

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-117 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

IAF airlifts two critically ill patients from Leh to Chandigarh for Treatment

CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI, Apr 29 (Agencies): The Indian Air Force said it airlifted two critically ill patients, one of them experiencing cardiac issues, from Leh to Chandigarh in an AN-32 aircraft.

Quick planning and execution by the IAF and the local civil administration was instrumental in saving two lives, it said in a post on 'X'.

"Responding to an urgent request for casualty evacuation, an An-32 transport aircraft of the IAF airlifted two critically ill patients from Leh to Chandigarh for treatment.

"Faced with marginal weather, the quick planning and execution by IAF and local civil admin was instrumental in saving two lives, one a victim of road accident and other experiencing cardiac issues," the IAF said.

It also shared photographs of the aircraft during the process of the evacuation.

Man injured as landslide blocks Baba Reshi-Gulmarg road

SRINAGAR, Apr 29 (Agencies): A man received injuries as landslide blocked Baba Reshi-Gulmarg road in North Kashmir Baramulla district on Monday.

An official told news agency Kashmir Scroll that a landslide has occurred at Cherdari Baba Reshi road due to which Baba Reshi-Gulmarg road blocked. He said that one person namely Zahoor Ahmad Wani got injured, he has been shifted to GMC Baramulla for medical treatment.

Meanwhile efforts are on to clear the road. Inclement Weather:

KPDCL issues advisory for XENs

SRINAGAR, Apr 29 (Agencies): After a detailed review of the ongoing weather conditions by the Chief Secretary, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

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Slain VDG member laid to rest amid rains; leaves behind five minor daughters

UDHAMPUR, Apr 29 (Agencies): Village Defence Guard (VDG) Mohd Sharief, who lost his life in a gunfight with terrorists, was laid to rest amid pouring rain at his ancestral village in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Monday, with mourners demanding a relief package for proper rehabilitation of his five minor daughters, wife and mother.

Sharief (47) was killed



when a group of terrorists, who have recently infiltrated from across the border, attacked

a joint patrolling party of police and VDG in Panara village of Basantgarh, some 155

kms from winter capital Jammu, early Sunday.

The body of the deceased was handed over to his family Sunday evening after a wreath laying ceremony at Basantgarh police station.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain paid rich tributes to the brave-heart for valiantly fighting the terrorists who fled after the

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"Homes Crumble, Lives Shattered": Ramban residents demand aid to rebuild lives post-subsidence

RAMBAN, Apr 29 (Agencies): Forced to leave their homes damaged due to land subsidence, the residents of Pernote village in the hilly district of Ramban are concerned about their future and want adequate compensation to rebuild their lives.

Over 60 houses in the village developed cracks since Thursday evening amid land sinking that left behind a trail

of destruction, severely damaging four electricity towers, a receiving station and a section of the road connecting the Gool sub-division with the Ramban headquarters.

The land subsidence is still continuing amid incessant rains, also threatening over two dozen remaining houses, while hundreds of acres of agricultural land also suffered the

brunt of the natural calamity, the cause of which is being investigated by geology experts.

The district administration has already relocated over 500 people to safer places and also started the assessment of damages on war-footing to facilitate speedy release of compensation to victim families under State

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Search operation to track down, neutralise terrorists underway in Udhampur

JAMMU, Apr 29 (Agencies): A massive search operation to track down and neutralise two groups of terrorists in the dense forests of Basantgarh in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district entered the second day on Monday.

A village Defence Guard (VDG) was killed in a brief encounter

with terrorists in remote Panara village in Chochru Gala heights early Sunday, following which the hunt was launched by the police, army and CRPF.

"The operation is on and there was no fresh contact with the fleeing terrorists. Additional forces have moved in this morning to intensify

the efforts to track down and neutralise the terrorists," a police official said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain said two groups of terrorists are believed to be present in the area after they recently infiltrated from across the

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48 Kg heroin seized, 3 smugglers held as Punjab Police busts international drug cartel

CHANDIGARH, Apr 29 (Agencies): The Punjab Police on Monday said it has busted an international drug racket operating in five countries with the arrest of three persons and recovery of 48 kg heroin, one of the biggest seizures of narcotics in the state.

The police also recovered Rs 21 lakh cash from the accused trio, said Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav.

"Biggest heroin seizure of 2024: Commissionerate Police Jalandhar busts international drug syndicate and arrests 3 operatives with seizure of 48 kg heroin," said Yadav in a post on X.

The syndicate was

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Three arrested in connection with firing incident at Miran Sahib



JAMMU, Apr 29 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested three people in connection with the firing incident at Khajuria Food Mall, Miran Sahib in Jammu and recovered live cartridge.

According to the police, on Saturday evening, local miscreants fired upon Khajuria Food Mall, Miran Sahib and also asked for a ransom amount. After this incident, miscreants repeated the episode in Chohalla, RS Pura.

The police said that the arrested accused have been identified as Guga, Krish and Kulbir Bhagat.

"In this regard, the cognizance was taken by the police and case FIR No. 44/307 336 34 IPC, and 3/25, 3/27 Arms Act was registered in PS Miran Sahib and a Case FIR No 74/2024 U/S 452/307/34, IPC & 3/25, 3/27 Arms Act was registered in PS RS Pura," they added.

Thereafter, police

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Murderer gets a fortnight's parole to be groom

NEW DELHI, Apr 29 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court has granted a man serving a life term for murder two weeks' parole to attend his engagement ceremony and wedding.

Granting the relief to Rahul Dev, the court noted that he was granted parole earlier as well and he had surrendered on time.

"In the totality of the facts and circumstances, the present petition is allowed. The petitioner is granted parole for a period of two weeks," Justice Amit Sharma said.

Dev was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in 2014 for the offences of murder and causing the disappearance of evidence or giving false information to screen offender under the Indian Penal Code.

He approached the court, seeking parole for four weeks to get engaged and married. The wedding is scheduled for April 30 at an Arya Samaj temple here.

The nominal roll received from Mandoli Jail, where he is lodged, stated that Dev was in custody for 14 years, six months and 25 days, with remission.

The court noted that the status report submitted by the prison reflected that he had availed parole from January 29 to March 5 and surrendered on time on March 6.

The court directed that the parole shall be counted from the date of the convict's release and asked him to surrender before the jail superintendent immediately on the expiry of the parole.

Twelve persons injured in Darhal Rajouri road accident

RAJOURI, Apr 29 (Agencies): At least 12 persons were injured in a road accident in Darhal area of Rajouri district on Monday.

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With deep sorrow we inform you of the tragic demise of **S. Kulbir Singh Ji** (Retd. BSF officer) S/o S. Sanmukh Singh, R/o 55-B, Lane no. 8, Greater Kailash, Jammu. He left for his heavenly abode on 23rd April 2024.

Programme:
Aarambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 30-04-2024 (Tuesday) at 9.30 am at our residence.
Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 02-05-2024 (Thursday) at 9.30 am, at our residence.

Shabad Kirtan and Antim Ardass will be performed at Gurudwara Sahib Sainik Colony, Jammu from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Grief Stricken:

Wife : Amarjeet Kaur (J&K Bank)

Daughter: Simran Kaur

Son-in-law: Randhir Singh

Daughter: Ruhani Kaur

Son-in-law: Sagar Makkar

Son: Navjyot Singh



S. Kulbir Singh Ji

TENTH DAY/ RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Satya Devi** wife of Late Sh Dharam Chand Upadhyaya resident of W.No 1, PWD Colony Kathua on 20th April, 2024 at our residence.

The Tenth Day shall be performed on 29th April (Monday) at 10 AM at our residence.

The Kriya shall be performed on 30th April (Tuesday) at 11 AM at our residence.

The Rasam Pagri shall be performed on 1st May 2024 (Wednesday) at 12 Noon at Brahma Sabha near Moon Light Cineplex, Kathua.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Son and Daughter in law

Sh Yash Pal Upadhyaya & Smt Chanchla Sharma.

Sh Pardeep Sharma Upadhyaya (Senior Journalist) & Smt Renu Sharma

Sh Suresh Upadhyaya (Lecturer) & Smt Vandana Sharma

Daughter & Son in law

Smt Asha Rani & Sh Prem Kumar

Mob. 9419200677, 9419150733, 7006217426



Late Smt Satya Devi
W/o Late Sh Dharam
Chand Upadhyaya
(Sukraia Mata Waley)

BARKHI

Not a single day goes when we do not think of you and miss you. Your memories are always with us.

Barkhi of our beloved **Sh. Shankar Chand** S/o Late Sh. Bagu Ram Shall be performed at Chahal Farm Dhouchak (One km away from our residence Vill. Badhan) on 30th April 2024.

Satsang from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM.

Guru Ka Langar from 1:00 PM onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Basson Parivar

Vill. Badhan

Mob.: 7889944265, 9419176607, 9419176615, 8490402337



Sh. Shankar Chand

CHOUBARSI

"It was and still is so painful to lose you"

Four long years have passed since you left for eternal journey. The void you had left behind will remain forever. Your vivid and cheerful personality, charm and affectionate nature are all unmatched and we could find solace in all your loving & everlasting memories which will never fade.

Choubarisi of our beloved **Late Sh. Kalu Ram Khajuria** will be performed at our residence 2/50 B, Pamposh Colony, Jammu on 30th April, 2024, on Tuesday 30th April 2024.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:

Smt. Satya Devi - **Bhabhi Ji**

Daughters-in-law & Sons

Smt. Rajni Khajuria & Sh. Ashok Khajuria (Retd. J&K Bank)

Smt. Promila Khajuria & Sh. Ishwer Chander Khajuria (Retd. PDD Deptt)

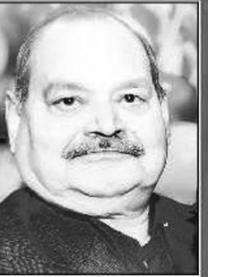
Smt. Shrusi Khajuria & Sh. Sunil Khajuria (J&K Bank)

Smt. Sonam Khajuria & Sh. Vishal Khajuria (ICICI Bank)

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Minakshi Sharma & Mr. Vivek Sharma (Advocate)

Ph.: 9697520568, 7889510518



Late Sh. Kalu Ram Khajuria

CHOUBARSI

Four Years have been passed since your noble soul departed to rest in peace to heavenly abode but your memories are still fresh in our hearts which shall remain forever. We still miss your presence.

CHOUBARSI of our beloved **Late Smt Sheela Devi Ji (Nana)** will be performed at our residence Kothi No 1 Wazarat Road Opp J&K Bank ATM, DC Office Jammu on 30-04-2024 (Tuesday) at 12:00 Noon.

Deeply Remembered By:

Son & Daughter in Law

Smt Monika Gupta & Sh. Dinesh K Gupta

Smt Anu Gupta (Distt Vice President BJP) & Late Sh. Rajesh Gupta

(Former MLA Jammu East BJP & BJP Chief Whip)

Daughter & Son in Law

Smt Parveen Gupta & Sh. Sameer Bhatti Gupta (IFS Retd) & Former Member JKPCS

Grand Children: Dr. Shally, Dr. Himanshu, Er Sahil, Abhay, Arushi, Rudhra, Kashish, Saanya, Adhived & Samira

Chinar Wires, Gangyal Jammu

Biotech Life Sciences

MOBILE NO : 9419118360, 9419165941, 9419784713



(Late Smt Sheela Devi)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Raj Dulari Pandita** W/o Lt. Sh. Mohan Lal Pandita originally from Village Pergochi, Teh. Shopian, presently residing at 79-A, Bank Colony, Camp Road, Talab Tillo Jammu on 21-04-2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 30-04-2024 at 9 AM at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education Jammu)

Grief Stricken

Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh. Pran Nath Pandita and Smt. Kiran Lata

Son-in-law & Grand Daughter

Deepanshu Pandita and Supriya Pandita

Sahil Pandita- **Grandson**

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:

SAMAST PANDITA PARIVAR

MOB: 94691-52739, 7889834027



SMT. RAJ DULARI
PANDITA

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Gudi Devi - **Wife**

Smt & Sh. Sunil Kumar & Manju Bhat - **Son & Daughter in Law**

Smt & Sh. Vinod Kumar & Sunita Bhat - **Son & Daughter in Law**

Smt & Sh. Chaman Lal Bhat & Dazzy Bhat - **Brother & Bhabhi**

Bharti & Mehak Bhat - **Niece**

Smt & Sh. Poshkar Nath Bhat & Shakuntla Bhat - **Brother in Law & Sister**

Smt & Sh. Schan Lal Bhat & Pinky Bhat - **Brother in Law & Sister**

Smt & Sh. Vijay Koul & Banti Koul - **Brother in Law & Sister**

Vasu, Vanshi, Janu & Pani - **Grand Children's**

MOBILE NO: 7006610220, 9055263049, 7889694399



SH. BRIJ NATH
BHAT

OBITUARY /10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Soom Nath Pandita (Dangi)** S/o Late Sh. Gobind Ram R/o Mattan Anantnag A/P Sisters' Cottage H.No.92/3 Ward 59, Tara Vihar, Paloura Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 25th of April 2024.

10th Day will be performed on 04 May 2024 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu at 09:00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughter & Son in law

Lt. Smt. Anjan Bala & Sh. Bharat Bushan (Babblu ji) # 9419149707

Smt. Vijay Bhatti & Sh. Rakesh Pardesi # 9469200006

Smt. Jeevan Jyoti & Sh. Sanjay Bhat # 7889655613



Sh. Soom Nath
Pandita (Dangi)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAAS

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **S. SANTOKH SINGH Ji (RETD. XEN)** S/O LT. S. LABH SINGH Ji R/O NANER TRAL, KASHMIR/B-58 INDRANAGAR, SRINAGAR, A/P H-NO 10, LANE 7 DOWNSIDE, GREATER KALASH, JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 22ND APRIL 2024. FOR THE PEACE OF THE DEPARTED NOBLE SOUL **SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** SHALL BE HELD AT OUR RESIDENCE AT JAMMU AS PER THE SCHEDULE:

29/04/24 - ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB AT 9 AM

01/05/24 - BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB AT 9 AM

ANTIM ARDAAS WILL BE PERFORMED AT GURUDWARA GREATER KAILASH, JAMMU FROM 10:30 AM TO 1 PM FOLLOWED BY GURU KA LANGAR.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

JAGDISH KOUR (WIFE)

SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

AMANDEEP SINGH & DR. MANPREET KOUR

DAUGHTERS & SONS-IN-LAW

POONAM KOUR & DR. JATINDERPAL SINGH

DR. GURPREET KOUR & RAJ KUNWAR SINGH DUA



S. SANTOKH SINGH JI
(RETD. XEN)

BROTHERS & SISTERS-IN-LAW
HARKIRAT SINGH & JEET KOUR
TRLOK SINGH & LOVJEET KOUR
SISTERS & BROTHERS-IN-LAW
SHANTA KOUR & SOBA SINGH
KAUSHLYA KOUR & ATTAR SINGH
MANJIT KOUR & BALBIR SINGH

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Rupawati Pandita** W/o Late Sh. Sarwan and Pandita originally from Maidanpora, Loloab Distt. Kupwara A/p community Hall, Lane No. 1, Block 6 Jagti, who left for her heavenly abode on 27th April, 2024.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 6th May 2024 at 8:30 AM and **Assembly** will be held thereafter.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sh. Vinod & Smt. Neema Pandita

Sh. Ramesh & Smt. Sunita Pandita

Smt. Anjali W/o Late Sh. Anil Pandita

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Santosh & Sh. Man Mohan Pandita

Smt. Teja & Sh. Moli Lal Pandita

Smt. Shashi W/o Late Sh. Shubhan Ji Malla

Deeply missed by Grand Children.

Mobile : 95967 28373, 91039 80827



Smt. Rupawati Pandita

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of **Smt. Kisheni K Sopori** originally resident of Harwan, Srinagar, Kashmir presently at H.No. 35-D, Lane No. 4, Upper Shiv Nagar, Jammu on Wednesday 24th April, 2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held on 3rd May (8:30 a.m.) at Muthi ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sh. Maharaj Krishen Mattoo (Husband)

(Son & Daughter-in-law)

Amit Mattoo & Archana Mattoo (Malla)

Lalita Mattoo (Sister-in-law)

Phoola Mattoo (Sister-in-law)

Smt & Sh. Makhan Lal Mattoo (Brother and Sister-in-law)

Smt & Sh. Pyare Lal Mattoo (Brother and Sister-in-law)

Grand Daughter:

Nysha Mattoo

Contact No.: 09596743313, 8447747448



Smt. Kisheni K Sopori

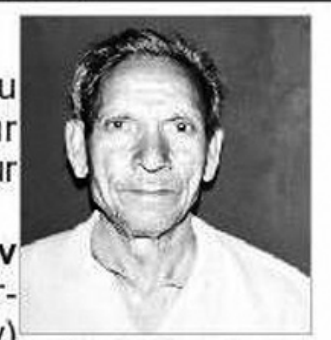
CHOUBARSI

Four years have passed since you left us for heavenly abode. Your memories will always stay in our hearts.

Choubarisi of our beloved **Sh Shiv Ram** S/o Sh Gopi Ram will be performed on 30th April 2024 (Tuesday) at Invitation Hall Roop Nagar (Near Petrol Pump) from 12.00 Noon followed by Prasad.

Deeply Remembered by

THAPPA FAMILY & SOOD FAMILY



Sh Shiv Ram

CHOUBARSI

4 Long Years have gone by but the Imprint you left remains clear in Minds.

As we Mark the **Choubarisi** of my Father's Passing, We find Solace in the Cherished Moments we Shared and the Everlasting Impact of His Love on our Lives.

CHOUBARSI of our beloved **Sh. Mulkh Raj** S/o Late Sh. Nand Lal R/o Paloura, will be performed at our Residence, on 30-04-2024 (Tuesday) at 11:30 am.

Deeply Missed By:

Smt. Darshana Devi - **Wife**

Rajesh Sharma - **Son**

Ruchita Sharma - **Daughter-in-law**

Contact: 9086745760, 7051199945



Sh. Mulkh Raj

OBITUARY/10TH DAY, KRIYA AND RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, I regret to inform the sad demise of my Father **Late Sh. Mukhtiar Chand Sharma** of Village Dhalli (Dayala Chak) who left for heavenly abode on 20th of April 2024.

The various programmes being held are as under:

10th Day (Talla) on Monday the 29th of April, 2024 at 10.00 am.

