# **OPNEWSOFJ&K**



### **JAMMU, SUNDAY, MAY 05, 2024**

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#### **ENTERTAINMENT**

Parineeti Chopra shares clip of her 'real debut'; 'Where's Raghav', asks Twitterati



PM Modi's political history based on 'Hindu-Muslim dispute': Digvijaya Singh

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

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### BRIEFLY

#### Unidentified male body recovered from Jhelum in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, May 5 (Agencies): An unidentified dead body of a male has been recovered from river Jhelum in Chatabal area of Central Kashmir Srinagar district on Sunday.

An official told news agency Kashmir Scroll that an unidentified male body was fished out from river Jhelum from veer Chattabal area of Srinagar.

He said that body has been shifted to hospital for medico legal formalities while identification is being ascertained. Meanwhile, police have started an investi-

gation in this regard. **MeT predicts** 

### generally dry weather in J&K

SRINAGAR, May 5 (Agencies): The weather department here on Sunday forecast generally dry weather with possibility of thundershower activity in the afternoon at a few

# LG Manoj Sinha addresses Shri **Kubernath Rai Memorial Lecture**

GHAZIPUR (UP), May 5 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed Shri Kubernath Rai memorial lecture at Ghazipur. Paying homage to Shri Kubernath Rai, the great essayist, scholar and poet, the Lt Governor remembered his significant contribution to nation-building.

"Kubernath Rai enriched hindi literature and he remains an immense source of intellectual inspiration. His essays provide an



opportunity to the readers to discover new ideas and perspectives," the Lt Governor said. At the memorial event, the Lt Governor recalled

the ideals and values espoused by Shri Kubernath Rai and said that he is a living illustration of soul of Indianness who

served the literature and

culture with dedication to strengthen the national unity.

Kubernath Rai through his voluminous literary works promoted ancient ideals and values and also encouraged new ideas by breaking old concepts. In his works, he gave new dimensions to the country's progress and emphasised on people's role in development, peace and harmony, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor called Turn to page 9 in peaceful, good voter turnout in elections amid ceasefire JAMMU, May 5 (Agencies): PK Pole, the Chief Election Officer of J&K

Daily Evening Newspaper

Canada a 'rule-of-law country', savs PM

Trudeau after arrest of three Indians in

Khalistani activist Hardeep Nijjar killing

**INTERNATIONAL** 

UT, expressed optimism hope that peaceful conduct LokSabha elections in border areas will happen, citing the ongoing ceasefire.

Speaking at a sveep program in Bandipora district, Pole stated, "We are hopeful this year the elections in border areas will be conducted peacefully due to the prevailing ceasefire from five years now."



**CEO Pole expresses confidence** 

threats, he affirmed, "If there is any attempt from across the border to interfere with the elections, the election commission has already a plan B in place and elections will still be conducted." He noted the preparedness to counter any disruptions to ensure the electoral process remains unaffected.

For the Gurez constituency, Pole mentioned contingency plans involving the Indian Airforce to transport polling parties and equipment should weather conditions close Razdan Top. He highlighted the satisfactory voter turnout in Gurez and Bandipora constituencies in

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# sure you voted the right party: Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR, May 5 (Agencies): National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday asked the voters in Kashmir to remain vigilant to the possibility of manipulation of the EVMs when they cast their votes for the Lok Sabha elections.

"It is important for all the voters to know that the EVM is a theft



beep from the machine. If there is no light on the contesting the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, going to polls on May 13. Abdullah urged the voters to ensure that the VVPAT slips have the same election symbol printed on them as the one they voted for.

"After you cast your vote, there will be a (VVPAT) slip. You should check whether the symbol on the slip is

# EVM A theft machine, make | IAF Convoy Attack | Several people detained for questioning, search on for terrorists in Poonch

MENDHAR/JAMMU. May 5 (Agencies): Several people were detained for questioning on Sunday as a massive search operation for terrorists behind the Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district entered the second day, officials said.

Additional Direc-

Jammu, Anand Jain and senior officers of the Army and intelligence agencies visited the ambush spot in the Surankote area. The Army also conducted aerial surveillance using a helicopter, they said. Five IAF personnel were injured in the attack on Saturday eve-

tor General of Police,

ning near Shahsitar and one of them later succumbed to injuries at a military hospital.

The officials said a wellcoordinated joint operation by the Army and the police was underway in many areas, including Shahsitar, Gursai, Sanai and Sheendara Top, to neutralise the terrorists. The attackers are believed to have fled to a forest after the attack. they said.

Besides AK assault rifles, the terrorists also used a US-made M4 carbine and steel bullets to cause maximum casualties, the officials added

The IAF has identified the fallen hero as **Turn to page 9** 

places till May 10.

"Generally dry weather is expected and thundershower activity during the afternoon can't be ruled out at a few places," he said. On May 11, he said, there is forecast of partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain and thunder at few places.

Generally cloudy weather with light rain/ snow (over higher reaches) has been predicted at many places with thunder activity at few places on May 12. On May 13, he said, partly to generally cloudy weather is expected with light rain at few places.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 11.2°C against 11.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year. Qazigund recorded a minimum of 11.6°C against 10.0°C on the previous night and it was 3.1°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 3.7°C against 6.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir. Kokernag, also in Turn to page 9 machine. On the polling day, you will go through the process of identification and then your finger will be inked. When you go to the EVM booth, you should check the (LED) lights on it," he said.

"After you cast the vote, there should be a

machine, you should come out and ask the (election) staff about it," Abdullah, who was addressing an election rally in Panzinara on the outskirts of Srinagar city, added.

The former chief minister was campaigning for party candidate Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, who is

the same as the one you have voted for," he said. Abdullah urged the party leaders to ensure that they appoint "scrupulously honest" people as polling agents for the elections.

The NC president alleged the ruling BJP and Prime Minister

Turn to page 9

### Several youth from Pulwama joins Azad-led DPAP

SRINAGAR, May 5 (Agencies): In a significant development a large number of youth from Pulwama District joined Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) at party headguarters on Sunday. Senior DPAP leader



Taj Mohiuddin welcomed all the young entrants to the party fold.

Vice President of DPAP, Kashmir, Haji Mussadiq Hussain, graced the occasion. extending a warm welcome to the new Turn to page 9

### Four arrested for murder in Reasi

JAMMU, May 5 (Agencies): Four people have been arrested for killing a 45-year-old man around five months ago in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, police said on Sunday.

Mohd Rafiq was found dead outside Jia Baggo Dass village in the district's Chasana area on December 9, they said.

The case was solved with the arrest of his neighbours Nazir Ahmed Ruslla, Shabir Ahmed, Nazir Ahmed and Farooq Ahmed, a police spokesperson said.

Officials said Rafiq was attacked by them for allegedly having an illicit relation with the wife of one of the accused.

After killing him, they dumped the body the side of a road, around 500 metre from the scene of the crime, to

Turn to page 9

# MERCEDES - BMW - AU



NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K)

**\$ +91-9086207123** 

Addressing potential

# **OBITUARIES**

#### Top News of J&K Jammu, Sunday, May 05, 2024



Grand Son & Daughter-in-law Er. Sushant Lakhan & Smt. Shreya Sharma Grand Daughter & Son-In-law Dr. Priyanka Sharma & Sh. Amit Khajuria (DySP JKP) From: Lakhanpal Family Contact No.: 9858522764, 9796445751 With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Rani Ji Kharu W/o Lt.

Mohan Lal Kharu originally resident of Motiyar Rain awari at present Ambedkar Nagar Lane No.1 Paloura Top on 29-04-2024. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat near

- and untimely demise of our beloved SMT. ARCHANA BAKSHI JI W/o Late Sh. V.K Bakshi R/o H.No. 149-P, Sector 1-A Extension, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 23rd of April 2024.

Uthala / Rasam Pagri will be conducted on 6th May 2024 (Monday), from 5:30 pm onwards at Laxmi

Smt. Suman Bakshi and Late Sh. Rajkumar Bakshi (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)

Mr. Siddharth Bakshi and Mariel Loto Bakshi (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Ms. Subhadra Sharma (Niece)

#### KRIYA/UTHA With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform passing away

of our beloved Smt. Sambo Devi W/o late Capt. Dewan Chand Sharma R/o Extn. 13 Sector-A, Sainik Colony Jammu. She peacefully departed on 14 April, 2024. The Kriya shall be performed on 4th May 2024 (Saturday) at 12:00 Noon. Uthala will be conducted on 6th May 2024 (Monday) from 6 PM to 6:30 PM at our residence. IN MOURNING Sons & Daughters-in-law Sh. Sumnesh Sharma (Retd Physical Director) & Smt. Sneh Lata (Retd. Lecturer) Daughters & Sons-in-law Smt. Sudesh Mishra & Late Sh. Sohan Lal

Smt Nirmal Khajuria & Late Sh. Puran Chand Khajuria

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

1.8.19

demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Rupawati Pandita W/o Late Sh. Sarwan and Pandita originally from Maidanpora, Lolaab Distt. Kupwara A/p community Hall, Lane No. 1, Block 6 Jagti, who left for her heavenly abode on 27th April,



Sh. Jagdish Chander Bharti 1928-2024

> Sh Des Raj Mohindru & Smt Kanta Ran Smt Veena Kapoor W/o Late Sh M M Kapoor Grand Shivam Sachdeva, Diksha Sachdeva, Sudhanshu





TENTH DAY PRAYER MEETING

With profound grief it is informed that our beloved Sh. Ashok Sher breathed his last on 29th April, at his residence # 98,

Ashoka Enclave-I, Sector - 34, Faridabad, erstwhile resident of

The Tenth Day Kriya shall accordingly be performed at Garh

Ganga Ghat, Garh Mukleshwar (U.P) on 08-05-2024, from 09.00

Prayer meeting for the noble soul at Kashmir Bhawan, Sector - 37,

Smt. Harsh Sher (Wife) D/oLt. Smt. Raj Dulari & Lt. Sh. Somnath Handoo

Fandabad on 08-05-2024 from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm.

Smt. Suman Sher W/o Lt. Sh. Surinder Sher (Bhabhi)

Smt. Pooja & Sh. Sanjay Razdan (Sister & Brother-in-law)

Smt. Nidhi & Sh. Asheem Sher (Daughter-in-law & Son)

Smt. Santosh & Sh. Sunil Sher (Bhabi & Brother)

Smt. Rajni & Sh. Sushil Sher (Bhabi & Brother)

UTHALA With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad

Narayan Mandir (back gate), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Peerbagh, Srinagar.

am onwards. Followed By:

**Grief Stricken** 

Sh. Anuj Sher (Son)

Smt Pushpa Raina (Mother)

Smt Achla Raina (Sister) Sh. Abhishake Raina (Brother)

Mrs. Sukriti Bakshi and Angel Alan Francis (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Bakshi and Raina family.

Contacts: 9086005830, 7006142285

SMT. ARCHANA **BAKSHI JI** 







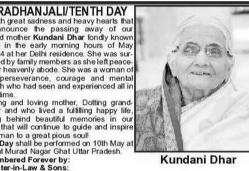
Smt Champa Kumar

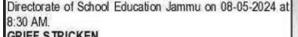
The Great Grand Son M Nos 9419223121 9622558907 7051063590



Daughters-in-law & Sons Smt Meenu Gupta & Rajinder Gupta Smt Anjana Gupta & Pawan Gupta Daughters & Sons-in-law Smt Neelam Gupta & Subhash Gupta Smt Jvoti Gupta & Ravi Gupta

Pandoh, Prema, Lavanya Abrol, Shubhima Abrol And all the Family Members Mobile No: 9419122511, 9419228017





#### **GRIEF STRICKEN**

#### Daughter-in-law

Smt. Seema Ji Kharu W/o Lt. Ravinder Kharu Smt. Archana Kharu W/o Lt. Dileep Kharu -Daughter-in-law Smt/Sh. Sunita & Ravinder Kalla -Daughter & Son-in-law Smt/Sh. Pushpa & Surinder Pandita -Daughter & Son-in-law Smt/Sh. Kalpan & Amit Arora -Daughter & Son-in-law Samast : Kharu, Kalla, Pandita, Arora & Ganjoo Pariwar

### **KRIYA KARM/ RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Late Smt Rano Devi W/o Late Sh Angrez Singh Chib R/o H No. 13, Sec-3 Pandoka Colony Paloura, Jammu. Kriva Karm will be performed on 5th May 2024 (Sunday) at 12.00 pm at our residence. Rasam Pagri will be performed on 10th May, 2024 (Friday) at 12.00 pm at our residence GRIEF STRICKEN :

#### Sons & Daughters- in-law

Late Sh Ramesh Singh Chib & Smt Sandhya Devi Late Sh Joginder Singh Chib & Smt Sureshta Devi Sh Ashok Singh Chib & Smt Sushma Rani Sh Ranjeet Singh Chib & Smt Shivani Chib

#### Daughters & Sons in law

Smt Kamlesh Devi & Sh Ajit Singh Manhas Smt Vaishno Devi & Sh Surinder Singh Charak Smt Darshana Devi & Sh Lal Singh Manhas Smt Rama Devi & Sh Surinder Singh Langeh

Contact No. 94191-47339, 9797606216, 9906173652

Late Smt Rano Devi

(Kalawati)

SMT. RANI JI KHARU

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father Karamyogi Shri Dwarika Nath Fotedar S/o Lt Shri Raugh Nath Fotedar originally resident of Village Begam, District Kulgam at present H No. 666 Lane 5D, Survavanshi Nagar, Muthi (Near Nand Public School) Jammu on 29-04-2024. The Tenth Day Kriya and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat, Near Director Education Officce on 08-05-2024 at 09.30 am. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** 

#### Shri Makhan Lal Bhat - Brother-in-Law

Smt Phoola Ji Fotedar & Smt Aasha Ji Fotedar Sister-in-law Smt Pamita Pandita & Shri Ravi Ji Pandita- Daughter & Son-in-law Karamyogi Shri Dwarika Nath Shri Sanjay Fotedar & Smt Jyoti Fotedar - Son & Daughter-in-law Shri Vinod Fotedar & Smt Dimple Fotedar- Son & Daughter-in-law Shri Aashish Fotedar & Smt Sheetal Fotedar - Son & Daughter-in-law Grand Children :

Vipin, Ritu, Koushal, Saksham, Simran, Rimjim, Sanvi and Chitraksh SAMAST FOTEDAR FAMILY Mob. 8825027101, 9596604915, 8899291623, 9868101943





10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 6th May 2024 at 8:30 AM and Assembly will be held thereafter. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Sons & Daughters-in-law Sh. Vinod & Smt. Neema Pandita Sh. Ramesh & Smt. Sunita Pandita Smt. Aniali W/o Late Sh. Anil Pandita Daughters & Sons-in-law Smt. Santosh & Sh. Man Mohan Pandita Smt. Teja & Sh. Moti Lal Pandita

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

Deeply missed by Grand Children. Mobile : 95967 28373, 91039 80827



Smt. Rupawati Pandita

of April 2024. 10th Day Kriya will be performed on 7th of May 2024 at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM. Grief Stricken Sh V N Bhat -Brother-in-law Smt Sheela Dhar Girja & Sh Vinod Raina -Daughter & Son-in-law Renoo Bhat -Daughter Vijay Bhat -Son Rishab, Riya, Tanaya -Grand Children Samast Raina & Bhat Parivar

#### 10TH DAY/KRIYA

N REMEMBRANCE OF OUR BELOVED LATE SMT KRISHANA GUPTA W/O DWARKA NATH GUPTA THE PROGRAM IS AS FOLLOW :-10TH DAY- 04-MAY-2024 AT PARADISE CHI-NOR ROAD AT 10 AM KRIYA- 07-MAY-2024 AT OUR RESIDENCE H NO. 21 LANE 2/7 BLOCK ROOP NAGAR



ENCLAVE JAMMIL MAY HER SOUL BE BLESSED WITH ETERNAL Smt Krishana Gupta PEACE

IN GRIEF PRIYA GUPTA & KOUSHAL GUPTA (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON) SHREEYANSH ( GRAND SON) SWASTIKA (GRAND DAUGHTER) MOB: 9419169004, 8899732939



With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to nform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Sham Lal Sharma S/o Late Sh Bharam Dutt Sharma R/o Kootah at present Patel Nagar W.No.20 Opp. Radha Krishan Temple, Kathua-184101 left for heavenly abode on 26th April, 2024. Tenth Day shall be performed at our residence

Patel Nagar, W.No.20, Opposite Radha Krishan Temple, Kathua on 5th May, 2024 (Sunday) at 10



Kriya shall be performed at our residence Patel Nagar, W.No.20 opposite Radha Krishan Temple, Kathua on 6th May, 2024 (Monday) at 10.00 am. GRIEF STRICKEN Son & Daughter-in-law Mr Sushant Dhotra & Mrs Anjli Sharma

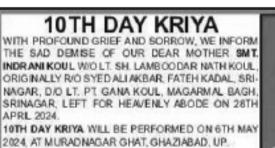
Mr Pershant Dhotra -**Son** Sh Jawahar Lal Sharma & Smt Shakti Sharma **-Brother & Bhabi** Sh Chaman Lai Sharma & Smt Pooja Sharma **-Brother & Bhabi** Sh Vinod Sharma & Smt Savita Sharma **-Brother & Bhabi** Mr Trayaksh Dhotra -**Grand Son** Phone No. 9324177441, 9833973410, 9619763040, 9906119066, 9419113429, 8082126317



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#### GRIEF STRICKEN:

MRS. SHAMA & K.L. AMBARDAR- DAUGHTER & S/L MRS. NEENA & SURESH MATTOO- DAUGHTER & S/L MRS. VUAY LAXMI & SURENDER KAUL- SON & D/L MRS. BABLI & RAMESH KOUL- SON & D/L

GRAND CHILDREN: MRS. SUNITA & SANJAY DHAR MS. SUSHMA AMBARDAR, SWATI, SUKIRTI MATTOO.

