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## **Tribals are angry with Congress: PM**

#### AGENCIES JAIPUR, APR 21

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the Congress party of ignoring the welfare of tribals, saying it could not find a single person from the Adivasi community who could be the President of the country during its 60-year rule.

"Were the tribals not capable? Just see the Congress' mindset. But in 2014, you blessed us.., and now a tribal daughter is the country's president. This is real participation. This is the spirit of the Constitution given by Babasaheb," Modi said addressing a public meeting in Banswara in support of BJP's Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya.

Modi said that the BJP is committed towards the wel- them. fare of the poor and works honestly, but the Congress longer in the grip of fear. That sells "fear, hunger and corruption in its shop".



has always instilled fear among the Dalits, tribals and minori- from power or has been rel- tribal sons and daughters, the ties and is now spreading lies egated to the third or fourth about democracy, the Consti- position... There is anger tution and reservation to scare

"But the country is no for it," Modi said. is why their lies are no longer istry was formed only under working. In the states with the Atal Bihari Vajpayee gov-He alleged that the Congress considerable tribal popula- ernment.

tion, the Congress is ousted among the tribal population and there are concrete reasons

He said a tribal welfare min-

"From among crores of Congress could not a single person in 60 years who could become the President of the country," Modi said, adding the Congress and the INDIA bloc even opposed the candidature of the current President who is from the tribal community.

### Army progressing Rs 6800 Cr desi shoulder-fired missile projects for **China, Pakistan borders**

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APR 21

Amid shortages in the inventory of shoulder-fired missiles to tackle aerial threats on borders with China and Pakistan, the Indian Army is progressing two cases worth over Rs 6,800 crore for developing Very Short Range Air Defence Systems indigenously.

The Army has plans of developing and buying over 500 launchers and around 3000 missiles from indigenous routes.

At the same time, the Indian Army along with the other 4800 crore project in which stakeholders is looking at the a public sector unit headpossibility of an old tender quartered in Hyderabad and scrapped earlier in which the a private sector Pune-based Russian Igla-S was selected in firm have been engaged for view of the delays for finding developing a laser beam riding replacement for the old Igla- VSHORADS which would be 1M missiles.

said the current VSHORAD missiles in the inventory of the fighter aircraft and choppers," Indian Army and Indian Air defence forces' officials said. Force are all with IR homing guidance systems and the Igla developing 200 launchers and was inducted in 1989 and was the Indian Army and Air Force made in this programme planned for de-induction in and the lead in the project is



### 2013

"At present, there is a Rs used by the forces to protect Defence Ministry officials the borders to provide protection from enemy drones,

The project would be for 1M VSHORAD missile system 1200 missiles for supplying to

the Indian Army which is the biggest user of these missiles, they said.

Of the 1200 missiles planned to be inducted in the project, it is likely to get 700 while the remaining would be for the IAF

The two firms have to produce the prototype of the system under the Indian Designed, Developed and Manufactured clause of the Defence Acquisition Procedure, they said.

However, industry sources informed that the progress **CONTINUED ON → PAGE 4** 

### Traffic disrupted for several hours on Jmu-Sgr NH

#### JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, APR 21

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national highway was disthat were found in the middle Hingni in Ramban district, " cials said.

The vehicular movement

only all weather road linking traffic on the highway was Kashmir with the rest of the restored, they said. The traffic on Jammu-Srinagar country - was stopped from

ment said.

both sides around 11.30 am frequent disruptions over the rupted for several hours on after "some cracks developed past five days owing to heavy Sunday to repair some cracks in the middle of the road at rains that triggered landslides, of the road near Banihal, offi- officials of the traffic depart- from the hillocks at several

After over five-hours of res- groo, Kishtwari Pather and

rial road. The highway is witnessing

mudslides and shooting stones places including Mehad, Gan-

on the 270-km highway - the toration work, the stranded Dalwas between Nashri and Banihal Tunnels - the most problematic stretch of the arte-

> The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), however, managed to keep the highway open by ensuring timely clearance of landslide debris

**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 4** 

### If Congress and Allies win, there will be riots, atrocities: Amit Shah

AGENCIES KATIHAR, APRIL 21

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday charged the Congress-led opposition with being soft on terror and indifferent towards the uplift of deprived castes, and alleged that their return to power could cause "riots, atrocities



and poverty".

