

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, MAY 02, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

One person killed, 11 injured in road accident in Ramban

JAMMU, May 2 (Agencies): One person was killed and eleven others injured when a vehicle collided with a truck on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said.

The accident occurred late on Wednesday when a tempo traveller from Jammu collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction in the Shabanbass area of Banihal. The tempo traveller was carrying 16 passengers, including 12 tourists from Kerala, officials said.

According to officials, one passenger died on the spot, while eleven others escaped with minor injuries.

The injured were shifted to a hospital for treatment, they said.

Police attach properties of drug peddler under NDPS Act in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, May 2 (Agencies): Police on Thursday attached the properties of a notorious drug peddler under the Narco Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Police on Thursday said that properties including 9 Marlas land and a double-story residential house worth approximately Rs 50 lakh of a notorious drug peddler identified as Shabir Ahmad Sofi, a resident of Mazhama, Magam Budgam district, were attached under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

"The action was taken under sections 68-E read with 68-F (1) of the Narcotic NDPS Act of 1985 and is linked with case FIR No.05/2024 u/s 8/20,22 &29 NDPS Act of PS Kunzer", police said.

The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Police.

Under the drug free Baramulla campaign, police have attached the illegal drug properties of 16 notorious

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"Congress is dying and Pakistan is Crying" says PM Modi emphasising his Government's anti-terror stand

GUJARAT, May 2 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi targeted the previous UPA government accusing it of giving "dossiers" to terrorists while alleging a partnership between Congress and Pakistan.

Calling it a "coincidence", the Prime Minister said that the Congress party is weakening in India adding that Pakistan leaders are offering "dua" (prayers) for the party to return to power.

"The weak Congress government used to give dossiers to the masters of terror. But, Modi's strong government kills terrorists on their ground. It is a coincidence, today Congress is getting weaker



in India and when here Congress is dying and there Pakistan is crying. Now Pakistani leaders are offering dua for Congress. Pakistan is eager to make 'Shehzaada' the Prime Minister and Congress is already Pakistan's fan. This partnership between Pakistan and Congress has now been complete-

ly exposed," PM Modi said while addressing an election rally in Gujarat's Anand on Thursday.

The Prime Minister accused the Congress of lying while calling itself "Mohabbat ka dhukan" (shop of love) and alleged that the latter has become a "factory of fake goods".

"People are asking

why the Congress is so agitated. Today Congress has become a fake factory i.e. a factory of fake goods. Why is Congress selling lies by calling itself Mohabbat ka Dhukan?", he said.

Referring to the UPA rule as 'shaasankaal' (reign) and the current NDA rule as 'sevakaal' (service period), PM Modi accused Congress of trying to divide the country.

"These days, the 'shehzaade' of Congress are dancing keeping the Constitution on their heads. But, Congress should answer me why the Constitution, which you are dancing with on your forehead today,

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BJP Govt has made Gujarat Hub for drug traffickers from Pakistan, alleges Cong

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): The Congress on Thursday alleged that the BJP government has made Gujarat a hub for drug traffickers from Pakistan and asked what is Prime Minister Narendra Modi doing to confront the rise of drug smuggling in the state.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed questions to Prime Minister Modi ahead of his rallies in Gujarat.

"Who is the PM protecting in the rampant drug smuggling trade into Gujarat? Who is responsible for the lakhs



of families affected by inaccurate land records? Why is Gujarat still suffering from water shortage after all these years of BJP rule?" Ramesh said in a post on X.

Elaborating on what he said were "jumla details", Ramesh alleged that the BJP government has made Gujarat a hub for drug traffickers from

Pakistan.

"Just a few days ago, the Indian Coast Guard, Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad, and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) seized a Pakistani boat carrying 86 kg of heroin (worth Rs 600 crore) off the coast of Gujarat. Two days prior, mephedrone valued at Rs 230 crore was seized from two labs located in Gandhinagar, one in Amreli, and three in Rajasthan's Sirahi," he said.

In March, Pakistani nationals carrying narcotics worth Rs 480 crore were apprehended off the Porbandar coast

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'400 Paar' A joke, '300 Paar' impossible, '200 Paar' challenge for BJP: Tharoor

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): The BJP's claim of '400 paar' is a joke, '300 paar' impossible and even '200 paar' may be a challenge in the Lok Sabha polls, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has said, terming the ruling party's loss a "foregone conclusion".

In an interaction with PTI editors at the agency's headquarters here, Tharoor also claimed the BJP will draw a blank in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and will do worse than its 2019 performance in the South.

Tharoor, who was locked in a three-way contest with Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar of the BJP



and P Raveendran of the CPI in Thiruvananthapuram where polling took place on April 26, said he is looking at a "very comfortable win".

If he emerges victorious, it will be a fourth consecutive win for the author-politician from Thiruvananthapuram, who is the longest-serving MP from the constituency.

Back in Delhi after a nearly two month high

voltage campaign in Thiruvananthapuram, the Congress Working Committee member will now canvass in other parts of the country, being a sought after campaigner due to his oratory skills and celebrity status.

Asked how it was looking for the Congress and the INDIA bloc after two phases of the polls, the former Union minister said, "190 seats have voted so far and what I am picking up from my sources, it is tremendously positive for our side. We are not suggesting that there is an overwhelming wave but there certainly isn't one for the government."

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Jammu Police slaps PSA against "Gola Shah"

JAMMU, May 2 (Agencies): A day after police initiated action in Greater Kailash murder case with the arrest of seven persons, one of the accused was booked under Public Safety Act on Thursday.

Police sources said that upon receiving inputs from SSP Jammu, District Magistrate Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya has issued a warrant under the Public Safety Act (PSA) against Ravinder Kumar commonly known as 'Gola Shah'.

A senior police officer however, confirmed the same.

Police on Wednesday

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Lok Sabha Polls | Omar Abdullah files nomination for Baramulla seat



SRINAGAR, May 2 (Agencies): National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah filed his nomination papers for the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

Accompanied by NC's treasurer Shammil Oberoi and senior vice president of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh

Congress Committee G N Monga, Abdullah filed the nomination papers before Baramulla Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa, who is the returning officer of the constituency.

The NC leader is pitted against People's Conference president and separatist-turned-mainstream-politician Sajad Lone.

PDP has fielded former Rajya Sabha MP Mir Fayaz from the seat.

The last date for filing nominations from the seat is May 3, while the polling is scheduled to take place on May 20.

Talking to reporters in Baramulla, Abdullah refused to comment on Lone's remarks that the People's Conference leader will withdraw from the contest if the INDIA bloc makes a public commitment on the restoration of Article 370. In an interview to agency, the People's Conference president had said if the NC gets the opposition grouping to publicly commit to restore Article 370, he will withdraw his candidature.

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MBA MOTORS

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

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CIK arrests youth trying to join terrorist ranks in Budgam

SRINAGAR, May 2 (Agencies): Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) Thursday claimed to have arrested an individual trying to join terrorist ranks in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

An input was received from reliable sources that terrorist outfit Ansar Gazwat-Ul-Hind is trying to re-establish its base and revive its cadres in Kashmir.

The statement reads that in furtherance to this conspiracy, a Pakistan based terror handler of AuGH identified as Hamzah alias Gazi has been learnt brainwashing Kashmiri youth to join terrorist ranks.

"It was further learnt that AuGH has brainwashed and cultivated few committed

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KRIYA AND RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Romesh Chander Gupta** S/o Lt. Sh. Parma Nand Langer (Retd. Pharmacist) on 17th April 2024. **KRIYA & RASAM PAGRI** will be performed on 03rd May, 2024 at 12:00 Noon at our residence H. No. 82 Ward No. 1 Sunderbani.



Sh. Romesh Chander Gupta

ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we would like to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sardar Ajaib Singh Ji (Professor - Khalsa College - Delhi)** S/o Late Sdr. Teja Singh Ji who left for heavenly abode on 27-04-2024. **ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB JI** at our residence House No 224-Sector 1, Channi Himmat on 02-05-2024 (Thursday) at 9:30 AM. **BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB JI** at our residence on 04-05-2024 (Saturday) at 9:30 AM. **KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAAS** at Gurudwara Guru Ka Bagh, Sector 1, Channi Himmat Jammu from 11 AM to 12:15 PM followed by Guru Ka Langar. **GRIEF STRICKEN (Daughters & Son-in-Law)**



SARDAR AJAIB SINGH JI (Professor - Khalsa College - Delhi)

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and Sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Brij Nath Bhat** S/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Bhat Originally resident of Bomai Sopore, Baramulla, Kashmir, Presently residing at Lane No 25, Block No 166 Flat No 19 who left for heavenly abode on 24th of April 2024. **The 10TH DAY AND ASSEMBLY** will be performed at Muthi Ghat at 08.30 AM on 03-05-2024 (Friday). **GRIEF STRICKEN**



SH. BRIJ NATH BHAT

OBITUARY /10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Soom Nath Pandita (Dangi)** S/o Late Sh. Gobind Ram R/o Mattan Anantnag A/P Sisters' 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**



Sh. Soom Nath Pandita (Dangi)

ADH BARKHI

Six months have been passed since your noble soul departed to rest in peace in heavenly abode but your memories are still afresh in our hearts which shall remain forever. **The Adh Barkhi** of our beloved mother **Late Smt Kamlesh Gupta** W/o Sh Sham Lal Gupta will be performed at our residence H.No. 835 Subash Nagar Indira Chowk Jammu on 3rd of May 2024 at 11.00 AM. **Grief Stricken**



Late Smt Kamlesh Gupta

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:**



Smt. Kisheni K Sopori

Contact No.: 09596743313, 8447747448

10TH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Archana Bakshi** W/o Late Sh. V.K. Bakshi who left for her heavenly abode on 23-04-2024. **10th Day** shall be performed on 2nd May, 2024 (Thursday) at 11.00 am onwards, at our residence. **The Kriya** shall be performed on 3rd May 2024 (Friday) at 12.00 Noon at our residence, House No. 149-P, Sector 1-A Extension, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN**



Smt. Archana Bakshi

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) - Arambh 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**



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

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:**



Sh. Bansil Lal Challu

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Rupawati Pandita** W/o Late Sh. Sawanand 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**



Smt. Rupawati Pandita

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR DEAR MOTHER **SMT. INDRANI KOUL** W/O LT. SH. LAMBODAR NATH KOUL, ORIGINALLY R/O SYED ALI AKBAR, FATEH KADAL, SRINAGAR, D/O LT. PT. GANA KOUL, MAGARMAL BAGH, SRINAGAR, LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 28TH APRIL 2024. **10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 6TH MAY 2024 AT MURADNAGAR GHAT, GHAZIABAD, UP. **GRIEF STRICKEN:**



SMT. INDRANI KOUL

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. Shambhu 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**



Sh. Gopi Nath Pandita

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:**



Smt Geeta Slathia

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kailash Sharma** W/o Sh. Gian Chand Sharma, R/o, 12/2, Ext. Trikuta Nagar, who left for heavenly abode on 24/4/24. **TENTH DAY** will be performed on Friday, 3rd of May 2024 at 11:00 AM at our residence H.No.12, Sector 2, Trikuta Nagar. **KRIYA** will be held on Saturday, 4th of May 2024 at 12:00 Noon. **GRIEF STRICKEN**



SMT. KAILASH SHARMA

10TH DAY/KRIYA (13TH DAY)

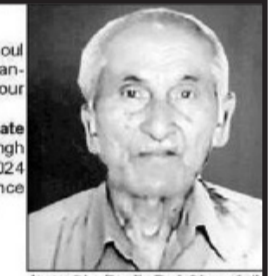
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Dr Akarsh Parihar** S/o Dr Mahesh Chander Parihar, Retd. Chief Scientist, SKUAST-Jammu on 24th April 2024. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 3rd May, 2024 (Friday) at Ved Mandir, Anphalia at 9 am. **Kriya** will be performed on 5th May, 2024 (Monday) at our residence 275, Rawan, Anphalia, adjoining Kashmiri Pandit Sabha from 10 am to 2 pm. **GRIEF STRICKEN**



Dr Akarsh Parihar

ADH BARKHI

Six months have passed since noble soul has left us for heavenly abode. We still cannot believe that you are not with us. But your memories are still alive in our hearts. **ADH BARKHI** of our beloved Father **Late Sh. Bodh Raj Chandail** S/o Late Hari Singh Chandail will be performed on 3rd May 2024 Friday at 10:00 AM on wards at our residence village Tardora Tehsil Bhalala Distt Doda. **Deeply Remembered by:**



Late Sh. Bodh Raj Chandail Rtd Tr and Nalb Sarpanch Pyt Choundry Block Bhalala

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Sheela Dhar** W/o Late Sh Ganga Dhar of Brayni Angan, Uma Nagri presently at H.No. 19 Lane 12, Huzoori Bagh Bohri, who left for heavenly abode on 28th of April 2024. **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 7th of May 2024 at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM. **Grief Stricken**



Smt Sheela Dhar

10TH DAY/KRIYA

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR BELOVED LATE **SMT KRISHANA GUPTA W/O DWARKA NATH GUPTA** THE PROGRAM IS AS FOLLO :- **10TH DAY - 04-MAY-2024 AT PARADISE CHINOR ROAD AT 10 AM. KRIYA - 07-MAY-2024 AT OUR RESIDENCE H NO. 21 LANE 2/7 BLOCK ROOP NAGAR ENCLAVE JAMMU. MAY HER SOUL BE BLESSED WITH ETERNAL PEACE** **IN GRIEF**



Smt. Krishana Gupta

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad, sudden and unfortunate demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Kantayani Handoo** W/o Late Sh. Shiv Kumar Handoo and daughter of Late Sh. Shambhu Nath Razdan original resident of Bagh Jogi Shanker, Rainawari, Srinagar-Kashmir and presently at H.No.55, Tubewell Colony, Near Nand Bab Ashram, Late-da-bagh, Muthi Jammu who left for heavenly abode on early morning of 25th day of April 2024. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of Education Office) on Friday, the 3rd day of May 2024 at 8.30 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN**



Smt. Kantayani Handoo

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Culmination of Manthan-2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Manthan-2024. The brainstorming session spanned over two days with the aim to realign and bring all stakeholders on the same platform, with the intent of Empowering NCC Cadets to become potential Leaders and Responsible Citizens finally culminated on 02 May 2024. It was a freewheeling discussion combined with an informal approach to achieve problem-solving through lateral thinking and thus make an endeavour to develop certain new concepts for NCC through innovative ways. On the second day of the event, the issues deliberated on included following.

Special National Integration Camps to be held at Srinagar to make cadets understand and value the rich heritage of cultures that forge unity despite the diverse languages, traditions and religions of our country. To make it more impactful



for young generation measures recommended to be adopted to make it more vibrant and innovative.

Improving overall Training Standards through creation of Training Assets and optimum Utilisation of Training Funds. Course of Action for sanction of land and creation of Training Infrastructure for Training Academy at Chhatatal.

Methods to further improve Institutional Training and disburse-

ment of Refreshment allowance to Cadets.

Keeping in view the new raisings of the Directorate, feasibility of Conduct of ATCs/CATCs in Schools/Colleges of Jammu Group during vacations in order to reduce load on NCC Training Academy, Nagrota.

A Presentation on improving accountability and measure performance on quantifiable parameters for ANO's with the aim of establish-

ing a SOP and bringing out best practices.

The ADG congratulated the audience for their active participation. He concluded the Manthan 2024 with a vote of thanks and entrusted all Officers to imbibe on the discussion taken and maintain the momentum for making NCC more vibrant and successful with regular follow up. ADG shared good news that BRO is now giving 10% and 5% marks to NCC 'C' and 'B' Cert holders for enrol-

ment. ADG mentioned that we all are concerned with leadership development of cadets for which brainstorming was carried out to arrive at actionable points. Motivation of ANOs and Cadets should be given. Brainstorming of training events liked RDC, TSC, NSC and IDSSC have been discussed in detail and all stake holders should follow outcome of the same in a collaborative manner. We must also imbibe and imitate best practices of each other such as "Samark" and Permanent Instructional Staff Parades in the mornings. Focus should be on making NCC training more vibrant innovative and impactful for the youth. Lets align ourselves in training through collaborative approach to align with the Vision. We must be Agile, resilient, perseverant and patient with the training processes.

Lt Governor flags off Road Safety Awareness Tour from Raj Bhawan Srinagar



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 2: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off Road Safety Awareness Tour "Mission Save Lives J&K Tour 2024" from Raj Bhawan today.

The Lt Governor commended the endeavour of Kashmir Road Safety Foundation to create awareness, educate communities, and implement measures to enhance road safety

across UT of Jammu Kashmir.