Kriya 11th Day on Tuesday the 30th of April, 2024 from 11.00 am onwards.

Rasam Pagri on Wednesday the 1st of May 2024 at 2.00 pm.

Subash Chander Sharma # 9906042678

(Ex-Sarpanch)

(Prev. BJP Mandal Pardhan)

(Prev BJP Spokesperson Kathua)

Sharma Family & All Relatives - Dhalli (Dayala Chak)



Sh. Mukhtiar Chand
Sharma

TENTH DAY/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Samitri Devi** W/o Late Sh. Parmatma Singh R/o F-6, Rani Park, Jammu on 19-04-2024 at Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on 28-04-2024 at 11 AM at Rani Park.

Rasam Pagri/Uthala will be held on 01-05-2024 at SS Jain Sabha Rani Park Jammu from 4 PM to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh. Dewakar Singh & Smt. Savita Devi

Grand Sons & Grand Daughters-in-law

Mr. Shishu Pal Singh & Mrs. Seema Charak

Mr. Manik Singh & Mrs. Novy Samyarak

Ph.Nos: 9419281705, 7406977737



SMT. SAMITRI DEVI

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Kavinder releases book titled "Atimnirbhar Betiyaan" authored by Nisha Kapoor

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister today released a book titled "Atimnirbhar Betiyaan" authored by Nisha Kapoor during a function held at Press Club Jammu.

The event was chaired by Padma Shree Jatinder Udhamपुरi, Sahitya Academy Awardee, distinguished Dogri poet, and former Director AIR. Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, was the Chief Guest. Nirmal Vinod, an eminent Hindi and Dogri poet and Sahitya Academy awardee, graced the occasion as a Special Guest. Ashok Kumar, a noted Hindi scholar, attended as a Special Invitee, while Suman Pal, a renowned broadcaster, was the Guest of Honour. Author Nisha Kapoor and Adv. Harish Kaila, President of NDS, also shared the platform.

NDS honored the author with the "Sahitya Shree" Sansha Samman, along



with a shawl and citation. Dr. Chanchal Sharma, a well-known Dogri poetess and announcer, presented a detailed analysis of the book.

The book focuses on the challenges, problems, needs, aspirations, strengths, weaknesses, and measures required to prepare young girls for economic independence and empowerment. This motivational work suggests methods and strategies to attain prosperity, strength, self-confidence, self-belief, growth, and self-respect to fulfill their

plans and goals. Duties of parents towards their daughters, family discipline, security, education, skills, and vocational entrepreneurship have been elaborated upon. The author, with great passion for women's empowerment, previously authored "Saksham," also focused on this subject.

In his opening address, Capt. Lalit Sharma, APCCF (Retd), and Convener of NDS, emphasized the importance of empowering women, considering that half of our population comprises females.

Prof. Anupama Sharma, Patron of NDS, expressed that when established women of society themselves start working in this direction, the mission of economic empowerment can be achieved swiftly and in a meaningful and dignified manner. Jatinder Udhamपुरi noted that the book serves as both motivational and directional for female students and young ladies, stressing the need to channelize societal synergy to make women self-reliant and economically strong. Kavinder Gupta high-

lighted the available opportunities for young girls to choose any vocation and contribute to the nation's progress, emphasizing the "Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao" mission for women's security and empowerment.

Nirmal Vinod underscored the importance of education, security, and skills development for women's self-reliance. Ashok Kumar emphasized the role of women in enhancing the financial standards of their families and contributing to the nation's progress.

Nisha Kapoor expressed her passion for contributing to women's empowerment, urging young girls to understand their needs, aspirations, and abilities, and to work diligently to achieve their life goals with discipline, self-respect, dedication, hard work, commitment, positivity, and a patriotic approach.

Arjun Dev Mohan, General Secretary of the Youth Wing NDS, extended a vote of thanks, commending the author on behalf of NDS for her inspirational work.

Dir Agr Jammu visits newly Strengthened Demonstration cum Training Centre

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, today visited the recently enhanced Demonstration Cum Training Centre at the Apiculture Development Scheme, Krishi Bhawan Jammu.

The upgraded center showcases significant improvements, including a modern training hall, a vibrant bee flora garden, a well-equipped bee apiary, and a state-of-the-art honey processing unit.

Expressing his satisfaction with the efforts invested in strengthening the Demonstration Cum Training Centre, Director Agriculture emphasized the pivotal role this facility will play in advancing apiculture in the region. He underscored its significance in providing comprehensive training and support to beekeepers, further reiterating the Department's unwavering commitment to foster-

ing the growth and prosperity of the apiculture industry in Jammu.

Director also visited the mini testing laboratory for honey and certification established under HADP aimed at assisting beekeepers. He highlighted the importance of such facilities in ensuring quality control and certification processes, thereby enhancing the marketability of honey products from the region.

Director Agriculture Jammu shared ambitious targets for the upcoming year, stating that with the aid of training initiatives and the testing laboratory, the Department aims to increase honey production from 7000 quintals to 16000 quintals this year, thereby significantly contributing to the economic development of Jammu and empowering local beekeepers.

Director Agriculture Jammu emphasized that the training programs conducted at the center will empower farmers

with the latest techniques and advancements in honey production. Farmers will be educated about various aspects including pollen collection, bee wax extraction, and other vital practices crucial for enhancing honey production and quality.

Asstt. Entomologist Rajesh Verma provided detailed insights into the enhancements made at the DCTC, elucidating on the strides taken to fortify its infrastructure and offerings.

Joining the Director during the visit were esteemed dignitaries including Jt. Dir. Agri Ext. Satish Sharma, Liaison Officers Dr. Ashwani Sharma, Dharmesh Vaid, CAO Jammu, V.K. Kunal, DSSO Suresh Khajuria, Agronomist Vikas Padha, and other notable officers, reflecting the collaborative efforts towards the advancement of agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu.

Amit Kapoor exposes scam of crores of rupees of Fee Fixation Committee

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: Amit Kapoor, President of Parents Association Jammu, has questioned the functioning of the Chairman of JKFFRC and accused him of under-table collusion with private schools.

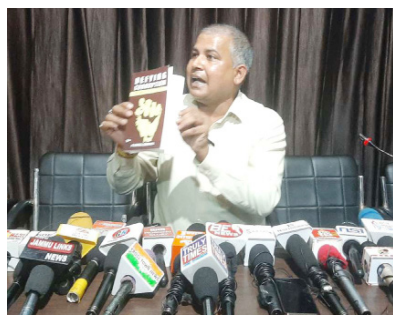
He said that to bring out the truth of the irregularities done by the Chairman of JKFFRC, this entire matter should be investigated by the CBI.

He said that this is a multi-layered scam and only a CBI investigation can find out the truth. He said that when a government official is involved in corruption and its amount is hundreds of crores of rupees, then in such a situation CBI can investigate the matter. Apart from this, tax exemption is obtained illegally by the school. He said that JKUT is under the control of the Central Government, so it becomes the jurisdiction of CBI.

Apart from this, the government treasury has suffered a loss of crores in the case of tax evasion by illegal schools.

For example, the illegal Foundation School in Humhama Budgam Kashmir got a tax exemption of 20 crores from 2015 to 2024. Amit Kapoor has raised this demand while addressing a press conference in Jammu.

He questioned that if Sunil Hali was in the list of JDA land grabbers, then why was he made the chairman of FFRC. He said that why were 140 orders of the Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee suppressed and no one came to know about those orders until he exposed them in the media. And neither were the orders



uploaded on the website. Along with this, he said that who had approved the 40-day leave of Sunil Hali FFRC Chairman and who was running the Fee Fixation Committee during that time and during those 40 days the parents were looted due to the committee being leaderless in

Amit Kapoor questioned how the fees of most of the declared old violator schools increased drastically after Sunil Hali returned from the US. He said why Sunil Hali is hesitating to provide the annual fee of all J&K schools to Kashmir education rights activist Mohammad Suhail Dar in RTI for the last 8 months. If the previous committee had done something wrong and approved illegal new admission fee, why did Sunil Hali not cancel that order.

He said how did FFRC Chairman Sunil Hali or the Fee Fixation Committee accept the files of those old violator schools for new fee fixation when their case was pending in the Double Bench of J&K High Court.

Amit Kapoor further said why is an Environmental Science teacher of a government school enjoying the post of Administrative Officer in FFRC despite the transfer order

of the government and what is it that is forcing him to stay in FFRC. Along with this, he also said that why Sunil Hali recommended the registration of Foundation World School Hamhama Campus to the Director School Education Kashmir, that too when Justice Attar, the predecessor of FFRC, had declared it a fake Cambridge and illegal school, while the CEO had declared it an illegal school and DSEK also declared it an illegal school. Amit Kapoor said that he should have recommended an FIR for illegally acquiring property worth Rs 100 crore by Foundation World School in this illegal school from 2015-2024, but he did not do so. The Parents Association Jammu has appealed for a Central Bureau of Investigation probe into the fee fixation committee in the scam case. He said that the CBI should take suo motu cognizance keeping these facts in mind and investigate this scam in the larger public interest, especially in the interest of school children and parents of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Foundation World School cheated the FFRC and got the fee sanctioned for the illegal school and yet why did Chairman Sunil Hali recommend this influential school for registration. Amit Kapoor finally said that why Sunil Hali and his fee fixation committee like to increase illegal fees by violating the norms to make the powerful influential schools of Jammu and Kashmir rich whose annual income is crores of rupees. He said that this is a scam of fee fixation committee of crores of rupees in Jammu and Kashmir, only CBI investigation can find out the truth.

Express unhappiness over abrogation of Art 370 through your votes: Mehbooba To J&K Voters

SRINAGAR, Apr 29 (Agencies): PDP president Mehbooba Mufti asked the voters of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday to register their unhappiness over the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution through their votes in the ongoing Lok Sabha election.

Addressing a roadside meeting in the Larkipora area of Anantnag district, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said, "This is not an Assembly election. This is not about whether the PDP, the National Conference or the Congress will win. This election is about sending a message that the decisions taken in 2019 and what followed are not acceptable to the people."

The Bharatiya Janata



Party-led Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370, which gave special rights to Jammu and Kashmir, in August 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile state into Union territories.

Mufti said Jammu and Kashmir has been through very tough times in the past and the pres-

ent situation is also a difficult one.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed tough times in the past. Those did not last and neither will this (situation), but only if we fight it together through peaceful and democratic ways," she said.

Mufti said people

might have been upset with the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for some time, but they do realise that the party has saved them from the task force, counter-insurgent Ikhwan group and POTA.

"It was during the tenure of (former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and Mehbooba Mufti's father) Mufti Mohammad Sayeed that a new era of development was started, a dialogue process was started between India and Pakistan and there seemed to be some movement on key issues," she said.

The PDP president is contesting the Lok Sabha election from the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, where polling is scheduled to be held on May 7.

Sonamarg mishap: Rescue operation underway to trace missing passenger

GANDERBAL, Apr 29 (Agencies): The rescue operation to trace out missing people after a tavera with Registration No: JK13B- 8950 with atleast nine people in it rolled down into the nallah Sindh near Hung area of Sonamarg on Sunday afternoon resume for second day Monday. Police team from police station Gund headed by SHO Lateef Ali along with teams of SDRF and other departments resume the rescue operation amid the inclement weather.

During the search operation one more dead body has been recovered taking the death toll to 5 while one more person is still missing. Three people were rescued on Sunday, out of these two in injured conditions were shifted to hospital for medical treatment.

SHO Police station Gund, Lateef Ali told Greater Kashmir that the search and rescue operation resumes on Monday and while search one more dead body has been retrieved from water.

He said one more person is missing and search operation continues. He added, that continuous rainfall and inclement weather is hampering the search operation.

Notably, in a tragic road accident, a tavera vehicle



with atleast nine people mostly tourists in it rolled down into the nallah Sindh near Sonamarg area in Ganderbal district on Sunday afternoon. An official said that Tavera vehicle with atleast nine people including tourists in it was on way from Sonamarg to Srinagar when it plunged into nallah Sindh near Hung area of Sonamarg Sunday afternoon.

Soon after the incident a massive joint rescue operation was launched by Police Station Gund, Police Station Sonamarg along with Army, SDRF, CRPF and local volunteers during which four dead bodies were retrieved from water while as three persons were rescued out of whom two in injured conditions who were shifted to hospital for medical aid.

Ganderbal Police in a statement said that, on 28-04-2024, at around 1600 hours, a vehicle

missing. The details of passengers who were travelling in the said vehicle are as under:

Nema Pasang Sherpa. S/o Kale Sherpa R/o Nemoh Leh, originally from Kathmandu Nepal, (Labourer) (Injured and under treatment at SKIMS).

Nema Pasang Sherpa S/o Bale Sherpa R/o Nemoh Leh, originally from Kathmandu Nepal, (Labourer) (Dead-Body retrieved).

Sameer Ahamd S/o Shageer Ahmad R/o Bareilly UP (Tourist) (injured and under treatment at SKIMS).

Sarfa Parveen W/o Sameer Ahmad R/o Bareilly UP (Tourist) (Still Missing).

Unidentified Male (Tourist from South India) (Dead-Body retrieved).

Unidentified Female (Tourist from South India) (Dead-Body retrieved).

Unidentified Female (Tourist from South India) (Dead-Body retrieved).

Female (Tourist from South India) (Still Missing).

Fayaz Ahmad Ganaie S/o Gh Mohd Ganaie R/o Shutkadi Sonamarg (Local Photographer) (He is Safe).

In this regard, Case FIR No. 14/2024, U/S 279, 337 IPC registered at PS Gund & investigation taken up.

SSP Mohan Lal inaugurates OPD services of Nirman Healthcare Hospital



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Apr 29: For the people traveling from Akhnoor and surrounding areas to Amritsar for better healthcare facilities, Nirman Health Care Hospital Amritsar inaugurated its new OPD center in the Mandla area of Akhnoor on Sunday. The chief guest of the

event, SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat, inaugurated this OPD center in the presence of esteemed individuals from Akhnoor.

Special OPD services for Orthopedics, Neurologists and general physicians will be available at this center. On the occasion of the center's inauguration, a free health check-up camp was also

organized, where approximately 200 individuals from the region received free health check-ups.

Addressing the media on this occasion, SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat extended congratulations to the founder of the center, stating that this OPD center will not only provide healthcare services but also take a

step forward towards a healthy and prosperous future for the community.

He mentioned that previously, people in the region had to rely on other states for specialized healthcare facilities, but with the opening of the OPD center at Akhnoor's Construction Hospital, people will have better healthcare facilities near their homes. He also appealed to the people present at the event to adopt a healthy lifestyle both mentally and physically.

Present at the event were Karan Singh, former Sarpanch Kishori Lal, former Sarpanch Viorender Kumar, former Sarpanch Ganesh Das, Vishal Sapolia, Rameshwar Das, Mangesh Sharma, and Pandit Ashwani Vashisht, among others.

EDITORIAL

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change refers to significant and lasting changes in temperature, precipitation, wind patterns, and other aspects of the Earth's climate system over an extended period, typically decades or longer. These changes are primarily driven by both natural processes and human activities. Volcanic eruptions release large amounts of gases and particles into the atmosphere, which can temporarily cool the planet by blocking sunlight. Variations in the sun's intensity and energy output can influence the Earth's climate over long periods. The movement of tectonic plates can alter ocean currents and affect regional climates. Changes in the Earth's orbit and axial tilt can lead to long-term shifts in climate patterns, known as Milankovitch cycles.

The burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) for energy, transportation, and industrial processes releases carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases trap heat, leading to a warming effect known as the greenhouse effect.

Deforestation forests for agriculture, urban development, and other purposes reduces the number of trees available to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere, contributing to higher levels of greenhouse gases. Industrial processes, such as manufacturing and mining, release greenhouse gases and pollutants into the air, further exacerbating climate change. Converting land for agricultural purposes or urbanization can alter natural ecosystems and disrupt the balance of carbon stored in soil and vegetation. Global temperatures have been steadily increasing, leading to more frequent and intense heatwaves, wildfires, and droughts. Glaciers and polar ice caps are melting at an accelerated rate, contributing to rising sea levels. This threatens coastal communities and ecosystems. Climate change is linked to an increase in extreme weather events, including hurricanes, storms, and heavy rainfall, which can cause widespread damage and loss of life. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns can disrupt ecosystems, leading to shifts in species distributions, loss of biodiversity, and ecosystem services. Climate change can exacerbate air pollution, spread infectious diseases, and increase the risk of heat-related illnesses, posing significant threats to human health and well-being. The future trajectory of climate change depends on the actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to its impacts. If significant steps are not taken to curb emissions and transition to renewable energy sources, the consequences of climate change will continue to worsen. However, by implementing policies to mitigate emissions, investing in clean energy technologies, and promoting sustainable practices, we can work towards a more resilient and sustainable future for our planet and future generations.

Booker 'sugar daddies' of lit; Liz's bestseller toast of town

By: Kishwar Desai

In this brave new world where everyone is being politically correct, it is something of a conundrum to find that the prize that most authors vie for may also have a dark history. So can we still call the "Booker" Prize by its name despite the fact that the Booker brothers' family, which had originally supported it, had a history of enslavement? Though this has been known for a few years — the debate came up again after a radio host Richie Brave pointed out last week that the online information on the Booker website stated that the brothers Josias and George Booker had "managed" around 200 enslaved people. This, he said, was sanitisation of history, as his family had been enslaved by the Bookers, and not been "managed". And his original surname was Booker.

While the information on the Booker website was duly corrected — and of course the prize is now being managed by Crankstart, a charitable foundation — the links of the name to slavery continue to raise questions.

In fact it was eight years after the abolition of the slave trade, in 1815, that Josias Booker, from Liverpool, landed in Demerara and enslaved

people in a cotton plantation in what was British Guiana. Sugar then became the primary crop in a number of other plantations leading the original Booker Prize sponsors to be known as the "sugar daddies". Now we know where the term comes from — and it isn't a pleasant connection!

However, the organisers of the Prize website have said that they will get a Guyanese historian to recapitulate what was the actual history of the Booker brothers — who were also recompensed for their losses after slavery was abolished in 1834. Much of this makes one wonder if the Booker should have changed its name?

