

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Earthquake of Magnitude 4.3 Hits Jolts Ladakh's Kargil

KARGIL, May 10 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 4.3 on the Richter Scale hit Kargil, Ladakh on Friday, according to the National Center for Seismology (NCS). No injuries were reported. Earthquake of Magnitude: 4.3, Occurred on 10-05-2024, 07:22:26 IST, Lat: 37.41 & Long: 74.59, Depth: 160 Km, Location: 346km NNW of Kargil, Laddakh.

Two soldiers injured after vehicle skids off road in Rajouri

RAJOURI, May 10 (Agencies): Two soldiers were injured after their vehicle skidded off the road in Rajouri district on Friday, officials said.

Official sources told news agency Kashmir Scroll that today an army vehicles met with an accident near sub grid station Dhanma PP Chingus PS Rajouri on NH 144A wherein one vehicle carrying canteen supplies skidded off the road. They said that two individuals, one critical were injured in the accident and have been taken hospital for treatment.

Dumper Driver Electrocutted in Kulgam Village

SRINAGAR, May 10 (Agencies): Tragedy struck the Kounserbal area of Damhal Hanjipora in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday when a dumper driver suffered a fatal electric shock while unloading sand.

The victim, identified as Showkat Ahmad Parray, son of Abdul Hameed Parray from Yadder Pulwama, tragically lost his life on the spot.

Local residents have pointed fingers at the Power Development Department (PDD), alleging negligence. They claim that transmission lines, left dangerously low, pose a grave threat to lives in the area.

Police have initiated an investigation into the incident, while locals appeal to higher authorities to address the issue promptly to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Covishield Side Effects: Doctors' Group urges Govt to review all Covid Vaccines

SRINAGAR, May 10 (Agencies): In the wake of pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca admitting in a UK court that its Covid vaccine can cause blood clots in rare cases, a group of doctors on Thursday expressed deep concern over the safety of the Covishield vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

At a press conference, the doctors, under the banner of the Awaken India Movement (AIM), urged the government to review the science behind all Covid vaccines and audit their commercialisation as well as implementation of active surveillance and monitoring mechanism to ensure vaccine



adverse events are identified as early as possible.

"The government has wholly ignored the rising number of cases of tragic deaths post-Covid vaccination all the while and continues to promote Covid vaccines as 'safe and effective', without scientific investigation and invoking epidemiology," Dr Tarun

Kothari, a radiologist and an activist, said at the press conference.

The world is learning about a side effect of the Covid vaccine called Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), he said.

When the COVID-19 vaccines were being administered, not many people were aware that it was being done with-

out the completion of phase-3 trials. Administration of COVID-19 vaccines was started without the manufacturers having complete information and data on the possible short-term or long-term side effects, or fatalities, said Dr Sujata Mittal, a gynaecologist and oncologist.

There is an already low awareness around vaccine injuries, especially in India, she said.

Thousands of women reported abnormalities in their menstrual cycles, which was confirmed much later as a side effect of the vaccine in a study published in September 2022, she added.

"The Awaken India Movement (AIM) has

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Relief for Arvind Kejriwal, Supreme Court grants interim bail till June 1



NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): In a major relief to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Supreme Court on Friday granted him interim bail till June 1 to campaign in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said Kejriwal, arrested in a money laundering case linked to the alleged

excise policy scam, will have to surrender and go back to jail on June 2.

The bench refused the request of senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, that the interim bail be granted till June 5.

June 1 is the last day of the seven-phase elections. The votes will be counted on June 4.

The court said reasons for granting Kejriwal

interim bail will follow.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, opposed the granting of interim bail to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief on grounds of poll campaigning saying no such precedents are available.

Observing that granting Kejriwal interim bail for 21 days will not make much of a difference, the bench said the ED's Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) was registered in August 2022 while the chief minister was arrested on March 21 this year.

"He (Kejriwal) was out there for one-and-a-half-years. He could have been arrested earlier or

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IGP Kashmir ensures full proof security arrangements for elections



SRINAGAR, MAY 10: Inspector General of Kashmir VK Bhirdi on Friday said that elaborate security arrangements for Kashmir polls as inter-district checkpoints and area domination has been taken care of. Talking to a selected group of reporters in his office chambers,

the IGP, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that all arrangements have been finalized to ensure smooth polling and huge participation of voters. "Whatever mandatory security arrangements were needed, they have been taken care of," he said.

The IGP said that police along with the Central forces have upgraded the inter-district check points and area domination has been given a further push. "We will ensure a peaceful atmosphere during all three phases of elections in Kashmir," he said.

He said security deployment has been made as per the prescribed format of Election Commission of India (ECI). "We are following ECI guidelines and ensuring that security arrangements are full-proof," he said.

He said that in the

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Strong winds hit North Kashmir parts, no casualties reported

BARAMULLA, May 10 (Agencies): Strong winds on Friday hit parts of north Kashmir including Baramulla district, causing damage to property, officials said.

An official said, gusty winds caused damage to property including the residential houses in several parts of north Kashmir.

He said that there was however, no causality or injury reported anywhere, while details are being collected from various places.

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Grew Energy to Establish Massive 3.2 GW Solar Module Facility in J&K



NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Grew Energy on Friday announced plans to set up a 3.2 GW module manufacturing facility in Jammu & Kashmir at an investment of Rs 4,500

crore. The plant will come up in Kathua over an area of 80 acre, Grew Energy said in a statement. "Grew Energy will set up 3.2 GW capacity manufacturing facility in

Jammu & Kashmir with an investment of Rs 4,500 crore. Upon completion, the facility will have annual capacity of producing 3.2 GW high-efficiency modules and

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

MeT predicts widespread rain in J&K on May 11, 12

SRINAGAR, May 10 (Agencies): The weatherman on Friday forecast widespread light to moderate rain in Jammu and Kashmir on May 11 and 12.

A meteorological department official here said that while generally dry weather is expected in the next 24 hours, there is possibility of "isolated light rain" in J&K.

"Partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain/snow (higher reaches) is expected at many places with thunder/lightning/gusty winds at few places on May 11," he said.

On May 12, he said, generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rain and snow (higher reaches) is expected at most places with thunder/lightning/gusty winds at few places.

From May 13, partly to

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UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Hakim Krishan Lal Sharma (Mendhar Wale)**. Uthala will take place at their residence at Lower Muthi Akalpur road on 11-05-2024 from 4 PM to 5 PM.



Sh Hakim Krishan Lal Sharma (Mendhar Wale)

Grief Stricken :
Ramesh Chander- Brother
Sunil Kumar- Brother
Rishav Sharma- Son

OBITUARY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SH. ROSHAN LAL KOUL (BHAISAHAB)** S/O LATE SMT PRABHAVATI & LATE SH PREM NATH KOUL (ARPAN) OF BUGAM, KULGAM KASHMIR, PRESENTLY AT H.NO. 472, VINAYAK NAGAR, SECTOR-2, NEAR K S PUBLIC SCHOOL, & VODAFONE TOWER, MUTHI JAMMU, ON 02/05/2024 AT MUTHI.



SH. ROSHAN LAL KOUL (BHAISAHAB)

THE TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT, NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFICE ON 11/05/2024 SATURDAY AT 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
SMT PAMMY & SH SUNIL KOUL -SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW (9810985713)
SMT SHEELA KOUL (JIGRI) W/O LATE SH. NEELKANTH KOUL -AUNTY
SMT PHOOLA KOUL (TAHEE) W/O LATE SH SOON NATH KALL -BABHI (9006101360)
SMT SHYAMA JI & SH. JI. TIKOO -SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW (7303557297)
SMT. USHAJI & SH. PEARY K K KUL -SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW (9419197225)
SMT RAJJI & DR ROOP KRISHAN BHAT -BROTHER & SISTER IN LAW (9868555333)
SMT MALNI & DR ASHOK KOUL -BROTHER & SISTER IN LAW (401-4970139- USA)
SMT RANUJI & SH. SHRIDHARI LAL KOUL -BROTHER & SISTER IN LAW (7006467691)
SMT BABUJI & SH. VIJAY K KOUL -BROTHER & SISTER IN LAW (9419146262)
SMT NANCY JI & SH. PARDEEP KUL -BROTHER & SISTER IN LAW (9804099550)
SMT SONI & SH. M. K. BHAT -DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW (9819452263)
SMT BEAUTY & SH. VIMAL BHAT -DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW (8825197876)
SMT NEELAM & SH. VINOD KOUL -SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW (9811571250)
SMT MEENAKSHI & SH. PUNEET KOUL -SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW (899739882)

RAHI KOUL -SON GRAND CHILDREN
MEET, NIYAT, NEEV, AVNI, NIMIT, SAWAN, SUPRIYA, PURVI, SHAMI

10TH DAY/RASAM KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the untimely demise of our beloved **SMT. ANU DOGRA** W/o Sh. Pankaj Dogra R/o Kathua.

- 10th Day will be held on 10th May, 2024 at 11 AM at our residence Near National Highway, Logate Morh, Kathua.
- Rasam Kriya will be held at our residence on 11th May, 2024 from 11 AM to 12 Noon.
- Uthala will be held on 11th May, 2024 from 4 PM to 5 PM at G R Resort Near National Highway, Logate Morh, Kathua



SMT. ANU DOGRA (Chairperson, Founder)

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Management, Staff & Students

- ▶ **RAJIV GANDHI GROUP OF COLLEGES, KATHUA**
- ▶ **INDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL, KATHUA**
- ▶ **SURYA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, KATHUA**
- ▶ **MOUNT LITERA ZEE SCHOOL, KATHUA**

Pankaj Dogra - Husband
Wyom Pankaj - Son
Tawishi Dogra - Daughter
Mother-in-law & Father-in-law
Smt. Santosh & Dr. Yoginder Nath Dogra
Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Dr. Saroj Sharma & Dr. Rabinder Rattanpal Jethanis & Jeths
Smt. Richa & Sh. Arvind Dogra
Smt. Vijaylakshmi & Sh. Rajiv Dogra
Mrs. Devesha & Mr. Antriksh (Daughter-in-law & Nephew)
Mrs. Avni (Niece) & Mr. Shashank Aggarwal (Son-in-law)

Mother
Smt. Kalash Sharma W/o Late Sh. Shadi Lal Sharma
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Smt. Geetanji Sharma & Sh. Satish Sharma
Smt. Ritu Sharma & Sh. Goun Shanker
Smt. Manu Sharma & Sh. Vidhu Sharma
Bhabhis & Brothers
Smt. Renu Sharma & Sh. Sudhir Sharma
Smt. Raj Kiran & Sh. Sanjiv Sharma

7006903434, 9419150939, 9419150590, 9419108080
Ishaan, Isaar & Dr. Amber Sharma (Nephews)

OBITUARY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT DULARI KOUL (REKHA JI)** WIFE OF LATE SHRI KALASH NATH KOUL ON 7TH MAY 2024 ERSTWHILE RESIDENT OF TULSI ORCHARD CHANNAPORA SRINAGAR PRESENTLY AT SURIYA VIHAR, HOUSE NO. 603, LANE NO 17, BOHRI, JAMMU.



SMT DULARI KOUL

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE HELD ON 16TH MAY 2024 AT 9 AM AT MUTHI GHAT (NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION)
GRIEF STRICKEN
Dr M L Koul - Brother-in-law
Gokal Krshan & Vijay Dhar - Brother & Bhabhi
Sheela Shah - Sister
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
K K Koul & Chandra Ji
Deepak & Anu Ji Koul
Vinod & Meeraji Koul
Ajay & Veena Kuchroo
Kiran Kuchroo W/o Lt. Dr. Bawmesh Kuchroo
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Usha & Roop Krishan Zareo
Roshan Lal Dhar
Upasana & Rakesh Mattoo
Monika & Rav Koul
Sunita & Ashwani Raina

Grand Children
Neelu & Sonu, Anshu & Vikas, Chetku & Saray, Ashish & Nandha, Ukanah, Sheen, Daanish, Parth, Neha, Ankur, Mohit, Dhrit, Kamakshi
Mob: 8287806313, 9871597373, 9778912656, 706281785, 7006188354

10TH DAY KRIYA

Sushma Razdan (W/o Late Sh Rajinder Kharoo)
Our Angel, the soul of our family passed away peacefully to merge with eternity on 03 May, 2024 at Dwarka.
10th Day Kriya will be held on 12th May 2024, 8 am at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir G257+W7P, New Palam Vihar, Block-T, Sector-109, Gurugram, Haryana -122017.



Sushma Razdan

GRIEF STRICKEN
Kharoo, Choubey and Handu Family
9811368862 | 9315999532 | 9682129919

MASVAR & VAHARVAR

A year has passed since you left for heavenly abode with peaceful memories; your love is still our guide; though we can't see you today but, you are always at our side. And your love and light will live on forever with us. We pray to our Kul-Devta Shree Jagar Nath Bhaivar for your Atma to attain Moksha in Vaikunth.



Smt. Lalita Koul

Masvar & Vaharvar of our beloved **Smt. Lalita Koul** W/o Sh. Omkar Nath Koul will be performed on 10th & 11th May, 2024 at our residence - Digital Door No. 30524, Sec. 2, Durga Nagar, Jammu. DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY: Sh. Omkar Nath Koul - Husband, Mrs. Nishu & Mr. Sunil Pandit, Mrs. Anu & Mr. Sandeep Koul, Master Ahaan & Miss Dishani, Samast Parivar - Koul's & Bhat's, Contact No.: 9797630162

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Anita Suri** W/o Sh. Hari Krishan Suri A/p H.No. 613 Lane No. 17 Surya Vihar Anand Nagar Bohri Talab Tillo Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 04-05-2024.



Smt. Anita Suri

Tenth Day will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of Education Muthi pul on 13-05-2024 (Monday) at 7.00 am.
Grief Stricken
Sh. Hari Krishan Suri - Husband (7051445249)
Daughter & Son-in-Law
Sourabh Singh & Apurav Suri (7051015072)
Aseem Suri - Son (9810621550)
Suri & Shah Family

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rattan Rani Kachroo** W/o Late Sh. Soomnath Kachroo (Zangalpora, Kulgam) on 2-5-2024 presently residing at Block C, Flat 5 & 6, TRT Nagrota Camp.



Smt. Rattan Rani Kachroo

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 11th May 2024 at Nagrota Ghat. Assembly will be held at Community Hall, TRT Nagrota Camp.
Ph.No. : 7006645747, 9596546413
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sister-in-law & Brother
Smt. Usha & Sh. Omkarnath Kachroo
Smt. Chunni Ji & Sh. Shambo Nath Raina
Smt. Nancy Koul W/o Lt. Mohal Lal Koul
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Shilpa & Sh. Sanjay Kachroo
Smt. Santosh Shah W/o Late Triokki Nath Shah - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Dazy & Sh. Anil Razdan - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Bubby & Sh. Ramesh Koul - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Shonu & Sh. Ashish Raina - Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Smt. Sheetal & Sh. Kamlesh Kandroro - Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Grand Children: Divish Koul, Akash Raina, Aman Raina, Nirav Kachroo & Aarav Kachroo

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

IT'S VERY SAD TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR BELOVED BROTHER **SH PYARE LAL BHAN** LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 7TH MAY 2024. WE ARE MOURNING AT COMMUNITY HALL, LANE NO 24, NEAR BLOCK 152 BACK SIDE JAGTI NAGROTA.



SH PYARE LAL BHAN

TENTH DAY KRIYA SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 16TH MAY 2024 THURSDAY AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 8 AM ONWARDS. ASSEMBLY AT 10:30 AM AT COMMUNITY HALL LANE NO 24 NEAR BLOCK 152 BACK SIDE JAGTI NAGROTA.
IN GRIEF:-
KANTA BHAN (MOTHER)
(SISTERS AND BROTHERS-IN-LAW)
MRS KIRAN KOUL & MRANIL KOUL
MRS CHAMPA & MR BULU JI RAINA
MRS NEELU BHAT & MR RAJ NATH BHAT
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY HIS NEPHEW & NIECE: PAVESH KOUL, VARSHA RAINA, MOHIT RAINA, SAI BHAT, GUNGUN BHAT.
GRIEF STRICKEN: KOUL, RAINA AND BHAT PARIVARS
CONTACT NO: 9622307445, 7006740075, 9596196059

MOURNING FROM IN-LAWS SIDE

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Jija ji Sh. Ram Krishan Bhat (Baya ji)** H/o Smt. Veena ji Bhat D/o Late Prathvi Nath Pandit originally resident of Jammu Aishmuqam Anantnag Kashmir at present Baskar Vihar, Opposite Manjla Devi Mandir, Triokpur Jammu.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 13th May 2024 (Monday) at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of Education Office, Muthi Jammu at 08:30 AM
Deeply Remembered By :-
(Brothers-in-law and Sisters-in-law)
Sh. Jawahar Lal and Smt. Anjley Pandit
Sh. Rattan Lal & Smt. Baby Pandit
(Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law)
Smt. Phoolaji & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Tickoo
Smt. Dura ji & Sh. Ashok Kumar Sidha
Smt. Chuni ji & Lt. Sh. Vijay Kumar Tickoo
Smt. Sheela ji & Sh. Kanayalal Pandit
Contact Number 7298802976, 8899375733



Sh. Ram Krishan Bhat (Baya ji)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Kanta Devi** W/o Sh. Madan Lal Kundan (Retd. H.D. PHE/RTIC Deptt Jammu) R/o Vill. Simlialwali (Vijaypur) who left for heavenly abode on 02-05-2024.
Tenth Day will be performed at Khatri Palace near Railway Crossing Vijaypur, Thakri on 11-05-2024 (Saturday) 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Satsang followed by Guru Ka Langar.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Madan Lal Kundan - Husband
Daughter and Son-in-law
Er. Rubia Kundan and Er. Rahul Atri
Daughter-in-law and Son
Smt. Sonia Angural and Er. Rohit Kundan
Mr. Ritvik Kundan - Son
Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law
Smt. Anita Thappa and Sh. Kulddeep Thappa - Nanand and Nanoya
Smt. Kanta Kundan and Sh. P. L. Thappa (CEO) - Nanand and Nanoya
Smt. Bishno Devi and Sh. Rattan Lal
Smt. Shakuntla Devi and Sh. Bishan Lal
Smt. Kamlesh Kumari and Lt. Sh. Chhatto Ram (Retd. CAO)
Smt. Anita Kundan and Sh. Mohan Lal Kundan (Retd. XEN PMGSY)
Smt. Sunita Kundan and Er. Ashok Kumar Kundan (A.E. Mech. PHE Jammu)
Nephew & Niece
Er. Sushil and Smt. Madhu, Sh. Sunil Kundan, Sh. Anil Kundan and Smt. Manita, Er. Vinod Kundan and Smt. Runjali, Er. Pradyumn Kundan and Smt. Kamrini, Er. Vikas Kundan, Dr. Shivaji, Er. Nitin Kundan and Er. Arush
Grand Children
Master Ayaan Atri, Master Abish Kundan, Master Reyansh, Master Aditya, Navya, Inayia
Mob : 9419314443, 9149805178



