

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Jammu-Srinagar highway closed for traffic

SRINAGAR, Apr 27 (Agencies): Authorities on Saturday stopped traffic movement on Srinagar-Jammu national highway due to bad weather conditions. Reports said the slippery conditions at Dalwas, Mehar and Hingani besides road shrinking due to mudslide at Dalwas prompted authorities to close the highway for vehicular movement. Meanwhile, an official advised commuters to avoid travel on the highway and seek proper road status from Traffic Control Units of Ramban and Udhampur before starting journey.

"Weather raining in whole NH-44, slippery condition of road at Dalwas, Mehar, Hingani. At Dalwas mudslide has shrunken the road. Commuters are requested to avoid travel on NH-44 or seek road status from TCU Ramban/Udhampur before starting journey," he said.

Mughal road closed for traffic amid inclement weather

JAMMU, Apr 27: The authorities on Saturday ordered closure of Mughal road in view of the inclement weather and accumulation of snow on the road stretch near Pir ki-Gali. Officials said that the step has been taken in view of the slippery road condition and possibility of shooting stones on the road stretch. They said that due to continuous snowfall near Pir-ki-Gali and Dubjanonwards, the movement of vehicles has been stopped due to apprehension of occurrence of slip/slides and shooting stones on the road. The officials said that the road will be closed for the movement of vehicles till improvement in weather and clearance of the road.

Safina Baigh escapes unhurt in road accident

SRINAGAR, Apr 27 (Agencies): District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson Baramulla Safina Baigh had a narrow escape from a minor accident on the national highway in Pattan on Saturday afternoon.

As per details, the **Turn to page 9**

24x7 Kitchen operational to support families near Ramban land sinking camp site

JAMMU, Apr 27 (Agencies): A day after 50 houses, power infrastructure, and road connectivity were damaged, the administration has established a 24x7 operational kitchen to support the families near the land sinking site at village Pernote in the Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ramban,



Baseer-UI-Haq, posted on 'X', "Continue effort from District Administration Ramban: A 24x7

kitchen now operational to support families at the camp site at Pernote, reinforcing ongoing rescue and rehabilitation endeavours."

The office also posted that an emergency operation center, the camp office of DC, and Chairman DDMA Ramban have been set up to promptly address the issues of displaced families in their tough times. **Turn to page 9**

Govt posts Nikhil Borkar as SSP Budgam, Al-Tahir Geelani asked to await posting at PHQ



SRINAGAR, Apr 27 (Agencies): The government on Saturday transferred Nikhil Borkar (IPS), SSP (Tech) CID

headquarters, and posted him as Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam.

The order issued by the Home Department in this regard has been done following a nod by the Chief Electoral J&K on April 26, official sources told GNS.

"In the interest of administration, it is hereby ordered that **Turn to page 9**

Militants ambush CRPF camp in Manipur, Two personnel dead

MANIPUR, Apr 27 (Agencies): Two CRPF personnel were killed and two others injured as militants allegedly attacked a camp of security forces in Manipur's Bishnupur district in the early hours of April 27, police said.

The militants attacked an IRBn (India Reserve Battalion) camp at Naranseina in the Moirang police station area, they said.

"The militants fired indiscriminately from hill-tops, targeting the camp. It started around 12.30 am and continued till about 2.15 am. The militants also hurled bombs, one of which exploded in the outpost of CRPF's 128 battalion," a senior police officer said.

The deceased were identified as CRPF sub-inspector N Sarkar and head constable Arup Saini, he said. N Sarkar is from Assam's Barpeta and is from West Bengal.

The injured were inspector Jadav Das and constable Aftab Das, from B Company 128 BN CRPF he said, adding that they received splinter wounds.

The CRPF personnel were deployed to provide security to the IRBn camp.

A massive search was underway to find the perpetrators of the attack, police said.

Mentally deranged person behind disrespect to a local shrine in south Kashmir: Police

SRINAGAR, Apr 27 (Agencies): A Day after some miscreants attempted to "disrespect" a local shrine and a mosque in south Kashmir, J&K Police said a mentally deranged person was behind the incident.

Police said on Thursday night, some people attempted to disrespect the local shrine and a mosque in Dadsara Tral in Pulwama district by damaging windowpanes and also tried disrespectfully displacing the Quran. J&K Police registered a case and took up the investigations.

"Based on evidence, Police Awantipora during investigation has identified the perpetrator of crime namely Manzoor Ahmad. The **Turn to page 9**

Special training camp for village defence guards held in Poonch



JAMMU, Apr 27 (Agencies): A three-day special training camp for Village Defence Guards (VDGs) was organized by the army here, ahead of Lok Sabha elections, officials said on Saturday.

Poonch along with the adjoining Rajouri district is part of the Anantnag Parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the third phase of elections on May 7.

The training camp began on Thursday at Mendhar, Harni

and Jaran to hone the weapon handling and firing skills of the VDGs, as part of efforts to maintain peace and stability in the forward areas, the officials said.

The training assumes significance given the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and efforts of security forces to maintain peace and provide assurance to the people in minority pockets as well as in far-flung areas, they said.

The training has helped the VDGs in reorienting

their training prowess and skills in weapon handling and firing, they said.

Comprising of local volunteers, the VDGs are equipped with .303 and bolt action rifles and were enthusiastic in sharpening their skills, they said, adding the weapons were inspected, cleaned and firing practice was carried out during the camp under the supervision of army trainers.

They said a lecture cum demonstration on weapon handling, musketry and firing positions was also conducted as part of the training.

The Army assisted the members of VDGs in further improving their self-defence capabilities and emphasised their greater role in maintaining peace and harmony in the area of responsibility, particularly in the minority pockets, the officials said.

Srinagar Boat Capsize Tragedy: Another boy's body found, death toll mounts to 8

SRINAGAR, Apr 27: Twelve days after the boat capsized in Srinagar, a minor boy's body was retrieved from the river Jhelum on Friday, taking the death toll in the incident to eight, officials said.

The body of a missing boy was retrieved near Noorbagh Srinagar this morning.

"The locals found a

boy's body floating on the river surface near Noorbagh Srinagar, and it was retrieved later from Jhelum," the commandant of the State Disaster Response Force, Atul Sharma, said. "The body was taken for necessary medical formalities."

On Friday, the body of nine-year-old Haziq Showkat was retrieved near Old Zero Bridge,

close to the site of the tragedy at Gandbal. Haziq's father, Showkat Ahmad Sheikh, is now the only missing person from the boat tragedy, and the search to find him is still on.

Six people, including two children and their mother, died in Srinagar's Gandbal as a boat in Jhelum **Turn to page 9**

Rains lash J&K, MeT forecasts more in next few days

JAMMU, Apr 27 (Agencies): Rains lashed Jammu and Kashmir with the weather department on Saturday predicting more in the next few days.

A meteorological department official here said that in last 24 hours till 8:30 am this morning, Srinagar

received 4.5mm of rainfall, Qazigund 10.2mm, Pahalgam 20.8mm, Kupwara 15.1mm, Kokernag 9.8mm, Gulmarg 8.6mm, Jammu 2.3mm, Banihal 2.3mm, Batote 22.8mm, Katra 4.6mm and Bhadarwah 16.4mm.

The department has predicted light to moder-

ate rain/light snow (over higher reaches) at most places with thunder, lightning/hailstorm/gusty winds at few places with possibility of heavy rain over isolated places till April 29.

From April 29-30, he said, weather is expected to be generally cloudy **Turn to page 9**

MBA MOTORS

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All have to move together to seek redressal of problems: Mehbooba Mufti

POONCH/JAMMU, Apr 27 (Agencies): PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said the people, irrespective of their religion and region, have to move together and raise a united voice to seek redressal of their issues.

The former Chief Minister is currently on a week-long tour of Poonch and Rajouri districts to garner public support and addressed a road show in Poonch town despite pouring rain.

The border districts of Poonch and Rajouri are part of the Anantnag parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the third phase on May 7 to decide the fate of 21 candidates, including Peoples Democratic Party Mehbooba and National Conference leader and former minister Mian Altaf.

Mehbooba reached Buziaz in Poonch via Mughal road – an alternate link connecting the border districts in the Jammu



region with south Kashmir's Shopian district on April 25.

She held roadshows in Surankote and Mendhar before moving to Poonch city this morning.

"I am thankful for the warm welcome by all sections of the society including Paharis, Gujjars, Hindus and Muslims. I am

the one who is uniting people and not dividing them. We all have to move together for redressal of our problems," she said as rain forced her to cut short the address.

She said everyone is affected in case there is an issue while in times of ease, everyone gets benefited.

"This election is not for roads and electricity, there are problems like unemployment that need to be raised besides other issues, which we are facing post-2019 development," Mehbooba said referring to the centre's move to abrogate Article 370 and bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories.

Seeking the support of the voters, the PDP leader said she is aware of the demands of the people of Poonch which include a medical college, extension of the rail link and completion of the under-construction Parnai hydro-electric project.

"I am not the Chief Minister to immediately accept your demand but I am not going to make any false promise. I have to face you again and in case I am elected to the parliament, I will raise your issues and will utilise the MP local area development fund to address your minor issues," she said.

Challenging abrogation of Article 370 in SC might have been a mistake: Sajad Lone



SRINAGAR, Apr 27 (Agencies): Challenging the abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court might have been a mistake but not doing so would have made things worse politically for the mainstream parties of Jammu and Kashmir, Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone has said.

The Apex Court in December last year upheld the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed a special status on the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

In an interview with PTI, Lone said the Centre could have propped up anyone to take the case to the apex court had the mainstream parties stayed away from taking legal recourse.

"I do not know, it could be," Lone told PTI when asked whether approaching the court was a mistake as the verdict has left almost no chance of getting the special status back.

"You see we (mainstream political parties in Kashmir) could have worked together and said let us save it for a rainy day. But, that could not have stopped somebody else from going to the Supreme Court," he added.

Lone said the Centre could have propped up anyone to take the case to the court and had the

mainstream parties in Jammu and Kashmir stayed away from taking legal recourse, it would have made things worse politically for them.

"Say tomorrow, they select someone to go to the court... Getting a court judgement is not that difficult. Our staying away would have made things worse politically for us at home.

"But, saying that there could not have been a judgement had we not gone to the court is not true either, they (Delhi) could ask a person to go to the court," he said.

Hearing a batch of petitions filed by several political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Peoples Conference, National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, the top court held that Article 370 was a temporary provision putting a stamp on the Centre's decision.

Lone, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from north Kashmir's Baramulla constituency, said he understands the importance of Parliament in the backdrop of what happened on August 5, 2019.

He said he believes that the voices of the people of Jammu and Kashmir should resonate in Parliament.

"I honestly believe that the people of J&K deserve that their voices be heard post-2019. If I

am elected, I would be (that) voice," he said.

"We live in a digital world, and Parliament is the highest, the supreme constitutional platform that you can probably have and I see it as more of a medium to communicate with the rest of the country. You have MPs from all across the country, you have a lot of untold stories of Kashmir, of the anger that is here, of the atrocities, of the wrongs.

"Of course, there are many good ones also, I am not saying that everything is wrong, but, there are many things which I believe that even the people of India, through their representatives, deserve to hear," he added.

Lone, who is pitted against former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah in the Baramulla seat, said the NC was "fooling" the people by talking about restoring Article 370 without explaining how.

"They are not explaining how they will be able to get that identity back if the people of Kashmir will give the mandate of three seats to them. To make any big changes in the Lok Sabha, you need a two-thirds majority.

"They (NC) are a part of the INDIA bloc. Has the alliance made it clear that they will restore the identity if they get a two-thirds majority (or) that they will restore (Articles) 370 or 35A or internal autonomy?" he asked.

Lone said if the NC gets the INDIA bloc to make a public commitment to the restoration of Article 370, he will not contest the polls.

"Mark my words, if they issue a statement today, I will withdraw my (nomination) papers," he said.

"But, if they don't, then they (NC) should stop lying."

JKNC seeks rehabilitation, compensation for Parnote Land subsidence victims

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference expressed heartfelt sorrow over the extensive damage caused to more than 50 houses in Parnote Village of Ramban due to subsidence of major portions of land along the Gool-Sangaldan road.

In a joint statement issued here today, senior NC leaders including Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC, Sajjad Ahmed Kithloo former minister and Zone President Chenab Valley, Abdul Gani Malik former minister, Zone President Udhampur- Reasi Zone JKNC, Shamshad Shan Chairperson DDC Ramban, Sajjad Shaheen, District President Ramban, Shamim Akhtar DDC Gandhri, Ch Sakhi Mohd DDC Gool have extended heartfelt sympathies to all those affected by this tragic incident, emphasizing the most urgent need for immediate support and assistance from the administration and asked the centre govt to send their top experts team to assess the losses and also take measures that such incident may not occur in future.

Notably, reports have indicated a significant loss, with devastating impacts including power disruption due to the sinking of the Kanga receiving station and 11/33 KV lines, affecting areas with a capacity of 1.3.15 MVA in Kanga, 6.3 MVA in Gool, 6.3 MVA in Sangaldan, 3.15 MVA in Ramban, 6.3 MVA in Patel, and 3.15 MVA in Gammon Harog,

alongside the destruction of over 50 houses, four towers of 400 KV Transmission Line, one receiving station, 33 KV Transmission Line, and extensive damage to the Ramban-Gool road following the subsidence of the entire area.

They demanded that all the above mentioned damages including power and road should be restored and make them functional immediately so that people of the area may not suffer. The senior NC leaders emphasized the immediate need for swift action from the administration to provide support and assistance to the affected families. They observed that the response of the J&K Administration to this situation appears inadequate, highlighting the pressing need to form a team of officers for a comprehensive assessment and compensation so that the affected families can start rebuilding their homes and businesses.

The senior NC leaders urged the government to step up their efforts in rescue and rehabilitation work, ensuring the safety and well-being of all affected individuals and families in Parnote village. They also underscored the need for resources and assistance to facilitate rebuilding of the lives of those impacted by this devastating tragedy. The senior NC leaders emphasized that J&K National Conference will stand in solidarity with the affected families of Parnote, Ramban.

Cyber Police Kashmir recovers 30 Smartphones, returned to owners



SRINAGAR, Apr 27 (Agencies): As many as 30 missing mobile phones, which were recovered recently, were handed over to their owners by the Cyber Police Kashmir Zone, Srinagar, police said.

The smart phones worth lakhs of rupees were handed over to the owners at the Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone, Srinagar.

The Cyber Police Kashmir Zone, Srinagar is now accepting applications and reports from the general public regarding missing cell

phones.

Police said a dedicated technical team of the Cyber Police Kashmir Zone, Srinagar has been relentless in their efforts and successful in tracing 30 missing smartphones of various makes and models worth lakhs of rupees.

In addition to tracing missing mobile phones, the Cyber Police Kashmir Zone, Srinagar, continues to assist citizens with various technological challenges encountered in their daily lives, including addressing

online frauds, scams and other cyber-related crimes reported on a routine basis.

Under the guidance of the Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, the Cyber Police Kashmir has also initiated various awareness campaigns and programs to educate the public about contemporary online frauds and scams.

The Cyber Police Kashmir Zone, Srinagar strongly advised the general public against sharing bank details, account information, personal details, OTPs, or any sensitive information with anyone.

The efforts of the Cyber Police Kashmir Zone, Srinagar have been widely appreciated by the general public, who acknowledge and applaud their role in providing valuable services to the community, the police statement said.