But then so many universities and other institutions have links to founders with dubious pasts that the process would be endless. Perhaps the best would be to do what the Booker organisers are doing — leave the name alone — but give more information about the original founders. Will this make the authors who have won the prize happy to have received it by simply saying that it was in the distant past? Or does it mean the name make them uncomfortable? The jury is out on that.

Well... books can definitely change the perception the world has about you, even if you don't

win prizes for them! The shortest serving British Prime Minister we all know of — Liz Truss — has just written a bestseller, *Ten Years to Save the West*.

She may have lasted only 50 odd days as Prime Minister, crashed the economy, spooked the markets and the Conservative Party — but she is unrepentant and resilient. No sooner were the first 1,500 copies released that the book was sold out. The lettuce has flowered. What next? Surely not Prime Minister once more — or maybe like Boris Johnson she will become a super successful columnist and author earning millions of pounds! To be fair the reviews of the book — which is partly memoir and partly a "call to action" (seriously?) — has been called both "unintentionally hilarious" and "insightful" depending on which side of the political spectrum the critics come from. And she will definitely be on the book festival circuit if not at the hustings.

This time it seems my diary is all about books, and authors. A most lovely story has surfaced by chance about an iconic British creative personality, Agatha Christie, who became famous as a writer of detective fiction with her Hercule Poirot character — as well as plays like *The Mousetrap* which is still running after decades. During the First

World War, like many women from respectable families, she volunteered to work in a hospital set up at the Town Hall in Torquay, Devon. Now aspects of this experience have been found in a "handmade" magazine she and her fellow nurses put together. The magazine was called *What We Did In The Great War* — and covers her attempts at being an agony aunt, signing off as "your loving aunt Agatha" while she gave light hearted advice to her colleagues. She also worked in the medicines section where she is said to have learnt so much about chemicals and poisons.

To keep her group amused she became an agony aunt and developed her writing talent while serving the nation. But it was during the war that she finished and submitted her first piece of work which launched her on her life long career — *The Mysterious Affair of Styles* — this would finally be published three years later... after being rejected by six publishers.

Quite by accident — the magazine was found inside the papers of Sylvia Payne, a British psychoanalyst who was also at Torquay at the time. It will now be displayed at the Royal College of Nursing in London.

How to Balance Work and Studies

By: Vijay GarG

Work while you study is not a new concept. This concept has been a success in western countries for quite a long time but is a new concept in our country. In western countries, there are almost 60% of students who support their higher education themselves. Though it is not possible to contribute the whole amount of your higher education fees, still working while you study can help a student to contribute at least something to their education. Though it may not be a big amount for many, still the amount of pleasure and satisfaction involved is something that overpowers all the other facts. Working while you study can be in two ways:

Work-Study Option in College Part-time Job

The first option is to opt for the work-study program. If you participate in a work-study program you can receive funds and hourly wages for your service provided on campus, which can be in any form depending upon your capability. There are many different opportunities for work-study, so there's a good chance for students to find something related to their major. Students may be either employed by the college or university itself, a national, state, or local public agency; a private non-profit organization; or a private for-profit organization. There are also chances that students may be asked to work for community learning programs that also give in some sort of inner satisfaction along with some earning experience.

Another option to earn while you study can be an off-campus part-time or a full-time job. Though the students enrolling for a full-time course cannot go for a full-time job, yet they can manage a part-time job that is a rage among youngsters these days. This part-time job may vary from having job-related to your major subjects or a skill related job. These days a lot of part-time jobs are available in call-centres across the country which had entered the Indian market like a revolution and gained a huge popularity in a short time. Other jobs for college students can be of taking tuition classes, online jobs etc.

Typical Work-Study Jobs

Work-study jobs are not difficult to get and perform. These include in the form a range of activities that can be easily performed in by students. Though there are not many colleges in India that are providing a work-study option to students, still the concept is getting popular in India too. If you get a work-study job on campus, then your college will usually be your employer. Typical jobs for students include working in the library or

bookstore, serving other students in the dining hall, and assisting with college events. Off-campus work usually benefits the public in some way and should relate as closely as possible to your course of study. You may also look for a job of tour guides.

The student may be working alongside other fellow students not in the work-study program. In fact, in all respects, your employment will appear the same as any other job. Only the college and your employer will know you're a work-study student. The only difference between a regular part-time job and a work-study job is that part of your salary may be covered by the government, the state, your college, or some other organization. There is also an option available for the students who decide to leave their work-study job before the end of the school year, or who can't find a work-study job can convert their work-study aid into a loan. Though, this may vary from college to college.

The Pros and Cons of Working while Studying in College

For some students, working in college is a necessity; there are students from probably not so well-off families who decide to support their educational expenses while for others it is simply a desire. Some students from financially strong families also decide to work to become financially independent. Many students have to work while they are in college, simply because, if they don't, they can't afford to do the course in the first place. However, those who do have a choice are faced with a difficult decision, because there are just as many pros to working while in college as there are cons. It is, therefore, necessary to weigh up both sides of the argument before coming to a final decision. Whatever the reason, however, it's important to know the pros and cons of working while in college before agreeing to take a job, these may include the following aspects:

Advantages of Working while Studying in College

More Money to Enjoy Life: It is a fact that almost 50% of the student enrolled in the work-study program to gain some bucks and become financially independent. Apart from needing money to fund college in the first place, a little bit of extra money is something that every student desire. There are a lot of things that everyone wants to spend on during their college life, which may include spending on treats and travelling in the holidays can make life an awful lot easier. It isn't impossible to live life on a tight budget, but it's a lot more fun with some ready cash to hand. And to spend on your own earned money gives immense pleasure.

Professional Development: Work-

ing while you study gives you a brief idea about professional life. Any on-campus job can provide students with the opportunity to learn professional skills such as communication (verbal and written), teamwork, time management, and customer service while also providing opportunities to build a professional network. Students tend to gain some good working experience and learn professional behaviour side by side.

A lot of students try to enter the job market after graduation with very little experience outside of their academic life and may sometimes face rejection due to lack of experience. Working for a living, even on a part-time basis, develops certain skills that are needed in professional life, but that can't be learned through study - simple things like how to communicate with different people and how to behave at a job interview. This makes the transition to work after graduation much easier and in an effective manner.

Freedom from Debts: A lot of students have to opt for loans to carry on their higher education, which they have to repay on completion of their course. Most of the students who take loan usually spend years after they have graduating paying off their debts that also includes in a certain amount of interest rate. This puts an awful lot of pressure on their shoulders because it is hard to think of moving on with their lives, buying a home and starting a family until the debt has been paid off. If students opt for a work-study program, they can effectively contribute in paying away their debt during their course duration or most of the times not even need educational loans.

Puts more Value to your Resume: Most of the companies these days prefer employees with some prior professional experience; in that case, some prior work experience during your college time makes your resume shine brightly among the others. Employers are often faced with a glut of resumes from college graduates and are always looking for someone that stands out not only in the terms of grades but experience as well. Someone with work experience as well as good grades is likely to do just that, especially if the experience is in a relevant field. It also shows commitment, which is always going to impress an employer. Most of the times candidates with some prior experienced are preferred more over some random fresher.

Better Time Management: Balancing your study and your job gives you a practical experience of managing your time effectively and one who is successfully able to strike a balance between the two also tends to master the art of good time management

which is really important for every professional.

Disadvantage of Studying While Studying in College

Distracts from Studying: One downside to working in college, however, is the potential for students to work so much that their jobs interfere with their college goals and academic progress. You need to put in your time for both your study and job as well and sometimes students are not just able to cope well. Commitment to a job does mean that students have less available free time. This may not be a problem if they are organised and cut down on their social life to make time for studying, but many students tend to give in to peer pressure and sacrifice their study time instead. Hence need is for a better time management.

Might be Really Tiring: There can be sometimes time clash between your two priorities. It is also possible that juggling with two priorities may sometime render a student really tired and probably not enough energy to revise well his topics. There are only 24 hours in the day for everyone and trying to hold down a job while studying can be extremely tiring, especially around exam time, when employers may be reluctant to let them have time off. In time, this may be too much for students to take and stress may cause them to burn-out.

Hamper Growth: It is evident that most of the students come to college with a hope to get a highly paid job later on in their lives, for which they will expect to have to work hard. From that point of view, college years may be their last chance to study and have fun before beginning the daily grind of work, therefore working in college can be unnecessarily exhausting. Sometimes working in a part-time job may change their focus and few students focus much on their present job while not really looking at the bigger picture. Hence it is very important to strike a balance between the two.

Tips to Balance Work and Studies

There are a lot of students opting for work while studying. There are many who really need this, while there are some who just do it for leisure and to become self-dependent. Students who work and study seem to enjoy the best of everything. They get their education and at the same time are able to keep their jobs and get a paycheck.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

Dr ML Dogra honoured with Rashtriya Pratibha Samman

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Apr 29: Dr. M.L. Dogra, an Indian theatre / multi-faceted personality and scholar, of Jammu and Kashmir, UT known for bringing creative Dogri and Hindi theatre Musical played internationally was honored with Rashtriya Pratibha Samman 2023 for his outstanding tremendous contribution in Performing art and Education along with 200 international dignitaries by the Chief Guest Sudha Chandran, Famous Bollywood actress an Indian Bharatnatyam Dancer and Films and countless awardees National & International Awardee at Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi India along with Ishwar Kishan Lal Agarwal, Chairman Srimati Narayandevi Agarwal charitable trust, Swami Virendranand Maharaj, Mahamandleshwar Sri Panchdash Nam Juna Akhada, Swami Rajeshwaranand Maharaj, Chairman Shree Rajmata Jhadewala Mandir Samuh, Shri Sonam Yonden, head monk, Thrangyu vajra vidya institute, Samath, Dr. Karthik Ramesh, CEO of Sentinel AI ML Labs, Global Innovation leader, Dr. Pushpendra Pratap Singh, County Head - Asia Shipping, Pavel Garg, Chairman - Combic pharmaceuticals were Guest of Honor.



The Programme was started with welcome note by Host. RJ Aarti Malhota & Dr. Tilak Tanwar felicitated by team and lighting the Traditional Lamp. The Rashtriya Pratibha Samman, an award event was organized by Golden Sparrows & Shrimati Narayani Devi Agarwal Charitable Trust. The Chief Guest congratulated the Organizers awardees for their services towards this and were also felicitated with Golden Medal, Certificate and trophy. The main objective of the Saman was celebration of excellence platform for networking and a source of inspiration for those committed to making a difference in their business and education spheres, reputation, delivering exceptional experiences, this event promised to be an evening that would be echoed in the memories of those who are leav-

ing a lasting impact on the future of culture heritage, education and business also which will recognize the achievements in the Education/ Business/ Healthcare sector opportunity to strive to intensify along with Experts, exceptional Guest Speakers and Award Winners. India's best Moderator and Best Panel speakers given tips in their speech to recognize internationally on various sectors. Dr. Dogra is a true legendary icon undoubtedly for Performing Art, his exceptional and exemplary work would be a source of inspiration to younger generation. The organization honored him with dignity and wished him a good luck for the future. He has created over three dozen Dance drama spectacles which really represent the ethos, aspirations of the society and started a weekend two shows called Saturday musical

Play and Friday Music Concerts and reflected in the Regional, National papers, Radio and Door-darshan and social media. In his 50 years contribution to theatre he has written more than 300 lyrical Plays, many Books, many Articles for newspapers on Cultural Heritage of India and more than 2000 Songs p& recorded in Dogri and Hindi languages and videos uploaded on YouTube, Social media at present more than 3000 performances in his credit. He has contributed a lot in awakening civil society by organizing Social awareness Campaigns on Govt. Programmes policies and given plethora of opportunities to the young in the field of art & Culture exclusively. He is also running Music center of Bhatkhande Sangit Vidyapith, Lucknow Gharana and Computer Institute for various subjects

(under National Urban Rural Computer Mission) launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narinder Modi.

Dr. Dogra was born on 08-08-1948 in small mountain village in Seen Thakran, Udhampur district of the north Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, to Amar Nath locally known traditional art "Bakh and Geetru" performer. He was honored PHD, in performing Art and Education, by the Vishvakarma university from the MHRD, Government of India 2021. Dr. Dogra's work has made way for his reorganization from the Media houses and he has been decorated with 29 awards from the Government and other renowned nationally and internationally organizations (Mainly Cultural Bonaza award-1995 by Ministry of Information Broadcasting, Har Mukh Ganga award-2010, Life time Achievement Award-2016, Vijay Mallah Music Award-2016, Foundation, Rashtriya Samaj Seva Ratan-2021, Global Human Rights Foundation, Icons of Asia-2022 (Global Empire events) and Influential Indians award-2021, Bharat Bhushan Award-2022, in best man of Excellence creation (Cultural) by The Crazy Tales (National Passion Event), International Excellence Award 2023 at Taj Vivanata New Delhi on December 2023.

Awareness Education on Hygiene & General Health Awareness Programme organised at GHSS Trepone



Top News Report

KARGIL Apr 29: The Govt Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Trepone on Monday organised health awareness education on oral hygiene and general health held under school health and wellness programme at GHSS Trepone. The Programme was conducted by Principal Government Higher Secondary School Trepone in collaboration with Block Medical Officer, Community Health Center Sankoo, NTPHC Trepone. The session was graced by Dr Syed Abbas Medical Officer, Dr Ashiq Hussain Dental Surgeon,

ANM, ASHA, Principal, School Teachers & Students. During the Course of session Dr Syed Abbas Medical Officer PHC Trepone Taught the students about the general health component of the programme focuses on promoting healthy lifestyle choices among students. Awareness on nutrition, physical activity, and mental health, Regular health check-ups to monitor students overall health and well-being. While Dr Ashiq Hussain Dental Surgeon PHC Trepone spoke on oral hygiene in detail through a power point presentation. During which he edu-

cated the students about common oral diseases and its impact on oral health and over all health. He also educated the students about oral diseases prevention and how to maintain good oral hygiene and demonstrated the proper brushing technique through a video clip. ANM and ASHA were educated to the adolescent girls of GHSS Trepone about menstrual hygiene and distributed sanitary pads amongst the female students. The session was concluded with word of thanks and appreciation by Principal and the teachers of GHSS Trepone.

Field office of Ministry of MSME conducts Swachata activities



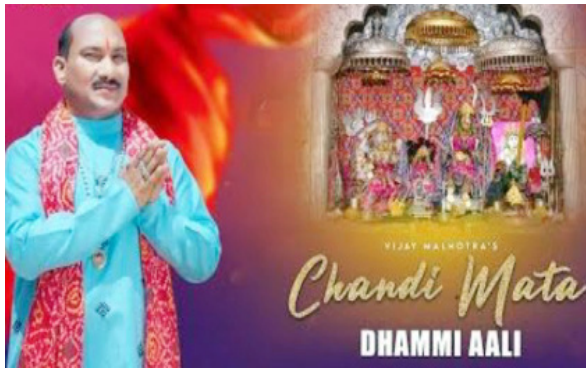
Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: MSME DFO Jammu, Field office of Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector. Action plan has been constituted for Swachata activities including tree plantation, distribution of swachata implementation devices (Dust-

bin), cleaning of area's in and around the premises of Industrial areas, MSME DFO Jammu. Accordingly Nodal Officer Vinu Jee Koul, Asst. Director is entrusted to implement the Swachata Activities under the supervision of G. Velladurai Joint Director. Tree plantation has been done after cleaning

all the debris in the front area of the Accounts section, green lawn has been created in front of the office premises of MSME DFO Jammu. The area near vehicle parking has been cleared of all the debris which were unattended for many years have been cleared and a new Generator was installed in the same area which is useful for better functioning of the Office there by providing even more quality services for MSME's of the region. The Dustbin's have been distributed to various DIC's like Samba, Kathua, Police Chawki, Digiana etc. Swachata activities near administrative section also implemented by removing the scrap of old functions, fixtures, old glass pieces, banners, etc.

Vicky Kaith's new Dogri Bhajan 'Chandi Mata Dhama Aali' gets good response



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: The new Dogri Bhajan 'Chandi Mata Dhama Aali' released by Music Director Vicky Kaith has widely been liked by the devotees. Congratulating Vicky Kaith, R.L. Kaith said when we listen this bhajan we try to purely imagine the Chandi Maa

and we try to flow with the lyrics, so a tranquility is created inside our mind and that gives us peace. While Vicky's others Biradari members and his friend circle said, this bhajan calms the mind and energizes the body for extended periods of time, and creates an environment beneficial for meditation.

Vivek Bali urges voters to empower Nation's future through Ballot

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 29: In a fervent call to action, Vivek Bali, the State General Secretary, Janata Dal (United) has rallied the electorate of Anantnag-Rajouri, Srinagar and Baramulla constituencies to seize the mantle of responsibility and shape the trajectory of our nation in the upcoming phases of voting. Amidst the vibrant tapestry of democracy, Bali passionately advocates for the pivotal role each citizen plays in sculpting the nation's destiny through the sacred act of voting. "Voting is not merely a civic duty; it is a solemn expression of our collective aspirations," remarks Bali, his words resounding with a fervor for democratic values.



Highlighting the significance of the electoral process, Vivek Bali emphasizes, "At the heart of democracy lies the power vested in the hands of the people to elect their stewards. It is our democratic prerogative to discern and elect leaders who mirror our values and champion our aspirations." In a clarion call to embrace the essence of democracy, Bali underscores, "The ballot box is the ultimate arbiter of our nation's fate. It empowers us to chart a

course towards progress, justice, and inclusivity. Let us exercise this right judiciously, for it is the cornerstone of our democratic ethos." Moreover, Vivek Bali extended a heartfelt plea to every voter, urging them to mobilize their entire families and partake in this quintessential democratic exercise. "Our strength lies in our unity, in our collective resolve to shape a future that is reflective of our shared dreams and aspirations," he affirms. As the electoral landscape unfolds, Bali's impassioned appeal resonates as a beacon of hope, inspiring citizens to embrace the mantle of civic duty and uphold the sanctity of democracy. Together, let us embark on this journey towards a brighter tomorrow, one ballot at a time.

