

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

MeT says possibility of heavy rain on April 28

SRINAGAR, Apr 26 (Agencies): Amid the forecast for cloudy weather with the possibility of light to moderate rain in plains and snow over higher reaches during the next few days, night temperature recorded a rise and settled above normal at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

A meteorological department official said that 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 till April 28. 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. Generally dry weather is expected from May 1-4, he said.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a minimum of 10.5°C against 8.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 7.8°C against 5.8°C on the previous night and it was normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said. Pahalgam recorded a low of 5.2°C against 2.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 9.3°C against 6.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C above normal, the official said. Kupwara town recorded a low of 8.5°C against 6.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 4.8°C against 2.7°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.6°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 20.8°C against 19.2°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.1°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 9.8°C, Batote 11.6°C

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Polling commences in Jammu Parliamentary Constituency on high note

JAMMU, Apr 26 (Agencies): The commencement of polling in the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu Constituency began with enthusiasm, especially among the new voters.

Across various assembly segments of the parliamentary constituency, voters were seen standing in queues much ahead of the scheduled time for polling.

The Election Commission has put in place all necessary arrangements to ensure a fair and transparent electoral process.

The polling began at 7 am in all 2416 polling stations across the con-



Sardar Avtar Singh Raina, son of Late Sardar. Raja Singh, resident of Dalpatian Mohalla, Jammu at the age of 106 years and Sardarni. Savinder Kour at the age of 110 years cast their votes in Jammu on Friday.



stituency.

Earlier, mock poll was conducted successfully in all the polling stations.

Incumbent MP Jugal Kishore Sharma of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is eyeing a third straight term in the Lower House of Parliament after he won the seat in the 2014 and 2019 elections.

This is the first major poll battle in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union territories on August 5, 2019.

Voters were seen headed towards polling stations early in

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2 terrorists killed, 2 Army personnel injured as gunbattle resumes in Baramulla



SRINAGAR, Apr 26 (Agencies): Two terrorists were killed while as many Army personnel got injured on Friday as a gunbattle between the militants and security forces continued for the second day in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said. The encounter began on Thursday at Check

Mohalla Nowpora in the Sopore area of north Kashmir. After the night's lull, a fresh exchange of firing took place on Friday morning, they said.

Two terrorists have been killed so far, according to the officials.

Two army personnel injured in the gunfight

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Supreme Court rejects plea for full VVPAT-EVM tally; Upholds EVM usage

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea requesting tallying all Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips with Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) votes in elections, firmly rejecting any return to paper ballots.

The Bar and Bench reported that justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, presiding over the bench, also declined the prayer to revert to paper ballots from EVMs.

In a pronounced order, the Court stated, "We have rejected the prayer



for paper ballot voting, complete EVM-VVPAT verification and physical deposit of VVPAT slips." Emphasizing the importance of fostering trust and collaboration to bolster democracy, the

Court highlighted the necessity of meaningful criticism over blind scepticism towards systems governing democracy, be it the judiciary or legislature.

Despite dismissing the

plea, the Court issued directives to enhance the security of EVMs, aimed at ensuring their foolproof functioning:

Symbol loading units are to be sealed after the completion of the loading process and stored in strong rooms for 45 days.

All candidates are permitted to be present during verification, with district election officers certifying the authenticity of burnt memory.

A team of engineers is to verify the burnt memory in the micro-controller unit.

This verdict follows the

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Omar, Mehbooba ask EC not to postpone polls in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha Seat



SRINAGAR, Apr 26 (Agencies): NC leader Omar Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday asked the Election Commission not to postpone polls in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat.

The former chief ministers made the appeal after the EC sought a



report from Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and the Chief Electoral Officer on representations submitted by some parties and three candidates seeking rescheduling of elections in the constituency due to adverse weather conditions, including snowfall on the Mughal road.

"I appeal to the EC that such a step should not be taken. The demand for postponement is not from all parties. The weird thing is that some of the people who have written to the EC are not contesting. If I write to the EC about constituencies in Tamil Nadu etc. will they take notice," he told a press conference in Srinagar.

Speaking to reporters in Surankote area of Poonch district, Mehbooba said, "They all have ganged up against me because they do not want to see me in Parliament. The people, cutting across religious and

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

London resident arrested by NIA in Indian Mission attack case

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): In a major breakthrough, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday arrested one person accused in the March 2023 case related to the violent attack on the High Commission of India in London and unlawful activities during the subsequent protests. Inderpal Singh Gaba, a resident of the United Kingdom's Hounslow, was arrested in Delhi. He was allegedly involved in unlawful activities during the protests that took place on March 22, 2023.

"NIA investigations in the case so far have revealed that the incidents in London on March 19 and March 22 last year were parts of a larger conspiracy to unleash vicious attacks

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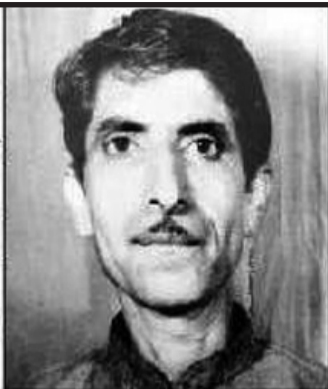
10TH DAY

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:

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



SH. SOM NATH KOUL

10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Arun Koul & Simran Koul - Son and Daughter-in-law
Sheetal & Vishu - Daughter & Son-in-Law
Ayaan & Naisha - Grand Son & Grand Daughter
Samast Koul's Pariwar of Pampore, Relatives & Friends
Mob: 9654478859, 9818777940



Shri Tej Krishan Koul

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and Sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Brij Nath Bhat** S/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Bhat Originally resident of Bomai Sopore, Baramulla, Kashmir, Presently residing at Lane No 25, Block No 166 Flat No 19 who left for heavenly abode on 24th of April 2024.

The **10TH DAY AND ASSEMBLY** will be performed at Muthi Ghat at 08.30 AM on 03-05-2024 (Friday).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Gud Devi - Wife
Smt & Sh. Sunil Kumar & Manju Bhat - Son & Daughter in Law
Smt & Sh. Vinod Kumar & Sunila Bhat - Son & Daughter in Law
Smt & Sh. Chaman Lal Bhat & Dazy Bhat - Brother & Bhabhi
Bharti & Mehak Bhat - Niece
Smt & Sh. Poshkar Nath Bhat & Shakuntla Bhat - Brother in Law & Sister
Smt & Sh. Schan Lal Bhat & Pinky Bhat - Brother in Law & Sister
Smt & Sh. Vijay Koul & Banti Koul - Brother in Law & Sister
Vasu, Vanshi, Janu & Pari - Grand Children's
MOBILE NO: 7006610220, 9055263049, 7889694399



SH. BRIJ NATH BHAT

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

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **SH. BALBIR SINGH SLATHIA** S/o Late Shankar Singh Slathia and Lt. Thakari Devi on 15-04-2024 at Jammu.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 24-04-2024 at 10:30 am - 11:30 am at our residence 612-A lower Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal Jammu

RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA will be held on 27-04-2024 at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony Chowk at 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Aruna Slathia - Wife
Ankit Slathia - Son
Akrili Slathia - Daughter
Mobile number: 9796606099, 9419280596



Sh. Balbir Singh Slathia

MOURNING FROM MALUIN SIDE TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

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



Sh. Surinder Krishan Kuchroo

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 Girdhari Lal Sharma & Smt Amila Sharma
Sh Laxmi Kant Sharma & Smt Surishta Sharma
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh Rahul Sharma & Smt Upasana Sharma
Sh Sahil Sharma & Smt Pratiha 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

CHOUBARSI

Four long years have passed since you left us for heavenly abode, but your love and guidance still inspire us each day. You and Your memories will always remain in our heart. "Forever missed, Never forgotten"

Choubarisi of our beloved **Amit Gupta** (Deputy Director - P&S Civil Secretariat, Jammu) will be performed at our residence ward no 60 Dhok Paloura Jammu on 28 April 2024 (Sunday) at 11:00 AM.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-

Isha Gupta - Wife
Aaradhya & Aarvi - Daughters
Swarna Gupta & Bansi Lal Gupta - Parents
Saroj Gupta & Sham Gupta - Mother & Father-in-law
Gupta Family
Ph. No. 9906309173



AMIT GUPTA (Deputy Director - P&S Civil Secretariat, Jammu)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, it is informed that our beloved **Sh Ramesh Chander Bhat** S/o Late Shri Prithvi Nath Bhat resident of Murran, presently residing at Lane No. 2/2, House No. 55, Roopnagar Enclave Jammu left for heavenly abode on 22 April 2024.

The **10th Day Kriya** shall be performed on 30th April 2024 at Muthi Ghat at 9:00 AM.

Grief Stricken :

Shri S N Bhat
Shri K L Bhat
Shri M K Bhat
Smt Susheela Bhat
Shri Romi Bhat
Phone Nos : 9796252630 & 6005295621



Sh Ramesh Chander Bhat

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our Jija Ji **Sh. Rajeev Attri** (Retd. DySP) H/o Smt. Poonam Attri R/o Dharamshala Himachal Pradesh.

Fifth Day will be performed on Saturday 27th April 2024 from 11 am to 12 Noon at our residence Ward No. 14, House No. 122, Near Sallian Talab Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh. Ashok Jagotra (Contractor) & Ashok Kumari (Madhu)
Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh. Rakesh Jagotra (JE) & Smt. Renu Sumbria
Mb. 9419161189, 9419158477



Sh. Rajeev Attri (Retd. DySP)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Jagat Mohini Razdan** W/o Late Sh. Jagar Nath Razdan originally from Chowgam (Qazigund) Distt. Kulgam A/p Block-68, 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 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 & Prafull Ji - Daughter & Son-in-law
Mobile No: 9622338515, 7006240902



Lt. Sh. Rajinder Kumar Pandita (Raja Ji)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS (10TH DAY)

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Sh Satpal Choudhary** S/o Late Jankar Singh resident of H No. 156, Sector-3, Sanjay Nagar, near Rani Talab, Digiana, Jammu passed away on 21st April 2024.

10TH DAY (Shabad Kirtan & Antim Ardass) will be performed at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Sahib, Rani Talab, Digiana, Jammu on 29th April 2024 (Monday) from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Sh Satpal Choudhary PM.

Grief Stricken:

Smt Nirmala Devi (Wife)
Sons
Inspector Javinder Choudhary JKP
Ravinder Choudhary JKP
+919419902805, +917006839575, +919419815382



TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Santosh Sharma** W/o Sh. Lakshmi Chand R/o Near Old Toll Post Nagrota, behind FCI Godown.

Tenth Day will be performed on 27th April 2024 (Saturday) at our residence at 10:00 am.
Kriya will be performed on 28th April 2024 (Sunday) at our residence at 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Lakshmi Chand (Husband)
Smt. Vijay & Sh. Ajay Sharma - Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Manju & Sh. Arvind Sharma - Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Kavita & Adarsh Sharma - Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Anura & Labh Sh. Vijay Kumar - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Taru Devi & Lt. Sh. Sukh Ram - Jethani & Jeth
Smt. Suchita & Sh. Vikas Khajuria - Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Ayusha, Akarshit, Anshika, Aahana - Grand Children
9419795063, 9796400178, 9419148373



Smt. Santosh Sharma

TENTH DAY/KIRYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Girdhari Lal Gupta** S/o Late Sh. Mangal Ram Gupta (Ram Nagar Wale) left for heavenly abode on 18th of April 2024.

Tenth Day will be held on 27th of April 2024 Saturday at Junj Ghar near Hari Mandir, Rehari at 11:00 am.
Kriya will be performed in our residence H.No.21110 Vikas Nagar Sarwal, Jammu on 30th of April 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Chanchia Devi - Wife
Mr Akshay Gupta - Son
Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Kiran Gupta & Sh. Rajinder Prasad Gupta (Principal Private Secretary (Retd))
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Radhika Gupta & Sh. Sanjeev Gupta
Smt. Preeti Gupta & Sh. Ravi Nagrota
Smt. Payal Gupta & Sh. Sanjeev Saroch
M. 7006751987, 9419212362, 7889385316



Sh Girdhari Lal Gupta

TENTH DAY/KRIYA KARAM/ RASAM PAGRI/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father, **Sh. Raj Kumar Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Gian Chand Sharma (Ghagwal-wale), who left for heavenly abode on 17/04/2024.

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 26/04/2024 at 11 a.m sharp at Pandh Mandir Sector 5 Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

Kriya Karam on 27/04/2024 from 9 am onwards at our Residence 223, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, followed by **Rasam Pagri/ Uthala** from 4:30 p.m onwards at Shiv Mandir Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sons & Daughters-in-Law
Sh. Sanjeev Sharma & Smt. Sunita Devi.
Sh. Shubdeep Sharma & Neelam Sharma.
Sh. Arundeep Sharma & Jyoti Sharma.
Daughters and Sons-in-Law
Smt. Radha Sharma & Sh. Ashwani Kumar Sharma.
Smt. Anan Sharma & Sh. Ravi Kumar Sharma.
Grand Children
& All Relatives and Friends.
Mb. 9419209181, 9419209180, 9697161504, 9419785417



SH. RAJ KUMAR SHARMA

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAAS

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mata Harbans Kour** W/o S. Dheep Singh Bati R/o Dardopora at present House No 18 Sector 10 Guru Nanak Nagar Jammu.

Bhog and Antim Ardaas shall be performed as per the following Scheduled Programme:-
Arambh SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB ON FRIDAY (26-04-2024) at 9:00 am at residence.
BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB ON Sunday (28-04-2024) at 9:00 am at residence.

Kirtan and Antim Ardaas shall be performed at Gurudwara Bala Pritham Trikuta Nagar, Jammu from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.
(Followed by Guru Ka Langar)

Grief Stricken:

S. Dheep Singh Bati (Husband)
Daughters-in-law and Sons
Mrs. Manjit Kour and S. Harpal Singh Bati
Mrs. Harwant Kour and Er. Prithi Pal Singh Bati (Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Mrs. Updesh Kour and S. Harbinder Singh (Grand Daughters and Grand Sons-in-Law)
Dr. Anirpal Kour and Dr. Balbir Singh (Grand Daughters in law and Grand Sons)
Dr. Sukhbir Kour and Er. Sukhbir Singh
Er. Amarpreet Kour and Er. Harpreet Pal Singh
Grand Children: Er. Kiranpal Kour, Er. Maninder Pal Singh, Er. Ajaypal Singh and Madan Kour.



MATA HARBANS KOUR

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Rachna Samyal** W/o Sh. Mohan Singh Samyal (Sr. Audit Officer Retd.) R/o Colony'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 Sandeepa - Son & Daughter-in-law
Rakesh and Anjana - Son & Daughter-in-law
Grand Children:
Aparna, Kritika, Arvind, Harish, Jaivardhan, Abhiraj
(Ph- 9419237245, 9419104797)



Smt. Rachna Samyal

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we are heartfelt to inform the sad and untimely demise of our respected and loving **SH. RAVI BHUSHAN DUTTA** Ji H/o Anita Baru (Dutta) on 23rd of April 2024.

FIFTH DAY will be performed on Saturday, 27.04.2024 from 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM at KABIR SABHA, Kabir Colony Poonch House Talab Tillo Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

MOTHER-IN-LAW
Smt. Sheela Baru W/o Lt. Sh. Tara Mani Baru
BHABIES & BROTHERS
Santosh Baru W/o Lt. Sh. Kuldeep Baru
Renu Sharma & Enj Mohan Baru
Neelam Sharma & Arvind Baru
Rajni Bala & Sanjay Baru (Sr. BJP Leader)
Jyoti Sharma & Ravinder Baru
Santosh Sharma & Rajesh Baru (Tehsilard RTI Jammu)
Contacts: 8899549434, 9419110150, 9906020100



SH. RAVI BHUSHAN DUTTA Ji

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Poster Making Competition on WMD at Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 26: In a pro-active initiative to raise awareness on 'World Malaria Day (WMD)', Indian Army organised a poster-making competition at Govt High school Dalogra, Rajouri. Students showcased their talent by crafting impactful visuals highlighting the importance of 'Malaria Prevention' and treatment with creativity and enthusiasm. The event was organised for two different categories (6th to 8th classes and 9th to 10th classes).