Divyanshi of DPS Jammu tops in JEE Mains in J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: Divyanshi Mahajan, a student from Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu, Batch 2023-24, clinched the coveted first rank in the girls category of the JEE Mains 2024 Exam, achieving a remarkable 99.62 percentile.

The exam, held on April 8th 2024, witnessed participation from over 14 lakh aspirants from across the nation. Divyanshi's achievement reflects her hard work and perseverance in the pursuit of academic excellence.

An avid participant in Inter-School Quiz Competitions & VVM activities, Divyanshi has been a dedicated and focused student throughout her academic journey at DPS Jammu. She exhibited a steady

commitment to learning which undoubtedly contributed to her success. Her proud parents, Bandana Gupta and Bhushan Gupta, both teachers in govt. school, recognized the pivotal role played by DPS Jammu management and staff in nurturing their daughter's talents.

They were elated to see their daughter's dedication translate into remarkable success. They also informed the school about Divyanshi's elder brother, Chitvan Gupta, an alumnus of DPS (Batch 2018-19), who is presently serving as a Technical Officer in the prestigious Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India.

Expressing gratitude, Divyanshi acknowledged the invaluable

support and guidance provided by the school management and teachers. She attributed her success to the conducive learning environment and opportunities for holistic development fostered by DPS Jammu.

The management of DPS Jammu, under the esteemed leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC, Dr. Ritu Singh and Director S.S. Sodhi, extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Divyanshi and her proud parents for all her future endeavours.

Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff also congratulated Divyanshi for her outstanding accomplishment and felicitated her with a memento and gold medal.

Dr Gurdev from SKUAST Jammu Empowers NCC Cadets with Entrepreneurial Spirit

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Apr 27: In a concerted effort to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit and environmental consciousness among the youth, the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in JK & L Directorate under the stewardship of ADG, Maj Gen RK Sachdeva facilitated a captivating session on hydroponics, titled "Hydroponics: A Modern Solution to Modern Problems." Dr. Gurdev Chand, Professor and Chief Scientist at Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST), delivered an enlightening talk and conducted an engaging demonstration for 500 Cadets of 2 JK Girls Bn NCC at the NCC Training Academy Nagrota.

During the session, Dr. Gurdev Chand elucidated the transition of agriculture into agro-business and agro-tourism, showcasing the potential of hydroponics in revolutionizing farming practices. He underscored the significance of initiatives like terrace gardening, enabling individuals to cultivate a variety of exotic and regular vegetables, thereby contributing to the nation's economy and resource conservation.

Highlighting the myriad benefits of hydroponics, Dr. Gurdev Chand emphasized its role in water conservation, reduction of fuel usage in supply chains, elimination of soil-borne diseases and pests, and its potential in addressing global food security challenges. Expressing their enthusiasm, the NCC Cadets



actively participated in the session, reflecting a keen interest in understanding modern agricultural techniques and their implications on societal and environmental fronts.

Brig PS Cheema, Group Commander, NCC Gp Jammu, lauded Dr. Gurdev Chand's passion & purpose with which he made such a sincere effort of reaching out to the youth in NCC and felicitated the scientist. Brig Cheema also extended gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST, Jammu, Shri BN Tripathi, for facilitating this initiative aimed at youth empowerment. The session was attended by Col Muneesh Jasrotia, along with unit officers and associate NCC Officers (ANOs).

All these efforts are being undertaken as

part of vision of Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, ADG of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Directorate, who has emphasized on the importance of exposing cadets to entrepreneurial opportunities, fostering self-sufficiency, and promoting a deep connection with nature as part of producing empowered crop of young leaders. This reiterates NCC's commitment to nurturing future-ready youth capable of tackling contemporary challenges with innovative solutions.

The event underscored the NCC's pivotal role as an interface in equipping cadets with essential skills, entrepreneurial acumen, and environmental awareness, thereby empowering them to navigate challenges effectively and contribute meaningfully to society.

Motorcycle accident in Jammu kills CBI Officer

JAMMU, Apr 27 (Agencies): A CBI officer was killed when his motorcycle slipped while crossing a speed-breaker in Jammu, an official said on Saturday.

Paloura resident Prashant Sharma, a deputy superintendent of police in the Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI), was returning home when the accident occurred during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, the official said.

The accident resulted in Sharma suffering critical head injuries. He was rushed to the Government Medical College, Jammu.

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system				
Dy. Chief Materials Manager, N.Rly. Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-				
S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
1.	62245126A	Washer, Bush and Jig Bush with detailed Size, Specification and Quantity as per attached Annexure-I.	400 Sets	20-05-24
NOTE-Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.				
Tender Notice No. 4/2024-25 Date: 25.04.2024			1250/2024	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

EDITORIAL

Veterinary services in India

Veterinary services play a crucial role in India, where agriculture is a significant contributor to the economy and millions depend on livestock for their livelihoods. Here's why these services are of paramount importance:

Livestock rearing is a primary occupation for many rural communities in India. Veterinary services ensure the health and productivity of livestock, directly impacting the income and sustenance of millions of farmers and their families.

India is prone to various livestock diseases that can cause significant economic losses. Veterinary services are essential for disease surveillance, prevention, and control measures. Vaccinations, regular health check-ups, and prompt treatment of ailments are critical to preventing disease outbreaks and minimizing economic losses.

Livestock contributes significantly to India's food security by providing milk, meat, eggs, and other animal products. Veterinary services ensure the quality and safety of these products by monitoring animal health, controlling diseases, and implementing food safety standards.

The livestock sector is a vital component of India's agricultural economy, contributing to employment generation, income generation, and poverty alleviation. Veterinary services support the growth of this sector by improving animal health, productivity, and market access for livestock products.

Veterinary services play a crucial role in the "One Health" approach, which recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. By preventing and controlling zoonotic diseases (diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans), veterinary services contribute to public health and overall well-being.

Advancements in veterinary medicine and technology have revolutionized animal healthcare. Veterinary services facilitate the adoption of modern techniques such as artificial insemination, embryo transfer, and genomic selection, which enhance livestock productivity and quality.

Livestock management practices can impact the environment through issues like land degradation, water pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. Veterinary services promote sustainable livestock production by advising on better management practices, waste management, and environmental conservation efforts.

Access to veterinary services is crucial for rural development, as it improves the productivity and resilience of rural communities dependent on livestock. By providing training, extension services, and veterinary infrastructure in rural areas, these services contribute to overall rural development and poverty reduction.

Veterinary services support research and education in animal sciences, leading to advancements in animal health, nutrition, genetics, and management practices. This research and knowledge dissemination contribute to continuous improvement in veterinary care and livestock production systems.

During natural disasters or disease outbreaks, veterinary services play a critical role in emergency response efforts. They provide immediate veterinary care, disease surveillance, and coordination with other agencies to mitigate the impact on livestock and communities.

In conclusion, veterinary services are indispensable for ensuring the health, welfare, and productivity of livestock in India. By addressing the diverse needs of the livestock sector, these services contribute significantly to agricultural development, food security, public health, and overall socio-economic progress. Investing in veterinary services is not just an investment in animal health but also in the well-being and prosperity of millions of people dependent on livestock for their livelihoods.

By: Rajesh Ramachandran

As the second phase of this long-drawn-out election gets over, there is a feeling of déjà vu. The BJP is back to its polarising tricks and the Opposition, as usual, is tying itself in knots — a very familiar but distressing poll-time show. The question that begs an answer is: Why did PM Narendra Modi bring in the Muslim factor at the Banswara rally in Rajasthan on April 21? And what a way to do that — Ghuspaithiye (infiltrators), mangalsutra and 'those with more children' were all references made in the same speech.

Now, this election speech is being dissected and analysed to understand the reasons for the detour from development to disharmony, from spaceships to sectarian schisms, from grand aspirations to gali galaj. Is it poll-time panic? Is the Opposition gaining ground and the BJP in an existential crisis? It is but normal for any political outfit to step back into its safety zone when the going gets tough.

So, the easy assessment is that the first-round turnout on April 19 and its response have made the BJP and the Sangh Parivar leadership worried, leaving them with the sole option of using the religion card. PM Modi was supposed to have made a stopover in Nagpur on April 20. Did the RSS leadership offer him negative feedback? Such questions are being bandied about while trying to understand the lay of the poll land: is the going getting tough for the BJP?

This writer happened to be in Udhampur on April 20, where the BJP's Dr Jitendra Singh is facing a much tougher contest this time than earlier. The Muslim consolidation against the BJP appeared to be strong. One needs to wait till the results to be sure about the role of Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party in splitting Muslim votes there.

If the Muslim consolidation against the BJP is complete and the Hindu response is lukewarm, Modi's Banswara speech can be analysed better. It simply means the warning bells are going off. Then the surveys showing unemployment and price rise as dominant poll-time discussion points may actually be influencing non-communal Hindus. If not a tidal wave of anger against the Centre, at least a lack of enthusiasm is on display.

This is all that is needed for a regime change in a regular election; hence, it necessitates the incumbent to make the polls irregular by bringing in the Muslim factor. While critics may term it a dog whistle by the BJP to polarise the voting pattern on religious lines, it is undoubtedly an attempt at communal signalling during electioneering. And the message Hindu khatre mein hai renders itself for easy translation into the electoral signal of the BJP being in trouble.

Well, BJP insiders insist that the PM's Banswara speech is not about the party being in trouble but about tackling the cadre's complacency by turning on the 'emotional pitch'. Communal signalling is what

the cadre terms as an emotional pitch. But even going by this argument, it is clear that the BJP cannot afford to be complacent and would have to fight hard to clinch every seat.

The imponderable in such a situation is whether communal signalling is enough, whether it is all that a party can do to transcend complacency or even apathy arising out of economic distress. If the people's mood is influenced by inflation and joblessness, it is a case of anti-incumbency, which cannot be overcome merely by communal signalling. Beyond the Muslim factor, there ought to be a pro-incumbency 'Modi factor' to win these elections. And that is being put to the test.

While the BJP is getting tested, the Congress is confusing the voter instead of happily waiting to let the anti-incumbency votes accrue. Rahul Gandhi is talking about an X-ray to find out which community has gained what. But this X-ray, of course, does not show which community has gained what within the Congress elite. This attempt at a caste-based scrutiny of empowerment can become counterproductive if it alienates the intermediary castes.

Meanwhile, Sam Pitroda, the adviser to the father, mother and children, is talking about inheritance tax — a wonderful idea, only to be rejected by the Congress' rich supporters and then by the party itself. When the Congress claims to be focusing entirely on the poor, the idea of inheritance tax sits well within the framework of a pro-poor agenda. Why shouldn't the

filthy rich be taxed, particularly those who have amassed wealth through dubious means? They should be taxed as their laundered wealth is inherited by the next generation.

The Congress and its supporters have rejected the idea straightaway because inheritance is all that the party and the Nehru-Gandhi family can boast of. While there ought to be a tax on any inheritance above Rs 15-20 crore (the tax could be as little as 15 per cent, just to make the inheritors understand the value of undeserved windfall), there should also be a political inheritance tax. No son or daughter should become an Assembly or parliament poll candidate without spending 15 years in a constituency working for the party and the people. That would make the inheritance tax of 15 per cent and 15 years seem reasonable.

Rahul talks about revolution as if he is some Mao or Stalin. Delusions of grandeur apart, he could not make his X-ray of injustice function in Amethi or Rae Bareilly or the rest of Uttar Pradesh when he was the second-most powerful Congress parliamentarian (the first being the Rae Bareilly MP) for 10 years. After all, Uttar Pradesh had elected 21 Congress MPs as late as in 2009. If the election is turning out to be a contest over economic distress, even a debate on inheritance tax will work wonders in a poor country with billionaires who spend thousands of crores on their children's weddings. But for that, Modi should have expended all his pro-incumbency advantage, which does not seem to be the case.

Develop border villages to counter Chinese designs

By: Lt Gen Pradeep Bali (Retd)

China has a penchant for reinventing history and tweaking geographic realities as this suits its hegemonic interests and designs. This takes the shape of manufacturing 'facts on the ground'. While the Chinese have often staked their claims to vast swathes of Indian territory, they have been on a spree of renaming habitations and terrain features in Arunachal Pradesh in recent years. The Chinese Civil Affairs Ministry released the first list of such newly invented names in 2017, mentioning six places. The second list, renaming 15 locations, was brought out in 2021, followed by 11 new names in 2023. The fourth and the latest list under this geographical name game, covering 30 places in Arunachal, which the Chinese refer to as Zangnan, came out on April 1, 2024. As expected, India has strongly objected to and rejected this gimmickry.

Parallel to this exercise, in the garb of developing border areas north of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), China has been establishing settlements called Xiaokang or 'prosperous villages'. While over 600 of these border habitations have come up in recent years, 175 more such villages are planned for development. This entire process is ostensibly being carried out to bolster its territorial claims and serve the purpose of creating infrastructure for dual use by its People's Liberation Army (PLA). Here, the Chinese stratagem of legal warfare is in play as settled populations are not to be disturbed as and when the LAC is

finally demarcated, as per the 2005 Border Defence Cooperation Agreement with India.

Similar shades of this Chinese strategy can be seen in its disputes with other nations. The Senkaku islands, administered by Japan, are claimed by Beijing with a Chinese name — Diaoyu. It is also well known that China's nine-dash line to buttress its territorial claims over the entire South China Sea (SCS) is against international laws, particularly the United Nations Convention of the Laws of the Sea. This claim line overlaps the Exclusive Economic Zones of Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. China has been pouring concrete into the seas, converting shoals and rocky outcrops into 'islands'. The objective behind this manufactured geography is securing military advantage and presenting its neighbours with a fait accompli.

This proclivity of taking geographical and historical liberties was in ample display in western Bhutan in 2017, when the PLA tried to occupy the Doklam plateau right up to the Jhampheri ridge. This riled India as it would have impinged upon its security concerns, and had to be physically stopped by the Army.

An interesting case of geographical emasculation is that of the Tibet region, occupied by China in 1951 and taken under complete control in 1959. Chinese rulers created the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), which roughly corresponds to what may be called 'Political Tibet' and is much smaller in size than the actual Tibet. Historically, 'Ethnic Tibet' consisted of three major areas — U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo. Amdo

was amalgamated into the Qinghai province in 1955 and the Kham area into the Ganze Autonomous Prefecture in 1957. Similarly, other areas with Tibetan ethnicity were merged with Gansu and Yunnan. The TAR consists only of U-Tsang out of the original Tibetan homeland. Between 1911 and 1951, Tibet was free of the paramountcy of the Republic of China. The 14th Dalai Lama was born in Amdo and his bodyguards are from the Kham area, renowned for the warrior traits of its ethnic Tibetans.

China has also engineered an internal migration from the overcrowded Han homeland in the east to various parts of Tibet, and most of the border villages coming up across the LAC have ethnic Hans living in them. These Chinese migrants are incentivised with major economic benefits — a key element in the Sincisation of Tibet.

India's response to China's Machiavellian strategies has varied from indifference to jingoism. The latest renaming game has elicited a very measured response from Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Addressing a public gathering in eastern Arunachal on April 9, he said: "I want to tell our neighbours that changing names will not achieve anything. Tomorrow, if we change the names of places or states in China, will it make them ours?"

