

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

J&K braces for more rains as night temp stays below normal

SRINAGAR, Apr 25 (Agencies): While the weatherman has forecast light to moderate rain in plains and snow over higher reaches from April 26 onwards, night temperature recorded a drop at most places and continued to hover below normal in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. A meteorological department official here said that during the next 24 hours, generally dry weather with afternoon thundershower is expected in J&K. There is also possibility of hailstorm activity at isolated places of South Kashmir, Budgam, Poonch, Rajouri and Banihal areas, he said. From April 26-28, he said, generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rain and light snow over higher reaches is expected at most places with thunder, lightning, hailstorm and gusty winds at few places. He said there is possibility of heavy rain over isolated places, particularly on April 28. From April 29-30, he said, weather is expected to be generally cloudy with light rain and thunder at scattered places. "From May 1-3, generally dry weather is expected," he said. Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a minimum of 8.2°C against 7.0°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 5.8°C against 7.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said. Pahalgam recorded a low of 2.8°C against 3.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir. Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 6.7°C against 7.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal, the official said. Kupwara town recorded a low of 6.7°C against 6.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C below normal there, the official said. Gulmarg recorded a

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EC notice to BJP Chief Nadda on complaints against PM Modi's remarks

NEW DELHI, Apr 25 (Agencies): Taking cognisance for the first time of a model code violation complaint against a prime minister, the Election Commission on Thursday issued a notice to BJP president J P Nadda on Opposition charge that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a divisive speech in Rajasthan's Banswara. Separately, the poll panel also issued a notice to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, asking him to respond to the complaints filed by the BJP against him and



the main opposition party's senior leader Rahul Gandhi regarding their remarks. In the notice sent to Nadda, the Election Commission sought his response by Monday to the complaints filed by

the Congress, CPI (ML) and civil society groups regarding the remarks made by Modi on April 21 in Banswara. These complaints had referred to Modi's allegations that the Congress wanted to redi-

tribute the wealth of the people to Muslims and that the opposition party won't even spare the 'mangalsutra' of women.

The speech led to a major political slugfest with the Congress and other opposition parties accusing the prime minister of making false claims and the BJP alleging that the Congress was nursing an agenda of Muslim appeasement at the cost of weaker sections of the society.

The EC also asked Nadda to bring to the

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Bandipora encounter: Search operation continues on second day

SRINAGAR, Apr 25 (Agencies): Security forces on Thursday intensified their search operation in the Renji forest area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district where two soldiers were injured in an exchange of gunfire with the terrorists.

A joint team of Police, Army's 13RR, and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in Renji forest area of Bandipora yesterday based on specific information about the presence of at least two to three terror-

ists, officials said. Upon approaching the suspected area, the terrorists opened fire on the security personnel, leading to an exchange of gunfire.

"All exit points have been sealed, and additional measures, such as installing lights, have been taken to prevent the terrorists from escaping," said an officer, as per news agency KS.

The search operation, initiated on Wednesday, continued throughout

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Soldier dies, three others injured in Uri Baramulla road accident

SRINAGAR, Apr 25 (Agencies): A soldier lost his life while three others injured in a road accident in Torna Uri area of north Kashmir Baramulla district on Thursday.

A police officer told news agency Kashmir Scroll that an Army vehicle met with an accident in Torna Uri in which soldier namely Hav Mohd Sagir died on spot while other three soldiers were injured.

He said that the other three injured were evacuated with the help of chopper to 92 base Srinagar for treatment while as dead body has been brought to hospital for legal and medical formalities.

In this regard a case has been registered and investigation has been taken up, he added.

Woman drug smuggler booked under Narco Act, 2 held in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Apr 25 (Agencies): Police booked a woman drug smuggler under the Narco Act while two other peddlers were arrested with contraband substances in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday.

Police said a woman identified as Nargis Akhter, wife of Showkat Ahmad Sheikh and a resident of

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PM Modi trying to break the Country, alleges Farooq

SRINAGAR, Apr 25 (Agencies): National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Thursday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to break the country.

Speaking to party workers at Congress headquarters in Srinagar, Abdullah said that Prime Minister



Modi's recent speech in Rajasthan against the Muslims of the country has shaken him.

He was canvassing for his party's candidate Aga Ruhullah who filed his nomination papers for Srinagar Lok Sabha seat today.

The NC President said that the Prime Minister has to safeguard all people of the country under the constitution of the Nation.

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NC's Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi files nomination from Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Apr 25 (Agencies): National Conference leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Thursday filed nomination papers for the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency which is going to polls in the fourth phase of elections next month.

Accompanied by NC president Farooq Abdullah, vice president Omar



Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Vikar Rasool, Mehdi filed the nomina-

tion papers before Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Bilal

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Police arrest two drug peddlers with heroin worth lakhs

JAMMU, Apr 25 (Agencies): Jammu Police have arrested two drug peddlers with heroin worth lakhs from the Bus Stand area here.

The police spokesman here on Thursday said that, continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse under Operation "Sanjeevani," Jammu Police



achieved major success by recovering 169 grams of heroin from two

drug peddlers in the Bus Stand area.

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From Centre to Raj Bhawan everyone fighting election against NC: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Apr 25 (Agencies): Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday said Central Government, Raj Bhawan, BJP and its proxies are fighting elections against National Conference in Jammu & Kashmir, and said "The candle of NC cannot be extinguished by ill-machinations of our enemies".



Talking to reporters outside the office of Returning Officer (RO), 02-Srinagar Parliamen-

tary Constituency the former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that from Central Government to Raj Bhawan, everyone is contesting elections against National Conference (NC).

"Be it Central Government, Raj Bhawan, BJP, it's A, B & C teams all are fighting elections against National

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Maha Bhavan will be built in Kashmir with Centre's support: CM Shinde



AMRAVATI, Apr 25 (Agencies): Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has asserted that a Maharashtra Bhavan will be built in Jammu and Kashmir and with the Centre's support, no one will dare to oppose it.

Speaking at a rally in Maharashtra's Amravati district on Wednesday, Shinde claimed that National Conference leader Omar Abdullah has opposed the con-

struction of the Maharashtra Bhavan in Kashmir.

"The state government has received land in Kashmir for building the Maharashtra Bhavan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are with us. So no one will dare to oppose it," the CM said.

CM Shinde last year requested Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha for a land parcel to construct the Maharashtra Bhavan to provide accommodations and facilities for tourists and officials from the state visiting the Valley.

The Maharashtra cabinet last month approved a proposal to construct the

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WORLD MALARIA DAY - 2024

25th, April

01
PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING

- Keep surroundings free of stagnant water
- Cover all water containers & frequently change the water
- Disposal of all useless items holding water such as tins/cans/tyres/bottles etc.

02
PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES

- Use mosquito net while sleeping
- Use protective clothing (covering full body)
- Use mosquito repellents (creams/liquid sprays/mats/coils)

03
PREVENT ENTRY OF MOSQUITOES

- Mosquito screen for doors/windows
- Clear weeds and tall grass around the houses
- Improve basic sanitation

04
FOR FREE TREATMENT AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT

Nearest Government Health Institution

ASHA
in your village

PROGRAMME OFFICER, NVBDCP/STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU

DIP/J-244/24

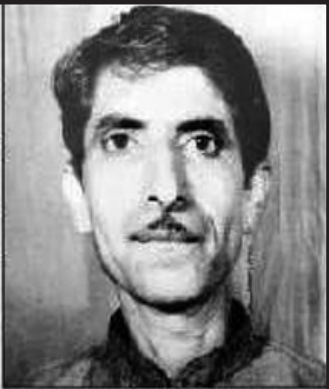
10TH DAY

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

KRIYA/UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED **SH. SHANTI SAROUP GUPTA** (CHIEF ENGINEER, RETD.), R/O HOUSE NO. 4, SECTOR-2 EXTENSION, TRIKUTA NAGAR, HAS LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 13TH APRIL 2024.

THIRTEEN DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT 12:00 NOON ON 25TH APRIL AT OUR RESIDENCE.

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED AT 4:30 P.M. ON 26TH APRIL AT SHIV MANDIR, SECTOR-3, TRIKUTA NAGAR.

GRIEF STRICKEN

DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW AND SONS
DR. SONIKA & DR. SUMEET GUPTA (SMVDU)
SMT. SHRUTI & SH. SUNEET GUPTA (BGSBU)
SISTERS-IN-LAW & BROTHERS
SMT. VISHAKIRTI W/O LATE SH. S.K. GUPTA
SMT. SUDESH W/O LATE DR. J.K. GUPTA
SMT. PRABHA W/O LATE DR. R.L. GUPTA
PROF. VIJAY MAHAJAN (USA)
DR. SUDHA & DR. ANIL MAHAJAN
SISTERS AND BROTHERS-IN-LAW
SMT. SHAKUNTALA & SH. K.R. LAMBA
SMT. INDU & SH. RAJNEESH MAHAJAN
SMT. VEENA DOGRA W/O LATE SH. BHAVNESH DOGRA
GRAND CHILDREN
SHUBHAM, SACHITA, SAGARIKA & SAUMYAA
BROTHERS-IN-LAW & SISTERS-IN-LAW
SH. ADARSH GUPTA W/O LATE SMT. ANIL GUPTA
SMT. RANO W/O LATE SH. VINOD GUPTA
SH. ASHOK MAHAJAN W/O LATE SMT. SNEH MAHAJAN
SMT. ANJU W/O LATE SH. PRAMOD GUPTA



Sh. Shanti Saroup Gupta
(Chief Engineer, Retd.)

Mobile: 9419201936,
9419173358

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that our beloved father, **Shri M. L. Ganjoo** S/o Late Shri Nila Kanth Ganjoo of Malla Pora, Bana Mohalla, Srinagar, Kashmir, presently residing at 383-B, near Krishna Jani Ghar, Durga Nagar Sec 1 Jammu left for heavenly abode on 18-Apr-24.

The **10th Day Kriya** shall be performed on 26 April 24 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat Jammu.

Assembly time: 8:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Asha Ganjoo - Wife
Shri Rakesh & Kamna Ganjoo - Son & Daughter-in-law
Shri Sarjeev Ganjoo - Son
Shri Ratan Lal & Sheela Ganjoo - Brother & Sister-in-law
Smt. Chuni Moza - Sister
Smt. Usha & Ashok Ganjoo - Sister & Brother-in-law
Shri Vipan & Sunita Bangroo
Deeply missed by Grand Children.
0889947740, 0981171382



Shri M. L. Ganjoo

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Madhu Gupta** W/O Sh. Nikhil Gupta R/o H.No. 718/A Last Mohr, Gandhinagar, Jammu.

Uthala will take place on 26th April, 2024 Friday from 5-6 pm at Shiv Mandir, Last Mohr Gandhinagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Nikhil Gupta (Husband)
Ms. Akshita Gupta (Daughter)
Smt. Bimla Gupta w/o Late Sh. Tilak Raj Gupta
Dr. S. K. Gupta & Dr. Neeru Gupta (Neurologist)
Dr. C. D. Gupta & Dr. Chanchal Gupta (Cardiologist)
Sh. Pradeep Gupta & Smt. Neelam Gupta
Dr. Sunil Gupta
Sh. Rajiv Gupta & Smt. Jyoti Gupta
Sh. Sarjoo Gupta (Brother) & Smt. Deepika Gupta
Sh. Ajay Gupta (Brother) & Smt. Ambika Gupta
Phone No. 9419184600, 9419795096



Smt. Madhu Gupta

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.

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)

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. Mohi 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

KRIYA/UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI

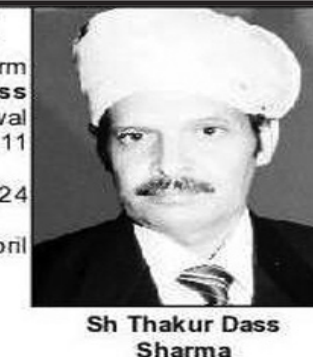
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform passing away of our beloved **Sh Thakur Dass Sharma** S/o Sh Sardari Lal Sharma R/O Ghagwal village Gurah Jattan. He peacefully departed on 11 April 2024.

The **Kriya** shall be performed on 27th April 2024 (Saturday) starts 9.00 AM onwards.

Uthala/Rasam Pagri will be conducted on 27 April 2024 (Saturday) at 4 PM at our residence.

In Mourning:

Smt. Suman Devi - Wife
Bhaiya & Bhabis
Sh. Ghansham Sharma & Smt. Sandhya Sharma
Sh. Durgadass Sharma & Smt. Sandhya Sharma
Sh. Girhari Lal Sharma & Smt. Anita Sharma
Sh. Laxmi Kant Sharma & Smt. Surinder Sharma
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Rahul Sharma & Smt. Upasana Sharma
Sh. Sahil Sharma & Smt. Prativa Sharma
Son-in-law & Daughter
Sh. Susheel Sharma & Smt. Pancham Sharma
Grand Children: Khushi, Suryansh, Myra & Jeevika
From : Pandotra Family
Contact No. 7006130951, 9796282639



Sh Thakur Dass Sharma

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Jagat Mohini Razdan** W/o Late Sh. Jagat Nath Razdan originally from Chowgam (Qazigund) Distt. Kulgam A/p Block-6B, Lane No. 12, Jagti, Nagrota who left for the heavenly abode on 22nd April, 2024.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 1st May 2024 at 8:00 AM and **Assembly** will be held thereafter.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Ravi Raina & Smt. Sunita Raina
Sh. Seath Ji Raina (Jiggar Chowgami) & Smt. Pummy Raina
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Kiran Raina & Sh. S.L. Raina
Smt. Rita Koul & Sh. T.N. Koul
Smt. Fancy Koul
Smt. Jucy Pandita & Sh. Ajay Pandita



Smt. Jagat Mohini Razdan

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Rachna Samyal** (Sr. Audit Officer Retd.) R/o Colonel's Colony, Opposite Civil Airport, Jammu Cantt on 17th April 2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on 25th April 2024 (Thursday) at our residence at 11am.

Kriya will be performed on 27th April 2024 (Saturday) at our residence at 1pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Mohan Singh Samyal - Husband
Ritesh and Anju - Son & Daughter-in-law
Dinesh and Sandeep - Son & Daughter-in-law
Rakesh and Arjuna - Son & Daughter-in-law
Grand Children:
Aparna, Kritika, Arvind, Harish, Jaivardhan, Abhiraj (Ph- 9419237245, 9419104797)



Smt. Rachna Samyal

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the untimely demise of **Sh Shiv Kumar Padha** S/o Late Sh. Hargopal Padha R/o 107-108, Sector-II Lane No. 14, near New Era Mother School Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 16th April 2024.

Kriya will be performed on 26th April 2024 Friday 12 PM at our residence.

Uthala will be performed on 26th April 2024 Friday from 5 PM to 6 PM at Shiv Mandir Sector-3 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu

Grief Stricken

Sons & Daughters in law
Maheshwar Padha (Tinku) & Sarita Sharma
Bhisham Padha (Youshe) & Karamjeet Kour
Vikas Padha (Nishu) & Bharti Sharma
6005290943, 9419122900, 7006028920



Shiv Kumar Padha

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of **Mr. Akhil Gupta** S/o Ravi Gupta, who left for his heavenly abode on 14 April, 2024.

Uthala will be held on 26-04-2024 from 4.00 - 5.00 PM at Radha Krishan Mandir Paloura Chowk, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Rama Gupta - Mother
Ankit Gupta - Brother
Brother-in-law & Sister
Mr. Gourav Arora & Aakriti Arora
Mobile No: 9149603001, 9149443676



MR. AKHIL GUPTA

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad & sudden demise of our beloved **Shri Maharaj Krishan Koul** S/o Late Shri Sri Kanth Koul, originally from Khanakha Sokhta, Nawa Kadal, Srinagar, Present address 303-Nikki Mohalla Eidgah Road, Sidhra Jammu left for heavenly abode on 18th April 2024.

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

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Mr. Rajender Koul - Brother
Mr. Pankaj Koul - Son
Mr. Rakesh Koul and Mrs Hansi Koul - Son and Daughter-in-Law
Mrs Punam Koul and Mr Suneel Razdan - Daughter and Son-in-Law
Mrs Renu Bhat and Mr Manish Bhat - Daughter and Son in law
Grand Children: Abhiraj, Avirudh, Vansh, Vaishnavi, Rishu and Ridhi
CONTACT NO: 8510075007, 8510079007, 9797500361



Shri Maharaj Krishan Koul

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our revered **Smt. Prem Lata Kapahi** W/o Lt. Sh. Narinder Kumar Kapahi R/o 530-A Gandhi Nagar Jammu, on 14th April, 2024.