Smt. Kanta Devi (02-04-1966 to 02-05-2024)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Girja Dhar Koul** W/o Sh. Tej Bahadur Koul A/P 602, Gayatri Apartments, Sector 45 Faridabad Haryana, who left for heavenly abode on 05.05.2024.
Tenth Day will be performed at Muradnagar (UP) on Tuesday, May 14 at 10.00 am.
Grief Stricken
Sh. Tej Bahadur Koul (Husband) 9871041222
4871062466
Pratigya Bhan & Neeraj Bhan (Daughter & Son in law)
Puja Arora & Amit Arora (Daughter & Son in law)
Rishon, Saisha, Smera (Grand Children)
Kauls, Dhars, Khashus, Walis, Khers, Razdans



Smt. Girja Dhar Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform untimely sad demise of our beloved **Karamyogi SMT. MOHINI DHAR** W/o Lt. Mahal Lal Dhar original resident of Syed Ali Akbar, Raghunath Mandir, Srinagar presently at H.No. 353 Sector 3, Gangyal Garden, Near St. Paul Convent High School.
TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 15th May 2024 (Wednesday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu.
Grief Stricken
Smt. Santosh & Sh. O.N. Dhar (Devar & Devrani)
Smt. Kalpana & Sh. R. K Dhar (Devar & Devrani)
Smt. Geeta & Sh. Ramesh Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Reeta & Sh. Rajinder Mahalder (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Anju Kaloo (Daughter)
Mob : 9149470679, 9419243449, 8825036833



KARAMYOGI SMT. MOHINI DHAR

BARKHI

One year has passed since you left us for your heavenly abode. We all deeply miss you. Your memories will always remain fresh in our hearts.
Barkhi of our beloved **Late Smt Chanchal Kumari Gupta** W/o Lt. Sh. Chander Parkash Gupta shall be performed on 11th May Saturday at our residence Qtr-65, Gurha, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu ... Sage Time-12.00 Afternoon
Deeply Remembered BY:
Sons and Daughter-in-Laws
Mr. Rajesh Gupta and Ms. Anju Gupta
Mr. Rajeev Gupta and Sonia Gupta
Daughters and Sons-in-Law
Ms. Sudesh Gupta W/o Lt. Dinesh Gupta
Ms. Kusum Gupta W/o Lt. Rajnish Gupta
Ms. Suman Abrol and Rakesh Abrol
Grand Children
Himanshu, Rajat, Apurna, Sudanshu
Devrani
Veena Gupta
Contact Nos. :- 9419186864, 9419305500



Late Smt Chanchal Kumari Gupta

10TH DAY/RASAM KIRYA/UTHALA

YOU WILL LIVE IN OUR HEART AND THOUGHTS
Our dearest **Smt. Sudershan Gupta** left for her heavenly abode on May 01, 2024.
10TH DAY will be held on Thursday 09 May, 2024 at our residence House No 202 Lane No 15 Talab Tillo Jammu From: 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.
RASAM KIRYA will be held on Sunday 12 May 2024 at our residence House No. 202 Lane No 15 Talab Tillo Jammu from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.
UTHALA will be held on Monday 13 May 2024 at Tali Sahab Gurudwara Talab Tillo Jammu from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
IN GRIEF
Om Prakash Gupta- Husband
Dheeraj Gupta & Ruchi Mahajan (Son & Daughter-in-law)
9419196325, 9419142476



SMT SUDERSHAN GUPTA

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rattan Rani Kachroo**; originally resident of Zangalpora, Kulgam who left for heavenly abode on 2/5/2024, presently residing at Block - C, Flat 5 & 6, TRT camp Nagrota.
10th Day Kriya will be performed on 11th May, 2024 at Nagrota Ghat. Assembly will be held at 9.00 am in Community Hall, TRT Nagrota Camp.
Grief Stricken
Sister-in-law & Brother
Smt. Usha & Sh. Omkarnath Kachroo
Sisters & Brother-in-laws
Smt. Chunni Ji & Sh. Shambo Nath Raina
Smt. Nancy Koul W/o Lt. Mohal Lal Koul
Smt. Shilpa & Sh. Sanjay Kachroo - Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Santosh Shah W/o Late Triokki Nath Shah - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Dazy & Sh. Anil Razdan - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Bubby & Sh. Ramesh Koul - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Shonu & Sh. Ashish Raina - Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Smt. Sheetal & Sh. Kamlesh Kandroro - Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Grand Children: Divish Koul, Akash Raina, Aman Raina, Nirav Kachroo & Aarav Kachroo
Ph.Nos: 7006645747, 9596546413



Smt. Rattan Rani Kachroo

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh Maharaj Krishen Koul** S/o Lt. Sh. R. N. Koul originally resident of Sathu Barabar Shah (Nakashpura) Srinagar at present H No. 3 Sector-4, Pandoka Colony Paloura Jammu on 07/05/2024 (near Badshah Kalandar Asgram).



Sh Maharaj Krishen Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 16th May 2024 (Thursday) at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of Education office Muthi Jammu at 08:00 AM.
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY :-
Smt. Vijay Koul (Wife)
(Son & Daughter-in-law)
Smt. Mosmi Koul and Vikas Koul (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Smt. Neetu Chauhan and Sandeep Chauhan
GRAND CHILDREN: Aashna, Aaransh, Anshita, Anushka
9797533300, 9796824819, 9596844415

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Lok Sabha Polls will convey J&K People's expression to rest of India: Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi

GANDERBAL, May 10 (Agencies): The National Conference candidate from the Srinagar parliamentary constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, has said he will not participate in the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir as the institution of the state assembly has been "undemocratically degraded" after the abrogation of Article 370.

Mehdi, an influential Shia leader, said the parliamentary elections are important means to convey the expression of the J-K people about Article 370 to the rest of the country.

"I do not accept the status of the state assembly which it has been degraded to. I consider it an undemocratically degraded institution which we can at the best call a glorified municipality," Mehdi told PTI in a free-wheeling interview on his campaign trail in this central Kashmir district, which is a part of the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency.

The Srinagar constituency has been represented by three generations of the Abdullahs. Mehdi said by participating in the assembly elections and being part of "that degraded assembly", he would be "legitimising" that status.

"That is something I do not want to do. As an individual, I

do not want to give that legitimacy to the assembly and the status quo. Therefore, I am clear I am not participating in any assembly elections," he added.

Mehdi, a former three-time MLA of central Kashmir's Budgam assembly segment, said he was not fighting elections for power or opportunities.

"Assembly elections for me are an easier and comfortable option and that gives more opportunities to me to be in the power corridors. But accepting that assembly and being part of it would amount to legitimising that degraded assembly. I do not want to be a part of that," he said.

Referring to the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, Mehdi said the parliamentary polls give him an opportunity to create a political space, to resonate "this sentiment" and take this expression to the institution (Parliament) where these decisions were taken.

"Parliament should know that the decisions that it took were completely undemocratic and the people of J-K had no participation and no role to play in that decision-making. This is the institution where we need to take that sentiment, expres-

sion and opinion. Through that, I intend to take this expression to the rest of India.

"So, this is completely a different thing from the assembly and I am sure that I am not going to participate in the assembly elections for these reasons," he added.

The former minister said the Lok Sabha elections are important because they are happening for the first time after the decisions that were taken on in 2019.

"The constitutional status that J-K enjoyed was taken unconstitutionally and undemocratically. The status of J-K was degraded and the rights and guarantees that were assured to us when we had acceded to the Union of India were snatched from us unilaterally and without the wish and will of the people.

"This abrogation happened while the entire population was put into an open-air prison," he said.

The government had imposed a strict lockdown on August 5, 2019, restricting the movement of the people and snapping telephone service, including landline and internet services across J-K. Several mainstream leaders had been detained or were put under house arrest.

Mehdi said the Lok Sabha elections provide an opportunity to express not only to Parliament of India but also to the rest of the nation "that we do not subscribe to the status to which we have been degraded".

"We do not accept the decisions that were taken against us on August 5, 2019 and this status of being second-class citizens is not the reason that we had acceded to the Union of India," he said.

The NC candidate said the parliamentary elections also provide an opportunity to create a political space for "dissent and expressing the opinion which was otherwise denied to us for the last four-five years".

"The entire population was intimidated. The media fraternity which wanted to reflect the facts on the ground was intimidated and many of them were put in jails. The activists are still in jail.

"No such atmosphere was allowed in which we would peacefully and democratically express our views. So this is an opportunity for us to express the anger and the sentiment which were otherwise denied to us," he added.

To a question about not contesting from his bastion

— north Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha seat which includes many Shia-dominated areas including his own assembly segment Budgam, Mehdi said at the moment the challenge that the people face is not local.

"It is not district-wise. It is not a challenge to a district or to a constituency. The challenge that we face, the existential crisis that we have, is the same for everyone. It is as similar for the people of Srinagar as it is for the people of Baramulla or for Budgam or Anantnag. The issues are similar. The challenge is the same," he said.

The Shia leader said it does not matter who contests from where. He said he sees coming out of his bastion as an encouragement for him. "Standing and fighting for a cause and generating the kind of an opinion or support from areas 'which have not been my bastion' is an encouragement for me. It means that I am not doing localised politics. I am not doing politics for a particular seat or an area," he said.

Mehdi said he is doing politics for the nation. The people are understanding this and they are coming along, he added.

Kaal Bhairav Temple organizes Akshaya Tertiya Bhandara

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: Akshaya Tertiya Bhandara was celebrated with great pomp at Bhairav Nath temple on the occasion of Bhagwan Parshu Ram Jayanti. Devotees started coming to the temple from 6 am for the worship of God Lord Kaal Bhairav Nath Ji and taking blessings for all. Haven was performed after Navgrah Puja. After this, 11 Jangams were worshipped.

Pandit Rumil Sharma said that two temples are in Kashi and Ujjain, Devotees said that every wish is fulfilled by worshipping in the temple. Heavy decoration of loaded Beautiful Flowers in Darbar of Shree Kaal Bhairav Ji Mandir, after the all rituals of puja, bhandara organised in very well manners. Thousands of people take blessings



and enjoy the Bhandara in Shree Kaal Bhairav ji Temple at Chowk Chabutra Jammu. Priest Rumil Sharma said Bhagwan Kaal Bhairav Ji is fifth Avatar of Lord Shiva, am the witness if someone make their wish from core of the heart being fulfill by Lord Kaal Bhairav Ji. Many of the people's are happy with blessings of Lord Kaal Bhairav Ji.

Delegation meets with Congress leader Adv. Bhavishya

SUNDERBANI, May 10: A delegation from village Chowki Handan, Kanara, Brothian in Nowshera met Advocate Bhavishya Sudan (Senior Congress Leader) and apprised her about the failure of Jal Shakti Department.

People told that the department providing the drinking water/Tab water but there is lot of bungling going on in the ongoing projects under Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme as the Scheme has not been implemented on ground till yet.

In the prevailing heat waves the people of these areas are facing acute shortage of water.

Advocate Bhavishya Sudan demanded a fair probe in the whole project and demands proper implementation of the scheme on ground in the interest of general public of Nowshera constituency.

DPS Kathua Celebrates Mother's Day with Special Assembly and Activities

Top News Report

KATHUA, May 10: DPS Kathua marked Mother's Day with heart-felt celebrations, featuring a special assembly and a range of engaging activities to honor mothers and motherhood.

The day commenced with a vibrant assembly, where students showcased their talents and appreciation for mothers through a captivating play dedicated to Mother's Day. Following the play, various class activities were organized, including paper flower making and crown crafting, allowing students to express their love and gratitude for their mothers in creative ways.

In addition, the junior wing of the school participated in a poetry activity, composing heartfelt poems dedicated to their mothers.

Principal Mr. Vivek Arora expressed his admiration for the students' efforts and commended the teachers for their guidance and



support in organizing the event. He extended warm wishes to all mothers, conveying a message of appreciation for their unconditional love and sacrifices.

"It's heartening to see our students actively participating in celebrating the essence of motherhood," said Principal Arora. "We are grateful for the love and support of all mothers and wish them a happy Mother's Day."

The Mother's Day celebration at DPS Kathua served as a beautiful tribute to the irreplaceable role mothers play in shaping the lives of their children.

Truth prevails- Kejriwal gets interim bail wide spread impact expected in general Elections: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: Expressing great exhumeration and victory of Justice over the judgment pronounced by Hon'ble Supreme Court in granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, till June 1, Aam Aadmi Party, Jammu welcomed the judgment and forecasted that besides Punjab, Haryana & other states, the election result in Delhi elections will come out as 7, AAP anticipated. The AAP leaders reminded general masses that BJP shamelessly embracing all noted fraudsters in their party fold on one hand and advocating crusade against corruption on the other hand and that whole country men are now watching the false & baseless propaganda of BJP and that country men are bound to pay BJP in the same coin in the ongoing Lok Sabha

elections.

The AAP leaders further said that this is not only a relief to the acting CM, Arvind Kejriwal but it is a victory of democracy, Constitution and the supremacy of law of the land against the Dictatorship.

The Aam Aadmi Party, Jammu has felt it expedient that in order to avoid character assassination of the leaders of opposition political parties at the time of elections, ED or CBI intervention need be stopped to ensure free, fair & fearless election, at least 6 months before election in the biggest democracy of the world. This was stated by AAP Senior leaders Deep Singh, Maj. Gen Retd. RS Jamwal, Farooq Ahmed Bandy, RS Chauhan, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Amit Langer, SS Jamwal, Agya Kour, Ram Pal Khajuria, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bhandral, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat,

Suresh Bhagat, Ashni Matoo, Ranjodh Singh, GN Khan, Sandeep Parihar & Sham Lal Thakur, here urging upon Chief Justice of India to take SUO-MOTO action in public interest to ensure cleanliness, transparency & fearless election in Indian polity to set an example before the democratic world. Citing an example of worst ever character assassination by BJP government of opposition leaders be it Hemant Soren acting Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Chief Minister Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia. Dy CM, Satyinder Jain, Health Minister AAP, Sanjay Singh MP, AAP so man & other opposition leaders, the AAP leaders vehemently assailed the present government saying that Indian democracy, has earned a bad name of acute black mailing of opposition leaders at the time of election to

secure political gains throwing dust in the eyes of general masses there by diverting the attention of masses from real issues like price rise, unemployment, de-valuation of Indian rupees as compared to US dollar, paper leakage, diesel & petrol prices etc.

The AAP leaders further said that on one hand BJP is arresting political opponents on fake corruption charges while they themselves are on an MLA & councilors purchasing spree. Hard-earned public money is being misused to quench BJP's thirst for power, the AAP leaders alleged. They further said that the BJP & Prime Minister Modi cannot talk about fighting corruption now; the tainted leaders under the scanner of ED & CBI for corruption have been put into "washing machine" & BJP's detergent washing powder cleans all spots in seconds.

Obstruction, Sabotage attempts of BJP's led administration cannot stop Sunami wave of NC: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU May 10: Rattan Lal Gupta, the Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), vehemently denounced the administration's blatant attempts to obstruct the political campaign of Party Vice-President and NC candidate for Lok Sabha Polls, Omar Abdullah in the Baramulla constituency when permission was granted to hold rallies and public meetings from 9th of May to 18 of May, 2024 the last day of campaign. Such actions not only undermine democratic principles but also reveal the ruling party's desperation to suppress opposition voices.

In a statement issued here today, the senior NC leader emphasized that the police directives to rescheduling the programmes of election canvassing in the Baramulla constituency from 11th to 13th was a blatant attempt aimed at sabotaging the democratic process and undermining the integrity of Omar Abdullah's campaign. This deliberate obstruction not only reflects the desperation of political opponents but also highlights their fear of the overwhelming support the National Conference



is garnering across the Kashmir Valley, Poonch and Rajouri Districts.

Rattan Lal Gupta asserted that the remarkable response received by the National Conference throughout the Kashmir Valley, Poonch and Rajouri Districts has evidently rattled its adversaries, compelling them to resort to desperate measures in their futile attempt to hinder the party's momentum and Sunami wave in favour of NC Candidates. By obstructing the NC's campaign efforts, these opponents only expose their collective inability to resonate with the sentiments of the electorate. He asserted that the political rivals of National Conference or we can say the A, B & C teams of BJP have chosen to hide behind the veil of BJP led administration, utilizing it as a shield to

shield themselves from the legitimate aspirations of the people.

Rattan Lal emphasized that if the BJP was confident of its claims on 'development and normalcy', then the party should field its candidates instead of fiddling its proxy candidates in three seats in the Kashmir Valley. He claimed that BJP has damaged the democracy in Jammu and Kashmir as more than ten years have passed since last assembly polls were held.


The Provincial President appealed directly to the Election Commission of India (ECI), urging its intervention to prevent the recurrence of such disruptive actions and to ensure the smooth conduct of democratic processes. He implored the ECI to uphold the principles of fairness and transparency by permit-

ting the NC candidate, Omar Abdullah, to hold rallies unhindered in the Baramulla constituency.

Meanwhile, Rattan Lal Gupta has responded strongly to the irresponsible statement made by BJP leader Tarun Chugh, targeting the National Conference over dynasty politics.

He expressed deep concern over Chugh's remarks, particularly highlighting the absence of any BJP candidate in the electoral fray, raising questions about Chugh's credibility and relevance in Kashmir Parliamentary elections. The absence of BJP candidates in the region underscores the party's reluctance to engage in the democratic process, rendering Chugh's role in the region immaterial.

The senior NC leader reiterated that the contributions of the National Conference to the progress and welfare of Jammu and Kashmir are unparalleled. He emphasized that across three generations, the NC has remained steadfast in its commitment to serving the people of the region. Furthermore, he highlighted the immense sacrifices made by the NC cadre to uphold democracy and protect the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. These sacrifices, he noted, are a testament to the NC's unwavering dedication to preserving the democratic fabric of the region. That is why people of Jammu and Kashmir respect and love from the core of their hearts Abdullah's families.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST

LOK NIRMAN BHAWAN, RAIL HEAD COMPLEX, JAMMU, FAX NO: 0191-2471893

E-mail: eastdivisionjammu@gmail.com

E-NIT inviting bids for Outsourcing Asset of District Development Commissioner, Jammu

E-NIT No. 07 of 2024-25 Dated: 09/05/2024.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited from registered individuals / Firms / Hoteliers / Companies / Agencies for outsourcing of Asset mentioned below for a period of **01 years** extendable another **02 years** subject to satisfactory performance (as is where is basis) of the District Development Commissioner, Jammu.