Our border issue with China has largely remained a bilateral concern. However, the US, of late, has been throwing its weight behind India. The recent statement by its Ambassador in India Eric Garcetti, that "China has no business renaming places that are part of India's territory," was a welcome step. Fur-

ther east, the Chinese perfidy in the SCS has invoked strong international reactions. The Quad alignment, which includes India, Australia, the US and Japan, the AUKUS grouping (Australia, UK and US) — which Japan is likely to join soon — and the trilateral alignment among the US, Japan and the Philippines are all focused on a rules-based world order in the SCS to counter Chinese hegemonic designs.

India needs to emphatically and repeatedly call out any changes, historical or geographical, which China tries to engineer. We need to strongly raise these issues and place our objections on record to counter manufactured claims, lest they should become accepted facts.

We suffer from a terrain disadvantage across the borders, for the area on our side is geographically hostile with steep mountainous terrain and thick forests in most parts, right up to the LAC. Our own area and infrastructure development has to stay the course, whatever the cost, and the Border Roads Organisation has been trying to meet this challenge. The recently inaugurated Sela tunnel in Arunachal is aimed at bolstering India's operational preparedness along the LAC. However, the enormity of the task requires capability enhancement for operating in high altitudes.

We need to encourage settlement in border villages in order to check migration. Economic opportunities and faster communication are stepping stones in this regard. While the Army can lend a helping hand, the policy formulation to facilitate all this is the domain of the political leadership. Furthermore, the sensitivities of the Indian citizens who populate these border areas need to be always kept in mind.

GDC Kishtwar Women's Grievance Cell hosts Interactive Seminar on Women's health and hygiene

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 27: The Women's Grievance Cell of GDC Kishtwar orchestrated an engaging session and consultation on Women's Health and Hygiene, under the patronage of Prof. Basharat Iqbal, Principal of GDC Kishtwar. Dr. Tabassum Saleem, Convener of the Women's Grievance Cell along with Dr. Yasar Ahmed and Dr. Sehrish Gazal, spearheaded the program with the goal of empowering women with essential knowledge on various health issues they may face.

The seminar featured Dr. Shafiqah Dar, a distinguished Senior Consul-



tant Gynaecologist, as the guest speaker. Dr. Dar's insightful discourse highlighted the critical importance of healthcare and proper hygiene practices in women's daily lives.

She discussed different aspects of womanhood,

menstrual hygiene practices, and various types of cancers affecting women.

Dr. Tabassum Saleem delivered the formal welcome address, underscoring the seminar's aim to cultivate a well-informed female population.

Dr. Shafiqah Dar's Informative Presentation imparted valuable insights on women's health, followed by an Expression of Gratitude for her expertise. Dr. Dar also gave on spot free consultation to various students related

to menstrual problems.

Dr. Sehrish Gazal concluded the seminar with a Closing Vote of Thanks. The event saw active participation from both teaching and non-teaching faculty members, including Dr. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Ajeet Kumar, Prof. Jaid-eep, Prof. Sonika Sen, Prof. Asma Javaid, Prof. Sheikh Mohd Usman, Prof. Omraj, and Suram Singh, alongside approximately 150 engaged students.

This initiative by the GDC Kishtwar Women's Grievance Cell stands as a commendable endeavor in fostering a culture of women's health awareness and promoting overall well-being within the college community.

Awareness cum skill enhancement workshop concludes at GCW Udhampur

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 27: An awareness cum skill enhancement workshop was concluded at Government College for Women (GCW), Udhampur here on Saturday.

The workshop was organized by the Department of Computer Application for the students of Dogri from 20th April 2024 to 27th April 2024 under the Patronship of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania.

The workshop was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Preeti Dubey and coordinated by Rachna Bharti, along with the Head of Department for Dogri, Dr. Sushma Kumari, Shama Rani, and Manju

Bala. This workshop was facilitated by the project associates of the Indian Language Machine Translation project, part of the 'National Language Machine Translation (NLTM): BHASHINI' project under way at Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu.

Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania, the Principal of the college, expressed her delight and addressed the students and motivating them to contribute to language preservation efforts. She emphasized the importance of language and commended the collaboration between the Computer Application and Dogri departments. She encouraged similar

activities for the holistic development of students in the future.

The resource persons of the workshop Rakesh Kumar, Sunil Kumar, and Navedika Mishra, enlightened the students about language digitalization, and also demonstrated Hindi typing skills.

Earlier, Dr. Preeti Dubey briefed the students on job opportunities in translation and various language preservation initiatives undertaken by the Government of India.

The ongoing research projects by the Govt. of India were also discussed and the students were apprised about part time opportunities in these research projects, she added.

Forest Department Advances Precision Demarcation Efforts: Harnessing modern technology for conservation

Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, Apr 27: In a resolute stride towards meticulous forest management, the West Circle Rajouri, under the leadership of CF West Circle Rajouri, Sandeep Kumar, in collaboration with Shweta Deonia, Divisional Forest Officer of Nowshera, and her diligent team, is accelerating demarcation efforts across forest divisions.

Under the vigilant direction of CF Sandeep Kumar, the West circle has initiated daily progress reporting, ensuring a comprehensive data compilation to track the advancement of demarcation activities. A recent extensive tour of the Nowshera Forest Division, notably focused on reviewing demarcation efforts at the Seot Forest, reaffirmed the commitment to precision in surveys and demarcation work, with strict adher-

ence to IT guidelines.

To bolster accuracy and efficiency, the Forest Department is deploying cutting-edge technology, including ArcGIS and Erdas Imagine, reflecting a dedication to modern methodologies. The utilization of such state-of-the-art tools not only enhances precision but also underscores the Department's proactive stance towards responsible forest management and conservation.

An outstanding achievement of surveying 65,000 Boundary Pillars (BPs) by the West Circle exemplifies the unwavering commitment to safeguarding natural resources. This milestone reflects the Department's steadfast dedication to preserving forests for the benefit of future generations.

Furthermore, Divisional Forest Officer Nowshera, Shweta Deonia has reported that the

division has 68 forests having about 10400 BPs out of which 37 forests with 5000 BPs has already been demarcated and rest of the survey is in progress with state of the art cutting edge technology like Remote Sensing and GIS with the technical expertise of Dr. Rakesh Verma, a distinguished Remote Sensing and GIS expert of J&K Forest Department. Dr. Verma's expertise will facilitate the creation of spatial layers for the division, ensuring meticulous demarcation guided by contemporary methodologies.

CF West Circle has mandated Dr. Verma to extend this initiative across the entire circle, underscoring a collaborative approach aimed at benefiting all Divisional Forest Officers and furthering the Department's commitment to precision demarcation and conservation.

ADG NCC JK&L Directorate Visits Kashmir Region and NCC Group HQ, Srinagar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, Additional Director General (ADG) of Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Directorate, embarked on a visit to the Kashmir region with a multifaceted agenda aimed at enhancing NCC activities and engagement in the area. The primary objectives of the visit included reviewing ongoing training activities, overseeing preparations for the establishment of two new units under the Group Headquarters, Srinagar, motivating cadets, and engaging with State Government officials.

The visit commenced with a visit to the JIM&WS Pahalgam, where Maj Gen Sachdeva was briefed by Principal JIM, Col Hem Chandra Singh, regarding the activities and facilities at JIM Pahalgam. The ADG also had the opportunity to witness the training conducted by NCC Cadets of the Adventure Course at JIM, Pahalgam, where he interacted with the cadets and provided motivation and encouragement.

On 26 Apr 24, Maj Gen Sachdeva visited the NCC Group HQs at Srinagar, setting the stage for the upcoming SNIC Srinagar scheduled for June 2024. The visit aimed to assess the progress of land acquisition for the establishment of a NCC Training Academy in Srinagar and to coordinate the forthcoming visit of the Director General NCC (DGNCC) scheduled for May 2024. During his visit, Maj Gen Sachdeva engaged with Officers, Associate NCC Officers (ANOs), Permanent Instructors, Civilian Staff, and Cadets.

Three days review cum re-orientation training of MLHPs/CHOs concludes



Top News Report

DODA, Apr 27: Empowering healthcare in the district, the three days review meeting cum re-orientation training session for MLHPs/CHOs, organized by District Health Society Doda concluded today on 27-04-2024 at Conference Hall CMO Office Doda.

The training cum review meeting was organized with the aim of enhancing professional performance and delivering better healthcare services to the community and to focus and strengthen the Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) services to com-

munity and the strategies to upgrade all health facilities as per set guidelines of CPHC.

Leading the session, CMO Doda Dr. Om Kumar, alongside other district health officers/officials including different scheme heads of the department emphasized the importance of accurate record-keeping and the implementation of key health programs.

Together, they discussed various agenda points including Kayakalp 2024-25, ESanjeevni Tele Consultation, UWIN data status, and immunization. Committed to excellence, the health department aims to pro-

vide comprehensive and improved health services to the public."

CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar on this occasion briefed the participants about the meeting cum training session, took a detailed review of achievements under different parameters, functioning of health institutions and services given to the patients.

The training imparted during the three days were given by District Immunization Doda Dr Versha Sharma, DPM NHM Mr Jahangir Mehta, Epidemiologist Mr Umar Khan, DMEO NHM Mr C K Shan and VCCM Ms Priyanka Manhas.

Successful Vaccination and Health Screening for Leh District Haj Pilgrims

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 27: A significant milestone was achieved in ensuring the safety and well-being of Leh district pilgrims undertaking the Haj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. Under the vigilant supervision of the State Immunization Officer, Ladakh, Dr. Iqbal Ahmad; Dy CMO Leh/IC DIO Skarma P.Yontan and Medical officer, Leh, Dr. Chhimet Angmo; beneficiaries from Leh Town, Phyang, and Choglamsar received essential vaccinations at CMO office Leh.

In line with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's commitment to the health and safety of pilgrims, beneficiaries were administered with

the required vaccines, ensuring their protection during the pilgrimage.

Furthermore, as directed by the Ministry, meticulous efforts were made to record all medical screening and fitness certificates of selected pilgrims in an online platform, following the established protocol. Additionally, Health Cards for Haj Pilgrims 2024 were procured and distributed to facilitate seamless access to medical records.

Simultaneously, beneficiaries from Shey, Thiksey, Chuchot, and Nubra are also receiving the vaccinations at their respective centers, ensuring comprehensive coverage for all pilgrims in the region.

Screening & Vaccination drive for Hajj Pilgrims held at CHC Sankoo

46 Haji Pilgrims received Vaccination

Top News Report

KARGIL, Apr 27: Screening and Vaccination drive for Hajj Pilgrims held at Community Health Center Sankoo Kargil on Saturday.

The vaccination is done as a precautionary measure to protect pilgrims from any contagious disease during the annual pilgrimage.

During the course of screening and vaccination drive Dr Rabiya Rashid Medical Officer CHC Sankoo, Achnoo Zeenab JHI, Zaffar Iqbal, Sakina Banoo ANM, Amina Banoo ANM, Fatima Banoo Nurse were also present.

A total of 46 Hajj pil-



grims were vaccinated at CHC Sankoo.

The pilgrims lauded the arrangements and appre-

ciated the efforts of the Chief Medical Officer Kargil and Block Medical Officer, CHC Sankoo.

Priyanka Chopra says she was rejected from movies because 'somebody's girlfriend was cast': 'It is hard'

Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra recently shared her experiences of facing rejections in the movie industry. She recounted instances where she was rejected for roles, citing one occasion when she lost out on an opportunity simply because 'somebody's girlfriend' was cast in her place.

On the podcast Read The Room, Priyanka said that dealing with rejections is not easy. She said, "It's hard. Especially in a job based on validation. Whether it is how many people come and watch your movie or what your director thinks about your per-

formance or what your casting agent thinks, it is all subjective."

She continued, "I have seen so much rejection in the movie industry for so many reasons. Whether I wasn't right for the role, whether it was favouritism, whether it was that somebody's girlfriend was cast, like there are so many reasons it happened. I made peace a long time ago. It is real. We can all say 'I am better than that, I am confident'. It is not true. You have to allow yourself to feel the rejection. It's like grieving. I am someone who does it. I will move on. I will brush it aside.



Long time ago, I came to peace with rejection at work."

Previously in an interview with Simi Garewal, Priyanka had shared that nobody in Bollywood wanted to work with her. She described

feeling close to being broken and mentioned a phase of complete rejection for about a year and a half, starting at the age of 18. She said, "The first couple of years was really bad, because I did not trust

anyone—which film was right, which not to do. I had a phase where none of my films were starting and I was wondering what was I doing here, and I was close to going back to college."

In 2023, talking to Dax Shepherd, Priyanka had opened up about being pushed in a corner in Bollywood. She said, "I was being pushed into a corner in the industry (Bollywood). I had people not casting me, I had beef with people, I am not good at playing that game so I kind of was tired of the politics and I said I needed a break."

Credibility crisis in Bollywood as trade slams industry's 'harmful' practices; from buy one get one offer to breeding 'paid influencers'



Days after *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan* and *Maidaan* hit the big screens, a producer checked his Twitter and laughed at the paid tweets he claimed were being pushed to hype the Bollywood Eid releases. He joked that these were what the industry called "samosa critics"—paid trade influencers who charge per tweet, often assigned to build a social media narrative. "It is an open secret and quite embarrassing really. Why would you do it? We all know it is a sham," he said. Days later, his own film had an announcement being pushed on X. It was through the same influencers.

In 2024, the Hindi film industry finds itself facing multiple hurdles, most self-induced, a few beyond its control. But it is a surround-sound crisis that is ringing in the ears of everyone even remotely associated with Bollywood that just delivered an average first quarter and started its second quarter on a shocking note with both Eid releases bombing big, nursing losses to the tune of Rs 250 cr.

Several trade analysts and exhibitors Indian-express.com spoke to opened up about how the industry not only needs to keep the ever-inflating star fees in check—the biggest menace, they said—but also clean up acts it has encouraged for so long: Enticing viewers with "harmful" buy-one-get-one ticket offers, pushing paid reviews for promotions and acting cowardly in times of urgency.

Since 2023, the Hindi film industry started picking up on a new trend: the buy-one-get-one (BOGO) ticket offer. It was implemented on a wide scale for Vicky Kaushal-Sara Ali Khan starrer *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke*, which had BOGO right through its opening weekend. The offer was then replicated for several other mid-sized films of 2023, including *The Vaccine War*, *Dream Girl 2*, *Ghoomer*, *Mission Raniganj*, *Dono*, and followed through even in 2024 with Katrina Kaif's *Merry Christmas* and Shahid Kapoor-Kriti Sanon starrer *Teri Baaton Mein Uljha Jiya*.

Even *Crew*, headlined by Tabu, Kareena Kapoor and Kriti, Madaan and *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan* had the offer on select days. Vidya Balan-Pratik Gandhi's *Do Aur Do Pyaar* had BOGO right from day one. While the makers have rolled out the offer for all kinds of films, big scale or small, the result has been mixed.

Bade Miyan Chote Miyan had the offer on select days. Vidya Balan-Pratik Gandhi's *Do Aur Do Pyaar* had BOGO right from day one. While the makers have rolled out the offer for all kinds of films, big scale or small, the result has been mixed.

Which is why, trade analyst Komal Nahta said, the collections of a film like *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya*, which

netted Rs 80 cr, will be looked at differently as it had BOGO offer attached to it. The film was backed by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films, which also produced *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke*.