THIRTEEN DAY KRIYA shall be performed at our residence at 12 noon on 26th April, 2024. **UTHALA** shall be performed on 26th April, 2024 at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Vandana & Ajay Kapahi (Son & Daughter in law)
Ashu & Rajiv Abrol (Daughter & Son in Law)
Anju & Ajay Nargotra (Daughter & Son in Law)
Dr. R.K. Mengi & Seema Mengi (Brother & Sister in Law)
Sh. Dev Raj Abrol (Brother in Law)
Grandchildren
Akshita & Akash Malhotra,
Alpna & Ankur Sharma,
Meghal, Abhilash, Aarzoo, Aniket



Smt. Prem Lata Kapahi

CONTACT NO.-
9419187311, 9419198313

**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 Sherkhani, 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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Lt. Sh. Rajinder Kumar Pandita** (Raja Ji) S/o Lt. Aka Lal Pandita of Qazi Mohalla Anantnag Kashmir at present Flat No. 15, Block No. 50, Lane No. 9, Jagti 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 & Prafulla Ji - Daughter & Son-in-law
Mobile No: 9622338515, 7006240902



Lt. Sh. Rajinder Kumar Pandita (Raja Ji)

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Apni Party takes out impressive road show across Nowshera Party committed to give District Status to Nowshera, Sunderbani, Kalakote: Manjit Singh

Top News Report

NEWSHERA, Apr 25: Apni Party on Thursday took out an impressive road show in Nowshera to showcase strength of the Party and expressed gratitude to the people for extending their support to the contesting candidate of the Party from Rajouri – Anantnag Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

The impressive road show was taken out by the Party leaders from Nowshera Bus Stand up to Jahangir Chowk under the leadership of the Provincial President of the Party, S. Manjit Singh and other leaders.

The roadshow was part of the Party's campaign in support of Zafar Iqbal Manhas, who has received overwhelming response from the cross section of society, and the people have expressed their faith in the Party's candidate for the Rajouri – Anantnag Parliamentary seat of the Apni Party.

Large numbers of people from all the sections of society participated in the procession that was taken out in support of the Party's candidate, Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahib. While speaking on the occasion, Manjit Singh appreciated the people for their unconditional support to the Party candidate for the Rajouri – Anantnag Parliamentary seat and assured them that the Party would work as per the expectation of the people in the parliamentary seat.



He also said that if Zafar Iqbal Manhas gets elected to the above said parliamentary seat, the Party would ensure that Nowshera, Sunderbani and Kalakote get District Status.

"The people of the area have faced disparity regarding development, poor health, and educational sectors. The people suffer because they have to travel for long hours to reach the district headquarters which is far away from their respective areas. Hence, the Party stands with the demand of the people so that Nowshera, Sunderbani and Kalakote get District Status," he added, while assuring all support from the Party and its leadership.

He said that the Party is committed to ensure justice to the people of these remote areas and their decades old demand is accepted. He accused the tradi-

tional parties of ignoring the popular demands of the people and depriving them of their basic rights to get proper road connectivity, electricity, clean drinking water, quality education, and health sector.

He criticized the traditional parties, and their leaders who were elected to power for the last seven decades and did nothing for the people of Pir Panjal.

He said that the potential of tourism should have been explored, and employment generation programs should have been introduced, but nothing was done by the traditional parties.

"However, if the Apni Party gets elected from this parliamentary seat, we will ensure the people get their due share in development, and the youth get employment," he added.

Expressing his anguish over the drug menace,

he said that the Party is committed to curb the drug menace and the main kinglypins involved in the drug trade which has destroyed the future of the young generation.

He said that the Party has taken a tough stand on drug addiction, and its smuggling for which the time has come to get united to protect the future generation.

Asking the people to support Zafar Iqbal Manhas, he said that the response which the people have extended to the Apni Party candidate in Rajouri is tremendous and assured that the Party will represent every single person in the parliamentary segment in the Lok Sabha and their issues would be resolved.

He also referred to the issues of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) Displaced Persons and assured them that the Party has continuously worked for their welfare

and highlighted their demands in the Party.

He said that the Party wants to give proprietary rights to PoJK/Refugees, and to the allottees of Custodian land in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the people who have protected these properties and invested their hard-earned money after living there for decades after their displacement from different places, shall get their rights and hence, the Party stands with their demand.

The issue of growing unemployment, and rail link is also in the Party's agenda that would be addressed accordingly, he added.

The road show was organized by the Constituency Incharge of Nowshera, Vicky Sudan.

Among those who were part of the roadshow include Additional General Secretary, Arun Chibber, Provincial Senior Vice President Jammu, Faqir Nath, District President Rajouri (Rural), Bushan Uppal, SC Wing Coordinator Bodh Raj Bhagat, Apni Trade Union's President, Ajaz Kazmi, Provincial President Jammu, Youth Wing, Vipul Bahl, Provincial President Minority Wing, Balbir Singh, District President Legal Cell, Samba, Sahil Bharti, Provincial President of Transport Union, Tirath Singh, Yash Choudhary, Mangat Ram, Inderpal Singh, Sandeep Vaid, Abhinav Gupta, Jalaj Choudhary, Chintan Gupta and others.

Modi accomplished Congress party's unfinished agenda in J&K: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Apr 25: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Thursday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had accomplished Congress Party's unfinished agenda in Jammu & Kashmir.

In an exclusive interview with "India News" Editor-in-Chief Rana Yashwant, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Article 370 had been included in the Indian Constitution as a "temporary provision", a fact which was emphasised by none less than the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who had responded to Syama Prasad Mookerjee's objections saying "Ye Ghiste Ghiste Ghis Jayegi".

However, Nehru's successors developed a vested interest in the

continuance of Article 370 which helped them in establishing dynasty rule generation after generation both in New Delhi as well as in J&K.

discrimination and without any appeasement politics. All aid from the Centre was distributed in a balanced way to bring development into the mainstream. Now the region has IIT, IIMS, AIIMS, half a dozen centrally funded medical colleges, national level schemes, the world's highest bridge, S P Mukherjee Road Tunnel, passport offices, 1st Industrial Biotech park in northern India in the constituency.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, "people who were not voting for BJP earlier, but have become beneficiaries of different Modi schemes now, are also going through a change

of mindset".

On the issue of inheritance tax featuring in Congress manifesto, Dr Singh said wealth tax is alien to the democratic values and Indian ethos. It is not compatible with the Indian family system, culture, and heritage as it will take away 50 percent of the wealth from the family after the death of a person. He added that it is the part of appeasement approach of Congress towards certain sections of the society for vote bank and Prime Minister Modi is trying to make people alert in this regard. The Congress party is trying last election tricks but the voters have moved on and they understand the real intent of Congress, he said.

He stated that BJP has no relations with PDP or INDI alliance in Jammu and Kashmir.

JU organizes Presentation cum Interactive Session on Traditional Water Bodies of Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU Apr 25: The Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu and INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage) Jammu Chapter jointly organised a Presentation cum interactive session on 'Traditional water bodies of Jammu Municipal Corporation Area'. The event was organized as part of the joint study carried out by the department in collaboration with INTACH on listing and mapping of the natural heritage of Jammu District.

Mandeep Kour, Commission Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department was the Chief Guest on the occasion. While addressing the gathering she lauded the efforts of the department and INTACH Jammu Chapter for taking up such an important and much-needed study of inventing the water bodies of Jammu district. She informed the house that work has already started on the rejuvenation of some of these traditional water bodies and the findings of this study would be helpful in deciding the priority level for management of these water bodies. She invited the department and the INTACH to collaborate with their department and engage students and scholars from the University in the management of these water bodies. While discussing various Central government schemes viz., Amrit Sarovar and Amrut schemes for conserving traditional water bodies under MG NREGA she encouraged the members to adopt these traditional water bodies for their conservation.

Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences

while formally welcoming the dignitaries discussed the importance of such collaborative and integrated studies involving multi-stakeholders for water conservation and management.

Technical session of the event started by keynote presentation by Dr. Deepika Slathia, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences. She highlighted the detailed findings of the collaborative study on the 'Listing and mapping of the traditional water bodies of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Area' undertaken by the Department in collaboration with INTACH, Jammu Chapter. She informed that around 65 water bodies comprising of ancient wells, stepwells, and ponds have been listed and mapped, and detailed studies have been carried out on other important aspects of these water bodies such as their ecological, cultural, and socio-economic significance, threats being faced by each water body, and the level of priority for their effective restoration and management of each water body. "As almost all these water bodies are showing signs of deterioration, it's high time that interventions are made for their effective restoration and management", she said while discussing various threats being faced by these water bodies. "Since the water bodies have already been identified and prioritised based on their status, restoration and rejuvenation of these water bodies can be started in phase wise manner starting with the high priority water bodies", she recommended while concluding the findings of the study.

S. M. Sahni, Convener, INTACH, Jammu Chapter (JKAS Retd.) suggested that these water bodies need to be included in the Smart City Master Plan and the surrounding areas of these water bodies should be developed as green spaces as these hold ecological and cultural significance. He stressed upon the need to use traditional knowledge for the restoration, upgradation, and conservation of these water bodies. Dr. C. M. Seth (IFS), Former, Chief Conservator of Forests and Co-Convener INTACH shared his field experiences on various conservation techniques adopted by the rural people. He talked about the importance of these water bodies by giving various examples of the link between the water bodies and associated aquatic biodiversity. He suggested that water bodies must be treated as living entities and stressed on the incorporation of indigenous knowledge and resources for the restoration and conservation of these water bodies.

The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Arvind Kotwal (JKAS) Coordinator Heritage Tourism INTACH Jammu Chapter. The event was attended by around 70 students and scholars of various departments of the University, faculty members of department, Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Meenakshi Khajuria, Dr. Ranjan Sharma, Dr. Ravinder Kumar and Rozi Sharma.

Other dignitaries present during the event included Mr. Narinder Khajuria (JKAS) Secretary, Urban and Housing Development Department, Hemant Sharma (JKAS) Former Div. Com., Arvind Kotwal, Sh. Robin Mehta Director Tourism (Retd.), Madam Reshmi Kashyap and Dr. Mrinalini Atri.

Interaction with Bakarwals and Mini -Medical Camp at Naushera

Top News Report

NAUSHERA, Apr 25: Indian Army organized an interaction and mini Medical Camp for Bakarwals of Lam, Naushera on 24 Apr 2024. The aim of the interaction was to educate them about various Government schemes, policies like Scholarships for their children, Bank loans, and financial benefits and to establish close coordination with the Bakarwals for execution of effective deterrence against any activity / movement by anti-national elements.



Bakarwals can render critical information to security forces regarding remote areas. The medical camp catered for free consultation, medicines and awareness campaign on health related issue. The overall aim of

the camp was to spread awareness about health related issues. The interaction was attended by 38 Bakarwals.. The Bakarwal community vowed to participate whole heartedly in the upliftment of the society and nation.

Dr Arooj Attempt & Achieve Limca BOOK Record

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: Dr. Arooj From Kottoor Thiruvananthapuram son of Kuttan -Usha performed longest duration padhahasthasana one of the traditional yoga practice in just 3 minutes 24 second.

Massages the digestive organs. This practice is very beneficial for health point of view. It Alleviates flatulence, constipation, and indigestion. Spinal nerves are stimulated and toned.

Increases vitality, improves the metabo-



lism, improves concentration and helps with nasal and throat diseases.

The Record was submitted to 'Limca Book Record' on 24th April 2024.

MIER College organizes an orientation on voter's registration

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: The NSS Unit of MIER College organized an orientation session on voter's registration for BA Honors students. The event was attended by the HODs of SOE and SSSH, the Deputy HoD, faculty and students of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

The program began with a warm welcome by Arzoo Sharma of B.A. English (Hons.) Semester IV, who introduced the event and highlighted the importance of voter registration in the democratic process. Her engaging introduction set the tone for the rest of the session.

The orientation was then led by Dr. Komal Sharma, who provided an informative and engaging presentation on the process of voter registration. She covered various aspects of the registration process, including the eligibility criteria, the required documents, and the online and offline registration options elaborately through a PPT. Throughout the presentation, she emphasized the importance of voting and encouraged the students to register and exercise their right to vote. She also addressed some of the common misconceptions about voter registration and provided clarification on these issues.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Unmesh Kant Shah, B.A. Political Science (Hons) Semester II. The program was ably conducted by Stuti Mahajan of B.A. Psychology (Hons) Semester IV.

The NSS Unit's orientation session on voter registration left the students with a better understanding of the registration process and a renewed sense of responsibility towards their democratic duties.

Prof. Adit Gupta, Director and Principal MIER College, appreciated the efforts of the NSS Unit in organizing the event and said that the college is committed to promoting civic engagement and participation among the students.

JU students visit Sri Raghunath Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: The Department of Home Science, University of Jammu organised an educational visit of the M.Sc students to Sri Raghunath Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya in Birpur, Samba, as part of its outreach and practical program. The aim was to expose students to the management practices of this educational institution operated by the J&K Dharmarth Trust. The institution offers free educational and residential facilities to students from various remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir, providing them with modern education alongside instruction in religious rituals and traditional Vedic values, fostering their holistic development.

Led by Prof. Shashi Manhas from the Department of Home Science (Human Development), the group of M.Sc. students engaged in insightful interactions with the



students of Sri Raghunath Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya. Prof. Manhas emphasized the importance of morale-boosting and positive self-esteem, commending the institution for preserving Indian traditions and customs. Gratitude was extended to the Dharmarth Trust, particularly President Brig. (Retd.) R.S. Langeh and Jt. Secretary Virinder Jamwal, for facilitating the visit.

Members of the Home Science department and Prof. Shashi Manhas lauded the management of Sri Raghunath Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya for their commendable efforts in maintaining

the institution. Principal Mrs. Parveen Khajuria, along with Sh. Kuldeep Shastri and the school staff, provided comprehensive insight into the school's infrastructure, including its extensive library. Under their guidance, students delivered a spiritual presentation showcasing their proficiency in reciting shlokas and their commitment to community service.

The visit concluded with expressions of gratitude from the Home Science Department and Prof. Shashi Manhas towards the J&K Dharmarth Trust for facilitating the enriching interaction between students and staff.

EDITORIAL

Commitment Towards Elimination

April 25th marks World Malaria Day, a time to reflect on progress made, acknowledge ongoing challenges, and reaffirm global commitments to combat this deadly disease. As we enter 2024, the world stands at a pivotal moment in the fight against malaria. While significant strides have been made in recent years, much work remains to be done to achieve the ambitious goal of malaria elimination.

In the past decade, there has been remarkable progress in reducing malaria incidence and mortality rates worldwide. Increased funding, improved access to effective treatment and prevention tools, and innovative strategies have contributed to this success. However, these gains are fragile, and the emergence of drug-resistant strains of the malaria parasite poses a significant threat to our efforts.

One of the key priorities for World Malaria Day 2024 is to address the challenge of drug resistance. The spread of resistant parasites undermines the effectiveness of frontline antimalarial drugs, jeopardizing the lives of millions of people, particularly in regions where malaria is endemic. To tackle this threat, there is an urgent need for sustained investment in research and development to discover and deploy new antimalarial drugs that are effective against resistant strains.

Furthermore, achieving malaria elimination requires a multi-sectoral approach that goes beyond the health sector. Strengthening health systems, improving access to clean water and sanitation, and addressing socio-economic determinants of malaria transmission are essential components of a comprehensive malaria control strategy. Collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and local communities is crucial to success.

Innovative technologies and interventions also play a vital role in the fight against malaria. From genetically modified mosquitoes to novel diagnostics and vector control tools, there is a wealth of innovation that can help us accelerate progress towards elimination. However, it is essential to ensure that these technologies are accessible, affordable, and socially acceptable, particularly in resource-limited settings.

Education and community engagement remain fundamental pillars of malaria control efforts. Empowering individuals with knowledge about malaria transmission, prevention, and treatment empowers them to take proactive measures to protect themselves and their families. Additionally, engaging communities in decision-making processes fosters ownership and sustainability of malaria interventions at the local level.

On World Malaria Day 2024, let us recommit ourselves to the goal of malaria elimination with renewed determination and urgency. By leveraging the lessons learned from past successes and embracing innovation and collaboration, we can overcome the remaining challenges and consign malaria to the pages of history. Together, we can create a world where no one suffers from this preventable and treatable disease.

As we commemorate World Malaria Day, let us honor the millions of lives lost to malaria and the tireless efforts of frontline health workers, researchers, policymakers, and advocates who continue to work tirelessly towards a malaria-free future. With solidarity, determination, and collective action, we can turn the tide against malaria and build a healthier, more resilient world for all.

Wheels of discord: IPS officer in Haryana has an odd complaint

By: Dilip Cherian

In the middle of the Lok Sabha elections frenzy, the Haryana government finds itself tangled in a peculiar accusation of discriminatory practices and bureaucratic tangles. Y. Puran Kumar, a senior IPS officer with a knack for details, has written a whimsical complaint to chief secretary T.V.S.N. Prasad. His lament? The rather lacklustre car he has been allotted.

It's a tale as old as time, Puran Kumar is upset that while his counterparts and peers zip around in shiny new Innovas, he's been handed the keys to a relic — a seven-year-old Honda City — with more character than reliability.