Dimple leads anti-Pakistan protest



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: President Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple on Monday held a protest against Pakistan and burnt Pak flags in Jammu. Dimple's strong condemnation of ongoing terrorist encounters along the Jammu-Kathua national highway, particularly in areas like Dudu Basant Garh and Ramnagar, underscored his commitment to combating terrorism in the region. During the protest, Dimple burnt Pakistan flags and effigies of

prominent figures associated with militant organizations, including Hafeez Saeed and Masood Azhar, as well as groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba for perpetuating violence and instability in Jammu and Kashmir. Dimple called upon the Prime Minister to initiate surgical strikes and even a war with Pakistan, advocating for the integration of territories like Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit, and Baltistan into the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Dimple made it clear that his allegiance lies

with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, promising to fight for their interests while refusing to compromise on matters related to Pakistan-backed militancy, anti-national activities, and attacks on security forces. He highlighted recent incidents, such as the attack on Shadra Shrief and the martyrdom of a State Work Department (SWD) employee, as evidence of the ongoing threat posed by militants operating in the region. Furthermore, Dimple urged the Director General of J&K Police and security forces to inten-

sify operations aimed at dismantling ISI modules and eliminating militant presence in the region. This call for action underscores the perceived urgency in addressing security challenges in Jammu and Kashmir. In his warnings to ISI, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Pakistan, Dimple reiterated the historical and constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India, emphasizing that it will remain so despite external pressures and militant activities. Dimple appealed to the Indian Army Chief to initiate surgical strikes and military action against Pakistan, with the aim of liberating POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan and integrating them into the Indian state. He assured the full support from the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this endeavor, aligning his mission with the interests of the Indian Army and the broader Indian state. Vijay Viridi, Arun Verma, Kewal Kumar, and others were present in the protest

JKNC Students Union President Harsh Vardhan condemns Udhampur Terror attack

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: JKNC Students Union President Harsh Vardhan, extended condolences to the Family of Village Defense Guard Martyr. In the wake of the recent tragic terror attack at Chochru Gala heights in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Students Union President, Harsh vardhan Singh, vehemently condemns the cowardly act of terror that claimed the life of Village Defense Guard (VDG) member, Moham-



mad Shareef. Shareef, aged 48 and hailing from Lower Ponar, Basantgarh Udhampur, succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital following an initial exchange of fire with terrorists. Expressing deep sorrow and solidarity,

Harsh Vardhan stated, "Our hearts are heavy with grief as we mourn the loss of Mohammad Shareef, a brave VDG member who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. His dedication and valor in defending our community will forever be remembered and honored. We extend our sincerest condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time." Mohammad Shareef's selfless commitment to safeguarding his fellow citizens serves as a poignant reminder of the immense sacrifices

made by individuals in ensuring the safety and security of our nation. Harsh Vardhan emphasized, "The nation stands united in honoring Mohammad Shareef's bravery and resilience. His legacy will continue to inspire generations, and we pledge to uphold his noble ideals." As the community grapples with this tragic loss, the JKNC Students Union stands resolutely with the affected families and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to peace, harmony, and unity in the region.

Violation of agreement by CVPPL not be tolerated: Ajeet

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 29: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Sr. leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat demanded investigation of violation of agreement of Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL) in respect of large scale bungling into substandard material used in Hydroelectric Power Projects and backdoor appointments. The National Conference leader said that he would highlight the increasing unemployment being faced by

the youths of Kishtwar, Doda, and Ramban Districts of Chenab Valley Zone. The National Conference leader said it will not be out of place to mention here that at one point i.e upto 2014 a large number of youths were engaged in Dul-Hasti and Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Projects. Now we have four major Hydroelectric Power Project Viz Pakal -Dool, Kiru, Kawar and Ratle where four reputed companies are executing these Projects but it is a matter of great concern that there is unrest

among the unemployed youths because the companies involved have engaged less manpower in these Projects, he added. Bhagat said that the reason behind this is the Companies Management Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL) want to get more and more profit by way of engaging less manpower. Similarly, the principal employer of these Projects i.e Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL) are getting huge commission from these Project managements in order to hide their misdeed.

Arijit Singh fails to recognise Pakistani actor Mahira Khan during his Dubai concert, apologises to her

Pakistani star Mahira Khan, who attended Arijit Singh's concert in Dubai over the weekend, on Monday said it was a pleasure to watch the Indian singer perform "whirling in joy, surrounded by love".

Arijit, known for hits such as 'Tum hi ho', 'Raabta', 'Kabira', and 'Chaleya', performed live at Dubai's Coca-Cola Arena on Sunday.

Mahira, who was also present in the audience, shared a video from the concert on her Instagram page.

"I wasn't meant to be here for this but I guess I was. You know what I mean? What a pleasure it is to watch an artist perform... whirling in joy, surrounded by love."

"But more than that, it's beautiful when you see humility in an artist..



because he knows, it isn't him.. he's just been blessed from up above. Stay blessed @arijitsingh Wah! she captioned the clip.

Earlier, a video of Arijit apologising to Mahira after he failed to recognise her during the show went viral on social

media.

The singer had spotted the actor amidst the crowd while he was performing the song 'Zaalima' from Mahira's 2017 Bollywood debut 'Raees', but wasn't able to identify her. He then gave a shout-out to Mahira, who was sitting

in one of the front rows at the arena.

"You guys must be surprised, should I reveal? I should reveal it in a nice way. Can we have the camera there? I was trying to recognise this person, then remembered, I had sung for her. Ladies and gentle-

men, Mahira Khan is sitting right in front of me," Arijit said.

"Think about it, I was singing her song 'Zaalima' and it's her song and she was singing and standing and I couldn't recognise her. I am so sorry. Ma'am gratitude and thank you so much," he added.

Mahira, also popular in India for her Pakistani drama serials like 'Humsafar' and 'Sadqay Tumhare', was then seen beaming at the gesture and waving at the camera.

In 'Zaalima', Arijit played for 'Raees' protagonist Shah Rukh Khan and Harshdeep Kaur sang for Mahira. The song was composed by Pritam and penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya.

Ariana Grande teases fans with sneak peek into studio sessions for next single



As anticipation builds for her next single, 30-year-old pop sen-

sation Ariana Grande recently treated her followers to a sneak peek

into the making of her Billboard Hot 100 hit 'We Can't Be Friends (Wait for Your Love)', on her Instagram handle.

Sharing black and white footage on Instagram, Grande showcased early recordings of the song, offering fans a rare glimpse into the creative process behind the track that soared to the top of the charts in mid-March.

In the video, Grande is seen collaborating with co-writer and producer Max Martin, piecing together the melodic elements that would later become the bridge of the beloved track.

"This song holds such a special place in my heart, and I can't thank you enough for all of the love you've shown it," Grande expressed her gratitude to her fanbase in the caption of the video.

Anne Hathaway admits to being a 'chronically stressed young woman'

Actress Anne Hathaway has opened up about experiencing constant stress during her younger years as an actress, and taking life for granted.

"As a formerly chronically stressed young woman, I just remember thinking one day, 'You are taking this for granted. You are taking your life for granted,'" she shared in the debut episode of New York Magazine's The Interview podcast.

"You have no idea. Something could fall from the sky, and that would be lights out'. So when I find the old instincts rising, I just tell myself, 'You are not going to die stressed'."

The Princess Diaries actress couldn't pinpoint why she was so stressed but admitted that she 'didn't know how to breathe'.

"That was really complicated," she shared. "It's actually too big an answer, and the simple answer is literally everything. A lot of things



were doing the rounds in my head." Hathaway also discussed the discomfort with her body.

"It feels a little too

exposed to discuss the alienation I felt from my body, but there was a lot of somatic stress there," she said.

On International Dance day, celebs share what dance means to them and why actors of today should know how to shake a leg

Joy and cheer
Kunwar Amar

Dance has made me what I am today. I think dance has been an integral part of our culture; we dance in weddings, do garba during Navratri and dance on other festivals. So, it obviously has an impact on cinema as well as the small screen. It brings joy and cheer. People love to dance on famous numbers and copy the steps of their favourite artistes on reels.

Form of expression

Varsha Hegde

Dance means everything to me. I'm always eager to learn new styles, even if it means taking classes with younger dancers. Over the years, I've learnt various dance forms such as Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, belly dancing and more. I'm currently learning street hip hop, which has been a passion for the past three years. Dancing isn't just moving your body; it's a form of expression. I believe actors should learn to dance because it adds depth to their performance. Unfortunately, things like dance reels don't truly showcase dancing; they're more like quick entertainment. So, I think it's important to recognise the difference between genuine dancing and quick clips for fun.



Fun factor

Deepali Pansare

Dance is my stress buster. I haven't taken any formal training, but I am an average dancer. Audiences enjoy dance sequences a lot. Whenever I post reels of trending dance songs, I witness a good rise in social media followers. But, of course, if dance is not your strong point, you feel awkward too.

Good vibes

Monika Singh

I love dancing to upbeat and catchy tunes. I haven't taken any formal training, but I enjoy dancing for fun. I would rate myself as a decent dancer, nothing professional though. As an actor, I think knowing the art of dancing can be really important. It adds another dimension to performances and helps bring characters to life. Plus, it's always impressive to see actors show some dance moves on screen! Dance sequences have definitely become a crucial part

of many projects. Dance reels on popular songs have become a fun trend these days too. It's all about spreading joy and good vibes through dance.

Shake a leg

Gulfam Khan Hussain

I have no formal training in dance, but I might soon start learning Bharatanatyam. It is very important to have grace. However, I feel that actors are often blessed with the best choreographers. They are nothing short of magicians and can make people groove beautifully. Dance numbers were and will always be an integral part of Hindi cinema. In fact, I love to watch dance reels too and, sometimes, I make them as well.

Being flexible

Saanand Verma

I think once you are physically and mentally flexible, only then can you become a good dancer. I am a good dancer and due to my physical flexibility, I learn steps quickly. Apart from that, the right expressions and feelings are very important. As an actor, you should be a good dancer. Whether Bollywood or South Indian movies, they are somewhere related to dancing. As an actor, if you are working in the Indian film industry, dancing is an important part of it.

Nicole bags AFI Life Achievement Award

Hollywood stars gathered during a dazzling spectacle, as Nicole Kidman was bestowed the esteemed AFI Life Achievement Award. The ceremony unfolded at the iconic Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles with Kidman's esteemed colleagues and friends, including Meryl Streep, Morgan Freeman, Reese Witherspoon and Naomi Watts, joining in to celebrate her unparalleled contribution to the world of cinema.

Draped in a resplendent gold sequin gown, Kidman was greeted with a thunderous standing ovation as she made an entry, accompanied by the timeless melody of Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend.

The evening kicked off with a light-hearted video featuring Morgan Freeman, playfully spoofing Kidman's recent AMC Theatres ad campaign, emphasising her ability to infuse even the most sombre moments with a sense of joy. Freeman, a recipient of the same honour in 2011, took to the stage to extend his heartfelt congratulations

to Kidman, reminiscing about his admiration for her work, particularly her role in the beloved musical Moulin Rouge. He serenaded Kidman with a poignant rendition of Elton John's Your Song, encapsulating the sentiment of the evening.

Naomi Watts, Kidman's long-time friend and fellow Australian, fondly recalled their enduring bond, describing Kidman as 'the sister I never had'.

Watts praised Kidman's generosity and unwavering support throughout their careers, lauding her as a beacon of strength and resilience in the industry. Bob Gazzale, President of AFI, hailed Kidman as a paragon of Hollywood's golden era, embodying the timeless allure and romance of the silver screen.

Throughout the evening, Kidman's illustrious career was showcased through a montage of her most memorable performances, ranging from the enchanting showgirl Satine in Moulin Rouge to her haunting portrayal



of Virginia Woolf in The Hours, which earned her the coveted Academy Award for Best Actress in 2002.

In receiving the AFI Life Achievement

Award, Kidman stands among the pantheon of Hollywood legends, a testament to her enduring legacy and indelible mark on the world of cinema.

Missing 'Taarak Mehta' actor Gurucharan Singh was to get married, faced 'financial distress'

Gurucharan Singh, who essayed the role of Roshan Singh Sodhi in the popular sitcom 'Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah', and went missing some days back, was last seen in Delhi.

The actor, who was about to get married, faced financial distress, sources said.

Singh, who went missing on April 22, left for Delhi's domestic airport to travel to Mumbai, but he did not take the flight to his destination.

The Delhi Police had said the actor had withdrawn Rs 7,000 from an ATM in Delhi. This was confirmed by CCTV footage.

The police also tracked his mobile phone location, and as per information and his mobile details, he had been present in Delhi until April 24. Since then, his mobile phone has been switched off.

Singh's co-actors have, meanwhile, said they find it hard to



explain his sudden and mysterious disappearance.

Mandar Chandwadkar, who essayed the role of Atmaram on the show, said he cannot wrap his head around the sudden disappearance of the actor.

He told the media, "It is really surprising for me

as well. He keeps travelling between Delhi and Mumbai. We met last at the wedding of Dilip Joshi's son in December.

We had a nice time together, but we have not been in touch since."

Joshi, incidentally, plays the titular character in the sitcom.

Jennifer Mistry Bansiwali, who appeared on the show as Taarak Mehta's wife, said, "I just pray that there is some misunderstanding and he is doing fine. He is very spiritual and a good human being."

Both actors left Indian television's longest-running show following personal problems with the makers.

Bansiwali, who left in 2023, had alleged that she faced harassment from the show's producers. Singh had exited the show in 2020.

The police have registered a case of kidnapping, based on a complaint filed by Singh's father and several teams have been formed to trace the actor.

His flight was scheduled for 8.30 pm last Monday, but he was seen at a traffic intersection in Palam on the road to Gurugram around 9.14 pm. He was seen crossing the road with a backpack as per CCTV footage.

Moon Mission's Success Impacted Perception Of Indians Abroad: S Jaishankar

Addressing an event at Kirori Mal College today in Delhi, S Jaishankar noted that decisions made at home are keenly followed by the world.

NEW DELHI, Apr 29 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the perception of people living abroad had changed after seeing how India handled the COVID-19 pandemic and that the country's lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-3' had a huge impact on Indians living abroad.

Addressing an event at Kirori Mal College today in Delhi, Mr Jaishankar noted that decisions made at home are keenly followed by the world.

"We are the largest country in the world. We are the fifth largest economy, soon we'll be the third. How we do at home is watched by everybody abroad. What decisions we make at home, is also very keenly followed by the world. So, if we are now in the coming weeks going to decide our future in whatever way we wish, it's not just a conversation amongst ourselves. It's a conversation or a discussion in which the other six billion people are also tuned in. These are all aspects of why Bharat matters," he said.

The External Affairs Minister said that people around the world are fascinated by India's technological feats. He called the Chandrayaan-3 mission and COVID management among the most impactful things done by India in the past 10 years.

He said, "Probably much more fascinating to the world are those technological feats that we do. I would say in the last 10 years, probably the most impactful thing we have done, other than COVID management, was going to the moon. The Chandrayaan-3 mission has had a huge impact on the perception of Indians abroad. And finally, as I said, a lot of it is about actually a country which can stand up for itself, for its interests, for its citizens, stand up to pressure, and in a sense, you know, radiate its persona and its culture."

Speaking about India's global image at present, Mr Jaishankar said that the perception of India changed after how India handled the COVID challenge. He noted that India started as a country of "great concern" and ended up as the "source of the greatest support."

He said, "I do want to share with you as someone who travels a fair amount, what is our



global image today. When we say why Bharat matters, at the end of the day, countries matter because there is a perception, there is a branding which has been created. I, from my own travel experiences, thought of six or seven key points today. When any of you go abroad or you meet someone from abroad, these are their perceptions of India."

"One, I would say the dominant one is that this was a country which handled the COVID challenge exceptionally well. It started as the country of the greatest concern. It ended up as the source of the greatest support. And not only handled COVID, but they made the right decisions which enabled us today to become the fastest-growing economy, the largest economy in the world. Because do remember, a lot of countries today have still not recovered from the COVID. That their economic performance even today is still shaped very much by the shock and damage that they suffered during COVID," Jaishankar said.

He also spoke about how India has been bringing its people back home when there is a war or any other emergency in another country. He talked about how Indian students were brought back to India under Operation Ganga. Jaishankar noted that many nations asked their citizens if they had to return to their country on their own.

Jaishankar said, "The second is how we secure our citizens of India. Believe me, that has got everybody's attention in the world. You know, a lot of us rightly are very proud of how - I'll give you an example of how we got our students out of Ukraine in Operation Ganga. As I said, rightly so. But I also want you

to know that many countries told their students and their citizens, saying, sorry guys, there's nothing I can do. You now have to figure out your way out."

"And these were not developing countries. They were even developed countries, who told their people, you are on your own. So, this change which has come about, that any Indian travelling anywhere has that sense, that look, you know, sometimes people talk about, you know, there's something called a passport index. And the passport index is based on how many places you don't need a visa for," he added.

Jaishankar emphasised that the Indian passport is looked at with greater respect and it shows that the government stands with the person carrying that passport. He said that the passport index should include who will come for a person when he or she is in trouble and the system which is willing to back you up when you go out and termed it the "real value of the passport."

He noted, "To me, something is missing in that index. I would have put which passport are you carrying and who will come for you when you are in trouble. And believe me, if you put that factor in, you will get a very different passport index out there. Not getting a visa and having the ability to travel easily is just one part of it."

"What happens when something goes wrong? Who will look after you? Who has a system which is ready to back you up when you go out? To me, that's the real value of the passport. And if the Indian passport today is looked at with greater respect, as I said, one part of it is what you do at home. But the other is also that people know that

this passport means that their government stands behind the person who's carrying the passport," he added.

Stressing that people abroad are fascinated by how things like the ration card system and election system work in India, Mr Jaishankar said, "The third is our performance at home. And I often share with my colleagues in the cabinet and the parliament that they think that when the foreign minister goes out of India, all the time we discuss foreign policy makes sense."

"But in reality, actually people abroad are enormously fascinated by what we are doing at home for the rest of our lives. They want to know how your ration system works. How does your election system work? You know, how are you getting your gas cylinder? How are you getting your electricity connection? Why is it that it has changed because they have read all these stories," he added.

Highlighting the infrastructure progress in India, he said that the Indian government has built 40 million houses and given them to people who have low incomes.

"We are speaking about Japan. Let me give you a number related to Japan. In the last 10 years, We have built 40 million houses and given them to people who are eligible given their low income. At 4.8 families, which is the average number in India, that means about 190 million people have got houses in the last 10 years. That's one and a half times the population of Japan. Now when you tell somebody in Japan, you know, guess what, I've been housing one and a half times your size in the last ten years. They then actually get the scale of what is happening in this country. Then there is of course the infrastructure progress. I think we all live in this country, we can see it every day in different ways," Mr Jaishankar said.