"He (the producer) is taking money from one pocket, putting in another. The PVRs and the INOXs are very happy with this unhealthy trend, because they are assured of full revenue even if the films are bad. They couldn't care less whether the audience is paying them or the producers themselves," Nahta said.

Veteran distributor and exhibitor Raj Bansal said BOGO offer is a "harmful" trend picked up by the industry as, contrary to what makers think, the audience is more reluctant to watch films in cinemas.

"I have met so many people who casually tell me, 'Oh that film which has released on Friday? When it doesn't get good collections till Sunday, there will be a BOGO offer by Monday anyway. That's when my family and I will watch it at ease. Why the rush?' The offers, the schemes have made people more reluctant to step out. Which is why the films are not opening well.

"Now, if there are three films releasing on the same day, and if one opts for this scheme, the other two are forced to follow and implement it. It still doesn't guarantee numbers! Pehle aisa kahan hota tha? You are doing this because you are making bad films," Rajasthan-based Bansal said.

Kashmera Shah says she apologised to Govinda but he didn't let her touch his feet



Govinda's unexpected appearance at Krushna Abhishek's sister Arti Singh's wedding caught everyone off guard. This surprising gesture marked the end of an 8-year feud between Govinda and Krushna. The feud started after a war of words between Krushna's wife Kashmera Shah and Govinda's wife Sunita Ahuja, which then escalated. Previously, Kashmera had said that she would touch Govinda's feet and apologise of he attended Arti's wedding and in a recent interview, she said that she indeed touched his feet.

In an interview with Times of India, Kashmera said that she was glad he attended the wedding. Describing their interaction, Kashmera explained that she was the only one welcoming guests at the entrance and Krushna

was on the stage with Arti. When Govinda entered the venue, she said that it felt surreal and she immediately bowed down saying namaste. The actor said that she walked up to Govinda and took him to the stage. When she bent down to touch his feet, Govinda stopped her and said 'jeete raho, khush raho.' "I bent down to touch his feet. That is the apology," Kashmera said.

She also introduced her six-year-old twins to Govinda. The Hero No 1 actor hugged them and blessed them, leaving Kashmera emotional. Govinda attended the wedding but his wife Sunita Ahuja was missing from the ceremony. When asked if she was expecting Sunita to attend the wedding, Kashmera said, "I wasn't. Unka gussa rehna banta hai.

(She has the right to be upset.)" She said that she will sort her issues with Sunita later and called her an 'alpha' woman. Kashmera also hinted that Sunita is angry because of the 2018 tweet incident.

For the unversed, the feud between Govinda and Krushna Abhishek began years ago. In 2018, Govinda's wife, Sunita, got upset over a tweet from Kashmera, about people dancing for money. Sunita thought it was aimed at Govinda, so they cut ties with Krushna and Kashmera.

Krushna also interacted with the media and said, "Mama aaye bahut khushi hui. I was so happy to see him. Wo dil ki baat hai. Humara emotional connect hai. (Mama came, we are happy. I was so happy to see him. It's an emotional connect.)"

After 'Dance of Envy', Madhuri Dixit and Karisma Kapoor recreate Dil To Pagal Hai song 'Chak Dhoom Dhoom'

Madhuri Dixit and Karisma Kapoor brought a smile to their fans' faces after they recreated their iconic dance routine "Dance of Envy" from *Dil To Pagal Hai*. Now, the duo has recreated another famous song "Chak Dhoom Dhoom" from the film. The two actors danced to the song while they were shooting for the television show *Dance Deewane* backstage and shared a video.

Karisma shared the video on her Instagram handle and wrote, "Such a special weekend with my absolute favourite MD ji and the super suave Sunil Anna Let's Chak Dhoom Dhoom! Here's to making more memorable moments together."

After watching the video, fans showered their love on the two actors. One person wrote, "Evergreen Karisma only," another user wrote, "Madhuri you are the best"

Karisma and Madhuri had earlier recreated 'Dance of Envy' from their 1997 film on the



same stage. In Yash Chopra's *Dil To Pagal Hai*, Karisma and Madhuri both played dancers who work with Shah Rukh Khan's character Rahul and the trio is stuck in a love triangle.

On the work front, Madhuri was last seen on the feature film *Maja Ma*, which premiered on Prime Video in 2022. The same year, she headlined the Netflix thriller *The Fame Game*. Karisma, meanwhile, will be next seen in *Brown*, a film directed by Abhinay Deo of Delhi Belly fame. Backed by Zee Studios, *Brown* is based on the book *City of Death* by Abheek Barua.

Actor Krishna Mukherjee accuses TV show producer of harassment: 'They locked me'

Television actor Krishna Mukherjee, known for her role in 'Yeh Hai Mohabbatein', has leveled serious accusations against the producers of her show 'Shubh Shagun'. Following the show's end, Mukherjee has taken a hiatus from television.

Krishna Mukherjee made a shocking revelation on Instagram about her time on the set of 'Shubh Shagun.' She bravely opened up about battling depression and anxiety, attributing it to harassment by the show's producer.

In a detailed post, she recounted distressing incidents, including being confined to the makeup room while unwell and not receiving payment for five months. Additionally, she mentioned receiving threats from the producer, which deterred her from speaking out. Feeling unsafe, she has chosen to refrain from taking on new projects to avoid a similar experience.

"I never had the courage to speak my heart out but today I decid-



ed not to hold it back anymore. I am going through tough times and the last one and a half years was not at all easy for me. I was depressed, anxious and cried my heart out when I was

alone. It all started when I started doing my [last show] 'Shubh Shagun' for Dangal TV. "That was the worst decision of my life. I never wanted to do it but I listened to others and signed the

contract. The production house and the producer @kundan.singh official has harassed me so many times (sic)," the actor wrote.

She added, "They even once Locked me

in my makeup room bez I was unwell and I decided not to shoot bez they were not paying me for my work plus I was unwell, they were banging my makeup room's door as if they will break it, when I was changing my clothes. They never cleared my payments to date for 5 months. And it's a really big amount. I have been to the production house and Dangal office but they never entertained me. Also was given dhamki many times. I felt unsafe broken and scared throughout. I feel unsafe I asked for help from so many people but nothing. Nobody could do anything about it. People ask me why I am not doing any show. This is the reason. I am Scared what if the same thing happens again?? I need justice (sic)."

Soon after Krishna's post, her friends from the industry came forward and extended their support to her. While some praised her for opening up about the battle, others reached out to help her in this situation.

Parineeti Chopra says she was asked to spend Rs 4 lakh per month on fitness when she made Rs 5 lakh: 'This world judged me'

Bollywood actor Parineeti Chopra, who was recently seen in *Amar Singh Chamkila*, discussed her initial years in the film industry, revealing that she didn't earn too much money at that time. Luxuries such as flying business class seemed out of reach, and she didn't consider them until later in her career. The actor recalled when a Mumbai based co-star mocked her for not being able to afford a trainer for Rs 4 lakh every month.

In a conversation with Raj Shamani on his podcast, Parineeti said, "I don't come from a very rich background. I'm actually a very simple, middle-class girl. I genuinely don't understand Bollywood. I genuinely don't

know how people in Mumbai operate. I don't have these high-flying friends. I don't have a trainer, stylist, everything already ready for me. And people who were already from here and already knew this world judged me a lot."

Parineeti explained that she didn't earn much during the first couple of years of her career. She remembered someone suggesting she hire a trainer for around Rs 2 lakh a month to lose weight, along with a nutritionist costing almost the same.

She said, "I was like, 'I don't have 4 lakh a month to pay. I don't make that money. This is my third film.' And I remember going up to a co-actor of mine who

has definitely grown up in Bombay, in this world, and of course, comes from a place of privilege. He's like, 'Why aren't you hiring these people? And I said, 'Listen, but I really can't afford it.' I was paid 5 lakhs for my first film. He was like, 'If you can't afford it, then you shouldn't be in this profession.'"

She said that experiencing luxuries like flying business class and first class came much later in her life. The actor thought about it until she completed her fifth film and checked her bank account, realising she could finally afford to buy the things she desired, like bags and shoes. The actor added,

Trinamool Congress lodges complaint with West Bengal CEO against CBI's Sandeshkhali raid

NEW DELHI, Apr 27 (Agencies): Trinamool Congress has lodged a complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal stating that the CBI had "deliberately carried out an unscrupulous" raid at an "empty location" in Sandeshkhali during the second phase of polling in the state.

The TMC said that while elections were going on at Darjeeling, Raiganj and Balurghat Lok Sabha constituencies on Friday, the central agency carried out an "unscrupulous" raid at an empty location at Sandeshkhali.

The CBI on Friday seized arms and ammunition, including a police service revolver and foreign-made firearms, during searches at two premises of an associate of now-suspended TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali. The searches were conducted in connection with the January attack on an



Enforcement Directorate (ED) team by a mob that was allegedly instigated by Sheikh, who was arrested by the West Bengal Police on February 29 in the case.

The Trinamool Congress in a letter to the CEO on Friday said that media reports suggested that CBI had called in additional forces including the bomb squad of NSG. "It has also been reported in the media that arms

and ammunition have been recovered from a house during the such raid by the central agency", it said.

The party said while 'law and order' fell completely within the domain of the state government, the CBI did not issue any notice to it or the police authorities before carrying out such a raid. The TMC stated that the West Bengal police has a fully functional bomb disposal squad

at its command, it could have assisted in the operation if the CBI indeed felt its requirement during the raid.

"However, no such assistance was sought. But, surprisingly, the raids had become nationwide news stating that weapons had been recovered during the raids", TMC said. The party also doubted "there is no way of knowing with certainty as to whether these weapons were indeed

recovered during the search or whether they were surreptitiously planted by the CBI or NSG".

The TMC alleged the entire exercise smacks of an effort by the CBI to create a nationwide hatred against the TMC and its candidates, during the election period, while feeding with the wrong information that the location belonged to a supporter of the party. The letter added that the incident had again demonstrated the fact that the "BJP has weaponised" the central investigation agencies including the CBI to carry out a smear campaign against the party.

"It further iterated that in the absence of any representative of the state government, the purported recovery of arms and ammunition is possibly a ploy by the BJP in conspiracy with the CBI and the NSG to plant weapons in the site", the party said in the letter.

Arjuna Awardee CRPF officer faces dismissal for sexually harassing women personnel

NEW DELHI, Apr 27 (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" of 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 coun-

try'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.

VK Pandian's chopper searched by election officials in Odisha

BHUBNESWAR, Apr 27 (Agencies): Poll officials in Odisha Friday checked the helicopter ferrying IAS-turned-politician V K Pandian at Umerkote, under the state's Nabarangpur parliamentary constituency.

The search was conducted for around 45 minutes by a team of five officials, led by the local magistrate, in the presence of police personnel. Pandian was addressing a rally when the search was carried out.

"The exercise was carried out as per the direction of the Election Commission of India. No suspect items found during the search operation," said official sources.



Pandian, who is leading the BJD campaign for the upcoming simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly polls, Friday travelled to Umerkote, Jharigaon, Dabugan and Nabarangpur assembly segments to seek votes for party candidates.

Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seat, along with three other parliamen-

tary constituencies — Koraput, Kalahandi and Berhampur — and 28 assembly segments will go to polls on May 13.

The former bureaucrat is next to BJD chief and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in the BJD's star campaigners' list. A day after Patnaik kickstarted the BJD's campaign from his home turf, Hinjili, Pandian has been

leading the party campaign from the front.

On Thursday, he addressed four meetings, with BJD sources saying he will travel all 147 assembly segments seeking votes for party candidates.

Recently, the state government had accorded 'Z' category security to the former IAS officer, while upgrading security of four other senior leaders of the state. The BJD's official poster also features Pandian along with the party's organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das.

The BJD faces a stiff contest from the BJP, which made significant gains in the last Lok Sabha polls.

Job-eater BJP...wants to use jobless youth to win polls: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

PINGLA, Apr 27 (Agencies): Taking a dig at the BJP, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday dubbed it a "job-eater" and said the people of West Bengal would not forgive its leaders for "conspiring to snatch" the livelihood of nearly 26,000 teachers.

Addressing an election rally in support of TMC's Ghatal candidate Dev, Banerjee also attacked the CPI(M) and Congress in the same breath, calling the two parties "eyes and ears" of the BJP in the state.

"You have heard about man-eater tigers, but have you heard about the job-eater BJP? Did you see the glee on the face of the leaders of the BJP, CPI(M) and Congress after so many people were rendered jobless by the court?" she asked the people at the rally.

"I don't want to comment on the judgement or say anything about the judges. But after taking away the jobs of 26,000 youths, you are asking them to return the salary along with 12 per cent interest. Can you take jobs like that? Give them a chance to rectify. How can 26,000 people be treated in such a way?" she asked.

The Calcutta High Court on Monday ordered the cancellation of appointments of



25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff made through the recruitment process of State Level Selection Test-2016 (SLST) in state-run schools, declaring the selection process as "null and void".

Banerjee said the "conspiracy" was evident from the reactions of the leaders of BJP, CPI(M) and Congress after the court gave its verdict.

"The people of West Bengal will not forgive these parties for their roles. They also filed PILs in the court and stalled any new initiative by the state government to fix the anomalies," she said.

Banerjee alleged the opposition BJP was again "conspiring" to stall the state government's decision to recruit 10 lakh people.

"They don't want to wipe the tears from the faces of the unemployed youth, but want to use them for winning the elections," she claimed. "If 26,000 teachers

go, who will teach in the state-run schools? Will RSS now take over?" she asked.

She called the CPI(M) and Congress "eyes and ears of the BJP" in West Bengal.

"The INDIA bloc does not exist in West Bengal. Voting for the CPI(M) and Congress will strengthen the hands of PM Narendra Modi. It is the TMC, which is fighting the communal and undemocratic BJP here," she claimed.

Banerjee also criticised the BJP, alleging that it forced the EC to hold a seven-phase election in West Bengal without caring about the scorching heat.

"If Tamil Nadu with 40 seats can have a single-phase poll, why should Bengal with 42 seats be subjected to such a grueling schedule? BJP does not care about the people," she said.

Banerjee accused the Centre of depriving West Bengal of funds for social welfare schemes, and said that her gov-

ernment would arrange the money.

"What happened to the promise of giving Rs 15 lakh in people's bank accounts?" she questioned.

She also alleged that the BJP was attempting religious polarisation.

Bengali superstar Dev is seeking re-election from the Ghatal seat for a third consecutive term. This time, he is up against BJP's Hiran Chatterjee, another film star who became an MLA in 2021 by winning the Kharagpur Sadar seat. The CPI fielded Tapan Ganguly in Ghatal.

Later in the day, Banerjee addressed a rally in Garbeta for the party's Jhargram candidate Kalipada Soren.

She said leaders of the BJP never came to the region when bloodshed was a daily affair because of Maoist activities.

"It was me as the opposition leader who would come to stand with the people during those times. Now, they are talking big," she said.

Banerjee said she always believed in the slogan of 'badla noy, badal chai' (want change, not revenge) that she gave during the 2011 assembly elections in which her TMC ousted the CPI(M)-led Left Front.

Gujarat govt transfers 10 IPS officers

VADODARA, Apr 27 (Agencies): The Gujarat government on Thursday transferred 10 police officers with Indian Police Service (IPS) ranks, and two State Police Service (SPS) officers, amid the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that is in place for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. The transfers include two officers, who have returned to the home cadre from the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Gagandeep Gambhir has been posted as Inspector General (Administration), Gandhinagar by downgrading the cadre post of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) to Inspector General of Police (IG). Gambhir, along with Raghendra Vats, has recently returned to the home cadre and were awaiting posting. Vats has been appointed the Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), Surat city.