DR. SUNNY KAUL, SHALINI KAUL, SAAKSHI & RAHUL SMT. INDRANI KOUL KOUL, RETIKA & MAKSON TICKOO

SMRITI, SIDCHARTH DHAR, SHUBHAM AMBARDAR- GREAT GRAND CHILDREN F-703, APEX ATHENA, SEC, 75, NOIDA - UP MOB: 9873743175; 9419199722; 9469677790

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Gopi Nath Pandita S/o Late Sh. Shamboo Nath Pandita of Village Kachwa Muqam, Baramulla, Kashmir at present Pouni Chack, Jammu on 26th April 2024. Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 6th May 2024 (Sunday) at Muthi Ghat at 9:00 A.M. GRIEF STRICKEN Wife : Smt .Gopi Shori Pandita Son & Daughters in law : Sh. Tej Kumar Pandita (Swastik Medicate Jagti) & Smt Usha Pandita Grand Sons :

Sh Anoop Pandita & Smt Vitasta Pandita

Ayushman Pandita

Samast Pandita Parivar



Sh. Gopi Nath Pandita





# LOCAL

# **JKNPP (INDIA) launches "BJP Mukt J&K" is** our avowed pledge: Harsh Dev

#### **Top News Report**

UDHAMPUR, May 5: After the seizure of its symbol by ECI in pursuance of a conspiracy hatched by BJP and its stooges, the Panthers Party led by Harsh Dev Singh has been allotted a new name and symbol by the apex poll body of the country. The Panthers Party headed by Harsh Dev Singh has now been re-christened as J&K National Panthers Party (INDIA) and has been allotted the symbol of 'Truck' by the Election Commission of India.

This was stated by the Party Chief Harsh Dev Singh at a press confer-

ence held in Udhampur today where he vowed to oppose, expose and finally depose the saffron regime for its politics of duplicity, deceit and debauchery. Maintaining that BJP had lost the confidence

of the people in view of its multiple betrayals, Singh said that it had no right to continue in office. He said that having dismantled the oldest historical dogra state of J&K and downgraded it to UT level, the BJP govt had extended several draconian laws to it without the nod of legislature. Opening of multiple Toll Plazas and limitless Liquor shops

and Bars, introduction of Smart meter, enactment of Property tax, sky-rocketing prices of essentials, burgeoning employment, patronized all pervasive corruption, settlement of Beharis and UP people in UT and politics of hate seemed to be the only notable achievements of BJP rule, said Singh.

While rising prices had made the lives of people miserable, the BJP govt was resorting to extortion in the form of increased cesses, duties, tolls and taxes. Several Toll Plazas had been installed in the Jammu region to loot the people of their marginal incomes despite the condition of roads being

highly pathetic.

He said that Sarore Toll Plaza and Ban Toll Plazas had been assured to be removed by BJP including its central leaders which however turned out to be mere hyperboles. And contrarily the Toll was enhanced at Lakhanpur, Ban and Nashri plazas thereby causing massive resentment amongst the general masses Likewise, the open-

ing of several liquor shops despite people's opposition in the cities of temples had further created massive resentment amongst the locals particularly the womenfolk. And while the region faced chronic crisis in power and water sectors, the govt came up with the proposal of installation of Smart meters as if to rub salt on the wounds of people, said Singh.

Harsh Dev said that having failed to redeem its promises, the BJP was now indulging in divisive politics and creating hatred by invoking caste, colour, creed and religion in the affairs of govt thereby denting its own reputation beyond redemption. It needed to be dismissed lock, stock & barrel, said Singh and urged upon the people to support and strengthen JKNPP (INDIA) and make J&K 'BJP Mukt".

# **DFSS** holds protest against nuisance of Khalafwarzi officer of JMC



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU May 5: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of president Ashok Gupta held a protest against the nuisance of the Khalafwarzi officer of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

Gupta further stated that in the area of bus stand when fruits were

seized from Rehriwala sorting up to 50 kg and when the Rehriwala went to retrieve the fruits only 20 kg was returned as the officers stated that rest of the fruit has been stolen. Gupta further stated that during the drive of the Municipality unofficial people are also roaming with JMC and when the goods are seized

bursement the entire lo is not given back. He further stated that the parameters for seizing goods should be made public so that people should know about the charges and the reim-

bursement process. The party people present at the protest were Abhishek, Prem, Kalu, Naresh, Raju, Ganesh, Lovely, Ajay, Rakesh and Subash.

### Kesri leads protest against Irrigation **Deptt for not repairing irrigation canals**



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, May 5: Shiv Sena Hindustan activists led by J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today held strong demonstration at Cool Kalyan against the Irrigation Department for not maintaining irrigation canals. Kesri, while speaking against the irrigation department, said that when department starts getting canals cleaned with JCB, the banks of canals get broken and when the canal passes through the village settlement then

water enters into the village settlement. Due to which people get troubled, it becomes difficult for the children to go to school in the morning, they cannot leave the house because the water bursts so much in the vil-

which passes through the situation gets worse Cool Kalayan village due none from concerned to broken banks, all the department pays any visit to listen to grievances of locals. He requested the government to pay attention to the border areas as soon as possible because these people have already suffered a lot and they do not have many resources, lage that people have to hence the government take off their clothes, put should repair the canal them on their shoulders as soon as possible. and take out the shoes Prominent among those with their hands, many present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar. times. Children's books get wet in water. Suresh Kumar Rania Kesri said that repeat-Balwant Saini, Rajesh, **Progressive Youth Society organizes Cultural Programme** 

**Top News Report** 

UDHAMPUR, May 5: Progressive Youth Society (Regd.) Ramnagar District Udhampur organized a Cultural Programme in collaboration with Ministry of Culture (Govt. of India) under Repertory Grant in which Shamshad Begum Headmaster Govt. High School Upper Hartarayan (Udhampur) was the Chief Guest whereas Sanjay Kumar Ex-Sarpanch Upper Hartarayan presided over the function.

The programme started with welcome address by Manoj Kumar Sharma 'Nishchint' President PYS followed by compeering

Prominent singers Mohinder Singh Sumbria, Ashok Kumar and Seema Mehra enthralled the audience with their melodious songs in Dogri language on which students started dancing. Audience comprising of children, men and women appreciated the cultural event. Sanjay Kumar Ex-Sarpanch and Vinod Kumar Teacher appreciated and thanked to Progressive Youth Society for this event. Tanveer Ahmed member PYS presented vote of thanks.

of O.P Deepak.

Prominent among others were Balwan Singh, Sohan Singh, Mirza and Ashu Devi (Teacher).

Vi Introduces Postpaid Roaming Packs for **Azerbaijan and Select African Countries** 

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 5: In the last few years, Azerbai-



Kund-Nagrass road in Kulgam collapsed, locals demand its repair

no receipt is given and

during the time of reim-

#### **Top News Report**

KULGAM, May 5: A vital road connecting Kund valley with Qazigund in Devsar belt area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district has collapsed even as locals demand immediate repair work on the road. According to the locals this road is the shortest road connecting Kund valley with Qazigund belt via Watihal has collapsed, which posing



in the rainy season or when the water in canal is released then due to broken banks .the canal water entrs residential areas and the whole settlement gets polluted. Kesri further said that the irrigation canal

ed efforts were made to make the government pay attention to this burning issue, but the concern to hoodwink gullible people take eyewash action which later on causes immense hardships for locals as when

Kumar, Dheeraj Kumar, Ghara Ram Captain Om Prakash Darshana Devi Suman Devi Neeru Devi Rajni Devi Vijay Kumari Surjit Kumar, Bhajanlal, Ramdas, Ram Data ,Jagjivan Singh besides others.

#### ian has seen a tremendous influx of Indian tourists visiting the country. A recent study indicated that the number of Indian visitors traveling to Azerbaijan almost doubled to 120,000 in 2023, which is a 100% increase in tourism as compared to the previous year.\*

To cater to this attractive destination, leading telecom operator Vi has announced new international roaming packs for Azerbaijan and 12 other African countries. Vi Postpaid users traveling to Azerbaijan and African countries such as Cameroon, Sudan, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, Liberia, (EquatoGet Inte

rial) Guinea, Swaziland, South Sudan, Benin, Uganda, Zambia, and Guinea Bissau, can now eniov seamless connectivity with international roaming packs starting at just Rs 749. Vi Postpaid users will have a variety of options including a 24-hour pack, a 10-day pack, a 14-day pack, and a 30-day pack to stay connected while travelling abroad. Vi also has an 'ALWAYS ON'

feature which protects users from high International Roaming Charges for any usage after pack expiry.

Vi is committed to providing the best international roaming packs tailored to meet the needs of every traveler. With these added countries, Vi users can avail hassle free international roaming packs at value prices in 117 countries worldwide.



a grave threat to the safety of commuters. "It has been months

admin should take imme-

a local.

now that the road is in dilapidated condition. Commuters face a lot of hardships as the road is full of danger that end up hindering smooth traffic movement," said They said that the

diate steps to repair the road as thousands of people are using it for daily commuting. When Contacted, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) PMGSY Kulgam, Manzoor Ahmad Dar, said that matter has been already taken up with the higher ups for repairing of the road.

### Ladakh surpasses last year achievement in **MSME schemes implementation**

#### **Top News Report**

LEH, May 5: MSME-DNC, Ladakh the field office of Ministry of MSME, implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector for Ladakh with jurisdiction of both District Leh and Kargil. The activities including Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Program, Procurement Marketing Support Scheme Awareness Program, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Program, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Workshop, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Program, Management



Development Program, Reimbursement of Barcode Expenditure, Reimbursement of Stall Charges, To and From Charges, Advertising Expenditure for participating in various exhibitions conducted in all parts of the Country. MSME Development

Nucleus Cell Office inaugurated officially by Narayan Tatue Rane, Union Minister of MSME through VC on 14/02/2024 in the presence of Jamyang Tsering Namgyal MP of Ladakh, Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS Principal Secretary Industries and

Commerce, Tashi Kachu, Chairman, Ladakh Chamber of Industries & Commerce and other dignitaries, the event was Coordinated by G.Velladurai, IEDS, Joint Director, MSME DFO Jammu, J&K. During the financial year Ladakh organized 09 programs covering EAP's, IPR's, PM Vishwakarma Seminar's &Workshop and PMS awareness program benefitting 3505 participants covering both the Districts of Leh and Kargil of Ladakh including far flung areas like Rupsho, Kharsa, Vill. Phyang compared to 120 participants benefited in the 2 programs organized in the financial year 2022-23 in District Leh of Ladakh. These achievements were made possible through the dedicated work of Sonam Targias and Thinles Tsomo who were looking after the activities in the office.

2023-24 MSME DNC

# Jodhamal students emerge Best **Delegation in GDMUN'24**

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, May 5; Jodhamal delegation at GDMUN'24 was adjudged the Best Delegation by virtue of their quality contribution to the success of the GDMUN'24.

GDMUN is a prestigious annual fixture hosted by GD Goenka School, Jammu and is looked forward to by many Jammu Schools. A dedicated group of 34 students represented Jodhamal Public School at GDMUN'24 and exceeded all expectations with their insightful debates and innovative resolutions, addressing pressing global challenges.

The bright Jodhamal participants who contributed to this remarkable achievement include Aviral Kapoor: Best Delegate (UNSC), Navaj Anand: Best Delegate (Journalism), Guhika Sachdev: Best Delegate (UNCSW), Moksh

Sharma: High Commendation (Photography), Shaurya Jamwal: High Commendation (UNSC), Nirjara: High Com mendation (Journalism), Samiah Sami: Special Mention (UNHRC), Jasmeh: Special Mention(Journalism), Divyansh: Special Mention (Lok Sabha), Soham: Special Mention (UNHRC), Manya: Special Mention(Journalism), Raunak Gandhi: Special Mention (UNSC), Advitya: Verbal Mention (UNSC), Amay: Verbal Mention (UNHRC), Adhvik: Verbal Mention (Lok Sabha), Subah: Verbal Mention (UNHRC), Armaan:

Verbal Mention (Lok Sabha) and Yuvin: Verbal Mention (UNHRC). All the students were given the Certificates of Achievement and mementos. Jodhamal School received the Best Delegation Trophy. Speaking on this occasion Nandan Kuthiala. Trustee of the School said, "Winning the Best

forces our strong belief in providing a sturdy platform for our students in debating and other orastudents.

tory skills where they can express their ideas without any bias and inhibitions. This accomplishment reflects not only the school's commitment to nurturing young leaders but also its ability to foster critical thinking and diplomacy in the next generation of

Delegation Trophy rein-

These students were mentored by Mubeen, Anjali Mahajan and Raghunandan.

Furthermore, Nandan Kuthiala, Trustee, Arati Kuthiala, Director, Girish Kumar, Principal and Amita Arora, Vice Principal of the School extended their hearty congratulations to the teachers and the entire team for their remarkable achievement. Their guidance and mentorship have played a pivotal role in shaping these young minds for success.

# **OP-ED**

# **EDITORIAL**

### CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

onservation of biodiversity is vital for maintaining the Earth's environment and sustaining life on the planet. There are a number of ways in which the richness of biodiversity helps in maintaining the ecological system. Conservation of biodiversity is important for the survival of living beings on Earth. Hence, a lot of emphases is being given on the conservation of biodiversity these days.

Due to human activities, numerous varieties of animals go extinct each year. Western Black Rhinoceros, Dodo, Tasmanian tiger, Golden Toad, Woolly Mammoth, Caribbean Monk Seal, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and Japanese Sea Lion are some of the species of animals that have gone extinct.

Lemur, Mountain Gorilla, Vaquita, Sea Turtles, Amur Leopard, and Tiger are some of the species that are on the verge of extinction. Apart from these many species of plants and trees including Lepidodendron, Araucaria Mirabilis, Wood Cycad and Kokia Cookie have gone extinct and many species are endangered.

Earth is a beautiful planet which has given us many things which occur naturally. Natural resources, rivers, valleys, oceans, different species of animals and beautiful varieties of plants and trees are among some of these.

In today's world, we are busy developing our surroundings and spoiling our beautiful environment. Today, we have exploited most of the things that were available abundantly in nature. Thus, there arises a need to conserve these natural things. Among other things, there is a serious need for the conservation of biodiversity.

Conservation of biodiversity is important for many reasons. Here are some of the main reasons to conserve biodiversity:

Process of Food Chain: Different species of animals and plants serve as the source of food for other animals and living organisms. Thus, conserving biodiversity help to keep the food chain among the living organisms.

Nutritional Needs: The decline in the variety of plants and animals would mean the decline in the variety of food we eat. So, this is likely to result in nutritional deficiencies.

Cleaner Air: Plants and trees have a greater ability to purify the air and keep the atmosphere clean. As there is a decrease in the number and types of trees and plants, it

### Jai Maharashtra! Jai India! May the worthy succeed...

#### By: Shobhaa De

The state I proudly belong to (Maharashtra) was established in 1960. The Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti was actively demanding the formation of a separate state from 1956. The States Reorganisation Commission recommended the formation of states based on language, leading to the Bombay Reorganisation Act and the subsequent birth of two separate states on May 1, 1960 -- Maharashtra and Gujarat. Significantly, Maharashtra Diwas and Gujarat Gaurav Din overlap with International Labour Day, or Kamgar Din. And I hardly hear Marathi being spoken these days. Maharashtrians prefer Minglish!

This year, the "din" in Maharashtra is deafening, as various political parties are busy slugging it out noisily as our D-Day approaches. The average voter is thoroughly confused, and rightly so. Very few know or care which "Sena" is in the fray -- the cast of characters is the same, but are standing under different leaking umbrellas. Asli Sena ya Naqli Sena ... Ki farak penda, pappey! The unprecedented heatwave across the state is discouraging participation, as voters ask themselves tiredly: "Isn't it the same set of crooks who've looted Mumbai, taken citizens for a ride, and are now asking for our votes?" Never before have the candidates displayed such naked opportunism as they leave one party to hop on to another party's bandwagon, after ensuring that their backsides are adequately covered. Who can keep track of these turncoats?

Family politics (Pawars) have little to do with ideology and development -- it is all about sharing the loot. "Ideology is passe", declared veteran leader Ram Naik. In all this, the Marathi Manoos is nowhere. Nepo netas, like nepo Bollywood bachchas, are hogging all the key seats, while the voter is being treated like a simple-minded fool, who'll trot up obediently on voting day, and do as he or she is told. No chance!

Whether in my home state or elsewhere in India, the canny voter instinctively knows what's in his/ her interest. Sick of the same old lies and unfulfilled promises, the voter is ready and armed to stage a stealth attack and seize this crucial election, and proving the pundits wrong once again.

Perhaps this is mere wishful thinking. But female intuition comes with its own logic. Women read "moods" very acutely -- be it their husband's, children's or the country's. Looking at the tepid second phase of voting, it's pretty apparent that the tide is turning... and will turn further. Voters are sick of the bombast and chestthumping, name calling and fake economic forecasts. For those who insist the Western media is meddling in our affairs -- yes, indeed, the Western media is closely monitoring each phase. That is the job of the media. Are their reports malicious and slanted? Perhaps. Are Western countries only interested in how their own economies will benefit if the election results overwhelmingly favour the BJP? No argument. Does any foreign nation really and truly care about India and Indians, beyond their own self-interest? You know the answer.

