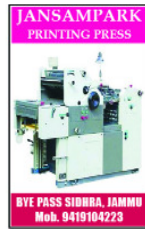




JINDRAH IMAGES



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BRIEFLY

BSF hands over Pakistan national to Rangers

AGENCY

FEROZEPUR: Border Security Force (BSF) handed a Pakistan national named Hakim Ali who had crossed over to Indian territory inadvertently on Saturday.

On April 23, during evening hours, forward area deployed BSF troops apprehended Ali ahead of border fence, when he crossed the International Border and entered into Indian territory in the area falling near village Bhakhara under Ferozpur district.

During questioning, it came to notice that 75 year old Ali was a resident of Kasur in

Contd On Page-4...

Advisory Issued For Kedarnath Dham Yatra Pilgrims In View Of Rain, Snowfall Alert

AGENCY

UTTARAKHAND: Uttarakhand government on Sunday issues an alert stating that in view of the rain and snowfall in Kedarnath Dham in past few days, devotees are requested to be careful and start the yatra according to the weather forecast.

"It may be noted that intermittent rain and snowfall continue in Kedarnath Dham. All the devotees coming to Kedarnath Dham from the country and abroad have been informed by the government to check

Contd On Page-4...

Woman pilgrim killed, 4 injured on Katra-Jammu road

AGENCY

JAMMU: A woman pilgrim was killed, and four others suffered injuries when their car collided with another vehicle on Katra-Jammu Road near Domal on the city outskirts of Jammu district.

Police said that a car collided with another vehicle near Muri area on the Katra-Domel road.

In the mishap, one woman identified as Shivani, resident of Himachal Pradesh have died while four others namely Vivek Kapoor (43), Mukhtika Kapoor,

Contd On Page-4...

Leopard Attacks Nearly Dozen Goats In Samba

AGENCY

JAMMU: A leopard killed nearly a dozen sheep in the Gurha Sathia area of Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Sunday, police officials said.

Joint teams have been formed and traps placed to capture the big cat, they said.

The leopard ventured into the Char Mandi locality of Gurha Sathia from the nearby forest area and attacked a herd of goats, they said, adding that while eight goats were found dead on the

Contd On Page-4...

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN J&K AIMS TO CREATE MORE INCLUSIVE, CREATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY: LG SINHA

Addresses Laghu Udyog Bharati's 'North Zone MSME Conclave & Investors Meet'



Ji News Service

JAMMU, APR 23: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed 'North Zone MSME Conclave & Investors Meet' organised by Laghu Udyog Bharati, today.

The Lt Governor shared the key initiatives of J&K administration to facilitate the MSMEs in the UT and to harness its unlimited potential. "Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Government has taken a number of steps to promote growth and development of MSMEs in the country. Today, MSMEs account for more than 30% of India's GDP and 49.5% of exports, thus con-

tributing significantly to economic growth," said the Lt Governor.

"The future economic growth will be driven by the MSMEs. We have taken several steps in the UT such as investment in innovation skills, MSME-centric industrial estates, access to financing, incentives and adequate infrastructure to boost the growth of MSMEs," the Lt Governor added.

Underlining the important role of private sector in the UT's growth, the Lt Governor asked the potential investors to take advantage of the business-friendly environment developed for the industries.

"J&K is emerging as a vibrant, fastest growing and most attractive

investment destination. Today, the world is recognizing the all round transformation taking place in Jammu Kashmir. Renowned companies from across the country and abroad are looking forward to invest here. I welcome Industry leaders to be part of this journey," said the Lt Governor.

Industrial development in J&K aims to create more inclusive, creative and sustainable society. The UT will play an important role as new engine of India's growth in the future. New Industrial Scheme focuses on enabling environment to create jobs and increase productivity, he added.

Speaking on the effective measures taken in order to promote MSMEs, the Lt Governor said, 25% procurements from MSMEs have been made mandatory for Government departments & Public sector undertakings and local firm has also been made operational on GeM platform.

Since the launch of Udyam Registration portal in 2020, 20 lakh MSME units have been registered in J&K.

As many as 38,000 micro and small enterprises are run by women. In the last financial year, 18,000 women-owned

Contd On Page-4...

Fugitive Preacher Amritpal arrested from Moga; taken to Dibrugarh Jail

AGENCY

CHANDIGARH, Apr 23: Radical preacher Amritpal Singh was arrested in Rode village of Punjab's Moga district early Sunday, more than a month after the state police launched a crackdown against him following the storming of the Ajnala police station by his supporters to secure the release of an arrested associate.

The 29-year-old Amritpal was arrested at 6:45 am after police personnel surrounded him in Rode village, leaving him with no way to escape,



Ji News Service

Inspector General of Police, Sukhchain Singh Gill told a news conference here.

Slain militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale hailed from Rode village and Amritpal was last year anointed the head of 'Waris Punjab De' outfit

at an event held in this village. Gill said "Amritpal has been taken to Dibrugarh in Assam under National Security Act (NSA)".

"National Security Act (NSA) warrants were issued against Amritpal

Contd On Page-4...

Shri Buddha Amarnath Yatra Likely From Aug 18 To 27

Ji News Service

JAMMU: The pilgrimage to Shri Buddha Amarnath Yatra this year is likely to begin from August 18 and conclude on August 27 in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources on Sunday said that the first batch of Shri Buddha Amarnath Yatra is expected to leave Jammu for Poonch on August 18.

Contd On Page-4...

Massive searches under way in Poonch to track Terrorists

AGENCY

JAMMU, APR 23: Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Sunday said that necessary action is under way against the terrorists responsible for the deadly attack on an Army truck in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district that left five soldiers dead.

A massive search operation to track down the terrorists is under way in Bhatta Dhurian following the ambush on the Army vehicle carrying fruits and other items to a border village for an iftar that was to be hosted by the Rashtriya Rifles unit on Thursday evening, officials said.

In a tweet on its official handle, the Army's Northern Command shared Lt Gen Dwivedi's visit to the Command Hospital in Udhampur and his interaction with the survivor of the terror attack.

"Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi with the survivor of the 20 Apr 23 #Poonch incident at Command Hospital



Ji News Service

#Udhampur and assured that necessary action is underway," read the tweet accompanied by two pictures of the soldier.

The Northern Command on Saturday visited the attack site at Bhatta Dhurian, an area that is a preferred infiltration route for terrorists from across the Line of Control because of its topography, dense forest cover and natural caves.

Dwivedi reviewed the security in the border area and the ongoing combing operation to track down the terrorists.

The Northern Command said in a tweet that he was briefed on the actions undertaken so far and exhorted the troops to be steadfast in their resolve.

While the search operation is underway amid a high alert in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri, the traffic on Rajouri-Poonch highway was restored on Sunday morning after remaining suspended since Thursday evening, the officials said.

They said traffic was earlier diverted to other routes to secure the

Contd On Page-4...

Chairman DDC Rajouri calls on Lt Governor



Ji News Service

JAMMU, APRIL 23: Advocate Ch. Naseem Liaqat, Chairman District Development Council Rajouri called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan today.

The DDC Chairman expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for continuous support and strengthening of PRIs of J&K. He submitted a memorandum of demands pertaining to completion of Mini Secretariat building and other development needs of District Rajouri.

The Lt Governor assured the Chairman DDC

India Reports 10,112 Fresh Covid Cases, Active Tally at 67,806

NEW DELHI: India has reported 10,112 new Covid cases and 9,833 recoveries in the last 24 hours. India's active caseload now stands at 67,806 while the number of total cases has reached 4,48,91,989.

The 24-hour Covid tally has dipped slightly from yesterday's numbers. India yesterday registered 12,193 fresh Covid-19 cases.

India has also recorded 29 fresh Covid deaths, including seven reconciled by Kerala, in the last 24 hours after...

Contd On Page-4...

Sunny weather in Kashmir after days of Winter like conditions

AGENCY

SRINAGAR, APR 23: Amid below normal temperature and days of winter like weather conditions bright sun appeared with mostly clear sky on Sunday much to the respite of the people in Kashmir valley.

The Meteorological Department predicts mainly dry weather with possibility of rain or snow over higher reaches at a few places over Jammu and Kashmir during the next

24 hours. The minimum and maximum temperature all across the Kashmir valley witnessed a considerable drop during the past few days forcing people and tourists to take measures and wear warm clothes.

The cold weather conditions also prevented most of the people, including children, from celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr by visiting relatives and gardens on the first day of the festival on Saturday. However, children attired in colorful dresses in large

numbers were seen moving towards the Mughal gardens on the bank of Dal Lake in Srinagar amid pleasant weather conditions to celebrate the festival today. Srinagar recorded a low of 3.4 degree Celsius which was 5.5 degree Celsius below normal of 8.9 degree Celsius for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

The day temperature in Srinagar was recorded 8.1 degree Celsius below normal of 22.3 degree Celsius on Sunday.

Contd On Page-4...

POONCH ATTACK

Terrorists used steel bullets decamped with Soldiers' Weapons

AGENCY

JAMMU, APR 23: The terrorists who ambushed an Army truck in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch used steel core bullets, capable of piercing an armoured shield, and decamped with the soldiers' weapons, officials said on Sunday, amid intensified efforts to trace and neutralise the perpetrators.

They said a sniper is believed to have targeted the truck from the front before the other terrorists sprayed bullets and lobbed grenades on it.



Ji News Service

Five soldiers were killed and one injured after the terrorists attacked the lone Army truck, which was carrying eatables for



Ji News Service

ilitar to a nearby village, in the dense forest area of Bhatta Dhurian late on Thursday afternoon and the vehicle caught

fire. The soldiers were from a Rashtriya Rifles unit deployed for counter-terror operations.

Experts from various agencies, including the National Security Guard (NSG) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA), have visited the site of the attack over the past two days and have managed to get a clear picture of the deadly ambush which was laid by the terrorists, the officials said.

They said a sniper is believed to have targeted the vehicle from the front before his associates showered bullets and

lobbed grenades on the vehicle from opposite sides, apparently giving the troops no time to retaliate.

The terrorists used steel core bullets that can penetrate an armoured shield, they said. Before fleeing, the terrorists stole the soldiers' arms and ammunition, they added.

Though the area where the attack took place is considered terrorism-free for long, the Bhatta Dhurian forest area remains a notorious infiltration route for terrorists attempting to sneak into India by crossing the Line of Control (LoC) due to

its topography, dense forest cover and natural caves.

In October 2021, nine soldiers were killed in two major gun-fights with terrorists within four days in the forest area during a search operation that continued for over three weeks.

Thursday's ambush was also a grim reminder of a terrorist attack on the official vehicle of a judicial magistrate over two decades ago. District and Sessions Judge V K Phool, a civilian and two police personnel were killed in the attack which took place on December

Contd On Page-4...

Grand Shobha Yatra taken out to celebrate Parshuram Janmotsav in Akhnoor



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: As Bhagwan Parshuram Janmotsav was celebrated today with a religious fervour, the grand Shobha Yatra was taken out in Akhnoor by Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha Akhnoor. The Shobha Yatra, which consisted of tableaux on the mythical character of Bhagwan Parshuram started from Kameshwar Temple which passed through different bazaars of the town amidst chanting of religious slogans and Bhajans.

Besides important dignitaries and distinguished personalities, people from all walks of life took part in

the Grand Shobha Yatra, which was received at different points enroute by various social and religious organizations. The Yatra consisted of various tableaux on the events associated with Bhagwan Parshuram, Lord Rama, Lord Shiva, and others. Idols of Bhagwan Parshuram and other Hindu Gods, installed on decorated and open vehicles, were part of the Shobha Yatra which were followed by hundred of two wheelers and cars. Devotees in thousands participated in the Grand Shobha Yatra.

Chief Guest Padmashri Vishwamurti Shastri Ji was the Chief Guest of the occasion

whereas Former Minister Sham Lal Sharma and Ex MLA Rajeev Sharma were the Special Guests and DDC Member Suresh Sharma, DDC Member Bhusaban Bral, DDC Member Sharda Bhu were the Guest of Honors. Chief Guest Padmashri Vishwamurti Shastri Ji enlightened the gathering about the history and importance of Bhagwan Parshuram. He in their address taught the present gathering to follow the path of Santan Dharma. Further he appealed to the gathered brahman samaj to wage a war against various social evils in the society. He said Brahman is one who has knowledge of both

Shstra and Shastra. He called on the gathered people to acquire more and more knowledge and spread it among the society to make a well aware society and nation as a whole.

Pt. Suresh Shastri Ji recited devotional songs and bhajans mesmerizing the gathering with a religious and spiritual atmosphere. In his discourse, he threw light on the responsibilities of Brahmin

Earlier, in the morning Havan Yagya and Puja of Bhagwan Parshuram was performed according to Vedic and Sanatan rituals. Mahant Rameshwar Dass, SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat, SP Rahul Charak, Ranbir Singh, Joint Secretary DGPC Jammu and President Sant Baba Sunder Singh Ji Gurdawara Akhnoor, Advocate Abhinav Sharma, DySP KD Bhagat, DySP Bharat Sharma, DySP Mohan Lal Sharma, SHO Harjeet Singh, Rajinder Sharma, all brahman sarpanches and panches, all office bearers of the Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha Akhnoor as well as president Ashok Shastri took part in the Shobha Yatra and associated celebrations.

Pace of development under Modi Govt matchless: Col Mahan



JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, APR 23: The pace of development works being carried out in J&K is unprecedented under Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government as earlier it took years to even start the projects.

This was stated by Col Mahan Singh (Retd) Chairman DDC Kathua after kick starting much awaited blacktopping work of 7 Kms long road from Barmar Gala to Jankhar vilage falling under remote

Jankhar and Ghagror Panchayats in backward region of Basohli Sub District. The road work was started in presence of DDC Member Tajinder Singh Goldy and BDC Basohli Chairperson Sushma Jamwal which will be executed by PMGSY Division Kathua with an estimated cost of Rs 6.56 crore.

The DDC Chairman said that the much demanded road connectivity project had started around 5 years back, however due to lack-

luster attitude of construction firm, the work had stopped for more than 2 years. DDC Chairman who is local member of Council as well, took keen interest and restarted the work after termination of earlier contract with blacklisting firm.

Earlier on arriving at Jankhar, the DDC Chairman was accorded an arousing welcome by exuberant villagers. Sarpanch Jankhar Kewal Kumar, Sarpanch Ghagror Rajinder Singh along with residents

KICK-START BLACK- of their respective Panchayats were present.

Col Mahan Singh said that unlike others, the BJP Government at the Centre has not only focused on starting new projects but also arranged adequate funds to complete these projects on time. He thanked PM Modi and Dr Jitendra Singh MoS PMO for giving roads under the PMGSY Scheme to rural areas of District Kathua.

The DDC Chairman also appealed to the government for early launch of PMGSY Phase IV Scheme so that roads to unconnected left out habitats could be constructed at the earliest. He asserted that roads are lifeline to remote areas, good road connectivity is essential for ease of living and to cater for basic facilities in such areas.

The DDC Chairman appreciated the work of the PMGSY Department and construction firm for finishing this road work well before the timeline.

AAP's 'failure' will help BJP in Jalandhar bypoll: Bali Bhagat



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: People were keen to vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as AAP had miserably failed in keeping its poll promises and other parties had lost political space due to their past actions. The BJP would emerge victorious in the upcoming Jalandhar bypoll. This was stated by Bali Bhagat, senior BJP

leader and former minister of J&K during campaigning at Bhargav Camp in favour of BJP candidate Inder Iqbal Singh Atwal for Jalandhar Lok Sabha seat.

Notably, senior leaders who have been deputed for election campaign by central leadership, in Lok Sabha by-election at Jalandhar have started door to door campaign today in support of BJP candidate. In this connection

Bali Bhagat today campaigned in Bhargav camp along with local leaders and workers.

Making scathing attack on Congress and AAP, Bali Bhagat said the leaders of AAP and Congress party looted the State when they came into power and left the people in lurch. While appealing the people to teach these parties a lesson by voting enmass in favour of BJP candidate, he said

there are no difference in Congress as well AAP parties and they all are the faces of the same coin.

Seeking vote for Inder Iqbal Singh Atwal, Bali said the 'BJP' candidate will work for both nation as well as his Constituency. He said that by supporting the BJP candidate the people will support women empowerment, seamless development, end of drug menace, justice to all without any discrimination on the base of colour, caste or creed. Appealing people to vote for BJP, the former J&K minister said that Party Government will weed out corruption from public life and put the State on path of progress and development. "BJP's poll plank is corruption free Government and development of the State," he added. Bali Bhagat appealed to people of Jalandhar to vote in favour of BJP candidate for the development of the constituency and make the dream of PM Modi a success.

Natrang presents Urdu play 'Kissa Badal Gaya' in 'Sunday Theatre' series



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Natrang presented an Urdu play 'Kissa Badal Gaya' which has been written by Showkat Thanvi and ably directed by Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at its Studio Theatre.

The play 'Kissa Badal Gaya' presents story of a household where the owner of the house 'Zafar'

and his wife 'Jameela' are shown scolding their servants 'Rahim' and 'Naseeban' over an issue of breaking crockery and also for not rendering their services properly.

In the course of discussion, it was also disclosed that both of them imitate their masters and buy similar commodities like shoes, clothes and make-up etc. One day, 'Zafar' purchases an expensive lottery ticket,

'Rahim' also purchased the same by selling his wife's ear-rings.

'Zafar' gets furious to know this but the story takes a turn when 'Rahim' wins the lottery and becomes a millionaire and thus the servants turned masters and masters became servants. But for 'Rahim' and 'Naseeban', it was very difficult to get out of their mentality. They can't resist their

previous habits. Even 'Zafar' and 'Jameela' tell them that now when they are millionaires they have to maintain a status.

But giving a deaf ear to their suggestions, they start blaming the couple for one reason or the other as they both used to do when they were masters.

Getting the taste of their own medicine, masters turned servants, 'Zafar' and 'Jameela' decided to leave the couple at the mercy of God, but both of them started begging before them to not leave them as they could not survive without them. On this, they decided to live happily together, giving due respect to each other.

The artists who acted in the play included: Mihir Gujral, Kushal Bhat, Kanampreet Kaur, Pashin Dutta, Naina Rakwal and Aadesh Dhar. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant whereas the sound was rendered by Aadesh Dhar.

The show was coordinated by Mahikshit Singh.

BJP delaying Assembly polls fearing backlash: Rattan Lal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Knowing BJP's dwindling position in J&K due to party's misadventures especially the number of anti-people decisions, the saffron brigade's high command is delaying Assembly polls fearing backlash.

