuesday's red alert.

"Pay attention to heavy rains and resulting disasters such as waterlogging, flash floods, landslides, mudslides, and ground caving in." Heavy rain is expected to continue in Shenzhen for the next two to three hours, authorities said.

In recent years China has been hit by severe floods, grinding droughts and record heat.

Last 24 hours of campaigning crucial for raising victory margins: Kavinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister today emphasized the pivotal importance of the final two days of campaigning in maximizing victory margins to secure a resounding victory in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls.

In this regard, Kavinder Gupta today chaired a meeting of five Mandals falling in District Jammu South including Trikuta Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Gaddigarh, Kunjwani and R S Pura. The meeting was attended by attended by Sham Chowdhary-Ex minister, Rekha Mahajan District President, Baldev Balowria Ex Deputy Mayor, Vinay Gupta, Rajeev Charak, Ashok Khajuria, Pushpinder Singh, Narinder Koki, Akash Chopra, Ayodhya Gupta, Lucky Puri, Bharat Bhushan, Ranjit Singh and Vijay Sharma. Manoranjan Mishra,



Vice President of Madhya Pradesh, looking after the Booth arrangements in Jammu and Kashmir also addressed the election agents and booth level workers in all the meetings.

Addressing the meeting, Kavinder said that BJP is the only party which is committed to serve the people, meet the challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir and make it a part of the country's growth story. He urged party cadre to

strengthen BJP at booth level for ensuring party's resounding victory in ensuing Lok Sabha polls as strong booths are the guarantee to victory.

Kavinder asked the party leaders to reach out to prospective voters comprising women, youth and other segments to disseminate information about the party's plan and policies so that doubts created by opposition should be warded off successfully. He said that it is impor-

tant to bring the voter to the polling booth and efforts should be made by the party workers to meet this challenge through strong resolve and conviction. He said that ground level workers are the real ambassadors of the party as their efforts can prove to be the game changer especially to get favourable results in elections.

The senior BJP leader further underscored the significance of every remaining moment in

engaging with voters and rallying support for the BJP's vision for a prosperous Jammu and a vibrant India.

"During these last two days, we have a unique opportunity to consolidate our efforts, energize our supporters, and reach out to every voter across Jammu. This phase of the campaign is crucial in amplifying our message of development, prosperity, and inclusive governance," he said.

As the campaign enters its final stretch, Kavinder urged party workers and supporters to intensify their efforts, reaching out to every household, and ensuring maximum voter turnout on polling day.

"We must leave no room for complacency. Let us redouble our efforts, work tirelessly, and ensure that every voter understands the importance of their ballot in shaping the future of Jammu and our nation," he added

Nissan Magnite achieves 30,000 annual sales for 3rd consecutive year



Top News Report

CHANDIGARH / JAMMU, Apr 23: Nissan Motor India celebrated its third consecutive year of achieving 30,000+ sales with its Big, Bold, Beautiful SUV, the Nissan Magnite.

This remarkable milestone reaffirms the Magnite's position as a game-changer in the Indian automotive market.

Nissan extends its heartfelt gratitude to its valued customers, dedicated dealers, suppliers, the Alliance plant in Chennai and the entire Nissan team for their unwavering support and commitment towards this significant milestone in India.

Since its debut in December 2020, the Nissan Magnite has captured the hearts of Indian consumers, boasting

over 100,000 domestic Magnite customers in India, a milestone the company crossed in January 2024.

Additionally, the Nissan Magnite has also made a substantial impact on the international stage, with over 30,000 units exported till date. It has firmly established itself as the preferred choice in India's B-SUV segment.

The Magnite embodies Nissan Motor India's manufacturing philosophy of 'Make-In-India, Make for the World', seamlessly blending design excellence from Japan with efficient production in India.

Saurabh Vatsa, MD Nissan Motor India, commented, "Building on the remarkable achievements of the Magnite, we are now embarking on an exciting journey. Our focus is on creating

a new product lineup that will resonate with the discerning Indian market."

Frank Torres, President, Nissan India Operations said, "As we continue this journey, we remain committed to delivering excellence and innovative products, always keeping in mind the true philosophy of our Japanese DNA."

Since its launch, Nissan has introduced multiple variants of the Magnite to meet the evolving needs of Indian customers, including the Turbo, MT, the most affordable AMT, and the CVT. Last June, the Magnite achieved a significant production milestone—the rollout of its 100,000th Magnite from its Alliance plant (RNAIPL) in Chennai and it recently completed the sale of the 100,000th domestic sale of the same in January 2024.

Joint Training Program at Corps Battle School Bhalra visited by Army Commander, Northern Command



Top News Report

BHALRA, Apr 23: Today, at the White Knight Corps Battle School in Bhalra, the Army Commander of Northern Command felicitated outstanding achievers amongst the trainee PSIs undergoing the training since 18 Mar 24. The Army Commander during his

address emphasized the significance of the joint training program between the Indian Army and the Jammu & Kashmir Police and commended the collective efforts towards enhancing operational synergy and interoperability among the forces. He exhorted all ranks to remain physically fit as a hallmark of a professional responder to all

security challenges. Acknowledging the participation of 136 female PSIs, he underscored the commitment towards inclusive training initiatives. The collaboration between the Indian Army and the Jammu & Kashmir Police was emphasized as indispensable in striving towards a secure and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

Saanvi Grover of DPS Jammu shines in 67th National School Games

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Saanvi Grover (IX-A), a student of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and her parents by winning silver medal and 2nd position in 67th National School Games organized by School Games Federation of India held at Satna, Madhya Pradesh from 11-15 April, 2024.

She participated in Roller Speed Skating event in 1000 metres Quads Race U-14 girls category. Around 500 students from all over the country participated in the said championship. The esteemed Management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC, Dr. Ritu Singh, Director, S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chhabra and staff congratulated Saanvi and her parents for the achievement. They also extended their best wishes for all her future endeavours.

Dr. Tarun worshipped Lord Hanuman

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Dr. Tarun Sharma extended his greetings to the people on the occasion of Hanuman Janmotsav calling it a day to remember dedication of Lord Hanuman. A Hawan and Kanya Poojan was performed at Maa Vaishno Devi Mandir, Shakti Nagar, Jammu.

Dr. Tarun Sharma said, the auspicious occasion of Hanuman Janmotsav is a day to remember the compassion and dedication of Lord Hanuman. Dr. Tarun Sharma said that According to mythology, Hanuman Janmotsav is the day when Lord Hanuman was born. Hanuman Janmotsav is celebrated on the 15th day of the Shukla Paksha or the Full Moon phase moon in the month of Chaitra. Hanuman Janmotsav comes a few days after Ram Navami, the birthday of Lord Ram. Hanuman Ji is often referred to as Ram Bhakt Hanuman as he is the greatest disciple of Lord Ram.