Mission Save Lives J&K Tour 2024 will cover all the Districts of J&K and spread awareness about the importance of Road Safety and Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Nasir Ali Khan, Chairman, Kashmir Road Safety Foundation, senior officials and other concerned were present.

DEO B'la flags-off Student & Tonga Rally under SVEEP to boost Voter engagement

Top News Report

BARAMULLA, May 2: In a dynamic display of democratic fervor, the District Election Officer (DEO) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa in presence of Nodal Officer MCC, Syed Qamar Sajad, Nodal Officer MCMC, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina, today flagged-off first of its kind Tonga Rally from Dak Bungalow Baramulla, aimed at enhancing voter awareness and inspiring people to actively participate in the Lok Sabha Elections on 20th of May in the 1- Baramulla parliamentary constituency.

The unique tonga rally which passed through the streets of main Baramulla town before culminating at the historic Cement Bridge, garnered a widespread participation from the local community, emphasizing the importance of maximum participation in the electoral process.

Speaking during the ceremony, the DEO underscored that the goal of organizing these



events and rallies is to promote electoral literacy and spread awareness of the election process, thereby empowering the electorates, especially the first-time voters to actively participate in the elections.

The DEO further elaborated on the efforts of the district administration in educating the voters through a series of vibrant activities carried out under SVEEP to maximize participation in the electoral process and said that frequency of such activities will only intensify as the poll day for 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency is approaching.

Later, the DEO flagged off a student rally from the Dak Bungalow Baramulla, witnessing an enthusiastic participation of hundreds of students driven by fervor to educate and inspire first-time voters, urging them to actively engage in the electoral process.

The rally traversed through the streets of Baramulla town, with students fervently waving placards and echoing powerful slogans, urging the community to actively participate in the Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held in 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency on 20th of May.

DC Kishtwar takes part in River Rafting Expedition



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 2: Adventure enthusiasts and stakeholders, including Asikini Adventures and Extreme Adventures, have joined hands with the District Administration Kishtwar to organize a thrilling River Rafting expedition at Chinab River near Gulabgarh Paddar.

The event aims to promote adventure tourism and support adventure tourism operators in the area.

A circus for the locals and children, along with tent houses, has been installed to enhance the recreational experience for attendees.

The two-week-long river rafting expedition has attracted adventure lovers and enthusiasts from across the region to enjoy the exhilarating spate of the Chinab River alongside the Gulabgarh bank.

The expedition witnessed the auspicious presence of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav IAS,

CEO Kishtwar Development Authority Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma, SDM Paddar Amit Kumar, ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh, among other officers and officials.

DC Kishtwar shared words of encouragement with the stakeholders and adventure enthusiasts for the expedition.

Meanwhile, during the tour of Paddar Sub-Division, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav IAS assessed the preparations for the Shree Machail Mata Yatra by taking first hand appraisal of the progress on approaching roads, bridges, and accommodation facilities. Necessary directions were passed to concerned agencies to expedite the preparations to ensure hassle-free facilities ahead of the Yatra.

SDM Paddar was instructed to monitor the process closely to ensure timely completion of all necessary arrangements.

Army Unveils Aerial Cableway in Poonch, Fortifying Connectivity Along LoC

Top News Report

POONCH, May 2: Indian Army in continuance to its commitment to serve the Nation as well as the populace of border areas, has installed an 'Aerial Cableway in Kirni Village of Poonch', situated along the Line of Control. Crafted with precision and ingenuity under the banner of 'Bridging Gaps through Ropes of Connect' this pioneering infrastructure is poised to revolutionise the transport of goods to the Kirni village, yielding tangible benefits in terms of time and space. By harnessing cutting-edge technology and engineering acumen, the Indian Army endeavors to optimise its own logistical operations while nurturing prosperity in the forward villages.



This 900 metre Aerial Cableway Span symbolises a tangible manifestation of the Army's resolve of technology infusion to enhance the quality of life for citizens & troops at remote areas. The inauguration ceremony drew a distinguished assembly of local luminaries, villagers and military personnel who hailed the Aerial Cableway as a game-changing initiative set to ensure all weather

connectivity to the village and reducing the time for the logistic supply from erstwhile 40-50 minutes to under four minutes. As the Indian Army continues to prioritise infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing operational efficacy and uplifting lives in border regions, the launch of the Aerial Cableway in Poonch stands testament to the Army's unwavering dedication to nation building.

Intruder might have been sent to test troops' alertness: BSF IG on infiltration bid in J&K

JAMMU, May 2 (Agencies): A senior BSF official on Thursday said an intruder killed along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district might have been sent to carry out reconnaissance of the area and test the alertness of troops for a potential infiltration attempt.

Border Security Force (BSF) troops thwarted an infiltration bid on Wednesday night at Samba's Regal post along the IB and killed an intruder, officials said. The body of the intruder was retrieved from the spot on Thursday.

"The troops noticed movement from across the border around 8:15 pm on Wednesday. It was closely monitored. The intruder first approached the border and then crossed the International Border. Despite being challenged by the troops, he continued to advance aggressively. Even after

being challenged twice more, the intruder did not halt, leading to the troops firing at him," BSF Inspector General (IG) D K Boora told reporters during his visit to a forward post here.

He said the intruder might have been sent to conduct reconnaissance of the area and assess the security along the border.

"There is a gap in the embankment near the spot of the incident and also a gate, which is usually closed. He attempted to breach the border. There is a possibility that he was being followed by more individuals from across (the border) but they were not visible (to the troops)," the officer added.

Voicing suspicion that the intruder could have been part of an infiltration plan, the IG said, "He might have been sent to probe the area. Had he succeeded in sneaking in from across

the border, others who might have been observing him would have followed him. Such tactics are employed at the border." Lauding the troops, the IG said, "Our alert troops neutralised the intruder. That is our duty. Such actions also serve to demoralise the enemy." Responding to concerns raised by police about two groups of terrorists, who recently infiltrated from across the border, reportedly hiding in the Basantgarh hills, the officer said, "I can only comment on this particular incident. Basantgarh is not within our operational area, it is quite distant. Police are investigating and we will learn of the outcome in due course." Asked about potential infiltration attempts along the IB, he dismissed any such incidents, saying, "We have no information about any infiltration attempts along the International Border."

Night temp drops, hovers below normal as MeT predicts afternoon showers in J&K

SRINAGAR, May 2 (Agencies): Night temperature recorded a drop at most places and continued to hover below normal in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

A meteorological department official said Srinagar recorded a low of 5.7°C against 7.1°C on the previous night and it was 4.0°C below normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 3.6°C against 5.8°C on the previous night and it was 4.9°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 1.0°C against 2.7°C on the previous night and it was 3.7°C below normal for the famous resort in south

Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 4.4°C against 3.5°C and it was 4.0°C below normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a minimum of 4.7°C against 5.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.7°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of minus 0.2°C against minus 1.2°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 4.5°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 15.7°C against 16.1°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 6.9°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded

a low of 8.0°C, Batote 9.5°C and Bhandarwah 6.1°C, he said.

Regarding the forecast, he said, generally dry weather with afternoon thundershower activity is expected during the next 24 hours.

From May 3-4, he said, partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain and thunder is expected at scattered places towards evening.

On May 5, he said, generally dry weather with afternoon thundershower activity is likely at isolated places.

Partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain and thunder is expected at few places on May 6-7, he said.

From May 8-10, generally dry weather with afternoon thundershower activity is expected at few places, the official added.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu

e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 08 of 2024-25

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in ₹)	Cost of document/ tender fee (in ₹)	Earnest money (in ₹)	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Replacement of components of 50,000GPH x 160 Mrs. Head HC pumpset Unit No. 7 at Tawi High Lift Pumping Station.	88,600/-	200/-	1,800/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned

Date of Publishing : 30-04-2024 (02.00 pm).

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 30-04-2024 (02.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 30-04-2024 (02.00 pm) to 13-05-2024 (02.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 14-05-2024 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html> in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L₁ bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L₁ bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.

JSMNDJ/162-64
Dated: 29-04-2024

DIP/J-290/24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North
Jammu

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Sr.DEE/G/IFZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders www.ireps.gov.in against below titled Tenders Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No	Name of Work	App Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Completion Period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect/T-06-2024-25	Electrical work in c/w illumination improvement and associated work for Various infrastructures to improve security in J&K valley region.	1,97,17,766.73	2,48,600.00	06 Months	21.05.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 251-Elect/T.N. Notice No. 04-Elect/2024-25 Dated: 01.05.2024

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EDITORIAL

Nurturing
Press Freedom

Press freedom stands as a cornerstone of democratic societies, ensuring the free flow of information, transparency, and accountability. However, in recent years, this fundamental right has faced unprecedented challenges worldwide. From censorship and intimidation to physical attacks and legal restrictions, journalists and media outlets confront a myriad of obstacles in fulfilling their crucial role as watchdogs of society.

To bolster press freedom, it is imperative to address these pressing issues and enact reforms that safeguard journalists' independence and empower them to fulfill their duty to the public. Here are several key areas where intervention is needed:

Governments must enact robust legal protections for journalists, including laws that decriminalize defamation and protect whistleblowers. Legal harassment and threats of imprisonment undermine press freedom and stifle investigative reporting. Strengthening legal frameworks ensures that journalists can work without fear of reprisal and hold the powerful accountable.

Impunity for crimes against journalists remains a grave concern. Perpetrators of attacks, harassment, and killings targeting journalists often escape justice, creating a chilling effect on press freedom. Governments must prioritize the investigation and prosecution of such crimes to ensure accountability and deter future attacks.

Censorship, whether overt or covert, undermines press freedom by restricting the dissemination of information and stifling public discourse. Governments should refrain from imposing censorship laws or regulations that curtail journalists' ability to report freely. Additionally, efforts to circumvent censorship, such as the development of digital tools and platforms for secure communication, are essential in safeguarding press freedom in the digital age.

Concentration of media ownership in the hands of a few powerful entities poses a threat to press freedom and pluralism. Governments should promote diversity in media ownership and support independent media outlets to ensure a plurality of voices and perspectives in the public discourse.

Ensuring the safety of journalists is paramount for maintaining press freedom. Governments must take proactive measures to protect journalists from physical violence, harassment, and intimidation, both online and offline. This includes providing training on digital security, offering physical protection measures, and prosecuting those who threaten or attack journalists.

Media literacy empowers individuals to critically evaluate information and discern credible sources from misinformation and propaganda. By investing in media literacy education from an early age, governments can cultivate an informed and discerning citizenry capable of defending press freedom and resisting attempts to manipulate public opinion.

Press freedom is a global concern that requires international cooperation and solidarity. Governments, civil society organizations, and international bodies should collaborate to monitor and address threats to press freedom worldwide, including through diplomatic pressure, advocacy campaigns, and support for journalists at risk.

In conclusion, nurturing press freedom is not only a moral imperative but also essential for the health of democracy. By safeguarding the rights of journalists, promoting media pluralism, and empowering citizens with media literacy, societies can create an environment where the press can thrive as independent watchdogs, holding power to account and fostering informed public debate. Only through concerted efforts to protect and uphold press freedom can we build a more just, transparent, and democratic world.

Let's scrap board exams, it's ruining India's young

By: Devi Kar

When they first start going to school, they are fresh-faced, bright-eyed, bursting with questions and full of the joys of life. Take a very good look and savour their cheerful demeanour because this is short-lived. In the blink of an eye, they will change and you will not recognise them again. They start looking tense and fearful, their curiosity dries up and all they hear at home and in school is "study, study, study". There is simply no time for free play. Working parents appoint tutors to ensure that their children are sitting down to study and that they are in competent hands. When I urge children to be independent learners, older students tell me, that they have been used to tutors since primary classes so they sit down to study only when their tutors are around.

The other day a young mother who works in a beauty parlour came to me for some advice. "How can I make my seven-year-old son sit down to study? Their school makes them study very hard and his life comprises tests and exams and there is no time to play. I have requested my sister-in-law to supervise because I feel too tired to sit down with him after a full day's work."

This is a common story. The little boy mentioned above was asked to go through two volumes of mathematical problems for a 10-mark test the following day. I was aghast! Why are we ruining our bright little children and depriving them of their childhood?

I am totally against the prevailing exam culture -- especially

the board exam culture -- that has taken over an unsuspecting nation. The climate is that of fear -- on the part of schools, parents and governments. Statistics must demonstrate that our children are performing well. But in spite of educational reforms (on paper) and encouraging students to become "examination warriors", we are at the bottom so far as knowledge, creativity, innovativeness and skills are concerned.

This is so simple to understand but those in power and many in the field of school education in our country haven't kept up with the times and keep equating quality education with high scores in exams. Fancy pedagogical practices cannot be implemented unless the teachers are trained and re-educated. Assessment is extremely important but it is just a measure which is supposed to indicate to the candidates (and their teachers) their weaknesses and strengths and the areas where more work is required.

As for the board exams, the less said about them the better. Every year, without fail, this mammoth exercise is carried out and at one end of the spectrum we have schools where children are expressing themselves in their mother tongue but using the Roman script. A colleague who is an examiner told me that some examinees had not been taught how to read maps and were locating cities in the middle of the ocean. It is unthinkable but students are taught the typical steps of a mathematical problem and not the concepts or principles. The state of mathematics in our country is pathetic. But that is another story for another day.

At the other end of the spectrum, we have expensive private schools where all kinds of innovative pedagogical methods and best practices are used. But higher order thinking, or "HOT" questions, are meaningless jargon in our neglected sectors, where students have not even been taught the basic facts.

And let us not forget the tragic suicides that take place every year before, during and after the board exams.

We resent the loss of a huge chunk of teaching-learning time when our teachers are requisitioned for invigilation, supervision or marking and tabulating. This circus has to stop immediately. I think that many of the schools where the average score in the board exams is well above 80 per cent should be exempted from these exams. Their inflated marks do not mean anything. And horror of horrors, I hear now that the CBSE plans to administer two board exams a year. Either there are too many vested interests or people simply know no better.

Textbook publishers, private tutors, those who wish to indoctrinate children, online coaching institutions and others would certainly want to keep the system alive just as keeping hostilities and divisions alive are in the best interest of some political leaders. What would happen to our extremely lucrative weapons industry if we had peace on earth? Hence, these senseless exams are here to stay. Our young people have wretched lives. Learning to them is getting high scores and cracking various

Olympiads and competitive exams. Studying for exams is a different ball game to discover-

ing for themselves, satisfying their intellectual curiosity or experimenting. It is easy to criticise and feel frustrated, but practical suggestions are needed. The following are entirely my own:

*Do away with compulsory board exams. Schools may apply for exemption by filling up forms drawn up by the relevant authorities. Exempted schools may appear for exams like SAT or AP.

*Acknowledge individual differences and bring out the best in every child.

*Do not make courses content-heavy. Introduce interdisciplinary approaches from the beginning.

*Make Class 10 the level where every student studies all the core subjects, including Mathematics and Science. Do not make courses too difficult -- in fact it is best to have a standard and an advanced track. You cannot be called educated in the 21st century if you do not have a basic knowledge of science and mathematics -- that is at least till Class 10.

It is essential to include climate, environment, community service, physical education, music, art and dance in the curriculum. Instilling of values must be ongoing. There must be space for consensus building not only for debates. The Model Parliament must be reintroduced. MUN (Model United Nations) is not enough. And everything doesn't have to be assessed formally.

It's all very well to keep harping on one country, one election, one main religion, one people, but you cannot fight the laws of nature. Individuals are different -- education must cater to their varied needs, aspirations and talents.

Please let us rescue our children from their helplessness and joyless.

