# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

16

Tabu to star in 'Dune' prequel series 'Dune: Prophecy'



**NATIONAL** 

**Why has Ganga river gotten** dirtier despite spending Rs **20,000 cr: Congress asks PM**  **INTERNATIONAL** 

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Hong Kong calls for respect of its overseas-based trade offices after UK charged its **London staffer** 



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RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

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Vol.-15 Issue-132 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

#### BRIEFLY

#### 6 suspects spotted in Kathua's Jathana village, police launch search operation

KATHUA, May 14 (Agencies): People of Jathana Village in Kathua District spotted six suspicious individuals today.

Following the report, a search operation was launched by Police and Army in the Village falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Rajbagh.

The villagers have been advised to stay alert and report any unusual activity.

More details await-

#### **Advocates cannot** be held liable under consumer protection Act: SC

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that advocates are not liable for deficiency of services under the Consumer Protection Act 1986 and cannot be sued for poor service before consum-

er courts A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal said the legal profession is sui generis (unique) and the nature of work is specialised and cannot be compared with other professions.

"Advocates have to respect client's autonomy, not entitled to make concessions without express instructions from client and transgress authority. Considerable amount of direct control is with client of advocate. This strengthens our opinion that contract is of personal

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#### **Police attach** properties of 2 **PAK** based terror handlers in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): Police attached properties of two terror handlers based in Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday.

Police on Tuesday said after obtaining the attachment order from Sub Judge Uri, it attached properties including 1 Kanal and 11 Marlas worth lakhs belonging to two terror handlers based in Paki-

They have been identified as Mohammad Arif Badal, a resident of Nawarunda, and Mohammad Bashir, of Gowhallan Uri.

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#### **Abrogation of Article 370 showing result** in J&K'S poll percentage: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): The Narendra Modi Government's decision to abrogate Article 370 is showing results in the poll percentage in Jammu and Kashmir and has enhanced people's trust in democracy, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

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The Home Minister's remarks came a day after about 38 per cent polling was recorded in the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency where polling was held in the 4th phase of



the general elections. Srinagar recorded 14.43 per cent polling in the 2019 Lok Sabha

polls, 25.86 per cent in 2014, 25.55 per cent in 2009 and 18.57 per cent

"The Modi Government's decision to abrogate Article 370 is showing results in the poll percentage as well. It has enhanced people's trust in democracy and its roots have deepened in Jammu and Kashmir," he wrote on 'X'.

Shah said that through the rise in the poll percentage, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have given a befitting reply to those who opposed the abrogation of Article 370 provisions and are still advocating its restoration.

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#### SIA conducts raids in three South Kashmir Districts in connection with probe into terror case

SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): The State Investigation Agency on Tuesday carried out raids at multiple locations in three South Kashmir districts in connection with the probe into the terror killing of a man from Bihar in Anantnag district, officials said here.

The SIA sleuths conducted searches at 11 locations in Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian districts in the early hours, the officials said.

"These searches were conducted by SIA in connection with ongoing investigation of case FIR No 87/2024 of PS Bijbe-



killing of non local street vendor Raja Sah on 17 April 2024 at Jablipota, Bijbehara to ascertain larger criminal conspiracy behind this killing," they said.

During searches various articles, including mobile phones, electronic gadgets and documents, relevant to the ongoing investigation have been seized. The seized articles shall be forensically examined and analysed during investigation in the case, the officials added.

#### Tarigami expresses concern over power crisis in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): Expressing concern over the power crisis in the Kashmir valley, CPI(M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami on Tuesday alleged it is a failure of the administration and mismanagement by those at the

"How long will the people of J&K be deprived of electricity?"

Tarigami asked in a statement here.

He said the recent declaration by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) of additional power curtailments is unacceptable and a blatant disregard for the well-being of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

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#### 49 Drones recovered along India-Pak **Border ince MCC Enforcement**

NEW DEHI, May 14 (Agencies): Forty-nine drones have been either shot down or recovered from along the India-Pakistan international border by the BSF in the 60 days of the Model Code of Conduct being in force for the ongoing general election in the country, latest data show.

Separately, the total recovery of these largely Chinese-made



unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), originating from Pakistan and entering India's Punjab territory and a few in

Rajasthan, has seen an about 13 times rise since 2022 in the January-May period.

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#### 11 FIRs registered in over MCC Violations

SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): Election authorities have registered 11 FIRs in connection with poll-related violations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Electoral Officer J&K, Pandurang K Pole said they have received 234 complaints of violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) since March 16.

"We have registered 11 FIRs after taking cognisance of these complaints. We have also issued notice in 80 complaints and enquiry has been initiated in 29 complaints," J&K CEO Pole said.

The Election officials said that highest MCC violations have been reported in Srinagar district.

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#### narco smugglers in Baramulla

May SRINAGAR, 14 (Agencies): Police arrested two drug smugglers and recovered heroin worth Rs 2 crore from their possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday.

Police said that they intercepted two persons at a checkpoint established at Ganie Mohalla Trikanjan, and during their search, 446 grams of contraband heroin-like substance worth approximately Rs 2 crore were recovered from their possession on Tuesday.

The duo, identified as Abdul Qayoom Ganie and

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#### Police arrest 2 Wholesale inflation rises for second month in a row in April at 1.26 Pc

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): The wholesale inflation rose for the second consecutive month in April to 1.26 per cent on account of rise in prices of food articles, especially vegetables, along with fuel and power.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation was 0.79 per cent in April last year. In March 2024, it was 0.53 per

"Positive rate of inflation in April 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, electricity, crude petroleum and natural gas, manufacture of food products. other manufacturing etc," Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement on Tuesday.

As per the data, inflation in food articles rose to 7.74 per cent in April as against 6.88 per cent

Inflation in vegetables was 23.60 per cent in April, up from 19.52 per cent in the previous

In the fuel and power basket, inflation stood at 1.38 per cent in April, up from (-)0.77 per cent in

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#### **MOSQUITO BREEDING Prevent Malaria, Dengue &** Chikungunya

- and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with
- Get your blood tested from Health Institutions/Health Workers in chills, of fever with headache.
- Empty water coolers once in a
- · Do not allow water to stagnate in · Discard/destroy junk items like
  - old tyres etc. Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and bird baths weekly. Use mosquito repellent creams
  - and bed nets while sleeping. Use netted screens on doors and windows.
  - Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
  - Improve basic sanitation.

#### Below normal night temp in Kashmir amid dry weather forecast

SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): Amid forecast for mainly dry weather, night temperature recorded a drop and settled below normal at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 9.5°C against 9.9°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C below normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded

a minimum of 7.0°C against 9.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 2.6°C against 5.5°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.5°C for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 6.6°C against 7.0°C and it was 2.7°C below normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a minimum of 6.5°C against 6.2°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 3.1°C for the place, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 3.8°C against 1.5°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.7°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

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#### Symptoms

- Dengue: High fever, frontal headache, pain behind the eyes worsening with eye movement, muscle & joint pains, rash on the body, pain abdomen, nausea, vomiting, bleeding and low BP in severe cases.
- Chikungunya: fever, joint pains, muscle pain, fatigue, headache, rash. Malaria: high grade fever with chills, sweating, headache, vomiting, convulsions, weakness.

Visit nearby Health Institution if any of above diseases is suspected. Investigations & Treatment are free of cost in Govt. institutions







ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY: STATE PROGRAMME OFFICER /STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K. DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU.

DIP/J-478/24

KARAMYOGI

SMT. MOHINI DHAR

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform untimely sad demise of our beloved Karamyogi SMT. MOHINI DHAR w/o Lt. Makhan 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, Jammu.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 15th May 2024 (Wednesday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu at 9.00 AM.

Grief Stricken Devar & Devrani

Smt. Santosh & Sh. O.N. Dhar Smt. Kalpana & Sh. R. K Dhar

Smt. Geeta & Sh. Ramesh Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-law) Smt. Reeta & Sh. Rajinder Mahaldar (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Anju Kaloo (Daughter)

Grand Children: Akshay, Ankit, Ashmita, Aakriti & Arnav

Mob: 9149470679, 9419243449, 8825036833

#### **OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother, Smt. Mohini Raina W/o Late Chuni Lal Raina resident of Jawahar Nagar Srinagar, Kashmir on 10th May 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 19th May 2024 at Murad Nagar Ghat (Choti Ganga), Ghaziabad, UP at 7:00 AM. ASSEMBLY for Prayer meeting will be held at the 2/81, G-2, Rajendra Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad at 11:00am GRIEF STRICKEN:

Daughter and Son in law

Varsha Raina and Manohar Nath Raina Roma Chopra and Navneet Chopra

Sonia Kaul and Vikas Kaul

Suraj Raina -Son Grand Children: Krrish, Shivang, Mannat, Aarohi Contact Numbers: +91 8376957320, +91 9643100397,

+91 9888219219,+91 9873665751

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA

TS 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 COMMU NITY HALL, LANE NO 24, NEAR BLOCK 152 BACK SIDE JAGTI

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 & MR ANIL 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, 7095740075, 9596196059



SMT. MOHINI RAINA

SH PYARE LAL BHAN

SMT PITA SHORI DHAR

Sh. Sunil Khajuria

Koul

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and heavy heart we are saddened to

inform that our beloved mother Smt Pita Shori Dhar W/o Late Shri Roshan Lal Dhar erstwhile resident of Chandapora, Habbakadal Srinagar Kashmir, left this mortal world and attained moksha on May 8, 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Garh Ganga Murad Nagar, Uttar Pradesh on Friday, May 17, 2024, at 8:00am.

CONDOLENCE meet will be performed at our residence Flat B-1, C 34, Shalimar Garden Extn 2, Sahibabad Ghaziabad, UP after 11:00am

GRIEF STRICKEN (Sons and Daughters in Law) Sanjay Dhar & Suman Dhar Vinod Kumar Dhar & Archana Dhar Rakesh Dhar & Dolly Dhar

Meenakshi Dhar (Daughter) Grand Children: Arpan, Saanvi, Anushka, Drishti, Utkarsh, Sarvika and Rimjim,

MOBILE NUMBER. 9810148407

#### 10TH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Sunil Khajuria S/o Late. Sh. Daulat Ram Khajuria R/o H.No. 13 Irrigation Colony opposite Powerhouse Canal Road Jammu. TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence on 14/05/2024 at 10:00 am.

KRIYA will be performed at our Residence on 15/05/24 at 12: O'dock.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Smt. Darshana Khajuria (Mother)

W/o Late Sh. Daulat Ram Khajuria Smt. Sonia Khajuria (Wife)

Smt. Vishali & Amit Khanna (Sister and Brother in law)

Sunny Khajuria (Brother)

Annanya Khajuria (Daughter), Krishna Khajuria (Son) Contact: 9205072090

#### **OBITUARY**

With profound grief and somow 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 Barbar Shah (Nakashpura) Srinagar at present H No. 3 Sector-4, Pandoka Colony Paloura Jammu on 07/05/2024 (near Badshah Kalander Ashram).

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 16th May 2024 (Thursday) at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of Education office Muthi Jammu at 06:00 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



#### OBITUARY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SMT DULARI KOUL (REKHA JI) WIFE OF LATE SHRI KAILASH 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. TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE HELD ON 16TH MAY 2024 AT 9 AM AT MUTHI GHAT (NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDU-

CATION). GRIEF STRICKEN Dr M L Koul -Brother-in-law Gokal Krishan & Vijay Dhar -Brother & Bhabi

Sheela Shah -Sister Sons & Daughter-in-laws K Koul & Chandra Ji leepak & Anu Ji Koul

Vinod & Meeraji Koul Ajay & Veena Kuchroo Gran Kuchroo W/o Lt. Dr Bawnesh Kuchroo Daughters & Son-in-laws

Jsha & Roop Krishan Zaroo Roshan Lal Dhar lpas ana & Rakesh Mattoo Vonika & Ravi Koul Sunita & Ashwani Raina

& Sanjay, Aashish & Nandita, Utkarsh, Sheen, Daanish, Parth, Neha, Ankur,

9779812650, 7006281785, 7006188354

#### 10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Sharda Bhandari W/o Sh. Brij Pal Bhandari R/o H.No. 363, Sector-2 JDA Housing Colony, Roop Nagar, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence Roop Nagar, from 10 AM to 11 AM on 15th of

May 2024 (Wednesday) Kriya will be performed at our residence Roop Nagar at 12 Noon onwards on 18th of May 2024 (Saturday).

GRIEF STRICKEN Brij Pal Bhandari - Husband Son & Daughter-in-law Vikas Bhandari & Nidhi Heera

Daughter & Son-in-law Shivani & Ajay Gupta Ekta & Manu Uppal Jeth & Jethani

Sat Pal Bhandari & Late Raj Kumari Lt. Subash Chander Bhandari & Smt. Radha Bhandari

Ram Saroop Bhandari & Smt Veena Bhandari - Devar & Devrani Grand Children - Aarnav, Anvi, Riya 9419132829, 8492000865, 7298215586

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh PYARE LAL BHAN S/o Lt Sh MOHAN LAL BHAN originally resident of Safapora Ganderbal Srinagar. We are Mourning at Community Hall, Lane No. 24, Near Block 152, Backside Jagli Nagrota who left for heavenly abode on 7th May 2024. TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 16th May 2024 Thursday at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education at 8.00 am onwards. Assembly at 10:30 am at Community Hall, Lane No. 24, near Block

152 Backside Jagti Nagrota. DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY Kanta Bhan (MOTHER) Reeta Bhan (WIFE) (SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW)

-limnash Bhan & Pooja Bhan (DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW) Jvoti Pandita & Pooran Ji Pandita

Mrs Kiran Koul & Mr Anil Koul (SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW) Mrs Champa & Mr Bulu Ji Raina (SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW) Mrs Neelu Bhat & Mr Raj Nath Bhat (SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW) CHILDREN: Gourav Bhan, Gun Gun Pandita, Bhoomi Pandita. Pavesh Koul, Varsha Raina, Mohit Raina, Sai Bhat, Gun Gun Bhat. GRIEF STRICKEN: Bhan, Pandita, Koul, Raina and Bhat Parivars Contact No. :- 9622222051, 7006740075, 9596196059

#### 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. Makhan Lal Dhar original resident of Sved 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 SMT. MOHINI DHAR 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 Mahaldar (Daughter & Son-in-law) Smt. Anju Kaloo (Daughter)

Mob: 9149470679, 9419243449, 8825036833

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother Smt Gowrishari Bhat (Gowa Jigri), W/o Late Shri Neel Kanth Bhat (Dilbar Wandhami) left for heavenly abode on 11th Day of May 2024 R/o Wandhama, Ganderbal, Kashmir presently at Flat No. T-4/702, RPS Auria, Sector - 88, Faridabad,

Harryana.
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 20th Day of May 2024 at Ganga ghat, Chhota Haridwar, Muradnagar, UP GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughter in Laws Daleep Kumar Bhatt & Jaya Bhatt Lt Kumar ji Bhat & Bimla Bhat Daughters & Son in Law's Krishna Kitroo & Lt. O.P. Kitroo Santosh Koul & J.K. Koul Grand Sons & Grand Daughter in Law's Amit Bhatt & Pooja Bhatt Ankush Bhatt & Pooja Bhat

Grand Daughter & Grand Son in Law's Archana Bhatt & Bipen Bhat Urvashi & Ashu Gupta Suchi & Nripendra Singh Anupama & Kumar Saswat



KARAMYOGI

SMT. GOWRISHARI BHAT (GOWA JIGRI)

Great Grand Children Vihaan, Dhitya, Arvi, Anahita, Gavya, Kayra, Samar, Samaira 9971672179, 9717511825

#### **10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that the sad and untimely demise of Smt. Shankari Devi W/o Late Nand Lal R/o Village Bhaira Bhaderwah, Doda A/P H.No. 159 Vikas Colony, Top Paloura, Jammu on 05th of May, 2024.

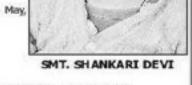
The 10th day (Dushank) will be held on 14th of May, 2024 (Tuesday) at 10:00 AM near Directorate of School Education, Muthi, Jammu (Muthi Ghat)

Kriya (Suchakaram) will be performed on 17th May, 2024 (Friday) at 11:00 AM at our residence. GRIEF STRICKEN: -

Sh. Sat Pal & Smt. Babli Devi Sh. Yesh Pal & Smt. Kima Devi Sh. Jai Pal & Smt. Satisha Devi Smt. Bipana Devi W/o Late Shakti Kumar DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Sons & Daughter-in-laws

MURDHAN FAMILY



MOBILE NO. 9419165142.

9596910293, 9018723007,

9419122655

inform the sad demise of our beloved Lt Col MK Mahajan, who left for heavenly abode on 04 May 2024. Tenth Day will be performed on 13 May 2024 from 12 Noon to 1 PM at Ram Mandir, Sector D, Sainik Colony,

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we

Kriya will be held on 16th May 2024 at 12.30 PM at House No 106, Sector Lt Col MK Mahajan

D. Sainik Colony, Jammu. Rasam Pagdi/ Uthala will be held on 17th May 2024 from 4 PM to 5 PM at Ram Mandir, Sector D, Sainik Colony, Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN:

Nirmal Mahajan (Wife) Meenu Joneja (Daughter) Deepak and Rajeev Mahajan (Sons) All family members and relatives

#### 10TH DAY With profound grief and sorrow, we

inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Sh. Vir Parkash Gupta son of Lt. Sh. Hans Raj Gupta. THE TENTH DAY will take place or 15th May 2024 at Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat at 10 AM to 11 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Sons and Daughter in law Ashwani Gupta (9419182192) and Roopali Gupta

Daughter and Son in law Neetu Gupta and Sunil Gupta Brothers and Sisters in law Ramesh Gupta and Kamlesh Gupta



Rajiv Gupta (9419111026) and Komal Gupta

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Sh Chuni Lal Koul S/o Late Shiv Jee Koul R/o Harduchanam at present Lane 16, F- No. 03, Block 79 Jagti Colony on (11-05-2024).

TENTH DAY will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of Education on Monday (20-05-2024) at 8 am. Mourning will be held at Lane No. 4

Smt Babli & M L Koul- Bhabhi & Brother

Sh Rakesh & Vicky Koul- Son & Daughter-in-law Mourning will be held at Lane No. 04, Ganesh Vihar Gole Gujral near Angad Farms

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief & sorrow, w

regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt Brij Mohini (Pyari), W/o Late Shri B.L Bakshi left for heav-enly abode on 10th Day of May 2024 R/o Village Wachi, District Shopian presently at Upper Barnai, Advocate Nitin Bakhshi Residence-cum-Chamber

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 19th Day of May 2024 at Muthi Ghat (Near Director Education Office).

