

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Jammu-Poonch Highway closed for vehicular movement after landslide

SRINAGAR, Apr 30 (Agencies): Jammu-Poonch highway was closed for vehicular movement today after shooting stones and landslide hit the stretch at Maidana.

Officials said that the traffic movement was suspended after shooting stones and landslides hit Maidana area. They said men and machinery have been pressed into service to clear the road for smooth regulation of traffic.

Fire damages four shops in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, Apr 30 (Agencies): At least four shops were damaged in a fire incident in Manigam area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district late last night.

An official told news agency Kashmir Scroll that during the night fire broke out in a commercial building at Dursuma Manigam area of Ganderbal district.

He said that fire was brought under control, however, four shops were partially damaged.

He said no injuries were reported in the incident while cause of fire is being ascertained.

Sonamarg Accident: Search operation enters day 3

GANDERBAL, Apr 30 (Agencies): The Search operation to trace out the missing person who went missing after a vehicle with at least nine people in it rolled down into the nallah Sindh near Hung area of Sonamarg on Sunday.

Police Station Gund headed by SHO Lateef Ali along with SDRF and NDRF teams resumed the search operation on Tuesday for 3rd consecutive day to trace out the missing tourist.

Earlier five dead bodies were retrieved from water by rescue and search teams while three others were rescued out of whom two in injured conditions.

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Supreme Court questions ED on timing of Arvind Kejriwal's arrest, seeks its reply

NEW DELHI, Apr 30 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the Enforcement Directorate on the timing of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest ahead of the general election and sought a reply from the agency.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta asked Additional Solicitor General SV Raju to reply on the question of the



timing and said, "Life and liberty are exceedingly important. You can't deny that."

The bench, which asked Raju several other questions, asked the probe agency to reply on

the next date of hearing of Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest in the money-laundering case related to the excise policy scam.

The matter is likely to be taken up for hearing on Friday -- from Wednesday, both judges will be sitting in different combinations.

Kejriwal is currently lodged in the Tihar jail here under judicial custody after his arrest on March 21 in the case.

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Ramdev's Patanjali faces suspension of manufacturing licenses for 14 products



NEW DELHI, Apr 30 (Agencies): The Uttarakhand State Licensing

Authority under Rule 159(1) of The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, has moved to suspend the

manufacturing licenses for 14 products of Patanjali, effective immediately.

This action comes in the wake of a series of legal battles surrounding the multinational company's advertising practices, particularly its claims against evidence-based medicine.

In addition, the Uttarakhand licensing body has issued a formal apology before the Supreme Court

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JD(S) suspends MP Prajwal Revanna over Karnataka 'sex scandal' row as pressure mounts ahead of Lok Sabha 3rd phase polls

BENGALURU, Apr 30 (Agencies): JD(S) on Tuesday suspended its Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna from the party with immediate effect over an alleged sex scandal involving him.

BJP will not tolerate any insult to women: Amit Shah on sexual abuse allegations against Prajwal Revanna



The suspension came minutes after the party

core committee that met in Hubballi recommended his suspension to its national president and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, who is also Revanna's grandfather.

"Videos of Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna allegedly harassing women are widely in

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True voice must reach Parliament: Mehbooba Mufti



SRINAGAR, Apr 30 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

President and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Mehbooba

Mufti, emphasized the importance of electing a representative who will advocate for the people's interests in Parliament and urge New Delhi to reconsider the decisions made on August 5, 2019. She concurrently highlighted PDP's consistent advocacy for its constituents over the past 22 years,

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Generally dry weather expected till May 5 in J&K

SRINAGAR, Apr 30 (Agencies): In a sigh of relief for people, especially those living in low-lying areas, rains stopped on Tuesday after drenching Jammu and Kashmir for the last few days. During the next 24 hours, the weather department here has forecast cloudy weather with possibility of fresh rains, particularly in the afternoon.

"Generally cloudy weather is expected with light rain with thunder at many places on April 30," a meteorological department official said.

From May 1-5, he said, generally dry weather with afternoon thundershower activity is expected at a few places. Light rains with thunders at scattered places have been forecast from May 6-7.

Regarding rainfall in last 24 hours till 0830 a.m. today, he said, Srinagar received 23.6mm, Qazigund 40.2mm, Pahalgam 41.6mm, Kupwara 19.8mm, Kokernag 35.8mm, Gulmarg 21.0mm, Jammu 20.6mm, Banihal 60.6mm, Batote 40.2mm, Katra 30.6mm and Bhabarwah 21.8mm.

The incessant rains led to waterlogging on several roads, disrupting normal life. It also inundated many low-lying areas, reports said.

Regarding night temperature, the MeT official said, Srinagar recorded a low of 3.0°C and it was 6.3°C below normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 3.8°C and it was 4.0°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 0.7°C and it was 3.7°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 2.6°C and it was 5.5°C below

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Water level touches flood declaration mark at Ram Munshi Bagh, Pampore

SRINAGAR, Apr 30 (Agencies): As the rain has stopped in Kashmir, the water level at Ram Munshi Bagh and Pampore gauges have touched the flood declaration mark. The officials, however, said that water level will recede in next two hours and there was no need to panic.

Cheif Engineer Irrigation and Flood Con-

trol (I&FC) department Kashmir Naresh Kumar told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that water level in Jhelum at Sangam of South Kashmir has already started receding, but the increasing trend in water level in Central part of Jhelum will remain atleast for next two hours after that it will recede too.



"The peak water volume from South has

already reached Central water bodies in Kashmir. Although water level at Ram Munshi Bagh and Pampore has touched flood declaration mark, the water level will recede after next two hours", he said.

He said that everything was under control as the situation was being closely monitored and that people should not

panic as weather has also shower a significant improvement.

According to data from the Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FC) Kashmir, reviewed by KNO, the gauge readings at 8:00 AM depicted Pampore flowing over 4.90 meters, while Ram Munshi Bagh recorded

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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)

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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 Vandna 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 (Sukrala Mata Wale)

10th DAY/THIRTEENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Geeta Slathia** W/o Himat Singh Slathia R/o 33 Ashok Nagar Satwari Jammu on 22nd April 2024.

10th Day shall take place on Wednesday 1st May 11.00 am at our residence.

13th Day Haven shall take place on Saturday 4th May 2024 at 12PM at our residence.

In Grief:
Sh Himat Singh Slathia (Husband)
Dinesh Singh Slathia (Son)
Rakha Slathia (Daughter in Law)
Priyanka Slathia (Daughter)
Rajesh Manhas (Son in Law)
Ph. 981512303, 9419641241
Slathia Family (Ramnagar) & Jamwal Family (Kot Bhalwal)



Smt Geeta Slathia

KRIYA/UTHALA

A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies.

It brings us together again and again.

Uthala shall be observed on Wednesday, 1st May, 2024 from 4 PM to 5 PM at our residence Village Dablehar, R.S Pura, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Kewal Krishan - Husband
Smt Kamlesh Devi
W/o Late Sh. Chuni Lal (Brother)
Smt. Krishna Devi
W/o Late Sh. Sardari Lal (Brother)
Smt. Darshana Devi
W/o Late Sh. Darbari Lal (Brother)
Mr. Vishal Jalandria & Mrs. Moenu - Son & Daughter-in-law
Mrs. Sachin Jalandria - Son
Ms Gaunika - Grand Child
9697106736, 9697244696, 8899274901



SMT. SUMAN LATA

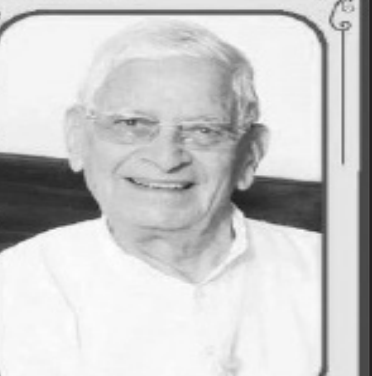
TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Pt. Govind Ram Sharma (Former Minister)** S/o Late Pt. Jagdish Sharma left for heavenly abode on 22nd of April, 2024 (Monday).

TENTH DAY will be held on 1st of May, 2024 (Wednesday) at our residence Village Maira-Mandrian (Akhnoor) at 12:15 PM.

KRIYA will be performed on 2nd of May, 2024 (Thursday) at our residence village Maira-Mandrian (Akhnoor).

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sumitra Sharma - Wife
Smt. Vidya Sharma (Sister)
W/o Late Sh. Jagdish Raj Sharma
Daughter and Son-in-law
Smt. Suraksha and Sh. Vinod Khajuria
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt. Saroj and Sh. Ashok Sharma
Smt. Sushila and Sh. Kishore Sharma
Smt. Renuka and Sh. Ashwani Sharma
Smt. Prabha and Sh. Sushil Sharma
Smt. Pooja and Sh. Suresh Sharma
Smt. Nidhi and Sh. Anil Sharma
Smt. Shefali and Sh. Vijay Sharma



Pt. Govind Ram Sharma
(Former Minister)

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Onkar Singh Ji** R/o Shiv Nagar Udhampur, who left for heavenly abode on 27th April 2024. For the peace of the departed soul **Shri Akhand Path Sahib** shall be held at our residence at H.No. 23 Ward No. 11, Shiv Nagar, Udhampur as per the schedule.

03/05/2024 (Friday) - Aarambh Shri Akhand Path 9.00 AM.
05/05/2024 (Sunday) - Bhog Shri Akhand Path 9.00 AM at our residence.

Antim Ardass will be performed at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Udhampur at 10.30 AM to 12.30 PM followed by Guru Ka Langar.

Grief Stricken
Amrit Kour -Wife
Harpreet Singh & Tanveer Kour -Son & Daughter-in-law
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Gurpreet Kour & Joginder Singh
Jagneet Kour & Amritpal Singh
Grand Children: Sahaj, Samar, Manmaahi & Pargat



S. Onkar Singh Ji
(05-05-1952 - 27-04-2024)

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT URMILA LANGER** W/O LATE SH BODH RAJ LANGER (NELI WALE) WHO LEFT FOR HER HEAVENLY ABODE ON 22 APRIL 2024.

10TH DAY SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 1ST MAY 2024 WEDNESDAY AT BALIDAN BHAWAN RAJOURI, FROM 8AM TO 9.00AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
SONS & DAUGHTER IN LAWS
SANJEEV LANGER & MADHU LANGER
SUNIL LANGER & SHAMA LANGER
DAUGHTERS & SON IN LAWS
PREMLATA GUPTA & LATE SH AVTAR KRISHAN GUPTA
BIRBALA GUPTA & ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA
PUSHAPLATA SAWHNEY & NARESH SAWHNEY
RAJESH TANDON & SUKRITA TANDON (MUNNA)
PH NO 9419170056, 9419170049



SMT URMILA LANGER

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. Janaki Nath Bhat Originally resident of Bomal 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 & Daizy Bhat - Brother & Bhabhi
Bhardi & Mahak Bhat -Niece
Smt & Sh. Poojkar Nath Bhat & Shikunda Bhat - Brother in Law & Sister
Smt & Sh. Sidhan Lal Bhat & Pinky Bhat - Brother in Law & Sister
Smt & Sh. Vijay Koul & Bani Koul - Brother in Law & Sister
Vansu, Vanshi, Janu & Pan -Grand Children's
MOBILE NO: 7006610220, 9055263049, 7889694399



SH. BRIJ NATH BHAT

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you that our beloved Papa Ji, **Sh. Bansil Lal Challu**, originally resident of Rang Teng, Alikadal Srinagar, Kashmir and presently residing at 159 A, Jawahar Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu, left for heavenly abode, on Saturday, 27th April, 2024 at Ahmedabad.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Sunday, 05th May 2024, at Muthi Ghat Jammu at 9:00 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Samast Parivar: Challu's, Tickoo's, Sapru's, Sadhu's, Thaploo's, Nagri's, Teng's, Wali's, Sekhon's, Koul's, Mathur's, Pratap's,
7780832368, 98798 14900, 7016545742



Sh. Bansil Lal Challu

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rama Gupta** W/o Lt. Sh. Vinod Kishore Pachyala R/o W.No. 18, H.No. 652, Behind Mobile Magistrate Quarter, Housing Colony, Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on 28th April 2024.

Tenth Day shall be performed at Shiv Temple Hall, Housing Colony, Udhampur on 29 April 2024, Monday at 11.00 AM.

Kriya will be performed on 1st May 2024 (Wednesday) at Devika Ghat, Udhampur.
Rasam Pagri will be performed on 1st May 2024 (Wednesday) at 5.00 PM at our residence.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Jethani and Jetti:
Smt. Karam Lata & Sh. Jugal Kishore Pachyala
Daughter-in-law and Son:
Himani Sani and Shyam Pachyala
Son: Danish Pachyala
Nephew and Niece:
Smt. Susmita Gupta & Sh. Joginder Gupta
Smt. Suman Gupta & Sh. Kuldip Gupta
Chacha Ji: Sh. Kundal Lal Bagroo
Brothers & Sisters-in-law:
Smt. Sudeesh Gupta & Smt. Neera Gupta
Sh. Ashok Gupta & Smt. Shivi Gupta
Sh. Sanjay Gupta & Smt. Anu Gupta
NIS VR. Traders
Contact Numbers: 7780949434, 9596909381



Smt. Rama Gupta

Sisters and Brothers-in-law:
Smt. Shashi Gupta & Sh. GK Gupta
Smt. Kamlesh Gupta & Sh. Ravender Gupta
Smt. Karam Gupta & Sh. Ashok Gupta
Smt. Sushama Gupta & Sh. Vijay Gupta
Smt. Urmil Gupta & Sh. Pawan Gupta
Smt. Anju Gupta & Sh. Sonjeev Gupta
Smt. Anu Gupta & Sh. Kamal Gupta

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 Maittan Anantmag A/P Sisters' Cottege 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 (Bablu ji) # 9419149707
Smt. Vijay Bharti & Sh. Rakesh Pardesi # 9469200006
Smt. Jeevan Jyoti & Sh. Sanjay Bhat # 7889655613



Sh. Soom Nath Pandita (Dangi)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Rupawati Pandita** W/o Late Sh. Sarwanand 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. Sanjosh & Sh. Man Mohan Pandita
Smt. Teja & Sh. Moli Lal Pandita
Smt. Shashi W/o Late Sh. Shubhan J Malla
Deeply missed by Grand Children.
Mobile : 95967 28373, 91039 80827



Smt. Rupawati Pandita

UTHALA-SHABAD KIRTAN

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raminder Kapoor** W/o of Late Sh. K K Kapoor R/o 790-A, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. She left for her heavenly abode on 28th April, 2024.

Uthala-Shabad Kirtan will be performed on 01st May 2024 from 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Grief Stricken
Daughter-in-Law and Son
Sonia (Manager J&K Bank) and Dr. Mohit Kapoor
Aachal and Shobhit Kapoor- Daughter-in-Law and Son
Kanta and Madan Lal Dogra- Daughter and Son-in-Law
Grand Children: Hanika and Adhirath, Khushi, Shivang, Munish



Smt. Raminder Kapoor

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-56 INDRA NAGAR, 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
TLOK SINGH & LOVJEET KOUR
SISTERS & BROTHERS-IN-LAW
SHANTA KOUR & SOBA SINGH
KAUSHLYA KOUR & ATTAR SINGH
MANJIT KOUR & BAL BIR SINGH

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

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

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

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



Smt. Jagat Mohini Razdan

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 Dhali (Dayala Chak) who left for heavenly abode on 20th of April 2024.

The various programmes being held are as under:

10th Day (Tala) 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 - Dhali (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 Sambyal
Ph.Nos: 9419281705, 7406977737



SMT. SAMITRI DEVI

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 Krishan Mattoo (Husband)
(Son & Daughter-in-law)
Amit Mattoo & Archana Mattoo (Mailla)
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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Gopi Nath Pandita** S/o Late Sh. Shamboo Nath Pandita of Village Kachwa Muqam, Baramulla, Kashmir at present Pouni Chack, Jammu on 26th April 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 6th May 2024 (Sunday) at Muthi Ghat at 9:00 A.M

GRIEF STRICKEN
Wife : Smt. Gopi Shori Pandita
Son & Daughters in law :
Sh. Tej Kumar Pandita (Swastik Medicate Jagti) & Smt. Usha Pandita
Grand Sons :
Sh Anoop Pandita & Smt Vitasta Pandita
Ayushman Pandita
Samast Pandita Parivar



Sh. Gopi Nath Pandita

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Weeklong Int'l Workshop on 'Himalaya in Anthropocene: addressing climate crisis' Commences at IME, Baderwah

Top News Report

BHADERWAH, Apr 30: Weeklong International Workshop on 'Himalaya in the Anthropocene: Addressing the Climate Crisis' commences at Baderwah Campus today. The workshop is being jointly organized by Institute of Mountain Environment (IME), Baderwah Campus, Department of Environmental Studies, PGDAV(M) College, and Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Mountain and Hill Environment, University of Delhi, New Delhi from April 27 - May 05, 2024. The distinguished participants include faculty and students from Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg, Russia, along with the faculty members from the Department of Environmental Studies, PGDAV College, and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Mountain and Hill Environment, University of Delhi, New Delhi.



Prof. Jasbir Singh, Officiating Rector Baderwah Campus and Director, Kishtwar Campus, and the Chief Guest at the inaugural celebration, appreciated the participation of faculty members and researchers from HSE, St. Petersburg, Russia, PGDAV College, New Delhi, and CismaH, Delhi University. He underlined the importance of a trans-disciplinary approach while dealing with global issues such as climate change. He invited representatives from all the partner institutes to work together to identify such issues, develop strategies to tackle them, and create an action plan to share with policymakers at the transboundary level.

Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Co-convenor of the workshop, while introducing the theme, stated that human actions have shaped the Himalayan region and contributed to the climate crisis and the effects of climate change in the Indian Himalayan region are profound and far-reaching. Involving Russian counterparts brings in diverse perspectives and expertise, which can enrich the discussions and potentially lead to innovative solutions, he said. The participants will be exposed to the socio-ecological dynamics of Lesser and Greater Himalayas in the Upper Chenab catchment where they will interact with the local and nomadic communities till May 05, 2024. Later, he presented the profile of the Institute of Mountain Environment, demonstrating the accomplishments, IME has made in research and scientific outreach over a decade. Short videos on the wildlife of the Jammu Shivaliks and the flying mountain jewels captivated the audience.

Prof. Aleksandr Borisovich, a political scientist from HSE opined that climate change exacerbates existing inequalities and disproportionately affects the vulnerable communities. There is a need to jointly deal with the social, economic, and political dimensions of climate justice, advocating for policies that prioritize the needs of marginalized groups and ensure a just transition to a sustainable economy. Vinod Sharma (JKPS), Superintendent of Police highlighted the intricate linkages between environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and security. He underscored the importance of community engagement and proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change, particularly in vulnerable areas like the Himalayas.

Dr. Shayan Javed from the Department of Economics presented the formal vote of thanks, marking the beginning of an enriching exchange of ideas and experiences. Dr. Shayan Javed extended gratitude to Rector Baderwah Campus, Prof. J P Singh Joorel, for his unwavering support and dedication in ensuring the success of the initiative. Dr. Javed highlighted Prof. Joorel's instrumental role in facilitating the collaborative efforts that led to the workshop's fruition, underscoring his commitment to advancing research and academic excellence in the field of mountain environment studies.

Khatana shocked over devastation caused by incessant rains, landslides

MP asks officers to initiate relief measures

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Expressing deep shock and grief over the tragedy inflicted by incessant rains and landslides in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana on Tuesday asked the administrative officers to initiate the process of accessing damages caused by the calamity and provide quick relief to the victims.

In a statement issued to the media, Khatana said that Weather Department should properly forecast heavy rain and snowfall and other vagaries of nature well in time and the other concerned authorities should timely evacuate the people to safer places to prevent the loss of human lives. The MP expressed condolences with the families who lost their dear ones in the calamity and prayed to the Almighty God to grant peace to the departed souls and courage to the bereaved families to bear the irreparable loss. The senior BJP leader said that loss of cattle like buffaloes, cows, horses, goats and sheep in the calamity hit areas of Reasi, Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban and other places

should be timely compensated as people of these areas largely depended on these cattle for their livelihood. He further said that people affected by the land sinking in Ramban should also be rehabilitated to safer places and compensated adequately and all should be done to ensure safety to human lives. Khatana informed that Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, Manoj Sinha is closely monitoring the situation and has asked the top officers in the administration to provide quick relief to the victims of landslides and heavy rains.

Key Academic Resolutions from Cluster University of Jammu's 6th Academic Council Meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: The Cluster University of Jammu convened its 6th Academic Council meeting held on Tuesday 2024 in the conference hall of University, where significant decisions were made to enhance academic offerings and opportunities for students.

Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Jammu presented the agenda of the meeting which included 18 items. The Academic Council endorsed the vision set forth by the Vice-Chancellor, acknowledging the consistent efforts of students. Emphasizing the importance of fostering holistic development, the Council advocated for the allocation of additional credits to UG/PG students at the Cluster University of Jammu engaged in Sports, NCC, NSS, and Cultural Activities. The primary objectives behind this initiative are to cultivate discipline, instill a sense of responsibility, nurture diligence, dedication, and imbue students with a profound sense of pride in their endeavors.

the introduction of MA Education program from the ensuing session. This decision reflects the University's commitment to meeting the evolving educational needs and demands, as well as its dedication to enhancing the academic offerings and opportunities in the region. All decisions made during the meeting were thoroughly discussed and either confirmed or endorsed to the relevant academic bodies within the University.

The Academic Council, discussed various aspects of academic development and unanimously approved the introduction of National Eligibility Test (NET) as an entrance test to Ph.D. program, MA Education from the academic session 2024-25, Cyber Security Course, supernumerary seats under PM Cares, establishment of Institutional Innovation Council, adoption of summer internship guidelines and awarding of extra credits to the students for their participation in sports/NCC/NSS and cultural activities.

In the opening remarks, Prof Bechan Lal, Vice-Chancellor welcomed the members of the Academic Council and Special Invitee, Prof Qayyum Husain, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar. Dr Naveen Anand, Dean

the meeting was also attended by Registrar, Ankur Mahajan, Controller of Examination, Dr Sanjay Verma, Dean Research Studies, Dr Satinder Kour, Dean Student Welfare, Dr Ranvijay Singh, Deans of various Faculties, Principals and faculty of Constituent Colleges, Heads of the Departments of Cluster University of Jammu, Registrar, Controller of Examination and Deans of the Faculties of the Cluster University Srinagar.

Farewell accorded to Retirees of Agriculture Department

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: The staff and officers of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, accorded a farewell to Sanyog Kotru, Deputy Director Agriculture (Central) Jammu, Dhanatar Singh Manhas, Subject Matter Specialist-I (RL), and Yash Pal Singh Multani, Senior Foreman, who retired today after rendering more than 30 years of service to the

Department. Director of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, speaking on the occasion, wished the retirees a very healthy and prosperous post-retirement life. He lauded the retirees for rendering their valuable and exemplary services for the welfare of the farming community. Throughout their tenure, the retirees have exemplified the highest stan-

dards of professionalism and have been a source of inspiration for their colleagues and peers. Warm wishes for a happy and prosperous life were also extended to retiring officers and staff of the department from other districts as well. Mementoes were presented to the retirees during the farewell program on behalf of the Department as a mark of honour and affection.

Heritage Vardaan clinches Gold Medal in Taekwando

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: The entire Heritage fraternity congratulates Vardaan Singh of class VI-B for his stupendous success at the Open Taekwando Championship hosted by JK Sports Taekwando Association, held at Sai Palace Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on April 21, 2024. Vardaan won a Gold medal and proved his mettle by this incredible achievement. Heritage School extends its heartfelt appreciation to Vardaan for this incredible achievement and wishes him all the best in his future endeavours.

SSP Kishtwar inaugurates district training attachment programme for PSIs

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 30: In compliance with the PHQ and ZPHQ a 40 days long District Training Attachment programme was initiated at District Kishtwar for 40 newly appointed Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs). Today, the Senior Superintendent of Police

were briefed on the functionalities of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), monitoring of CCTV surveillance, implementation of AI-based facial recognition systems and e-beat books, cyber crime investigation, social media monitoring, electric surveillance. SSP Kishtwar further

District Police Office (DPO), and the functioning of the cyber cell. SSP Kishtwar emphasized the importance of implementing the acquired knowledge in practical scenarios. The training programme was designed to empower the PSIs with the requisite expertise to effectively execute their duties on the ground.

Flash floods damage vital bridge in Kulgam village, several villages disconnected



Top News Report

KULGAM, Apr 30: Continuous rains in Kulgam have damaged a vital bridge at Nawa-Bonigam which connected around dozens villages in the area of Devsar, Kulgam. The bridge's collapse has caused severe inconvenience to the villagers, who now have to take longer routes to access their respective headquarters. The situation is particularly dire for those who require immediate medical attention or have other emergency requirements. According to local residents, the bridge was constructed, over a decades ago. The incident has resulted dozens villages becoming disconnected from their respective headquarters. Authorities have promptly responded to

the situation and have halted traffic movement over the bridge, urging people to take precautions while walking on it. Meanwhile, residents of the affected villages have expressed their concern and apprehension about the impact of the bridge's collapse on their daily lives. They have appealed to the government to take immediate measures to restore the bridge's functionality and ensure the safety of the residents. When Contacted, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) PMGSY, Manzor Ah Dar said that they have visited the spot and took stock of the damage, adding that they have taken up the matter with higher ups, "once we would receive any instructions, we will start work on the bridge", he said.



Kishtwar, Abdul Qayoom, convened an introductory session with the PSIs, delivering a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on various facets of the district. The session included an overview of the district's profile, Police Establishments, Security Deployments, and intelligence sharing mechanism. Additionally, the PSIs

elaborated on strategies for engaging with the public effectively and provided insights into the prevailing security landscape of the district. Moreover, he outlined the training curriculum, which encompassed the operational procedures of police stations, check-point operations, the role of the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO),

He wished the newly appointed PSIs a successful and prosperous future in their endeavors to serve and protect the community. The training/briefing sessions was also attended by the Addl. SP Kishtwar Sh. Pawan Kumar, Dy. SP Hqrs Kishtwar Dr. Ishan Gupta, Dy. SP DAR Kishtwar Sh. Sajjad Khan and other officers.

SKPA Udhampur organizes "Orientation Session" with newly appointed Prob. DySPs

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 30: With the joining of newly recruited Prob. DySPs At SKPA Udhampur an Interaction Session with conducted with 45 reported trainee officers comprising of 30-M and 15-F was held today in Indoor Block at 1100 hours. At the outset of the inaugural session, Shri Garib Dass, IPS Addl. DGP Director SKPAU welcomed all the officer trainees of 17th batch of DySP Probationers to this Academy.

While addressing, they were told that the Sher-I-Kashmir Police Academy is the premier training institution responsible for imparting basic training of quality to officers of the level of DySPs, Sub-Inspectors and officers of similar rank from other departments on request basis. Apart from this, the Academy also conducts number of specialized courses for the officers of the rank of Constable

to IGP & ADGP and in addition to this short term courses sponsored by BPR&D are also conducted in this Academy. They were told that they are enough fortunate for landing in the police department and serve the nation. Also as police officer shall have pride of wearing the uniform and maintaining its respect and sanctity. There after Shri Rajinder Gupta, IPS (DD Indoor), Shri Rajesh Bali, IPS (DD Outdoor) and Shri Ramnish Gupta, JKPS (DD Admn) made them familiar about the Indoor/ Outdoor curriculum and also administrative set up of this Institution were defined at length. In the concluding remarks Worthy Director stressed upon maintaining of discipline of highest order which is the hall mark of this academy and any sort of indiscipline or laxity towards training will not be tolerated. Further, they were told in coming days they will notice and feel entire transforma-

tion in their habits, routine works and will be shaped up as officers. They should focus on their physical fitness of top level which is important aspect of training and take keen interest in both indoor, outdoor and recreational activities. To achieve the professionalism and to come upto the satisfaction of general masses, the training plays very important role and therefore keeping in view the field requirements of Police in J&K and the future challenges ahead before Police, their training programme has been planned accordingly and after imparting quality training they are going to cater the masses for which there should be no manufacturing defect. They are future leaders and image of entire police family. More so, Rakesh Sambyal, CPO SKPAU, Ashish Gupta, JKPS AD(Trainings/ R&D), Shanker Bhadr Dy.SP, AD (Outdoor) were also present during the session.

EDITORIAL

Plastic bags- major cause of environmental pollution

Plastic bags are a major cause of environmental pollution. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. It has become very essential to ban plastic bags before they ruin our planet completely. Many countries around the globe have either put a ban on the plastic bag or Levi tax on it. However, the problem hasn't been solved completely because the implementation of these measures hasn't been as successful.

Plastic bags do not easily decompose like organic materials. Instead, they persist in the environment for hundreds of years, contributing to long-term pollution.

Plastic bags are a significant contributor to both land and water pollution. They not only clutter landscapes but also pose a threat to aquatic ecosystems when they enter water bodies.

Harm to Animals and Marine Life: Wildlife often mistake plastic bags for food, leading to ingestion and entanglement. This can result in injury, suffocation, or death for various species, including marine creatures.

Human Health Impacts: The production and disposal of plastic bags release harmful chemicals into the environment. These pollutants can contaminate soil, water, and air, posing health risks to humans through exposure and consumption.

Discarded plastic bags can block drains and sewers, particularly during heavy rainfall. This can lead to flooding, property damage, and public health hazards in affected areas.

Reasons for Banning Plastic Bags: Governments worldwide have enacted bans or levied taxes on plastic bags due to their detrimental environmental and societal impacts. These measures aim to reduce pollution, protect wildlife, safeguard public health, and mitigate infrastructure challenges.

Public Support for Bans: Despite regulatory measures, the success of plastic bag bans depends on widespread public cooperation. Educating individuals about the harmful effects of plastic bags and promoting alternative solutions are essential for fostering behavioral change.

Citizens can contribute to the success of plastic bag bans by adopting eco-friendly practices, such as using reusable bags, minimizing single-use plastics, and advocating for sustainable policies.

Government initiatives and grassroots movements play a crucial role in raising awareness about the environmental consequences of plastic bags. Public outreach efforts help inform and engage communities in the transition to more sustainable behaviors.

Conclusion: Addressing the plastic bag problem requires a collective effort from governments, businesses, and individuals. By recognizing the long-term impacts of plastic pollution and embracing eco-friendly alternatives, we can safeguard our planet for future generations.

By addressing each of these aspects in detail, we can better understand the urgency and complexity of the issue and identify strategies for meaningful action.

History and genesis of Money-laundering Act in India

By: Prabhu Razdan

What is the history and genesis of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in India? What was the basic purpose of this Act and why its execution in-terms of high-profile arrests hog limelight for right or wrong reasons, its frequent amendments and judicial interventions? Let's discuss.

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 came into force in India from July 1, 2005. At the global level, its objective was to counter serious threat not only to the financial system across the countries but also to their integrity and sovereignty, India too fulfilled the global obligation by enacting the legislation over two decades ago.

To obviate such threats, the international community took certain initiatives and they were:

1) the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, to which India is a party, calling for prevention of laundering of proceeds of drug crimes and other connected activities and 2) confiscation of proceeds derived from such offence, 3) establishment of Financial Action Task Force at the summit of seven major Industrial nations in 1989 which examined problem of money-laundering and 4) making forty recommendations including comprehensive legislation to combat this problem.

In order to achieve this objective, the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill was introduced in the Indian Parliament in 1998, after smooth passage in the Parliament, it received assent of the President of India on January 17, 2003 and finally the Act came into force from July 1, 2005.

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has dwelt deep on its basic fundamental principles—like what constitutes offence of money-laundering, the power to arrest and survey, search and seizure, search of persons and punishment are some of the main sections explained below.

Offence of Money-laundering: Sec-

tion 3 of PMLA, 2002 which deals with offence of money laundering says that, "Whosoever directly or indirectly attempts to indulge or knowingly assists or knowingly is a party or is actually involved in any process or activity connected with the proceeds of crime including its concealment, possession, acquisition or use and projecting or claiming it as untainted property shall be guilty of offence of money-laundering"

Power to Arrest: Section 19 of the PMLA, 2002 says, "If the Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Director or any other officer authorised by the Central Government has on the basis of material in his possession reason to believe (recorded in writing) that any person has been guilty of an offence punishable under this Act, he may arrest such person and shall, as soon as may be, inform him of the grounds for such arrest."

Power of Survey: As per Section 16 of the PMLA, 2002, "...where an authority, on the basis of material in his possession, has reason to believe that an offence under Section 3 has been committed, he may enter any place—within the limits of the area assigned to him..."

Search and seizure: As per Section 17 of the PMLA, 2002, "where the Director or any other officer not below the rank of Deputy Director authorised by him for the purpose of this section, on the basis of the information in his possession, has reason to believe that any person—1) has committed any act which constitutes money-laundering or 2) is in possession of any proceeds of crime involved in money-laundering or 3) is in possession of any records related to money-laundering or 4) is in possession of any property related to crime, then, he may authorise any officer subordinate to him to—1) enter and search any building, place, vessel, vehicle or aircraft where he has reason to suspect that such records or proceeds of crime are kept 2) break open the lock of any door, box, locker, safe, almirah etc where the keys are not available 3) seize any record or property found as a result of such search, 4) examine on

oath any person, who is found to be in possession or control of any record or property, in respect of all matters relevant for the purpose of any investigation under this Act.

Search of Persons: As per section 18 of PMLA, 2002, if an authority, authorised in this behalf by the Central Government by general or special order, has reason to believe that any person has secreted any record or proceeds of crime which may be useful for relevant to any proceedings under this Act, he may search that person and seize such record or property which may be useful for or relevant to any proceedings under this Act

Punishment for Money laundering: Section 4 of PMLA, 2002 deals with punishment of the accused. It says, "Whoever commits the offence of money-laundering shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine..."

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has been a corner-stone legislation in India's fight against financial crimes. An array of legislative amendments in 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2023 since its enforcement in July 2005, reflect the country's hardening stance against the illicit wealth.

Global history of money laundering and Indian legislation:

July 14 to July 16, 1989- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) established at the summit of seven major industrial nations, held in Paris to examine the problem of money laundering made 40 recommendations.

February 23, 1990—Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action, annexed to the resolution S-17/2 was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 17th special session.

June 8 to June 10, 1998—Political Declaration adopted by the special session of the United Nations General Assembly calls upon the member states to adopt national money laundering legislation and programme.

August 4, 1998—To achieve objective of preventing money laundering, the Bill was introduced in the Parliament on August 4, 1998.

March 4, 1999—The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, which presented its report on March 4, 1999 to Lok Sabha.

January 17, 2003—The Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill having been passed by both the Houses of Parliament received the assent of the President of India on January 17, 2003.

July 1, 2005—It came on the Statute Book as The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, that came into force from July 1, 2005.

As per Section 2(y) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, "Scheduled Offences" are classified under Part A, Part B and Part C of the schedule include offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, Explosive Substances Act, 1908, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, Arms Act, 1959, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, Explosives Act, 1884, Antiquities and Arts Treasures Act, 1972, Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, Customs Act, 1962, Bonded Labour Systems (Abolition) Act, 1976, Child Labour (Prohibition And Regulation) Act, 1986, Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, Emigration Act, 1983, Passports Act, 1967, Foreigners Act, 1946, Copyright Act, 1957, Trademarks Act, 1999, Information Technology Act, 2000, Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Suppression of Unlawful Acts against safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Act, 2002, Companies Act 2013, the Customs Act, 1962 and offence of Cross-border implications etc etc.