Linguistic dominance in the digital world

By: Vijay Garg

Language is one of the basic needs of a person, just like food, clothing and shelter. A person's first language is a powerful medium for expanding his ethnic identity and his inner potential. Therefore, the greatest expression of a person's potential is in his mother tongue. Obviously, in a multilingual country like India, accepting the decline of minority languages is tantamount to hindering the expansion of the fundamental potential of the people and preventing the development of the comprehensive potential of the nation. As it is. Although the debate about linguistic minority and majority in India is old, the policies made on the ground all revolved around English. Therefore, the dominance of English increased in areas like policy-making, compliance mentality, teaching, research and employment. Indian languages have had to become secondary. The harm it caused in general contexts was yet to be evaluated, but due to the same reasons, the harm that Indian languages and their variants are causing to their native speakers in digital contexts today, and it is more frightening than before. If sensitivity towards the languages of the country had been shown in the process of nation-building, Indian languages would have been in a better position in the fight against English and the new threats looming on them in today's era of artificial intelligence would have been relatively less. Keep in mind that the framers of our Constitution were conscious of this and to protect the interests of linguistic minorities, the right of citizens living in any part of India to preserve their distinct language,

script or culture is guaranteed through Article 29 (1). Article 29(2) provides for the right to admission to any educational institution receiving aid from State funds and Article 30(1) provides for the right of all minorities, including language minorities, to establish and maintain educational institutions of their choice. Went. It was also assured through Article 1(3) of the United Nations Charter that human rights and fundamental freedoms and dignity will be promoted without any linguistic discrimination in global affairs. Today India's huge population, it includes smartphones. The sheer number of users, their internet consumption and the presence of citizens as content creators on social media is unprecedented and numerically decisive at the global level, but despite all this, the digital potential of Indian languages is secondary. That is why we have made it our priority to keep languages secondary. That is why despite having the highest position in the global population, our languages are not seen in digital products in that quantity. Internet Society Foundation's May 2023 According to statistics, English is the language of fifty-five percent of the websites as medium of web pages, followed by Spanish, which is only five percent. There is no mention of any Indian language in the top ten languages of this list. The matter does not end here, because on this foundation linguistic ability develops in artificial intelligence. Here it is important to understand the pace of acceptance of artificial intelligence. It took only two months for artificial intelligence tool 'ChatGPT' to reach its 100 million subscribers, whereas it took only two months to reach this number. Other Internet products,

such as Twitter, took five years and five months, Facebook four years and six months, WhatsApp three years and six months, Instagram two years and six months, Google one year and two months and TikTok nine months. Were engaged. It is worth noting that in this situation, Indian languages are secondary, but being the largest in numbers, Indian consumers are the primary ones, who have to accept the priority of English over their own languages. In such a situation, our situation is like that of laborers without any wages. this global When there are no languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution in competition, then what will be the status of minority languages can be easily guessed. As such, they should not be expected to be a priority even in the emerging market unless the government effectively intervenes in the process of free exploitation of personal digital data. Interestingly, artificial intelligence companies have increased their capabilities due to the digital activities of Indian consumers and now when the products are made, their customers also do the same. These are being made. Many companies have even started selling their products based on artificial intelligence. The other side of this is that due to English being the natural language of the digital facilities available, the possibility of exploitation of the common man in the country, who only knows his own language, is increasing. For example, money transaction through UPI is like a revolution in the country and it has become popular even in remote rural markets. On the other hand, under Jan Dhan Yojana, a very large section of the society has been connected to the banking system, which was

hardly possible before this. Have you ever gone to the bank? Use of both 'UPI' and smartphone is a new thing for these people. In such a situation, the dominance of English in mobile operating systems and the absence of minority languages is also becoming a factor in the expansion of cyber crime. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 65,893 cases of cyber crime were registered in the year 2022, which is 24.4 percent more than in 2021. Most of these cases are related to online shopping, ATM and OTP based banking frauds. In this way the digital absence of Indian languages This has further increased the morale of vicious criminals. Now language is being used not only for communication with family and society, but also for giving instructions to machines. All these are undoubtedly dominated by English, but now the market has started adding many Indian languages in its second phase of expansion. On the other hand, the Government of India has started work on a plan to develop the digital potential of Indian languages through artificial intelligence based language processing tool 'Bhasini'. But there is a need for this, that its speed and Both the quantities should be increased, so that maximum Indian languages can be connected to artificial intelligence in time. Also, people can be made aware, otherwise thousands of languages of the country will face untimely extinction. Also, their cultural heritage, the many shades of diversity of the country and most importantly, the right of an individual to live a digital life in his own language will also be lost forever.

(Vijay Garg Educational
Columnist Malout)

DC discusses SANJY-2024 arrangements in Ramban

Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 2: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a crucial preparatory meeting to discuss the comprehensive arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024 (SANJY).

The meeting was attended by SSP Ramban Anuj Kumar, SSP Traffic Rohit Baskotra, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, PD NHAI Parshotam Kumar, CPO Shakeeb Ahmed, Executive Engineers of various wings and senior officers from other line departments.

For ensuring hassle free movement of vehicles on the National Highway, the Deputy Commissioner directed PD NHAI to maintain NH-44 from Nashri to Banihal especially on all vulnerable locations including

Dalwas, Cafeteria Morh, Panthyal, Mom Pasi, Kishtwari Pather and other locations besides ensuring availability of sufficient men and machinery on identified points along the National Highway.

The DC also asked the concerned officers to install CCTV cameras at crucial locations for 24x7 monitoring of Traffic movement especially during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

A threadbare discussion was held on water and power supply to langars, Lodgment centres, deployment of provision of health care facilities, sanitation plan, establishment of langars, management of lodgment centres, and process for seeking permission with mandatory provision of CCTV and fire extinguishers, uninterrupted traffic movement, availability

of men and machinery, security, signage installation and maintenance of NH-44, parking of vehicles etc

The SSP briefed the meeting about security arrangements and assured full cooperation to all civil departments for making necessary arrangements for the convenience of yatri.

The SSP Traffic also briefed about the traffic Regulation Plan and passed necessary directions to concerned officers for implementing the same.

The DC directed ADC to check all vulnerable locations for installation of CCTV cameras for real time monitoring of NH-44 situation.

Earlier, ADC, who is also the Nodal Officer Yatra, briefed the meeting regarding the action plan to make Shri Amarnath Ji yatra 2024 successful.

Army organised Education Awareness Drive at Mughal Maidan Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 2: The Indian Army took a commendable initiative by organising an Education Awareness Drive at Mughal Maidan village of Kishtwar district in



Jammu and Kashmir. The event aimed to promote the importance of education and its role in fostering individual growth and national development. The event underscored the Army's commitment to community development and empowerment, highlighting the pivotal role that education plays in unlocking opportunities and driving progress. By fostering a culture of learning

and knowledge sharing, the Indian Army continues to be a catalyst for positive change, nurturing a brighter tomorrow for all. The event marked by enthusiastic participation of 28 people from village Mughal Maidan

and nearby areas. The Education Awareness Drive resonated deeply with Mughal Maidan village, igniting a spirit of enthusiasm and aspiration towards academic excellence.

Through such initiatives, the Indian Army continues to be a beacon of positive change, fostering inclusivity and fostering a culture of learning for a prosperous tomorrow.

Workshop on 'Tourism and Hospitality' concludes at Kishtwar



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 2: In a bid to foster understanding and enthusiasm for the tourism and hospitality sector, District Administration Kishtwar, led by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav, in collaboration with DE&CC Kishtwar and IIT Jammu, recently organized a three-day workshop. Mrs. Mamta Sudershan, AD- District Employment & Career Counselling alongside Manoj Gaur, Director IIT Jammu, spearheaded the initiative.

The workshop was venues at the Conference Hall of Govt Degree College Kishtwar, attracted participants from various

backgrounds, including students from remote areas, showcasing the widespread interest in the field. Approximately thirty students benefited from the program, which featured insightful sessions aimed at exploring the nuances of entrepreneurship, technicalities, and financial aspects within the tourism and hospitality industry.

On the first day, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, an ecological entrepreneur from Kashmir, delivered a lecture on entrepreneurship in the tourism sector, shedding light on the challenges and opportunities present, with a focus on sustainability. Following this, Arun Pratap Kotwal discussed the technicali-

ties of the industry and offered career guidance on carving a successful path within it.

The final day of the workshop concluded with a session on finance, led by Dr. Prateeksha Maurya, Associate Professor at Ta Pai Management Institute, Manipal, Karnataka, providing attendees with valuable insights into financial management within the tourism domain.

Expressing gratitude, Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Rather, Publicity Incharge of KDA Tourism Kishtwar, extended thanks to all guests, the district administration, DE & CC Kishtwar and IIT Jammu for their efforts in organizing this impactful workshop.

Shiv Sena appeals Labour Commissioner to provide allowance, OT, monthly bonus to workers

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 2: Shiv Sena requested the Region Labour Commissioner Jammu to provide allowance to the 36 workers of MEIL Company who are working in the Rattle Project Drabshalla Kishtwar.

Shan said, In this regard I have submitted memorandum to Regional labour commissioner and requesting to visit on the spot for checking the arrangements/employment of the labours and other tech-



nical workers visit at the site to check the basic amenities, safety/security of the workers working there in the Rattle hydro power project.

Furthermore, it has come into the notice that a 36 employees work at Rattle project without allowance, monthly bonus, without OT, provide half Sunday which is clearly unjustice.

Shan urged to Region labour com- missioner Jammu visit to spot and necessary directions to the project head in the matter on priority so that the poor workers may not suffer more for want of basic facilities which are necessary for survival of man.

Revoke withdrawal of concession on railway ticket for senior citizens: SSP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: Col SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party JK UT, expressed his concern about withdrawal of concession on railway tickets, implemented by union government 4 years back.

Senior citizens before attaining this status after completion of 60 years, have greatly contributed towards the growth and development of the nation, which needs to be acknowledge and appreciated by the government. Like other developed countries, India to has started large number of schemes for senior and super senior citizens i.e. after attaining the age of 80 and withdrawal of concession on railway tickets, can be termed as a retrograde step.

Though average age is India, presently is 67 years, but it will be pertinent to mention, that as per a study carried out, only 8 percent of people in the world, live beyond 65 years. Railway has announced in media, that a profit of Rs five thousand and eight hundred has been earned by the railways after withdrawal of concession to senior citizens. Such steps really do not speak good about the attitude and poor governance, for a welfare state like India. Pathania urged union government and railway minister to resume the concessions on railway tickets, to senior citizens at the earliest.

Dr Javed delivers extension lecture at GDC Darhal



Top News Report

DARHAL, May 2: Dr. Javed Qazi, a renowned academican and NAAC expert, graced the Government Degree College (GDC) Darhal with an extension lecture.

Dr. Qazi was welcomed by Principal Prof. Z. A. Mirza and the faculty.

The event was coordinated by the college's Assurance Cell (IQAC), led by Dr. M. Saleem Wani, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) wing,

headed by Dr. Mohd Akhlaq.

Prominent faculty members, including Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dr. Taseem Ahmed, and Dr. Anzaar Ahmed, attended the lecture.

Dr. Qazi's lecture focused on the importance of higher education in fostering personal and societal growth. He shared his insights on effective teaching and learning methodologies, curriculum development, and the role of technology in modern education.

The audience engaged in a lively Q&A session with Dr. Qazi, seeking guidance on various academic and career-related matters.

Principal Mirza thanked Dr. Qazi for his valuable insights and commended the organizers for their efforts in hosting the event.

The extension lecture proved to be an enriching experience for the faculty and students of GDC Darhal, further igniting their passion for academic excellence and community engagement.

NCC cadets of Dewan Devi Public School returned from of ATC

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Dewan Devi Public School cadets returned after successfully completion of ATC (Annual Training Camp) NCC held at Nagrota Camping Ground.

Various training classes were held there like Firing, obstacle training, drill, Basket Ball, map reading, weapon training class, field craft, Tug of

war and competition like sports and painting were also held.

One student Sakshi got gold medal in Firing Competition, One student got silver in Basket Ball and rest of students got certificate of achievement.

The Principal of the School, Seloni Suri encouraged the students for participating in such activities and wished them good luck.

Heritage School's team emerged victorious in Inter-School Football Tournament

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Heritage School's football team emerged victorious in Inter-School Football Tournament organized by Birla Open Mind, showcasing exceptional sportsmanship and skill throughout the tournament.

The event, held from April 29th to May 1st, 2024, witnessed spirited performances from various schools, culminating

in an electrifying final match between Heritage School and host team Birla Open Mind.

In a thrilling final showdown, Heritage School demonstrated remarkable prowess on the field, securing a well-deserved victory against Birla Open Mind with a score of 2-0.

Highlighting the stellar performance of Heritage School was the outstanding contribution of Hatif Mohammad., who showcased extraordinary

talent and skill throughout the tournament. Hatif's remarkable performance was underscored by his pivotal role in securing victory for his team, as he scored both goals in the final match, further solidifying Heritage School's triumph.

The entire Heritage School community extends heartfelt congratulations to the football team for their remarkable achievement in clinching the championship title.

Gurmeet attends Labour Day celebration

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 2: On the occasion of "International Labour Day 2024" Gurmeet Singh from Jammu East City, President Beopar Mandal was invited by President Jagdish Singh Pahalwan, J&K Mazdoor Dastkar Union and other colleagues at Udhampur for advocate for the rights and welfare of the working class & labour movement that aimed to promote workers' rights and opportunities and by seeing in highly involvement in such works, privileged for such a pious events & occasions etc. A get together performed amongst different communities of labour societies to strengthen the brotherhood within



all as well.

International Labour Day, also known as May Day, is commemorated annually on May 1st to advocate for the rights and welfare of the working class, is annually observed on May 1 in more than 80 countries, including India, Cuba,

China, and many others.

The day is celebrated to recognise and honour the significant contributions of workers and mark the historic labour movement that aimed to promote workers' rights and opportunities.

Initially observed as an ancient northern hemi-

sphere spring festival, May 1 became associated with the labour movement in the late 19th century after trade unions and socialist groups designated it as a day in support of workers for better working conditions, fair wages, and shorter working hours.

The day is celebrated with various events, including parades, marches, and speeches, organized by left-wing parties and workers' unions. Here's everything one needs to know about May Day 2024, from the date to the theme and more.

On May 1st 2024 Wednesday, this day is dedicated to recognizing the contributions and achievements of workers worldwide and promoting workers' rights and opportunities.

Prominent members present were Sr. Vice President Mohd Ashraf, General Secretary Shashi Syal, Distt. President Darshan Lal, Ward President Hardavinder Singh, Suresh Kumar and others.

Labour's Day celebrated at GDC Thathri



Top News Report

THATHRI, May 2: NSS unit Govt. Degree College (GDC) Thathri in collaboration with sports club and college literary club celebrated Labour's Day under the overall supervision of Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal, the Principal of the college.

The event organised by the NSS program officer, Dr. Sanjay Kumar. This event aimed to acknowledge and appreciate the invaluable con-

tributions of labourers to society and foster a sense of gratitude among the student community.

This was followed by an inaugural address Dr. Kotwal, emphasised the significance of labour in nation-building and urging students to recognise and respect the dignity of labour.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar, NSS program officer served as a platform to honour the labour force and instill in students a deep appreciation for their

contributions to society., the event successfully raised awareness about labour rights and inspired a sense of social responsibility among the youth.

The organiser extended their sincere gratitude to all participants and NSS volunteers, whose collective efforts made the event successful.

The HODs present on the occasion were HOD English, Hindi, Urdu, Economics, Dogri, Sociology, Education and Political science.

Gaurav Rana is happy that his film Mai Ladega is generating a positive buzz

For director Gaurav Rana, whose debut Hindi movie Mai Ladega saw a theatrical release and a good one at that, there are two types of people in the film industry — ones who want to be seen on screen and ones who want to show on screen. He claims to be steadfast in the latter category!

Gaurav is known for Punjabi projects like Seeto Marjani, Channa Ve, Chithi and Rihaa. But first up, Mai Ladega. "It is a movie that is based on a beautiful relation between a mother and a son. The core around which the whole plot is based is that sometimes in life we forget the greater purpose and get stuck with the situation at hand. That leads to our downfall. The film highlights that whenever life puts you down, one should stand up and fight back," says Gaurav, Chandigarh lad who is currently based in Mumbai.

The plot having been picked from real life, the film has been shot in Hardwar, Nainital and Mumbai. "It is about how sports, boxing in this case, teaches you a lot in life — how to overcome hurdles and forge a will of iron. Another factor that it underlines is the importance of mental well-being. Often ignored in our part of the world, mental health is something that needs care. A young lad in this movie faces an abusive father, but stands firm besides his mother. Their emotional bond is amplified through a song, Mai Meri, sung beautifully by Sonu Nigam," he adds.



The cast, including Akash Pratap Singh, Gandharv Dewan, Jyoti Gauba, Ashwath Bhatt and Vallari Viraj, is fairly new, barring Bhatt, who has essayed a few noteworthy roles in Bollywood. "We decided to pick fresh faces as being newcomers in the industry, we did not have much backing. There were

budget constraints as well, but we got good actors who fit into our space," he says.

Fruitful journey

Gaurav, whose childhood interests lay in reading and storytelling, completed a course in animation from Chandigarh before moving to Mumbai. As a director, he anchored as many

as 200 episodes of Hindi show Crime Patrol from 2010 to 2015. "I have a keen interest in visual effects too and was part of Hollywood film Clash of the Titans. In Bollywood, I have been part of the visual effects' team of films like Raavan, Housefull and more," he beams.