S. No	Name of Asset	Minimum Franchisee Fee	Eligibility Criteria	Franchise Period	Earnest Money (CDR/FDR)	Cost of tender Document
1	Canteen at DC Office Jammu	Rs. 3.00 Lakh only per annum with escalation of 10% every year	1. GST No. 2. GST 3B Latest 3. Aadhar Card 4. Domicile certificate	01 Years, extendable to another 02 years subject to satisfactory performance	Rs.20,000/- (in shape of CDR / FDR)	Rs.600/- (In shape of Treasury Challan)

NOTE : The items to be sold and their rates shall be finalized by Deputy Commissioner, Jammu

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria and bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-05-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 09-05-2024 to 17-05-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	15-05-2024 at 1200 Hrs. in the Office of (CPO) Deputy Commissioner, Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	09-05-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	17-05-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	18-05-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of H-(Highest Bidder) be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East at the time of allotment.

No. :-
Dated :-

(Er. Satish Bhagat)

**Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division,
Jammu East**

DIP/J-414/24



NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, N Rly., Store Branch DRM Office, Firuzpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S.N.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
01.	9425202C	ULTRATHERMIC CUTTING EQUIPMENT (FULL SET) AS PER SPECIFICATION ATTACHED	01*01*01= 03 NOS.	30.05.2024

NOTE:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act-2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No.: 03/2024-25 Date: 07.05.2024

1408/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDITORIAL

CELEBRATING
SUMMER

As the last vestiges of spring begin to fade, nature prepares for its grand transformation, heralding the arrival of summer. The air hums with anticipation, carrying whispers of warmth and the promise of lazy days beneath the sun's golden gaze. With each passing day, the world awakens from its wintry slumber, bursting forth in a riot of color and life.

The first signs of summer's imminent arrival can be seen in the gentle unfurling of delicate petals, as flowers bloom in a kaleidoscope of hues. From the vibrant yellows of sunflowers to the soft pinks of cherry blossoms, the landscape is painted with nature's brush, creating a masterpiece of unparalleled beauty. The scent of freshly cut grass mingles with the sweet perfume of blooming flowers, filling the air with an intoxicating fragrance that stirs the senses.

As the days grow longer and the sun climbs higher in the sky, the world seems to come alive with energy and vitality. Children's laughter echoes through the streets as they run and play, their faces flushed with the excitement of the season. Parks and beaches alike become bustling hubs of activity, as families gather to soak up the sun and revel in the simple joys of summer.

But summer is not just a time for leisure and relaxation; it is also a season of abundance and plenty. Fields and orchards burst forth with an abundance of fruits and vegetables, their bounty providing nourishment for both body and soul. Juicy strawberries, plump tomatoes, and crisp cucumbers tempt the taste buds, offering a feast for the senses that is unmatched by any other time of year.

Yet, for all its beauty and bounty, summer is not without its challenges. The sweltering heat can be relentless, turning even the simplest of tasks into a sweaty ordeal. But with it comes the opportunity to seek refuge in the cool embrace of shade or the refreshing waters of a sparkling lake or pool.

As the sun begins its slow descent towards the horizon, casting long shadows across the landscape, there is a sense of bittersweetness in the air. For while summer may be fleeting, its memories linger long after its departure. It is a time of cherished moments and unforgettable experiences, of lazy days spent in the company of loved ones and balmy evenings beneath a star-studded sky.

In the end, summer is more than just a season; it is a state of mind—a feeling of warmth and contentment that lingers in the heart long after the days grow short and the nights grow cold. So as we bid farewell to spring and embrace the long, sun-drenched days ahead, let us pause to savor the beauty and magic of summer in all its glory. For in the end, it is these fleeting moments of joy and wonder that make life truly worth living.

China's Xi: Divide or intimidate & conquer

By: K.C. Singh

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.

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IST

President Xi Jinping's European Tour Amid China's Economic Slowdown and Geopolitical Tensions

Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) shakes hands with his Hungarian counterpart Tamas Sulyok prior to their official talks in Blue Hall of presidential palace in Budapest, Hungary on May 9, 2024. The Chinese President pays a three day official visit to Budapest from the evening of May 8, 2024. (Photo by Noemi BRUZAK / POOL / AFP)

Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) shakes hands with his Hungarian counterpart Tamas Sulyok prior to their official talks in Blue Hall of presidential palace in Budapest, Hungary on May 9, 2024. The Chinese President pays a three day official visit to Budapest from the evening of May 8, 2024. (Photo by Noemi BRUZAK / POOL / AFP)

China's President Xi Jinping has at last begun his structured foreign travel after his stay-at-home posture during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. This was partly due to a delayed Covid-19 surge in China as the movement restrictions were lifted, when the rest of the world had crossed peak infections. This week he began a six-day swirl through Europe, starting with France, and then mostly China-friendly nations such as Hungary. Serbia was included as it marked 25 years since the Nato forces mistakenly bombed the Chinese diplomatic premises in Belgrade in the late 1990s.

This happens when the Chinese economic slowdown is now broadly accepted. The International Monetary Fund in its February 2024 report observed that economic growth this

year shall be 4.6 per cent, down from 5.2 per cent the previous year.

Even more worrisome for China should be their assessment of its drop to 3.4 per cent by 2028. This appears to be due to a combined effect of demographic shrinkage, Western sanctions on cutting-edge technology and restricted Western market access. President Xi's distrust of the private sector and entrepreneurship probably makes a turnaround difficult.

One obvious result is that talk about China catching up with the United States or even overtaking it has mellowed. In fact, it is generally accepted that even though the American economy is slowing, but at a lesser pace than China's, their gap is, if anything, widening. Analysts are speculating that when a rising power, desperate to catch up with the dominant hegemon, starts stalling, one of two things can happen. Its leadership may alter its aggressive behaviour towards the world, especially the neighbours, opting instead for diplomacy. Alternatively, it may get desperate and decide to use force to achieve its territorial objectives, realising its power-differential vis a vis its rivals will diminish over time.

Obviously, no sudden change in Chinese strategic posture can be expected.

China would not like its rivals to benefit from its perceived weakness. Its recent actions need to be viewed from this perspective. Before setting forth for Europe, China unveiled its third aircraft-carrier, the Fujian. A 80,000-tonne vessel with electromagnetic catapults, on a rough calculation, would enable it to carry 70-80 aircraft. China is planning to have six such vessels by 2035. This still leaves the combined naval power of the US and Japan way ahead. The US Navy, with carriers of the Nimitz and Ford class, has more experience, better aircraft and greater firepower. The Japanese, with considerable experience of using aircraft-carriers since the Second World War, have opted for flat-top vessels with the possibility of being used as carriers for vertical take-off and landing F-35s.

Interestingly, the maiden voyage of the Fujian coincided with the May 8 Balikatan joint military exercise of the US and the Philippines. The Chinese have been muscling the Filipinos out of the Scarborough Shoal naval area. The Philippines had in 2016 got an award, under the UN Convention on the Laws of the Seas (UNCLOS), from the Permanent Court of Arbitration declaring the Chinese 9-dash line as illegal. China has nevertheless continued to assert its sovereignty in that zone.

Even the territorial dispute between India and China has not seen China relenting yet. In fact, China has been increasing settlements all along the India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC). China also provocatively issued maps with habitations in India's Arunachal Pradesh shown with Chinese names. Meanwhile, military-level talks have repeatedly faced a stalemate with China unwilling to withdraw forces from the Depsang Plains and Demchok. It is likely that China did not wish to hand the Narendra Modi government a "win" on the eve of crucial Lok Sabha elections. This assumption aligns with China now naming its next ambassador to India, after a gap of a year and a half. At the very least, China may be preparing to use the diplomatic route for testing the next Indian government's willingness to engage. The problem is that China wants access to the Indian market to continue, if not increase, while it stalls on territorial issues. India has repeatedly asserted that normalcy requires the post-Galwan territorial intrusions to be addressed.

President Xi's European sojourn is similarly planned to test and exploit the fissures, on the approach to China, within the European Union and between them and the United States. The visit comes after the China visit by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, which seemed to display European differences. Further demonstrating that dissension has been Mr Scholz's unwillingness to join French President

Emmanuel Macron in a joint meeting with President Xi. There are differences in the approach of France and Germany to taxing European imports of Chinese electric vehicles. While the Germans fear Chinese countermeasures against their automobile exports to China, the French want to protect their own manufacturers of smaller cars.

The Sino-European theatre is being enacted against the background of two other events. One is the November presidential election in the United States. The growing possibility of the re-election of Donald Trump sends shudders down the European spine. It can mean the degrading of Nato, trade disputes with the US and Russia's upper hand in ending the war in Ukraine on its own terms. The other factor is the commencement this week of Russian President Vladimir Putin's next six-year term, with a more united Russia behind him.

Regarding both these developments, China is a factor. While it has not transferred weapons to Russia, for its Ukraine campaign, it has kept Russia financially afloat by buying its oil and gas. It has also made available chips or other high-tech components crucial for the Russian armaments industry. China correctly surmises that a strategically divided and confused Europe is easy prey for its overtures. But China would have to alter its subsidies-based exports to satisfy Europe. It would also have to restore confidence regarding Chinese activities in illegally transferring high technology from European sources.

While these larger forces are shadow boxing, India has been entrapped in an unnecessarily prolonged national election. A gap of almost a week between seven phases, many in the same state, cannot be justified on the grounds of security and expediency alone. No nation, and particularly one which aspires for Great Power status, can sign off from the world for well over a month while its leadership takes the low road to opportunistic and divisive electioneering.

The Journey to Becoming a Medical Professional: A NEET Aspirant's Guide

By: Vijay GarG

Becoming a medical professional is a dream for many students in India. The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) is the gateway to pursuing a career in medicine and dentistry in the country.

In this article, I will explore the journey of a NEET aspirant and the function that NEET coaching plays in achieving their aspirations. We'll dig into the details of the NEET examination, its significance, and the benefits of seeking professional coaching. Whether you're a student preparing for NEET or a parent guiding your child, this article will give you precious perceptivity to help you navigate the path to success.

So, let's embark on the journey to getting a medical professional and discover how NEET coaching can be a key aspect of this pursuit.

NEET Coaching: What is NEET?
NEET, short for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, is a national-level examination conducted in India. It is the sole entrance examination for students seeking admission to undergraduate medical and dental courses in government and private colleges across the country. NEET was introduced in 2013 by the Medical Council of India (MCI) and later replaced all state-level medical entrance exams.

NEET Coaching: Eligibility criteria for NEET

To be eligible for NEET, candidates must fulfill certain criteria, including:

Age:
The minimum age limit is 17 years, and there is no upper age limit for appearing in NEET.

Educational Qualifications:
Candidates must have earned a 10+2 certificate or its equivalent with a core curriculum of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and English.

Minimum Percentage:
General category candidates must score a minimum of 50% in aggregate

in the qualifying examination, while reserved category candidates require 40% marks.

NEET Coaching: NEET exam pattern and syllabus

NEET is a pen-and-paper-based examination comprising a total of 200 multiple-choice questions (MCQs). The exam duration is three hours. The questions are distributed in the following manner:

Physics: 50 questions
Chemistry: 50 questions
Biology (Botany and Zoology): 100 questions

The syllabus for NEET is based on the concepts covered in the 11th and 12th standard curricula of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or state board.

NEET Coaching: Scoring system and ranking procedure

The marking system used for NEET awards four marks for each accurate response while deducting one mark for each incorrect response. For unanswered questions, no points are removed. The marks earned in each of the three sections are added together to determine the final score. The percentile score, which shows the candidate's standing in relation to others, is used to calculate NEET ranks.

NEET Coaching: The Benefits of NEET Coaching

NEET coaching plays a vital role in the journey of a NEET aspirant. Here are some key benefits of seeking professional coaching:

Guided preparation from experienced mentors:

NEET coaching institutes provide access to experienced faculty who have in-depth knowledge of the subjects and the exam pattern.

Expert mentors guide students throughout their preparation, providing valuable insights, study strategies, and tips to excel in the exam.

Personalized attention and guidance help students identify their strengths and weaknesses, allowing them to focus on areas that require

improvement.

Comprehensive study materials and resources:

NEET coaching institutes offer well-structured study materials that cover the entire syllabus comprehensively.

These materials are specifically curated to simplify complex concepts and provide ample practice exercises and solved examples.

Access to additional resources such as reference books, online study materials, and question banks further enriches the learning experience.

Effective time management and study strategies:

NEET coaching helps students develop effective time management skills, enabling them to balance their regular school curriculum and NEET preparation.

Coaches provide guidance on creating a study plan, allocating time to different subjects, and setting achievable targets.

They also teach effective study strategies and techniques to optimize learning and retention, ensuring efficient use of study hours.

Regular mock tests and performance analysis:

NEET coaching provides a structured and focused approach to exam preparation, equipping students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and confidence to excel in the highly competitive NEET examination. In the next section, we will explore how to choose the best coaching for NEET to maximize the benefits discussed above.

NEET Coaching: Choosing the Right NEET Coaching Institute
Selecting the best coaching for NEET is crucial for effective preparation and maximizing the chances of success.

A. Researching and shortlisting coaching institutes:

B. Evaluating the institute's track record and success rate:

C. Assessing the expertise of faculty members:

D. Infrastructure and facilities:

E. Reviews and testimonials from previous students:

Choosing the best coaching for NEET is a decision that requires careful consideration. It is advisable to visit the institute, interact with the faculty, attend demo classes if available, and gather all necessary information before making a final choice.

NEET Coaching: Additional Preparation Resources

In addition to NEET coaching, there are various resources available to enhance your NEET preparation. Here are some valuable resources that can supplement your studies:

A. Online platforms and study materials:

B. Mobile applications for NEET preparation:

C. Reference books and study guides:

D. Joining study groups and peer discussions:

E. Seeking guidance from medical professionals:

NEET Coaching: Conclusion

Becoming a medical professional through NEET requires diligent preparation, determination, and the right guidance. NEET coaching provides a structured approach, experienced mentors, and valuable resources to support your journey. Along with coaching, leveraging additional resources, preparing strategically, and staying focused on exam day will maximize your chances of success.

So, embrace the journey, invest in quality NEET coaching, and follow these tips to make your dream of becoming a medical professional a reality. Good luck on your NEET journey!

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

BOPEE Invites Applications for 2024-2025 Academic Year

Top News Report

DODA, May 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) has officially commenced the admissions process for the forthcoming academic year, spanning from May 5 to May 19, 2024. This pivotal period offers aspiring students the opportunity to pursue their educational endeavors within the region, with a plethora of courses available for selection.

In light of the admissions drive, experts underscore the significance of opting for hometown institutes. Highlighting the importance of cultural familiarity and familial support, staying within familiar surroundings aids students in maintaining focus on their academic pursuits, minimizing potential distractions that may arise from relocating to distant



locales.

Among the distinguished institutions welcoming applicants is the renowned Yogananda College of Engineering and Technology (YCET), a beacon of academic excellence within Jammu and Kashmir. Boasting top-tier facilities, a dedicated faculty, and a diverse spectrum of engineering disciplines including Mechanical, Electrical,

Civil, and Computer Science, YCET stands as a testament to educational quality and holistic development.

At YCET, students not only receive rigorous academic training but also benefit from practical exposure and career-oriented guidance. With an impressive placement record exceeding 80%, YCET graduates secure coveted positions in esteemed com-

panies such as Motilal Oswal, Cag Gemini, Flipkart, Adobe, and more. Through career counseling initiatives and strategic industry collaborations, YCET endeavors to empower its students with the requisite skills and knowledge to thrive in the professional arena.

In an effort to bolster employment opportunities for J&K students, YCET spearheads initiatives like the LINK Mega

Job Fair, conducted in collaboration with ICT Academy and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Such endeavors not only expand job prospects but also facilitate invaluable networking opportunities and career advancement avenues for students.

Aspiring candidates are encouraged to seize this opportunity by visiting the BOPEE website to submit their applications and explore the myriad educational possibilities available. For further guidance and assistance, prospective students can reach out to YCET through their official website or contact numbers.

With BOPEE facilitating admissions and institutions like YCET offering unparalleled educational excellence and career prospects, the future holds immense promise for Jammu and Kashmir's budding professionals.

DH Pora residents in Kulgam aghast over dilapidated condition of roads



Top News Report

KULGAM, May 10: The residents of several villages of Damhal Hanjipora belt in Kulgam are suffering due to worst condition of the road.

Speaking to Voice of India, (VOI) the residents of Damhal Hanjipora and Adjoining areas said that during rainfall, it becomes almost impossible to commute on the road

from Damhal to Chimmer area.

They said that the road is in a pathetic condition for a long time but nobody from the administration is taking steps to repair the road.

"Muddy patches and potholes on the road are putting the lives of the people at great risk", the residents said, adding that during rainfall, it becomes almost impossible to commute on the road.

Mohd Yousuf, a local said that people are being forced to commute on the rough road which causes inconvenience to them.

Meanwhile, residents of the area appealed to the LG administration and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam and other concerned department to macadamize the road on priority basis so that residents may have a sigh of relief.

RHS celebrates Mother's day



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: Rich Harvest School scholars and staff paid rich tributes to all the wonderful mothers. In a special assembly,

they sang melodious songs, danced with delight, recited poems and enacted role plays in honour of the selfless love they receive from their mothers. The head of the institute Anita

Bhatia in her address wished long and healthy life to all the mothers and encouraged children to cooperate with their mothers to maintain peace and harmony at home.

Army organised Cleanliness Drive at GMS Dhanwankot



Top News Report

RAJOURI, May 10: Indian Army through its initiative took part in 'Cleanliness Drive in School' with an aim to spread the awareness of cleanliness and environmental hygiene at Govt Middle School Dhanwankot. Cleaning of school premises on regular basis to improve the overall appearance and make it more hygienic. Taking part in such cleanliness drive encourages children to take ownership of their surrounding and instils a sense of pride. This event serves as an excellent platform for spreading awareness about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in our day to day life. It is not only just cleaning but involves educating students about health hazards and the harmful effect of littering on the environment also.

Smile Train, BEGH to launch new van motor for enhanced community services

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: In a ceremony led by Managing Trustee Neelam Bhalla and Kunil Bhalla, Director Smile Train Dr Suhail Zahur and attended by medical professionals and staff, the hospital unveiled the mobile unit dedicated to enhancing patient wellbeing.

The collaboration between "Smile Train" and "Bee Enn General Hospital" (BEGH) marks a significant milestone in their shared mission to serve communities in need.