This was said by Rattan Lal Gupta NC Provincial President Jammu in a statement issued to media fraternity here on Sunday.

Rattan Lal said that the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, P.K Pole has disclosed that the elections of Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies will be held in the current financial year but unfortunately he has not clarified about holding of Assembly elections in J&K.

The NC stalwart leader from Jammu maintained that BJP is bound to face a debacle in J&K as it has



leadership is well aware of the probable outcome and therefore is running away from the reality. He said that the draconian taxes—one after another, peak level corruption in recruitment process, controversies of the highest order with former Governor spilling the beans have exposed the lies and deceptions of BJP, and that is the reason the local leadership is looking for alibis to defer polls.

The Provincial President said that ULB and Panchayat polls, of course will show the true picture to BJP because these will also ensure its appalling fiasco for being nonchalant towards people's issues and problems whether from Kashmir or Jammu. He said that BJP proved to be a total failure both at the centre and in UT as terrorism is very much there, unemployment is at peak,

Pakistan is repeating its misadventures as never before and numerous other issues which this party had promised to eradicate are today sprawling in a big way and people finding it difficult to cope up with them all with phlegmatic dispensations running away from the problems taking refuge in rhetoric and white lies being spread like wildfire.

Rattan Lal said that regional party NC is the only political outfit which knows the issues and problems of the people, and how to provide succor to people without becoming authoritarian like the LG administration, which brought in trails of sufferings in the lives of people not only in J&K but across the country.

DGP reviews progress of J&K Rifle Association planning formulation for year 2023-24

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Director General of Police, J&K Dilbagh Singh reviewed the progress of the J&K Rifle Association regarding planning formulation for the year 2023-24 at KC Banquet Hall here today. The meeting was attended by Sh. S. S Sodhi, President J&K rifle Association, Kuldeep Singh Jamwal, chairman of JKRA, Sh. Arun Mansotra, Treasurer, prominent businessmen, Sh. Shard chander Singh, CEO, Sh.VP Samar Dev Singh, Sh. VS Pathania advisory committee member, Sh. Ashok Sharma Director Sports, Sh. Anupam Sambyal from District Samba and other famous dignitaries were also attended the meeting including -Anil kaphai, Secretary Amar Singh Club, Jammu, Sidharth sharma, ex-Joint Secty sports council, Arvind Kalra, director pharmaceutical Company, Akhil kaphai, Bldg, Consultant , Sonu Dang, Director Tawi bilders. Ajay Mahajanand



Shekhar Mahajan K C group of companies, Captain murti chief editor, Greater Jammu, Bharan Paturt Singh AAG, J&K High court, Ashok Sharma Rtd SSP, ML Mehra SSP retd, other corporate businessmen were Ashu Goel , Parveen Mittal, Aditya Bhargava, and principal Nagbani School Raj Kumar Verma , Ramesh Gupta DPS Jammu, T S Tony, IJDS chairman. During the meeting the President JKRA Sh. S.S.Sodhi apprised the chair regarding previous year plans and about the plan propos-

als for the sport activities and also the sport calendar of year.

The sport calendar of every district in final shape and activities will be started in time. It was also informed the corporate Jagat are very much interested to support the rifle association and their activities. DGP congratulates the new members and assured the full support for the development. It was also informed by the chair that JKP will always stand in promoting promotion and developing the infrastructure for the gen X.

Leaders of political parties were reprimanded for keeping silence on the issue of public interest

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: The three-day sit-in protest started by President of All Jammu Parents Association Amit Kapoor against the loot in private schools at Ambphala Chowk continued for the third consecutive day today. Many social, literary, non-governmental organizations and other political leaders participated in the dharna in support of the Senior leader Surinder Singh Shingari. Ravi shastri ji Hindustan Shiv Sena. At the same time, he took a dig at the leaders of various political parties, including the BJP, for keeping silence on this issue of public interest.

He warned the government that if it does not fulfill their demands within a week, then they can take a big step and the government will be solely responsible for the situation arising out of it. He called upon the people supporting the movement started by him and his followers to be ready for a bigger movement.

Expressing his views during this, Amit Kapoor said that this three-day dharna is to wake up the administration which was sleeping in the slumber of Kumbhakaran. He told the



Lieutenant Governor that if he is serious about ending the mafia of private schools, then give him 5 minutes to meet you and you will be given all the proofs.

Chief among their demands is immediate refund of the fees charged by JKFC in excess of the fixed fees and an order should be issued immediately for this. Like passenger vehicles, the fare of buses plying of private schools should also be fixed on the basis of kilometer.

The policy of Right to Education Act has come into force from the year 2020 but it has not yet been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. It should be clarified that how many schools have so far given free education to poor children under this policy. At

the same time, no action has been taken even after giving concrete evidence to the teams constituted by the department. Task forces should be formed in place of these teams and those people who are well-versed in the matter should be included in it.

Action should be taken against the private schools which are not using NCERT or Board books and the books of the children who have taken more books should be taken back.

Action should be taken against the schools which have imposed books arbitrarily.

Uniforms should also be changed only after five years and books and uniforms should not be sold at special shops or at the school's own shops. No

school should be allowed to have more than two uniforms and the uniform should be changed only after five years.

Private schools charging more than the fees fixed by JKFC, or charging more fees or setting books arbitrarily should be seized. The salary given to the teachers of private schools should also be made public so that the discrimination against these teachers can be ended.

He alleged that private schools do not even deduct PF of teachers and most of the schools fire teachers after one year so that their PF does not have to be deducted. Amit Dogra, Raj Kumar Lalotra, Shadi Lal, Santosh Labru, Fancy Kumari took part in it. Bharti Devi, Rahul and others attended

Dy Mayor inaugurates Victoria Cafe a Veg & Non-Veg restaurant

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria inaugurated the newly opened The Victoria Cafe a Veg & Non-Veg restaurant here at Ward 54, Trikuta Nagar, Railway Road in Bahu constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria said that it is very good for our Jammu and Kashmir that youth will come forward and start new ventures in Jammu. It also helps decrease unemployment and also drug free society, because youth in the right way than our country will be in safe hands. He said that the way Sahil Dogra and Gourav Dogra, inspired by PM Modi's vision of Atm Nirbhar Bharat, has taken steps towards becoming self-reliant by opening restaurants, surely this step will provide employment to many more youths in the future. The owner of the Restaurant Sahil Dogra and Gourav Dogra said that The Victoria Cafe at Trikuta Nagar, Railway



Road serves the people Veg and Non-Veg with their delicious and charming food and recipes at a very low and reasonable price.

Later, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria also inaugurated the Rooster King a Veg & Non-Veg restaurant at ward 61, Akhnor Road, Paloura in Jammu North constituency. The Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria was accompanied by Local Corporator Mohinder Kumar and prominent persons of the area. The Deputy Mayor of Jammu wished the owner success

and urged the public to patronize this restaurant. He also mentioned that this restaurant will provide jobs to the local people and help in the economic development of the area.

He said gone are those days when our youth ran towards jobs, now are the days where they have become Job providers instead of Job seekers. He said the owner has given employment to youth as well which will also benefit the same number of families and moreover such steps give a boost to our economy, he added. The Deputy Mayor of Jammu

further mentioned that the central government is committed to provide better infrastructure and employment opportunities for the people of Jammu. Owner of the Rooster King, Gourav Janwal said that customer satisfaction will remain his main goal.

He, while giving details about it is a Veg and Non-Veg restaurant and has a lot of variety in different types of cuisines. He also thanked the Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria and the dignitaries for attending the event.

Gupta demands moratorium on gubernatorial post restricts to speak on political matters

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta while addressing to the media on Sunday said, "It's a pity for Ex Governor Satyapal Malik who have availed all the luxuries of gubernatorial post start criticising the government in power once he have availed all the luxuries of that post. If he was not satisfied with the working of government in power he should have demitted office while he was still in chair. In this list the top person also do so was our Ex Vice President Hamid Ansari.



NDPI president demanded there should be a moratorium on person to not be able to speak on political matters who had been holding gubernatorial government post.

NDPI leader has urged that the credibility be checked of claims made by

former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik in a recent interview. Malk had made critical remarks about the Modi Government, especially regarding its handling of Jammu and Kashmir, where he served as the last governor before the erstwhile state was bifurcated into Union territories.

Rajesh Gupta further added that every Governor and every person discharging the functions of the Governor shall, before entering into his office, make and subscribe in the presence of the Chief Justice of the High Court. He questioned why Satyapal Malik has forgotten

the oath which he took as a Governor of Jammu and Kashmir?

"I, Satyapal Malik, do swear in the name of God that I will faithfully execute the solemnly affirm office of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir State."

Gupta asked why Satyapal Malik didn't speak up when he was the governor of Jammu and Kashmir, questioning the credibility of his claims.

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Bharatiya Janata Party MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today launched Shree Vaishnavi Foods' Neekz Basmati rice in a glitterin function here today.

MP Gulam Ali complimented the young entrepreneur Mr. Vikas Gupta on the launch of Neekz brand of Basmati and wished him success on new venture. He said that the local businessmen and entrepreneurs are excelling in their respective fields and govt would provide them all help to spread their businesses in other



parts of the country and abroad also.

Gulam Ali said that under Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's stewardship new ideas and new products are being encouraged and young entrepreneurs should take benefits of various schemes.

He said that Basmati rice of Jammu and Kashmir especially Ranbir Singhpura are world famous and known for its taste and fragrance.

BJP President Ravinder Raina also congratulated Shree Vaishnavi Foods on launch of Neekz Basmati rice brand.

Earlier Mr. Vikas Gupta, proprietor Shree vaishnavi Foods informed that Neekz brand of Basmati has been launched with best quality rice and latest machinery

Shiv Sena (H) hold protest against Poonch terror attack

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Hindustan ShivSena City unit including City President Appurav Gupta, Vice President Rohan Malwal, Gen. Sec. Rohit and others, under the leadership of UT President Vikrant Kapoor, staged a strong protest against the terror attack held in Poonch on Thursday in which Five Jawans were killed. They strongly condemned the attack on soldiers by the terrorists. On Thursday, militants attacked a army vehicle and opened fire in which the vehicle caught fire and five soldiers were killed.

Describing it as a shameful act on part of the militants in the holy month of Ramzan, UT President Vikrant Kapoor said that the militant groups have been nailed in their holes by our brave army soldiers and this act is a result of their frustration. Moreover he said that this is an act to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the J&K UT.

He further urged upon the Centre govt. To take more preventive measures to bring peace back to the UT.

He appealed the general people of the UT to maintain peace and harmony so



that the vested interests of such groups may not get satisfied.

Others present on the occasion included UT Senior Vice President Rakesh Bhardwaj, Vice president Sunil Dabgotra and others

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TERRORISTS NOW TARGETING 'SAFE ZONE' JAMMU

Upsurge of terror activities in Jammu region matter of concern: Kesri

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri in a press conference in Udhampur today said that Poonch attack in which five Rashtriya Rifles jawans martyred indicate that there has been an upsurge in terror activities in the Jammu province. He said that this is the fourth incident in which the Indian Army has suffered casualties in the Poonch-Rajouri area. He said that such attacks ahead of Q20 meetings slated in Jammu and Kashmir is matter of serious concern. He said that terror outfits sponsored by the Pakistani army and the ISI have been targeting security forces' convoys, camps, government buildings and people travelling to the Valley from outside. Kesri said Kesri further said that there have been warning signals of the presence of terrorists in the Jammu region past few months. Our intelligence gathering must be reinforced to nullify the acts of these terrorists. Terrorism in J&K has transformed



into a systematic use or threat of violence to intimidate the local populace community, or government to effect political, religious, or ideological change for their gain.

To magnify and transmit the intense fear and anger among the people, modern terrorism has turned to another method of intimidation. It goes without saying, that terrorist acts are perpetrated by people who have been indoctrinated to the point of dying to kill. They are the ones who have become pawns in the hands of their masters, advised Kesri.

observed that Poonch terror attack shows Pakistan doesn't want to normalise the relations with India and

the attack come close to the heels of their foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit for Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). He said that Indian govt should firmly convey to Pak FM that they need to

control export of terror. Prominent among those present in the press conference include Balbir Kumar, Vijay Luthra, Raj Kumar, Darshana Devi, Jyoti Devi, Ajay Kumar besides others.

Showkat Mir condoles demise of party's senior leader Ravi Mahajan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Showkat Ahmad Mir Political Secretary to Dr. Farooq Abdullah President JK NC on Thursday condoled the untimely demise of Ravi Mahajan Vice President Central Zone JKNC Jammu.

In his condolence message, the NC leader expressed shock and grief over the sudden demise of Ravi Mahajan. He termed him as the party's true soldier, who had unyielding faith in the ideals of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. "I am shocked by his passing away. He has gone too soon. A gem of a person, a committed political activist, an ace speaker, a pious person grounded in values of humanity.

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Sham Lal Langer, Convener Trade Cell, BJP, J&K, condemned the inhuman and barbaric acts of terrorism, committed by Pakistan in Poonch district, martyring five Army Jawans.

Langer said that the executives of Pakistan's sinister plan will not go unpunished as they have committed a heinous crime

against humanity. He said that whoever has carried



against humanity. He said that whoever has carried

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Industrial development...

enterprises were provided assistance of more than Rs 500 Crore under credit guarantee scheme, said the Lt Governor.

On the progress registered to boost the MSME sector, the Lt Governor said, under PMEGP, an unprecedented 21,640 manufacturing and service units were established in 2021-22. As many as 42 industrial estates will be set up in Jammu Kashmir in the next few years and out of these 34 industrial estates will be focused on MSMEs, noted the Lt Governor.

All 20 districts are being developed as export hubs and emphasis has been laid on the promotion of products which will boost MSMEs' growth, he added.

There is immense potential for MSMEs in the field of Integrated Processing Facility, Mega Food Park and Cold Chain Logistics. The Holistic Agriculture & Allied Sector Development Plan worth Rs 5013 crores will boost the growth of MSMEs in J&K UT, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor highlighted the efforts for reforms and strengthening of industrial ecosystem.

Massive reforms in terms of basic amenities, infrastructure and banking facilities have ensured stability and made the UT's growth more inclusive, said the Lt Governor.

After 5th August 2019, Fear-free, corruption-free administration has become an integral part of our work culture. A record 1.88 crore tourists visited Jammu Kashmir last year. The first Foreign Direct Investment in J&K has also taken shape with the groundbreaking ceremony of Emaar Mall at Srinagar. IT towers are also coming up in Jammu and Srinagar, he further said.

Today, Jammu Kashmir offers vast resources with better incentives, better return on investment, land for setting up industries & business ventures, skilled labor, technical support, improved connectivity, national & international air cargo facility, raw material, cheapest electricity, lowest crime rate, single window clearance and ease of Doing business, observed the Lt Governor.

The work done for industrial development of J&K is clearly visible. In the last two years, Jammu Kashmir has received 5,372 investment proposals worth Rs 70,000 crore. Proposals worth Rs 24,000 crore from more than 1,800 companies have been approved, he added.

The Lt Governor said the UT Government is making dedicated efforts for GI tagging of niche & premium local products while the export in carpet and pashmina is witnessing an upward trend. We are promoting village industrial units and self-help groups and also developing human resources for Industries 4.0, he added.

The Lt Governor also spoke on the ongoing road infrastructural and other projects to strengthen the connectivity. He further highlighted the land reforms introduced in the last three years and the measures taken to ensure land availability for industries.

Dr Krishna Gopal, All India Margdarshak Laghu Udyog Bharati highlighted the favourable conditions for investment and development of industries in Jammu Kashmir.

Sh Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce, J&K outlined the economic indicators and opportunities for Industrial growth in Jammu Kashmir.

Sh Baldevbhai Prajapati, President, Laghu Udyog Bharati; investors, industrialists & entrepreneurs from across the country were present.

Massive searches...

highway which connects the twin border districts with Jammu. The officials said around 14-16 people have been detained for questioning. "Among those rounded up are two couples from Degwar in Poonch - Iqbal and his wife Mudifa and Salam Din and his wife Rashida," an official source said, adding further investigation is on.

The slain soldiers were from a Rashtriya Rifles unit deployed for counter-terror operations.

Sources earlier said the attack is suspected to have been carried out by a group of three to four terrorists.

The attackers possibly spent more than a year in Rajouri and Poonch and had adequate knowledge of the terrain, they added.

The Jammu and Kashmir Gaznavi Force (JKGF) is said to be active in the area and its "commander", Rafiq Ahmed alias Rafiq Nayi, hails from the region.

Currently, three-four terrorist groups are active in the region of Rajouri and Poonch, the sources said. (Agencies)

India Reports...

which the toll has climbed to 5,31,329. With the latest numbers, the daily positivity rate is now at 7.03 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate is at 5.43 per cent.

The national Covid recovery rate is at 98.66 per cent. Delhi on Saturday logged 1,515 Covid and six deaths, with a case positivity rate of 26.46 per cent. Maharashtra, meanwhile, recorded 850 fresh Covid cases and four deaths.

Chairman DDC...

Rajouri of redressal of the genuine demands put forth by him on merit. Earlier, a delegation of Hindustan Scouts & Guides Association led by its National Secretary, Sh Girish Juyal met the Lt Governor and apprised him of their forthcoming programme in Jammu Kashmir.

Shri Buddha...

They said that formal Bhoomi Pujan for the yatra will be performed on August 17 and the yatra will continue till August 27. Bajrang Dal in collaboration with the administration has been organizing the yatra since 2005 and involved 50,000 workers from across the country in response to terrorists plotting to disrupt the yatra.

Fugitive Preacher...

Singh and these have been executed today morning. Further law will take its own course," he said.

The police official countered claims made by Amritpal in a video, which surfaced online, that the Khalistani sympathiser had surrendered.

Gill said Amritpal was traced to village Rode based on operational inputs and was surrounded by cops leaving him with no way to escape.

"A joint operation was conducted by Amritsar police and the intelligence wing of Punjab Police. He was located in village Rode based on operational inputs by Punjab Police. He was surrounded from all sides, the village was surrounded by Punjab Police," he said.

Police said it did not enter the gurdwara in which Amritpal was present to maintain its sanctity.

To a question on reports that Amritpal has surrendered, the officer said it is very clear that he has been arrested after being surrounded from all sides. A message was conveyed to Amritpal that he had no chance to escape, Gill said. "The way the whole operation was planned, the way there were concrete inputs, the way the village was surrounded...It was very important to maintain the sanctity of gurdwara and police with uniform could not enter inside, then he was surrounded from all sides, (he) came to know of this, then the arrest was possible," he said.