Now, in a profession governed by strict protocols and meticulously crafted rules, the choice of official transportation holds more worth than one might think. The choice of car becomes a symbol of status and prestige. And it is here that Puran Kumar feels shortchanged. He accuses the system of playing favourites. Barely two weeks after parting ways with his previous official ride, he wrote to the

Sarkar alleging favouritism and selective distribution among the IPS elite.

The aggrieved IPS officer has implored the chief secretary to investigate the murky world of staff cars and operational vehicles, hoping to unravel the mystery behind the "wheels of fortune". However, he may have got the timing wrong, with the senior members of the state administration more concerned with the elections than an aggrieved babu nervous about his status.

Retired IRS officer re-elected to prestigious INCB, gets third term

This bit of good news seems to have got lost in the heat and dust of the poll fray. It is now certain that retired IRS officer Jagjit Pavadia is going to keep her seat on the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for another term. She has been re-elected for the 2025-2030 stint, and it appears like she has many backers in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and back home. In fact, external affairs minister S Jaishankar was quick to spread the good news on social media, letting everyone

know about Mr Pavadia's victory in the Big Apple. Former permanent representative of India at the UN, Syed Akbaruddin, also tweeted

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations couldn't be more grateful, expressing their thanks to all the member states who had our back and threw their support behind India's nominee. Mr Pavadia reportedly received the highest number of votes among all the 15 candidates for this position. Her victory ensures that Mr Pavadia will get an unprecedented third term on the prestigious board.

Meanwhile, in another win, India was re-elected to the executive board of the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) for another three years, 2025-2027.

Senior IAS appointments signal focus beyond elections. The government may be focused on the currently underway Lok Sabha elections, but the government's business continues. The recent appointment of senior IAS officers to additional secretary positions reflects the government's aim to restructure

the bureaucracy and bolster key departments with experienced leadership.

With Rakesh Kumar Verma taking charge in the department of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation, Suman Billa assuming responsibilities in the ministry of tourism, and Aradhana Patnail joining the department of health and family welfare, there is a clear emphasis on enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in critical sectors.

Additionally, the in-situ upgradation of officers like Hemani Pande and Kamal Kishore Soan further underscores the government's commitment to optimising administrative capacities.

These appointments bring fresh perspectives and signify a proactive approach to governance. Readers will recall that just before the announcement of elections and hitting the poll trail, Prime Minister Modi had "instructed" babus to prepare and be ready with a 100-day programme, to be implemented once his government is re-elected. Overconfidence? Perhaps, but this drive to look ahead and keep pushing has been a hallmark of the Modi Sarkar.

Growing population, shrinking resources

By: Vijay Garg

According to the latest Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the estimated population of India has reached 144.17 crores. In this way, India is at the forefront in the world in terms of population. China is in second place with a population of 142.5 crore. It has been said in the report that due to good health services, maternal mortality rate has declined significantly in India. It is said that till now China was at the forefront in terms of population, despite this it continued on the path of development. Therefore over population is not a problem. In fact, it is not logical to underestimate the population issue by giving the example of China. It has to be understood that India is three times ahead of China in terms of population density. China is a geographically large country, the burden of population and resources falls more on those countries where the population density is highest. However, the population growth rate of our country has also seen a decline. There has been awareness about this in a large section of the country and people have started understanding the disadvantages of over population. Are. However, in this era, the political implications of those who are talking about population control law can be easily understood. The sad thing is that due to government policies we have not yet been able to convert population into a resource. Obviously, in such a situation we will see only population burden. A large part of our country's population is youth. The situation of unemployment in our country is also not hidden from anyone. The employment crisis has increased in rural areas

also. If the government wants, it can remove unemployment and use the large population as a resource. Can change, but to hide its failure, the government deliberately avoids important issues and raises other unnecessary issues. However, studies regarding population show that except some small and rich countries, the population of more or less all the countries is increasing. It is a different matter that if the population of a country is increasing more, then there is less question for others that how should this situation be seen in terms of demographic dividend in the context of India, which has been considered the biggest power of India since the beginning of this century. and on the basis of this. And there is hope of leaving the whole world behind. Intensive efforts by the government to control population growth were made only during the Emergency in the country. Seeing its political consequences, subsequent governments did not make any such efforts. However, she also considered population growth a problem. After the arrival of the twenty-first century, the increasing number of youth in the population started being considered a good thing. But after the Corona epidemic, it is being believed that over-population is a big threat to us in many ways. In densely populated areas there is a higher risk of spreading viral diseases. In such a situation, it seems to be a matter of relief that the policy makers of the country had realized the dangers posed by population explosion three-four decades ago. The advantage of this was that some efforts were being made in this direction, even if measures like forced sterilization were not repeated, the campaign of public awareness continued in a half-

hearted manner. Even today the government is spending crores of rupees on advertisements and discussions related to it, although its concrete benefits are not visible. Family planning policies are also implemented properly. It is not being implemented. We also have to keep in mind that the talk of demographic dividend is true in its place, but in today's era, the rapidly increasing population is also the root cause of major problems like environmental pollution and climate change. In fact, with the increase in population, exploitation of natural resources increases, which leads to all other problems. Obviously, we cannot turn a blind eye to population growth under the guise of demographic dividend. We have to make some such policies so that the public itself takes interest in this matter. The experience of the experiments conducted during the Emergency shows that if the situation of imbalance and lack of communication between population control policies and public perceptions continues, then better results will not emerge. It is unfortunate that in the last fifty years the government and various social organizations have failed to establish such a dialogue with the public. We have to understand well that population control is not a goal that will be achieved through government policies and schemes. Until the general public understands the seriousness of this problem, A. Expecting any meaningful result in this regard is meaningless. Even today, a large number of people in the country are living below the poverty line. The spread of education in this section is less. A large number of people are illiterate. In such a situation, to what extent big advertisements and discussions will be effective

is a question worth considering. Providing means of contraception to this section and teaching them to use them properly is also a big challenge. Unless we accept this challenge, controlling population growth will remain a pipe dream. shall remain. The truth cannot be denied that today most of the population control work is being done on paper only. Barring a few exceptions, most of the organizations engaged in this work are working only to earn profits. The state of government policies is such that even in this era, sterilization is being done by giving inducements. No kind of inducement should be given for this work. This problem will not be rooted out on the basis of inducements, rather corruption will only increase in such a situation. education and economic development. Due to limited access, children have been considered a source of income in a large section of the society, whereas the concept of demographic dividend is based on considering them as educated trained work force. In such a situation, the first need is to change people's thinking regarding children, then to distribute contraceptives among them on a large scale for free and to develop a wide network to find immediate solution if any complication arises. Today, while implementing any plan related to population control, attention should be paid to practical aspects. in people punjab This understanding should be created in time that the country will suffer losses due to population growth, but before that their own problems will increase.

(Vijay Garg
Educational Columnist
Malout)

10 students of AESL from Jammu secure 98 Percentile in JEE Main 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly unveils the exceptional achievement of its 10 Jammu-based students who secured 98 percentile and above in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2024 second session.

Among the notable achievers, Deedwer secured 99.33 percentile. 1 student secured 99 percentile, 19 students secured 95 percentile and 36 students secured 90 and above percentile.

Their stellar performance not only underscores their unwavering commitment but also brings to the fore their



profound grasp of the subjects tested in one of India's most challenging examinations. The unveiling of their extraordinary accomplishment by the National Testing Agency last night has set a new benchmark of excellence.

Enrolled in Aakash's renowned classroom program, these exceptional students embarked on a rigorous journey to conquer the formidable IIT JEE, recognized globally as one of the toughest entrance examinations.

Their ascent is a testament to their relentless dedication in mastering core concepts and adhering to a disciplined study regimen.

Expressing their heartfelt gratitude, they acknowledged, "Our

success is indebted to Aakash for its meticulously crafted content and coaching, pivotal in our journey. Without their unwavering guidance, mastering numerous subjects within a condensed timeframe would have been an insurmountable challenge." Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director AESL, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the students, emphasizing, "Their remarkable performance is a testament to AESL's commitment and determination to providing students with comprehensive coaching and innovative learning solutions, empowering them to excel in competitive examinations. We wish them continued success in their future endeavors."

LFO-BHF holds menstrual hygiene awareness programme

Top News Report

BANDIPORA, Apr 25: Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation. (LFO-BHF) a prominent non-governmental organization, at Quilmuqam Bandipora, successfully organized Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness & Apply Pads).

The initiative aimed to provide essential sanitary products to women in need and raise awareness about menstrual hygiene. During the event, over 2,000 sanitary napkins were distributed among the women present, addressing a significant need for menstrual health products in the community.

In addition to the distribution, a seminar on menstruation hygiene was conducted, attended by around 100 women from the local area.



Ayesha Farhana and Urfee were the speakers who provided valuable insights and guidance on menstrual health and hygiene. It emphasized the importance of proper menstrual hygiene practices for overall health and well-being. On speaking with Aamir Shah, Joint Secretary (National Body) said, "The programme was well-received by

the community, with attendees expressing their gratitude for the distribution and the informative seminar. This initiative reflects Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation's commitment to improving women's health and empowerment in the region".

Members present were Danish, Rasik, Humaira and Kifayatullah.

Voters Awareness program under SVEEP held at HS Tirch

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Apr 25: On the Directions of District Election Office Kupwara Ayushi Suden (IAS) and District Nodal Officer SVEEP CEO Kupwara Ab Majeed Dar an AC level SVEEP festival for Voters Awareness under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was today organized at GHS Tirch Handwara area of 06 Langate Constituency.

The awareness program was aimed to raise awareness about various voting-related activities and promote electoral literacy among citizens, especially first-time voters and females in the run up to the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

On the occasion a mega plantation drive was also kickstarted by ACP Kupwara (ARO-06) Langate, DFO Social Forestry Kupwara, Headmaster GHS



Trich along with Others. The school children and the artists presented different colourful programmes to educate and inspire active participation in the democratic process.

Pledge taking ceremony under SVEEP was also held where participants took the pledge to vote enthusiastically in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, experts and various other speakers spoke and highlighted the significance of electoral

literacy in empowering citizens and urged everyone, especially first-time voters, to exercise their franchise responsibly in the upcoming elections.

On the occasion three Hundred plant saplings were planted with in the vicinity of the High School Trich, The first plant was planted by ARO Langate Dr Mudasir Ahmad KAS, along with Headmaster GHS Trich Farooq Ah Wani, Major 47 RR Trich, DFO Social Forestry Kupwara along with teachers and students

Nukkad Natak organised at GCOE

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: A Nukkad Natak was organised on the theme "Let's Break The Silence" under the aegis of SPARSH/GSCASH Committee of GCOE, Jammu.

The program initiated with the welcome address by Dr. Davinder Kour, Convenor SPARSH Committee. The main objective of this event was to spread awareness amongst staff and students about sexual harassment. Prof. Dr. Jyoti Parihar, worthy Principal of the Government College of Education, Jammu inaugurated the programme by encouraging the students to report such instances in case they come across them either inside or outside the college campus.

She emphasized that students must contact the Concerned committee for such type of concerns and issues. The participants executed the Nukkad Natak in an effective way. Vote of Thanks was Proposed by Prof. Kiran Thapa.

The event was coordinated by SPARSH Committee members Prof. Deepali Devi, Dr. Shalini Sharma, Dr. Ambica Kumari

Dr. Sonam Gandotra and Mr. Raman Karalia alongwith student members Anjali, Jaspreet, Bhagya lakshmi Neha and Gourav.

Other faculty members who attended the event included Dr. Rajinder Kour, Prof. Anuradha Choudhary, Prof. Shalini Rana, Prof. Priyanka, Prof. Roopa, Dr. Shubra, Prof. Sarita, Usha Kumari, Karuna.

Dimple urges people to come out in large number to vote on April 26



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: Sunil Dimple President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, while talking to media persons, appealed to the people to come out in large num-

bers for voting on 26th April and vote wisely to the honest, mass based candidate who can properly represent Jammu Kashmir in the Parliament.

Dimple demanded the Chief Election Commis-

sion of India after the Parliament elections, to immediately hold J&K assembly election and restore J&K state.

Dimple appealed to vote and supports Congress party candidate Raman Bhalla.

World Malaria Day celebrated in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: World Malaria Day was celebrated today on 25th April 2024 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the over all supervision of Secretary Health & Medical Education Dr. Syed Abid Hussain Shah, under the guidance Director Health Services, Jammu Dr Rakesh Magotra and with the teamwork of all the staff working under the administrative control of Dr. D. J Raina, State Malariologist, J&K, Jammu.

Various activities done included the activities at National level which included the participation in web conference of National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control in collaboration with WHO. Also at National level our Nodal Officer of the Provincial Hospital Gandhinagar, Jammu participated in a one day technical workshop on elimination of Malaria targeted by 2027.

The IEC activities included the publishing of IEC material in leading UT & local newspapers.

The information was also spread by TV interviews at Take One channel and Doordarshan Jammu.

Also the information regarding awareness on Malaria was spread by interview on Akashwani Jammu and also an audio spot was played throughout the day on Akashwani Jammu educating the people about various

aspects of prevention and control of malaria.

Information to the people was also given by interviews on 91.8 Red FM, 90.4 FM Sharda and 95.0 FM Tadda.

The State Malariologist addressed an assembly of around 1500 students in Army School, Nagrota as a part of Civil Army collaboration for percolation of the message in the community at large through school children.

The IEC material was distributed among the students and students were requested to carry the message to their homes.

Celebration of World Malaria Day was also done at Provincial Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar in which gathering of AMT students, Malaria workers, staff of the Gandhi Nagar Hospital among others was addressed by the State Malariologist, Deputy Director Health Services, Jammu and Medical Superintendent, Govt. Hospital, Gandhinagar, Jammu.

Also the World Malaria Day was celebrated at various District headquarters and Block headquarters. Ralles were taken and IEC campaign for elimination of Malaria by 2027 was done. It also included the participation of schools in the campaign.

World Malaria Day was also celebrated by various health care Institutes in the Urban Healthcare setup where rallies and educational programmes in schools and aware-

ness in the community was given by house to house visits.

Also the IEC campaign was done through various WhatsApp groups and also on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter).

The banner display containing the IEC material was done at various prominent points for general awareness of the public. Involvement of RBSK teams and School Health teams was also done in celebration of World Malaria Day.

Ajeet urges Chief Secretary to release subsidy for PMEGP loan cases

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 25: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior Leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat requested Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat Chairperson Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (J&K KVIB) and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts to release subsidy for PMEGP cases which has been stopped for the past one year.

Bhagat said that businessmen of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts of Chenab Valley Zone have been badly affected by the crazy behaviour of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

GDC Ramgarh organizes Calligraphy Competition

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Apr 25: Government Degree College (GDC), Ramgarh organised a 'Calligraphy Competition' on the theme 'Mera Pehle Vote Desh Ke Liye' under the aegis of SVEEP.

The NSS Unit (Prabha) and Electoral Literacy Club the College collectively organized this calligraphy writing competition to raise awareness about promoting democracy and encouraging voter participation.

The program was organized under the guidance and supervision of the College Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra.

The Calligraphy Writing Competition was coordi-

nated by SVEEP Nodal Officer, Prof. Brham Dutt from the Department of Dogri.

The aim of the event was to remind the young voters about their civic duty to vote in the upcoming elections and motivate others also to exercise their right.

The students showcased their Calligraphy Writing Skills and also ensured about their maximum participation in the upcoming elections. All the students, NSS volunteers, ELC Members and faculty members attended the calligraphy writing competition and showed their commitment towards strengthening the democratic values.

Surbhi Kohli Bamba, Captivated 500 NCC Girl Cadets on Life Skills Training

Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 25: In a remarkable display of dedication to empower youth, Surbhi Kohli Bamba, Life Skills Trainer, the Owner and Director of Life Skills Scoop conducted an engaging session for 500 Girl Cadets of the 2 J&K Girls Bn NCC at the NCC Training Academy Nagrota. interactive session held under the aegis of the JK&L NCC Directorate, aimed to equip young cadets with

essential life skills crucial for their personal, professional development and to empower them in navigating through success and failures as well as emotions related to these moments.

A meticulous session crafted to foster active participation and experiential learning, focused on key aspects of life skills, including communication skills, emotional intelligence, and stress and anger management. The activities resonated deeply with the young

cadets, who face similar experiences and navigating through such challenges in their day to day life. Surbhi Kohli Bamba's insightful approach not only imparted valuable skills but also inspired the cadets to embrace their potential and strive for excellence in all their endeavours. The connection of the session was so deep that the cadets spoke freely about their emotions including the stress emerging from the lack of constant communication

with their parents. The session was attended by Brigadier VK Sharma, DDG JK & L NCC Dte, Brigadier PS Cheema, Group Commander NCC, Jammu, and Colonel Muneesh Jasrotia, Battalion Commander of the 2 J&K Girls Bn NCC. The support from the Directorate and continuous encouragement further underscored the significance of such sessions in nurturing the future leaders of tomorrow with no fear of failure and operate

from the hope of success.