It's a world where OTT is ruling, and Gaurav is happy the space has generated a lot of healthy competition. "OTT has provided a gamut of options for good actors, who earlier used to waste away due to lack of opportunities. Now, they can showcase their talent and be applauded across the globe. Also, content is king and OTT has challenged the big screen in this regard. The audience monitors everything, has an array of choices and, therefore, relevant stories don't go missing. This competition that OTT provides to the film industry augurs well for the future times. The narrative of filmmaking has surely changed," he opines.

Up next

As for his upcoming projects, there is a Punjabi web series and another Hindi film in the pipeline. "Youngsters don't train enough, but want immediate fame in today's world. Any budding filmmaker should first focus on short films and hone their craft, before jumping into the deeper end. Give yourself time to train," is his advice to aspiring filmmakers.

Makes a whole lot of sense!

Alaya F would do 'Khoon Bhari Maang' remake if not made in a 'gimmicky way'



Actress Alaya F has shown interest in starring in a period drama and spoken about what

would it take for her to feature in a remake of Kabir Bedi and Rekha-starrer Khoon Bhari Maang. About the 1988 film, Alaya said, "If people think it's right then sure, and if they don't do it in a gimmicky way. I feel like when these gimmicky things happen, then I am not for it. If I am genuinely correct for the part and they feel like I am able to add value to the project, then, yeah, sure."

Ever since her debut in 2020 with Jawaani Jaaneman, Alaya has featured in several genres of films, including psychological thriller, supernatural thriller and an action thriller. However, she is keen to do a period drama.

"I really want to do a period film, where I can wear all that royal attire and feel all of that. That's something I want to do," said Alaya, who is the daughter of actress Pooja Bedi.

She added, "I also think that it will be something new for me to sort of put my feet into and actually in my acting class I have trained for that."

Manoj looks fierce in 'Bhaiyya Ji' poster

Makers of the upcoming film Bhaiyya Ji, starring Manoj Bajpayee, have unveiled a new poster. Taking to Instagram, Bajpayee treated fans with a new poster of his intense avatar.

Sharing the posters, he wrote, "Pratishodh ka nivedan lekar aa rahe hain Bhaiyya Ji, 24th May se aapke nazdeeki cinema-gharon mein. #BhaiyyaJi #MB100."

Recently, the makers unveiled the first song Baagh Ka Kareja. It is sung and composed by Manoj Tiwari, with lyrics penned by Dr Sagar and music by Aditya Dev. On Bajpayee's birthday, the makers treated fans



with a glimpse of the song.

Recently, the makers unveiled the official teaser of the film. It begins with a group of men trying to kill someone. But, they fail miserably. Later, when the final attempt to kill the

person has been taken, he wakes up scaring the men away.

Bhaiyya Ji is Manoj's 100th film, which is produced by Vinod Bhanushali, Kamlesh Bhanushali, Samiksha Oswal, and Shael Oswal, among others.

When actor Balraj Sahni raced against a train for a film scene

More than three decades before Aamir Khan's train stunt in Ghulam (1998), this actor did a daredevil challenge on screen! Balraj Sahni also involved Meena Kumari in his risky ruse in Pinjre ke Panchhi (1966), which — in another strange resemblance with Aamir's film — was shot at Khandala. The scene had her walking on the rail tracks in a bid to commit suicide, even as he ran after her and managed to pull her aside from the rushing train at the last minute.

The filmmaker only wanted shots of Sahni running after her and pulling her away; those



were to be juxtapositioned later. Sahni, however, knew that a train would pass the spot soon, and if they moved fast, the whole scene could be filmed there only. He asked the director, who, in turn, asked the actress, and she agreed.

With all arrangements in place, he started chasing Meena Kumari amid shrill whistles from the approaching train's driver, who 'must have been horrified to see us right in the middle of the track'. The train must have been only a few yards away when Sahni dragged Meena Kumari away, he recalled in his autobiography Meri

Filmi Atamkatha. The shot came out perfect, but Sahni, who was above 50 then, only later realised how he had imperilled both of them.

Going to her hotel room to apologise, he found her sitting with her head in her hands. He acknowledged his recklessness but also questioned why she went along. "You were so very keen on taking that shot at one go! How could I then stop you?" was Meena Kumari's disarming response with a rare smile.

This aim of realism marked the film career of Balraj Sahni, born on May 1 in Rawalpindi in 1913.

Salman Khan returns from London, leaves airport with beefed-up security



Actor Salman Khan returned to Mumbai after his trip from London amid tight security.

Salman was spotted at the Kalina airport in Mumbai, where he was seen being escorted out with his bodyguard

Shera and several other security members.

The 'Dabangg' star, dressed in a dark-hued jacket and a baseball cap, headed straight to his car.

The shutterbugs could be heard calling out his name as his car made its way out of the airport, followed by another car full of security personnel.

During his time in London, a picture of Salman posing with a UK MP from Brent North constituency, Barry Gardiner, at the Wembley Stadium circulated on social media.

The return comes just weeks after a firing incident occurred outside his home in Bandra.

On May 1, it was reported that one of the prime accused in the firing at the star's home, Anuj Thapan, died after an alleged suicide attempt in a Mumbai police lockup.

Carla to play Vivien Leigh



Carla Gugino has been roped in to play Hollywood legend Vivien Leigh in the forthcoming biopic The Florist. Two-time Oscar winner Leigh is known for playing Scarlett O'Hara in 1939's Hollywood classic Gone With the Wind. Gugino is known for her work in Gerald's Game, the Spy Kids films and The Unborn.

Supermodel Bella Hadid steps back from the modelling world

Supermodel Bella Hadid has shared that she is taking a step back from her glamorous career and starting anew in Texas with her 'partner' Adan Banuelo. "After 10 years of modelling, I realised I was putting so much energy and effort into something that, in the longer run, wasn't necessarily giving back to me," Hadid said.

She shared that her life in Texas was different from how it was before, as she had found a strong group of friends that she hung out with and she had the 'best time ever'. She never felt like she needed to do 'too much' when it came to getting herself ready for a night out with them. "For the first time now, I'm not putting on a fake face. If I don't feel good, I won't go. If I don't feel good, I take time for myself... And I've never had the opportunity to do that or say that before," she said. "Now when



anybody sees me in pictures and they say, I look happy, I genuinely am. I am feeling better; my bad days now were my old good days," the 27-year-old supermodel added.

In the past year, Hadid

had quietly been working on her mental and physical health.

She had even spoken about her battle with Lyme disease on social media and had shared that she was 'finally healthy'.

Non-bailable warrants can't be issued in a routine manner, says Supreme Court

A Bench led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna says 'the liberty of an individual cannot be curtailed unless necessitated by the larger interest of public and the State'

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): Cautioning against routine issuance of non-bailable warrants (NBWs), the Supreme Court has said that NBWs should not be issued unless the accused is charged with a heinous crime, and is likely to evade the process of law or destroy evidence.

"It is a settled position of law that non-bailable warrants cannot be issued in a routine manner and that the liberty of an individual cannot be curtailed unless necessitated by the larger interest of public and the State," a Bench led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna said in its May 1 judgment.

The Bench — which also included Justice SVN Bhatti — allowed appeals filed by one Sharif Ahmed and Adil against an Allahabad High Court verdict refusing to quash the criminal proceedings against them arising out of a property dispute. It also granted anticipa-



tory bail to accused Imran and Kamaluddin. Partly allowing the appeal of accused Manager Singh, the top court quashed the summoning order and an NBW against him and ordered his release on bail.

"While there are no comprehensive set of guidelines for the issuance of non-bailable warrants, this court has observed on several occasions that non-bailable warrants should not be issued, unless the accused is charged with a heinous crime, and is likely to evade the pro-

cess of law or tamper/destroy evidence," the Bench said, clarifying the legal position on NBWs.

"Further, the observation that there is no provision for granting exemption from personal appearance prior to obtaining bail, is not correct, as the power to grant exemption from personal appearance under the Code should not be read in a restrictive manner as applicable only after the accused has been granted bail," the Bench said, citing its verdict

in Maneka Sanjay Gandhi and Another v Rani Jethmalani in which it was held that "the power to grant exemption from personal appearance should be exercised liberally, when facts and circumstances require such exemption".

Explaining Section 205 of CrPC -- which states that the Magistrate, exercising his discretion, may dispense with the personal attendance of the accused while issuing summons, and allow them to appear through their pleader — the top court said, "While provisions of the Code are considered to be exhaustive, cases arise where the Code is silent and the court has to make such order as the ends of justice require. In such cases, the criminal court must act on the principle, that every procedure which is just and fair, is understood as permissible, till it is shown to be expressly or impliedly prohibited by law."

Modi govt 'snatching away' reservation by 'blindly' implementing privatisation: Rahul Gandhi



NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the Modi government of "clandestinely snatching away" reservation from Dalits, tribals and backward classes by "blindly" implementing privatisation, and said his party guarantees strengthening the public sector enterprises and open the doors for employment.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said the mantra of Narendra Modi's campaign to remove reservation is

— 'na rehega baans, na bajegi bansuri', meaning neither there will be government jobs nor any reservation will be available.

"The BJP government is clandestinely snatching away reservation from Dalits, tribals and backward classes by eliminating government jobs through 'blind privatisation'," the former Congress chief said.

In 2013, there were 14 lakh permanent posts in the public sector, which by 2023 stood at 8.4 lakh, he said.

"By ruining top PSUs

like BSNL, SAIL, BHEL etc., nearly 6 lakh permanent jobs were eliminated from the public sector alone — these are the very posts which would have given the benefit of reservation," Gandhi said.

There is no count of the jobs that are being eliminated through the back door in institutions such as railways by giving government work on contract, he claimed.

"The 'privatisation' of the Modi model is a plunder of the country's resources, through which the reservation of the deprived is being snatched away," he alleged.

The Congress guarantees that it will strengthen the public sector enterprises and open the doors for employment for every section of the society by filling 30 lakh vacant government posts, Gandhi said.

Mumbai constable dies after gang of thieves injects him with poison as he tries to recover phone from them

MUMBAI, May 2 (Agencies): A 30-year-old constable posted with the Local Arms unit of the Mumbai police died in a hospital, days after a gang of robbers and drug addicts allegedly injected him with a poisonous substance on railway tracks here while he struggled to recover his phone from them, an official said on Thursday.

Vishal Pawar was a resident of Thane. He was admitted to a hospital in Thane, but lost the battle for life three days later on May 1, he said.

"The incident occurred around 9.30 pm on April 28 when Pawar was going for duty on board a suburban train in plain clothes," the official said.

Pawar was standing near the door and was talking on his phone. As the train slowed down between Sion and Matunga stations in Mumbai, an identi-



fied man standing near the tracks hit Pawar's hand, due to which his mobile phone fell down, he said.

The accused picked up the phone and started running between the tracks. As the train was slow, Pawar got down and started chasing the thief. After some distance, he was surrounded by a group of drug addicts and soon a scuffle broke out between them. They started pushing and manhandling Pawar, the police official said.

"During the scuffle, one of the accused injected

Pawar with a poisonous substance on his back while others held him," he said, adding that they also poured a red-colour liquid in his mouth.

Pawar fell unconscious. He regained his consciousness the next morning and managed to return home, the official added.

But as his condition worsened, his family shifted him to a hospital in Thane city. Officials of the Kopri police station recorded his statement and registered a case against unidentified persons. The case was then transferred to the Government Railway Police (GRP) at Dadar.

"During the treatment, Pawar's health deteriorated and he died on Wednesday," the official said.

GRP officials have launched a probe and have formed several teams to nab the accused, he said.

PM Modi seems to be gripped by desperation and worry: Kharge

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday said that a letter written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to NDA candidates gave him the impression that the PM has been gripped by "desperation and worry".

"I saw the letter written by you to all the NDA candidates about what they need to communicate to the voters. From the tone and content of the letter it seems that there is a lot of desperation and worry in you which is leading you to use language that does not suit the office of the Prime Minister. The letter makes it look like the lies in your speeches are not having the effect you intended and now you want your candidates to amplify your lies," Kharge wrote to Modi today in a letter which was shared with media.



"Repeating a lie a thousand times will not make it the truth," Kharge wrote.

The voters are intelligent enough to read and understand by themselves what the Congress has written in its manifesto and what guarantees the Congress has promised, Kharge noted.

Kharge said the guarantees promised by the Congress in its election manifesto were so simple and clear, that the party did not have to explain it to voters.

Kharge said Modi

appeared to be worried by the low turnout of voters in the first two phases of the elections. It showed that people were not enthusiastic about Modi's policies or his campaign speeches, Kharge wrote.

"This is not because of the summer heat, but because the poor have been burnt by your policies. You have appealed to your 'karyakartas' to mobilise voters in the name of religion. If the voters are not keen to vote for you, do not blame your karyakartas," Kharge wrote.

Kharge said Modi claimed that reservation will be taken away from SC, ST and OBC and given to the Congress "votebank".

"Our votebank is every Indian - the poor, the marginalised, the women, the aspirational youth, the labour class, the Dalits and the Adivasis. Everyone knows it is RSS and BJP who opposed reservations at every stage since 1947. Everyone knows it is RSS and BJP that wants to change the Constitution to end reservation. Your leaders have openly spoken about it," Kharge wrote.

The Congress leader asked Modi to clarify why BJP was opposed to reservation to SC, ST and OBCs on the basis of their population as per Article 16 of our Constitution.

Rejecting the BJP charge against the Congress party of practicing appeasement, Kharge

said the only appeasement one saw in the last 10 years was appeasement of the Chinese by the PM.

"Even today, you refuse to call China as 'ghuspathiye'. Instead on June 19, 2020, you said 'na koi ghusa hai, na hi koi ghusa aaya hai', insulting the supreme sacrifice of 20 Indian soldiers in Galwan," Kharge wrote in a letter to Modi dated May 2.

"Your public 'Clean Chit' to China, has weakened India's case and made it (China) more belligerent. Even as tensions escalate due to repeated Chinese transgressions and construction of military infrastructure near LACH in Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Uttarakhand, the imports of Chinese goods to India has increased by 54.76 per cent in the past five years alone and has crossed \$101 billion in 2023-24," Kharge wrote.

L-G Saxena okays sacking of 223 Delhi Commission for Women employees hired 'without due procedure'

NEW DELHI, May 2 (Agencies): An order was issued to terminate 223 contractual employees of the Delhi Commission for Women after Lt Governor VK Saxena gave his nod to a proposal on it, officials said on Thursday.

The Women and Child Development (WCD) department of the Delhi government has directed the DCW to sack the contractual staffers who it said were hired without "following due procedure".

Former DCW chief and AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal slammed the order.

In a Hindi post on X, she said, "LG Saheb has issued a 'Tughlaqi' order to remove all the contract staff of DCW. Today, there are a total of 90 staffers in the Women's Commission, out of which only 8 people have been given by the government, the rest are on a contract for 3 months each."

"If all the contract staff are removed, the Women's Commission will be locked. Why are these people doing this? This organisation is built with blood and sweat. Instead of giving it staff and protection, you are destroying it from the roots? As long as I am alive, I will not let the Women's Commission be closed. Put me in jail, don't oppress women!" Maliwal said.

According to officials, Saxena approved the department's proposal regarding the termination of appointments, following which the department issued an order on it.

"... the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor has approved the proposal of the department that the appointments of contractual staff engaged in DCW without having sanctioned posts and without following due procedures is void-ab-initio and the same cannot be allowed to



continue in DCW," read an official order issued by the WCD department on Monday.

"Therefore, the approval of the government is hereby conveyed to Delhi Commission for Women to discontinue the services of all contractual staff with immediate effect who have been appointed by DCW at any point of time, by going beyond its delegated power and without following various procedures laid down and in violation of DCW Act/rules/regulations/guide-

lines issued by Govt of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) from time to time," the order read.

The order said the Delhi government has provided 40 sanctioned posts in the DCW "in compliance of sub-section (i) of section 5 of the Delhi Commission for Women Act, 1994".

The Act reads, "The government shall provide the commission with such officers and employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the functions of the Com-

mission under this Act." The DCW has violated the statutory provisions of the DCW Act, 1994, and various standing instructions of the Department of Finance and Planning Department by creating 223 posts and "engaging staff without following due procedure".

no study was conducted to assess the actual requirement of additional staff and eligibility criteria for each post, no administrative approval and expenditure sanctioned was obtained from the GNCTD for engaging such manpower and applications for such posts were not formally invited, role and responsibility for any of these posts were not assigned and emoluments of some of the incumbents which were decided at the time of initial appointment, were enhanced very sharply and arbitrarily," read the order.

CBI Sends Its Sandeshkhali Report To Calcutta High Court

KOLKATA, May 2 (Agencies): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), on Thursday, submitted a preliminary status report on its investigation into the cases of illegal land grabbing, extortion and harassment of women in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali to the division bench of the Calcutta High Court's Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharya.