He stated that there is enormous interest in the world in investing in India, knowing in India and travelling in India and stressed that there are a lot of possibilities in India as the nation is globalising and creating a pathway by its talent and skill at home has access to a global workplace.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy summoned by Delhi Police to join probe in Amit Shah's doctored video case



NEW DELHI, Apr 29 (Agencies): Delhi Police has asked Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to join its probe on May 1 in connection with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's doctored video being circulated on social media, official sources said on Monday.

According to the sources, the police have issued notices to five members of the Telangana Congress, including its chief Reddy, who posted the video on X.

Reddy has been asked to appear with his mobile phone allegedly used for posting the fake video on X, the sources said.

The Special Cell of the Delhi Police had on Sunday registered an FIR after the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs, filed a complaint about the doctored video of Shah where his statements indicating a commit-

ment to abolish quota for Muslims on religious ground in Telangana were changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all reservations.

The sources in the Special Cell said that now arrests are likely to follow across the country.

Earlier, Amit Malviya, the head of the BJP's IT department, had alleged that the Telangana Congress unit was circulating a doctored video of Shah that was entirely fabricated and capable of inciting widespread violence. A police complaint was also filed by the BJP.

The Delhi Police filed the FIR under sections 153 (causing provocation with intention to cause riot), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc), 465 (forgery), 469 (forgery to harm the reputation of any party), and 171G (publishing false

statement with intent to affect the result of an election) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and under the Information Technology Act.

Meanwhile, the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Special Cell has now approached social media platforms to identify the source of the video and those who have spread it.

"We have formed many teams to investigate the matter properly and arrest the main culprits. We have written to X, formerly known as Twitter, and other social media platforms regarding the video. We are investigating both the source of the video and those responsible for its widespread circulation," said another source.

According to the complaint filed by Sinku Sharan Singh of I4C, some doctored videos are being circulated on social media with "the intent of creating disharmony among communities which is likely to affect public tranquillity and public order".

"The video seems to be doctored, spreading misleading information with the intention of creating disharmony among communities which is likely to affect public tranquillity and public order issues. It is requested to kindly take necessary legal action as per the provisions of law."

8 killed as goods vehicle collides with truck in Chhattisgarh

BEMETARA, Apr 29 (Agencies): Five women and three children were killed and 23 people injured when a goods vehicle which they were travelling in collided with a truck in Chhattisgarh's Bemetara district, police said on Monday.

The accident took place on Sunday night near Kathia village. The victims, natives of

Patharra village, were returning after attending a family function at Tiraiyya village, the official said.

The goods vehicle collided with the mini truck that was parked by the roadside, the official said.

Those killed were identified as Bhuri Nishad (50), Neera Sahu (55),

Geeta Sahu (60), Agniya Sahu (60), Khushbu Sahu (39), Madhu Sahu (5), Rikesh Nishad (6) and Twinkle Nishad (6), he said.

The injured were admitted to hospitals. Later, four critically injured were shifted to All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur, he said.

Karnataka BJP MP and former Union minister Sreenivasa Prasad dies at 76

BENGALURU, Apr 29 (Agencies): BJP MP from Karnataka's Chamaraajanagar and former Union minister V Sreenivasa Prasad, who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital here, died on Monday, family sources said.

He was 76. Prasad is survived by wife and three daughters.

The six-time MP from Chamaraajanagar and two-time MLA from Nanjangud in Mysuru district was ailing for some time.

On March 18 this year, Prasad announced his retirement from electoral politics, marking an end to his almost 50 years in public life.

He started his political career with the erstwhile Janata Party in 1976 and joined the Congress in 1979. He also had a stint with the JD(S), JD(U), and the Samata Party before joining the BJP.

Prasad served as the Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distri-



bution in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government from 1999 to 2004.

He joined the Congress later, got elected as an MLA in 2013 and became the revenue and religious endowment minister in the Siddaramaiah government.

In 2016, Prasad resigned from the Karnataka Assembly and rejoined the BJP. He contested the 2017 Nanjangud bypolls on a BJP ticket but lost. He then successfully fought the Lok Sabha election from Chamaraajanagar in 2019.

Condoling his death, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah described Prasad as

a strong voice for the oppressed Dalits.

"He was a progressive-thinking political leader. Although we worked in different parties for a long time in old Mysuru region, we maintained a respectful relationship with each other. When I met him recently, we reminisced. I never thought Prasad would leave us so soon," the CM said.

BJP stalwart and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa said: 'I met him only a few days ago and I can't believe that he is not with us now. He was recognised as an influential Dalit leader who had made his mark in the politics of the state and the country.'

'Threat to democracy': Congress after its Indore candidate Akshay Kanti Bam withdraws nomination

NEW DELHI, Apr 29 (Agencies): As its Indore Lok Sabha seat candidate Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew his nomination, the Congress on Monday said there is a "threat to democracy" and wondered if there is a free and fair poll when the Election Commission "looks the other way" while candidate after candidate is being "intimidated".

The Congress' Indore Lok Sabha seat candidate Bam withdrew his nomination on Monday, a fortnight before polling in the constituency. After withdrawing his nomination, Bam reached the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office in Indore.

Monday is the last day for withdrawal of nomination in the Indore Lok Sabha seat, where polling will be held on May 13.

Asked about the development, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said, "The gentleman in question has multiple universities and colleges in the state that we spoke about. One of the charges slapped against him was of murder. It is not natural, normal or ordinary that somebody just withdraws their candidature and joins the BJP."

"When we say democracy of India is under threat, this is the threat we speak about. The threat is to coax candidates, to put pressure on them to withdraw, to intimidate them, to intimidate their proposers and that is what is happening," she alleged at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here.

She said those who question the party on where is the threat to democracy, this signifies that there is a "threat to



democracy".

"When intimidation is of the kind that people are having to withdraw from electoral contests, where is a free and fair election. Where is a free and fair election when the prime minister delivers a hate speech but he is not held responsible, the notice goes to the party president, where is a free and fair election when the Election Commission looks the other way when candidate after candidate is being intimidated," Shrinete said.

The Congress had fielded Bam (45), a newbie in the poll arena, against sitting BJP MP Shankar Lalwani (62) from the Indore seat, which is a stronghold of the saffron party.

Bam has not contested a single election in his political career so far.

The Congress offered him the opportunity to contest from Indore at a time when several party workers, including three former MLAs of the party, have switched sides and joined the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Indore, the largest constituency in the state in terms of number of voters, has 25.13 lakh electors.

Smriti Irani files nomination from Amethi LS seat

AMETHI, Apr 29 (Agencies): Union minister and BJP leader Smriti Irani on Monday filed nomination papers from the Amethi Lok Sabha constituency.

Accompanied by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and other leaders, Irani held a road show from the BJP office in Gauriganj before filing her papers.

The roadshow stopped about 200 metres before the collectorate as per the orders of the district magistrate.

Uttar Pradesh minister

Mayankashwar Sharan Singh and Irani's husband Zubin Irani also participated in the road show.

Irani had won the seat, regarded as the stronghold of the Gandhi family, by defeating Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in 2019.

The Congress has not yet announced its candidate from the seat, though partymen here believe that Rahul Gandhi will contest from the seat again.

Amethi is scheduled to go to polls in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha polls on May 20.



42 Dead As Kenya Dam Bursts, Rescue Ops Underway To Find Survivors

The dam burst near Mai Mahiu in Nakuru county, washing away houses and cutting off a road.

MAI MAHIU (KENYA), Apr 29 (Agencies): At least 42 people died when a dam burst its banks near a town in Kenya's Rift Valley, the local governor told AFP on Monday, as heavy rains and floods battered the country.

The dam burst near Mai Mahiu in Nakuru county, washing away houses and cutting off a road, with rescuers digging through debris to find survivors.

"Forty-two dead, it's a conservative estimate. There are still more in the mud, we are working on recovery," said Nakuru governor Susan Kihika.

Monday's dam collapse raises the total death count over the March-May wet season to 120 as heavier than usual rainfall pounds East Africa, compounded by the El Nino weather pattern.

Meanwhile, the Kenya Red Cross said Monday it had retrieved two bodies after a boat carrying "a large number of people" capsized at the weekend in flooded Tana River county in eastern Kenya, adding that 23 others had been rescued.

Video footage shared online and broadcast on television showed the crowded boat sinking, with people screaming as onlookers watched in horror.

On Saturday, officials said 76 people had lost their lives in Kenya since March.

Flash floods have submerged roads and neighbourhoods, leading to the displacement of more than 130,000



people across 24,000 households, many of them in the capital Nairobi, according to government figures released Saturday.

Schools have been forced to remain shut following mid-term holidays, after the education ministry announced Monday that it would postpone their reopening by one week due to "ongoing heavy rains".

"The devastating effects of the rains in some of the schools is so severe that it will be imprudent to risk the lives of learners and staff before watertight measures are put in place to ensure adequate safety," Education Minister Ezekiel Machogu said.

"Based on this assessment, the Ministry of Education has resolved to postpone the reopening of all primary and secondary schools by one week, to Monday, May 6, 2024," he said.

The monsoons have also wreaked havoc in neighbouring Tanzania, where at least 155 people have been killed in flooding and landslides.

In Burundi, one of the world's poorest countries, around 96,000 people have been displaced by months of relentless rains, the United Nations and the

government said earlier this month.

Uganda has also suffered heavy storms that have caused riverbanks to burst, with two deaths confirmed and several hundred villagers displaced.

Monday's dam collapse comes six years after a similar accident at Solai in Nakuru county killed 48 people, sending millions of litres of muddy waters raging through homes and destroying power lines.

The May 2018 disaster involving a private reservoir on a coffee estate also followed weeks of torrential rains that sparked deadly floods and mudslides.

El Nino is a naturally occurring climate pattern typically associated with increased heat worldwide, leading to drought in some parts of the world and heavy rains elsewhere.

Late last year, more than 300 people died in rains and floods in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, just as the region was trying to recover from its worst drought in four decades that left millions of people hungry.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization said in March that the latest El Nino is one of the five strongest ever recorded.

Australian prime minister describes domestic violence as a 'national crisis' after protests

There were 17 rallies held across Australia over the weekend, with an estimated 15,000 people demonstrating in the city of Melbourne.

MELBOURNE, Apr 29 (Agencies): Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday described domestic violence as a "national crisis" after thousands rallied around the country against violence toward women.

Thousands protested in cities around Australia on Sunday to draw attention to the deaths of 27 women so far this year allegedly caused by acts of gender-based violence in a population of 27 million.



Albanese said on Monday the rallies were a call to action for all levels of Australian government to do more to prevent gender-based violence.

"Quite clearly, we need to do more. It's not enough to just have empathy," Albanese told Nine Network television. "The fact that... a woman dies every four

days on average at the hand of a partner is just a national crisis," he added.

There were 17 rallies held across Australia over the weekend, with an estimated 15,000 people demonstrating in the city of Melbourne.

Albanese said he will host a meeting of Australian state and territory leaders on Wednesday to discuss a coordinated response.

Albanese, his Women's Minister Katy Gallagher and Social Ser-

vices Minister Amanda Rishworth received a hostile response when they attended a rally in the capital Canberra on Sunday.

Protesters yelled at the government leaders, "we want action" and "do your job." Albanese said there needed to be more focus on perpetrators and prevention of violence. "We need to change the culture, we need to change attitudes — we need to change the legal system," Albanese told the rally.

African leaders seek record World Bank financing to combat climate change

NAIROBI, Apr 29 (Agencies): African leaders on Monday called for rich countries to commit record contributions to a low-interest World Bank facility for developing nations that they rely on to help fund their development and combat climate change.

Donors will make their cash pledges to the International Development Association (IDA), a World Bank institution that offers loans with low interest rates and long tenures, at a conference to be held in Japan in December.

"We call on our partners to meet us at this historic moment of solidarity and respond effectively by increasing their IDA contributions... to at least \$120 billion," Kenya's President William Ruto told a meeting of African leaders and the World Bank to discuss IDA funding.

African economies were facing a "deepening development and debt crisis that threatens our economic stability, and urgent climate emergencies that demand immediate and collective action for our planet's survival," Ruto said.

He cited Kenya's own devastating floods and a severe drought affecting Southern African nations such as Malawi.

If the donors pledge the minimum amount suggested by African leaders, it will be a new high after the last round of fundraising in 2021, which raked in \$93 billion. IDA lending operates on a three-year cycle, which is usually preceded by donors making their contributions at a global meeting.

IDA offers low interest rates loans to 75 developing nations around the world, the World

Bank said, with more than half of them in Africa. The funding is used by governments to boost access to energy and health-care, invest in farming and also build critical infrastructure such as roads. Ajay Banga, the president of the World Bank, promised to cut down "burdensome" rules that govern lending to nations under the IDA, to make it more efficient and to deliver funds to borrower nations faster. "We believe a simpler and reimagined IDA can be deployed with more focus to make meaningful impact," he said.

Philips To Pay \$1.1 Billion To Settle US Sleep Machine Cases



THE HAGUE, Apr 29 (Agencies): Dutch medical device maker Philips said Monday it had reached a \$1.1 billion deal in the United States to settle lawsuits over faulty sleep machines in

a case that has rocked the company.

Since 2021, the company has been battling a series of crises over its DreamStation machines for sleep apnoea, a disorder in which breathing stops and starts during sleep.

Earlier this year, the company said it would halt new sales of the machines in the United States following a series

of recalls of the devices made by subsidiary Philips Respironics.

Philips said in a statement Monday that it had reached an agreement with the plaintiffs "to resolve the personal injury litigation and the medical monitoring class action to end the uncertainty associated with litigation in the US."

It added that it did not "admit any fault or liability,

or that any injuries were caused by Respironics' devices."

The settlement addresses claims filed in US courts and other potential cases, it said.

"The related payments are expected in 2025 and will be funded from Philips' cash flow generation," the statement said, adding that the company had booked a provision of 982 million

euros (\$1.05 billion) in the first quarter to cover the settlement.

Philips said it also concluded an agreement with insurers to pay Philips 540 million euros to cover Respironics recall-related claims.

Philips posted losses of 463 million euros (\$501 million) over the full year in 2023.

The company has had to cut thousand of jobs.

Likely attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels targets a vessel in the Red Sea

JERUSALEM, Apr 29 (Agencies): A suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a vessel in the Red Sea on Monday, authorities said, the latest assault in their campaign against international shipping in the crucial maritime route.

The attack happened off the coast of Mokha, Yemen, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centred, without offering any other immediate details. It urged vessels to exercise caution in the area.

The Houthis did not immediately acknowl-

edge any attack there, though suspicion fell on the group. It typically takes the rebels several hours before claiming their assaults.

The Houthis say their attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are aimed at pressuring Israel to end its war against Hamas in Gaza, which has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians there. The war began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and taking some 250 others hostage.

The Houthis have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping,

seized one vessel and sank another since November, according to the U.S. Maritime Administration.

Houthi attacks have dropped in recent weeks as the rebels have been targeted by a U.S.-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 U.S.-led campaign against them and after firing drones and missiles steadily in

the last months. However, the rebels have renewed their attacks in the last week.

The Houthis on Saturday claimed it shot down another of the U.S. military's MQ-9 Reaper drones, airing footage of parts that corresponded to known pieces of the unmanned aircraft. U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Bryon J. McGarry, a Defense Department spokesperson, acknowledged to The Associated Press on Saturday that "a U.S. Air Force MQ-9 drone crashed in Yemen." He said an investigation was underway, without elaborating.

Scotland's First Minister, whose family was trapped in Gaza, may resign: Report

EDINBURGH, Apr 29 (Agencies): Scotland's Humza Yousaf, whose in-laws were trapped in the war-torn Gaza Strip for nearly a month in October last year, is considering quitting as First Minister, UK media outlets reported.

The development comes after Yousaf, last week said he intended to fight a vote of no confidence called by political opponents after he decided to withdraw from a coalition agreement. He also said he tried to run a minority government. A final decision on the minister's resignation was yet to be taken, BBC news reported citing a



source close to the minister.

According to the Times, former Scottish National Party leader John Swinney has been approached by senior party figures to become an interim First Minister in the event of Yousaf being forced from office.

The report also claimed Swinney was reluctant to step up because

of personal circumstances.

If Yousaf loses, the Scottish Parliament would have 28 days to choose a new first minister before an election was forced.

In November last year, Yousaf on X announced the safe return of his family from Gaza. He described the time his family spent there as "traumatic". In the past, the 38-year-old Scotland's First Minister expressed concerns about his wife's parents in Gaza.

The region has been in the face of a relentless Israeli offensive as retaliation over the Hamas terrorist group's October 7 attack.

Amid Suspense Over Resignation, Spain PM Says "Have Decided To Stay"

MADRID, Apr 29 (Agencies): Spain's Pedro Sanchez on Monday said he would stay on as prime minister after threatening to stand down over what he has denounced as a campaign of political harassment by the right. "I have decided to stay," he said in a highly-anticipated public address that drew a line under days of political uncertainty that had gripped the country for the past five days.

In office since 2018, the 52-year-old Socialist leader had on Wednesday written a letter to the public saying he was taking time out to mull his possible resignation after a Madrid court confirmed a preliminary probe into his wife Begona Gomez for suspected influence peddling and corruption.

Denying the move was a "political calculation", Sanchez said he needed "to stop and reflect" on the growing polarisation within politics which he said was increasingly being driven by "deliberate disinformation".

"For too long we've let this filth corrupt our political and public life with toxic methods that were unimaginable just a few years ago... Do we really want this for



Spain?" he asked.

"I have acted out of a clear conviction: either we say 'enough is enough' or this degradation of public life will define our future and condemn us as a country."

He said his decision to stay on had been "decisively influenced" by the mass show of support outside the Madrid headquarters of his Socialist party, where thousands of emotional supporters had chanted: "Pedro, stay!"

The public prosecutor's office on Thursday asked that the investigation into Begona Gomez be closed but Sanchez, an expert in political survival who has made a career out of taking political gambles, held his silence.

He had been due to launch his party's campaign on Thursday for

the May 12 Catalonia regional elections in which his Socialists are hoping to oust the pro-independence forces from power.

- 'Harassment' campaign -

The court opened its investigation into Sanchez's wife in response to a complaint by anti-corruption pressure group Manos Limpias (Clean Hands), whose leader is linked to the far right.