The speaker was felicitated for her insightful and captivating session by the Group Commander. The session concluded with huge success and highlighted the steadfast and resolute commitment of the JK&L Dte under the visionary stewardship of Major General RK Sachdeva in exposing the cadets through contemporary methods and media for imparting values, virtues and life skills.

None of the famous singers have found space on the big screen yet. As Amar Singh Chamkila makes a mark, will the trend change now?

Bollywood films are more or less recognised as musicals in the West, due to the many songs in the story! So, singers have inevitably been credited for their contribution. Yet, none among them has been showcased through a biopic.

Be it politicians like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Jayalalitha or Bal Thackeray, a common man such as Dashrath Manjhi (Manjhi – The Mountain Man), sportspersons like MS Dhoni, Saina Nehwal or Jhoolan Goswami, infamous dacoits Paan Singh Tomar and Bandit Queen, actors like Silk Smitha and Sanjay Dutt, or an author like Manto, all have a biopic to their name.

However, famous singers like Kishore Kumar, Mohammad Rafi, Lata Mangeshkar or the new-age sensation AR Rahman are yet to appear on screen. Now that Punjabi singer Amar Singh Chamkila's life has been highlighted for the first time in a Bollywood film by the same name, and Kamal Haasan has announced a project on South's King of Music, Ilayaraja, starring Dhanush in the lead role, the jinx seems to have broken.



We ask filmmakers, music directors, singers and composers as to which ones deserve a place on the big screen.

Nusrat & Mika

Every other celebrity talks of AR Rahman and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan as the top contenders. Sufi singer and actor Sattinder Sartaaj shares, "Nusrat's music is timeless. His songs are loved across three generations of families in India. On his music, even Indians bond with Pakistanis! It would be apt to promote his songs and story through a movie or series. While many have tried to sing like him,

nobody could match up."

Singer Shibani Kashyap feels with Chamkila earning praise, it would sure start a positive trend where other singers will also come to filmmakers' notice. In her opinion, the life of Bollywood playback singer Mika Singh has all the flavours. "I have known Mika for a long time, ever since we were growing up in Delhi and training to be singers. Starting from performing with Daler Mehendi's band, he has come a long way, making his mark in Bollywood with many hit songs. His life was full of ups and downs, yet he kept his chin

up. He has extended himself into the roles of producer, actor and also successfully running an NGO to help the less privileged people," says Shibani. In fact, Shibani thinks having dealt with his share of controversies and reality shows to his name, like Swayamvar: Mika Di Vohti, his life has all the masala for a biopic.

Ae Watan Mere Watan actor Alexx O'Neil, who also has a passion for singing, thinks that his friend and singer Shibani Kashyap's life could make for an interesting biopic. He adds, "Also, I know Baby Doll hit-maker Meet Bros personally, and their life's story deserves to be highlighted."

Punjabi notes

Talking of Punjab, late singer Sidhu Moosewala's life, although short, was full of inspiration and controversies. Singer Jassie Gill explains, "Sidhu Moosewala isn't a singer, but a phenomenon, who left a deep impression on listeners and the industry alike. Apart from that, my friend Garry Sandhu has been living an interesting life that's worth documenting."

'I have to learn to live with it': Celine Dion hopes for miracle in battle against stiff person syndrome



Renowned singer Celine Dion has opened up about her ongoing

battle with Stiff Person Syndrome (SPS) and her relentless pursuit of

a cure. In an interview, Dion expressed her optimism for a breakthrough while acknowledging the challenges posed by the rare autoimmune disorder.

"I haven't beat the disease, as it's still within me and always will be. I hope that we'll find a miracle, a way to cure it with scientific research, but for now I have to learn to live with it," Dion revealed.

Stiff Person Syndrome, characterised by severe muscle stiffness and spasms, presents a formidable challenge for Dion. Despite the absence of a cure, she remains steadfast in her commitment to managing the condition. Dion detailed her rigorous regimen of 'athletic, physical, and vocal therapy' conducted five days a week, emphasising her holistic approach to treatment.

Kim Kardashian confirms rumours about her sleeping with eyes open, blow drying jewellery

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian revealed that some rumours about her doing the rounds on the Internet are true.

The 43-year-old shared on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!' that it is true that she sleeps with her eyes slightly open.

Kim said that she knows the fact because her "sisters have taken videos and pictures" of it, as per reports.

She also said that it is "very true" that she blow-dries her jewellery before she puts it on to warm it up.

"I hate being freezing," she said.

"When you put on cold jewellery or anything with a zipper, I just need it warm."

When host Jimmy Kimmel asked if it was true that she has "someone take the Starbucks sleeve off (her) coffee because (she hates) the



sound of cardboard," Kim answered: "Yes, that's true, and I hate the feeling."

She added: "I just can't see it being done, or I

can't hear it and I can't feel it.

The cardboard getting moved off of the cup is like nails on a chalkboard to me."

Sonali Bendre says she almost 'packed bags and left' films before 'Humma Humma' became a hit

Actor Sonali Bendre says she had decided to pack her bags and leave the film industry if she was unable to do a good performance in the song "Humma Humma" from Mani Ratnam's 1995 movie "Bombay".

Bendre, who was barely five films old in the industry, said she was often "slammed" by choreographers for her moves until she got a breakthrough for her stint as the female dancer in the superhit track "Humma Humma" alongside Prabhu Deva's brother Raju Sundaram.

According to the actor, it was a common perception at the time that one couldn't become a heroine if they didn't know how to dance. The 49-year-old said she wanted to give dancing a shot as the song was choreographed by the legendary Prabhu Deva. "I'm not a trained



dancer. When I got into movies, I really got slammed by dance directors for my dancing. 'Badi heroine banne chahi hai, dancing nahi aata'. So, if you couldn't dance, you couldn't be a heroine. I was going through all of that so whatever time I would get before and after the shoot, I started to train in 'Bollywood dancing', as it's called.

"This was more like,

'Let's do this'. This is with Prabhu Deva because if I can do it, I have a right to be here and if I can't do it, pack your bags and leave. At that point of time, it was like, '(At least) My team would earn their per-day (money)', Bendre told in an interview here.

The actor, who later went on to feature in '90s hits such as "Diljale", "Major Saab", "Sarfarosh", "Zakhm" and "Hum

Saath Saath Hain", said Prabhu Deva's father and choreographer master Muger Sundar was so impressed by her skills that he gave her a reward of Rs 100.

"The best part was I was dancing with Prabhu Deva's brother Raju and Sundar master ji, their father was (also) on the set. Mani Ratnam sir always did huge long shots, so we did everything in one go. After we did one of the things (shots), Sundar master ji took out 100 bucks and gave it to me and said, 'You did so well'. I was like, 'I don't need a certificate from anybody else, I'm here'."

Bendre said she was not even part of the main cast of "Bombay", which was led by Arvind Swamy and Manisha Koirala, and yet "Humma Humma" is remembered as her song.

"It had the actors who were fantastic, they

had once-in-a-lifetime kind of roles, and those actors were part of the song. Today, when I look back, I feel that I had to be stupid and or really ignorant to do a song like this. This turned into something and became what it became. It's not my film song... and today, it's my song," she added.

With new voices coming in, she hopes she is offered more "age-appropriate" roles. "Putting it out in the universe," she added.

In cinema, female actors have to still battle patriarchy in terms of work opportunities and Bendre said change is happening but slowly. "It's a patriarchal society and that's the reality of life and that's the way it works. I'm happy that things are changing slowly, but they are changing from where I've seen it come from.

Rivals, yet friends: Here's how Schwarzenegger, Stallone battled over fat levels, body counts in their films

Hollywood stars Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone warred over everything, right from their earnings to their muscles, and the size of the weapons they wielded in their films at the peak of their popularity during the 1980s.

In an upcoming interview, the actors said they were still unsure who had the bigger career. In a preview of the chat Schwarzenegger said, "We ended up kind of like, 'Well, you killed 28 people in the movie; I killed 32.'" Stallone added, "I got to top that." Schwarzenegger then said, "He killed 80 people, so I had to kill 87 people."

The Rambo and Rocky star added, "It was now the body count and then it was kind of, like, 'Well, what was your body fat?' I was down to seven per cent." To which, Schwarzenegger added, "And then I said, 'I was down to 10 per cent.' So it became a competition with the body."

The Terminator star and former governor of California said he got jealous of the weapons Stallone



used on camera, from his 'Rambo knife' to the sub-machine guns he wielded in the Rambo franchise. He admitted he soon demanded automatic guns that were just as huge.

Schwarzenegger went on to add, "And then he started using machine guns that were kind of,

like, huge machine guns. I was running after him, he was not running after me. So I said, when we did Predator... 'I've got to have a bigger machine gun than Sly used in Rambo. So this is how it went.'"

The two have enjoyed a decades-long friendship since they were arch-rivals during the 1980s.

True heroes: Ryan Gosling's The Fall Guy is a love letter to stunt performers

After serving Kenergy with Barbie, actor Ryan Gosling turns the spotlight on the movie-makers, whose job is to shine on screen while remaining invisible in The Fall Guy.

The film is inspired by the popular 1980s TV series by the same name and stars Gosling as Colt Seavers, a top Hollywood stuntman down on his luck after an on-set accident.

An ambitious film producer (Hannah Waddingham) manages to pull Colt out of his self-imposed post-injury isolation in order to rescue the directorial debut of the love of his life, Jody (Emily Blunt), following the disappearance of the film's leading man, Tom Ryder (Aaron Taylor-Johnson).

Life starts imitating his art as Colt tries to track down the vanished superstar and lands in the middle of a criminal plot. The stuntman has to put on his best performance both on and off the screen to save Jody's movie — and himself.

"I've benefitted from the work of stunt people my whole career. They come in and they take the hits for you and then get none of the credit. That ends here. Hopefully the whole conversation is different after this film," Gosling said



as he attended the movie's premiere in London on Monday.

"It's completely a love letter to stunt performers and the magic of what they create in movies. It's a love letter to crews and making films," added Emily Blunt.

The Fall Guy, which was shot in Sydney, Australia, is directed by David Leitch, a former stunt double for stars like Brad Pitt and Matt Damon, and director of Bullet Train, Deadpool 2 and Atomic Blonde.

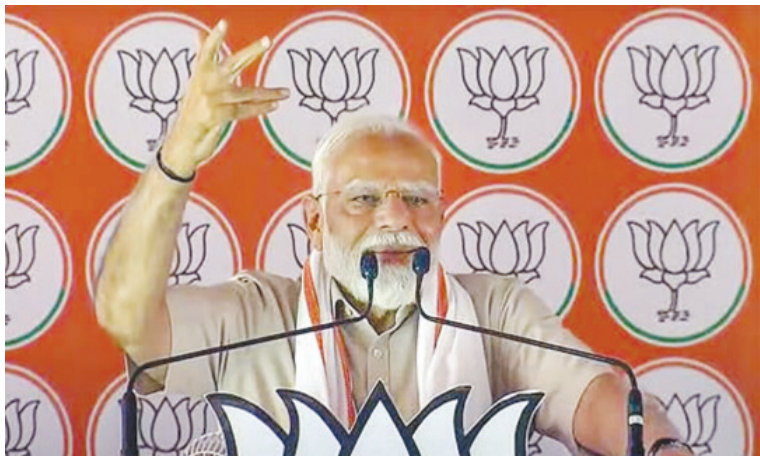
Congress determined to steal from OBC quota to give religion-based reservation: PM Modi

Was addressing an election rally in Uttar Pradesh's Agra

AGRA (UP), Apr 25 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said his government was working to end "appeasement" while charging that the Congress was determined to steal from the OBC quota to provide reservation based on religion.

Addressing an election rally in Uttar Pradesh's Agra, Modi also targeted the Congress-Samajwadi Party alliance in the state, saying it was based on "politics of appeasement".

"They have their eyes on women's property, I am here as the 'chowkidar' (watchman)," Modi



said. "Indian Constitution doesn't allow reservation on the basis of religion but the Congress insults

the constitution by advocating this. The Congress is determined to steal from the OBC quota to provide reservation based on religion," Modi said.

"The policy of appeasement divided the country but we are ending 'tushtikaran' (appeasement) and working for 'santushtikaran' (satisfying people)," he added.

"The friendship between two boys in UP is based on politics of appeasement," the prime minister said attacking the alliance between Rahul Gandhi-Akhilesh Yadav alliance.

6 Killed In Fire At Patna Hotel Near Railway Station, Over 30 Injured



PATNA, Apr 25 (Agencies): Six people were killed after a fire broke out in a hotel in Bihar's

capital Patna today. Thirty others suffered burns in the fire at the hotel near the crowded Patna railway station, officials said.

A cylinder explosion led to the fire, officials said.

Fire department officials said initial investigation indicates the fire broke out due to not following safety rules.

"The fire has been brought under control now," Patna fire department director general Shobha Ahokar told reporters

Elections have slipped out of Modi's hands: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Apr 25 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday claimed the difference between his party's guarantees and 'Modi Ki Guarantee' is clear and added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi knows that the elections have "slipped out of his hands."

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said the Congress guarantees a "government of Indians."

Listing some promises made by Congress, Gandhi said women will get Rs 8,500 per month, youth will get a job that pays Rs 1 lakh per year, recruitment will be carried out for 30 lakh vacancies and legal MSP will be provided to farmers.

"Modi's guarantee: Adanis' government -



The country's wealth in the pockets of billionaires; donation business extortion gang; Constitution and democracy are over; farmers facing a paucity of finances; the difference is clear!" the former Congress chief said.

"Congress will create crores of millionaires in India and Modi ji knows that the election has slipped out of his hands," he said.

Addressing a rally in Amravati, Gandhi

on Wednesday had claimed that ten years of the Modi government saw only 22-25 people become billionaires on the back of a Rs 16 lakh crore loan waiver, but if the INDIA bloc comes to power, it will make crores of people "lakh-patis."

Gandhi had also said that no force in the world can change the Constitution of India. Congress leaders have accused the BJP of wanting to change the Constitution.

19,000 school job losers 'likely to be eligible' recruits: West Bengal School Service Commission

KOLKATA, Apr 25 (Agencies): The West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) on Thursday claimed that it had provided the Calcutta High Court lists of around 5,300 appointees from the 2016 school recruitment panel whose appointments were invalidated, and stated that the remaining 19,000-odd teachers were "likely to be eligible".

The commission also said it believed that the 19,000 teachers, whose appointments also stand cancelled on account of a high court judgment, might have met the necessary qualification criteria as laid down by the appointing authorities.

Talking to reporters, state SSC Chairman Siddhartha Majumdar said, "We submitted before the court lists of candidates where



anomalies in recruitment were found. These lists were based on two specific irregularities in recruitment, namely OMR sheet manipulation and rank jumps. The total number of such candidates for Groups C and D and teachers for Classes 9-10 and 11-12 was around 5,300."

The claim came in the aftermath of a judgment of a high court special bench on Monday

scraping all 25,753 appointments made through the recruitment process of State Level Selection Test-2016 (SLST) in West Bengal government-sponsored and aided schools.

The court also directed that a section of those recruits will have to return salaries drawn by them along with 12 per cent per annum interest.

In its judgment, the court stated that it chose

to cancel the entire appointment panel since it became impossible to separate the grain from the chaff on account of non-cooperation from SSC and the Bengal government in providing the names of those who were illegally recruited.

"There were at least three affidavits filed before the court since December last year where we provided the names and roll numbers of the suspected recruits. The lists were also shared with the CBI," he added.

It deserves mention that the court, in its judgment, had listed out 17 types of irregularities which were resorted to in perpetrating the recruitment scam.

Stating that SSC has so far found over 19,000 candidates from the 2016-SLST test were eli-

gible and had no irregularities in appointment, Majumdar said, "We have filed a review petition before the Supreme Court challenging the Calcutta High Court judgment."

The SSC chairman maintained that the claims made by certain quarters that the body did not inform the CBI and the court about its findings were false.

"The court had placed four queries before us and we answered every one of them. The CBI also agreed to many submissions made by us in court and we don't think so many candidates were fraudulently recruited. The agency is at liberty to make its own analysis and observations, but not all candidates can be equally inefficient," Majumdar added.

LS polls Phase 2: Rahul Gandhi, Shashi Tharoor in fray; Hema Malini, Om Birla seek hat-trick of wins



NEW DELHI, Apr 25 (Agencies): Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Shashi Tharoor, and actor-turned-politician Arun Govil are among the key candidates in the fray for the second phase of the Lok Sabha polls with BJP's Hema Malini, Om Birla and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat seeking a hat-trick of wins from their respective constituencies.

Staggered over seven stages, the first phase of the elections held last Friday for 102 seats across 21 states and Union territories saw a voter turnout of around 65.5 per cent.