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Bakhshi's, Koul's, Kaw's, Pandita's, Raina's, Bhat's

#### **ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we nform the sad demise of **Sardarni Gian Kour** W/o Brig Bhagat Singh (Retd) and daughter of Sant Gurbaksh Singh ji Danna, who left for heavenly abode on 06/05/2024.

Arambh Shree Akhand Path Sahib on 13/05/2024 at our residence D-177, Sainik Colony, Jammu at 9 AM and Bhog Shree Akhand Path Sahib at our residence at 9 AM on 15/05/2024. Kirtan and Antim Ardas at Gurdwara

Sahib Singh Sabha Sainik Colony from 10 AM to 12:30 PM followed by **Guru** Ka Langar. Brig Bhagat Singh (Retd)- Husband

Sardarni Gian Kour

Daughter & Son-in-law Mrs Kanwaljeet Kaur Bali & IPS Bali, GM, SAIL (Retd). Grand Children: Ms Arpita Kaur Bali, USA Capt Harsimran Pal Singh Bali Ansh Preet Singh Bali

#### BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound sorrow and grief, we inform the sad demise of our beloved S Darshan Singh Ji (Retd Sr Lecturer) S/o Late S. Rewail Singh Ji, who left or heavenly abode on 10th May 2024.

ramb Sri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence e Upper Gadi Garh (opposite Telephone Exchange) on 15th May 2024 at 9:00 AM. Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 17th May 2024 (Friday) at our residence at 9:30 AM.

Grief Stricker Sons and Daughters-in-law) Ajit Singh (XEN PDC) & Gurmeet Kour Tajinder Singh & Gurvinder Kour Daughters and Sons-in-law) Inderjit Kour & Harbhajan Singh

Baljeet Kour & Late Manjit Singh

Rajinder Kour & Manjit Singh

(Grand Children)

#### **10TH DAY KRIYA** Nath Pandita S/o Late Ram Chand Pandita & Late Sml

Kashmir, presently residing at D-206 Amrapali Zodiac Sector-120 Noida UP who left for his heavenly abode on 7/5/2024 shall be performed at Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar from 07:30 AM on 16/05/2024 (Thursday). After the KRIYA ASSEMBLY (CONDOLENCE) meet shall take place at D-206, Amrapali Zodac, Sector -120 NOIDA UP at 1:00 PM followed by Prasad.

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt Saroini Pandita (Wife

Sh Rakesh Pandita (Son) & Smt Sulekha Pandita (Daughter in law) PROFESSOR DWARIKA NATH Sh Suresh Pandita (Son) Smit Sunita Pandita (Daughter) & Sh Shyam Pandita (Son in Law)

SmtAnita Koul (Daughter) & Sh Deepak Koul (Son in law) Dr T.K.Pandita (Brother) & Smit Raj Kumari (Sister in law) Smt Dulai Koul (Sister) & Sh Lassa Koul (Brother in law) Smt Lakshmishori (Sister) & Sh A. K.Dhar (Brother in law) Smt Khema Shon Koul (Sister) & Sh R K Koul (Brother in law)

Smt Bimla Koul (Sister) & Sh J. L. Koul (Brother in law) Smit Usha Ganjoo (Sister) & ShiTei Ganjoo (Brother in Law) Grand Children; Shradha, Shahi, Udit (Grand Son in law), Prahish, Utikarsh, & Sheen AND ALL NEARS & DE ARS. TEL NOS (9810195167, 9810726931, 9560211422)

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the contents on their own before acting there upon."



#### Grand Children Neetu & Sonu, Anshu & Vikas, Chinku

Mohit, Dhriti, Kamakshi. Mob. 8287808313, 9871597373,



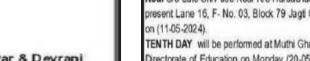


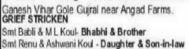
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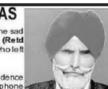


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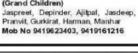
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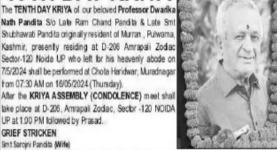












### **AIIMS Jammu celebrates Heartbeat of Healthcare: International Nurses' Day 2024**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: International Nurses Day is a momentous occasion celebrated worldwide to honor the remarkable contributions of nurses to society.

Nurses are the backbone of healthcare systems globally, serving on the frontlines of patient care, research, education, and advocacy. Their unwavering commitment and compassion empower individuals and communities, driving positive health outcomes and fostering resilience, especially in times of crisis.

As the world faces unprecedented challenges in healthcare, today, on International Nurses Day, AIIMS Jammu honours the unwavering dedication and contributions of nurses worldwide.

This annual celebration, held on May 12th, marks a special occasion to recognize the invaluable role nurses play in delivering compassionate care, promoting health, and saving lives every day.

This year, on May 13th, 2024, under the theme "Our Nurses, Our Future: The Economic Power of



Care," AIIMS Jammu pays tribute to the tireless dedication and invaluable role nurses play in shaping healthcare. The theme "Our Nurses,

Our Future: The Economic Power of Care" highlights the indispensable economic impact of nursing care. Beyond their clinical duties, nurses generate significant economic value through their expertise, innovation, and leadership. Their pivotal role in healthcare delivery contributes to costeffective and sustainable healthcare systems, driving economic growth and development.

The theme underscores the pivotal role nurses play not only in healthcare delivery but also in shaping the economic future of healthcare systems worldwide. As advocates for patient-centered care, champions of health equity, and leaders in innovation, nurses drive positive change and inspire excellence across all facets of healthcare.

AIIMS Jammu acknowledges the resilience and bravery demonstrated by nurses amidst the ongoing global health scenario. From the frontline heroes combating pandemics to those providing comfort and healing in communities around the globe, nurses exemplify courage, compassion, and professionalism in the face of adversity. As we navigate through unprecedented challenges in healthcare, nurses have emerged as true heroes, demonstrating unparalleled courage, resilience, and profession-

Their selfless sacrifices

tendent of AIIMS. Jammu Gen Sunil Kant also shared words of wisdom. Among other dignitary

present who encouraged nurses were Deans, Associate Deans and Faculty from various departments. The nurses showcased

the diverse array of talents. The nurses participated in Extempore, Pebble Painting, Poster Making, Face Painting, Singing, Dance and Fashion Show. This celebration of Nurses Day fostered a sense of community feeling among healthcare professionals.

As attendees mingled and reflected on the day's festivities, there was a sense of pride and camaraderie that permeated in the auditorium. The talent shows not only entertained and uplifted spirits but also strengthened the sense of community among healthcare professionals, reaffirming their commitment to excellence in patient care.

AIIMS Jammu salutes the economic power of care and reaffirm the commitment to supporting and empowering nurses as champions of health and wellbeing.

#### **CEO UT Ladakh chairs meeting regarding Air Sorties for Remote Polling Stations**

**Top News Report** 

LEH, May 14: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), UT Ladakh, Yetindra M. Maralkar chaired a crucial meeting to discuss the requirements of air sorties and related matters for the upcoming election in the 1-Ladakh Parliamentary Constituency in the fifth phase on 20th May 2024. The meeting focused on ensuring seamless logistical support for the transportation of polling teams to remote polling stations in the Leh and Kargil districts.

During the meeting, both the DCs/DEOs were asked to project their requirement for Air sorties to lift polling parties and security personnel to remote and inaccessible locations. In response, DC/ DEO, Kargil apprised that Ralakung, Phema, and Shadey Polling Stations in Kargil District shall require Air Sorties whereas DC/DEO, Leh projected Lingshed, Dipling, Zhingchen, Kartse, Skumpata, and Skumpata Gongma Pooling Stations shall require Air Sorties.

Subsequently, CEO Yetindra M. Maralkar asked Wing Command-

er Arjun Singh to share his view and inputs on the technical and logistic requirements of the Indian Air Force vis-àvis the proposal of airlifting of pooling personnel submitted by both the DCs/DEOs.

In response, Arjun Singh informed the chair that he would check the suitability of different types of aircraft for different locations based on the geo-coordinates of the helipads and their technical specifications like size and altitude. He also apprised that trial landing on these locations shall be started within the next one or two days; and, only after completing such formalities, the actual and exact number of sorties required shall be shared. He also suggested that, given the unpredictable weather pattern in the Himalavas, it would be better to start the sorties for lifting polling personnel a day or two in advance. The chair agreed to the idea and decided to commence sorties from the 16th to 18th of May for the six Polling Stations in Leh District followed by sorties on the 17th and 18th of May for

In the end, the CEO appealed to all the stakeholders in the elections to put in their best efforts in making a comprehensive plan to ensure timely and efficient transportation of polling teams to their designated polling stations thereby giving the voters in far-flung areas a hassle-free platform

to exercise their demo-

cratic right to caste vote

so that not even a single

vote go waste.

tions in Kargil District.

The meeting was attended by DIG Ladakh Range, S. J. Mahmood (SPNO), Returning Officer, 1-Ladakh Parliamentary Constituency (DEO, Leh), Santosh Sukhadeve, SSP Leh Shruti Arora, Joint CEO. Sonam Chosjor, Additional Secretary Election, Swaran Singh, Major Nikhil Vikram, 614 (I) Army Aviation, and Dechen, Under Secretary, Civil Aviation Department, UT Ladakh. Wing Commander Arjun Singh of IAF, DEO Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, SSP Kargil, Shree Ram, and SDM Zanskar, Romil Singh Donk ioined the meeting through video confer-

#### Microsoft hosts Technical Session on AI and Azure **Technologies for Engineering Students of SMVDU**



**Top News Report** 

KATRA, May 14: Microsoft's India Development Center (IDC) in Noida, India, recently hosted a groundbreaking technical session in partnership with the SMVDU Tech Community. The session aimed to empower engineering students with advanced insights into Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Azure technologies. fostering innovation and industry collaboration.

As the largest Microsoft

R&D center in India, the IDC serves as a dynamic workspace driving digital innovation. Diverse teams collaborate within its walls, focusing on Cloud and AI, **Experiences and Devices** Group, Microsoft Digital teams, and gaming, to propel technological advancements

Led by Lakshit Pant, Program Manager - Reskill, along with seasoned Microsoft professionals, the session featured interactive discussions, handson demonstrations, and insightful Q&A sessions. 60 engineering students from SMVDU had the invaluable opportunity to engage with industry experts, gaining profound insights into the latest technological trends and best practices.

Beyond the technical sessions, students experienced an immersive visit to the Microsoft Office, where they interacted with Microsoft employees and gained firsthand knowledge of the industry landscape.

This experience not only broadened their understanding but also opened doors to potential internships and job opportuni-

and unwavering dedica-

tion inspire hope and instil

confidence in our collec-

tive ability to overcome

Nurses' Day celebration

at AIIMS Jammu started

on 10th May with unfolding

of theme by Principal, Col-

lege of Nursing followed

by lamp lighting by the

The ED & CEO of AIIMS

Jammu, Prof (Dr) Shakti

Kumar Gupta graced the

occasion as Chief Guest.

He delivered a profound-

ly moving and motivational

speech that resonated

deeply with all in atten-

dance. With the auditori-

um brimming with nurses

from various specialties

and departments, the

director's address served

as a poignant tribute to

the unwavering dedication

and invaluable contribu-

tions of our nursing staff.

adversity

dignitaries.

Gratitude was expressed to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar for his support in fostering the industry visit. The successful execution of the event was made possible by the diligent efforts of Dr. Anil Bhardwaj (Head, SoECE), Event Organizer Dr. Manish Sabraj (Associate Professor, SoECE), guided by Ashish Suri (Assistant Professor, SoECE), and coordinated by Sanjay Kumar Sharma (Assistant Professor, SoCSE).

Dr. Sabraj emphasized the significance of such initiatives in equipping students with practical knowledge, paving the way for promising careers in the tech industry. As a token of appreciation, each student received exclusive Microsoft goodies, symbolizing a memorable experience that transcended conventional learning.

The event marked a significant milestone in the journey of academic excellence and industry collaboration, laying the foundation for future endeavors aimed at nurturing talent and driving innovation in the technology landscape.

#### Vijay Bakaya expresses concern over missing of names from voter lists Asks CEO, Relief Commissioner (M) to avoid such situation in remaining phases

the three Polling Sta-

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: On completion of the third phase of election to the Parliamentary seat of Kashmir, Apni Party's General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya has congratulated the Kashmiri Pandit displaced voters for exercising their franchise in larger numbers than ever during their 34 years of forced displacement from Kashmir.

In a press release, Bakaya said there were long lines of voters to be seen at polling stations throughout the day including aged and first-time voters, and at the end of the day nearly 7000 votes had been polled.

He said this number

constituted nearly 39% of the total migrant votes mapped in the constituency.

He however expressed dismay that at least more than a thousand voters were turned back from the booths because their names were missing from the voter lists.

"These voters were not allowed to cast votes even though they showed the voter cards. Hence, this created a chaotic situation at many booths," he stated, expressing his deep concern.

He further added that the authorities concerned at the highest level were informed but redressal came after polling time was over and there were very few voters left waiting.

He said that there has been bungling in preparation of voter lists which has shocked the KPs. While being facilitated by removal of the need to fill up M- forms, the KP voters were denied the right of franchise.

He urged "The CEO and the Relief Commissioner (Migrant) to ensure that such a situation does not arise in the remaining two phases.

He finally urged the voters to come out in more numbers to the polling booths on May 20 and 25 to express their deter mination to seek political empowerment and become active stakeholders in the political process of the Union Territory of

#### **DDC Ramban leads DDMC** meet to address relief measures for disaster-affected families

**Top News Report** 

RAMBAN, May 14: The District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), Ramban, met today under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner, Roshan Lal, to address relief measures for disasteraffected families.

A total of 29 relief cases out of 46 were approved in favor of affected families in accordance with SDRF (State Disaster Response Fund) norms and the rest 17 cases have been put for re-verification. The meeting, attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, S. Harpal Singh, along with other key officials including CAHO, DSHO, District Treasury Officer, and Tehsildars, deliberated on cases ranging from fire incidents to natural calamities like landslides, hailstorms,

windstorms, floods, cloudburst, and others.

As many as 48 cases of different natures, including damage to residential houses, cattle sheds, kuchha houses, and loss of livestock such as horses, sheep, and goats in different tehsils. were discussed under SDRF norms.

Emphasizing prompt action, the ADDC directed officials to sensitize field staff on SDRF relief norms to ensure accurate and timely processing of relief cases.

Highlighting the priorities of Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Baseerul-Haq Chaudhary, the ADDC urged revenue and other concerned officers to expedite all pending cases pertaining to their departments, facilitating early disbursement of relief to affected individuals as admissible under SDRF

#### J&K fencers to represent **India in Fencing**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: On the basis of selection trials conducted by the Fencing Association of India at New Delhi, three fencers from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have been selected to represent India in the Senior Asian Fencing Championship and BRICS Games. Ace Sabre Fencer,

Vishal Thapar has been selected for Senior Asian Fencing Championship which is scheduled to be held w.e.f 22nd to 25th June. 2024 at Kuwait. Similarly, Ms. Shreya Gupta (Sabre event) and Mr. Ajay Kumar (Epee Event) has been selected to represent India in **BRICS Sports Games to** be held at Kazan, Russia

w.e.f 11th to 23rd June.. Sabre Fencer Vishal Thpar is the bronze medal holder in the last edition of the Senior national Fencing Championship and is currently ranked 3rd in India and Shreya Gupta is a current Junior National and Senior National Champion and is holding first rank in Junior and Senior

categories, upcoming Epee fencer Ajay Kumar is currently holding 4th rank in India, the handout said.

Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Nuzat Gul as per the communication, has congratulated the fencers and have extended best wishes to them and their parents for this achievement and wished best of luck for the competition.

International fencer Rashid Ahmed Choudhary, who is also Convener, Adhoc Committee, Fencing J&K termed it a proud moment and extended wishes to fencers for the prestigious events expressing hope that the players will make country proud at the international platform. Meanwhile senior fencing coach, J&K Sports Council, Rachna Jamwal, Instructor Shotu Lal Sharma, Adv. Supriya Chouhan and Maninder Pal Singh (Members Adhoc Committee) alongwith all the fencing fraternity also wished them best wishes for the upcoming champion-

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, May 14: Maintaining the winning streak of academic excellence, the students of Stephens International Public School (SIPS) made the alma mater proud with overall 100% results in classes XII & X declared by the CBSE on Monday.

Piyush Majhotra of class XII emerged as the star performer with 96.8% followed by Laxman Choudhary with 95.6%, Angel Sharma with 94.4%.

Uddhav Singh 92.4%, Ivrandeep Kour with 91.8%, Anjali Sharma with 91.6% and Rudraksh

Raina with 90.4%

Our meritorious class X students namely Tanveer Singh topped the batch with 98.2% followed by Mannat Sharma with 97.2%, Pawneet Kour 97%. Farah Igbal 96.4%. Yukti Sudan with 96.4%. Gurshran Singh with 96.2%, Sarabjeet Kour 95.8%, Varalika Sharma 95.8%, Baljinder Kour, 95.6%, Bhumi Agarwal

95.6%, Vedaant Sharma 95.6%, Sarthak Sharma with 95.4%, Shivika Sharma with 95.4% and Bavnet Kour with 95%.

Chairman Dr Kamal Saini IGP (Retd.), Director Satvinder Saini, Trustee Adv. Kunal Saini and Principal Dr. Manjari Sehgal of SIPS congratulated all the students of class X and Class XII for showing their indomitable spirit and unflinching self belief.

They applauded the prodigious efforts of

SIPSians outshine in CBSE Class X & XII Results tress, Coordinators and teachers for showing their extraordinary commitment, dedication and hard work day in and day

> The management also lauded the commendable efforts of their parents for reposing their faith in the institution and extending their best support to the teachers.

The students were blessed extremely fulfilling and rewarding times

#### **Encouraging 38% turnout in Srinagar parliamentary** constituency reaffirmed faith in democracy: Seth

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: Vishal Khatri Sabha on Tuesday applauded the people of the Srinagar parliamentary constituency for the "encouraging turnout" of 38 per cent, which is more than double the 14.43 pc polling in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and also appreciated Election Commission of India and security forces as on Monday polling ended peacefully without any law & order incident and with all polling stations recording a good voter turnout.

Vishal Khatri Sabha J&K President Devender Seth in a handout issued here said that voters have participated enthusiastically to express their potential and aspirations to find full expres-

Happening at the grassroots level, it is great for the people of J&K, in particular the youth, said Seth.

"Polling personnel, including security personnel, worked tirelessly to ensure that an atmosphere of calm, peace and festivities welcomed voters at the polling stations," he said.

Seth further said that this is first time that there has been no stone pelting, no boycott and there is no polling station where the polling percentage is

zero." "Incidents of violence been reduced significantly over the last five years and the government and the administration have played a major role in restoring

people's confidence by enabling them to exercise their franchise.