Shortly after Sanchez's bombshell letter went out on X, the group, which has presented a litany of unsuccessful lawsuits against politicians in the past, said it had based its complaint on media reports and could not vouch for their veracity.

While the court did not give details of the case, online news site El Confidencial said it

was related to her ties to several private companies that received government funding or won public contracts.

Sanchez has been vilified by right-wing opponents and media because his minority government relies on the support of the hard left and Catalan and Basque separatist parties to pass laws.

They have been especially angered by his decision to grant an amnesty to hundreds of Catalan separatists facing legal action over their roles in the north-eastern region's failed push for independence in 2017.

That amnesty, in exchange for the support of Catalan separatist parties, still needs final approval in parliament.

The opposition has since Wednesday mocked Sanchez's decision to withdraw from his public duties as an attempt to rally his supporters.

"A head of government can't make a show of himself like a teenager and have everyone running after him, begging him not to leave and not to get angry," said right-wing opposition leader and Popular Party head Alberto Nunez Feijoo on Thursday.

Ishfaq Jabbar extends unconditional support to Apni Party's LS candidate

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 29: President Jammu and Kashmir United Movement (JKUM) and former MLA Ganderbal Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar has announced his unconditional support for Apni Party's parliamentary candidate for the Srinagar constituency, Mohammad Ashraf Mir.

Jabbar made this announcement on Monday during a press conference held at a hotel in Srinagar.

Apni Party's Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, and Provincial President Mohammad Ashraf Mir, who is the party's candidate for the LS polls in the Srinagar constituency, was also present at the press conference.

Ishfaq Jabbar Said, "We have decided to sup-

port the candidate from the Apni Party in the Lok Sabha elections for the Srinagar constituency. This decision was made in the best interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. I firmly believe that we must oppose the parties that have greatly harmed the interests of the people of J&K. Therefore, we will ensure that Mohammad Ashraf Mir is elected as a Member of Parliament representing the Srinagar constituency."

Pertinently, Ishfaq Jabbar is one of the prominent political figures in Ganderbal. Like his late father, Sheikh Jabbar, who served as a minister in Jammu and Kashmir, Ishfaq Jabbar holds vast influence over the people in the district.

Taking a dig at the NC and PDP, Ishfaq Jabbar said, "The National Con-

ference (NC) has now openly come forward to join hands with Shiv Sena. Previously, leaders of both the NC and PDP adamantly stated that they would abstain from participating in elections until Article 370 was reinstated. However, they have suddenly forgotten their pledge and jumped into the poll fray. These parties have consistently harmed the interests of the people."

He expressed grave concern over the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that like-minded parties need to come forward to work for the well-being of the people. He said, "We cannot afford further deaths and destruction in this land. We have already suffered greatly. The future of traditional leaders and their chil-

dren is secure; they live in London. But we need to think of the vulnerable young population here. Look at the drug menace. We cannot afford to watch this situation as silent spectators. We need to work for the peace and prosperity here."

He also demanded the establishment of a commission to ascertain the reasons for the eruption of violence in the 1990s in Jammu and Kashmir. He said, "A commission must be established to uncover the reasons and factors behind militancy here. The infamous rigging in the 1987 assembly elections also needs to be investigated."

Ghulam Hassan Mir extended his gratitude to Ishfaq Jabbar for his support to the Apni Party candidate. He said, "We are thankful to the Jammu

and Kashmir United Movement (JKUM) and its leader for extending support to our candidate, Mohammad Ashraf Mir. I am sure that this support will significantly bolster our campaign."

Replying to a question, Ghulam Hassan Mir said, "We are not fundamentally against parties like NC and PDP; rather, we oppose their political narrative. Their narrative has widened the gap between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country, thus adversely affecting the interests of our people. Thousands of our youth have been misled by the deceptive narratives and emotional rhetoric of these parties. They have led our youth down a path of destruction, resulting in thousands either ending up in jails or in graveyards."

Heeralal Chitrakar honoured with International World Record

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: In the vibrant city of Jodhpur, Rajasthan, the esteemed recipient of the International Icon Award 2024 is none other than Prof. Dr. Heeralal Chitrakar—a distinguished luminary renowned for his profound impact in the realms of arts and social activism. Dr. Chitrakar's journey unfolds like a masterpiece, embodying a harmonious blend of artistic brilliance and unwavering commitment to community welfare.

As an accomplished artist, Dr. Chitrakar's canvases breathe life into Rajasthan's cultural heritage, showcasing vivid narratives and timeless traditions. His visionary approach transcends aesthetics, using art as a powerful catalyst for societal change. Beyond the studio, he tirelessly champions



social causes, leveraging his platform to uplift marginalized voices and advocate for inclusive development.

With profound reverence for tradition and an innovative spirit, Dr. Heeralal Chitrakar exemplifies the transformative potential of art in foster-

ing empathy and social progress. His dedication and creativity resonate far beyond Jodhpur, earning him the admiration and acclaim of the International World Records community, making him a truly deserving recipient of the International Icon Award 2024.

Successful Treatment of End-Stage Kidney Disease Patient for Cancer of Tongue at AOI

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: American Oncology Institute (AOI) in Jammu has successfully treated a 56-year-old male patient suffering from Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Stage V, who was diagnosed with Cancer of the Tongue. Despite the challenges posed by his medical condition, the patient underwent a complex surgical procedure and has made a remarkable recovery.

The patient, who was on weekly dialysis for CKD, presented with a growth on his tongue. Following a comprehensive evaluation and diagnosis, the medical team at AOI in Jammu determined that the growth was

cancerous. Despite the patient's elevated S. creatinine levels, the anesthesia team cleared him for surgery, recognizing the high risk involved.

The surgical procedure involved the removal of the cancerous portion of the tongue, along with the bilateral removal of neck nodes.

Additionally, reconstruction of the tongue defect was successfully performed during the same surgical setting. Following the surgery, the patient underwent multiple sessions of haemodialysis to manage his kidney condition. Despite the complexity of the procedure and the patient's underlying health issues, he made a remarkable recovery. After

one week of post-operative care, the patient was discharged from AOI. He is now able to speak and swallow with ease, marking a significant improvement in his quality of life.

Dr. Sujeet Bhat, Consultant Surgical Oncology at AOI Jammu, commented, "Despite being diagnosed with advanced kidney disease and tongue cancer, this patient showed incredible strength and determination. Reconstructing the tongue defect was a critical aspect of the treatment, and we are pleased to report that the procedure was a success. Thorough meticulous surgical technique and diligent post-operative care, we were able to restore vital functions such as speech and swallowing."

Saiyam of DPS Jammu excels on Table Tennis

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: Saiyam Nischal (V-G), a student of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and his parents by clinching 2nd position in U-11 Boys category and 3rd position in U-13 Boys category in 10th Co-operation Cup Open Table Tennis Tournament organized by JJS Sky Hawk Table Tennis Academy held at Amritsar from 26-28 April, 2024. He has also received a trophy.

The management of DPS Jammu, under the esteemed leadership of President-RCT, Ajatsha-



tru Sing, Pro VC Dr. Ritu Singh, and Director-S.S. Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Saiyam and his parents for the achievement. They also extended their best wishes to him for all his future endeavours.

Kesri condemns killing of member of Village Defence Group in Udhampur district

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today strongly condemned the killing of member of the Village Defence Group (VDG) in a gunfight with terrorists in the Udhampur district. Addressing media persons in Jammu today, Kesri said this incident marks the second terrorist attack in the Jammu region within a week. The terrorist attack in the Jammu region, which has largely maintained peace so far, came within days of the targeted killing of a government employee by terrorists in the Kunda Top village in the Rajouri district last week, said Kesri.

Kesri urged J&K LG administration to take steps to weed out terrorism

and establish peace in the Union Territory. Condemning the attack, Kesri said, "I am deeply concerned and saddened to see the resurfacing of militant activities in peaceful Jammu region, which is matter of great concern for each one of us. He demanded the J&K Government to address the overall security situation promptly with great seriousness keeping in view the resurfacing of militant activities and trace out the militants responsible as early as possible.

Expressing his shock and grief over the innocent killings, Kesri said it was a cowardly act by the Pakistan-based militants who are basically disturbed at the recent development and growth of the Union Territory. He said Pakistan is disturbed to see guns

and stones being replaced by books and computers in the hands of the J&K youth. It is time the Pakistan agents understand it comprehensively that our security forces would not spare any effort to bring a new culture of progress and prosperity to the region.

Kesri said security forces committed to restore peace and tranquility in J&K and such cowardly attempts won't derail their resolve to defeat the enemies of peace. We stand in solidarity with the civilians and pray for peace to the deceased, and strength to the bereaved," Kesri said. He said that the incident is highly condemnable and shows that the enemies of peace are desperate to damage communal harmony in the district.

Slain VDG member laid to rest amid rains; leaves behind five minor daughters

initial gunfight.

A massive search operation by police, army and paramilitary forces is underway in the dense forest to track down and neutralise the fleeing terrorists. Hundreds of locals from the villages and adjoining areas, including VDG members, joined his funeral prayers despite heavy rains. He was later buried at his ancestral graveyard. Mourners made a beeline outside Sharief's house to express their sympathies with the family and expressed their hope that the government will announce a rehabilitation package for the poor family which lost its only bread-earner.

Fatima Begum, the wife of Sharief, said she is proud of the sacrifice of her husband for the country but is also pained at his loss.

"Who will take care of my five minor daughters now?" she said as his shell-shocked daughters — aged between five and 15 years — sat in front of their mother in a room of their house at Lower Panara.

Begum said she was preparing breakfast for the family when Sharief came and told him that he is leaving for an operation, 'never to return back alive'.

Naseema Bano, sister-in-law of Sharief, said it is now the responsibility of the government to take care of the poor family who lost its bread-earner.

"He laid down his life for the nation and we are proud of his sacrifice but his loss is painful as well and cause of concern for his wife, five minor daughters and elderly mother. The government should come forward and assure the family," Bano, who resides in Ram Nagar, said.

She said they came to know about the firing and tried to contact Sharief on Phone but "some policeman picked up the phone and said he had suffered a bullet injury. The reality was that he was dead with at least six bullet wounds on his body".

Mohd Abaaz, brother of Sharief and also a VDG member, said they were together when terrorists opened fire on them during area domination patrolling.

"There were two groups of terrorists with nine members. I told him to be careful but he was caught in an open area and became a direct target. I along with another member took a shield in a nearby house. They rained about 50 bullets non-stop

(before fleeing)," he said. Abaaz said the encounter had taken place after a gap of more than 15 years. "We had encounters in the past and we are ready to take on them (terrorists)".

He said the government will take care of his family, especially the minor daughters and also equip the VDGs with automatic weapons besides ensuring timely release of their monthly allowances.

Begum expressed hope that the government will announce the ex-gratia relief for the family including a government job for one of the daughters.

"Homes Crumble, Lives Shattered": Ramban residents demand aid to rebuild lives post-subsidence

Disaster Response Force (SDRF) norms. The village, having a mixed population of Muslims and Hindus, saw people helping each other during the testing times.

"We lost everything in a matter of a few hours when cracks started developing in our homes on Thursday evening. We fled to save our lives, leaving everything behind," Mohd Iqbal Katoch, a local resident, said. Katoch, heading a family of eight, said as he returned home from work around 5 pm on Thursday, his children informed him about a one-and-a-half feet crack developing in their compound.

"I called my neighbour Deepak Kumar and we immediately shifted to safety," he said.

Anju Devi, a middle-aged woman putting up at a relief camp inside the community hall at Maitra here, said it takes one's whole life to build a house and it is "very painful" when you see it collapsing before your eyes.

"We left with what we were wearing; rest had gone, swallowed by the earth," Anju Devi said as she urged the government to look into their plight and provide them land and money to rebuild their homes. "We are concerned about the future of our children. We are farmers but nothing is left with us as our land has also gone," she said.

Feroz Khan was all praise for the district administration for promptly responding to the crisis and providing all possible assistance to the affected families. "The whole village is destroyed and the continuous rains over the past two days have further added to our misery. The radius of

the damage is up to five kilometres," Khan said, requesting the Centre and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to come forward and announce a comprehensive package for the affected population.

Ramban Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, who is also chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), said the first step in addressing the disaster was the evacuation of the people to safety to ensure no loss of life.

"There are 100 households that are directly or indirectly affected by the calamity. 58 houses have been completely damaged. We have relocated over 500 people to safer accommodation at three places," Chaudhary said.

He said geology experts are camping in the village and they are collecting samples to know the exact cause of land sinking and will submit a report in a week.

The DC said an alternate road was made operational to connect the Gool sub-division to Ramban headquarters and the restoration of essential supplies, including electricity, is almost complete. He said a strong 30-member National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team has joined the SDRF and local volunteers in providing a helping hand to the affected population to move to safer places.

The deputy commissioner, who has set up a camp office in the village to supervise the rescue and relief measures, said the district administration is taking care of the food and shelter of the victim families and all required steps will be taken to ensure their rehabilitation.

The villagers hailed the efforts of the DC in ensuring aid to the affected families and demanded that LG Sinha visited the village to take stock of the situation.

"We are thankful to the deputy commissioner who has been standing with us since the calamity struck the village. He ensured food, shelter and medicines... It is a very big tragedy and the LG should visit and assure us about our rehabilitation," Khan said.

Search operation to track down, neutralise terrorists underway in Udhampur

border. He said the strength of the two groups, as per preliminary investigation, is between four and six and the security forces are working on various inputs to flush them out.

According to official sources, the terrorists had reached Basantgarh from adjoining Kathua district after managing to sneak into this side from across the border and were heading for Chenab valley when they were confronted by the police and VDG members.

The Police and VDGs fanned out in the forest area late Saturday evening after information about movement of terrorists.

Landslides blocks Jammu-Srinagar National Highway

rains, authorities in Kishtwar have ordered closure of schools in the district.

The decision to suspend class work for the day has been taken in the interest of prioritising the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the broader community given the current challenges posed by the adverse weather conditions, an official said.

He said efforts are on to restore water supply to Kishtwar town which was snapped following significant damage to the main 250 mm diameter water supply pipes of the Naigad Water Supply scheme at Hunjala on Sunday.

Police officials said two houses were damaged due to landslide at Basha-Simbool village of Kishtwar, while dozens of livestock perished in incidents of lightning and flash floods in Ramban and Samba districts overnight.

Rains lashed many parts of Jammu and Kashmir for the second day on Monday.

48 Kg heroin seized, 3 smugglers held as Punjab Police busts international drug cartel

actively involved in trans-border and inter-state drug smuggling. Their network was spread across five countries — Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan, and Canada, alongside a domestic network spanning two states — Jammu and Kashmir and Gujarat, the DGP said.

A total of 21 lakh illicit funds were confiscated from the accused, along with a cash counting machine and three high-end vehicles, he added.

A case under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Act has been registered in the matter, said Yadav, adding, "Further investigation is ongoing to demolish the drug network."

Three arrested in connection with firing incident at Miran Sahib

teams were formed which raided various places in the jurisdiction of Miran Sahib and RS Pura police stations based upon the developed human intelligence and technical surveillance, which was kept on these miscreants.

The police further informed that during the investigation, CCTV footage from the place of occurrence and adjacent areas were also collected and analysed.

During the preliminary investigation, the accused confessed their involvement in the firing incident, demanding ransom and committing the crime.

It is pertinent to mention accused Guga and Kulbir Bhagat are also involved in other cases.

Twelve persons injured in Darhal Rajouri road accident

An official told News Agency Kashmir that one tempo bearing registration number Jk 11 7228 met with an accident in Chowkain Darhal area in which at least 12 persons were injured

Injured persons were identified as Nayak ullah Malik R/0. Chowkain, Rahim Ahmed R/0 chowkain, Wahied Ahmed R/0 chowkain, Billo. Akhter R/0. Sarotha chowkain, Maram Nasha D/0 Abdul Rashid R/0 chowkain, Raiz ullah s/0 Naseeb ullah Malik R/ chowkain darhal, Parveen. Kossar D/0 khalil. Ahmed R/0. Chowkain, Manaz. Fatma D/0. Mohd Imtiaz, Mumtaz Kossar w/0 Sageer Ahmed, Iram Kossar w/0 Mohd Rashid R/0. Chowkain, Nazia Akhter. W/0 Imtiaz Ahmed and Shahieen Akhter w/0. Shahnaz Ahmed .

He said that all injured shifted to SDH Darhal for treatment. Meanwhile police have taken cognizance and started investigation.

KPDCL issues advisory for XENS

(KPDCL) has issued an advisory and specific directions to all Executive Engineers (XENS). This action is intended to manage the impact of the heavy rainfall effectively.

Parties seeking postponement of elections in Anantnag-Rajouri seat due to fear of loss: Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Apr 29 (Agencies): National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Monday claimed that the fear of loss was making some parties seek postponement of elections in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat.

"There was a massive flood in Kashmir in 2014, the destruction was widespread. We asked to postpone the elections at that time. Did they defer it? What is the compulsion now?"

"They can see their defeat and because of the fear they want to defer the elections. Let them defer, we will still defeat them," Abdullah told reporters here.

Several political parties and leaders have written to the Election Commission, seeking deferment of the polls in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat on the grounds of inclement weather affecting the Mughal road that connects South Kashmir to Poonch-Rajouri area – the two regions of the newly-carved out constituency.

Those who have submitted their



representation to the EC include Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina, Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari, DPAP candidate Saleem Parry, Peoples Conference leader Imran Reza Ansari and two Independent candidates.

In response to a question, Abdullah said it was the job of the media to tell the people whether the statements made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi were true or false.

"The prime minister is making statements; he has a right to do so. It is your job to check whether his statements are true or false," he said.

On the prime minister asserting that the National Conference "will not raise" the issue of Article 370, Abdullah said, "When the storm

will come here, that day they will also know".

On the BJP's claim of crossing the 400-seat mark in the Lok Sabha elections, Abdullah said, "They may win all 543 seats, you are ready for your murder. When you will be stabbed, then you will recall what Farooq Abdullah was saying. If you did not rise to save the Constitution, India will not last. There will be conflict and turmoil everywhere in India."

He also hit out at the BJP for claiming credit for the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya.

"You talk about Ram temple construction. Did they construct the Ram Mandir? Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, everyone has contributed to the construction of the Ram temple."

"But it is unfortunate that they claim that it belongs to only them. Like, Allah sent the Quran. It is for everyone, it is not only for Muslims. We Muslims are at fault that we kept the Quran at home but never tried to understand it," he said.