Sharad Singhal, who had also been waiting for a posting, has been appointed the JCP (Crime) for Ahmedabad city, upgrading the post



from Additional Commissioner of Police.

Singhal takes over from Neeraj Kumar Badgujar, who has been appointed the Additional Director General of Police Sector-1, Ahmedabad. Ajit Rajian, who was the Ahmedabad DCP Cyber Crime, is posted as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) in the city. Lavina Sinha will take over charge of the Cyber Crime from Rajian.

Former DCP Ahmedabad Crime Branch Chaitanya Mandlik, who had been waiting for a posting since

being relieved from the post in March this year, has been appointed the Superintendent of Police CID Crime of the Anti-Radicalisation Cell.

Himanshu Kumar Verma, has been appointed as DCP Zone-1 of Ahmedabad city, after being transferred from the post of SP State Traffic Branch-1, Gandhinagar. Manish Singh has been appointed SP Motor Transport (Gandhinagar) and Usha Rada will take over as Commandant of State Reserve Police Force Group-6 in Sabarkantha.

State Police Service

officers Rupal Solanki and Bharti Pandya have been appointed the staff officers in DGP office and SP Technical Services, respectively, in Gandhinagar.

Five IPS officers of 2020 batch — Bishakha Jain, Raghav Jain, Jitendra Agarwal, Nidhi Thakur and K Siddharth — were granted the Senior Time Scale.

K Siddharth, as the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Dahod, has been leading the investigation into the alleged case of the bogus government office of the Project Administration department of Dahod.

'Was sure I would be cleared of all charges': Acquitted after decade in jail, ex-journalist ponders future

MUMBAI, Apr 27 (Agencies): At 65 years of age, former journalist Prashant Rahi is thinking about his career options. Cleared of all charges after fighting legal battles for around 17 years, he says he's not yet ready to retire.

An IIT-BHU alumnus and engineer by training, Rahi has had three stints in prison between 2007 and 2024. He had been booked in two cases, spent over a decade in jail, and has now been cleared of all charges in both.

On September 1, 2013, police from Maharashtra's Gadchiroli arrested Rahi from Raipur in Chhattisgarh. He was accused

of being a member of the banned CPI (Maoist) and was booked under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act along with former DU teacher G N Saibaba and others.

Rahi said he was in Raipur at the time to meet a lawyer regarding legal assistance to a woman booked in Bilaspur.

On March 5, the Bombay High Court acquitted all those accused in the case. Upon release, Rahi went back to his home in Mumbai.

After his September 2013 arrest, Rahi was first lodged in Nagpur jail, where he was kept with those facing trial in Naxal cases. "There were some 40-50 people in that barrack... People

came there seeking assistance with their cases, and wanting books to read. Everyone was engaged in some constructive activity. I helped translate books in Hindi on politics, history, economy. Some arranged skits," he said. He was later shifted to the high security anda cell for three months.

In 2017, when he was convicted along with the other accused in the case, he was out on bail. He spent the next six years in jail.

Sent to Amravati Central Prison, Rahi said there, too, he was lodged in the anda cell, which has 15 separate rooms, meant for one prisoner each.

Israel gives hostage deal 'one last chance' before launching offensive on Rafah

ISRAEL, Apr 27 (Agencies) Israel on Friday gave a stern warning to Egypt, saying that it was giving the ongoing negotiations to secure a hostage deal "one last chance" before launching its long-planned ground offensive on Rafah - between Gaza and Egypt.

The warning comes after Israeli officials and a top-level Egyptian delegation concluded talks on Friday to discuss Tel Aviv's anticipated offensive in Rafah and efforts to reach a hostage agreement with Hamas.

"The talks were very good, focused, held in good spirits and progressed in all param-



eters... Egyptians seem willing to pressure Hamas toward reaching a deal, and in the background, there are very serious intentions from Israel to move ahead in Rafah," an Israeli official said, as quoted by the Times of Israel.

The official reportedly added that Israel would not agree to foot-dragging by Hamas, particu-

larly its leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, on the hostage deal.

"This is the last chance before we go into Rafah... It's a case of either a deal in the near future, or Rafah," the official added.

Meanwhile, Hamas on Saturday said that it is reviewing a new Israeli proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza and

a hostage deal. Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya said that it will submit a response upon completion of its study, reported AP.

Israel has been waging a devastating offensive in Rafah since Hamas attacked across the border on October 7, in which about 1,200 people died. However, there has been a massive international resistance against Israel's intention, especially from the US. Egypt is also worried about the ramifications of a full-scale Israeli offensive in Rafah - where several Palestinians have fled and sought refuge amid the raging war.

Despite this, Israeli

prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, last month, had approved the military's plan for an operation in Rafah. "Victory (over Hamas) requires entering Rafah and eliminating the terrorist battalions there. This will happen. There is a date," he had assured.

Following Hamas' October 7 attack, Israel has been continuously attacking Gaza, with Netanyahu stressing that they will continue its war till victory is achieved despite "international pressure". According to the Hamas-run health ministry, more than 34,000 Palestinians have been killed in the war, while scores have been injured and displaced.

Look how a woman makes 'real life GTA' escape from a parking lot

NEW YORK, Apr 27 (Agencies): A viral video showing a woman narrowly avoiding a tow truck that had chased her on in a crowded parking place amassed more than 5.2 million views.

The video, first posted by user 'Marissa Myrick' and later reposted by TikTok star 'hoodlum' with 3.2 million followers, presents a set-up similar to a quick motion in 'real life GTA' [Grand Theft Auto] video game. As the video plays, Marissa's voice can be heard rooting for the woman in peril, shouting: "Drive off, drive off, drive off! Go, go, go, go, go!"

The woman's voice reverberates in the far back while she is driving her car into reverse, trying to leave the tow truck behind, which is getting closer.

Despite the lone driver's intensity to get away, the tow truck is shadowing her, moving backwards in an effort to



win the challenge pointed to the opposite bed.

Then Marissa's voice rises above the chaos, shouting at the driver with a fervent "Go b'tch go!" The driver heeds the call, accelerating away from the tow truck, which eventually ceases its pursuit—presumably due to the danger posed by the fleeing driver's reckless manoeuvres.

The video has since sparked a plethora of reactions from netizens.

One commented "The audacity of the tow truck to even keep going," and another posted, "The

fact that he chased her is crazy!"

Others have taken a more humorous stance, joking, "He takes his job too serious Imao," and "This was personal for that tow truck driver."

One viewer kind of quipped at Marissa saying, "It's the support for me. From complete strangers. I love it. Bc I be cheerin' to."

"Rockstar is now dialling her number," another piped in.

One chimed in, "So true, i enjoyed every ounce of the tow-truck's part."

Hundreds of people perform yoga on runway of Bangkok's main airport



BANGKOK, Apr 27 (Agencies): Stretching their fingertips to the reddening sky, hundreds of yoga devotees rolled out their mats on the runway of Bangkok's main airport Saturday, practising their downward dog as early morning flights rumbled overhead.

The unusual event on the airport's third runway -- which is still under construction -- saw the workout paired with beverages as participants were offered coconuts, iced teas and water to incorporate into their routines.

Some 500 yoga-goers and camera-ready influencers began arriving at 5:00 am, making their way in the dark to their mats on the runway.

As the sun rose, yoga instructors guided the group through two workouts, cheerily enthusiastic despite the pollution, industrial setting,

and occasional flight roar.

"Today is going to be very special," an instructor blared, before urging participants to "put your coconut in the air!"

"Feel like a beautiful bird," she said, as a plane rumbled along the concrete and lifted into the air behind the participants.

While many present were influencers -- and perhaps more focused on getting the perfect shot than the perfect lunge -- most seemed to have come for a laugh.

"This was something fun, this was a nice event," said lawyer Rugeradh Tungsupakul, attending with a friend.

"Right now, because of our jobs, we are too busy to go to a yoga studio," she said.

Although Rugeradh was worried about pollution -- a perennial issue in smoggy Bangkok, which regularly

ranks among the world's most polluted cities -- she said they had checked the air quality before arriving.

"Right now, it's not too bad," she explained.

Although there were a few men scattered in the crowd, the workout was dominated by women.

Most were clad in the ubiquitous yoga uniform of black leggings and cropped white t-shirts -- in this instance emblazoned with the word "BREW" for Brew Yoga which organized the event.

"This is a very special event for me," said instructor Pavadee Komchokpaisan, 30, adding it was the first time yoga had been done on the runway.

"We have so many people come here to just join the yoga class, and take a picture on a runway," she told AFP, praising Bangkok's yoga community.

One of those receiving instruction was Precious, who has lived in Bangkok for the past four years, and said she was invited thanks to her Instagram-famous cat Ernest.

"He's been to Switzerland, Botswana, South Africa, so obviously this seemed kind of appropriate," she told AFP.

She figured she was unlikely to ever be asked to do yoga on an airport runway again.

Ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels damage India-bound oil tanker in Red Sea

JERUSALEM, Apr 27 (Agencies): Ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels caused "minor damage" to a Panama-flagged oil tanker travelling through the Red Sea on Friday, authorities said.

The attack follows an uptick in assaults launched by the Houthis in recent days after a relative lull in their months-long campaign over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The rebels fired three missiles in the attack, one of which damaged the Panama-flagged, Seychelles-registered Andromeda Star, the US military's Central Command said. The private security firm Ambrey described the tanker as being "engaged in Russia-linked trade." The vessel was travelling from Primorsk, Russia, to Vadinar, India, Ambrey said.

Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree later claimed the attack early Saturday in a pre-recorded statement aired by the rebels. He described the tanker as being "directly hit." Another vessel, the Antiqua-Barbados-flagged, Liberia-operated Maisha, was also nearby at the time of the assault, the US said. The attack occurred off Mocha, Yemen, near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

The Houthis have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping, seized one vessel and sank another since November, according to the US Maritime Administration.

Houthi attacks have dropped in recent weeks as the rebels have been targeted by a US-led airstrike campaign in Yemen. Shipping through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden has declined because of the threat. American officials have speculated that the rebels may be running out of weapons as a result of the US-led campaign against them and after firing drones and missiles steadily in the last months.

However, since Wednesday, there have been at least two other attacks claimed by the Houthis. The first targeted the MV Yorktown, a US-flagged, owned and operated vessel with 18 US and four Greek crew members. Another targeted the MSC Darwin.

The Houthis have said they will continue their attacks until Israel ends its war in Gaza, which has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians there. The war began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on October 7, killing 1,200 people and taking some 250 others hostage.

Most of the ships targeted by the Houthis have had little or no direct connection to Israel, the US or other nations involved in the war. The rebels have also fired missiles toward Israel, though they have largely fallen short or been intercepted.

Britain's King Charles III will resume public duties next week after cancer treatment, palace says

LONDON, Apr 27 (Agencies): The 75-year-old monarch will resume some public duties next week following a three-month break to focus on his treatment and recuperation after he was diagnosed with an undisclosed type of cancer, Buckingham Palace said Friday.

Charles will mark the milestone by visiting a cancer treatment center on Tuesday, the first of several public appearances he will make in the coming weeks, the palace said. One of his first major engagements will be to host a state visit by the emperor and empress of Japan in June.

The palace said the king's doctors are "very encouraged" by his progress, though it is too early to say how long his treatment will last. It didn't provide details about what type of treatment he is receiving.

Charles will continue to perform all of his state duties, including reviewing government documents and meeting with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, as he has done since his diagno-



sis was disclosed on Feb. 5, the palace said.

"As the first anniversary of the coronation approaches, their majesties remain deeply grateful for the many kindnesses and good wishes they have received from around the world throughout the joys and challenges of the past year," the palace said in a statement.

Charles' return will relieve pressure on other members of the royal family after the king's absence, coupled with that of the Princess of Wales, also due to illness, highlighted the challenges faced by a slimmed down monarchy.

Amid the king's commitment to cut costs and the decision of Duke and Duchess of Sussex -- more commonly known as Prince Harry and Meghan -- to walk away from royal duties, there are simply fewer

family members available to carry out the endless round of ribbon cuttings, awards ceremonies and state events that make up the life of a modern royal.

Charles has been largely out of the public eye ever since he had treatment for an enlarged prostate in January. His later cancer diagnosis came as the Princess of Wales -- one of the most popular royals -- underwent abdominal surgery and later announced that she, too, had cancer. Prince William took time off to support his wife and their young family.

That left Queen Camilla, the king's sister Princess Anne and his younger brother, Prince Edward, to shoulder the load.

Camilla, once shunned by the public for her role in the breakup of Charles' marriage to Princess Diana, played a particularly prominent role during the king's absence, standing in for her husband at major events such as the annual Royal Maundy service on the Thursday before Easter.

Columbia leadership rebuked by faculty panel for police crackdown on protesters

NEW YORK, Apr 27 (Agencies): Columbia University's embattled president came under renewed pressure on Friday as a campus oversight panel sharply criticized her administration for clamping down on a pro-Palestinian protest at the Ivy League school.

President Nemat Minouche Shafik has faced an outcry from many students, faculty and outside observers for summoning New York police to dismantle a tent encampment set up on campus by protesters against Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza.

After a two-hour meeting on Friday, the Columbia University Senate approved a resolution

that Shafik's administration had undermined academic freedom and disregarded the privacy and due process rights of students and faculty members by calling in the police and shutting down the protest.

"The decision... has raised serious concerns about the administration's respect for shared governance and transparency in the university decision-making process," it said.

The senate, composed mostly of faculty members and other staff plus a few students, did not name Shafik in its resolution and avoided the harsher language of a censure.

The resolution established a task force it said would monitor the

"corrective actions" the senate asked the administration to take on dealing with protests.

There was no immediate response to the resolution from Shafik, who is a member of the senate but did not attend Friday's meeting. Columbia spokesperson Ben Chang said the administration shared the same goal as the senate -- to restore calm to the campus -- and was committed to "an ongoing dialogue."

Police arrested more than 100 people on Columbia's campus last week and removed the tents from the main lawn of the school's Manhattan campus, but the protesters quickly returned and set up tents again, narrowing Columbia's

options on dismantling the encampment.

Since then, hundreds of protesters have been arrested at schools from California to Boston as students set up camps similar to the one at Columbia, demanding that their schools divest from companies involved with Israel's military.

On Friday at least 40 protesters were arrested in Denver at the Auraria Campus, an institution shared by the University of Colorado Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver and the Community College of Denver, according to a press release from the school.

Like-minded protests against Israel's actions have spread overseas. At the prestigious Sci-

ences Po university in Paris, pro-Israeli protesters came to challenge pro-Palestinian students occupying the building on Friday. Police kept the two sides apart.

A few blocks from the White House, about 200 protesters at George Washington University remained gathered for a second day on Friday. The school said students did not follow directions to leave, and several were suspended and temporarily barred from campus.

The White House has defended free speech on campus, but Democratic President Joe Biden denounced "antisemitic protests" this week and stressed that campuses must be safe.

Some Republicans in

Congress have accused Shafik and other university administrators of being too soft on protesters and allowing Jewish students to be harassed on their campuses.