"What happened inside (the gurdwara) and what was said inside, it is not proper to make any comment," he said.

Gill said this operation has been going on for the past 35 days.

In the video that surfaced on social media, Amritpal is seen purportedly

addressed a gathering at a gurdwara in Rode village in which he says he was "surrendering". "It is the birth place of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. This is the place where my 'dastar bandi' (turban tying) ceremony was held. We are standing at life's critical juncture. During the past one month whatever took place, you have seen that all," he said in the video.

A month back, "excesses" were unleashed by the government against Sikhs. Had it been only the question of (my) arrest, then perhaps there were many ways of arrest and with which, I would have cooperated, he could be heard saying in the video.

"In the court of Almighty, I am not guilty but I could be guilty in the world-court," he said.

After one month, I decided that we fought on this land, we will fight on this land and will never leave this land, he said, adding, he will face "false" cases lodged against him.

"On the same place (Rode where he was anointed), I decided to surrender and this arrest is not an end, it is the beginning," he said.

Amritpal had been on the run since March 18 when a police crackdown was launched against him and members of his outfit 'Waris Punjab De'. The Punjab Police had invoked the stringent NSA against the Khalistani sympathiser.

Several cases have been lodged against the radical preacher and his associates for allegedly spreading disharmony, attempt to murder, attack on police personnel and obstructing the lawful discharge of duty by public servants.

In February, Amritpal and his supporters, some of them brandishing swords and guns, broke through barricades and barged into the Ajnala Police Station on the outskirts of Amritsar city, and clashed with police for the release of one of his aides. His wife Kirandeep Kaur was stopped at the Amritsar airport by immigration officials on Thursday while she was trying to board a flight to London. Amritpal tied the knot with UK-based Kaur in February this year.

Amritpal had earlier escaped the police dragnet twice — first on March 18 in Jalandhar district by switching vehicles and then again on March 28 in Hoshiarpur when he returned to Punjab along with his key associate Papalpreet Singh.

Papalpreet, who is considered to be Amritpal's mentor and who has allegedly been in contact with Pakistan's ISI, has been arrested.

While on the run, two videos and one audio clip of Amritpal had surfaced on social media. In one of his two videos, which surfaced on March 30, Amritpal had asserted that he was not a fugitive and would soon appear.

The pro-Khalistani preacher had claimed that he was not like those who flee the country.

The Jathedar of Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs, had asked the preacher to surrender before the police and cooperate with the investigation.

On April 15, police nabbed Amritpal Singh's close aide Joga Singh from Sirhind in Fatehgarh Sahib. According to them, Joga Singh was in direct contact with Amritpal and had even arranged a shelter and vehicles for him in Uttar Pradesh's Ferozpur.

It was Joga Singh who brought Amritpal and his aide Papalpreet back to Punjab on March 28.

Nine of Amritpal's aides — Daljit Singh Kalsi, Papalpreet Singh, Kulwant Singh Dhaliwal, Varinder Singh Johal, Gurmeet Singh Bukkanwala, Harjit Singh, Bhagwant Singh, Basant Singh and Gurninder Singh Anjula — have been lodged in Dibrugarh jail and charged under NSA.

Amritpal Singh, who returned from Dubai, was last year anointed the head of 'Waris Punjab De', the organisation founded by actor and activist Deep Sidhu. (Agencies)

Sunny weather...

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national highway recorded a low of 2.2 degree Celsius against the 3.9 degree Celsius the previous night. It was 5.3 degrees below normal for the gateway of Kashmir.

Tourist hot spot of Pahalgam experienced a low of minus 1.2 degree Celsius against minus 1.7 the previous night and it was 5.7 degree below normal for the valley of shepherds in south Kashmir on Sunday.

Kupwara recorded a low of 2.2 degree Celsius against 4.2 degree Celsius a day ago and it was 5.4 degree Celsius below normal for the frontier Kashmir district.

Kokernag recorded a low of 2.2 degree Celsius against 1.6 degree Celsius the previous night and it was 5.4 degree Celsius below normal for the picnic spot of south Kashmir.

Gulmarg had a low of minus 1.5 degree Celsius against minus 1.0 degree Celsius a day ago and it was below 4.8 degree Celsius for the famous ski resort in north Kashmir on Sunday, the MET office said. (Agencies)

Dr Jitendra holds...

regions in the upper reaches of Bani, Basohli, Billawar etc. in Kathua district and other Pahadi areas. In addition, PRI representatives comprising mainly Sarpanches and Panches from other districts including Kathua were also connected online.

Dr Jitendra Singh interacted individually with each of the PRI representatives and party members in two groups in two separate sessions respectively lasting one and half hour each for a total period of over three hours. This is part of the recent cycle initiated by him wherein as an MP, he physically visits one district of his constituencies every week and tries to connect online with the other district where he is not physically visiting that particular week.

To begin with, the Union Minister provided them with an update about some of the latest information regarding the constituency and the new development works approved recently.

Dr Jitendra Singh addressed the PRI representatives to listen to the 100th edition of Mann Ki Baat broadcast by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 30th April. He said, the programme could be given the format of a community listening where a large number of people sit together and observe the occasion as a festival. He said the 100th edition of Mann Ki Baat also deserves celebration because it has been totally a non-political broadcast by the Head of the government and is dedicated to development works in different parts of the country and reaching different sections of society. Also this is for the first time and a record in itself that any Head of Government has consistently every month, without fail, interacted with his audience without a single interruption, he added.

As far as the developmental works are concerned, Dr Jitendra Singh informed the representatives that the vital Chattergalla Tunnel has been approved for construction under Bharatmala scheme and is awaiting final approval. He said, once the tunnel is ready, it will provide an all-weather National highway from Lakhnapur on the Punjab border upto Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir via Basohli-Bani. This will be a gamechanger by generating revenue and employment facilities besides attracting tourists, he said.

The PRI representatives also gave inputs regarding the PMGSY roads to be included in the coming year. Dr Jitendra Singh told them that instructions have been issued that the preference regarding, which road is to be constructed under PMGSY scheme will be given to Panches, Sarpanches, DDC members and other local body representatives without any interference from the MP's side and therefore they should furnish the list of their preferred roads to the concerned authorities at the earliest.

The issue of delay in the work of Juthana village in Kathua also came up for discussion. Dr Jitendra Singh informed that he had already taken up the issue with the UT authorities and Principal Secretary Shailendra Kumar Singh was personally following up the matter to resolve some of the pending issues at

the earliest in order to resume the construction work and complete it on a fast track.

About the proposed Kendriya Vidyalaya in Billawar, the Minister, on the spot, fixed a meeting of the public representatives with the Deputy Commissioner Kathua for tomorrow so that the process could be expedited.

There were issues related to ration cards etc. for which the Minister advised Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar to hold a meeting tomorrow itself with the local body representatives and provide an update.

Terrorists used...

5, 2001, in the Dehra Ki Gali forests near the Bhatka Dhurian forests. The officials said over 12 people have been detained for questioning in connection with the Poonch attack but no arrests have been made so far.

Security forces are using drones and sniffer dogs to conduct a recce of the dense forest but success has eluded them so far, they said.

It is believed that the terrorists have managed to create safe hideouts in the dense forest to escape the security dragnet or may have crossed over to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, they added.

According to the officials, initial reports suggest the involvement of around five terrorists, including some foreign mercenaries, in the attack.

After the ambush, the terrorists possibly used grenades as well as sticky bombs that caused the vehicle to erupt into flames.

The officials said those who executed the attack are believed to have been in Rajouri and Poonch for more than a year and had adequate knowledge of the terrain, which is quite tough.

The area is a hotbed of Jammu and Kashmir Gaznavi Force (JKGF) as its 'commander' Rafiq Ahmed alias Rafiq Nayi is a resident of the area, they added.

At present, three to four terrorist groups are active in the region of Rajouri and Poonch, sources said.

Banned terror group People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), a proxy wing of Jaish-e-Mohammed, has claimed responsibility for the attack. There are reports suggesting that it was the handiwork of banned Lashker-e-Taiba group also. (Agencies)

Leopard Attacks...

spot, three others are missing and are believed to have been taken away by the animal.

A couple of days back, a girl sustained serious injuries after being attacked by a leopard near the Parmadanal area.

The wildlife department has been informed about the frequent visit of leopards in the villages adjoining the forest area, officials said, adding that the animal will be caught soon.

Woman pilgrim...

Monika Kapoor and Rishita Kapoor (1), all residents of Noorpur, Himachal Pradesh sustained injuries.

The injured have been hospitalised at Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu.

Advisory Issued For...

the weather forecast before going to Kedarnath Dham and have been asked to carry enough warm clothes," the government stated.

"There was heavy snowfall in Kedarnath Dham yesterday. Pilgrims are requested to be alert and bring their yatra by looking at the weather," said Uttarakhanda DGP Ashok Kumar.

It has been said by the government that adequate health arrangements have been made on all the travel routes. Passengers can also visit the nearest health centre immediately after starting the journey or if their health deteriorates during the journey and consult a doctor.

The state government is determined to make the journey smooth, safe and uninterrupted. The travel arrangements are being regularly monitored from a higher level.

On the auspicious occasion of Akshay Tritiya on Saturday the Char Dham Yatra began.

This time the state government is making every possible effort to make the Char Dham Yatra smooth and safe for the devotees. The pilgrims will get the best health services on the Yatra route.

On the instructions of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Health Minister Dr Dhan Singh Rawat, Health Secretary Dr R.K. Rajesh Kumar is taking stock of the health services on the Char Dham Yatra route. In this episode, the Health Secretary is inspecting health units at various places by travelling to Kedarnath Dham.

Health Secretary Dr Rajesh Kumar said that the Health Department has made complete preparations during the Chardham Yatra.

"Guidelines ie SOP have been issued for the journey. In this, travellers have been suggested to acclimatize their bodies to the mountain weather during the journey. If you are facing difficulty then rest for some time and only then travel," he said.

The Health Secretary said that the government welcomes all the pilgrims coming for the yatra. But at the same time, there is an appeal that if the devotees above 55 years of age are suffering from any disease like sugar, BP, heart disease etc., then mention it.

He said that such devotees would be monitored through 104.

According to the Health Secretary, this time the government has a special focus on the Kedarnath pilgrimage route.

The Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhanda is one of the most popular Hindu pilgrimages in India. This pilgrimage is a tour of four holy sites — Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri — nestled high up in the Himalayas. (AGENCIES)

BSF hands over...

Pakistan, nothing objectionable was found on the individual.

BSF approached Pakistan Rangers and lodged protest on the matter. Thereafter, on April 22, 2023 itself at about 0833 PM, the apprehended Pak national, was handed-over to Pakistan Rangers as a Goodwill gesture and on Humanitarian grounds. BSF always takes humane approach, while dealing with inadvertent border crossers.

Twitter reinstates legacy Blue Tick on high-profile accounts

Twitter has restored verification badges on several high-profile celebrity accounts with millions of followers, just days after the microblogging platform culled the legacy blue checkmarks for non-paying users. The move assumes significance as Indian celebrities and top politicians from Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lost verified blue ticks on their Twitter accounts this week after Elon Musk-led microblogging site started removing checkmark icons from accounts that did not pay a subscription fee. The coveted blue ticks have now made a surprising comeback on accounts of these celebrities. Top cricketers such as Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli who lost the blue tick mark on their Twitter handles, have also got them back.

It was not immediately clear whether or not these accounts have paid for the verification. Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah — who got the blue tick back on his Twitter handle — tweeted that he did not pay for it. "Apparently I've paid for Twitter Blue & given them a phone number to verify except that I haven't."

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Indian Army conducted Sarpanches Ekta Meet at Jourian

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Indian army has been actively participating with local governing bodies in Jammu. In the same sequence of event "Sarpanch Sammelan" was conducted by the Indian Army at Jourian, Akhnoor (J&K). The event was attended by the 22 local leader, to discuss and explore the issue of mutual concern and collaboration. The Sarpanch Sammelan program has been particularly effective in areas where there is a high degree of mistrust between the local population and the security forces. By engaging with village leaders in a neutral setting, the army is able to build relationships and gain valuable insights into the security situation on the ground. One of the key benefits of the Sarpanch Sammelan program is that it allows the army to gather intelligence on security threats



from a local perspective. Village leaders are often able to provide information on the activities of militant groups, as well as on issues such as infiltration and smuggling. This information can be critical in preventing attacks and disrupting militant networks. In addition to gathering intelligence, the Sarpanch Sammelan program has also been used to promote local welfare initiatives. The army has worked with village leaders to identify

areas of need, such as education and healthcare, and to develop programs to address these issues. This has helped to build trust between the army and local communities, and has also had a positive impact on the lives of many people in the region. Overall, the Sarpanch Sammelan program has been a valuable tool for the Indian Army in Jammu and Kashmir. By engaging with local village leaders, the army has been able to build

relationships and gather intelligence on security threats from a local perspective. At the same time, the program has also been used to promote local welfare initiatives, which have had a positive impact on the lives of many people in the region. As such, it is likely that the Sarpanch Sammelan program will continue to play an important role in the army's efforts to promote security and stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jatts community ignored despite unforgettable contribution in Indian freedom struggle: Manjit

J I NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, APR 23: All J&K Jatt Sabha on Sunday held one day convention at village Karalian in Ramgarh Tehsil of Samba district to discuss the emerging political situation in which their political aspirations were ignored and Jatt dominated assembly constituencies were reserved.

To hold threadbare discussion on political, social, economic, employment, reservation of assembly, development and other things, the Jatt Sabha organized a hugely attended one day convention at village Karalian, Ramgarh. The day-long convention discussed various issues and resolved that they would initiate a struggle to ensure proper political, social and economic representation which is being declined and ignored.

In this convention, President, J&K Jatt Sabha, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh demanded that the Jatts should be granted OBC status in Jammu and Kashmir which has also been recommended by the commission, but it has not been passed by the Parliament of India.

Therefore, the OBC status should be passed and accordingly, the Jatts should be given OBC status, besides, 27 percent reservation should also be given to them, he stated.

He also referred to the package of the Displaced Persons while urging the Govt to clear the pending dues of the package in



favour of the DP's in J&K. "Full and final package should be cleared as early as possible," he demanded.

He also demanded the proprietary rights in favour of the DP's of 1965 and 1971 on custodian and Govt land. Recalling the contribution of the Jatt community in the Indian freedom struggle, he said that the Jatt Community has played a very crucial role in the independence of the country which shall be taught to the students in the schools and their contribution should be remembered by the Govt.

"The Govt should ensure that the Jatt community should be given proper political representation in the J&K Assembly as well as in the Parliament of India so that their issues can be raised at the highest level and accordingly, resolved to improve the living standard, educational, social, economical and political status of the Jatt

community," he said.

He said that the Jatts have stood like rock in the defence of the country and defended its borders. However, the political system has ignored the share of the Jatts in the political system which can be gauged from the fact that the majority areas of Jatt community were not reserved for them, but others.

"The Jatts have strong resentment for not reserving their assembly constituencies for their political representatives. The people are aware of the present political situation, and they will respond accordingly. Therefore, the Jatts must get united to give appropriate response to those who ignored the community and their constituencies despite having a majority in several assembly constituencies," he added and demanded political reservation in J&K for Jatts.

He also demanded a special

recruitment drive for the Jatt community in security forces and a campaign to educate people about the adverse effects of drug addiction and youth should be encouraged to participate in sports activities.

Following the convention, the Jatt Sabha members unanimously appointed Naveen Choudhary as District President youth, Samba of the J&K Jatt Sabha.

Meanwhile, Ex-Minister Sukhmandir Choudhary, Ex-MP Tarlok Singh Bajwa, Ex-Minister Garu Choudhary, Ex-MLC Surinder Choudhary, DDC Member Suchergarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, Councillor Dwarka Choudhary, Manjit Jatt, Bachan Choudhary, Choudhary Jagar, Choudhary Krishan Chand, Choudhary Jatinder Kumar, Harban Choudhary, PRIs and others also spoke on the occasion.

If we leave a diamond in the mud, its shine remains intact : Madhu Parahans

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: It is not very easy to understand Sahib's speech. It is very subtle. When the patient goes to the doctor, the doctor tries to know what the disease is. Until the disease is not detected, the work cannot be done. Till then the medicine cannot be started. Medicine starts after remedy. Similarly, according to the actions of a man, his mind is formed. These deeds cannot be cut without the grace of Sadguru.

This thing comes in the context of Rani Indramati in which Sahib is saying that there is an ocean of beauty in front of her. It's your beauty, it's all her game. This surati is a ray emanating from Param Purush. You can imagine how much light the Sun emits. That's where the mind leaves. You also have soul and mind in your conscience. Your eye also has soul and mind. Both have a meeting at one place, that's why the mind is not able to understand.

If we leave a diamond in the mud, its shine remains intact. But as long as it is in the mud, it is not shining even though it is. If you take it out of the mud and wash it, then its shine remains intact. No one can ever reduce anything of the soul. Just covered. Why do humans take a bath? Removes dirt from the body.

Sushumna Nadi is between Ida and Pingala. This nadi is the way to reach the supreme world. Sahib has said a lot in this Sushumna. The mind is in the middle of the Sushumna nadi. He has only one task - not to let the soul go ahead.

Sahib is saying that if the body becomes stable, the mind also becomes stable, Surati, Nirati all become concentrated, then the result which cannot be achieved by doing the practice of Kalpana, is achieved in a moment.

It is a big thing to have a stable body. Means the body should not do any work. But sitting is also a verb. To lie down is also a verb. Standing is

also a verb. How can this action end completely?

When you put the call on hold, the call remains, the connection remains, but the conversation cannot take place. In this way the body is on hold. How he is on hold, listen carefully.

Meerabai is saying in her speech that the path to meet Sahib is very slippery. I climb, but I keep falling. But in the desire of meeting Piya, I step forward again and again. If you understand this, then you will understand the greatness of Sumiran. Even if you are stable, the body is not still. The body is stable when there is no action.

The mind is stable when it does not think anything, does not resolve anything, does not act, does not have any desire.

Do not decide. When everything becomes concentrated, then that one moment will be a very big moment. It is more than the practice of Kalpana. This work becomes easy by remembering the name.

Sikh Organisations condemns Poonch terror attack

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: A meeting of various Sikh Organisations J&K held under the chairmanship of S. Mohinder Singh chief Organiser Bhai khanayashikameva society J&K and Ex Member DGFC Jammu. In the meeting the killing of five soldiers of Kashmiria rifles in a terror attack by militants in Poonch District condemned. In the meeting two minutes silence is observed to pay the departed souls for their eternal peace and showed sympathy with the martyrs' families.