(For awareness purpose only. To be continued)

The abominable stigma of 'failure'

By: Avijit Pathak

As the results of the UPSC civil services exam capture the attention of the media and the public, the smiling faces of the IAS 'toppers' are seen everywhere— from the billboards in our cities to the front-page ads of branded coaching centres in leading newspapers. Or, for that matter, as the results of exams of various school boards have begun to come, we see yet another process of constructing the images of 'toppers'— youngsters with their miraculous performance in physics, chemistry, mathematics and biology!

It is sad that this hyper-competitive ethos of social Darwinism is altering the self-perception of even school students.

I am getting increasingly tired of hearing these success stories; rather, I am interested in understanding the pathology of the system that manufactures 'failures' amid the spectacular demonstration of select success stories.

Take, for instance, the lucrative business of India's

Rs 3,000-crore UPSC coaching industry. Move around the lanes and bylanes of Mukherjee Nagar and Karol Bagh in Delhi; converse with the crowd of young aspirants— engineers, doctors, PhD holders, university students; and feel the power of the dream of 'success' through which the celebrity 'gurus' of these coaching centres with their notes, lectures, guide books, interview strategies and even motivational speeches trap these aspirants. Well, this dream sells because we live in a society

that worships power— not necessarily the power of knowledge and wisdom, but the politico-administrative and economic power. And for innumerable middle-class parents in small towns and villages, it matters a lot if their sons/daughters can manage to become a district collector or a superintendent of police with visible signs of official power, privilege and glamour. This elevates their status and position in the local community. Yes, the UPSC myth is hypnotising. Although the success ratio is extremely low (for instance, in 2023, 13 lakh candidates appeared in the UPSC preliminary exam; eventually, 1,016 were selected), the business goes on. While we worship the success stories, we fail to acknowledge the intensity of psychic and intellectual damage the coaching enterprise causes to those who fail. Imagine the fate of most of these aspirants spending five to six years repeatedly trying to achieve the mythical success, consuming the 'notes' of history/geography/sociology/psychology/general studies day and night, investing a huge amount of money, and failing time and again! Yes, this dehumanised and mechanised system finishes them— psychologically and intellectually. For many of them, it becomes exceedingly difficult to overcome this wounded self-esteem, and redefine life with hope and creativity.

Furthermore, the entire system causes severe harm to the fundamental objectives of higher learning. Certainly, it is not a matter of glory if an engineering graduate from IIT-Kanpur or a MBBS doctor from AIIMS, New Delhi, becomes

a police officer or an income tax commissioner. Likewise, if a student of history from a leading university misses his classes regularly, forgets the likes of Eric Hobsbawm and Irfan Habib, and concentrates primarily on the 'notes' or 'success manuals' supplied by coaching centre strategists (yes, many of them have millions of YouTube subscribers), it indicates the intensity of the damage the coaching enterprise is causing to the growth of innovative teaching and research in our universities. Have we forgotten that a vibrant nation needs great physicists, political philosophers, social scientists and literary critics— not just a bunch of district collectors and police commissioners?

It is sad that this sort of hyper-competitive ethos of social Darwinism is altering the self-perception of even school students. See the way the images of the 'toppers' of board exams, or standardised tests like JEE and NEET are constructed— the way these girls and boys are transformed into instant 'stars' and led to believe that they are 'special'. Again, with this sort of glorification of 'success', we tend to forget the intensity of pain and humiliation that wounds the mental landscape of thousands of youngsters who have 'failed'. When will we understand that not everything is fine with our school education? When will we realise that schools with their regimentation, technologies of surveillance and one-dimensional/exam-centric/bookish learning often alienate those who are imaginative and 'mad' enough to strive for something more exciting than

what schools can offer? Possibly, they are endowed with the kind of aptitude and skills that do not fit well into the parameters of the typical official curriculum. In their path-breaking studies, educationists like John Holt (How Children Fail) and Kirsten Olson (Wounded by School) have reminded us of the devastating consequences of an educational approach that values conformity over creativity, flattens students' interests and dampens down differences among learners. Indeed, here is a system that tends to shame, disable and bore many learners.

For many of these vulnerable young minds, it is not easy to overcome the stigma of 'failure'. It is sad that we fail to tap their creative potential. A sense of fatigue, boredom and loneliness tends to diminish their zeal for a creative and meaningful living. But then, in this 'success-obsessed' world, who bothers to understand their pain? Meanwhile, our 'successful' youngsters love to become conformists; no wonder it is exceedingly difficult for them to see their life trajectories beyond 'safe' and 'secure' careers— techno-managers working day and night for the expansion of the neoliberal market, or administrators/bureaucrats saying 'yes' to a mode of governance that retains the status quo. Meanwhile, from Kota in Rajasthan to Mukherjee Nagar in Delhi, the coaching factories expand their lucrative business, sell the dream of 'success', seduce the anxiety-ridden middle class and destroy the creative rebelliousness of young minds.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor introduces new grade of 'Toyota Rumion'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), today, officially announced the opening of bookings and the price of New Grade G-AT of the Toyota Rumion along with reopening of E-CNG bookings. The newly launched G-AT variant is expected to further boost the market acceptance of the Rumion with its unmatched space and comfort, excellent fuel efficiency, stylish and premium exterior design.

The latest offering by TKM will be available at an attractive ex-showroom price of Rs. 13,00,000 with deliveries expected to commence from 5th May onwards. Customers can book the vehicle at any of the authorized dealerships or online with a booking fee of Rs 11,000.

Toyota Rumion G-AT variant is powered by the 1.5-litre K series petrol engine with 6-speed Automatic Transmission, featuring the Neo Drive (ISG) technology ensuring responsive performance. While the petrol grade has a power output of 75.8 kw @6000 rpm and torque of 136.8 Nm @4400 rpm for,

the CNG grade boosts of 64.6 kw output @5500 rpm and torque of 121.5 Nm@4200 rpm. The Toyota Rumion is now available in seven variants of Neo drive MT: S, G and V grade. Neo Drive AT: S, G and V grade. E-CNG: S grade offering a wide range of options for customers.

The G-AT variant is enhanced with advanced technology including a 17.78 cm Smartplay Cast Touchscreen audio system with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. Equipped with Toyota i-Connect, it offers remote control for climate, lock/unlock, hazard lights and many more connected features. The Toyota Rumion also prioritizes safety for its owners with advanced safety features like dual front airbags, ABS with EBD, Hill Hold, Electronic Stability Program (ESP) and more.

Making the announcement, Mr. Sabari Manohar, Vice President - Sales and Strategic Marketing, TKM said, "We are excited to announce the addition of the new grade to the Toyota Rumion lineup thus offering a wider choice and more options to customers

based on their mobility needs and requirements. Bookings for the G-AT variant is now open. Since its launch in August '23, the Toyota Rumion has generated much excitement among customers, leading to strong inquiries and healthy bookings. We deeply appreciate the love and trust shown by our valued customers.

In line with Toyota's customer centric approach, we have continued to deepen our focus towards catering to the evolving customer demands by introducing new products and variants at regular intervals with a focus on delivering them ever-better cars. We believe that with its unmatched space, advanced features, and exceptional performance, backed by Toyota's value-added proposition and excellent after sales service, the Toyota Rumion will become a preferred choice for the discerning families looking for awesome ownership experience, ensuring every drive is filled with comfort, joy, and peace of mind."

The Rumion brings in a stylish and premium exterior design for a tough appearance with robust characteristics like Toyota

MPV signature front grille, Front Bumper with chrome finish, LED tail lamps with back door chrome garnish and machined two tone alloy wheels that exude style and sophistication. The luxurious interior offers premium dual-tone with wooden finish dashboard and door trims, premium dual-tone interiors, and a range of convenient amenities.

Toyota Rumion also beholds the highest safety standards. It comes with Dual front airbags, ABS with EBD and Brake Assist, Engine immobilizer, ESP, Hill Hold assist, and ISO Fix Child seat anchorages further enhance the safety quotient. Its features also include front seat belts with pretensioners and force limiters, seat belt reminder for all seats, and a high-speed alert system.

The Toyota Rumion is packed with the legacy of Toyota service offerings with a host of customized finance schemes and unmatched value additions to enhance the customer ownership experience. The offers include - finance options for Value Added Services like Extended Warranty &

Toyota Genuine Accessories, focusing on affordability and flexibility that will be beneficial to the customers. Other options include upto 8-year finance schemes, low EMI with increased affordability, pre-approved funding for value added services and Toyota Smart finance [Balloon Finance] to support aspirational buying and present customers with a wide variety of choices.

Other value benefit services include Toyota's newly introduced 5-year complimentary Roadside assistance, warranty - standard warranty of 3 years/1,00,000 km, which can be extended to 5 years/2,20,000 km at a nominal cost.

In addition, the company also recently launched an industry-first "Awesome New Car Delivery Solution" that extends vehicle logistic services till delivery touchpoints by eliminating possible drive down of new cars by the dealer staff to the delivery location. As an industry first, the new initiative will enable Toyota dealers to transport new vehicles from dealer stockyards to their sales outlets on a flat-bed truck.

Prof Uppal emphasizes importance of developing quality research paper writing skills



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: During Guru Govind Singh College of Education, Giddarbaha, Prof. Uppal shared his research experiences with the faculty members on how to write a quality research paper and publish it in peer-reviewed journals. In his speech, Dr. Uppal stressed that quality research is a necessity of the hour and that research should begin in schools. Quality research will transform India, he said.

As part of the presentation, Prof. R.K. Uppal, Principal of Baba Farid College of Management Technology, Bathinda, Punjab, shared his insights. Dr Uppal said AI tools can enhance the productivity of quality research. Research papers and research pro-

posals are often rejected due to the pressure of publishing in high-profile journals, inadequate research methodologies, inadequate statistical knowledge, and grammatical and language errors, according to Dr. Uppal.

Various funding agencies in India distribute grants to projects of major significance, seminars, conferences, workshops, or non-governmental organizations supporting scientific research in sectors such as Science and Technology, Social Sciences, Agriculture, and Management Sciences, among others.

To promote Indian research in the Science and Medical stream, Management, and other fields, these agencies conduct research under different schemes and provide research grants.

It is highly competitive to receive these grants, with priority given to research projects deemed most worthy of funding. Professor Rajender Kumar Uppal emerges as a towering figure in the annals of academia, whose multifaceted contributions transcend disciplinary boundaries, inspire generations, and chart the course for a brighter future.

As we embark on this journey of exploration and discovery, let us celebrate the indomitable spirit, scholarly prowess, and visionary leadership of Professor Uppal, whose legacy continues to inspire, illuminate, and enrich the academic landscape.

The principal, Dr. Mangal Singh, welcomed Dr. Uppal and thanked his for her excellent presentation.

DSS to observe Save Water Save Birds Day on May 4



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: The Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS), Jammu and Kashmir is going to observe the annual event 'Save Birds, Save Water Day' on May 4th this year, starting from 10:00 AM onwards at the Dogra Sadar Sabha Bhawan, Jammu. The event is being organized in collaboration with the Dogra Educational Trust, Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust, J&K Ex-Services League, Management Committee of Makkah Masjid, Bhatindi, and the Forest Department

of Jammu. This was announced by Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, Former minister and President of the Sabha, while addressing the media persons here today.

Charak highlighted that this initiative, launched 19 years ago by the 120-year-old sole representative body of the Dogras, aims to create public awareness and promote compassion towards birds, particularly amidst rapid urbanization and the depletion of natural water bodies, which were once abundant just a few decades ago.

Detailing the activities planned for the day, Charak disclosed that informative and motivational talks on nature preservation and wildlife conservation will be conducted during the event. The gathering is expected to include prominent citizens, educators, Forest Department officials, philanthropists, and students. Following the talks, earthen 'hang-pots' will be distributed to participants, encouraging them to hang these water pots on trees and other suitable locations for birds, be it at their homes, schools, offices, parks, or workplaces.

PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar conducts national youth Parliament

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: The National Youth Parliament 2024 was conducted in PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar on Tuesday in the college auditorium under the aegis of the National Programme for Youth Adolescent Development (NPYAD) organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The theme of the NYP 2024 was 'Young Voices: Engage and Empower for Nation's Transformation'.

The objective of the programme remained to provide a platform to the youngsters where they are given a mock-parliament set up and exposure to the parliamentary type debate.

It also aimed at hearing the voice of the youth who would be joining various careers in the near future.

The programme started by formally welcoming the Guest of the day, Prof Archana Bakshi, HOD English with a bouquet presentation in the presence of the worthy principal of the college, Prof (Dr) S P Saraswat.

Dr Gurpreet kour also graced the occa-

sion as the observer. Thereafter, the formal welcome address was presented by Dr Rippy Bawa, Coordinator, NYP 2024 wherein she also detailed about the aims and objectives of mock parliaments in the educational institutions.

It was followed by the proceedings of the mock parliament which included deliberations between the Ruling and the Opposition parties on The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

The mock parliament was adjourned after the successful passing of the Bill followed by Rashtriya Gan.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof (Dr) SP Saraswat congratulated the entire NYP team for their remarkable performance. He also motivated them to continue participating in such programmes as it would polish their personalities for outshining in various professions. The programme came to an end with the memento presentation to the guests.

At the conclusion the participants were provided with refreshments.

Dimple welcomes hearing petition on Art 370 by SC on May 1

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Sunil Dimple, president of the Mission Statehood, has expressed his satisfaction with the decision of the Chief Justice of India and the Supreme Court to hear the review petition on Article 370 on May 1st.

He emphasized the anticipation and hope among the people of Jammu and Kashmir upon learning about this development.

Dimple has urged the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of India to refer the Article 370 review petition to a larger bench for an open hearing.

Additionally, he has called upon the Chief Justice to instruct the central government to promptly restore J&K's statehood, adhere to the conditions of the Instrument of Accession, and integrate POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan into J&K.

He has also called upon other political leaders to clarify their stance on Article 370 and the Instrument of Accession before forming alliances with the BJP. Dimple expressed confidence that the Supreme Court will uphold the dignity and integrity of the Indian constitution and



rectify the situation.

He reiterated the expectation that the SC, CJI, and the constitutional bench will ensure justice for the people of J&K and safeguard their rights, land, jobs, identity, culture, and demography.

Lastly, he emphasized the desire for the restoration of the Jammu and Kashmir state as it stood during Maharaja Hari Singh's signing of the Stand Still Agreement during accession with India.

SKLPAASAN condemns attack on Khajuria Food Mall

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Saraswat Shree Krishan Lal Pandit Aadhyaatmik Smriti Nyas (SKLPAASAN) working for the promotion of education, Sanskrit, culture, scientific moral values, ethics, rituals, Karamkand and necessary steps leading to eternal salvation on the basis of Dharm, Arth, Kaam, Moksh and Ghyana, Dhyana, Yog, Bhakti to the people for all round development and welfare of the society under the kind guidance of Dr Ved Parkash Shastri Ji- Chairman and Ex ZEPO Hem Raj Ranyal- President condemned the recently firing attack on Khajuria Food Mall, Miran Sahib. Thanks God that no loss to life and property occurred in the incident, they said. Police personnel team led by SHO Miran Sahib under the guidance of concerned SDPO and SP tried their best, worked hard to put the culprits behind the bars. However, they said, it is a case to investigate the matter in detail to find out the conspiracy and gang behind the attack as it seems the attack on the whole society and brotherhood. Culprits should hesitate to perform such attacks in future, they said.

Pt Chaman Lal Sharma reiterated that all the people of different faiths and beliefs of the society live together, dependent on each other and co-related with respect to their work, culture and heritage from the time. There would be no need to attack or harm anybody, institution in any way. Also appealed all the citizens to work for national building, communal harmony and development of the country.

SNS Jeevan Nagar students shine in Gurmat Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: The students of Shiksha Niketan Senior Secondary School, Jeevan Nagar participated in the Gurmat Competition on Kaun Banega Pyare Ka Pyara on 28 April 2024 organised by SGPC Rani Talab Digana Jammu in which the theme of the competition was history of first "Guru Nanak Dev Ji".

The committee members are invited by the institution and congratulated to those students who had participated in this competition and got

the prizes.

The member of Gurdwara Committee Karnal Singh, Manjeet Singh, Sikh Naujawan Sabha Rani Talab Digana also Satnam Singh anchor of Ik Bani Channel and Balveer Singh student of SNS and member of Ik Bani channel. Members of the Committee and Principal Rameshwar Mengi congratulated the students and their parents to got position in the competition.

Principal and the members of the committee distributed the prizes to the students. Angaddeep

Singh of 7th F got 2nd prize (laptop), Dashamveer Singh of class 8th I got 3rd prize (LED 42 INCH), Guneeet Kour got 12th position of 8th I got (smart watch) & Pavleen Kour, Sahibveer Singh, Ishmeet kour also got smart watch & bicycle from the competition.

The competition was very tough but the students worked very hard and got the positions. The Principal of the Institution Rameshwar Mengi congratulated the students and boosted their moral for the future competition.

Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & A.H., SKUAST-J celebrates World Veterinary Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-Jammu, celebrated World Veterinary Day, 2K24 under the able guidance and leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu.

The theme for this year World Veterinary Day was "Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers". A number of activities viz. painting, quiz, essay writing, etc were carried out to celebrate the occasion.

A free Antirabic vaccination camp was organized at Referral Hospital of Division of Veterinary Clinical Complex. Free medicines were distributed at the occasion.

Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor graced the occasion as Chief Guest with his presence.