Seth observed that people came out in large numbers to cast their votes in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency and reaffirmed their faith in democracy and the Constitution. He commended the hard work by all the stakeholders for free, fair, peaceful and smooth conduct of the polling.

Seth appreciated the enthusiasm of electors and expressed hope that turnout in the next two phases in Baramulla and Anantnag parliamentary constituencies on May 20 and 25, respectively will see increase in voter turnout. He appealed to all to vote without fear and vote with responsibility and pride," he said.

### **EDITORIAL**

# NATIONAL SECURITY

**T** ational security encompasses a nation's ability to safeguard its citizens, territory, and interests from various internal and external threats. It involves a complex interplay of political, economic, military, social, and technological factors aimed at ensuring the safety, stability, and sovereignty of the country. In a rapidly evolving global landscape, the concept of national security has expanded beyond traditional military defense to encompass a wide range of challenges, including terrorism, cyber attacks, pandemics, climate change, and economic instability.

At its core, national security is about protecting the fundamental values and interests of a nation, including its sovereignty, territorial integrity, political stability, and economic prosperity. It requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach that involves not only the government and military but also other stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and international partners.

One of the primary objectives of national security is to deter and defend against external threats to the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This includes maintaining a strong and capable military, robust border security measures, and effective intelligence and surveillance capabilities to detect and preempt potential threats. Additionally, diplomatic efforts and international cooperation play a crucial role in managing regional tensions and preventing conflicts that could undermine national security.

In today's interconnected world, national security is increasingly intertwined with other dimensions of security, such as economic security and cybersecurity. Economic strength is vital for national security, as it underpins the country's ability to invest in defense, infrastructure, and social programs. Ensuring a resilient and diversified economy, promoting trade and investment, and protecting critical infrastructure from cyber threats are essential components of economic security.

Cybersecurity has emerged as a critical aspect of national security, given the growing dependence on digital technology and the increasing frequency and sophistication of cyber attacks. Protecting critical infrastructure, government networks, and private sector systems from cyber threats is essential to safeguarding national security interests and maintaining public trust and confidence.

Moreover, national security encompasses non-traditional threats such as terrorism, organized crime, pandemics, and climate change, which have the potential to destabilize societies and undermine state authority. Addressing these threats requires a multidimensional approach that integrates security, development, and humanitarian efforts to mitigate their impact and address their root causes.

In conclusion, national security is a multifaceted concept that encompasses a wide range of challenges and requires a comprehensive and integrated approach to address effectively. It is about protecting a nation's people, territory, and interests from various internal and external threats while upholding its values, sovereignty, and prosperity. In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, effective national security requires collaboration, innovation, and adaptability to anticipate and respond to evolving threats and challenges.

#### Stories of fidelity to the oath, loyalty to comrades

By: Lt Gen Baljit Singh (Retd Military Commentator)

READING exhaustive narratives of the Kargil War in The Tribune over the past month, I was reminded of a phone call that came one morning in the summer of 1999. Even before I could say hello, an excited voice said: "Jai Hind shaab, aap aur memshaab theek hain?" The voice did seem familiar, but to avoid embarrassment, I asked: "Aap kahan se bole rahey ho?" His response, with a controlled chuckle, was: "Shaab, main Som Bahadur STD booth Kargil main hoon. 3/3 GR (Gorkha Rifles) ne peak capture kar liya, shaab!" He was on cloud nine, but much to my disappointment and his helplessness, the connection snapped all too soon.

Back in 1981, when my brigade, inclusive of 3/3 GR, was moved to establish a permanent presence in north Sikkim, Lance Naik Som Bahadur Punn was my affable sahayak. And it had been an article of faith ever since for this comrade-in-arms to get in touch every year. By 1999, he was a battle-blooded, proud havildar.

Som Bahadur's call reminded me of the legend of Pheidippides from 490 BC, when the Persian army had invaded Greece. Outnumbered 10 to one, the Greeks sought help from the neighbouring Sparta, but to no avail. However, their deity Pan so spurred the soldiery to "...take heart, laugh Persia to scorn, have faith in

the temples and tombs..." that they inflicted a crushing defeat on the invading Persians. And Pheidippides, a champion runner, set out on 40-km nonstop run from the battlefield of Marathon back to Athens. When he reached there, he informed anxious fellow citizens gathered at the Acropolis: "Rejoice, we have won!"

Another Kargil narrative came from Lt Sanjay Barshilia of 286 Medium Regiment, who

June 7, 1999, after two nights of a gruelling climb, had teamed with a detachment of 4 Jat atop Point 5299 (17,385 ft above sea level) to commence the interdiction of enemy reinforcements and logistics by artillery fire. A narrow horizontal niche cut into an iceface about 50 metres below that hilltop, where four men could curl up at any one time, was their sole communal sleeping shelter. But sleep remained elusive because the sleeping bags tended to be damp due to frequent sleet sprays and the night temperature dipped below 10°C. Cooked food and water were supplied by night ferries daily, but were sufficient only for one meal a day.

However, this young man had a job at hand and the vantage hilltop proved an excellent perch for directing artillery fire on enemy locations with a telling effect. It was not long before the enemy retaliated in equal measure, best narrated by Sanjay thus: "You fire a round at him, and sure enough, you can expect him on your loca-

tion in precisely one minute. The game was dangerous, but all of us enjoyed it immensely... It was a tremendous feeling for all of us at the post, more so for myself, who had the fortune of experiencing combat at a young age and from such a close distance. It was a dream come true." Befittingly, he was awarded the Sena Medal on August 15, 1999, for his dedicated leadership and gallantry.

In November 2023, I had an unbelievable chance meeting with a veteran of two wars - he was part of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) in October 1987 during the Sri Lankan civil war and also present at Kargil in 1999. On an errand to an establishment, the gatekeeper greeted me with a smart salute, but with his left arm, and that prompted me to enquire about his antecedents. Within minutes, it emerged that this Napoleon-sized Suraj Lama was a veteran from the elite 10 Para Commando and was among the first members of the ill-fated heliborne mission to land upon the Jaffna University stadium, where they received a horrendous reception by LTTE combatants.

However, born under a lucky star, Lama survived not just the Jaffna onslaught but multiple battles till the cessation of the war across the length and breadth of Sri Lanka. Much as I admired and respected his unique combat experiences, I was driven to a guarded cross-examination. But the moment he mentioned that he was part of that platoon of 13 Sikh Light

Infantry battalion which had perished within minutes of touchdown upon mother earth to the last man but one, it was my turn to shake hands and salute Lama.

It is in the nature of warfare that every soldier in battle enjoys in equal measure both the grace of angels and the dictums of destiny. So, Lama sailed through three bloody years with the IPKF in the Lankan war, but on the penultimate day of the war in Kargil, in the blink of an eye, he was knocked out cold, airlifted to Leh Military Hospital and regained consciousness three days later.

For five-and-a-half years, he remained bed-ridden and partially wheel-chaired at the Army Hospital (Research and Referral), Delhi Cantonment; AIIMS, New Delhi; and the Command Hospital, Chandimandir, where his service as a havildar was terminated with 100 per cent disability pension. His left leg and right arm were severely damaged, but undaunted he drives a scooter and a car confidently. He cannot climb up steps, salutes with his left hand and clicks heels at attention in a ramrod posture — always with a broad, infectious smile.

And that brings me to the classic A Matter of Honour by Philip Mason, which opens with the unwritten credo of the Indian Army: "Fidelity to an oath, loyalty to comrades and calm under crises, without which qualities an Army is nothing..."

#### Future of Hungry, Malnourished Children

By: Vijay Garg

**¬**oday, when technology, prosperity and modernity **are expanding all over the** world, hunger and malnutrition remain a problem in the human society with divided economy. Recently, the Director General of the International Labor Organization (United Nations), Gilbert Hungbo, has exposed the fact that millions of children around the world are being sent to work instead of going to school, in order to eradicate hunger. Not only this, they are also accused of wrongdoings.Is also being forced to. This torture of innocent people has intensified since the Covid pandemic amidst unbearable inflation. It is not that this is happening only in the poor countries of the world, this decline continues even in countries with proportionally higher economies. Most of the children and teenagers are being put into fields like farming, mining, construction etc. The reason for this tragedy is poverty and hunger. About sixteen crore children of the world are facing such situations. For the first time in the last two decades, such a situation is out of control. Are going. The number of child laborers is increasing rapidly. Inflation due to Ukraine-Russia, Israel-Palestine wars has also made people's lives complicated. To satisfy hunger, children are also being forced to do physical labour. It is a fact that in India alone sixty-seven lakh children go to sleep hungry. This number is more than countries like Sudan and Mali. Surveyors term this a situation of 'zero food', raising deep concerns of severe food insecurity. According to the Global

Hunger Index - 2023, this Not only children and teenagers going to work are affected by the tragedy, but also 30 percent of them are children aged between 6 to 11 months, 13 percent of children aged 12 to 17 months and 8 percent of infants aged 18 to 23 months. Meanwhile, the prevalence of undernutrition in our country has increased from 14.6 percent to 16.3 percent. In such a situation, it has become very challenging for the governments to monitor malnourished children and make a comprehensive policy to rescue them from this complex situation. According to statistics, about sixty percent of children in our country are deprived of nutritious food like milk etc. Are. Child trafficking is also a major reason for the horrific exploitation of children. Poverty, humanitarian crisis and lack of education are fueling its high rates. The problem is that it is not easy to get accurate figures. Regarding child labor which has become a global challenge, according to an estimate, more than twenty thousand children are being trafficked every year. Despite calls for comprehensive protection of children, prevention of trafficking, law enforcement, and necessary assistance to victims, this number continues to increase every year. At least three lakh children are kidnapped every yearAre there. A large number of them fall into the hands of traffickers. According to a report by anti-human trafficking organization 'THORN', every thirteenth of these children is subjected to sexual exploitation. In India, a large proportion of children are engaged in labor despite the Child and Adolescent Labor Prohibition Act. Although the CLPR Act makes

it illegal to employ any child as a labourer, but according to the last national census (2011), out of the total 25.964 crore children in the country, 1.012 crore were found in various types of labour., The number of such children in the world is said to be more than 21.7 crore. A report by UNICEF and International Labor Organization states that the number of child laborers has increased by 89 lakh as compared to earlier. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, the highest number of cases of child labor are being registered in Telangana. Assam has been at second position. Most of the children were found employed in the brick manufacturing industry. A large number of child laborers are doing hard labor in UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. starvation and malnutritionThe biggest reasons are economic inequality, poverty and inflation. The affected population is becoming deprived of food items as well as drinking water and sanitation. The second major reason for increasing hunger is the lack of proper implementation of government schemes and policies. Wars in the world and natural disasters like drought, flood, earthquake have also made this situation difficult. Agricultural activities have been disrupted. There is unequal distribution of food production. The conditions of poverty and child labor in India are now becoming frightening, the danger of whichThe results are emerging in the form of massive exploitation of children. Most of the 80-81 crore families dependent on five kg ration are facing economic insecurity, unemployment, poverty and hunger. Most of the child

laborers come from such families. Meanwhile, the latest report of the United Nations highlighting the global inequality shows that about eighty crore people in the world go to sleep hungry every day, on the other hand, about one billion plates of food are being wasted. United Nations Environment Programme's 'Food Waste' According to the 'Index-2024' report, in the last one year alone, 1.05 billion tonnes of food was wasted, out of which about 20 percent was thrown in the garbage. Today, while millions of people are sleeping hungry, almost one-fifth of the food products available in the market are being wasted. Now this destruction is becoming a global tragedy. This waste is also causing climate change and loss of biodiversity. According to a UN report, annually a maximum of 631 million tonnes (about 60 percent) of food is wasted at home. Is coming. Among the world's affluent people, every person wastes at least two quintals of food annually. The United Nations has been closely monitoring this situation for the last three years. This wastage of food is found in both rich and poor countries alike. Per capita annual food waste rates varied by only seven kilograms between high-, uppermiddle- and lower-middle-income countries, but there was a difference in such waste between urban and rural areas. in middle income countries Rural populations waste relatively little food. The United Nations is trying to reduce food wastage by fifty percent by 2030.

(Vijay Garg Educational Columnist Malout Punjab)

## **J&K voters rejected BJP decisions on August 5, 2019: Dimple**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: Sunil Dimple, the president of Mission Statehood, while addressing press conference, highlighted the significant voter turnout in the Srinagar MP seat elections as an expression of the voters' anger towards the BJP.

He attributed this sentiment to various factors. including the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A, the demolition of the Jammu and Kashmir state, and the perceived alliances of regional leaders like Altaf Bhukhari, GN Azad, and Sajjad Lone with the BJP.

Dimple asserted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have rejected the BJP's decisions



made on August 5, 2019, regarding the abrogation of Article 370 and the special status of the region.

Dimple expressed confidence that the INDI Alliance Bloc candidates would win all Jammu and Kashmir MP seats and subsequently form the government in the

upcoming assembly

elections He appealed to Kashmiri regional parties like Apni Party, People's Conference, and Gulam Nabi Azad's party to refrain from aligning with the BJP, which, according to him, has contributed to the deterioration of Jammu and Kashmir since August 5, 2019.

Furthermore, Dimple disclosed his belief that leaders such as Altaf Bhukhari, Sajjad Lone, and GN Azad would soon join the BJP-led NDA, a move he termed an "unholy alliance."

He questioned the intentions behind these alliances and whether the BJP would restore Article 370, revoke AFSPA, release detainees, and fulfill other demands raised by Kashmiri leaders

Dimple criticized the BJP's absence in fielding candidates for the three MP seats, suggesting that Union ministers and leaders would support figures like Altaf Bhukhari, Sajjad Lone,

and GN Azad. He called upon the

Prime Minister and Home Minister to provide a clear timeline for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Dimple reiterated the commitment to continue the struggle for the restoration of Article 370 and 35-A, the implementation of the instrument of accession conditions, and the protection of land, jobs, and the unification of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan.

He demanded the immediate restoration of the Jammu and Kashmir state, advocating for assembly elections alongside parliamentary elections under Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

#### **Inter School Zonal Level** Competition organized at Basohli



**Top News Report** 

KATHUA, May 14: The Inter School Zonal Level Competition organized by the Zonal Physical Education Office Basohli in District Kathua with the direction and supervision of the DYSSO Kathua, Sunil Singh Sambyal, and the chairmanship of Lalit Kumar Sharma, Principal of GMHSS Basohli.

The tournament brought together young talents from various schools.

The tournament, held at GMHSS Basohli, featured competitions in Cricket, Badminton, Kho Kho, and Skipping Rope.

Manoj Kumar Anand, the Principal of Higher Secondary School Bhoond, during his address to the players said that sports emphasis not only on physical activity but also on important messages like staying away from drugs.

He said such events not only showcase the athletic abilities of the youth but also foster a sense of camaraderie and healthy competition among participants.

A total of 398 players with 219 U-14 and 179 U-17 boys participated in the Zonal level tourna-

#### Janki Jayanti on May 16: **Mahant Rohit**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: Janki (Sita) Jayanti, according to religious scriptures, is celebrated annually on the Vaishakh Shukla Paksha Navami Tithi.

This year, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, elucidated that the ninth day of the bright fortnight of the Vaishakh month will commence on Thursday, May 16th, at 06:23 AM and conclude the following day, Friday, May 17th, at 08:49 AM.

Mata Sita's worship traditionally occurs at midday on the ninth day of the bright fortnight



of Vaishakh, falling on Thursday, May 16th, since the ninth day concludes early on Friday, May 17th.

Consequently, Janki (Sita Mata) Jayanti is to be celebrated on Thursday, May 16th, with the auspicious timing for Mata Sita's worship being from 11:05 AM to 1:44 PM on that day.

During this celebration, married women observe a fast and offer worship to Janki (Sita Mata) and Lord Sri Ram, seeking blessings for a prosperous married life and longevity for their husbands.

It is customary to pres-

ent marital gifts to Mata Sita on this occasion and to recite various sacred texts such as Janki Stotra, Shri Ramcharitmanas, Shri Ramraksha Stotra, and Shri Hanuman Chalisa. The chanting of these texts is believed to alleviate life's troubles and ensure wealth and prosperity.

#### Saiyam of DPS Jammu excels in 1st North India Open Table **Tennis Tournament**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: Saiyam Nischal (V-G), a student of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and his parents by clinching the 1st Runner-up trophy in U-11 Boys category 1st North India Open Table Tennis Tournament organized by Amritsar District Table Tennis Tournament Association held at Chandigarh from 10-12

May, 2024. The management of DPS Jammu, under the esteemed leadership of Hon'ble President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, and Director-S.S. Sodhi



along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Saiyam and his parents for the achievement. They also extended their best wishes to him for all his future endeavours.

#### Kaith celebrates his birthday at a religious function in Himachal Pradesh

**Top News Report** 

HIMACHAL PRADESH/ JAMMU, May 14: R.L Kaith who is known as a philanthropist, celebrated his birthday at a religious function in Himachal Pradesh's Kathal Paleta,

Devotees who included men, women and children converged on the occasion, sang a happy birthday song for him and wished longevity for him with a beaming smile.

Kaith distributed sweets among them and thanked for all their heartfelt birthday wishes. He said, "I certainly consider myself to be one of the luckiest people in this world. which is why on my birth-



day, I don't want to ask for anything but thank God for all the good things He has blessed me with over the years.

Among those present were All Batwal Sabha Punjab President Jangi Lal Sabjitra, Inspector Darshan Kumar Bassa, Havildar Des Raj, Tilak Raj Bassa, Masu Ran Jandore, Sher Singh Gaddal Nand Lal Sanjotra, Rahul Gaddal, Karan Kumar Malarch, Roki Gaddal, Lucky Heer, Chaman Lal Malarch, Ket Ram Gaddal, Parlad Singh Gaddal, Honey Singh Gaddal, Bidhi Chand Gaddal, Kulwinder Singh Gaddal, Neeraj Kumar Gaddal and Vishal Chanjotra.

#### Pakistani intruder arrested near LoC

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: A Pakistani intruder was arrested from a village near the Line of Control on Tuesday.

Separately, a massive search operation was launched near the International Border (IB) in Kathua district following suspicious movement of at least five persons, believed to be terrorists. the officials said.

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They said a Pakistani intruder, who identified himself as Zahir Khan, a resident of Karachi. was arrested from Milan

de Khui village near the LoC in Pallanwala area of Khour on the outskirts of Jammu on Monday.

a suspicious manner by a police party and was taken to the local police post where he disclosed his identity and claimed to have inadvertently crossed from across the border, the officials said. They said a case under

relevant sections of law was registered against the arrested person and further investigation is

In Kathua district, the officials said a joint search operation was launched by police, army and BSF at village Juthana in Rajbagh area

Tuesday morning after villagers informed presence of five suspected terrorists who were look-He was seen moving in ing for food.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Anand Jain along with Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, D K Boora reached Kathua to supervise the anti-terror operation.