The voter has a strong, analytical, capable mind that is not as easily brainwashed as the Western media believes. All the firangi self-styled intellectuals and financial analysts who show up to tell us what we should be doing, "for our own good", should be served rooh-afza, baraf ke saath, as they zip around the country, and told to chill in their luxury SUVs, while the natives go about their lives. Intelligence-gathering is a cushy job. But it's worth remembering that our home-grown psephologists too have consistently got it wrong and misread the mood of the electorate. No matter what level of rigging and EVM tampering takes place, the Indian voter cannot be hoodwinked or beaten.

Having said that, if despite the mass ennui and voter fatigue, the BJP does manage to form the next government at the Centre, critics will have to eat their words, suffer indigestion and concede the win in the true democratic spirit that the old India we love has always cherished. Alas, only the very naïve and overly optimistic commentator can confidently claim that the INDIA alliance will win. The odds are heavily stacked against this motley, ragtag group that has flopped miserably at providing even a semblance of a united and strong Opposition. The tepid comeback has come too late, and there isn't enough ammo in the salvos aimed at the BJP to damage that party. Yes, there is some sympathetic public cluckclucking for the underdog, and outrage over the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal. But none of this is sufficient to provide a cohesive counter narrative. Which is really a shame, given how Emotional IQ is such a valued attribute in our country. The right buttons should have been pressed two years ago by those whose ambitions were soaring unrealistically. So many missed opportunities! Hey Devaa! The electoral bonds issue, for one. The draconian misuse of the ED, functioning more like the dreaded Gestapo than a respected government agency. These were tipping points that could have been better leveraged by the INDIA bloc to alert voters about the dangers of authoritarian rule. But INDIA blew it!

No matter. The wisdom, resilience and practicality of the Indian voter has always but always come through when most needed. While foreign investment forecasts are gung-ho about a clean sweep, and the markets are heady, even euphoric at the prospect of a Modiled India, with financial top dogs predicting big gains, there are also watchful skeptics on the sidelines, quietly hedging their bets. The only debate worth engaging in is the JODO versus TODO one. The hope is that citizens will vote for long-term political/financial stability and religious harmony (JODO) over divisive politics and hate (TODO). Frankly, the former is better for business. And which young Indian does not dream in technicolour? That dreamer will instinctively vote for the party that creates jobs, provides opportunities. The time for theatrics is over. Nautanki entertains. But does not put food on empty tables. The hungry, unemployed Indian is an angry Indian. The word to describe such a person is "hangry". Ignore "hang-er" at your own peril. And oh... there are enough life lessons provided by our magnificent cricket heroes. Young boys like fruitseller Abdul Rashid's 22-year-old son Umran Malik from Jammu city, who has made it to Team India, despite there being no playground in his area. No godfather. No nothing. Just pure grit, determination and talent. Tomorrow's India belongs to him... and all others like him. Move over, hasbeens. Your time is over.

# The Revanna scandal isn't about sex, but criminality

#### By: Indranil Banerjie

here is nothing new about politicians and sexual misconduct. The list is long found to be the genetic parent on a young man, whom he refused to legitimise despite the evidence.

Several Indian politicians have literally been caught with their pants down. The list includes personages like Suresh Ram (son of Babu Jagjivan Ram), BJP leader Raghavji, the brilliant Congress leader Abhishek "Manu" Singhvi, one-time Rajasthan minister Mahipal Maderna, Dhruv Narayan Singh, the BSP's Purushottam Naresh Dwivedi, Samajwadi minister Gayatri Prasad Prajapati, former BJP MLA from Unnao Kuldeep Singh Sengar, and many more. The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) counted 134 sitting Members of Parliament (21 MPs) and Legislative Assemblies (113 MLAs) who have cases related to crimes against women. The charges include gangrape, rape and murder, sexual harassment and so on. The latest to join this dubious league is Karnataka's 33-year-old Member of Parliament Prajwal Revanna, who belongs to the Janata Dal (Secular) and happens to be the grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda. Mr Revanna has emerged as a satyr fond of ravaging women without their consent and would have got away with it had it not been for the leak of a pen drive containing an astonishing 3,000 or so explicit videos apparently shot by the member himself. The MP and his father have also been accused of sexual harassment by a woman who worked as their cook. A police case has been registered against both father and son but the latter is said to have fled the country, and is believed to be in Germany.

coming as it does in the midst of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. The Opposition has been circulating photographs showing the absconding offender with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and suggesting that this is typical of the kind of people the BJP supports. The Janata Dal (S) happens to be an electoral ally of the BJP in the state. The public focus of the Revanna case is on its sexual aspect, the MP's enormous appetite for coitus and unrestrained exploitation of vulnerable women. He is projected as a sex fiend with support from the country's most powerful personage. The focus on sex, unfortunately, detracts from the true and more serious aspect of the episode: its obvious criminality. Ironically, in India today, criminality is no longer considered as sensational as sexual misconduct. The Revanna episode therefore is egregious not so much because of its sexual nature but because it suggests unrestrained and habitual delinquency that has continued with impunity over time. The core issue is that of a politician having forcible sex with women who are powerless to resist or speak up. Sexual profligacy might be distasteful, but it is not abhorrent in itself as long as there is no element of force, brutality, harassment, blackmail or compulsion involved. Thus, for instance, the Nehru-Edwina relationship evokes no outrage since it was between two consenting adults and not something involving coercion or force.

political class. It is not a matter of one political party or another; it is a generic problem spread across the political spectrum. The average politician today considers himself to be a super citizen with super privileges, who can get away with virtually anything. That constitutes a huge and present danger. It is unfortunate that criminality and the related problem of corruption of the political class per se does not cause any outrage in this country. Neither is it an election issue. Not surprisingly, both criminality and the power of the political class in India is growing. The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) estimates that criminality in politics is rising. In the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, 15 per cent candidates across political parties had declared criminal cases against them; this figure rose to 17 per cent in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls and to 19 per cent in the 2019 elections. In the ongoing elections, in the third phase alone, 18 per cent out of 1,352 candidates have declared criminal cases against them; in the second and first phases, this figure was 21 and 16 per cent respectively. The ADR observed: "This data clearly shows that political parties have no interest in reforming the electoral system and our democracy will continue to suffer at the hands of lawbreakers who become lawmakers." The Indian politician today is designated as a "dignitary" who goes around with armed guards, cars flashing red lights, pays no toll, gets free medical and other facilities and in some cases free club membership as well. Some clearly feel they are even entitled to free sex. Welcome to the criminal republic.

impacts the quality of air in a negative way.

Better Cultivation of Crops: Fertility of soil is maintained by many insects, organisms and microorganisms work on different levels. So we have to maintain the level of microorganism which is better for the cultivation of crops.

For Medical Reasons: For making different medicines many species of trees and plants are used so as to cure various diseases.

The greater the population the higher the needs which would result in further exploitation of flora and fauna and decline in biodiversity. For the conservation of biodiversity, we have to control the human population and allow other species of plants and animals to replenish on our planet.

The changing climate, deteriorating air quality and the growing amount of pollution on land and water bodies are leading to different types of diseases in many. It is essential to reduce the activities leading to pollution so as to conserve biodiversity.

Due to deforestation, there is the loss of habitat. Due to this reason, wild animals are unable to survive in the new environment and die.

We need to understand that natural resources are not only essential for us but are also vital for the survival of other species. We must thus utilize only as much as we require them so that these remain available in abundance in nature for future use.

Apart from this, one of the best methods to conserve biodiversity is by spreading awareness. The government can do so at a bigger level while we can spread awareness by word of mouth and through social media. Conservation of biodiversity is of utmost importance. We must all make efforts to conserve biodiversity rather than contributing towards its declination. Thus, the richness of biodiversity is essential for the survival of living beings on Earth. and the accompanying outrage well documented. Recall how the world had gasped at the discovery of an episode involving a young intern in America's White House and the then President of the United States. Mercifully, most such cases are quickly forgotten. How many would remember the case of actor and former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger fathering a child with his housekeeper? The legendary Franklin D. Roosevelt is said to have had a mistress while John F. Kennedy was known to have had extra-marital affairs.

Sexual shenanigans in the United States started with its founding fathers and continues with the shameful lawsuits involving the previous US President.

India too has not been without its share of sex scandals involving politicians. India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru is said to have had a relationship with Edwina Mountbatten, the wife of the last British Viceroy, although some historians have declared that it was entirely platonic. Many politicians, including at least one Prime Minister, have had questionable sexual relationships, but the Indian media has tended to be remarkably restrained on such issues.

Only when the evidence has been thrust into public view has the media reacted, as was with the sensational case of Congress stalwart Narain Dutt Tewari, a not particularly attractive individual, who was seen in bed with three women at one time. He was subsequently

The Prajwal Revanna case has acquired political overtones,

The Revanna case is reflective of a much larger problem that is not debated as much as it ought to be, and that is the increasingly unrestrained power of the Indian

# **LOCAL**

# Khatana condemns terrorist attack on IAF warriors

'Kashmir people should vote for some honest candidate, BJP will win Ladakh'

#### **Top News Report**

BILLAWAR, May 5: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has condemned the terrorist attack on Indian Air Force (IAF) warriors in which one warrior was martyred and five others injured

Speaking at a sports event in Billawar tehsil of district Kathua. Khatana said that the terror attack is the outcome of frustration among militants ranks who are being continuously eliminated after the government led by PM Modi has given a free hand to security forces by adopting zero tolerance policy against terrorism.

Appreciating the people of Billawar the MP lauded the brotherhood and amity existing in the area. He assured all the required developments in the area for the welfare of the people of Billawar.

"In the last 10 years of BJP rule led by PM Modi every nook and corner of our country has seen historic developments," he maintained adding: "The third term of PM Modi to helm the affairs of our country will see more developments.' Answering to a reporter

Khatana said that people of Kashmir should vote to an honest candidate in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections and they should not elect the traditional

parties which have only brought bloodshed and uncertainty in Kashmir. The senior BJP leader expressed confidence that BJP will emerge as a winner from the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat.

"People of Ladakh know that Congress during its long tenure in the country has done nothing for Ladakh so the people of Ladakh don't believe the big promises of either Congress of other members of INDI alliance," Khatana further said.

He said that BJP will cross the mark of 400 Lok Sabha seats this year which will pave the way for PM Modi to take the reins of the country for one more time.

### Modi is creating hate among Hindus towards **Muslims in India: Rajesh**

minister of trying to "create hatred" in the country and said "we are against it"."He is creating hatred among Hindus towards Muslims. Rajesh Gupta said, "Modi's economic policies had ruined the nation and pushed people into sufferings. Unemployment is on the rise and we are worse than countries like Nigeria in poor index. GST is being imposed on pencil, hospital beds and even on last rites.' Gupta came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging

#### that "When he came to power in 2014, he used to raise the issue of the price of LPG cylinders. The price of a domestic gas cylinder was Rs 400 at that time. He used to raise the issue of price

rise, unemployment ..

He accused the prime

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 5: Bahu-

jan Samaj Party General

Secretary and Media

Head Rajesh Gupta

accused Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi on

Sunday of trying to create

a fear psychosis among

Hindus to stay in power

and said he no longer

talks about the issues of

the common people that

propelled him to the top

post in 2014.

#### Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) on Sunday visited R.S Pura's Chohala Village and distributed text and note books among the poor students.

Members appreciated the students' efforts that despite being in accute poverty, they have con-





tinued with their studies.

Speaking on the occa-

#### **Top News Report**

R.S.PURA, May 5: sion, the JKBS General Secretary R.L Kaith said to students, 'No good life is possible without education. It indorses the intelligence of human beings, develops his skill, and enables him to be industrious. It

ensures his progress and also channelizes the undeveloped capacities, attitude, interest,

urges and needs of the individual into desirable channels"

Members as such urged the students to focus on their studies and at the same time ensure that they remained healthy. Among the JKBS members who visited there included Messers Hans

Raj Loria, Havildar Des Raj, Sohan Lal, Jagdish Raj and Sukhdev.

### **NC City President demands** early completion of Govt **Polytechnic college buildings** of Kishtwar

#### **Top News Report**

KISHTWAR, May 5: National Conference City President Kishtwar, Naseer Bagwan on Sunday demanded early completion of Govt. Polytechnic College buildings which are at Cherhar Kishtwar While issuing press

note, he said that the engineering students required better infrastructure, better facilities to learn about the engineering.

He said the same location for construction of new infrastructure, buildings was sanctioned by the then National Confrence Vice President and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah and former MLA and Home Minister Sajjad Ahmed Kitchloo but the present government and administration has lingered it on without any reason resulting the loss of infrastructure.

He said the district administration of Kishtwar should strong note of it and take up the issue with UT and central government for early completion of the same college which would help to give better more subjects to the pupils, aspirants of engineering

### SDH Bhaderwah drubs DHS Doda in friendly cricket match

#### **Top News Report**

DODA, May 5: To pay tribute and homage to the legendary Cricketer and Rtd DHO Doda Dr Tarig Masood for his remarkable contribution to the game of cricket, the District Health Society in collaboration with District Administration Doda host one day cricket exhibition match in his memory at Sports Stadium Doda on Sunday (05-05-2024) under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhivan, in which SDH Bhaderwah team thrashed DHS Doda by 04 wickets. Earlier before the start of the

match, the event was formally inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Doda Sh Harvinder Singh along with CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar, Inam ul Haq (Son of Late Dr Tarig Masood) and other dignitaries, whereas a two minutes silence was also observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

The District Health Society Doda team was led by Harvinder Singh, who is Deputy Commissioner Doda, while the SDH Bhaderwah team was led by Captain Dr Mohd Ashraf (BMO Bhaderwah)



field first. Batting first, DHS Doda was all out for just 91 runs in 13.4 overs. Ashok Shan was the top scorer with 23 runs, while Harvinder Singh scored 13 runs to the team. From SDH Bhaderwah, Naveed Khan scalped 3 wickets. while Dr Subhash Sharma and Kulwant Singh shared 02 wickets each

super striking first batting order and with the help of some middle order batsman helped the team to achieve the target with one over left by losing their 06 wickets. Dr Touseef Malik was the highest scorer from who made 20 runs while Dr Mohd Ashraf and Arshad Zaffar contributed 19 and 14 runs respectively. From DHS Doda, Irshad Malik grabbed 03 wickets

Naveed Khan of SDH Bhaderwah was declared as Man of the Match for his brilliant all-round performance

The prize distribution ceremony was attended by ADC Doda Sh Sudershan Singh, CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar, Chief Accounts Officer GMC Doda Sh Mohd Iqbal Ganai, BMO Ghat Dr Ab Gafoor, EO MC Doda Sh Amit Sharma.

of Late Dr Tariq Masood, Civil Society Members and officials from Health Department Doda who distributed prizes among both the teams.

Later on ADC Doda along with CMO Doda presented an Award of Appreciation (Posthumous Award) and Memonto to Inam ul Haq Son of Late Dr Tariq Masood, in recognition of his selfless and dedicated services in the department and social work.

On this occasion, a plege on Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan was also taken by both the teams and dignitaries present during the match

CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar in his speech thanked Distt. Administration & other allied departments for their support in making the event a resounding success and also recalled the dedicated services rendered by Late Dr Tariq Masood.

While speaking on the occasion, ADC Doda Sh Sudershan Singh lauded the efforts of CMO Doda and congratulated both the teams for exhibiting their cricketing skill in the match.

The match was officiated by Ifroz Hussain, Parmod Singh, Vinod Kumar Khalid Hussain Nehaan Butt and Javed Ahmed Butt.

### **SKUAST-J organizes** educational visit for **Stephens International Public School students**

tion

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 5: Stephens International Public School (SIPS) embarked on an enriching educational journey as 160 students and eight staff members led by Yogeshwar and Ms Sarabjeet visited the Faculty of Agriculture at SKUAST-Jammu. Prof. Anil Kumar Sharma, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, aimed to provide students with firsthand exposure to agricultural practices and innovations.

Upon arrival, Prof. Ravinder Singh welcomed the SIPS delegation to the campus and provided an overview of the day's itinerary.

Prof. Parshant Bakshi, Head of the Division of Fruit Science and Head of the Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, delivered a captivating presentation on the University's initiatives and the significance of sericulture and apiculture in sustainable agriculture.

The highlight of the visit was the insightful session led by Prof. Kamlesh Bali, who demonstrated the intricate process of silk produc-

From the stages of larva to cocoon, students gained practical insights into the life cycle of silkworms, fostering a deeper understanding for this vital agricultural practice.

Throughout the visit, students were actively engaged, with Marvi Khajuria, Sukanya Bharti, Sidhant, and Devyanshu assisting in ensuring its smooth execution. Their enthusiasm and dedication were instrumental in making the experience both educational and enjoyable. As the day concluded, the students and staff expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Bakshi, Prof. Kamlesh Bali, and

the entire SKUAST-J community for organizing this enlightening experience. The visit not only sparked curiosity but also instilled a sense of environmental consciousness and agricultural innovation among the students, paving the way for future collaborations and endeavors in the field of agriculture which is the focus of NEP 2020 to provide students with skill devel-

opment.