The newly introduced van motor will serve as a vital asset in facilitating the delivery of healthcare services, workshops to



promote health awareness about Babies with cleft Lips and cleft palates in communities and other outreach initiatives to underserved populations across Jammu region.

By combining their expertise and resources, the two organizations aim to address and diagnose the people with issue of cleft lips and cleft palates to allowing them to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives, said Neelam Bhalla. Smile Train's mission is

to provide free, safe, and high-quality cleft care for children until every child in need has access to it. They provide training, funding, and resources to local medical professionals in over 70 countries to provide free cleft surgery and other essential cleft care in their communities and Bee Enn General Hospital is playing a major role with extended help to facilitate the NGO and the people in the need of this medical attention.

Max Hospital Mohali launches super speciality OPD services at Ambala



Top News Report

AMBALA/JAMMU, May 10: Max Hospital, Mohali today launched super speciality OPD services at Sant Ram Hospital Ambala City.

The launching of specialized OPD services is yet another patient-centric step taken by the Max to enable access to quality healthcare services, to communities beyond Mohali.

The patients in Ambala and surrounding areas will now have convenient access to specialized consultations and treatments offered by Max experts. This initiative

aims to bridge the gap in healthcare services and cater to the growing healthcare needs of the region. All doctors bring a wealth of experience and expertise in their respective fields while ensuring patients receive top-notch medical care and personalized attention.

Dr Ajay Bhambri, renowned for his proficiency in orthopaedic and joint replacement surgeries expressed his enthusiasm about extending services to Ambala.

He said, "We are excited to bring Max Hospital's renowned orthopaedic care closer to the people of Ambala. Our goal is

to enhance accessibility to advanced healthcare solutions and improve the quality of life for patients suffering from orthopaedic conditions like arthritis, bursitis, fibromyalgia, foot pain, fractures, hip fracture, lower back pain, hand pain, knee pain, neck pain, osteoporosis shoulder pain and problems along with soft-tissue injuries."

Dr. Abhay Kalra senior consultant urology said, "With the launch of our OPD services in Ambala, we aim to address the diverse healthcare needs of patients, offering advanced treatment options in urological disorders like urinary tract infections, kidney stones, bladder control problems, and prostate problems, among others."

With the launch of its Neuro Surgery OPD services at Ambala the local residents and people from nearby areas will be highly benefitted for any Neurological ailments, said Dr Rajiv Garg senior consultant, Neurosurgery at Max Hospital, Mohali.

Gurmeet Singh welcomes Bhagwan Parshuram ji rath yatra

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: The Parshuram ji Rath Yatra was heartily welcomed by Gurmeet Singh President Beopar Mandal and Gen. Sect. JKPC, a senior congress leader and shopkeepers of Rajinder Bazar Jammu with great pomp and show. The prashad in a big thaal was also presented which was distributed among the devotees.

Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha today took out Lord Parshuram Jayanti Shobha Yatra from Chanakya Chowk Jammu. Several tableaux of Lord Parshuram were seen in decorated vehicles/trolleys during the Shobha Yatra popularly known as "Jhanki". Prominent personalities including people from all walks of life including a large number of women and children participated in the Shobha Yatra.

As usual every year the Rath Yatra is welcomed by the association of the Rajinder bazar and many times the Brahmin sabha has Awarded to Gurmeet Singh on this occasion. We again welcome and pray God to celebrate such birthday of God Parshuram Ji



every year with enthusiasm.

Parshurama was an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. He was born before the birth of Lord Ram. It is believed that Lord Parshurama was born in the first prahar of the day and night of Vaishakh Shukla Tritiya. The time of birth of Parshuram ji is considered to be

the sandhi period of Satyug and Treta. Parshuram ji, the supreme devotee of Lord Shiva, is considered the god of justice.

Besides to the Gurmeet Singh, President Beopar Mandal and Gen. Sect. JKPC, other members who accompanied in are Hardavinder Singh, Harbans Lal

Gupta, Gupta Bartan Store, Shami Sharma, Ashu Sharma, Ashok Kumar, Des raj Gupta & sons, Hardeep Singh Arora, Bodh Raj, Ashok Kumar, Chandeeep Singh, Akash Gupta, Bablu, Namit Gupta, Subash Gupta, Amit Gupta, Moti Lal kamotra, Hardeep Singh, Amit desraj, Jatinder Singh and others.

DHS Jammu visits SDH Bhandarwah, inspects facilities

Top News Report

DODA, May 9: On day second of his tour to District Doda, the Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rakesh Magotra, visited Govt. Sub District Hospital, Bhandarwah today on 10-05-2024 to evaluate the healthcare services and facilities provided to the community.

This visit was a part of the ongoing efforts by the Health Department to monitor and improve healthcare standards across the region. The DHS Jammu toured

various departments of Bhandarwah Hospital, including the Emergency ward, inpatient units, outpatient clinics, Labour Room and diagnostic facilities. The purpose of the visit was to gain first-hand knowledge about the hospital's infrastructure, patient care procedures and the overall healthcare delivery system.

During the visit, DHS Jammu engaged in discussions with the hospital administration, medical staff and frontline healthcare workers. They exchanged valu-



able insights and ideas on ways to enhance the quality and accessibility of healthcare services in

Bhandarwah Hospital. The Director Health Services Jammu acknowledged the dedication and

hard work of the healthcare professionals and expressed gratitude for their tireless efforts in

serving the community. In their remarks, DHS emphasized the importance of continuous

improvement in healthcare delivery, emphasizing the need for patient-centered care and efficient healthcare management. They also highlighted the significance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness, infection control, and adherence to medical protocols for the safety and well-being of patients.

The DHS enquired about the availability of medicines, diagnostic and other facilities in the hospital and services being provided to patients there and also interacted with

the patients and attendants to inquire about their satisfaction with the services of this health institution.

Later on, the DHS Jammu held a brief meeting with the staff members of SDH Bhandarwah and listen to their grievances.

The DHS was accompanied by Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar, DIO Doda Dr Versha Sharma where as BMO Bhandarwah Dr Mohd Ashraf, medical and paramedical staff of the SDH Bhandarwah hospital was present on the occasion.

Comedian Pritish Narula, who hails from Chandigarh, believes we are capable at laughing at our own problems

Punjabi stand-up artists are going places in the national comedy circuit and Chandigarh-born Pritish Narula is one among them. Busier than ever before, Narula talked to us before performing his stand-up act, Pichhe Ki Vajda Hai, at CP67 Mall Mohali and Harpal Tiwana Auditorium, Patiala, recently.

Narula is one of the favourites among Punjabi audiences and also enjoys a substantial fanbase in Canada as well as the UK. Currently on Live Stand-Up tour in Canada, Narula is hopeful of gaining more fans and followers as he moves along.

Contemporary of Anubhav Singh Bassi and Harsh Gujral, although Narula's jokes caught up late with netizens, when they did there was no looking back! Narula shared, "I think that it is the beauty of Punjabi culture. We will find something funny in any situation, even tragedy, to make the moment light by

saying a funny sentence or story. We are capable at laughing at our problems."

Food fun
Narula's love for Punjabi food is evident in one of his viral videos, ABCD, where he talks about food, "A for Aman Chicken, B for Baba Chicken and C for Chawla Chicken." While he denies the 'D' stands for daaru, he added, "Whenever I visit Punjab, it's a given that I will eat at Baba Chicken or Aman or Chawla, in that order. Being born and brought up in Chandigarh has its side-effects, as I still can't make peace with Gurgaon where I have been living for several years now! The best part about Punjab is that you go anywhere and sit at the smallest of dhabas, the food will still be tasty — be it dal, sabzi or chicken."

Sensitive zone
At the rate people are becoming sensitive about any subject, one wonders how easy or tough it is to become



a comedian nowadays. Narula sees it as a challenge. To address the first part of question he recalls his viral joke about, "Christmas Shobha Yatra and how while the intention was to bring something

funny on to the table, many saw it as a religious affront. There was no denying the fact that people today get offended easily. We have become too sensitive as a society in the past few years.

However, a majority my audience is Punjabi and quite different. If they don't like something, they would troll and say abusive words in the comments' section but after few days, the same people are capable of showering love."

Mental game
Narula opines comedy is really taxing on mental health. "It's a stressful job. It is not done after managing your content, a lot more needs to be done. The key is to keep your family and friends close."

He feels when people start recognising you, one has the feeling of having 'arrived'. "When I first posted my video, many people in Gurgaon would come and ask for a picture and it was a very warm feeling." Narula would love to include Chandigarh in his acts, but is in no hurry, "I have so much love for Chandigarh that when I do something, it should be impactful and relatable, so it is worth the wait," adds Narula.

Miss Teen USA 2023 UmaSofia Srivastava gives up crown



UmaSofia Srivastava, the current Miss Teen USA, gave up her crown just two days after winning the pageant. The decision comes two days after Miss USA Noelia Voigt gave up her title too.

Taking to her official social media handle, the

17-year-old UmaSofia opened up on the reasons for relinquishing her crown.

"After careful consideration, I've decided to resign as I find that my personal values no longer fully align with the direction of the organisation," Srivas-

tava shared in a statement on Instagram. She added, "However, I will continue my relentless advocacy for education and acceptance... grateful for all the support from my family, my state directors, my sister queens, and the fans who have cheered me on since I won my state title. I will always look back on my time as Miss NJ Teen USA fondly, and the experience of representing my state as a first generation, Mexican-Indian American at the national level was fulfilling in itself," she added.

The pageant winner stated she would focus on completing her junior year in high school 'as part of the National Honor Society and start the college application process, knowing that my academic career has been defined by my hard work alone'.

Meanwhile, the organisers of the Miss USA and Miss Teen USA pageants issued a joint statement, "We respect and support former Miss USA Noelia Voigt's decision to step down from her duties. The well-being of our titleholders is a top priority."

Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett joins Alpha Gang

Oscar-winner Cate Blanchett will be seen in a pivotal role in Alpha Gang, an alien invasion comedy by Sasquatch Sunset filmmakers David and Nathan Zeller.

The project will be launched at Cannes by MK2 Films. The film will go on the floors this Fall. Alpha Gang marks the Zellner brothers' anticipated follow-up to Sasquatch Sunset, the buzzy absurdist comedy, starring Jesse Eisenberg and Riley Keough, which was the talk of this year's Sundance Film Festival and is about to release in the US via Bleecker Street.

The official synopsis of Alpha Gang read, Alpha Gang follows alien invaders sent on a mission to conquer Earth. "Disguised in human form as an armed and dangerous 1950s leather-clad biker gang, they



show no mercy... until they catch the most toxic, contagious human disease of all: emotion." David and Nathan Zeller will direct Alpha

Gang as well as produce it. Blanchett and Coco Francini are also on board as producers, through their Dirty Films outfit.

Actors talk about Akshaya Tritiya and what they plan to buy on the auspicious occasion

Great fortune
Deepali Pansare
Akshaya Tritiya is an auspicious day. It holds significant importance here in Mumbai and is regarded as a day of great fortune. We typically gather as a family for lunch, perform a puja together and make a new purchase. Over the years, this day has brought abundant love, blessings and affection from those around me, for which I am deeply grateful. I prioritise buying gold, acquiring pieces meant to be cherished for the longer term. I eagerly anticipate such festivals, as they provide the perfect occasion to showcase traditional attire throughout the day. This year will be no exception.

Great significance
Soniya Bhansal
Akshaya Tritiya holds great significance for me and I strongly believe in the tradition of not only buying new things but also donating on this auspicious day, as prescribed in the Vedas. According to this belief, it is important to make donations on Akshaya Tritiya, typically of



foodgrain or clothes to those in need. I will buy gold jewellery this time.
Eternal wealth

Monika Singh
The most common practice on Akshaya Tritiya is buying of gold, as it not only adds to asset

value but also provides excellent investment returns. The term 'Akshaya' meaning 'never diminishing', signifies that purchasing gold on this day is believed to secure eternal wealth. I always buy a gold utensil.

Traditional attire
Megha Sharma
Akshaya Tritiya holds great significance for my family. We seek blessings from Goddess Lakshmi for everyone's well-being and prosperity. On this auspicious day, I chose to give my mother gold bangles as a token of love and good fortune. Also I'll be donning traditional attire on this day.

Be practical
Shivangi Verma
On Akshaya Tritiya, it's believed that our actions have enduring effects. Many people choose to purchase gold on this auspicious day. In Mumbai, it's challenging to fully celebrate due to work commitments and lack of holidays, unlike in Delhi where festivals are more widely observed. Traditionally, we would perform puja and buy gold.

Abdu Rozik set to get married on July 7



Social media sensation and former 'Bigg Boss' contestant, Abdu Rozik, has found the love of his life and is all set to tie the knot on July 7.

The 20-year-old social media sensation took to his Instagram and dropped a surprise video of himself sharing the big news.

In the video, he was seen seated on a couch, wearing a crisp, black and white tuxedo.

He wrote in the caption, 'I never imagined in my life that I would be so lucky to find a love who respects me and is not burdened by the obstacles in my life, 7th of July save the date!! I cannot express to you in words how happy I am #love #marriage #engagement #life #wedding #romance #lifepartner #engaged (sic).'
Abdu is reportedly getting married to a 19-year-old girl.

Neha Kakkar says her mom used to console her with aloo paranthas

The super-judge of the kids' singing reality show Superstar Singer 3 Neha Kakkar gets emotional about her mother in the new episode, reminiscing about her childhood memory of how her mom used to comfort her.

The upcoming episode is titled Thank You Maa, and it will celebrate mothers, their boundless love, and their sacrifices with some heartwarming performances by the contestants.

During the shoots, 11-year-old Diya Hegde from Sagara, Karnataka, captivated everyone with her beautiful rendition of the song Tu Kitni Achhi Hai from the film Raja Aur Runk.

Dedicating this performance to her mother Aparna, Diya read her a heartfelt letter express-



ing gratitude.
Amazed by the performance, Neha said, "Diya, your performance

today brought back memories of when I sang this song for my mother. Your performance was

truly beautiful, and I felt joy hearing the heartfelt words you shared for your mother. Aparna, your words about Diya being talented and caring resonate deeply. Diya, you're incredibly sweet, and your singing is amazing."

The singer then shared her childhood memory of how her mother used to console her with her favourite 'aloo paratha' when she used to get upset.

Captain Arunita added, "I'm at a loss for words. This episode holds such significance, and all the children are singing beautifully. We're all feeling emotional and missing our parents. Diya, your performance was melodious."

Superstar Singer 3 airs Saturday and Sunday at 8 pm on Sony.

Touqeer Khan on her role in Kavya – Ek Jazbaa, Ek Junoon



Talking about the ongoing track, actor Sumbul Touqeer Khan from Sony Entertainment Television's show Kavya – Ek Jazbaa, Ek Junoon, says, "I truly believe when faced with adversity, truth and love always triumph; and when it comes to seeking justice, there is no holding back. You must do what it takes to fight for what is right. In the ongoing track, Kavya's husband has been held accountable for something that is not his fault. Being an IAS officer, Kavya is adamant about clearing his name and is doing her best to stand by her husband's side during these testing times. Not only this, with support from Adiraj's mother, Kavya feels more confident, and together, they will be a force to reckon with as they meticulously uncover the truth."

PM's jibe at Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray: 'All fake leaders should...'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took aim at Nationalist Congress Party founder Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and said "these fake NCP and Sena leaders" should join Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde.

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took a dig at Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founder Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and said that both should join Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde. He asserted that "fake NCP and Shiv Sena" have made up their minds to merge with the Congress after the Lok Sabha election results were declared on June 4.

"A senior leader from Maharashtra is very tensed after an election in Baramati. He made a statement that all the smaller regional parties should get merged in Congress. I am sure he would have made this statement after consulting with several leaders," PM Modi said at a rally in Maharashtra's Nandurbar without naming Sharad Pawar.

"He is so desperate and disappointed that he knows to remain relevant in social and political life after June 4, one needs to merge a bigger party with the Congress. This means that 'nakli' (fake) NCP and 'nakli' Shiv Sena have made their mind to merge with the Congress," he added.

"I should tell them than instead of dying in Congress, you should proudly join our Ajit dada (Pawar) and Shinde ji to fulfill your dreams respectfully,"



he said.

In an interview with agency, Sharad Pawar said, "In the next couple of years, several regional parties will associate more closely with the Congress. Or they may look at the option of merging with the Congress if they believe that is the best for their party."

Speaking at the rally, PM Modi also accused the Congress of conspiring to end 'Hindu aashta' (faith). In a dig at former Indian Overseas Congress chief Sam Pitroda and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said, "The guru of Congress's 'shehzada' has told the US that Ram temple and Ram Navami festivities are against the idea of India."

Pitroda on Wednesday resigned after stoking controversy with his remarks that cited ethnic and racial identities like Chinese, Africans, Arabs and

Whites to describe the physical appearance of Indians.

"Congress calls people with Lord Krishna's colour as Africans. So they didn't want Droupadi Murmu to be the President of India. Isn't it an insult of adivasis?" he asked.

PM Modi said that the Congress's agenda was so dangerous that if it terms Ram temple construction and Ram Navami celebrations against the idea of India. "They may say my going to the temple is anti-India. See the Congress mindset, that in the land of Ram, a temple is anti-India," he alleged.

These people organise 'sarkari iftar' and beautify graves of terrorists, he claimed.

He said the Congress knows it cannot match the BJP over development. "So, it has opened a factory of lies on reservation and Constitution and their eco-

system is filled with rumours," he said.

"On the Constitution change rumour, it is nothing but a 'chor machaye shor' (thieves creating noise) situation for Congress. It wants to introduce reservations based on religion which is against the Constitution. Making such an attempt is like stabbing the maker of the Constitution in the back," he said.

In Karnataka, PM Modi alleged, the Congress turned Muslims into OBCs overnight and now it wanted to snatch quotes from tribals and Dalits.

"In Maharashtra, the Maha Vikas Aghadi is running a 'maha abhiyan' (mega drive) to finish off quota while I am doing 'maha rakshan ka maha yagna' (grand ritual for protection) to save it," he said.

"I have been challenging the Congress to give in writing that it will not end the SC and ST quota and give it to Muslims. But the Congress is not replying. They have a hidden agenda to loot your rights. But they are spreading rumours by being hand in glove with anti-national elements," he said.

In the Nandurbar seat, the BJP has renominated incumbent MP Heena Gavi, who is pitted against Gowaal Padavi of Congress. The constituency will go to polls in the fourth phase of the general elections on May 13. Results are expected on June 4.

Vice Admiral Bhalla is Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy

As recognition for his distinguished service, he is awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva and Nao Sena Medal



NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, on Friday, assumed charge as the Chief of Personnel (CoP) of the Indian Navy.