According to villagers, a group of at least five suspected terrorists entered into a house and sought

However, they fled the scene after getting suspicious that their movement was reported to the security forces, they said.

#### Baba Farid Group of Institutions organises seminar at Govt Polytechnic Jammu

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: Baba Farid Group of Institutions organized a one-day seminar titled "Youth **Empowerment Through Techni**cal Education" at Government Boys Polytechnic Bikram Chowk Jammu under 'Jan Chetna' Mission to Empower Society with Technical Education, Aiming to Alleviate Poverty"

The seminar featured distinguished speakers including Dr. Zaved Ahmed Khan, Dean Academic Affairs, Rajinder Singh Dhanoa, Assistant Director (Administration), and Amandeep

Singh, Dean Admissions. They delivered insightful talks on the importance of technical education in empowering the youth. The event was graced by guests Arun Bangotra, Principal of Government Boys Polytech-



nic Jammu, and Kuldeep Singh Bhatia, Registrar of Board of Technical Education Jammu & Kashmir

"We believe that technical education plays a vital role in shaping the future of our youth," said Dr. Zaved Ahmed Khan.

"Through initiatives like 'Jan Chetna,' we aim to inspire and guide students towards acquiring skills that are essential for their personal and professional development," he added.

The seminar provided a platform for students to gain insights and knowledge about technical education, helping them make informed decisions about their future career paths.

ed heartfelt gratitude to the speakers from Baba Farid Group of Institutions for their invaluable contribution to the seminar on 'Youth Empowerment through Technical Education.

He said that insightful presentations by the key speakers provided our students with valuable insights and inspiration for their academic and professional jour-

We are truly grateful for their efforts in organizing such an informative session and look forward to further collaboration in empowering our youth through education.

#### Live life dedicated to Nirankar at every moment: Satguru Mata Sudiksha

**Top News Report** 

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, May 14: When we live our lives with complete dedication to this Formless God at every moment, then our life truly becomes dedicated to the welfare of humanity. Such a life, filled with love and devotion, was demonstrated by Baba Hardev Singh himself. These blessed words were expressed by Satguru Mata Sudiksha Maharaj on the sacred occasion of 'Samarpan Diwas'

The 'Samarpan Diwas' assembly was organized in the memory of the visionary, Baba Hardev Singh, under the presence of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Maharaj and Nirankari Rajpita Ramit, at the Sant Nirankari Spiritual Place, Samalkha in Haryana

Devotees numbering in thousands from Delhi, N.C.R., and neighbouring states participated, not only recalling his acts of kindness but also offering heartfelt tributes Additionally, this day

was also celebrated worldwide, where all devotees remembered Baba Ji's teachings and paid homage to his remarkable life. While mentioning

the teachings of Baba Hardev Singh, the Messiah of humanity, Satguru Mata stated that Baba himself, being a living idol of love, taught us the art of living life selflessly. Mata further said that when we truly fall in love with God, then the gains and losses of this illusory world cannot affect us because then God's love and his will become supreme.

On the contrary, when

we do not connect ourselves with God but instead connect only with material objects, our focus remains solely on temporarily pleasures and comforts. As a result, we often miss out on experiencing true joy because we get trapped in the illusion of these. The reality is that true joy comes only from connecting with formless God and continuously praising Him, which can be attained by consistently drawing inspiration from the lives of saints. This is also the essence of a devotee's life become epitome of love.

In family, society, and the world and build bridges of love, because surrender and love are the two precious words that form the foundation of complete devotional love, imbued with the beautiful feeling of welfare for all.

On the occasion of Samarpan Diwas while talking about the selfless service of the late Sant Avneet Ji, Satguru Mata Ji said that he always served the Satguruwith true devotion and fidelity, not by connecting through any relation. In this congregation, many speakers from the mission expressed their divine qualities like love, compassion, mercy, and surrender through their auspicious thoughts, discussions, songs, hymns, and poems. Undoubtedly, the

compassionate and incomparable image of Baba Hardev Singh, the embodiment of love, is permanently etched in the hearts of every faithful devotee, and for his benevolence, every follower of the Nirankari world will forever be indebted.

#### **Zonal Level Inter School competitions of Zone Chenani get underway**

**Top News Report** CHENANI, May 14: On

the second day of ongoing Zonal Level Inter School competitions by the Department of Youth Services & Sports Zone Chenani, on Tuesday conducted Zonal Level Inter School competitions in the disciplines of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball & Cricket(Trials) for U-14 yrs & U-17 yrs Boys under the patronage of Director Youth Services & Sports Subash Chander Chibber and guidance of District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Udhampur Romesh Chander Mishra and under the overall supervision of Zonal Physical Education Officer, Chenani Jyoti Rani. Jyoti Rani interacted and extended her best wishes to participants

and officials for the par-

ticipation in Zonal Level

competitions and also

congratulated the field

staff for their best efforts

for making these competitions a great success and encouraged students to take active participation in sports with true sportsmanship to make themselves physically and mentally fit and create a healthy atmosphere in the society by keeping themselves away from the social evils such as Drugs and work for the betterment of the society.

Besides this, collaboration and dedication from all field staff (PEM, PET, REK) of zone Chenani made this successful

Earlier the participants



total of 700 participation witnessed in four games {Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball & Cricket (Trials)} from U/14 and U/17 vears Boys age category with immense enthusiasm from 30 different schools of zone Chenani.

Among others Anil Verma, Bikram Singh, Raman Kumar, Yogeshwar, Rakesh Kumar, Mohan Dass, Meena Kotwal, Anita Katal, Rishi Kotwal, Joginder Singh, Desh Bandhu, Satish

Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Rajinder Chanyal, Sanjeev Kumar, Yash Paul, Gulzar Begum, Vaseem, Jamil, Nanak, Atul, Sudesh, Pritam, Davinder, Anil, Surjeet, Yash Pooja, Sunita, Babli and Ritu were present. The Department of

Youth Services & Sports, remains committed to organizing such sporting events in the future, providing young sportsperson with opportunities to excel and exhibit their performance.

Today's Result:-

Volleyball Finals U-17 Yrs: HS Marothi defeated by HSS Dhanas by 2-0: U-14: HSS Dhanas defeated MS Kulakh by Kho-Kho Final U-17:

HSS Sewna defeated HSS Chenani by 7 pts and 1 turn; U-14: HSS Sewna defeated MS Kumarian by 2 pts and 1 turn.

Kabaddi Final U-14 yrs: MS Bhatla defeated HS Bashat by 21-19.

#### IP Singh and Rajarshi Sanyal, famous as the band Faridkot, have touched the hearts of millions with their fresh beats and catchy rhythms

Theirs is a genre which they dub as 'confused pop', a mish-mash of Indie, pop and folk elements. Yet, in their journey till now, they have carved a separate niche for themselves in the hearts of music aficionados. Famous for crooning peppy tracks like Nasha, Kaala Doriyaa, Ibtida and Laila, here's getting to know the two men at the helm of the band Faridkot — IP Singh and Rajarshi Sanyal, the former the lead vocalist and guitarist, and the latter a bassist as well as back-

ing vocalist. It all began in 2008, when the two musical souls first connected. "We both loved music, but were doing our own things. Rajarshi had a band, while I made music alone. We met through the music community and since then, we've been working together," says IP. Adds Rajarshi, "We met in Delhi. IP was searching for a band, and I was seeking someone who could sing and write songs in Hindi because

I had an English band. I wanted to branch out to experiment more. The rest is history."

With two acclaimed albums, Ek and Phir Se, to their credit, the two believe their music is evolving, "I think there's a sense of calmness and depth that comes with experience and getting older, but, at the same time, there's still that wild energy that is prevalent," says IP.

Rajarshi opines their music has changed a lot over time, "That's because we love to try out new things. We've experimented with many types of music like pop, progressive and punk. We also like dance and folk music. We've grown as musicians and learnt a lot."

Go with the flow

Creating history by becoming the first Indian band to compose the lead track for the Hindi rendition of The Expendables 3, featuring icons Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger, Faridkot's music is captivating, one that resonates with audi-



has led to a lot of suc-

cessful songs, though

some didn't work out.

But that doesn't stop

The music industry is

full of challenges, but

the duo is ready for the

grind. Says IP, "The

main challenge as a

musician is that if you

decide to turn music into

your business, you have

to learn how the music

industry works and how

to promote yourself. We

always aim to create

popular music that

people will enjoy.'

Pushing the limits

us.

ences globally. Says IP, "I think music naturally goes beyond boundaries. If you create music spontaneously, without trying too hard to please, you can come up with something truly captivating.'

Rajarshi adds, "We don't have strict rules when we make music; it's really fun to challenge ourselves and be a bit uncomfortable. That's how we make our music. We like to go with the flow when we write songs, without any set plans. This approach

key lies in creating new and fun things with your music. The real challenge is to keep pushing yourself to be creative, even with these limitations." As for the musicians of

Even for Rajarshi, "The

tomorrow, their advice is clear. "First figure out what you want from your music and where you want it to go. Then, learn what steps you need to take to get there and what your options are. It's important to stay sensible and remember that you need to take care of your basic needs first, before you can succeed in your musical career. Be practical, but also keep dreaming," says IP.

Rajarshi adds, "Don't stick to just one type of music. People like different things, so as a musician it's good to be open to exploring different styles. I've learnt that being flexible helps you grow. It's important to stay open-minded about your preferences and not have fixed ideas." Point to ponder!

#### Tabu to star in 'Dune' prequel series 'Dune: Prophecy'



Fresh from the success of heist comedy 'Crew', actor Tabu has ioined the cast of 'Dune: Prophecy', a prequel series to director Denis Villeneuve's blockbuster

film franchise. Tabu will star in the recurring role of Sister Francesca, described as a "strong, intelligent and alluring" character, according to a report in entertainment outlet Variety. "Sister Francesca leaves a lasting impression in her wake. Once a great love of the Emperor, her return to the palace strains the balance of power in the capital," the makers said.

In Villeneuve's 2021 and 2024 feature adaptations of Frank Herbert's 'Dune' novels, Charlotte Rampling played Reverend Mother Mohiam, the Emperor's Bene Gesserit Truthsayer.

Lady Jessica (Rebec-

ca Ferguson) was the Bene Gesserit mother of the protagonist Paul Atreides, played by Timothee Chalamet.

'Dune: Prophecy', an HBO Max series hailing from Legendary Television, is set 10,000 years before the events of Frank Herbert's 'Dune' and is based on the novel 'Sisterhood of Dune' by Brian Herbert and Kevin J Anderson. It was previously titled 'Dune: The Sisterhood'.

As per official logline, "Set within the expansive universe of 'Dune,' created by acclaimed author Frank Herbert, and 10,000 years before the ascension of Paul Atreides, 'Dune: Prophecy' follows two Harkonnen sisters as they combat forces that threaten the future of humankind, and establish the fabled sect that will become known as the Bene Gesserit."

Tabu has previously starred in international projects such as 'The Namesake', 'Life of Pi', and the BBC miniseries 'A Suitable Boy'. At home, the National Award winner's credits include titles such as 'Andhadhun', 'Magbool', 'Haider', 'Bhool Bhulaiyya 2' and 'Drishyam'.

#### Saiyami Kher says she's drawn to roles that take everything out of her

Actress Saivami Kher. who is gearing up for her upcoming film Agni, likes to do roles that challenge her and push her out of her comfort zone. In Agni, she portrays the character of a firefighter.

The actress, who is known for Mirzya, Ghoomer, Special OPS and Breathe, expresses her contentment with being recognised as an actor capable of handling rugged and challenging roles in Bollywood. She says, "I am grateful for the opportunities I've had to portray strong characters in the work I have done so far. It's immensely fulfilling to be recognised



for my ability to take on roles that push me out of my comfort zone, and demand physical and emotional dedication.

I've always been drawn to roles that demand everything from me because, in return, they give me so much.'

#### 'Squid Game - The Challenge' wins Best Reality **Category at BAFTA TV Awards**

BAFTA TV Awards have been announced, and Squid Game — The Challenge won in the Reality Category. The UKproduced Netflix show beat off competition from shows such as Banged Up and Married At First Sight. A competition version of Korean drama Squid Game, it pitted 456 contestants against each other in a big to win a massive cash prize.

Comedians Rob Beckett and Romesh Ranganathan hosted the 2024 BAFTA TV Awards, honouring the biggest stars of British television at London's Royal Festival Hall. The show comes from The Traitors producer Studio Lambert and The Garden, a rare co-production between two major British unscripted producers from different production groups. The Traitors won last year, when the category was known as Reality



and Constructed Factual. This year, The Crown and Black Mirror got the most nominations. However, those nominations didn't translate into awards as Happy Valley and Top Boy dominated the TV BAFTA.

Great going

In the acting categories, Jasmine Jobson won a BAFTA for supporting actress for Top Boy with the show picking up a second award for best drama series, edging out Happy Valley, The Gold and Slow Horses for the honour. Timothy Spall won leading actor for The Sixth Commandment, which also won limited drama award.

Strictly Come Dancing won for entertainment, while Squid Game — The Challenge" won an award for reality. Last year's Eurovision Song Contest, which took place in the UK, won for live event coverage, with Hannah Waddingham — one of the hosts last year — accepting the award along with the production team.

Sarah Lancashire won the leading actress award for her act in Happy Valley. The show also beat out David Beckham teasing his wife Victoria over her 'working class' upbringing in his Netflix documentary Beckham to take home the award for most memorable moment.

#### Rajkummar Rao recalls how he got that one line in RGV's 'Rann'



Before his debut in Love Sex Aur Dhokha in 2010, Rajkummar Rao was seen in a small role as a newsreader with just one or two lines in filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma's political thriller Rann. The National Award-winner took a trip down memory lane and recalled how he got the part.

Rajkummar shared, "I had one line in Ramu's film Rann. All of us were looking for work, and we got to know that Ram Gopal Varma was making this film and there were auditions going on... So, we just went there and somebody asked me to read two lines, and I read. They called me and said aapka hogaya hai.

#### Alia Bhatt to attend the Gucci Cruise **Show in London**



After stealing the spotlight at Met Gala 2024 in a Sabyasachi saree, actress Alia Bhatt is now all set to grab eyeballs with her presence at the Gucci Cruise show 2025 in London.

Before boarding the flight to London, the Gangubai Kathiawadi star happily posed for the shutterbugs at the Mumbai airport on Monday night. She looked simple yet stylish in a comfortably cool airport ensemble. Alia donned a pair of denim jeans and a white t-shirt. She opted for minimal make-up.

#### Filmmaker Karan Johan bags Gold Legend Honour

Filmmaker Karan Johar, who is known for giving a number of hits, has been honoured at the third annual Gold House Gala. He shared glimpses of the event and said that he was 'humbled' to receive the Gold Legend Honour. The event took place at the historic Music Center in downtown Los Angeles on May 11. Taking to his Insta-

gram handle, Karan Johar shared a video in which he can be seen receiving the award. He wrote in the caption, "Humbled and honoured to receive the Gold Legend Honour @goldhouseco's Gold Gala in LA." This year's event was a star-studded affair, with luminaries such as Steven Yeun, Lucy Liu, Bang Si-Hyuk, and the iconic Hello Kitty.

Meanwhile, American actor Lucy Liu was also honoured with the Gold Legend Award. Liu gave a moving speech after receiving



the award from Regina King. "What I love about Regina is that she

always makes choices that are for her," Liu told the audience.

#### Film director and screenplay writer Biju Vattappara dies at 54

Film director and screenplay writer Biju Vattappara, known for his work on movies, several serials and documentaries, died on May 13, according to sources in the film industry here on Tuesday.

He was 54. Vattappara, a native of Okkal, collapsed and died while he was in Muvattupuzha for personal reasons on Monday.

He directed movies such as 'Ramaravanan', 'Swantham Karyam Zindabad' and 'My Dear Mummy'.

Additionally, he wrote screenplays for films like 'Lokanathan IAS', starring Kalabhavan Mani, among others.

The FEFKA directors' union condoled Vattappara's demise.

#### With Yogi by his side, PM Modi files nomination from Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency

PM Modi is eyeing a hattrick in the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat, which he had won for the first time in 2014

VARANASI, May 14 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday filed his nomination from the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat after offering prayers at the Dashashwamedh Ghat and the Kaal Bhairav temple here.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was among those present at the collectorate when Modi filed his papers.

Earlier in the day, the PM offered prayers at the Dashashwamedh Ghat on the banks of the Ganga. He also performed aarti at the ghat amid chanting of Vedic mantras.



In a post in Hindi on X, Modi said, "My relationship with my

Kashi is amazing, inseparable and incomparable...all I can say

is that it cannot be expressed in words!'

He is eyeing a hattrick in the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat, which he had won for the first time in

The prime minister held a dazzling roadshow in Varanasi a day ago and vowed to do a lot more to serve the holy city in his third term. A day later, he posted a clip from his Monday's roadshow on 'X' and said, "The love and blessings that my family members of Kashi showered on me during the road show has become an unforgettable moment in my life."

#### **Ruckus in MCD House over Swati** Maliwal's assault allegation



NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): A ruckus erupted in the MCD House here on Tuesday over the allegations

of Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal that she was assaulted by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's PA, Bibhav on his instructions.

BJP and Congress councillors stormed into the well of the House as soon as the proceedings began and started raising slogans against Kejriwal and demanding his resignation over the incident.

They raised slogans such as "Kejriwal haye haye" and "Kejriwal istifa do".

The opposition councillors also stood at the mayor's podium carrying posters with "Dalit Mayor Ko kursi par baithao, Dalit virodhi Kejriwal istifa do" slogans written on them.

Amid the ruckus, the mayor adjourned the House and left the meeting.

AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal on Monday went to the Civil Lines police station and alleged that a member of Kejriwal's personal staff "assaulted' her at the chief minister's official residence.

#### **Supreme Court reserves order** on contempt notice issued to Ramdev, Balkrishna, Patanjali Ayurved in misleading ads case

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved its order on the contempt notice issued to yoga guru Ramdev, his aide Balkrishna and Patanjali Ayurved Limited in the misleading advertisements case.

A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah noted that the counsel appearing for the firm has sought time to file affidavit indicating the steps being taken to recall the advertisements of those products of Patanjali whose licences have been suspended.

The bench said the affidavit be filed within three weeks.

"Orders are reserved on the contempt notice issued to respondents 5 to 7 (Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, Balkrishna and Ramdev)," the bench said.

During the hearing, Indian Medical Association (IMA) president R Asokan unconditionally apologised to the bench for his statements made against the apex court in a recent interview to the agency where he answered questions about Patanjali Ayurved's misleading advertisements case.