Earlier, SDH Bhaderwah after winning the toss elected to the

In reply while chasing the allotted target, SDH Bhaderwah

while Jahangir Mehta and Ajay Singh shared 01 wicket each.

BMO Bhaderwah Dr Mohd Ashraf besides family members

## **Director Horticulture Jammu conducts** extensive tour of District Ramban

#### **Top News Report**

RAMBAN, May 5: Director Horticulture Jammu Chaman Lal Sharma, on Sunday conducted two days extensive tour of District Ramban.

He was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Ramban, Manager cum Chemist, District Horticulture Officers, Farm Manager ACHD Ramban, Horticulture Development officer and other staff of the Department.

The tour was aimed to chalk out plans for development of departmental nurseries on scientific lines with latest facilities under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP). During inspection of Govt. Fruit Plant Nursery Batote, the Director stressed the need to prepare a plan for its up gradation on scientific lines by incorporating latest equipments/ machinery and installation of Micro-Irrigation system for the mother blocks.

He visited the private nursery namely Sadae- bahar at Darmund, Ramban established by an entrepreneur Abdul Qadoos, with the assistance of the department wherein he inspected the nursery plant material stock and other facilities available.

He guided the entrepreneur to modernize the nursery with latest technological interventions for production of quality planting material of High Density cultivars. Acknowledging the

importance of quality planting material in establishment of orchards, the Director inspected the Advanced Centre for Horticulture Development Farm at Ramban and laid emphasis on the need for modernization and development under HADP.

He instructed the farm manager to upgrade the Hi-tech poly house structures with latest equipments.

The Director underscored the importance of divisional level farm for imparting training to the new recruits as well as to the aspiring private entrepreneurs on scientific lines enabling them to acquire advance skills in plant propagation techniques and nursery management practices. This will also equip the youth technically for establishment of private nurseries and orchards thereby generating employment opportunities for them. During the visit, the Director addressed a

large gathering of farmers at Ramban and elaborated the details of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme providing incentives / assistance for the welfare of the farming community

ering about the main components of the programme and asked them to apply online for different Govt. schemes through Kissan SATHI-Dashboard. He urged them to avail the benefits on different components of the schemes viz: Plantation, Protected cultivation, Water harvesting tanks, Drip irrigation, Custom Hiring Centres, Machniery, Processing units, Nursery establishment etc. for upliftment of their socio- economic status.

Later, the Director Horticulture took a meeting of the Extension and Nursery staff in order to review the scenario of

Horticulture in Ramban District. During the meeting he directed to percolate the benefits of the Centrally sponsored as well as UT CAPEX schemes at the grass root level so that the farming community may be benefitted at large.

The chair also listened to the problems of the staff patiently and assured to address their genuine demands. All the staff members of Ramban, Ramsoo, Banihal & Gool attended the meeting.

At the outset of meeting, Chief Horticulture Officer Ramban Anil Kumar Gorka welcomed the Director Horticulture and briefed about the status of Public Sector nurseries and works going on in the field. Farm Manager ACHD, Govindpura, Ramban Virinder Kumar also remained present during the meeting and briefed the chair about the farm activities and production status of the Plants. Among others, Manager cum Chemist Anil Chhibber, DLSMS Sandeep Sharma, HDO's Abhinav Gupta and Sunil Gupta were also present during the meeting.

### **Electricity woes continue** unabated in Kulgam, Abbas **Rather demands adequate** power supply



#### **Top News Report**

KULGAM, May 5: While expressing serious concern over the precarious power situation in Kulgam, DDC Member Mohamad Abass Rather said the electricity woes continue unabated in Kulgam district. Even in this season of the year people in Kashmir valley have to bear the brunt of power crisis. The government must

provide uninterrupted power supply to people , he said in a statement. "No power schedule is being followed on ground and even metered areas are facing long and

unscheduled power cuts. People living in rural and far-flung areas of the district are without electricity. People are compelled to arrange alternate sources of illumination since they are facing the worst power crisis. The people in some areas have to face low voltage," he said adding that due to the unbearable hike in tariffs, the anxieties of the people have been deepened.

The decision of the administration is highly unjustified and is bound to make common people to suffer more. As such it need to be withdrawn.

He sensitized the gath-

# **ENTERTAINMENT**

Top News of J&K Jammu, Sunday, May 05, 2024

# Kareena Kapoor Khan appointed UNICEF India National Ambassador

She will support the not-for-profit organisation in furthering every child's right to early childhood development

UNICEF India announced Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador.

6

The 'Crew' star, who has been associated with UNICEF India since 2014, will support the notfor-profit organisation in furthering every child's right to early childhood development, health, education and gender equality, a press release said.

Kareena had earlier served as a Celebrity Advocate for UNICEF India.

"There are few things as important as the rights of children, the future generation of this world. I am honoured to continue my association with UNICEF now as India's National Ambassador," the 43-year-old actor said in a statement.

"I will strive to use my voice and influence for vulnerable children and their rights, especially around early childhood, education and gender equality. For every child deserves a childhood, a fair chance, a future," she added.

Besides Kareena, UNICEF India has also appointed its first-



ever Youth Advocates, who are peer leaders and champions on issues like climate action, mental health, innovations and Girls in STEM (science, techand disability inclusion; Kartik Verma from Uttar Pradesh on climate action and child rights advocacy; singer Nahid Afrin from Assam on mental health and early childhood development; and Vinisha Umashankar, budding innovator and STEM pioneer, from Tamil Nadu.

"These youth advocates are part of UNICEF's global programme and join a cohort of more than 93 youth advocates who have been appointed across the globe and are driving change on issues concerning children and young people," UNICEF India said.

UNICEF India Representative Cynthia McCaffrey said she is delighted to welcome Kareena as the National Ambassador.

"She has brought energy and impact through her support to several national and global campaigns. She joins as UNICEF India National Ambassador together with our four Youth Advocates to the UNICEF family. We look forward to working with her and the four youth advocates to continue advocating for child rights," she added.

### Sonakshi Sinha enjoys gossip session with rumoured boyfriend Zaheer Iqbal, Huma Qureshi

Fans got a peek into

their friendship, creating

a memorable and enjoy-

Zaheer Igbal, shared

a picture on his Insta-

gram stories, featur-

ing himself with Son-

akshi Sinha and Huma

able moment

Qureshi



Actor Sonakshi Sinha, who is currently basking in the success of her new web series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar,' had a pleasant reunion with rumoured beau Zaheer lqbal and her close friend Huma Qureshi. In his caption, 'Long overdue GOSS session,' Zaheer hinted at an exciting catch-up session.

Huma also reposted the picture on her Instagram stories with a caption that read, 'My Heeras,' offering fans a glimpse into their enjoyable bonding time.

The recently released web show, 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', marked the OTT debut of muchloved director Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

Through the stories of courtesans and their patrons, the series delves deep into the cultural reality of Heeramandi.

Starring a talented ensemble cast including Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Sheikh, Sharmin Segal, Taha Shah Badussha, Shekhar Suman and Adhyayan Suman, 'Heeramandi' got released on May 1 on Netflix.

### Parineeti Chopra shares clip of her 'real debut'; 'Where's Raghav', asks Twitterati

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra, who is winning accolades for her work in the recently-released streaming movie 'Amar Singh Chamkila', has shared rare footage of her singing debut.

The actress took to her X handle and shared an old clip from her school days, in which she could be seen singing with a group of kids.

'My real debut,' she wrote.

However, the Twitterati in the comments section seemed more concerned about the whereabouts of her husband and Aam Aadmi Party leader Raghav Chadha, who has gone 'underground' for some time now. One user wrote, 'Where is Raghav these days?'



### Broad necklines, fuller sleeves, choli-cut anarkalis: Designers decode 'Heeramandi' style

From the sets to the costumes and jewellery, everything filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali does to tell a story is dazzling. Designer duo Rimple and Harpreet, who made over 300 costumes for the director's debut series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', have decoded each outfit and revealed what they kept in mind while making it.

nology, engineering and math-

The four advocates are

Gauranshi Sharma from

Madhya Pradesh on right to play

ematics).

Harpreet said that in crafting the costumes, they employed various techniques to accentuate their beauty and grace.

"Broad necklines were deliberately chosen to highlight their exquisite body forms, enhancing their allure and presence on screen. Additionally, these necklines provided ample space to showcase stunning jewellery pieces, adding an extra layer of



the body in all the right places, accentuating their curves and exuding sensuality and femininity," said Harpreet.

Known for spotlighting the traditional marori work in their creations, the designer duo shared that each garment was meticulously crafted to celebrate the beauty and strength of these remarkable women.

Anarkalis got the spotlight it deserved in 'Heeramandi'. Does it make a comeback into the wardrobe after the show?

"In our perspective, anarkalis have always stood the test of time," said Rimple.

"As guardians of Indian vintage silhouettes and fashion, we've consistently showcased anarkalis as a prominent section of our merchandise. Their timeless appeal lies in their flattering form, which complements any body type with its graceful and flowing design," added Harpreet. Rimple said that they "believe in celebrating the enduring elegance of anarkalis, ensuring that they remain a staple in our store's collection, embodying the essence of traditional Indian fashion with a touch of modern flair."

'When is he coming back? We are concerned,' wrote another. A third user wrote, went viral with

'How is @raghav\_ chadha ? When is he back?' Earlier, the actress was trolled for her stage singing debut. A clip of her singing 'Aaj Jaane Ki Zid Na Karo'

, went viral with people on social media urging her

not to sing. She was again trolled after a clip of her singing a Punjabi song from 'Amar Singh Chamkila' during the film's trailer launch went viral. opulence to their attire," he said. Rimple spoke about the importance of fuller sleeves.

"Furthermore, we opted for fuller sleeves to imbue the women with an air of elegance and poise befitting their status as powerful courtesans. The flowing sleeves not only added a sense of sophistication but also contributed to their commanding presence in every scene,"



she added.

Then there was a number of choli-cut anarkalis which added a touch of femininity.

"To enhance the natural curves of the body, we incorporated a significant number of choli-cut anarkalis. These designs hug

### Shekhar Suman defends Sanjay Leela Bhansali for making actors wait for a long time: 'You can't complain...'

Shekhar Suman has been praising Sanjay Leela Bhansali while promoting his recent release Heeramandi. The actor, who plays a crucial role in the OTT show, has worked with the filmmaker for the first time. In a recent interview, Shekhar defended the director against complaints that he keeps actors waiting for long hours.

Shekhar says an actor should prep like a soldier

Shekhar was asked about the filmmaker's meticulous process resulting in delayed shoot for actors. The Heeramandi actor opined, "It's like a soldier waiting for the enemy to attack. He wouldn't say, 'I've been waiting for 12 hours, now I want to go home'. Does it happen? No, he's there! Whenever the enemy comes, he starts firing. It doesn't matter if it's snowing or if it's hot. An actor has to have the preparedness of a soldier."

'You can't complain about losing your concentration'

He further added, "Even if Mr Bhansali says you keep doing it for two days, three days, you keep doing it if you're an actor. You can't complain about losing your concentration. Then get the hell out, you have no business being an actor. Whenever you look

Whenever you look back, you will look back with so much glee and pride. And that's why one has so much respect for him. Everybody gets impatient, but that's not losing your temper. There is time and money involved, other actors are waiting



because of your lack of understanding... That becomes unfair to the director. They way he pampers his actors it's no one's business."

About Heeramandi Heeramandi is set in the backdrop of Indian Independence movement against the British Raj in the 1910s-1940s. The series depicts the lives of courtesans of the red-light district of Heera Mandi in Lahore. Shekhar portrays the character of Nawab Zulfikar in the show, while his son Adhyayan plays Nawab Zoravar Ali Khan. Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Sheikh and Sharmin Segal, Fardeen Khan and others play pivotal roles in the period drama series. Heeramandi is available for streaming on Netflix. Shekhar made his Bollywood debut with Girish Karnad's Utsav. The movie also featured Rekha, Shankar Nag, Shashi Kapoor and Amjad in crucial roles.

### Meryl Streep will be honored with a special Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival's opening ceremony on May 14

Meryl Streep will be honoured with a special Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival's opening ceremony on May 14, the organisers announced.

The Hollywood icon, who won the best actress prize at Cannes in 1989, will join the kick-off of the 77th edition at the Grand Theatre Lumiere. "I am immeasurably honoured to receive the news of this prestigious award.

To win a prize at Cannes, for the international community of artistes, has always represented the highest achievement in the art of filmmaking. To stand in the shadow of those who have previously been honoured is humbling and thrilling in equal part. I so look forward to coming to



France to thank everyone in person this May," Streep said in a statement.

She'll return to the renowned French festival, after a successful Hollywood career spanning five decades.

"We all have something in us of Meryl Streep! We all have something in us of Kramer vs. Kramer, Sophie's Choice, Out of Africa, The Bridges of Madison County, The Devil Wears Prada and Mamma Mia! Because she has spanned almost 50 years of cinema and embodied countless masterpieces, Meryl Streep is part of our collective imagination, our shared love of cinema," Cannes festival heads Iris Knobloch and Thierry Fremaux said in a joint statement.

# **NATIONAL**

# **Indian Navy performed 'miracle': Rajnath** Singh on its operations to assist merchant ships in strategic sea lanes

#### Navy has foiled attacks by pirates on several ships in the Red Sea since January 2024

NEW DELHI, May 5 (Agencies): The Indian Navy has performed a "miracle" (karishma), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said, heaping wholehearted praise for the force's numerous operations in foreign waters where it assisted several merchant ships commandeered or threatened by pirates.

In an interview to agency, Singh also dropped hints of the government's readiness to positively consider the Navy's proposal for construction of a second aircraft carrier.

The Navy has been making a strong pitch for having the second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-II) with a displacement of 45,000 tonnes which is estimated to cost close to Rs 40,000 crore with the envisaged specifications.

Exuding confidence of the National Democratic Alliance retaining power for a third straight term, he said the new government's focus would be to make India totally self-reliant in the defence sector.

Singh said India's annual



them

militants.

militants.

tance to a number of merchant

vessels in the Western Indian

Ocean, the Gulf of Aden and

strategic waterways around the

Red Sea following attacks on

Late last month, the Indian

Navy swiftly assisted a Pana-

ma-flagged crude oil tanker with

30 crew members, including 22

Indians, after the vessel came

under missile attack from Houthi

There have been growing

global concerns over attacks

on various commercial vessels

in the Red Sea by the Houthi

defence exports crossed Rs 21,000 crore mark for the first time in 2023-24 and that his ministry has set a target of increasing it to Rs 50,000 crore in the next five-six years.

"We will take it to more than Rs 50,000 crore by 2029-30," he said.

On Navy operations in the strategic waterways, Singh said the force deserves praise. "The India Navy has done

miracle. Congratulations to the Navy. (Indian Navy ne Karishma kiya. Nav ko Badhai)," he said. In the last few months, the

Indian Navy extended assis-

The Navy has foiled attacks by pirates on several ships in the region since January.

Asked about the Navy's push for a second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC), Singh indicated that it is being favourably considered.

India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant (IAC I) was commissioned in September last year.

Built at a cost of around Rs 23.000 crore. INS Vikrant has a sophisticated air defence network and anti-ship missile systems.

It has the capacity to hold 30 fighter jets and helicopters.

The Navy has been pitching for three aircraft carriers to deal with China's growing naval prowess and its growing influence over the Indian Ocean region.

At present, India has two aircraft carriers - INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant. INS Vikramaditya is a Russian

origin platform.

### Cop crushed to death by mining mafia in Madhya **Pradesh's Shahdol**

person in some case.

On the way, they saw

a sand-laden tractor-

trolley coming towards

their direction and tried

to stop it, the official

Bagri and the other

policemen gave a signal

to the driver to stop the

tractor carrying the ille-

gally mined sand. But

he did not stop and the

vehicle ran over the ASI,

After the incident, the

driver jumped from the

tractor and ran away.

The speeding vehicle

went out of control, col-

lided with a culvert and

overturned, Prateek

Driver Raj Rawat and

Ashutosh Singh, who

was piloting the vehicle,

were later arrested. The

vehicle owner. Surendra

the police official said.

said.

said.



SHAHDOL (MP), May 5 (Agencies): An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) has been crushed to death by a tractor-trolley used for transporting illegally mined sand in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district, a police official

said on Sunday. Two persons have been arrested in connection with the incident which took place on the intervening night of Saturday-Sunday in Badoli village under Beohari police station limits, 90 km from the district headquarters, Superintendent of Police Kumar Prateek told agency.

ASI Mahendra Bagri, posted at the Beohari police station, was going along with two colleagues to arrest a

Singh, is absconding, he said.

A case was registered against the accused on charges of murder and illegal sand mining under provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Mines Act, the official said.

Additional Director General of Police, Shahdol zone, DC Sagar told reporters that a reward of Rs 30,000 has been announced for anyone providing information that would help the police to arrest Surendra Singh.

'Piloting' in Shahdol is used to refer to moving ahead a vehicle while seeing the road is clear and no checking is being done by authorities

In November last year, a local revenue department official was crushed to death by a tractor-trolley used for transporting illegally mined sand from the Son river in Gopalpur area of Shahdol district.

### Man lynched in Punjab gurdwara for 'sacrilege', case filed against him

CHANDIGARH, May 5 (Agencies): A case has been registered against a 19-year-old who was beaten to death for allegedly tearing pages of the revered Guru Granth Sahib at a gurdwara in Punjab's Ferozepur. The alleged sacrilege incident took place in Bandala village.