A total of 15 students participated in each category. The event served



as a platform to empower the youth with knowledge about the disease and its method for prevention, instilling a sense of

responsibility towards combating this global health challenge. The competition not only fostered artistic expression

but also underscored the collective effort in championing public health initiatives (Through the synergy between the

military and the School Community).

The participants while engaged in artistic expression, have also imbibed valuable lessons like contributing to a healthier, more informed society. Such collaborative endeavors reaffirm the commitment of both the armed forces and educational institutions to safeguarding the well-being of communities and fostering a culture of pro-active health awareness. The celebration culminated with prize distribution ceremony wherein students declared winners in each category were awarded followed by distribution of refreshments.

Govt Initiates Process To Dismiss CRPF DIG Accused Of Sexual Harassment



NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): The Union Government has initiated the process of dismissing a DIG ranked former chief sports officer of the CRPF on charges of sexual harassment levelled against him by some women working in the paramilitary force, official sources said Friday.

A notice for dismissal has been issued against Deputy Inspector General Khajan Singh after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) accepted the recommendation of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), they said. The final orders will

be issued after taking into consideration the reply received from the accused officer within 15 days, the sources said.

Khajan Singh did not respond to PTI's query on the matter.

The notice for dismissal against the officer, currently posted in Mumbai, was issued recently after a probe conducted by the CRPF found him "guilty" on sexual harassment charges.

The CRPF headquarters accepted the probe report prepared by the internal committee and forwarded it to the UPSC and the MHA for taking appropriate disciplinary

action. The UPSC and the MHA have hence issued orders for dismissal against Khajan Singh, the sources said.

The officer is facing at least two such charges and the notice for dismissal has been issued in one case. The other case too is in progress, the sources said.

Khajan Singh served as the chief sports officer of the Central Reserve Police Force, the country's largest paramilitary force. He won a silver medal at the 1986 Seoul Asian Games in the 200m butterfly event which was India's first medal in swimming at the event since 1951.

He had earlier denied the allegations and said that the allegations of sexual harassment were "absolutely false" and made to "spoil his image".

The CRPF, which has about 3.25 lakh personnel, first inducted women in combat ranks in 1986. It has six all-female battalions at present with an overall strength of about 8,000 personnel in them.

It also has women personnel in sports and other administrative wings. (Agencies)

AICBM reached ongoing Shrimad Bhagwat Katha in Bishnah revered Shri Acharya Rakesh



Top News Report

BISHNAH, Apr 26: On the great festival of democracy, Lok Sabha elections, the Senior Vice President of All India Charak Biradhari Mahasabha Captain Retd. Shri Padam Singh Charak, Vikram Singh Charak Vice President All India Charak Biradhari Mahasabha and Captain Retd. Sham Singh Charak Finance Secretary All India Charak Biradhari Mahasabha reached the ongoing Shrimad Bhagwat Katha in village Takkar Lower Saror, Bishnah and attained virtue by listening to the sweet sermons of Pujniy Shastri Shri

Acharya Rakesh ji and attended this great program of Sanatan Dharma in the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha and along with this, by giving fruit and cool water to the devotees in the summer, he served as a sevadar in this great work, on this occasion many dignitaries also enjoyed the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha and attained virtue and made their lives successful, on this occasion Swarn Singh Charak, Executive Member All India Charak Biradhari Mahasabha Sohan Singh Charak and other dignitaries enjoyed the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha by attaining virtue of the sacred sweet sermons of Pujniy Shastri.

DPS Kathua celebrates World Book Day with week long literary journey



Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 26: Delhi Public School (DPS) Kathua embarked on a week-long celebration of literature and reading, starting on April 23rd, in honor of World Book Day.

The theme for this year's celebration, "Reading Opens Doors to Other Worlds," resonated with the profound words of Cicero, "Books give soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." In line with this sentiment, DPS Kathua organized a series of activities aimed at fostering a deep appreciation for books and reading among both teachers and students.

The highlight of the week was the imple-

mentation of the "DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)" program. Teachers and students enthusiastically participated, setting aside dedicated time for reading and emphasizing the importance of literature in everyday life.

Throughout the week, engaging programs were conducted to enhance reading skills and promote a deeper understanding of various literary works. These activities not only enriched the students' knowledge but also sparked their imagination and creativity.

Principal Vivek Arora expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "At DPS Kathua, we believe in the transformative power of books. World Book Week pro-

vides a wonderful opportunity for our students to delve into the vast world of literature and develop a lifelong love for reading."

As World Book Week draws to a close, DPS Kathua reaffirms its commitment to nurturing young minds and inspiring a generation of avid readers.

Principal appreciates senior coordinator Tajinder Kaur Maughal for organizing and hosting the literature events. Additionally, Vikram Singh Slathia, school coordinator for CBSE, HOD IT, and Social Media Incharge, is acknowledged for maintaining the digital presence of the school and enhancing the IT and Cyber skills of students.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Unveils "T GLOSS": A Comprehensive Car Detailing Solution

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 24: In line with its 'customer-first' philosophy, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd. (TKM) today announced the launch of its revolutionary car care brand, "T GLOSS", marking the brand's foray into the world of car detailing. In response to the rapidly increasing demand for high quality and reliable car detailing services among customers in India, TKM is set to redefine the car care industry with its comprehensive range of solutions tailored specifically for Toyota vehicles.

Starting May 1, 2024, "T GLOSS" treatments will be offered at every authorised Toyota dealership in India. This provides customers with convenient access to quality car care solutions delivered in a highly professional manner, ensuring a delightful ownership experience.

As an industry first by any car maker, under the "T GLOSS" brand, TKM will offer a wide array of services curated to enhance a vehicle's appearance, both inside and out. This includes ceramic coating, underbody coating, silencer coating, and internal panel protection. These treatments are not only aimed at enhancing the aesthetic appeal of vehicles but also offers certain degree of protection against environmental elements.

Customers can also avail comprehensive services such as interior enrichment and exterior beautification services that breathe new life into the car, revitalizing its aesthetic appeal and ensuring it looks as good as new. Additionally, for the well-being of the passengers, "T GLOSS" services go beyond the surface with AC duct cleaning and evapora-

tor cleaning, contributing to an immaculate ambiance, promoting a healthier driving environment. All the services are meticulously designed to rejuvenate the interiors and exteriors of vehicles, providing a renewed sense of pride and satisfaction to Toyota owners.

Speaking on the initiative, Mr. Sabari Manohar - Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "We are thrilled to unveil "T GLOSS", an innovative and industry first venture that underscores Toyota Kirloskar Motor's unwavering commitment to 'customer-first' philosophy. We are witnessing growing trend among car owners who prioritize quality vehicle maintenance, and "T GLOSS" is designed to meet their needs by helping them keep their cars in excellent condition aesthetically.

"T GLOSS" is a one-stop-shop solution aimed at offering customers high quality car care solutions that are tailored specifically for Toyota vehicles to ensure safety and upkeeping of vehicles ultimately designed to offer a peaceful ownership experience. This launch marks a significant milestone in our journey of

delivering Toyota owners an all-encompassing car care solution that seamlessly aligns with our core values of quality, durability, and reliability (QDR)"

In addition to its extensive service offerings, "T GLOSS" will place strong emphasis on customization and flexibility to accommodate the diverse needs of customers. The services will be undertaken by highly skilled and trained professional to ensure integration of not only usage of high-quality material but also ensure the services are rendered in the most professional manner ensuring longevity of the vehicle's aesthetics, including exteriors as well as interiors.

Over the years, TKM has strived to consistently improve customer experiences throughout the entire purchase and ownership cycle by implementing timely and relevant initiatives through value-added services that include the newly introduced "Awesome New Car Delivery Solution", 5-Years of Complimentary Roadside Assistance Program and specialized schemes, aimed to make the dream of owning a Toyota vehicle a reality, ensuring a joyful ownership experience for our existing customers.

GDC Thannamandi celebrates World Intellectual Property cum World Book Day

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Apr 26: The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) in collaboration with NSS and Department of Library under the aegis of IQAC of GDC Thannamandi celebrated World Intellectual Property cum World Book Day as part of Viksit Bharat@47 Sankalp here today.

On this occasion an extension lecture on theme "IP and the SDGs: Building our common future with innovation and creativity with special reference to Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) & IP management for Start-ups" hosted under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of the College in which Dr. Ashaq Malik, IQAC Coordinator and Head, Department of Botany was resource person.

While speaking on the occasion Prof. Farooq Ahmed emphasized upon the need of awareness about IPRs for personal and professional growth and capacity building, and taking our nation and world at large to the next level through creativity, innovation and start-ups hence address Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Students and

youth can play pivotal role to bridge the gaps through start-up schemes, he said. He also underlined the declining culture of book reading which again needs innovations to bring it back on the track. Dr. Farooq appreciated the organizing team for taking initiative to celebrate these less known but very important days; World IP Day and World Book and Copyright Day which are marked on April 26th and 23rd respectively.

Dr. Ashaq Malik, IQAC Coordinator and Head, Department of Botany, through PowerPoint presentation detailed the audience about history, relevance and different types of Intellectual Properties Rights including Patents, Trademark, Industrial Design, Geographical Indication, Copyright, Trade Secret etc. He demonstrated with examples, how IP is contributing in overcoming the most pressing issues of our world and helping in transforming it. The linkage and integration of IPRs in the start-ups programs is of paramount importance to address SDGs especially SDG 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15. He explained various acts, provisions and opportunities related

to IPRs at national and international level under the umbrella of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Earlier, Anuj Bali, Librarian and Vice President of IIC of GDC Thannamandi introduced the audience about the programme and gave a brief account of World Book Day which is celebrated since 2000 to mark death anniversary great luminaries including William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega who all died on this day (April 23).

Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Head Department of Mathematics conducted the proceedings of the programme whereas Prof. Asif Aijaz, Head Department of Physics and NSS Coordinator presented formal vote of thanks.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Dr. Abdul Haque Naimi, Dr. Nazar Ul Islam, Dr. Goher Iqbal, Dr. Junaid Ahmed, Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Prof. Rummy Dar, Prof. Rizwana, Dr. Nagina, Dr. Sarfaraz Mirza, Dr. Arshad Khan, Dr. Nisar Bhat, Dr. Mohd Javid, Dr. Nusrat Farooq and Dr. Wahid Ahmed Qazi.

Carrier Counseling for Local Youth at Surankote, Poonch



Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 26: Youth has the power to help a country develop and move towards prosperity and can bring social reforms within the society. Indian Army organized a lecture for the young aspirants of Surankote, Poonch, about the opportunities and requirements for joining the Armed Forces through carrier counselling session. It also served as an informative session where candidates learn about the various entry schemes available, to Join Armed forces like National Defence Academy (NDA), Combined Defence Services (CDS), or direct recruit-

ment rallies. The lecture covered essential topics including eligibility criteria, educational qualifications, age limits, and physical standards necessary to join the Indian Army. The lecture also provided insights into the selection process, which typically includes Physical Fitness Tests, Medical Examinations, and Written Tests. These young seekers were briefed on the importance of preparation and dedication required to successfully navigate the recruitment process. The lecture emphasised the values and ethos of the Indian Army, instilling a sense of pride and commitment among the attendees.

Lecture on 'World Earth Day' at Saila, Poonch

Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 26: Indian Army has conducted a lecture for young children of lower Middle Govt School Saila to promote the importance of World Earth Day in the development of the nation and towards sustainable development.

The lecture enlightened young minds about the significance of Environmental Conservation. Interacting with the students, the Indian Army emphasised the importance of preserving our planet for future generations through these interactive sessions and such educational activities. By fostering awareness and instilling a sense of responsibility towards the environment, the event aimed to inspire the children to become stewards of the Earth.

EDITORIAL

Embracing
Intellectual
Evolution

In a world of perpetual change and advancement, the concept of intellectualism stands as a cornerstone of progress. Intellectualism, at its core, embodies the pursuit of knowledge, critical thinking, and the continuous refinement of ideas. However, in today's rapidly evolving landscape, the traditional notion of intellectualism requires an edit—a redefinition that acknowledges the multifaceted nature of intelligence and embraces the dynamic nature of learning.

Gone are the days when intelligence was solely measured by one's academic achievements or mastery of a specific field. While expertise remains invaluable, the modern intellectual must also possess adaptability, creativity, and a willingness to challenge conventional wisdom. This edit on intellectualism calls for a holistic approach—one that values interdisciplinary thinking, embraces diversity of thought, and fosters intellectual humility.

Firstly, intellectualism should transcend disciplinary boundaries. The siloed nature of academia often limits intellectual growth by confining individuals to narrow fields of study. By encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and exploration, we can cultivate a richer intellectual landscape where ideas intersect and evolve. A biologist drawing inspiration from philosophy, an engineer learning from literature—such cross-pollination of ideas not only fuels innovation but also nurtures a more nuanced understanding of the world.

Moreover, the edit on intellectualism necessitates the recognition of diverse forms of intelligence. While traditional metrics may prioritize logical-mathematical and linguistic abilities, intelligence manifests in myriad forms—creative, emotional, social, and beyond. Embracing this diversity requires acknowledging and valuing the unique talents and perspectives of individuals from all walks of life. A painter's intuition, a musician's emotional intelligence, a community organizer's social acumen—all contribute to the collective pool of human intellect.

Furthermore, intellectualism must be grounded in humility. The pursuit of knowledge is an ongoing journey marked by uncertainty, ambiguity, and the occasional misstep. True intellectualism acknowledges its own limitations and remains open to critique, revision, and new insights. It is through humility that one can confront biases, challenge preconceptions, and engage in constructive dialogue with others. In an age characterized by information abundance and complexity, intellectual humility serves as a compass, guiding us through the vast sea of ideas with integrity and grace.

The edit on intellectualism also entails a shift from passive consumption to active engagement. In an era inundated with information, mere accumulation of facts is insufficient. True intellectualism demands critical thinking—the ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information in a discerning manner. By cultivating a habit of inquiry and skepticism, individuals can navigate the digital landscape with confidence, distinguishing between truth and misinformation, signal and noise.

Furthermore, intellectualism should extend beyond the confines of academia into the realm of social responsibility. The pursuit of knowledge carries with it a moral imperative—a duty to use one's intellect for the betterment of society. Whether through advocacy, activism, or community engagement, the intellectually inclined have a role to play in addressing pressing global challenges, from climate change to social inequality. By harnessing their intellectual firepower for the greater good, they can effect meaningful change and leave a lasting legacy of impact.

In conclusion, the edit on intellectualism heralds a new era of intellectual evolution—one characterized by interdisciplinary collaboration, diversity of thought, intellectual humility, critical engagement, and social responsibility. By embracing this redefined notion of intellectualism, we can unlock the full potential of the human mind and chart a course towards a brighter, more enlightened future.

Is the absence of a 'big idea' hurting the BJP?

By: Sunil Gatade

If the reports after the first phase of polling are to be believed, it boils down to one finding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not just an asset but sometimes a liability too.

The omissions and commissions of the Modi government are coming home to roost after ten long years, notwithstanding claims that he has turned India into a land of milk and honey.

This is not to say that the BJP is down in the dumps but that its slogan "ab ki baar, 400 paar" is just propaganda. Lal Krishna Advani, who was recently awarded the Bharat Ratna, famously said his prominent disciple is just an event manager par excellence. Nothing more, nothing less.