The president of the University of Texas at Austin, Jay Hartzell, faced a similar backlash from faculty on Friday, two days after he joined with Republican Governor Greg Abbott in calling in police to break up a pro-Palestinian protest.

Dozens of protesters were taken into custody, but charges were dropped because authorities lacked probable cause -- or reasonable grounds -- for making the arrests, the Travis County Attorney's office said.

Nearly 200 university faculty members signed a letter expressing no confidence in Hartzell because he "needlessly put students, staff and faculty in danger" when police in riot gear and on horseback moved against the protesters.

Hartzell said he made the decision because protest organizers aimed to "severely disrupt" the campus for a long period.

The clash in Texas was one of many this week between demonstrators and police summoned by university leaders, who say the protests jeopardize the safety of students and at times, subject Jewish students to antisemitism and harassment.

Civil rights groups have

condemned the arrests and urged authorities to respect free speech rights.

But one member of the encampment at Columbia, Khymani James, on Friday apologized for saying in a January social media video that "Zionists don't deserve to live."

"What I said was wrong," James said in a statement. "Every member of our community deserves to feel safe without qualification." A university spokesman said James had been banned from campus and faced disciplinary action.

Three protesters were arrested for criminal trespass at an encampment at Arizona State University, the university said.

Ravinder Raina, Dr Jitendra, Jugal, Khatana, Sat, Shamsher release book 'Untold story of terrorism and proxy war in Jammu'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP accompanied by Union MoS & BJP MP Candidate Dr. Jitendra Singh, MP & BJP MP Candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Rajya Sabha) Er Gulam Ali Khatana, former Minister Sat Sharma, former MP (Rajya Sabha) Shamsher Singh Manhas released a book at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul and General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal besides other state office bearers and senior leaders of the party were also present on the occasion. The Book titled 'Untold story of terrorism and proxy war in Jammu', released on the occasion, is written by Prof. Kul Bhushan Mohtra, State Incharge Library & Documentation Department, J&K BJP.

Ravinder Raina, while releasing the book, appreciated the hard work by the author and said that the Nanaji Deshmukh Library is well equipped and books written by Prof. Kulbushan Mohtra consist of rare information. He added that these books are helpful for party workers and people alike, who are curious to know about the history of Jammu & Kashmir in detail. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that this book will prove to

be of help to the scholars. He pointed out that the terrorist acts during the past 30 years in Jammu were not penned down appropriately and hence remained under dogged. He praised Prof. Kulbushan Mohtra in compiling all the incidents related to terrorism and proxy war. Jugal Kishore Sharma, on the occasion, said that the books hold the knowledge and we have to go through them to seek it and improve our personality and mature ourselves and requested all to go through the books in the Library department of BJP. Ghulam Ali Khatana, said that while there is a lot of information available in the market to create confusion and mislead the people, we should brush up ourselves with the authentic source of information. Sat Sharma praised the library department of BJP and said that it comprises physical library as well as e-division which have the copies of the rare books and the manuscripts. Shamsher Singh Manhas appealed to all the party leaders to spend a few hours in the library and go through these books and the documents. Prof. Kulbushan Mohtra thanked all the senior leaders of the party for their appreciating words and said that as a dedicated activist of BJP, he was given the responsibility of Library & Documentation, in which he tried to put facts and figures in 9 books for the use of party activists and general masses. He added that the information in this and other books is obtained from authentic and rare sources.

Absconder Arrest after 28 Years: Govt Railway Police (GRP) Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: Continuing Special Drive Against Wanted Criminals A specially constituted team of GRP arrested absconder Kaka Ram S/O Sh. Basant Ram@ Harbans Lal R/O village Bagga Chak, Palli Morh, Tehsil And District Kathua who was hiding in ward No. 3 Tanda Urmar Tehsil: Tanda District: Hoshiarpur Punjab accused In Case FIR No. 01/1996 U/S 379/34 RPC P/S GRP Kathua.



He was living in Punjab by changing his name as Kabal Singh S/O Harbans Lal R/O Kotli

Jand Tehsil: Tanda District: Hoshiarpur Punjab. He was evading arrest for the last 28 years and finally apprehended after a hot pursuit from neighbouring Punjab state. Today, the accused has been produced in the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Kathua and further lodged in District Jail Kathua as per the order of Hon'ble Court. This is The Sixth Warrent U/S 512 Cr.PC Executed By GRP Jammu In Five Weeks.

Awareness Lecture On Malaria at Gahan, Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Apr 27: Indian Army in its continuous efforts to empower the people of the Nation has undertaken a variety of programmes and in continuing with the same spirit, Indian Army organised an awareness lecture on Malaria on 25 Apr 2024 at Gahan. The lecture was aimed at impressing upon the young minds that 'Prevention is better than cure'. While addressing the residents, representative of the Indian Army briefed about symptoms, mode of transmission, prevention and treatment of the disease. During the lecture, emphasis was made on keeping the surroundings clean.



The lecture elaborately covered the symptoms of Malaria and measures to keep check on it. It was also briefed that the Malaria is both preventable and curable. A total of 111 residents attended the lecture. The general awareness programme was well received by the populace and it was heartening to see the enthusiasm and interest shown by the young participants. These type of events will surely strengthen the synergy and cooperation between the Men in Uniform and civil populace. Residents expressed their gratitude towards the Army and requested for more such events in future.

White Knight Corps Super 30 Students Scripted History By Cracking Jee Mains (Exam)



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: Eighteen underprivileged students of White Knight Corps scripted history by cracking JEE PHASE-II (Exam) this year after

going through intensive coaching provided at White Knight Corps run Petronet Super 30 at Reasi District. A second batch of 27 students from all over the remote areas of White

Knight Corps region appeared in the JEE mains Phase-I exams from 27 January 2024 to 01 February 2024. 18 students out of them exhibited superlative performance by clearing JEE Mains Phase-I, the results of which were declared on 13 February 2024. All these eighteen students were put through rigorous coaching and they have scripted history by clearing tough JEE Mains Phase-II exams. Among those who have made it to elite engineering institute includes Mr Aditya Kumar of Arnia village in OSC category and has topped the center with 99.07 % and also is amongst the top 10 students in all CSRL centers. These students of Petronet Jammu Super-30 Reasi are indeed a beacon of bright future of the region. The parents and the students applauded the efforts of Indian Army to provide them such a platform to make their dreams come true.

Builders Association Of India Opens first centre in J&K (UT)



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Apr 27: Builders Association of India today opened the first center in Jammu and Kashmir, for which Sabzar Ahmad Roy, managing director of Roy Constructions was selected as the chairman. In this regard, the opening ceremony was held today at the Radisson of tourist destination Pahalgam. In the ceremony, Builders Association Of India Vice President North Rajeev Goyal, Past Presidents R.N Gupta, S.N Reddy, Lal Chand Sharma and other members of Association were also present. In the ceremony, the newly selected chairman Anantnag was honored by the builders

association of India while the new members associated with the Builders association were also presented with certificates. On this occasion, the newly selected Chairman Sabzar Ahmed Roy said that by establishing the unit of Builders association of India the problems of the contractors can be resolved in a timely manner. He said that whatever problems the contractors may have, they will be resolved on top priority. While Vice President North Rajeev Goyal congratulated the newly chairman and new members and said that he has full hope that Sabzar Ahmed will not leave any stone unturned in solving the problems of the contractors.

3rd Ravi Tikku Memorial Speed Ball Championship concludes



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: The 3rd Edition of the Ravi Tikku speed ball Tournament was declared open by Reema tikku wife of late sh Ravi tikku at Indoor Sports Complex, International delhi public school. This tournament was organised by J&K Sports Speedball Association In Collaboration With International delhi public School Jammu. About 250 Players of 15 Schools From 3 Different Districts Namely Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur. The school are Jammu Sanskriti School, S.D Tara Puri School,

Shiksha Niketan School, Jeevan Nagar ,Army Public School Dhar road Udhampur ,R.M Public School, Shiksha Niketan School Gandhi Nagar, international delhi public school, Humanity Public School samba, Crescent sports club, Nanda sports club, Participated in this championship. On this occasion of the closing Ceremony Dr. Sanjeev Verma (Commissioner/Secretary to the Government GAD) Was The Chief Guest, Sh. Vijay Bakaya IAS (Ex Chief Secretary J&k) Was The Special Guest And Other Guests are Dr. N.M.Tikku (Brother

of Ravi Tikku) ,Pushpinder Singh Charak (Distt Secretary BJP), Suminder Singh (M.D IDPS) Randeep Wazir (Principal IDPS), Madhu Abrol (Manger Idps). The Association Bearers Namely Ms. Pooja Malhotra (Founder Patron), Sh.Munish Gupta (Vice President), Tarun Uppal (Distt President) Renu Nanda (Member). Pooja Malhotra Welcome All The Guests And Officials On The Behalf of J&K Sports Speedball Association. Dr Sanjeev Verma Applauded the efforts of Sunny Nanda (General Secretary JKSSB) For Organizing This Memorial Championship and gave an immense Tribute To Sh.Ravi Tikku And Providing Opportunities' To Youth Budding Players of Schools. The Vote of Thanks was presented by Jyoti Sharma (incharge IDPS).

FROM PAGE 1

24x7 Kitchen operational to support families near Ramban land sinking camp site

"It shows a proactive response to the situation caused by the sinking of the ground and damages to residential houses in Parnote in Ramban," it posted, adding that the camp office shall ensure the necessary relief efforts are being coordinated effectively to assist those affected. Deputy Commissioner Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary also visited the Pernote village, which is five kilometers from the district headquarters, and assured assistance to the affected families and the restoration of essential services, including electricity. Houses started developing cracks, and the road connectivity between Gool and Ramban started sinking, said an official. Local volunteers joined the SDRF and NDRF teams in helping the affected people move their belongings from the damaged houses. An alternate road via Sumber-Digdol has been made operational to connect Gool

sub-division with the district headquarters, said an official. In February 2023, at least 16 houses were damaged, and road connectivity between Gool and Ramban was snapped due to the sinking of land at Duksar Dalwa village in the Sangaldan area. "The district administration is continuously monitoring the restoration work of roads, electricity, and civic amenities. Alternate roads were thrown open for essential and emergency supplies. The administration committed to ensure citizens safety, well-being during the challenging natural crisis," the Deputy Commissioner said. **Govt posts Nikhil Borkar as SSP Budgam, Al-Tahir Geelani asked to await posting at PHQ** Shri Nikhil Borkar, IPS, SSP (Tech) CID Hqrs., is transferred and posted as Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam, vice Shri Al-Tahir Geelani," the order said, adding, "Further, Shri Al-Tahir Geelani, shall await posting at Police Headquarters, till further orders."

Srinagar Boat Capsize Tragedy: Another boy's body found, death toll mounts to 8

carrying mostly schoolchildren and their parents capsized in the swollen Jhelum river in Srinagar in the early hours of April 16. **Rains lash J&K, Met forecasts more in next few days** with light rain and thunder at scattered places. Generally dry weather is expected from May 1-5, he said. Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a minimum of 10.5°C, same as 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 8.4°C against 7.8°C on the previous night and it 0.6°C above normal for the gateway town

of Kashmir, he said. Pahalgam recorded a low of 6.3°C against 5.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir. Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 7.9°C against 9.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C below normal, the official said. Kupwara town recorded a low of 8.1°C against 8.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal there, the official said. Gulmarg recorded a low of 2.4°C against 4.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.8°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 19.3°C against 20.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.6°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 10.2°C, Batote 9.7°C and Bhandarwah 9.8°C, he said. **Mentally deranged person behind disrespect to a local**

Shrine in south Kashmir: Police

said person is found to be mentally deranged person from Tral involved in the incident," a police statement said. "Investigation with his family and acquaintance indicated that the said person has proclivity of showing such behaviour earlier also. Further investigation is going on," it added. Police has requested people not to pay heed to any rumours and not fall prey to scrupulous elements and vested interests to vitiate atmosphere for their own interests. **Safina Baigh escapes unhurt in road accident** incident occurred near the flyover at Zangam on the national highway when her vehicle collided with the flyover structure. Despite the impact, Safina Baigh did not sustain any injuries and is reported to be safe.

Centre allows 99.5k tons of onion exports to 6 neighbouring nations

NEW DELHI, Apr 27 (Agencies) The Centre on Saturday said it has allowed exports of 99,500 tonnes of onions, mainly sourced from Maharashtra, to six neighbouring countries despite the ban on ship-ments.

The Centre has also allowed exports of 2,000 tonnes of white onion cultivated, especially, for export markets in the Middle East and some European countries.

On December 8, 2023, the government banned export of onions.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said the government has "allowed export of 99,150 tonnes of onion to six neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, UAE, Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius and Sri Lanka".

The export prohibition has been imposed to ensure adequate domestic availability against the backdrop of estimated lower Kharif and Rabi crops in 2023-24 compared to the previous year.

The ban was imposed amid an increase in demand in the international market, it added.

The National Coop-



erative Exports Limited (NCEL), the agency for the export of onion to these countries, sourced the domestic onions to be exported through e-platform at L1 prices.

NCEL has supplied to the agency or agencies nominated by the government of the destination country at the negotiated rate on a 100 per cent advance payment basis.

The offer rate of NCEL to the buyers takes into account the prevailing prices in the destination market and also international and domestic markets.

The quota allocated for export to the six countries is being supplied as per requisition

made by the destination country.

"As the largest producer of onion in the country, Maharashtra is the major supplier of onions sourced by NCEL for export," the statement said.

The government had also allowed the export of 2,000 tonnes of white onion cultivated, especially for export markets in the Middle East and some European countries.

"Being purely export-oriented, the production cost of the white onion is higher than other onions due to higher seed cost, adoption of good agricultural practice (GAP) and compliance to strict maximum residue limits (MRL) requirements,"

the statement said. The procurement target for onion buffer out of Rabi crop 2024 under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) of the Department of Consumer Affairs has been fixed at 5 lakh tonnes this year.

The Central agencies, like NCCF and NAFED are tying up local agencies like FPOs/FPCs/PACs to support the procurement, storage and farmers registration to begin the procurement of any store-worthy onion.

A high-level team of the Department of Consumer Affairs, NCCF and NAFED visited Nashik and Ahmednagar districts of Maharashtra from April 11-13, 2024,

to create awareness among the farmers, FPOs/FPCs and PACs about the procurement of 5 lakh tonnes of onion for buffer stock.

To reduce the storage loss of onions, the department has decided to enhance the quantum of stocks to be irradiated and cold stored from 1,200 tonnes last year to over 5,000 tonnes this year, with technical support from BARC, Mumbai.

The pilot of onion irradiation and cold storage taken up last year has been found to have resulted in the reduction of storage loss to less than 10 per cent, the statement said.

In March, the Union Agriculture Ministry released the data for onion production.

As per the data, onion production in 2023-24 (First Advance Estimates) is expected to be around 254.73 lakh tonnes compared to around 302.08 lakh tonnes last year.

This is due to a decrease of 34.31 lakh tonne output in Maharashtra, 9.95 lakh tonne in Karnataka, 3.54 lakh tonne in Andhra Pradesh and 3.12 lakh tonne in Rajasthan, the data showed.

SFBs should be worth Rs 1,000 cr to become universal banks: RBI

MUMBAI, Apr 27 (Agencies) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said small finance banks (SFBs) should have a minimum net worth of Rs 1,000 crore to become universal banks in accordance with the on-tap licensing norms.