He was commissioned in the Indian Navy on January 1, 1989. In a career spanning 35 years, Vice Admiral Bhalla has held a number of specialist and operational appointments, both at the sea and on shore. After completing his specialisation course in communication

and electronic warfare, he served as a specialist on board several frontline warships, including commanding INS Nishank, INS Taragiri and INS Beas.

Vice Admiral Bhalla was Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

He was the officer in 'tactical command' for the prestigious President's Fleet Review (PFR - 22) and during the sea phase of Indian Navy's flagship multinational exercise MILAN - 22, that witnessed an unprecedented participation from a number of friendly foreign countries.

Vice Admiral Bhalla has held important staff appointments at the Naval Headquarters and a diplomatic assignment overseas. Prior to assuming charge as the COP, he was the Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command and oversaw operations such as Operation Sankalp - to tackle piracy.

He holds degrees in MPhil in Defence and Strategic Studies, Masters in International Security and Strategic Studies from the King's College in London and MSc in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University. As recognition for his distinguished service, he has been awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva and Nao Sena Medal, and Commendations by the Chief of the Naval Staff and the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief.

Pakistan, Russian connections detected in Ahmedabad school bomb threat case

AHMEDABAD, May 10 (Agencies): The Crime Branch has uncovered a Pakistani link to the bomb threats which targeted 38 schools in Gujarat's Ahmedabad on May 6, officials said on Friday.

The officials said that this incident has links in Pakistan and a Russian server was used to create a sense of panic and fear in the city. The threat mail was sent from a Russian domain (.ru). More information is awaited.

The threatening emails received a day before the May 7 Lok Sabha polls caused widespread panic among the public.

The Crime Branch, Cyber Crime unit, Special Operations Group, and Ahmedabad Police launched an investi-



gation soon after the threats.

Despite the alarming nature of the threats, no suspicious or explosive materials were discovered after thorough inspections by bomb disposal squads and canine units.

Director General of Police Vikas Sahay had said that the threats were a hoax and encouraged voters to proceed to the polls without fear.

This incident follows

a trend of hoax threats similar to those received by over 130 schools in the Delhi-NCR area.

Officials said that the threatening emails which prompted heightened security measures across Delhi-NCR on May 1 originated from a Russian domain. The email address used, sawariim@mail.ru, indicated its Russian origin. However, officials said that the perpetrators may have used a masked IP address.

28,200 mobiles suspected of being used in cyber fraud blocked

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Attempting to stop ever-growing cases of cyber fraud in which citizens are losing hard-earned money, the Department of Telecom on Friday said directions have been issued to block 28,200 mobile handsets and immediate re-verification of 20 lakh mobile connections linked to these mobile handsets has been ordered.

Failing re-verification of identity, the SIM card will be disconnected.

Mobile handsets are blocked on the basis of their International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number that is unique to each handset.

Telecom service providers have been asked to ensure a pan-India block on these 28,200 mobile handsets and to carryout immediate re-verification of 20 lakh mobile connections linked to these mobile handsets, the DoT said adding that these SIM cards would be disconnected if re-verification

failed.

An analysis was carried out by Ministry of Home Affairs and State Police forces that identified these 28,200 mobile handsets were misused in cybercrimes. The DoT further analysed and found that a staggering 20 lakh numbers were used with these mobile handsets.

This is not the first such instance of the DoT stepping in.

The Lok Sabha was informed on February 6 this year that the gov-

ernment had blocked 3,20,000 SIM cards and 49,000 International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers reported by the police.

A total of 13 lakh cases of financial cyber fraud were reported in 2023, according to a Lok Sabha reply on February 6.

The 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System' had been set up under the 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordina-

tion Centre' by the Ministry of Home Affairs to report financial fraud.

A 2023 report by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre revealed that digital financial frauds accounted for a staggering Rs 1.25 lakh crore over the last three years. According to the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), in 2023, at least Rs 10,319 crore was reported to be lost by victims of digital financial fraud.

2 die after two-wheeler gets sandwiched between buses in Kerala

KOCHI, May 10 (Agencies): Two men died on Friday when the two-wheeler they were travelling on got sandwiched between two Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses near Palarivattom here, police said.

The incident occurred

around 6.15 am, police said.

The two-wheeler was behind a KSRTC bus when the other bus came from behind and slammed into the motorcycle, and the bus in front of it, police said.

Both men died on the spot. Driver of the bus which came from behind

was taken into custody.

Some passengers in the KSRTC bus which came from behind suffered minor injuries, police said.

"Inquest proceedings are on.

Further details about the victims will be available only after that," it said.

Engagement called off, Karnataka man kills minor, flees with severed head

BENGALURU, May 10 (Agencies): A 16-year-old girl was bludgeoned to death and the accused fled with her severed head at Mutlu village in Somwarpet in Karnataka's Kodagu district. The victim and the accused, identified as Prakash (32), were supposed to get engaged.

However, the girl's engagement was stopped by officials of the Women and Child Development department on May 9. The officials convinced the girl's parents to call off the marriage.

On Thursday, Prakash barged into the girl's home at 5:30 pm, dragged her out and chopped her head off. He then fled with

the girl's severed head and is absconding.

The girl recently passed the state board exams. She obtained 52% marks in the SSLC exams. Police have launched a hunt for the accused.

The victim's mother sustained injuries and is receiving treatment at a hospital. The motive

behind the murder is yet to be determined.

"The accused is absconding, we are looking for him. We have been told that child helpline officials from the Social Welfare department had stopped the engagement. We don't know the motive yet," a police officer said today.

Molestation case against Bengal Guv: Woman to write to President Murmu to seek justice

KOLKATA, May 10 (Agencies): A day after West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose screened multiple CCTV footage from Raj Bhavan, in a bid to clear the air over allegations of molestation brought against him by a contractual woman employee of the governor's house, the victim on Friday said she will seek President Droupadi Murmu's intervention into the matter.

The employee raised her objections to the public screening of unedited footage where her identity was alleg-

edly disclosed since her face wasn't blurred.

Stating that she could not repose much hope on the Kolkata Police whose hands are tied on account of the constitutional immunity Governor Bose enjoys, the victim said she was going through severe depression and felt that writing to the President was the only recourse to justice.

"I know that because of Constitutional immunity nothing will happen to a sitting Governor. But what about the offence he committed? I have decided to write to

the President seeking her intervention in the matter. I am writing to her to get justice and nothing else," the alleged victim told agency.

Expressing her outrage over the screening of the footage without protecting her identity, the victim said she would also approach the police for redress.

She deemed that the act of screening of the May 2 CCTV footage was an "insult" and accused the governor of further violating her privacy and confidentiality while lamenting the "lack of cooperation from



the governor" throughout the investigation process.

"How did the governor screen my footage without my permission? He committed a new crime today," she said.

Kolkata Police had earlier confirmed that

it would conduct an 'enquiry' instead of a full-fledged investigation which requires the filing of an FIR since the governor is protected under Clause 2 of Article 361 of the Constitution which grants him total immunity from criminal

proceedings of any kind.

The contractual woman employee of Raj Bhavan had on Friday lodged a complaint with Kolkata Police alleging that she was molested by Bose in the governor's house on April 24 and May 2.

She criticised Bose for orchestrating a "ridiculous drama" to deflect from his actions, emphasising that he should have provided the footage to police at the outset of the investigation.

"He (the Governor) committed an ugly act. Then he staged a ridiculous drama to cover

his fault. He never took my permission before releasing the footage. This is in violation of our laws since my identity should have been kept confidential," she said.

Footage from two CCTV cameras positioned at the main (north) gate, spanning from 5.32 pm to 6.41 pm on May 2, was shown to a select group of people and journalists at the Central Marble Hall on the ground floor of Raj Bhavan.

In the first footage, the employee, dressed in jeans and a top, was seen hurrying to the

police outpost housed within the governor house amidst a significant number of police personnel who were deployed in the premises for the scheduled visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on that day.

The second footage, which lasted for around 10 minutes, showed various vehicles including fire tenders arriving at the north gate of Raj Bhavan and policemen lining up for their regular duties.

The victim, however, could not be spotted.

Man shoots two officers in Paris police station

Affected station is in the 13th arrondissement of Paris

PARIS, May 10 (Agencies): Two police officers were shot by a man in custody, who grabbed one of their service weapons, at a police station in Paris, local media reported.

The man was arrested on Thursday evening for domestic violence, as the BFMTV channel and the newspaper Le Parisien reported citing police sources.

He grabbed the weapon and shot the two officers while police were trying to search him at the station, according to the reports. One of the police offi-



cers was hit in the upper body and the other in the thigh.

The attacker was also reportedly injured when police officers fired back.

All the injured were

taken to a hospital.

Police union UNSA said the staff at the affected station in the 13th arrondissement of Paris, on the left bank of the River Seine, were "in shock".

Vladimir Putin reappoints Mikhail Mishustin as Russia's Prime Minister

MOSCOW, May 10 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as the country's Prime Minister after the previous stint on the job during which the low-key technocrat has shown a distinct lack of political ambitions.

In line with Russian law, Mishustin, 58, who held the job for the past four years, submitted his Cabinet's resignation on Tuesday when Putin began his fifth presidential term at a glittering Kremlin inauguration.

Mishustin's reappointment was widely expected by political observers, who noted that Putin has appreciated his skills and low political profile. Mishustin, the former head of Russia's tax service, has steered clear of political statements and avoided media interviews during his previous



tenure.

The speaker of the parliament's lower house, Vyacheslav Volodin, announced that Putin has submitted Mishustin's candidacy to the State Duma, which will hold a session to consider it.

Under the constitutional changes approved in 2020, the lower house approves the candidacy of the Prime Minister, who then submits candidacies

of Cabinet members.

Mishustin's approval is a mere proforma in the Kremlin-controlled parliament.

He and other technocrats in the Cabinet were credited for maintaining a relatively stable economic performance despite bruising Western sanctions.

Most Cabinet members are also expected to keep their jobs and reappointments are expected shortly.

However, after last month's arrest of his top associate, Timur Ivanov, the fate of Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu appeared uncertain.

Ivanov, who served as Deputy Defence Minister in charge of multi-billion military construction projects, was arrested on bribery charges and was ordered to stay in custody pending official investigation.

The arrest of Ivanov was

widely interpreted as an attack on Shoigu and a possible precursor of his dismissal despite his close personal ties with Putin.

Shoigu was widely criticised for Russian military's setbacks in the early stage of the fighting in Ukraine. He faced scathing attacks from mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who launched a brief attempted march on Moscow last June to demand the ouster of Shoigu and the chief of the General Staff, Gen Valery Gerasimov.

After Prigozhin's death in a suspicious air crash two months after the rebellion that was broadly seen as a Kremlin revenge for his mutiny, Shoigu appeared to shore up his position, but Ivanov's arrest, seen as part of Kremlin's political infighting, again exposed Shoigu's vulnerability.

Pakistan to seek rollover of US\$ 12 billion debt to meet budget targets before IMF team's arrival

ISLAMABAD, May 10 (Agencies): Pakistan has decided to seek a rollover of around US\$ 12 billion debt from key allies like China in the 2024-25 fiscal year to meet a whopping US\$ 23 billion worth of gap in its external financing as the federal government aims to achieve budget targets before the expected arrival of an IMF team to the cash-strapped country.

According to the Finance Ministry insiders, US\$ 5 billion from Saudi Arabia, US\$ 3 billion from the UAE and US\$ 4 billion from China will be rolled over, adding that the estimate of further new financing from China would also be included in the next financial year's budget, news agency reported.

Pakistan will receive more than US\$ 1 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the fresh loan programme, whereas new financing from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank has also been included in the estimated budget.

According to the Finance Ministry

sources, new loan programme agreements will be made with financial institutions. The federal government aims to achieve budget targets before the anticipated arrival of the IMF review mission in Pakistan.

Negotiations for a new loan programme with the global lender are expected to commence in mid-May ahead of the budget which will be presented in June.

The Finance Ministry sources said the ministries had been instructed to complete the targets before the negotiations on the new loan programme.

They added that the details would be given to the IMF delegation when all the important targets were met. It has also been decided to have the budget strategy paper approved by the federal cabinet before the IMF review mission arrives in the country.

According to the sources, the Finance Ministry has started preparing the budget to set the targets for debt repayment, defence budget and tax collec-

tions. Besides, the development and ongoing budget targets will also be determined, according to the paper.

Pakistan has been suffering the chronic ailment of how to meet external liabilities. Traditionally, it depended on remittances, export proceeds and foreign loans to meet its liabilities.

But exports haven't increased to match the imports and avenues of foreign aid have gradually dried up, putting pressure on the rupee and essential imports.

Last year, it narrowly avoided default due to a timely short-term loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund which provided US\$ 3 billion during nine months.

The country is once again looking towards the global lender to provide a fresh loan to keep it moving.

In the trying economic conditions, Pakistan has been heavily supported by the remittances its workers living and working around the globe send.

The country received the second-highest remittances of the ongoing 2023-24 fiscal at US\$ 2.8 billion in April 2024.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the remittances increased by 3.5 per cent to US\$ 23.8 billion cumulatively in the first 10 months of FY24 compared to the same period last year.

Remittance inflows during April 2024 were primarily sourced from Saudi Arabia (US\$ 712 million), the United Arab Emirates (US\$ 542.3 million), the United Kingdom (US\$ 403.2 million), and the United States of America (US\$ 329.2 million), according to the bank.

The remittances earlier had peaked near US\$ 3 billion in the prior month of March 2024, marking a 23-month high.

Separately, the Dawn newspaper reported that Pakistan is engaging with the Chinese leadership for the revival of more than 1800-megawatt of hydropower projects (HPPs) and

investment from fresh Chinese companies in the country's transmission and distribution network as part of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The authorities are trying to convene a meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the cabinet on May 22-23 so that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming visit to Beijing early next month will be a success.

A high-level delegation led by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal is currently in China to pursue existing investors and financial institutions and tap into more firms in the transmission and distribution network as part of CPEC's second phase.

In his meeting, Iqbal sought China's continued cooperation in the early implementation of the Azad Pattan and Kohala hydropower projects.

The two sides agreed to hold the next round of the Joint Working Group meeting on Energy (JEWG) soon.

Hillary Clinton terms US campus protests 'propaganda', 'lack of knowledge'



WASHINGTON, May 10 (Agencies): Former US States Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, has slammed campus protests across the country, over the Gaza war, saying the young people (students) do not know much about the history of the Middle East.

Clinton also termed students ignorant and alleged they were being misinformed by propaganda on social media.

In an interview with MSNBC, Hillary Clinton agreed with host Charles Joseph Scarborough, who said, "mainstream students were getting propagandised whether it's from their professors, or whether it's from the communist Chinese government, through TikTok, calling the President of the United States 'genocide Joe'."

In response, Clinton said, "I have had many conversations, as you've had, with a lot of young people over the last many months now, and... they don't know very much at all about the history of the Middle East, or frankly about history in many areas of the world, including in our own country."

"Propaganda is not education," she said, adding, "propaganda... whether it's TikTok, or in the classroom, is actually the opposite of education."

"Anybody who is teaching in a university or anyone who is putting content on social media should be held responsible for what they include and what they exclude. So much of what we're seeing, particularly on TikTok, about what's going on in the Middle East is wilfully false, but it's also incredibly

slanted, pro-Hamas, anti-Israel," Hillary Clinton said.

"With respect to the Middle East, they don't know that under the bringing together for the Israelis and the Palestinians by my husband (former US President Bill Clinton), then-Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, the then-head of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation Yasser Arafat — an offer was made to the Palestinians for a state on 96 per cent of the existing territory occupied by the Palestinians with 4 per cent of Israel to be given to reach 100 per cent of the amount of territory that was hoped for," Clinton said.

"This offer was made and if Yasser Arafat had accepted it there would have been a Palestinian state now for about 24 years. It's one of the great tragedies of history that he was unable to say, 'yes'," Clinton laments.

"My husband has a book coming out later this year in which he talks about how Arafat kept saying that he intended to agree, he wanted to agree, but he was pretty sure he'd be killed because Sadat was killed by extremists when he made peace with Israel."

"Our dear, dear friend, Yitzhak Rabin was killed by a radical Israeli when he was pursuing the two-state solution."

"So... this is a very important piece of history to understand if you're going to take any kind of position with respect to what's going on right now," she said.

Students in both the United States and Europe have been holding demonstrations calling for an immediate permanent ceasefire and for schools to cut financial ties with companies they say are profiting from the oppression of Palestinians.

Israel's retaliatory campaign in Gaza has killed nearly 35,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza authorities, and triggered a catastrophic humanitarian crisis and famine threatening the enclave's 2.5 million residents.

The war began when the militant group Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Countries struggle to draft 'pandemic treaty' to avoid mistakes made during COVID

GENEVA, May 10 (Agencies): After the coronavirus pandemic triggered once-unthinkable lockdowns, upended economies and killed millions, leaders at the World Health Organization (WHO) and worldwide vowed to do better in the future. Years later, countries are still struggling to come up with an agreed-upon plan for how the world might respond to the next global outbreak.

A ninth and final round of talks involving governments, advocacy groups and others to finalise a 'pandemic treaty' is scheduled to end on Friday. The accord's aim: guidelines for how the WHO's 194 member countries might stop future pandemics and better share scarce resources. But experts warn there are virtually no consequences for countries that don't comply.

WHO's countries asked the UN health agency to oversee talks for a pandemic agreement in 2021. Envoys have been working long hours in recent weeks to prepare a draft ahead of a self-imposed deadline later this month: ratification of the accord at WHO's annual meeting. But deep divisions could derail it.

US Republican senators wrote a letter to the President Joe Biden administration last week critical of the draft for focusing on issues like "shredding intellectual property rights" and "supercharging the WHO." They urged Biden not to sign off.

Britain's department of health said it would only agree to an accord if it was "firmly in the UK national interest and respects national sovereignty."

And many developing countries say it's unfair that they might be expected to provide virus samples to help develop vaccines



and treatments, but then be unable to afford them.

"This pandemic treaty is a very high-minded pursuit, but it doesn't take political realities into account," said Sara Davies, a professor of international relations at Griffith University in Australia.

For example, the accord is attempting to address the gap that occurred between COVID-19 vaccines in rich and poorer countries, which WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom said amounted to "a catastrophic moral failure."

The draft says WHO should get 20 per cent of the production of pandemic-related products like tests, treatments, and vaccines, and urges countries to disclose their deals with private companies.

"There's no mechanism within WHO that decide not to act in accordance with the treaty," Davies said.

Adam Kamradt-Scott, a global health expert at Harvard University, said that similar to the global climate agreements, the draft pandemic treaty would at least provide a new forum for countries to try to hold each other

to account, where governments will have to explain what measures they've taken.