On the Centre's assertion that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved after the abrogation of Article 370, the former chief minister said people have been pushed into poverty.

"The situation has improved dramatically, they have improved so much that I do not have words to describe it. We should be thankful to Allah that the edible oil prices are touching the sky, poverty has also risen skywards, and the poor have been crushed by electricity prices."

"Look where the LPG prices have gone. Ask all this to a poor man. Why are you asking me? Educated youths are sitting at home without any employment. They have reached the state of suicide."

"Look at the prices of medicines. I am a diabetic. I used to take insulin which used to cost Rs 400, then it went to Rs 700 and now it has gone to Rs 1100. What will a poor person do? Where will he get the money from? And you are saying we are developing," he said.

DG NIA visits PHQ Jammu; Interacts with DGP, senior police officers

JAMMU, Apr 29 (Agencies): The Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA), Sadanand Vasant Date today visited Police Headquarters J&K at Jammu where he held a detailed interaction with Director General of Police J&K R.R Swain and other senior officers.

During the interaction, the officers underlined to further strengthen the collaborative efforts in investigations to combat terrorism and counter the support structures that aids and abets such nefarious activities and to devise more effective measures by giving trust on effective investigations.

The officers focused on exploring opportunities and launching initiatives that will ensure sustainable support, resources, and coordination between J&K Police and NIA. This collaborative approach will further bolster investigation efficiency and enhance the overall efficacy of the anti-terrorism campaign. The initiative of capacity building programme between NIA and J&K Police was also discussed.



ADGP (Headquarters/Coordination) PHQ M.K Sinha, ADGP Law & Order Vijay Kumar, ADGP Jammu Zone Anand Jain, ADGP CID Nitish Kumar, IGP NIA Amit Kumar, SP NIA Jammu Sandeep Chaudhary were present during the interaction.

Interaction with ex-Serviceman at Rajouri



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 29: Indian Army organised an interaction with Ex-Serviceman of Battalion AOR at Lam Base on 28 Apr 2024. The aim of the interaction was to establish close coordination with the locals for execution of swift and effective response against any activity/movement by anti-national elements. Interaction with Ex-serviceman provides valuable insights into security aspects as they have firsthand experience in military operations, which requires high levels of security awareness and preparedness. One of the most significant benefits of interact-

ing with veterans is their ability to identify and mitigate potential security threats.

They have a keen eye for suspicious behavior and can quickly detect signs of danger. Veterans can guide security forces on how to communicate promptly and effectively with the public during crisis situations, maintaining calm and minimizing panic.

The interaction was conducted by Indian Army personnel of the Battalion.

A total strength of 40 Ex-Serviceman attended the interaction and pledged to educate more and more people around them about security aspects.

Lagan Society for Art and Culture felicitates Bollywood Actor Swatantra Bharat

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: Lagan Society for Art and Culture felicitated Bollywood and Pollywood Actor Swatantra Bharat here today.

By rocking in the Bollywood cinema with his character roles, the son of soil Mr. Swatantra Bharat hailing from Trikuta Nagar area of Jammu is also giving commendable performances and keeping his fans spell bound in the pollywood movies too. A very calm and coop personality Swatantra Bharat was born on April 11 to the couple Late Shivanand (A Scientific Officer, Bio-Science Department, University of Jammu) and Sudarshana Devi. He did his schooling from RRL School, Model Academy and Sri Ranbir Hr. Sec. School and later moved to New Delhi to pursue Fashion Designing Course. Swatantra Bharat is seen in many Bollywood movies like Welcome, Singh is



King, Rowdy Rathore, Jannat, De Dhanaa dhan, Wanted, Singh is Bling and many more.

The dignitaries and executive body members of Lagan Society for Art and Culture present on the occasion felicitated Bharat with a Dogra Pagri and memento to mark his contribution to the Indian Cinema. Rohit Bains (Secretary, LSAC) compared the proceedings in a befitting manner.

Bharat, while speaking, humbly expressed his gratitude and said that it is because of the blessings of the parents and God Almighty that he got inspiration to do his bit.

He is also active in exploration of ancient temples and promoting cultural heritage of Indian Society. He also said that he will always remain with Lagan Society for Art and Culture for each social and cultural activities.

Other prominent persons who participated include Adv. Sandeep Gupta (Patron, LSAC), Anil Kumar (Advisor, LSAC), Dr. Jugmohan Singh, Shubham Manmar (IT Incharge, LSAC), Vikas Khajuria (Media Incharge, LSAC) and family members & relatives of Mr. Bharat.

Rajesh Kumar Verma (President, LSAC) formally extended vote of thanks to the dignitaries.

NCC Group Headquarters Jammu Commemorates Raising Day

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 29: NCC Group Headquarters Jammu marked its Raising Day with fervour and pride at the NCC Academy Nagrota, embodying tradition and commitment to excellence. The event, held in customary fashion, witnessed a congregation of 160 Officers, Permanent Instructional Staff, Associate NCC Officers, and Cadets, all dedicated to shaping a

Thal Sena Camp, Republic Day Camp, National Integration Camps, and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat camp. The efforts in the Social Service and Community Development programmes were also appreciated and he called upon the NCC fraternity to engage the community to create a people's movement around these activities. The address also included forward looking statements about the projects, plans and



future-ready youth.

The occasion commenced with the 2 JK NCC Girls Battalion giving the Guard of Honour, despite the drizzle demonstrating resolve symbolizing the discipline and determination intrinsic to the NCC ethos. Following this, Group Commander Brig PS Cheema delivered an inspiring address, acknowledging the unwavering dedication and passion demonstrated by all stakeholders in their mission to nurture organised, trained and motivated youth and empower the cadets to become potential leaders and responsible citizens of the nation.

Brig Cheema underscored the significance of such celebrations in fostering a sense of belonging and realigning organizational objectives with the 'True-North.' He applauded the collective efforts of the group that led to 20 Cadets being commissioned as officers in various esteemed services, enrolment of 300 plus Agniveers, 119 JK Police and a sizeable number in CAPF, and other govt jobs.

The Group Commander lauded the remarkable contributions of NCC Cadets under the adept guidance of Associate NCC Officers and Permanent Instructional Staff, particularly highlighting their commendable performances in prestigious camps and competitions such as

sustained endeavours in upgrading the NCC Training Academy to a world class training institute.

Encouraging all members to uphold the spirit of triumph and resilience, Brig Cheema urged them to maintain the 'Victorious Will' in all endeavours. He reiterated the directives from the DG NCC including Key Result Areas of empowering cadets to become potential leaders and responsible citizens, focus on training for SSB & Agniveers as well as contemporary training being initiated as part of EBSB Kaushal Camps involving Ideas & Innovation, Interaction with scientists of ISRO & DRDO, Seminars on Developed India/Viksit Bharat and Drone training.

The instructions of Additional Director General, Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, on involvement of all training staff in the institutional training, refreshments distribution, maintaining Talent Hunt registers, planting of one tree and nurturing by each NCC Cadet, induction of AR/VR Simulators and renewed focus on Excellence & Innovation was impressed upon for all.

The issue of raising of two new units i.e 6 J&K Battalion NCC and 1J&K Air Sqn (Flying), NCC under NCC Group Jammu at Udhampur was also impressed upon to spread the word for inviting new vacancies.

Joint Meeting of NC- Cong held in Jagti, focus on KP betterment



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: A joint meeting of the National Conference (NC) and Congress was convened at Minitown ship Jagti, presided over by Bushan Lal Bhat, former MLC, and Shadi Lal Pandita, convener of the Congress Migrant Cell. The meeting observed discussions on the historical role of both parties in advocating for the betterment of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) pre and post-migration.

Bushan Lal Bhat emphasized the long-standing efforts of NC and Congress in championing KP causes, citing their dedication to KP welfare even amidst challenging circumstances. Shadi Lal, echoing party

directives, urged support for NC candidates in the upcoming elections, emphasizing the importance of the INDI Alliance in the Valley's political landscape.

Jatin Bhat lauded the initiatives of the Omar Abdullah-led government, highlighting its role in providing employment opportunities for educated KPs and spearheading infrastructure development projects, such as the construction of two-room accommodations. He also underscored the significance of the Apex Advisory Committee in bridging the gap between KPs and the government, addressing a spectrum of community concerns.

Kaka Ji Bhan, the Jagti incharge, rallied the camp's residents to turn

out in force to support NC candidates from the Kashmir Valley.

Adarsh Sangram party led by Inder Labroo also extended his support to NC candidates of Kashmir valley.

Notable speakers for the forgotten rights of the Kashmiri Pandit community at the meeting included Ashok Koul, Shadi Lal Tickoo, Shriya Handoo and Veer Ji. The gathering witnessed the presence of prominent figures from both parties, signaling a unified front in advocating for KP interests.

These include Vinod, Rakesh, PN Koul, KN Bhat, Ashok Bali, Varinder, Ramesh Suri, Rakesh Koul, Ashotosh, Ashok, Raju Bali and Jawahar Lal.

SMVDU and Punjab Engineering College forge Path of Academic and Research Collaboration: MoU Signing Ceremony Marks Milestone

Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 29: In a landmark event nurturing academic collaboration and innovation, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra and Punjab Engineering College (PEC), Chandigarh joined hands in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ceremony held at the prestigious SMVDU premises on April 27, 2024.

The event was graced by the Registrar, Deans and Heads of the school from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi university highlighting the commitment of SMVDU towards fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and academic excellence. The ceremony witnessed the esteemed presence of the Director Prof. Baldev Setia and delegation from Punjab Engineering College (PEC), highlighting the significance of the occasion.

The ceremony commenced with opening remarks by the esteemed Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar, setting the tone for an event filled with promise, collaboration, and innovation.

In his address, Prof. Pragati Kumar articulated the significance of the partnership between SMVDU and PEC, emphasizing the potential

for synergistic collaboration to drive academic and research endeavours to new heights. Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate Dean Academic Affairs, SMVDU, captivated the audience with a comprehensive presentation offering insights into the rich academic tapestry of SMVDU.

A brief overview of different programs being offered at SMVDU and introduction of new programs like B.Tech (Biotechnology), Bachelor of Design (B. Des), B. Tech in Mathematics and Computing, Design your Degree program and offering B. Tech (Honors) and B. Tech with Minor specializations from Academic session 2024-2025 at SMVDU was discussed and Director PEC applauded the SMVDU Vice Chancellor for introducing these programs keeping in view the evolving educational scenario and attaining the vision of Atam Nirbhar Bharat.

The comprehensive presentation offering insights into the overview of PEC was delivered by Dean, Research of PEC, Prof. Arun Kumar and Professor R.S. Walia, the distinguished representative from PEC, served as the gracious host and facilitator of PEC's participation in the event.

With the signing of the Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) by Professor Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, and Professor Baldev Setia, Director PEC, among other eminent delegates, doors have been opened for cooperation between the two illustrious institutions. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor of SMVDU expressed his hopes for collaborative PhD programs, praising the potential for new ideas and collaboration that such endeavours could inspire. With the signing of the MoU, students pursuing different programs at both institutions stand to benefit from enhanced opportunities for cross-institutional collaboration, enriching their academic journey and preparing them for the challenges of the modern world. The ceremony's closing remarks by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs of SMVDU echoed the spirit of togetherness in diversity and the drive for greatness, signalling the start of a new age in academic collaboration as well as the formalities of a new relationship. As the sun set over the picturesque campus, attendees gathered at the Guest House of the University for an evening filled with significant connections and delightful conversations.

Thomas Cup 2024: Indian men's team thrash England 5-0 to confirm quarterfinal spot

CHENGDU (CHINA), Apr 29 (Agencies): Defending champions India thrashed England 5-0 on Monday in Chengdu in a Group C encounter to assure themselves of a place in the Thomas Cup 2024 quarterfinals. HS Prannoy bounced back to form, securing a convincing victory over Harry Huang with a scoreline of 21-15 21-15, thereby granting India a 1-0 advantage. "To give a start to the team is really important, it gives a good boost to the team to go ahead. It is really important to finish off the matches clinically, you saw against Thailand one match was bad for us. So it's important to finish off the matches clinically," Prannoy said after his match.

The formidable duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty faced a tough challenge from Ben Lane and Sean Vandy in the initial doubles encounter. After an intense battle, the 2022 world champions bronze medalists clinched a hard-fought victory with a score of 21-17 19-21 21-15, after a gripping contest lasting one hour and five minutes.



Former world number one, Kidambi Srikanth, showcased his prowess with a dominant performance, notching up a commanding 21-16 21-11 triumph over Nadeem Dalvi, extending India's lead to an insurmountable 3-0. "Happy with the way both the matches have gone for me (in the tournament). There is a lot of pressure on players to win games. I feel I have played little easier opponents so far. But from now we will face better opponents and I have to be my best," Srikanth said. On his recent form, Srikanth said "I'm playing well but not able to pull off the matches. Obviously

people will compare how I was playing from 2021-2022. I was in my 20s then." The second doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila then brushed aside Rory Easton and Alex Green 21-17 21-19.

In the concluding match, the 24-year-old Kiran George demonstrated his skills, registering a 21-18, 21-12 win over Cholan Kayan, sealing the fixture in India's favor. India are set to face the group leaders and formidable opponents, Indonesia, in their final group match on Wednesday.

India vs England, Thomas Cup
MS1: HS Prannoy 21-15,

21-15 Harry Huang
MD1: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy – Chirag Shetty 21-17 19-21
21-15 Ben Lane – Sean Vandy
MS2: Kidambi Srikanth 21-16
21-11 Nadeem Dalvi
MD2: MR Arjun – Dhruv Kapila 21-17 21-19 Rory Easton – Alex Green

MS3: Kiran George 21-18 21-12 Cholan Kayan
India began their Thomas Cup title defence with a 4-1 victory over Thailand on Saturday. Current India No. 1 HS Prannoy lost in the first singles match to world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn. But there was a blip, as India's depth shone through with thrilling three-game victories for Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, while Lakshya Sen handed India the lead. Then MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila's doubles combo sealed India's victory, with Srikanth Kidambi adding the final touches. In the Uber Cup on Saturday, a youthful Indian women's team overcame Singapore to go to the knockout stage. Shivani Naik discusses this further here.

Archer Deepika Kumari re-inducted into TOPS core group ahead of Paris Olympics 2024



NEW DELHI, Apr 29 (Agencies): Former world number one archer Deepika Kumari, who won a silver medal at the just-concluded World Cup in Shanghai, has been re-inducted into the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) core group ahead of the Paris Games, the Sports Ministry announced on Monday. Deepika, who missed the entire season last year after becoming a mother in December 2022, recently made a comeback and has been doing well both on the domestic and international stage. The 29-year-old recurve archer, who is a three-

time Olympian, had also medalled at the Asia Cup earlier this year. So far, only Dhiraj Bommadevara has qualified for the Games in the men's individual event owing to his silver medal at the Asian Qualifying Tournament in Bangkok last year. Only one qualifying tournament is left to be held, and it will take place in Antalya, Turkey on June 15 and 16. Another archer, Mrinal Chauhan, has been added to the TOPS Development group, while Pravin Jadhav has been moved from Development to Core group and para-powerlifter Ashok has been inducted in TOPS

Core group, the sports ministry said in a statement.

The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), during its 133rd meeting, also inducted squash players Anahat Singh, Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar to the TOPS Development group, to help them prepare for the Los Angeles Olympics, which will take place in the year 2028. In October 2023, the LA organising committee had included squash in the 2028 edition of the Games. "Looking at India's performance in Squash in the past two decades, especially at Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, MOC decided to induct three squash players in their TOPS Development group, with the aim to help them provide all required assistance to prepare for the global event," the ministry release stated.

No selection trials for World Olympic Qualifier, says WFI

NEW DELHI, Apr 29 (Agencies): Given the Delhi High Court instructions of March 7, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has decided not to hold trials to select wrestlers for the World Olympic Games Qualifier scheduled in Istanbul, Turkey from May 9 to 12. Instead, the federation has decided to send the wrestlers, who had competed in the Asian Olympic Games Qualifier in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan this month and could not earn quotas for the country. As per the court order, winners of the selection trials held on March 10 and 11 were eligible to compete in both the Asian and World Olympic qualifier.

Only women wrestlers have earned four Olympic quotas so far with Antim Panghal (53kg) winning a bronze medal and hence an Olympic quota in the 2023 World Championships while Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Anshu Malik (57kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) bagged a quota each earlier this month during the Asian qualifier.

As many as 14 quotas (2 in women (62kg, 68kg), 6 in men's freestyle and as many in Greco-Roman) are up for grabs and the World qualifier will be the last chance for Indian wrestlers

to secure a quota ahead of the Paris Games.

Earlier, the WFI had decided to hold the trials taking men wrestlers' abysmal show in the qualifier.

This also meant Deepak Punia (86kg) and Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) abandoned their trips to Russia to make sure they compete in the trials. The duo was unfortunate as they were left stranded at the Dubai International Airport following unprecedented rains and could reach Bishkek for the Asian qualifier only after the weigh-in process was completed. That had forced them to miss the qualifier.

"The WFI has decided not to hold the selection trials. All the 14 wrestlers, who came first during the first selection trials and represented the country in the Asian qualifier, are eligible to compete in the World qualifier," a WFI source told this daily.

However, the World qualifier is expected to be a difficult prospect for the Indian wrestlers in comparison to the continental qualifier. A strong field from across the globe is expected to pose a tough challenge to Indian wrestlers in Turkey.

Rachin Ravindra, Matt Henry first-timers in Williamson-led New Zealand squad for T20 World Cup

AUCKLAND, Apr 29 (Agencies): Kane Williamson will lead New Zealand in the T20 World Cup for the fourth time while opener Devon Conway, recovering from a thumb injury, has also been named in the 15-man provisional squad for the ICC event in the US and Caribbean in June.

The squad led by Williamson was named on Monday at the ANZ Centre here.

Conway was ruled out of the ongoing IPL due to a thumb injury he suffered in February.

Bowler Matt Henry and batting all-rounder Rachin Ravindra are the only two members of the 15 without T20 World Cup experience.

This will be Williamson's sixth appearance in a T20 World Cup



squad. His experience is bettered only by Tim Southee, who has earned selection in his seventh T20 World Cup squad and currently sits as the leading wicket-taker in the history of T20 Internationals.