Dr. Tripathi in his address emphasized the significant role of Veterinarians as essential health workers in maintaining the health and welfare of animals as well as humans globally stressing the one health concept.

He congratulated the veterinarians and requested the fraternity to work with zeal and zest for the betterment of the profession and public at large.

Further, he said that veterinarians play a multifaceted role towards the development of the society.

Dr. Rajesh Katoch, Dean, F.V.Sc. & A.H., echoed similar sentiments and asserted that Veterinarians play a crucial role in financial, social, mental and physical health of animal owners and prevention and control of animal diseases.

They also work towards the improvement of human health through public and private veterinary services.

Dr. J.S. Soodan, Dean, Faculty of Dairy Technology, highlighted the importance of veterinarians in society and their role in promoting animal health, welfare and economy of the Union Territory. Dr. P.S. Bindra, a leading practitioner of Jammu region was also honored by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor.

A quiz competition for

veterinary students on the said theme was also organized in which UG/PG students participated with utmost enthusiasm. The day also witnessed painting and essay writing competition in the Faculty. A veterinary clinical-cum-health camp was also organized in the same week at village Badyal Brahmina of RS Pura block as a part of WVD, 2K24.

Sponsors in the WVD were Himalaya, Virbac, Intas Pharmaceutical Ltd., Indian Immunologicals and Skyec.

All the statutory officers, HOD's, teaching and non-teaching staff of faculty along with the veterinary students actively participated in the occasion and the day ended with prize distribution during valedictory ceremony.

The programme was well coordinated by Dr. R.K. Bhardwaj, Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dr. H.R. Bhardwaj, Dr. Harsh Sharma, Dr. Ankur Rastogi, Dr. B. Brahma, Dr. S.R. Upadhyay, Dr. Kafil Hussain, Dr. A.L. Koul, Dr. P. Goswami, Dr. N. Sharma, Dr. N. Nashiruddin, Dr. I.A. Ganai and Dr. Nazam Khan.

Adhyayan Suman wishes Kangana Ranaut all the very best for her political career

Adhyayan is playing the role of a nawab in the upcoming series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'

Actor Adhyayan Suman has extended his best wishes to Kangana Ranaut, with whom he had a bitter breakup after being in a relationship for a few months in 2008-2009, for her venture into politics.

The actor said that he is "sure" that she will do "extremely well". Talking about Kangana, who recently joined politics as a BJP candidate from Mandi for the Lok Sabha election, Adhyayan told IANS, "As far as Kangana, her life and political career are concerned, I think she has done really well as an actor, and I wish her all the very best for her political career as well."

"I am sure that she will do extremely well. I wish her all the best."

Their paths initially crossed on the sets of 'Raaz: The Mystery Continues' directed by Mohit Suri. However, it was almost eight years later, in 2017, that Adhyayan publicly addressed their breakup, during which he accused Kangana of physical and mental abuse.

Moving forward, Adhyayan



is preparing for the release of 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', a series directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, revolving around the lives of tawaifs and the nawabs in Lahore.

Adhyayan, who is playing the role of a nawab in the series, said that he has waited for an opportunity for far too long now.

"I really hope that the audience appreciates it too. I hope to receive validation from them. I still feel like I am living the

dream. I had never expected to be a part of this magnum opus. It was a far-fetched dream for me, but then dreams do come true," Adhyayan said.

The series also stars his father, veteran actor Shekhar Suman.

Adhyayan said that it's a dream come true for his mother, Alka, to watch the father-son duo together in one show.

"Unfortunately, I have only one scene with him (Shekhar).

I had hoped for more screen time together, but that's not how tracks come together. Nevertheless, having both father and son on the same show was a dream come true for my mother, especially, and of course, for me as well," he added.

Adhyayan anticipates a second season and hopes his character's path intersects with his father's role in the show.

As for his projects in 2024, Adhyayan has a packed schedule.

"I have just finished an untitled love story... I have completed a dark thriller, 'Veham', with Vijay Raaz, and a film, 'Entrapped'. Additionally, I have about nine singles coming out this year," he said.

The 36-year-old is also set to direct a film titled 'Ae Ajnabi' and produce a biopic on a conman.

"I am directing and acting in my debut film, 'Ae Ajnabi'. I am also producing a biopic on a conman. I have a lot of projects lined up. I believe my work will speak for itself," he concluded.

Rihanna unveils ambitious plans for upcoming album



Pop sensation Rihanna stirred excitement among fans, as she hinted at what's to come from her highly anticipated next album.

The 36-year-old singer and businesswoman, known for her groundbreaking music and innovative beauty line, discussed her creative endeavours and upcoming ventures at an event for the launch of her Fenty Beauty's new product.

Rihanna shared insights into her musical aspirations and the evolution of her brand. Amidst discussions of makeup, motherhood, and the upcoming Met Gala, Rihanna made it clear that her focus remains firmly on delivering an exceptional musical experience with her forthcoming album.

Nostalgia alert! 'Scooby-Doo' live-action series in the works



'Scooby Dooby Doo, where are you?' song has been lingering in the minds of the fans of 'Scooby-Doo' ever since they learned about the potential live-action series of the classic Warner Bros IP.

As per Variety, streaming giant Netflix is likely to develop 'Scooby-Doo! The Live-Action Series' with writers Josh Appelbaum and Scott Rosenberg.

The one-hour drama project is said to be nearing a deal at the streamer with a script-to-series commitment. Exact plot details are being kept under wraps aside from the fact it will be based on the Hanna-Barbera cartoon.

Warner Bros Television will produce, with the studio having recently launched the 'Dead Boys Detectives' series on Netflix.

Josh Appelbaum and Scott Rosenberg serve

as writers and will also executive produce along with Andre Nemec and Jeff Pinkner under their Midnight Radio banner. Greg Berlanti, Sarah Schechter and Leigh London Redman will executive produce via Berlanti productions (the company is currently under an overall deal at WBTV).

Jonathan Gabay of Berlanti Productions and Adrienne Erickson will co-executive produce.

Created by Joe Ruby and Ken Spears, the Scooby-Doo! franchise was launched in 1969 with the duo's first animated series Scooby-Doo, Where Are You! for then-Hanna-Barbera (later absorbed into Warner Bros Animation).

The Netflix project would not be the first live-action Scooby-Doo project to make it to the screen. Most famously, 'Scooby-Doo' was

released in 2002 and starred Freddie Prinze Jr, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Matthew Lillard and Linda Cardellini with Neil Fanning voicing Scooby.

The film was a box office success, generating over USD 250 million worldwide.

A sequel with the same cast, 'Scooby-Doo: Monsters Unleashed', came out in 2004 and grossed over USD 180 million. There was also the live-action TV film 'Scooby-Doo! The Mystery Begins' and its sequel that were released in 2009 and 2010.

There have also been a wide range of Scooby-Doo animated projects over the years, beginning with the original cartoon series in the late 1960s. Various incarnations have followed over the years, spanning multiple animated series and films.

Richa Chadha, who plays Lajjo in Heeramandi, hopes that after watching the Netflix series people associate the word tawaif with dignity

A 'nurturing and good looking' life partner, a baby on the way and 'baby steps' into the world of production and icing on the happiness cake, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus Heeramandi in which she plays a key part is ready to stream on Netflix.... Touch wood! Even before the talented actress Richa Chadha can utter the word, we echo similar thoughts. Life is good, admits the Masaan actress.

Though she has proved her mettle in more than one film, Bhansali's Heeramandi is a special one. It's the first time she plays a dancer and had to reconnect with Kathak, a dance form she had learnt in early formative years. As she calls her part of courtesan Lajjo, 'female Devdas,' we wonder whether her reference points were reel Devdas' Dilip Kumar and Shah Rukh Khan or the ultimate tragedy queen Meena Kumari.

She shares that it's indeed the late actress who herself played the part of tawaif to perfection in Pakeezah. Richa not only had Meena Kumari's onscreen performances in her mind but also off-screen heartbreaks, her struggles with addiction and more. "It's Mr Bhansali's and my tribute to her."

Bhansali, with whom she has worked previously too in Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela, is undeniably a tough taskmaster but 'not aimlessly tough'. Since he would not settle for anything less than perfect, Richa adds, "I would not mind doing 100 retakes for him." Guess what, for



a particular scene of dance in Heeramandi she came rather close — 99 retakes.

Interestingly, Bhansali's presence on the sets also ensures that despite an ensemble cast of so many actresses, including Manisha Koirala and Sonakshi Sinha, there is no rivalry. She chuckles, "When you have such an alpha as the captain of the ship, there is no room for women to have an ego or bicker among themselves. Anyway, he makes his women old, young, those who have small or major parts, look beautiful, for visual aesthetics is so important to him. Moreover, so high are his standards that invariably parts in his films also end up being actors' most memorable ones."

For Richa, it was a conscious choice to play this hopeless romantic Lajjo as against other grey characters in the series.

Breaking away from stereotypes is something that she has consciously worked upon. Indeed, there is more than one Richa in this Bholi Punjabian of Fukrey franchise and Nagma Khatoon of Gangs of Wasseypur.

She reasons, "If I were to play similar characters in film after film, I would be bored and so would my audiences. It's an actor's job to create something new. There should be an element of surprise for the audience, otherwise why would they put in their time and money."

The million dollar question — why should they invest in eight-episode Heeramandi, a tale of courtesans, far removed from their reality of today? She says, "It's shared history of our sub-continent. If you don't know your context, you are lost." She was well-clued in to the fact that there was a place in Lahore called

Heeramandi where courtesans had so much sway over society. The series, she so hopes, would make people realise how these courtesans were not just nautch-girls but ones because of whom so many elements of culture survived. "Their contribution to poetry, music (Thumris) and dance (Kathak) can't be overlooked," she says.

How challenging was it for a contemporary woman like her to step back in time and become an authentic and integral part of 1940s? Director's vision and writing help, but she insists, "You have to do your own research." In the same breath, she also reminds, "No one does period cinema like Mr Bhansali."

As she and her husband Ali Fazal have started a production house and are winning accolades for their film Girls Will Be Girls, would this Punjabian care to promote Punjabi cinema and talent from her home state? She nods, "Punjabi cinema is at a very interesting phase today almost where Marathi cinema was, say, 10 years ago."

She, who has recently seen Chamkila and is a self-confessed Diljit Dosanjh fan, would not only care to produce a Punjabi film but also love to act in a coming-of-age Punjabi film. Her Punjabi as of now is more Delhi-wasi kind... but she will brush up this 'sweet beautiful' language if the role demands. After all, the biggest takeaway from her exacting director Bhansali has been 'absolute insistence on quality.'

New York Indian Film Festival to celebrate Shabana Azmi's 50 years in cinema

The landmark 50-year cinematic journey of veteran Indian actor Shabana Azmi will be celebrated here next month at the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF), the annual celebration of features and documentaries from the Indian subcontinent.

The 24th edition of the NYIFF, considered North America's longest running and most prestigious Indian film festival, will run from May 31-June 2 and showcase 49 narratives, documentaries and short films starring some of the biggest names

in cinema, including Amitabh Bachchan and Naseeruddin Shah.

With the year 2024 marking Azmi's five decades in Indian and international cinema, the gala will celebrate this landmark anniversary with a special event that will include the screening of her 1996 film 'Fire', directed by Deepa Mehta.

"I have been associated with the NYIFF since its inception. I am heartened by the progress it has made over the years in leaps and bounds. I am happy that my 50th year is being celebrated

here and I look forward to it," a NYIFF statement quoted Azmi as saying.

Azmi, 73, who will attend this year's NYIFF, will delve into her "remarkable journey, from her groundbreaking debut in Shyam Benegal's 'Ankur', to her trailblazing roles that have earned her five National Film Awards and international accolades," the statement said.

It added that beyond her cinematic achievements, Azmi's "dedication to social activism, particularly for the rights of women and the underprivileged, is truly



inspiring."

The Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee has starred in over 140 Hindi films and 12 international productions such as Mehta's 'Midnight's Children', Mira Nair's 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist' and Ismail Merchant's 'In Custody'.

"From her gripping portrayal in 'Ankur' to her recent roles in 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' and 'Ghoomer', her collaborations transcend borders, with projects including Shekhar Kapur's 'What's Love Got to Do with It?'

and Steven Spielberg's prestigious mini-series 'Halo'.

"Azmi's repertoire is a testament to her unparalleled skill and diverse roles. As Shabana Azmi continues to illuminate screens and stages alike with her presence, her legacy as a trailblazer in Indian cinema remains unparalleled," the statement said.

The festival, presented by the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC), will open with the film 'Dear Jassi', directed by Indian-American filmmaker Tarsem Singh, who has made films with Jenni-

fer Lopez and Julia Roberts, besides directing videos for music legends like the bands REM and Lady Gaga. Closing the festival will be the Sanya Malhotra-starrer 'Mrs', directed by Arati Kadav.

Highlights of this year's festival include the Bachchan and Vivek Gomber starrer 'The Umesh Chronicles' by filmmaker Pooja Kaul; Naseeruddin Shah in the short film 'Khidki', documentary 'Merchant Ivory', and Tannishtha Chatterjee in American filmmaker Wendy Bednarz's debut film 'Yellow Bus'.

PM Modi targets Sharad Pawar on his work as agriculture minister

Modi also said that people are seeing the difference between his government's 10 years and Congress rule of 60 years.

MALSHIRAS, Apr 30 (Agencies): A day after terming Sharad Pawar as a wandering soul, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday continued his attack on the NCP leader, saying he did not do much for farmers while being the Union agriculture minister.

"When a big Maharashtra leader was Union agriculture minister, farmers used to make rounds of sugarcane commission for their arrears," Modi said at a rally in Malshiras of Solapur district in Maharashtra. "There is a 'bhakti' (wandering soul) in Maharashtra. If it does not manage success it spoils others' good work. Maharashtra has been a victim of it," Modi had said at a rally on Monday, hitting out at



Sharad Pawar without taking his name.

"This game was started by the same leader 45 years ago. It was just for his own ambition that Maharashtra has always been an unstable state. As a result, several chief ministers

could not complete their full term," Modi had said.

At the Malshiras rally Tuesday, Modi asked voters not to waste their vote by giving it to Congress and other opposition parties. "Why waste your vote by

giving it to those who are not contesting even the minimum number of seats needed for a simple majority in Lok Sabha," he said.

He asserted that when there is a strong government in the country, its focus is on the present as well as the future.

Modi said people are seeing the difference between his government's 10 years and Congress rule of 60 years.

Congress leaders kept talking about eradicating poverty in every poll but would do nothing after that, he said.

Modi said that in the last 10 years, his government was able to bring 25 crore people out of poverty and 80 crore are getting free ration.

BJP will not tolerate any insult to women: Amit Shah on sexual abuse allegations against Prajwal Revanna



GUWAHATI, Apr 30 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday condemned the alleged sexual abuse of women involving Lok Sabha MP Prajwal Revanna, asserting that the BJP will not tolerate any insult to women.

Revanna (33) is the BJP-JD(S) alliance candidate for Hassan Lok Sabha constituency, which went to polls on

April 26.

Earlier in the day, the JD(S) suspended Revanna from the party with immediate effect.

"The issue regarding Revanna that has been reported in the media is very hurtful and cannot be tolerated in any way," Shah told in a press conference here.

"The BJP's stand is very clear; we will not tolerate any insult to 'matri aur nari shakti'

(women empowerment)," he asserted.

Some explicit video clips allegedly involving Prajwal Revanna, the grandson of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, were circulated in Hassan over the last few days.

The home minister said Congress has been alleging that an NDA partner's candidate is involved in the incident, "but I just want to ask a small question - whose government is there in that state (Karnataka)?"

"The Congress is in power in Karnataka, and this matter must have come to their attention. Why has it not taken any action on it so far? We cannot take any action as law and order is a state issue," Shah said.

7 Naxalites killed in encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh

NARAYANPUR, Apr 30 (Agencies): Seven Naxalites, including two women, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in a forest along the borders of Narayanpur and Kanker districts in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, police said.

This is the second major strike on Naxalites by security forces in 15 days.

The latest gunfight took place at around 6 am in the forest between Tekmeta and Kakur villages in Abhujmad area, considered as a stronghold of Naxalites, when a joint team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Special Task Force (STF) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, a senior police official told agency.

After the exchange of fire stopped, bodies of seven Naxalites, includ-



ing two women, were recovered from the spot, he said.

An AK-47 rifle and cache of other weapons and explosives were also seized from the spot, he said, adding that a search operation was still underway in the area.

The identity of the killed Naxalites were yet to be ascertained, the official said.

With this incident, 88 Naxalites have been killed so far this year in separate encounters with security forces in the state's Bastar region, comprising seven districts including Narayanpur and Kanker, according to police.

On April 16, 29 Naxalites were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Kanker district.

Manipur Police personnel drove 2 Kuki women to mob that paraded them naked, says CBI charge sheet

NEW DELHI, Apr 30 (Agencies): The Manipur Police personnel allegedly drove the two women from the Kuki-Zomi community, who had sought refuge in their official Gypsy, to a mob of around 1,000 Meiti rioters in Kangpokpi district, the CBI charge sheet has said.

The two women were subsequently stripped naked and paraded before being sexually assaulted during the ethnic violence in the state, the charge sheet added.

The women, one of whom was the wife of a Kargil war veteran, desperately asked the police personnel to drive them to a safe location but were allegedly told by them that "there was no key" (of the vehicle) and were not provided any help, the officials

giving details of the charge sheet said.

A video showing two women being paraded naked surrounded by a mob of men went viral last year in July, nearly two months after the incident that took place on May 4.

The CBI filed its charge sheet against six accused and a report against one Child in Conflict with the Law (CCL) before the Special Judge, CBI Court at Guwahati, on October 16 last year. It has alleged that the two women were running away from a mob of around 900-1,000 people carrying sophisticated weapons like AK rifles, SLR, INSAS and .303 rifles.