After submitting the preliminary status report in a sealed envelope, the CBI counsel also complained of non-cooperation from the state government in providing the Central agency officials with the land records at Sandeshkhali.

The CBI counsel said that the Central agency through its dedicated portal has received around 900 complaints relating to illegal land grabbing in Sandeshkhali.

He argued that without the cooperation of the state government in accessing the original land reports it will be difficult to carry forward the investigation process in the matter.

After hearing the argument of the CBI counsel, the division bench directed the state government to hand over all the documents sought by the CBI officials to the latter within one week.

The division bench also directed the state government to extend all necessary cooperation to the CBI so that the latter could carry forward its investigation into the matter smoothly.

On Monday, the Chief Justice also referred to the development of the Supreme Court's decision of not interfering in the earlier order by the Calcutta High Court directing a CBI probe in the matter.

Since the top court did

not interfere in the order of the Calcutta High Court, it is expected of the state government to fully cooperate with CBI in the matter, the Chief Justice observed.

The division bench also referred to the earlier order of the Calcutta High Court on April 10 this year, where the state government was asked to make necessary lighting arrangements in Sandeshkhali streets within 15 days. Based on the complaint that this order for necessary lighting arrangement is yet to be implemented by the state government, the Chief Justice said that not adhering to this part of the order will amount to contempt of the court.

The division bench also allowed the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to be a party in the case. The next hearing on the matter has been scheduled for June 13.

Xenophobia hurting India and China economic growth, says Biden

WASHINGTON, May 2 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden has called India, China, Japan and Russia "xenophobic" and said it was "xenophobia" that was hurting the economic growth of these countries. Biden made remarks suggesting countries, including India, didn't accept migrants.

"One of the reasons why our economy's growing is because of you and many others. Why? Because we welcome immigrants," Biden was quoted as saying at a fundraising event by agency.

"Why is China stalling so badly economically, why is Japan having trouble, why is Russia, why is India, because they're xenophobic. They don't want immigrants. Immigrants are what makes us strong," Biden said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)



predicts a global economic slowdown in 2024 compared to 2023. Their forecasts range from a modest 0.9% growth in developed economies like Japan to a robust 6.8% in developing nations like India.

The IMF also predicts a growth rate of 2.7% for the United States, a slight improvement from its 2.5% rate in the previous year. Economists attribute this better-than-expected performance in part to the expansion of the country's labour force through migration, reported agency.

However, concerns

about irregular migration have escalated, emerging as a key issue for US voters ahead of the upcoming presidential election in November.

President Biden, who has criticised his Republican opponent Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric, has been actively pursuing broader economic and political alliances with countries such as Japan and India.

This strategic engagement aims to counter global influences from nations like China and Russia.

Dubai hit by heavy rain again, flights hit, Abu Dhabi waterlogged

Flights and bus services in Dubai were hit as parts of Abu Dhabi and Dubai witnessed waterlogging due to heavy rain, accompanied with lightning and thunderstorms on Thursday.

DUBAI, May 2 (Agencies): Days after the United Arab Emirates witnessed severe flooding in April, heavy rain and thunderstorms hit Abu Dhabi and Dubai early on Thursday, leading to flight cancellations and suspension of bus services in Dubai.

According to Khaleej Times, five inbound flights to Dubai were diverted overnight, while nine arrivals and four outbound flights were cancelled. Several flights by the Emirates were also cancelled, the report said.

Local media reports said Dubai residents woke up to strong winds, thunder and lightning at around 3 am on Thursday.

Nearly an hour later, at nearly 4 am, the country's weather department issued an amber alert indicating that rain-bearing clouds had covered most parts of the country. Adverse weather conditions were expected to prevail over the country until May 3.

It also advised residents to follow safety measures during rainy conditions.

Waterlogging was reported on the streets in some parts of Abu Dhabi, while strong winds



were reported in Jebel Ali, Al Maktoum International Airport, Dubai Industrial City, Dubai Investments Park, and Jumeirah Village Triangle, the local media reported.

On Wednesday, Dubai Airports and two local airlines issued advisories for passengers, asking them to gear up for delays when going to Dubai International Airport.

According to a report with Khaleej Times, the UAE had issued an alert for medium to heavy rains for two days, until Thursday, encouraging work

from home for office goers and distance learning for schools in Sharjah and Dubai.

At least three people were reported dead and normal life was crippled as a result of a record storm that hit the desert city of Dubai in April this year, leading to the suspension of flights and a halt to other transit operations.

The UAE, a hereditarily ruled, autocratic nation on the Arabian Peninsula, typically sees little rainfall in its arid desert climate.

However, a massive storm forecasters had been warning

about for days blew through the country's seven sheikhdoms.

The Dubai International Airport had struggled to return to normal operations after the storm flooded taxiways, forcing flight diversions, delays and cancellations.

However, flights returned to their normal schedule from the airport's Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 on Saturday, reports claimed.

As an impact of flooding for days, roads between Dubai and Abu Dhabi were still partially underwater as of Saturday.

In Abu Dhabi, some supermarkets and restaurants faced product shortages, unable to receive deliveries from Dubai, news agency Reuters reported.

Researchers have linked extreme weather events such as Tuesday's storm to climate change and anticipate that global warming will lead to higher temperatures, increased humidity and a greater risk of flooding in parts of the Gulf region.

A lack of drainage infrastructure to cope with heavy rains in countries such as the UAE can put them at particular risk of flooding.

Donald Trump faces prospect of additional sanctions in hush money trial as key witness resumes testimony

NEW YORK, May 2 (Agencies): Donald Trump faces the prospect of additional sanctions in his hush money trial as he returns to court on Thursday for another contempt hearing followed by testimony from a lawyer who represented two women who have said they had sexual encounters with the former president.

The testimony from attorney Keith Davidson is seen as a vital building block for the prosecution's case that Trump and his allies schemed to bury unflattering stories in the run-up to the 2016 presidential election.

He is one of multiple key players expected to be called to the stand in

advance of prosecutors' star witness, Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer and personal fixer.

Prosecutors are seeking USD 1,000 fines for each of four comments by Trump that they say violated a judge's gag order barring him from attacking witnesses, jurors and others closely connected to the case. Such a penalty would be on top of a USD 9,000 fine that Judge Juan M Merchan imposed on Tuesday related to nine separate gag order violations that he found.

It was not immediately clear when Merchan might rule on the request for fresh sanctions, but the prospect of further punishment under-



scores the challenges Trump the presidential candidate is facing in adjusting to the role of criminal defendant subject to rigid courtroom protocol that he does not control.

It also remains to be seen whether any rebuke from the court will lead Trump to adjust his behaviour given the campaign trail benefit

he believes he derives from painting the case as politically motivated.

During a one-day break from the trial on Wednesday, Trump kept up his condemnation of the case, though stopped short of comments that might run afoul of the gag order.

"There is no crime," he told supporters in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

"I have a crooked judge, is a totally conflicted judge."

The trial, now in its second week of testimony, has exposed the underbelly of tabloid journalism practices and the protections, for a price, afforded to Trump during his successful run for president in 2016.

The case concerns hush money paid to squelch embarrassing stories, including from a porn actor and a former Playboy model, and reimbursements by Trump that prosecutors say were intentionally fraudulent and designed to conceal the true purpose of the payments and to interfere in the election.

Cambodia says heatwave a factor in ammo blast that killed 20 soldiers

PHNOM PENH, May 2 (Agencies): Cambodia's defence ministry said Thursday a blistering heatwave roiling Southeast Asia played a role in an ammunition explosion that killed 20 soldiers at an army base over the weekend.

The blast -- which destroyed an entire truck of munitions and levelled buildings -- also wounded several soldiers and at least one child in rural Kampong Speu province on Saturday.

The defence ministry said Thursday that investigators believed the heatwave played a role in the old weapons detonating. "The incident of the ammunition explosion on April 27, 2024... was a technical issue because the weapons are old, faulty, and the hot weather," the ministry said in a statement.

It did not explain the specific issue or how the heat may have contributed to the explosion.

The ministry also rejected suggestions that the blast was down to rebellious soldiers or an act of terrorism.

Deadly munitions accidents are not uncommon in Cambodia, which is awash with ammunition, mines and

unexploded ordnance leftover from decades of civil conflict.

Such incidents are exacerbated by frequently lax safety standards. Like much of South and Southeast Asia, Cambodia has been struggling with hot weather in recent weeks.

Authorities warned on Sunday that temperatures could reach 43 degrees Celsius (109.4 degrees Fahrenheit) in some areas, although rain and cooler weather were forecast in the coming days. Following the blast west of the capital Phnom Penh, images posted on social media showed a destroyed one-story building wreathed in smoke, with residents of a nearby village also sharing images online of broken windows.

Other photos showed what appeared to be civilians, including a young child in a diaper, with cuts and gashes being treated in hospital. An office building and nearby barracks were destroyed, and 25 nearby homes were also damaged.

Prime Minister Hun Manet said the families of those killed would receive roughly \$20,000 each, while injured soldiers would get \$5,000.

Iran Imposes Sanctions On US, UK Officials, Entities Over Israel Support

TEHRAN, May 2 (Agencies): Iran announced on Thursday sanctions on several American and British individuals and entities for supporting Israel in its war against the Palestinian group Hamas.

The Islamic republic, the regional arch-foe of Israel, unveiled the punitive measures in a statement from its foreign ministry.

It said the sanctions targeted seven Americans, including General Bryan P. Fenton, commander of the US special operations command, and Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, a former commander of the US Navy's Fifth Fleet.

British officials and entities targeted include Secretary of State for Defence Grant Shapps, commander of the British army strategic command James Hockenhull and the UK Royal Navy in the Red Sea.

Penalties were also announced against US firms Lockheed Martin and Chevron and British counterparts Elbit Systems, Parker Meggitt and Rafael UK.

The ministry said the sanctions include "blocking of accounts and transactions in the Iranian financial and banking systems, blocking of assets within the jurisdiction of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as prohibition of visa issuance and entry to the Iranian territory".

The impact of these measures on the individuals or entities, as well as their assets or dealings with Iran, remains unclear.

The war in the Gaza Strip erupted after the October 7 attack by Palestinian Hamas operatives on Israel which killed 1,170 people, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally based on official Israeli figures.

Iran backs Hamas but has denied any direct involvement in the attack.

Israel's retaliatory offensive against Hamas has since killed at least 34,568 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

Pro-China leader Jeremiah Manele elected Prime Minister of Solomon Islands

MELBOURNE, May 2 (Agencies): Solomon Islands lawmakers elected former Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele as prime minister Thursday in a development that suggests the South Pacific island nation will maintain close ties with China.

Manele used his first speech as leader to promise to govern with integrity and to put his nation's interests first.

"I will discharge my duties diligently and with integrity. I will at all times put the interests of our people and country above all other interests," Manele said in a speech outside the National Parliament of Solomon Islands.

Manele won 31 votes in a secret ballot of 49 lawmakers who won general elections on April 17, Governor General David Vunagi said, while Matthew Wale, who led the opposition in the previous parliament, received the remaining 18.

The withdrawal of pro-Beijing former Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare from the contest to make way for



Manele as their party's candidate indicated the country could follow a similar direction.

Sogavare had hoped to become the first Solomons prime minister to maintain power in consecutive four-year terms following the election. During his previous term, China's influence increased more in the Solomons than anywhere else in the South Pacific.

Sogavare switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to Beijing and struck a secret security pact that has raised fears of the Chinese navy gaining a foothold in the region.

In his speech, Manele also urged against any post-election violence.

"Past prime minister's elections have been met with the act of vio-

lence and destruction. Our economy and livelihoods have suffered because of this violence," Manele said.

"However, today we show the world that we are better than that. We must respect and uphold the democratic process of electing our prime minister and set an example for our children and their children," he added.

Sogavare's election in 2019 sparked riots in the capital Honiara over legal questions hanging over his eligibility to become prime minister. More serious riots resulted in arson and looting in Honiara in November 2021 after his leadership survived a no-confidence motion moved by Wale.

Riots following the 2006 election, which

were fueled by allegations of Chinese interference and resentment against Chinese business people, led to then-Prime Minister Snyder Rini's resignation after a week in office and Sogavare taking power. It was the second of Sogavare's four stints as prime minister.

Meg Keen, the director of the Pacific Islands program for Lowy Institute, a Sydney-based international policy think tank, said Manele will be a "less fiery and combative leader for the West to manage but he will continue to pursue close relations with China."

"As the former foreign minister he helped broker the security deal with China that panicked the West. But he is also a seasoned diplomat with experience at the UN and in western countries -- he's no stranger to western engagement," Keen said.

She said Sogavare had pulled out of the race because his party's loss of several lawmakers at the election was evidence that voters wanted change.

US Urges China, Russia To Declare Only Humans, Not AI, Control Nuclear Weapons

WASHINGTON, May 2 (Agencies): A senior US official on Thursday urged China and Russia to match declarations by the United States and others that only humans, and never artificial intelligence, would make decisions on deploying nuclear weapons.

State Department arms control official Paul Dean told an online briefing that Washington had made a "clear and strong commitment" that humans had total control over nuclear weapons, adding that France and Britain had done the same.

"We would welcome a similar statement by China and the Russian Federation," said Paul Dean, principal deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of Arms Control, Deterrence and Stability.

"We think it is an extremely important norm of responsible behaviour and we think it is something that would be very welcome in a P5 context," he said, referring to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Paul Dean's remarks come as the administration of US President Joe Biden tries to deepen separate discussions with China over both nuclear weapons policy and the growth of artificial intelligence.

The Chinese defence ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The spread of artificial intelligence technology surfaced during sweeping talks between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on April 26.

The two sides agreed to hold their first bilateral talks on artificial intelligence in the coming weeks, Blinken said, adding that they would share views on how best to manage risks and safety surrounding the technology. As part of normalising military communications, US and Chinese officials resumed nuclear weapons discussions in January, but formal arms control negotiations are not expected any time soon.

China, which is expanding its nuclear weapons capabilities, urged in February that the largest nuclear powers should first negotiate a no-first-use treaty between each other.

DLSAs of Srinagar & Budgam organize Awareness programme at Central Jail Srinagar



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 2: In a joint effort, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar and District Legal Services Authority Budgam organized an awareness programme on Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest, and Remand Stage besides Rights of Under-trial Prisoners at Central Jail Srinagar.

The programme aimed to educate the Jail Inmates about their rights and entitlements at various stages of the criminal justice system, including

during pre-arrest, arrest, and remand. The programme covered topics such as bail, parole, and furlough, with the objective of enabling the prisoners to navigate the legal system effectively. Shahrooq Bhat, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Budgam spoke about the access to justice at pre-arrest, arrest and remand stages, highlighting the significance of seeking legal aid and assistance. He also emphasized the importance of parole and furlough, explaining the procedures and benefits

associated with these provisions.

Urba Rashid, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Srinagar, emphasized the rights of under trial prisoners and the importance of plea bargaining in the criminal justice system. She stressed that awareness of their rights is crucial for prisoners to navigate the legal system effectively. The awareness programme was a significant step towards empowering jail inmates with knowledge of their rights and facilitating their access to justice.

District Legal Services Authority Srinagar and Budgam have reiterated their commitment to providing legal aid and assistance to the marginalized sections of society, including prisoners.

The authorities believe that such awareness programmes will go a long way in promoting the cause of justice and ensuring that the rights of under trial prisoners are protected and upheld.

Lt Governor reviews progress of Transit Accommodations for PM Package Employees

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 2: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a meeting with senior officials and reviewed the ongoing construction work of the Transit Accommodations for PM Package Employees.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the progress of Transit Accommodations across the Kashmir Division. He directed the officials to accelerate the pace of work and complete the construction and associated infrastructure, approach roads, water and power supply and other basic amenities.



Meeting was attended by Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sh G Prasanna Ramaswamy, Secretary Revenue Department; Sh Bupinder Kumar, Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Sh Anil Koul, Secretary to Government, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department and other senior officials.

Owning a house under PMAY is still a distant dream for widow in Kulgam



Top News Report

KULGAM, May 2: Launched in 2015, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), promised to provide affordable housing to the poor.

However, owning a house under the scheme is still a distant dream for a widow in Kulgam district.

Sakina Banoo, wife of late Jalaludin Gorski resident of Kutgram, DH Pora living in a mud hut along with her two children.

Sakina has been applying for a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), a Gov-

ernment of India initiative launched in 2015 to provide affordable housing to the poor. But it was in vain.

"We have been waiting for our PMAY case for the past many years, despite having submitted all the necessary legal formalities and meeting the eligibility criteria. It is disheartening to see we have been denied such basic rights," said Sakina.

"We have been living in a mud hut for decades and applied for PM Awas Yojana assistance, but nothing has happened so far," she said.