Seasoned Trent Boult, who opted out of an NZC central contract, has been selected in his fifth T20 World Cup squad.

The squad also boasts significant recent experience in the conditions with 13 of the 15-man group featuring in the team's last tour to the West Indies in 2022.

As well as that, six of the squad members have also featured in the Caribbean Premier League T20 competition.

Alongside the 15 players selected in the tour-

namment squad, pace bowler Ben Sears will travel and train with the team as an injury cover.

Adam Milne was ruled out following surgery to repair an ankle injury, and Kyle Jamieson was also unavailable for selection as he continues to rehabilitate his back injury.

"I'd like to congratulate everyone named today. It's a special time representing your country at a world tournament," said Blackcaps head coach Gary Stead.

"We expect the venues in the West Indies to offer quite varied conditions and feel we've selected a squad with the scope to adapt to those conditions."

Stead said he was delighted to name two first timers in Henry and

Ravindra.

"Matt has worked exceptionally hard on his skills across the phases of a T20 game to come back into selection consideration," he said.

"Rachin has made every post a winner in the past 12 months and it was exciting to see him continue that trajectory over the summer in the T20 format against Australia."

Squad: Kane Williamson (c), Finn Allen, Trent Boult, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee.

Ben Sears (Travelling Reserve).

Today's IPL Match: KKR vs DC Prediction, Head-to-Head, Kolkata Pitch Report and Who Will Win?

KOLKATA, Apr 29 (Agencies): Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, DC's past and present are set to collide against each other in the Indian Premier League 2024 on Monday, 29 April. Set to be played at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, high-flying DC are expected to give a proper challenge to KKR's batting might on Monday. The DC team have been rejuvenated by three youngsters in their batting line-up - Jake Fraser-McGurk, Tristan Stubbs and somewhat Abhisek Porel. Apart from the trio, Shai Hope, Rishabh Pant and Axar Patel have been in tremendous touch as well in the recent games.

KKR on the other hand have questions to answer as the team failed to defend a mammoth total of 261 runs against PBKS, who came into the fixture low in confidence. The Shreyas Iyer side replaced Mitchell Starc with Dushmantha Chameera in the previ-



ous match but the Sri Lankan player failed to change the fortunes in the game.

One of the biggest positives for KKR from the last game was Shreyas Iyer's return to form and the fans will hope that the skipper continues his six-hitting touch against Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel.

It will also be an emotional comeback for Kuldeep Yadav to the Eden Gardens. The former KKR man recently accepted that he regretted his time in the franchise as he was headstrong about not doing certain things out of his comfort zone.

KKR vs DC: Head-to-Head

KKR and DC have faced each other 32 times in the Indian Premier League. The teams are almost neck and neck with KKR leading the tie 17-15.

KKR vs DC: Team News

Delhi have injury concerns in their side and are expected to be without the services of David Warner, Prithvi Shaw and Ishant Sharma. DC won their previous game without the availability of the trio and expected to maintain the same lineup.

KKR vs DC: Pitch Report

The Kolkata track is expected to be a better once again. In the previous game against PBKS, the visiting side chased down a record 262 runs. Today, it will once again be anybody's guess as some of the biggest hitters in the IPL take stage tonight.

KKR vs DC: Predicted XI

KKR Predicted XI
Kolkata Knight Riders: Sunil Narine, Phil Salt, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Shreyas Iyer, Venkatesh Iyer, Rinku Singh, Andre Russell, Ramandeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Dushmantha Chameera/Mitchell Starc, Varun Chakravarthy.

Impact Player: Vaibhav Arora.

DC Predicted XI
Jake Fraser-McGurk, Abhisek Porel, Shai Hope, Rishabh Pant, Tristan Stubbs, Kumar Kushagra, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Anrich Nortje/Lizaad Williams, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar.

Impact Player: Rasikh Salam.

England's Harry Brook eyes T20 World Cup return, dedicates century to late grandmother

LONDON, Apr 29 (Agencies): Star England batsman Harry Brook wants to make a sensational return to help his side defend their title at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Brook also mentioned that his performances this summer are dedicated to his late grandmother Pauline, who passed away in March. Brook played a key role in England's second T20 World Cup victory in 2022, defeating Pakistan in a thrilling final at the MCG, and the 25-year-old hopes to make an impact when he returns to international action for his country at this year's 20-over showcase in the United States and the West Indies in June.

Brook last played for England in a five-match T20I series against the West Indies at the end of last year, and the right-hander has since missed an important ICC World Test Championship series in India as well as the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) to be with family following the death of his grandmother last month. Brook, who has been in



terrific form for Yorkshire in the second division of England's domestic County Championship in recent weeks, hopes to make a quick impression when he returns to the international arena at the T20 World Cup.

"I'm looking forward to it, if selected," Brook told the ECB Reporters Network of the T20 World Cup. "We join up at the end of next month. I'm looking forward to being back with the lads and hopefully producing the goods for England

long-time admirer of the England player who was regarded as a family hero.

"Both of those hundreds (in County cricket) and all of the runs I've scored so far this year are all dedicated to her," Brook said. "When I came home from Abu Dhabi (prior to Test series against India), it was a very tough time, and I'm glad I did come home. Obviously, it was a big decision to make. I hadn't played hundreds of games for England, so to just turn down a big Test tour like that (India) was a big decision to make."

"But she comes before all of that. She would have come out there a couple of years ago, so I had to come back and support her as much as I could. I managed to take her out for a coffee and whatnot in that first week I was back."

"I was still training with a mindset of trying to get back out for the last couple of Tests, all being well. It all disintegrated fairly quickly, so that didn't happen. I just tried to support her as best as I could and everyone around us."

BROOK DEDICATES SUCCESS TO GRANDMOTHER

Brook scored an unbeaten century for Yorkshire from just 69 deliveries against Leicestershire earlier this month before reaching triple digits with another remarkable effort in a rain-affected encounter against Derbyshire over the weekend. Brook has dedicated his recent run of success to his late grandmother Pauline, a

GDC Udhampur organizes Geographical Tour to Patnitop

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 29: To provide students with hands-on learning experiences and a comprehensive understanding of J&K's vast and diverse geographical landscape, culture, economy, settlements, industries, and natural landscapes, the Department of Geography, Government Degree College Boys Udhampur organized a field visit in collaboration with IQAC for students to Patnitop.

A group of 50 enthusiastic students of UG-IV semester was accompanied by the faculty members and non-teaching staff of the department.

The trip was formally flagged off by Worthy Principal of the college, Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta in presence of Dr Ashok Sharma, Convener IQAC, Dr Jagjeet Singh, Staff Secretary of the college, Prof Naveen Kumar, Head Department of Geography, Prof Sanjay Kumar, Head Department of Philosophy, Prof Samosh Kumar, Head Department of Music, Prof Rakesh Singh Charak, Faculty of Physics, Prof Kaku Ram, Faculty of Management and Prof Sanjay Singh, Faculty of Geography.

The field trip was organized under the mentorship of the Principal Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta with coordinated



efforts of Prof Naveen Kumar, Head Department of Geography and Dr Ashok Sharma, Convener IQAC.

In his address, the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta extended warm welcome to all the participants, besides he lauded the efforts of the Department of Geography for organizing such an event that 'the geographical tour to Patnitop marks a significant milestone in the Department of Geography's commitment to providing holistic and experiential learning opportunities for its students. It reinforces the department's mission to nurture well-rounded geographers equipped with theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and a profound appreciation for the diverse landscapes that shape our world.

Speaking about the ini-

tiative the Head Department of Geography Prof Naveen Kumar said that the aim of this trip was to acquaint the students with the activities of tourism going on in Patnitop. As the Patnitop is a well-known Hill Resort in our district and a lot of tourists visit throughout the year for recreational and leisure purposes as areas adjoining Patnitop provides every sort of attraction for tourists. Tourism in the Patnitop is providing direct and indirect employment opportunities to the local people thereby affecting their lives.

The students were asked to collect data and information regarding various tourist-related infrastructures available in the Patnitop and they also collected data pertaining to the tourist's choices and preferences. The suggestions of tourists for the further

improvement and growth of tourism in the Patnitop were noted down by students. Prof Kumar further stated that the students were instructed to prepare a well-furnished report of the field trip in the coming days, the Department will also organize such types of trips to other sites also. Prof Sanjay Singh, encouraged the students to reap maximum benefit out of this field trip.

Around 50 students and ten staff members participated in the field trip. The students showed great enthusiasm during the trip while they visited different locations and observed a variety of flora, fauna and tourist destinations.

During the visit, students actively participated in various activities and explored captivating tourist destinations in the region, including the picturesque Sanasar

Lake, Billo Ki Powri, Naag Mandir, and Shiva Garh.

They interacted with diverse tourists, gaining valuable insights into their needs and preferences. One of the main highlights of the tour was the emphasis on the concept of homestays, where students learned how locals open their homes to tourists, creating a unique and enriching accommodation option.

The visit exposed them to real-world entrepreneurship practices and provided valuable guidance to nurture their innovative ideas.

After the successful completion of the tour, the students of the Geography department held an interaction session with worthy principal of the college about the tour.

During interaction the principal had a word of advice, 'educational tours fill the gap between classroom learning and creative thinking of learner so the students should try to gain maximum knowledge during these tours'.

In response to this, Vanshak Magotra, a student of fourth semester, expressed his gratitude, saying, "The main purpose of this tour was to fulfil the Major course requirement. We thank GDC Udhampur for providing us with an excellent learning environment"

CUJ organises Educational Field visit for students to forward areas, LOC in Akhnoor Sector

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: In continuation with the visionary approach of the Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, towards organising field-based educational learning programmes for the student community. The Department of National Security Studies, Central University of Jammu organized a daylong educational field visit to the forward areas along the Line of Control (LOC) in Akhnoor sector, Jammu facilitated by 16 Corps, Indian Army.

The educational field visit was organized to explore the importance of our diverse borders and their crucial role in enhancing national security. India shares a multifaceted border landscape with its neighboring nations and the trip was aimed to enrich students and scholars understanding the nuances of LOC and inspire them to contribute towards Nation Building. This experience was an integral part of the curriculum, aiming to provide valu-



able insights into the subject.

During their visit, students, scholars, and faculty members of the Department had the opportunity to learn about the significance of LOC. Further, the dynamics of LOC were explained through interaction with the army officers, while also latest weapons and equipment were displayed followed by fire power demonstrations.

The trip was organized by the department under

the support and mentorship of Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Head, Department of National Security Studies. Dr. R. Sudhakar, Associate Professor of the Department of National Security Studies was the coordinator of the trip. The organizing committee included Dr. Neeta Rani, Dr. Ekta Manhas, and Dr. Anuradha Choudhary. The students, scholars, faculty and staff of the Department participated in the educational field visit.

KDP Wing of DPAP appeals to vote for restoration of identity

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: The Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) in a statement issued through Sanjay Dhar President, Piaray Lal Pandita Chairman and Amit Raina Member have appealed the Kashmiri Displaced People residing outside Valley or inside Valley including P.M.Package Employees living in Valley Transit Camps to vote in favour of the DPAP nominated candidates of Anantnag and Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency Contesting Candidates Mohd. Saleem Paray Advocate (for Anantnag-Rajouri) and Amir Ahmed Bhat (Srinagar) who have been trusted by veteran Leader Ghulam Nabi Azad.

The leaders have appealed that right to vote and to vote for a right candidate is a lonely weapon left with



our displacement of being a pure inhabitant of Valley and to safeguard our identity is to vote in large scale for our DPAP Candidates who stand advocating our resettlement, Rehabilitation back in Valley on each platform, rallies, in comparison to other Political Party Candidates, who do not even open their lips regarding resettlement of our Community neither they have appointed any migrant cells in J&K, as our Wing of DPAP is working in J&K for raising our issues.

The leaders expressed

that the KDP Wing DPAP J&K had also campaigned in all Camps at Jammu and other Displaced people residential areas during the previous week with a good response for seeking votes for our Parliamentary Contesting Candidates.

The Leaders during last week attended election Rallies held by Chairman Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad in favour of Mohd. Saleem Paray Advocate Parliamentary Contesting Candidate for Anantnag-Rajouri Constituency at Malpora, Panzhat, Qazigund and we felt proud

when specially we were introduced in a large gathering with promising a priority of our resettlement when comes to power.

The KDP Wing Leaders also request the Displaced Kashmiri People to refer to the speech of Ghulam Nabi Azad regarding our honourable resettlement back to Valley on each platform especially during his two times address of our Community at Jagti and the speech made by Contesting Candidates in all election rallies especially broadcasting individual video appeal played during campaigning in Camps at Jammu.

These Leaders again appeal for vote in favour of DPAP Candidates, with a hope of betterment of our displaced Community and to switch on our Election Symbol BUCKET, on May and 13, 2024 respectively for Anantnag-Rajouri and Srinagar.

Moral values empower an individual to perform better with human intentions: Ritesh Kapoor

Every Parent takes pride in his or her kid's good moral character: H C Vaid

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: The Management of A.S.N. Hr. Sec. School, Channi Himmat, Jammu in collaboration with Bharat Vikas Parishad (Shivalik Branch, Channi Himmat) Jammu on Monday conducted "Guru Bandana Chhatra Abhinandan Program" inside the school auditorium to enhance the student teacher relation in order to improve the education system and to inculcate moral values amongst the students.

The function started with lightening of traditional lamp, garlanding of mother India followed by "Vandey- Matram". Ritesh Kapoor, Administrator of the School highlighted the importance of such programmes inside the school. He said today in the era of change, everybody is moving away from his social responsibilities and not only adopting the western culture but also forgetting our own cultural heritage. He added that Moral values empower an individual to perform better with human intentions, motives, acts, and relationships with other individuals. Moral values form the basis of all religious practices.

A student's life is a cycle of challenges and changes. As a child grows, he or she imbibes



a lot of lessons and moral values. While some may get forgotten, some stick till the rest of life. Therefore, it is highly essential to inculcate moral values in students' lives as their hands lie in the future. Students with ethical values become responsible and accountable people, while those spoiled become a threat to the society or culture.

Speaking on the occasion, H.C.Vaid, President Shivalik Branch, Bharat Vikas Parishad presents the importance of Guru Vandana as per Gurukuls in the history and gave the symbolic representations of the same. He said celebrating Teachers day in the schools is basically to show the real contribution of teachers in making the life and future of the students.

He added that every

Parent takes pride in his or her kid's good moral character. Most Indian families follow strict instructions to imbibe ethical values. They highlight the importance of moral values and teach them at an early age.

Various resource persons who spoke on the occasion are Ashok Gupta, Vice President State Body, Ashok Khajuria, Secretary Branch, Rakesh Sharma- Treasurer Shivalik Branch and Rajnish Gupta, Joint Secretary of Shivalik Branch. More than 200 students & around 20 teachers of the school attended this programme. Various students were also awarded for their outstanding performance in the school during the programme by members of Bharat Vikas Parishad.

Ranjiv Singh and

Pratibha of 11th Class, Samar Pikhana and Bhumi of 10th Class, Rekha and Piyush of 9th Class, Manik Pratap Singh and Arizoo of 8th Class, Arvind Kumar and Poonam of 7th Class, Zoya and Arnav of 6th Class, Aksha Khan and Muzavir of 5th Class, Radhika and Gandivay Singh Charak of 4th Class, Rashi Arya and Qutub-du-din of 3rd Class, Aryan and Piyush of 2nd Class, Shailija & Sanidhya of 1st Class, Aarvi and Rehan of U.K.G. Class, Taskeen, Tridham Pratap Singh and Divyansh of L.K.G. Class, Aadhira and Divam of Nursery Class were felicitated on the occasion of Guru Vandana Chhatra Abhinandan Programme.

The teachers felicitated the children are Suresh Sharma, Pankaj Jasrotia, Ruby Kumari, Sukhvinder Kour, Bhupinder Kour, Subha Gupta, Ankush Chib, Shashi Kesar, Sakshi Pikhana, Heena Slathia, Manpreet Kour, Muskan Singh, Usha Mattoo and Kusum Lata.

The programme closed with National anthem followed by the vote of thanks presented by the Pankaj Jasrotia- Sr. Teacher of the School while the programme proceedings were conducted by Teacher of the school Subha Gupta.

MRM nominates Malik as State Legal Advisor, holds workers meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh Organiser Gulshan Kumar has nominated Advocate Malikzada Mohd Shahzad as State Legal Advisor J&K and Convenor J&K MRM during workers meeting at Jammu on Monday.

A statement in this regard said that Malikzada Mohd Shahzad, a renowned Advocate and prominent Socio civic personality who hails from Jammu district has been already working as Co-Convenor MRM Jammu province.

Expressing his



views in the meeting, Adv. Malikzada Mohd Shahzad said that MRM is the sole organisation that has a vision and capability to bring about Social and Economic transformation in the country. "The agenda of this organisation is to carry all the sections of the society together towards accomplishing

equitable development of all the regions, religions and castes," Malik claimed.

Speaking on the occasion, Gulshan Kumar said that this nomination has been made with great consideration, taking into account Malikzada Mohd Shahzad dedication, commitment and valuable contributions to our organization.

"We are confident that his involvement in this role will strengthen our efforts and enhance our presence in Jammu Kashmir," he added. Gulshan Kumar further stated that this position which Malik has occupied today is a testament to his hard work and dedication.

"Muslim Rashtriya Manch acknowledges its responsibility to recognize the contributions of diligent and dynamic individuals like him," Kumar further said.

Meanwhile, MRM members have congratulated Adv. Malik and welcomed in the organizational fold.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included Ali Mohd Chechi (Co-Convenor J&K UT), Fayaz Ahmed Wani (Co-Convenor Jammu Province), Shahid Kalas (Co-Convenor Jammu Province), Rayees Ahmed Sheikh (Secretary Jammu province), Amir Iqbal (Spokesperson and Media/IT head JKUT) and others.

JKBS members hail Harsh Mottan on being awarded in SOF National Science Olympiad

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 29: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members at a meeting held in Surya Vihar here

on Monday, hailed Harsh Mottan of R.S.Pura's New Plot Salehar, on being awarded in SOF National Science Olympiad. While congratulating

Harsh, the JKBS' General Secretary R.L.Kaith and other executive members said, "We saw him working so hard every day to achieve this accomplishment, and we

can't think of anyone who deserves it more." Harsh's father Tilak Raj Mottan thanked all for their good wishes and appreciated their love and support for his son.