An appeal is made to the prime minister and Home minister of India Sh Narinder Modi and Amit Shah respectively for sanction of ex-gratia Rs Two crore and job to one member of martyred family. It is unfortunate that the paramilitary forces are not safe in Jammu and Kashmir, how the

safety of unarmed civilians is possible. On January 1st 2023 the civilians of minority community at Dogra District Rajouri were also brutally killed by ultras. In the meeting prime minister Sh Narinder Modi and Home minister Sh Amit Shah appealed to personally intervene to make sure the security of people in Jammu and Kashmir it is also appealed to ensure the high level inquiry by all concerned agencies and CBI enquiry be made to know the basic lapses in this matter.

The nation has proud on the martyred soldiers namely Hav. Mandeep Singh, / L/NK Debashish Singh Baswal, / NK Kulwant Singh, Sep. Harkrishan Singh, Sep. Sewak Singh

Those who other participated in the conference. Darbinder Singh President Shiromani Akali Dal J&K S. Gajan Singh President J&K Motor Transport Company Association /S.

Rajinder Singh General Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Raja Singh Sarpanch, Ex-Member DGFC Jammu, S. Ravinder Singh Sarpanch & General Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Kulwant Singh Khajuria Joint Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Smt. Kuldeep Kour President Istri Akali Dal J&K, Smt. Gurmeeet Kour General Secretary Istri Akali Dal J&K S. Charanjot Singh (KAS) retired SDM, Prof. Yudvir Singh Corporator, S. Charan Singh Bhai, Convenor, Kashmir Province Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Harpreet Singh Chhotu President Youth Akali Dal J&K, S. Surjeet Singh Kukoo President Sikh Naujawan Sabha, S. Mannohan Singh Chairman Gurdwara Singh Sabha Gole Gujral Jammu, S. Kuldeep Singh Malik, S. Kulwant Singh, S. Rasbir Singh, S. Tejpal Singh, S. Kulltar Singh, Charanveer Singh (Lad).

Tony seeks through probe into Poonch terror attack

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman Aam Admi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs, and DDC Member Suchetgarh has demanded a thorough probe into the Poonch terror attack in which five soldiers made the supreme sacrifice.

In a statement issued to media here today, while strongly condemning the terror attack, Tony alleged that this incident is yet another instance of a big security lapse after Pulwama incident for which the government and its intelligence agencies



must own the responsibility. He said that this amply indicates that Pakistan by getting such attacks executed is trying to test the alertness of the Indian security and intelligence agencies. Tony while questioning the Govt on this serious issue asked what are the intelligence agencies doing? He said that it is the real face of our agencies

then undoubtedly there is every apprehension of some very big terror onslaught in Jammu and Kashmir in the coming days.

Terming it as a major security lapse, he expressed shock and grief over losing brave hearts of the nation. He urged the Govt to be extremely serious on such issues so that we do not lose brave hearts any more. Tony also strongly condemned the so called Modi media for not highlighting such a grave and national security matter on merits.

Meanwhile, the senior AAP leader conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the brave-hearts and appealed

to the Govt to provide the best possible facilities and support to the Martyrs' families. He demanded that 'Special Identity Cards' be issued to the family members of the Martyrs so that they are accorded priority in every sector and can live a hurdle free and peaceful life.

Tony asserted that this is the nation's topmost priority as it is the result of martyrs and their families that the people across the nation are feeling safe and secure. He said that no other contribution can be more valuable than the supreme sacrifice of the soldiers and the nation stands highly indebted to them and their families.

Purnima, Sat Sharma participate in Shoba Yatra of Sukrala Mata

SAY COMMUNAL HARMONY IS JAMMU'S HALLMARK



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor Jammu along with Sat Sharma, former minister and Baldev Billawara,

Deputy Mayor Jammu participated in a Shoba Yatra of Shri Sukrala Mata Ji at Shastri Nagar here today.

The Shoba Yatra of Shri Sukrala Mata Ji was conducted annually by Baba Manoj Sharma ji. Speaking

on the occasion, Purnima Sharma laid emphasis upon maintaining communal harmony and brotherhood in the Jammu region while asserting that these are the hallmark of the City of Temples.

She said such pilgrimages provide an opportunity to devotees to seek spiritual solace while being amid the serene atmosphere," she said, adding that this Yatra will be a harbinger of peace and tranquility between various segments of the society.

Purnima hoped that the Yatra would culminate in the true spirit of togetherness with the devotees getting their spiritual thirst quenched. She urged devotees to spread the message of peace, tranquility and righteousness, adding that these are the hallmarks of Sanatan Dharma. She also complimented Baba Manoj ji for making available all the facilities to devotees and conducting the Yatra in a spirit of camaraderie and bonhomie.

JKCCA to organize National Painters' Camp

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Creative Arts (JKCCA), Jammu is going to organize a National Painters' Camp at Mansar Lake (District Samba in J&K) w.e.f. 6th-9th May, 2023. Twelve well known artists from different states/ UTs of the country are participating in this artist camp in the lap of Nature surrounding Mansar Lake. The participating artists are Dr. Rekha Rani Sharma, Gorakhpur and Pratima Singh, Lucknow; Dr A K Dixit, New Delhi; Dharminder Sharma, Amritsar; Dr. Manita Singh, Dehradun; Rani Prasad, Pune; Gaytra, Hoshiarpur; O P Sharma, Jammu; Minu Dey, Kolkata; K S Gill, Amritsar; Tariq Saifi, Surankot, Poonch; and Jang S. Verma, Jammu.



According to Sh. O P Sharma, the Founder Director of JKCCA, "The purpose of organizing such events is to promote art & culture in the Union Territory of Jammu and draw people from other parts of the country to enjoy the Natural beauty of the area. Further, such activities help in promoting

interaction between the communities and developing national integration and communal harmony." He added that the artists and art lovers are benefited by the interaction and sharing between the participating artists working in different parts of the country in their particular styles and mediums.

It may be mentioned here that JKCCA was established way back in 1999 by some art lovers and enthusiasts to preserve and promote and activate the splendid art heritage of Jammu & Kashmir and stimulate & rejuvenate it into a blossoming art movement.

Its three pronged strategy is unless the progress of languages, literature and other fine arts. The NGO has so far organized hundreds of such activities within and outside the state as well as it has successfully organized fourteen International Art Exhibitions, and many state and national level art exhibitions and painters camps during last many years. JKCCA has planned to organize the next National level Artists' Camp at Poonch during the month of June, 2023.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere - Albert Einstein

JINDRAH IMAGES

Ladakh health infra needs better management

Ladakh, the land of high passes, has a very limited working season owing to the harsh weather conditions for almost six months in any calendar year. Two vital highways connecting the region with the rest of the country remain closed during winters, which makes it difficult for transportation of essential equipment, goods and other material required for developmental activities. The region, which is already facing the shortage of manpower and infrastructure in the health sector, has shown least progress in developing infrastructure in this vital sector. A Parliamentary Panel recently expressed dismay over the failure of the UT administration to make a "substantial progress" in the establishment of a medical college at Spituk Pharka in Leh district after the lapse of three years. The project was approved by the Government of India in 2019 and the land measuring over 737 kanals has been allotted for the establishment of a new medical college. The detailed project report (DPR) for the construction of the medical college is still under process/examination. The panel has recommended that the Ministry of Home Affairs could take up the case with the concerned Ministry and Department on a priority basis to remove administrative bottlenecks and expedite the construction of the medical college. It has further suggested that the Medical College may commence its academic activities from the existing hospital of the UT so that the medical students of Ladakh can get the option of pursuing medical education in the UT. There was a proposal for setting up a 100-student intake Medical College at Spituk Pharka along with a hostel for students and a residential quarter for the staff. The area would be 71000 sqm and the medical college would include an Academic block, Lecture theatres, an Anatomy Department, Dissection Hall, Museum, Laboratories, Student common room, medical education unit, Histology Lab, Biochemistry Lab and Pathology Lab. Ladakh administration had, last year, disclosed that the region was facing a severe shortage of medical officers and doctors with nearly 60 percent of posts lying vacant. The total sanctioned strength of medical officers and doctors in Ladakh was 175 against which 100 posts in different health institutions were lying vacant which comes to over 57 percent. In order to bridge the huge gap between sanctioned and vacant posts of doctors, the UT administration of Ladakh has made it mandatory for candidates seeking benefit of reservation under ST quota to sign a compulsory bond to get admission in MBBS, BDS and post graduate courses. Under the guidelines, there would be a penalty to the tune of Rs 50 lakh for MBBS and Rs 30 lakh for BDS students in case they do not serve for five years and three years in the region, respectively. The UT administration, despite tough working conditions, should expedite the process of setting up a new medical college in the area. It will ensure better healthcare facilities in the region.

ENCOUNTERS RAISE QUESTIONS ON RULE OF LAW IN UP

UP cops should study McKinsey's report on policing if they want to improve their image. This agency said the challenges of all police systems in the world include bringing more transparency in their operations, gaining the confidence of the vulnerable population, including the minorities, and launching 'Prevention First' so that crime and deteriorating law and order situation are 'prevented', which, in turn, means less violence from their side.

RAKESH KOCHHAR

IN 2007, premier US think tank RAND defined 'ungoverned territories' with any of these four indicators — lack of state penetration or ineffective governance, lack of state monopoly of using force with illegal armed groups operating beyond state control, lack of border control or unchecked foreign interference. This definition is universally accepted by international institutions and global risk analysis agencies that are hired to do due diligence before foreign direct investment.

In August 2021, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published a study, 'The Economics of Social Unrest', that probed the relationship between social unrest and economic growth. It said, on an average, major violent incidents are followed by a

1 percentage point reduction in GDP, six quarters after the event.

Judged by the RAND definition, Prayagraj district in Uttar Pradesh, the largest province in the world, became an 'ungoverned territory' on the night of April 15. That was when three armed assailants shot Atiq Ahmad and Ashraf, two criminal-politician brothers who were being escorted by the police duly handcuffed. The killings took place in public view under the glare of TV cameras. Since they were under police custody, their security was the responsibility of the police, who were inattentive, inept and irresponsible.

This, with the alleged 'Jai Shri Ram' sloganeering by the accused after they were arrested, made the international press lay the blame on the political leadership. On April 17, The New York Times said the killings "raised concerns about how deeply extrajudicial violence — which often carries religious undertones — has seeped into the governance of the state". It also said the Chief Minister had praised the "earlier killings of Ahmad's son and his associate".

This was about the 'encounter' killing of Asad, Atiq's son, and his accomplice on April 13 in Jhansi; they were wanted in a murder case. The Chief Minister's office reportedly said that the CM "praised the UP Police's Special Task Force for the encounter killing of Asad Ahmad".

Following this, the Supreme Court was moved by advocate Vishal Tiwari through a PIL seeking an independent inquiry into all encounter killings in Uttar Pradesh since 2017, the year the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government assumed power. Tiwari also said in the absence of any reaction or counterfite by the police escort on April 15, the incident had raised "doubts on the functioning of the police" and "that the Saturday killings were a pre-planned attack".

The PIL also appealed to the Supreme Court to take steps to prevent the police from becoming



ing "a mode of delivering final justice or a punishing authority. The power of punishment is only vested in the judiciary".

On April 14, a news report on 'encounters', quoting the UP Police, stated that since March 2017, more than 10,900 police encounters had taken place in Uttar Pradesh. During these encounters, 183 criminals were killed, 5,046 injured and 23,300 arrested. During these operations, 13 policemen were killed, while 1,443 were injured. The Opposition leaders, who were interviewed, said most of these encounters were 'bogus'.

This was proved on the ground by a researcher who wrote for The Wire on February 24, 2018, after interviewing relatives of some of those killed in the encounters. The case of Furquan, who was in Muzaffarnagar jail as an undertrial for seven years for a petty village squabble, was the first one. He was released in October 2017 since the opposite party was not keen to pursue the case. Two weeks later, on October 23, he was shot on the suspicion that he was involved in "a large number of dacoities in Saharanpur, Shamli and Muzaffarnagar". His wife wondered how he could have been involved in dacoities when he was in jail for seven years till October 2017.

The report quoted an RTI query, which revealed that 1,782 cases of 'fake' encounters were registered in India between 2000 and 2017. According to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), UP accounted for an alarming 44.55 per cent (794 cases) of these cases, proving that it was a traditional method of rendering quick police justice. The NHRC

also said Rs 9.47 crore was awarded as compensation in 160 cases from UP.

Continued references about extrajudicial violence in the international media has affected foreign investment decisions in other countries. On January 2, 2017, Forbes carried a report, 'How Philippine President Duterte's Anti-Drug Killings Will Stunt Economic Growth', which quoted the American Chamber of Commerce and Moody's to say that foreign investors were "concerned with the law and order situation", which was a hindrance to foreign investment.

President Duterte's fourth year in office saw a damning report by the UN Human Rights Council that the vigilante killings in the country were "widespread, systematic and ongoing". It said since 2016, when Duterte assumed power, 27,000 suspected drug peddlers were killed in addition to 250 human rights defenders in a mix of police operations and vigilante killings. This UN report had compelled the Philippines Justice Minister to set up an inter-agency panel to review 5,600 police operations.

UP cops should study McKinsey's report "Policing — a vision for 2025" if they want to improve their image.

This agency, which in the past had studied various police systems, had said the challenges of all police systems in the world include bringing more transparency in their operations, gaining the confidence of the vulnerable population, including the minorities, and launching 'Prevention First' so that crime and deteriorating law and order situations are 'prevented', which, in turn, means less violence from their side.

JUST THE RIGHT ROLE CALL

NONIKA SINGH

Vikramaditya Motwane's web-series, 'Jubilee', recreating the film industry of 1940s and '50s deserves a shout-out for more than one reason. From costumes to music to period setting, everything is on point. But one tangible and palpable factor why the series stood out is also its perfect casting and stellar acting. Among the impressive acts is Aparshakti Khurana's credible performance. If in this Amazon Prime Video series, he transforms from a diffident yet ambitious Binod Das to reigning superstar Madan Kumar with consummate ease, he also moves out of the comedy genre. From the goofy actor with a perfect comic timing in superhit movies like 'Dangal' and 'Stree', he comes across as a serious actor of many shades in this series. Perhaps, with this act, he also breaks out of the shadow of being Ayushmann Khurrana's younger brother. excerpts from an interview:

In 'Jubilee', your character becomes a star. Do you think off-screen it has made you a star too?

Well, I wouldn't go that far. Even today I am just a humble artiste, only a little busier and more preoccupied with my work. Each night my wife and I thank God almighty for bestowing His grace on a simple guy like me from a small city.

How did you land up this plum part?

Gaining recognition as a comic actor, Aparshakti Khurana, the younger brother of Bollywood star Ayushmann, has broken many moulds to come across as a serious actor of repute in 'Jubilee'. Nonika Singh talks to the actor who aspired to be a TV host and started as a costume stylist in the wake of many rejections

I had been following up with Vikram sir (Vikramaditya Motwane) for over a year. I think when we talk of good content in this industry, he, who has helmed films like 'Lootera', 'Udaan' and 'Trapped', is a flag-bearer of pure and serious cinema. So, I really wanted to work with him. Once the writing was done, I was called for auditions, not once but thrice over. These were really gruelling auditions, where the final audition was with proper costumes, makeup, camera and all. At that point, they had two choices for every character. Right now, I am in a space where, as a rule, I don't need to go through auditions. But for Vikram sir, I would audition any day, anytime.

What was the next step?

We were put through workshops conducted by the director himself and writer Atul Sabharwal. Besides, there were dialect and acting coaches as well. These workshops lasted for months, which only reaffirmed my belief that Vikram sir is no ordinary director but someone who truly understands his craft and is a perfectionist. He demands the same perfection from his cast and crew.

What exactly was his directorial brief?

He told me, 'Look, I have got my Binod. Now all you have to do is con-



trol the tempo of your walk and talk; in short, calm yourself.' See, I am a Chandigarh boy, a typical Punju, always on my toes, a foodie, constantly thinking of butter chicken and stuff. But still, the transition was easy. From the moment you entered the sets where every single detail (cameras, cars, lamp posts) had been taken care of, keeping the old-world charm

in mind, you were automatically transported into another era. Come to think of it, every single person on the sets, be it the cinematographer or the light man or my co-actors, was such an inspiring presence that you fell into the groove effortlessly.

Is your character fashioned after any actor?

Not that I am aware of. In the

decade (1946 to mid-1950s), the period which 'Jubilee' covers, there were only a handful of actors. You could say each character in the series has some nuances of those shining at that point. But it was not one particular actor(s). Vikram sir would not like to limit his actors by suggesting to act or look like a particular actor. Perhaps, costume designers were given more precise directions. But I was just being myself. Don't forget, at the end of the day, 'Jubilee' is a fictional drama.

How do you look at Binod Das? A grey and deceitful man, or a tragic hero?

I think he is simply an underdog, a hero with very humble beginnings who has dreams and aspirations. I could relate to him, for something similar has happened in my life as well. I wanted to be a television host and wrote to a music TV channel, but they would just not entertain me. So, I started as a costume stylist with them and though the dynamics in the series is very different and involves a greater paradigm shift, I, too, worked my way up.

What were the challenges in playing this character?

Here, I must confess that playing Madan Kumar was easy, for all actors look at the mirror and wonder; 'Will I

be famous one day?' It's a familiar sentiment. The flamboyance of being a star comes easy; it's almost something we Chandigarh boys get as khairat. But being the struggling Binod Das was tougher. Here, my training as a costume stylist who would tie the laces of my hosts with the same passion as I would audition for roles later, came in handy.

What was your personal prep like... did you watch a lot of movies of that era?

We are a family of film buffs and have grown up on a staple diet of movies.

I have been watching films and listening to music all my life. I have seen 'Mughal-e-Azam', 'Guide', 'Jewel Thief'; you name it and it would be on my watched-list. One of my cherished memories, when I was just in class two, is that of a dhaba owner telling my father that I looked like Dilip Kumar and my teary-eyed grandmother gifting me Rs 11. My grandmother was also a diarch film enthusiast who could mimic Raj Kapoor and Dilip Kumar with equal élan. My personal favourite, though, is the evergreen Dev Anand whose understanding of cinema from technology to music was immense. His films and songs are forever etched on my mind-scape.