World Earth Day celebrated at MIER College

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: MIER College of Education marked World Earth Day with an inter-college symposium on the theme "The Impact of Over Tourism on the Environment."

The event, held in a hybrid mode, drew involvement from nine colleges in Jammu and Kashmir and beyond, with a total of 17 participants.

Rupa Gupta, Jt. Director MIER, Prof. Nishta Rana, and Dr. Monika Bajaj, Heads of the School of Education and School of Social Sciences and Humanities, along with faculty members and students from SSSH, attended the symposium.

The judging panel comprised Dr. Shalini Sharma, Assistant Professor at the Department of Environmental Science, Govt. College of Education, Jammu, and Prof. Shradha Anand, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemistry, Govt. Degree College, Kathua. The first prize was clinched by Aayushvi Sharma from Govt. College of Education, Jammu, with a tie for the second prize between Aditi Mahajan and Naman Mansotra from MIER College of Education.

Meenakshi Sharma from Kaira College of Education secured the third position, and Sukanaya Bhau from

Govt. College of Education, Jammu, received the consolation prize.

Principal Prof. Adit Gupta commended the initiative, highlighting its role in fostering environmental consciousness among future educators. He stressed the importance of sustainable practices, encouraging students to embrace eco-friendly activities for promoting environmental conservation.

The event was organized under the guidance of Suman Gupta, convenor environment unit. Suman Devi, member of the environment unit, and Dr. Rita Dwivedi, convenor of the co-curricular committee supervised the whole event.

FROM PAGE 1

Judges must act with dignity, not indulge in behaviour that would affect image of judiciary: Bombay High Court

"It is a universally accepted norm that judges and judicial officers must act with dignity and must not indulge in a conduct or behaviour which is likely to affect the image of the judiciary or which is unbecoming of a judicial officer," the court said.

If members of the judiciary indulge in a behaviour which is blameworthy or unbecoming of a judicial officer, then courts cannot grant any relief, it said.

"Judges, while discharging their functions, exercise the sovereign judicial power of the state and hence standards expected to be maintained are of the highest nature," the bench said in its order.

Pathak was appointed a civil judge junior division in March 2010, and he was posted in various districts till his removal.

The allegations against Pathak were of improper behaviour on the dais while presiding court, not following court timings, and arriving in court under the influence of liquor.

He was a judge at the Shahada court in Nandurbar district at the time.

"We find no reason to interfere with the impugned order, more so because the petitioner was occupying a post which is looked upon with high respect, and if the disciplinary committee has come to a conclusion of removal from service, then it cannot be said to be perverse," the court observed.

Gujjar Man Killing:

Search operation intensified in Rajouri

subjected to frisking at various checkpoints in the district, they added.

A criminal case has been registered in FIR under sections 302 (murder), 120A (conspiracy to commit an offence), 121B (waging war or attempting to wage war against the Government of India), 122 (collecting arms with the intention of waging war against Government of India), 458 (lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night after preparation for hurt, assault, or wrongful restraint), the Arms Act, and sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) at the Thanamandi Police Station, officials said.

Razaq's father, Mohammad Akbar was also killed by militants 19 years ago in the same village. Akbar worked in the Social Welfare Department, and Razaq was given a job by the government on compassionate grounds in the same department, they said.

Meanwhile, the security forces busted a militant hideout in the village of Azmatnagar in Rajouri district last week. They recovered eight Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), two wireless sets, and some ammunition, officials said.

Rajouri and Poonch districts have witnessed targeted attacks by militants on the army and civilians in the past few years, they added.

Bleak chances of J&K Assembly polls if BJP voted to power: Dr. Farooq Abdullah

court," Dr. Farooq as per KNS told report-

ers at Nawa-e-Subh Srinagar.

He said PM Modi wants to remain in power lifetime like Putin in Russia.

Responding to a query, Dr. Farooq said that Ghulam Nabi Azad, Sajad Gani Lone and Altaf Bukhari should introspect whom they playing for, and urged them to revisit their decision of supporting those who are anti-Muslim identities. He prayed for the guidance of trio.

Replying to a query over unscheduled power cuts in valley, the NC president said, "The crisis may likely weaken in coming days and the situation will get more chaotic if they remain continue in power".

North Kashmir trio arrested under PIT-NDPS Act: Police

Ahmad Shah, son of Habibullah, resident of Harkarpora Awoora, the official further said that all of them have been lodged at Kot Bhalwal jail, Jammu," they said.

Confirming it, a senior police officer said that the district police are continuing with their zero-tolerance policy towards the drug menace. "We will make sure that the district is a drug-free zone sooner rather than later," the police officer said.

Supreme Court orders Patanjali to publish prominent apologies in newspapers for misleading ads

acknowledged the financial burden of publishing such prominent apologies. To assess the size and visibility of the

apologies, the Bench instructed Patanjali to submit actual copies of the printed apologies without enlarging them. Justice Kohli emphasized that apologies should not require a microscope to be read and understood.

The Court's interim order incorporated this directive, noting that the apologies published in newspapers had yet to be submitted for examination. Previously, the Court had reprimanded Patanjali Ayurved for misleading advertisements and criticized the casual nature of the apologies submitted by the company and its founders.

During earlier hearings, the Court had interacted directly with Ramdev and Balkrishna to evaluate the sincerity of their apologies. The duo assured the Court that they would take voluntary steps to demonstrate the genuineness of their apologies.

Terror module member handled by Pak-based operatives held in Punjab

#Jalandhar averts target killings planned by cross-border operatives. One member of the terror module arrested with a #Chinese pistol and cartridges," he wrote in a post on X.

Police booked 2 anti-national activists under PSA in Bandipora

them in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu, for their continuous involvement in Anti-National activities. The duo booked under PSA are 1. Ghulam Din War S/o late Habibullah War R/o Naidkhai Sumbal & 2. Firdous Ahmad Khan S/o Mohammad

Ayoub Khan Ward No.6 Nebrapora Bandipora", police posted on X.

Night temp rises at most places but stays below normal in J&K

normal by 2.3°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 19.1°C against 18.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.9°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 9.0°C, Batote 11.1°C and Baderwah 7.4°C, he said.

Regarding the forecast, he said, till April 25, generally dry weather is expected but afternoon thundershower/hailstorm activity at isolated places can't be ruled out.