The teenager, identified as Bakshish Singh, allegedly tore some pages of the holy book after entering the premises of a gurdwara. He was immediately caught by the people and beaten to death.

As of Sunday morning, there has been no case registered against the mob that killed Bakshish.

An investigation into the matter is underway, while the victim's body has been sent to the Civil Hospital for postmortem

According to the police, the situation escalated when Bakshish attempted to flee after tearing the pages. He was apprenended by locals, who, upon learning of the incident, gathered at the gurdwara and subjected Bakshish to severe thrashing, police said. Senior police officials, including Senior Superintendent of Police Saumya Mishra, arrived at the scene soon after the incident was reported. The police have registered an FIR against Bakshish Singh under Section 295-A of the Indian Penal Code, based

on a complaint lodged by Lakhvir Singh, chairman of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Committee.

Meanwhile, Bakshish's father, Lakhwinder Singh, said he was mentally ill and was undergoing treatment for it. Expressing anguish over the police action against his son, Lakhwinder Singh sought action against those

responsible for his son's death. Meanwhile, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee has demanded for justice and said "high-profile culprits like Dera Sirsa head Gurmeet Ram Rahim, convicted for rapes and murders, are not being punished in cases

of sacrilege". "Where is exemplary justice in large number of sacrilege cases of Sri Guru Granth Sahib or its attempt in Punjab and Haryana? High profile culprits like Dera Sirsa head Gurmeet Ram Rahim, convicted for rapes and murders, are not being punished in cases of sacrilege even as his name is recorded following recent statement by a co-accused," it tweeted on Sunday. "Is it because ruling political class has to serve its interest of vote bank politics? Governments failure to give justice has forced people to take law into their own hands. The community has always respected the law of the land and Constitution."

### **Discrepancies in probe into Rohith Vemula's** death, will ensure justice: Congress

NEW DELHI, May 5 (Agencies): The Congress on Sunday said there were many discrepancies in the investigation conducted previously into Rohith Vemula's death in 2016 and asserted that its government in Telangana will leave no stone unturned to ensure justice for his family.

Police in Telangana have filed a closure report before a court in its probe into the death of Rohith Vemula, a student of the University of Hyderabad, claiming he was not a Dalit and died by suicide in 2016 as



the BJP. "The Congress, including Rahul Gandhi ji, has stood with Rohith Vemula's family through this

difficult period," he said in a post on X. As has been clarified by the Telangana Police, the closure report concerned was prepared in June 2023, Venugopal said "There were many discrepancies in the investigation conducted previously. The Congress government in Telan-

backwardness has to face the same plight as Rohith ever again," he said.

Venugopal's remarks came a day after Rohith Vemula's mother Radhika Vemula met Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad and urged him to see to it that "justice" is done to the family.

Reddy assured her that an investigation would be conducted again into the University of Hyderabad student's suicide in 2016 and that justice would be done. The chief minister assured that a fair and transparent investigation would be conducted further, Rohith Vemula's brother Raja Vemula said. Talking to reporters on Saturday evening at the University of Hydermother Radhika Vemula took exception to the observation in the closure report that her son did not belong to the Scheduled Castes (SC). "My son belongs to SC. I am a Dalit. How can police say that my son is not SC. Police don't enquire about caste (it is not their job). That is a false campaign," she

abad, Rohith Vemula's

had said. She also found fault with an argument that Rohith Vemula died because he did not excel in studies. Her son excelled in studies, she claimed Telangana DGP Ravi Gupta has already announced to conduct further investigation into the case in view of the doubts expressed by Rohith Vemula's mother and others on the closure report.

he feared that his "real caste" would be discovered.

Congress general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal, said Rohith Vemula's death was a grave atrocity that completely exposed the "anti-Dalit mindset" of

"Not only that, when we form a government at the Centre, we will pass a Rohith Vemula Act, specifically addressing the issue of caste and communal atrocities on campuses to ensure no student coming from socio-economic

gana will leave no stone

unturned to ensure jus-

tice for Rohith's family,"

he asserted. The Con-

gress came to power

in the state last year

by defeating the Bharat

Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

# PM Modi's political history based on 'Hindu-Muslim dispute': Digvijaya Singh

with "total precision".

2019, whatever figure

they gave, they crossed

it. In 2014, they gave the

slogan of '272 paar' and

won 284 seats. Similarly,

in 2019, they gave the

slogan '300 paar' and

Asked if he believes

won 303 seats.'

RAJGARH, May 5 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political history is based on the "Hindu-Muslim dispute" and he should do some soul-searching as to who is benefiting from it, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh has claimed.

Singh, who has been fielded by the Congress from Rajgarh Lok Sabha seat in Madhya Pradesh, also said that he was not satisfied with the recent Supreme Court ruling on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

The former Madhya Pradesh chief minister spoke to agency while campaigning in the rural areas of Raghogarh assembly segment that falls under Rajgarh parliamentary constituency.

"If you look at the political history of Modi ji, it is based on the Hindu-Muslim dispute. It would be better if Narendra

Modi does some soulsearching as to who is benefiting from it and who all are suffering due to it," Singh said. Polling will be held

in Rajgarh in the third phase of the Lok Sabha polls on May 7.

Singh targeted the BJP for seeking votes on lines of caste and religion instead of real issues

He asked, "Where are polls being fought on the basis of real issues?" The BJP has attacked the Congress over issues like inheritance tax. It has accused the Congress of planning to snatch the OBC guota to give it to Muslims as well

as to "redistribute wealth to infiltrators". Singh also hit out at the "Gujarat model of development", saying, "If you look at the Human Development Index (HDI) of Gujarat, then you will find that it doesn't even



figure among the top 10 that EVMs had a role (states) in the country." in the BJP's electoral On the BJP's slogan success, Singh said, "At 'Ab ki baar, 400 paar', least I believe in this."

Singh said the BJP He also said he was managed to predict the not satisfied with the number of seats it would Supreme Court's recent win in the 2014 and ruling on EVMs but 2019 Lok Sabha polls would talk about it after the polls. "If you look at 2014 and

Terming the suspicion of manipulation of the EVMs "unfounded", the Supreme Court had on April 26 rejected the demand for reverting to the old paper ballot system, saying the polling devices were "secure" and eliminate

booth capturing and bogus voting.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, which dismissed the PILs seeking a return to the ballot paper system, said repeated and persistent doubts and despair, even without supporting evidence, can have the "contrarian impact of creating distrust".

On the reduced voter turnout in the first two phases of the Lok Sabha polls compared to the 2019 elections, the Congress leader said, "Firstly, the people have doubts about whether their vote is getting registered at the right place in the EVM.

Secondly, there is a lot of pressure on the people to vote and that's why they have no interest in voting."

The third factor could be the prevailing heat-

wave, he said.

"There is also a general lack of enthusiasm among voters about elections this time," claimed Singh, who had lost to the BJP's Pragya Singh Thakur from Bhopal Lok Sabha seat last time.

This time, Singh is pitted against sitting BJP MP Rodmal Nagar. Nagar has held Rajgarh seat since 2014. Singh had won the seat in 1984 and 1991

His younger brother Lakshman Singh represented the constituency for five terms as a BJP candidate.

In 2009, Singh's protege Narayan Singh Amlabe was elected from Rajgarh.

Rajgarh constituency has 18,69,937 eligible voters, including 9,60,505 men, 9,09,409 women and 23 third gender persons.

6 of family killed, 2 injured in road accident in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur



JAIPUR, May 5 (Agencies): Six members of a family were killed and two others injured after their car was hit by a vehicle in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district on Sunday, police said.

The accident occurred on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway near the Banas river bridge.

The family was on its way to offer prayers at a Ganesh temple in Sawai Madhopur, police said.

"Six members of a family were killed and two injured in the accident after an unidentified vehicle hit their car," Sub-Inspector at Bonli police station, Dharampal Singh, said.

Those killed in the accident are Manish Sharma and his wife Anita, Kailash Sharma and his wife Santosh, and Satish Sharma and his wife Poonam, police said. The injured, Sharma's children Manan and Deepali,

have been hospitalised, they said. Police said a search has been launched to apprehend the owner of the vehicle that hit the car. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem and it will be conducted after family members arrive.

# **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Canada a 'rule-of-law country'**, says PM Trudeau after arrest of three Indians in Khalistani activist Hardeep Nijjar killing

Nijjar, a Canadian citizen, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18, 2023

TORONTO, May 5 (Agencies): Canada is a "rule-of-law country" with a strong and independent justice system and a fundamental commitment to protect its citizens, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said, a day after three Indian nationals were charged with the murder of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Nijjar, a Canadian citizen, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18, 2023

Karan Brar, 22, Kamalpreet Singh, 22, and Karanpreet Singh, 28, all Indian nationals residing in Edmonton have been charged on Friday with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

"This is important because Canada is a rule-of-law country with a strong and independent justice system, as well as a fundamental commitment to protecting all its citizens," Trudeau said about the arrests on Saturday at a Toronto gala celebrating Sikh heritage and culture.

"As the RCMP stated, the investigation remains ongoing, as does a separate and distinct investigation not limited to the involvement of the three people arrested yesterday," Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) quoted Trudeau as saying.



He said that many in Canada's Sikh community are feeling unsafe following Nijjar's killing, adding: "Every Canadian has the fundamental right to live safely and free from discrimination and threats of violence in Canada.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Trudeau's allegations in September last year of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of 45-year-old Nijjar, a Khalistan separatist.

India has dismissed Trudeau's charges as "absurd" and "motivated."

The presence of Sikh separatist groups in Canada has long frustrated India, which had urday said what is happening in poll-bound Canada over the killing of Nijjar is mostly due to their internal politics and has nothing to do with India. He said a section of pro-

Minister S Jaishankar on Sat-

Khalistan people are using Canada's democracy, creating a lobby and have become a vote bank.

The ruling party in Canada has no majority in Parliament and some parties depend on pro-Khalistan leaders, he said. "We have convinced them

several times not to give visa, legitimacy or political space to such people which is causing problems for them (Canada), for us and also for our relationship," Jaishankar said.

But the Canadian government has not done anything, Jaishankar said, adding that India sought the extradition of 25 people, most of whom are pro-Khalistan, but they did not pay any heed.

"Canada did not give any proof. They do not share any evidence with us in certain cases, police agencies also do not cooperate with us. It is their political compulsion in Canada to blame India. As elections are coming in Canada, they indulge in vote bank politics," the minister said.

### Australian police shoot dead 16-year-old boy armed with knife in Perth

Man is found at the scene with stab wounds on his back

the community at this

stage it appears that he

acted solely and alone,"

Police and Australian

Security Intelligence

Organization agents

have been conducting a

counterterrorism investi-

gation in the east coast

city of Sydney since a

16-year-old boy stabbed

an Assyrian Orthodox

bishop and priest in a

The boy has been

charged committing a

terrorist act. Six of his

alleged associates have

also been charged with

a range of offenses,

including conspiring to

engage in or planning a

terrorist act. All remain

church on April 15.

Cook added.



**MELBOURNE**, May 5 (Agencies): A 16-yearold boy armed with a knife was shot dead by police after stabbing a man in the Australian west coast city of Perth, officials said on Sunday.

The incident occurred in the parking lot of a hardware store in suburban Willetton on Saturday night.

The teen allegedly attacked the man and then rushed at police officers before he was shot. Western Australian Premier Roger Cook told reporters.

"There are indications he had been radicalised online," Cook said in a news conference.

Prime Minister Anthonv Albanese said he had been briefed on the latest stabbing in Perth by Australia Federal Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw and ASIO Director-General Mike Burgess, who heads the nation's main domestic spy agency. "I'm advised there is

in custody.

no ongoing threat to the community on the information available," Albanese said in a statement.

"We are a peaceloving nation and there is no place for violent extremism in Australia,' Albanese added.

Police received an emergency phone call after 10 pm from a teenager saying he was going to commit acts of violence, Australian Broadcasting Corp reported.

A man was found at the scene with stab wounds on his back, ABC reported. His condition was not immediately clear.

increase in the SPI for

the combined consump-

tion group this week.

The weekly SPI, calcu-

lated with the base year

2015-16 equals 100,

covers 17 urban centres

and 51 essential items

#### the force's commander for the Pacific region, said Friday that he wouldn't comment on the alleged links between the three men arrested and Indian officials but noted the force is "investigating connections to the government of India." Meanwhile, External Affairs

designated Nijjar a "terrorist."

After three Indian nation-

als were arrested in connec-

tion with the murder, Police in

Canada said they had worked

with US law enforcement agen-

cies, without giving additional

The police suggested more

arrests might be coming.

Royal Canadian Mounted

Police (RCMP) Assistant

Commissioner David Teboul,

details.

Juro Kara, rebel playwright behind Japan's modern underground theater, dies at 84

TOKYO, May 5 (Agencies): Juro Kara, who helped shape Japan's postwar avant-garde theater, defiantly yet playfully transforming the essence of Kabuki aesthetics into modern storytelling, has died. He was 84.

The playwright, director and troupe leader died late Saturday from a blood clot in the brain after he collapsed at home and was rushed to a Tokyo hospital on May 1, his theater group Karagumi said in a statement on Sunday.

Kara, whose real name was Yoshihide Otsuru, rose to stardom in the so-called Japanese underground movement of the 1960s known as "un-gura," characterized by a kitsch rebellious style also found in his contemporaries Shuji Terayama and Tadashi Suzuki. Kara's colorful shows, often in makeshift tents evocative of a traveling circus, rejected the established theatrical modes then dominating modernizing Japan that were mostly Western, middle class and well-behaved. His plays, such as "Koshimaki Osen," were characterized by a raw energetic physicality, blatantly devoid of any pretense at naturalism.



# Milk price soars to PKR 210 per litre in Pakistan's Karachi

KARACHI, May 5 (Agencies): The price of milk at Karachi in fiscally-stressed Pakistan shot up to PKR 10 per litre after the city's commissioner approved a hike, acceding to the demands of the Dairy Farmers Association, ARY News reported. As per the commissioner's directives, the price of milk has surged by PKR 10 per litre, with

Earlier speculations of a potential PKR 50 per litre increase in milk prices have loomed over the inflation-burdened citizens of Karachi. Mubasher Qadeer

Abbasi, the president of Dairy Farmers Karachi, has indicated that an increase of PKR 50 per litre of milk is expected soon for the people of Karachi.

Abbasi cited the high cost of milk production, ligence as factors contributing to this imminent

rise. Abbasi stressed the urgency for the Karachi Commissioner to promptly issue a notification regarding the new prices aligned with the milk production costs.

He further emphasised that if the authorities do not announce the increase in milk prices by May 10, stakeholders will take matters consensus.

Recently, the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) assessed the weekly inflation in Pakistan, revealing a one per cent decrease across combined consumption groups for the week ending May 2.

The SPI for this week within these groups is at 316.95 points, a drop from the previous week's 320.14 points. Compared to the same

across all expenditure groups. For the lowest consumption group, up to PKR 17,732, there was a decrease of 1.09 per cent, with the SPI dropping to 306.26 points

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Kara once compared his approach to "a womb covered in blood." His theater came to be known as "the red tent." A wandering group would put on his shows wherever the tents went up, most famously in a spot near a shrine in Shinjuku in downtown Tokyo.

Audiences found themselves immersed in otherworldly, dreamlike settings. The flashy posters that artist Tadanori Yokoo often created for Kara's works exemplified that signature pop surrealist style.

Kara's group is still active today, performing shows that carry on his legacy. His theater also served as a breeding ground for some of Japan's top actors, including Kaoru Kobayashi and the late Jinpachi Nezu.

Born in Tokyo, Kara majored in theater at Meiji University in Tokyo, which boasts an extensive archive of Kara's works.

In 1983, Kara won the prestigious Akutagawa Award for new writers for his novel "Letters from Sagawa." He also acted in various films, often in bit character roles, including "Demon Pond," directed by Masahiro Shinoda. Funeral arrangements weren't set but will be for family and friends, Karagumi said. Kara is survived by his wife

Michiko, sons Gitan Otsuru and Sasuke Otsuru, and daughter Minion Otsuru, all actors.

shops in Karachi now selling milk at PKR 210 per litre.

soaring cattle prices, and government neg-

into their own hands and raise prices after

week last year, there's been a 24.37 per cent from last week's 309.64 points.

### Hamas' West Bank Commander Killed In Israeli Raids



TEL AVIV, May 5 (Agencies): Hamas announced on Sunday that its commander in the West Bank is among the four people killed in a raid by the Israel

Defense Forces (IDF).

The man is identified as Alaa Shreiteh (45), West Bank commander of the al-Qassim brigades of Hamas. Shreiteh was earlier jailed in Israel between 2002 and 2016.

The IDF exchanged fire with Hamas at Daryl al-Ghusun on Saturday.

According to IDF, there was a twelvehour gun battle in the Tulkarem area of the West Bank between its forces and Hamas militants in which four Hamas men were killed.

However, the identity of Alaa Shreiteh was revealed by the al-Qassim brigade early on Sunday.

#### Man dies after crashing car into White House perimeter gate: Cops

WASHINGTON, May 5 (Agencies): A driver died after crashing a vehicle into a gate at the White House Saturday night, authorities said today.

The driver was found dead in the vehicle following the crash shortly before 10.30 pm at an outer perimeter gate of the White House complex, the US Secret Service said in a statement.

Security protocols were implemented but there was no threat to the White House, the agency said. The driver was not immediately identified.

The Secret Service will continue to investigate the matter, while turning over the fatal crash portion of the investigation to the Washington Metropolitan Police Department, the agency said.