The failure to have a "big idea" is pulling down the BJP rhetoric. In 2014, the alleged misgovernance of UPA rule was well exploited by Mr Modi to project himself as the saviour. In 2019, the Pulwama incident and the Balakot airstrike put all other issues under the carpet for a better show by the BJP. It was shown as performance.

Now, the promise of a "Viksit Bharat" is not only proving a dud but also helping the Opposition to highlight the "failure of governance" over the past decade.

What has hit the BJP unexpectedly is the belief that "the Leader can do no wrong". The controversial Agniveer scheme is turning a section of the powerful Jats against the ruling party in Rajasthan, given that the youth from the martial community are among the largest who join the Army.

Despite the government being able to put a lid on the publication of a book by former Army Chief Gen. M.M. Naravane, which has not spoken glowingly about the controversial scheme, a section of the Jats are angry.

In western Uttar Pradesh, the BJP is facing anger among the Rajputs for not fielding anyone from the community in several seats. This was the last thing the ruling party could have bargained for given the fact that its new chief minister in the state is a Thakur and is a known poster boy of Hindutva.

Mr Modi is increasingly looking jaded. He has nothing new to say and harps constantly on the polarisation theme, feeling that it alone could deliver him a third term. As a commentator put it: the PM's recent remarks on Dr Manmohan Singh and Muslims are revealing of the BJP's "back-to-basics" strategy. His biting attacks on his opponents, including Rahul Gandhi, are becoming more and more personal.

The Election Commission too has inadvertently added to the woes of the BJP. The long poll schedule was unveiled to help Mr Modi campaign at leisure in different areas, much to the discomfiture of the Opposition, but is now becoming a drag for want of issues.

TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee has made "maach" a big issue in fish-loving West Bengal after Mr Modi's attack on an Opposition leader for allegedly eating non-vegetarian food on an auspicious day.

A battery of Opposition leaders, including Tejashwi Yadav and Uddhav Thackeray as well as veteran Sharad Pawar, have been their combative best and have sought to take the battle to

BJP territory.

Right or wrong, the two yatras have given Rahul Gandhi a lot of confidence and he can hardly be shaken off by the Modi diatribes. It is helping the Congress leader to realise he is on the right path and making the correct noises and that the "strong leader" is shaken. The detractors of Rahul, who dismiss him as a "Amul baby", may be in for a shock.

The AAP is shrewdly exploiting the arrest of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to make the BJP nervous. With the AAP valiantly fighting the battle, it is helping the Opposition in general at a critical time. It has turned into a major issue, with some Western countries too raising questions.

Mr Kejriwal, earlier dubbed by detractors as "Chhota Modi", has turned the crisis into an opportunity by silently projecting his wife Sunita as the number two in the party and his natural heir. Even some BJP faithful feel the Delhi CM has been almost gifted a third term in office by seeking to make him a martyr. Assembly polls in Delhi are due in January 2025.

Paradoxically, the issue of dynasties is becoming a matter for the BJP to contend in states like Karnataka. In the middle of the elections, a section of leaders known as B.S. Yediyurappa's baiters are attacking the party leadership for promoting family rule by making his son state party chief.

In Maharashtra, the BJP and allies failing to resolve the vexed issue of seat-sharing despite the first poll phase being over tells its own story. The moves by Mr Modi and home minister Amit Shah to marginalise or sideline the allies during the seat allocation are leading to complica-

tions.

"Don't be under the impression that there is a wave", is the refrain of some BJP leaders from diverse states. It goes counter to the ruling party's boast "Modi hai to mumkin hain". The BJP's projections that the South is emerging as its new El Dorado must be taken with more than a pinch of salt. Pinarayi Vijayan's growing attacks on Rahul Gandhi show that the UDF could again be in a commanding position in Kerala, much to the embarrassment of the Left. The Marxist CM and Mr Modi have become strange bedfellows on the issue of Rahul bashing.

Elon Musk postponing his much-hyped meeting with the Prime Minister at the last minute speaks volumes of Mr Modi's projection as a powerful brand in the global arena suddenly being punctured amidst the elections. Mr Musk wouldn't have dared to do so if he hadn't thought of keeping away from a leader who is a lame duck till June 4. It also silently signals that the INDIA bloc is not such a dud as is being made out by Mr Modi and his bhakts,

The growing desperation of the PM indicates he fears that he could be in for "Ab ki baar, 2004", when Atal Behari Vajpayee suddenly lost power even though the BJP was proclaiming from the rooftops "Who against Atal?"

A redeeming feature for the BJP is the way the Modi-Shah duo go the extra mile when facing a crisis. It depends upon the Opposition how it would go about the advantage provided by the PM through his tirades. In the remaining rounds of voting, both sides need to devise their strategy minutely to change the game in their favour.

Effective workplace safety and inclusivity initiatives demand a holistic approach

By: Vijay GarG

Effective workplace safety and inclusivity initiatives demand a holistic approach, addressing fundamental needs while nurturing higher aspirations.

In the ever-changing landscape of workplace safety and inclusivity, this journey is quite often likened to Maslow's theory where foundational components set the stage for higher aspirations. Like Maslow's hierarchy that progresses from physiological needs to self-actualisation, our modern-day approach must deal with basic requirements before going up to more ambitious aspirations.

The demand of today goes further than what organisations aspire for but rather addresses what is most urgent at the particular moment. Statistics indicate a diverse workforce composition inclusive of X-Gens, Millennials, Gen Zs and soon Generation Alpha. As this demographic shift occurs, are we ready? What kind of policies and practices should be considered for this new era?

Pay Parity: To relate job descriptions with actual

roles or potential appointments calls for careful attention to detail. This audit goes beyond mere policy making; it requires discussions around salary negotiations and retention strategies in different scenarios.

Safe Workplaces: Organisations are increasingly investing in creating both physically and psychologically safe environments. Initiatives encompass Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) policies, which not only ensure workplace safety but also serve as a magnet for high-performing employees. ESG's emphasis on societal contributions resonates with individuals seeking purpose beyond monetary benefits.

Respectful Workplaces: Establishing psychologically safe environments mandates clear policies, including Codes of Business Conduct, Grievance Redressal protocols and Workplace Harassment guidelines (including Prevention of Sexual Harassment). Additionally, dedicated committees should address issues promptly while proactively working on prevention initiatives.

Diversity and Inclusion:

To remain relevant, organisations must adopt equal employment policies, refine communication practices, foster employee resource groups and establish Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) councils. Failure to prioritise these initiatives could deter potential candidates and partners, underscoring their importance in today's landscape.

Flexibility: Sensitivity toward employees' diverse needs is paramount. Accommodations for special circumstances, accessibility for differently-abled individuals, gender-neutral facilities and amenities such as nursing spaces are essential. Appreciation: Cultivating a culture of appreciation is pivotal for fostering a sense of belonging among employees. Initiatives such as team bonding activities and addressing unconscious biases contribute significantly to creating supportive environments. This culture of appreciation propels individuals toward self-actualisation, the pinnacle of Maslow's theory, counteracting toxicity and promoting inclusivity.

Training and Development:

Prioritising continuous training and development programs is essential to cultivate a culture of growth and inclusivity within organisations. By equipping employees with the necessary tools and resources to excel, companies demonstrate their unwavering commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive workplace environment.

Accessibility and Accommodation: Guaranteeing accessibility for all employees, irrespective of their physical capabilities, is imperative to foster inclusivity. This involves implementing measures such as installing wheelchair ramps, providing ergonomic workstations and offering assistive technologies to facilitate equal participation in the workplace. Additionally, organisations need to establish policies that address accommodation requests promptly and with utmost respect for employees' needs and preferences.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

Mission Director NHM UT Ladakh visits CHC & Several AAM Health Institutions at Sankoo

Top News Report

SANKOO, Apr 26: Dr Motup Dorjey, Mission Director, NHM Ladakh on Thursday Conducted his first day visit at Community Health Center Sankoo and took stock of patient care facilities.

Dr. Iqbal, SSO, Dr. Rinchan, Consultant MCH, Dr. Mustansir SNO NQAS, Dr Kachoo Lyaqat Ali Khan Chief Medical Officer Kargil, District Tuberculosis Officer & Nodel officer (NQAS) Dr Mohammad Abass Akhooon, Dr Fatima Nissa District Leprosy Officer & Nodel Officer at District Mental Health, Dr Rabiya Banoo District Immunisation Officer (DIO) Kargil, Dr Zahida Khatoon Block Medical Officer Community Health Center Sankoo, Stanzin Angmo Consultant, Tsewang Dorjay SAO, Chhemat SPO NCD, Hakima Banoo, State IEC Consultant, District Programme Manager, Block Account Manager, ITO Office CHC Sankoo accompanied by state team were



present during the visit.

Dr Motup Dorjey inspected different sections of Community Health Sankoo including the Laboratory, Emerging Ward, X-ray, General Ward, Labour Room, Minor Operation Theatre, Laboratory, Registration Counter,

Dispensary, Cold Chain, MCH Room, Blood Bank and other sections and interacted with the patients.

Dr Motup Dorjey were also inspected at various Health facilities at Sankoo including AAM SC Karcheykhar, AAM SC Thasgam, AAM Bataoo,

PHC Taiket, AAM SC Pangbar & AAM Shargandi and other Health Institutions of Sankoo Block.

After inspected to these Health Institutions of Barsoo Zone he also visited to AAM SC Itchoo, one of the remotest and inaccessible Village of

Kargil Ladakh UT.

Dr Motup Dorjey, Health Director and his state team & District Team Kargil, Visits underscored his commitment to ensuring the optimal functioning of healthcare services across the Ladakh region.

Dr Dorjey conducted to inspection of Health Care facilities at AAM S/C Itchoo.

Dr Dorjey and his team trekked 5 kilometers through difficult terrain, taking more than 3 hours to reach Itchoo from Shargandi.

The Itchoo, situated at an altitude of 12,760 feet above sea level—one of the remotest and inaccessible villages in the region.

During his extensive tour to these Health Center's his assessments encompassed a comprehensive review of operational aspects such as the maintenance of registers pertaining to RCH, NCD, tele consultation services AEFI, IDSP, daily drug consumption, staff attendance etc.

Kaith Biradari organises Bhandara in Uttami Devi Temple at Marh



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 26: The Kaith Biradari organized a Bhandara in Uttami Devi temple at Village Marh here today, where a considerable number of devotees hailing from different corners participated with great enthusiasm.

The devotees paid obeisance to Uttami Devi and prayed for

peace, growth and longevity of all.

Priest said that the devotees who pay obeisance at this holy asthan, their wishes are fulfilled as per desires and they also get protected from all dangers.

On the occasion, the Kaith Biradari congratulated the meritorious students and wished them to remain on cloud nine forever with their

indomitable efforts to achieve success.

All present partook Parshad from the langar.

Prominent among them were Messrs R.L. Kaith, Girdhari Lal, Paras Ram, Tara Chand, Krishan Lal, Kapur Chand, Chaman Lal, Yash Pal, Ashok Kumar, Purshottam Lal, Vicky Kumar and Rinku Kumari.

Dimple appeals to CEC not to defer Poonch-Rajouri-Anantnag LS elections



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 26: Sunil Dimple, the president of Mission Statehood, voiced his appeal to the Chief Election Commission not to defer the Poonch Rajouri and Anantnag MP seat elections. He expressed concern over the reported request from BJP, PC, and Apni Party to postpone these elections, alleging it's against the

wishes of the people in the region.

Dimple questioned the motive behind BJP's demand for postponement when they aren't contesting in the Poonch Rajouri seat.

He urged the Chief Election Commission not to yield to such demands and emphasized the importance of conducting immediate elections in the region.

Dimple also criticized BJP, accusing them of

conspiring against the democratic process by requesting postponement while not participating in the election.

He expressed confidence in the alliance candidates, predicting their success in all five J&K seats and one from Ladakh. Dimple concluded by revealing his commitment to strengthening the Indian Constitution and democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt Schools: Unlocking Quality Education

Top News Report

DODA, Apr 26: In a bid to emphasize the manifold benefits of enrolling children in government schools, Naseer Ahmed Batt, the Media Coordinator of Zone Thathri, has penned a compelling message to parents.

With the commencement of the new academic session, parents are being urged to consider the plethora of advantages offered by government institutions for their children's education.

Under the ambit of the Right to Education (RTE) Act of 2009, education is not only free but also compulsory in government schools from pre-primary to 8th grade.

This encompasses the provision of free textbooks and uniforms for all students within these grades, effectively alleviating the financial strain on parents. Moreover, the recent implementation of the new Education Policy 2020 ensures uniformity in curriculum across both government and private schools, bridging the gap in educational resources.

Embracing modern technological advancements and fostering accountability, government schools have introduced innovative measures. The JK Attendance App has been instrumental in ensuring punctuality among teachers, while the SMIKSHA App facilitates invaluable feedback from students and parents regarding

the quality of teaching. Additionally, the introduction of the STEER App assigns each teacher the pivotal responsibility of monitoring their students' educational progression and achievements.

Furthermore, government schools are nurturing holistic development through the establishment of cultural cells, providing platforms for students to exhibit their talents at national and international forums. Recent academic accolades, exemplified by the stellar performance of a student from Government Middle School Chakka Hazak Ali, underscore the commendable strides in the educational landscape of government institutions.

Parents are fervently encouraged to deliberate on the myriad benefits of government schools for their children's burgeoning futures. Active participation in parent-teacher meetings is strongly advocated to ensure the continual provision of quality education. By opting for government schools, parents not only invest in their children's academic journey but also realize substantial savings vis-à-vis private education expenses.

As parents contemplate their educational choices, the resounding message echoes clear: Government schools stand as bastions of quality education and prudent financial management.

Properties of 4 terrorist handlers attached in Handwara



Top News Report

KUPWARA, Apr 26: Police on Friday attached properties of four terrorist handlers in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. These handlers are said to be operating from Pakistan.

An official said that the property of four terrorist handlers who were declared as proclaimed offenders by the orders of the court were attached by the Police.

These handlers have ex-filtrated to Pakistan in the nineties and following years. They are actively involved in reviving and spreading terrorism in Handwara and other areas of J&K," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Police in a statement said, "Acting tough against the wanted local terrorists based in Pakistan, J&K Police has launched a special drive against the absconders and wanted terrorists and as part of this

drive, properties of four terrorist handlers who were declared as proclaimed offenders by the orders of the court were attached on the orders of the court by Police District Handwara."

It said that these absconders and proclaimed offenders had ex-filtrated to Pakistan or PoK in the 1990s or early years of the 2000s and are presently in Pakistan or PoK.

Since then, they are continuously involved in handling terrorists and reviving and spreading terrorism in Handwara and other areas of J&K," the statement said.

Following the prescribed procedure, land measuring 10 marlas at Kralgund belonging to proclaimed offender Mumtaz Ahmad Khwaja, son of Muhammad Subhan Khawaja of Kralgund; land measuring 16-3/4 marlas belonging to Lateef Ahmad Bhat, son of Abdul Rehman

Bhat of Badra Payeen; land measuring 1 kanal and 2 marlas at Ashpora belonging to Mush-taq Ahmad Mir, son of Muhammad Sultan Mir of Ashpora; and land measuring 1 kanal at Khaipora belonging to Ghulam Nabi Ganai, son of Ghulam Rasool Ganai of Khaipora, Qaziabad was attached by Police District Handwara on the orders of the court," the statement said.

"These terrorists are also involved in different cases of Police District Handwara and are actively trying to revive and run the terror ecosystem in J&K. Besides these four, 51 persons from J&K who have ex-filtrated to Pakistan or PoK for illegal arms training and are operating from there have also been declared as proclaimed offenders by the court. The action is also being contemplated against them under the law."