From April 26-28, he said, there is possibility of generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rain and light snow (over higher reaches) with thunder at most places.

From April 29-30, generally cloudy weather with light rain with thunder at many places has been predicted.

Drone-like object recovered near LoC in Poonch

Tuesday. They said that at around 0315 hours, a drone-like object was seen to have fallen in damaged shape ahead of fence near Government High School Dharati in Bala-kote Sector.

The object pieces have been collected and are being analysed, they added.

Markets climb in early trade on firm global trends; extend winning momentum to 3rd day running

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 411.27 points to 74,059.89 in early trade

NEW DELHI, Apr 23 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices continued their winning momentum for the third day running on Tuesday amid firm global market trends.

Rallying for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 411.27 points to 74,059.89 in early trade. The NSE Nifty advanced 111.15 points to 22,447.55.

From the Sensex basket, Bharti Airtel, Titan Company, HCL Technologies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv and Tata Motors were the major gainers. Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, and Hong Kong were trading in the positive territory while Shanghai quoted lower.

Wall Street ended in positive territory on



Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.38 per cent to USD 87.33 a barrel.

"The undercurrent of bullishness of this market has been reinforced by the market action during the last two trading days, which saw Nifty spiking by 486 points from Friday's lows. External factors like the high bond yields in the US (the 10-year continues above 4.6%) and geopolitical concerns in the Middle East are not impacting

the underlying bullish trend," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,915.23 crore on Monday after a day's breather, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark climbed 560.29 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at 73,648.62 on Monday. The NSE Nifty went up by 189.40 points or 0.86 per cent to 22,336.40.

BharatPe launches all-in-one payment device BharatPe One

The company in a statement said it plans to launch the product in about 100 cities in the first phase

NEW DELHI, Apr 23 (Agencies): Indian fintech major BharatPe on Tuesday launched BharatPe One, an all-in-one payment product that integrates POS (point of sale), QR code, and speaker into one device.

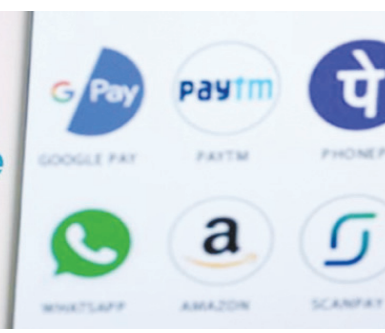
The company in a statement said it plans to launch the product in about 100 cities in the first phase. It will further scale it to around 450 cities over the course of the next 6 months.

"Equipped with a high-definition touchscreen display, 4G and Wi-Fi connectivity, and powered by the latest Android



operating system, BharatPe One delivers enhanced performance and security.

"With user-friendly interface, portable design, and com-



prehensive transaction dashboards, BharatPe One caters to the diverse needs of the offline merchants," the statement said. BharatPe One is designed to

streamline transactions for merchants, it further said, offering versatile payment acceptance options including dynamic and static QR code, tap-and-pay and traditional card payment options, across a wide range of debit and credit cards.

BharatPe CEO Nalin Negi said, "By combining multiple functionalities into one cost-effective device, we're providing a comprehensive solution tailored to the varied needs of small and medium businesses across diverse sectors."

Reliance Jio emerges as World's largest mobile operator in data traffic, surpassing China Mobile

NEW DELHI, Apr 23 (Agencies): Reliance Jio, the telecom giant of India, has become the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic, surpassing China Mobile. The announcement came on Monday as Jio revealed its quarterly results, showcasing staggering numbers and milestones achieved in various segments.

As of March 2024, Jio boasts a subscriber base of 481.8 million, out of which 108 million subscribers are on Jio's True5G Standalone network. The number reflects Jio's stronghold in the Indian telecom market.

According to a press release, the total traffic on the Jio network has reached 40.9 Exabytes, marking a 35.2 per cent year-on-year increase. This surge is attributed to the growing adoption of 5G and Home services.

Notably, 28 per cent of the traffic comes from 5G subscribers, indicating a swift transition towards next-generation connectivity.

Additionally, Jio's Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services have contributed significantly to the data traffic. Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a dramatic 2.4x increase in annual data traffic,

with per capita monthly data usage skyrocketing to 28.7 GB from just 13.3 GB three years ago. This surge underscores the growing reliance on digital connectivity in India.

Commenting on the results, Mukesh D Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited, expressed his satisfaction with the company's performance and its contribution to the Indian economy.

He highlighted the significant achievements, including becoming the first Indian company to cross the Rs 100,000-crore threshold in pre-tax profits.

1 in 8 parents requires kids to eat everything on their plate: Study

SAN FRANCISCO, Apr 23 (Agencies): While most parents of preschool kids aim to give their children a balanced or nutritional diet, one in eight parents requires their children to eat everything on their plate, a new study revealed on Monday.

According to a study conducted by the US-based University of Michigan, just one in three parents believe the standard American diet is healthy, compared to half who rank the Mediterranean diet higher in nutritional value.

As per Susan Woolford, Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan, parents who try to force kids to eat

everything on their plate may encourage portions that go beyond feeling full.

"Requiring children to eat everything on their plate, or withholding dessert unless all other foods are eaten, can lead to overconsumption, especially if portion sizes are too large for the child's age," she added.

The study, based on 1,083 responses from parents of children ages 3-10 surveyed in February, also noted that 60 per cent of parents will prepare a separate meal if their child dislikes the food served, often opting for a less healthy alternative.

"Rather than allowing the child to choose an



alternate menu, parents should provide a balanced meal with at least one option that their child is typically willing to eat," Woolford said.

She further suggested that if a child chooses not to eat, parents need not worry, as this will not harm healthy children and "they will be more

likely to eat the options presented at the next meal".

Woolford also recommended avoiding snacks between meals to help children develop a better appetite and increase their willingness to eat the foods offered.

Dealing a knockout blow to dengue

The World Health Organisation reported more than five million dengue cases and more than 5,000 deaths in more than 80 countries in 2023

YOGYAKARTA, Apr 23 (Agencies): Deadly diseases carried by mosquitoes are spreading due to weather brought about by climate change. A bacteria-based solution could be key to fighting back.

Dengue fever continues to kill people across the world and climate change is making it worse.

The World Health Organisation reported more than five million dengue cases and more than 5,000 deaths in more than 80 countries in 2023, which was the warmest year since records began.