#### Israel has briefed US on plan to evacuate Palestinian civilians ahead of potential Rafah operation

WASHINGTON, May 5 (Agencies): Israel this week briefed Biden administration officials on a plan to evacuate Palestinian civilians ahead of a potential operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah aimed at rooting out Hamas militants, according to U.S. officials familiar with the talks.

The officials, who were not authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity to speak about the sensitive exchange, said that the plan detailed by the Israelis did not change the U.S. administration's view that moving forward with an operation in Rafah would put too many innocent Palestinian civilians at risk.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to carry out a military operation in Rafah despite warnings from President Joe Biden and other western officials that doing so would result in more civilian deaths and worsen an already dire humanitarian crisis.

The Biden administration has said there could be consequences for Israel should it move forward with the operation without a credible plan to safeguard civilians.

"Absent such a plan, we can't support a major military operation going into Rafah because the damage it would do is beyond what's acceptable," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at the Sedona Forum, an event in Arizona hosted by the McCain Institute. Some 1.5 million Palestinians have sheltered in the southern Gaza city as the territory has been ravaged by the war that began on Oct. 7 after Hamas militants attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages.

The United Nations humanitarian aid agency said that hundreds of thousands of people would be "at imminent risk of death" if Israel moves forward with the Rafah assault. The border city is a critical entry point for humanitarian aid and is filled with displaced Palestinians, many in densely packed tent camps.

The officials added that the evacuation plan that the Israelis briefed was not finalized and both sides agreed to keep discussing the matter.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters that no "comprehensive" plan for

a potential Rafah operation has been revealed by the Israelis to the White House. The operation, however, has been discussed during recent calls between Biden and Netanyahu as well as during recent virtual talks with top Israeli and U.S. national security officials. "We want to make sure that those

conversations continue because it is important to protect those Palestinian lives — those innocent lives," Jean-Pierre said.

The revelation of Israel's continued push to carry out a Rafah operation came as CIA director William Burns arrived in Egypt, where negotiators are trying to seal a cease-fire accord between Israel and Hamas.

Hamas is considering the latest proposal for a cease-fire and hos-

tage release put forward by U.S., Egyptian and Qatari mediators, who are looking to avert the Rafah operation.

They have publicly pressed Hamas to accept the terms of the deal that would lead to an extended cease-fire and an exchange of Israeli hostages taken captive on Oct. 7 and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Hamas has said it will send a delegation to Cairo in the coming days for further discussions on the offer, though it has not specified when. Israel, and its allies, have sought to increase pressure on Hamas on the hostage negotiation. Signaling that Israel continues to move forward with its planning for a Rafah operation could be a tactic to nudge the militants to finalize

the deal.

Netanyahu said earlier this week that Israeli forces would enter Rafah, which Israel says is Hamas' last stronghold, regardless of whether a truce-for-hostages deal is struck. His comments appeared to be meant to appease his nationalist governing partners, and it was not clear whether they would have any bearing on any emerging deal with Hamas.

Blinken visited the region, including Israel, this week and called the latest proposal "extraordinarily generous" and said "the time to act is now."

Blinken repeated remarks he made earlier this week that "the only thing standing between the people of Gaza and a cease-fire is Hamas.

# Kangana Ranaut knocks Tejasvi Surya in flub, Tejashwi Yadav reacts

NEW DELHI, May 5 (Agencies): Actor-turnedpolitician Kangana Ranaut made a gaffe when she mixed-up Tejashwi Yadav and BJP MP Tejasvi Surva while taking a dig at the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader for "eating fish". The incident occurred while she was addressing an election rally in Himachal Pradesh.

The rally on Saturday took place in Mandi, the Lok Sabha seat in Himachal Pradesh where Ranaut has been fielded as the BJP candidate. While criticising the

Opposition, she said, "There is a party of spoilt 'shehzaadas' (princes).

They themselves don't know where to go. Be it Rahul Gandhi, who wants to grow potatoes on the moon, or Tejasvi Surya, who indulges in hooliganism and eats fish." As videos of Ranaut's

gaffe went viral on social media, Tejashwi Yadav reacted to the mix-up and said. "Ye mohtarma kaun hai (Who is this madam)?"

Tejashwi Yadav was embroiled in controversy last month after he posted a video on social media, which showed the RJD leader and Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahni enjoying a meal of fried fish and rotis in a helicopter after cam-

paigning BJP stalwarts, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, criticised the RJD leader for the content of the video as it was posted during Navratri.

The former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar later clarified that the video was shot before the week-long Navratri festivities started. At the rally, Kangana Ranaut not only made the gaffe, but also attacked the Congress, including late leaders, due to which the party lodged a complaint against her with the Election Commission.

> "Motilal Nehru, the father of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was

Ambani of his time but no one knows where his wealth and property came from. He was close to the British, and from where he got the wealth is still a secret," she said.

"Nobody knows how Jawaharlal Nehru became the prime minister as voting was in favour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel". Since then, this "'deemak' (termite) of dynastic rule has infected the country. On one hand, we have a 'tapasvion ke sarkar' (BJP government), and on the other we have 'bhoogion ke sarkar' (Congress) made up of small gangs of 'shehzaadas'. One is in Delhi

and the other is here (in Himachal Pradesh), Ranaut said, in a veiled reference to Vikramaditya Singh, the Congress candidate pitted against the actor in Mandi.

In its complaint filed by state convenors, the Congress said Ranaut "used derogatory and insulting remarks against senior leaders of the Congress party and crossed all lines by making comparisons of freedom fighters with businessmen" "She has tried to draw

comparisons between freedom fighter Motilal Nehru with one of the top businessmen of the country.

### No force can engineer split in family: Robert Vadra responds to BJP's 'sidelined' dig

NEW DELHI, May 5 Businessman Robert Vadra on Sunday responded to the BJP's jibe that the "Rahul Gandhi camp" in the Congress party was sidelining both Vadra and his wife, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Businessman Robert Vadra with his mother-inlaw, ex-Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, in Rae Bareli on Friday. (Photo by Deepak Gupta Hindustan Times)

On his Facebook profile, he wrote that "no force can engineer a split in the family.'

"No power, positions of politics can get between our family. We all have, we will, and we shall always work for the people and betterment of our great nation. Thank you to everyone for your support and best wishes. Will help as many people as I can, through my public service always," Vadra stated.

at Vadra.



On Saturday, a day obvious that the Rahul after the grand old party Gandhi camp is systematically marginalising both, announced Rahul Gan-Priyanka Vadra and her dhi's candidature from husband, in the Congress. Rae Bareli and nominated How soon before the sister Gandhi family lovalist KL rebels?" BJP IT cell chief Sharma from Amethi, the Amit Malviya said in a post ruling BJP had taken a dig on X (formerly Twitter).

It took the Congress until "Spare a moment for Robert Vadra, who despite the final day of nominations for Amethi and Rae claiming immense popu-Bareli, to declare its canlarity in Amethi, was overlooked for the seat. It is didates for the seats. The

two Lok Sabha constituencies in Uttar Pradesh are synonymous with the party's "first family," the Gandhis.

It was being speculated that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will finally make her electoral debut from one of the two seats, but she eventually opted not to contest to keep herself free to campaign across the country. On the other

hand, Rahul Gandhi, who has already contested from Kerala's Wayanad, from where he is the sitting MP, chose Rae Bareli instead of Amethi, from where he made his poll debut (2004) and won two more terms (2009, 2014) but lost to the BJP's Smriti Irani in 2019.

In February, the siblings' mother, ex-Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, vacated the Rae Bareli seat as she has not been keeping well, and became a Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan. In Amethi, meanwhile,

the BJP has again fielded Irani, the constituency's 2014 runner-up and its current representative, while in Rae Bareli, the ruling party has given ticket to UP minister Dinesh Pratap Singh, who brought down Sonia Gandhi's winning margin in 2019, when she emerged as the Congress' sole Lok Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh.

## Paytm COO Bhavesh Gupta quits; company rejigs senior management

NEW DELHI, May 5 (Agencies): Paytm's parent company One97 Communications president and chief operating officer Bhavesh Gupta has resigned from the company, an official statement said on Saturday.

Gupta was steering the lending business, online and offline payments, and compliances, among others, at Paytm. Verticals, headed by him, were adversely impacted by the RBI's ban on Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) from carrying on new transactions.

"Bhavesh Gupta, President and Chief Operating Officer, who was overseeing the payments and lending businesses, has decided to take a career break due to personal reasons. He will be transitioning to an advisory role, offering guidance for Paytm's growth initiatives until the end of the year," the statement said. Gupta joined Paytm in August 2020 from Clix Capital, formerly GE Capital.

He will be relieved from the services of the company on May 31. Paytm had estimated a Rs 300-500 crore loss due to the RBI's restriction on PPBL. It had to pause its lending business, which is

learnt to have resumed now. As part of a change in leadership structure, fintech firm Paytm has appointed Rakesh Singh as chief executive officer of Paytm Money. "Rakesh Singh has recently been appointed as the new Chief Execu-

tive Officer of Paytm Money Ltd. With over two decades of experience, Rakesh Singh was previously the CEO of the stock broking business at Fisdom and has held key management positions with ICICI Securities and Standard Chartered Bank," the statement said.

moved Varun Sridhar, who was heading Paytm Money, as CEO of Paytm Services — which deals in the distribution of mutual funds and other wealth management products.

"I would like to thank Bhavesh for his contributions and his role in ensuring a smooth transition. Our focus on payments and lending is stronger than ever, and I will work with the seasoned leaders that we have in each of our businesses to execute our plans," Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma said.

He appreciated Sridhar's contribution in expanding Paytm's role in deepening the penetration of mutual fund and wealth management products in the country. "I welcome Rakesh to Paytm Wealth business

where we are committed to building world-class technology-led wealth offerings to young Indians," Sharma said.

### Samruddhi Expressway Accident: Woman Killed, 2 Injured in Bus **Collision Near Buldhana**

The company has

MUMBAI, May 5 (Agencies): A woman was killed and two others were injured when a private bus rammed into the state transport bus they were travelling in on the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, police said on Sunday.

"The accident occurred on the Chikhali-Mehkar road on Saturday morning," an official said. "The private bus was heading towards Mehkar from Surat (Gujarat) when it rammed into a state transport bus from



behind," he said. "A woman travelling in the state transport bus sustained injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she was declared dead, and two other passengers in the bus were injured," the official said. The police have arrested the driver of the luxury bus under section 304-A (causing death by negligence) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, he said.

# JKTJAC holds monthly meeting, raises burning issues of Teachers

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, May 5: A monthly meeting of Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) held at Udhampur under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Udhampur Lekh Raj Parihar today on 05.05.2024.

The meeting was attended by the JKTJAC representatives of JKTJAC from eleven zones of the district.

While speaking on the occasion Mr. Vinod Sharma demanded release of pending dues of Mid Day Meals for the year 2023-24 . He said that though liability of Pre Pry and Pry for the financial year 2023-24 has been cleared recently but still there is liability of upper Pry and cooks' honorarium .

He also demanded the resolution of various other genuine and burning issues of the teaching fraternity and appealed the LG administration to resolve them for the welfare of thousands of teachers of the UT.

Raising the issue of comprehensive transfer policy in favour of teachers appointed under ReT scheme he said that these teachers have been working in the same schools for last more than two decades and suffering badly including females due to non availability of transfer policy. He appealed worthy Administrative Secretary School Education for consideration of the genuine demand of transfer policy for the welfare of thousands of these teachers . He also demanded conver-

sion of headteachers posts



into non plan posts of masters so that many headless middle schools get justice. While speaking he also appealed the Director School

Education Jammu to issue regularisation orders of ReTs who have completed 5 years ReT period as they are waiting for their regularisation for a long time and conversion of RRETs to Teachers Grade 11/111

Other demands highlighted on the occasion included.

Raising Grade of teachers at par with their counter parts in other UTs: Provision of 2nd teacher in single teacher schools under rationalisation so that poor students aren't deprived of their proper education right, Filling up of vacant posts ZEOs/ Principals/ Headmasters as many zones/schools are headless. Issuance of DPC list of teachers to master.

Speaking on the occasion Mr Lekh Raj Parihar demanded the release of more than two years arrears (time barred) of teachers and masters as they are suffering badly and updating of service records of teachers in the zones of District Udhampur as teachers are facing lots of problems for getting them completed and appealed CEO Udhampur to take up

this issue with the ZEOs DDOs so that teachers may not suffer any more.

Meanwhile JKTJAC leadership demanded uniformity in all the districts in completing the files of one time exemption to the teachers who have enhanced the higher qualification during service by simplifying the process.

Others who also spoke on the occasion were Sham Sharma, Sukesh khajuria, Pritam Goswami, Ravinder Singh Rathore, Bhushan Khajuria, Jagdish Chander Sharma, Parshant Sharma, Anil Sharma, Jai Parkash, Sham Singh, Manoj Sharma, Amit Gupta, Dharuv Singh, Sudesh Kumar, Vipin Raina, Som Raj, Rekha Thakur, Mohd Mustafa, Rakesh Tripathi, Ankush Sharma, Vinod Kumar and others.

#### LG Manoj Sinha addresses Shri Kubernath Rai Memorial Lecture

for dedicated efforts to ensure his works are available to readers from other regions and it is translated in different languages so that a larger number of readers have access to his great works.

#### **CEO Pole expresses** confidence in peaceful, good voter turnout in elections amid ceasefire

previous polls and expressed hope for more participation of people in elections from Bandipora.

He expressed confidence that voter turnout this time will break all the previous

#### records. **EVM A theft machine.** make sure you voted the right party: Farooq Abdullah

Narendra Modi had stooped to communal scaremongering for electoral gains.

"He (Modi) is trying to scare the Hindus by telling them that if they have two houses, they (the opposition) will snatch one and give it to Muslims. Then they scare the Hindu women, telling them that their mangalsutra will be snatched and sold. The proceeds of the sale will be given to Muslims," he said.

"They (the BJP) do not know that no one is benevolent to Muslims. It is the God who gives or stops sustenance," he asserted.

Abdullah said the current elections were not about development but about saving the country.

"Today the fight is not about roads and electricity. The fight is to save the country.

Because if the nation is saved, we too will be safe," he said.

FROM PAGE 1

#### IAF Convoy Attack | Several people detained for questioning, search on for terrorists in Poonch

Corporal Vikky Pahade and expressed condolences to his family.

"The CAS (Chief of Air Staff) Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari & all personnel of Indian Air Force salute the braveheart Corporal Vikky Pahade, who made the supreme sacrifice in Poonch sector, in the service of the nation. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. We stand firmly by your side in this hour of grief," it posted on 'X'.

The officials said teams of the Army's Para Commandos were also pressed into service in the search operation.

There has been no "contact" with the terrorists yet, they said, adding that several people were detained for questioning in connection with the attack, the first major incident in Jammu region this year.

The officials said checking of vehicles has been intensified across the district which is going to polls in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha election on May 25. Poonch is part of the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency.

The border district of Poonch, along with adjoining Rajouri, has witnessed major terrorist attacks over the past two years. The region was peaceful between 2003 and 2021.

#### Several youth from **Pulwama ioins Azad-led** DPAP

entrants and emphasizing the party's commitment to addressing the aspirations of the youth.

#### Four arrested for murder in Reasi

mislead police, the officials said.

#### **MeT predicts generally** dry weather in J&K

south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 10.3°C against 8.6°C and it was 1.9°C above normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a minimum of 7.0°C against 9.4°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal there, the official said. Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 3.0°C against 3.5°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.3°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 19.6°C against 22.1°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 3.0°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 13.2°C, Batote 13.0°C and Bhaderwah 9.0°C, he said.

# **BUSINESS/HEALTH**

# Tax on two-wheelers too high, market over-regulated: Bajaj

Tax experts feel lowering GST rates on two-wheelers will have a significant impact on the government's overall GST collection in the short term.

NEW DELHI, May 5 (Agencies): Bajaj Auto managing director Rajiv Bajaj said auto sector is suffering from 'over-regulation' and this has led to a sharp rise in selling prices, making the product unaffordable for many. Bajaj also questioned the rate of taxation on two-wheelers, especially the commuter segment ones.

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He said motorcycles that cater to the common citizen are levied a goods and services tax (GST) rate of 28%, which is very high compared to other developing markets.

"Why do we have to pay a GST of 28% on vehicles that the 'aam aadmi' uses...In most developing countries, including Asean and Latin American nations such as Brazil, the middle- to lower-end motorcycles fall in the



tax bracket of 8 to 14%," said Bajaj on the sidelines of the launch event of the new 400cc Pulsar motorcycle.

While Bajaj welcomed the introduction of BS-VI and other policy measures to cut emissions, he said making ABS compulsory is also a regulatory overkill. "On one hand we want regulations at the high-

est level in terms of emissions, which is fine. But then the government should reconsider the GST at 12-18% and not at 28%," said Bajaj. Not only Bajaj, but other players in the industry as well have been seeking a rate cut for two-wheelers from the government to boost sales which are vet to bounce back to pre-Covid levels. FADA,

the automobile dealers association body, had written a letter to the Road Ministry in 2023, asking for a GST rate cut for two-wheelers, predominantly within the 100-125cc segment which accounts for more than two-thirds of total two-wheeler sales.

FADA had cited that due to rising cost of raw

materials, stricter emission norms and higher taxes, the price of the popular Honda Activa has escalated from Rs 52,000 in 2016 to Rs 88.000 in 2023. Baiai Pulsar has witnessed a substantial increase in price from Rs 72,000 in 2016 to Rs 1.5 lakh last year.