Addressing an election rally in the Katihar Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar, the former BJP president also credited his party with having given the nation, in Narendra Modi, its "first OBC prime minister" who has "put an end" to dynasty politics. "Modi wiped CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

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Days of Congress are numbered, will be wiped out soon: Jugal

**JI NEWS SERVICE** JAMMU, APR 21

Stating that the graph of BJP has touched all-time high and it will come out to be more stronger in 2024 general elections, Jugal Kishore Sharma, party candidate from Jammu-Reasi constituency, said that the days of Congress are numbered and it will be completely wiped out soon in coming days. Addressing public meetings and interacting with the people during day-long road shows in Chowadi, Janipur, tunately, it had different yard-Sainik Colony, Purmandal Morh, Nai Basti, Ajit Nagar, never treated all equally. He Raipur Satwari, Roi Morh, Miran Sahib, Simbal and president Surjeet Singh Sal-R.S.Pura, Jugal blamed Con- athia, former minister Chandgress for discriminating with er Prakash Ganga, former MLC different sections of the soci- Ch Vikram Randhawa, DDC ety in Jammu and Kashmir Vice-Chairperson Suraj Singh, and toying line of the votaries constituency incharge Balof autonomy and self-rule. He want Singh Mankotia, Former high hopes, which never came



Govt teacher nabbed with hand grenades, Pak made pistol in Poonch **JI NEWS SERVICE** 

JAMMU, APRIL 21



ments for decades but unfor- National secretary Rashpal Verma, Advocate Ravinder sticks for different sections and Gupta, Ex corporator Sunita Gupta, Pawan Singh. was accompanied by BJP vice Jugal Kishore Sharma said

that gone are the days when Congress could garner public support on false and misleading slogans. The people repeatedly voted for Congress with said that while Congress was in Deputy Mayor Baldev Billa- true. He said that the people have now developed faith in than six decades and here in hya Gupta, District President the working of the BJP-led CONTINUED ON → PAGE 4

In a major crackdown ahead of upcoming election in the area, police have arrested one government teacher with grenades and a Pakistan made pistol in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Police here on Sunday said that acting of specific information, a joint operation was launched by army, police and special operation group team from Poonch in Hari Budha area.

"A registered Over-Ground Worker (OGW) named Oamar-ud-Din, who is the headmaster in school was taken into custody with a Pak-made

CONTINUED ON → PAGE 4

### Emraan Hashmi shooting for 'Ground Zero' in Jammu and Kashmir

**JI NEWS SERVICE** SRINAGAR, APR 21

Actor Emraan Hashmi is currently busy shooting for his film 'Ground Zero' in Jammu and Kashmir. Several videos and images from the set location circulated online in which we can see a slew of fans in Baramulla getting excited seeing Emraan. Emraan could be seen donning an Indian army uniform.

Directed by Tejas Vijay officer. Ground Zero is backed Deoskar, known for Marathi by Excel Entertainment, the films such as Ajinkya and production banner of actor-Bucket List, 'Ground Zero' feafilmmaker Farhan Akhtar and tures Emraan as Indian army Ritesh Sidhwani.



being injured in a stone pelting incident in Pahalgam, Kashmir, went viral on

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

### 8 IEDs, 2 Wireless sets seized from **Terrorist Hideout in Rajouri**

power at the centre for more waria, District Prabhari Ayod-

JK too, it headed state govern- Rekha Mahajan, OBC Morcha

### **JI NEWS SERVICE**

#### RAJOURI/JAMMU, APR 21

Security forces on Sunday busted a terrorist hideout in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, leading to the recovery of eight Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, two wireless sets, and some ammunition, officials said.

The recovered material was in a highly rusted condition, indicating that the hideout was in use when terrorists were operating in the district before unearthed the hideout. it was freed of militancy over two decades ago, officials said.

They said police assisted by weighed 1 kg, the rest seven items seized.



the Army launched a search were half a kg each, the offioperation at Azmatabad vilcials said.