"You can't sit on a couch giving an interview to the press and lampooning the court," Justice Kohli told Asokan.



The bench told the IMA's counsel that at this stage, the court was not inclined to accept the affidavit of apology tendered by the IMA president.

While hearing the matter on May 7, the top court had termed as "very, very unacceptable" the statements made by Asokan.

The Uttarakhand State Licensing Authority (SLA) had earlier told the apex court that manufacturing licenses of 14 products of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd and Divya Pharmacy have been "suspended with immediate effect".

The apex court is hearing a plea filed in 2022 by the IMA alleging a smear campaign by Patanjali against the Covid vaccination drive and modern systems of medicine.

#### Why has Ganga river gotten dirtier despite spending Rs 20,000 cr: Congress asks PM

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi as to why he has abandoned the Varanasi villages adopted by him and why the Ganga has gotten dirtier despite spending Rs 20,000 crore.

On a day PM Modi filed his nomination from Varanasi, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the outgoing PM must answer for his "failures" in Varanasi.

"Today's questions: After spending Rs 20,000 crore, why has the Ganga gotten dirtier? Why has the PM abandoned the Varanasi villages he had "adopted"? Why is the PM determined to destroy Mahatma Gandhi's legacy in Varanasi," he asked in a post on X.

Ramesh said when he came to Varanasi in 2014, Modi had said "Maa Ganga ne mujhe bulaya hain" and promised to purify the waters of the Holy Ganga, but soon after coming to power, rebranded the existing Operation Ganga as Namami Gange.

"Ten years later, the 'Namami Gange' project has cost the exchequer more than Rs. 20,000 crore.

Here are the results: the number of Polluted River Stretches has increased from 51 to 66, 71% of monitoring stations have reported dangerous bacteria at up to 40 times more than safe levels, and antibiotic resistant bac-

teria have now been found in the waters. "Where has the 20,000 crore in taxpayer



money gone? How much has been siphoned off in corruption and mismanagement? How can the people of Varanasi trust a man who has given a jumla even to Ma Ganga," the Congress leader asked.

He also said outside the city of Varanasi lie eight villages that the PM had "adopted", but a March 2024 ground report found that despite big promises of "smart schools", health facilities and housing, the villages have seen absolutely no progress in 10

Domri village has almost no pucca housing, he said, adding Nagepur village has extremely shoddy roads.

Dalit communities in Jogapur and Jayapur have no toilets and no water, and the flagship Nal Se Jal Scheme seems to have missed Parampur village entirely, he claimed.

"The condition of Mr. Modi's adopted villages tells us a lot about his sense of duty, or lack thereof, towards serving his constituents. Why has the PM abandoned his "adopted" villages? Is this the true face of "Modi ki quarantee"." he asked.

Ramesh also alleged that "It is well known that the outgoing PM's ideology is that of Godse, not Gandhi".

"He has taken his malicious hatred of the Father of our Nation to the extent of destroying the Sarwa Sewa Sangh, started by Acharva Vinobha Bhave, and associated with personalities like Dr Rajendra Prasad, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Jayaprakash Narayan," he said, adding it has been rendering extraordinary public service to the nation since 1955.

It had been operating on 13 acres of land, close to the Varanasi Railway Station, for which it had full possession papers.

It was evicted from its iconic campus in August 2023, and the land was taken over by the Indian Railways.

Only one corner of the campus, occupied by the Gandhi Vidya Sansthan, remains untouched because it had already been captured by the RSS.

"Why does the PM persist in his hypocrisy of praising Gandhiji abroad, while destroying Gandhian institutions at home? Can he openly admit his admiration for Godse over Gandhi," Ramesh asked.

#### UP man thrashed by 3 over vehicle refuelling, dies

GREATER NOIDA, May 14 (Agencies): A 26-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by three men in Greater Noida after an argument at a CNG pump over who would get their vehicle refuelled first, police said on

The incident took place on Monday night and two of the three accused were arrested, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Noida) Hirdesh Katheriya said.

According to officials, Aman Kasana, a resident of Ghaziabad, had come to the CNG pump at Kheda Chauganpur village, under Ecotech 3 police station area, to get his car refuelled around 10.30 pm. He was accompanied by his cousin Abhishek, 22.

"Aman had come to a CNG pump in a car with his kin to get fuel. At the same time, an argument broke out between him and another person, identified as Ajay alias Ajju, over getting the fuel. Ajay called his two associates, Ankush and Rishabh to the spot. They thrashed Aman," Katheriya said.

"The fight took place outside the CNG pump. During the fight, Aman was hit on his head with a stick, leading to severe injuries. He was later taken to a hospital but succumbed to injuries," he said.

Based on a complaint by Kasana's family, an FIR was lodged and three accused were named. Of the three accused, Ajay and Rishabh have been arrested, while efforts are underway to nab Ankush, the additional DCP said.

The police said the car of the accused was impounded and the stick with blood stains on it, used in the crime was also recovered. Further legal proceedings, including post-mortem of the body, in the case are underway, the police added

Last week, the Noida Police booked Aam Aadmi Party leader and Delhi MLA Amanatullah Khan, his son and some others for assault and criminal intimidation after an argument at a petrol pump in the city after they allegedly jumped a queue to refuel their car.

However, the MLA denied the charg-

#### feared drowned in Narmada river in Gujarat

NARMADA, May 14 (Agencies): Six boys and a man are feared to have drowned in the Narmada river at Poicha village in Narmada district of Gujarat on Tuesday as they went missing after entering the water, police said.

The incident occurred at around 12 pm, they said. "A search operation is underway to trace the six children, who are in the age group of seven to 15 years, and a 45-year-old man," a Narmada town police station official said.

They were part of a group of 17 persons from Surat who were on a visit to Poicha village to take a holy bath in the Narmada river after offering prayers at a temple, he said.

Fire brigade personnel from Rajpipla town and local swimmers are making efforts to trace and rescue them, the police said.

#### Six boys among seven | Search and rescue operation continues after over 21 hours in Mumbai billboard collapse



MUMBAI, May 14 (Agencies): More than 21 hours after a huge billboard collapsed in Mumbai's Ghatkopar area due to gusty winds and unseasonal rains, killing at least 14 persons and injuring 75 others, the search and rescue operation is still on, civic officials said on Tuesday.

So far, 89 persons were pulled out from under the collapsed hoarding, of whom 14 were declared dead and 75 others injured. They were admitted to six hospitals in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane, the officials said.

Of the injured persons, 32 have so far been discharged from hospitals till now. Twenty-five of them were admitted to the Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar, four to M J Hospital Vikhroli and three to HBT Hospital in Jogeshwari. The condition of one of the injured persons admitted to the Rajawadi Hospital is critical, an official of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

At least 12 fire engines and other vehicles have been involved in the search and operation since around 4.50 pm on Monday. Two teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), comprising 100 personnel, also joined the operation at 7.10 pm on Monday evening, he

According to the BMC official, two heavy duty cranes and two hydra cranes are being used in the operation for the search and rescue along with two JCBs, two gas cutter teams,

25 ambulances. More than 125 workers -- 75 belonging to the BMC and 50 to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority.

After the 120 x 120-feet billboard collapsed on a Chheda Nagar-based petrol pump around 4 pm, the authorities had said that more than 100 persons were feared trapped under it.

According to civic officials, the billboard was illegal and no permission was taken to install

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde visited the incident spot late evening and ordered a structural audit of all hoardings in the city.

The city police have registered a case against the owner of Ego Media and others for installing the hoarding that collapsed on the petrol pump. The owner, Bhavesh Bhinde, and others were booked under Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 337 (causing hurt to another person by acting rashly or negligently) of the Indian Penal Code, an

official said.

#### Woman wanted wedding gifts from 'Instagram brothers'; they dupe her of Rs 2 lakh

LUCKNOW, May 14 (Agencies): A woman was allegedly duped of Rs 2 lakh by three 'brothers' on Instagram after the latter befriended her, the police

said today. In the first such case, cyber fraudsters promised the woman wedding gifts from "brothers" and trapped her in a fraudu-

lent scheme. The victim, Salma (name changed) of Indiranagar, told the police that on April 22, she came across three men on Instagram named Ravi Kumar, Rana

Pratap Singh and Manoj The men gained her trust and convinced her to consider them as her

"After days of communication, one of them, Ravi Kumar, contacted me on phone and assured me that they would

give me expensive wedding items. For this, they requested my Aadhaar card, photos and other documents for shipping purposes," the victim told the police.

"Later, Manoj, one of the accused, informed me that the shipment had been seized at the airport. He claimed that to release the package, I needed to pay a certain amount of money. Initially, I refused, but he threatened me saying if I did not comply, he would involve the CBI, Crime Branch or Income Tax

officers, and get me arrested," she said. She succumbed to pressure and transferred Rs 1.94 lakh online through a QR code. Deputy Commissioner of Police, North Zone, Abhijit Shankar, said an FIR had been lodged and investigation

## Six dead as car hits truck in UP's Hapur



HAPUR, May 14 (Agencies): Six people have died and one was grievously injured when their car collided with a truck here, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred late on Monday night near Brajghat toll plaza, when the driver const control over the car and it hit the truck, they said.

The injured person has been referred to a hospital in Meerut. Superintendent of Police Abhishek Verma said the accident took place at around 12.30 am. Those killed have been identified as Rohit Saini (33), Anoop Singh (38), Sandeep (35), Nikki Jain (33) and Vipin Soni (35), all residents of Ghaziabad, and Raju Jain (36), a resident of Meerut, police said.

# 3 killed in firing and teargas shelling by security forces in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as locals protest against high prices

The paramilitary Rangers, which were called in to maintain law and order in the disputed region, come under attack while moving out of the region

ISLAMABAD, May 14 (Agencies): At least three people were killed and six others injured when security forces opened fire on protesters during clashes with paramilitary Rangers in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's capital Muzaffarabad which has been rocked by protests against high prices of wheat flour and inflated electricity bills, a media report said on Tuesday.

The paramilitary Rangers, which were called in to maintain law and order in the disputed region, came under attack while moving out of the region, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Instead of exiting via Brarkot, the village bordering Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the 19-vehicle convoy, including five trucks, chose to exit the region from Kohala, it said.

As the convoy reached Muzaffarabad in a "charged atmosphere", it was pelted with rocks near Shorran da Nakka village, to which they responded with teargas and firing, the report

After entering the city through the Western Bypass, the Rangers were welcomed with rocks again, prompting them to use teargas and bullets. The shelling was so intense that the entire neighbourhood reeled from it,



the report said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had on Monday approved a Pakistani Rs 23 billion subsidy for immediate release to the region after the negotiations between the protesters and the regional government ended in a deadlock.

However, the government's decision to dole out the subsidy failed to pacify the region, the report said.

The disputed region also witnessed clashes on Saturday between the police and activists of a rights movement, leaving at least one police officer dead and injuring over 100 people, mostly policemen. A complete strike has also been observed in

the territory since Friday, bring-

ing life to a halt.

Shortly before the violence, Prime Minister Sharif and the disputed region's 'prime minister' Anwar-ul Haq after a meeting had approved the release of Pakistani Rs 23 billion for the region on account of power and wheat subsidies.

The subsidised rate for 40kg flour will be Pakistani Rs 2,000, down from Pakistani Rs 3,100. The electricity tariff was reduced to Pakistani Rs 3, Rs 5 and Rs 6 per unit for up to 100, 300, and more than 300 units, respectively, the Dawn reported.

The protest is led by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC),

which has traders at the forefront in most parts of the region, who have been seeking the provision of electricity as per hydropower generation cost in the region, subsidised wheat flour and an end to the privileges of the elite class.

A long march led by the JAAC left for Muzaffarabad, the capital of PoK, on Monday as the wheel-jam strike entered its fourth day.

The movement announced its march on Muzaffarabad after the talks between the JAAC core committee and Chief Secretary of the region Dawood Bareach ended in a stalemate.

Expressing deep concern over the violent clashes between the police and the protesters, Prime Minister Sharif on Sunday said that there should be "absolutely no tolerance for taking the law into one's own hands".

"I urge all parties to resort to a peaceful course of action for resolution of their demands. Despite the best efforts of detractors, the matter will hopefully be settled soon," he said.

As part of his efforts to calm down tensions, President Asif Ali Zardari urged all the stakeholders to exercise restraint and resolve the issues through dialogue and mutual consultation.

# Arthur Irving, who grew his family's oil business and was one of Canada's richest people, dies at 93



NEW BRUNSWICK, May 14 (Agencies): Arthur L Irving, one of Canada's richest people and the son of industrialist K C Irving, has died at 93 after a life spent growing the oil business his father founded.

Irving Oil said in its statement that he died on Monday surrounded by his wife, Sandra, and daughter, Sarah.

Forbes Magazine listed Arthur Irving as being among the top 10 richest Canadians in 2023. At the time of his death, he had an estimated net worth of USD 6.4 billion, which includes a refinery in New Brunswick that is Canada's largest, along with the Whitegate refinery in Ireland.

Born in 1930, Irving attended Nova Scotia's Acadia University before leaving to join Irving Oil in 1951, where he worked with his father and his two brothers

"I had the choice to go on at Acadia or learn about business from the best teacher available anywhere — my father," he told author Donald Savoie in his 2020 book about Irving Oil. "I went with the best teacher."

He became president of the company in 1972 and was chairman emeritus when he died.

His death comes as the company's Saint John refinery is undergoing a 'strategic review' to determine its future, as climate change is prompting a shift away from fossil fuels in some nations.

While his biographers have credited Irving with success in expanding the company, he also had a life marked by family difficulties, including a contentious 1980 divorce with his first wife and — more recently — his estrangement from his eldest son.

In his book, 'Irving vs Irving', published in 2014, journalist Jacques Poitras described a poignant scene from August 2013, when Irving stood at a Saint John news conference announcing that his company was officially launching a bid — which ultimately didn't succeed — to build a pipeline to carry crude oil from Alberta to the family's refinery.

Poitras noted that Kenneth, "his son and heir," was notably absent after a falling out led to his departure from the company in 2010. "Arthur, in his eighties, was surrounded by admirers, yet alone. His refinery loomed in the background ... but his family was torn asunder," Poitras wrote.

In the 1980s and '90s, Arthur Irving's business life and interests were tightly tied to his two brothers, JK and Jack, as they took primary responsibility for different segments of the business empire their father had created. The trucking firms ran on the companies' refined gasoline, the forestry and shipping interests used the Irvings' construction subsidiaries, and a chain of newspapers purchased the newsprint from a nearby factory.

In late 2009, the three Irving brothers separated their business interests, with Arthur assuming control of the energy business.

In its statement, the company described Irving as "a steadfast champion of Atlantic Canada and its people" and one of a kind.

"In this immense loss, we know there will never be another like him," it said.

## Russia says freight train derails due to sabotage



MOSCOW, May 14 (Agencies): Russian authorities said Tuesday a freight train derailed overnight due to suspected sabotage near Volgograd in the country's southwest, with a wagon and a fuel storage tank catching fire.

"Due to the intervention of unauthorised persons, wagons from a freight train derailed in the Kotluban station," the local branch of the

rail operator said.

There were no casualties in the incident which happened at 2215 GMT on Monday,

it said, adding that train services resumed a few hours later.

The emergency situations ministry said a fuel storage tank and a wagon caught fire but the blaze was quickly extinguished.

The incident is the latest in a spate of suspicious fires and derailments on Russia's rail network.

Kotluban is about 300 kilometres (about 190 miles) from the Ukrainian border and Volvograd has been targeted by Ukrainian drones.

Kyiv has not claimed responsibility for the

incident.

Russia has blamed similar incidents on Ukraine and its supporters.

In December, Russia arrested a Belarusian man for allegedly placing explosives on two trains on a key part of a Siberian railway near the Chinese border on Ukraine's orders.

In January this year, Russian investigators said two teenagers who set fire to a railside equipment box in Moscow had been charged with carrying out sabotage for Ukraine.

## Army whistleblower who exposed alleged Australian war crimes in Afghanistan is sentenced to prison MELBOURNE, May reality", Mossop said. war veteran Ben Rob-

MELBOURNE, May 14 (Agencies): An Australian judge sentenced a former army lawyer to almost six years in prison on Tuesday for leaking to the media classified information that exposed allegations of Australian war crimes in Afghanistan.

David McBride, 60, was sentenced in a court in the capital, Canberra, to five years and eight months in prison after pleading guilty to three charges including theft and sharing with members of the press documents classified as secret. He had faced a potential life sentence.

a potential life sentence.
Justice David Mossop
ordered McBride to
serve 27 months in
prison before he can be
considered for release

on parole.
Rights advocates
argue that McBride's
conviction and sentencing before any alleged
war criminal he helped
expose reflected a lack



of whistleblower protections in Australia.

McBride's lawyer Mark Davis said he planned to file an appeal against the severity of the sentence.

McBride's documents formed the basis of an Australian Broadcasting Corp (ABC) sevenpart television series in 2017 that contained war crime allegations including Australian Special Air Service Regiment soldiers killing unarmed Afghan men and children in 2013.

Police raided the ABC's Sydney head-

quarters in 2019 in search of evidence of a leak, but decided against charging the two reporters responsible for

the investigation.
In sentencing, Mossop said he did not accept McBride's explanation that he thought a court would vindicate him for acting in the public interest.

McBride's argument that his suspicions that the higher echelons of the Australian Defense Force were engaged in criminal activity obliged him to disclose classified papers "didn't reflect An Australian military report released in 2020 found evidence that

found evidence that Australian troops unlawfully killed 39 Afghan prisoners, farmers and civilians. The report recommended 19 current and former soldiers face criminal investigation. Police are working with

the Office of the Special Investigator, an Australian investigation agency established in 2021, to build cases against elite SAS and Commando Regiments troops who served in Afghanistan between 2005 and 2016.

Former SAS trooper Oliver Schulz last year became the first of these veterans to be charged with a war crime. He is accused of shooting dead a non-combatant man in a wheat field in Uruzgan province in 2012.

Also last year, a civil court found Australia's most decorated living

war veteran Ben Roberts-Smith had likely unlawfully killed four Afghans. He has not been criminally charged. Human Rights Watch's Australia director Daniela Gavshon said McBride's sentencing

was evidence an Austra-

lia's whistleblowing laws

needed exemptions in the public interest. "It is a stain on Australia's reputation that some of its soldiers have been accused of war crimes in Afghanistan, and yet the first person convicted in relation to these crimes is a whistleblower not

the abusers," Gavshon

said in a statement.

"David McBride's jail sentence reinforces that whistleblowers are not protected by Australian law. It will create a chilling effect on those taking risks to push for transparency and accountability – cornerstones of democracy," she added.