The government, meanwhile, hasn't shown any interest or hinted at lowering the GST rate on two-wheelers. Tax experts feel lowering GST rates on two-wheelers will have a significant impact on the government's overall GST collection in the short term. Bajaj Auto on launched its biggest Pulsar brand bike, the Pulsar NS400Z, which comes with an introductory price of Rs 1.85 lakh.

# **Volkswagen strengthens** retail footprint with new store in TN

With the setting up of a new outlet at Ambattur in Chennai, the total network for the automobile major stands at 26 sales and 20 service facilities in Tamil Nadu.

ropolitan area is one

of the key markets for

Volkswagen in India.

In 2023, our Virtus was

one of the highest-

selling sedans in this

market. With this inau-

guration of our newest

touchpoint in Chennai,

we are emphasising

our commitment to the

rising need for premium,

safe, and reliable vehi-

cles throughout India".

Volkswagen Passenger

Cars India Brand Direc-

tor Ashish Gupta said in



CHENNAI, May 5 (Agencies): German automaker Volkswagen has inaugurated a new store in the city under its expansion drive in the state, strengthening its retail presence in the country.

With the setting up of a new outlet at Ambattur in the city, the total network for the automobile major stands at 26 sales and 20 service facilities in Tamil Nadu.

"The Chennai Met-

a company statement. The new store 'KUN Capital Motors' is headed by Director Arun Uppuswami and has a five-car display and 25 service bays, among others.

"Our long-standing partnership with Volkswagen has driven a highly successful mobility revolution in Tamil Nadu. With class-leading products on offer, we are once again glad to make the safest portfolio of Volkswagen Taigun, Tiguan, and Virtus, even more accessible to customers through the new city store," Uppuswami said. With the latest facility, Volkswagen has 208 sales and 142 service touchpoints across 155 cities in India.

## **Study calls for making** cardiorespiratory fitness part of annual checkups

NEW DELHI, May 5 (Agencies): Making cardiorespiratory fitness a part of your annual health checkups can help you gauge your health status and understand the risk of underlying disease as well as predict mortality, according to a study. Cardiorespiratory fit-

ness (CRF), also known as cardio or aerobic fitness can be defined as the ability of the heart, lungs, and blood vessels to supply oxygen during sustained physi-

cal activity.

public health practice. It comes amid reports of even seemingly healthy and fit people succumbing to heart disease, among others. "Apparently 'healthy'

adults can take the cardiorespiratory fitness test - under medical advice and supervision annually. It has the power to predict the risk of cardiovascular disease (heart attacks, strokes), and is an even stronger predictor of mortality than diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, and smoking (tobacco

death from cardiovascular disease and cancer, while a low CRF indicated the risk of developing chronic conditions such as hypertension, heart failure, stroke, atrial fibrillation, dementia, and depression in the

future. The test measures maximum oxygen uptake (VO2 max) and how it's used during intense exercise.

Sanjay noted that in patients planned for surgery, "the test predicts the surgical risks of complications and death from surgeries and helps risk stratify, prognosticate, and guide patient management." 'CRF measurement should be routinely included in clinical practice,' Sudhir Kumar, a neurologist at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, wrote in a post on X.

### **Obesity, poor diet, physical inactivity driving** early onset of cancers: Health expert

SYDNEY, May 5 (Agencies): Obesity, poor diet, and physical inactivity are driving the onset of several cancers, including gallbladder, colon, kidney, and pancreas, according to a top health expert from the University of Sydney in Australia.

Once known to affect the elderly, the last three decades have seen an enormous surge in early onset of cancer, occurring even before people turning 40 or 50.

Various studies have provided evidence that the cancer surge seen globally, including in India, is driven by an



to 2021, the rate of cancers of the gallbladder has increased by 200 per cent, uterine by 158 per cent, colorectal by 153 per cent, kidney by 89 per cent, and pancreas by 83 per cent," said Robyn Ward, Executive Dean and Pro Vice-Chancellor Medicine women and men are and Health at the University of Sydney, said. "The reasons proposed for this increase include obesity, poor diet, and in the period from 1991 physical inactivity,"

she added, noting that "young millennial adults are three times more likely to get cancer than while breast, lung, and treatment as well as colorectal cancer are decline in mortality predominant in females,

the Professor noted. What are the commonly occurring 'early' cancers? How to prevent it? In the majority of cancers like cervical and colorectal, the chance of cure increases with programmes are based early detection. But for on age not risk," the prosome like brain cancer, fessor said early detection makes no difference.

Some younger people may be at a higher risk The best proof of of cancer while elderly prevention is cervical may not. So age-based cancer and colorectal screening programmes (bowel) cancer, said may not help, but modern technologies like genomics, big data, and Artificial Intelligence

Robyn. Cervical cancer is preventable through vaccination and treatable if detected early. Infection with specific strains of human papillomavirus is the primary driver (95 per cent) of cervical cancer, which is preventable by vaccination. On the other hand, increasing national screening programmes for breast, cervical, and colorectal (colon) cancers can help boost

rates. "For the right cancers, early screening will assist, for example cervical, bowel, and breast. But the current screening programmes for these population-based

According to the American Heart Association, an individual's aerobic fitness level can indicate factors such as smoking, hypertension, and high cholesterol.

The study, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, suggests the need to incorporate this measure in routine clinical and

abuse)," Sanjay Chugh Associate Director and Senior Consultant Interventional Cardiology at Narayana Hospital in Gurugram said.

"It also predicts risk of developing diabetes, cancer or mental illness," he added. In the study, a high CRF measure was found to lower the risk of

unhealthy lifestyle, including high consumption of junk food rich in sugar, salt, and fat combined with a lack of exercise, among others. "Globally there has been a significant rise in some types of cancer in younger people. For instance, in the 30 to 39-year-old age group

the same age group born in the 1940s". Who is more at risk? Robyn noted that "overall, the incidence is higher in men than

more likely to die". Cancer incidence does vary by organ type, for example, prostate, lung, and colorectal cancer occur the most in males,

(AI) may play an important role.

"A huge opportunity with modern technologies like genomics, big data, and AI is to develop genetic stratification, incorporated with health records to develop riskbased screening. This helps create personalised screening programmes," she said.

### Tackling malaria: As monsoon approaches, incidence of the disease will rise. Prevention remains the best solution

NEW DELHI, May 5 (Agencies): Malaria is one of the major public health problems in India, with an estimated 33.8 lakh cases and 5,511 deaths in 2022. A potentially deadly condition, maximum cases are witnessed during the monsoon months of June to September, when collection of rainwater after heavy rains promotes mosquito breeding.

As climate change and rising temperature bring more areas under the spread of malaria, there is a dire need to control as well as prevent this disease

Prevention involves a multi-faceted approach that includes vector control, personal protection measures, and community engagement.

Vector control: Use insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs) to prevent mosquito bites while

sleeping. Insecticide sprays indoor can check mosquito breeding and resting sites. Draining of stagnant water and good sanitation practices can reduce mosquito breeding grounds.

Personal protection measures: Wear clothes with long sleeves that should also cover legs, especially during peak mosquito activity times of dusk and dawn. Apply insect repellents containing DEET (N,Ndiethyl-meta-toluamide) or picaridin on exposed skin. Additionally, use screens on windows and doors to prevent mosquito entry inside homes

Use of chemoprophylaxis (chemical agents to prevent infectious diseases): For people travelling to malariaendemic areas, taking prophylactic (preventive) medications prescribed by healthcare

providers can help in checking infection. However, chemoprophylaxis are not usually recommended for people living in endemic areas because of the risk of drug resistance.

Community engagement: Educate communities about malaria transmission, symptoms and prevention strategies. Take steps to promote community participation in vector-control activities, like cleaning up mosquito breeding sites.

To prevent malaria and mitigate its effects, a multifaceted approach is needed to prevent complications and further transmission. By implementing these strategies, the spread and the impact of malaria, especially in regions that are vulnerable to outbreaks, can be checked. What to do in case of infection

1 Visit a doctor: In suspected or diagnosed cases, seek immediate medical attention if you experience symptoms like fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, and fatigue. Early diagnosis and treatment reduce the risk of severe complications and transmission to others.

2 Diagnostic testing: Malaria diagnosis requires laboratory testing of blood samples for confirmation of parasite presence. Rapid diagnostic tests are used in resource-limited settings for quick and accurate diagnosis.

3 Treatment options: Treatment depends on severity of the infection, individual's age and medical history and the species of malaria parasite. Anti-malarial medications like artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs)

are generally used for uncomplicated cases. Severe cases may require hospitalisation and intravenous (IV) anti-malarial drugs like

quinine or artesunate. 4 Follow-up care: Make sure that you complete the full course of anti-malarial medication prescribed, even if symptoms improve. Follow-up appointments may be needed to monitor treatment response and to check for any complications. 5 Preventing transmission: During the acute phase of illness, take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. This will avoid transmission of infected blood through the parasite bites to others. Sleep under insecticide-treated bed

nets and use mosquito repellents until the parasite is cleared from your bloodstream.

### High BP in childhood may raise risk of heart attack, stroke later by 4x: Study



NEW DELHI, May 5 (Agencies): Hypertension in childhood and adolescence may raise the long-term risk of serious heart conditions like stroke and heart attack, by four times, according to a

new study. Hypertension is known to affect one in every 15 children and adolescents worldwide and has become a growing concern.

To understand its longterm effect, researchers compared 25,605 children and adolescents

diagnosed with hypertension between 1996 and 2021 in Ontario, Canada, to peers with-

out the condition. The follow-up of 13 years showed that those with hypertension had a two to four times higher risk of experiencing heart attack, stroke, heart failure, or cardiac surgery compared to those without it.

Experts called for boosting blood pressure screening and treatment during childhood to reduce the risk of serious cardiovascular disease as an adult.

"Devoting more resources to paediatric blood pressure screening and control could lower the risks of longterm heart conditions in children with hypertension," said Cal H. Robinson, paediatric nephrology fellow at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Canada. "More awareness

about the importance of regular screening and follow-up for paediatric hypertension may prevent children from developing significant adverse heart outcomes later in life,' Robinson added.

The findings will be presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) 2024 Meeting, held May 3-6 in Toronto.

# **SPORTS**

# **IPL playoffs hopeful LSG wary of dominant KKR's** all-round firepower

Lucknow Super Giants are placed just one rung below KKR at number three with 12 points from 10 matches

LUCKNOW, May 5 (Agencies): Lucknow Super Giants will have to bring their 'A' game forward to prevail against a dominant Kolkata Knight Riders when the two teams, marching towards IPL playoffs, clash here on Sunday.

With an all-round win by 24 runs over Mumbai Indians propelling the second-placed KKR to 14 points — one more step closer to qualification — the pressure will be on KL Rahul's LSG to find a way past the threat that Shreyas lyer's side poses.

Lucknow Super Giants are placed just one rung below KKR at number three with 12 points from 10 matches with six wins and four defeats.

With a rampant Sunrisers Hyderabad (12 points) hot on heir heels at fourth, followed by the dangerous Chennai Super Kings (10 points) and Delhi Capitals (10 points) on the points table, LSG will be under pressure to avoid getting into a midtable battle as the race for the final-four has intensified.

LSG were far from convincing in their previous assignment at Ekana Stadium here as they were made to work hard in a modest 145-run chase by Mumbai Indians, winning by just four wickets in the last over.

Skipper Rahul and all-rounder Marcus Stoinis have been the key players for LSG and it remains to be seen if South Africa veteran Quinton de Kock



is brought back in place of young Arshin Kulkarni, who opened the innings in the last game.

Even though he has gone without a fifty since the first game, Nicholas Pooran has consistently notched up crucial scores but LSG's overall finishing skills is under question following their struggles against Mumbai Indians.

LSG seemed to have made heavy weather towards the end giving MI a real sniff by losing wickets in a flurry and completing their modest chase with some stutter.

Ayush Badoni has had a subdued run in this IPL and the uncapped Indian player would be keen to shrug off the rustiness.

LSG's bowlers will also face a stern test with none of them making a real dent with individual brilliance in this IPL. LSG are also likely to be without express pacer Mayank Yadav.

Having lost only three of their

Teams (from):

11 matches so far, it has taken something out of the ordinary to stop KKR in their tracks. CSK used a spin-friendly surface to eke out a win in Chepauk, while RR's all-round class helped them pip KKR in a high-scoring thriller.

If anything, KKR's bowling woes were exposed when Punjab Kings recorded IPL's highest chase ever against them, but lyer's side has emerged strongly from that setback with two impressive wins. However, having trumped MI on a sluggish wicket which exposed their batting frailties, KKR will aim for a much improved performance with the bat.

For the second time in this IPL, KKR batters struggled when the ball did not come on to the bat and they were forced to change gears in order to build a strong target.

KKR slipped to 57 for five at one stage and ran the risk of being shot out for a paltry total, but Venkatesh lyer (70) and Manish Pandey (42) came to the rescue with a fine 83-run stand. lyer and Pandey were forced to soak pressure, curb their attacking game and look to farm the strike to build a recoverv path for their side before the bowlers carried out a perfect job to secure a 24-run win. Lucknow Super Giants: Quin-

ton de Kock, KL Rahul (c & wk), Deepak Hooda, Ayush Badoni, Marcus Stoinis, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Krunal Pandya, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohsin Khan, Shamar Joseph, Yash Thakur, Manimaran Siddharth, Prerak Mankad, Arshad Khan, Krishnappa Gowtham, Amit Mishra, Kyle Mayers, Ashton Turner, Matt Henry, Naveen-ul-Haq, Devdutt Padikkal, Yudhvir Singh Charak, Mayank Yadav, Arshin Kulkarni.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shreyas Iyer ©, KS Bharat (wk), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Rinku Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Sherfane Rutherford, Manish Pandey, Andre Russell, Nitish Rana, Venkatesh lyer, Anukul Roy, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine, Vaibhav Arora, Chetan Sakariya, Harshit Rana, Suyash Sharma, Mitchell Starc, Dushmantha Chameera, Sakib Hussain, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Gus Atkinson, Allah Ghazanfar, Phil Salt.

### Dhoni is playing my father's role in my cricket career, says CSK's Matheesha Pathirana

The 21-year-old slinger made his IPL debut in 2022 and has since become a vital cog in CSK's pace attack

on what I have to do

-- similar to my father's

thing when I'm doing in

"I think that's enough.

He's not telling a lot of

things when I'm on the

field and off the field.

He's just telling me small

things, but it makes a

lot of difference, and

it makes a lot of confi-

dence for me," he said

in CSK's 'Lions up close'

show on the franchise's

"At the moment, he

knows how to maintain

the players. Off the field,

we don't talk much. If I

have to ask something

from him, definitely, I'd

go to him and ask him."

has had a great IPL 2024

season so far, being the

team's second-highest

wicket-taker after Mus-

tafizur Rahman (14),

The lanky Sri Lankan

YouTube channel.

my home.



CHENNAI, May 5 (Agencies): Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana has termed the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni as a father figure in his cricketing career, saying the former Chennai Super Kings skipper's small advises has given him a lot of confidence.

The 21-year-old slinger made his Indian Premier League debut in 2022 and has since become a vital cog in CSK's pace attack, including their title success last season.

Speaking on the guidance he received from Dhoni, Pathirana said: "After my father, in my cricket life, mostly he's (MSD) playing my father's role. He always takes care of me and gives me some advice grasping 13 wickets in six matches at an economy of 7.68, including a four-wicket haul.

As for Dhoni, he has been in good touch with the bat this season, especially as a finisher. While there have been speculations about Dhoni's future for the last three seasons, this year, too, has been no different.

Rumours continue to swirl around that it could well be Dhoni's final season in this high-profile Twenty20 league, but the veteran is yet to make a formal announcement.

But, inspired by him so much, Patheerana has emotionally requested Dhoni to continue at least for one more season.

"Mahi bhai, if you can play one more season, please play with us if I'm here (chuckles)," he said.

CSK has had an unstable season this term under new captain Ruturaj Gaikwad.

In 10 matches, CSK have lost five while won as many games and are placed fifth on the points table.

During string of low scores, tried to surround myself with right kind of people: India batter Yashasvi Jaiswal

NEW DELHI, May 5 (Agencies): Young Indian batter Yashasvi Jaiswal says he focussed on process and surrounded himself with people who gave him the right advice after the first phase of IPL when big knocks weren't coming his way. There were specula. tions if the Bhadohiborn Mumbai opener would be able to make it to the T20 World Cup-bound team but in his last three games for Rajasthan Royals, he scored an unbeaten 104, 24 and 67 after totalling only 121 runs in seven games at the halfway stage. "I keep a lot of focus on my process and I try my best in the practice sessions and surround myself with right kind of people and keep working hard," Jaiswal said during a promotional event.



### IPL 2024: RCB survive mini GT scare to keep faint playoff hopes alive

BENGALURU, May 5 (Agencies): RCB kept their faint IPL 2024 Playoff hopes alive as they survived a mini-scare from GT by 4 wickets at the Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru.

The Bengaluru bowling was disciplined throughout the Gujarat batting innings before Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli set up the win with a fine partnership in the powerplay overs. The win means that RCB went off the foot of the table and have 8 points to their name with 3 matches remaining.



anchor role as wickets started to tumble at the other end. While critics have the right to question the intent, Kohli seems to be struggling for support from the other end. When he did have it in the form of Du Plessis in this game and Will Jacks, in the previous one, he was able to set himself up and help with the run-chase.