Three magazines of AK-47 lage in Thannamandi area, 30 rifle, 102 rounds of ammunikms from Rajouri town, and tion, one charger, and two While one of the IEDs wireless sets were the other

### Boy from J&K's Bharot Village secures AIR-388 in UPSC after cracking NEET and JKAS exams

### **JI NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU, APR 21

Ghulam Maya Din, hailing from Bharot, a remote hilly area of Pirpanjal of Thanamandi tehsil, Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir, has secured an AIR 388 in the recently announced UPSC CSE 2023.

Earlier, he had cracked the NEET and studied medicine at Government Medical College Jammu before clearing the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) examinations.

Ghulam Maya Din, said, remain focused on their goals. necessary to gain "People are happy with my



Ghulam Din said, "Students

should avoid distractions, make smart use of social media, and maintain focus and curiosity. If you can keep your distractions aside and try to be focused, then you can excel UPSC CSE exam, which is considered one of the toughest exams in the country.'

Speaking about his UPSC journey, Din said, "In my initial days, I was not interested in this exam. I didn't know how to read newspapers... I had a little knowledge of humanities or general knowledge. So, it He also advised UPSC aspi- took me some time. I believe Expressing happiness, rants to avoid distractions and 1.5-2 years of preparation is

**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 4** 

### Lord Ram belongs to everyone, not only Hindus: Farooq

### AGENCIES

RANCHI, APR 21

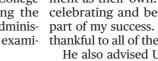
National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said on Sunday that Lord Ram belongs to everyone, not only Hindus. Abdullah was addressing the opposition INDIA bloc's 'Ulgulan Naya Maharally' in Ranchi.

Without naming any party, he said, "They are selling Lord Ram, claiming that they brought him. They do not know Lord Ram. He does not belong to Hindus alone but to the world. Ram is for everyone. But they have made Ram their own,

**CONTINUED ON → PAGE 4** 

success and giving blessings. Many people see my achievement as their own. They are celebrating and becoming a part of my success. I am very

thankful to all of them."



JINDRAH IMAGES JAMMU, APRIL 22, 2024 MONDAY

# NEWS

### Mian Deedo 244th Birth Anniversary Celebrations

## No compromise with Jammu's honour, Dogra pride : Rana

#### JI NEWS SERVICE JAGTI APRIL 21

Describing Mian Deedo, Daata Ranpat, and Bawa Jitto as pillars of inspiration for generations, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said their legacies are deeply ingrained in the collective consciousness of brave Dogras, shaping values and aspirations. Speaking at a function

birth anniversary of Mian Deedo at his memorial ender Rana said these his- sity. torical icons continue to compromised.

through acts of immense



held to celebrate 244th Ji, his legacy reminds us of roots, reminding us of the our collective responsibiling up for what is right, Devsthan at Jagti, Mr Dev- even in the face of adver-

embody ideals that reso- attended by Yudhvir testament to the resilience nate with society's core Sethi, Zorawar Singh, Yuva and valour of its people, principles. He reiterated Rajput Sabha President particularly the Dogras, the enduring significance Vikram Singh, Somnath whose legacy is etched of preserving the pride & Khajuria, Rajan Singh, in the annals of time. The honor of Jammu and the Padam Shri Mohan Singh, principles of integrity, digglorious Dogra culture Sumant Singh among nity, and respect form the and said adding that the others. "Mian Deedo's life cornerstone of our comessence of our heritage, embodies the timeless vir- munity's ethos, guiding deeply intertwined with tues of courage, compas- us through the ages with our rich history, vibrant sion, and wisdom and his unwavering resolve and as culture, and cherished tales of bravery, recounted custodians of this invalutraditions, serves as the in folklore and literature, able legacy, it is incumbent bedrock of our identity serve as a beacon of hope upon us to safeguard these and Jammu's honour and and resilience, transcend- principles from compro-Dogra pride will never be ing time and geography", mise or erosion. We must "They embody the spirit unwavering commitment ing the values that define of the Dogras' struggle to justice and righteous- us, ensuring they endure for various rights-rights ness, Mian Dido's exem- as a beacon of inspiration of the farmers, equality, plary life serves as a guid- for generations, he said social justice, and freedom ing light for humanity and

the importance of stand- sacrifices and triumphs of our forefathers.