## Hong Kong calls for respect of its overseas-based trade offices after UK charged its London staffer

HONG KONG, May 14 (Agencies): Hong Kong's leader on Tuesday urged foreign governments to respect the duties of its overseas-based trade offices after a staff member in its London branch was charged in Britain for allegedly helping the city's intelligence service gather information.

Chief Executive John Lee said his administration has demanded the British government to provide an explanation about the prosecution of Bill Yuen, the office manager of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London. Lee said any attempt to make unwarranted allegations against the city's government is unacceptable.

British police allege that Yuen, along with Chi Leung (Peter) Wai and Matthew Trickett, agreed to engage in information gathering, surveillance and acts of deception that were likely to materially assist the Hong Kong intelligence service. The trio was charged under a new national security act that gave British police additional powers to tackle foreign espionage.

In his weekly news briefing, Lee said the duties of the trade office in London are to



foster ties with various sectors in Britain and promote Hong Kong.

"Any attempt to interfere with the work of the ETO offices in different places will be against free trade and free economy and will harm the economy of the countries that try to do bad things to the operation of the ETO offices," he said.

Monday's prosecution is likely to sour relations between Britain and China. Chinese authorities in both the U.K. and Hong Kong have decried the charges, saying they were

just the latest in a series of "groundless and slanderous" accusations that the British government has leveled against China.

In April, British prosecutors also charged two men, including a former researcher working in the U.K. Parliament, with spying for China. The Chinese Embassy called the allegations completely fabricated.

On Monday, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak warned the U.K. was facing an increasingly dangerous future due to threats from an "axis of authoritarian states," including Russia, China, Iran and North Korea.

The three men were granted bail in a London court on Monday and their next court appearance is scheduled for May 24.

Hong Kong media reported that Yuen is a former police officer in Hong Kong. The Associated Press found Yuen's name printed in local police publicity materials online. In the news conference on Tuesday, Lee

also responded to reports of a photo he had taken with Yuen for a news article years ago. "This photo appears to be a graduation group photo," he said. "My impression of this

person is solely based on this photo."

#### OpenAI's New Demo "Made Me Cringe": Elon Musk



SAN FRANCISCO, May 14 (Agencies): Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, on Tuesday, took potshots at Sam Altman-run OpenAI, saying their latest event to announce new AI models made him "cringe."

Author Ashley St Clair posted on X that with OpenAl, humans can now let Al perceive reality in real time for them and "we may have just replaced the

post-truth era with something much worse."

Musk, a staunch critic of OpenAl, replied that the company's "demo made me cringe."

"Can't wait for the Grok (xAI) version of this demo," an X user commented. In March, the tech billionaire sued OpenAI and its CEO Altman, alleging

that they breached their original contractual agreements around AI. OpenAI also hit back at the lawsuit, saying that in order to further the mis-

sion, "Musk wanted us to merge with Tesla or he wanted full control." Musk had left OpenAI, thinking the company would fail, according to

At its live-streaming event on Monday, the ChatGPT developer unveiled GPT-40 — the new flagship model that provides GPT-4-level intelligence but is "much faster and improves on its capabilities across text, voice, and vision."

bilities across text, voice, and vision." ChatGPT also now supports more than 50 languages.

### **2nd Ranking Open Skating Championship 2024 concludes**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: The 2nd Ranking Open Skating Championship 2024, hosted by the J&K Roller Sports Association under the patronage of G.S Khurmi, President and organized by the Five Star Skating Club, Jammu, concluded today with an impressive turnout of over 200 participants. Athletes from across Jammu and Kashmir showcased their skills in various disciplines including speed skating, roller hockey, and artistic skating. Jodhamal Public School Jammu clinched the Top position with maximum number of medals across all the events.

The championship serves as a testament to the burgeoning roller sports community in the region and is poised to be a beacon of athletic excellence. Athletes from all corners of the union territory have converged upon the skating rinks to showcase their prowess and compete for top honors in events spanning speed skating, roller hockey, artistic skating, and more.

Arun Gupta, President, Chamber of Commerce, and Industries gave away the medals as Chief Guest while Suraj Bhan Singh, Manager, Indoor Sports Stadium, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Others who were present in the ceremony included Seema Kharyal, member, JKRSA, Roshan Gupta, Member, JKRSA. With the support of the roller sports community and dedicated organizers, the championship achieved standards in the realm of roller sports in the picturesque landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir.

In the category of Loose Bearing (Sandle Skates), across various age groups for both boys and girls, several participants showcased their talent and clinched medals. In the 5-7 years age group, Viraaj Gandotra and Shreyanshi Mahajan secured one gold each, while Gursangad Sodhi earned a



silver. Moving to the 7-9 years age group, Harshdeep Singh claimed a gold medal, with Samiraj Dabgotra securing silver and Saanvit Mahaian taking bronze. Anaysha Gupta secured a gold medal in this category. In the 9-11 years age group, Umang Sharma and Gunvika Gupta bagged gold medals, while Anahita Singh secured silver. Kartik Satti and Gunsaanjh claimed gold medals in the 11-14 years age group, with Karan Kumar and Naiomi earning silver. Aryan Sharma secured gold in the 14-17 years category, while Sumit Singh and Sumit Mehra secured silver and bronze, respectively. In the category of Quad Jonex Skate, participants in various age groups showcased remarkable performances. Aadriti Sharma secured gold in the 5-7

years age group for girls, while Bhumik Singh and Kamakshi Sharma claimed gold medals in the 7-9 years age group. Divvam Godara and Oriana secured gold medals in the 9-11 years age group. In the 11-14 years age group, Sehrish Singh secured gold, and Netik secured silver. Neeraj claimed gold in the 11-14 years age group, while Puneesh Puri secured gold in the

14-17 years category. In the category of Quad Professional Skate, participants demonstrated exceptional skills across different age groups Atharav Saini and Anshika Gupta secured multiple gold medals in

the 5-7 years age group. Vivan Gupta and Mysha Kaur claimed gold medals in the 7-9 years age group. Gurtej Singh and Anshika Thakur secured gold medals in the 9-11 years age group. Puneesh Puri and Adhira Kanotra secured gold medals in the 11-14 years age group. Abhinav Bakshi claimed gold in the 14-17 years category.

Gupta, Vihaan Sharma,

Aayan Sharma, Aarad-

hva Sanval, Kanisha

Jain, Bhavnoor Kour,

Aahan Sharma, and K.

Vanishree. N. Verma

clinched gold medals,

while Riansh Sharma,

Aayra, Keyvan Gupta,

Atharv Sharma, Arshy,

Arkashan, Adhrit Suri,

Rushank Pargal, Mohd

Oraib, Shiva, Kiaansh,

Abheek, Shawni, Trisha

Jamwal, and Hazel

Suri secured silver and

bronze medals. In the

Cadet Girls category,

Aayra, Arshy, Shawni,

Trisha Jamwal, and

Hazel Suri clinched

gold medals, while Pra-

shasti Sharma, Neyonika

Slathia, Aadriti Sharma,

Kamakshi Mahajan, and

Veeha Sharma secured

Moving on to the Sub

Junior Boys category,

Bhavanya Bhagat,

Hridyansh Chib, Tarush

Gupta, Rajanya Khaju-

ria. Krishna Sharma.

Vihaan Mehra, and

Tabid Hussain clinched

gold medals, while Kyran

Gupta, Zayafat John,

Dhruv Sadhotra, Abhay

Sharma, Aarav Jandval

Rakshan Sharma, and

Abheer Singh secured

silver medals. Namish

Gupta, Aarav Dafara,

Yatharth Sagoch, Aahan

Sharma, and Vihaan

Sharma bagged bronze

medals. In the Mixed

Team Sub Junior cate-

gory, Bhavanya Bhagat,

Kyran Gupta, Tarush

Gupta, Abhay Sharma,

Krishna Sharma, Vihaan

Mehra, Tabid Hussain,

Siya Jandyal, Aamya,

and Vidyanshi clinched

gold medals, while

Hridyansh Chib, Rajan-

ya Khajuria, Zayafat

silver medals.

Lastly, in the category of Toy Inline, participants across various age groups displayed commendable performances. Chahit Singh and Arhaan Singh secured gold medals in the 5-7 years age group. Shivampreet Singh and Parini Gupta secured gold medals in the 9-11 years age group. Gurkirat Singh and Ridham claimed gold medals in the 11-14 years age group. Abhishek Yogi secured gold in the 14-17 years category. Surya Bhaskar Sharma dominated in the Above 17 years category, securing two gold medals.

category, several participants showcased their talents and earned medals. Gurjas Singh, Lavik Gupta, Aayan Sharma, Aahan Sharma, and Vihaan Sharma clinched gold medals, while Rihansh Sharma, Kiaansh, Keyvan Gupta, Atharv Sharma, Abheek, and Shawni secured silver medals. Mohd Oraib, Shiva, Rushank Pargal, Rakshan Sharma, and Adhrit Suri bagged bronze medals. In the Cadet Mix catego-

ry, Gurjas Singh, Lavik

In the Cadet Boys

John, Dhruv Sadhotra, Aarav Jandyal, Rakshan Sharma, Vanya Raina, Vihaana Dogra, Bhuv Sharma, and Abheer Singh secured silver medals. Namish Gupta, Aarav Dafara, Yatharth Sagoch, Vihaan Sharma, Naveep Kour, Varchasv, K. Vanishree, N. Verma. and Aahan Sharma bagged bronze medals.

In the Junior category Iszna Sharma, Iyzal Dogra, Vinayak Bhagat, Shreyasm Pargal, Mridul Kohli, Sameer, Vivaan Gupta, and Pranav Daanial Butt clinched gold medals, while Saksham Sharma, Aarush Jain, Serish Abrol, Akshita Sharma, Ayesha Mubeen Chib, Priya Mahajan, and Momin Tahir secured silver medals. In the Senior Men category, Aaryan Gupta, Ankush Gupta, Jatin Sabrawal, Rupinder Paul Singh, Darpan Gagotra, and Jugraj Singh clinched gold medals, while Piyush, Arnav, Shubham, Maheshwar, Deepak, Rahul, Abhinav, Mohit, and Rajesh Anand secured silver medals. Krish Gupta, Arvin, Vikram, Ankush Kohli, Eklavya, Abhay Veer, Raibarinder Singh, Gagan Jamwal, and Umar Sahib Singh

bagged bronze medals. In the Mixed Team Senior category, Rupinder Paul Singh, Darpan Gagotra, Czia Raina, and Ankush Gupta clinched gold medals, while Jugraj Singh (Charlie), Jatin Sabrawal, Aarohi Mahajan, Aaryan Gupta, and Aiza Naz Chib secured silver medals. In the Master Men category, Krish Gupta, Ramnesh Sharma, Ankush Kohli, Atul Sharma, Sanjeev, and Gagan Jamwal clinched gold medals, while Arvin, Vikram, Rai-Barinder Singh, Sunil Pargal, Rajesh Anand, and Paramveer Singh secured silver medals. Additionally, Samaira Gandotra and Yashit Mahajan performed well in the Roller Scooter cat-

egory In the Roller Scooter category, Samaira Gandotra remained winner and Yashit Mahajan runner up.

#### **Bharti Airtel Foundation, DSE** Jammu introduce Professional **Development Initiative for Teachers**



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: Bharti Airtel Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education, Jammu launched a new tech-initiative through TheTeacher-App today at Teacher Bhawan, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. This three-month program, running from May 14 to July 19, 2024, aims to enhance teachers' skills and knowledge in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Pedagogical Techniques, and Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) in Jammu. The program includes

targeted sessions led by industry experts to engage 10,000+ teachers from various schools of Jammu Division through interactive activities. The sessions shall have a focus on 'pedagogical skills', 'understanding of foundational learning and emerging trends in education' and 'aligning with current educational philosophies and best practices.' The teachers attended the inaugural session today through webinar on TheTeacherApp along with 500 teachers and Cluster Heads of Jammu Division in person. Cluster Heads will also join the three-month program through TheTeacherApp to be able to implement the learnings on ground. Ashok Kumar Sharma -Director, Subah Mehta -Joint Director, Maneesha - Personnel Officer and J.R. Padha - Chief Education Officer from Directorate of School Education. Jammu along with Mamta Saikia, CEO - Bharti Airtel

Shah - Head, Program Operations, Anil Bhat -Regional Head from the Foundation graced the inaugural session.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Kumar Sharma - Director, Directorate of School Education, Jammu said, "Bharti Airtel Foundation has been effectively enhancing life skills in students by partnering with government schools in Jammu. The recent joint effort, 'Professional Development Initiative for Teachers,' marks a new direction where we will work closely with the Foundation to enhance and strengthen teachers' capabilities. We are happy to collaborate on this initiative, aimed at keeping teachers motivated to always give their best.'

By bringing together passionate educators from Jammu, 'Professional Development Initiative for Teachers' aims to create a vibrant community committed towards enhancing qual-

ity of education. Mamta Saikia, CEO of Bharti Airtel Foundation, sharing her thoughts on the new initiative, said: "Bharti Airtel Foundation is already partnering with government schools in Jammu to enhance students' learning journeys since the academic year 2016-17. 'Professional **Development Initiative** for Teachers' marks a significant milestone, as we extend our gratitude and support to the forward-thinking leadership of the Directorate of School Education Jammu to empower more than 10,000 teachers in the government schools in the state. Their constant support and belief in us has helped us move ahead with this strategic alliance where we will focus on enhancing Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Pedagogical Skills, and Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) through TheTeacherApp, thereby enabling the teachers to contribute towards upliftment of their schools."

TheTeacherApp by **Bharti Airtel Foundation** serves as a valuable platform for teachers to continuously enhance their skills, enabling them to actively contribute towards upliftment of their schools. Upon completion of the program, teachers will attain certifications by successfully passing three assessments on FLN, Teaching Learning Material, and Pedagogy. These certifications will be offered in partnership with the Directorate of School Education Jammu.

#### NOTICE

My mother namely Rajkumari, W/o Late Bishan Dass, R/o Karwal, P/o Mandal, Jammu expired on May 30, 2022 at home. I am applying for her death certificate for further formalities. It is requested to issue her death certificate. Objections if any may contact BDO Mandal Phallian within 7 days. Pawan Kumar (Son), S/o Lt Bishan Dass, R/o Karwal, Halqa Sohanja, P/o & Tehsil Mandal, Jammu.

#### **Abrogation of Article 370** showing result in J&K'S poll percentage: Amit Shah

The Modi Government abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, in 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile State into two Union Territories' Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

#### Advocates cannot be held liable under consumer protection Act: SC

service and excluded from definition of service under Consumer Protection Act," the bench said.

The judgement came on plea filed by bar bodies, such as Bar Council of India, Delhi High Court Bar Association and Bar of Indian Lawyers, and other individuals challenging a 2007 verdict of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), which has ruled that advocates and their services come under the purview of the Consumer Protection Act. 1986.

#### 11 FIRs registered in over **MCC Violations**

"In Srinagar district there have been 46 MCC complaints followed by Jammu with 34,"

The Election authorities said out of the total complaints 15 have been forwarded to district grievance cells. Election officials in Srinagar said 36 MCC violations have been received through official mail out of which 21 were against government employees, others and 15 were against candidates or parties.

"Enquiry is underway in case of Government employees and four Government employees have been suspended for participating in political activities," they said, adding "notices have been served to parties, candidates, workers

on MCC violations.

The Election authorities said state and central agencies have seized cash, liquor, drugs and freebies over over Rs 40 crores at 10 places during the election period. Out of the five Lok Sabha constituencies in J&K, polls have been held in three seats Jammu, Udhampur and Srinagar.

On Monday, the Srinagar Lok Sabha recorded voter turnout of 38, the highest since 1996. The other two Lok Sabha seats – Baramulla and Anantnag-Rajouri? will vote in the next two rounds scheduled on May 20 and 25.

#### **49 Drones recovered along India-Pak Border ince MCC** Enforcement

The MCC, or the Model Code of Conduct, came into force on March 16, the day the Election Commission held a press conference here to announce a seven-phase election in the country.

The dataset, prepared by the Border Security Force (BSF), the unit that guards the 2,289 km India-Pakistan international border, and analysed by PTI, shows that a total of 49 drones, or UAVs, were either shot down or recovered by the security agencies from March 16 till date.

The maximum recoveries, 47, were made in Punjab, the border state which will vote in a single phase on June 1 for its 13 Lok Sabha seats.

The remaining two of these "security threat" flying machines were recovered from along the Rajasthan border in the Sriganganagar and Bikaner sectors, also guarded by the BSF.

In Punjab, the highest number of recoveries were made in the Amritsar sector, followed by Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, and Abohar, the data shows.

"Both human intelligence and technical gadgets are being used to down or track these illegal drones which pose a serious security threat along the Pakistan border as they also bring along drugs and arms.

The BSF and its sister agencies, like the

Punjab and Rajasthan Police, various antinarcotics departments etc. have stepped the effort to track drones in view of the EC directions to undertake extra vigilance so that the polls process is not vitiated by these UAVs that push in drugs and also weapons at times," a senior BSF officer posted

FROM PAGE 1

The international India-Pakistan border runs along Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat along India's western flank. The Punjab region shares 553 km of the front with Pakistan

The drone menace that reared its head first in 2020 along the Jammu border is continues with a record pace.

As per the data, while only six drones were either shot down or recovered from along this border in 2022 during January-May 14, it rose to 14 in 2023, and 75 in 2024 in the same period — an about 13X rise since 2022. In the whole of 2022, a total of 22 drones were downed or recovered, while in 2023, this number was 119.

"The menace of these drug and arms laden drones entering India from Pakistan illegally via the aerial route does not look to be going down in the near future," a Union home ministry officer said.

"It is estimated that a good number of such UAVs are able to duck (under) the radar of security forces like the BSF and the state police but there is no doubt that the capabilities of these agencies have bettered over the time and they are able to track an increasing (number) of these surreptitious flying objects," the officer added.

#### Tarigami expresses concern over power crisis in Kashmir

"The people of Kashmir are shrouded in darkness, both literally and metaphorically", the CPI leader said adding, "The claim of surplus is a cruel joke when our citizens are subjected to unscheduled power cuts and outages, now exacerbated by further curtailments."

He said, "While other states enjoy the benefits of 10 per cent free power, J&K is unjustly deprived, despite our natural resources being exploited."

Foundation, Sameer

"We demand at least 40 per cent free power as compensation for the use of our land and water resources," he said.

Tarigami said, "It is an economic burden and a social injustice that J&K must annually purchase power worth 3-4 thousand crore rupees, only to impose this cost on our citizens through unjust power curtailments."

He said, "This is a policy failure and deliberate subjugation of our rights. We demand immediate rectification of these injustices and the implementation of equitable powersharing norms

The era of empty assurances and defensive stances must end now. The citizens of J&K deserve transparency, fairness, and respect."