According to the central bank, SFBs aspiring to become a universal bank need to have scheduled status with a satisfactory track record of performance for a minimum period of five years. Also, the shares of the bank should have been listed on a recognised stock exchange, the RBI said in a circular.

Further, these SFBs also need to have a net profit in the last two financial years besides having gross non-performing assets (GNPA) and net non-performing assets (NNPA) of less than or equal to three per cent and one per cent, respectively in the last two financial years, the RBI said.

On April 12, the RBI rejected applications received from Dvara



Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services Pvt Ltd and Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd to start SFBs in the private sector. The two entities had applied to the RBI for setting up a SFB in 2021 under the guidelines for on-tap licensing.

The RBI circular said there is no mandatory requirement for an eligible SFB to have an identified promoter. However, the existing promoters of the eligible SFB, if any, should continue as the promoters on transition to a universal bank. "Addition of new

promoters or change in promoters will not be permitted for an eligible SFB while transitioning to the universal bank," it said. There should be no new mandatory lock-in requirement of minimum shareholding for existing promoters in the transitioned universal bank.

"There should be no change to the promoter shareholding dilution plan already approved by the Reserve Bank," it said.

"The eligible SFBs having diversified loan portfolio will be preferred," the RBI said.

Ratnuchak - Ushering a New Era of Student Excellence



Top News Report

RATNUCHAK, Apr 27: In a fervent pursuit of academic excellence, Army Public School Ratnuchak proudly hosted its much-anticipated Parent-Teacher Orientation Program under the theme "Ignite Your Potential" on April 27, 2024 for its Class 12 students and their parents.

The event, graced by esteemed dignitaries and

education luminaries, aimed to steer students towards a trajectory of success in higher education and future career endeavors. Dr. Alka Sharma, a renowned educational expert, spearheaded the first session with an insightful discourse on "Mind Alteration Practices", providing attendees with valuable perspectives on academic expectations, career pathways,

and personal development strategies.

The interactive sessions further delved into academic rigors, effective study techniques, and subject-specific insights tailored to excel in CBSE Board exams, facilitated by the school's proficient educators.

Highlighting the power of resilience and determination, Mr. Rajat Sambyal, JKPCS 2023 qualifier

shared his inspiring journey from "Failure to Success", igniting motivation and ambition among the student body.

Chairman of Army Public School Ratnuchak graced the occasion and expressed his commendation for the successful execution of the Orientation Program, acknowledging the pivotal role of expert guidance in nurturing students' interests, strengths, and aspirations. He envisaged these sessions to serve as catalysts in shaping students' unique talents and paving the way for their future career pathways.

The Parent-Teacher Orientation Program at APS Ratnuchak marks a significant milestone in the institution's commitment to fostering holistic student development and academic excellence.

RBI sets draft norms for web aggregators of loan products

NEW DELHI, Apr 27 (Agencies) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed that banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) should ensure that their loan service providers (LSPs) to provide a digital view of all the loan offers available to the borrower from all the willing lenders that the LSP has arrangements.

The digital view, the RBI said, should include the name of the bank of the NBFC extending the loan, the amount and tenor of loan, the annual percentage rate and other key terms and conditions in a way that enables the borrower to make a fair comparison between various offers.

The RBI set these terms in the draft guidelines for the regulatory framework for the aggregation of loan products



by lending service providers (LSP) in order to enhance transparency and enable borrowers to have prior information about potential lenders. While the LSP can adopt any mechanism to ascertain the willingness of the lenders to offer a loan, the RBI said it should follow a "consistent approach" that must be disclosed suitably on their website.

A link to the key facts statement (KFS) must also be provided in respect of each of the

regulated entities, it said. The content displayed by the LSP should be "unbiased" and should not directly or indirectly promote or push a product of a particular lender, including by use of any practices or deceptive patterns, to mislead borrowers into choosing a particular loan offer, the central bank said. LSP is an agent of a regulated entity (banks and NBFCs) who carries out one or more of lender's functions or part thereof in customer

acquisition, underwriting support, pricing support, servicing, monitoring, recovery of specific loan or loan portfolio on behalf of REs in conformity with extant outsourcing guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank.

RBI said many of the LSPs offer aggregation services for loan products, wherein an LSP, or a regulated entity (banks and NBFCs) acting as an LSP, has outsourcing arrangements with several lenders and the Digital Lending App or Platform (DLA) of the LSP or regulated entities matches the borrower to one of the lenders.

In such cases, particularly where an LSP has arrangements with multiple lenders, identity of the potential lender to the borrower may not be known upfront to the borrower, it said.

AIIMS Jammu Hosts 6th Annual Congress-Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Surgeons-Young Surgeons Forum India Chapter Conference

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu proudly announces the organisation of the "6th Annual Congress Asia-Pacific Orthopaedic Association Young Surgeons Forum India Chapter," marking a significant milestone in the Orthopaedic surgeons' community of Jammu and Kashmir. This prestigious conference, the first of its kind hosted by AIIMS Jammu, brings together eminent orthopaedic surgeons across Jammu and Kashmir state, the rest of India and the international faculty. The event was held at the Hotel Radisson Blu, Jammu, on the 26th and 27th of April 2024.

The event was inaugurated with a lamp lighting ceremony by the Director of AIIMS, Jammu, Dr Shakti Kumar Gupta, along with Dr Jamal Ashraf (President of APOA), Chairperson Dr

Sanjeev Gupta, Organising secretary Dr Rashid Anjum and other eminent orthopaedic faculties.

The Department of Orthopaedics at AIIMS Jammu is privileged to welcome all delegates, speakers, and other participants to this groundbreaking conference. The theme of the conference was "Current Controversies in Orthopaedics". The event aimed to serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation in orthopaedic surgery, fostering a spirit of academic excellence and professional growth among young orthopaedic surgeons.

The conference program was meticulously curated to address many topics relevant to orthopaedic surgery in the contemporary healthcare landscape. From discussions on the latest advancements in Orthopaedic surgical techniques to sessions exploring the role of



technology in enhancing surgical outcomes, the conference provided attendees with comprehensive insights into the current trends and future directions of orthopaedic practice.

Topics such as trauma management, complex intra-articular fracture fixations and rehabilitation strategies were explored in depth, offering participants a unique opportunity to enhance their clinical proficiency and surgical expertise. The conference program also addressed critical challenges and opportunities

in orthopaedic sports medicine and explored newer techniques.

One of the conference's focal points was the discussion of the latest advancements in joint replacement techniques. With an ageing population and an increasing prevalence of conditions such as osteoarthritis, joint replacement surgeries have become increasingly common. Newer alignment techniques and the role of robotics in joint replacement surgeries were discussed in detail.

The conference delved

into the transformative role of technology in orthopaedic surgery. Rapid technological advancements, such as robotic-assisted surgery, 3D printing, etc., are revolutionising how orthopaedic procedures are performed and how patient care is delivered. Faculty from IIT, Jammu, attended the conference and delivered lectures.

Expert-led sessions have covered topics such as minimally invasive spine surgeries, tumour surgeries like limb salvage surgeries, deformity corrections, and paediat-

ric orthopaedic surgeries. These sessions have provided attendees with evidence-based guidelines and best practices for managing a broad spectrum of orthopaedic conditions, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to deliver high-quality care to their patients.

One of the conference's highlight was the presentation of research findings and clinical case studies by young orthopaedic surgeons. Abstract submissions from across the region have been carefully reviewed, and select-

ed presenters have the opportunity to showcase their work through oral presentations. This platform provided recognition for their contributions, engaged academic discourse, and shared best practices among peers.

There was a session called Learning from Masters in which topics like evidence-based medicine, Ayushman Bharat Scheme: journey so far, soft skill development and work-life balance were deliberated & experts from the field of orthopaedics shared their experiences with the young budding surgeons.

The conference has facilitated networking opportunities for participants to interact with faculty members, mentors, and industry representatives. Informal gatherings and social events had been incorporated into the program to encourage meaningful connections and collaborations beyond the confines of the conference venue.

AIIMS Jammu is committed to fostering a culture of excellence, innovation, and inclusivity in orthopaedic surgery. Through initiatives like the "6th Annual Congress Asia-Pacific Orthopaedic Association Young Surgeons Forum India Chapter," we aim to empower the next generation of orthopaedic surgeons with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to address the evolving healthcare challenges and improve patient outcomes.

We sincerely thank the Director and other staff members, of AIIMS Jammu the organising committee, sponsors, partners, and supporters for their unwavering dedication and contributions towards making this conference a resounding success. Together, we embark on a journey of discovery, learning, and collaboration that will shape the future of orthopaedic surgery in India and beyond.

Palestinian athletes to be invited to Paris Olympics

LAUSANNE, Apr 27 (Agencies): Between six and eight Palestinian athletes are expected to compete at the Paris Olympics, with some set to be invited by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) even if they fail to qualify, its head Thomas Bach said.

Mr. Bach told AFP on Friday that qualification events for the Paris Games, which start on July 26, were ongoing for a number of sports.

"But we have made the clear commitment that even if no (Palestinian) athlete would qualify on the field of play ... then the NOC (National Olympic Committee) of Palestine would benefit from invitations, like other national Olympic Committees who do not have a qualified athlete," he said in an interview at IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

He said he expected the Palestinian delegation to number "six to eight".

Mr. Bach said that the



International Olympic Committee "from day one of the conflict" in Gaza had "supported in many different ways the athletes to allow them to take part in qualifications and to continue their training."

Palestinian militants from Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, resulting in the deaths of about 1,170 people, according to an AFP

tally of Israeli official figures.

Israel's retaliatory military campaign to destroy Hamas has killed 34,356 people, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza.

Bach dismissed suggestions the IOC has treated Russia differently over its invasion of Ukraine compared with Israel and its war

in Gaza.

Russia was suspended from many international sports after its invasion and its athletes have been banned from competing under the national flag at Paris 2024.

In order to take part in the Paris Games, they are also required to have never publicly supported the war against Ukraine and not be employed by

the military or security services.

The sanctions against Russia were a result of Moscow violating the "Olympic truce" in its invasion of Ukraine soon after the Winter Olympics in Beijing in 2022 and for annexing Ukrainian sports organisations.

"The situation between Israel and Palestine is completely different," Mr. Bach said.

Hamas says it received Israel's response to its ceasefire proposal

He said he had been even-handed in his public statements on Ukraine, the Hamas attack on Israel and the "horrifying consequences" of the war in Gaza.

"From day one, we expressed how horrified we were, first on the seventh of October and then about the war and its horrifying consequences," Mr. Bach said.

"We have always been very clear as we have been with the Russian invasion in Ukraine."

Archery World Cup: India win compound men, women team gold



SHANGHAI, Apr 27 (Agencies): India men's and women's compound teams dished out dominant displays to win gold medals at the ongoing Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai here on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur dropped just four points to trounce Italy 236-225 in the women's compound team event to open their account with a gold in the season-opening global showpiece.

The men's team of Abhishek Verma, Priyansh and Prathamesh Fuge went one step better as they missed just two points en route to defeating Netherlands' Mike Schloesser, Sil Pater and Stef Willemss 238-231.

The women's team, who qualified as top seed, dropped just four points from 24 arrows to down sixth seeded Italy.

In the first three ends of six arrows each, Jyothi, Aditi and Parneet missed the perfect 10 only twice to take a handsome 178-171 lead over Marcella

Tonioli, Irene Franchini and Elisa Roner.

In the fourth end, the Indians dropped two points but it did not matter much as they nailed the gold with an 11-point margin.

The men's team, who qualified as the fourth seed, put up a near flawless show to defeat their Dutch opponents.

They began with a perfect round of 60 and dropped just two points in the next two ends, before sealing the rout with another perfect 60 in the final set of six arrows.

Indian cricket should not give Hardik Pandya so much priority, says Irfan Pathan

NEW DELHI, Apr 27 (Agencies): Former seamer Irfan Pathan has insisted that Indian cricket must stop obsessing over Hardik Pandya's worth as an all-rounder at international level, saying he has failed to create an impact in ICC tournaments.

The Mumbai Indians all-rounder is battling poor form this IPL season, raising questions about his inclusion in India's T20 World Cup squad, which is to be announced soon.

"What I feel about Hardik Pandya is that Indian cricket needs to make it clear that they should not give him that much priority as they have given him so far, because we still haven't won the World Cup," Pathan said on Star Sports Press Room Show, Ticket to World Cup.

"If you think you are a primary all-rounder, you need to make that kind of an impact at the international level. As far as the all-rounder is con-



cerned he hasn't made that impact at the international level, we are only thinking about the potential." The former India left-arm seamer observed that there is a "big difference" between performance in the IPL and international cricket, and advised Pandya to play throughout the year instead of "picking" tournaments.

"We are getting confused between the IPL performances and the international performances. That's a big difference. First of all, he needs to play throughout the year. He

cannot pick and choose.

"Indian cricket needs to stop doing that. Stop giving preferences to individuals, if you do that, you will not be winning major tournaments."

"What Australia has been doing for many years is that they are actually preferring the team game. Making everyone a superstar. Not one superstar, everybody is a superstar in the squad. If you don't do that, you will not win big tournaments."

Pathan also opined on problems around finishers and the team's pace

bowling unit.

"This is what I'm really scared about when it comes to the World Cup. Look, my worry is with the T20 World Cup, we are pretty much sorted as far as the top-order batting is concerned. We are pretty much sorted in the middle-overs as well."

"If we're thinking Ravindra Jadeja is a number seven batter, you need a good finisher. His numbers are not that great as far as the strike-rate is concerned at the international level. So, there is a worry for me there and the fast bowling."

"Apart from Bumrah, if I look at the guys playing in IPL, played before the IPL in the South Africa series, their numbers are not that great -- be that it's Arshdeep, be that it's Mohammed Siraj, you know, the guys who played last."

"So these two departments, it really makes me worry. These are the departments that are going to be very, very crucial," Pathan said.

KKR assistant coach Doeschate urges 'anti-skill innovations' to counter ruthless batters

NEW DELHI, Apr 27 (Agencies): Bowlers need to find "innovative ways to execute deliveries with a touch of 'anti-skill' to challenge the range-hitting batsmen in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), reckoned Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate.

Punjab Kings (PBKS) successfully mounted the highest run-chase in T20s when they surpassed Kolkata Knight Riders imposing 261/6 with eight balls and eight wickets to spare in their IPL match at Eden Gardens on April 26.

"The game is almost unrecognisable from 10 years ago when you get past 160 you can almost pack your bag and feel you're going to win the game. Now, you need 160 before the 13th over to have a chance to get a big score," Doeschate said during the post-match media interaction.

Jonny Bairstow led the chase with a scintillating 108 off just 48 deliveries after Impact Player Prabhsimran Singh set the tone with a blistering 54 off 20 balls.

After Prabhsimran's exit, Shashank Singh provided a helping hand with an unbeaten 28-ball 68 in a match that witnessed a record 42 sixes in total.

The former Dutch all-rounder, who was part of KKR's 2014 title winning side, emphasised the need for bowlers to adopt unconventional



tactics by bowling "anti-skill," in order to be successful in the face of aggressive batting strategies.

"You want to bowl with anti-skill. I think, you know, short and wide really works, dragging guys wide and then going straight." Citing the example of Sam Curran dismissing Phil Salt, he said: "You almost need to catch guys off-guard a little bit like Sam Curran caught Phil Salt off-guard. Set off-side field, he dragged him across and then fire one at leg stump." "We have to come up with innovative ways. We have to keep changing literally ball by ball. I don't think you can bowl two balls the same. I don't think you can bowl bowlers back-to-back anymore unless they really have a grip on the game."