In the second phase of Lok Sabha polls on Friday, polling is scheduled in all 20 seats of Kerala, 14 of the 28 seats in Karnataka, 13 seats in Rajasthan, eight seats each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, seven in Madhya Pradesh, five each in Assam and Bihar, three seats each in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, and one seat each in Manipur, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir.

Gandhi is the sitting MP from Wayanad in



Kerala and is seeking re-election. He is pitted against CPI's Annie Raja and BJP's K Surendran.

In the 2019 election, Gandhi secured victory by a substantial margin of more than 7 lakh votes against his closest rival, CPI's P P Suneer.

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Shashi Tharoor is hoping to retain the Thiruvananthapuram seat for the fourth time.

He is pitted against Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar from the BJP and CPI's Pannyan Raveendran.

Malini, who has represented the Mathura constituency since 2014, is contesting against Congress' Mukesh Dhangar while Om Birla, a two-time MP from Kota, is facing Prahlad Gunjal from the Congress party.

Union minister Shekhawat is eyeing a third win from the Jodhpur seat while Congress candidate Karan Singh Uchiyada would look to put a spanner in the works of the BJP candidate.

Tejasvi Surya, the sitting MP for Bangalore South and the national president of the Bharati-



ya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), will face Congress' Sowmya Reddy. Former chief minister of Chhattisgarh and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel is contesting from Rajnandgaon, a stronghold of the BJP for over 30 years.

Baghel is pitted against BJP's Santosh Pandey, who won the 2019 Lok Sabha elections succeeding Abhishek Singh, the son of former Chief Minister Raman Singh, also from the BJP.

Replacing three-time MP Rajendra Agarwal, who has been holding the Meerut seat since 2004, Arun Govil, famous for portraying Lord Ram's character in Ramayan TV series, is making his electoral debut against BSP's Devvrat Kumar Tyagi and SP's Sunita Verma.

In Madhya Pradesh, BJP leader Virendra Kumar Khatik is eyeing a fourth win from Tikamgarh. The Congress has fielded a new face, Pankaj Ahirwar, from the constituency. In 2019, Khatik defeated Congress' Kiran Ahirwar by a margin of over 3.48 lakh votes.

The contest for the Alappuzha seat in



Kerala has turned into a prestige battle for the Congress with All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K C Venugopal's return to the Lok Sabha poll fray after 2014 as the party looks to wrest the only seat it lost to the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) in its landslide 19-1 victory in Kerala in the 2019 polls.

Venugopal has not lost any major election in his career. He won the Alappuzha Assembly seat thrice in a row in 1996, 2001, and 2006 and was elected to the Lok Sabha from Alappuzha in 2009 and 2014.

In 2019, he did not contest after the party elevated him to the post of the AICC general secretary. Actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi is also in the fray from Thrissur against K Muralidharan of Congress and VS Sunil Kumar of CPI(M).

Sukanta Majumdar, incumbent BJP MP from Balurghat in West Bengal is seeking re-election. He is pitted against Biplab Mitra of the Trinamool Congress and Joydeb Siddhanta of the Revolutionary Socialist Party.

JD(U) leader Saurabh Kumar shot dead in Patna

PATNA, Apr 25 (Agencies): A JD(U) leader was shot dead by motorcycle-borne assailants in the Punpun area on the outskirts of Bihar's Patna, police said on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Saurabh Kumar. Another person accompanying him, Munmun Kumar, was injured in the firing, they said.

"The incident took place around 12.15 am on Thursday when



Saurabh along with Munmun were returning from a wedding ceremony. The assailants fired at them and fled. A search operation has been launched to nab

the culprits," said Kanhaiya Singh, SDPO, Masaurhi (Patna).

Both of them were taken to the nearest hospital, where Saurabh succumbed to his

injuries. The condition of the injured person is now stable, Singh said.

"We have constituted a special team to investigate the case. We have also got certain preliminary leads..." said SSP (Patna) Rajeev Mishra.

The incident sparked outrage among locals, leading to protests and road blockades in the area. Police managed to disperse the protesters after several hours, officials said.

Infant among 6 killed as car rams parked truck on highway in Telangana



NALGONDA, Apr 25 (Agencies): Six people, including an infant, were killed when the car they were travelling in rammed a stationary truck on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada national highway on Thursday morning.

The victims, all residents of Hyderabad,

were heading to Vijayawada when their car suddenly crashed into a truck which had broken down and was parked on the side of the highway.

Authorities are investigating as to ascertain what exactly led to the accident.

Two Maoists killed in gunfight with security forces in Odisha

BOUDH, Apr 25 (Agencies): At least two Maoists were killed early on Thursday in a gun battle between red rebels and security forces in Odisha's Boudh district, police said.

The exchange of fire between Maoists and personnel of Odisha's



elite Special Operation Group (SOG) took place

in Parhel reserve forest under Kantamal Police

Station limits, a senior officer said.

"Two bodies of Maoists along with arms, grenades and other articles were recovered from the operation site," he said.

The operation was going on till Thursday morning.

Israel says it is poised to move on Rafah to assault Hamas hold-outs

Netanyahu's Government said Israel 'moving ahead' with ground operation, but gave no timeline

JERUSALEM, Apr 25 (Agencies): Israel's military is poised to evacuate Palestinian civilians from Rafah and assault Hamas hold-outs in the southern Gaza Strip city, a senior Israeli defence official said on Wednesday, despite international warnings of a humanitarian catastrophe.

A spokesperson for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government said Israel was "moving ahead" with a ground operation, but gave no timeline. The defence official said Israel's Defence Ministry had bought 40,000 tents, each with the capacity for 10 to 12 people, to house Palestinians relocated from Rafah in advance of an assault.

Video circulating online appeared to show rows of square white tents going up in Khan Younis, a city some 5 km (3 miles) from Rafah. Reuters could not verify the video but reviewed images from satellite company Maxar Technologies which showed tent camps on Khan Younis land that had been vacant weeks ago.

An Israeli government source said Netanyahu's war cabinet planned to meet in the coming two weeks to authorise civilian evacuations, expected to take around a month.

The defence official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters that the military could go into action immediately but was awaiting a green light from Netanyahu.

Rafah, which abuts the Egyptian border, is sheltering more than a million Palestinians who fled the half-year-old Israeli offensive through the rest of Gaza and say the prospect of fleeing yet again is terrifying.



"I have to make a decision whether to leave Rafah because my mother and I are afraid an invasion could happen suddenly and we won't get time to escape," said Aya, 30, who has been living temporarily in the city with her family in a school. She said that some families recently moved to a refugee camp in coastal Al-Mawasi, but their tents caught fire when tank shells landed nearby. "Where do we go?"

Hitting hard Israel, which launched its war to annihilate Hamas after the Islamist group's October 7 attacks on Israeli towns, says Rafah is home to four Hamas combat battalions reinforced by thousands of retreating fighters, and it must defeat them to achieve victory.

"Hamas was hit hard in the northern sector. It was also hit hard in the centre of the Strip. And soon it will be hit hard in Rafah, too," Brigadier-General Itzik Cohen, commander of Israel's 162nd Division operating in Gaza, told Kan public TV. But Israel's closest ally Wash-

ington has called on it to set aside plans for an assault, and says Israel can combat Hamas fighters there by other means.

"We could not support a Rafah ground operation without an appropriate, credible, executable humanitarian plan precisely because of the complications for delivery of assistance," David Satterfield, US special envoy for Middle East humanitarian issues, told reporters on Tuesday.

"We continue discussions with Israel on what we believe are alternate ways of addressing a challenge which we recognise, which is Hamas military present in Rafah."

Egypt says it will not allow Gazans to be pushed across the border onto its territory. Cairo had warned Israel against moving on Rafah, which "would lead to massive human massacres, losses (and) widespread destruction", its State Information Service said.

Three Egyptian security sources said that military and security coordination between Egypt and Israel over any Israeli incursion

into Rafah did not mean approval of it.

Egypt welcomed the return of Palestinians northwards from Rafah, believing it to be in the interest of the population despite also serving Israeli plans to besiege Hamas in Rafah, the sources added.

Israel has withdrawn most of its ground troops from southern Gaza this month but kept up air strikes and conducted raids into areas its troops abandoned. Efforts by the United States, Egypt and Qatar to broker an extended ceasefire in time to head off an assault on Rafah have so far failed.

Gaza medical officials say that 34,000 people have been killed in Israel's military campaign, with thousands more bodies feared buried under rubble.

Hamas killed 1,200 people and abducted 253 on October 7, according to Israeli tallies. Of those hostages, 129 remain in Gaza, Israeli officials say. More than 260 Israeli troops have been killed in ground fighting since October 20, the military says.

HA Hellyer, a senior associate fellow in international security studies at the Royal United Services Institute, said he expected the assault on Rafah "sooner rather than later" because Netanyahu is under pressure to meet his stated objectives of rescuing hostages and killing all the Hamas leaders.

"The invasion of Rafah is unavoidable because of the way he has framed all of this," he said. But it will not be possible for everyone to leave the city, so "if he sends the military into Rafah, there are going to be a lot of casualties".

Hours after Biden okays \$60 billion additional funding for Ukraine, US sends tranche of weapons to war-torn country

US leadership together with some 50 allies and partners is looking to provide critical capabilities needed to fight Russia



WASHINGTON, Apr 25 (Agencies): Within hours of US President Joe Biden having okayed the \$60 billion military aid to Ukraine, the first batch of weapons and equipment was despatched from the US to the war-torn country, indicating a fresh round of hostilities was expected in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The US Department of Defense announced on Thursday morning that the first assistance package under the new funding was on its way. "The package is valued at up to \$1 billion, includes key capabilities to include air defense interceptors, artillery rounds, armoured vehicles and antitank weapons," a statement said.

The US Senate, on Tuesday, had okayed

the 'national security supplemental legislation' with a \$95 billion aid, of which \$60 billion is for Ukraine and \$26 billion for Israel.

Biden signed on the Bill to make it into a law on Wednesday and before that he announced that the US would send a fresh round of military aid to Ukraine within hours.

On US Department of Defense (DoD) said this was Biden Administration's 56th tranche of equipment to be provided from DoD inventories to Ukraine since August 2021.

The capabilities in this announcement include, among other items, missiles for air defence; stinger anti-aircraft missiles; small arms to counter UAV's; artillery rocket systems; high explosive ammuni-

tions; infantry fighting vehicles; mine resistant vehicles; anti-weapons; precision ammunition; night vision devices; and spare parts, field equipment, training munitions, maintenance, and other ancillary equipment.

"This package will surge munitions, weapons, and equipment forward to support Ukraine's ability to defend its frontlines, protect its cities, and counter Russia's continued attacks", the DoD said.

The funding has been okayed by the US Congress. The US leadership together with some 50 allies and partners is looking to provide critical capabilities needed to fight Russia.

The US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen CQ Brown said the Pentagon is "well postured with the authorities" needed to quickly provide Ukraine with munitions.

"We'll get capability to Ukraine as quickly as possible," he added.

Biden had requested the additional funding in October. The House passed the measure over the weekend, and it cleared the Senate on Tuesday.

Looking forward to speed up greater economic cooperation with India: Ranil Wickremesinghe

COLOMBO, Apr 25 (Agencies): Sri Lanka is looking to accelerate greater economic cooperation with India with the tourism sector taking the lead, the island nation's President Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Thursday.



India's status as a rising economic giant and Sri Lanka's location as a strategic logistics hub will complement each other in driving forward the two economies, he said while addressing the opening of Indian firm ITC Hotels' first overseas property, ITC Ratnadipa here.

"I have no doubt that this icon (ITC Ratnadipa) will help increase tourism into Sri Lanka, more particularly from India. Now these are part of the vision statement which Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi and I signed last year on how to we integrate our economies and we get closer," Wickremesinghe said.

The economic background, the convertibil-

ity of Indian rupees, all have now been laid, he said, adding, "So this is the start. I think more than any other sector we identified this (tourism) is one which you can start."

He further said, "Information technology is another area that we will be moving fast on and there are many other projects that India and Sri Lanka will have here."

Highlighting how the two countries stood to gain from greater cooperation, he said, "India is now one of the rising economic giants and we, Sri Lanka, is in a crucial location for logistics, and next to India." Specifically for the

tourism sector, Wickremesinghe said, "I have no doubt that for many years, Sri Lanka will be the appropriate place to spend holiday. In time to come it would be easier for a person in Bengaluru, Chennai or Hyderabad to jump into a plane and come here than to go to the northern part of India."

Referring to ITC's new hotel, which is one of the biggest investments in Sri Lanka hospitality sector by an Indian firm at around Rs 3,000 crore, he said, "I hope this will encourage many other hotels, many other companies from other parts of the world to come and invest here."

UAE reports illness linked to contaminated water after floods

DUBAI, Apr 25 (Agencies): A small number of people in the United Arab Emirates have shown symptoms associated with contaminated water after heavy rains and floods, the health ministry said today. The statement, carried by the state news agency, did not say exactly how many people had been affected or what exactly they were treated for. There have been "a very limited number of cases that showed

some symptoms of being affected by the mixed water" and they received hospital treatment, the ministry said.

It did not say what the water had been contaminated with.

The UAE was hit by record rains on April 16 that brought parts of the Gulf country to a standstill, heavily flooding some neighbourhoods, including in Dubai and northern cities.

Four people died in the floods.

Students protesting on campuses across US ask colleges to cut investments supporting Israel

NEW YORK, Apr 25 (Agencies): Students at a growing number of US colleges are gathering in protest encampments with a unified demand of their schools: stop doing business with Israel or any companies that support its ongoing war in Gaza.

The demand has its roots in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, a decades-old campaign against Israel's policies toward the Palestinians. The movement has taken on new strength as the Israel-Hamas war surpasses the six-month mark and stories of suffering in Gaza have sparked international calls for a ceasefire.

Inspired by ongoing protests and the arrests last week of more than 100 students at Columbia University, students from Massachusetts to California are now gathering by the hundreds on campuses, setting up tent camps and pledging to stay put until their demands are met.

"We want to be visible," said Columbia protest leader Mahmoud Khalil, who noted that students at the university have been pushing for divestment from Israel since 2002. "The university should do something about what we are asking for, about the genocide that is happening in Gaza. They should stop investing in this genocide." Campus protests began after Hamas' deadly October 7 attack on southern Israel, when militants killed about 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and took



roughly 250 hostages. During the ensuing war, Israel has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, according to the local health ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and noncombatants but says at least two-thirds of the dead are children and women.

The students are calling for universities to separate themselves from any companies that are advancing Israel's military efforts in Gaza, and in some cases, from Israel itself.

Protests on many campuses have been orchestrated by coalitions of student groups, often including local chapters of organisations, such as Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace. They are banding together as umbrella groups, such as MIT's Coalition Against Apartheid and the University of Michigan's Tahrir Coalition.

The groups largely act independently, though there has been some coordination. After students at Columbia

formed their encampment last week, they held a phone call with about 200 other people interested in starting their own camps. But mostly it has happened spontaneously, with little collaboration between campuses, organisers said.

The demands vary from campus to campus. A few of them are:

- Stop doing business with military weapons manufacturers that are supplying arms to Israel.

- Stop accepting research money from Israel for projects that aid the country's military efforts.

- Stop investing college endowments with money managers who profit from Israeli companies or contractors.

- Be more transparent about what money is received from Israel and what it is used for.

Student governments at some colleges in recent weeks have passed resolutions calling for an end to investments and academic partnerships with Israel. Such bills were passed by student bodies at Columbia, Harvard Law,

Rutgers and American University.

Officials at several universities say they want to have a conversation with students and honour their right to protest. But they also are echoing the concerns of many Jewish students that some of the demonstrators' words and actions amount to anti-semitism, and they say such behaviour will not be tolerated.

Sylvia Burwell, president of American University, rejected a resolution from the undergraduate senate to end investments and partnerships with Israel.

"Such actions threaten academic freedom, the respectful free expression of ideas and views, and the values of inclusion and belonging that are central to our community," Burwell said in a statement.

Burwell cited the university's "longstanding position" against the decades-old BDS movement.

Protesters in the movement have drawn parallels between Israel's policy in Gaza — a tiny strip of land tucked

between Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea that is home to about 2.3 million (23 lakh) Palestinians — to apartheid in South Africa. Israel imposed an indefinite blockade of Gaza after Hamas seized control of the strip in 2007.

Opponents of BDS say its message veers into antisemitism. In the past decade alone, more than 30 states have enacted laws or directives blocking agencies from hiring companies that support the movement. Former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos called it a "pernicious threat" in 2019, saying it fuelled bias against Jews on US campuses.

Asked this week whether he condemned "the antisemitic protests", President Joe Biden said he did. "I also condemn those who do not understand what is going on with the Palestinians," Biden said after an Earth Day event.

At Yale, where dozens of student protesters were arrested on Monday, President Peter Salovey noted in a message to campus that, after hearing from students, the university's Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility had recommended against divesting from military weapons manufacturers.