"We don't know when

or if we will ever get the house," Sakina said.

She urged the district administration, particularly Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam Athar Amir Khan, to intervene and resolve the issue. They are seeking the prompt release of their PMAY installments to enable them to construct their houses.

On contacting, Block Development Officer (BDO) DK Marg, Mohd Aslam said that he would depute his team there for ground-level verification, adding that further action would be taken accordingly.

FROM PAGE 1

"Congress is dying and Pakistan is Crying" says PM Modi emphasising his Government's anti-terror stand

was not implemented in all parts of India for 75 years. Today Modi is realising Sardar Saheb's dream of uniting the country. Whereas Congress is busy dividing the country, Congress wants to create fights in society. Because of Congress, there were various kinds of tamperings with the Constitution of the country for decades," he said.

"The country has seen the rule of Congress for 60 years. Now the country has also seen 10 years of service of BJP. That was the reign, this is the service period," PM Modi added.

The Prime Minister further highlighted the initiatives undertaken during the last years of NDA rule and said, "During 60 years of Congress rule, around 60 per cent of the rural population did not have toilets. In 10 years, the BJP government built 100 per cent toilets. In 60 years, Congress was able to provide tap water facilities to only 3 crore rural households in the country, that is, to less than 20 per cent of the households. In just 10 years, the number of houses with tap water has reached 14 crore, that is, 75 per cent of the houses have tap water."

"In 60 years, Congress nationalised the banks, took over the banks and said that banks should be for the poor. Despite nationalizing the banks in the name of the poor, the Congress government could not open bank accounts for crores of poor people in 60 years. Modi opened more than 50 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts in 10 years," PM Modi said.

Voting for 25 out of 26 seats in Gujarat will take place in the third phase of the ongoing general elections on May 7.

Voting will not take place in Surat as Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Mukesh Dalal was declared elected unopposed last week after Congress' Nilesh Kumbhani's nomination was rejected while other candidates withdrew from the contest. The results will be announced on June 4.

BJP Govt has made Gujarat Hub for drug traffickers from Pakistan, alleges Cong

and in February, the Indian Navy and NCB had seized 3,300 kg of drugs near Porbandar in the largest drug bust in recent history, Ramesh said.

In some cases, weapons and ammunition were seized along with the narcotics, he said.

"While these smuggling attempts were detected, dozens if not hundreds of others have made their way to Indian soil. The PM's narrative of reducing terrorism and drug trafficking during his tenure stands exposed by these worrying developments," the Congress leader said.

"What is the PM doing to confront the rise of drug smuggling through Gujarat? Have the larger and wider links of the drug smugglers, that enable them to carry on their trade so brazenly – especially through ports – ever been probed?" Ramesh said.

He claimed lakhs of families have been thrown into turmoil by the BJP's botched effort to digitise land records in Gujarat.

By December 2021, the state government had received more than five lakh complaints from families demanding a verification of the resurvey of their land, he said.

"The private agencies hired to conduct the resurvey had frequently cut corners, resulting in the creation of lakhs of erroneous records. These inaccurate records can have wide-ranging impacts, from delaying property transactions, to hampering farmers' access to credit, to creating heated disputes within families and among neighbours," Ramesh said.

To make matters worse, litigation over property records can drag on for decades. A 2017 NITI Aayog paper estimated that it takes an average of 20 years for land disputes to be resolved in India, he said.

"The government was quick to deflect blame to private agencies but has made no effort to help the lakhs of families who were affected. The agencies themselves have also been allowed to walk free," he alleged.

Why has the PM abandoned the lakhs of families who are now stuck with inaccurate land records, he asked.

"Are those responsible for this blunder ever going to face the consequences?" Ramesh said.

As the PM visits Gujarat, he must address the state's deepening water crises, he said.

"In the 207 water reservoirs in Gujarat, the water level is an alarming 62.38%, with only 10 reservoirs in the state have a water level of more than 80%. The region-wise split reveals an even more worrying picture: the water level is 43.77% in 15 reservoirs of north Gujarat, 38.31% in 20 reservoirs of Kutch, and 36.42% in 141 reservoirs of the drought-prone region of Saurashtra," he pointed out.

"Some reservoirs in the state had already dried up before the onset of summer. The water levels of Gadhki and Sani in Devbhumi Dwarka, Advana and Amipara in Porbandar, and Prempara in Junagadh have reached ZERO," he said.

In addition to drinking water shortages for Gujarat's people, the crisis is also affecting farmers, who were promised irrigation water from the Narmada but have failed to reap benefits due to years of corruption and mismanagement, Ramesh alleged.

"Why has Gujarat reached this state of affairs under the BJP's rule? How is the PM going to address these issues?" he said and asked the prime minister to break his "silence" on these issues.

'400 Paar' A joke, '300 Paar' impossible, '200 Paar' challenge for BJP: Tharoor

"In fact, many who have been following elections for some time say that the difference between this election and the ones in 2014 and 2019 is that the predominant emotion of the BJP voters appears to be indifference and lack of enthusiasm," Tharoor said during the freewheeling interaction.

In his view, Congress members are feeling "cautiously optimistic" about many places in Hindi-speaking states that have voted so far.

"So, I would say that on balance, we are far more ahead than we would have expected at this time. Of course, there are

five more phases to go in this unnecessarily protracted election," Tharoor said.

Asked how many seats the Congress and the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) would get in the polls, Tharoor said in a lighter vein that he does not predict scores even as a cricket fan but only predicts victories.

"I would say that right now it looks increasingly likely that the BJP-NDA government will lose its majority. The BJP losing its majority seems to be a foregone conclusion," Tharoor said.

In six states, he pointed out, the BJP won every seat, while in three states, it won all but one seat, and in two states, it won all but two seats. This, he said, is "simply not replicable".

"In Haryana, the Congress won no seats and the (opinion) polls are indicating five-seven seats for us this time. In Karnataka, we won one seat and this time polls are ranging from 10-17, some are even saying 20," he said.

In all the states that the BJP did so well, they are losing some seats even in a conservative analysis, he said.

"This 400 paar is a joke, 300 paar is impossible and (even) 200 paar may be a challenge for them (BJP) to get the way things are going." In Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the BJP will get "zero" seats, he claimed. In Telangana, they got a handful of seats and would struggle to hold on to those, Tharoor said and added that the BJP would not be able to replicate its good show in Karnataka.

In 2019, the BJP won 25 out of 28 seats in Karnataka. In Telangana, it bagged four of 17 seats.

According to Tharoor, there is absolutely no doubt that the BJP is going to do worse than last time in the South.

"In the North, as I said, they did so well last time and it is impossible to replicate that. Both in the North and South they are coming down from where they were. How well we do and how well the INDIA bloc parties do is yet to be seen because after all 353 seats are yet to vote so there is still a big majority of the election yet to happen," he said.

But all indications are that this is really an uphill struggle for the BJP and things are not going the government's way, he added.

"I ask objectively, as an Indian citizen, why should a young man who voted for the BJP in 2014 because he was promised a job, still vote for the BJP 10 years later when he still does not have a job," Tharoor said.

When all the economists are saying 80 per cent of India's population have seen a decline in its income in the last 10 years, why should these 80 per cent want to vote for the BJP that has put them in that predicament, Tharoor argued.

He said that in 2014, the BJP ran on economics, but it was a disastrous government economically, and in 2019 it ran on national security with Pulwama and Balakot being the predominant theme across northern India.

"They (BJP) can't run on economy this time because they mishandled the economy and people don't have jobs and can't buy in the market what they could a few years ago.

"They can't run on national security because everyone knows that China has been nibbling away at our frontier and there are 26 out of 65 patrolling points that both armies used to patrol, which the Indian army no longer has access to now, and that

is on Mr (Narendra) Modi's watch so how is he going to beat his chest about national security," he said.

"That leaves what... the 'Hindu Hriday Samrat' message, Ram mandir, the kind of inflammatory language we have been seeing and hearing from the PM and others, fear mongering about one community and attempting to polarise the election on religion. That tactic has really been overused in the country and those voting along those lines are already voting for the BJP... it no longer appeals to neutral voters," Tharoor said.

He questioned the Election Commission for having the electoral process extend from March 16, when the schedule was announced, to counting day on June 4 and said it is "frankly preposterous".

"It does not make any sense. I think somebody must explain. It is not as if there has been an increase in violence in the country. It is very surprising that the Election Commission should organise itself in this way," Tharoor said, adding that many states could have had a single-phase election.

"We could have done and dusted this election much quicker, especially at a time when our PM is speaking about 'one nation, one election'. Does it make sense to show that it takes us so long to conduct an election for one Sabha and that too after we have had so much experience conducting elections," the 68-year-old leader said.

Jammu Police slaps PSA against "Gola Shah"

arrested seven persons in murder case of one Avtar Singh, resident of Kalu Chak. Police said that an investigation started and main persons, (total seven at present) related to the incident have been detained for questioning so far.

More arrests are underway as facts are coming to light, said police adding that the notorious land mafia have been tracked down and booked accordingly for their role in the conspiracy.

Jammu Kashmir Police is fully concerned about the gravity of the matter and continues in its steadfast resolve to eradicate the mafia from its roots, said police.

Lok Sabha Polls | Omar Abdullah files nomination for Baramulla seat

Asked about the NC's stand on the issue of the restoration of Article 370, Abdullah said his party's stand has always been very clear against the decision on Article 370.

"We are seeking votes from the people against those decisions. It is not that we are alone. Many of our friends are also fighting this fight. God willing, the number of such friends will increase slowly," said Abdullah, a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdullah said the parliamentary elections were important given it is the first big election in J-K after August 5, 2019 — the day Article 370 was revoked.

The NC vice president said he filed the nomination papers for a Lok Sabha election after 20 years. He was the member of the 14th Lok Sabha from 2004-2009.

"It is also after 10 years that I have filed nomination papers for any election. This tells you about the situation of democracy

in J-K. The last assembly elections took place in 2014 and now since 10 years, there has been no assembly elections," he added.

"The NC and INDIA bloc who are fighting the poll together is hopeful that the alliance will win all the five seats in J-K and the Ladakh seat as well," he said.

To a question on Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's comment that cow slaughter will increase if Congress comes to power, Abdullah said the Election Commission should take action against the BJP.

"I do not know why they have a free run from the Election Commission to use religion in the polls. Others are told that they cannot use religion in the elections under the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for either seeking votes or pitting people against each other," he said.

"The BJP's star campaigners not only use religion, but attempts are also made to divide the people, be it in the name of 'mangalsutra' or land or cow slaughter. Unfortunately, attempts are being made to spread hatred in this country and that too by the party whose leaders, including its PM (Narendra Modi), never get tired of saying that he (the prime minister) represents all 140 crore Indians.

Abdullah was referring to Modi's allegations at an election rally that if the Congress came to power, it would redistribute the wealth of people to Muslims.

"If that is really so, then these statements used to spread hatred, especially against 14 per cent Muslim population, are very unfortunate," he said.

CIK arrests youth trying to join terrorist ranks in Budgam

hybrid OGWs in Kashmir and these OGWs in connivance are planning a terrorist recruitment drive in the Valley," it reads.

It added that the input was further developed technically and one individual namely Waseem Ahmad Sheikh of Beerwah was identified on ground and was accordingly detained for questioning. During preliminary investigation it was revealed that he was in constant touch with the handlers through virtual mode and was about to join the terrorist outfit by forming a new group.

The statement reads that he had been further assigned to identify a group of youth willing to join terrorism with AuGH terrorist outfit. "It was further revealed that the Pak based terrorist commander had assured him of supplying arms and ammunitions for him and his group in coming days."

It reads that investigation further revealed that he was a part of many WhatsApp and Telegram groups associated with terrorist outfits. "Further investigation is on to identify other members of such groups to take legal actions against them."

Police attach properties of drug peddler under NDPS Act in Baramulla

drug peddlers worth 5.5 crores in the district so far, they said.

Police have urged people to come forward with any information regarding drug peddling in their neighbourhood and warned that any person found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt with as per law.

Samsung's 'Fab Grab Fest' is back with 'unbeatable offers'

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has announced its biggest summer sale, 'Fab Grab Fest', which offers an array of extraordinary deals and exciting cashbacks across a wide range of products on Samsung.com, Samsung Shop App as well as at Samsung Exclusive Stores.

"We are happy to bring back the most awaited summer sale on Samsung.com and Samsung Exclusive Stores. Through the Fab Grab Fest, we wish to bring the best deals and offers to our customers. We are witnessing an encouraging adoption of Buy More Save More, so in this Fab Grab Fest, we will extend flexibility to our customers to not only make bundles with the entire Samsung range but also enjoy an extra 5% off on

the bundle. Adding to customer delight, we will also offer same day delivery on select models," said Sumit Walia, Vice President, D2C Business, Samsung India.

During the 'Fab Grab Fest', customers can avail up to 64% off on select models of the Galaxy S series, Galaxy Z series, and Galaxy A series smartphones. Select models of Galaxy tablets, accessories and wearables will be available at up to 77% off. On the purchase of select models of Galaxy Book4 series laptops, customers can avail discounts of up to 24% off.

Select models of Samsung TVs such as the flagship Neo-QLED 8K, Neo QLED, OLED, The Frame TVs, and Crystal UHD series will be available at up to 43% off. On purchase of select models of Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED and OLED TVs customers can avail

bank cash-back of up to INR 20000. Additionally, customers can avail benefits of up to INR5000 as exchange bonus on purchase of all TVs.

The 'Fab Grab Fest' 2024 will offer discounts and unmatched prices on a host of digital appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, microwaves, monitors and air conditioners.

With our 'Buy More Save More' platform, customers will be able to save an extra 5% on the purchase of two or more products through Samsung.com or Samsung Shop App. The 'Buy More Save More' platform allows consumers to enjoy bundled offers on a host of Samsung products.

The excitement doesn't end here, customers can get up to 48% off on a wide range of premium appliances such as Side-by-Side Refrigerators, the elegant French-

Door Refrigerators, and the versatile Frost Free Refrigerators. They can also enhance their kitchen experience with the Bespoke AI Package by purchasing three or more selected products and enjoy an extra 10% discount.

Select models of washing machines will be available at up to 50% off. Additionally, they will get a generous 20-year warranty on the Digital Inverter Motor for both Fully Automatic Front Loading and Fully Automatic Top Loading machines. For easy access, the affordable EMI option is also available starting at just INR1490 for Fully Automatic Front Loading, INR990 for Fully Automatic Top Loading, and INR756 for Semi-Automatic Washing Machines.

Select models of monitors will be available at up to 61% off. Additionally, customers will also

receive a complimentary wall mount on purchase of select models of smart and gaming monitors. Samsung will also provide a 3-year warranty and up to 20% bank cashback (up to INR 10000) on all monitors.

Select models of Convertible Wind Free™ ACs, will be available at up to 47% off. Customers can avail an extra 10% discount when purchasing two or more units of WindFree™ AC models. Moreover, these models come with an extended warranty on the PCB part, offering 1-year standard warranty plus an additional 4-year extended warranty.

As part of the exciting bank offers, customers can experience exceptional savings of up to 22.5% cashback when using HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and other leading debit and credit cards, with a maximum cash-back of up to INR25000.

Maruti Suzuki commences pre-bookings for the much-awaited Epic New Swift



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Maruti Suzuki India Limited, the country's leading carmaker, announces the commencement of pre-bookings for the highly anticipated 4 generation Epic New Swift for INR 11,000. In this All-new generation, the Epic New Swift builds on its much-loved signature sporty design while enhancing its dynamism and fun-to-drive quotient.

Maruti Suzuki's Swift has been India's No. 1 premium hatchback with over 29 lakh proud owners

since its launch. With a cult fan following, this sporty premium hatchback has constantly redefined the segment benchmark for sporty and dynamic driving performance. Now, the Epic New Swift is poised to build on this rich legacy in a truly Epic manner.

Commenting on the announcement, Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "The Swift has been an iconic brand for Maruti Suzuki, one that has evolved with changing times to redefine cus-

tomers expectations. Its 29 lakh strong customer base and numerous awards & accolades are a testament to how the iconic Swift has gone from strength to strength. The Epic New Swift stays true to its much-loved sporty DNA, while balancing new-age expectations of environment friendliness with low emissions. As always, the next-generation Swift is all set to create new benchmarks in the premium hatchback segment and further the concept of the 'Joy of Mobility' in its own right.

CEO SSCL inspects Jehangir Chowk Junction Improvement

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 2: The CEO, Srinagar Smart City Ltd (SSCL), Dr. Owais Ahmed Thursday conducted a detailed inspection of the Jehangir Chowk Junction evaluating the ongoing construction efforts and the current status of the project.