Shehnaaz Gill interrupts interviewer who kept translating fan questions in Hindi: 'Itni bhi failure nahi hun'

Shehnaaz Gill, who gained fame after she appeared in Bigg Boss 13, has been actively promoting her Hindi film debut Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaa. During a recent interview, when Shehnaaz was presented with a few fan questions, the interviewer translated every question from English to Hindi. After answering a few questions, Shehnaaz interrupted him and said that she understands the language "a little" and isn't a "failure." "English meinhe thodi thodi samajh aane lagi hai ab. Itni bhi failure nahi hun main (I understand English a little bit. I'm not such a failure)." Shehnaaz said this with a laugh and the interviewer also shared a smile after her comment.

Shehnaaz has previously spoken about not being very comfortable in English during her stay in the Bigg Boss house but Shehnaaz has come a long way from those days. The Honsla Rakkh actor used to frequently take a dig at herself when confronted with situations where she had to speak in English. She once shared her version of the Justin Bieber song Peaches and shared in the caption, "Kaun kehta hai mujhe English nahi aati? Chahie Punjabi touch hai. English English hi hoti hai, chahie kisi bhi language mein bol (Who says I don't know how to speak in English? So what if it has a Punjabi touch? English is English, no matter what accent you speak it in)."



Zeenat Aman 'revels in her edge' as she dons a chic avatar for latest photoshoot, fan says 'Just really edgy and beautiful'



Veteran Bollywood star Zeenat Aman was recently reminded of her "edgy" as she did a photoshoot for the promotion of a jewellery brand. The yesteryear diva shared some of her stylish pictures on social media and also wrote about her experience of doing a brand promotion after so many years.

Aman wore black trousers and a matching blazer which she paired with a white t-shirt. The actor accessorised her look with gold jewellery which included bangles, rings and a stylish necklace. In the photos, she also highlighted a customised locket which had her monochrome photo engraved in it. Talking to Instagram, the 71-year-old actor wrote, "I took my time to agree to this collaboration, but once Suhani started painting a picture for me - sharing her inspirations and designs and concept - I was sold."

The Haré Rama Haré Krishna actor added, "Shoot day validated my decision as we spent an effortless evening at the studio, with Tanya behind the lens and a small crew of talented hair and makeup technicians. Suhani, glowing and showing, helmed the production with rare clarity."

Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan leads IMDb list of most anticipated films this summer; Animal and Adipurush make it to top three

IMDb has released a list of the top 10 most awaited films in the summer of 2023 and actor Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan has made it to the top of the list. The Atlee directorial, which releases in June, will be Shah Rukh's second release this year after Pathaan. Ranbir Kapoor's Animal and Prabhas' Adipurush follows Pathaan in the list.

A post on IMDb India's Twitter handle read, "Among the Indian movies with planned releases in India between May 1 and August 31, these 10 were consistently the most popular with IMDb users, as determined by the actual page views of the more than 200 million monthly visitors to IMDb worldwide in 2023 so far." The top 10 list is a mix of Hindi and Telugu films. On the fourth place is



Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel's Gadar 2, which is the sequel of 2001 mega hit Gadar: Ek Prem Katha.

The fifth spot is taken by Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas's Hindi debut Chatrapathi, the Hindi remake of Prabhas' Telugu film of the same name. Ajay Devgn's Maidaan, which releases on June 23, takes the sixth place.

The seventh and eighth spot on the list is filled by Sidharth Malhotra's Yodha and Alia Bhatt-Ranveer Singh starrer Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani.

The first Telugu film in the list is Hanuman, directed by Prasanth Varma, which occupies the ninth position.

The last spot in the list is taken up by Custody, starring actor Naga Chaitanya in the lead role.

Ajay Devgn, Kajol wish daughter Nysa on her 20th birthday: 'Raise the daughter people are a little scared of'

Bollywood stars Kajol and Ajay Devgn are happy parents today as daughter Nysa turns 20. Taking to social media, the Kuch Kuch Hota Hai actor posted some beautiful photos with Nysa and complimented her for her "sense of humour", "mind" and "so very sweet heart." "This is us and our story always. Love your sense of humour and ur mind and your oh so very sweet heart... love you to..." Kajol wrote, adding hashtags, "#daughtersrock #mybabygirl #happy20th #allgrownupnow." The photo, from their appearance at the NMACC event has then twinning in white-gold outfits, and looking at each other with broad smiles.

The actor also shared some quotes about daughters on her Instagram stories, giving a glimpse of Nysa's personality. "She is sunshine mixed with a little hurricane," one of the posters read. Another one depicted her love for her child. "Sometimes when I need a miracle I look into my daughter's eyes and realize I have already created one." The last one spoke about the kind of upbringing Kajol and Ajay Devgn gave their daughter. "Raise the daughter people are a little scared of. Teach her to be fierce, independent, and not give a crap about what people think. Raise her to be a little firecracker who is going to change the world and make a difference," the poster read.

Father Ajay Devgn, on the other hand, posted a collage with Nysa on his Instagram page. He wrote, "#FatherofMyPride Happy birthday baby." The pictures have the father-daughter duo making cute faces as the camera captured them. Earlier, a video of Kajol and Nysa from the red carpet of the NMACC opening ceremony left the internet users in splits.

Priyanka Chopra reflects on failed 'two-second music career', says she has 40 unreleased songs: 'They'll never be heard'



Priyanka Chopra has now established herself as an actor in Hollywood, with multiple high-profit projects under her belt. But a decade ago, she first attempted to make inroads in the West through music. Priyanka collaborated with several

pop stars, and released a handful of singles. But her music career didn't quite take off, and she gamely laughed.

While chatting with Film Companion, Priyanka reflected on her 'two-second music career' and said that if everybody is going to have an opinion about it, she wouldn't want to feel left out. Priyanka made her debut as an actor in Hollywood with a lead role in the television series Quantico. Priyanka said that after spending her entire 20s working non-stop, she enjoyed the freedom that her brief stint as a popstar gave her, especially because it happened in the US, where she still had relative anonymity. She said that she really admires musicians, because they create from nothing, whereas actors always 'lean on' other people's words and direction. "So, when I started doing music, I was in the room with all these people that I had grown up admiring, like will.i.am, Pitbull and RedOne... I was spinning, and I was suddenly doing stuff that I liked." Priyanka said that she wasn't exactly filled with hope after she heard her first song. "I didn't think it was going to be long term," she said, as the crowd laughed. "I was enjoying it too much to give it up," she said.

Song Joong Ki goes out on date with wife Katy, holds hands in Rome, she debuts baby bump for first time

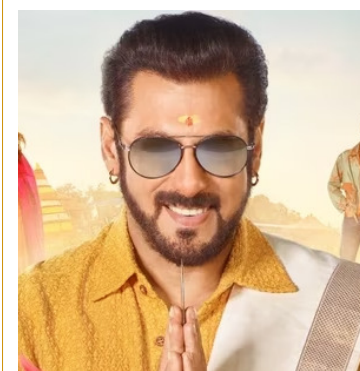
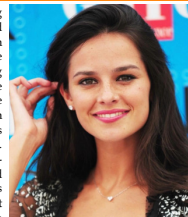
Actor Song Joong Ki and his British wife Katy Louise Saunders are making the most of their time in Rome. They were seen out and about in some new pictures being shared online. The couple is expecting their first child together and this is the first time that Katy's baby bump

was visible in the public. In the leaked photos, the actor and his wife Katy Louise Saunders are seen busy talking to each other. They were walking on a street in Rome. Katy's baby bump was clearly visible as she wore a white top with black leggings and a grey cardigan with sunnies. Song Joong Ki opted for an off-duty look in a navy blue sweatshirt and pants.

The couple was walking hand-in-hand. In another photo, he was holding her close as both walked together. Ever since the pictures arrived online, fans have been raving about the couple and how Song Joong Ki continues to be a protective husband. Earlier, he was seen protecting Katy at Incheon airport as they made their first public appearance as husband and wife.

Reacting to their new photos, a fan wrote on Twitter, "It just makes me feel that love can find a way even if it's far away." "Its giving hollywood couple vibes," added another one. One more said, "They're adorable. You can see in their actions that they really love each other and not just pretending. Look at them they don't care if being seen and photographed with this kind of sweetness. They are proud to tell the whole world about their love for each other. Unlike some."

Reportedly, Song Joong Ki and Katy were previously in Hungary for the actor's My Name is Loh Kiwan shoot. It's not known if they are currently in Rome for work or personal reasons. My Name is Loh Kiwan is based on the novel, I met Loh Kiwan by Jo Hae Jin and said to focus on a North Korean defector and a woman who has no will to live.



Salma- Kha- a- d Eid blockbusters: Is Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaa- the festive bo- a- za audie- ce wa- ts?

For years, a Salman Khan release was part of every Eid celebrations. The festivities would not be complete till Bhai arrived at the theatres with his latest movie. His audiences - families, lovers, fans, film critics and cinegoers - would watch, dance and debate Salman Khan starrers while makers laughed all the way to bank. Everything the star touched turned to gold. However, after Salman's releases such as Tubelight (2017) and Bharat (2019) didn't manage to do the expected numbers at the box office, followed by a dark

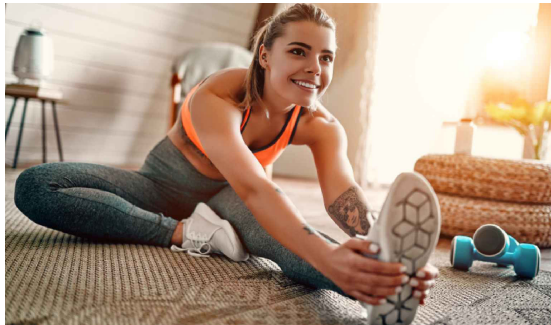
phase during the Covid-19 pandemic, many are wondering if Bhai can conjure the same magic in a world changed by Covid. To understand the significance of Salman's films releasing on Eid, and how he continues to remain India's true blue superstar with a rare mass pull, we at indianexpress.com spoke to trade experts, exhibitors and ad gurus. Trade expert and film producer Girish Johar agrees that the buzz of Salman Khan's Eid releases today is "comparatively little less" than it used to be earlier. Explaining why he thinks so, he

says, "I agree, the buzz around Salman's Eid releases on comparatively little less, but please understand that the box-office dynamics has changed post-pandemic. Having said that Salman Khan is releasing a full blown commercial film (Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaa) this Friday. Traditionally Eid releases had become a part of festivities for families. Families would flock to cinema halls to catch their Bhai's film after Ramzan was over and to start the festival with him. This feeling is still there, it is a

signature Salman Khan offering when he releases his films on Eid." Mumbai's veteran exhibitor Manoj Desai is elated with the Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaa buzz. He shares with us, "I'll be running edit shows daily, both Maratha Mandir and Gaiety Galaxy has a capacity of 1000 people each, so at any given point of time over the weekend, I'll have 2000 people watching the film and other 2000 people entering the next show." When asked if Salman's Eid releases has had a negative impact after his last couple of films didn't get a critical

acclaim, he says, "public hai, yeh sab jaanti hai. Only the audience will decide if the film is good or not. But there is a palpable excitement among the audiences as per the advance bookings. Both my theatres - Maratha Mandir and Gaiety Galaxy - are in areas where many my Muslim brothers and sisters reside, they'll be celebrating Eid and coming down to watch the movie. I am hoping that it does as well as Pathaan, the audience supported Shah Rukh Khan and now I am sure they'll shower their love on Salman as well."

Build strength and maintain muscle mass without going to the gym! Here's how



For far too long, we have been made to believe that muscles are only built in the gym! But that's not always true. There may be times in life where going to the gym may neither be a choice, nor a possibility. Even if are a gym-loving person, sickness or travel may keep you away from it. As a fitness enthusiast, you may probably worry about losing all your gains that you achieved after sweating it out in the gym. Well, you don't have to worry, as you can maintain the muscle mass you worked so hard to build. You just have to pick the right exercises that you can do at home or while you are away from the gym.

To figure out how to maintain muscle mass without going to

the gym, HealthShots connected with fitness guru Amander Singh of Team Amander fame.

Importance of maintaining muscle mass

Maintaining muscle mass is not only important, but it becomes a mandatory requirement, especially as we grow older. Singh explains that this is because as we grow up, we gradually begin to lose muscle mass. What's worse, we end up accumulating more fat mass. As we cross the age 40, muscle breakdown happens at the rate of 7 percent. It shoots up to 15 percent by the time we touch 60! The expert says that reduced muscle mass in this age means complete loss of strength, as we can't even move a single limb

without the help of muscles. So, muscle mass muscle exercises are the only preventive solution to retain strength as we grow older. Neglecting your muscle mass can lead to an increased risk of serious health conditions such as osteoporosis.

Exercises to build and maintain muscle mass at home

We know that push-ups work the chest, triceps, shoulders, and multiple other muscles, besides increasing your upper body strength (beginners' guide to ace push-ups at home). But there's more you can do to maintain mass muscle at home. Here are some of the exercises you can do at home!

1. Lateral leg raises

your toe flexed, 5 with your toe pointed, and 5 with your toe pointed toward the ceiling. These are core and lower body exercises that help in building

and shoulders.
5. Pelvic exercise
Lie down on the floor on your back and then lift the hip up and squeeze it. You need to hold

UNABLE TO GO TO THE GYM? YOU CAN ALWAYS DO INTERESTING WORKOUTS AT HOME WHICH WOULD HELP YOU TO BUILD STRENGTH AND MAINTAIN MUSCLE MASS.

mass muscle.
2. Water bottle curls with 5 kg water bottle

Hold a 5 kg or 1 litre water bottle in each hand, stand with your feet apart and curl the water bottles up towards your shoulders with your palms facing in. This exercise builds up your forearms and biceps.

3. Water bottle shoulder overhead press with 5 kg water bottles

Stand with your feet shoulder-width apart and hold a 5 kg water bottle in each hand. Raise the water bottles and take them overhead, pause for a few seconds, and then bring your hands down. This exercise works up your entire triceps and shoulders, says Singh.

4. Shoulder front raises with bottle

Stand straight with your feet a little apart and hold a water bottle in each hand. Extend your shoulders and elbows to drive the water bottles straight up. This exercise targets your biceps

each squeeze just for a few seconds and then release it. This helps to strengthen your pelvic floor muscles, which further enhances your bowel and bladder control.

6. Rowing back exercise
Rowing back exercise is done by holding any grill and pulling the body towards the grill. This works your back and upper arms and helps to build your entire upper body strength.

7. Spot walking

While walking on the spot, raise your knee up to the hip level and swing your hands the way you do when you walk outdoors. Walking on the spot is simple and an effective exercise, says Singh. It helps to burn calories, improves your cardiovascular fitness and also increases the strength and endurance of your leg muscles. You also need to focus on proper nutrition to maintain muscle mass. Increase your intake of proteins by consuming foods such as chicken, fish and eggs.

Afternoon is the best time to exercise for a longer life, study suggests



The debate around the best time to workout has always been circling the health industry for a while now. Last year, a study suggested that women who exercise in the morning lose more belly fat and have lower blood pressure.

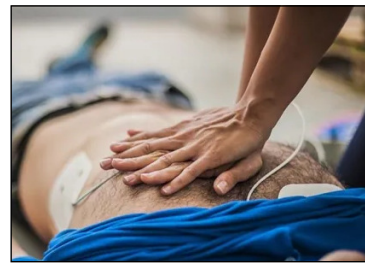
However, a new study has now shown that exercising during the lunch hour can protect you from premature death more than morning or evening workouts.

The research, titled Associations of the timing of physical activity with all-cause and cause-specific mortality in a prospective cohort study, has been published in the journal Nature Communications and evaluated health and demographic data from 92,000 people from a UK biomedical database, which maintains the health data for about 500,000 UK residents. Participants as part of the study were given accelerometers that measure when and how intensely they work out over a period of seven days. The team of scientists looked at mortality records after several years and found that about 3,000 participants had died, with about 1,000 from heart disease and 1,800 from cancer. A surprising correlation that the team of researchers found was that the men and women who most frequently engaged in moderate or vigorous physical activity (like brisk walking), lived longer than people who had rarely worked out, no matter what time of the day they got up and moved. Links between midday exercise and even better odds of longer life were also seen by the team. The researchers pointed out that the afternoon apparently coincides with the time of the day when, statistically, people are least likely to experience a heart attack. They mentioned that although these associated were made among the elderly, males and less physically active participants, they saw moderate-to-vigorous physical activity could have the 'potential to improve public health.'

How artificial intelligence can be trained to detect tumour: Research

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be trained to detect whether or not a tissue picture contains a tumour. However, until recently, it has remained a mystery as to how it makes its judgement. A team from Ruhr-Universität Bochum's Research Center for Protein Diagnostics (PRODI) is working on a new approach that will make an AI's judgement clear and hence trustworthy.

The researchers led by Professor Axel Mosig describe the approach in the journal Medical Image Analysis. For the study, bioinformatics scientist Axel Mosig cooperated with Professor Andrea Tannapfel, head of the Institute of Pathology, oncologist Professor Anke Reinacher-Schick from the Ruhr-Universität's St. Josef Hospital, and biophysicist and PRODI founding director, Professor Klaus Gerwert. The group developed a neural network, i.e. an AI, that can classify



whether a tissue sample contains tumour or not. To this end, they fed the AI a large number of microscopic tissue images, some of which contained tumours, while others were tumour-free. "Neural networks are initially a black box: it's unclear which identifying features a network learns from the training data," explains Axel Mosig. Unlike human experts, they lack the

ability to explain their decisions. "However, for medical applications in particular, it's important that the AI is capable of explanation and thus trustworthy," adds bioinformatics scientist David Schumacher, who collaborated on the study. AI is based on falsifiable hypotheses. The Bochum team's explainable AI is therefore based on the only kind of meaningful statements known

to science: on falsifiable hypotheses. If a hypothesis is false, this fact must be demonstrable through an experiment. Artificial intelligence usually follows the principle of inductive reasoning: using concrete observations, i.e. the training data, the AI creates a general model on the basis of which it evaluates all further observations. The underlying problem had been described by philosopher David Hume 250 years ago and can be easily illustrated: "No matter how many white swans we observe, we could never conclude from this data that all swans are white and that no black swans exist whatsoever. Science therefore makes use of so-called deductive logic. In this approach, a general hypothesis is the starting point. For example, the hypothesis that all swans are white is falsified when a black swan is spotted. Activation maps show where the tumour is detected. "At first glance, inductive AI and the deductive scientific

method seem almost incompatible," says Stephanie Schorner, a physicist who likewise contributed to the study. But the researchers found a way. Their novel neural network not only provides a classification of whether a tissue sample contains a tumour or is tumour-free, it also generates an activation map of the microscopic tissue image.