President Minouche Shafik at Columbia said there should be "serious conversations" about how the university can help in the Middle East. But "we cannot have one group dictate terms", she said in a statement.

CUJ organizes Thursday Mind Meet

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu, organised a panel discussion on the theme "Transforming the Role of Teachers and Teacher Educators on the Light of NEP-2020" under "Thursday Mind Meet": a platform initiated by the Central University of Jammu for academic discourses on various themes. The event was organized in the Pt. Malviya Shiksha Bhavan under the patronage of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu Prof. Sanjeev Jain and the Head of the Department (HOD) Prof. Asit K. Mantry.

The key panelists and resource persons were Prof. Madhu Singh, Principal, M.C. Khalsa College of Education,



Jammu, Prof. Vandana Sharma, Head of Department of English and Convener of "Thursday Mind Meet", CUJ, research scholars and students. The greeting remarks were given by Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean of Students' Welfare CUJ, who initiated the discussion on the key theme and emphasized the all-round development of the teachers and teacher educators.

Prof. Vandana Sharma

talked about various perspectives laid down by the NEP-2020 and highlighted the present system of education which is moving from a multi-disciplinary approach to a trans-disciplinary approach, whereas Prof. Madhu Singh talked about creating a team of teachers with requisite skills and knowledge to create competent teachers. She termed every teacher as a 'research scholar' and

posed different questions for discussion. The discussion was further taken up by the student panelists which included Sourabh Sharma (Senior Research Scholar), Vivek Singh and Achyutam (M.Ed. Students), and Ms. Samriti and Kumar Sourabh (B.A. B.Ed. Students), followed by a 15-minutes Question-Answer session. The entire panel discussion covered a

wide range of topics like ICT in Teaching, the Role of Teachers in the Holistic Development of students and the ancient Indian knowledge system and how it should be inculcated in the present scenario.

On this occasion, Prof. J.N Baliya, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Aman, Dr. Jai Bhawani, other faculty, research scholars and students of Educational Studies were present. A vote of thanks was presented by the Head of the Department, Prof. Asit K. Mantry, who stated how the Sri Aurobindo philosophy can revolutionize the education system in India. He also stressed how the enthusiasm and participation of students towards learning through such literary activity becomes the success of the Department, University, and of Nation at large.

Day 3 of Annual Training Camp J-3 Excellence with Skill Building Activities at NCC Training Academy, Nagrota

Top News Report

REASI, Apr 25: NCC Training Academy Nagrota has become a hive of training activities during Annual Training Camp (ATC) J-3 wherein the girl cadets were engaged in a series of meaningful and enriching activities on day -3 (24 April 2024). The Academy is witnessing a surge of energy as young cadets immerse themselves in a variety of educational, physical, and skill-building endeavours.

With the aim of empowering the girl cadets to unlock their full potential to become leaders of future India. A combination of theoretical learning complemented with practical exercises helped the cadets to hone their skills. The camp echoed with their enthusiasm and determination with yoga and morning PT; the Josh of EK DO EK in drill and pitched commands of Guard Of Honour; delving deep into the spring of knowledge during classes at Squad posts



and the special Cadre for screening cadets for Thal Sainik Camp (TSC) - 2024.

The highlights of the day were the central lectures on Fire safety and how to use first aid and fire system by Mr. Kiran Raina, SO Fire and Emergency Services, Jammu followed by demonstration of fire extinguishing techniques and rescue operations. This was followed by an interactive session by Ms. Surbhi Kohli Bamba, a Life Skills Trainer to equip the cadets with essential life skills to deal with challenges in their day to day life. Day 3 also witnessed

visit by Senior Officers of JK&L NCC Dte wherein Brigadier VK Sharma, VSM DDG JK&L NCC Dte and Brigadier PS Cheema SM, VSM, Group Commander NCC Jammu interacted with the cadets and guided them in the Principles of Problem Solving, Time Management and the Desired Qualities in a cadet.

They also interacted with the PI staff, the ANOs/CTOs of ATC-J3 and the IDSSC team of JK&L NCC Dte. As always, the interaction with senior officers was a huge morale booster for the cadets.

DPS Kathua introduces Meditation Tunes, Music into School routine

Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 25: DPS Kathua is proud to announce the introduction of meditation tunes and music into the school assembly, break time, and after a gap of two hours as part of its innovative approach to enhancing student well-being and academic performance.

Recognizing the need to break the monotony of studies and provide students with moments of relaxation and mental rejuvenation, DPS Kathua has incorporated meditation tunes and music into the school routine. These initiatives aim to create a peaceful and conducive environ-



ment for learning while promoting mental well-being, creativity, and overall academic performance among students. Meditation tunes have been found to calm the

mind, reduce stress, and improve concentration. By integrating these elements into the school day, students have the opportunity to benefit from moments of mindful-

ness and focus, enhancing their ability to learn effectively. Additionally, music during the assembly serves to uplift spirits, boost mood, and provide

a refreshing break from academic activities. This holistic approach to education fosters a supportive and nurturing environment where students can thrive both academically and emotionally.

Principal of DPS Kathua, Vivek Arora, expressed his enthusiasm for these initiatives, stating, "It's heartening to see schools recognizing the importance of holistic development and incorporating such initiatives to enhance the overall learning experience. By integrating mindfulness practices and music into our school day, we are fostering a balanced and nurturing educational environment for our students."

Elocution Competition organised at Village Mughal Maidan

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 25: In a bid to foster community engagement and encourage intellectual discourse Indian Army organised an Elocution Competition at village Mughal Maidan of Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on 24 April 2024. The event aimed to provide a platform to the youth to showcase their oratory skills. The competition witnessed

enthusiastic participation of three Teachers and 35 Students from village Mughal Maidan and surrounding areas.

Participants eloquently expressed their thoughts on various topics ranging from environmental conservation, social harmony to technological advancements and national unity. The competition not only showcased the talent and potential of the participants but also strength-

ened the bond between the Indian Army and the resident community. Prizes were awarded to the winners, acknowledging their exceptional oratory skills and insightful perspectives.

The event received overwhelming support and appreciation from the residents, such initiatives underscore the Indian Army's commitment to holistic development and nation-building at the grassroots level.

FROM PAGE 1

EC notice to BJP Chief Nadda on complaints against PM Modi's remarks

notice of all star campaigners of the party to "set high standards of political discourse and observe provisions of model code of conduct in letter and spirit".

The poll panel also said that campaign speeches made by those holding high positions have more serious consequences.

Officials said it is the first time that the panel has taken cognisance of a complaint against any prime minister.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the EC had given a clean chit to Modi on complaints lodged by the opposition parties. Then election commissioner, Ashok Lavasa, gave a dissent note on some of the decisions taken by the EC on complaints against the prime minister.

The EC has invoked provisions of the Representation of the People Act to hold party presidents as the first step to rein in star campaigners.

According to the poll panel, it has taken a view that while individual star campaigners would continue to remain responsible for speeches made by them, the Commission will address party chiefs "on a case-to-case basis".

With this, the EC has ensured an "added layer" of responsibility on party heads, the functionaries explained.

Recently, Kharge was asked to explain remarks made by two of his party leaders against women.

The poll authority issued a similarly-worded notice separately to the Congress president with regard to allegations levelled by the BJP against him and Gandhi.

The EC notices to the two-party presidents did not directly name either Modi, Gandhi or Kharge, but the representations received by it were attached to the respective letters and they contained details of allegations against the three leaders.

The BJP, on the other hand, had written to the EC that Gandhi levelled malafide and utterly sinister allegations against Modi during a speech in Kottayam, Kerala where he alleged that the prime minister was pushing for one nation, one language, one religion.

The BJP said that in Coimbatore in Tamil

Nadu, Gandhi alleged that the Prime Minister was attacking "our language, history and tradition".

It also accused Kharge of violating the model code by claiming that he was not invited to the Ram temple consecration ceremony due to discrimination against SCs and STs.

Bandipora encounter: Search operation continues on second day

the night and has been ongoing on Thursday as well.

"To enhance the search efforts, helicopters and other resources have been deployed, although the possibility of terrorists escaping cannot be ruled out at this stage," the officer added.

PM Modi trying to break the Country, alleges Farooq

"Whoever will become the Prime Minister of the country is a father figure for all and he never has to differentiate the people with their colour, creed or religion, food or clothes whether one belongs to his party or not", the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister remarked.

"I was disappointed by the PM's speech as he is trying to break the country", he alleged.

"Whosoever, including Hindu, Muslim and Christian are the citizens of the country. The INDIA alliance is against creating a wedge between the sects of the country," Farooq said.

Abdullah said the INDIA alliance was formed just to safeguard the identity and the constitution of India which faces danger.

"INDIA alliance is for safeguarding the country's secular fabrics and the constitution provided by Dr Ambedkar", the NC President added.

Abdullah recalled the day when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi came to Kashmir from Kanyakumari amid snowfall during his yatra and assured people here that he came here just to ease the pain and troubles facing the people of Kashmir.

He said the INDIA alliance will emerge victorious in Delhi and safeguard the constitution of Dr Ambedkar.

NC's Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi files nomination from Srinagar

Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, who is the returning officer of the constituency.

Talking to reporters, Mehdi, an influential Shia leader, said: "The hope of a win is in front of you. But more than a win or loss, the important thing is how to mobilise the sentiments of people towards that (win), the sentiments they have not been able to express in the last four years, and were not given an opportunity to express. The elections have provided them that opportunity," the NC candidate said.

Farooq Abdullah said the party is hopeful of Mehdi's win from the constituency. "We are here to file nomination papers and we pray to God to make him successful," the senior NC leader told reporters.

Earlier, Mehdi travelled from his hometown Budgam, the central Kashmir district, to Srinagar with hundreds of his supporters in a car rally, and reached the deputy commissioner's office here.

The NC has also submitted the nomination of a covering candidate, Salman Sagar, the president of the party's youth wing, from Srinagar.

Nineteen candidates, including Mehdi and Sagar, have submitted their nominations from the constituency.

The last date for filing nominations for the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency is Thursday. Polls will be held in the constituency on May 13.

Woman drug smuggler booked under Narco Act, 2 held in Baramulla

Shahwalayat Colony Umerabad Srinagar, has been booked under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority.

"The woman has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu," police said.

"Many cases were registered against her, and she was involved in promoting the drug abuse trade to the local youth of Pattan, Tangmarg Nowpora, Wagoora, Kreeri, and other areas of Baramulla District," police

said, adding that "despite her involvement in many FIRs, she did not mend her activities and was again involved in promoting the drug abuse trade."

Meanwhile, Police Station Kreeri at a checkpoint intercepted two persons, and during their search, 35 grams of contraband Charas-like substances and cash worth Rs 5,000 were recovered from their possession.

The duo were identified as Suhail Ahmad Bhat of Vizer Wagoora and Mohammad Ashraf Khan of Frasthar. Both were arrested and shifted to Police Station Kreeri, where they remained in custody.

A case under relevant sections of law has been registered, and investigations have been initiated, they added.

Police arrest two drug peddlers with heroin worth lakhs

He added that on Wednesday night, a police team led by Inspector Vikas Dogra, Station House Officer, and Police Station Bus Stand apprehended two drug peddlers during a naka check near Town Hall Road and recovered 169 grams of heroin from their possession.

The arrested persons were identified as Majid Chowdhary and Mohd Waqar, both residents of Rajouri district.

The police have registered a case under relevant sections and started the investigation.

Jammu police is working intensively to uproot the chains of drug supply in the region, and thorough questioning of the accused is going on to know the origin of the drug supply chain, said the spokesman.

He said that Jammu Police is striving hard and taking every possible step to make people, especially youth, aware of the need to eradicate the drug menace.

It is requested that people come forward and share information about drug peddlers as well as addicts with the concerned police, while their identities will be kept confidential.

From Centre to Raj Bhawan everyone fighting election against NC: Omar Abdullah

Conference. We have seen elections in past as well. Few days back BJP announced its support openly to PDP, which clearly vindicates that from Central Government to Raj Bhawan everyone is fighting elections against NC," Omar Abdullah said and added, "Such institutions and elements will receive big jolt in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections".

He added the candle of NC cannot be extinguished and will remain lit up forever.

Maha Bhavan will be built in Kashmir with Centre's support: CM Shinde

Maharashtra Bhavan, clearing the decks for the first state-run guest house to come up in the Valley since the abrogation of Article 370.

The Union Territory administration's revenue department has identified land measuring 20 kanals (about 2.5 acres) in the Ichgam area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, close to the Srinagar airport, for the guest house, officials earlier said.

The sanction was accorded after the Maharashtra cabinet approved the purchase of 2.5 acres to construct the guest house.

CM Shinde also attacked the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi and said when the Uddhav Thackeray-led government was in power in Maharashtra, many projects were stalled which have now been restarted by the ruling dispensation.

He also said that Union minister Shah did not give any word to Thackeray over power-sharing agreement in the state.

Shah and Shinde were in Amravati to campaign for BJP's Lok Sabha poll candidate Navneet Rana.

J&K braces for more rains as night temp stays below normal

low of 2.7°C against 2.5°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 0.6°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 19.2°C against 18.6°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.8°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 7.4°C, Batote 10.0°C and Baderwah 6.6°C, he said.

Nestle India, Dr Reddy's to form JV for nutraceutical brands in India, other agreed territories

NEW DELHI, Apr 25 (Agencies): Nestle India and Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd on Thursday announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement to form a joint venture to bring innovative nutraceutical brands to consumers in India and other agreed territories.

A joint press release from the companies said the partnership will bring together the well-known global range of nutritional health solutions as well as vitamins, minerals, herbals and supplements of Nestle Health Science (NHS) with the strong and established commercial strengths of



Dr Reddy's in India.

The move will help JV partners combine their strengths and grow their complementary nutraceuticals portfolios in categories such as metabolic, hospital nutrition, general wellness, women's health and child nutrition for consumers

across India, it said.

Select brands will be licensed by the respective companies to the JV company. The Nestlé Group will licence brands such as Nature's Bounty, Osteo Bi-Flex, Ester-C, Resource High Protein, Optifast, Resource Diabetic, Pep-

tamen, Resource Renal and Resource Dialysis.

Dr Reddy's will license brands such as Rebalanz, Celevida, Antoxid, Kidrich-D3, Becozinc in the nutrition, and OTC (over the counter) segments.

Suresh Narayanan, Chairman and Managing Director, Nestlé India said, "Dr. Reddy's is a trusted name in the pharmaceutical space and shares our commitment to provide access to high quality products. This joint venture will enable us to build a robust retail and distribution network to take our brands closer to consumers and making

a meaningful difference to improve the quality of life."

M V Ramana, CEO – Branded Markets (India & Emerging Markets), Dr. Reddy's said, "This joint venture is a novel approach by two companies that have a shared purpose of good health. We are pleased to partner with Nestlé India to bring innovations from the Nestlé Health Science global portfolio to consumers in India. This novel approach of leveraging mutually complementary strengths of both parent companies will enable better access and affordability for consumers."

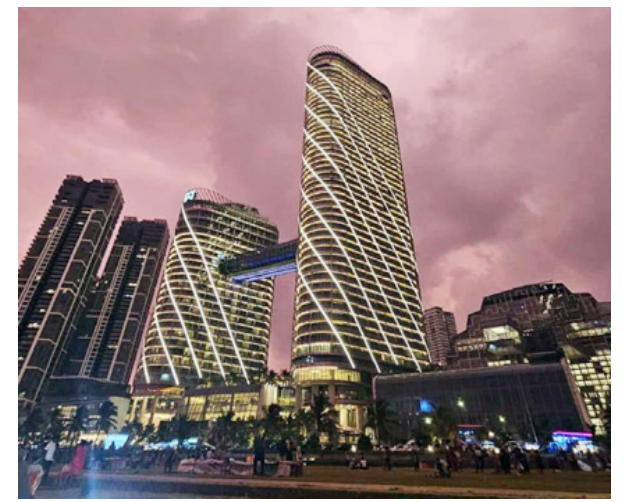
After Sri Lanka, more global hotel launches on the anvil', says ITC Chairman Sanjiv Puri

NEW DELHI, Apr 25 (Agencies): ITC Chairman Sanjiv Puri said the Indian corporate giant is looking at opening more hotels globally, after its first property outside India was thrown open on Thursday.

"We are constantly on the lookout for opportunities that align with our strengths... as we want to grow fast," Puri said. "At the moment, the focus is on proximal markets," Puri added, 'proximal' meaning the focus presently is on hotels in neighbouring countries. After the opening of ITC Ratnadipa in Sri Lanka, the Indian conglomerate is next 'exploring' more hotels abroad, starting with Nepal. "(There is a) Resurgence in tourism in this part of the world... when tourism elsewhere is not so buoyant," Puri said. "It's a sector that holds immense potential for the future."

Ratnadipa in Colombo faces the Indian Ocean and is ITC's most expensive hotel venture so far, with a capital expenditure of more than Rs 4,000 crore.