The mob had forcibly entered their village in Kangpokpi district, about 68 km south of

Saikul police station, it said.

The women, along with other victims, ran into the forest to escape from the mob but were spotted by the rioters who had separated the victims. Some members of the mob told the women to reach the police vehicle parked on the roadside to seek help, officials in the know of the development said.

The two women managed to get inside the vehicle, in which two police personnel and the driver were sitting. Three to four personnel were outside the vehicle.

One of the male victims, who also managed to make his way inside the vehicle, kept pleading with the driver to drive them to a safe place but was told "there was no key".

The husband of one of the victims had served the Indian Army as a subedar of the Assam Regiment.

The police also did not help the father of the man sitting in the vehicle from being assaulted by the mob, the CBI alleged.

Later, the driver of the police Gypsy drove the vehicle towards a mob of around 1,000 people and stopped it in front of them. The victims desperately asked the police personnel to drive them to safety, but no help was provided to them, it was alleged.

The mob had already killed the father of one of the male victims who was sitting in the Gypsy along with the two women, the agency has said. The violent mob came towards the

Gypsy when the police personnel fled from the scene, leaving the victims at the mercy of the crowd.

The rioters dragged the women out, stripped them of their clothes and paraded them naked before sexually assaulting them, the charge sheet has said.

The CBI has charge sheeted Huiem Herodas Meitei, who was nabbed by Manipur Police in July, and five others, and a report has been filed against a juvenile.

The accused have been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including those pertaining to gang-rape, murder, outraging the modesty of a woman and criminal conspiracy, the CBI has said.

Mumbai court issues summons to cricketer Prithvi Shaw on social media influencer's plea

MUMBAI, Apr 30 (Agencies): A sessions court here on Tuesday issued summons to Prithvi Shaw on a plea filed by social media influencer Sapna Gill, challenging orders of a magistrate in connection with her complaint against the cricketer.

A metropolitan court in Andheri earlier this month ordered a police enquiry on Gill's plea seeking an FIR against Shaw for allegedly molesting her at a pub.

It had, however, rejected another plea of Gill seeking action against police for failing to register a case on her complaint against Shaw and his friend.

Aggrieved with both the orders, the social media influencer filed a review application before a sessions court in Malad here.

The order passed by the metropolitan magistrate on April 3 is irregular and illegal and that court has "gravely erred" in passing it, claimed Gill's review application, filed through advocate Ali Kaashif Khan.

On Tuesday, additional sessions judge D G Dhoble issued summons to Shaw.

The court also issued summons to the airport police here, who did not register a case when Gill had first approached them.

The matter will be next heard



on June 6.

Gill was arrested in February 2023 along with some others in connection with an attack on Shaw following an argument over clicking selfies at a suburban hotel. She is currently out on bail.

After being granted bail in the case, Gill had approached the

airport police station in Andheri with a complaint of molestation against Shaw, his friend Ashish Yadav and others.

She later moved the magistrate court after the police did not register a case against the cricketer.

In her complaint, Gill had sought registration of an FIR under Indian Penal Code sections 354 (molestation), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means) against Shaw and his friend Ashish Yadav for allegedly assaulting her with a bat.

Four passengers killed, nine injured as bus rams into truck in Nashik



MUMBAI, Apr 30 (Agencies): At least four passengers were killed and nine others injured after a state-run bus they were travelling in rams into a truck in Nashik district of Maharashtra on Tuesday, police said.

The incident occurred

around 9.30 am when the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus carrying 45 passengers was going towards Nashik city from Chandwad town in the district, a police official said.

"The driver of the bus lost control while trying

to overtake the truck and rammed into it from behind," he said.

At least two passengers of the bus died on the spot and as many others died during treatment at a hospital, where they were rushed to after the accident, the police official said.

"Nine other passengers are in a serious condition and undergoing treatment at state-run as well as private hospitals in Nashik," he said.

6 killed, 3 injured as truck rams into jeep in Bihar's Bhagalpur

BHAGALPUR, Apr 30 (Agencies): Six people, including two minors, died and three others were injured after a speeding truck rams into a jeep in Bihar's Bhagalpur district, police said on Tuesday.

The accident took place in Aamapur village around 11.30 pm on Monday, they said.

"The speeding stone chips-laden truck reportedly lost control and collided with the jeep on National Highway-80. The passengers were on their way to a marriage party," said Ajeet



Kumar, Station House Officer (SHO) of Ghogha Police Station.

The injured have been admitted to the nearest government hospital. The driver of the truck, which has been impounded, fled, he said.

"The rescue work continued for three hours...

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination," Kumar added.

The deceased have been identified as Satyam Mandal (32), Sanchit Kumar (18), Abhisekh Kumar (12), Pankaj Kumar Singh (35), Amit Das (16) and Parimal Das (42).

Shiv Sena fields Ravindra Waikar from Mumbai North West Lok Sabha seat

MUMBAI, Apr 30 (Agencies): The Shiv Sena on Tuesday nominated Ravindra Waikar as its candidate from Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency, a party leader said.

An MLA from Jogeshwari in Mumbai, Waikar was a close aide of Shiv Sena (UBT) head Uddhav Thackeray before joining the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Waikar has been fielded by the Shiv Sena from Mumbai North



West seat, party secretary Sanjay More said.

He will take on Amol Kirtikar of the Shiv Sena (UBT).

In 2019, the BJP and its then ally Shiv Sena (undivided) won three

seats each out of the total six in Mumbai.

The BJP has this time denied renomination to all its three sitting MPs in Mumbai. It has replaced Gopal Shetty with Piyush Goyal in

Mumbai North seat, Manoj Kotak with Mihir Kotecha in Mumbai North East constituency and Poonam Mahajan with lawyer Ujjwal Nikam in Mumbai North Central constituency.

The Sena had won Mumbai South, Mumbai South Central and Mumbai North West.

After a split in the party in 2022, Mumbai South Central MP Rahul Shewale and Mumbai North West parliamentarian Gajanan Kirtikar switched over to the Shiv Sena led by CM

Shinde.

The Shiv Sena has renominated Shewale and the Shiv Sena (UBT) has renominated Arvind Sawant from Mumbai South.

The ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance in the state is yet to announce its candidates for the Mumbai South seat.

The opposition Congress is yet to announce its candidate in the Mumbai North seat.

Elections to all the six Lok Sabha seats in Mumbai will be held on May 20.

Japan's PM Kishida denies he will step down over his party's loss in special elections

The loss is seen as a punishment by voters for the governing party's scandal, which erupted last year and has undermined Kishida's leadership.

TOKYO, Apr 30 (Agencies): Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Tuesday his governing party's major defeat in last weekend's by-elections was largely due to a political fundraising scandal and that he would not step down or replace party executives to take responsibility.

Instead, Kishida said he will push anti-corruption measures and political reforms.

"As I take the results seriously, I believe as president of the governing party we must tackle the challenges we face one by one and achieve results, and this is the way I will take responsibility," Kishida said. "By doing so, I will regain the people's trust."

Kishida said the scandal dealt "a big and heavy hinderance" to the party. The scandal centers on dozens of lawmakers in Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party who allegedly pocketed profits from ticket sales to political events by falsifying accounting reports.

Asked if he would take responsibility for the election loss, Kishida denied he would step down or replace top LDP posts, and pledged to pursue party and political reforms,



including a revision to the political funds laws. He also vowed to tackle economic issues.

The conservative Liberal Democratic Party lost all three seats in Sunday's parliamentary by-elections in Nagasaki, Shimane and Tokyo. Kishida's party only fielded its own candidate in Shimane, a conservative stronghold, while the liberal-leaning main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan clinched all three seats previously held by LDP.

The loss is seen as a punishment by voters for the governing party's scandal, which erupted last year and has undermined Kishida's leader-

ship.

The party is unlikely to lose power because the opposition is fractured. But Sunday's defeat marks a further setback for Kishida, who will seek reelection as his party's leader in the fall.

Political analysts say Kishida was hoping to call a snap election possibly after the current parliamentary session ends in late June, seeking to receive a public mandate, and then win another term in the party presidential vote in September.

Kishida's state visit to the U.S. earlier this month was perceived as a success, but Sunday's losses could erode his clout and LDP lawmakers

may try to bring him down in favor of a fresh face ahead of the next general election.

Such a move would make it difficult for Kishida to run for another three-year term in the party's presidential race in September. As prime minister, he can call a snap election anytime before the current term for the lower house expires in October 2025.

Kishida on Tuesday denied he has plans to call for a snap election.

He has fought plummeting approval ratings since the corruption scandal broke. He has removed a number of Cabinet ministers and others from party executive posts, conducted internal hearings and drafted reform measures, but support for his government has dwindled to around 20%.

The scandal centers on unreported political funds raised through tickets sold for party events and involved more than 80 LDP lawmakers, mostly belonging to a major party faction previously led by assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Ten people — lawmakers and their aides — were indicted in January.

Indonesia's Mount Ruang erupts again, spewing ash and peppering villages with debris

MANADO, Apr 30 (Agencies): Indonesia's Mount Ruang volcano erupted Tuesday for a second time in two weeks, spewing ash almost 2 kilometers (more than a mile) into the sky, closing an airport and peppering nearby villages with debris.

The alert level of the volcano on Sulawesi Island was again raised to the highest level by the Indonesian geological service, after sensors picked up increasing volcanic activity. The agency urged residents and climbers to stay at least 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) from the volcano's crater.

The 725-meter (2,378-foot) volcano in North Sulawesi province is about 95 kilometers (59 miles) north-east of Sam Ratulangi International Airport in Manado, the provincial capital.

The airport was closed Tuesday morning due to reduced visibility and the dangers posed to aircraft engines by ash, said

Ambar Suryoko, head of the regional airport authority.

Ash, grit and rock fell from the sky in towns and cities across the region, including Manado, a city with more than 430,000 people where motorists had to switch on their headlights during daytime.

"It was dark with rocks raining at the post from the eruption," said Yulius Ramopolii, the head of Mount Ruang monitoring post. "The vibrations were intense and knocked out power, and volcanic earthquakes shook the glass windows and everything around us."

He said the eruption blocked out the sun and peppered several villages with falling debris. No casualties have been reported, Ramopolii said.

More than 11,000 people had evacuated after the April 17 eruption when authorities warned that a major eruption might collapse part of the vol-

cano into the sea and cause a tsunami that could endanger nearby villages.

Less than 3,000 remained at temporary shelters after the government lowered its alert level to the second highest from four levels and reopened the airport after four days.

Indonesia's geological agency on Tuesday warned people on Tagulandang Island, especially those who live near the coast, of the potential of hot volcanic clouds and a tsunami due to eruptions of material entering the sea or collapse of volcanic dome into the sea.

Ruang is among about 130 active volcanoes in Indonesia. The archipelagic nation is prone to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes because of its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" — a series of fault lines stretching from the western coasts of the Americas through Japan and Southeast Asia.

Prosecutors at Donald Trump's hush money trial zero in on the details

Court resumes with Gary Farro, a banker who helped Trump's former attorney Michael Cohen open accounts



NEW YORK, Apr 30 (Agencies): The first week of testimony at Donald Trump's hush money trial was the scene-setter for jurors: Manhattan prosecutors portrayed what they say was an illegal scheme to influence the 2016 presidential campaign by burying negative stories. Now prosecutors are working on filling in the details of how they believe Trump and his allies pulled it off.

Court resumes on Tuesday with Gary Farro, a banker who helped Trump's former attorney Michael Cohen open accounts, including one that Cohen used to buy the silence of porn performer Stormy Daniels. She alleged a 2006 sexual encounter with Trump, which he denies.

For his part, the former president and presumptive Republican nominee has been campaigning in his off-hours, but is required to be in court when it is in session, four days a week.

Jurors so far have heard from two other witnesses. Trump's former longtime executive assistant, Rhona Graff, recounted that she recalled once seeing Daniels at Trump's office suite in Trump Tower and figured the performer was a potential contestant for one of Trump's 'Apprentice'-brand shows. Former National Enquirer publisher David Pecker laid out how he agreed to serve as the Trump campaign's 'eyes and ears' by helping to squelch unflattering rumours and claims about Trump and women.

Through detailed testimony on email exchanges, business transactions and bank accounts, pros-

ecutors are forming the foundation of their argument that Trump is guilty of 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in connection with the hush money payments. The prosecution is leading up to crucial testimony from Cohen himself, who went to federal prison after pleading guilty to campaign finance violations and other crimes. Trump has denied any wrongdoing and pleaded not guilty.

It's not clear when Cohen will take the stand; the trial is expected to go on another month or more. And with every moment Trump is in court as the first of his four criminal trials plays out, he's growing increasingly frustrated while the November election moves ever closer.

"Our country's going to hell and we sit here day after day, which is their plan, because they think they might be able to eke out an election," Trump declared last week in the courthouse hallway.

Also this week, Judge Juan M Merchan may decide on prosecutors' request to fine Trump for what they say were violations of a gag order that bars him from making public statements about witnesses, jurors and some others connected to the case. The judge also has set a hearing on Thursday on another batch of alleged gag order violations.

Prosecutors used Pecker, Trump's longtime friend, to detail a 'catch and kill' arrangement in which he collected seamy stories about the candidate so the National Enquirer or Trump's associates could buy and bury the

claims. Pecker described how he paid USD 1,80,000 to scoop up and sit on stories from a doorman and former Playboy model Karen McDougal. He didn't involve himself in the Daniels payout, he said. He testified for parts of four days.

Trump says all the stories were false. His attorneys used cross-examination to suggest Trump was really engaged in an effort to protect his name and his family — not to influence the outcome of the presidential election.

Farro first took the stand on Friday. While a senior managing director at First Republic Bank, he was assigned to work with Trump's lawyer for about three years, in part because of his "ability to handle individuals who may be a little challenging," Farro said, adding that he didn't find Cohen difficult.

Farro detailed to jurors the process of helping Cohen create accounts for two limited liability companies — corporate-speak for a business account that protects the person behind the account from liability, debt and other issues. Farro testified that Cohen indicated the companies, Resolution Consultants LLC and Essential Consultants LLC, would be involved in real estate consulting.

Prosecutors showed jurors emails in which Cohen describes the opening of the Resolution Consultants account as an 'important matter'.

Cohen acknowledged when he pleaded guilty to federal charges in 2018 that it had been formed to send money to American Media, Inc, the Enquirer publisher. It was meant as a payoff for their purchase of McDougal's story. But the deal never went through.

Farro said that since the account was never funded, it was never technically opened. Instead, Cohen pivoted to starting up the Essential Consultants account, which he later used to pay Daniels USD 1.30,000.

When asked whether Cohen seemed anxious to get the bank accounts set up, Farro testified, "Every time Michael Cohen spoke to me, he gave a sense of urgency."

Farro told the 12-person panel that the bank's policy prohibited doing business with entities tied to "adult entertainment," including pornography and strip clubs. Trump's lawyers have not yet had a chance to cross-examine Farro.

Protesters take over Columbia University's Hamilton Hall in escalation of anti-war demonstrations



NEW YORK, Apr 30 (Agencies): Dozens of protesters took over a building at Columbia University in New York early Tuesday, barricading the entrances and unfurling a Palestinian flag out of a window in the latest escalation of demonstrations against the Israel-Hamas war that have spread to college campuses nationwide.

Video footage showed protesters on Columbia's Manhattan campus locking arms in front of Hamilton Hall early Tuesday and carrying furniture and metal barricades to the building, one of several that was occupied during a 1968 civil rights and anti-Vietnam War protest on the campus. Posts on an Instagram page for protest organizers shortly after midnight urged people to protect the encampment and join them at Hamilton Hall.

The student radio station, WKCR-FM, broadcasted a play-by-play of the hall's takeover — which occurred nearly 12 hours after Monday's 2 p.m. deadline for the protesters to leave an encampment of around 120 tents or face suspension. Representatives for the university did not immediately respond to emails requesting comment early Tuesday.

Universities across the U.S. are grappling with how to clear out encampments as commencement ceremonies approach, with some continuing negotiations and others turning to force and ultimatums that have resulted in clashes with police. Dozens of people were arrested Monday during protests at universities in Texas, Utah and Virginia, while Columbia said hours before the takeover of Hamilton Hall that it had started suspending students.

Demonstrators are sparring over the Israel-Hamas war and its mounting death toll, and the number of arrests at campuses nationwide is approaching 1,000 as the final days of class wrap up. The outcry is forcing colleges to reckon with their financial ties to Israel, as well as their support for free speech. Some Jewish students say the protests have veered into antisemitism and made them

afraid to set foot on campus.

At the University of Texas at Austin, an attorney said at least 40 demonstrators were arrested Monday. The confrontation was an escalation on the 53,000-student campus in the state's capital, where more than 50 protesters were arrested last week.

Later Monday, dozens of officers in riot gear at the University of Utah sought to break up an encampment outside the university president's office that went up in the afternoon. Police dragged students off by their hands and feet, snapping the poles holding up tents and zip-tying those who refused to disperse. Seventeen people were arrested. The university says it's against code to camp overnight on school property and that the students were given several warnings to disperse before police were called in.

The plight of students who have been arrested has become a central part of protests, with the students and a growing number of faculty demanding amnesty for protesters. At issue is whether the suspensions and legal records will follow students through their adult lives. The Texas protest and others — including in Canada and Europe — grew out of Columbia's early demonstrations that have continued. On Monday, student activists defied the 2 p.m. deadline to leave the encampment. Instead, hundreds of protesters remained. A handful of counter-demonstrators waved Israeli flags, and one held a sign reading, "Where are the anti-Hamas chants?"

While the university didn't call police to roust the demonstrators, school spokesperson Ben Chang said suspensions had started but could provide few details. Protest organizers said they were not aware of any suspensions as of Monday evening.