The pandemic treaty "is not about anyone telling the government of a country what it can do and what it cannot do," said Roland Driech, co-chair of WHO's negotiating board for the agreement.

There are legally binding obligations under the International Health Regulations, including quickly reporting dangerous new outbreaks. But those have been flouted repeatedly, including by African countries during Ebola outbreaks and China in the early stages of COVID-19.

Suerie Moon, co-director of the Global Health Centre at Geneva's Graduate Institute, said it was critical to determine the expected role of WHO during a pandemic and how outbreaks might be stopped before spreading globally.

"If we fail to seize this window of opportunity which is closing... we'll be just as vulnerable as we were in 2019," she warned.

Some countries appear to be moving on their own to ensure cooperation from others in the next pandemic. Last month, Biden's administration said it would help 50 countries respond to new outbreaks and prevent global spread, giving the country leverage should it need critical information or materials in the future.

Yuanqiong Hu, a senior legal and policy adviser at Doctors without Borders, said it's unclear what might be different in the next pandemic, but hoped that focusing attention on some of the glaring errors that emerged in COVID-19 might help.

"We will mostly have to rely on countries to do better," she said. "That is worrisome."

Egypt Urges Flexibility From Israel And Hamas In Ceasefire Talks

CAIRO, May 10 (Agencies): Egypt has said Hamas and Israel must show "flexibility" if they are to strike a deal for a ceasefire and hostage-prisoner exchange in the seven-month war in the Gaza Strip, according to a foreign ministry statement released Friday.

The readout of a phone call between Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said both diplomats agreed on "the importance of urging the parties to show flexibility and make all the necessary efforts to achieve a ceasefire agreement and put an end to the humanitarian tragedy in Gaza".

Hamas said early Friday that its negotiators at ceasefire talks this week in Cairo had left the city for Doha, saying Israel had "rejected the proposal submitted by the mediators and raised objections to it".

The group added it stood by the proposal, saying that "the ball is now completely in the hands of the occupation".

State-linked Egyptian outlet Al-Qahera News reported Thursday that Israeli



negotiators had also left Cairo.

Friday's foreign ministry statement said the talks were in a "delicate phase", with Cairo expressing fears that a full-scale Israeli incursion into the crowded Gaza city of Rafah, which sits on Egypt's border, could threaten the "stability and security" of the region.

US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said that during the same conversation, Blinken assured Shoukry "that the United States does not support a major military operation in Rafah" and rejects "any forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza".

Secretary (Power), GoI, CMD, NHPC Ltd visit Dulhasti Power Station

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 10: Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary (Power), GoI, R P Goyal, CMD, NHPC Ltd. and R K Chaudhary, Director (Technical), NHPC Ltd. visited Hydro-power Projects of NHPC and CVPP(P)L from May 8 to 9, 2024.

On their arrival in the Power Station, Head of Dulhasti Power Station, Suresh Kumar, General Manager (In-charge), welcomed all the dignitaries by presenting them with a

bouquet and traditionally wearing a shawl.

Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary (Power), GoI, R P Goyal, CMD, NHPC Ltd. and R K Chaudhary, Director (Technical), NHPC Ltd. visited Power House where all the three units were running at rated capacity.

During the visit Secretary Power, directed the Power House Staff to carry out the forthcoming maintenance comprehensively and as per schedule to avoid forced outages of units during the peak

season of generation. He was also apprised about the ongoing activities of Dulhasti Stage-II Project.

A meeting was also organized in the Power House in presence of Suprakash Adhikari, ED, RO, Jammu and Ramesh Mukhiya, MD CVPP(P)L in which Suresh Kumar, General Manager (In-charge) presented the details of the works related with Power House, Dam and township of Dulhasti Power Station.

On the second day of the visit i.e. 09/05/2024,

saplings were planted in the courtyard of Chenab Bhavan. Apart from this, Pankaj Agarwal, RP Goyal, and R K Chaudhary also held a meeting with the trade union members and discussed various issues. In his address, Secretary Power called upon everyone to work with full effort and dedication to maximize generation of electricity & take the corporation to new heights of success.

All the dignitaries also visited Dul Dam of Dulhasti Power Station.

During the visit Secretary Power, discussed the emergency preparedness of the Power Station for upcoming monsoon season and directions were issued by the Secretary Power to staff of Power Station to be more vigilant for operation of the Dam during monsoon season.

On this occasion, Dr. Dipankar Deb, General Manager, K.V. Sivakumar, General Manager and all the officers and employees of Dulhasti Power Station were present.

AI based DBS surgery on Parkinson's patient performed

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH / JAMMU, May 10: AI based deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery on a Parkinson's patient was performed for the first time at Ivy Hospital, Mohali recently.

Talking to media here on Friday, Dr Jasloveen Kaur Sidhu, consultant neurology at Ivy said that a 65 years old male patient with tremors from the last 10 years has undergone successful DBS.

The patient was taking multiple doses of levodopa and other medications. The surgery went successful and, after two sessions of programming his tremors have reduced down by 90%, informed Dr.Jasloveen.

With this Ivy has become Punjab's 1st hospital to do AI based DBS surgery for Parkinson's patients and till now we have conducted 5 such cases in the last 2 months, she said.

She further said, "This



AI based brain sense technology can record the brain signals responsible for Parkinson's disease symptoms or side effects, even when the patient is at home or doing his routine activities. This helps the treating doctor in delivering personalized, data-driven treatment as per the patients' needs."

Till now patients from tricity used to travel to Delhi, Mumbai or Bangalore to get DBS surgeries done, now this procedure is being done routinely at Ivy, said Dr Jaspreet Singh Randhawa, consultant neuro surgery at Ivy.

He said that DBS surgery is like a pacemaker

surgery for the brain which can control the symptoms by changing the electrical signals of the electrodes placed in the brain. Patients who need DBS surgery have to be screened by a Parkinson's specialist neurologist and have to undergo UPDRS on & off testing before they can be declared fit for surgery, he asserted.

Also, since this is an awake surgery, Parkinson's specialists have to monitor the patient during the whole surgery to confirm if the electrodes are put in the exact location in the brain, Dr Randhawa maintained.

McDonald's India brings happiness to Mothers with Special Treat, Heartwarming film

CHANDIGARH, May 10 (Agencies) : Moms are the real superheroes—juggling work, family, and countless responsibilities. This Mother's Day, McDonald's India - North and

broken gullak. As they relish their meal together, their mother is filled with love and appreciation for her sons' thoughtful gestures. The story concludes with a relatable message: "Maa



East is celebrating the special bond between mothers and their children with a heartwarming story that captures the true essence of childhood innocence, unconditional love, and gratitude.

Experience the touching story of Ashu, an 8-year-old boy pouring his heart into a handmade greeting card, determined to make Mother's Day special for "the world's best mom".

When despite his best efforts, his art does not match the perfect image of his mom, the little boy decides to break his cherished 'Gullak' and plans a special treat along with his elder brother. With a twinkle in their eyes, they make their mom drive to McDonald's where Ashu assumes the role of the decision maker, confidently placing an order as they surprise their mom with a treat paid with the coins from his

kehti hai na, aapki khushi mein humari khushi, sach kehti hain... Here's McDonald's wishing you a happy Mother's Day".

Through powerful storytelling, McDonald's brings forth the essence of mothers' unconditional and selfless love for their families and reminds us that it's time of the year to give them a treat. The brand is committed to providing a warm and welcoming environment where moms can relax in the company of their loved ones, while enjoying delicious food and create memories that will last a lifetime.

To add to the joy of Mother's Day celebrations, McDonald's has introduced exclusive Mother's Day offers available on the McDonald's app, valid till 12 May 2024.

Here's McDonald's India - North and East wishing every mother a very Happy Mother's Day!

CBC hosts awareness programme under SVEEP at Lal Chowk



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 10: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Field Office Srinagar, organised an awareness programme at Ghanta Ghar, Lalchowk Srinagar on Friday, to promote voter awareness and highlight the significance of active participation in the electoral process.

The event, organized under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Program (SVEEP), aimed to engage citizens and underscore the importance of casting their votes during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local community, reflecting a shared commitment to upholding democratic values and exercising voting rights. Attendees were provided with informative

literature elucidating the pivotal role of public engagement in fortifying democratic principles.

Field Publicity Officer, CBC Srinagar said the programme was part of a broader series of programs being orchestrated by the Central Bureau of Communication, Field Office Srinagar, spanning across the Kashmir region to promote informed citizenship and bolster democratic participation.

Stepfather convicted for murder of Bollywood Actor Laila Khan, Five Others

JAMMU / MUMBAI, May 10 (Agencies): A Mumbai sessions court on Thursday convicted the stepfather of Bollywood actor Laila Khan for the murder of the actor, her mother, and four others, including three of her siblings, thirteen years after they went missing.

According to police, the accused, identified as Parvez Tak, a resident of Jammu and Kashmir, was arrested in 2012. Another accused, who is also involved in the case, is still on the run.

The Court has held Tak guilty of murdering his stepdaughter and actor Laila Khan, her mother Shelina Patel, three of her siblings, and her cousin in February 2011.

Nearly 40 witnesses were

examined during the trial. The court will hear the defense and prosecution on the quantum of punishment on May 14.

According to officials, Laila and her family members were killed and buried at their farmhouse in Iगतपुरी in February 2011. Their bodies were exhumed by police after the arrest of Tak in 2012.

In 2011, Laila Khan, who had appeared in a few Bollywood movies, went missing along with her mother, three of her siblings and her cousin.

Her father, Nadir Patel, had approached the police and lodged a complaint about their disappearance. Following the complaint, police launched a probe, which continued for

months.

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) was also involved in the case suspecting a terror angle. However, in July 2012, the ATS announced that Khan's matter was a murder case and there was 'no terror angle' to it.

Their murder came to light a few months later, when Parvez Tak was arrested.

Tak was first apprehended by Jammu and Kashmir police and was later handed over to Mumbai police.

Later, during questioning, Tak revealed the murder and led the police to the remains of the deceased, which he had buried in a pit at the farmhouse in Iगतपुरी.

ASN School beats Tiny Tots School in Cricket & Kho-Kho match

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: A.S.N.Hr.Sec.School, Channi Himmat, Jammu organized friendly Cricket Match for boys and Kho-Kho match for girls with Tiny Tots Hr.Sec. School, Sainik Colony, Jammu where in one team of cricket and one team of Kho-kho participated in the matches. The matches were played at Armed Police Complex, Channi Himmat.

Zahid Manhas IPS, Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn, Jammu was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Mr. Ajay Sharma JKPS, SP South Jammu presided over the event where as Mrs. Manpreet Kour, Vice-Principal Army Public School, Jammu Cantt, Mrs. Seema Sambyal, Principal Holy Presentation Convent School, Kathua, Dr. Vikram Handa, Principal Tiny Tots Hr. Sec. School, Sainik Colony and Mrs. Vishakha Raut Pandita, Outreach Manager, Shoolini University, Solan Himachal Pradesh were the Guests on Honour.

T-10 Cricket match for boys was played between ASN team and Tiny Tots Team where in ASN School team won the toss and decided to ball first. Tiny Tots team was able to score just 42 runs in 10 overs with a loss of 9 wickets where in ASN School team scored 43

runs in just 17 balls with a loss of 1 wicket and won the match.

In kho-kho match for girls, again ASN team won the toss and decided to chase first. Tiny Tots team was all out in 17 minutes while ASN School team won the match with a loss of just 3 points.

The event was declared open by Mr Ajay Sharma SP South Jammu along with Mr. Ritesh Kapoor, Director A.S.N.Hr.Sec. School, Channi Himmat. Mr. Ajay Sharma after declaring the event open for the children to participate appreciated A.S.N.Hr.Sec.School for taking an initiative in coming forward and organizing such events by indulging sportsmanship amongst the students. He added that there are also countless studies that sport and activity is not only great for overall health, it's also good for mental wellbeing and academic performance.

Ritesh Kapoor, Director of A.S.N.Hr.Sec.School during his address congratulated the students for their active participation in both the matches. He said that an organised sports competition is also a great opportunity for students coming to a new school together to quickly build new friendships and to learn and share various techniques and styles of playing to boost

their talent. He added that every year A.S.N.School organize various Inter-School competitions to make their students ready for the competitive world and likewise this year lots more Inter-School events are on its way for the same.

Zahid Manhas IPS, Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn at the time of the conclusion lauded the efforts put on in this friendly Cricket and Kho-kho matches organized by A.S.N.School. He said Competitive sport is also great for building confidence, self-esteem and challenging kids to get out and have a go. He added that playing sport is a really important part of growing up and sports and competition gives school children a better life balance and teaches us about winning and losing. Zahid said that lots of athletes are born out of such competitions, and it has and continues to be an effective way of figuring out the best athletes and sports people in the country. He presented Medals and Certificates to winners and runner ups of both the matches. Souvenirs were presented to the respected guests and the Chief Guest by Director A.S.N.Hr.Sec.School followed by refreshment for all the participants. The function closed with national anthem.

FROM PAGE 1

Covishield Side Effects: Doctors' Group urges Govt to review all Covid Vaccines

been collecting details of Covid Vaccine deaths covered by media/social media in India and sharing them with various high authorities of the country since 2021, when the vaccination began. The government has failed to respond to our repeated requests to investigate deaths and debilitation from adverse effects of vaccination," Dr Kothari said.

The AIM urged the government of India to compensate all the victims of Covid vaccines, including their family members, through a mechanism that involves vaccine manufacturers as well.

"We also demand establishing fast track courts and vaccine courts to provide swift justice to the vaccine injured and their families," Dr Mittal said.

Besides, active surveillance and monitoring mechanisms should be implemented to ensure vaccine adverse events are identified as early as possible and early treatment protocols must be created and widely publicised so that lives can be saved, she stated.

"Review science behind all Covid vaccines and audit their commercialisation," Dr Kothari said. The United Kingdom-based AstraZeneca

has started global withdrawal of its COVID-19 vaccine, which was provided in India as 'Covishield' in partnership with the Serum Institute of India, days after it admitted to rare side effects of blood clotting and lowering of platelet counts.

The withdrawal has been initiated due to a surplus of available updated vaccines since the pandemic, the company said in a statement.

In India, the company's partner Serum Institute of India said it has stopped the manufacturing and supply of additional doses of Covishield since December 2021 while reiterating that it had disclosed all rare to very rare side effects, including TTS, in the packaging insert in 2021.

AstraZeneca had partnered with Oxford University to develop the COVID-19 vaccine, which was sold as Vaxzevria in Europe.

Relief for Arvind Kejriwal, Supreme Court grants interim bail till June 1

after but nothing such thing happened," the bench told ED.

The law officers urged the court to impose bail conditions, including that Kejriwal will not say anything regarding the excise policy case.

The bench said the conditions will be similar to those imposed on AAP leader Sanjay Singh, who was given bail last month in

connection with the case. According to lawyer Shadan Farasat, who appeared for Kejriwal, the court pronounced a very short oral order.

"We have not yet seen the written order. So we don't know the exact contents of the written order. The court said they are releasing Kejriwal on an interim release/bail until June 2, and there are no conditions on what he can say and what he cannot say during the campaigning process and while he is out in these 20-22 days," he said.

"We are hoping that this order is uploaded today, and then we will update appropriate procedure for his release," Farasat added.

The apex court is hearing Kejriwal's plea challenging the Delhi High Court's verdict last month upholding his arrest in the case.

The bench said arguments on Kejriwal's plea against the arrest will continue next week and it will try to pronounce the judgement on the petition before the summer vacations starting May 20.

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

IGP Kashmir ensures full proof security arrangements for elections

coming days, frisking operations and area domination will be further intensified

to ensure anti-peace elements are kept at bay.

Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency will go to polls on May 13, followed by North Kashmir and South Kashmir seats on May 19 and May 25 respectively.

Strong winds hit North Kashmir parts, no casualties reported

Traffic movement on Srinagar-Baramulla highway was also halted near Tappara area of Pattan after a tree fell on the road due to windstorm.

Grew Energy to Establish Massive 3.2 GW Solar Module Facility in J&K

2.8 GW ingots, wafers and cells," it said. Grew Energy CEO and Director Vinay Thadani said the project will help create employment opportunities for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

"With establishment of Kathua facility and our existing 2.8 GW module manufacturing facility in Jaipur, Grew will achieve a total of 6 GW manufacturing capacity for modules and 2.8 GW for solar components by FY25," he said.

MeT predicts widespread rain in J&K

on May 11, 12

generally cloudy weather is expected with light rain at few places.

Generally dry weather is expected from May 14-17, he added.

Regarding temperature, the MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 13.8°C against 11.6°C on the previous night and it was 3.1°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 10.4°C against 10.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 7.1°C against 6.6°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.6°C for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 11.4°C against 10.8°C and it was 2.2°C above normal, the official said. Kupwara town recorded a minimum of 9.5°C against 8.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C above normal there, the official said. Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 8.5°C against 8.6°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 3.3°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 25.0°C against 26.5°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.0°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 14.2°C, Batote 16.5°C and Bhandarwah 14.0°C, he said.

Conditions in India shaping up for an upshift in real GDP growth: SBI Chairman

MUMBAI, May 10 (Agencies): State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara on Thursday said conditions in India are shaping up for an upshift in real GDP growth aided by robust investment demand and an improvement in business and consumer sentiments.

The lender expects to maintain a credit growth of 14-16 per cent in the financial year 2025, with momentum continuing in retail and corporate loans, he said.

"As far as India is concerned, conditions are shaping up for an upshift in the real GDP growth, backed by a strong investment demand and upbeat business and consumer sentiments," Khara told reporters after declaring the results for the quarter ended March 2024.

For the current financial year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a real GDP growth of 7 per cent.

Khara said consumer price index-based inflation (CPI) has already gravitated to 4.9 per cent in March after averaging at 5.1 per cent in the preceding two months. The CPI is expected to



moderate in the ensuing months and taper to 4.5 per cent in FY25 compared to an average of 5.4 per cent in FY24.

In FY24, scheduled commercial banks recorded a credit growth of about 20 per cent, while deposits grew at about 13 per cent. Khara expects the pace of growth in credit for the industry to continue in the current fiscal.

The bank's gross advances grew by 15.24 per cent in FY24. Domestic loans rose by 16.26 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) driven by SME advances (20.53 per cent year-on-year) followed by agriculture advances which grew by 17.92 per

cent y-o-y. Retail advances increased by 14.68 per cent.

The bank is seeing a similar kind of trend in the growth in SME, retail and agriculture sector loans, going forward also, he said.

When asked about his expectation on credit growth for the bank in FY25, Khara said, "Much of it will depend on how the economy looks like. But yes, we are hoping that we would be in a position to maintain this growth trajectory which we have recorded in this year (FY2024), of around 15-16 per cent. I would still maintain that our (credit) growth (in FY25), as far as the loan book

is concerned, would be in the 14-16 per cent range."