"Sri Lanka has a lot to



offer (in tourism). The new generation is looking for new destinations. It checks all the right boxes. India is the largest target market. We will look at MICE, transient individuals, business conferences etc," Puri said explaining the target audience for the new Sri Lanka hotel.

The hotel is primarily looking at business conferences, conventions and weddings, with 25,000 sq.ft of banqueting/meeting space alone. As well as the expected tourist influx into Sri Lanka.

ITC has shifted to top gear on its hotel division

expansion, ahead of its expected hiving off as an independent company next year. With as many as 70 new hotels in the pipeline, total expenditure, including on new properties and refurbishment of existing ones is expected to cost up to Rs 1,000 crore annually.

ITC Hotels have a total of 134 properties, 22 of them opened in the last one year alone. ITC plans to promote the new hotel in Colombo through roadshows in India which will also showcase 'Sri Lanka's attractions' rather than the hotel alone, according to Puri.

Commerce Ministry working on infra requirement to achieve \$1 trillion goods exports target by 2030, says official

NEW DELHI, Apr 25 (Agencies): The commerce ministry has initiated an exercise to identify required infrastructure needs, potential sectors, and clusters which would help the country achieve the USD 1 trillion merchandise exports target by 2030, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Anant Swarup said that the Asian Development Bank has been requested to conduct a study in this regard.

If the country is targeting USD 1 trillion of exports by 2030, there is a likelihood of about USD 1.5 trillion of imports, so "do we have enough capacity" to cater to USD 2.5 trillion of EXIM (export and import) trade, he said.

So that is the target on which the department is working, he said.

"The ADB is doing a study for us because what is more important is from where the USD 1 trillion of exports is going to come from; which are those sectors and clusters from where this USD 1 trillion of exports is going to come from. That is very critical for us."

"Because unless we know about the clusters, and ports or airports from

where this USD 1 trillion of exports and USD 1.5 trillion of imports is going to happen, we would not be able to do a baseline study to identify the gaps which exist and then enhance our infrastructure capabilities," Swarup said.

He was speaking at a CII conference on resilient export logistics for trade and connectivity.

India's merchandise exports dipped by 3.11 per cent to USD 437 billion in 2023-24. Imports too dipped to USD 677.24 billion in the last fiscal.

He also said that the government is also focusing on ways to push India's integration into the global supply chains (GVCs) as at present about 70 per cent of the global trade is happening through these chains.

For this, there is a need to increase manufacturing.

He added that generally exports and imports are at USD 3.2 trillion.

Speaking at the event, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said that further infrastructure push is required at ports and airports to increase India's exports.

Saranagi said that to

handle USD 2.5 trillion of exports and imports, India needs to create a lot of infrastructure.

As per rough calculations, "we need to create an infrastructure which will support an additional 2,000 million tonnes of goods movement in the ports."

"Similarly in the railways, we need to create an infrastructure which will allow railways to carry on an additional 338 million tonnes of goods by 2030. Airports also need to create an additional 5 million tonnes of facilities for movement of goods. So these are big challenges but not insurmountable challenges," he said.

He also said there is a huge potential to increase exports through e-commerce medium. Last year, the cross-border e-commerce trade was about USD 800 billion and is estimated to reach USD 2 trillion by 2030.

"We need to reorient our policies to facilitate an e-commerce ecosystem and have a larger pie in the e-commerce exports," Sarangi said, adding that China's e-commerce exports are about USD 350 billion, whereas India's shipments through online medium is only USD 2 billion.

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

NEW DELHI, Apr 25 (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.

Bharat Vikas Parishad pledges full support to Modi's Guarantee 2024 for 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047: Kavinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former deputy Chief Minister, today reiterated the Party's steadfast commitment to realizing the vision of a developed India, termed as 'Viksit Bharat,' by 2047.

Interacting with members of the Bharat Vikas Parishad here today, the BJP stalwart underscored the significance of the BJP's Sankalp Patra - Modi's Guarantee 2024 which was crafted under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This comprehensive manifesto, he emphasized, serves as a blueprint for ushering India into an era of sustained progress and prosperity, focusing on the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the



policies and schemes implemented by the Modi government, which have facilitated good governance, eradicated corruption, and uplifted every section of society in need.

Kavinder Gupta highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally dedicated the Sankalp Patra 'Modi ki Guarantee' to the beneficiaries of various government

welfare schemes, extending this dedication to the entire nation. It reinforces the four strong pillars of a developed India, namely youth power, women empowerment, farmers, and the underprivileged. The BJP's focus lies on enhancing the Dignity of Life, ensuring Quality of Life, and generating employment opportunities through strategic investments.

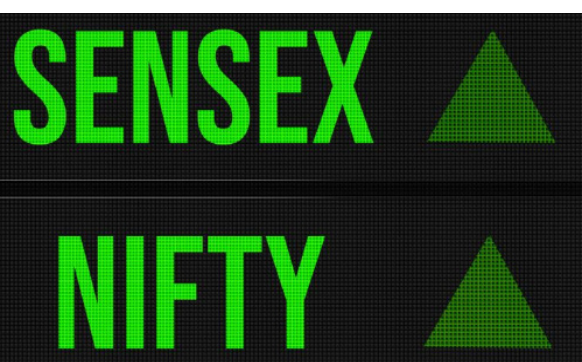
Expressing the BJP's commitment to placing the country's interests above party interests, he stated that the party never hesitates to make bold and challenging decisions in the best interest of the nation. He emphasized that the momentum of the New India is unstoppable and that the BJP has formulated this Sankalp Patra to transform the dreams

of the nation's 140 crore citizens into reality.

The former deputy Chief Minister called upon the people of Jammu & Kashmir to bestow their faith on the BJP in the upcoming parliamentary elections, as it stands dedicated to "Development for all, prosperity for all."

The visiting members of the Bharat Vikas Parishad B.B Sharma State President BVP, Shivram Sharma State General Secretary, Sunita Gupta State Finance Secretary, Ved Prakash Sharma President Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha Jammu, M.L Padha, Devinder Mahajan President Shiva Market Association Nanak Nagar and Gurmeet Singh have assured their full support to the BJP in its endeavor to build a developed and strong India.

Markets extend gains for fifth session; Sensex revisits 74k



MUMBAI, Apr 25 (Agencies): Rising for the fifth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex rallied nearly 500 points to reclaim the 74,000 mark while the Nifty closed above the 22,550 level on Thursday, driven by heavy buying in banking, financial and metal stocks.

Recovering after a sell-off in early trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 486.50 points or 0.66 per cent to settle at 74,339.44. During the day, it surged 718.31 points or 0.97 per cent to 74,571.25.

The NSE Nifty advanced 167.95 points or 0.75 per cent to 22,570.35.

From the Sensex

basket, Axis Bank jumped 6 per cent after the company reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 7,599 crore during the March 2024 quarter.

State Bank of India, NTPC, Nestle, Sun Pharma, JSW Steel, ITC, Mahindra & Mahindra and HCL Technologies were among the other major gainers.

Kotak Mahindra Bank tanked 10.85 per cent after the RBI barred the company from onboarding customers online and issuing credit cards.

Cracking down on repeated non-compliance with IT norms, the RBI on Wednesday barred Kotak Mahindra Bank from onboarding new customers through

its online and mobile banking channels and issuing fresh credit cards with immediate effect after the regulator found "serious deficiencies" in the lender's IT risk management.

Hindustan Unilever, Titan, Bajaj Finance, Maruti and Asian Paints were the other laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled lower while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the positive territory.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. Wall Street ended on a mixed note on Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.06 per cent to \$88.07 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,511.74 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark rose 114.49 points or 0.16 per cent to settle at 73,852.94 on Wednesday. The NSE Nifty advanced 34.40 points or 0.15 per cent to 22,402.40.

Yoga is need of day to day life: Dr Shreyansh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: A seminar on yoga as need of day to day life was organized on Thursday at Trikuta Nagar, Sector 7, under the guidance of Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga, State Chairman Indian Yoga Association & President Vichar Kranti Manch International.

Yoga lovers including Narinder Wadhwa, President Evening Walkers Association Trikuta Nagar, Akshay Sopti, Retd Govt Officer, Vipul Mahajan Social Activist, Ravinder Verma an Engineer, Aasheesh Bhandari, SO Forest Dept, Sourabh Bhandari, Dist Informative officer, Rakesh Verma, Trained Yoga teacher & Yoga Sadhak from Sidhyog Peeth HQ Ganeshpur (Bonbay) since 1991 & Dr Shreya Verma PG Gynecologist were present on the occasion.

Dr Jain explained that the practice of yoga allows practitioners to recognize and process emotions, leading to greater emotional intelligence and resilience.



Though regular practice, individuals can develop a more balanced and harmonious emotional landscape, fostering healthier relationships with oneself and others.

He also threw light on the importance of yoga in our daily life, yoga enhances physical health, mental clarity, and emotional well-being, fostering a balanced and harmonious daily life. While explaining importance of yoga & it's qual-

ity of being significant valued in our daily life, Dr Jain said in today's fast paced and stressful world, finding moments of tranquility and inner peace can seem like an elusive quest.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of daily life, incorporating a practice that nurtures the body and mind becomes paramount, he said adding that yoga, an ancient practice originating in India, has emerged as a

become of hoe and holistic well being for millions around the globe. Beyond being a physical exercise, yoga is a way of life that touches every aspect of our being.

Light was thrown on cultivation physical health & Flexibility, Enhancing Mental clarity and Focus, Stress Reduction and Relaxation, Promoting Emotional Balance, Boosting Immune Function, Nurturing Mind- Body connection,

Encouraging self-Discovery and personal Growth, Improving Sleep quality, Fostering a sense of community, and Aligning with sustainable living.

Some tips for healthy life were given as

Whenever you sit, sit with your spine straight; sit in Vajrasana after both principal meals, Eat less than hunger, Set meal trimmings., Get enough sleep, otherwise you will lack energy, Don't drink water immediately after meals, Take out half an hour for yourself, meditate and introspect, Don't take drugs, smoke, drink alcohol, also Try not to take tea as much as possible, otherwise you will look old and sick.

* No matter how much nutritious food you eat or exercise, unless you are happy within, there is no benefit, Sleep early at night, wake up early, Go for intermittent fasting.

Incidentally the Happy Birthday of Yoga teacher Rakesh Verma also fall on same day, which was celebrated in yogic way, only fruits and sprouts were served. Rakesh presented vote of thanks.

Candidates champion D Gukesh arrives home to rousing welcome in Tamil Nadu's Chennai

Gukesh became the first Indian, after the great Viswanathan Anand, to win the Candidates Tournament in Toronto

CHENNAI (TAMIL NADU), Apr 25 (Agencies): History-making teen Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh was swamped by fans as he returned to an enthusiastic reception here on Thursday after becoming the youngest challenger to the world title following his triumph at the prestigious Candidates Chess Tournament in Toronto.

Hundreds of students from the Velammal Vidyalaya, the school where Gukesh studies, lined up at the airport at least one hour before his flight landed to greet the 17-year-old chess prodigy.

A sizeable general crowd also built up as his arrival time drew closer and the area around the exit gate was jam-packed in no time.

The youngster walked out around 3 am and he was immediately flanked by the jubilant mass. Soon after, he had garlands around his neck even as the police jostled to escort him out safely.

"I feel very happy for this homecoming; this is a special achievement. I was in a good space since the beginning of the tournament, I had full confidence that I will emerge top in this tournament and luck was on my side as well," Gukesh said while talking to the media at the airport.

"It's good to see so many people enjoy chess...I thank



the Tamil Nadu government. I thank my Appa, Amma, coach, friends, family, sponsor and my school for being alongside me and playing an amazing role in helping me win this tournament," he added.

His mother Padma, who is a microbiologist, was there to receive him along with some other members of the family and the young champion had a huge smile on his face the moment he spotted her in the crowd. They exchanged a hug after greeting each other.

Gukesh's father Rajinikanth, who is an ENT surgeon but quit his practice to support him, had travelled with the teen to Toronto for the tournament.

"It is a very proud moment for us. We need some time to realise the importance of the achievements because it is very

hectic till now," Rajinikanth said on arrival.

On Monday, Gukesh became the first Indian, after the great Viswanathan Anand, to win the Candidates Tournament, which is held specifically to decide the challenger for the reigning world champion.

"It feels great. Viswanathan Anand is an inspiration to everyone. He has played a huge role in my career. I am really glad," Gukesh said, referring to the guidance provided by Anand in his formative years and also ahead of the Candidates.

The unassuming player became the youngest ever challenger for the title by bettering the record created by the legendary Garry Kasparov 40 years ago. Kasparov was 20 when he became a challenger to the then world champion Ana-

toly Karpov in 1984.

The triumph entitles Gukesh to a clash against reigning world champion Ding Liren of China in the last quarter of the year.

Kasparov had lauded Gukesh's performance, describing it as "the Indian earthquake in Toronto". He had also said that the Indian performance at the Candidates marked a "tectonic shift" in the sport's global world order.

Among the players Gukesh beat in Candidates was the 18-year-old R Praggnanandhaa, another prodigal talent to emerge from the city. In all, five Indians, three men and two women, competed in the tournament.

Gukesh has been making waves for quite a while now. He became India's youngest Grandmaster at 12 years, seven months and 17 days in January 2019.

Currently, he has a FIDE rating of 2743, while his peak rating happens to be 2758, which he attained last September.

Gukesh is 16th in the FIDE Rankings at present, while his best ranking to date happens to be eighth, which he reached last September.

Among his top recent performances was a silver medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year in the men's team category.

Captain fantastic

Pant shines as Delhi survive late scare to steal 4-run victory against Gujarat



NEW DELHI, Apr 25 (Agencies): Rishabh Pant virtually sealed his spot as India's first choice wicketkeeper for the T20 World Cup with a belligerent unbeaten half-century in Delhi Capitals' narrow four-run win over Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League here.

Skipper Pant and Axar Patel forged a blistering stand of 113 runs off 68 balls en route quickfire individual half-centuries to power DC to 224/4 in their must-win game.

In reply, Sai Sudarshan (65 off 29) and David Miller (55 off 23) scored

fifties, while Rashid Khan hit an 11-ball 21 not out but still couldn't take GT over the line, finishing at 220/8 in their 20 overs.

Sent in to bat, Pant led from the front, remaining unbeaten on 88 off 43 balls, his innings proving to be a timely reminder to the national selectors who are likely to pick him in India's first XI against Pakistan in the World T20 match in New York barring fitness issues.

Pant's maturity showed as he paced his innings brilliantly in company of Axar, who

made 66 off 43 balls after being promoted to No. 3. His innings was studded with five fours and four sixes.

Chasing 225, GT lost skipper Shubman Gill in the second over but Wriddhiman Saha (39) played some delightful shots and together with Impact Sub Sai Sudharsan shared 82 runs for the second wicket to keep GT in the hunt. Sudharsan, who got a reprieve in the fifth over, used his long handle to great effect to notch up his fifty off 29 balls. But with the asking rate constantly creeping up, Sudharsan had to go for his shots which eventually led to his downfall.

Miller (55 off 23) then put up a show to take them closer to the target. Needing 19 runs off the last over, Rashid hit Mukesh Kumar for two fours and a six to reduce the deficit to five off the last ball. But Mukesh kept his calm to seal victory.

Brief scores
DC: 224/4 in 20 overs (Pant 88*, Axar 66; Warner 3/15) vs GT: 220/8 in 20 overs (Sudharsan 65, Miller 55; Rasikh 3/44).

Every player is a hero: Promo for IND vs PAK T20 World Cup 2024 clash thrills fans

NEW DELHI, Apr 25 (Agencies): Star Sports, on Thursday, released the promo of the mouth-watering clash between India and Pakistan in the T20 World Cup 2024 to be played on Sunday, June 9 at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York. The video features Virat Kohli, Shahid Afridi, MS Dhoni, Joginder Sharma and many other cricketers from the past and present era.

The clip also showed the winning moments of both teams from their title-winning campaigns. Back in 2007, India beat Pakistan in the final at the New Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg. In 2009, Pakistan got their hands on the trophy after beating Sri Lanka in the final at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground in London.

In the T20 World Cups, India have lost to only Pakistan only once back in 2021. Pakistan beat



the Men in Blue by 10 wickets at the Dubai International Stadium. Their 2022 clash at the Melbourne Cricket Ground turned out to be an absolute humdinger. Virat Kohli scored an unbeaten 82 off 53 balls as India chased down a challenging target of 160 off the last ball.

Big match coming up The upcoming match in June promises to be a thrilling display of skill and sportsmanship, as both teams have a rich history of competitive play and a strong desire to win.

The India-Pakistan match is not just a game, but also a symbol

of the ongoing rivalry and friendship between the two countries. Despite their political differences, cricket has always been a unifying force between India and Pakistan, bringing fans together in their love for the sport.

The Indian cricketers, including Kohli and national skipper Rohit Sharma, are currently taking part in the 2024 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Pakistan, led by Babar Azam, on the other hand, are playing in the 5-match T20I series against Michael Bracewell's New Zealand.