"It's all in the batter's favour. The challenge and the upside for bowlers to not punch back is really there," he added.

The previous record chase in T20 was by South Africa against the West Indies in Centurion in 2023 when they overhauled 259 in 18.5 overs.

In IPL, both the record

chases now have come against KKR in the space of 10 days at the same venue of Eden Gardens.

KKR had failed to defend 223/6 with Jos Buttler smashing a 55-ball century to pull off the heist on April 16.

Dismissing any bowling concern, the KKR assistant coach said there was no point in crying about it as they would have to quickly recover.

"We're not concerned, but bowling with the new ball and bowling seam, and everything in Kolkata is really tough, and we need to find a way to do better."

"There's two ways you can look at it. You can step back and say, oh, it's unfair, we're bowling machines, or you can say, we are going to find a way and try new things and embrace the challenge." "It's going to be tough, we're going to get panned all over the show, but you have to find innovative ways. We've got four weeks left, it's going to be around for at least that long, there's no point crying about it."

"I feel sorry for the bowlers, I think it's gone even more towards that

[batting] side, but those are the realities, and my way of going about it would be to find a way to land a punch back to the batter as quick as possible." Giving an update on their premier pacer Mitchell Starc, Doeschate said the Aussie left-arm quick may need one or two games to return.

KKR next face Delhi Capitals here on April 29, before taking on Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants in two successive away games.

"As far as I know, he's very close to being back, which will either be the next game or the game after," he said.

Punjab Kings opener Prabhsimran, who came in as an Impact substitute for Arshdeep Singh and blazed his way to his maiden fifty of the season, termed the rule as an opportunity for him.

"I see this as an opportunity for a youngster," said the diminutive opener.

On the record chase, he said: "We just wanted to cash in on the power play and carry the momentum forward." For PBKS, the inclusion of Bairstow paid off as he returned to form in style.

"He is such a big player, we all know what he's capable of. In cricket, you just take one match to recover from your bad form and you saw that today how he dominated the bowlers and struck a century," added Prabhsimran.

Sam Curran Joins Unwanted List During KKR vs PBKS IPL 2024 Clash

NEW DELHI, Apr 27 (Agencies): England and Punjab Kings (PBKS) all-rounder Sam Curran joined the company of Indian quicks Mohit Sharma, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Australia's Pat Cummins, South Africa's Kagiso Rabada to have conceded 50 runs or more on six or more occasions during his spell against the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Friday.

Curran joined this unwanted list during his side's IPL game against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Eden Gardens.

Curran also recorded the fifth most-expensive figures by a PBKS bowler in IPL history.

Afghanistan's Mujeeb ur Rahman's figures of 0/66 against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) back in 2019 still remain the most expensive for the franchise.

Though Curran has taken 12 wickets in nine games at an average of

22.58 and a strike rate of 14, his economy rate of 9.67 is slightly on the higher side. His best bowling figures are 3/28 so far. He has also contributed 152 runs in eight innings with the bat at an average of 19.00 and a strike rate of just above 116, with a knock of 63 as his solitary fifty.

Coming to the match, Punjab sent Kolkata to bat first after winning the toss. Following this, Sunil Narine (71 in 32 balls, with nine fours and four sixes) and Philip Salt (75 in 37 balls, with six sixes) delighted the Eden Gardens crowd with an exhilarating batting display and obliterated Punjab Kings (PBKS) bowlers to power KKR to 261/6 in 20 overs.

Arshdeep Singh led the PBKS bowling unit after he picked up two

wickets.

During the run chase, Jonny Bairstow (108), Prabhsimran Singh (54 in 20 balls, with four boundaries and five sixes) and Shashank Singh (68* in 28 balls, with two fours and eight sixes) played an unbeaten knock to chase down the massive target with eight balls to spare and script history.

Narine was the only wicket-taker for the KKR.

Bairstow took home the 'Player of the Match' award.

Out of eight matches, KKR has registered five victories, collecting 10 points in the IPL 2024 standings, staying at the number 2 position. Meanwhile, Punjab holds the eighth place with six points after winning three of nine games.

Chaliha stuns Li, Indian women beat Canada 4-1 in Uber Cup

CHENGDU (CHINA), Apr 27 (Agencies): Ashmita Chaliha produced an inspired show to stun higher-ranked Michelle Li as the Indian women's team notched up a clinical 4-1 win over Canada to make a positive start in the Uber Cup tournament here on Saturday.

The left-handed Chaliha, ranked 53rd, showed great mental resolve and tenacity as she outwitted world no. 25 Li, a gold and silver medalist at the 2014 and 2022 Commonwealth Games, 26-24 24-22 in a 42-minute opening singles clash.



Chaliha, who was part of India's maiden Asia Team Championships win in February, took over the leadership role in the absence of the top guns including P V Sindhu and delivered against Li, who is on a comeback trail after undergoing surgery for a meniscus tear on her right knee last August.

Implement Indian Red Cross Society Rules, 2017 in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: Dinesh Gupta, Patron and Chairman (Elected) of the District Red Cross Society, Jammu, expressed grave concern over the non-implementation of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Rules, 2017 in the region. Despite the passage of these rules by Parliament and their adoption by Jammu & Kashmir, UT for IRCS and its allied units on May 27, 2022, their implementation remains elusive.

The IRCS Rules, 2017 embody the humanitarian mission of the Indian Red Cross Society, aiming to prevent and alleviate suffering without discrimination based on nationality, race, sex, religion, language, class, or political opinions. Notably, Schedule IV (Rule 13) mandates the election of key positions within the District Branch, includ-



ing the Chairman/Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, by the District Managing Committee for a term of three years. Addressing media persons here today, Dinesh Gupta said that in line with above mentioned rules, elections for the Jammu District Branch Committee of IRCS were conducted on July 20, 2023, resulting in the unopposed election of

ten Managing Committee Members. A certificate, duly signed by the then Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, was issued to validate the election results. However, despite these efforts, the newly elected members have been unable to assume their responsibilities, as the existing practices persist in violation of the established rules. He said that the delay

in empowering the newly elected members is unjustified, particularly considering the issuance of a certificate confirming the election results by the Deputy Commissioner nine months ago. It is perplexing that further confirmation is being sought, especially when the rules are explicit in their provisions. Currently, decision-making authority rests

solely with the General Secretary, Rohit Khajuria, contrary to the mandate of the new rules, which emphasize the formation of various committees for timely and appropriate decision-making.

Moreover, the frequency of meetings stipulated by the rules for the Managing Committee, Executive Committee, and Finance Committee is being blatantly disregarded, leading to mismanagement at all levels.

In light of these concerns, Dinesh Gupta urged the Lt. Governor, who also serves as the President of IRCS, Jammu & Kashmir, UT, to intervene personally and direct the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, to transfer the responsibilities to the lawfully elected Managing Committee of the District Red Cross Society, Jammu, as per the election held on July 20, 2023.

SCS Govt Degree College organizes Extension Lecture on "Eat Healthy Live Wealthy"



Top News Report

MENDHAR, Apr 27: The Department of Zoology in collaboration with the Department of Botany organized an informative lecture titled "Eat Healthy Live Wealthy" at SCS Govt Degree College.

Under the supervision and guidance of the esteemed Principal, Dr. Mohammad Azam, and coordinated by Prof. Sarshad Hussain, Head of the Department of Zoology, and Dr. Mahroof Khan, Head of the Department of Botany, the event aimed to educate students on the importance of healthy eating habits.

Students of BA/B.Sc Semester 2nd enthusiastically participated in the event and gained valuable insights from

the esteemed resource person, Dr. Gowhar Ahmad Shapoo, from the Department of Botany at SCS Govt Degree College, Mendhar. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Inam Ul Haq, Assistant Professor in the Department of Zoology, who welcomed the resource person, staff members, and participating students.

During the lecture, Dr. Gowhar Ahmad Shapoo elaborated on various healthy tips, balanced diet items, and beneficial eating habits. He emphasized the significance of local food items for their nutritional value and bio-prospection. Dr. Mahroof Khan commended the efforts of the organizers and stressed the importance of basic healthy practices, sharing his

valuable insights. In his concluding remarks, Principal Dr. Mohammad Azam lauded the organizers for their efforts and congratulated Dr. Gowhar Ahmad Shapoo for delivering a wonderful lecture on health and wellness. He encouraged students to adopt healthy practices in their lives.

The event was attended by Dr. Jahangeer Ahmad Bhat, Mr. Arif Hussain War, Avneet Kour, Mohd Abbas (PTI) Mr. Alyas Ahmed Khan (Lab Assistant) and other staff members.

Prof. Inam Ul Haq expressed formal gratitude to the Principal, the resource person, staff members, and participating students for making the event a successful one.

GDC R S Pura initiates cleanliness drive



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: A clean environment is an indicator of the progress of human beings and with the motto of clean environment Government of India has initiated 'Swacha Bharat Abhiyan'.

The NSS unit of GDC R. S. Pura has taken this opportunity and initiated a cleanliness drive in and outside the college campus on Saturday.

As a part of regular NSS activities, our NSS unit has organized a cleanliness drive on the college campus and across the approach road.

The activity started from the Collage Campus and besides the road. During this activity, volunteers cleaned the approach road from the College campus to the roadside and chopped the unwanted bushes along the roadside. They also removed the grass and weeds beside the divider and picked up the all plastic garbage from the vicinity of the college campus.

The drive concluded at the main gate of our college. A total of 30 volunteers participated in this event.

The event was organized under the able

guidance of Prof (Dr.) Rajni Bhagat, Principal of the College.

She interacted with the NSS volunteers before the campaign's launch, commending their dedication and encouraging them to extend their efforts.

She appreciated the initiatives taken by the NSS Program officers and volunteers.

The event received guidance and supervision from NSS Program officer Dr. Chanchal Angral.

Prof. shifali Abrol, and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch were also ornamental in organizing the drive.

Ajeet Bhagat appeals ECI not to defer Parliament election on Anantnag seat

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 27: J&K National Confrance Senior leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat said that the votes for strengthening the indian constitution, democracy in India and in Jammu Kashmir, restoration of Jammu Kashmir state and holding assembly elections.

The J&K National Confrance Senior leader appealed to the chief elections commission not to defer Poonch, Rajouri and Anantnag Member Parliament election.

Bhagat said the chief election commission has written a letter to J&K Govt, wants to defer Poonch Anantnag Member Parliament election on the demand of BJP, People Confrance and Apni Party. He said india block and the people of this Poonch Anantnag seat, want immediate election on this seat.

The J&K National Confrance leader alleged BJP is not contesting election on Poonch, Rajouri seat then why demanding postpone of the election?

He appealed to Chief Election Commission of India not to defer the Member parliament elections on Poonch Rajouri and Anantnag seat. The J&K National Sr. leader alleged this is BJP conspiracy of the BJP, who is not contesting parliament election on Poonch Anantnag seat and on three MP seats of valley along with Poonch, Anantnag Member Parliament seat.

Bhagat said our alliance candidates will sweep all five Jammu and Kashmir seats and one from ladakh also.

He disclosed that he voted for strengthening the indian constitution, democracy in India and in Jammu Kashmir.

He said he voted for the restoration of Jammu Kashmir statehood, implementation of the instrument of accession conditions, special status, article 370, against rising unemployment, rising prices and for secular india with communal harmony and brotherhood.

Felicitation ceremony organized by Dogri Bhasha Academy Jammu

Top News Report

JOURIAN, Apr 27: A simple felicitation ceremony was organized at Jourian by the literary and cultural organization Dogri Bhasha Academy, Jammu. This program was presided over by the founder of the Academy, the eminent Dogri litterateur Yashpaul Nirmal. In this program, Ramesh Singh Salathia, Principal Higher Secondary School, Jourian and Incharge Zonal Education Officer of Zone Jourian, Madan Lal, Head, Government Girls High School, Jourian and Mrs. Chanchal

Jamwal, teacher were felicitated for their teaching skills, especially contribution in the field of Dogri language on their retirement on 30th of April 2024. All these honoured with a shawl and citation by the Dogri Bhasha Academy for their significant contribution in the field of development and upliftment of Dogri language. On this occasion, President of Dogri Bhasha Academy, Roshan Bral threw light on the personality and work of Ramesh Singh Salathia, Madan Lal and Chanchal Jamwal. Founder of

Dogri Language Academy, Yashpaul Nirmal congratulated all of them on the occasion of their retirement and wished them all the best for the second innings of their lives. The program was conducted and the vote of thanks was presented by Shri Sanjay Sharma, Press Secretary of the Academy. On this occasion, Dr. Ritu Gupta, Ravindra Singh, Roshan Bral, Yashpaul Nirmal, Sanjay Sharma and other distinguished teachers, members of Dogri Bhasha Academy and other dignitaries were present.

Nutrition items donated to Samaj Kalyan Kendra



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 27: Social Reforms & Charitable Organisation, Kistwar and Dabur India Limited, provided Nutrition Support to the Deaf & Dump students of School, run by Samaj Kalyan Kendra.

The program was associated with the J&K Confederation of Voluntary, Social & Charitable Organisation, Vichar Kranti Manch International & Indian Yoga

Association.

Prem Gupta, former Inspector General of Police was Chief Guest on the occasion, KB Jandial, IAS, former Vice Chairman JDA & President Samaj Kalyan Kendra presided over.

Sanjiv Parihar, Founder Chairman Ashiana Kistwar arranged nutrition items from Dabur India, which were distributed to the Deaf & Dump students and staff of the

school.

Samaj Kalyan Kendra was established by Dr RR Khajuria, President of India Awardee, Social Activist and Former MD J&K Milk Supply Federation.

Dr. Saryansh Jain gave some advisory tips for communicating with deaf people.

K B Jandial was felicitated by the Social NGOs, a token of love and gratitude for his self-

less service being rendered to the inmates of Home, besides Awareness programme are also being arranged by hime from time to time.

Ashok Bhat, Office secretary Confederation & Narinder Wadhwa, President Evening Walkers Association Sec 2, Trikuta Nagar also associated in the event.

Bhan, Principal of School presented Vote of thanks.

J&K police seized huge quantity of illicit liquor in Darai

Top News Report

GANDO, Apr 27: Continuing its special drive to tighten the noose of bootleggers, drug peddlers and other criminals, J&K Police has recovered huge quantity of illicit liquor in Darai area of Gandoh. Giving details Police said that based on a specific information regarding manufacturing of illicit liquor, a police team of Police Station Gandoh headed by SHO Gandoh Inspector Parvaiz Ahmed Khanday assisted by PSI Avinash Khajuria under the supervision of SDPO Gandoh sh Rajkumar raided the house of one Jai Ram, son of Dharam Chand, resident of Darai, Tehsil Gandoh and during search, 40 litres of Lahan 05 Ltrs of illicit liquor, and apparatus was recovered from the spot.

In this connection, case FIR No. 36/2024 under relevant sections under



excise act was registered at PS Gandoh and investigation started.

Doda Police has launched a special drive against bootleggers, drug

smugglers, bovine smugglers and has reiterated the appeal to general public to cooperate and assist the police so that drug smuggling, manu-

facturing/selling of illicit liquor and other crime related activities are rooted out from the society and crime free atmosphere is built up.