Nearly 80 per cent of cases, about 4.1 million, were in the Americas. There were more than 1.6 million cases in Brazil. Astonishingly, it's already passed that mark in just three months this year. Brazil's Ministry of Health reported more than 2.9 million probable infections and 1,116 deaths as of April 8.

That staggering figure means the fight against mosquito-borne diseases is hotting up.

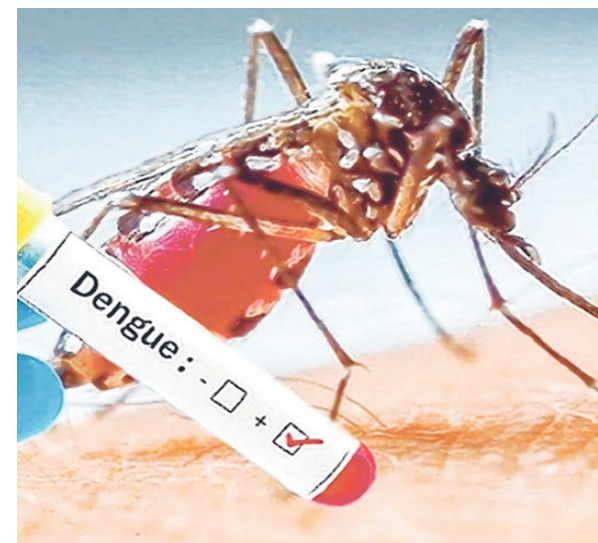
But there are weapons being used in this war to protect our health.

In Indonesia, the government is conducting a programme involving the use of mosquitoes with Wolbachia to control the spread of dengue in five cities.

This new frontline in the fight against mosquito-borne disease is Denpasar, gateway to the holiday island of Bali. Trials are also underway in Semarang, Bandung, West Jakarta, Bontang and Kupang.

Wolbachia technology stands out as a promising biological intervention for controlling dengue. It is an intracellular bacterium commonly found in more than 60 per cent of insect species worldwide, meaning it lives inside the cells of another organism.

When introduced into



the disease-transmitting Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, Wolbachia blocks the dengue virus replication within the mosquito body and significantly impedes the mosquitoes' capacity to transmit the dengue virus.

Researchers from Monash University injected Wolbachia to the larvae using a micro needle. A 2011 study showed a big reduction in dengue viral load in Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes compared to those in the wild.

This biocontrol method leverages the bacterium's ability to spread through mosquito populations as the infected mosquitoes pass the bacteria to their offspring, effectively reducing these insects' ability to transmit viruses, otherwise known as the "vector competence".

The effectiveness of Wolbachia technology has already been demonstrated in a large, city-wide scale randomised field trial in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The study found a 77 per cent reduction in dengue infection and an 86 per cent decline in hospitalisation among confirmed dengue cases in the target area. The finding was comparable with the commercially available Sanofi Pasteur and Takeda dengue vaccine.

Wolbachia technology does not require individual administration, works without ongoing

human intervention and can be self-sustaining once set up. Its embrace looms as a cost-effective, long-term way to reduce dengue transmission.

It's going to be needed, as a warming climate, coupled with phenomena such as the El Nino, increases the risks of vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria.

El Nino is a weather phenomenon in which sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific rise, causing more rain. It has led to floods in the Horn of Africa and the United States. El Nino has also made Southeast Asia, Australia and southern Africa drier and warmer and worsened drought in the northern areas of South America.

The phenomenon increases the risk of diseases, particularly those spread by mosquitoes, like malaria and dengue.

Malaria especially is sensitive to changes in the weather. In places where malaria is not constant, people don't have strong immunity and are more vulnerable to severe outbreaks if the weather allows the disease to spread.

In Venezuela and Colombia, malaria cases can increase by more than a third after dry periods linked to El Nino. The 2023 El Nino was no exception. According to the World Meteorological Organ-

isation, 2023 was the warmest year on record, with a new monthly temperature record set each month from June. Climate change is worsening the issue: Warmer weather increases humidity and precipitation, meaning more breeding places and a broader geographical distribution of mosquito habitats. Temperature is also pivotal in the mosquito's life cycle and virus transmission capacity. Warmer climates also boost mosquitoes' metabolism and shorten their viral incubation period, making them more efficient carriers of diseases. The expansion of urban areas and inadequate water management create ample breeding sites for these vectors, amplifying the risk of dengue outbreaks. Studies have found that as temperatures rise, disease transmission does, too, but in a way that's not straightforward or predictable. Vector control remains the most widely adopted strategy to suppress dengue transmission. Strategies to reduce breeding sites through domestic waste and water container management, using larvicide or larvivorous fish and insecticide, can control dengue. But their impact may be blunted by chemical methods, which may lead to mosquito resistance and reduce control efficacy and biological considerations, such as seasonality and also the consistency of intervention activities. This is where trials of other methods, such as Wolbachia, could prove the difference between continuing control strategies that dwindle in effectiveness over time and innovative approaches that adapt to evolving challenges in dengue control programme.

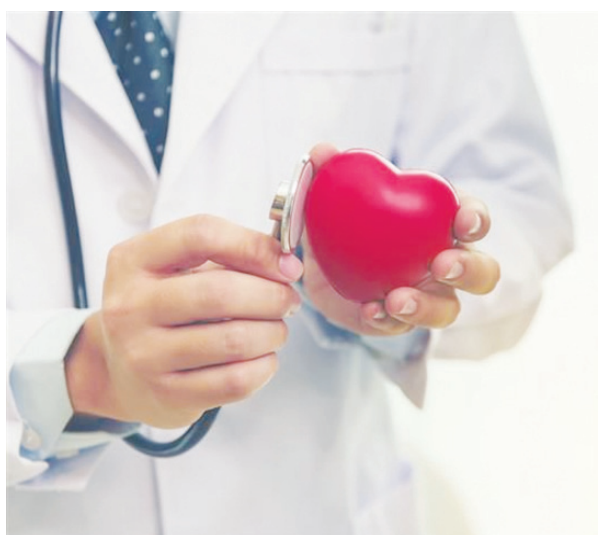
AI-model developed to predict irregular heartbeat 30 minutes before onset in new study

NEW DELHI, Apr 23 (Agencies): Researchers have developed a new AI-based model that can predict irregular heartbeat, or cardiac arrhythmia, about 30 minutes before its onset.

The researchers found that the model proved to be 80 per cent accurate in predicting the transition from a normal cardiac rhythm to atrial fibrillation, the most common type of cardiac arrhythmia in which the heart's upper chambers (atria) beat irregularly and are out of sync with the lower ones (ventricles).