On cusp of elimination, RCB look to stop SRH juggernaut

HYDERABAD, Apr 25 (Agencies): Struggling to stay alive in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024, RCB will next be up against a rampaging SRH on Thursday, April 25 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad.

Faf du Plessis and Co. are in dire straits as they are on the verge of getting knocked out of the competition. From here on, RCB need to win all their games to have any chance of making their way through to the next round.

They gave themselves a brilliant chance of beating KKR at the Eden Gardens before losing by 1 run. Kam Sharma hit Mitchell Starc for 3 sixes in the final over of RCB's run-chase, but his efforts fell short. Ahead of their next game, Du Plessis' men would be aware of the 287 for 3 that SRH racked up against them a few days ago at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The Sunrisers, on the other hand, have won 4 matches in a row and are sitting pretty at No.3 in the table with 10 points and a net run rate of +0.914. The trio of Travis Head, Heinrich Klaassen and Abhishek Sharma have been in jaw-dropping form as SRH have scored runs at will in the ongoing edition of the T20



league. Against DC, left-arm fast bowler T Natarajan picked up 4 wickets for 19 runs and helped SRH win the match by 67 runs. The Orange Army also nothced up the highest T20 powerplay score of 125 for 0 after Head and Abhishek went bonkers at the top.

SRH vs RCB: Head-to-Head The Sunrisers and the Challengers have faced each other 24 times in T20 cricket. SRH are leading RCB 13-10, while one match in 2017 at the Chinnaswamy was called off. In Hyderabad, the Orange Army won 6 out of 8 games against RCB.

In their previous meeting on April 15, 2024, SRH beat RCB

by 25 runs. Travis Head racked up the fourth-fastest hundred in IPL history. Dinesh Karthik tried his heart out with a knock of 83 for RCB, but his efforts went in vain.

SRH vs RCB: Team News Given their current form, it is highly unlikely that the Sunrisers will tinker with their winning combination. Their batting is settled and their bowlers, including Natarajan, have also started to chip in with useful performances.

RCB have kept chopping and changing throughout much of luck. They made 3 changes against KKR, but failed to change their fortunes. SRH vs RCB: Pitch Report

The pitch in Hyderabad is expected to be an absolute belter. It was at the same venue where SRH broke RCB's 11-year-old record for the highest team total in the IPL. Another high-scoring game is on the cards. Bowlers would not have much room for error.

SRH vs RCB: Predicted XI SRH Predicted XI: Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Aiden Markram, Heinrich Klaassen(w), Abdul Samad, Nitish Reddy, Shahbaz Ahmed, Pat Cummins(c), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mayank Markande, T Natarajan.

Impact Player: Washington Sundar.

RCB Predicted XI: Faf du Plessis(c), Virat Kohli, Will Jacks, Rajat Patidar, Cameron Green, Dinesh Karthik(w), Mahipal Lomror, Karn Sharma, Lockie Ferguson, Yash Dayal, Mohammed Siraj.

Impact Player: Suyash Prabhudessai.

SRH vs RCB: Prediction Bearing in mind the form of both teams, the Sunrisers will go into the match as outright favourites. It will need a Herculean effort from RCB to emerge victorious.

HS Prannoy Finding His Way Back After Chronic Stomach Disorder Returns To Trouble him

NEW DELHI, Apr 25 (Agencies): Seasoned Indian shuttler H S Prannoy has revealed that he has been battling a chronic gastrointestinal disorder for the past four months which has not just hampered him physically but also taken a mental toll as he had fought these health issues not so long ago. Prannoy was diagnosed with gastroesophageal reflux disease during the 2018 World Championships, a chronic disorder that causes symptoms like heartburn, abdominal and chest pain, and inflammation of vocal chords.

Prannoy's training and performance were

affected by it in 2019-2020 but he had recovered from it and the after-effects of COVID-19 to slowly and steadily regain his place in the top echelons of men's singles. But he revealed that the he hasn't been all that well for past four months once again.

"A health issue has been bothering me for the last four months. That has kind of taken a toll in the last four months, mentally and physically for me, to be in the right physical state which I think I was in the last two years," World No.9 Prannoy told agency during a free-wheeling interview.

"But I think it's all part

and parcel of this whole career that there can be a lot of times that we are feeling good. If you're not consistent in what you're doing, then you can take a hit and go back to where you were before.

"It is the same gut issue which had cropped up in 2019. We will get better in the coming months. So yeah, I just need to be a bit more patient," he said.

The 31-year-old played a pivotal role in India's epic Thomas Cup win in 2022. He went on to claim a bronze medal at the World Championships and the Asian Games, won his maiden super 500 title at Malay-

sia Masters and then finished runner-up at the Australian Open in a memorable 2023.

However, this season, Prannoy had just one semifinal finish -- at India Open super 750 -- and made a series of first-round exit.

Prannoy, who has qualified for the Paris Olympics, looked in good touch at the Asia Badminton Championships in Ningbo, China when he outwitted China's Lu Guang Zu in a marathon 90-minute opening-round match.

"It gives a little bit of satisfaction that a lot of things which you're working on came good. I think those kind of wins

give that kind of confidence.

"To even think that you lasted a 90-minute match against somebody who has been really strong and who I've never beaten also gives good confidence," he said.

"From a whole game side of it, I think probably after a few months, again, I felt that kind of aggression in the game and I could kind of, be there for good 90 minutes physically also."

"Defending Thomas Cup title will be very tough"

The image of a gritty Prannoy battling through pain after twisting his ankle during the decid-

ing third singles against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke in the Thomas Cup semifinals is still fresh in badminton lovers' mind.

His sensational performance was one of the reasons that India could lift the trophy for the first time. Two years later, Prannoy will once again take centre stage as India aims to defend the title.

"It will be tough this year, there are very tough teams this time. Based on current form, there are lots of teams with three strong singles and two doubles like China, Denmark, Chinese Taipei, Japan, and Indonesia.

"All of these teams have players who have been in form for the last three-four months, playing big tournament finals," the man from Thiruvananthapuram said.

India have been handed a tough draw in Thomas Cup as they are clubbed with last year's runner-up and record 14-time winners Indonesia, Thailand and England in Group C.

"...we have somebody like Satwik-Chirag, who is a strong doubles pair, then Lakshya also hitting form at the right time. So, it will give us an extra boost but I think a lot of ties will depend on first singles and third

singles and second men's doubles.

"The Arjun-Dhruv pair has been playing well in the last few months, so we are also hopeful that they can also get us a few wins," he said.

He acknowledged the pressure that will be on him.

"From the team perspective, there will be a lot of expectations on my first singles because a 1-0 start will put us in a good position but overall it will be very tough to defend the title.

"Each and every round, even from the group stages, will be tough. It will go down to how well as a team and enjoy as a team."

IRCS celebrates World Red Cross Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: World Red Cross Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sir Jean Henry Dunant, the founder of International Committee of Red Cross every year on 8th May and this year too, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K is actively engaging the community to make a positive impact on the different sections of the society by raising the awareness about the humanitarian work and in this regard a series of activities are initiated and undertaken by this office under the leadership of Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor (President, IRCS) J&K and supervision of Rohit Khajuria, General Secretary, IRCS, J&K-UT. Today, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K-UT has distributed free Sanitary Napkins to approx. 100 female students

of 8th to 12th class of Govt. Girls High School, Kachi Chawni, Jammu and offered Menstrual Hygiene lecture to them. This effort can help to ensure that girls have access to the necessary resources to manage their menstrual health with dignity and comfort.

The lecture was imparted by Dr. Kavita Nijhon, Medical along with Vironica Marwah, Field Officer, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K-UT.

A substantial portion of the membership of Indian Red Cross Society is made up of young people. Young volunteers can make a significant contribution to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable section of the society within their local communities through Red Cross youth Programmes. Today, a Youth Red Cross Programme was organized at Govt. College for Women, Parade Jammu.

The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Kavita Nijhon, Medical Officer, Vironica Marwah, Field Officer, IRCS, J&K. In first half of the session, the students were apprised about the benefits of youth Red Cross, how different programs and activities can be organised by the youth so that the leadership qualities among the students can be inculcate. Then the students were briefed about the First aid and how it can be useful to them in their daily life.

Later on, the students were also made aware of Youth Red Cross Membership and forms were also distributed among the students to become members of IRCS, J&K-UT. The camp was co-ordinated by Dr. Gurpreet Kaur, convener Red Cross, Govt. Women College, Parade Jammu. Indian Red Cross Society, J&K has con-

tinued the Tea services even in summers with some refreshments for the poor patients and their attendants admitted at Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Jammu.

Indian Red Cross Society, J&K UT organized an eight days First-Aid training programme for the Commercial Vehicle drivers and for the youth of the society which concluded today. During the 8 days training, different topics were covered like various techniques of Disaster Management during Earthquakes, Fires, Floods, First-Aid Kit, wounds, bandages, types of fractures, bleeding emergencies, burns etc. Emergency technique of handling bleeding patient, Fracture/accident victims was also emphasized. Highlights of the programme were how to resuscitate a patient of fainting and Cardiac Arrest. Emphasis was

laid on the Management of injuries, fracture, burns, control of bleeding, practical demonstrations of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and Choking.

The practical and theoretical lectures were laid by Dr. Kavita Nijhon Verma & Dr. Manpreet Kaur, Medical Officers assisted by Ravi Kant Magotra, Sup. Pharmacist, Naziya Banoo, FMPHW and Joginder Kumar, Pharmacist, IRCS, Jammu. Along with that a special lecture on Drug De-addiction was also organized and free eye check-up of the participants was also done.

During the last day of session, Rohit Khajuria, General Secretary, IRCS J&K UT interacted with all the participants and issued Provisional certificates to them. The training went quite fruitful and ended on a good note.

DCE holds career counselling session

Top News Report

SAMBA, Apr 25: An interactive session on Career Counseling was organised by the Placement Cell and Alumni Committee of Dogra College of Education (DCE) under the banner of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the college on Thursday in the college conference hall. Students of B.Ed. Sem- 4th (2022-24) and Sem-1st (2023-25) participated in the interactive session. The guest speaker for the day was Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, Managing Director, Rich Harvest School Member, Trustee, DET and Alumni, Dogra College of Education.

The session commenced with the welcome address presented by Mrs. Shivali Mehta, Convener, Alumni Committee, DCE, followed by the lighting of the traditional lamp by the dignitaries. The guest speaker highlighted the quality parameters of career counseling to the students.

The students were enlightened on how to be

successful in achieving their long term vision of a secure career which is at par to their aspirations.

He advocated students to take up higher study courses which would provide life changing career prospects and opportunities.

The students were oriented towards becoming the Best Teacher. The guest speaker focused on the comprehensive understanding of the diverse career paths that are shaping the future workforce.

He emphasized on developing the skills necessary for success in today's ever changing job market and helping young people to nurture the skills for success in the 21st century.

During the interactive session, the students had actively participated and a lot of queries were raised by the students like How to make a resume, How to make a balance between our personal and professional lives etc. which were well addressed by the guest speaker.

Dr. Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary,

Dogra Educational Trust in his concluding remarks expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation towards the resource person and said that such kind of lectures provide us a very useful platform to exchange information, ideas, and experiences in an effective manner.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Gitika Seghal, Coordinator, Dogra Educational Trust, Dr. Vikesh Kumar Sharma, Principal, Dogra College of Education, Dr. Shefali Sharma, Coordinator, IQAC, Dogra College of Education and MR, Dogra Educational Trust, Mrs. Indu Puri, Convener, Placement Cell, all faculty members and students of both the semesters.

A formal vote of thanks was presented by Shivangi Dhora, Member, IQAC and Placement Cell, Dogra College of Education.

The session concluded with the playing of the National Anthem. The programme was anchored by Arushi Sharma, President, Student Council, DCE.

75 students of GCW Gandhi Nagar leave for trekking



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: Dharamshala Himalayan Trekking Programme organized by Tawi Trekkers J&K, the premier trekking organisation of J&K, commenced today with 75 students of PS PS Govt College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, leaving for Dharamshala to participate in the prestigious adventure activity. The group being led by General Secretary of Tawi Trekkers Sonam Sidharth and Sourav Deep Singh, both seasoned trekkers and mountaineers; Suksham Verma and Vikas Singh, senior members also includes Sanjeevani Bhardwaj, a student

leader and an executive member of Tawi Trekkers J&K.

During their sojourn in Dharamshala area the trekkers would visit Mcleodganj, Chamunda, Dalai Lama Temple, the headquarters of Tibetan Government in exile; Bhagshunag, Water fall, Dharamkot, popularly called mini Israel; Gallu temple, the beautiful Dharamshala stadium, Norbulinga Monastery and Tapovan besides Nagini Devi enroute their return journey to Jammu.

However, the special attraction of the programme is a visit to a sprawling tea garden and a tea manufacturing company where the students

shall learn the complete process of production of tea.

Students taking part in this Trekking Programme besides being explained the benefits of such venture in the personality development of a person shall also be taught to respect nature and environment and not create a clutter of left over in the jungles enroute.

Earlier, the group was flagged off by Prof. Lalit Magotra, a prominent scientist and President Dogri Sanstha, Jammu in the presence of Ram Khajuria, Advisor, Shawetika Khajuria, President of the club and a large number of parents of the students.

Shiv Sena appeals to vote in large numbers, teach lesson to those who spread false propaganda



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has appealed to the voters to come out in large numbers and teach a lesson to those who are diverting attention from public issues and are doing politics on religion and Hindu-Muslim through their vote.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, the party's state chief Manish Sahni said that the Lok Sabha elections are not just about the formation of the central government. The rights of the states are linked to it.

Remember that the divide Jammu-Kashmir into two parts, taking away our state status and making outsiders partners in the rights of the local people was done by the central government.

Sahni said that use your right to vote in large numbers and before voting, remember the current conditions of Jammu-Kashmir, rising unemployment, inflation and violation of the rights of the local people. Along with this, those who do false propaganda and politics on Hindu-Muslim and religion should be taught a tough lesson.

India Assist expands its travel Assistance Services Franchise Model in Enchanting Land of J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 25: In a significant stride towards enhancing traveller experiences, India Assist, the pioneer in real-time travel assistance services, has announced the expansion of its franchise model to the picturesque region of Jammu and Kashmir. Collaborating with key travel agents across prominent areas, this strategic move aims to provide seamless and reliable travel assistance to explorers, tourists, and travelers, ensuring their journeys through the mesmerizing valleys and mountains of Kashmir are truly memorable.

The franchise model has been initiated in several pivotal areas, including Srinagar, Anant Nagar, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Budgam, Kupwara, Kulgam, and Bandipora. This expansion marks India Assist's

dedication to extending its unparalleled assistance services to those who seek to discover the captivating beauty and cultural richness of Kashmir.

"We are thrilled to bring India Assist's travel assistance services to the enchanting land of Jammu and Kashmir," said Harish Khatri, Founder and Managing Director of India Assist. "Our mission has always been to provide unwavering support to travellers, ensuring their journeys are not only smooth but also enriched with local insights and assistance whenever needed. With this expansion, we aim to create a seamless and immersive travel experience for those who choose to explore the breathtaking landscapes of Kashmir."

India Assist's unique

franchise model empowers local travel agents to collaborate and provide their clients with access to real-time support, local expertise, and personalized assistance. This partnership ensures that travellers can have around with confidence, knowing that they have a reliable support system at their fingertips.

As the world opts for the Himalayan mountains and the valleys for travel, the expansion of India Assist's franchise model in Jammu and Kashmir comes as a beacon of hope for both local businesses and travellers seeking unparalleled experiences. The collaboration between India Assist and the key travel partner in the region promises to redefine the way tourists explore the scenic wonders of Kashmir.

Leh's NTCP takes proactive steps against tobacco addiction

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 25: The National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in Leh organized a School Health Programme at Imamia Model High School to combat tobacco addiction among adolescents.

Led by NTCP psychologist Phunstok Diskit, the session aimed to equip adolescents with knowledge and skills to resist tobacco. NTCP emphasized education, counseling, and practical interventions, including mobile counseling services and medical support.

The session covered tobacco addiction's health effects, prevention, and cessation strategies. Attendees learned about risks associated with tobacco products and were introduced to cessation aids like nicotine gum.

She also spoke on NTCP's holistic approach

includes awareness and practical interventions. Mobile counseling services and medical support were emphasized. NTCP aligns with public health efforts and enforces the COTPA to create tobacco-free environments.

During the session, Dr. Stanzin Jamyang, District Consultant NTCP, emphasized the significance of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). Dr. Jamyang highlighted the treaty's role in combatting the global tobacco epidemic through evidence-based strategies. He emphasized demand reduction through measures like price increases, smoke-free areas, and cessation support, along with addressing illicit trade and sales to minors. Dr. Jamyang also acknowledged the Bloomberg Initiative for its contribution to global tobacco control efforts.

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