The activation map is based on a falsifiable hypothesis, namely that the activation derived from the neural network corresponds exactly to the tumour regions in the sample. Site-specific molecular methods can be used to test this hypothesis. "Thanks to the interdisciplinary structures at PRODI, we have the best prerequisites for incorporating the hypothesis-based approach into the development of trustworthy biomarker AI in the future, for example to be able to distinguish between certain therapy-relevant tumour subtypes," concludes Axel Mosig.

Back Pain Is a Backpacker's Worst Enemy. These Exercises Fight it.



Your back does a lot for you on the trail. Besides helping you tote your gear, its muscles stabilize your core and help you balance, guarding against stumbles and falls. Injuring it is a quick way to make an otherwise fun trip into a teeth-gritting, fist-clenching, painful ordeal.

How to fight it? Lightening your pack is a good start – after all, the more weight you're toting, the more strain you're putting on your body. But working back-strengthening exercises into your weekly routine is even better. By prepping the load-bearing and stabilizing muscles in your back in advance of your hike, you can alleviate the stress from old injuries and prevent new ones.

To learn how, we turned to mountain guide and personal trainer Jason Antin, who shared these back-strengthening exercises as part of our Six Weeks to Trail Fit course on Outside Learn. Below, he runs through three exercises designed to help tune up your back.

Peloton's Robin Arzón Is Building a Web3 Community Around Working Out

The fitness industry has long used gamification methods to motivate health and wellness. From FitBits to workout-tracking apps, data gamification has given fitness brands new insights into customer behavior while motivating gym goers to stay on target with their goals.

"Anything that gets people moving is a good thing," says Robin Arzón, vice president of fitness programming and head instructor at Peloton. "I've gone through seasons of gamification in my life, even though I certainly wouldn't call myself a gamer."

Arzón has been exploring how Web3 can embolden fitness communities more effectively than centralized membership platforms. She recently founded Swagger Society, a Web3 lifestyle membership club that is expected to be launched in the coming months. Though she says she prefers "throwing barbells" over her head and running sprints more than working out through augmented reality (AR) games and virtual reality (VR) headsets, she's open to the ways that Web3 technology might improve our overall health.



"Who knows what the future holds?" says Arzón. "I'm not going to knock somebody's path to wellness. If [games] work for them, and they're able to do it consistently – go for it." The move-to-earn economy Behavior change is a major component in most fitness clubs today. Gym memberships often come with proprietary data-tracking apps that sync

with members' devices and document progress over time. In some ways, the fitness industry's culture is similar to that of Web3, which places a major focus on incentivizing participation. Many decentralized protocols (DeFi) protocols and Web3 communities function smoothly due to a shared allegiance to economic incentives. Examples include non-fungible

token (NFT) airdrops for loyal fans, crypto rewards for staking a particular coin or distributing proof-of-attendance protocols (POAP) for showing up to an event. Even the existence of

process of earning their crypto last year, a nod to the potential efficacy of MZE gaming. But is such progress sustainable? Arzón believes that gamification

because members become more than simply monthly subscribers. Purchasing an NFT acts as a lifetime, all-access pass, granting holders entry to a community led by their favorite

HE EXERCISE GIANT'S VICE PRESIDENT OF FITNESS PROGRAMMING IS SOON LAUNCHING SWAGGER SOCIETY, A WEB3 LIFESTYLE MEMBERSHIP CLUB THAT AIMS TO FOSTER A FITNESS COMMUNITY IN WEB3.

crypto is made possible through mining rewards, which pay miners for using their computer power to verify transactions.

Interesting possibilities emerge when we combine the economic approach of Web3 with the fitness industry. Last year, a new fitness-oriented category of blockchain gaming called move-to-earn (MZE) games tested the theory that rewarding consumers with crypto tokens would motivate them to exercise. The popular Solana-based MZE game StepN reported \$122.5 million in profits in the second quarter of 2022, and its ecosystem token GMT has a total market cap of ?over \$231 million. Moreover, StepN says its users ran more than 104 billion miles in the

can certainly motivate behavior, but beyond any new gimmicks and gadgets, it's good old-fashioned consistency that unlocks the true benefits of fitness as a lifestyle. For this level of transformation, a person needs more than a game or a token, they need an accountability partner, says Arzón. "Finding like-minded, values-driven folks who are willing to put those values into action is what gives [a new behavior] 'stickiness,'" said Arzón. "That's certainly what Swagger Society will be based on, community as the linchpin of everything that we do." She believes that, beyond the short-term incentivization of MZE gaming, NFT membership models may provide the perfect level of "stickiness"

instructors without third-party intermediaries and centralized platforms. "It's exciting for me to be able to reward my day-one followers and my new followers in unprecedented ways, as well as have them invest in this new creative economy in a way that's never been possible before," said Arzón. She hopes Swagger Society will give her more direct communication with her followers and create a "feedback loop" allowing her to go deeper with members' needs. "I want to engage in a way that I've never been able to do before with this technology," she said. "I'm interested in being a fire starter in people's lives through the mechanisms with which I can do that the most dynamically, robustly and directly."

Biden says US embassy evacuation in Sudan has been completed

WASHINGTON, APR 23: President Joe Biden said late Saturday that the U.S. military had completed the evacuation of U.S. embassy personnel in Sudan, and called for end to "unconscionable" violence there as two rival leaders battled for power in the African country.

Biden thanked the U.S. troops who carried out the mission to extract American staffers in Sudan. With the evacuation, Washington shuttered the U.S. mission in Khartoum indefinitely.

The staffers were airlifted to an undisclosed location in Ethiopia, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the mission. U.S. troops carried out the operation as fighting between two armed Sudanese commanders — which has killed more than 400, put the nation at risk of collapse and could have consequences far beyond its borders — moved into a second week.

"I am proud of the extraordinary commitment of our Embassy staff, who performed their duties with courage and professionalism and embodied America's friendship and connection with the people of Sudan," Biden said in a statement. "I am grateful for the unmatched skill of our service members who successfully brought them to safety."

Biden also thanked Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia for their help with the mission.

Biden ordered American troops to evacuate embassy personnel earlier Saturday from his national security team with no end in sight to the fighting.

"This tragic violence in Sudan has already cost the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians. It's



unconscionable and it must stop," Biden said. "The belligerent parties must implement an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, allow unhindered humanitarian access, and respect the will of the people of Sudan."

The evacuation order was believed to apply to about 70 Americans. U.S. forces were flying them from a landing zone at the embassy to an unspecified location.

The State Department has suspended operations at the embassy due to the dire security situation. It was not clear when the embassy might resume functioning. The widespread fighting has caused significant numbers of civilian deaths and injuries and damage to essential infrastructure and posed an unacceptable risk to our Embassy personnel," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

The fighting erupted April 15 between two factions whose leaders are vying for control over the country. The violence has included an unprovoked attack on an American diplomatic convoy and numerous incidents in which foreign diplomats and aid workers

were killed, injured or assaulted.

The White House has said it has no plans for a government-coordinated evacuation of American citizens trapped in Sudan. An estimated 16,000 private U.S. citizens are registered with the embassy as being in Sudan.

Biden said he was receiving regular reports from his team on efforts to assist those remaining Americans in Sudan "to the extent possible."

The embassy issued an alert earlier Saturday cautioning that "due to the uncertain security situation in Khartoum and closure of the airport, it is not currently safe to undertake a U.S. government-coordinated evacuation of private U.S. citizens."

Fighting in Sudan between forces loyal to two top generals has put that nation at risk of collapse and could have consequences far beyond its borders.

The fighting, which began as Sudan attempted to transition to democracy, already has left millions trapped in urban areas, sheltering from gunfire, explosions and looters. Army chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan said Saturday he

would facilitate the evacuation of American, British, Chinese and French citizens and diplomats from Sudan after speaking with the leaders of several countries that had requested help. The rival Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, in a Twitter posting said it cooperated with U.S. forces.

The U.S. evacuation planning got underway in earnest on Monday after the embassy convoy was attacked in Khartoum.

The Pentagon confirmed on Friday that U.S. troops were being moved to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti ahead of a possible evacuation.

Saudi Arabia announced the successful repatriation of some of its citizens on Saturday, sharing footage of Saudi nationals and other foreigners welcomed with chocolate and flowers as they stepped off an apparent evacuation ship at the Saudi port of Jeddah.

Embassy evacuations conducted by the U.S. military are relatively rare and usually take place only under extreme conditions.

When it orders an embassy to draw down staff or suspend operations, the State Department prefers to have its personnel leave on commercial transportation if that is an option. When the embassy in Kyiv temporarily closed just before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, 2022, staffers used commercial transport to leave.

However, in several other recent cases, notably in Afghanistan in 2021, conditions made commercial departures impossible or extremely hazardous. U.S. troops accompanied personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, in an overland convoy to Tunisia when they evacuated in 2014.

Tens of thousands of Israelis rally against judicial reform plan

TEL AVIV: Thousands of protesters flocked to Tel Aviv and cities across Israel to express their opposition to the government's plan to overhaul the country's judicial system, Al Jazeera reported.

Crowds of Israeli protesters held banners in Tel Aviv at Saturday's protest, the latest in a series of weekly actions since the start of the year. Plans by Netanyahu's government to reform the Judicial System have outraged Israelis who see it as an assault on their country's system of checks and balances and a threat to its very democracy. "This is not about so-called judicial reform, it's about democracy," said Sheila Katz, head of the National Council of Jewish Women, from the rally in central Tel Aviv.

"In order for your sacred courts to protect the rights of all people, they must remain independent from politics," she added. Protests last month brought Israeli cities to a standstill and threatened to shut down the economy, compelling Netanyahu to delay the judicial reform plan in hopes of finding a compromise. However, protesters have been undeterred. Crowds of Israelis have flooded the streets in the weeks after Netanyahu



been broken down, demanding that the overhaul be scrapped altogether. The plan would give Netanyahu and his partners in Israel's most hardline coalition in its history the final say in appointing the nation's judges. It would also give Parliament the authority to overturn Supreme Court decisions and limit the court's ability to review laws. Thousands of officers in elite reserve units of the military have said they will refuse to report for duty. High-tech business leaders and the security establishment have come out against the proposal. Trade unions have called for a general strike.

Netanyahu agreed in late March to call a timeout on advancing legislation that would give the government almost complete control over almost all judicial appointments to the

Supreme Court and other courts, along with other parts of the judicial package. The month-long suspension was announced after weeks of intensifying protests had brought the country practically to a standstill.

However, leaders of the protest movement have threatened to deploy new forms of non-violent civil disobedience if lawmakers move to swiftly advance the legislation, highlighting rampant doubts around talks to reach a compromise on the sweeping reforms. One of the major forms of non-violent civil disobedience used so far has been to block major highways and junctions around the country, causing severe traffic jams and leading to confrontations with the police who have used water cannons and stun grenades to disperse protesters.

Buckingham Palace averted Kohinoor 'side story' for King Charles's Coronation says royal expert

LONDON, APR 23: Buckingham Palace would have been conscious about the potential for controversy around the colonial era Kohinoor diamond claimed by India and averted it becoming a side story of King Charles III and Queen Camilla's Coronation ceremony next month, a royal expert has said.

Camilla Tominey is the Associate Editor of 'The Daily Telegraph' and has an inside track to the British royal family as the newspaper's royal expert.

In an interview with PTI, she reflected upon the significance of Camilla choosing to forgo the traditional crown used for the monarch's partner as the "consort crown" due to it



being embedded with the Kohinoor — also known as Koh-i-Noor. Among the crown jewels unveiled by the palace for the Coronation ceremony on May 6, it was confirmed that Queen Mary's Crown has been chosen by Camilla. "I think the palace were conscious about the Kohinoor perhaps being controversial and therefore have

decided that they don't want there to be a side story about the provenance of these diamonds," said Tominey. "Basically, [the palace have] decided to do the safe and sensible thing, to not have a separate debate about the jewels in the crown," noted Tominey. Earlier this month, the palace said that minor changes and additions to

Queen Mary's Crown are being undertaken, such as the inclusion of the Cullinan III, IV and V diamonds which were part of Queen Elizabeth II's personal jewellery collection for many years. The design has been inspired by Queen Alexandra's Crown of 1902 — which was originally entrusted with the Kohinoor, which now sits in the crown of the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the mother of Queen Elizabeth II, since 1937. Last month, Historic Royal Palaces, the charity that manages Britain's palaces, said that the infamous diamond will instead be part of a new Jewel House exhibition at the Tower of London classed as

a "symbol of conquest" for the first time. According to its assessment, the diamond probably originated from the Golconda mines in southern India and weighs 105.6 carats. It was once much larger but was re-cut in 1852 to improve its brilliance and conform to contemporary European tastes. Kohinoor, which means mountain of light in Persian, came into Queen Victoria's possession from the treasury of Maharaja Ranjit Singh a few years before she was to be crowned empress of India in the wake of the 1857 Revolt and has played a starring role in British coronations of the past until its conspicuous absence in next month's ceremony.

'Keep Calm Carry On' UK tests first-ever phone-based emergency alert

LONDON, APR 23: The UK government issued a "Keep Calm and Carry On, this is just a test" message for its first-ever life-saving Emergency Alerts warning system, sent to every 4G and 5G enabled smartphone device in the country on Sunday. A major awareness campaign was launched at 3 pm local time to ensure the British public was aware of the new system's test. The alert has been described as an additional tool in Britain's resilience toolkit when there is an imminent risk to life — such as floods or wildfires. "Keep Calm and Carry On — that is the British way, and it is exactly what the country will do when they receive this test alert at 3 pm today," said Oliver Dowden, UK Cabinet Office minister and newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister after the exit of Dominic Raab over bullying allegations. "The government's number one job is to keep people safe, and this is another tool in the toolkit for emergency situations, such as flooding or wildfires, and where there is a genuine risk to life. So, it really is to sound that could save your life," he said. "Keep Calm and Carry On" is a historic phrase issued by Britain's Ministry of Defence during World War II and has been associated as a quintessentially British saying ever since. It has now been used officially once again as part of the awareness

campaign around the new text-based alert system being trialled as an additional safety tool.

The alert is accompanied by a siren-like sound similar to a loud ringtone setting on a mobile phone, with the message reading: "This is a test of Emergency Alerts, a new UK government service that will warn you if there's a life-threatening emergency nearby. In a real emergency, follow the instructions in the alert to keep yourself and others safe. Visit gov.uk/alerts for more information. This is a test. You do not need to take any action." The UK government said that best practices of Emergency Alerts in other countries have shown that they work more when there is a real emergency if people have previously received a test, so they know what an alert looks and sounds like.

The Cabinet Office said Emergency Alerts have already been used successfully in several countries, including the US, Canada and Japan, where the system has been widely credited with saving lives, for example, during severe weather events. The government said it has worked with the emergency services and partners, including the Football Association and London Marathon, to ensure the UK-wide test has minimum impact on major sporting events taking place on Sunday.

Governments race to rescue diplomats citizens from Sudan

Khartoum (Sudan), Apr 23: The US military airlifted embassy officials out of Sudan on Sunday and international governments raced to evacuate their diplomatic staff and citizens trapped in the capital as rival generals battled for control of Africa's third-largest country for a ninth day.

Fighting raged in Omdurman, the city across the Nile from Sudan's capital, Khartoum, residents reported. The violence came despite a declared truce that was to coincide with the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

"We did not see such a truce," said Amin al-Fayed from his home near state television headquarters in Omdurman. He said heavy gunfire and thundering explosions rocked the city. "The battles did not stop," he said.

Thick black smoke filled the sky over Khartoum's airport. The paramilitary group battling the Sudanese armed forces claimed the military unleashed airstrikes on the upscale neighbourhood of Kafouri, north of Khartoum. There was no imme-

diated comment from the army.

After a week of bloody battles that hindered rescue efforts, US special forces swiftly evacuated some 70 US embassy staffers from Khartoum to an undisclosed location in Ethiopia early Sunday. Although American officials said it was still too dangerous to carry out a government-coordinated mass evacuation of private citizens, other countries scrambled to evacuate their citizens and diplomats. France, Greece and other European countries said Sunday they were organizing evacuations for embassy employees and nationals, along with some citizens of allied countries. French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Anne-Claire Legendre said France was undertaking the operation with the help of European partners. The Greek foreign minister said the country had dispatched aircraft and special forces to its ally, Egypt, in preparation for an evacuation of 120 Greek and Cypriot nationals from Khartoum. Most of them have sought shelter in recent days at a Greek



Orthodox cathedral in the capital, Nikos Dendias said. The Netherlands sent two air force Hercules C-130 planes and an Airbus A330 to Jordan ahead of a possible rescue mission. "We deeply sympathise with the Dutch in Sudan and will make every effort to evacuate those who were there and when possible," said Defence Minister Kaja Ollongren. Italy has dispatched military jets to the Gulf of Aden north of Djibouti to prepare for the evacuation of 140 Italian nationals in Sudan, many of whom

have already taken refuge in the embassy. Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said the ministry's crisis unit was in touch with stranded citizens.

The fighting between the Sudanese armed forces and the powerful paramilitary group, known as the Rapid Support Forces, has targeted and paralysed the country's main international airport, reducing a number of civilian aircraft to ruins and gutting at least one runway. Other airports across the country have also been knocked out of operation.

Overland travel across areas contested by the warring parties has proven dangerous. Khartoum is some 840 kilometres (520 miles) from Port Sudan on the Red Sea.

But some countries have pressed ahead with the journey. Saudi Arabia on Saturday said the kingdom successfully evacuated 67 people, including 91 Saudi nationals and citizens of other countries.

Saudi state TV released footage of a large convoy of Saudis and other foreign nationals travelling by car and bus from Khartoum to Port Sudan, where a navy ship then ferried the evacuees across the Red Sea to the Saudi port of Jeddah. The power struggle between the Sudanese military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces, led by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, has dealt a harsh blow to Sudan's heady hopes for a democratic transition. More than 400 people, including 264 civilians, have been killed and more than 3,500 have been wounded in the fighting. Hospitals say they are

struggling to cope. Many dead and wounded have been stranded by the fighting, according to the Sudan Doctors' Syndicate that monitors casualties, suggesting the death toll is probably far higher than what is publicly known.

The conflict has left millions of Sudanese stranded at home — hiding from explosions, gunfire and looting — without adequate electricity, food or water.

On Sunday, the country experienced a "near-total collapse" of internet connection and phone lines nationwide, according to NetBlocks, an internet monitoring service.