"The consumers have expressed concerns and are troubled by the inflated bills generated by smart meters. The focus should be on ensuring sufficient electricity rather than just meters," he said.

He also alleged that PDD have filed FIRs against various consumers recently. Instead, consumers have right to lodge FIRs against administration for putting them in darkness, he stated.

"The administration must address the issue promptly to ensure the consumers have consistent access to electricity for their daily needs," Tarigami added.

#### **Wholesale inflation rises** for second month in a row in April at 1.26 Pc

The rise in April WPI is in contrast to the retail inflation data for the month. The RBI mainly takes into account retail inflation while framing monetary policy

Retail inflation eased to 11-month low of 4.83 per cent in April.

The RBI last month kept interest rate unchanged for seventh time in a row and said that it remains vigilant towards upside risks to food inflation.

#### **Police arrest 2 narco** smugglers in Baramulla

Ghulam Hassan Ganie, residents of Trikanjan Boniyar, were arrested and shifted to Police Station Bonivar, where they remain in custody. A case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Boniyar, and an investigation has been initiated, they said. Police have also urged people to contact the nearest police station or dial 112 if they witness drug peddling or any other crime near their surroundings

#### Below normal night temp in **Kashmir amid dry weather** forecast

Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 18.8°C against 19.9°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 4.7°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 11.6°C, Batote 13.0°C and Bhaderwah 9.6°C, he said. Regarding forecast, he said, mainly dry weather is expected till May 18. On May 19, he said, generally cloudy weather is expected with light rain/thunder at few places towards afternoon. From May 20-23, he said, generally dry weather is

#### Police attach properties of 2 PAK based terror handlers in Baramulla

"The action was taken under sections of 83 CRPC and is linked with cases FIR No. 82/1999 u/s 2/3 EIMCO Act, FIR No. 34/1999 u/s 354, 323 and 06/2008 u/s 2/3 EIMCO Act of PS Uri," the police said. The property was identified as belonging to terror handlers during the course of the investigation and inquiry conducted by the police, they said.

The police said it has attached the properties of 20 terror handlers worth crores in Baramulla district so far this year.

#### **Vishwa Yog Sansthaan spearheads Clean and Green Drive**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: The Vishwa Yog Sansthaan, located in the tranquil environs of Har Ki Pauri, Bagh e Bahu, Jammu, has spearheaded a commendable initiative known as the Clean and Green Drive

This event, which saw the participation of various stakeholders including the Retired High Court Judge of Jammu, garnered significant attention for its dedication to sustainable practices and environmental preservation.

At the helm of this laudable endeavour is the visionary Chairman of Vishwa Yog Sansthaan, Yog Guru Karan. Known for his commitment to holistic wellness and environmental conservation, Karan had previously pledged to plant an impressive one lakh Peepal trees in and around Jammu.

The Clean and Green Drive is a tangible mani-

festation of this commitment, signaling a significant stride towards realizing a greener, cleaner future for the region.

An instrumental figure in the success of this initiative is the esteemed former corporator of Ward No 48, Sham Lal Bassan. His unwavering support and active involvement served as a source of inspiration for all involved, rallving the community together and reinforcing the ethos of collective responsibility towards the environment.

The planting of peepal trees holds deep cultural and spiritual significance, beyond its ecological benefits. Revered for its symbolism and medicinal properties, the peepal tree is an integral part of Indian culture. By choosing to plant these trees, the Vishwa Yog Sansthaan not only contributes to climate change mitigation but also fosters a deeper connection with

our cultural heritage.

The Clean and Green Drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from yoga students, volunteers, local residents, and dignitaries alike, highlighting the widespread acknowledgment of the urgent need for environmental conservation. Beyond tree planting, the event served as a catalyst for community cohesion and instilled a sense of pride in safeguarding our natural resources.

As we confront environmental challenges, initiatives like the Clean and Green Drive offer hope and serve as a blueprint for sustainable living. Under the visionary leadership of Shri Yog Guru Karan Ji, the Vishwa Yog Sansthaan exemplifies the transformative power of collective action and underscores the importance of preserving our planet for future genera-

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "The earth, the air, the land, and the water are not an inheritance from our forefathers but on loan from our children." The Clean and Green Drive at Vishwa Yog Sansthaan reflects a long-term commitment to creating a sustainable and harmonious world. Let us all pledge to follow their example and embark on our journey towards a greener, cleaner tomorrow.

#### **District Administration hosts** "A Day with Deputy Commissioner **Kishtwar**" for Civil Service Aspirants



**Top News Report** 

KISHTWAR, May 14: With an aim to foster the leadership qualities, motivation, and a deeper understanding of administrative processes and community-driven initiatives among the students/ Civil Services Aspirants of GDC Kishtwar, the District Administration Kishtwar today organised "A Day with Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar' for the Civil Service Aspirants/students of Government Degree College Kishtwar

The aim of the day long interaction was to provide students with firsthand experience and insights into the administrative setup, developmental projects, and grievance redressal mechanisms within the district.

The Civil Service Aspirants/students had the opportunity to interact with senior and districtlevel officers, attend administrative proceedings, and participate in meetings chaired by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav IAS regarding various developmental projects and issues.

The day commenced with an introductory session where Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr

Devansh IAS provided brief counseling to the students and shared valuable tips to crack the civil service examination.

The Aspirants/Students were encouraged to actively participate in the proceedings and voice their opinions on various matters discussed during

the meetings for the day. Additionally, the students had the opportunity to explore the grievances redressal mechanism adopted by district officers, witnessing firsthand how grievances raised by delegations led by prominent persons were effectively addressed.

One of the highlights of the day long interactiion was the visit to the Wildlife Office at Sarkoot Kishtwar, where the students engaged in discussions with wildlife officers regarding the Master Plan on the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar emphasized the importance of research initiatives and encouraged students to contribute to community-driven initiatives, particularly in preserving the rich flora and fauna of district Kisht-

This also provided valuable insights into the flora and fauna of the district. enriching the students'

understanding of the local biodiversity.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar encouraged students to engage with the Wildlife Office to further their knowledge and contribute to conservation efforts.

The day concluded with a lunch hosted by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar at the hall of the DC Office Complex Kishtwar, providing students with an informal setting for administrative dicussion and further discuss their learnings from the visit.

Overall, the day long interactions proved to be a valuable learning experience for the Civil Service Aspirants/students of Government Degree College Kishtwar, fostering leadership qualities, motivation, and a deeper understanding of administrative processes and community-driven initiatives.

The students applauded the efforts of District Administration Kishtwar in general and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar in particular, which have motivated them to pursue a career in civil services besides take part in community driven and environmental conservation initiatives for better development of their per-

#### Shoolini Law students participate in National Lok Adalat

**Top News Report** 

SOLAN, May 14: Students of BALLB and LLB, studying in Shoolini University, attended National Lok Adalat, organized by the District Legal Services Authority, in the District Court Complex,

The purpose of the visit was to make aware the students about the methods and techniques of Lok Adalat to resolve disputes amicably.

Students pursuing BALLB and LLB degrees at Shoolini University

intricacies of legal proceedings as they participated in the National Lok Adalat, organized by the District Legal Services Authority in the District Court Complex, Solan. The event was aimed to illuminate the students

on the methodologies

and strategies employed

by Lok Adalat in fostering

delved into the practical

amicable dispute resolu-Under the guidance of Assistant Prof. Mr. Vineet Kumar, Faculty of Legal Sciences accompanied

by Dr. Kusum Verma,

Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Legal Science, coordinated this enlightening visit.

Prof. Nandan Sharma, Dean Faculty of Legal Science, said, the initiative was crafted as an integral segment of the students' practical learning curriculum, aimed at offering them a pragmatic insight into legal proceedings beyond the conventional courtroom ambiance.

The focal point of the visit was to acquaint law students with the alternative dispute resolution

mechanisms exemplified by Lok Adalat. It was designed to augment their comprehension of legal processes while underscoring the significance of harmonious dispute settlement.

Arvind Malhotra, District and Session Judge, Vivek Khanal, Additional District and Session Judge, and Ramnik Sharma, Chief Judicial Magistrate, were present at the Court and students were motivated towards a pragmatic approach to learning. The cases addressed during the proceedings spanned

diverse domains including domestic violence, restitution of conjugal rights, and property disputes, offering students a multifaceted exposure to real-world legal intrica-

A notable highlight of the event was the interaction between students and Vivek Khanal, Additional District and Session Judge, who graciously extended internship opportunities twice a year, thereby providing invaluable practical exposure to budding legal minds

#### 'Air India-Vistara merger expected by year-end, work on staff integration on in full swing'

NEW DELHI, May 14

This timeline given by the Air India group lead-

merger has received most of the requisite regulatory approvals, including nods from competition watchdogs of India and Singapore. The hearings for approval before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) have concluded and the order is awaited, and the application for approval of Singapore Airlines (SIA) in the merged entity has also been filed. SIA, which owns 49 per cent stake in Vistara, will hold a 25.1 per cent stake in budget carriers Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India). Once both the mergers are complete, the Air India group will have a full-service carrier Air India and a low-cost airline Air India Express

Air India's CEO Camp-

bell Wilson and Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan informed employees that while the last of the necessary approvals are expected soon, the operational process harmonisation exercise is progressing well, it is learnt. According to sources, the two airlines have operationalised an integrated pilot upgrade sequence for group level career progress opportunities for the flight crew, and around 120 pilots have already been seconded between Air India and Vistara.

The merger had led to concerns among a section of Vistara pilots, who were ostensibly unhappy about the new pay structure in line with that of Air India and were also concerned about career progression opportunities in the merged airline. These were among the reasons why a sizable number of Vistara pilots had called in sick en masse early April, leading to major network-wide disruptions in the airline's operations.

In Thursday's update on the merger, the staff were informed that over 60 Vistara employees had already been seconded to Air India to accelerate the integration efforts, and assessment for over 7,000 employees has been completed with stages, it is learnt. Of these, around 3,500 are flying staff while 2,500 are non-flying staff. In all, Air India and Vistara are estimated to have nearly 24,000 employees.

On the functional integration front, harmonisation of operating procedures was already underway and functional teams are working closely for the operational integration.

According to sources, Wilson and Kannan told employees that a meritbased system is being used for employee fitment for the merged entity, and a people integration is a key focus area in the merger. The merged airline will have five Vistara employees for every 12 Air India employees, and managerial roles will be increased by one-anda-half times in a bid to provide requisite career progression opportunities to employees, it is learnt.

People integration is often among the most tricky and complex parts of mergers, particularly among airlines. Apart from bringing about pay parity, integrating employees coming from different organisational cultures can be extremely daunting. If not managed well, mergers can potentially lead to mistrust among employees coming from different organisations due to friction over seniority, chain of command, and apprehensions over career progression prospects in the larger merged entity.

#### Canada govt imposes Rs 82 lakh penalty on Infosys

NEW DELHI, May 14 dian government has imposed a penalty of over 1.34 lakh Canadian dollars (about Rs 82 lakh), on IT company Infosys for alleged underpayment of employee health tax for the year ended December 31, 2020, a regulatory filing said.

Infosys received an order from Canada's finance ministry on May

alleged underpayment of **Employee Health Tax for** the year ended December 31, 2020," the filing said, which mentioned a penalty of 1,34,822.38 Canadian dollars has been imposed on the company. Infosys said that there is no material impact on financials. operations or other activities of the company.

#### Walmart to cut hundreds of jobs as part of its resizing efforts



NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): US-based multinational retail corporation Walmart is set to lay off hundreds of its employees

According to media Walmart's reports, job cuts will affect the company's corporate employees. The company has been trying to reduce its workforce for

quite some time. The company will also ask most of its remote employees to move to offices. According to a Wall Street Journal report, Walmart is also asking its employees in Dallas, Atlanta and Toronto to move or other central hubs such as the corporate headquarters of the company in Bentonville as well as Hoboken or Southern California The company, which

is America's biggest private employer, will continue to allow some of its staff members to work from home part-time as long as they come to the office the majority of the

Last year, Walmart had said it expects nearly 65 per cent of its outlets to be serviced by automation by the end of the financial year 2026.

In February last year, Walmart had asked hundreds of its employees to relocate if they wished to keep their jobs ensuring that those working from home would start coming to the office.

#### Fight For 6th Schedule Key Poll Plank For **Cong's Ladakh Candidate Tsering Namgyal**

**Top News Report** 

LEH, May 14: Congress candidate in the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat Tsering Namgyal is contesting the election on a four-point agenda for the Union territory, the key among which is the fight for implementation of the 6th Schedule of the Constitution that guarantees land and job for the locals.

The four-point agenda also includes statehood demand, a public service commission for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

Stressing the INDIA bloc was committed to safeguarding the rights of the people of Ladakh, he said there is discontent among the populace following the failure of talks involving Home Minister Amit Shah and representatives of Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance over the demand for the 6th Schedule of the Constitution

"The dialogue stopped there and so did our hope... People are now worried and angry," Namgyal said in an interview with PTI.

The political landscape of Ladakh has been roiled by nearly two months of protests led by activist Sonam Wangchuk, culminating in a 21-day climate fast. Demonstrations, commencing on March 6 and concluding on May 10 to pave the way for parliamentary polls saw a turnout of around 50,000 people, representing a substantial portion of Ladakh's



Ladakh's transition into a Union Territory following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 has catalysed divergent reactions in the region. While celebrations marked the response in Leh, Kargil witnessed a contrasting sentiment marked by dissatisfaction with the territorial restructuring.

"At that time people danced and sang. Today, people are crying. People had hopes that our youth would get jobs and that ecology would be protected. But at the end of the day people are not happy with this government," said Namgyal, the leader of the opposition in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.

The unfulfilled promises of attaining the 6th

schedule status pledged by the BJP during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and subsequent hill development council elections have fueled a shift from jubilation to discontent, prompting a wave of protests throughout the region. "People hoped for a

new beginning, but the

dialogue did not go the

way it should have. The

government delayed it

first, kept it hanging till

duct came into place. and at the last moment, our leaders were called for talks," said Namgyal, the leader of opposition in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development

Citing unmet expectations regarding job opportunities, land rights and environmental preservation he alleged that there was a lack of transparency in budgetary allocation and a failure to empower the hill councils effectively.

The Congress candidate accused the BJP of fooling the people of Ladakh

"People of Ladakh are aware... They will not believe the false promises. People will vote in favour of the four-point agenda," he said.

Namgyal remains optimistic about the prospects of the INDIA bloc and hints at a potential shift in national leadership dynamics

Poling in Ladakh will be held on May 20. The showdown between Namgyal, BJP's Tashi Gyalson, and Independent candidate Haji Hanifa Jan can shape the region's political trajectory significantly. The BJP had won the

Ladakh seat for the first time in 2014, with prominent Buddhist leader Thupstan Chhewang becoming an MP. Chhewang, however, resigned from the post and BJP in 2018, citing disagreements with the party's leadership. In 2019, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal of the BJP won

(Agencies): Air India is targeting the completion of Vistara's merger with itself by the end of this year and efforts to integrate the staff of the two carriers have gathered pace, as the Tata group airlines push for a rapid transition to one fullservice carrier under the Air India brand. In a town hall meeting on Monday, the chief executives of Air India and Vistara presented the staff with updates on the merger, according to sources in the know.

ership is earlier than what was stated previously. In January, Vistara's chief executive officer (CEO) Kannan had said that the Air India-Vistara merger was likely to be completed by the middle of next year. Kannan is also the chief integration officer at the Air India group. The Air India-Vistara

the merged Air India.

Apart from merging Air India and Vistara. the group is also in the process of merging its

## India doing well, hopefully we can qualify for Women's T20 World Cup semis: Harmanpreet

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur is confident that the Indian women's team will be amongst the semi-finalists in this year's T20 World Cup. Harmanpreet believes that defeating the 'Southern Stars' will be crucial in securing India's first global title. The T20 World Cup is scheduled to take place in Bangladesh from October 3-20, with Harmanpreet counting on the Indian team's familiarity with the conditions to boost their chances. India were drawn in Group A alongside six-time champions Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka for the tournament's ninth edition. Group B includes South Africa, England, 2016 champions West Indies, Bangladesh, and Scotland.

"India, Australia, England and South Africa. Because all these teams have been doing really well and hopefully these four can qualify for the semis so we can have very good cricket over



there. I think it will be Australia (who I look forward to facing) because they are very competitive," Harmanpreet told ICC during a fixture launch event. Though Harmanpreet's team has challenged Australian dominance recently, their opponents have emerged victorious in global competitions, winning the Women's T20 World Cup final in 2020 and the Commonwealth Games final in 2022. Australia

also beat India in the 2023 T20 World Cup semifinals.

"If we do well against them, it will give us a lot of confidence and I'm really looking forward to playing against them," she added. Harmanpreet also believed India's performance in the recently finished 5-match series against the hosts has made them more accustomed to the conditions. "Yeah, it's a bit similar to India and hopefully,

in these conditions, we should do well." India and Bangladesh have had a heated rivalry in recent years, which was on full display during the recently ended series. Since the 2023 T20 World Cup, India has visited Bangladesh twice: in July last year for a three-match T20I series and an ODI series, and most recently for a five-match T20I series.

"Bangladesh will be the home

team and they will know the conditions better than us. Obviously crowd will be supporting them. But playing against them is always an exciting event. And hopefully, we will do well against them," said Harmanpreet. On India's so-near-yet-so-far experience in World Cups, Harmanpreet said, "I think in all the ICC events we have done well. The only thing is that we have lost a lot of close games. And this time hopefully all those close games if we can win and do well for the team."

#### Gold in Olympics more important than 90m throw, says Neeraj Chopra's coach



NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): India's Neeraj Chopra is keen to join javelin's elite 90-metre club but will happily settle for a shorter throw in Paris if it proves enough for him to hold on to his Olympics title, his coach said. Chopra is asked about the 90m mark in practically every media interaction, but defending the Olympics title remains his absolute priority, his coach Klaus Bartonietz said. "A medal

is more important than a mark. The mark increases almost every year, but the medal stays," Bartonietz said. "Nobody asks Neeraj how far his throw reached in Tokyo. It was 87.58m and it was enough. If it's 85m and still gets you an Olympics gold, you should be okay with it."

Bartonietz said it was tough for athletes to produce personal bests at the Olympics because of the pressure that accompanies performing on the biggest stage in sport. Although the 90m mark has been surpassed 125 times by 24 athletes since the competition javelin was redesigned in 1986, only three of those throws have come in Olympics competition. "I'd be happy if Neeraj can produce his PB in Paris. It should be enough," Bartonietz said.

Bartonietz said he would not be surprised if the thrower from Haryana hits the magical mark in Paris. "I'd say he's close to the mark," the German said. "For several years, he has been throwing 87-to-high 88s consistently ... It will be nice to join the 90m club."