its distinctive ethos and he said, adding that his remain vigilant in uphold-

Rana asserted that as of thought and identity-all to our younger generation. the custodians of this Rana said the Dogra invaluable heritage, which valour", Mr Rana said, heritage is not merely a is a treasure trove of traadding that as we com- collection of artefacts or ditions, art, language and let us preserve, promote memorate the 244th birth stories; it is a living legacy valour deserves not just and raise our Dogra herianniversary of Mian Deedo that connects us to our our admiration but it is tage to new heights.

ity to ensure its preservation and propagation for He said Jammu, with future generations.

Rana said Prime Min-The function was dynamic spirit, stands as a ister Narendra Modi Ji's unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting the diverse cultural tapestry of India encompasses the cherished heritage of the Dogra community. Recognizing the invaluable contributions of Dogra culture to the cultural mosaic of the nation, Prime Minister Modi has championed initiatives aimed at safeguarding and celebrating this rich legacy, he added.

"As we stand at this juncture of time, let us all pledge to uphold Dogra heritage with pride and dedication. It is not just a legacy of the past; it is a gift we must nurture and bequeath to posterity with a sense of pride", said Mr Rana, adding that together

### Congress campaign gains momentum in Jammu

### **JI NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU, APRIL 20

Continuing campaign for the congress candidate Shri Raman Bhalla, JKPCC General Secretary (Org) Narinder Gupta along with Michael Wazir PCC Secretary, Parshotam Mehra



Senior OBC leader and elections in Jammu and Camres David Babloo Ricky Dalotra HQ incharge Kashmir. Gupta enumer- while addressing said that

and especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

Thomas Khokhar- General Secretary PCC asked the party workers to remain active and present at the grass root level 24x7 and intensify the effort to strengthen the congress party and ensure the victory of Jammu Reasi seat.

Michael Wazir PCC

### Modi govt empowered women: Prabhat, Sanjita

#### JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, APR 21

J&K BJP Treasurer Prabhat Singh Jamwal and Mahila Morcha President Sanjita Dogra addressed a meeting of women at Ward 39, in Toph to seek votes for BJP's MP candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma.

Updesh Andotra, senior leader of BJP Mahila Morcha, Rita Kotwal and Rita Jamwal also addressed the gathering.

Prabhat Singh Jamwal,



of this nation, through its the Modi government by sturdy policies, initiatives, voting in favour of Jugal and schemes at the ground Kishore Sharma. Sanjita

level. He said that none Dogra, in her address, while addressing the gath- other than the Modi gov- attacked the earlier gov- Sharma to boost the develering said that the Prime ernment has done so much ernments in Jammu & opment and to continue

women of J&K into darkness. She said that Modi ji took bold decisions to undo the injustice and empowered the women in the J&K along with the whole of nation. Updesh Andotra appealed to them to vote in favour of Jugal Kishore

that Congress, NC, and

50 per cent population

that favoured their own

ing the future of other

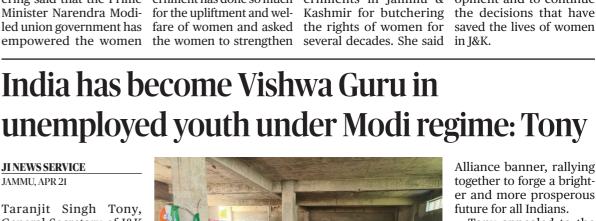
led union government has fare of women and asked the rights of women for saved the lives of women empowered the women the women to strengthen several decades. She said in J&K. India has become Vishwa Guru in unemployed youth under Modi regime: Tony

#### JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, APR 21

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Suchetgarh, asserted that India, once celebrated for its potential as a global leader, has regrettably assumed the unenviable title of "Vishwa Guru" in youth unemployment under Modi's regime.