The team, including researchers at the University of Luxembourg, said that their AI-model, which gives early warnings, could be easily installed in smartphones to process the data recorded on smartwatches.

The warnings could allow patients to take preventive measures to keep their cardiac rhythm stable, they said. The study is published in



the journal Patterns.

For developing the model, the team trained it on 24-hour-long recordings gathered from 350 patients at Tongji Hospital in Wuhan, China.

The model, that the researchers have named WARN (Warning of Atrial fibrillation), is based on deep-learning, a type of machine-learning AI algorithms that learn patterns from past data to make predictions.

Deep-learning is more

specialised as it has multiple layers in its decision-making process. The researchers found that WARN gave early warnings, on average 30 minutes before the start of atrial fibrillation, and is the first method to provide a warning far from onset, they said.

"We used heart rate data to train a deep learning model that can recognise different phases -- (normal) sinus rhythm, pre-atrial fibril-

lation and atrial fibrillation -- and calculate a 'probability of danger' that the patient will have an imminent episode," Jorge Goncalves, from the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine (LCSB), University of Luxembourg, and the study's corresponding author, said.

When approaching atrial fibrillation, the probability increases until it crosses a specific threshold, providing an early warning, Goncalves said.

Being of low computational cost, the AI-model is "ideal for integration into wearable technologies," the researchers said.

"These devices can be used by patients on a daily basis, so our results open possibilities for the development of real-time monitoring and early warnings from comfortable wearable devices," study author Arthur Montanari, an LCSB researcher, said.

That door is now closed: Sunil Narine rules out T20 World Cup amid purple patch in IPL

The 35-year-old last played for West Indies in a T20I in August 2019 before retiring from international cricket in November last year

KOLKATA, Apr 23 (Agencies): Former West Indies bowling all-rounder Sunil Narine, who is having a terrific IPL season, won't be reversing his retirement decision for the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA, insisting that the "door is now closed".

The 35-year-old last played for the West Indies in a T20 International in August 2019 before retiring from international cricket in November last year to focus on franchise T20 leagues around the world.

But owing to his sensational form with both bat and ball for Kolkata Knight Riders this IPL season, attempts were being made to convince Narine to reverse his decision for the T20 World Cup.

"I'm truly flattered and humbled that my performances recently have moved many people to publicly express their wish for



me to come out of retirement and play in the upcoming T20 World Cup," Narine wrote in Instagram post.

He asserted that he has made peace with his decision and will be supporting the team from home.

"I have made peace with that decision and whilst I never wish

to disappoint, that door is now closed and I will be supporting the guys who take the field in June for West Indies.

"Guys who have worked hard over the past few months and deserve to show our wonderful fans that they are capable of winning another title. I wish you all the best," he added.

Narine, who has been a key member of KKR since 2012, is seventh on the list of leading run-scorers in the ongoing IPL season, having scored 286 runs, including an unbeaten century against Rajasthan Royals last week -- his maiden T20 ton.

With the ball, the off-spinner is KKR's joint-leading wicket-taker with nine scalps at an average of 22.11 and an economy rate of 7.10.

Narine's purple patch has compelled West Indies captain Rovman Powell to encourage the spinner to come out of retirement for the home World Cup.

"For the last 12 months, I've been whispering in his ears, he's blocked out everyone. Asked (Kieron) Pollard, (Dwayne) Bravo, (Nicholas) Pooran, hopefully before they select the team, they can crack his code," Powell had said last week.

Jaiswal does ton of good as RR cruise to win



JAIPUR, Apr 23 (Agencies): Yashasvi Jaiswal roared back to form with a terrific hundred after Sandeep Sharma's maiden five-for as a rampaging Rajasthan Royals hammered Mumbai Indians by nine wickets in the IPL here.

After Sandeep returned 4-0-18-5 to record the best bowling figures this IPL, Jaiswal found form at last in RR's final home game

at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, playing the MI attack during his 104 not out off 60 balls.

Despite a rain intervention delaying the proceedings, Rajasthan did not face much challenge in overhauling a 180-run target set by Mumbai Indians, reaching 183/1 in 18.4 overs.

The contest also witnessed India and RR spinner Yuzvendra Chahal entering history books with 200 dismiss-

als. After Jaiswal put on 79 runs for the opening wicket with Jos Buttler (35), he added another unbeaten 109 for the second wicket with Sanju Samson (38 not out).

Jaiswal, who came into this IPL after an immensely successful five-Test series against England, had blown hot and cold. While he repeatedly got quick starts, Jaiswal was not able to convert those into anything substantial until this contest.

The 22-year-old finally overcame the obstacle, unleashing powerful pulls and delightful drives in his knock, which contained nine fours and seven sixes.

"I was trying to make sure that I was watching the ball and playing my cricketing shots," Jaiswal said.

KKR Star Harshit Rana "Should Have Apologised" To Virat Kohli: Mohammad Kaif

KOLKATA, Apr 23 (Agencies): Was it a no ball or legal delivery? That seems to be the biggest debate since Virat Kohli's debatable dismissal during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL 2024 match against Kolkata Knight Riders on Sunday. The point of contention is that whether the full toss by Harshit Rana was above Virat Kohli's waist height or not. Kohli was furious after he was caught and bowled by Rana on that delivery and later was fined 50 per cent of his match fees for showing dissent on umpire's decision.

Former Indian cricket team star Mohammad Kaif, who has played 125 ODIs and 13 Tests, said in a video that Harshit Rana should have apologised for the beamer (a delivery which is aimed at the



body of the batter).

"You can dismiss a batter in 10 different ways with a single ball and with six deliveries you have 60 ways to get a batter out. There are only 10 ways to get a batter out but now Virat Kohli has been dismissed by a beamer which is a new one," said Kaif in the video that he posted. "Giving Virat Kohli out off a beamer is a terrible decision because how can you control a ball that is coming at you in that trajectory. That is not legal.

The ball which slipped out of Harshit Rana's hand, came at a particular trajectory and no ball should have been given, Harshit Rana should have apologised and said sorry to Kohli for the ball slipping out of his hands. Instead, Kohli was given out, this is a terrible decision.

The batter always looks down at where the ball is supposed to be pitching, no one can be ready for a delivery like that. It was a bad decision to give Virat Kohli out," he said.

Virat Kohli has capability of getting 40-ball-100; should open with Rohit, says Ganguly

NEW DELHI, Apr 23 (Agencies): Virat Kohli is very much capable of getting a 40-ball-100 like Travis Head and he should open the batting with India skipper Rohit Sharma in the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Americas, former captain Sourav Ganguly said.