Columbia's handling of the demonstrations also has prompted federal complaints.

A class-action lawsuit on behalf of Jewish students alleges a breach of contract by Columbia, claiming the university failed to

maintain a safe learning environment, despite policies and promises. It also challenges the move away from in-person classes and seeks quick court action requiring Columbia to provide security for the students.

Meanwhile, a legal group representing pro-Palestinian students is urging the U.S. Department of Education's civil rights office to investigate Columbia's compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for how they have been treated.

A university spokesperson declined to comment on the complaints.

In a rare case, Northwestern University said it reached an agreement with students and faculty who represent the majority of protesters on its campus near Chicago. It allows peaceful demonstrations through the June 1 end of spring classes and in exchange, requires removal of all tents except one for aid, and restricts the demonstration area to allow only students, faculty and staff unless the university approves otherwise.

At the University of Southern California, organizers of a large encampment sat down with university President Carol Folt for about 90 minutes on Monday. Folt declined to discuss details but said she heard the concerns of protesters and talks would continue Tuesday. USC sparked a controversy April 15 when officials refused to allow the valedictorian, who has publicly supported Palestinians, to make a commencement speech, citing nonspecific security concerns for their rare decision. Administrators then scrapped the keynote speech by filmmaker Jon M. Chu, who is an alumnus, and declined to award any honorary degrees.

The backlash, as well as Columbia's demonstrations, inspired the encampment and protests on campus last week where 90 people were arrested by police in riot gear. The university has canceled its main graduation event.

Administrators elsewhere tried to salvage their commencements and several have ordered the clearing of encampments in recent days. When those efforts have failed, officials threatened discipline, including suspension, and possible arrest.

But students dug in their heels at other high-profile universities, with standoffs continuing at Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Yale and others. Police in riot gear at Virginia Commonwealth University sought to break up an encampment there late Monday and clashed with protesters.

Sainik School Nagrota emerges champion in all India IPSC Volleyball C'ship

Top News Report

RAJASTHAN/JAMMU, Apr 30: The prestigious All India IPSC Volleyball U-19 Championship hosted by Vidya Niketan Birla Public School Pilani, Rajasthan, culminated in an exhilarating display of talent and sportsmanship from April 27 to April 29, 2024.

The tournament saw the participation of nine elite public schools from across the country, including Sainik School Nagrota, Sainik School Kunjpura, and Birla Public School Pilani, among others.

In a fiercely contested competition, Sainik School Nagrota emerged as the dominant force, showcasing exceptional skill and determination throughout the tournament. The team's journey to victory was marked by a series of impressive performances, including victories against



formidable opponents such as BRCM Gyankunj Haryana, Punjab Public School Nabha, Sainik School Kunjpura, Emerald Heights International School and DPS Mathura Road.

In the nail-biting finals, Sainik School Nagrota faced off against tough competition from the hosts, Birla Public School Pilani. However, with

sheer grit and determination, Sainik School Nagrota secured a resounding victory in straight sets with the scoreboard flashing 25-22, 27-25, 25-17 and lifted the Championship Trophy in style.

The Grand Finale of the tournament was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Pushpendra Singh Rathore, RPS, Additional

Superintendent of Police, Jhunjhunu, who presided over the event. Rathore presented the trophy and medals to the deserving winners, commending them for their outstanding performance on the grand stage.

Capt (IN) AK Desai, Principal of Sainik School Nagrota, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the team, acknowledg-

ing their superlative performance and remarkable achievement in the tournament.

The All India IPSC Volleyball U-19 Championship is an annual event that brings together some of the most talented young volleyball players from prestigious public schools across India. Organized under the aegis of the Indian Public Schools' Conference (IPSC), the championship aims to promote excellence in sports and foster a spirit of healthy competition among youth.

5-Star safe Kushaq and Slavia become even safer with MY24 updates

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: After setting safety benchmarks with the Kushaq SUV in October 2022 and the Slavia sedan in April 2023, Skoda Auto India continues blazing the safety trail with the introduction of six airbags as standard across all variants of the Kushaq and Slavia. The introduction is part of the company's MY24 updates for its landmark made-for-India, ready-for-the-world India 2.0 product portfolio.

Speaking on the upgrades, Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said: "Safety has always been intrinsic to the Skoda DNA. We were the first brand



to score a full 5-stars for adults and children under the Global NCAP tests. Our emphasis on safety embodies our Human Touch approach, and underscores our focus on being a family brand. We always offered frontal airbags in our base variants and six in our higher variants, each as safe as

the other. As part of our MY24 updates we now offer six airbags across all variants of the Kushaq and Slavia. We are always listening to our customers and shall continue to provide relevant upgrades and significant product actions within our product portfolio and our variant line-up."

Un-identified Male dead body shifted at GMC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: An unidentified & unsound male person aged about 70/75 years was found on April 16 in unattended condition at Platform No. 1 of Railways Station Jammu whose health condition was not looking good.

On the directions of SSP Railways Jammu, the aforesaid person was shifted to GMC Jammu for



treatment. On April 28, 2024 at about 1530 hours, the aforesaid person died during medical treatment.

The dead body of the aforesaid deceased has been shifted to Mortuary room of GMC Jammu for postmortem/identification.

Anybody having any clue about the identity/residential particulars of the said deceased may contact GRP Jammu on Telephone Nos.0191-2474946 and/or Mobile No. 7006690851/9622592848 and PCR GRP Jammu Helpline No. 1512

Army hold medical camp on Swasth Bharat at Channi Prat



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 30: In order to provide basic medical assistance for a healthy life style to the Gujjars & Bakarwals community, Indian Army organized a medical camp at Channi-Prat, Rajouri on Tuesday for migrating populace to the valley as part of their summer migration. The medical camp was organized to meet the quick health care need of the Gujjars & Bakarwals of remote Channi-Prat village.

A team of medical doctors and professionals were available to address various health concerns and provided expert guidance like medical check-ups, specialized care, health awareness sessions, as well as essential medicines provided to them.

The Indian Army's Medical Camp aimed not only to provide immediate healthcare support but also to raise awareness about the importance of regular health check-ups and a healthy lifestyle.

Apni party holds workers convention in Kund

Top News Report

KULGAM, Apr 30: The programme was organised by DDC Member Devsar B and Apni Party youth District President Kulgam Reyaz Ahmad Bhat.

The other leadership present on this occasion were Apni par-

liamentary candidate Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, Vice president Apni Party Ghulam Hassan Mir, Chief coordinator and District President Kulgam Abdul Majeed Padder, Zonal president Devsar Fayaz Ahmad Shah, DDC Vice Chairperson Kulgam Shazia Jan and others.

Apni Party's candidate for Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas talking to media on the sideline of function at Kund, Kulgam said "My today's visit here aims to aware people of our party agenda and manifesto, adding that we hope will win this seat "

GDC Mahanpur organized cleanliness drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: NSS UNIT of GDC Mahanpur has organized a cleanliness drive within campus on Tuesday.

It was organised by NSS P.O Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia under the supervision and able guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College.

The Drive was conducted under the banner of "My College, My Pride". The motto of the Drive was to clean and maintain the Open air temple (Shivling) as well as the surrounding area. The volunteers not only cleaned but also

demarcated the temple area with stones and bamboo sticks. Moreover, they also painted the area. Besides this, proper rituals were performed to worship Lord Shiva.

The Drive concluded with Arti and distribution of Prasad. Twenty five students participated in the cleanliness drive .

The faculty members who were present were Dr. Mohinder, Dr. Sudesh, Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan, Nisha, Dr. Sapna, Dr. Nishu, Dr. Ajay, Dr. Anil, Dr. Suman and Dr. Hilal. Refreshment was given to all the participants.

NOTICE

I, Nirmal Slathia, W/o Sh Shiv Kumar Slathia, R/o 52 Shanti Vihar, Patta Paloura, Jammu P.O.Talab Tillo, Pin code 180002, that my D.O.B has been wrongly written as 16- 08-1946 in the revision of pension letter of my husband holding PPO 240559101522 . Now I am applying for correction of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authorities with in 7 days of the publication of this notification.



FROM PAGE 1

Supreme Court questions ED on timing of Arvind Kejriwal's arrest, seeks its reply

The top court issued the ED a notice on April 15 and sought its response to Kejriwal's plea.

On April 9, the high court upheld Kejriwal's arrest, saying there was no illegality and the ED was left with "little option" after he skipped repeated summonses and refused to join the investigation.

The matter pertains to alleged corruption and money-laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's now scrapped excise policy for 2021-22.

Ramdev's Patanjali faces suspension of manufacturing licenses for 14 products

regarding its previous handling of the matter. The body acknowledged its shortcomings in addressing the misleading advertisements propagated by Patanjali Ayurved, particularly those undermining evidence-based medicine and the COVID-19 vaccination drive.

An affidavit filed by the licensing authority expressed remorse and outlined its efforts to rectify the situation.

In response to a plea filed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), the Supreme Court had earlier criticized the Uttarakhand government and the licensing body for perceived negligence in reigning in Patanjali's advertising practices. The affidavit submitted by the Uttarakhand body emphasized its commitment to taking decisive action against Patanjali Ayurved Limited

to uphold regulatory standards.

Moreover, the affidavit tendered an unconditional apology for any inadvertent non-compliance with the directives of the Supreme Court and reiterated the suspension of manufacturing licenses for Patanjali's products.

The Supreme Court had previously warned of imposing hefty fines for false claims made in Patanjali's advertisements and had directed the company to cease such practices. Despite initial dissatisfaction with the apology affidavits filed by Patanjali Ayurved and its founders, Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna, subsequent efforts were made to rectify the situation, including the publication of apologies in newspapers.

The matter is scheduled for further deliberation by a Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah today, on April 30.

JD(S) suspends MP Prajwal Revanna over Karnataka 'sex scandal' row as pressure mounts ahead of Lok Sabha 3rd phase polls

circulation on social media and media and this has caused huge embarrassment to the party and its leadership," the suspension order said.

Stating that the Congress government in Karnataka has constituted a Special Investigation Team to investigate this, it said, "In this backdrop, as per JD(S)' party constitution and rules regarding breach of discipline and punishment, Prajwal Revanna has been suspended with immediate effect."

The suspension order, signed by party

General Secretary K R Shivakumar, was released to the media following approval from the JD(S) national President.

Prajwal is the BJP-JD(S) alliance's candidate from Hassan, which went to the polls on Friday.

The 33-year-old is the son of H D Deve Gowda's elder son H D Revanna, who is an MLA and a former Minister. Prajwal's uncle H D Kumaraswamy is state president of JD(S).

Speaking to reporters in Hubballi after the core committee meeting, its chief and MLA G T Devegowda said, "Regarding allegations on Prajwal Revanna, Karnataka government has constituted a SIT and they have started the investigation, we welcome it. As the investigation is on and the report is still awaited. We have decided not to interfere in the process and extend full cooperation to the investigation."

He had earlier said: "We have also made a unanimous resolution to suspend him (Prajwal) from the party, and have made a recommendation in this regard to our national President H D Deve Gowda. As he (Prajwal) is a Lok Sabha member our national president has to take action. We have asked him to immediately take action."

Some explicit video clips allegedly involving Prajwal Revanna had started making the rounds in Hassan in recent days.

The government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the alleged sex scandal involving the MP.

The core committee meeting was attended by state JD(S) President H D Kumaraswamy and other members.

Kumaraswamy said, the decision is to suspend Prajwal, and the tenure of the suspension is based on the SIT probe report and government action on it.

"We welcome the SIT probe. The suspension is until the SIT report on Prajwal's role. If it comes in the report that he is guilty, he will be permanently suspended,"

he added.

True voice must reach Parliament: Mehbooba Mufti

regardless of the circumstances.

Speaking at a public convention in South Kashmir's Anantnag, Mehbooba Mufti stressed that the ongoing Lok Sabha elections provide an opportunity to choose a representative who will effectively voice the concerns of the people, rather than merely focusing on infrastructure development.

"Jammu and Kashmir is facing challenges such as power shortages, increased utility bills, and rising unemployment. Youth are being detained by police on mere suspicion. In such circumstances, we need a credible and outspoken representative who will truly represent the aspirations of the people in Parliament," Mehbooba stated.

She emphasized the necessity of electing someone who will demand that New Delhi reverses the decisions made on August 5, 2019, and restores the rights of the people of J&K.

"New Delhi must return our rights with interest. The people of J&K refuse to become slaves. This is not just about NC or PDP; it's about sending a representative to Parliament who will advocate for the people and convey their aspirations to the nation," Mehbooba added.

Generally dry weather expected till May 5 in J&K

normal, the official said. Kupwara town recorded a maximum of 3.6°C and it was 4.2°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of minus 1.5°C and it was below normal by 5.7°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded low of 12.9°C and it was below normal by 9.0°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 5.2°C, Batote 6.5°C and Bhaderwah 5.6°C, he added.

Water level touches flood declaration mark at Ram Munshi Bagh, Pampore

18.08 feet, with both water bodies showing upward trend.

Although the water level of Jhelum at Sangam has begun to recede recording 18.90 ft at 8:00 AM this morning, areas such as Pampore, Ram Munshi Bagh, and Asham continue to witness an upward trend, as reported by the I&FC department Kashmir.

Despite precipitation ceasing since last night, meteorological officials have forecasted generally cloudy weather over most parts of Kashmir Division and mainly clear to partly cloudy skies in Jammu Division.

MeT Srinagar station added that intermittent light spells of rain, accompanied by thunder, are expected over many parts of Kashmir Division and a few places in Jammu Division.

"There is also a possibility of hailstorms at a few places, most likely from the afternoon till evening/night", said MeT Srinagar.

Sonamarg Accident: Search operation enters day 3

SHO PS Gund Lateef Ali told Greater Kashmir that the search operation resumed on Tuesday to trace out the missing person.

GMS Khorinar organises intramural taekwondo competition

Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 30: Government Middle School (GMS) Khorinar organised Intramural competition in the discipline of Taekwondo as a part of activity Calendar issued by Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K.

A total of 26 boys and girls took part in this competition held under the direction of District youth services and Sports Officer Poonch Mool Raj and Zonal Physical Education officer Poonch S Narinder Singh. Earlier Head master GMS Khorinar Jatinder Sharma in the presence of Devinder Kour Master GMS Khorinar declared the intramural Taekwondo competition open and gave



his best wishes to all the participants. Speaking on the occasion, Rajinder Singh Physical Education Teacher highlights the achievement of previous year of GMS Khorinar in which four players represented Jammu and Kashmir in 67th National School games held at Betul Madhyapradesh. He also gave his best wishes to all the winners with

advised to work hard in practice so that our players excell in this year at National level by winning medals for Jammu and Kashmir. Lastly Medals distrib-

uted to all the winners by Head Master GMS Khorinar Jatinder Sharma. Prominent others were present were Gurwant Kour, Sunil Sharma, Noor Din, Gagandeep Kour all teachers and Majid Husain

Girls: Tahzeem Akhter, Ruksana Akhter, Nazma Kouser, Toyba Kouser, Moheen Kouser, Tamena Kouser (all Gold). Shazia Akhtar, Gulsham Akhtar, Parveen Akhtar (all Silvers).

Boys: Ishtiaq Ahmed, Shazad Ahmed, Mahmood Ahmed, Mohd Arfan, Mohd Firdos, Waseem Khan, Mohammad Irfan, Irfan Farooq, Mohd Irfan (all Gold). Mohd Rizwan, Mohd Imran, Mohd Ashaq, Musthaq Ahmed, Mohd Irfan (all Silvers).

DPS Kathua promotes Cultural Unity through Introduction to Gujarati Numerals under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Initiative



Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 30: Delhi Public School Kathua, as part of its commitment to the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, organized a special activity aimed at introducing students to the numerical system of the paired state Gujarat. The activity, tailored for Class VI students, served to enhance cultural understanding and

unity in diversity. Led by Pooja Sharma, TGT Hindi, Ruchi Sharma, Primary Wing Coordinator and Vikram Singh Slathia, Coordinator of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program by CBSE, students were introduced to Gujarati and Dogri numerals in an engaging session. The initiative not only familiarized students with the numerical system of Guja-

rat but also highlighted the linguistic and cultural diversity across different regions of India. Principal Vivek Arora, expressed appreciation for the initiative, emphasizing the importance of fostering unity in diversity within the school community and recognizing the significance of such activities in promoting cultural exchange.

PTTI Vijaypur accords warm send off to ASI Kala Singh on superannuation

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Apr 30: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur on Tuesday organized an impressive farewell function upon the superannuation of Assistant Sub Inspector Kala Singh, on the completion of his 39 years of services in Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Principal PTTI Vijaypur applauded the services rendered by the retiree, termed him as an honest, dedicated, sincere officer and extended best wishes to him for future life. All the staff of PTTI Vijaypur also wished him all the best for future life. Among others, Shri



Ramesh Chander Kotwal-SSP, Chairman Examination Board, Shri Bharat Bhushan Sharma-SP, Member Examination Board, Sh. Imtiaz Ahmed-Dy.SP, Member Examination

Board, Ashok Kumar-Dy.SP, Member Examination Board, Zia Ul Haq, Dy.SP (Outdoor), Davinder Gupta, Dy.SP (R&D), Inspr. Javed Husain (RI), Inspr. Ram Lal (CLI), Inspr. Vivek Kalso-

tra, Inspr. Rakesh Kumar, Inspr. Pawan Kumar, Inspr. Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Himanshu Dutta, Inspr. Ashish Dharmat, Inspr. Kapil Raina, Inspr. Sheh-baj Ahmed were present on the occasion.

Shaheen demands compensation for houses damaged due to incessant rains in Banihal, Ramban and Gool

Top News Report

BANIHAL, Apr 30: National Conference (NC) leader and district president, Ramban Sajjad Shaheen on Tuesday expressed deep concern over the massive damage caused to the residential houses and orchards in Banihal, Ramban and Gool due to ongoing incessant rains and hailstorm.