Nissan rolls out free nationwide AC check-up camp for customers



Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Apr 26: Nissan Motor India has announced a two-month long free AC check-up camp for its customers across the country, reaffirming its commitment towards customer centricity and service excellence. Nissan will conduct the AC check-up camps between 15th April to 15th June 2024 at all Nissan authorized service workshops across India where all customers are eligible for a wide range of services and discounts. Nissan's highly skilled and trained service professionals will conduct the AC check-up camp, using Nissan Gen-

uine spare parts ensuring a seamless service experience.

All Nissan and Datsun vehicle owners can schedule a service appointment for the check-up through the NISSAN ONE App or the Nissan Motor India website (www.nissan.in) with ease. This initiative not only enhances Nissan's promise of a hassle-free ownership experience but also serves as a token of appreciation for customer confidence in the Nissan brand. The service camps will be held across the company's extensive 120 service workshop network, which currently caters

to all Nissan and Datsun branded vehicles.

The camp will offer a comprehensive 20-point check-up that includes a free car top wash, and a free pick-up and drop to customers opting for PMS (Periodical Maintenance Service). Additionally, customers can benefit from discounts on parts/accessories (as per dealer discretion), up to 20% discount on labour charges and up to 10% on Value Added Services (VAS). The company encourages all Nissan and Datsun to take advantage of these exclusive offers and ensure optimal performance and longevity of their vehicles.

Rahul Sahai voted with family



Top News Report

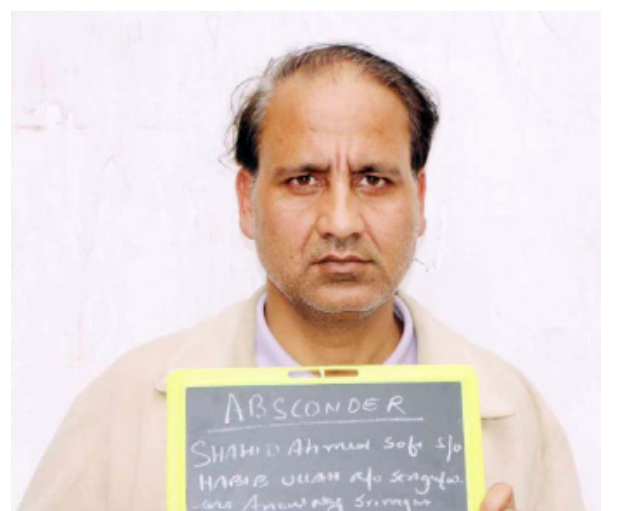
JAMMU, Apr 26: Rahul Sahai, Chairman of the PHD Chamber of Commerce Jammu voted today with family and said, "I stand committed to fostering economic growth, innovation, and prosperity in our region. Your vote isn't just a mark on a ballot; it's a voice for our business community, advocating for policies that drive development, create jobs, and enhance livelihoods. By supporting me, you're supporting initiatives that empower local entrepreneurs, attract investment, and build a vibrant economy for generations to come. Together, let's shape a future where opportunity flourishes, businesses thrive, and our community prospers. Your vote matters—it's the cornerstone of progress. Vote for a brighter, stronger Jammu."

Narcotics dealer absconder arrested

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 26: Continuing special drive against wanted criminals and absconders, GRP Jammu arrested drugs dealer absconder Shahid Ahmed, son of Habibullah Sofi, resident of Srigufwara Tehsil Srigufwara, District Anantnag involved in Case FIR No. 10/2009 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act Of P/S GRP Jammu.

He was evading arrest for the last 15 years and finally apprehended by team of Railway Police (GRP) Jammu after chasing him in Kashmir valley. He is also accused in case FIR number 90/23 of Police Station Sriguf-



wara Anantnag. He Was Caught With Charas worth Rs 1 lakh market price at Railway

Station Jammu. This is the fifth warrant u/s 512 CrPC executed by GRP Jammu within five weeks.

As Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramandi is whipping up nostalgia about the pre-Independence period, here's a look at some OTT shows that have captured various bygone eras with finesse

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's period drama Heeramandi is making headlines for its expensive sets which took about seven months to create and about 300 beautiful costumes created by designers Rimple and Harpreet Narula. Without doubt, SLB is the master of this genre, but there are many others who are pretty good in recreating the eras that gone by to narrate their stories. Take a look...

Jubilee (IMDb rating: 8.3/10)

Director Vikramaditya Motwane's Jubilee is about Indian cinema that belonged to the pre-Independence era. The period drama stars Aparshakti Khurana and Wamiqa Gabbi. Motwane shares a personal connection with that period as his grandfather Harnam Motwane produced a black and white film, titled Andolan, starring Kishore Kumar.

Guns & Gulaabs (7.7/10)

Starring Rajkumar Rao, Dulquer Salmaan, Adarsh Gourav and Gulshan Devaiah, the series by Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK is set in the fictional town of Gulaabganj of the 90s. With lead actors sporting the 90's haircut, especially Gulshan Devaiah with his long mullet hair, passes off as young Sanjay Dutt from his Sajan era. There are many elements that evoke nostalgia — Rajkumar Rao chasing his love interest who rides a moped, school children singing the hit song Waiting for a Girl Like You and people sipping Coca Cola from a glass bottle!

The Railway Men (8.5/10)

Based on the Bhopal Gas tragedy in 1984, this limited series brings back the memories of an unfortunate event



in India's history while saluting the unnamed heroes who saved thousands of lives. The Netflix original stars Kay Kay Menon, R Madhavan, Babil Khan and Divyendhu. It marked the directorial debut of Shiv Rawail, who has

recreated that era and the place well.

Rocket Boys (8.9/10)

This web series captures the time when India became a nuclear nation, thanks to scientists Homi Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai. This period series keeps the

viewers hooked with two seasons. Actor Jim Sarbh was also nominated in the Best Performance by an Actor category at the International Emmy Awards for playing Homi J Bhabha in the series. Scam 2003: The Telgi

Story (7.9/10)

Hansal Mehta offered a gem when he first made the web series Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story. The series became an instant grosser on streaming service. Last year, Mehta released a

sequel based on Abdul Karim Telgi's rise from a fruit seller to the kingpin of the stamp paper scam. The timeline goes from 1990s when he first discovered a way to sell fake stamps to the peak period in late 1990s to when it all came down with multiple court cases from 2001-2007.

Trial by Fire (7.7/10)

This series takes the viewers back to the 1997 Uphaar tragedy as it narrates the ordeal of parents who fight for justice after losing their children. Set in the era when single screen theatres ruled, it's a story of loss, resilience and hope. The series is a must-watch because of

Rajshri Deshpande and Abhay Deol's performance. Khakee: The Bihar Chapter (8.2/10)

Set in Bihar in the mid-2000s, Khakee is adapted from IPS officer Amit Lodha's book,

The Bihar Diaries. It seeks to decode the landscape in which it is set. It is the true account of how Bihar's most dangerous criminal was arrested. It takes place between 2000 and 2006. The series chronicles Lodha's (Karan Tacker) postings across Bihar and also Chandan Mahato's (Avinash Tiwary) climb from a truck driver to the most feared mobster. It captures the environment of Bihar in those times pretty well.

Similarly, Maharani is another story that travels back in time to bring back the memory of class divide that infiltrated deep in the veins of Bihar politics.

Sultan of Delhi (5.5/10) With Sultan of Delhi, director Milan Luthria moves back in time to tell gangster story that is set in 1960s Delhi. It is adapted from author Arnab Ray's book Sultan Of Delhi: Ascension.

Priyanka's documentary WOMB is a call for women to rise above all odds

Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who has produced the documentary Women of My Billion (WOMB), has said that women have borne the brunt of gender bias for a very long time. Her documentary is a call for solidarity and action to help women rise above the odds.

Women of My Billion, directed by Ajitesh Sharma, is a stark and touching chronicle of the fight against all forms of violence faced by women in India. It follows the journey of Srishti Bakshi as she embarks on a walking pilgrimage from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, spanning 3,800 km over 240 days, with a mission to find and share stories about women, their struggles, dreams, and rights.

Priyanka said in a statement, "Women have borne the brunt of gender bias for far too long, enduring a silent struggle against entrenched social injustices that seek to suppress their voices. With WOMB, the aim is to transcend these struggles - to be a beacon of hope."

"WOMB is not merely



a depiction of pain and suffering but a rallying cry and call for solidarity and action. We hope this film takes us a step

closer to a world where every woman is appreciated, honoured, and empowered to soar," she added.

Big B on being honoured with Mangeshkar Award — 'Abhaar aur mera param saubhagya'

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who was feted with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for his remarkable contributions to the field of cinema, has expressed his gratitude for the honour.

Amitabh took to X and shared a picture of himself receiving the award from Usha Mangeshkar, sister of the late legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar. "Aabhaar aur mera param saubhagya," he wrote in the caption.

Actor Randeep Hooda, actress Padmini Kolhapure, and music composer AR Rahman were also seen sharing the stage with Amitabh, who received the honour on the memorial day of Deenanath Mangeshkar, the theatre-music veteran and father of the Mangeshkar siblings.

Rahman was also feted with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for his contributions to the field of music, along with Randeep, Ashok Saraf, and playback singer Roopkumar Rathod.



Madhuri Dixit, Karisma Kapoor recreate 'Dance of Envy'; Suniel Shetty calls them 'greatest dancing stars'

Actresses Madhuri Dixit Nene and Karisma Kapoor will set the stage on fire as they will be seen recreating the magic of the 'Dance Of Envy' from the iconic 1997 film 'Dil To Pagal Hai'.

Karisma will be a guest on the upcoming episode of the reality show 'Dance Deewane'. She will be joining Suniel Shetty, with whom she worked in 'Rakshak' and her 'Dil To Pagal Hai' co-star Madhuri Dixit Nene.

A promo shared by the channel on Instagram showcased the two actresses recreating the iconic face-off dance, which is called



the 'Dance Of Envy'.

The two nailed it to the T as they took over the stage on the show.

Suniel gave them a standing ovation and praised the two by saying: "Tab bhi aap logo ke liye dil paagal tha aur aaj bhi dil paagal hai."

The greatest dancing stars of our industry and country."

The song is from Yash Chopra's 1997 blockbuster. In the film, both actors were cast opposite Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan.

Kajol's style mantra of the day: 'Life is short, let my pallu be long'



Bollywood actor Kajol has shared a life

mantra for herself, and it's every bit hilarious.

Kajol took to Instagram and shared a string of photographs.

The actress looks every inch gorgeous in a black mesh saree with a drizzle of gold on it.

She completed her look with minimal makeup and an embellished clutch, choosing to keep her hair tied into a bun.

"Life is short. Let my pallu be long! #BornToSparkle #OOTD," Kajol wrote in the caption.

Speaking about work, Kajol, who was last seen in 'Lust Stories 2' and 'The Trial', will soon be seen in 'Do Patti', which also stars Kriti Sanon and Shaheer Sheikh. Directed by Shashanka Chaturvedi, the mystery thriller tells a captivating story set in the hills of North India.

Ayushmann Khurrana, Dua Lipa to attend TIME100 Gala in New York



Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is all set to attend the prestigious TIME100 Gala event in New York. Ayushmann has been honoured twice by TIME Magazine. In 2023, he was honoured with the TIME100 Impact Award. He was the only Indian to be chosen for the award. In 2020, he was chosen as one of the magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

The actor will be seen in the company of pop star Dua Lipa at the gala.

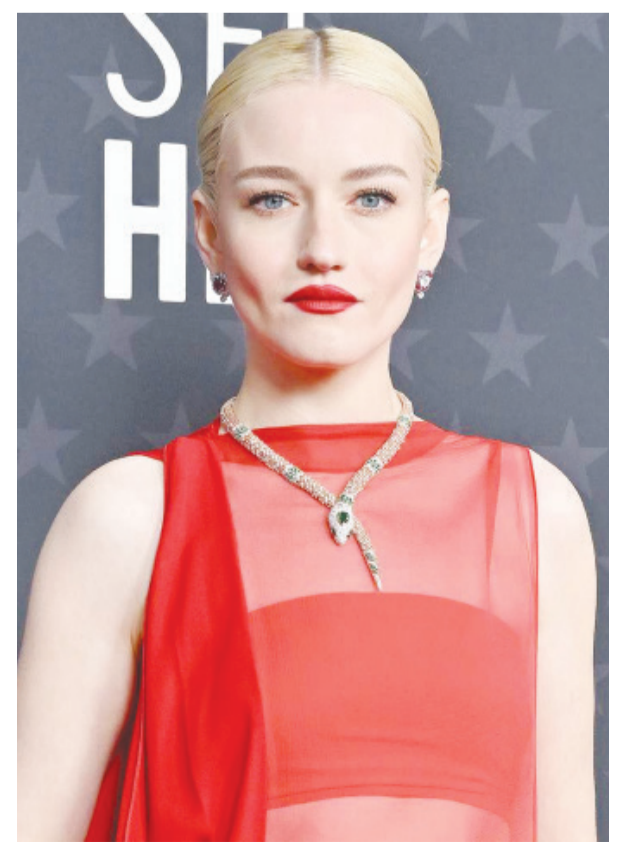
The event is expected to also have legendary and iconic personalities like Sofia Coppola (film director and screenwriter), Elliot Page (actor and film producer), Kylie Minogue (singer and actress), Max Verstappen (F1 driver), Michael J Fox (Movie Actor) and Taraji P Henson (actress).

Julia Garner to star alongside Josh Brolin in Zach Cregger's horror thriller Weapons

Ozark-fame Julia Garner is set to captivate audiences once again in the upcoming horror thriller, Weapons.

The film, directed by Zach Cregger, marks a reunion of the creative team behind the acclaimed horror movie Barbarian. Garner's star power continues to rise as she secures the lead role opposite seasoned actor Josh Brolin. Production for Weapons is scheduled to commence in mid-May in Atlanta, promising an atmospheric and chilling experience for horror enthusiasts.

In addition to Weapons, Garner is involved in other high-profile projects, including Apartment 7A and Wolf Man.



PM Modi's rare attack on media: Dare you to show MM Singh video on priority to Muslims

Prime Minister was addressing a public meeting in West Bengal

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took rare public swipes at a section of the media for challenging his previous remarks about predecessor Manmohan Singh advocating priority for Muslims in the national resource pie.

Referring to a new video of Singh, dated eve of the 15th General Election in April 2009, Modi said Singh is again heard reiterating his previous remarks that Muslims have the first claim on the resources of the country.

"When I exposed the Congress and discriminatory approach of the INDI bloc, some people were infuriated. Their whole ecosystem began targeting me. Today I dare them all to stop trying to scare me because for 25 years they could not scare me. These people went to the extent of spreading the lie that MM Singh never advocated that the first claim on national resources is of the Muslims.



Today one more old video of MM Singh has surfaced wherein he is heard reiterating that the first claim on national resources is that of the Muslims," Modi said.

Citing the video, Modi, in a rare public attack on mainstream media, dared it to show the evidence to the country.

"After this video's revelation, the Congress and its ecosystem is silent. The media which was

calling my previous statement about the issue wrong is also silent. I watched these media people the other night. I do not wish to criticise them personally but I was watching how without fact checks they were out to gun for Modi. Today the video evidence is out. I urge the media to show this video to the country. But I know they will not do so because such is their ecosystem. They will shut this

video into a box by the evening," the Prime Minister said in West Bengal.

In an April 2009 video posted by the BJP and several handles sympathetic to the saffron forces shows Singh saying: "I said minorities, particularly Muslim minorities, if they are poor they have prior claim on resources of the country. I used the words all for all minorities and I added particularly Muslim minorities, if they are poor, they have the first priority on resources of the country. I stand by my statement."