Kohli recently scored a 67-ball-100 against Rajasthan Royals but received flak because of his strike-rate at a time when openers from other teams are taking anything between 39 to 50 balls to hit the three-figure mark.

"Virat Kohli has got the capability of getting a 40-ball 100 also. As I said at the start, India, with the talent they have, you just need to go and hit. Mindset should be to hit and then we'll see what happens after 5-6 overs," Ganguly told PTI during a select media interaction.

While Ganguly would like the selection committee, coach Rahul Dravid and Rohit to take decisions in the best interest of the team during the T20 World Cup, he would ideally like to see the Kohli-Rohit opening combi-



nation.

"If you ask me and it's just my personal opinion and I'm not saying that the selectors should do it, because at the end of the day, it's their call, Rohit and Virat should open."

After a magnificent home Test series against England, has Yashasvi Jaiswal fallen off the radar in terms of T20 World Cup selection, taking his recent IPL form into account?

"I don't think Yashasvi's name has dropped too far down the ladder. He's a special player," Ganguly replied.

For him, selection for T20 World Cup shouldn't be based on one IPL season.

"You have to look at every performance. A good team is a balance of experience and youth. Experienced players in India are tremendous and I'm not saying only because of the number of games they have played but it's the performances they've put over a period of time. It's unbelievable.

"So from that point of view, it has to be a mixture of young and youth. I'm sure the selectors are matured enough to see over a

period of time, not just one IPL, but 2, 3, 4 IPLs.

"Like someone like Shivam Dube, he did it last year also. You gave him a chance for India, he whacked it there also. So they've done it over a period of time, Rishabh Pant, Dubey, Surya," Ganguly gave his view point.

Rohit is nearing 37, Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja will be 36 by the end of this year. Does he feel that there is need for ushering in more young blood in the team?

"There's nothing about young and old, it's about how good you are and that is important for me. How is Jimmy Anderson playing Test cricket as a fast bowler at 41 and bowling 30 overs in an innings in a Test match?"

"So there is no hard and fast rule for anything. The only hard and fast rule is talent, ability and performance. Look at MS Dhoni. He bats for 2 overs and hits 4 sixes. I would actually want him to bat more, but just see how good he is."

CSK vs LSG: Fortress Chepauk welcomes KL Rahul for tough away game

CHENNAI, Apr 23 (Agencies): LSG captain KL Rahul said in their last game that Ekana felt like a mini-Chepauk against CSK. Well, on Tuesday, KL Rahul and his team are set to be welcomed by the real Chepauk for their reverse fixture in the Indian Premier League. It was a fairly straightforward win for the LSG side last week and they would hope to double down on their success.

LSG snapped their 2-match losing streak after they crushed CSK by 8 wickets at the Ekana Stadium on April 19, Chennai completed 16 years in the IPL, but Lucknow spoiled their party thanks to pieces of brilliance from Quinton de Kock and KL Rahul.

A target of 176 was expected to be challenging for LSG, who went into the game after losing back-to-back matches at the hands of GT and KKR.

However, de Kock and Rahul made a mockery of the target as the Super Giants chased it down with 6 balls to spare.

The loss meant that CSK and LSG are neck and neck in the 4th and 5th spot in the league table with 8 points from 7 matches. A superior NRR has kept CSK ahead for the moment but that could change in Tuesday's game.

LSG captain KL Rahul had shown his admiration for MS Dhoni for his incredible legacy and he will get to see that in full force in Chennai on April 23.

CSK vs LSG: IPL HEAD TO HEAD



Chennai and Lucknow have played three games so far in the IPL. After Friday's game, LSG have a lead of 2-1 over CSK.

CSK vs LSG: TEAM NEWS
Process-focused Chennai will possibly maintain the same team that played against LSG at the Ekana Stadium.

The spin trio of Moeen Ali, Ravindra Jadeja and Ruchin Ravindra are expected to be more effective at their home stadium.

On the other hand, LSG have travelled without Mayank Yadav to their away game and are expected to retain their winning combination at Chepauk.

CSK vs LSG: CHENNAI PITCH CONDITIONS AND WEATHER

This is going to be the first match at Chennai after 8 April. A gap of 15 days should help the ground recoup and one can expect a decent amount of runs from the

pitch today.

Conditions are going to be hot and humid throughout the evening and the players will need to hydrate well in the excessive heat.

CSK vs LSG: PREDICTED XIS AND IMPACT SUBS

CSK Probable XI
Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ruchin Ravindra, Ajinkya Rahane, Shivam Dube, Moeen Ali, Sameer Rizvi, Ravindra Jadeja, MS Dhoni, Deepak Chahar, Mustafizur Rahman, Matheesha Pathirana.

CSK Impact Player: Tushar Deshpande.

LSG Probable XI
KL Rahul, Quinton de Kock, Deepak Hooda, Marcus Stoinis, Nicholas Pooran, Ayush Badoni, Krunal Pandya, Matt Henry, Ravi Bishnoi, Yash Thakur, Mohsin Khan.

LSG Impact Player: Devdutt Padikkal.

Rishabh Pant's captaincy under lens as Delhi Capitals eye improved bowling effort against Gujarat Titans

NEW DELHI, Apr 23 (Agencies): Rishabh Pant's leadership skills will be under scrutiny as a struggling Delhi Capitals would seek a much-improved performance from their bowlers when they take on an inconsistent Gujarat Titans in the IPL here on Wednesday.

It was not an ideal homecoming for Pant as after two consecutive wins, DC slumped to a 67-run loss against a marauding Sunrisers Hyderabad at home on Saturday.

The loss saw DC slip to the eighth position with three wins and five defeats. They very well know they can't afford to falter if they want to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Against SRH, Pant erred in his decisions a few times, starting from the toss as he misjudged the dew factor at the Arun Jaitley Stadium and decided to bowl first.

Pant's decision to hand the second over to Lalit Yadav, was even more contentious as SRH were off to a blazing start, scoring a record 125 for no loss in the



powerplay.

On the personal front, Pant wasn't in his element as he struggled for timing en route a painstaking 44 off 35 balls while chasing a mammoth score.

To chase a target of 267, a team needs its openers to fire from ball one but Prithvi Shaw and David Warner haven't been too successful.

Young Jake Fraser-McGurk smashed 65 off just 18 balls to keep DC in the hunt but he lacked support from the other end, even though Abhishek Porel (42 off 22) tried his best.

DC bowlers were taken to the cleaners by SRH and they need to pull up their socks. Left-arm seamer

Khaleel Ahmed's, whose career has been dogged by inconsistency, decision to employ short stuff in the opening over completely backfired. With short boundaries at the Kotla, DC bowlers need to pitch it up.