During the site visit, the CEO carefully reviewed the project blueprints of the Jehangir Chowk Junction stressing the significance of adhering to project timelines and upholding high-quality standards to facilitate the effective transformation of the Junction.

Recognizing the critical importance of the Junction for both traffic flow



and pedestrian movement, the CEO instructed the Chief Engineer of SSCL to implement double-shift work to expedite the project's completion.

This proactive measure is geared towards ensuring the timely delivery of the project and facilitating smooth traffic circulation and pedestrian access at Jehangir Chowk.

The CEO committed to have macadamization on the road surface at

Jehangir Chowk (Junction) within a week's time, subject to favourable weather conditions. Furthermore, the CEO committed that the whole project will be completed within the stipulated time frame.

The CEO was accompanied by Chief Engineer SSCL, Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, senior officials from SMC, SSCL and line departments.

Isuzu Motors India presents new 'Lifestyle Pick-up' Models in India

Top News Report

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH. May 2: Isuzu Motors launched 'Lifestyle Pick-Up' to introduce its enriched personal passenger pick-ups, that are Made-in-India which are Made-for-India. This is Isuzu's commitment to set a trend in the lifestyle pick-up segment. The vehicles are priced starting from Rs 21,19,900 (Hi-Lander), Rs 25,51,700 onwards (V-Cross Z) and Rs 26,91,700 onwards (V-Cross Z Prestige), ex-showroom, Chennai.

The latest V-Cross Z Prestige variants up the style quotient with a host of elegant yet classy elements on the exterior.



This timeless appeal has been achieved with styling elements finished in Dark Grey. These subtly adds to the visual dynamism and a differentiated road presence that the vehicles now project, making them more aggressive yet sporty. With the host of over a dozen bold styling elements, add character

to the vehicle's original design inspired by the 'Cyborg - Orca'.

The Active Safety Systems of Traction Control System (TCS), Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Hill Descent Control (HDC) and Hill Start Assist (HSA) have now been introduced in all the manual transmission models also. Traction

Control Systems (TCS) that automatically apply brakes upon identifying the wheel losing grip on the road, Electronic Stability Control (ESC) which helps prevent the vehicle from spinning out due to the loss of road traction, Hill Descent Control that maintains the vehicle range of 4 to 30 km/h to avoid over-speeding while driving downhill and Hill Start Assist which reduces chances of the rear collision on slopes. For enhancing the Passive Safety system, all the passenger pick-up models now come with 'Rear Seat Occupant Detection Sensors' and have a '3-Point Seat Belt for each of the 3 rear seat

occupants' as standard. Commenting on the launch, Toru Kishimoto - Deputy Managing Director, Isuzu Motors India, said, "We are proud to have set the benchmark in presenting India with its first ever lifestyle adventure utility vehicle and our passenger vehicles range of pick-ups have been consistently well-received since launch. We are happy to carry forward this success story. We are confident that with this enriched range of aspirational products, we shall be able to address the needs of the emerging progressive Indian customers and further strengthen our pole position in the segment."

DC Ganderbal leads mega plantation drive under SVEEP at Badarkund

Top News Report

GANDERBAL, May 2: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir Thursday led the inauguration of a significant plantation campaign at Tara Gali, Badarkund area in Ganderbal.

This plantation initiative was organized by the District Administration in collaboration with NLCO under Mission 50,000, a pivotal component of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of various stakeholders including ACD Ganderbal, Dr Bashir Ahmad;



DFO Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal, Danish Khan; CPO, Shahnawaz Khan; Chairman NLCO, Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo; DFO Social Forestry Ganderbal, DIO Ganderbal, students from diverse educational institutions, and local residents.

Addressing the attend-

ees, the DC complimented all the concerned for this green initiative adding that we have also achieved the slogan of one plant one vote, and till date over two lakh plants have been planted in the district. He appealed to all eligible voters to cast their votes with the same

enthusiasm as shown during the plantation drive.

On the occasion the DC also appreciated the NLCO for rejuvenating the spring in the locality.

The DC also solicited the cooperation of the community in safeguarding and nurturing the planted saplings, emphasizing the collective responsibility towards environmental conservation.

The mega plantation drive underscores the District Administration's commitment to environmental sustainability and civic engagement, marking a significant step towards a greener and more participatory future.

BJP's policies threat to unity in diversity - Vikar Rasool

Top News Report

NOWSHERA, May 2: PCC president Shri Vikar Rasool Wani has said that Secularism is the strength of our country and unity in diversity is the way keep the country united.

Addressing a workers meeting at Nowshera, JKPC President lashed out at BJP for resorting to divisive politics in order to concentrate on majority votes, he said that it is dangerous for the peace, harmony and religious brothers. BJP is badly loosing this election's and INDIA alliance will form the government at the centre.

Canvassing for INDIA alliance candidate Mian Altaf in Anantnag - Rajouri seat, Vikar said that India

alliance will win all lok sabha seats in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh He termed Mian Altaf as the best candidate who will win huge margin.

Referring to the BJP, he it field to field it's candidate in the area and said that all their efforts to divide the society in Pir Panjal region failed to yield any political dividends to the party as people are wise enough.

Senior Vice President and Chief spokesperson JKPC Ravinder Sharma hit out at BJP for its politics of hate & division and said that people of country have realised the dangers of BJP politics.

He said winds of change have already started which has further frustrated the top leadership of BJP. He urged

people to ensure victory of Mian Altaf Ahmad and strengthen the INDIA alliance.

Addressing the meeting organised by him, Adv Rajinder Prasad welcomed the PCC President and said that Congress is truly secular party and only it can keep the country united and strong. He recalled the contributions of his father late Master Beli Ram in the development of the area selflessly.

He said that Congress is in the hearts of people and the false propaganda of BJP against Congress won't work any longer. Later two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to veteran congress leader and former Block President Ch Tara Chand who

passed away last week.

General Secretaries PCC Narinder Gupta, Shakeel Mir, chairman Pahar cell Sajad Tariq, secretary PCC Mobin Khan, PYC General Secretary Sharoz Mir accompanied the President.

Several prominent persons and senior Congress leaders & attended & spoke on occasion including Vijay Bakshi, Sdr Isher Singh, Bhim Sen Raina, Raj Shah, Rajinder Singh, Daleep Heer, Chander Bakshi, Sukhdev Sharma, Adv Gourav Parasher, Rishav Sharma, Ravinder Chouhab Haji Sadiq, Pashori Lal, Khail Chaudhary, Dr Naresh, Mahatma Inder, Lect Mukand Lal, Sain Dass, Rajiv Kohli, Capt Balwant, Gurcharan & several others.

Fire Safety Training Program organised at GDC Khansahib

Top News Report

BUDGAM, May 2: The NSS Unit and Disaster Management Cell of Government Degree College Khansahib (GDC) Khansahib Thursday organised a Fire & Safety Training Program in collaboration with Fire & Emergency Station Khansahib.

Khurshid Ahmad Mir, sub-officer at the station, led a contingent of firemen and imparted basic firefighting skills to the staff and students. The officer deliberated on different types of fires like solid fire, liquid fire, electric fire etc and the application of relevant safety measures for dousing the flames. Emergency fire mock drills were conducted with the active participation of students.

The college Principal, Dr. Nargis Bano thanked the personnel of Fire & Emergency Services, NSS PO, convener Disaster Management Cell, faculty, non-teaching staff and students for making the program a success.

Congress condoles untimely demise of Pankaj Dogra's wife

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Congress has deeply condoled the sad demise of Anu Dogra wife of Pankaj Dogra District president Kathua.

Anu Dogra was admitted in Apollo Hospital Delhi for the last over one month due to severe liver problems

She was a senior leader of JK Mahila Congress and had unsuccessfully contested the last DDC election's in

Kathua. She her breathed her lost today after noon and cremation will take place tomorrow after noon at Kathua.

JKPCC President Vikar Rasool Wani, Working President Raman Bhalla, Ch Lal Singh and entire rank and file of the party expressed deep sorrow over the untimely demise and shared the grief of Pankaj Dogra and other family members.

They prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, May 2: Yash Pal Sharma a well known name at Chak Badyal in Akhnoor is a bone-setter who in a way run traditional 'orthopedic clinics' where he offer traditional treatment for problems from fractures to muscle spasm to stiff shoulder.

Sharma is sitting on an upholstered cushion on the floor, waiting for his next patient in his hole-in-the-wall clinic at his residence. It has a small bench, a shelf filled with bandage and cotton rolls, and a signboard on the wall listing the services on



offer. Whosoever arrives at his residence with hurt leg with unbearable pain, Sharma, examines the painful part and delivers the diagnosis in a minute flat.

They seem impressed, though they do not quite

ask Sharma how he arrived at the diagnosis. He soaks a bandage in dark brown oil and wraps it around the affected part of the leg. "Do not worry, you will be fine in a couple of days," he says. Come and show it to me in a week. Patients say Sharma has a Midas touch as he makes an effort to look self-effacing. There is a world where home-made 'secret oils,' salves and lotions in various shades of brown serve as medicines and bamboo sticks and cardboard as splints. No X-ray machines, no casts, no forceps, most work with bare hands with a pair of scissors being the

only the equipment. Many feel he is quick but there are others who swear by their 'expertise'. Sharma talks about how bone and joint problems are increasing like never before in the country.

"These days, I get a lot of patients, including youngsters, with knee pain. Increased use of refined oil is responsible for it. We should take a decent amount of mustard oil or desi ghee every day, which is very necessary for healthy bones," he says. Ask him why his clinic is so popular, and pat comes the reply: "Our expertise, and low-cost of treatment."

Yash Pal Sharma a bone-setter offers traditional treatment for problems from fractures to muscle spasm to stiff shoulder

World Cup cricket 'square' arrives in New York after trip from Florida

Winter conditions in New York meant that the grass needed to be grown in the warmer climate of Florida before being transported and installed.

MIAMI, May 2 (Agencies): Ten cricket pitches have completed their journey up the East Coast of the United States from Florida to New York state and are being installed in a new stadium built for next month's T20 World Cup.

The "drop in pitches" have been prepared in Florida since December and were recently transported by 20 trailer trucks up the I-95 highway to the venue in Long Island.

The surfaces, which will soon be used for games including the highly-anticipated clash between cricket giants India and Pakistan, were developed by Australian Damian Hough, curator of the Adelaide Oval.

Winter conditions in New York meant that the grass needed to be grown in the warmer climate of Florida before being transported and installed.

Hough said the journey from the base in Boynton Beach, Florida, to Nassau County in New York state, took over 24 hours, with regular stops for checks and hydration of the grass.

"From a turf perspective, we made sure that there was no weather or elements getting on them with regards to wind or rain. They've come through, the ones we've received so far, we couldn't be happier, they've come through in flying colors," Hough said.

The condition of a cricket pitch, also known as a wicket or track, has a crucial bearing on the game, impacting the speed



and bounce of the ball and the degrees of spin or movement off the seam of the ball that can be utilised by bowlers.

Chris Tetley, head of events for the International Cricket Council -- organizers of the World Cup that will be co-hosted by the United States and several Caribbean nations -- said the pitch production had been a huge logistical challenge for the companies involved.

"It's been an impressive piece of logistics that has gone into moving 10 pitches, on 20 trucks, plus backup trucks, with the route planning, the timing through, I can't remember how many different states," Tetley said.

"The permissions to take out agricultural materials through different states, traffic considerations, timing over bridges and we wanted to make sure the trays are out of the ground for as short a time as possible -- extremely, extremely impressive," he added.

The temporary 34,000 capac-

ity stadium at Eisenhower Park has already been built with stands and hospitality areas already in place and the outfield has been put in place.

Hough said the surface is likely to be a typical of the kind used for T20 matches, where fans expect to see big shots from the batsmen.

"Our ambition is to produce pitches along the lines where they're good quality pitches, minimal spin, minimal seam and ball coming onto the bat and let the players play the shot," he said.

The first World Cup game at the venue will feature Sri Lanka v South Africa on June 3 but organizers are planning some test events before then.

World class facilities Much of the material for the stands has been taken from Formula One motor racing and will be dismantled after the end of the World Cup.

But the international standard playing surface will remain in place with the possibility of it

being used for local cricket.

"The physical structures we have installed will go away, the park will be returned to grassland, but with the legacy of a world class cricket field," said Tetley.

"There is also the training facility that we have developed so the cricket community is going to end up with some world class facilities to utilize.

"As to what happens to the space in the future, that really depends on the local cricket community, Nassau County and USA Cricket as to what they want to do with it. It is there, it is available," he said.

Cricket remains a fringe sport in the United States but is avidly followed by immigrant communities, particularly from the Indian subcontinent and the Caribbean.

Last year, a new T20 tournament was launched, Major League Cricket, which was held near Dallas, Texas, at a converted minor-league baseball park.

The Grand Prairie venue will also host World Cup games, as will the country's first international standard venue in Lauderdale, South Florida.

Major League Cricket has attracted a number of international players, with former Australia captain Steve Smith recently signing up to play for Washington Freedom in this year's edition which starts in July.

5 Players Out: CSK Coach Stephen Fleming Delivers Big Update After Loss Against PBKS



CHENNAI, May 2 (Agencies): The Chennai Super Kings continue to dwindle in the final stretch of the league stage of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 campaign.

The Ruturaj Gaikwad-led side suffered an embarrassing 7-wicket defeat at the hands of Punjab Kings on Wednesday, putting themselves in a tough spot over playoffs qualification.

One of the biggest reasons behind CSK's defeat was injuries to key players and absenteeism of a few others. Speaking to media after the match, CSK coach Stephen Fleming revealed how CSK's squad has been reduced to bare minimum.

Starting with their marquee Indian pacer, Fleming revealed that Deepak Chahal's injury situation isn't look-

ing good, but the team management is keeping fingers crossed, hoping for a better revert from the medical team once a detailed analysis is done.

With the T20 World Cup 2024 scheduled next month, Sri Lankan duo of Matheesha Pathirana and Maheesh Theekshana have also gone back home for visa formalities while Bangladesh seamer Mustafizur Rahman has returned for international duties.

"Deepak Chahal doesn't look good. Initial feeling wasn't great. So we are waiting for more positive report. Physio and doctors will have a look. Sri Lankan boys are off to get visa. So we are hoping that their process is smooth. And we get them back for our next game up north (at Dharamshala). Richard Gleeson was

good, he was positive," he revealed at the press conference.

Even uncapped Indian pacer Tushar Deshpande has got flu, the CSK coach revealed.

"Tushar Deshpande got flu, so we had to make a few changes today, which is a bit unusual. But again that's part of it and we have got resources. It's just they haven't got time to be comfortable about their roles and us to be comfortable with the game plan that we are struggling with," CSK coach Fleming added.

Though CSK are placed 4th in the IPL 2024 points table, with 5 wins in 10 games, the final run of 4 games could be tricky for them without the support of some of the star players.

Even skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad admitted that the absence of some star players is a big blow to the team.

"It's a real problem (on the player missing due to injuries and Chahal walking away in the first over), there are phases where you want wickets, but you have only two bowlers, the dew took the spinners out of the equation. It was tough, but there're four games left and we will try and come back to winning ways," he said after the game.

Vaishali over the moon after getting GM tag

CHENNAI, May 2 (Agencies): A Grandmaster much before the title was officially bestowed on her by FIDE recently, Indian chess player R Vaishali has revealed that there was a time she was unsure of being able to achieve the feat but managed to pull through owing to a good support structure.

Vaishali completed the requisite 2,500 ELO points Llobregat Open tournament in Spain to become only the third Indian woman after Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli to become a GM.

However, the title was officially given to her only recently following the FIDE council meeting during the Candidates tournament in Toronto last month.

"After completing the (Women's GM) title, I knew it would be changed to GM someday. I did not think about the title so much," she said. "Yeah, it took some time to get it official, but I'm happy that the title is finally out. I was okay with it (the delay)," she added.

The 22-year-old is basking in the glory of her solid performance in the Candidates, where she won five consecutive games to finish joint second. She became a Woman Grandmaster



(WGM) in 2018 after completing her final norm during the Riga Technical University Open in Latvia.

Having had to wait six years to finally earn the GM tag, Vaishali said she became a bit unsure of it after her ratings stagnated due to lack of competition during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"In between, I could not play any tournament for two years due to the pandemic. I completed my International Master (IM) cycle post-pandemic (in 2021)," she recalled. "But, I was working throughout, trying to improve my game. I was improving my game slowly, but my rating became stagnant."

Desperate SRH aim to break mid-IPL slump vs 'top of the table' RR

HYDERABAD, May 2 (Agencies): Pat Cummins' SRH will be desperate to get back on track in the Indian Premier League after losing stream in the last two matches against RCB and CSK. SRH have been found wanting in the two matches with sluggish tracks as they failed to get even close to the target in the second innings of the game. Hyderabad will hope to give them the best shot of reaching the playoffs by winning the home fixture against tough-to-beat RR side who are at the top of the table.