PM Modi and the ruling BJP have whipped up a whole campaign narrative accusing the Congress-led INDI bloc of trying to "snatch the constitutionally mandated reservation rights of SCs, STs and OBCs and give these to Muslims" and of "ploys to redistribute wealth of Indian masses by launching surveys and subsequent policy action."

6 people killed as wedding pandal catches fire in Bihar's Darbhanga

The pandal caught fire during bursting of firecrackers, say eyewitnesses



DARBHANGA, Apr 26 (Agencies): Six people were killed in a massive fire that broke out at a wedding pandal in Bihar's Darbhanga district, police said on Friday.

The incident happened around 11.15 pm on Thursday in Alinagar in Bahera police station area, they said.

The pandal caught

fire during the bursting of firecrackers, eyewitnesses said.

It is suspected that a few inflammables kept inside the pandal helped the fire to spread rapidly, police said.

The deceased were identified as Sunil Paswan (26), Lila Devi (23), Kanchan Devi (26), Siddhanth Kumar (4), Shashank Kumar (3) and Sakshi Kumari (5).

Three cows were also killed in the fire, police said.

"I have ordered an inquiry to find the exact cause of the fire. In the meantime, the district administration is providing all possible assistance to the families of the victims as per disaster management guidelines," District Magistrate Rajeev Roshan told agency.

Senior Superintendent of Police Jagunath Reddy said fire tenders were sent to the spot immediately after information was received about the blaze.

"The fire was brought under control after some time. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examinations," he said.

Policeman killed, another injured in accidental firing at former MLA's bungalow in Chhattisgarh's Raipur

RAIPUR, Apr 26 (Agencies): A policeman was killed and another injured due to an accidental discharge of a firearm in the bungalow of a former Congress MLA in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur on Friday, police said.

The incident occurred between 7 am and 8 am when the two personnel of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force were cleaning their service weapons in the barrack at the bungalow of former MLA Devti Karma here in the Civil Lines area, a police official said.

"As per preliminary information, a bullet accidentally discharged from a pistol pierced through a palm of assistant platoon commander Ram Kumar Dohare and



hit the chest of head constable Ajay Singh," he said.

"The two were shifted to a government hospital where Singh succumbed to the bullet wound. Dohare is undergoing treatment," he said.

While Singh belonged to Bijuri, Dohare hails from Bhand in Madhya Pradesh, he said.

The two were posted on security duty of

Ashish Karma, son of Devti Karma.

"Prima facie the incident seems to be a case of accidental firing. However, the investigation into it is underway", the official said.

On Thursday, a District Reserve Guard (DRG) constable was killed and another policeman injured due to an accidental discharge of a firearm in the state's Dantewada district.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's counsel knocks at Supreme Court's door as his petition listed on May 6, not in week commencing April 29

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): Noticing that his petition challenging the Delhi High court's verdict upholding his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money-laundering case linked to the excise scam was listed on May 6, and not in the week commencing April 29, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday knocked at the Supreme Court's door.

"Your Lordship directed the Arvind Kejriwal matter to be listed in week commencing (April) 29. I suddenly find it...they (ED) have filed a reply...The case list is showing on 6th (May) now...There is urgency," senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi told a Bench led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna on behalf of the Delhi Chief Minister.

"You move an email,



we will take it up," Justice Khanna told Singhvi.

While issuing notice to the ED on Kejriwal's petition challenging the Delhi High Court's verdict upholding his arrest in the case, a Bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta had on April 15 posted the matter for further hearing in the week commencing April 29.

It had asked the ED to respond to Kejriwal's petition by April 24 and

given time till April 27 to Kejriwal to file his rejoinder to the ED's reply.

Describing Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal as "the kingpin and key conspirator of the Delhi excise scam", the ED in its reply has told the Supreme Court that his conduct in avoiding interrogation despite nine summonses led the investigating officer "to form the satisfaction" that he's guilty of money laundering.

Accusing the AAP of

being the "major beneficiary" of the proceeds of crime generated in the Delhi excise policy scam, the ED said the party had committed the offence of money laundering through its national convener Arvind Kejriwal.

"Kejriwal is the kingpin and key conspirator of the Delhi excise scam in collusion with ministers of the Delhi Government, AAP leaders and other persons," the probe agency said in its affidavit.

"Kejriwal was involved in the conspiracy of formulation of the excise policy, 2021-22, to favour certain persons and also involved in the demanding kickbacks from liquor businessmen in exchange for favours granted in the said policy," the ED said, urging the top court to dismiss Kejriwal's peti-

tion for being "devoid of merit".

"The accused, by his conduct, has himself contributed and aided the investigating officer regarding the existence of the necessity to arrest, apart from the material in possession of the IO, to form the satisfaction that the petitioner is guilty of the offence of money laundering," it said.

"Even on the date of the search during his interrogation while recording his statement under Section 17 of the PMLA, he was avoiding answering questions by being evasive and totally non-cooperative even with respect to simple non-incriminating questions," the probe agency said. The ED said AAP was the major beneficiary of the proceeds of crime generated in the Delhi liquor scam.

Seven Telangana students die by suicide after intermediate exam results

HYDERABAD, Apr 26 (Agencies): Seven students, including two girls, allegedly died by suicide hours after the Telangana state board released the results of the Intermediate Public Examination 2024 for the first (equivalent of Class 11) and second year (Class 12). Police said the deaths were reported in the last 48 hours after the results were released on Wednesday, agency reported.

Mahabubabad Super-

intendent of Police said the two girls who allegedly took their lives failed in the examination.

The cases were reported from Rajendranagar, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, Khammam, Mahabubabad, and Kollur.

According to a report in news agency, the first case was reported in Mancherla district where a 16-year-old hanged himself at his residence. The student had failed in four sub-

jects.

The students who died by suicide were aged 16 or 17 years. Police said they took their lives by hanging, jumping into a community well, or drowning in a pond.

More than 9.8 lakh students appeared for the intermediate exam that was conducted earlier this year. Around 61.06% of students (2.87 lakh) passed in the first year (equivalent of Class 11). The pass percentage was 69.46% (3.22 lakh) in the second

year.

In 2019, 22 students died by suicide in Telangana after the intermediate results were released.

Telangana accounts for 5 per cent of student suicides in the country. The state ranked 11th among the 28 states in 2022 as per the National Crime Records Bureau. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh were the top three states with the highest number of student suicides.

PM is scared, may even shed tears on stage: Rahul Gandhi's fresh salvo at Modi

VIJAYAPUR, Apr 26 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday took potshots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his attack on the grand old party, saying he is scared and may even shed tears on the stage.

"You have heard the Prime Minister's speeches. He is scared. It's possible that he may shed tears on stage," Gandhi said, addressing a public gathering in this district headquarters town in the party-governed state.

Modi has targeted the Congress on a variety of issues in recent campaign rallies, including "mangalsutra," "redistribution of wealth," and "inheritance tax" charges.

The former Congress chief accused Modi of "diverting public attention" through various means.

"Modi tries to divert your attention. Sometimes he talks about China and Pakistan, and sometimes he will make you beat plates and ask you to switch on the torch light of your



mobile phones," Gandhi said.

He pointed out that there are three to four core issues in India, including poverty, unemployment and price rise. Gandhi claimed that only Congress can eradicate unemployment, contain price rise and give people their due share.

"Modi has only snatched money from poor people. He has made some billionaires. There are 22 people who have wealth equivalent to the 70 crore people of the country. Just one percent of people are

controlling 40 percent of the wealth of the nation," he alleged.

Gandhi said in the present scheme of things, there is "no scope" for Dalits, OBCs, tribals, minorities and poor general category people.

"I will just tell you a clear thing in a simple one-liner. The wealth Modi has given to those billionaires, the same money we are going to give to the poor people of the country," he added.

The Congress leader also promised the youth that his party will scrap

the 'Agniveer' scheme if it is voted to power.

He dubbed the 'Agniveer' scheme in the armed forces offering three years services to the youth from 18 to 21 years old as an insult to the Army and soldiers.

"Narendra Modi snatched the Army jobs from the youth of India. He brought the Agniveer scheme, which is an insult to the Indian Army and soldiers. We will scrap it," Gandhi said.

Gandhi charged Modi with imposing a faulty GST where he introduced five different types of tax, which are hefty.

Alleging that the PM was doing injustice to Karnataka, he said the Congress will change the GST and rectify the injustice meted out to the people of the state.

According to Gandhi, the ongoing Lok Sabha election was not general in nature. "It is not an election that used to happen earlier because for the first time in the history of India, a party and a person want to destroy the Constitution and democracy."

BJP candidate K Sudhakar booked for alleged bribery in Karnataka, 4.8 crore cash seized

BENGALURU, Apr 26 (Agencies): A case was registered against BJP candidate K Sudhakar for alleged bribery and undue influence on electorate and cash amounting to Rs 4.8 crore was also seized, the Election Commission said on Friday.

Action was taken by the Flying Squads Team (FST) of Chikkaballapura-

ra, they said.

Taking to 'X', Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer on Friday said the FST of Chikkaballapura seized cash to the tune of Rs 4.8 crores.

An FIR also has been registered by the state surveillance team of Chikkaballapura Constituency against K Sudhakar, BJP candidate



on April 25 at Madanayakanahally police station.

The FIR is registered under relevant Sections

of the Representation of the People Act and that of the IPC for bribery and undue influence on electors, he posted.

South Africa will mark 30 years of freedom amid inequality, poverty and a tense election ahead

The country is gearing up for celebrations Saturday to mark 30 years of freedom and democracy.

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 26 (Agencies): As 72-year-old Nonki Kunene walks through the corridors of Thabisang Primary School in Soweto, South Africa, she recalls the joy she and many others felt 30 years ago when they voted for the first time.

It was at this school on April 27, 1994, that Kunene joined millions of South Africans to brave long queues and take part in the country's first democratic elections after decades of white minority rule which denied Black people the right to vote.

The country is gearing up for celebrations Saturday to mark 30 years of freedom and democracy. But much of the enthusiasm and optimism of that period has subsided as Africa's most developed economy faces a myriad of challenges.

Like many things in South Africa, the school that Kunene remembers has changed, and what used to be a school hall has now been turned into several classrooms.

"I somehow wish we could go back to that day, because of how excited I was and the things that happened thereafter," said Kunene, referring to Nelson Mandela becoming the country's first Black president and the introduction of a new constitution that afforded all South Africans equal rights, abolishing the racially discriminatory system of apartheid.

For many who experienced apartheid, those years remain etched in their collective memory.

"I cannot forget how we suffered at the hands of whites. In the city at night, there were white bikers with hair like this



(describing a mohawk-like hairstyle) who would brutally assault a Black person if they saw them walking on a pavement. Those white boys were cruel," said 87-year-old Lily Makhanya, whose late husband died while working in the anti-apartheid movement's underground structures.

"If they saw you walking on the pavement, you would be assaulted so badly and left for dead."

For Makhanya and many others who stood in those queues to vote in 1994, it represented a turning point from a brutal past to the promise of a prosperous future.

But 30 years later, much of that optimism has evaporated and the introduction of a new constitution that afforded all South Africans equal rights, abolishing the racially discriminatory system of apartheid.

Public demonstrations have become common as communi-

ties protest against the ruling African National Congress' failure to deliver job opportunities and basic services like water and electricity.

An electricity crisis that has resulted in power blackouts that are devastating the country's economy added to the party's woes as businesses and homes are sometimes forced to go without electricity for up to 12 hours a day.

Areas like the affluent Johannesburg suburb of Sandton, which hosts beautiful skyscrapers and luxurious homes, are an example of the economic success enjoyed by a minority of the country's 60 million people.

But the township of Alexandra, which lies a few kilometers (miles) from Sandton, is a stark reflection of the living conditions of the country's poor Black majority, where sewage from burst pipes flows on the streets and uncollected rubbish piles up on pavements.

Such contradictions are common across the major cities, including the capital Pretoria and the city of Cape Town, and they remain at the center of what is expected to be one of

the country's most fiercely contested elections in May.

For the first time since the ANC came to power in 1994, polls are indicating that the party might receive less than 50% of the national vote, which would see it lose power unless it manages to form a coalition with some smaller parties.

For some younger voters like 24-year-old Donald Mkhwanazi, the nostalgia does not resonate. Mkhwanazi will be voting for the first time in the May 29 election and is now actively involved in campaigning for a new political party, Rise Mzansi, which will be contesting a national election for the first time.

"I had an opportunity to vote in 2019, and in local elections in 2021, but I did not because I was not persuaded enough by any of these old parties about why I should vote," he said.

"I didn't see the need to vote because of what has been happening over the past 30 years. We talk about freedom, but are we free from crime, are we free from poverty? What freedom is this that we are talking about?"

Political analyst Pearl Mncube said South Africans are justified in feeling failed by their leaders.

"More and more South Africans have grown skeptical of pronouncements from government due to its history of continuously announcing grand plans without prioritizing the swift execution of said plans," Mncube said.

She said while Freedom Day is meant to signify the country's transition from an oppressive past, it was important to highlight current problems and plans to overcome them.

"We cannot use the past, and any nostalgia attached to it, to avoid accounting for the present," she said.

US-China talks start with warnings about misunderstandings and miscalculations



BEIJING, Apr 26 (Agencies): The United States and China butted heads over a number of contentious bilateral, regional and global issues as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Friday with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and both men warned of the dangers of misunderstandings and miscalculations.

The meeting, on the final day of Blinken's second visit to China in the past year, came as talks between the countries have expanded in recent months even as differences have grown and become more serious, raising concerns about the potential for conflict between the world's two largest economies.

Blinken and Wang each underscored the importance of keeping lines of communication open but they also lamented persistent and deepening divisions that threaten global security. Those divisions were highlighted earlier this week when U.S. President Joe Biden signed a massive foreign aid bill that contains several elements that the Chinese see as problematic.

"Overall, the China-U.S. relationship is beginning to stabilize," Wang told Blinken. "But at the same time, the negative factors in the relationship are still increasing and building and the relationship is facing all kinds of dis-

ruptions."

"Should China and the United States keep to the right direction of moving forward with stability or return to a downward spiral?" he asked. "This is a major question before our two countries and tests our sincerity and ability."

Wang also outlined, without being specific, well-known Chinese complaints about U.S. policies and positions on the South China Sea, Taiwan, human rights and China's right to conduct relations with countries it deems fit.

"China's legitimate development rights have been unreasonably suppressed and our core interests are facing challenges," he said, demanding the U.S. refrain from interfering in China's internal affairs.

Blinken responded by saying that the Biden administration places a premium on U.S.-China dialogue even on issues of dispute. He noted there had been some progress in the past year but suggested that talks would continue to be difficult.

"I look forward to these discussions being very clear, very direct about the areas where we have differences and where the United States stands, and I have no doubt you will do the same on behalf of China," Blinken told Wang.

"There is no substitute in our judgement for face-to-face diplo-

macy in order to try to move forward, but also to make sure we're as clear as possible about the areas where we have differences at the very least to avoid misunderstandings, to avoid miscalculations," he said.

Blinken arrived in China on Wednesday, visiting Shanghai shortly before Biden signed the \$95 billion foreign aid package that has several elements likely to anger Beijing, including \$8 billion to counter China's growing aggressiveness toward Taiwan and in the South China Sea. It also seeks to force TikTok's China-based parent company to sell the social media platform.

China and the United States are the major players in the Indo-Pacific. Washington has become increasingly alarmed by Beijing's growing aggressiveness in recent years toward Taiwan and its smaller Southeast Asian neighbors with which it has significant territorial and maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

China has railed against U.S. assistance to Taiwan and immediately condemned the aid as a dangerous provocation. It also strongly opposes efforts to force TikTok's sale.