Pace spearhead Anrich Nortje has been completely off-colour this season and DC would be desperately hoping veteran Ishant Sharma returns after missing the last game due to a back spasm.

Kuldeep Yadav has been DC's best bowler in the season so far with 10 wickets from five games at an economy rate of 7.60. But he didn't have a very good outing against SRH.

Even though he had the highest number of

dot balls (8) among DC bowlers, he also conceded the maximum numbers of sixes -- 7.

GT have also been equally inconsistent under new skipper Shubman Gill. But the three-wicket win over Punjab Kings in their last game has helped the former champions move up slightly in the pecking order at sixth spot from four wins and as many losses.

They would be hoping to continue the winning momentum to scale up the leaderboard and be in contention for a play-off berth.

The onus would be on Gill to lead from the front.

The likes of Sai Sudharsan, David Miller and Azmatullah Omarzai also need to let their willow do the talking while Rahul Tewatia would look to continue his pyrotechnics towards the end stage of their innings.

On the bowling front, the likes of veteran Mohit Sharma, Noor Ahmad and Rashid Khan will be expected to deliver the goods.

Modi tarnished dignity of post of PM: Namrta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: The state Congress has not only termed the statement given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Aligarh yesterday, targeting the Congress, pointing towards the Mangalsutra of women, completely irresponsible but has also termed it as a crude joke along with the dignity of the post of Prime Minister.

Party's General Secretary and woman leader Namrta Sharma flanked by Senior leader Kanta Bhan, General Secretary PCC Santosh Majotra, Secretary Jyoti Vaid, while reacting strongly to this statement of Modi, said that the kind of statements that are coming out from Modi ji's mouth these days, it is clear that his party is going to lose its political ground in the ongoing parliamentary elections.

Talking to journalists at PCC HQ Shaheed Chowk Jammu, she said that sometimes Modi says that after these elections,



the leaders of the INDI Alliance will be bent upon tearing each other's clothes and sometimes he (Modi) says that even the Mangalsutra of women will not be saved if Congress comes to power.

Sharma said that the possible defeat in these elections may spoil someone's mental balance, but at least the Prime Minister should maintain the dignity of his post.

She said that Modi ji should tell that when he brought demonetization, how many women's household savings, which they

had actually saved with their hard-earned money, were destroyed. Sharma claimed that in just a few days the BJP's manifesto was prepared in which issues like unemployment, inflation and corruption were not found anywhere even if Congress had promised to provide financial assistance of Rs. 8.5 thousand every month to women under the Mahalaxmi Yojana.

Sharma strongly condemned PM's statement and said that Congress has included every appropriate promise in its mani-

festos for women, youth, farmers and workers whereas BJP has nothing else except doing cheap politics in the name of religion.

Pointing towards women, Sharma said that during his rule, the pension of Rs 1000-1500 that was given to the disabled, widows and the elderly was also stopped. On the other hand, Congress is bringing Rs 1 lakh annually for women and youth. In such a situation, if all the BJP leaders have nothing to say, then the Prime Minister himself is making every effort to mislead the public by making such baseless and irrational statements, which will definitely fail this time, she added.

Prominent among those present include Parvinder Kour, Rama Mehra, Darshna Devi, Neenu Sharma, Neetu Jamwal, Surbhi Bhagat, Monika Sharma, Santosh Sharma, Rani Devi, Kamla Devi Kanta Mehra Pushpa Devi, Neeshu Devi, Seema Sharma and many others.

SKJAVS Trust celebrates Hanuman Jayanti



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust celebrated Hanuman Jayanti in Subhash Nagar and Muthi Jammu. The Hanuman Puja started with chanting of Vedic Mantras and after that read hanuman chalisa by religious scholars followed by hawan bhajan

& kirtan.

On occasion trust trustee R K Chibber said educate the youth to preserve the environment and keep their surrounding clean and green. As Youth are the future of the nation and development of the nation lies on the shoulder of youth.

He also said that the life of lord hanuman ji has very much to learn

for youth and he has been a role model to the young generation. He also appeals youth to keep away from any harmful toxic and also spread the feeling of brotherhood and harmony among each other.

On occasion trust General secretary Parbodh Sharma said As per Hindu scriptures, Lord Hanuman was the eleventh incarnation of Lord Shiva. In his childhood itself, Bajrangbali is said to have mastered all four Vedas Hanuman is Chiranjeevi.

On this occasion Trust member Uttam Chand Sharma, Naresh Raina, Anil Gupta, Sunil Vaid, Susheel Dutta, Pawan Dutta and other members were also present.

Advisor Dr Kotwal chairs meeting on Vibrant Village Program

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 23: The Advisor to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Dr Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting on the Vibrant Village Program (VVP), in the VC conference hall, Civil Secretariat Leh, on Tuesday.

The meeting was initiated by the Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhdev who highlighted the road maps and action plans in a comprehensive presentation, unveiling several projects covered under the Vibrant Village Program.

The prime focus of the meeting was to discuss the submission of 41-New works under the Vibrant Village Program (VVP), the withdrawal of 20 works proposed under VVP, and the Submission of replies of queries of 13- works under VVP. The meeting discussed the way forward for their successful implementation on the ground.

While reviewing the status of the new works under the Vibrant Village Program, the Advisor Dr Kotwal impressed by the key

issues regarding the successful implementation of the Vibrant Village Program. Throwing light on the importance of infrastructure and sustainable development, Dr Pawan Kotwal urged the officials to ensure achieving the set goals in the designated villages so that the villages can become 'Vibrant' in the true sense. He further stated that the infrastructural developments must be of international standards so that more people are attracted to visit these villages.

Director Agriculture Jammu reviews arrangements for wheat procurement

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: In anticipation of the upcoming harvesting season, a crucial meeting was held today at the Directorate of Agriculture, Talab Tillo, Jammu, chaired by Director Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Arvinder Singh Reen.

The meeting aimed to meticulously review and finalize arrangements for the procurement of wheat produce for the Rabi season crop year 2023-24 in collaboration with the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

During the deliberations, key modalities were discussed, focusing on ensuring smooth and timely procurement of wheat by FCI.

Emphasis was placed on providing necessary facilities such as space, gunny bags, technical assistance, logistic support, and other essential resources required for organizing procurement mandis.

The concerted efforts of both the Agriculture Department and FCI were underscored to streamline the procurement process effectively.