In the quarter ended March 2024, the lender's corporate loan book registered a y-o-y growth of 16.17 per cent. For FY25, the bank has a corporate loan pipeline of Rs 4 lakh crore, of which around 75 per cent is from the private sector and 25 per cent from the government.

Khara said with the strong loan pipeline, he is quite hopeful that the bank would be in a position to see good traction in corporate loans.

"We are seeing growth (in corporate loans) coming in from conventional industries. The multiplier component of

the infrastructure spending is almost four times, which actually means that once infrastructure is given a push, it gives a significant push to all other investments," Khara said, adding that he sees funding demand from various sectors, including batteries, electric vehicles (EVs) and semiconductors.

In the quarter ended March 2024, SBI's standalone net profit grew by 23.98 per cent to Rs 20,698 crore – highest ever quarterly profit. For fiscal 2024, the profit grew 21.59 per cent to a record high of Rs 61,077 crore.

The net interest income (NII) grew 3.13 per cent to Rs 41,655 crore in the March 2024 quarter, as against Rs 40,393 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Net interest margin (NIM) declined by 37 basis points (bps) to 3.47 per cent from 3.84 per cent.

Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) improved to 2.24 per cent from 2.78 per cent, while the net NPA stood at 0.57 per cent compared to 0.67 per cent.

SBI shares closed at Rs 819.65 apiece, up 1.14 per cent on BSE.

Inflows into equity mutual funds decline 16% in April: AMFI data

NEW DELHI, May 10: Net inflows into equity mutual funds declined by 16 per cent to Rs 18,917.09 crore in April from Rs 22,633.15 crore in March, the latest data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed.

During the month, the systematic investment plan (SIP) contribution touched an all-time high of Rs 20,371.47 crore in April 2024 as against Rs 19,270.96 crore in the previous month.

In April, net asset under management (AUM) of the industry was Rs 57.25 lakh crore from Rs 53.4 lakh crore in the preceding month.

Among the equity-oriented schemes, sectoral/thematic funds received the highest amount of inflows at Rs 5,166.05 crore, followed by Rs 2,638.91 crore in large and mid cap funds.

After witnessing outflows to the tune of Rs 94.17 crore in March, small cap mutual funds saw inflows of Rs 2,208.7 crore in April.

"The data (stress test results) which we are disclosing regarding small and mid cap funds, and the kind of

control which are being put in place by us, are satisfying to the investors. They are getting confidence and so they are coming back to small cap space," said Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive, AMFI.

Inflows into large cap funds slowed to Rs 357.56 crore in April from Rs 2,127.79 crore in March. Net inflows into mid cap funds increased to Rs 1,793.07 crore from Rs 1,017.69 crore in the previous month.

Debt oriented mutual funds, which saw outflows of Rs 1.98 lakh crore last month, witnessed inflows of Rs 1.89 lakh crore in April.

Among the debt mutual fund schemes, liquid funds saw a maximum inflows of Rs 1.03 lakh crore. Net inflows into overnight, money market and ultra short duration funds stood at Rs 21,195.42 crore, Rs 34,084.11 crore and Rs 11,105.33 crore, respectively.

Inflows into hybrid schemes surged to Rs 19,862.94 crore in April from Rs 5,583.62 in March.

Retail AUM (equity + hybrid + solution ori-

ented schemes) stood at Rs 32,82,225 crore in April.

The number of new SIPs registered in April 2024 stood at 63.65 lakh. The SIP AUM was highest ever at Rs 11.26 lakh crore in April compared to Rs 10.71 lakh crore in March.

The number of SIP accounts stood at highest ever at 8.7 crore in April as compared to 8.39 crore in the last month.

On the new Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, which came into effect from April 1, Chalasani said the mutual fund industry is addressing concerns for a smooth process.

"Together with AMCs (asset management companies), distributors and other stakeholders, we are committed to facilitating a seamless KYC validation process for all, thereby ensuring the integrity and accessibility of mutual fund investments across the board," he said.

He said 93 per cent of MF accounts have KYC Validated or KYC Registered status and only three per cent accounts have 'KYC Hold' status.

Air India Express expects normal flight operations in next two days: Official

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies) The operations of Air India Express slowly started improving on Friday as more cabin crew members are joining back for duty, after significant flight disruptions caused by cabin crew strike that has been called off.

The strike by a section of the cabin crew since Tuesday night that resulted in the cancellation of more than 170 flights was called off on Thursday evening and the airline also withdrew termination letters issued to 25 striking cabin crew.

The Tata Group airline, which operates around 380 flights daily, has curtailed operations in the wake of the strike and the



official on Friday said, normalcy is expected in the next two days.

Cabin crew who were on strike are joining back and the airline is extending support to them in getting the fitness certificate, which is required to resume duty, the official added.

The official also said that most international flights are in the evening

time and the operations on that front are expected to be better from Friday onwards with the availability of more cabin crew.

On average, the airline operates 120 international flights and 260 domestic services daily while there are fewer flights on some days.

Faced with cabin crew shortage, Air India Express on Thursday

cancelled 85 flights or around 23 per cent of its total daily capacity.

After the strike was called off on Thursday, the airline had said it will help to swiftly restore flight schedule and also apologised to passengers who were impacted by the flight disruptions.

Many cabin crew members had reported sick to protest against alleged mismanagement at the airline and lack of equality in treatment of staff.

Air India Express, which is in the process of completing the merger of AIX Connect, formerly AirAsia India, with itself, has around 6,000 employees, including over 2,000 cabin crew.

DASH diet might potentially lower prevalence of bipolar disorder, reveals study

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): A recent study by the United States' National Institutes of Health (NIH) found nutritional therapy may reduce the incidence and severity of bipolar disorder.

Bipolar disorder is an abnormal fluctuation in a person's mood, energy, activity level, and ability to concentrate. Individuals with bipolar disorder might find managing daily duties challenging. People with the condition may experience extreme melancholy, or on the other hand, extreme happiness and excessive activity at some times, known as 'mania'.

Dr. Saloni Gupta, Consultant, Clinical Psychology, Max Super Hospital in Dehradun says that bipolar disorder has a negative impact on mental, physical and social life. Therefore, making wise eating choices is essential for a person to help themselves to maintain a healthy weight and to preserve overall well-being.

According to NIH's study, adhering to DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet is crucial at all times. The DASH diet is a nutritious eating plan created to assist in the management or prevention of high blood pressure. Adhering to a DASH diet is cru-

cial for bipolar patients as it can assist them in managing their hypertension, which is a result of mood fluctuations that range from manic highs to depressed lows. It is important for bipolar persons to consume a diet rich in proteins and minerals. This diet includes whole grains, fish, eggs, meat, low-fat dairy, soy products, nuts, seeds, fresh fruits and vegetables. The amounts of nutrients included in these foods are sufficient to support overall health and prevent illness.

As per the study, abstaining from sweets, salt, and alcohol is essential for reducing

the prevalence of bipolar illness. The study also states that it is crucial for patients with bipolar disorder to reject Western diets that are heavy in red meat, trans and saturated fats, and carbs. This eating behaviour is linked to a higher risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Lowering consumption of simple carbohydrates and saturated fats can improve human health.

Also, regular exercise is necessary to maintain a healthy weight. It's critical to discuss weight gain prevention strategies with your doctor when taking medication for bipolar disease.

Cipla Q4 results: Profit rises 78.5% to Rs 939 crore, revenue up 7%

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Pharmaceutical firm Cipla on Friday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 939.04 crore for the quarter ended March 31 (Q4) of the financial year 2023-24 (FY24). This was a 78.6 per cent surge in profit year-on-year (Y-o-Y) from Rs 525.65 crore. The company's profit fell 11 per cent quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) from Rs 1,055.90 crore reported in Q3.

Revenue from operations for the pharmaceutical firm was Rs 6,082.37 crore, a 7.3 per cent Y-o-Y growth from Rs 5,665.95 crore. Sequentially, however, revenue fell 6.5 per cent from Rs 6,505.66 crore.

The company reported a 12 per cent increase in operating profit before depreciation, interest, taxes, and amortisation (Ebitda) to Rs 1,316 crore compared to Rs 1,173 crore in the previous financial year. The Ebitda margin also improved, standing at 21.3 per cent, up from 20.5 per cent in the corresponding period last financial year.

The company reported a seven per cent Y-o-Y growth in its India business, supported by



branded prescription and trade generics. In the North American region, revenue reached \$226 million, marking an 11 per cent Y-o-Y increase, driven by sustained growth in key differentiated assets and the base portfolio.

Research and development (R&D) expenses for the quarter increased by 19 per cent Y-o-Y to Rs 444 crore, accounting for 7.2 per cent of the revenue. This rise is attributed to product filing costs and developmental efforts. On an annual basis, R&D costs amounted to Rs 1,571 crore, representing 6.2 per cent of the revenue.

Throughout the year, Cipla allocated Rs 1,315 crore towards capital expenditure, focusing on growth initiatives and

enhancing capacities and capabilities. Cipla boasts a diverse product portfolio comprising more than 1,500 drugs catering to various segments, including anti-infective, cardiac, gynaecology, and gastrointestinal medications. Its presence extends across over 80 markets globally, reflecting its commitment to providing healthcare solutions worldwide.

For the entire financial year, Cipla's profit grew by 47 per cent Y-o-Y to Rs 4,121.55 crore, from Rs 2,801.91 crore. Revenue from operations for the pharmaceutical firm stood at Rs 25,446.63 crore, signifying a 13 per cent growth from Rs 22,473.18 crore reported at the end of FY23.

Commenting on the results, Umang Vohra, managing director and

global chief executive officer (CEO), said, "I am pleased to share our performance for the year where we made substantial progress across our focused markets. In FY24, our revenues crossed the threshold of Rs 25,000 crore, while operating margins significantly improved to cross Rs 6,000 crore for the very first time, growing at a healthy 14 per cent in topline and 26 per cent in profitability Y-o-Y."

"As we enter FY25, our focus will be on our priorities of market-leading growth in our key markets, growing big brands bigger, investing in the future pipeline, as well as focusing on resolutions on the regulatory front," Vohra added.

The company's board recommended a final dividend of Rs 13 per equity share (face value of Rs 2 per equity share) for the financial year ended March 31, 2024. The dividend, upon approval by the shareholders, will be paid within 30 days from the date of the annual general meeting (AGM).

Shares of the pharmaceutical firm closed trading at Rs 1,339.45 after the company released its quarterly earnings.

Tata Motors Q4 results: Net profit rises over three-fold to Rs 17,407 cr

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): Auto major Tata Motors on Friday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 17,407.18 crore for the quarter ending March 31 (Q4) in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24). This was a staggering 222 per cent growth in profit compared to Rs 5,407.79 crore reported during the same period last year. Sequentially, profit grew 49 per cent from Rs 11,666.07 crore in Q3.

The company's revenue from operations was Rs 1.19 trillion, a 13.5 per cent increase year-on-year (Y-o-Y) from Rs 1.05 trillion. Sequentially, revenue rose 8.6 per cent from Rs 1.10 trillion.

In April, Tata Motors recorded a 12 per cent increase in total domestic dispatches, amounting to 76,399 units compared to 68,514 units in April 2023.

The company's subsidiary, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), maintained its strong financial performance trajectory in the financial year, achieving another record-breaking quarter in Q4 FY24.



JLR's revenue for the quarter stood at 7.9 billion British pounds, marking an 11 per cent increase compared to Q4 FY23 and a six per cent rise compared to Q3 FY24. Furthermore, JLR's revenues for FY24 reached 29.0 billion British pounds, marking its highest ever full-year revenue and a remarkable 27 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

For the entire financial year, Tata Motors' net profit reached Rs 37,764.33 crore, a sig-

nificant surge from Rs 479.20 crore reported at the end of FY23. The company's revenue from operations also witnessed impressive growth, reaching Rs 4.35 trillion compared to Rs 3.43 trillion, signifying a 27 per cent growth Y-o-Y.

Commenting on the results, P B Balaji, group chief financial officer, said, "It is pleasing to report the FY24 results, during which Tata Motors Group delivered its highest-ever revenues, profits, and free cash flows.

The India business is now debt-free, and we are on track to become net automotive debt-free on a consolidated basis in FY25. The businesses are executing well on their distinct strategies and, therefore, we are confident of sustaining this strong performance in the coming years."

The company's board of directors recommended a final dividend of Rs 6 per ordinary share of Rs 2 each (Rs 3 normal dividend and Rs 3 special dividend).

BCCI can re-evaluate Impact Player rule after IPL 2024: Jay Shah

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah has said the board is open to reviewing the contentious 'Impact Player' rule in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The decision is likely to be made following the T20 World Cup.

NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): BCCI Secretary Jay Shah believes the 'Impact Player' rule, which has divided opinion in the ongoing IPL 2024, can be reviewed if stakeholders wish, given that it was introduced as a 'test case'.

The impact player rule has significantly impacted the current edition, with teams exceeding the 250-run barrier eight times thus far. Players, coaches, and analysts have all pointed out the issues that the impact player rule presents to bowlers, claiming that it allows teams to have prolonged batting lineups.

India captain Rohit Sharma said the rule hurts all-rounders because they do not receive enough bowling opportunities. "Impact player rule was brought in as a test case."

On the bright side, it is providing additional playing opportunities to two Indian players," he said in an interaction with select



media at the BCCI office. "Isn't it important that two Indian players are getting a chance? The game is also becoming more competitive," he added. Shah stated that all parties would convene to decide which will most likely occur after the T20 World Cup. "But still, if the players feel that this is not alright we will speak on it."

However, no one has said anything about it yet. After the IPL and the World Cup, we will

have a meeting and decide," he said. "After the World Cup, we will consult with players, franchise and broadcasters and decide about the future course. It's not a permanent rule nor am I saying we will move past it," he added.

Jay Shah stated that India's T20 World Cup-bound players for the Caribbean and the United States, who are currently involved in the IPL, do not require rest because the com-

petition serves as ideal preparation for the mega event. "Why do you want to rest players? This is (as good as a) practice session, you cannot get any better opportunity (to prepare) than this," Shah said.

"There is a cosmopolitan team in front of you, one team has a bowler from New Zealand, the other has a bowler from Australia and the next one has a bowler from Sri Lanka," he added.

Shah believes that the IPL is the ideal approach for Indian players to prepare for the World Cup because it allows Jasprit Bumrah to assess a marauding batter like Travis Head ahead of time. "If we rest a bowler he won't get a chance to bowl at Travis Head. When (Jasprit) Bumrah will bowl to Travis Head, he will understand where to bowl to him and how. There is no better opportunity," he said.

Khaleel Ahmed happy after long-awaited return to India colours: Every day was like battle



NEW DELHI, May 10 (Agencies): DC pacer Khaleel Ahmed is delighted after returning to the Indian men's cricket team for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup 2024. Khaleel, out of the national side since 2019, said that every day felt like a battle as he missed playing for the country. Khaleel is enjoying a splendid run in the IPL 2024, having picked up 14 wickets in 12 matches thus far and made a well-deserved return to the national team, earning a spot as a standby for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

"The way the past few months were going and the way the IPL started, I had the intuition that something good would happen. As the IPL matches progressed, my confidence continued to grow. I realised I was bowling well, and it has always been about moving

one step ahead. Finally, when the name came, I was so happy, and it's a step ahead for me," Khaleel said while speaking on DC Podcast. Reflecting on what was a challenging journey, the Delhi Capitals pacer said, "2019 was a long time ago. Every day, at the back of my mind, I missed that feeling of playing for the country. Every time I used to watch India play, I used to imagine what I would have done if I was there in the team. So, every day was like a battle and these kinds of conversations were going on inside my head."

Khaleel made a conscious effort to play all domestic matches after the last IPL, despite the challenges of being a fast bowler. The DC pacer emphasized the importance of mental strength in his journey, stating that he fought for it day and night, as his life has always been about cricket. "After the last IPL, I took only a week's break and embarked on this journey. I made sure I played all the domestic matches. It's tough as a fast bowler, but I made up my mind that irrespective of what happens to me, I'm going to play all the matches. I pushed myself mentally in the past year and have grown up with it. Mentally, you just have to fight for it, day, night or any time, because my life has always been about cricket. My thoughts have only been about cricket, nothing else bothers me," he added.

GT host injury-ravaged CSK in must-win clash

AHMEDABAD, May 10 (Agencies): Injury-ravaged CSK, missing key bowlers due to injuries and international duties, aim to showcase their competitive edge as they face off against the struggling GT in the IPL 2024 match in Ahmedabad. Positioned amidst a mid-table logjam with 12 points from 11 games, Ruturaj Gaikwad's squad sees this away match as crucial for securing a playoff berth, with the looming threat of a defeat denting their prospects.

With notable absentees like Deepak Chahar and Matheesha Pathirana due to injuries and Mustafizur Rahman on national duty, CSK's bowling lineup, sans Ravindra Jadeja and Tushar Deshpande, is deemed second string. The performance of their spin trio—Jadeja, Mitchell Santner, and Moeen Ali—on a challenging track will be pivotal. Despite these challenges, CSK's recent display of defending 167 against PBKS fuels optimism among their fans.

A victory would propel them to third place in the standings, edging past SRH due to a superior net run rate. Conversely, Gujarat Titans find themselves at the bottom of the table, with slim chances of breaking into the top four, given their current tally of 14 points. The team's morale has dwindled with just one win in their last five matches, struggling across all facets of the game, especially in the absence of the injured Mohammed Shami and the burden of captaincy weighing heavily on Shubman Gill, who has struggled for form in recent outings.

In their head-to-head clashes, Gujarat and Chennai have displayed an even playing field, with both teams securing three victories each out of six matches. Neither side has experienced a no-result or abandoned match, high-

lighting the competitive nature of their encounters.

GT vs CSK: Team News
GT have struggled to find a winning combination despite experimenting with 22 players. Their success often hinges on Gill's performance at the top order and Miller's prowess as a finisher. They rely on a rotational strategy, possibly swapping between Sai Sudharsan, Sai Kishore, or Sandeep Warrier as impact players.

CSK remains unfazed by Ajinkya Rahane's recent form, trusting in the experienced players to navigate through rough patches. Rahane remains a key component of their impact player strategy, likely alternating with Simarjeet Singh as needed.

GT vs CSK: Ahmedabad Pitch Report
In Ahmedabad, it's advantageous to chase due to improving batting conditions as dew sets in during the evening. With 13 out of the last 21 IPL matches won by the team batting second, Ruturaj Gaikwad felt pressured to alter his fortunes with the toss. The average first-innings total during this period stands at 188.