#### Shakib al Hasan returns, Najmul Shanto to lead Bangladesh squad for T20 World Cup

DHAKA, May 14 (Agencies): The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has officially announced the 15-member squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup, set to be held later this year. Najmul Hossain Shanto has been named the captain of the 15-member team while the return of Shakib Al Hasan is arguably the biggest highlight of the squad announcement. The veteran all-rounder, known for his game-changing performances with both bat and ball, brings a wealth of experience and a much-needed balance to the team.

Bangladesh's preparations for the T20 World Cup have been rigorous, with the team undergoing extensive training camps and participating in various bilateral series to fine-tune their skills. The inclusion of several all-rounders in the squad gives the team a versatile edge, crucial in the T20 format. The T20 World Cup, slated to be held later this year, will be a stern test for the Tigers. Bangladesh fans will be hoping that the combination of Shanto's fresh leadership and Shakib's seasoned prowess can propel the team to unprecedented success. The team's blend of young talents and experienced hands will look to challenge the best in the world and make a deep run in the tournament.

There were no major surprises in Bangladesh's 15-player squad for the T20 World Cup, with young quick Tanzim Hasan Sakib earning selection after two appearances against Zimbabwe. Selec-



tors also included left-arm quick Shoriful Islam, after the 22-year-old was rested for the final two matches with Zimbabwe. Afif Hossain Dhrubo and Hasan Mahmud will travel to the tournament as reserves. Bangladesh are drawn in Group D alongside South Africa, Sri Lanka, Netherlands and Nepal for next month's event, with their first contest coming against Sri Lanka in Dallas on June 7.

Bangladesh squad: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Taskin Ahmed, Litton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Shakib Al Hasan, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmudullah Riyad, Jaker Ali Anik, Tanvir Islam, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib.

Travelling reserves: Afif Hossain, Hasan Mahmud.

#### LSG face DC in the first of two must-win games

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): LSG will look to keep their slim IPL playoff chances alive in a must-win group game against the equally desperate DC on Tuesday. Speculation about KL Rahul's future as LSG skipper has intensified after their 10-wicket defeat by SRH last Wednesday. Rumours suggest Rahul might step down as captain or continue his duties for the remaining two games before leaving LSG. Regardless, the India batter will aim to respond with strong performances and finish the season on a high note.

Rahul's recent form has been underwhelming, resulting in his omission from India's T20 squad and contributing to LSG's seventh-place standing with 12 points. Both RCB and DC, who are fifth and sixth respectively, also have 12 points, making the competition fierce. With five days to reflect, Rahul and his team will seek to come out with renewed vigor against DC, who are also battling for a playoff spot following a loss to RCB on Sunday night.

The Capitals, missing their captain Rishabh Pant, paid the price for their fielding lapses against RCB on Sunday night. Dropped catches and misfields proved costly, and despite a strong start by the bowlers, the



batting lineup faltered, losing four wickets within the first four overs and finishing with their lowest innings score of the IPL season. However, this is the same team that has posted four 200-plus totals this season. To keep their slim playoff hopes alive, they will need to rediscover their form in their final game. LSG have a better chance

er their form in their final game. LSG have a better chance than DC of making the playoffs, but their heavy defeats in the last two games have severely damaged their net run rate and overall prospects. They need wins in both Delhi and Mumbai to reach 16 points, while hoping that Super Kings and Hyderabad do not also reach 16 points, as both teams have superior net run rates. Fourteen points will not suffice for LSG.

DC vs LSG: Head to Head

The Super Giants and the Capitals have faced each other four times, with the Super Giants holding the upper hand with three victories. However, the Capitals claimed the most

recent encounter, securing their

first win over the Super Giants. DC vs LSG: Team News Rishabh Pant is available for selection after serving a suspension for DC's previous game against RCB due to a third slow over-rate offense. He is expected to replace Kumar Kushagra in the XI. Against RCB, DC started with three foreign players, with David Warner coming in as the Impact Player for the chase. Warner is likely to start if DC bats first against LSG. Meanwhile, Mohsin Khan has recovered after hitting his head

on the turf against KKR and

IPL 2024: Ravi Shastri backs

missing the subsequent game against SRH. He could potentially replace Yudhvir Singh in the lineup.

DC vs LSG: Pitch report

The Arun Jaitley Stadium has proven to be a batting paradise, with two out of three matches surpassing 200 runs. In the four matches at the Arun Jaitley Stadium so far, the team batting first has posted high scores: 266 for 7, 224 for 4, 257 for 4, and 221 for 8. The chasing teams have responded with 199, 220 for 8, 247 for 9, and 201 for 8. This venue is known for its highscoring games, featuring short, straight and square boundaries. In all three matches played here, the teams batting first have emerged victorious.

DC vs LSG Predicted XIs

DC Predicted XI: David Warner, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Abishek Porel, Rishabh Pant (capt & wk), Shai Hope, Tristan Stubbs, Axar Patel, Rasikh Salam, Kuldeep Yadav, Mukesh Kumar, Ishant Sharma.

Impact Sub: Khaleel Ahmed. LSG Predicted XI: KL Rahul (capt & wk), Arshin Kulkarni, Marcus Stoinis, Deepak Hooda, Nicholas Pooran, Ayush Badoni, Ashton Turner, Krunal Pandya, Mohsin Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, Naveen-ul-Haq.

Impact Sub: Yash Thakur.

#### Norway Chess: R Praggnanandhaa, Koneru Humpy lead India's challenge

STAVANGER, May 14 (Agencies): Grandmasters R Praggnanandhaa, Koneru Humpy and Vaishali Rameshbabu will spearhead India's challenge in the prestigious Norway Chess, to be held here from May 27 to June 7.

Popularly known as the 'Wimbledon of Chess', this tournament annually extends invitations to top Grandmasters from the world rating list.

Praggnanandhaa's outing will be keenly watched after the world No. 11 player finished a creditable fourth in the recent Superbet rapid and blitz. He is the only Indian men's player in the 12th edition of the event which will feature world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, who won the Superbet, world No. 3 Hikaru Nakamura and current world champion Ding Liren.

India's world No. 2 Humpy and No. 14 Vaishali, sister of Praggnanandhaa, will feature in a strong women's field that has world champion Ju Wenjun of China and her compatriot Lei Tingjie.

However, within the top 100 players globally, no women are listed. Hence, Norway Chess has introduced world's first-ever equal female tournament this year. "I welcome their attempt to help popularise the women's game by having an equal prize fund for the women this year," Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand said.



#### 'Big tournament player' Rohit Sharma will be fine in T20 World Cup: Sourav Ganguly



NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): Former India captain Sourav Ganguly is not fussed about Rohit Sharma's poor form in the Indian Premier League. Speaking ahead of Delhi's match against Lucknow, Ganguly said that fans do not need to worry about Rohit Sharma's form with the bat as he is a big tournament player.

Ganguly backed Rohit to do well in the T20 World Cup, set to start on June 1 in the United States of America and West Indies. Ganguly also said that alongside

Rohit, Virat Kohli should open the innings for India. Kohli has been in sensational form in the Indian Premier League 2024 season and is the current Orange Cap holder in the tournament

"India is a very good team. Rohit will play well in the World Cup. He plays well in big tournaments. At the big stage, he will be fine," said Ganguly.

Sharma has had a torrid season so far, hitting 349 runs in 13 innings at an average of 29.08. Out of the 349 runs, Rohit scored

a century against CSK at the Wankhede Stadium, which came in a losing cause. In the last few matches of the IPL, Sharma has struggled to get going and has visibly looked out of place against the spinners.

KOHLI'S RESUR-

**GENCE** Virat Kohli on the other hand hs changed his T20 approach completely and has been batting at a rapid strikerate. Kohli, to an extent, has let go of his anchor role and is trying to maximise overs inside and outside the powerplay. The Orange Cap holder has 661 runs at an average of 66.10 and a strike rate of 155.16, with a century and five fifties.

With Kohli's help, RCB have made a remarkable comeback in the tournament with five successive wins after a horrid win-loss record of 1-6 in the first half. Kohli would hope to deliver in the team's final groupstage game against CSK, which will be a

virtual knockout.

# Impact Player rule amid debate good rule. You saw the number of finishes we had in last year's IP you know, it has made a big differ While some including India co



NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): Former India coach Ravi Shastri backed the Impact Player rule in IPL 2024, saying that it has contributed to many thrilling finishes in the ongoing edition. The Impact Player rule has been identified as a major factor contributing to the high scores recorded in IPL 2024 and Indian captain Rohit Sharma has criticized the rule, arguing that it hampers the development of all-rounders in India. Rohit, the first prominent Indian player to voice concerns about the rule, pointed out that it was introduced in the IPL in 2023 after a trial in the domestic Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament. The rule permits teams to substitute a 12th player at any point during the match, replacing one of the original XI announced at the toss.

"The Impact Player [rule] is good. You have to evolve with the times," Shastri told R Ashwin on his YouTube channel. "You know, it happens in other sports as well. It's got tighter finishes. You have to evolve with the times and I think it's a

good rule. You saw the number of tight finishes we had in last year's IPL. So, you know, it has made a big difference. While some, including India captain Rohit Sharma, believe the rule hinders the development of all-rounders, others see its benefits. For example, Ashwin highlighted Dhruv Jurel, who started his IPL career as an Impact Player in 2023 and made his Test debut for India within a year. "You know when any new rule comes in, there will beâ€æpeople will try and justify why that's not right," Shastri said. "But in time when you see the scores - 200 and 190 - and then like you mentioned individuals grabbing that opportunity and making the most of it, people will start re-looking at how they think about it."

The BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said the Impact Player rule was "not permanent" and that a decision on its use in future IPL editions will be made following a conversation with stakeholders after the T20 World Cup 2024. "Impact Player is like a test case. We have implemented it slowly. The biggest advantage of it is that two Indian players are getting a chance [in each game], which is the most important," Shah had told reporters at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai on Thursday. "We will consult with the players, franchises, broadcasters [and take a call]. This is not permanent [but] I am not saying that it will go. "[We'll see] if it's making the game more competitive or not. Even then, if a player feels that this is not right, then we will talk to them. But no one has told us anything yet, so it will be decided after the World Cup."

#### **LFO-BHF, Talla Jewellers organise free** medical camp at GHSS Nagrota

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) in collaboration with Talla Jewellers, with the support of Directorate of Health Services J&K, Dental Hospital Jammu and testing partner HEXAMED, recently organized a highly Free Medical Camp at the Govt Higher Secondary School Nagrota.

This camp aimed at providing essential healthcare services to the community, witnessed an overwhelming response from locals in Nagrota and surrounding areas.

Under the guidance of dedicated medical professionals, the camp offered a wide range of medical services, consultations, and free dis-



to approximately 550 people.

The medical team included esteemed doctors from various specialties namely Dr. Kailash Chander, Consultant Physician, Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Orthopedic Sur-

geon, Dr. Pallavi Sharma, Medical Officer MS Ophthalmology, Dr. Anu Gandral and Dr. Amita Parihar (Dental Consultant) & HEXAMED as testing partner, which

conducted free medical

tests for attendees, con-

tributing significantly to

fare of the younger gen-

eration, laying the foun-

dation for a healthier and

It would be pertaining to

mention here that, RBSK

team of Community

Health Centre Sankoo

Kargil embarked on a

remarkable journey to the

remote village of Itchoo

in Kargil, trekking through

difficult terrain, taking

more than 3 hours to

reach Itchoo from Shar-

The Itchoo, situated at

an altitude of 12,760 feet

above sea level—one of

the remotest and inac-

cessible villages in the

region.

brighter future.

efforts.

"We are immensely grateful for the collaboration and support from our partners, LFO-BHF, Directorate of Health Services J&K, and HEXAMED, in making this medical camp a

reality & we are always at front foot in serving for the betterment of society," said Kashish Gupta, CEO Talla Jewellers.

"The free medical camp exemplified the collective effort and commitment towards serving the community and promoting the well-being of individuals in Nagrota and beyond. It not only provided essential healthcare services but also underscored the spirit of compassion and solidarity in times of need" said Vivek Parihar, Director & CEO LFO-

Members present were Jyoti, Rabia, Stuti Abrol, Abhishek Raina, Abhishek Gupta, Diya, Kashish Katoch, Kaashvi, Kashish, Abhinandan, Shubam, Vidit, Aaghav, Tushar, Zrafat and others.

#### Motivational-cum-felicitation Session held by Regional Director AESL Parmeshwar Jha

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: A motivational session was organised by Aakash Educational Services limited (AESL)'s at Jammu for students and parents of Jammu and Udhampur branches. More than 4000 students and parents participated in two sessions in Morning and Evenina.

The Speaker of this program was Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, North, Aakash educational services limited (AESL) who gave an encouraging and inspiring message to the students.

He also discussed how committed the student should be towards their preparation and how constructive changes can make one brighter and more successful.

More than 100 Aakashians Alumni pursuing Medical and Engineering degrees from the top most prestigious colleges like AIIMS, IITs etc were felicitated at the event. The parents of the students were also honoured.

Jha also motivated and guided students on how to crack NEET and IIT JEE and how with proper guidance, mentorship, self-study and the blessings of parents, teachers and ultimately God, one can achieve his or her goal.

He also highlighted a significant point that toppers and successful students can come from even the remotest of places and locations and it is not necessary to move to big cities for the same.

This program helped students to be motivated by a positive mind and improve the intensity in chasing their dreams of aspiring their careers in the Medical/Engineering field. Parents and students expressed their satisfaction and happiness and thanked Aakash Institute's team and system for bringing them the best quality education and helping in achieving their dreams in Engineering and Medical fields. The session concluded with the pledge to sticking to goals and indulging themselves in

achieving their dreams.

#### BSK team CHC Sankoo holds health check up awareness on Health and Hygiene at GMS Itchoo

**Top News Report** 

ITCHOO, May 14: Aiming to aware students about good Health and Hygiene, the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) team from the Community Health Center Sankoo, Kargil conducted health check amongst the students of Government Middle School at Itchoo.

During the health check, a total of 30 students underwent free medical check-ups and provided free medicines amongst the students of GMS Itchoo which conducted by the RBSK doctors.

Dr Abdur Rawfie, Dr Mohammad Ali, Medical Officer of Community Health Centre Sankoo Kargil, along with pharmacists led the initiative.

The check-ups aimed to assess the health status of the students and provide necessary guidance for maintaining good

In addition to the medical screenings, an awareness education on Health and hygiene was conducted at GMS Itchoo.

Dr Abdur Rawfie and Dr Mohammad Ali delivered a lecture emphasizing the importance of health education, covering various



aspects such as access to health services, physical and psychological well-being, nutrition, disease prevention, and promoting a healthy environment.

The students were encouraged to adopt healthy lifestyle habits. including regular physical activity and balanced nutrition, to ensure overall well-being.

They also made the participants aware as to how they can improve their health & hygiene.

This initiative reflects the commitment of the administration to prioritize the health and welKathua celebrates 100% result of Class X & XII

**Tiny Scholar School** 



**Top News Report** 

KATHUA, May 14: Continuing its dominance in the CBSE class 10 and 12 exam, students of Tiny Scholars School have come out with flying colours. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) declared the results on Monday, May 13.

The school registered a cent percent result as all the students of the school appeared for the class 10 exam cleared it with flying colours. And since 2014, we have been celebrating the tremendous result of the 10th and 12th class. Students of Tiny Scholars have given a stupendous result for the session (2023-24). Their hard work has finally paid off. According to Managing Director Manisha Gupta, this is going to be the 25th year of the school.

Announcing the result, Principal of Tiny Scholars told that Ridhima Walia (Medical) gave a phenomenal performance in 12th class by securing 94.5%, followed by Navneet Kour (Medical) who secured 88% and Anamika Sharma (Medical) who secured 85%.

Matriculation Result: One of our brilliant students Divyanka Gupta secured 97%. Harshit Gupta secured 94% followed by Divyanshi Gupta, who secured 91%. Eklavya Singh and Pardeep Sharma, both got 90%

Heartless congratulations to the remarkable and outstanding students who have made the school and their parents proud with their achievements.

#### **BRO Achieves Breakthrough of 2.79 Km Long Sungal Tunnel On Akhnoor -Poonch Road (NH 144A)**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: "The Golden Arc Road" is a very old and highly strategic 200 Km stretch which connects South Kashmir / Jammu region to the West of Jammu Kashmir. It connects important border districts of Akhnoor, Rajouri and Poonch. There are four major Tunnels in this stretch viz Kandi Tunnel, Sungal Tunnel, Naushera Tunnel and Bhimber Gali Tunnel.

The construction of a pivotal infrastructure project National Highway144A connecting Akhnoor to Poonch reached a significant milestone today as the Breakthrough Ceremony for the Sungal Tunnel took place. The tunnel spanning an impressive 2790 meters is a crucial link connecting Akhnoor and Poonch.

DGBR Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan, VSM reviewed the Breakthrough Ceremony, which signifies major breakthrough in construction activity of tunnel. The breakthrough underscores the importance of this project signi-



fying a major step forward in enhancing regional connectivity and facilitating smoother transportation along the National Highway

This year on 28 Jan 2024 breakthrough of Naushera Tunnel was achieved signifying the efforts of BRO towards providing connectivity across the areas of Rajouri and Poonch. The progress of National Highway has taken pace and the project is expected to be completed by 2026.

During his address DGBR Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan, VSM mentioned that BRO is spearheading crucial road projects to connect remote areas with major centers in the Jammu-Poonch region. The Jammu-Poonch link,

advancing rapidly, is on track for completion in the next few years. On being asked about Defence Infrastructure along LoC DGBR mentioned that development of Defence Infrastructure is a continuous process and Border Roads Organisation is committed towards strengthening of Defence Infrastructure by building and upgrading strategic roads all along the IB, LC and LAC.

BRO and Project Sampark is steadfast in its commitment to Create, Connect, Care and save lives of the citizens of its area responsibility. It believes in the adage "Roads Build Nation" and rededicated itself to the construction of border roads infrastructures to spur socio-economic progress.



#### NDA comes with new initiative -Talks with **Social Transformers**



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, May 14: Nations Development Association (NDA) is coming up with "Talks with Social Transformers" Which is basically an interviewing series where we will take interviews of the renowned social activists who are contributing their time and effort for the well being of the society.

With the help of these interviews everyone will come to know about the these social personalities who are working for the betterment of societv and also by their life journey our society will get motivated to do something great in their

These interviews will be hosted by Lakshya Jeet Singh, Social Media Incharge of Nations Development Association (NDA) on YouTube https://t.ly/ IIQZR as also under the guidance of Chairman of Nations Development Association (NDA) Sushil Singh Charak.

The series of these interviews will start from Wednesday. So join us to watch out our interviews and know more about the real leaders of our society.

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office: 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor: M. K. Bangroo, Executive Editor: Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No: (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

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