Director Agriculture

reiterated the primary objective of establishing these procurement centers, which is to alleviate farmers from distress sale of their produce and ensure they receive the minimum support price of Rs 2275 per quintal as notified by the Ministry for Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare. Additionally, participants were directed to strategically select and finalize the locations of procurement centers based on feasibility and catchment area considerations.

Highlighting the importance of sustainable

agricultural practices, the Director emphasized the need to identify government land for a permanent market (mandi yard) to optimize procurement processes in the long term.

It was disclosed during the meeting that an estimated procurement of 20,000 Metric Tons of wheat is anticipated during the current Rabi season. Participants were urged to disseminate information widely among farmers regarding the procurement facility to ensure maximum participation.

Furthermore, it was announced that 21

Wheat Procurement Centers (Mandis) will be opened for the Jammu Division, comprising 11 for Jammu district, 09 for Kathua, and 01 for Samba for wheat procurement this year. FCI officers assured their full readiness to receive stocks till 31st May, with a provision for extension till 15th June if necessary.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Manager FCI, Parveen Gautam, Manager FCI, Mohd. Imran, Liaison Officer/SMS RI Marketing, Dharmesh Vaid, along with other agriculture officials

NC, Congress leaders, ex-servicemen from Ganderbal join BJP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Congress and NC leaders along with their supporters and ex-servicemen from Ganderbal, Kashmir joined the BJP at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Dr Pardeep Mahotra, J&K BJP Media Incharge, accompanied by Tilak Raj Gupta, Office Secretary J&K BJP, Balbir Ram Rattan, former VC, Rajeshwar Kumar, District President Ramban, and Vijay Mohan Thakur, District President Doda welcomed the new entrants into the party fold.

The joining was facilitated by Rajeshwar Kumar, District President Ramban, and Mohd Ibrahim ST Morcha District Vice-President.



Mohd Ashraf, Congress Youth President Ganderbal, Faiz Hussain, NC district Vice-President Ganderbal, and Altaf Ahmed, Ex-servicemen along with their supporters joined the BJP on the occasion.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, while welcoming the new entrants said that the policies of the Modi government have won the hearts of people from all the regions and religions.

"The BJP believes in the policy of development, which is all-inclusive and includes everybody. In the last 10 years, the Modi government has worked for the socio-economic development of the sections, which were earlier neglected by the previous governments and this has led to the increased faith of people in the Modi government. This faith is attracting the prominent from diverse back-

grounds to join the party on a daily basis", said Dr Pardeep and asked the new entrants to strengthen the party at the grassroots level in their respective areas.

Tilak Raj Gupta said that the BJP is committed to the welfare of all sections of society which has led to the enormous and ever-increasing support for the Modi government in the public.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that under the lead-

ership of PM Modi, J&K has witnessed a transformative shift towards inclusive governance, ensuring benefits to the needy sections.

Rajeshwar Kumar, who facilitated the joining, said that the schemes by the Modi government have reached the last corners of remote villages. He said that the people have now realized that only the BJP can bail out the masses from the middle created by parties like Congress and NC and are thus inching towards BJP to further strengthen it.

New entrants, on the occasion, said that they have come to the BJP with a strong belief that only this party believes in the respect of all religions and the development of all regions without any prejudice.

Modi govt healed wounds given by Congress: Manjinder Sirsa



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 23: Modi government healed wounds given by Congress party, stated BJP National Secretary Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa, while he addressed a Press Conference at BJP Headquarters, Jammu.

Sirsa was accompanied by BJP J&K Vice-President Assem Gupta, former MLCs Ch. Vikram Randhawa & Sardar Charanjit Singh Khalsa, Minority Morcha President S Ranjodh Singh Nalwa and other party leaders during the Press Conference.

Manjinder Singh Sirsa, while addressing the media persons said that today, Narendra Modi is the most dedicated Prime Minister among all the nations in the world. He said that Modi

ji as a Prime Minister has ensured the welfare of all communities.

While ferociously attacking the Congress party for its evils, he said that Congress attacked Darbar Sahib, insulted Akal Takht, and Rajiv Gandhi led to the genocide of Sikhs.

"Jab ek bada ped girta hai to dharti hilti hai", he quoted those deadly words by the top leader and face of Congress, which fell like a bombshell and led to the massacre of Sikhs.

"Modi has sincerely tried to heal those wounds with his strong will and decisive actions", said Sirsa.

"Sajjan Kumar, Kamalnath, and others were jailed only under the Modi government. Kartarpur corridor stands opened, Veer Bal Diwas is being celebrated, and 400 saala and 550

saala were celebrated with all religious sanctity. Modi ji and BJP has always held Sikhism in high regard and he is first Prime Minister who has given the true credit to the community", he said.

Congress is only devoted to the launch of its failed product, he said, and added that for the welfare of the Sikh and all other communities, Modi ji must win 400 seats and Jammu seat with a big margin.

He termed the Modi government as the government of the poor, the needy, and the neglected and asked the people to vote in maximum numbers for BJP.

Modi has already given the release order for the Sikh youth, but AAP in Punjab is reluctant to release those persons, said Sirsa, while answering a question.

He also said that under Modi ji, peace has prevailed in Jammu & Kashmir, which has simultaneously progressed on the path of progress and appealed to all to support the Modi government.

Chief Electoral Officer UT Ladakh chairs review meeting

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 23: The Chief Electoral Officer, UT Ladakh, Yetindra M. Maralkar chaired a review meeting in the CEO Conference Hall, CEO Office, Karzoo regarding issues related to the deployment and arrangements of security personnel in UT Ladakh during the General Elections to the Lok Sabha 2024.

The meeting was attended by the State Police Nodal Officer, S. J. Mehmood, IPS, DIG Ladakh, State CAPF Coordinator, Vijay Deswal, DIG, ITBP, SSP, Leh Shruti Arora, IPS, State Nodal Officer, Transport, RTO Ladakh Mohd Nazir Sheikh and Mujeeb Reman, Addl. SP, Kargil (through VC).

The CEO reviewed the preparedness regarding different types of arrangements required

for the security personnel mandated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) like transportation, accommodation, and other basic requirements like food, drinking water, electricity, etc. He stressed that all necessary arrangements should be well in place before the elections so that the security forces can discharge their election duties comfortably. He also asked both the SSPs of the

district to submit their proposals regarding other necessary arrangements like Air Ambulance, Oxygen Cylinders, and help and cooperation from departments like Health/Medical.

He also took stock of the number of Coys of security forces required from outside Ladakh to conduct the General Elections to the Lok Sabha smoothly in Ladakh.