Shaheen said that the losses faced by the people are massive and Pugal-Paristan, Narad, Mundkhal, Maligam, Neel, Mahu-Mangit Banihal, Khari, Khawra, Parnote, Maitra, Trigam, Chaknarwa, Chamalwas, Amkote, Thachi, Hain-

jal, Nowgam, Khairkoot, Sarachi including the Gool, Ramban and Batote areas of Ramban district remained the worst affected wherein the damage caused to the residential houses and property are dozens in number.

He added, that in Parnote alone about one hundred houses have been severely damaged due to recent subsidence of land that has rendered hundreds of people homeless.

He added that the fruit growers have been bearing the brunt of untimely snowfall and windstorm for the past several years and that the recent heavy downpour and hailstorms have only dashed the

hopes of the profitable harvest for the orchardists.

"Our hearts go out to these families, and we urgently call upon the authorities to take immediate and appropriate measures to provide them with the necessary relief and support during this challenging time, he added.

He further said that the major link roads have been blocked due to land and mud sliding in the entire district including Neel -Chamalwas road, Nachlana-Mahoo -Mangit road, Ukharhal -Senabati road,

Ukharhal-Pogal-Maligam road, Banihal-Mangit road, Hewagan-Neel road, Tajnihal road, Ramban-

Sangaldan -Gool road and many other roads.

"Rain and flood hit areas were without electricity for the last two to three days," he added.

Asking the government to take immediate measures for the restoration and mitigation of the losses suffered by the people, Shaheen also appealed to the L/Governor lead government to direct the local administration to depute teams to assess the losses so that the damages caused by the rains and landslides to the residential houses and orchards could be assessed and financial assistance to the effected people could be provided at an earliest.

Ramban land subsidence: CS reviews relief, restoration measures

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today convened a high level meeting to review the measures initiated for relief and rehabilitation in the area affected by the recent land subsidence in Ramban district.

The meeting, among others, was attended by ACS Jai Shakti, Principal Secretary Home, Principal Secretary PDD, ADGP L&O, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Secretary Revenue, Secretary Health, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, MD KPDCL, Chief Engineer R&B Jammu (South) and other concerned officers in person and virtually.

The Chief Secretary enquired from the divisional and district administrations about the relief and restoration measures being carried out by them for the affected popula-



tion. He asked about the status of transit accommodations provided to the families relocated in Pernote area of Ramban district. He asked for making adequate arrangements of bedding, food, drinking water, electricity, medical aid, sanitation and other amenities at the transit accommodations. He called for making joint efforts to bring immediate relief to the affected people as per the norms

of the government.

He also sought inputs from the divisional and district administrations about the status of services operational in the affected area. He asked the officers to explore the possibility of establishing road link with the cut-off areas on war-footing basis for ensuring smooth supplies besides catering to medical emergencies. The Chief Secretary took stock of the damage

caused to power and water infrastructure besides assessing the status of health services and ration distribution through different health-care facilities and Fair Price shops respectively in the area. He called upon the concerned to take up requisite steps to restore the infrastructure simultaneously making alternative arrangements till its full restoration.

The meeting also held deliberations on rehabilitation of the affected population. The Divisional Commissioner and concerned DC was tasked to prepare a proper rehabilitation plan considering the ground situation. They were even asked to take SDRF and Red Cross on-board for providing instant succor to the displaced people.

The local administration informed about the measures being taken for the affected people. It was informed that around

90 families having nearly 413 souls have been relocated by the administration in safer locations. Besides, transit accommodations were established at three locations including Panchayat Ghar and two community halls situated in village Pernote.

It was also revealed that the arrangements for movement of Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) to and from Gool Sub-District have been done via Mahore, Reasi besides establishment of a reliable link will also be done at an earliest.

Moreover, it was informed in the meeting that the administration is carrying out study of the area through Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Geological Survey of India (GSI), to ascertain the causes behind the land sinking in Ramban and recommend the preventive measures thereof.

Presentation Convent School organizes Annual Nano Nagle Memorial Inter-Class Debate

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Presentation Convent Senior Secondary School organized the Annual Nano Nagle Memorial Inter-Class Debate -2024-2025 on Tuesday in the school auditorium for the students of classes XI and XII.

Neha Bakshi, Under Secretary, Department of School Education, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Dr. Jatinder Kour, Associate Professor, GGM Science College, Jammu, Dr. Shivani Suri Verma, Assistant Professor in English, GCW Udhampur, Dr. Rinky Ahuja, an alumna of School and a dentist by profession were the adjudicators of the event.

The house debated on the topic- Do Violent Video Games Contribute

to Youth Violence?

The students presented their opinions vociferously and vehemently, both, for and against the motion.

This platform offered an opportunity to students to share their ideas and thus, refine their oratory skills.

First Position was bagged by Panya Kohli of XI B while Pariyat Gandotra of XII B was judged Second and Shreya Raj Thakur of class XI B and Mannat Gupta of class XI D were adjudged Third. Chandanshi Manhas of XII A received consolation. Panya Kohli and Shreya Raj Thakur of class XI B were declared the Best Debate Team.

Students of classes XI and XII got an opportunity to participate in Solo Singing Competition. They, through their

musical renditions, paid a rich tribute to Venerable Nano Nagle, the Founder of the Congregation of Presentation Sisters. Shradha Aggarwal of class XII A stood first. Tavleen Kour of class XII B and Ananya Salathia of class XII B was judged Second and Yashita Sharma of XI B and Anandini Puri of XII C stood Third in the competition.

The Chief Guest, Neha Bakshi, lauded the efforts of the participants and congratulated the School to give an apt platform to students for cross pollination of ideas. The adjudicators also appreciated the young talent and hailed their rhetorical cogency and debating skills.

The event came to an end with the Vote of Thanks followed by the School Song.

3 days' painting exhibition begins at Kala Kendra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Three days' painting exhibition began today with its formal inauguration by Principal Secretary, Culture and Tribal Affairs, Suresh Kumar Gupta, at Kala Kendra in presence of distinguished artists and painters.

Organized by the Kala Kendra Society, Jammu, the exhibition is showcasing 60 paintings by five artists namely Arnavi Sharma, Shruti Sharma, Insha Sharma, Pariyanka Choudhary and Reetika



Rani, from the Painting department of Institute of Music and Fine Arts, University of Jammu.

The Principal Secretary admired the exhibited artworks, appreciating their rich portrayal of human

emotions and experiences. He highlighted various initiatives being made to boost cultural institutions,

applauding the relentless efforts of the Kala Kendra Society in this regard.

Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary Kala Kendra Society, stated that the objective of this event was to provide a platform for emerging artists to showcase their works in the professional galleries.

Professor Shohab Inayat Malik, Principal of Institute of Music and Fine Arts, Jammu, commended the high caliber of artwork displayed by IMFA students, showcasing the vibrant art scene of Jammu and Kashmir.

He announced an upcoming collaboration between IMFA and Kala Kendra for the J&K Art Fest.

Mohinder Singh Boani, Dean of ITM Gwalior and special guest at the event, provided insights into the exhibited works in terms of Modern Art, enriching the discourse on contemporary artistic expression.

Later, a catalog of modern art paintings, prepared by Milan Sharma, Head of the Painting Department at IMFA, was released by the Principal Secretary

BOMIS Inter School Football Competition gets underway

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Birla Open Minds International School, Jammu proudly hosted the highly anticipated Inter School Football Championship for Under-15 boys and girls, bringing together an electrifying showcase of skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Today was the second day of the championship.

The day started with unveiling the trophy by the School's Principal Aparana Kohli, team coaches, officials and team captains. Today's first match was played between J.K Public School and R.M Public School wherein J.K Public won by 1-0 score.

Second match was played between Heritage and K.C International School wherein Heritage School won the match with penalty. Third match was played between girls team, Jodhamal and Jammu Sanskriti played wherein Jodhamal Public School won. Fourth match was played between BOMIS and J.K Public wherein BOMIS won. Last match of the day was played between Heritage and Jodhamal School, Heritage School won the match.

Rafael Nadal tested in 3-hour win over Cachin at Madrid; Swiatek reaches women's quarterfinals

The victory earned Nadal a spot in round of 16 at clay-court tournament where he is record 5-time champion

MADRID, Apr 30 (Agencies): After spending more than three hours on the court and earning a hard-fought victory, Rafael Nadal was feeling optimistic again.

Nadal's body withstood its toughest test yet at this Madrid Open in a 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-3 win over 91st-ranked Pedro Cachin on Monday.

He didn't show any signs of physical limitations in a victory that earned him a spot in the round of 16 at the clay-court tournament where he is the record five-time champion.

"It's positive, now I don't feel that something went wrong on my body, but I need to wait until tomorrow, being 100% honest," he said.

"I am trying my best to keep dreaming. Tomorrow is another day to keep dreaming. To keep playing in front of this amazing crowd and, to me, that means everything."

Nadal will next face 31st-ranked Jiri Lehecka. He said he needs "to find a way to be able to play days in a row and still be competitive."

"I don't know if I am in that moment yet," the 22-time Grand Slam champion said. "Let's



see what can happen tomorrow."

The 37-year-old Nadal is trying to get in shape for next month's French Open. Since his latest injury layoff, he's had two matches in Barcelona and was pessimistic about his physical condition after arriving in Madrid. But he's won three more times in the capital.

Nadal again looked comfortable early on against Cachin. The Argentine rallied in the second but was broken twice while serving for the set before eventually prevailing in the tie-breaker.

Nadal didn't look as loose in the final set, but did look tired. He wasn't as consistent with his shots but picked up three breaks to seal the victory to the delight of the local crowd in the Caja Magica.

"I took more risks in the third set, but it's hard after so many months

without competing," Nadal said.

"I hadn't played a match like this in a long time. I don't know how I'm going to wake up. But I'm already happy for having won three matches in a row."

Cachin asked for Nadal's shirt after congratulating him at the net, and received the gift moments later.

Top-seeded Jannik Sinner was not at his best but had enough to defeat Pavel Kotov 6-2, 7-5. Sinner, who has been dealing with a hip issue, will face 16th-seeded Karen Khachanov.

"I have been struggling a little bit with my right hip," Sinner said. "We're trying to find a solution and I don't think it's anything serious. Sometimes I feel it more like today and some days are a little bit better."

Third-seeded Daniil Medvedev was two points from defeat

before he rallied to beat Sebastian Korda 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3. Fifth-seeded Casper Ruud beat Cameron Norrie 6-2, 6-4.

Keys downs Gauff

Madison Keys rallied after trailing in the first and second sets to beat Coco Gauff 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-4 in an all-American fourth-round meeting.

It will be the 20th-ranked Keys' first quarterfinal appearance in Madrid. She lost in the first round in seven of her nine previous trips to the Spanish capital.

The third-seeded Gauff undermined herself with 38 unforced errors, including 13 double faults.

Keys will face eighth-seeded Ons Jabeur, who eased past Jelena Ostapenko 6-0, 6-4.

Swiatek Advances

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek remained on track for a first Madrid title with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Sara Sorribes Tormo.

Swiatek dropped just five points in the second set en route to the quarterfinals of the only high-profile European clay tournament she is yet to win.

The 27th-ranked Sorribes Tormo was the last Spanish woman in the draw.

Swiatek, who lost last year's Madrid final to Aryna Sabalenka, will next face 11th-seeded Beatriz Haddad Maia, who defeated fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari 6-4, 6-4.

Sabalenka, the champion in Madrid in 2021 and 2023, advanced by beating No. 15 Danielle Collins 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. The result ended Collins' 15-match winning streak, and sent Sabalenka into her first WTA 1000 quarterfinal of the season.

Mirra Andrejeva celebrated her 17th birthday with a 7-6 (2), 6-4 win over 12th-seeded Jasmine Paolini. The Russian teenager rallied from 5-2 down in the first set to reach the quarterfinals, a round further than she managed in Madrid a year ago.

Fourth-seeded Elena Rybakina defeated teenage qualifier Sara Bejlek 6-1, 6-3.

IPL 2024: Chakravarthy, Salt propel KKR to seven-wicket win over Delhi Capitals



KOLKATA, Apr 30 (Agencies): Spinner Varun Chakravarthy worked his magic to claim three important wickets before Phil Salt's scintillating half-century as Kolkata Knight Riders secured a convincing seven-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in the IPL here.

Chakravarthy (3/16) shone in the middle overs following Vaibhav Arora's fine start (2/29) that limited Delhi to a modest 153/9 after Rishabh Pant opted to bat.

On a two-paced pitch where most batters struggled, Salt capitalised on a reprieve on 15 to smash a 33-ball 68. He hammered five sixes and seven fours in a 79-run opening wicket partnership with Sunil Narine that came off just 38 balls.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (33 not out off 23 balls) and Venkatesh Iyer (26

not out off 23 balls) then completed the chase as KKR cantered home in 16.3 overs.

DC's Lizaad Williams will surely want to forget this outing. He bowled a wayward opening over that yielded 23 runs to set the tone for KKR's easy chase. There was worse in store for Williams in the next over as he spilled a sitter for Salt.

There was no stopping the world No. 2 T20I batter from thereon as he brought up a 26-ball fifty, his fourth in nine matches. With Salt firing on all cylinders, KKR raced to 79/0 in six overs.

Left-arm spinner Axar Patel was introduced in the seventh over and he made an immediate impact, dismissing Narine (15). He then cleaned up Salt and one wondered why Delhi brought into play their spin attack only after

the powerplay. Axar returned with 2/25, but Kuldeep Yadav went wicket-less while giving away 34 runs from his four overs.

Earlier, there were no fireworks for a change at this venue, which has witnessed record runs being scored and innumerable sixes being hit so far in the season.

The returning Arora (2/29) gave KKR a fine start in the powerplay after Delhi. Introduced in the ninth over, Chakravarthy then spun a web as he bowled his four overs on the trot and snared the key wickets of Rishabh Pant (27 off 20 balls), Tristan Stubbs and impact sub Kumar Kushagra.

Brief scores
DC: 153/9 in 20 overs (Kuldeep Yadav 34 not out; Chakravarthy 3/16, Harshit 2/28, Arora 2/29) vs KKR: 157/3 in 16.3 overs (Salt 68, Shreyas 33*)

LSG vs MI: Lucknow set for Mayank Yadav's return against Pandya's side

LUCKNOW, Apr 30 (Agencies): The excitement is palpable as MI face LSG at the Ekana Stadium on Tuesday, 30 April. With the match set to be played on Rohit Sharma's birthday and on the same day as the T20 World Cup 2024 squad selection, it is expected to be one nery encounter. There are several T20 World Cup hopefuls in both squads and it is to be seen how that backdrop affects the game.

LSG pacer Mayank Yadav is set to return to action as well having spent some time in the sidelines due to his hip injury. The team lost their previous match against Rajasthan and would be raring to return to the winnings ways. Mayank is expected to be a key figure in the line-up and can put the likes of Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and



Hardik Pandya under the pump.

Ravi Bishnoi will also be under the lens as the spinner is in contention for a spot in the T20 World Cup squad alongside Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal.

For Hardik, this will be yet another chance to shine in the IPL, in three facets of the game - batting, bowling and captaincy. MI have not clicked so far and have been left searching for answers in the field.

LSG vs MI: Head-to-Head

LSG have played four matches vs MI and have won 3 games. KL Rahul has a history of doing well against MI and will hope to continue that run in LSG's home ground on Tuesday.

LSG vs MI: Team News

The big news from the LSG camp is that Mayank Yadav is set to be back in the side. Yadav could be a huge difference against MI's big hitters on Tuesday.

LSG vs MI: Pitch Report

It is expected to be a

high scoring encounter, but the Lucknow ground has had a little bit of help for the bowlers in every game and someone like Mayank Yadav could exploit that in the middle overs.

LSG vs MI: Predicted XI

LSG Predicted XI
Quinton de Kock, KL Rahul (c/wk), Marcus Stoinis, Deepak Hooda, Nicholas Pooran, Ayush Badoni, Krunal Pandya, Matt Henry, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohsin Khan, Yash Thakur.

Impact Player: Mayank Yadav

MI Predicted XI
Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Nehal Wadhara, Tim David, Mohammad Nabi, Piyush Chawla, Luke Wood/Gerald Coetzee, Jasprit Bumrah, Nuwan Thushara.

Impact Player: Suryakumar Yadav.

Indian Cricket Fraternity Extends Birthday Wishes To Skipper Rohit Sharma

NEW DELHI, Apr 30 (Agencies): The Indian cricketing fraternity took to social media to extend birthday wishes to the team's all-format skipper Rohit Sharma, who turned 37 on Tuesday. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) took to X (formerly Twitter) to extend their wishes to the "Hitman". "472 intl. matches | 18,820 intl. runs, 48 intl. hundreds Only cricketer to score Three ODI double hundreds Wishing a very Happy Birthday to #TeamIndia Captain Rohit Sharma! @ImRo45," tweeted BCCI.

The honorary secretary of BCCI, Jay Shah also extended his wishes to the "unstoppable force of Indian cricket".

"Sending birthday wishes to the unstoppable force of Indian cricket, our captain, @ImRo45! Your leadership, skill, and unyielding spirit are the heartbeat of our team. Here's to another year of smashing boundaries and making history! Keep shining, Hitman!" tweeted Shah.

Mumbai Indians (MI), the franchise that has won five Indian Premier League (IPL) titles under the captaincy of Rohit, also wished Rohit and all his fans a "Hitman Day".

"IT'S HITMAN DAY Happy birthday to the one and only Mr. 45, Rohit Sharma. #MumbaiMeriJaan #MumbaiIndians | @ImRo45," tweeted MI.