Baptism by fire continues for captain Gill The Indian cricket fans were happy to see Shubman Gill get the captaincy duty of GT after Hardik Pandya moved to MI. However, Gill hasn't had the best of times as skipper as the loss was the 7th of the season for GT. To put into context, GT lost 4 matches each in the 2022 and 2023 league phase. Gill's decisions have been challenged by critics, while his batting hasn't touched the lofty standards he had set for himself last season with a recordbreaking run. He was dismissed for 2 off 7 balls as the GT batting hasn't looked the same without their skipper in form. Gill would surely continue to grow in the seasons to come and improve as a skipper. This season could serve as a dose of reality he would need to head back to the drawing board and come strong next season.

Royals are all but through to the playoffs with 16 points from 10 games and Jaiswal wants his team to maintain the momentum. Asked about Royals' preparation, Jaiswal replied: "It's going great right now, and I hope we can continue with the momentum prepare well and keep focusing on the process for

upcoming matches." One of the biggest benefits of playing IPL, according to Jaiswal is the familiarity with opposition, which helps in doing a proper homework before the T20 World Cup in the Americas.

"We are going to benefit a lot. We are playing with the same players in the IPL and we know

them and we can prepare well for it," said the stylish southpaw, who has already played 17 T20Is for India. He then went on to explain why IPL gives the best preparation platform in the T20 World Cup.

"I feel that IPL is the right platform for T20 World Cup where we can play well and learn a lot and gain a lot of experience," Jaiswal said, adding, "It's a lot of fun to play the IPL. The way it's played in India with the kind of matches we have, they are very challenging in different venues. So it's a great

experience."

RCB had won the toss on the day and put GT into bat. The Gujarat innings had the worst possible start as Mohammed Siraj dismissed Wriddhiman Saha and Shubman Gill. Sai Sudharsan also failed to make an impact as GT got 23 runs in the first 6 overs. Shahrukh Khan, who scored a fifty the last time both teams met, would come to haunt them again and he received good support from David Miller at the other end. The duo put on 61 runs as they ensured that the GT run-rate would reach a respectable position.

RCB continued to be disciplined with their bowling approach as they got the wickets of Shahrukh, who was dismissed thanks to a fine run-out

from Virat Kohli. Rahul Tewatia scored an important 21-ball 35 as GT would end up being bundled out for 147.

The RCB innings got off to an absolute flyer as Faf du Plessis and Kohli would score 92 runs in the powerplay. The RCB skipper scored his 42nd IPL fifty and departed for 64 off 23 balls. This would trigger a major collapse for Bengaluru as they went from 92 for 1 to 116 for 6, with Josh Little picking up 4 wickets.

The RCB batters started to fall like nine pins as they were looking to secure a big win. The wicket of Kohli would open the game up in the 11th over with Rashid Khan yet to bowl. However, Dinesh Karthik and Swapnil Singh got the team home in the end as RCB won to go to 7th in the points table as MI slipped to the foot of the table.

What more can Virat Kohli do? Kohli was in some mood with the bat as he tried to match Du Plessis in the powerplay. The Indian star was criticised by Sunil Gavaskar for his rant at the critics in the reverse fixture before the match started. Kohli seemed like he was set for a big score on the day and get his side home before the collapse started.

Kohli was at 35 from 16 balls before wickets started to tumble at the other end. He would end up with 42 off 27 balls and was dismissed by a beauty from Noor Ahmed. Kohli ended with a strike-rate over 155 and hit 2 boundaries and 4 sixes.

Certainly in this game, Kohli was once again forced into the

# IPL, PSL dates may clash next season; players will be forced to make a choice

Taking 2024 as a yardstick, some of the players who would have been forced into a decision would have been Luke Wood, Sikandar Raza, Rovman Powell, Rilee Rossouw, Shai Hope and Tom-Kohler Cadmore.

CHENNAI, May 5 (Agencies): The stage is set for an unlikely India-Pakistan clash in the opening months of next year.

With next year's Champions Trophy to be staged in Pakistan in February and March, the Pakistan Super League (PSL), the country's franchise-based short-form competition,

could be moved to a 5-6 window in the months of April and May. This is, of course,

when the Indian Premier League (IPL) will be played.

"Due to the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 being held in the traditional event window, the event window for the 2025 event will be April 7-May 20, 2025," a PCB

press release. The board proposed these dates after con-

sulting with franchise owners.

"At the back of this meeting, and in relation to the most suitable window for PSL 2025 and beyond, the PCB will share further data with the franchise owners so that they can discuss amongst them-



selves," PCB COO, Salman Naseer, was quoted as saying in the

the franchisees to take timely decisions," he added.

Usually, the PSL is reserved for February-March so players aren't forced to pick between featuring in one of the two leagues.

In 2025, that may not be the case as a major chunk of the IPL will be in April and May (it could even be brought

forward by a week or so if India qualifies for the WTC final to enable Indian players rest and recover before flying out to the UK)

Taking 2024 as a yardstick, some of the players who would have been forced into a decision would have been Luke Wood, Sikandar Raza, Rovman Powell, Rilee Rossouw, Shai

Hope and Tom-Kohler Cadmore.

One wonders if this would influence the decision of what players the IPL owners may want to target at next year's mega auctions. It also remains to be seen if the Indian government will sign off on the team travelling to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.

release. "We look forward to

working closely with

#### Top News of J&K Jammu, Sunday, May 05, 2024

# LOCAL

# JU gears up for admission of second batch of UG Program **Design Your Degree; VC interacts with students, parents**

action, Prof. Alka Sharma,

Director of the Skill Incu-

bation Innovation Entre-

preneurial Development

Center (SIIEDC), wel-

comed the audience and

threw light on the impres-

sive progress made by the

previous batch within just

six months of their first

She emphasized the

importance of the vari-

ous skill development

workshops and training

sessions attended by

students, highlighting

enhancements in team-

work, creative and critical

thinking, mathematical

abilities, and reasoning

Prof. Sadaf Shah, Asso-

ciate Director of the Skill

Incubation Innovation

Entrepreneurial Develop-

who have come to steal

the jewelry from Akash's

clinic on the pretext of

getting treatment. Both

of them try to render

Akash unconscious by

inhaling chloroform,

when Akash's brother-in-

law catches them. And

these two are Akash's

neighbours Vibhu and

his wife who had become

rich by robbing people

in the same way. In

this way, the short cut

method of Vibhu and his

wife is exposed and they

are handed over to the

Natrang young artists

who performed in the

play included Mehak

Chib, Anand Verma,

Vishal Sharma, Aadesh

Dhar, Lalita Devi and

Vandana Thakur. The

lights were designed

and executed by Neeraj

Kant and the show was

coordinated by Mohd.

police.

Yaseen.

skills among them.

semester

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, May 5: Gearing up for admission of the second batch of students under innovative Under Graduate 'Design Your Degree' programme, the University of Jammu has launched the schedule for generating awareness among prospective students and their parents in the Campus.

While the first such session witnessed enthusiastic participation of the students and their parents. the other two sittings have been scheduled for May 17 and 24 this month to offer further opportunities for personalized interactions between participants and faculty members, ensuring that all queries and concerns are thoroughly addressed.

Such initiatives underscore the University's commitment to empowering students in making informed decisions about their academic futures.

The registration process for the Entrance Examination began on April 22 and the last date to apply is May 29, 2024.

The Entrance Examination will be held on June 1 and the academic session will begin from August this vear.

During the first awareness cum interactive session with the students and the parents, Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai delved in detail on the significance of this UG programme and its alignment with the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), emphasizing its motto. "Teach to Transform, Educate to



Empower and Learn to Lead'

Explaining the key features of the programme, specifically designed for undergraduate students, Prof. Rai said it has been carefully structured to meet the needs of the market and offers a well-rounded and interdisciplinary learning experience. The "Design Your Degree" initiative is intentionally crafted to empower students to shift from seeking jobs to creating opportunities, granting them the freedom to choose subjects aligned with their passions and aspirations and encour-

aging them to march to the beat of their own drum, he added. The Vice-Chancellor said the initiative is aimed at cultivating a broad spectrum of skills among

students, including essential abilities like life skills, soft skills, teamwork, analytical capabilities, digital and technical proficiency, problem-solving prowess, mathematical abilities, and critical and creative thinkina.

During the questionanswer session, Prof Rai

Natrang presents Hindi

engaged in a productive ment Center (SIIEDC), in discussion with students an engaging presentation, and their parents, rangelaborated on the Founing from clarifying the dation Year Undergradudegree's potential for conate Program (FYUP) of ferring a B.Tech qualifica-DYD and emphasized its tion to inquiries about joinrelevance in the current ing the program midway, educational landscape. exploring opportunities for She also provided a comfurther studies, especially prehensive overview of in law, and the prospects the program's structure of campus placements at and its key features. the University of Jammu. The first batch of Participating in the inter-

second-semester DYD students actively participated in the event, engaging closely with prospective students and their parents. They offered valuable feedback and addressed numerous queries, contributing to a productive dialogue. Faculty members adeptly responded to these questions, further enriching the discussions. The energetic participation of students added depth to the conversation, with insightful suggestions being shared. The Open House Inter-

action facilitated one-onone interactions between participants and faculty members, allowing for personalized guidance to address queries and concerns, thereby aiding students in making informed decisions about their academic futures

The University of Jammu reiterated its commitment to innovation and excellence in education is further underscored by the recognition garnered by the Design Your Degree program, both nationally and internationally. The endorsement by the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Board for Women Education and Sports signifies the program's potential to revolutionize higher education and is a testament to its transformative

impact. The University of Jammu is making a big leap forward in transforming higher education through its "Open House Interaction", which focuses on the innovative four-year undergraduate Degree program: Design Your Degree. This event aimed to raise awareness and understanding among students and parents about the program's transformative possibilities, demonstrating the university's commitment to empowering students, as they navigate their educational odyssey. The University is committed to encouraging more conversations and ensuring prospective students and their parents have clear information. Among those present

in the interactive session included Prof. Charak, Head of the Department of Mathematics, Dr. Sandeep Arya, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Shallu Sehgal, with Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva hosting the proceedings.



JAMMU May 5; Mahant how to observe Vaishakh



# **Rangyug unveils its programs** for year celebrating 40 years of excellence in performing arts



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, May 5: In a press conference held on Sunday, Rangyug, the pioneer theatre group of Jammu known for its dedication to Theatre for Self-realization and Social Change, proudly announces a series of programs marking its 40th anniversary.

The press conference was attended by Deepak Kumar, Founder/Director Rangyug, Dr Priya Dutta renowned Kathak maestro, Pankaj Pradhan, a renowned classical singer. RJ Juhie Mohan, Raj Kumar Behrupia, Ashish Sharma, Soham Gupta besides other members of Rangyug.

Established in 1984, Rangyug has now expanded its horizons, encompassing music and dance, and has emerged as a Performing Arts Foundation nurturing the next generation of artists. The year-long celebration will feature a range of initiatives, including regular acting and weekend classes tailored for individuals above 16. Additionally, performanceoriented workshops such as the Summer Theatre Camp for Children during summer vacations and a Winter Theatre Camp during winter vacations will be conducted, for the

workshop in the comina summer vacations which is open to aspirants of all age groups.

The aspirants may Register and reserve their seats by filling the on line form at: https://forms.gle/ t391h8K7mFwHxFY37 or visiting the Studio at Trikuta Municipal Complex, Lower Dogra Hall road, Jammu between 3 pm to

7 pm. To commemorate its journey, Rangyug will showcase exhibitions featuring photographs, costumes, press reviews, and other memorabilia. A special highlight of the anniversary celebrations will be the release of a Souvenir in the form of a Coffee Table Book on the Foundation Day this year. Committed to education, Rangyug aims to initiate Theatre in Education programs for students and children, enriching their learning experiences through the performing

and plastic arts. Rangyug is dedicated to revitalize and enrich the cultural landscape of the Jammu region, striving to breathe new life into its fading cultural ethos of social harmony. Since 1984, Rangyug is actively engaged in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, committed to self-realization, social change, education, themade significant strides in achieving its objectives, leaving a lasting impact on the region's cultural and social fabric.

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Throughout its journey, Rangyug has conducted popular awareness theatre performances on streets, organized seminars, conducted research and surveys, and participated in conferences

and performed its highly acclaimed plays in prosceniums in several national and international festivals across the country and abroad.

A notable achievement by Rangyug includes invitation by the Lahore Art Council, Pakistan, and AJOKA to initiate people-to-people contact through the performance of a Dogri play in an international festival in Lahore in 2005. This initiative, a first of its kind by the civil society of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir, aimed to foster peace and harmony between two neighboring countries since 1947. Additionally, Rangyug was invited by the US Department of Cultural Affairs, Washington DC, in 2008 to promote and disseminate the concept of tolerance and peace

Rangyug extended an invitation to all enthusiasts and aspiring artists to join in celebrating 40 years of Artistic Excellence and to participate in the array of programs and activities scheduled throughout the year.

through Arts.

# play 'Short Cut'

**Top News Report** Rohit Shastri, provided detailed guidance on



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, May 5: Natrang presented a Hindi devised and improvised play 'Short Cut' here at Natrang Studio Theatre in its weekly Sunday Theatre series.

The play was devised and directed by Neeraj Kant.The play Short Cut is the story of a couple who rob people in an attempt to become rich overnight and are finally caught.

As the play begins, a young couple is seen fighting with each other in their house over dowry. Kajal accuses her husband Akash of lying to her family that their son is a doctor. Actually, Kajal is very regretful about her husband being an animal doctor.

She says that her husband's family had demanded a motorcycle

from them as dowry. During their fight, noise of slogans along with drumming is heard from the locality. Just then Vibhu enters with a box of sweets in his hand and tells that he has got the title of best doctor and has bought a new house and a new car. On this, Kajal curses her husband that while treating

animals, he has not even bought a scooty with his own money. Vibhu's wife praises Kajal's saree and necklace. On this Kajal says that due to fear of thieves, she has kept all her jewelry hidden in her husband Akash's clinic. As soon as they come to know about this, Vibhu and his wife leave from there. After this, since there are no patients in Akash's

clinic, his brother-in-law is seen having fun. And then a couple enters

Amavasva that holds significant religious and astrological importance. Mahant Rohit Shastri advised making donations according to one's zodiac sign on Vaishakh Amavasya. This aligns with the belief that charitable acts performed on this day hold special significance and can bring blessings and prosperity. He said Vaishakh Amavasya is dedicated to offerings to ancestors and charity-related activities. "Bathing in holy rivers

on this day is believed to confer prosperity and alleviate sorrows and diseases," Mahant Rohit Shastri said and emphasized the importance of performing Shraddha, Tarpan, and charity during this time.

He suggested various remedies for observing Amavasya, including fasting, bathing in holy rivers or ponds during sunrise, and making donations.

Donations of sesame, milk, and sweets made from sesame are particularly highlighted for alleviating poverty, he said and emphasized on ancestor worship and recommended offerings of raw milk, Ganga water, black sesame seeds, sugar, rice, water, and flowers to the peepal tree. Reciting specific man-

tras and hymns like the Pitru Sukta is advised for

auspicious results. He suggested specific rituals like offering Arghya to Lord Surya, reciting the Neelkanth Stotra, Sarpa Sukta, and Shri Naravan Kavach, and feeding Brahmins for auspicious outcomes. Mahant Rohit Shastri

highlighted the astrological significance of Amavasya, particularly its impact on individuals who are highly emotional. Special precautions and rituals are advised to counteract negative energies and ensure positive outcomes. Observing certain

practices such as avoiding tamasic substances, observing celibacy, refraining from alcohol and intoxicants, and avoiding harm to others are emphasized. Specific instructions regarding attire and personal grooming during worship are also provided. Mahant Rohit Shastri's guidance provides a comprehensive framework

for observing Vaishakh Amavasya, combining religious traditions with astrological insights to ensure auspiciousness and spiritual well-being.

age group of 9 to 15. In addition, Rangyug will host Music classes three times a week and Dance classes twice a week besides Classical Dance

atre training, conflict resolution, and addressing issues affecting vulnerable and marginalized communities. Through its endeavours, Rangyug has

### **Dimple holds anti-Pakistan protest**

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, May 5: Sunil Dimple, the president of Mission Statehood, led a protest against Pakistan in response to a militant attack on an army convoy in Jammu.

This attack resulted in casualties, including the martyrdom of an Indian Air Force (IAF) jawan and injuries to five army personnel.

The protest organized by Dimple targeted not only Pakistan but also its intelligence agency, the ISI, and various militant groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) led by Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) led by Masood Azhar.

Dimple demanded that the Prime Minister initiate surgical strikes and declare war against Pakistan in response to the ongoing militant activities.

He also advocated for the inclusion of Pakistanoccupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit, and Baltistan into



the territory of Jammu and Kashmir and India. Dimple pledged not to tolerate Pakistan's support for militancy, anti-national activities, and attacks on Indian security forces. He highlighted recent incidents of militant attacks and infiltration in the region, emphasizing the need for

decisive action. Dimple appealed to the Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police and the security forces to undertake a

comprehensive operation to clear and eliminate ISI modules operating in the region.

Additionally, he called upon the Indian Army Chief to initiate surgical strikes, wage war against Pakistan, and liberate POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan.

Dimple received support from various other leaders such as Ashok Sharma, Sat Sharma, Sachin Soi, Arjun, Nitin Saini, Rupesh Bhat, and Bunty, among others.

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