RR are a fairly well rounded team with an exceptional bowling attack, which is expected to challenge the might of the SRH batting. Openers Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head need to get back to their best so that they can tee off Heinrich Klaasen in the middle overs of the game.

RR would be buoyed by the selection of captain Sanju Samson, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and spinner Yuzvendra



Chahal in the T20 World Cup squad and would hope to take inspiration from there. Not like they need it as the side has won 8 out of their 9 matches so far.

Focus will be on the SRH batters and their form, if they are able to break their slump and go about their usual ways.

SRH vs RR: Head-to-Head SRH and RR have faced 18 times in the Indian Premier League and the spoils are shared at the moment at 9-9. In recent history, RR have a

narrow lead of 3-2 in the tournament and SRH would like to level that.

SRH vs RR: Team News Both teams do not have any injury concern at the moment and one can expect it to be a shootout between the batters.

Hyderabad has lost back to back matches in sticky pitches so far, and they would like to change that trend. The best way they can do it is by preparing a flat batting track where their famed line-up can take the

attack to the opposition. SRH vs RR: Pitch Report

The Hyderabad pitch has helped the batters and slightly - the spinners so far. This one is expected to be a flat batting track which would help the SRH batting line-up to get things back on track once again.

SRH vs RR: Predicted XI

SRH Predicted XI Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Aiden Markram, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Nitish Reddy, Abdul Samad, Shahbaz Ahmed, Pat Cummins (c), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat, T Natarajan.

Impact Player: Mayank Markande.

RR Predicted XI Yashasvi Jaiswal, Jos Buttler, Sanju Samson (c & wk), Riyan Parag, Shimron Hetmyer, Dhruv Jurel, Ravichandran Ashwin, Trent Boult, Avesh Khan, Sandeep Sharma, Yuzvendra Chahal.

Impact Player: Rovman Powell.

No place like Dome: Boxing back at Tyson-Douglas Tokyo upset venue

TOKYO, May 2 (Agencies): When 42-1 underdog James 'Buster' Douglas shocked 'Iron' Mike Tyson 34 years ago at the Tokyo Dome, the result reverberated around the world.

Spectators at the 45,000-plus seater venue witnessed one of boxing's biggest upsets as unbeaten heavy-weight champion Tyson was knocked out in the 10th round by the unheralded Douglas in February 1990.

Boxing returns to the famous venue on Monday for the first time since that unforgettable encounter when Japan's undisputed super-bantamweight world champion Naoya 'Monster' Inoue puts his belts on the line against Mexican Luis Nery.

The 31-year-old Inoue (26-0, 23 KOs) is a huge star in Japan and is just the second man to become undisputed world champion at two different weights since the four-belt era began in 2004. American Terence Crawford was the first.

But Inoue faces a stern test against the 29-year-old Nery, a former two-division world champion.

Inoue will be wary of suffering the same fate as Tyson, who arrived in Tokyo more than three decades ago with an aura of invincibility.

"Tyson's status at that time was of being this godlike, completely unbeatable heavy-weight," James Sterngold, who reported on the fight for the New

York Times, told agency. "He was really one of a kind -- he was up on a pedestal that only a small number of athletes can occupy."

Tyson was expected to win so easily that Sterngold, a news reporter based in Tokyo, was asked to cover the fight because the New York Times did not want to send a specialist boxing writer "halfway around the world for 90 seconds".

Tyson 'didn't really care'

Veteran Japanese boxing writer Shoji Tsue, who has covered the sport for 50 years, was also expecting a quick win for Tyson, even after seeing the American knocked down by sparring partner Greg Page in training.



"Everyone thought that because Tyson was Tyson, there was no way he would lose, no matter what happened," said Tsue.

Tyson's autobiography said he had been too busy partying to prepare properly for Douglas, who had an unspectacular win-loss record of 29-4-1 (19 KOs). Sterngold interviewed

Tyson in his hotel room days before the fight and found him wrapped in a bedsheet watching martial arts movies.

"He seemed like he didn't really care," said Sterngold. "He clearly wasn't in a revved-up frame of mind."

The fight began at lunchtime and Tsue said the Tokyo Dome was "surprisingly quiet",

with fans anticipating another Tyson demolition job.

But Douglas began to control the fight, and although he was knocked down in the eighth, he got up and sent Tyson sprawling to the canvas two rounds later.

The world heavy-weight champion failed to beat the count, with those watching trying to make sense of what they had just seen.

"I was sitting in the press seats closest to the ring, and Tyson went down right in front of me," said Tsue.

"My heart was thumping. I wondered if it was possible that something like this could even happen?"

Post-fight drama The drama was not

over as promoter Don King rushed to reporters and tried to convince them that Tyson had not lost.

"He told us that we shouldn't file stories because it was not a knockout, that the ref had miscounted and that King had already affirmed that it was going to be overturned," said Sterngold.

"This story was very fishy, but it added to the drama."

King failed to have the result thrown out and Tyson never regained his superhero status.

Monday's crowd at the Tokyo Dome will expect Inoue to maintain his perfect record against Nery, but he will be wary of suffering the same fate as Tyson.

Nery said the choice

of venue could be an omen.

"If Mike Tyson can lose his unbeaten record there, then so can Naoya Inoue," Nery said recently at his training camp.

Tsue predicted a Inoue victory but warned that the Mexican, who has a 35-1 record with 27 KOs, was capable of an upset.

Inoue was, he said, the right man to bring boxing back to the historic stadium.

"There hadn't been any boxers who would have been a good fit for a match at the Tokyo Dome before," said Tsue.

"And if Inoue wasn't around, there wouldn't be any world title fights at the Tokyo Dome for a while yet."

National Workshop on Green Certified Building materials at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, May 2: A workshop focused on augmenting the Green initiatives under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) was held at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. The workshop titled "Green-Certified Building Materials" was organized by the School of Architecture & Landscape Design (SoALD) along with the School of Civil Engineering (SoCE), School of Mechanical Engineering (SoME) & School of Energy Management (SoEM) in collaboration with TATA Steel Limited (TSL).

During the workshop, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor (SMVDU), conveyed the vision of the University towards sustainable development of the University



campus and extended the cooperative & committed initiatives of the University for MoU with Industry leader, TATA Steel Limited.

Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs spoke about the significance of the sustainability and the Green initia-

tives of the SMVD University. Ar. Abhiney Gupta, Assistant Prof. & I/c Head, SoALD discussed about the importance of the eco-friendly building materials in the construction industry. Further, an interactive lecture was delivered by Vivek Rai, Head, Product Applica-

tion Group, TSL that enlightened the aspiring Architects & Engineers about the Industrial Green initiatives in terms of manufacturing process of Steel as building material.

TSL is the first Indian Company that has acquired Green Pro cer-

tificate for the rebar manufacturing process.

Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, Associate Professor & Coordinator of the workshop kindled the participants by citing Green rated buildings in the country and the joint role of the Architects & Engineers towards achieving the SDGs in his inaugural address.

And conclusively, Ar. Navin Gupta, Assistant Professor presented the vote of thanks.

The event was graced by the Patron, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor (SMVDU), Ajay Kumar, Registrar, Kamal Sharma, University Engineer, Hemant Bhargav, Chief Sales Manager, TATA Tiscon Ltd, Deans & Heads of the University and Senior Architects of the Jammu region. The faculty, staff, Scholars & students had participated in the event.

SCS Govt Degree College Mendhar leads Campus Cleanliness and Maintenance Drive



Top News Report

MENDHAR, May 2: NSS Unit and College Beautification Committee of SCS Govt Degree College Mendhar on 01 May 2024, proudly spearheaded a Campus Cleanliness and Maintenance drive under the esteemed patronage and guidance of Worthy Principal Dr. Mohammad Azam, alongside the supervision of Dr. Bashir Ahmed, Head of the Department of Physics and Convener of Examinations, Dr.

Mahroof Khan, Head of the Department of Botany and Convener of the College Beautification Committee, and Dr. Rehfat Naz Koser, NSS Programme Officer and Head of the Department of Urdu, the initiative witnessed active participation from NSS volunteers, NCC cadets and local fund employees of the college.

Dedicated faculty members including Prof. Inam ul Haq and Dr. Gowhar Ahmad Shapoo also lent their support to the drive,

commending the organizers for their efforts. Dr. Mohammed Azam, the Principal of the college, and Prof. Sarashad Hussain, IQAC Coordinator, expressed their appreciation for the commendable efforts of the NSS Unit and College Beautification Committee.

Dr. Mohd Ibrahim, Director of Physical Education Department, extended gratitude to all participants for their contributions, which collectively ensured the success of this meaningful event.

BTS opens Cutting & Tailoring Center at Jagti



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Bharat Tibet Sangh (BTS), on Thursday opened a Cutting & Tailoring centre at Jagti Nagrota, migrant camp and was inaugurated by president Vivek Singhal.

As per press release, Dr Kuldeep Sharma, prabhari North Zone was Chief Guest and president Vivek Singhal inaugurated the said centre in presence of general secretary Pt. RC Sharma, senior vice president Ashwani Sharma besides

MK Yogi, Ashwani Bhat, Sunil Pandita, Daizy Bhat, Fancy Koul and Urmila Ji.

While speaking on the occasion, Dr Kuldeep Sharma said by opening centre in Jagti Nagrota will impart the training among women and thereafter it will boost the income of the women, who are unemployed. He further mentioned that since his start of social life he has been continuously opening the Cutting & Tailoring centre and positive result had been surfaced.

He asked the gathering that he would extend all possible support to the migrant women at any cost.

Vivek Singhal said that by opening such centre self employment would be created and also provide a financial independence.

Others who spoke on the occasion included RC Sharma, Ashwani Sharma, MK Yogi, Sunil Pandita and Daizy Bhat. The program was organized by Daizy Bhat, Fancy Koul and Urmila Ji besides other woman.

Rajesh Gupta questions LG Sinha 'mission save lives' be implemented in reality

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Bahujan Samaj Party J&K UT General Secretary and Media Head Rajesh Gupta taking a dig on LG Manoj Sinha said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off Road Safety Awareness Tour "Mission Save Lives J&K Tour 2024" from Raj Bhawan today. Gupta questions LG Sinha will "mission save lives" be implemented in reality or mere remains an event only?

BSP leader expressed deep concern regarding the rising number of road accidents in the region.

Expressing shock and anguish our daily road accidents, Gupta urged the authorities to implement a preventive strategy to curb accidents rather than relying solely on post-accident measures.

e highlighted the poor condition of roads in hilly areas, emphasizing that their deteriorated state makes them prone to

accidents.

Gupta stated that numerous lives have been lost, and many people have suffered severe injuries due to road accidents in these areas. He said as deaths take place frequently on the roads, functioning of traffic authorities and Motor Vehicle Department is questionable.

BSP leader called upon the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to prioritize human lives, emphasizing that a person's life is more valuable than anything else.

He further emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant number of fatalities last year, marking the highest toll in a decade.

Gupta acknowledged that while the conflict in the region often dominates headlines, it is essential to address the issue of road accidents, which disproportionately affects the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

DADAA demands starting of Satellite Duggar Channel

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: A delegation of Doordarshan Approved Drama Artists Association (DADAA) Jammu comprised of Madan Rangila Vice President, Janak Khajuria spokesperson, Dr. Kamal Sharma executive member led by its President J. S. Babil met with Advocate Ankur Sharma Bharat Dal at his office Gandhi Nagar Jammu and apprised him that our association is for the cause of protection, preservation and development of rich cultural Heritage, art and languages of Duggar land in general and welfare of artists fraternity in particular.

"In this regard we are demanding Satellite Duggar Channel since 2013 and handover the correspondence made the ministries of Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Defence and prasar Bharti," they added.

The spokesperson of DADAA Janak Khajuria said that the Duggar's rich composite cultural heritage, art, and various sub-regional aspirations like multi-languages, developmental needs crave for a Satellite Duggar Channel in this part of the country. It has stoutly been pleaded by the general masses as well as different social, cultural and literary organisation. The Doordarshan Approved Drama Artists Association (DADAA) and all other social-cultural organisations and numerous citizens have raised their voice for it in the past years.

This demand has now caught the imagination of the people residing not only within Duggar region but also living outside the State and even abroad. The Non Resident Dogras too have been advocating the necessity of satellite Duggar Channel as they too want to remain in touch with their

traditions, social conditions and vibrant cultural roots through this potent telecast medium.

But strangely they have been deprived of their rights in many sectors including Satellite Duggar Channel, so far. Why is it so? How their legitimate demand for Satellite Duggar Channel has not been met by the governments till this day? It is still not too late to do the needful by the present Governments, in Jammu and Kashmir as also at the Centre.

In this regard more should be done for the people living in the Jammu region and seek their support.

The Advocate Ankur Sharma listened to the delegation of DADAA carefully and said that this is not the demand of artists only but of all Dogras and assured the delegation of DADAA for full support in all matters till achieved the long pending demand of Satellite Duggar Channel.

Braham Jyot thanks OBC communities for providing support to BJP in LS polls

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: Braham Jyot Satti, BJP senior leader and incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir and thanked all OBCs for providing support to BJP in on going Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his statement, he said some self styled leaders from different political parties who always claimed to be leaders of OBC communities have tried hard to instigate and divert the OBC votes but OBC communities ignore these kind of all self styled leaders and cast their precious votes in favour of BJP.

He said Nation's first ideology of BJP is best and it works in the nation's interest and prominent citizens are joining hands with BJP which is highly appreciable.

He said OBCs are backbone of our nation because OBCs shares maximum population of India and OBCs are die-hard nationalists.



In this elections OBC communities are giving full support to BJP and casting their precious votes to BJP for nation's faith and definitely BJP will get full mandate in on going elections with the help of OBCs.

He said ongoing elections are not about any party but about ideology, one which is in the interest of the country and the other which is anti-national.

The BJP always works in the interest of the nation and our public will vest their interest in BJP again and we will make

majority government. He said from the past 10 years PM Narendra Modi led government is working for betterment of public and giving true example of Sewa, Sushasan and Garib Kalyan.

He said Prime Minister Modi is very dedicated and down to earth personality and has launched various beneficial schemes especially for OBCs and has provided new carrier opportunities to them.

He said in past 10 years BJP has made India a strong and Progressive

country and created new employment opportunities for youth and working for all segments and India is blessed to have PM like Narendra Modi.

He said in the past 10 years BJP dealt with big issues like surgical strike to strengthen the country, construction of Ram temple which has been in dispute for a long time, removal of Article 370 to connect Kashmir in the main stream, ban on triple talaq for justice to minority women. Our party has tried to realize the slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas.

He said PM Modi also belongs to the OBC community and he highlighted various schemes like Vishwakarma, Ayushman Bharat, Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, cleanliness campaign, Aawas Yojna, Ujjwala gas scheme and he said that Casting of Huge number of votes from OBC communities represents the dedication of OBCs samaaj towards nation and development.

Jammu to host BRICS, Asian Wushu selection

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 2: The two-day final selection trial for the two prestigious events of BRICS Games and open selection trial for the 10th Asian Wushu Championship shall be held at Indoor Hall, Bhagwati Nagar, here tomorrow.

The BRICS Games are scheduled to be held in Kazan (Russia) from June 11 to 17 while 10th Asian Wushu Championship shall take place at Macau (China) from September nine to September 16.

The Wushu Association of India will conduct the final selection trial for the BRICS Games and the selection trial for the National Coaching Camp for the 10th Asian Wushu Championship on May three and May four.

Around 200 Wushu athletes from all affiliated units across the country are taking part in the selection trial. Some prominent athletes,



Arjuna Awardee and world champions will be seen in action. Current International Wushu Federation athlete of the year 2023, 19th Asian Games Silver Medalist and Arjun

Awardee, Roshibina Devi will be seen in action.

It is the first time that the selection trials for the prestigious events are taking part in the city of temples, Jammu.

Earlier Wushu Association of India (WAI) had organised National Wushu coaching camp in 2011, 2013 and 2023 at Gulmarg and Srinagar respectively.

The J&K Sports Council have recently procured the latest Wushu equipment for both centres, resultant J&K is becoming hub for the Wushu events. The deadline for the entry by name for the BRICS games is May 15, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) will organise the National Wushu coaching camp for the final selected players after the selection trial at any SAI centres or as proposed by WAI. Open selection trial will be held for the 10th Asian Championship in which around 45 to 50 campers will be shortlisted for the National Wushu coaching camp, the final selection trial for the championship will be held on the month of July ending or August one to finalise the Indian Wushu championship for Macau.