"It's possible that infrastructure has been damaged or sabotaged," Alp Toker, director of NetBlocks, said in an interview. "This will have a major effect on residents' ability to stay safe and will impact the evacuation programs that are ongoing."

Thousands of Sudanese have fled the combat in Khartoum and other hotspots, according to UN agencies. At least 20,000 people have abandoned their homes in the western region of Darfur for neighbouring Chad.

War is not new to Darfur, where ethnically motivated violence has killed as many as 300,000 people since 2003. But Sudan is not used to such heavy fighting in its capital.

"The capital has become a ghost city," said Atiyya Abdalla Atiyya, secretary of the Doctors' Syndicate. "Half of the population have fled and the rest are looking desperately for a way to get out of this hell."

The fighting has also caught civilians — including foreign diplomats — in the crossfire. Fighters attacked a clearly marked US Embassy convoy last week, and stormed the home of the European Union ambassador to Sudan.

Gunfire wounded an Egyptian diplomat in Sudan, spokesman for Egypt's Foreign Ministry Ahmed Abu Zaid, said Sunday, without offering further details. The current explosion of violence came after Burhan and Dagalo fell out over a recent internationally brokered deal with democracy activists that was meant to incorporate the RSF into the military and eventually lead to civilian rule.

Wrestlers resume protest against WFI chief police say inquiring into complaints DCW issues notice

NEW DELHI, APR 23: As top wrestlers resumed their protest on Sunday over the issue of sexual harassment allegations against WFI chief Brj Bhushan Sharan Singh, the Delhi Police said it has received seven complaints from them and was conducting an inquiry, even as it was issued a notice by the Delhi Commission For Women for failing to register an FIR in the matter.

Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and other wrestlers returned to the protest site at Jantar Mantar here demanding that the government make public the findings of the oversight panel that investigated the allegations against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief. The wrestlers, including Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya, had in January raised the issue, but ended their three-day long sit-in after marathon talks with Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur.

Thakur had announced the five-member oversight commit-

tee, headed by legendary boxer M C Mary Kom, to look into the allegations.

The Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) on Sunday said it has received a complaint from the women wrestlers alleging that they had given a written complaint to the city police two days back, but no FIR had not been registered till now.

The complainant informed the Commission that several women wrestlers, including a minor, had alleged that Singh sexually harassed them during his tenure at the WFI.

She also said that a complaint was filed at the Connaught Place police station on April 21. She claimed that no action has been taken by the Station House Officer (SHO), Connaught Place police station on the complaint. She also said that when she called the SHO to enquire about the status of the complaint on April 22, she was informed by him that no FIR had been filed and that action shall be taken on the complaint

post Monday. The complainant also alleged that when she asked him for assurance that the FIR shall be filed by Monday, he answered that he could not guarantee it, according to the DCW.

A senior police officer said they have received seven complaints so far. He said some of the complaints pertain to Delhi



and some from outside the city.

"We are conducting an inquiry. No FIR has been registered yet", he said.

The Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) also noted that they have been informed that some of the complainants and their family members had started getting phone calls from an IPS officer posted in the

Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) enquiring about the identities of the complainants.

Meanwhile, the panel has issued notice to the Delhi Police in the matter and sought an action taken report by April 25. The Commission has sought a copy of the FIR and asked the police to explain the reasons for

delay in registration of FIR.

"The wrestlers who are agitating have won medals for the country in Olympics and CWG. They have hoisted the tricolour abroad. Today, when they are protesting, even their food and water is being stopped. Are their demands wrong?" tweeted DCW chief Swati Malwal in Hindi.

The panel also sought details of security provided to the complainants along with details of the persons who allegedly shared the information regarding the matter with officials from the Department of Sports.

"How long is it going to take for the (government) committee to submit its report? It has already been three months and we are still waiting to hear from them. Will the report come out after the girls, who have filed complaints, die?" questioned world championship medalist Vinesh Phogat.

"We are tired of asking the government to release the findings... We have nothing to do

with the (WFI) election process.

We are more concerned about our careers. The (Paris) Olympics are upon us and we want to begin preparations in 'right earnest', she added.

Rio Olympic bronze medalist Sakshi Malik said, "We will not budge from Jantar Mantar" adding that "this fight will not stop".

Expressing solidarity with the protesters, Sharad Pawar's NCP said Union ministers Anurag Thakur and Smriti Irani should step in to address the concerns raised by the top wrestlers.

"(Youth Affairs And Sports Minister) Anurag Thakur and Smriti Irani must intervene immediately and ask the Delhi Police, which works under the Union home ministry, to take immediate action. If they cannot do this for people who have won laurels for our country, then what can common citizens expect?" NCP spokesperson Clyde Crasto asked.

RCB defeat RR by 7 runs in thrilling finish

Bengaluru, Apr 23

A late charge led by a cameo from Dhruv Jurel was not enough for Rajasthan Royals as a century stand between captain Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell set up a thrilling seven-run win for Royal Challengers Bangalore in their Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

Invited to bat, Maxwell (77 off 44 balls) and du Plessis (62 off 39 balls) shared 127 runs for the third wicket from only 66 deliveries to power RCB to 189 for 9 in 20 overs.

Devdutt Padikkal (52 off 34 balls) struck his maiden fifty of the season and Yashasvi Jaiswal made 47 for a 98-run partnership for the second wicket but the Royals were lagging behind in the run chase before gaining momentum in the last five overs.

Jurel played a small cameo of 34 not out off just 16 balls (2x4; 2x6) as the Royals scored 61 runs off the last five overs, losing three wickets in the process. But they fell short by seven runs in the end, reaching to 182 for 6 in 20 overs.

The Royals needed 20 runs off the final over bowled by Harshal Patel, but could score only 12.

The Royals thus suffered their third defeat in seven matches but remained at



the top of the points table due to a superior net run rate (0.844).

Harshal Patel (40-32-3) was the pick of the RCB bowlers while David Willey (4-0-26-1) and Mohammed Siraj (4-0-39-1) also played their parts.

RCB dealt a huge blow to RR when Siraj bowled a nip-backer to beat the defence of the dangerous Jos Buttler, cleaning him up for a two-ball duck in the first over. Having scored consistently in the last few matches, Padikkal ended his drought of a half-century as he struck one six and seven fours during his innings. Padikkal was dismissed by Willey, with Virat Kohli taking his 100th catch in the IPL.

Only two players, Suresh Raina (109 catches in 205

matches) and Kieron Pollard (103 catches in 189 matches) have taken more catches than Kohli in IPL history.

Padikkal's opening partner Jaiswal played some spectacular strokes in the powerplay post which RR were placed at 47 for 1.

Both Padikkal and Jaiswal perished in quick succession and in that phase, RR also could not find a boundary with Willey keeping it tight.

The benefit was reaped by Patel in the 14th over, when he pegged back RR while denying Jaiswal his fifty, who hit a slow full toss straight to Kohli at long-on. Patel struck again, in the 16th over, to have Sanju Samson (22) caught by Shahbaz Ahmed with RR stumbling to 125 for 4.

Shimron Hetmyer found it tough, managing just three runs from nine balls before he was run out off a superb direct hit from Suyash Prabudhessai at extra cover.

Earlier, du Plessis and Maxwell's century stand threatened to take RCB to a massive total before RR fought back to restrict them to 189 for 9.

Du Plessis and Maxwell had put on 115 runs from 50 balls against Lucknow Super Giants and 126 from 61 balls against Chennai Super Kings.

But RCB stuttered once the momentum was broken after the dismissal of du Plessis, run out off a brilliant direct throw from Yashasvi Jaiswal in the 14th over. The home side collapsed from 139/2 to

189/9, losing seven wickets for 50 runs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Du Plessis extended his overall tally to 405 runs in just seven matches with his fifth half-century -- the most for any batter so far. His 39-ball knock had eight fours and two sixes.

On the other hand, Maxwell struck his third fifty of this IPL to make a 44-ball 77 (6x4s, 4x6s) but the rest of the RCB batters squandered the platform set up brilliantly by their top order.

Dinesh Karthik (11) was the only other RCB batter to score in double digits.

Royals bowlers were particularly impressive in the final five overs as they pulled things back with a disciplined effort, while also affecting two run-outs.

None of the Royals bowlers could, however, trouble either Maxwell or du Plessis, who batted with utmost ease.

The two batters came together when RCB were put in a spot of bother by Royals pacer Trent Boult (2/41), who rocked them early twice in his first two overs.

Boult gave a perfect start to RR when he pinned Virat Kohli (0) in front of du Plessis, run out off a brilliant breakthrough on the first ball of the game, which was his 100th overall wicket in IPL.

Archery World Cup : Indian men's recurve team wins silver individual bronze for Dhiraj



ANTAYLA, APR 23: The Indian men's recurve team clinched a silver medal after losing to China by the thinnest of margins in a shoot-off at the Archery World Cup Stage 1 here on Sunday.

In pursuit of their first World Cup gold medal since 2010, the men's recurve team, comprising Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Dhiraj Bommadavara, bounced back from 0-4 deficit to level the scores and force a shoot-off.

But the Indian trio went down 4-5 (54-55, 50-56, 59-58, 56-55, 28-29*) with the Chinese team of Li Zhongyuan, Qi Xiangshuo and Wei Shaohou hitting an X (closer to the centre) in the shoot-off in a dramatic finish.

Dhiraj then went on to grab a second medal in his World Cup debut when the

20-year-old Army man would rue its pathetic setback where it totalled just 50 out of a possible 60, after hitting the red rings thrice (one 7 and two 8s) as China won by six points to take a 4-0 lead.

India had a slow start and China took the first set by a slender one-point margin.

India had last won a World Cup gold medal in Shanghai in 2010.

The 39-year-old Army man Rai was also a member of the gold-winning side in Shanghai when he

along with Jayanta Talukdar and Rahul Banerjee had defeated Japan 224-220 in the final.

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along with Jayanta Talukdar and Rahul Banerjee had defeated Japan 224-220 in the final.

Sachin's advice in 2017 helped me reinvent my game and extend career: Mithali Raj

NEW DELHI, APR 23: Having stayed at the top of their game for more than two decades, both Sachin Tendulkar and Mithali Raj are epitome of excellence and longevity in world cricket.

While Tendulkar made people fall in love with the game, Mithali became the first superstar of women's cricket in India.

However, self doubt can creep even in the minds of greats like Tendulkar and Mithali.

Ahead of Tendulkar's 50th birthday, Mithali spoke to PTI about her first interaction with him, the influence he had on her batting and on how a chat with the master blaster before the 2017 women's World Cup helped reinvent her game.

"I still remember our conversation before the 2017 World Cup in England. After a group conversation, I had a one-on-one chat with him. I wanted to ask him how he was able to have such a long career and how he had to reinvent himself to face new bowlers of the younger generation," Mithali said.

"When you have such a long career, every generation has stand out bowlers. I wanted to know how he kept up with that."

"As you age, people start talking about your footwork getting slower, you are picking the line and length late and you are not quick on the ball."

"I wanted to know how he managed to overcome all that and be on top of his

game. He did give suggestions and I tried to put that into training," said Mithali, who ended up amassing 409 runs in the 2017 World Cup and captained India to the final.

Though India came up short in the final, it was a path breaking result as it revolutionised women's cricket in the country.

Mithali recollected that she and Tendulkar did not talk a lot about technique as the conversation was mainly about the mental side of the game.

"We did not talk in depth about technique as everyone has different techniques. As a senior pro after playing for so long, all you can help is with the preparation advice to another player and he helped me with that."

"Around that time, expectations were high for me to deliver with the bat and as captain."

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Gurpal Singh S/o Darshan Singh R/O Rajpura Samba here by solemnly affirm and declare that I have sold my vehicle bearing Regd JK02AU-6178 make Figo model 2011 chassis no.74449 Engine no. 74449 to Mr Shubam Ramotra S/o Son Nath R/O 184 Kalki Bari Rakh Amb Taki Distt Samba. Now I am applying for transfer of the same above said. Objection if any may be conveyed to RTO Jammu within seven days from the publication of this notice.

India transforming and will become third largest economy in world by 2030 : VP Dhankhar

NEW DELHI, APR 23: India is transforming and will become the third largest economy in the world by 2030, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Sunday.

Addressing a gathering at a state-level programme on saint Dhanna Bhagat's birth anniversary in Haryana's Kaithal, Dhankhar said India's prestige in the world has never been as high as it is now.



Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar also attended the event.

The vice president said the contributions of saints in the country's history have been tremendous.

"Today the country is witnessing something that was never imagined before... India has become the fifth largest economy,

surpassing the Britishers who had ruled us for 200 years, and farmers and workers have a major contribution in this.

"By the end of this decade, India will be the third largest economy on this planet," he said.

Dhankhar lauded the Haryana government for celebrating the birth anniversary of Dhanna Bhagat on a large scale.

At the event, Khattar announced that his government will install a big statue of Dhanna Bhagat in Dhanauri or a nearby area. He also announced that a medical college being constructed in Kaithal will be named after Dhanna Bhagat. Speaking at the

event, the vice president said that farmers are the backbone of the country's economy and added more than Rs 2.25 lakh crore has been disbursed to more than 11 crore farmers under a government scheme.

He said that India is transforming, adding people are getting benefits at their doorstep due to technology.

Dhankhar also hailed the role played by religious leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Our saints encouraged every person to help the needy during the COVID-19 pandemic and at that time, there was no crisis in our country," he said. Dhankhar, his wife and Khattar also offered prayers at Dhanna Bhagat temple in Dhanauri village.

Skills competencies will drive future than degrees old jobs vanishing due to technology: Pradhan

BHUBANESHWAR, APR 23: Skills and competencies will drive the future rather than degrees as old jobs have begun to vanish due to disruptive innovation and technology, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Sunday.

Pradhan was addressing a conference here ahead of the third G20 Education Working Group meeting later this week.

"Skills and competencies will drive the future rather than degrees. There will be a constant competition between God gifted human intelligence and Artificial Intelligence (AI)," Pradhan said in the keynote address at the conference themed 'Deep Tech with a Focus on Advanced Technology in Future of Work.'

"Old jobs are vanishing due to disruptive innovation and technology. New jobs are emerging but our workforce needs continuous skilling, reskilling and upskilling. Hence, we must think of new approaches to prepare youth for future jobs," he added.

On China, the production centre of the globe at present, Pradhan said "material" is not going to influence the future of the civilisation. "Human nature is going to influence the human future."

The minister said that the 21st century will be knowledge-based and technology-driven.

"Guided by its civilisational ethos and as a natural hub of talent, captive market and resources, India is going to play a leading role in fulfilling the global aspirations of the 21st century," he asserted.

"Internet, mobility and global connectivity provides us with an opportunity to think about global requirements. We have to come together to convert this opportunity for India's youth as well as for those belonging to the Global South," he said.

During the conference, industry, academia, startup ecosystem and other stakeholders will brainstorm on reimagining the skilling ecosystem, creating future-ready global citizens, and making India a global hub of skilled manpower.

Foundation literacy and numeracy, tech-enabled learning, future of work and research collaboration are among the priority areas for deliberations during the third G20 Education Working Group meeting scheduled from April 27 to 29.

During the meeting, there would be official-level deliberations on the four identified priority areas - foundational literacy and numeracy, tech-enabled learning, future of work and research collaboration.

A conference on "deep tech" and "transforming logistics for coastal economies", a workshop on future of work and skill architecture, a seminar on building capacities for lifelong learning and an exhibition on "future of work" are part of the precursor events which will be held ahead of the meet.

The first meeting of the G20 Education Working Group was held in Chennai earlier this year, followed by a second meet in Amritsar last month. There would be three supplementary meetings of the education group before arriving at a consensus in June this year.

KTAKA, APR 23: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday offered obeisance to 12th-century poet and social reformer Basaveshwara at his resting place in Kudala Sangama, on the occasion of his birth anniversary, which is observed as "Basava Jayanti".

On his arrival in Hubballi from Delhi, the former AICC president travelled to Kudala Sangama by helicopter from the darshan at Sangamanatha temple and of the Aikyalinga.

Kudala Sangama, situated at the confluence of the rivers Krishna and Malaprabha in Bagalkote district, is a pilgrim centre. The Aiky Mantapa or the holy Samadhi of Basaveshwara, popularly known as Basavanna, the founder of the Lingayat sect, along with a Linga, which is believed to be self-born (Swayambhu), is here.

Kudala Sangama is also famed for its Chalukyan-style Sangameshwara temple where it is believed that Basavanna had worshipped lord Shiva.

Accompanied by AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, state Congress campaign committee chief M B Patil and other leaders, Gandhi later participated in the Basava Jayanti celebration organised by Uvasa Samithi (festival committee) at Basava Mantapa, and took prasada

PM Modi to lay foundation stone of India's first Digital Science Park in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram, Apr 23 Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is scheduled to visit Kerala on a two-day trip on April 24, will lay the foundation stone for the country's first Digital Science Park, a Rs-1,500-crore project, here on Tuesday, April 25.

The third-generation Science Park (they are located in bustling city centres) will come up close to the Digital Phase IV - Technocity, a government release said.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw, various ministers of the Left government and Congress's Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor would be attending the event, the release said.

The Digital Science Park project had been conceived as a multidisciplinary cluster-based interactive-innovation zone focused on digital technologies and is expected to be completed in two years, it said.



In the 2022-23 budget, the state government had announced the establishment of a Digital Science Park in an area of 10 lakh square feet in two blocks, the release added. "The park will initially have two buildings with a total area of 2,00,000 square feet. The first one in 1,50,000 square feet will have five floors, housing the Centre of Excellence (CoE) including research labs and digital incubator, while the second building will house the administrative as well as Digital Experience Centre." The Digital Science Park will start its operations from a 10,000 square feet space in Kabani located at Technopark Phase IV within the next couple of months, it added.

Out of the total project outlay of over Rs 1,500 crore, Rs 200 crore has already been allotted by the state government and the remaining amount will be generated from other sources including industry partners, the release said.

Initially, Digital Science Park will facilitate industry and business units as well as technology startups from the domains of Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, electronics, smart hardware, sustainable and smart materials.

"UK-based semiconductor and software design company ARM has signed an agreement with Digital University Kerala on academic, research and startup-related activities as part of this centre. "Similarly, the centre for AI will focus on both the hardware and software aspects of responsible AI, where the leading multinational technology company NVIDIA is expected to join as a partner," the release said.

Rahul pays obeisance to social reformer Basaveshwara on 'Basava Jayanti'

KTAKA, APR 23: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday offered obeisance to 12th-century poet and social reformer Basaveshwara at his resting place in Kudala Sangama, on the occasion of his birth anniversary, which is observed as "Basava Jayanti".