GT vs CSK: Predicted XIs
GT predicted XI: Shubman Gill (c), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), B Sai Sudharsan, M Shahrukh Khan, David Miller, Vijay Shankar, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan, Mohit Sharma, Noor Ahmad, Josh Little.

Impact Subs: Sandeep Warrier.
CSK predicted XI: Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), Ajinkya Rahane, Daryl Mitchell, Shivam Dube, Moeen Ali, Ravindra Jadeja, MS Dhoni (wk), Mitchell Santner, Shardul Thakur, Tushar Deshpande, Richard Gleeson.

Impact Sub: Simarjeet Singh.

IPL 2024: Bowlers complement Kohli, Patidar as RCB crush PBKS by 60 runs

DHARAMSALA, May 10 (Agencies): Virat Kohli and Rajat Patidar conjured up superlative fifties before the bowlers joined the party as Royal Challengers Bengaluru kept their slim playoff hopes alive with a huge 60-run win over Punjab Kings in the IPL here.

Kohli's 47-ball 92 was the cornerstone of RCB's innings as he starred in two partnerships -- 72 off 32 balls with Patidar (55 off 23 balls) and 92 off 46 balls with Cameron Green (46 off 27 balls) to propel RCB to 241/7.

In reply, Rilee Rossouw put up a show with a 27-ball 61-run knock but Karn Sharma's twin strike triggered a collapse as PBKS were all out for 181 in 17 overs.

This was a fourth successive win for RCB and it took them to 10 points, while PBKS (8) were knocked out of the playoff race as they can reach a maximum of 12 points from the remaining two games.

Swapnil Singh (2/28), Karn (2/36) and Lockie Ferguson (2/29) took two each, while Mohammed Siraj (3/43) claimed three wickets for RCB.

Chasing a stiff target, PBKS lost Prabhsimran Singh (6) early but Rossouw looked unstoppable as left-arm spinner Swapnil Singh was carted for two fours before Siraj was belted for three fours and a six.

Yash Dayal and Ferguson were then hit for 16 and 14



runs by Jonny Bairstow (27) and Rossouw as PBKS scored 75 runs in six overs.

Once Bairstow was removed by Ferguson, Rossouw turned his attention on Green, blasting two fours and a six on way to his fifty off 21 balls.

Jitesh Sharma was then cleaned up by Karn, while Swapnil got rid of Liam Livingstone (0) as Punjab slipped to 126 for 5 in 12th over.

They couldn't recover from those blows and it was all over when Shashank Singh (37), Sam Curran (22) and Ashutosh Sharma (8) returned to the dugout.

Earlier, Kohli, who was dropped on 0 and 10, timed the ball nicely, used his feet and wrists to bring up his sixth IPL fifty this season. He reached his mark in 32 balls, before slamming another 40 in his next 15

Curran (1/50) and Harshal Patel (3/38) leaked runs.

Patel, who had dropped Patidar, conceded three boundaries in his first over as RCB scored 56 in the powerplay.

It started raining sixes thereafter as Kohli and Patidar slammed a maximum each to spoil Kaverappa's bowling figures.

Patidar then created spinner Rahul Chahar for three mighty maximums before depositing Arshdeep and Sam Curran for two more sixes, the last one bringing up his fifty in 21 balls.

With Patidar on fire, RCB crossed 100 in the ninth over. Curran, however, got rid of Patidar in the 10th over, when rain halted play for a brief while.

After resumption, Kohli completed his fifty and hit Livingstone for two fours.

Green brought up the 150 with a four off Patel. Kohli then went berserk as he slog swept Livingstone for a six, while Curran was deposited over mid-wicket for a 94-metre maximum. He sent one over long-on for another maximum.

Dinesh Karthik (18) played a cameo before Patel claimed three wickets in last over.

Brief scores
RCB: 241/7 in 20 overs (Kohli 92, Patidar 55, Green 46; Harshal 3/38, Kaverappa 2/36) vs PBKS: 181 all out in 17 overs (Rossouw 61, Shashank 37; Siraj 3/43, Swapnil 2/28).

New Zealand's Colin Munro announces retirement from international cricket

New Zealand batter Colin Munro has decided to call time on his international career after appearing in 123 matches for the Blackcaps across all formats of cricket. Munro last featured for New Zealand in their T20 series against India at the Bay Oval arena back in 2020.

WELLINGTON, May 10 (Agencies): New Zealand left-handed batter Colin Munro announced his retirement from international cricket after a career spanning 123 matches for the Blackcaps across all formats. The 37-year-old has featured in 65 T20Is, 57 ODIs and a single Test for New Zealand, with his last appearance coming in their T20I home series against India back in 2020. With New Zealand announcing their pick of players for the upcoming T20 World Cup, Munro was one of the lot who did not make the cut. The usually explosive batter went on to cite his exclusion from the squad as the ideal window of opportunity to finally call time on his illustrious career.

At the end of Munro's international career, the batter finished sixth on the list of New Zealand's all-time leading T20I run-scorer with his 1,724 runs at an average of 31 and a strike-rate of 156.4. His prowess in the shortest format of the game saw three brilliant centuries, which is also the highest by any batter to have played for his national side.

Taking to his social media handles, Munro reflected on his time representing New Zealand and how he deems the time fit for his ultimate retirement from national team duties.

"Playing for the BlackCaps has always been the biggest achievement in my playing career. I never felt prouder than donning that jersey, and the fact I have been able to



do that 123 times across all formats is something I will always be incredibly proud of. I am today announcing my retirement from international cricket." Munro's post

said. Munro went on to give his take on his absence from New Zealand's recent T20I fixtures, while reflecting on the reasons behind that.

"Although it has been a while since my last appearance, I never gave up hope that I might be able to return off the back of my franchise T20 form. I completely

understand the reasons why that never happened, but with the announcement of the BlackCaps squad for the World T20 now is the perfect time to close that chapter officially. I can't wait to watch the boys do their thing in the Caribbean. I look forward to continuing to play my trade across the world in the franchise arena," Munro added. New Zealand Cricket chief Scott Weenink also reflected on Munro's career with the national side. "Colin was one of our first players to embrace the aggressive, 360-degree style batting that is now accepted all around the world as best practice."

He was one of the pioneers of the new game, an innovative batsman who took calculated risk-taking to a new

level, and led what was to become a revolution in the way short-form cricket was played. We thank him for his amazing contribution in more than hundred international games, and wish him well in his future pursuits." Weenink said.

Before making his international debut in New Zealand's tour of South Africa in 2012-13, Munro was also a crucial part of the side's 2006 ICC U19 World Cup campaign. His batting prowess saw him emerge as one of the key elements in New Zealand's white-ball formats, specifically due to his big hitting abilities at the top-order for his side. Munro also had a crucial role in New Zealand's 2014 and 2016 T20 World Cup campaigns, and the 2019 ODI World Cup squad.

'Youth, business community frustrated under Present regime': Abrol

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: National Conference is committed to ensure peace, progress, prosperity, stability and equality among all the sections of the society in Jammu and Kashmir, said Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province JKNC while addressing a meeting at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan.

The meeting was organized by Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) Dr. Vikas Sharma.

While speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol urged upon the youth to get ready for playing a vital role to bring change. He said that the present scenario of J&K has pushed the youth towards depression and anxiety as they are worried about their future presently looming in darkness.

"Unemployment among youth has also impacted the life of the educated youth who are concerned



about their career for which their parents are in a doldrums and deeply worried about their children", he added.

Abrol criticised the stoppage of 'Darbar Move' practice as immoral by the government because it has adversely affected the business community. "The business community, small traders and commoners are all suffering due to policy paralysis and deep rooted corruption at all levels.

"The law and order situation has deteriorated,

the business community is incurring losses, unemployment rate is highest in the country, corruption and scams are happening everywhere, administrators & bureaucrats are not being held accountable. This is the state of affairs in J&K," Abrol said.

Zonal Secretary JKNC, Dr Vikas Sharma while speaking on the occasion said that it was under NC's rule that the erstwhile state was among top states of our country. He said that from

unemployment to literacy Jammu and Kashmir was and is in a far better position than other states of India. He lambasted those dividing people in the name of religion and region. He said that the time has come to defeat such forces and strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Jenab Omar Abdullah for lasting peace in the Union Territory.

Slamming the JK Govt, Dr Vikas said that those who raise their voice against the faulty policies

of the Govt, their genuine voice is suppressed by iron hands and harassed by different agencies implicating them in false cases, he bemoaned.

He reiterated the resolve of the NC party to put in backbreaking and painstaking efforts to restore statehood keeping the destructive elements at bay.

Sahil Kerni Secretary Jammu District (Urban) Youth National Conference while speaking on the occasion said that National Conference had always worked to provide more and more employment opportunities to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Various employment schemes like Rehbar-e-Talim, Rehbar-e-Khel, Rehbar-e-Zirat etc were launched by the NC government.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Randhir Singh, Gurnam Singh, Vinod Kumar, Vicky Mehra, Abishek Gupta, Ridham Charak, Rahul Sharma and others.

DBPS celebrates Bhagwan Parshuram jayanti

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha organised a religious function in connection with Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti in the premises of the Sabha near Prade Ground Jammu, besides, prayers were also offered to Bhagwan Parshuram by all to save the country from natural disasters. After Havan Yagya and Pooja Archana, religious Scholars enlightened the gathering about the history and importance of Bhagwan Parshuram. The function was presided over by Ved Parakash Sharma, President DBPS.

A car and bike rally was also organized by the Sabha, which was flagged off by prominent sant Narsingh Dass Ji Maharaj. The rally passed through Moti Bazar, Pacca Danga, Jain Bazar, Link Road, Purani Mandi, Residency Road, Vivekanand Chowk, Dogra Chowk to Raghunath Bazar and

then back to Parade.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, Former Minister Sat Sharma (CA) Senior BJP Leader Chander Mohan Sharma Ashok Koul (Organization Secretary BJP), Davinder Singh Rana (Ex-MLA) Ex- Minister Priya Sethi, Vice-President BJP Yudhvir Sethi, NMC President Subash Shastri, Ex-Corporator Anita Sharma, Pt VM Magotra, NC Sharma, ML Sharma, Ritz Khajuria, Somnath Khajuria, K L Sharma, Ex-DC BS Jamwal, Satyanand Sharma, Adv. Ankur Sharma, Kanav Sharma, (District President BJYM), Raman Sharma, Ramesh Sharma, Er. Gopal Sharma, Jagdish Dogra, Shiv Ram Sharma, Jagan Nath Sharma, ML Padma, Brita Ram, Gurdas Sharma, Prem Balotra, Rajesh Badgotra, Davinder Sharma (Babbu), Satpal Sharma, Sunil Sharma (Convener) DBPS unit Channi Himmat, Soujanya Sharma, Shankar Dass

Sharma, Prem Sharma, Deepak Sharma (Deepu) and representatives of various social religious organizations were also present on the occasion.

The singers recited devotional songs and bhajans mesmerizing the gathering with a religious and spiritual atmosphere. Pt. Rohit Shastri, Ajay Sharma and Satpal Raina, in his discourse, threw light on the responsibilities of Brahmin.

President of the Brahman Sabha, Ved Parakash Sharma and others called upon the community to follow the path shown by the great gurus and work for the uplift of every section of society. He talked about various social evils and urged the Brahmin community to wage a war against these evils. Adv. PC Sharma said that the Sabha will continue its work for the welfare of the community and society as a whole.

The function concluded with offering of Parshad in the shape of Bhandara.

JKAACL Kathua organises Bhajan Sandhya



Top News Report

SAMBA, May 10: To commemorate Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti, Sub Office of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Kathua in collaboration with Grameen Brahmin Sabha organised heartwarming 'Bhajan Sandhya' here today at Bhagwan Parshuram Temple, Gho Brahmana, Vijaypur where a large number of localites thronged to witness the soulful evening. The programme was held under the patronage and support of higher authorities of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Jammu in which the authorities has directed district Officers to organise such kind of events at religious as well as historical places.

As per the handout,

Sanjeev Gupta SOCA, JKAACL Sub-Office, Kathua shared that it's our moral responsibility to take our culture to the shrines. These kinds of soulful presentations always help the people of the region to get well known with their roots. He further assured the audience that he would request the authorities of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages to hold such programs to other major shrines of District Kathua and Samba in coming days. He also thanked the working committee of Bhagwan Parshuram Temple, Gho Brahmana, Vijaypur for their unconditional support.

The programme was started with the vibrant singing of AjitPal and Party followed by the presentations of Raj Kumar and

Party, Kuldeep Kumar and Party & Paramjeet and Party. The programme was concluded with a soulful presentation by Manjala Devi and Party who mesmerised audiences with their singing skills. The programme was ably conducted by Sat Pal Singh.

A localite namely Thoru Ram appreciated and lauded the efforts made by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages for bringing Bhajan evening to Gho Brahmana, Vijaypur . While appreciating the mesmerizing programme by the artists, he said that every artist has made him spell bound with their soulful and magical performance. He further requested the authorities for organizing such events on all such occasions in future.

Among the Guest of Honors were Neeru Bakshi, Anita Ji , senior teachers of host school . The program was commenced with the songs were " Nasha Na Karna – Man Lo Kehna", "Hogi Badi Khrabi", "Waloo Mashooq Maiyane",

BLSKS presents musical play "Nasha Nahi Karna" at Anuradha Mission School

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: To continue the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan & to promote the traditional culture of J&K , Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan performed its 423th Friday Series Musical Play "Nasha Nai Karna" today in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art Production, Ministry of Culture , Government of India, Social Welfare Deptt. J&K Govt at Anuradha Mission School, Bantalab, Jammu. The musical play was written and Directed by ML Dogra , renowned writer and director. A pledge was also administered by Usha Raina, Guru of BLSKS to more than 250 students/teachers and the certificate by the Ministry of Social Justice was presented to the Principal of the Host School. The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest Komal Singh , Principal, Anuradha Mission school, Bantalab, Jammu.

Among the Guest of Honors were Neeru Bakshi, Anita Ji , senior teachers of host school . The program was commenced with the songs were " Nasha Na Karna – Man Lo Kehna", "Hogi Badi Khrabi", "Waloo Mashooq Maiyane",



"Jag Janni Bharat Mata" & the music of the play, composed by renowned music teacher Raju Bajgal.

The Chief Guest Komal Singh, said in his speech the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan was launched by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment which is the Nodal Ministry for Drug Demand Reduction has formulated and identified as most vulnerable in terms of usage of drugs in the country. These vulnerable districts were identified on the basis of findings from the comprehensive National survey and the inputs provided by the Narcotics Control Bureau and appreciate the efforts of the BLSKS, organizers in making such awareness programs colorful and

effective on the theme. The program was also recorded & uploaded online on social media for benefit of the people.

Welcome speech was given by ML Dogra, chairman, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan said Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, reduce the drugs withdrawal symptoms are a combination of physical and mental side effects a person experiences while trying to either stop or reduce the use of the substance they have been using or are addicted to. These are usually unpleasant experiences which make it difficult to reduce or quit the substance. Some of the common withdrawal symptoms are nausea, vomiting, restlessness, tremors, disturbance

in mood, lack of sleep, body pains, craving for the substance, running nose etc. Withdrawal symptoms can vary from person to person. The intensity and duration of the withdrawal symptoms depends on many factors like the genetic/ biological makeup of the person, the type and time of drug abused, the age and psychological characteristics of the person. With the right medical support, it becomes much easier to deal with the withdrawal symptoms and there is a high hope for success in quitting the substance and also said our significant goals are Promoting widespread public awareness of the damage done by plastic to humans, animals, and all biodiversity's health

and demanding more research be conducted on its health implications, including the release of any information regarding its effects to the public.

KK Joshi, Vice chairman, BLSKS, while speaking on the occasion, talked about, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Jammu and Kashmir has 60,000 drug addicts. In last three years there has been an increase 15% in the use of drugs, the biggest drug problem in India were, alcohol, cannabis, opium, heroin are the major drugs misused in India and also said BLSKS presenting more than 200 cultural program every year for promotion of the Dogra's culture. The singers, musician, actors and students of music and computer institute who performed in the musical play were Usha Raina, Mahesh Chander Kotwal, Raju Bajgal , Bindia Okheda, Rajni Gupta, Sanjeev Kumar Sodhi, Rahul Kumar and many others presented the enthralled performance at last of the program Master Deepak Kumar presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.

"Bhagwan Shri Parashurama is the true ideal for the youth": Sham Lal Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 10: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lord Parashurama, a grand event was organized at Shining Star High School, Mutthi, Jammu, by the Shri Kaliakh Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan Trust, Jammu and Kashmir. Special prayers, rituals, havan, bhajan-kirtan, and discussions were organized in honor of bhagwan Parashurama.

During the event, the program was chaired by renowned Swami Hridayanand Giri Maharaj, with

Chief Guest Sham Lal Sharma (Former Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Government), Special Guest Vikram Sharma (President Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu), Honorable Guest RK Chhibber (Former Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, current member of the Board of Directors of Jammu and Kashmir Bank).

During the occasion, Sham Lal Sharma said that Lord Parashurama is known for his strength, valor, courage, bravery, and devotion to



Lord Parashuram ji. He emphasized the importance of drawing inspiration from his life and

urged the youth to conserve the environment and keep the surroundings green. He highlight-

ed that the youth are the future of India and the country's development relies on their shoulders.

He praised the trust for its invaluable contribution to promoting our culture, extending congratulations to its chairman, Mahant Rohit Shastri.

Swami Hridayanand Giri ji Maharaj stated that bhagwan Parashurama is the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu and one of the eight immortal characters mentioned in scriptures.

Vikram Sharma remarked that such events would provide society with a new direction, emphasizing Lord Parashurama's proficiency in both weapons

and knowledge. He urged parents to instill good values in their children and ensure they stay away from addictive substances.

During the event, recognition was given to individuals like Dr. Vikas Sharma (JKAS), Puroshottam Shastri Vishisht, Subhash Nanda, Ramesh Sharma, Sunil Sharma and Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal for their outstanding contributions to society. The event concluded with a feast.

Present at the occasion were Pawan Khajuria Advocate J&K high court,

Ajay Sharma, Prabodh Sharma, Naresh Raina, Uttam Chand Sharma, Prof. Sharad Chandra Sharma, Jagdev Singh Chib, Yash Seth, Rajinder Seth, Former Councilor Suraj Padha, Kudip Khajuria, Babloo Sharma, Chander mohan Sharma, Jagmohan Sharma, Bobby Sharma, Raju Kumar Sharma, Kedar Sharma, Veer Vikram Sharma, Master Sukhdev Sharma, Madan Lal, Vicky Khajuria, Rajan Sharma, Sangeet Sharma, Ankush Sharma, and other esteemed citizens.