The bill also allots \$61 billion for Ukraine to defend itself from Russia's invasion. The Biden administration has complained loudly that Chinese support for Russia's military-industrial sector has allowed Moscow to subvert western sanctions and ramp up attacks on Ukraine.

U.S. officials have said China's ties with Russia would be a primary topic of conversation during Blinken's visit, and just before Friday's meetings began, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced he would visit China in May.

Elon Musk's X Says Australia Bishop Stabbing Posts Don't Promote Violence

SYDNEY, Apr 26 (Agencies): Elon Musk's social media platform X defended publishing posts showing a bishop in Australia being stabbed during a sermon as "part of public discussion", rejecting a regulator's order to take down the content on grounds it is offensive and violent.

In a post overnight, X's "global government affairs" account said the video taken by an "innocent bystander" should not have been banned under Australian law, which "permits content that can be reasonably considered as part of

public discussion or debate".

"The content within the posts does not encourage or provoke violence," the X account said.

The statement from the company formerly called Twitter, which the billionaire bought in 2022, clashes with Australian lawmaker claims that police feared the footage would be used to encourage people to join terrorist groups.

The e-Safety Commissioner ordered X to remove posts containing the video globally to stop Australians seeing them, but X has challenged the

order partly on grounds of "exorbitant jurisdiction". A court this week temporarily upheld the takedown order until a hearing on May 10.

The order has sparked increasingly heated public exchanges between Musk, who calls himself a free speech absolutist, and Australian officials including the prime minister and one senator who Musk said should be jailed.

Overnight, Musk shared a series of posts by another user which described the takedown order as part of a World Economic Forum "plot



to impose eSafety rules on the world". "Accurate thread," Musk wrote to his 181 million followers.

The e-Safety Commissioner was not immediately available for comment.

The dispute follows an April 15 attack on an Assyrian bishop in Sydney, for which a

16-year-old boy has been charged with terrorist offences, according to the authorities.

After raids related to the incident this week, police charged five associates of the youth, also teenagers, with terrorism offences including possessing extremist material.

"He Helped Save Lives": Australia Mourns Pak Guard Killed In Sydney Attack

SYDNEY, Apr 26 (Agencies): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese hailed as a hero Pakistani security guard Faraz Tahir, killed in Sydney while trying to stop a mass stabbing attack, in remarks delivered on Friday at a funeral attended by hundreds.

Tahir, who would have turned 31 on Wednesday, was on the first day of his job when he became one of six killed this month during the stabbing spree at a busy mall in beachside Bondi.

"Running toward danger, to protect people he had never even met, without



doubt, he helped save lives that day," Albanese said. "Without question, Faraz Tahir died a hero." The ceremony was

held before a crowd gathered outside the city's Baitul Huda mosque, under a banner that read "Love for all -

hatred for none". Tahir arrived in Australia as a refugee from Pakistan, according to the Ahmadiyya Muslim community of Australia, to which he belonged.

Fellow security guard Muhammad Taha, injured while trying to stop the attacker, attended in a wheelchair after being released from hospital for the ceremony. He was the last to speak with Tahir as they ran towards the scene of the attack.

"We were trying to save people at that time and his last words were 'Let's find out what's going on,' so we rushed towards that area," he said in comments

reported by the Guardian newspaper.

Tahir's brother, Mudasar Bashir, told reporters the two had spoken the evening before and promised to call the next day. They never spoke again.

"Even until now, we couldn't believe that he's no more," he said at the funeral. "We are very proud of him because ... Islam, our religion, says that if you save even one human, you save all of humanity."

Joel Cauchi, a 40-year-old who suffered mental health issues, killed five women and Tahir in the mall on April 13 before being shot dead by police.

Japanese Town To Block Mount Fuji View Because Of Misbehaving Tourists

TOKYO, Apr 26 (Agencies): A huge black barrier to block Mount Fuji from view will be installed in a popular photo spot by Japanese authorities exasperated by crowds of badly behaved foreign tourists.

Construction of the mesh net -- 2.5 metres (8 feet) high and the length of a cricket pitch at 20 metres -- will begin as early as next week, an official from Fujikawaguchiko town said Friday.

"It's regrettable we have to do this, because of some tourists who can't respect rules," leaving litter behind and ignoring traffic regulations, he told agency.

It is the latest direct action in Japan against overtourism after residents of Kyoto's geisha district banned visitors from small private alleys this year.

Record numbers of overseas tourists are travelling to the country, where monthly visitors exceeded three million in March for the first time ever.

Mount Fuji, Japan's

highest mountain, can be photographed from many spots in the resort town of Fujikawaguchiko.

But this viewpoint is particularly popular because the majestic volcano appears behind a Lawson convenience store, which are ubiquitous in Japan.

Due to this visual juxtaposition, "a reputation has spread on social media that this spot is very Japanese, making it a popular photo location," said the town official who declined to be named.

The mostly non-Japanese tourists are overcrowding a stretch of pavement next to the Lawson shop, he said.

After traffic signs and repeated warnings from security guards fell on deaf ears, the town in Yamanashi region decided on the huge screen as a last resort.

The measure is also meant to protect a nearby dental clinic against the onslaught of tourists.

They sometimes park there without permission and have even

been seen climbing on the roof of the clinic to get the perfect shot, the official said.

The town wishes it hadn't come down to this, he said, adding that the current plan is for the screen to be maintained until the situation improves.

Tourism to Japan has been booming since pandemic-era border restrictions were lifted, and the government has been working hard to boost visitor numbers.

But this has not been universally welcomed -- including in Kyoto where locals have complained of snap-happy tourists harassing the city's immaculately dressed geisha.

And this summer, hikers using the most popular route to climb Mount Fuji will be charged \$13 each, with numbers capped to ease congestion.

Other top destinations worldwide are also struggling with visitor numbers, and on Thursday Venice began charging day-trippers for entry to tackle mass tourism.

'Despite promise, personalized medicine for head and neck cancers facing hurdles'

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): Head and neck cancers are a significant public health concern in India. Traditional treatment approaches, often involving surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy are effective but can come with side-effects. Personalized medicine provides hope for patients by offering treatments that are more targeted and effective, with fewer side-effects. Personalized medicine takes into account finer aspects of the cancer's behaviour as well as the patient's body to optimize outcomes. April is head and neck cancer awareness month.

Interview with Dr. Deepak Sarin, Vice Chairman, Head and Neck Cancer Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery, Cancer Care, Medanta Hospital.

What are the various kinds of head and neck cancers?

Head and neck cancers are not uniform. These varied tumours originate from different sites, show differences in molecular composition, and react differently to treatment.

What are the benefits of personalized treatment?

Improved efficacy: By identifying specific mutations driving tumour growth, personalized medicine allows for targeted therapies that have a higher success rate compared to 'one-size-



fits-all' approaches. This can lead to better tumour shrinkage, improved survival rates, and potentially higher cure rates.

Reduced side-effects: Traditional treatments often cause a range of side-effects due to their broad impact on healthy cells. Personalized treatments, by focusing on cancer-specific targets, minimize collateral damage to healthy tissues, leading to a better quality of life during treatment.

Predicting treatment response: Personalized medicine allows doctors to predict a patient's response to specific therapies before treatment begins. Knowing this information upfront helps in selecting the most effective treatment and avoiding those with a low chance of success, sparing patients from unnecessary side-effects.

Identifying new treatment options: As research delves deeper into the landscape of head and neck cancers, it unveils new targets for therapy. Personalized medicine facilitates the exploration of these new potential treatments through clinical trials designed for patients with specific mutations.

What are the tools of personalized medicine for head and neck cancers?

Genetic testing: Analyzing the tumour's DNA reveals specific mutations that can be targeted by existing therapies or it is used to identify patients who might benefit from clinical trials involving novel targeted drugs.

Immunotherapy: This approach leverages the body's immune system to recognize and attack cancer cells. Personalized medicine helps identify

patients whose tumours are more susceptible to immunotherapy by analyzing factors like the presence of specific proteins in the tumour cells.

Liquid biopsy: This minimally invasive technique analyzes circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) shed by the cancer cells in the bloodstream. By analyzing ctDNA, doctors can track mutations over time, monitor treatment response, and detect potential recurrences earlier.

What are the challenges and the road ahead?

Despite its promise, personalized medicine for head and neck cancers face hurdles. The high cost of genetic testing and targeted therapies can be a barrier for some patients in India, where healthcare costs can be a significant burden. Additionally, continuous research is needed to

identify more actionable mutations and develop targeted therapies for a broader spectrum of head and neck cancers specific to the Indian population, as there might be genetic variations compared to other regions.

What about the question of ethics in genetic testing?

It is essential to consider ethics when it comes to genetic testing and personalized medicine. Strict measures are needed to protect patient privacy and data security. Although there is potential for using artificial intelligence (AI) in analyzing data and choosing treatments for personalized medicine, this technology is still early in its development in India's healthcare system.

What is the future of personalized treatment?

Personalized treatment for head and neck cancers is a transformative approach that offers a brighter future for patients in India. By harnessing the power of genetic and molecular analysis, this strategy paves the way for more effective, patient-centric treatment with minimized side-effects. As research progresses, costs decrease, and access to testing improves, personalized medicine holds immense potential to improve the lives of head and neck cancer patients in India significantly.

Signs of multiple sclerosis show up in blood years before symptoms

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): In a discovery that could hasten treatment for patients with multiple sclerosis (MS), UC San Francisco scientists have discovered a harbinger in the blood of some people who later went on to develop the disease.

In about 1 in 10 cases of MS, the body begins producing a distinctive set of antibodies against its own proteins years before symptoms emerge. These autoantibodies appear to bind to both human cells and common pathogens, possibly explaining the immune attacks on the brain and spinal cord that are the hallmark of MS.

The findings were published in *Nature Medicine* on April 19.

MS can lead to a devastating loss of motor control, although new treatments can slow the progress of the disease and, for example, preserve a patient's ability to walk. The scientists hope the autoantibodies they have discovered will one day be detected with a simple blood test, giving patients a head start on receiving treatment.

"Over the last few decades, there's been a move in the field to treat MS earlier and more aggressively with newer, more potent therapies," said UCSF neurologist Michael Wilson, MD, a senior author of the paper. "A diagnostic result like this makes such early intervention more likely, giving patients hope for a better life."

Autoimmune diseases like MS are believed to result, in part, from rare immune reactions to common infections.

In 2014, Wilson joined forces with Joe DeRisi, PhD, president of the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub SF and a senior author of the paper, to develop better tools for unmasking the culprits behind autoimmune disease. They took a technique in which viruses are engineered to display bits of

proteins like flags on their surface, called phage display immunoprecipitation sequencing (PhIP-Seq), and further optimized it to screen human blood for autoantibodies.

PhIP-Seq detects autoantibodies against more than 10,000 human proteins, enough to investigate nearly any autoimmune disease. In 2019, they successfully used it to discover a rare autoimmune disease that seemed to arise from testicular cancer.

MS affects more than 900,000 people in the US. Its early symptoms, like dizziness, spasms, and fatigue, can resemble other conditions, and diagnosis requires careful analysis of brain MRI scans.

The phage display system, the scientists reasoned, could reveal the autoantibodies behind the immune attacks of MS and create new opportunities to understand and treat the disease.

The project was spearheaded by first co-authors Colin Zamecnik, PhD, a postdoctoral researcher in DeRisi's and Wilson's labs; and Gavin Sowa, MD, MS, former UCSF medical student and now internal medicine resident at Northwestern University.

They partnered with Mitch Wallin, MD, MPH, from the University of Maryland and a senior author of the paper, to search for autoantibodies in the blood of people with MS. These samples were obtained from the U.S. Department of Defense Serum Repository, which stores blood taken from armed service members when they apply to join the military.

The group analyzed blood from 250 MS patients collected after their diagnosis, plus samples taken five or more years earlier when they joined the military. The researchers also looked at comparable blood samples from 250 healthy veterans. Between the large

number of subjects and the before-and-after timing of the samples, it was "a phenomenal cohort of individuals to look at to see how this kind of autoimmunity develops over the course of clinical onset of this disease," said Zamecnik.

Using a mere one-thousandth of a milliliter of blood from each time point, the scientists thought they would see a jump in autoantibodies as the first symptoms of MS appeared.

Instead, they found that 10% of the MS patients had a striking abundance of autoantibodies years before their diagnosis.

The dozen or so autoantibodies all stuck to a chemical pattern that resembled one found in common viruses, including Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV), which infects more than 85% of all people, yet has been flagged in previous studies as a contributing cause for MS.

Years before diagnosis, this subset of MS patients had other signs of an immune war in the brain. Ahmed Abdelhak, MD, co-author of the paper and a postdoctoral researcher in the UCSF laboratory of Ari Green, MD, found that patients with these autoantibodies had elevated levels of neurofilament light (NfL), a protein that gets released as neurons break down.

Perhaps, the researchers speculated, the immune system was mistaking friendly human proteins for some viral foe, leading to a lifetime of MS.

"When we analyze healthy people using our technology, everybody looks unique, with their own fingerprint of immunological experience, like a snowflake," DeRisi said. "It's when the immunological signature of a person looks like someone else, and they stop looking like snowflakes that we begin to suspect something is wrong, and that's what we found in these MS patients."

From left arm to the chest: What pain in specific areas of the body might mean

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): Did you know that pain in one part of the body, might indicate a more serious problem elsewhere? This fascinating phenomenon, called referred pain, happens because the nerves from different parts of the body can share neural pathways with the brain, which can get confused about where the pain is coming from.

Dr Palleeti Siva Karthik Reddy

MBBS, MD General Medicine and consultant physician, stresses, "While referred pain is a well-documented clinical observation, using it as the sole method to determine the source of a problem is not always reliable. Accurate diagnosis often requires comprehensive clinical evaluation, including medical history, physical examination, and sometimes imaging or other diag-

nostic tests."

On Instagram, content creator Dr Jaban Moore, DC, shared a reel explaining referred pain and its connection to pain in specific body areas. To verify the information, we reached out to Dr Reddy to fact-check each of Dr Moore's claims in the reel.

What pain in specific areas of the body might mean

Dr Reddy explains pain in certain parts of the body might indicate the following:

Right abdomen and shoulder: Pain in the right abdomen and shoulder can indeed indicate gallbladder issues, specifically gallstones or cholecystitis, which aggravates on bending forward and it is due to the phrenic nerve referral.

FROM PAGE 1

Polling commences in Jammu Parliamentary Constituency on high note

the morning, the officials said, adding that long queues of voters were seen at various polling stations in Jammu city.

More than 15,000 polling staff, including reserves, have been deployed while security arrangements are foolproof to ensure free-and-fair polls.

"Security and other related arrangements are in place to ensure free, fair and peaceful voting. A contingency plan has also been worked out to ensure no disruption in polling along the borders," Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Pandurang K Pole said.

He expressed hope that the polling would remain peaceful.

This is the second Lok Sabha seat in Jammu and Kashmir to go to polls. Earlier, polling was held in the Udhampur seat on April 19, recording a voter turnout of more than 68 per cent.

A total of 17,80,835 voters, including 9,21,095 men, 8,59,712 women and 28 third-gender voters, are enrolled in the Jammu Lok Sabha constituency.

The officials said there are 10,498 differently-abled voters and 666 voters above the age of 100 years.

A total of 2,416 polling stations, including 158 along the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC), have been set up across the four districts of Jammu, Samba, Reasi and Rajouri (the Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly segment), they added.

"More than 15,000 polling staff, including reserves, will be deployed on the polling day. Among the districts, Jammu has 50 critical booths while Samba has around 12 border polling stations," an official said.

The officials said 10 polling booths will be managed by women, 10 by specially-abled persons and nine by youngsters.

In addition to the 11 Assembly constitu-

encies of Jammu district, the Jammu Lok Sabha seat includes the Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency of Rajouri, the Gulabgarh, Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi segments of Reasi district and the Ramgarh, Samba and Vijaypur segments of Samba district.