On his arrival in Hubballi from Delhi, the former AICC president travelled to Kudala Sangama by helicopter from the darshan at Sangamanatha temple and of the Aikyalinga.

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Accompanied by AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, state Congress campaign committee chief M B Patil and other leaders, Gandhi later participated in the Basava Jayanti celebration organised by Uvasa Samithi (festival committee) at Basava Mantapa, and took prasada (lunch) at Kudala Sangama Dasoha Bhavan.

Seers from several Lingayat maths were present on the occasion.

This visit of Gandhi is seen as an attempt by the Congress to bolster the Lingayat outreach, ahead of the May 10 Assembly polls in the State. Lingayats are a dominant community constituting about 17 per cent of the State's population, largely seen as ruling BJP's vote-bank.

Speaking at the event, Gandhi, remembered with gratitude Basavanna and people like him, for laying the foundation for democracy and parliamentary democracy and rights in India.

Basavanna played the role of a light amid the darkness that existed in the society during his times, he said, as he praised Basavanna's qualities of questioning the practices that existed,

which he felt were wrong.

"Basavanna did not leave the path of truth throughout his life and spoke out truth without any fear. It is not easy to speak the truth before society. Despite threats Basavanna did not deviate from the path of truth and questioned bad practices in the society, so he is respected till today," he added.

Basava Jayanti is a government holiday in Karnataka and is observed with reverence by the Lingayat community across the State.

Basavanna believed in a society free of the caste system with equal opportunity for all. He founded the 'Anubhava Mantapa', an academy which included Lingayat mystics, saints and philosophers. Located in Basavakalyan in Bidar district it is considered to be the first religious parliament in the world.

MeT issues 'Yellow' warning for thunderstorm in Assam, neighbouring states

GUWAHATI/ TINSUKIA, APR 23: The Met department on Sunday warned of thunderstorm with lightning and gusty winds in Assam and its neighbouring areas over the next two days. As per the forecast released by the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), a cyclonic circulation is lying over east Assam and neighbourhood between 1.5 km and 2.1 km above mean sea level.

Issuing a 'yellow' category warning for two days, it said thunderstorm with lightning accompanied by gusty wind reaching speed up to 30-40 kmph is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and

Tripura on Sunday.

The IMD uses four colour codes - green (no action needed), yellow (watch and stay updated), orange (be prepared) and red (take action) - for weather warning.

Thunderstorm with lightning is also very likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, while isolated places of Meghalaya are very likely to receive heavy rains during the same period.

The RMC has also warned of thunderstorm with lightning to occur very likely at isolated places over all seven North Eastern states.

Meanwhile, Tinsukia deputy commissioner Swapneel Paul said two persons were killed in a hailstorm that lashed the district on Saturday night.

"We have arranged for the ex-gratia cheques of Rs 4 lakh each to be paid to the families of the two victims by today itself," he said.

He said assessment of damages of houses and other property was being done, and rehabilitation grant will be provided once it is completed.

Paul said major damage has been caused to the Rupai-Tinsukia grid line, where nine towers have been severely damaged.

"Special expertise is needed to restore this as it's the main grid line. Two teams from Guwahati are coming. It is difficult to give a timeframe for when

the restoration will be completed," he added.

He said 60-70 per cent electricity poles and wires in Tinsukia town have also been damaged and work to restore power in the town by tonight is going on in full swing.

The main roads that were blocked by uprooted trees on Saturday night were cleared by morning by five teams deployed for the purpose and traffic movement has not been hindered, the DC added.

"We have activated two helpline phone numbers. Traffic movement has not been affected and medical teams are also in place. I urge people not to panic and contact us for any assistance," Paul said.

JAIPUR, APR 23: Former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Sunday asserted he will continue with his agitation against his own government for action against the corruption in the previous BJP government. Pilot said he is not backing down from the stand he has taken against the state Congress government and has been "politely requesting" it to take action in corruption cases from the previous dispensation.

He said despite his daylong fast on April 11, no action has been taken in such cases. "Speaking truth, raising voice against corruption and injustice, is among the values of the Congress party. Following these values, I observed one-day fast on April 11. Today, it's been two weeks, no action has been taken so far.

"So, again I am politely requesting the government to fulfil the promises we had made to the people," Pilot told reporters here, adding that now even demanding action against cor-

Firm in my demand for action on BJP's corruption: Sachin Pilot

ruption is being termed 'anti-party' activity.

Pilot was speaking to media after offering his prayers at Jadhkhad Temple (Shiv Temple) in the city.

He said he welcomes the action taken by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), which arrested several corrupt IAS, IPS, RAS and other officers.

"The Chief Minister himself had said that ACB is active and has raised several corrupt officers, which we all welcome.

He said despite his daylong fast on April 11, no action has been taken in such cases. "Speaking truth, raising voice against corruption and injustice, is among the values of the Congress party. Following these values, I observed one-day fast on April 11. Today, it's been two weeks, no action has been taken so far.

"So, again I am politely requesting the government to fulfil the promises we had made to the people," Pilot told reporters here, adding that now even demanding action against cor-

Come out in large numbers to vote in Karnataka polls Siddaganga Mutt supremo asks voters

KARNATAKA, APR 23: As the assembly elections in Karnataka come closer, a prominent religious head has appealed to voters to come out in large numbers and exercise their democratic right to elect their government.

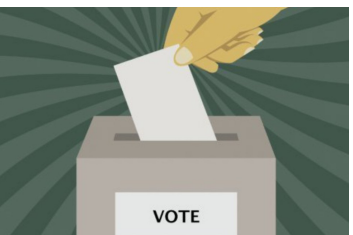
"Election is the festival of democracy and every citizen has a right to vote in accordance with the Constitution. It is the duty of the people to vote, whomever they wish as it is their choice to elect leaders (to govern them)," Siddaganga Mutt supremo Siddalinga Mahaswami told PTI in an interview here.

The assembly elections in Karnataka will be held on May 10 and the counting of votes will take place on May 13.

Surrounded by hills in this district, Sree Siddaganga is a prominent Lingayat mutt which is running a mega educational institution for students from weaker section of society from across Karnataka who are offered food and education free of cost.

Ramagiri, or Ramalinga, hills and Siddaganga hills have a number of caves with Shivalinga in them, and the caves have also become the places of research in Shaiva history. The famous Shivaganga hills are also located near Sree Siddaganga Mutt.

"The people will elect the government of their choice. After elections, the party with majority will form the government. My only message to the people is to come out and vote in large numbers to (elect their representatives)," the



Siddaganga Mutt chief said.

Siddalinga Mahaswami took over the reins of the prominent mutt after the demise of Sri Shivakumara Swamy in 2019.

The mutts of different communities across Karnataka have a significant socio-political influence on the public as politicians from across the country, including Delhi, make a beeline to the religious centres for blessings. "Mutts are doing services and they (politicians) come and seek blessings. Not only during the time of elections, they come whenever they like. We only insist people to vote and fulfill their responsibility," Mahaswami said.

He said electing the right government is the choice given by the Constitution to the pub-

lic and they should exercise this right.

"In Karnataka people are fortunate that they have mutts throughout the state and you can see mutts are doing social services especially in the fields of education and health. That is why in Karnataka literacy rate is high. Mutts are providing food and have also started school hostel facilities," he said.

Mubarak, who have worked at the Siddaganga Mutt for 18 years and is functioning as a caretaker, said the mutt is for all people, irrespective of their religion. "Around 10,000 poor students from different religions are studying in the mutt's institute and thousands get food every day. Gurugi equally looks after all the religions," he said,

adding "if a politician comes here, Gurugi gives his blessing to him/her."

Mubarak said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, all central ministers, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have all come to the mutt and received blessings to serve the nation.

"Gurugi does not favour any particular party. He only gives his blessings to all the politicians equally. His intention is that whosoever comes to power, they should serve the society honestly," Mubarak said, adding leaders of both BJP and Congress are scheduled to visit the mutt before joining the election campaigns.

DDC Chairman inaugurates Panchayat Ghar at Gutasa -Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, APR 23: District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Doda Dhanantar Singh Kotwal today inaugurated newly constructed Panchayat Ghar at Gutasa in presence of local PRI members and Public.

After a long wait of over ten years, the Panchayat Gutasa finally got its Panchayat Ghar with the efforts of BDO Bhaderwah, ACD Doda, BDC chairman, and DDC Chairman Doda.

It is pertinent to mention here that work of Panchayat Ghar Gutasa was started in 2012 but the project kept lingering on over all these years. In 2021-22, the work was resumed with the efforts of BDO Bhaderwah and ACD Doda and the project was completed, realizing the dream of Panchayat Ghar for people of the Gutasa Halqa.

Expressing happiness over the completion of the dream project, the people of the Panchayat Gutasa thanked DDC, BDC ACD and for this big achievement.

Among others present were BDC Chairman, Oni Chand; ACD, Prithul



Singh; BDO Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar, Panchayat Gutasa. concerned officials and public of

Don't blame agencies, ask people to join probe: Kavinder tells Farooq

WORK WITH FULL SYNERGY TO ACHIEVE UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS IN UPCOMING POLLS: ASHOK KOUL



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Castigating NC President Farooq Abdullah for accusing the investigation agencies of harassing common people in the name of Poonch terror attack probe, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta asked the NC Patron not to mislead the people rather ask them to join the probe to punish the culprits as soon as possible.

Addressing a meeting of BJP Panchayati Raj Cell held here at Party Headquarters, Kavinder said that NC leadership should ponder for a while that the central investigation agencies are probing

the terror case in which five bravehearts of the army have given supreme sacrifice. He said that unfounded statements given by Farooq Abdullah in context with the Poonch attack are unacceptable as these could hamper the investigation and have the potential to alienate people from the mainstream. He said that people should also understand the ill motives of the NC leadership which is trying to create wedge between communities using such critical situations.

Kavinder said that those having any knowledge about the terror strike in Poonch should come forward and become part of the probe as five country-

men have lost their precious lives while performing duty.

During the meeting, Ashok Koul BJP General Secretary (Org), Rakesh Mahajan, Incharge BJP All Cells, Ved Sharma Co-incharge All Cells and Surjeet Choudhary, Convener All Cells were also present.

While citing the statement given by CEO J&K PK Pole about Panchayat and ULBs polls to be held later this year, Kavinder said that party is ready for all the upcoming political contests in the Union Territory.

He informed that party had already constituted teams at district level, and Sammelans are scheduled to be held in all dis-

tricts in the coming days to propagate the achievements, policies and plans of the party and also to make a connection with masses at grass roots level.

Kavinder divulged that starting from May 15, the party will organize a month long Ghar Ghar Chalo Abhiyan, which will be steered by the party workers to spread awareness about the ensuing policies of BJP and also to inform people about what is in offering for them in the coming time.

Ashok Koul, in his address, asserted that there is a need to further strengthen the party's base across the Union Territory to achieve unprecedented success in the upcoming elections. He asked the senior leaders to work with full synergy to highlight the achievements of the Bharatiya Janata Party GUR during its short tenure of about eight years. He also asked them to address their pressing issues by remaining present among the people 24x7.

He also asked them to ensure that everyone including the last person in line avails the benefit of the schemes rolled out by the Centre for their welfare.

Ch. Zulfkar Ali strongly reacts on CEC statement indicating delaying assembly polls in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, APR 23: Apni Party Vice President, and Former Cabinet Minister, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali has sharply criticized Chief Electoral Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir for hinting to delay assembly elections while stating three elections be held during current FY.

The Former Cabinet Minister was speaking at a worker's meeting at Taryath area of Sunderbani - Kalakote in District Rajouri when he expressed serious concern over the ignorance of holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that when elections are held on a regular basis across the country, why J&K is being ignored and the people are deprived of their democratic right to elect their own Govt.

While criticizing the statement given by the Chief Electoral Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir wherein he has stated that during the current financial year, the elections for Panchayat and local bodies will be held besides Lok Sabha , the Former Minister questioned the intention of the CEC J&K who has ignored demand of holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"In fact, J&K's assembly elections have been much



delayed against the wishes of the people and it has strengthened the authoritarian rule of bureaucracy by weakening the democratic institutions," he said. He said that for the last several years, J&K has been forced under bureaucratic rule which has no justification or constitutional value.

"The babus do not represent the public in general nor do they have any kind of constitutional authority to continue for so long," he added while saying that the elections are imperative to be held in Jammu and Kashmir to fulfill the constitutional rights of the people and restoration of democratic rights of the people.

He further said that "It's a fundamental right of the people of J&K to have the government of their choice. In the rest of the

country elections are being held on a regular basis and people are given the opportunity to form the government of their choice.

After electing their government, the people have their role in the government decision making with regard to development, administration, legislation making bodies and other public related issues."

In comparison, he said that "The people of J&K have been restricted to the municipal, urban local bodies, and PRI elections. Only five members are chosen to the Lok Sabha in the house of 543 which makes no difference to make any voice since they do not get any chance to speak in the parliament as much as problems and miseries in the J&K are concerned." He said that the delaying of elections

has adverse impact on the lives of the people with regard to development, increase in unemployment, poverty, exploitation of natural resources, unsustainable policy for development projects etc.

He said that there is slow pace of development in all the regions, and the people feel neglected as the administration is unable to take up initiative for development of the respective areas across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was also addressed by District President Rural-Rajouri, Bushan Uppal, Block President, Thakur Baldev Singh, Gaibans, Sarpanch Abdul Rehman, Zafar Iqbal, Nazir Hussain, Farooq Anjum, Mehmoosd Ahmed, Kesar Din, Chamail Singh, Nazir Hussain, Abdul Aziz, and others prominent persons from the area.

Only Congress can provide succour to people of Punjab: Mula Ram, Hari Singh



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 23: Mula Ram, senior Congress leader and former Minister along with Hari Singh President District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural have urged the people to vote for Congress in the Jalandhar Lok Sabha seat as only the Congress can provide succour to them.

While addressing various meetings, Mula Ram accused the Punjab Government and BJP Government at the Centre of having failed to provide any succour to the common people who are bearing the brunt of skyrocketing prices of essential commodities including fuel

Lok Sabha seat who was accompanying them during a series of meetings at Mohallah Shaheed Udhham Singh Nagar, Jalandhar today seeking votes for the Congress candidates.

While addressing various meetings, Mula Ram accused the Punjab Government and BJP Government at the Centre of having failed to provide any succour to the common people who are bearing the brunt of skyrocketing prices of essential commodities including fuel

as compared to their prices before 2014 while the prices of vegetables, fruits, edible oils, pulses, eggs and other essentials are out of reach of the common man, he lamented.

Hari Singh Chib, President District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural, in his address, appealed to the people to cast their vote in favour of Congress to ensure her victory. He said that Congress is the oldest political party and shall continue its fight against 'divisive and exploitive' forces, which are hell bent to destroy communal harmony.

Hari Singh Chib urged the people of the area to cast their votes in favour of Congress to teach a lesson of life to the present government of Punjab and BJP Government at the Centre. He also asked the party activists to reach out to every voter and explain the programmes and policies of the Congress Party.

Future workplaces, model preschool education centre among displays at exhibition ahead of G20 Edu meet

BHUBANESHWAR, APR 23: A model preschool education centre, vernacular learning based tech solutions, 3D printed models of various temples with virtual reality experience, drone technicians and cloud gaming are among the technologies and modules on display at the 'Future of Work' exhibition ahead of the third G20 Education Working Group meet.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the exhibition at the CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) here on Sunday which will continue till April 28.

More than 100 exhibitors from India and G20 member countries are demonstrating their products at the exhibition spread across 34,000 square feet area.

A unique 'Future of Work' exhibition zone has also been set up at the

exhibition where job aspirants can get to know how the future of work will evolve and they will have access to a preview of the required advanced technical skills.

The zone is showcasing the use of cutting-edge technology such as holograms and interactive surface tables and walls, which will enable visitors to get ideas of the future of work and they will be able to visualise how automation and digitisation are transforming the way work is done in several sectors.

"The exhibition showcases the transformations as a result of digital innovations, ways disruptive technologies are re-designing occupations and reshaping the world of work. A unique confluence of technology leaders, innovators, influencers, industry and academia, the exhibition also gives a glimpse of modern

workplaces, skills and jobs of future and the evolving skillings and employability landscape," Pradhan said at the inauguration.

Social media giant Meta has themed its stall on "building a metaverse" with cases featuring Virtual Reality (VR) and startups showcasing VR across industries on skilling in sectors of nursing, painting, welding, workforce.

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS), an innovative cell at the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), has exhibited 3D printed models of various temples along with virtual reality and augmented reality experience.

The Media and Entertainment Skill Council has showcased "cloud gaming" which the officials claimed will transform the gaming landscape in India.

"These technologies offer new and immersive gaming experiences, attracting users and investment, and driving the growth of the media and entertainment industry in India," an official said.

Hexagon, a prominent name in digital reality solutions, is demonstrating 'reverse engineering' which helps to produce a part with better quality and efficiency in five steps - scanning the object, processing data, optimising design with simulation, printing data, measuring and comparing product features with design data for deviations for rework, redesign and rejection.

The Regional Institute of Education (RIE) Bhubaneswar has displayed model preschool education centre, innovative pre-service teacher education activities, art integrated pedagogy, experiential pedagogy, toy-

based pedagogy and locally developed learning material for science and mathematics.

AMMACHI Labs, a research centre at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, has displayed how VR can be used to teach scaffolding skills for construction workers besides simulation based learning technologies for drone technician, mechanic, appliance repair technician, haptics simulators for physical skills training and Skill Intelligence Labs.

Several institutes and organisations from diverse sectors, including NIT Rourkela, IIT Bhubaneswar, IIM Sambalpur, Meta, UNICEF and NCERT, participated in the exhibition to display technologies that would drive the future of work, constant innovations in the modern workplace, skills and innovative delivery models.

Future of Work exhibit in three sectors - Agriculture, Mobility and Healthcare, Metaverse, Reverse engineering and automated design solutions, drone technology, Ed-tech solutions leveraging AR and VR, industry 4.0 skills, vernacular learning-based tech solutions, virtual internship solutions, assistive technologies for inclusion, are among other concepts on display at the exhibition.

According to the Ministry of Education officials, over 10,000 visitors thronged the exhibition on the first day.

Foundation literacy and numeracy, tech-enabled learning, future of work and research collaboration are among the priority areas for deliberations during the third G20 Education Working Group meeting scheduled from April 27 to 29.