Former Indian opener Gautam Gambhir, who was a part of the 2007 T20 World Cup winning team and 2011 Cricket World Cup winning sides with Rohit also wrote, "A very happy birthday @ImRo45. Wishing you



health and happiness! Stay blessed!"

India's World Cup winning all-rounder Yuvraj Singh also extended birthday wishes to the "brothaman".

"Happy birthday brothaman! May happiness and success flow as effortlessly as the big hits from your bat! Loads of love @ImRo45 #HappyBirthdayRohit #RohitSharma," tweeted Yuvraj.

Mumbai's domestic cricket giant and former Indian opener also had a creative tweet to wish Rohit on his birthday, writing, "His batting has such a 'pull' and so does his personality, no wonder people are easily pulled towards him. Happy birthday @ImRo45, have a great one #HappyBirthday-RohitSharma."

Widely hailed as one of the best of his generation, Rohit continues to be a star batter for India, particularly in white-ball cricket.

This right-handed batter has entertained and mesmerised audiences worldwide with his classy strokeplay and calm mindset while batting or captaining his side. He is among the best players of Pull shot in the game, often employing it during powerplay overs in white-ball cricket. But there is also a patient and determined side of him visible when he dons the white colours. This versatility makes him a perfect

He is the 15th-highest scorer in ODI cricket and the sixth-highest run-scorer among Indians, behind MS Dhoni (10599), Rahul Dravid (10,768), Sourav Ganguly (11,221), Virat Kohli (13848) and Sachin Tendulkar (18426 runs). He has the third-highest ODI tons by any player, behind Virat (50) and Sachin (49). He is the only player with three ODI double tons.

Over the years, he has established himself as a reliable test opener too. In 59 matches and 101 innings, he has scored 4137 runs at an average of 45.46 and a strike rate of over 57.05.

Rohit has made an impact in T20 cricket with his captaincy skills. He has won six IPL trophies, making him the most successful IPL player ever. He has led Mumbai Indians to five IPL titles as skipper (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020), and won one with Deccan Chargers as a player (2009).

On top of that, he is the fourth-highest run-getter in the league's history, with a total of 6522 runs in 252 matches, 247 innings at an average of 29.92, with two centuries and 42 half-centuries and best score of 109*.

He has been brilliant in T20Is too, scoring 3,974 runs at an average of over 31 in 151 matches, with five centuries and 29 fifties. He has the most centuries in T20 cricket.

In the 2023 ODI World Cup, Rohit had a stunning run as he finished in second place with 597 runs. The 'Hitman' is currently playing in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 with Mumbai Indians (MI).

Injured Anmol Kharb in tears as India lose to host China in Uber Cup

CHENGDU, Apr 30 (Agencies): India qualified for the quarter-finals of the Uber Cup in the second spot of Group A after losing to China 5-0 on Tuesday. The young Indian women's team were not able to match the host's experience and guile on Court 1 in Chengdu.

India had rested Ashmita Chaliha on Tuesday and started with Isharani Baruah. Baruah was not able to give a winning start to the tie and lost her match in straight games 21-12, 21-10 to Chen Yu Fei. The first doubles pairing of Priya Konjebam and Shruti Mishra also lost in straight games to Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan 21-13, 21-12.

The promising Anmol Kharb was up next but she was bested by Han Yue in the first game - 21-4. In the second game of the tie, Kharb rolled her ankle and was seen in

agonising pain. Tears rolled down her eyes as she was helped off the court, forcing her to retire hurt from the fixture.

There was not much left in the game after India lost the first three matches. The second doubles pairing of Simran Singh and Ritika Thaker lost in straight games to Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning. Possibly the most impressive show came from the 15-year-old Tanvi Sharma, who was playing the final tie of the match. After losing 21-7 to Wang Zhi Yi, Sharma brought her cool head to the game and tried to dictate terms against a much higher ranked player. Sharma even led for a little bit in the first half of the second game but eventually lost 21-16.

INDIA'S WIN VS SINGAPORE AND CANADA

Indian women's team had



assured themselves of quarterfinal spot in the BWF Thomas and Uber Cup 2024 with a dominating 4-1 win over Singapore in their Group A clash in Chengdu, China, on Sunday, 28 April. The young squad, which had defeated Canada 4-1 in their group opener, came back after Yeo Jia Min got the better of Ashmita Chaliha 21-15, 21-18 in the first singles. The Asian champions had registered a winning start to their Uber Cup campaign thanks to a spirited display by their young squad.

VKMI confers 'Life Time Achievement' Award to ID Soni

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) conferred 'Life Time Achievement' award to I. D. Soni, a well-known name in the fields of education, social & public service, motivational writing and speaking, research, morality and religious values and philanthropy at a function. K B Jandial IAS (Retd) was the Chief Guest while Prem Gupta, IPS (Retd) presided over.

Rameshwar Mengi, Chairman Shiksha Niketan Trust & RMPS and Er. Vijay Bhagotra, Gen Secy Home for Aged & Infirm, Ambphalla were the Guests of Honour. SC Rekhi, General Secretary Retired Officers Forum was Special Invitee.

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, State Chairman Indian Yoga Association President Vichar Kranti Manch International presented his poem specially composed on Soni, highlighting his qualities of head and heart for the occasion.

Soni, who recently celebrated his 97th birthday, is still very active and is associated with several social organisations. He heads the Home for Aged and Infirm Ambphalla and Retired Officers Forum, Chief Patron of J&K Confederation of Social & Charitable Organisation, Bharat Vikash Parishad & Hari Prabhu Sanstha, Billawar and Chief Advisor VKMI. He is associated with several NGOs. He has authored three motivational books—Anecdotes That Inspire, Old Age is a Boon & Not



a curse and How to Live a Peaceful Life. His new book "Scripts That Motivates" is near completion. Hailing from Bhaddu, Billawar, Soni joined the Govt service as a teacher in 1948 after completing M.A. B. T. and retired as Dy Director School Education in 1983. He was given an assignment of Project Director Evolution of Education in J&K by the HRD Ministry. He became Commissioner of the Bharat Scouts & Guides in 1985 and held this position till

2020. He has received several awards including President's award of 'Silver Elephant' for rendering a very dedicated, sincere, diligent service as Scouter to Scouting Moment, Certificate of Appreciation from Rajya Sainik Welfare Department, Gandhian Centre for Peace & Conflict studies, University of Jammu, From Union Ministry of Education for rendering his services as Project Director, Evaluation J&K State, Best Administrative Award of J&K, Best

Teacher Award from DBN, Best Social Worker Award from VKMI. He has been associated with many NGOs including Munshi Ram Khajuria Trust. C M Sharma, General Secretary, VKMI & State coordinator Annamalai University, conducted the proceedings. Ashok Gupta Vice President VKMI presented vote of Thanks. Present on the occasion included Dr SK Jain, Dr Usha Ticku, Prof Sarla Kohli, Er. KS Sambyal, Ashok Gupta, G N Jain, Yash Paul Sharma, Anju Bansal, DK Gupta, Er. S K Gupta, Jaipal Singh, representatives of Bharat Vikas Parishad, Samaj Kalyan Kendre, Retired Officers Forum, Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre, Hari Prabhu Sanstha, Skill Development, NSK Sawera, Sai Shyam College of Education, Shiksha Niketan/RMPS, Sarv Uthan Trust, J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides, JRC Home for Handicapped. All members wished ID Soni on his 97th Birthday. Mrs Anju Bansal & Er. Sambyal presented Bhajans.

Rajeshwar's Hindi poetry 'Shabdon Ki Aartiyan' released on Amazon, Flipkart and Notion Press

Top News Report

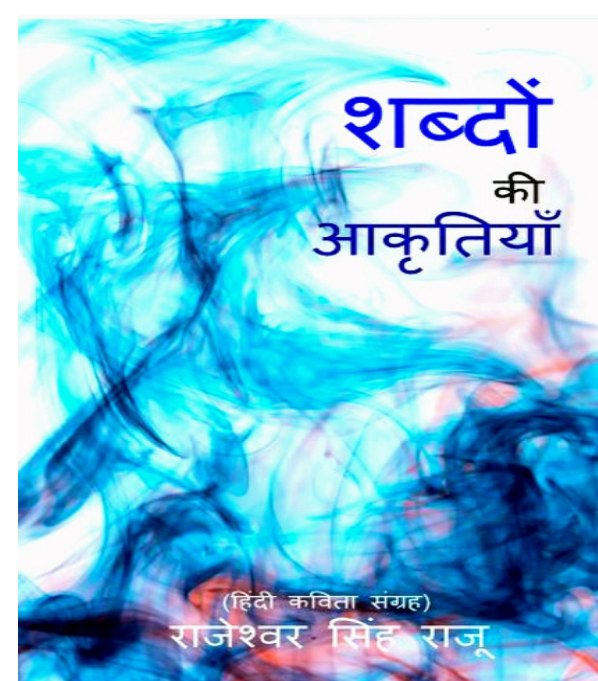
JAMMU, Apr 30: Shabdon Ki Aartiyan' a collection of Hindi poetry written by eminent English, Dogri and Hindi writer Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' released on Amazon, Flipkart and Notion Press, Chennai.

The book carries 75 poems in Hindi language predominantly free verse poetry written on varied subjects in a simple language so that the readers should connect with the thought therein with an ease.

The poetry collection that means 'Images of Words' is an effort to convert the thoughts evolving in the mind into the words and give them different shapes covering different aspects of life. An effort has been made to connect with poetry lovers in a simple way and make them enjoy the contents therein as it belongs to all of us. If there is a flight of imagination then it talks about harsh realities of life also. It is simply a journey towards better direction in life while experiencing the odds as well. The words create shapes of different emotions that we undergo at different phases of our life.

The poet has covered almost all the subjects in this collection like man-woman relations, spirituality, exploitation, social evils, love, conspiracies etc.

He says that every poetry lover understands any poem in his or her own way which is the beauty of poetry as well. Just like as reading poetry is an everlasting experience, for a poet the creative process involved therein also offers a pleasant feel. He advocates that read-



ing culture should flourish in our region also which will inspire the writers to put in more effort to serve good literature to literature lovers. It is true that first a thought knocks on the heart. Then the heart keeps searching for words. When the words are found, that thought gets transformed into the shape of words and becomes a part of one of the genres of literature.

The cover page of the book that carries 112 pages is designed by Mrinalini Singh which is quite attractive and creative too. The poet hoped that the book will be well received by readers and critics.

It is pertinent to add here that Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' has been writing in Hindi, Dogri and English languages for the last 34 years and this is his 25th book. About 1000 articles written by him in English, Hindi & Dogri languages have been published in different leading national and regional newspapers and magazines. He has also written 15 theatre plays which have been staged by prominent theatre groups. About 30 plays and 05 serials written by him have been broadcast from Aakashwani Jammu and about 20 plays, 15 serials and more than 100 Documentaries telecast from DD KISAAN, DDK Jammu, DDK Srinagar and DD Kashir. He has 24 books to his credit prior to this one and that include 09 in his mother tongue Dogri and 12 are in Hindi and 03 in English. Out of these 24 books, 06 are on poetry, 07 are on short stories, one on essays on social topics, 10 are on Art and Culture and one ambitious translation work 'Lachit Barphukan' in dogri language. In addition to several awards and honours, he has been awarded Sahitya Akademi's prestigious Bal Sahitya Puraskar-2022, State award for literature in Hindi & Dogri, Prof. Ram Nath Shatsri Memorial award etc.

Shiv Sena demands free registration of Shri Amarnath Yatra

Seeks time to meet Lieutenant Governor



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit leaders on Tuesday wrote a memorandum with their blood to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and requested for time to meet, demanding free registration for the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra 2024, which is scheduled to continue from June 29 to August 19.

In a program organized today at Jammu Press Club, many senior party leaders including state chief Manish Sahni wrote a memorandum with their blood to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (who is also

the Chairman of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board) to make the registration system free for the devotees coming on Shri Amarnath Yatra.

Party state chief Manish Sahni said that the recovery in the name of registration on religious tours brings back memories of the Jaziya tax of the Mughal rule. He said that the pockets of the devotees coming on Amarnath Yatra become empty even before the formalities set for them. On that, Rs 150/- per passenger is being charged in the name of registration.

Sahni said that in a Hindu-majority country, the recovery of money in the name of registration

on the religious pilgrimages of Hindus makes one bow one's head in shame, which cannot be tolerated at all. He said that before the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir, i.e. before 2019, the registration fee was just Rs 50/- per passenger. Which was continuously increased during the BJP rule and made Rs 220/- in 2023. After a series of protests by Shiv Sena (UBT), a slight reduction has been made in it in 2024, but their demand is to make it completely free.

Sahni said that their fight will continue until Shri Amarnath Yatra registration is made free. Along with the memorandum, the Shiv Sainiks also wrote a request letter to meet the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir with their blood.

He said that despite making dozens of requests before this, they are not being given time. On this occasion General secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice president Balwant Singh, President Kamghar wing Raj Singh were present.

Secy DLSA inspects facilities for inmates in PALASH, Children home for Boys/Girls, Phulwari, & OSC

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Apr 30: As per NALSA's annual calendar of activities for the month of April, 2024 and on the directions of worthy Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Ramban, Ranbir Singh Jasrotia, today the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Anjana Rajput Ramban visited One Stop Centre, PALASH, Children home for Boys, and Phulwari, Children Home for Girls under Mission Vatsalya at Ramban.

Along with Secretary, DLSA Ramban, Superintendent of PALASH, Saleem, Members of the Juvenile Justice Board, Shah Nawaz and Anjum Shafi, Case workers and educators of these one stop centers, Adv. Monika Devi and PLVs of district Ramban were also present.

The main aim of these inspections was to assess the functioning of the One Stop Centers and to review the facilities provided to the children residing in these help centers. Compliance to legal provisions and standards was also

reviewed. Secretary, DLSA Ramban also discussed with all the stakeholders the area of improvements so that the lives of those children who are residing in these centers can be improved.

During the inspection, it was revealed that the OSCs have provided various services and facilities to multiple persons in the past few months. These services include counseling, legal aid, medical assistance, self-help, etc.

In addition to this, everyone was made aware about the availability of the National Helpline number 181 for women, which provides round the clock support to women in distress and NALSA Helpline number 15100, which also offers assistance to women in need.

District Legal Services Authority, Ramban and One Stop Centers shall continue to work towards the mission of empowering and helping the persons in need especially women victims and providing them with the necessary support to overcome the challenges they face.

SMVDU organizes Awareness Program on Biotech Entrepreneurship



Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 30: A one-day awareness program on Biotech Entrepreneurship, Startups, and Skill Development training was organized by the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra.

The program was attended by the undergraduate, post graduate and Ph.D. scholars of the department along with the staff and faculty members.

The occasion was graced by an invited speaker, Er. Ankush Varma from IIM, Jammu, who is a distinguished figure in the realm of entrepreneurship &

startups and is presently working as Co-ordinator/CEO at IIM-TBI (Bio-NEST Incubator).

The purpose of the awareness program was to support and create awareness about startups, understand the challenges of being an entrepreneur, and the importance of skill-based training and increasing the culture of startups and self-employment for young entrepreneurs.

The students and faculty had an interactive discussion with the speakers and were provided with valuable insights into how they can start and run their own technology-based enterprise.

The event was con-

ceptualized and managed by Dr. Anil Kumar, SoBT, coordinator of the awareness program, with the encouragement and coordination of Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Biotechnology. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the faculty of the School of Biotechnology towards the overall grooming and development of their students as abled professionals.

He laid stress on organizing more such programs to enhance knowledge of the students at SMVDU.

MIET files 50th Patent, 16 granted, 2 commercialized

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 30: In a significant development, the Center for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CRIE) at MIET reported that the 50th patent was filed at the Indian Patents and Trademarks Office (IPTO), representing a major milestone in homegrown innovation in the region.

MIET began its IPR journey in 2010 when the first patent was filed. Since, then MIET faculty and students have picked up the pace of innovation and filed patents to address highly technical problems in diverse domains. Out of the 50 filed patents, 16 patents have been granted while

a vast majority of the patents have been published and awaiting final examination by the IPTO. In addition, 7 copyrights and design registrations have also been filed to protect the IPR generated by the institution.

Prof. Ankur Gupta, Director MIET lauded the faculty members and students for pushing the boundaries of innovation and trying to address critical technical challenges, resulting in the filing and grant of patents.

He reiterated the commitment of MIET in supporting innovation and cultivating an inventive mindset, besides investing consistently in capacity building. He also reported the successful

commercialization of 2 granted patents, resulting in faculty led startups being formed and successfully launching products incubated under the CRIE. One of the startups, which provides a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) platform offering quality analytics for Higher Education institutions is at an advanced revenue stage with 25+ customers, while another computer vision-based startup is at pre-revenue stage undergoing product trials.

Four additional startups are in the process of being formally registered who are working in the deep tech product space around immersive technologies and AI.

All the patent applications at MIET are internally developed and filed through the CRIE, which tracks the patent applications and ensures compliance at all stages of the patent application through to the final grant. This has resulted in a 100% patent filing to grant ratio till date.

Dr. Renu Gupta, Chairperson MIER Group of institutions, congratulated the inventors and appreciated the culture of innovation which MIET has championed in the region with limited focus on applied research and innovation, especially in the private sector.

She also appreciated the MIET IPR Policy, approved by the Governing Body of the institution,

which provides complete financial support to inventors at MIET to file patents and protect the intellectual property generated.

She exhorted on all the faculty and students to evince genuine interest in innovation and help build true credibility and pride in local innovation, placing MIET and JK UT on the national innovation map.

Recently MIET had figured in the top performing institute in JK UT on Innovation under the Institute Innovation Council (IIC) program of the Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of J&K and nominated as the Mentor Institution to guide five major institutions in the region around innovation.