Jammu recorded a voter turnout of 74 per cent in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Twenty-two candidates are in the fray.

A direct contest is on the cards between Sharma and INDIA bloc candidate Raman Bhalla, the working president of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress.

Jagdish Raj of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and advocate Ankur Sharma of the Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal are two other prominent faces contesting the seat.

Sharma defeated Bhalla by a margin of more than three lakh votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

2 terrorists killed, 2 Army personnel injured as gunbattle resumes in Baramulla

have been shifted to a hospital for treatment, they said.

A civilian was also injured near the site of the encounter on Thursday.

The operation to flush out the terrorists from the area is underway, they added.

Supreme Court rejects plea for full VVPAT-EVM tally; Upholds EVM usage

consideration of three petitions advocating for VVPAT slips to be tallied with EVM votes. One petitioner sought the tallying of each EVM vote against VVPAT slips, while another, filed by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), insisted on tallying to ensure voters' confidence in the accuracy of their ballots.

The Supreme Court had reserved its judgment on April 18, with queries during

the hearings centered around whether it could issue directives regarding EVMs based solely on suspicions of hacking and manipulation.

Omar, Mehbooba ask EC not to postpone polls in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha Seat

party lines, are coming forward in my support and they are, therefore, using the Election Commission to defer and rig the elections".

The PDP leader said she travelled through the Mughal road which was recently opened for traffic.

"There is no justification in deferring voting in Anantnag-Rajouri seat. My request to the Election Commission is not to postpone the elections when only 10 days are left in the polling. This will send the wrong message and will have serious consequences," she said before leaving for Mendhar town to carry forward her campaign.

Mehbooba referred to the alleged rigging in the 1987 assembly elections leading to eruption of militancy in J-K, and said, "We request Election Commission not to do such an adventure as the people in J-K have already suffered a lot and have little faith left in the electoral process." She said former prime minister A B Vajpayee had to give an assurance to the people of J-K about free and fair elections from the ramparts of the Red Fort, and "They (BJP) are trying to make it stained once again...You have already not left much with the people of J-K except a vote. You are trying to repeat 1987 which caused bloodshed and turned the valley into a graveyard." Mehbooba said they first reshaped Anantnag parliamentary constituency, using delimitation as an attempt to rig the elections in their favour.

"Don't they have knowledge that the Mughal road traditionally remains closed for six months but they joined parts on both sides of Pir Panjal just to rig elections.

This is not happening anywhere else in the country," she said. She said the BJP has a lot of money and can press helicopters in service for those they are supporting. "We are the only party which lacks resources and our workers are spending from their own pockets for the past 25 days which we cannot continue for the next 20 days in case polls are postponed." When asked about the apprehensions of poll postponement in Anantnag-Rajouri, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said the EC is an independent institution and whatever decision it takes with regard to elections in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat will be followed by the BJP.

Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency is scheduled to go to polls in the third phase on May 7 to decide the fate of 21 candidates, including Mehbooba, who is facing a major challenge from National Conference leader and former minister Mian Altaf.

DPAP's Mohammad Saleem Parry and Apni Party's Zafar Iqbal Manhas are also among the contestants in the fray, while BJP has not fielded any candidate and is contemplating its support to one of the contestants not linked to Congress, NC and PDP.

Among those who have submitted their representation to the EC include J-K BJP chief Ravinder Raina, Apni party president Altaf Bukhari, DPAP candidate, Peoples Conference leader Imran Reza Ansari and two independent candidates.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani claimed that the BJP and its 'B-teams' have moved the Election Commission as they are facing "significant defeat" from the INDIA alliance candidate.

The Congress is supporting the National Conference from the constituency as part of seat sharing agreement among INDIA bloc partners.

"I am not surprised by the recent actions of BJP and its A, B, C, D teams. They have once again proven me right by mobilising together under the direction of 'Big Boss' in Nagpur. They know that they are likely

to face a significant defeat in the Rajouri-Anantnag Parliamentary Segment, as INDIA (bloc) is winning with a huge thumping of votes," Wani said.

He said despite their attempts to reschedule the poll date and use all tactics, the INDIA alliance will still "emerge victorious".

London resident arrested by NIA in Indian Mission attack case

on the Indian missions and its officials. The attacks in London in March 2023 were found to be in retaliation to the action taken by the Punjab police against pro-Khalistani separatist Amritpal Singh on March 18, 2023," said the agency.

In August last year, the NIA had conducted searches at multiple locations linked to the persons suspected to be involved in the March 19 attack on the High Commission in London. The High Commission was attacked by a group of about 50 persons, who were accused of committing criminal trespass, causing disrespect to India's national flag, damaging public property, and causing injuries to the High Commission officials. The attack was organised by Gurcharan Singh of the Dal Khalsa in the United Kingdom; Avtar Singh Khanda of the Khalistan Liberation Force (who died in City Hospital, Birmingham on June 15, 2023); Jasvir Singh; and their associates, both Indian and foreign nationals, the agency had earlier said. In May last year, a NIA team was also sent to the U.K. for gathering evidence. A "crowdsourcing of information" was then carried out to identify and gather information on the U.K.-based entities and individuals who were part of the alleged conspiracy.

London resident arrested by NIA in Indian Mission attack case

London resident arrested by NIA in Indian Mission attack case

MeT says possibility of heavy rain on April 28 and Bhadrawah 9.0°C, he said.

Payment frauds rise by 70.64% to Rs 2,604 crore in October-March period

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): Payment frauds are rising sharply if the data from the Reserve Bank of India is any indication. Domestic payment frauds jumped by 70.64 per cent to Rs 2,604 crore during the six-month period ended March 2024 from Rs 1,526 crore in the same period of last year.

The volume of frauds also rose to 15.51 lakh during the March 2024 period from 11.5 lakh in the previous six-month period, RBI data shows.

While the RBI has considered only domestic financial transactions, the new format captures e-commerce transactions — transactions using FASTags, digital bill payments and card-to-card transfer through ATMs, etc. However, failed transactions, chargebacks, reversals, expired cards/ wallets, are excluded. Data on domestic payment fraud statistics is as reported by scheduled commercial banks (excluding RRBs), non-bank PPI issuers and non-bank credit card issuers in CPFIR (Central Payments Fraud Information Registry), it said.

There were 2.57 lakh payment



frauds involving Rs 471 crore in March alone and 2.53 lakh frauds for Rs 503 crore in February.

Frauds lead to reputational, operational and business risk for banks and undermine customers' trust in the banking system with financial stability implications. Despite tough regulations

and improved technology, scammers were finding new routes to game the system.

A recent RBI report said new technologies enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of banking operations. "With this, however, the risks of fraud and data breaches have also increased. Concerted efforts by all stakeholders including regulators, banks and customers are required to protect the system from these threats. On its part, the Reserve Bank has been striving to update the regulations to protect customers while ensuring that innovations are not stifled," it said.

On December 27, 2023, the RBI said banks have witnessed a sudden spurt in frauds in the credit & debit cards and internet segment. The average amount of involved in frauds declined by 85 per cent during the April-September of 2023-24 with the number of frauds rising sharply by 624 per cent in the card and internet segment based on the date of reporting, it said.

The number of frauds in the card and internet jumped to 12,069 cases involving Rs 630

crore during April-September of 2023-24 as against 2,321 cases for just Rs 87 crore in the same period of last year, according to the RBI. Overall, banks reported 14,483 fraud cases involving Rs 2,642 crore during April-September of 2023-24 as against 5,396 cases involving Rs 17,685 crore frauds in the same period a year ago.

According to RBI data, banks and NBFCs added 1.65 crore credit card users during FY24, taking the total number of card users to 10.18 crore. The value of credit card transactions was at a record level of Rs 164,223 crore during the month of March 2024 as against Rs 149,206 crore in February. Of this, point-of-sale transactions were Rs 60,378 crore in March 2024.

"With credit card usage rising sharply, banks were in a hot race to add new users. They were offering attractive reward points, EMI facility and even offer personal loans on the basis of their credit cards. Card users are offered personal loans based on their credit rating score," said an official of a nationalised bank.

Target is to achieve \$1 trillion goods exports by 2030: Trade Ministry



NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): The commerce Ministry has initiated an exercise to identify required infrastructure needs, potential sectors, and clusters which would help the country achieve the \$1 trillion merchandise exports target by 2030 but sustainability will be a major concern going forward, senior government officials said on Thursday.

This comes a day after the European Parliament voted on Wednesday for a new law that will require larger companies operating in the bloc to check if their supply chains use forced labour or cause environmental damage and act to take action if they do. EU lawmakers backed the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) by 374 votes to 235 against, with 19 abstentions, Reuters reported.

Prior to CSDDD, the European Union enforced the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM), another environment related law that penalises products with high carbon footprints coming into the

27-member bloc. Notably, more than a fourth of India's exports of iron, steel and aluminium were to the EU and as per industry estimates, the EU tariffs could raise the costs of Indian exports by 20 to 35 per cent.

"In most major economies, sustainability issues will be a major concern. So how do we reduce our carbon footprint and how do we gear up our entire infrastructure to sustainably move goods and packaging is something that our business and trade needs to work on," Santosh Sarangi, Director General, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, said at the CII conference on logistics.

"The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is doing a study for us because what is more important is from where the \$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 \$1 trillion of exports and \$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," Additional Secretary in commerce and industry ministry Anant Swarup said.

Sarangi said that the government is also focusing on ways to push India's integration into the GVCs as at present about 70 per cent of the global trade is happening through these chains. He further said that an infrastructure push is required at ports and airports to increase India's exports and to handle \$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," Sarangi added.

Bajaj Finserv Q4 profit rises 20% to Rs 2,119 crore

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): Bajaj Finserv Ltd (BFL) on Friday reported a 20 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,119 crore for the March quarter. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 1,769 crore in the year-ago period.

The total consolidated income during the fourth quarter of FY24 increased to Rs 32,042 crore, as against Rs 23,625 crore in the year-ago period, BFL, the holding company for the various financial services businesses under the Bajaj group, said in a regulatory filing.

The Board of Directors has recommended



a dividend of Re 1 (100 per cent) per equity share of face value of Re 1, for the financial year ended March 31, 2024. The total amount of

dividend outgo would be Rs 159.55 crore as compared to Rs 127.43 crore in the previous fiscal. For the financial year 2023-24, the company

witnessed a 27 per cent increase in profit to Rs 8,148 crore, as against Rs 6,417 crore in the previous fiscal.

The total consolidated income rose to Rs 1,10,383 crore, as against Rs 82,072 crore in the previous financial year.

BFS participates in the financing business through its 51.34 per cent holding in Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL) and in the life, general, and health insurance businesses through its 74 per cent holding in two unlisted subsidiaries. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd (BAGIC) and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd (BALIC).

During the year, the

general insurance arm posted a profit of Rs 1,550 crore, as against Rs 1,348 crore in the previous fiscal, up 15 per cent.

As on March 31, 2024, solvency ratio was 349 per cent, which is well above the minimum regulatory requirement of 150 per cent.

The life insurance arm reported net new business value (NBV) of Rs 1,061 crore, as against Rs 950 crore in the previous year.

For life business, the solvency ratio stood at a healthy 432 per cent as on March 31, 2024 as against the minimum regulatory requirement of 150 per cent.

India needs 3 strong telecom companies: SBI Chairman Khara

MUMBAI, Apr 26 (Agencies): State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara on Thursday said India needs three strong telecom companies to meet the goals of the digital India.

Speaking at the Vodafone Idea FPO listing ceremony, Khara said, "I think it is not a small recognition, it's a big event and of course... the nation needs at least three telecom operators, this was the wish from the government of India, but I think all that could not have happened, unless and until, Kumar Mangalam Birla would have shown the way."

Vodafone raised Rs 18,000 crore from the market earlier this week. The sector continues to flourish and continues to be the backbone of digitalisation, he said.

"We have lived through the tough considered concerns related to entity that it has gone through; I am very happy that the outcome is nothing but a reflection of trust and confidence shown by Birla himself. It is also an unflinching commitment to the telecom sector that he has demonstrated by putting in his personal money as well as sourcing capital across the globe," Khara said.

"I think digital is the way of life, and with the opportunities that exist in the country, if our own investors would not be there, the sector will go away to foreign investors. Not that we are against them, we welcome them, but at the same time, as proud Indians, we should also be the beneficiaries of the growth



which will be seen in the sector," Khara said.

Aditya Birla group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said Vodafone Idea, which successfully raised Rs 18,000 crore, will make a smart comeback as the country requires three strong wireless telephony networks.

Birla said the Aditya Birla Group has remained committed to this sector for over two and a half decades now. "Along with our partner, Vodafone Group, we have cumulatively invested around Rs.170,000 crore in the Indian telecom industry," he said.

In the last 5 years, out of Rs.30,000 crore raised by the company, more than 75 per cent has come from the two promoter groups. The latest fund raise has also seen an investment of over Rs. 2,000 crore from the Aditya Birla Group. This continued commitment stems from our belief in the promise of the India digital story, Birla said at the listing ceremony.

He said the proceeds

from this fund raise are earmarked for a significant capital expenditure cycle. This growth capex will pave the way for a network and technological upgrade across key markets. "And this in turn will enhance operational efficiencies and lead to better performance. The cycle of investment will trigger the cycle of growth. On the back of this fund raise and continued support from banks, Vodafone Idea will stage a smart turnaround," Birla said.

Birla said the successful conclusion of India's largest FPO of Rs 18,000 crore marks a turning point for the telecom industry. The fact that so many marquee investors participated in this equity issuance is a testament to the government's vision of a digital India. The emphatic oversubscription of the FPO — with the overall book being subscribed 7 times and the institutional book being subscribed 19 times — demonstrates the tremendous potential of the India digital story and Vodafone Idea's role in it, he said.

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Above-normal monsoon rains to further ease food prices: Finance Ministry report

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 (Agencies): Further easing of food prices is "on the anvil" as India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted above-normal rainfall during the monsoon season, the Ministry of Finance said in its latest monthly economic review for March released Thursday.

This comes even as high food inflation remains a challenge in several major economies across the world and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sees food price uncertainties weighing on the inflation outlook, it noted.

"In India, food inflation declined from 8.7 per cent in February to 8.5 per cent in March. Food inflation is caused by certain specific food items like vegetables and pulses. Food prices have been a key challenge for the governments... further easing of food prices is on the anvil as IMD has predicted above-normal rainfall during the monsoon season, which is likely to lead to higher production, assuming good spatial and temporal distribution of the rainfall," it said.

The Ministry said retail inflation in FY24 witnessed a significant decline, reaching its lowest level since the Covid-19 pandemic, with core inflation dropping to 3.3 per cent in March 2024. The RBI in its latest 'State of the Economy' article in the March bulletin released Tuesday had said that food infla-



tion, despite some signs of moderation, remains elevated and a potential source of risk to the disinflation trajectory. Also, adverse weather conditions and extended geopolitical conflicts can result in volatility in crude oil prices and may pose a threat to inflation in the near term, the RBI said.

On the growth front, the Ministry said India continues to exhibit robust economic performance with factors such as strong domestic demand, rural demand pickup, robust investment, and sustained manufacturing momentum having contributed to India's resilience. Globally, there are fading fears of recession and rebounding growth in major economies, while some areas are experiencing subdued economic activity. Geopolitical tensions remain a concern but risk perceptions have softened, the Ministry said.

"Overall, resilient growth, robust economic activity indicators, price

stability, and steady external sector performance continue to support India's promising economic performance amidst uncertain global conditions," it said.

Global slowdown and ongoing geopolitical tensions resulted in contraction of India's merchandise exports for four subsequent quarters, it said, adding that the slowing of trade has resulted in the merchandise trade deficit narrowing in FY24, as exports have shown a smaller contraction than imports. "However, there is evidence of a trend reversal in Q3 of FY24, with merchandise exports registering growth," it said.

Merchandise exports in FY24 have been largely driven by rising exports of electronic goods and engineering goods, while exports of gems & jewellery and organic & inorganic chemicals have dragged the overall export growth down, the ministry said. Electronic goods have emerged

as a standout sector in the country's export basket amid a slowdown in global trade, with its exports accounting for 6.7 per cent of India's total exports in FY24, it said.

However, the non-petroleum and non-gems & jewellery merchandise exports have shown resilience with a sustained uptick in the last few months, it added. On the import side, apart from oil, non-oil-non-gold imports have been weak, with capital goods, chemicals and coal imports having led the way. Gold and electronic imports picked up pace, it said.

Services exports rose by 5.2 per cent in Q3 FY24, compared to a growth of 4.2 per cent in the previous quarter. "Structural change in the composition of services exports has given a fillip to the external sector, with software exports growing and non-software exports led by business services also rising at the same time," it said.

Indian men eye consistency in Thomas Cup title defence, women too look to shine in Uber Cup

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty look unstoppable and are coming into the prestigious event with four straight finals on the World Tour

CHENGDU (CHINA), Apr 26 (Agencies): Star singles players will aim for a consistent run as Indian men embark on a tough journey of defending their title at the Thomas Cup, while a young women's team, sans the peerless P V Sindhu, will look to punch above its weight when it begins its campaign in Uber Cup here on Saturday.

Just two years ago, India had sent shockwaves across the badminton world when they clinched their maiden Thomas Cup crown, considered the team world championship for men.

Without the burden of expectations, India went on to dismantle the world's best teams to script an unprecedented chapter in the history of the sport, and now they return to the 33rd edition with the arduous task of once again showing their might against the top echelons of the sport.

However, the underdog tag won't be there this time. In fact, all the teams will be gunning for the defending champions, who have retained the core of the 2022 side which had made history in Bangkok.

India will count on the experience of last edition as they have been put in the 'Group of Death', featuring multiple-time winners Indonesia, Thailand and England in Group C.

Indian men will begin their campaign against Thailand, who boast of reigning world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn and young Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul.

But the most formidable will be third-seeded Indonesia, who have the likes of Jonatan Christie and Anthony Ginting—



the two played the finals of All England in March—and world number seven pair of Muhammad Rian Ardianto and Fajar Alfian.

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

A lot can happen in two years' time and none of the Indian players coming to China this week are the same.

Prannoy, who had delivered the goods under pressure in the deciding fifth singles, is coming into the tournament after struggling in the first half of the season, owing to a chronic stomach disorder which returned after troubling him in the past.

However, his 90-minute marathon battle en route to a morale-boosting win over China's Lu Guang Zu showed he is close to recovery and will carry the onus of giving the team a good start as he is the top-ranked singles player at world number nine now.

Lakshya Sen has found his

mojo just in time with successive semifinal finishes at the French Open and the All England Championships after enduring a difficult 2023 and early 2024.

Kidambi Srikanth, who had won all six matches in 2022, has blown hot and cold in the last two years. He also endured tough losses in the team championships final at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2023 Asian Games.

Another player who could be entrusted with the third singles is young Priyanshu Rajawat, who was part of the team which won the epic title in Bangkok, and since then has gone on to claim his maiden Super 300 title last year in Orleans.

While the rest had an inconsistent run, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have looked unstoppable and are coming into the prestigious event with four straight finals on the World Tour. The duo will be the spearhead of India's campaign.

Dhruv Kapila and Arjun MR, who will play the second doubles, have weaved a few title wins at the Uganda International Challenge and Orlen Polish Open, besides signing off with

a quarterfinal finish at the Spain Masters in March.

"As a team we have evolved in the last 2-3 years. Everybody has been able to keep aside their individual problems for a one-week time and has been able to push through emotional challenges in a much better way during the team events," Prannoy said.

It is likely that Prannoy and Srikanth could be rotated during the event, putting the onus more on Sen and Rajawat to deliver. There is also Kiran George, who has been in decent touch.

In Uber Cup, Ashmita Chaliha will lead a young Indian team with all the big guns skipping the tournament after competing in a series of tournaments to qualify for the Paris Olympics.

The greenhorns will look to test their mental and physical fortitude against the top international players when they open their campaign against Canada in Group A.

Top seeds and multiple-time winners China and Singapore are also in their group, making it improbable for the young women's team to go past the group stage.

Besides Ashmita, national champion Anmol Kharb, who was the star performer for India en route their maiden Asia Team Championships title, will also look to test their wares as will Isharani Baruah and 15-year-old Tanvi Sharma.

India, who have reached the semifinals of the Uber Cup thrice in 1957, 2014 and 2016, will also be served by the doubles pair of Shruti Mishra and Priya Konjengbam, and Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Abhishek Verma enter compound mixed team final; archers eye four gold medals in World Cup



SHANGHAI, Apr 26 (Agencies): The compound mixed team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma assured India of a fourth medal in the ongoing Archery World Cup, advancing into the final here on Friday.

The world number two Indians dropped just five points to prevail over their Mexican opponents Andrea Becerra and Lot Maximo Mendez Ortiz 155-151 in the semi-final.

They will face lower-ranked Estonia in the gold-medal clash on Saturday. Jyothi is also a member of the women's compound team, which had entered the

final on Wednesday.

With Jyothi also securing a semifinal spot in the individual section on Thursday, the World number three and Asian Games gold medalist is in the hunt for a hat-trick of top podium finishes.

Overall, Indian archers have qualified in four finals, all in the team events, and are in the hunt for two medals in compound individual events—where Jyothi and Priyanshu have made the semifinals.

The four events where Indian teams have made the gold-medal round are compound men's, women's, mixed categories and men's recurve.

The elimination round in the recurve individual category is slated to begin later in the day.

Having got an opening round bye, the second-seeded Indian pair of Jyothi and Verma started off by producing a flawless 160 out of 160 to knock out the lower-ranked Australian pair of Geogina Graham and Brandon Hawes by eight points.

Next up, 10th ranked Luxembourg's Mariya Shkolna and Gilles Seywert were also no match for the Indian pair, which dropped just five points from 16 arrows to storm into the semi-finals with a 155-151 win.

In the semi-final, the Indians started on a back-foot after Andrea and Mendez Ortiz capped three 10s and one nine to take the opening end 39-38.

But the Mexicans slipped in the next set of arrows as Jyothi and Verma snatched the lead by dropping one point.

The Indians then extended their lead by three points in the penultimate round after another slip-up by the Mexicans.

Jyothi and Verma sealed the issue with a perfect 40 in the fourth end.

Rafael Nadal cruises to straight-set win over American teenager in first round of Madrid Open

MADRID, Apr 26 (Agencies): Rafael Nadal couldn't learn much from his comfortable straight-set win over American teenager Darwin Blanch in the first round of the Madrid Open.

Nadal cruised to a 6-1, 6-0 victory over the mistake-prone 16-year-old Blanch on Thursday.

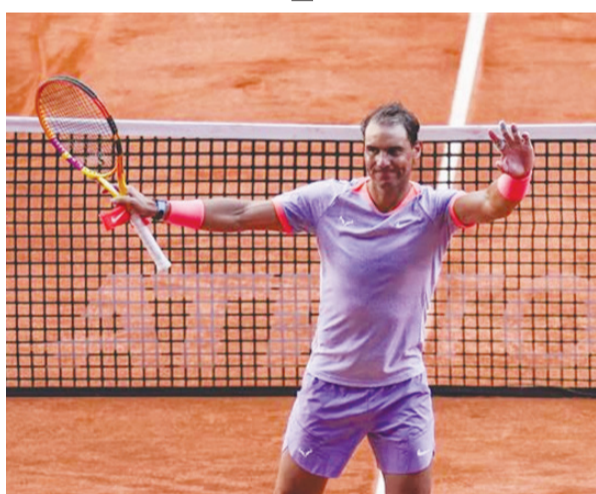
"I didn't test much my body today," the 37-year-old Nadal said. "I played a decent match doing the things that I had to do to be through, but at the same time I played against a player ... making more mistakes."

Blanch, playing only in his second ATP tour match, made 27 unforced errors. Nadal never faced a break point and was in control from the start against the wild-card entry, closing the match in just over one hour at the Caja Magica center court in the Spanish capital.

"I think today I played against an opponent with a great future," Nadal said. "But today, still making mistakes. I just tried to be there, be solid all the time without taking a lot of risks. It worked well. I'm happy to be through and I wish him all the very best for the future."

The encounter marked the largest age gap (21 years, 117 days) between two opponents at an ATP 1000 tournament.

Nadal looked in good form and showed no physical limitations in just his third competi-



tive match since returning from his latest injury layoff. He had made his return in Barcelona last week, losing in the second round to Alex De Minaur, who will also be his second-round opponent in Madrid on Saturday.

"I hope I can give my best and be competitive against De Minaur," Nadal said. "Every time I have the chance to be on court in this amazing stadium with an unconditional supportive crowd, it means a lot to me. Just trying to enjoy every moment. Tomorrow, one more day of practice here and then after tomorrow, on court again. That makes me feel great."

Nadal had arrived in Madrid saying he was not 100% fit, and that he was only going to play because the clay-court tournament was at home.

On Wednesday, the record five-time champion in Madrid said that in his current condition he would not play if this was the French Open, a tournament he has won

a record 14 times.

The Spaniard is trying to get back in shape for the tournament in Paris for what will likely be his last Roland Garros appearance. The French Open begins next month.

A 22-time Grand Slam champion, Nadal had hip surgery last summer and said 2024 would probably be his last year on tour. He had skipped Monte Carlo, and his last tournament had been in Brisbane in January, when he played three matches.

"The thing is before, most of the time, I was able to give my 100 per cent," Nadal said. "Today I'm able to give my sometimes 40 per cent, sometimes 60 per cent, sometimes 70 per cent, and if I am able to raise this percentage day after day or week after week, why not in the future what can happen? If not, it's impossible."

Other results
Felix Auger-Aliassime rallied to defeat Yoshihito Nishioka 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, while Lorenzo Sonego

beat Richard Gasquet 6-2, 7-5 to set up a meeting against fellow Italian Jannik Sinner, the top seed in Madrid. Gasquet was playing in his 1,000th tour-level match.

Brazilian qualifier Thiago Monteiro will face Stefanos Tsitsipas after defeating Dusan Lajovic 6-4, 6-3, while fellow Brazilian João Fonseca rallied to beat American Alex Michelsen 4-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Swiatek and Gauff advance

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek began her quest to win the Madrid Open for the first time with a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 win over Wang Xiyu to set up a third-round meeting against 27th-seeded Sorana Cirstea.

Madrid remains the only top European clay title that Swiatek is yet to win.

"I love this place. I got to know the city a little better last year," Swiatek said. "So this time I feel more comfortable around."

American Coco Gauff eased to a 6-0, 6-0 win over Arantxa Rus in less than an hour for her first tour-level, main-draw win without losing a game.

"Oh-and-oh, I've never done that before, I'll probably never do it again," Gauff said.

Former No. 1 Naomi Osaka lost 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 to 15th-seeded Liudmila Samsonova.

Osaka, who returned from maternity leave in January, had earned her first win on clay in two years on Wednesday.

KKR vs PBKS: Shikhar Dhawan in focus as Punjab look to break losing streak



KOLKATA, Apr 26 (Agencies): Shreyas Iyer's KKR are set to take on PBKS after their nerve-racking win against RCB in their previous match. KKR huffed and puffed in the final over of their defence of 222 runs and eventually won the game by one run.

Gautam Gambhir, KKR's mentor and two-time IPL winning captain will certainly not be happy with the result and look to gain more control of the match.

The team will face PBKS, who have had a woeful time at their home in Mullanpur. PBKS have lost 4 matches in a row and have dearly missed their captain Shikhar Dhawan. The PBKS captain has not

played due to a shoulder injury and is expected to return against KKR. It will be a huge boost for the side, who have tried everything at the top order, albeit, without success.

KKR are firmly placed in the second position in the Indian Premier League table and will hope to continue their solid run in the tournament. They are only a few wins from the qualification, and what better way to grab the maximum number of points at home? KKR have only lost one match at home - against RR, and that too because of a freak century from Jos Buttler.

PBKS have not shown that mettle at the top order, but have found

two gems in Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma, who have been in riveting form.

KKR vs PBKS: IPL HEAD TO HEAD

PBKS and KKR are two legacy franchises in the Indian Premier League, who have played since the inaugural season of the tournament. The two teams have faced each other 32 times, where KKR have mostly dominated the competition. Out of the 32, KKR have won 21 games, while PBKS have won 11.

KKR vs PBKS: TEAM NEWS

There might be big changes in order for both teams this time. KKR might rest Mitchell Starc, who has been under tremendous pressure due to poor form, on the other hand, PBKS might see the return of injured Shikhar Dhawan in this game.

KKR vs PBKS: KOLKATA PITCH CONDITIONS

The evening matches at the Eden Gardens are expected to be high-scoring in nature. In the last game when RCB

played against KKR, the Faf du Plessis side almost brought down the mega target of 223 runs.

It is very hot and humid in Kolkata at the moment with temperatures soaring above 40 degree Celsius. Excessive heat warning has been issued by the IMD in the city.

KKR vs PBKS: PREDICTED XIS AND IMPACT SUBS

KKR Predicted XI
Phil Salt (wk), Sunil Narine, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Shreyas Iyer (c), Rinku Singh, Andre Russell, Ramandeep Singh, Dushmantha Chameera, Varun Chakravarthy, Harshit Rana, Suyash Sharma

Impact Player: Venkatesh Iyer.

PBKS Predicted XI
Shikhar Dhawan (c), Jonny Bairstow/Rilee Rossouw, Prabhsimran Singh, Sam Curran, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Liam Livingstone, Shashank Singh, Ashutosh Sharma, Harpreet Brar, Kagiso Rabada, Harshal Patel.

Impact player: Arshdeep Singh.

Patidar, spinners help RCB snap six-match losing streak

HYDERABAD, Apr 26 (Agencies): Rajat Patidar's explosive fifty and a collective effort from the spinners set up Royal Challengers Bengaluru's 35-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL, bringing an end to their six-match losing streak.

Patidar's 50 off 20 balls stood in stark contrast to Virat Kohli's measured 51 off 43 balls as RCB put up 206/7 after opting to bat. For a team that has breached the 250-run mark thrice this season, the target was very gettable but the in-form SRH batting line-up could not deliver on this occasion and ended at 171/8 in 20 overs.

Considering the effectiveness of the spinners in the first innings, RCB opened the bowling with part-time off-spinner Will Jacks. The Englishman had the destructive Travis Head (1 off 3) caught at third man to give RCB a massive boost.

Head's opening partner Abhishek Sharma (31 off 13) did entertain the home crowd until his attempted slog ended up in the hands of wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik.

Left-arm spinner Swapnil Singh, making his RCB debut, struck twice in his first over, removing the dangerous South African duo of Aiden Markram and Heinrich Klaasen.

Leggie Karn Sharma then dismissed Nitish Reddy and Abdul Samad to shut the door on the opposition.

Earlier, Patidar did the bulk of the work in his 65-run stand with Kohli, who was focused on giving the strike to his partner, an approach which was questioned by Sunil Gavaskar on air.

Cameron Green (37 not out off 20) and Swapnil (12 off 6) came up with timely strikes in the death overs to take RCB past 200.



FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY: Political leaders and people casting their votes at Jammu Parliamentary Seat on various polling booths in Jammu on Friday.

Pic by Aman Pic by **AMAN SHARMA**