Speaking at the public meeting held here at Chatha Kulliyan today, the senior Congress said that the nation grapples with staggering unemployment figures, particularly among its youth population. He highlighted the stark disparity between the fake promises made by Prime emphasizing how each Minister Modi, particularly the pledge to create two crore jobs annually, and the harsh reality of escalating unemployment plaguthe populace. ing the nation. Despite

these grand Guarantees, unemployment rates have soared to unprecedented levels, reaching a peak that threatens the livelihoods and aspirations of countless individuals and families across the country.



Alliance banner, rallying together to forge a brighter and more prosperous future for all Indians.

Tony appealed to the people of India, particularly those in Jammu and Kashmir, to exercise caution and skepticism when confronted with Modi's assurances, warning that history is bound to repeat itself. He called upon people to critically evaluate the performance and promises of the current government, holding them accountable for their actions and their impact on the nation's well-being. He urged voters to exercise their democratic right The senior Congress in support of Congress economic crisis and the to safeguard the country's

The meeting was orga-National Congress-led INDI Transport Chairman in Alliance emerges as the which Jasbir Singh, Bal people of the country. He and Teja Singh. Promiemphasized the Alliance's nent among those who lagging behind even its times. He urged people Satish Sharma, General neighbors like Pakistan to unite under the INDI Secretary JKPCC.

He reaffirmed the unde- and Bangladesh, highniable truth that all Modi lighting a grim picture of Guarantees are proved the nation's reality, where mere "jumlas," as evi- hunger and unemploydenced by the stark reali- ment have become definties faced by the people of ing features of daily life.

India. He highlighted the promises made in 2014 leader underscored that, candidate in the upcomand reasserted in 2019, in the face of the current ing Lok Sabha polls aiming pledge has ultimately failure of the incumbent future. unraveled as empty rhetogovernment to deliver on ric, failing to translate into its promises, the Indian nized by Mohinder Sigh, tangible improvements for Tony drew attention sole viable option for the Krishan, Shanty Singh to the country's dismal performance in key indices such as the Happi- commitment to inclusive were present include Aaya ness Index. He lamented growth, job creation, and Singh, Ashraf, Daljeet that, in stark contrast to social justice, positioning Kaur, Sonia Kaur, Sunita the lofty title of "Vishwa it as a beacon of hope and Devi, Rajneesh Sharma, Guru," India finds itself change in these turbulent Vice President JKPCC and

ing areas.

the upcoming parliament added.

at Old Rehari Jammu. The schemes launched by the sufferers of the Modi led ent Govt. has failed to meeting was organized by Congress party during government's policies as address the public issues Mr. Camres David Babloo, UPA-I and UPA II, like our rights snatched and and as a result the miseries Senior Congress leader Right to work (MGNRE- lands, jobs not secure of the people multiplied. and was attended by large GA), Right to food, Right while our status down- He said that people are number of local residents to education, Right to graded. We the people of being fleeced in the name of Old Reahari and adjoin- information etc. but BJP J&K are facing worst kind after coming to power in of situation since 2014 & While addressing the 2014, has snatched peo- youths frustrated. He said He termed it as worst kind gathering Mr. Narinder ple's rights and brought that farmers, youth, trad-Gupta said that people of all type of miseries to the ers, daily wagers, Angan-Jammu and Kashmir are common man by impos- wari, Asha workers all are fed up with the wrong pol- ing heavy taxes, price rise passing through difficult is going to teach lesson to this election Congress has to vote against BIP and the Lok Sabha seats in farmers and workers, he to establish peace and Masih, Sogadar

PYC held public meeting ated the several benefits people of J&K are worst Secretary said the presprosperity in the country

of taxes and jobs& trade being snatched from local. of anti people and anti youth government which needs to be thrown out.

Other who spoke in the icies of BJP led Govt. and and unemployment . In phase, it is the right time meeting include Pardeep Bhagat, Nek Mohd, Feastthe BJP. He also said that come out with its Nyay bring back congress to us Sotra, Suraj, Thoumas Congress will sweep both Pattar for youth, women, rule the country in order Paul, Polus Gill, Raju

### Continuity in Excellence: Prof. B.S. Sahay Reappointed as Director, IIM Jammu for Second Term

### **JI NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU, APR 21

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu is pleased to announce the reappointment of Professor B. S. Sahay as the Director, IIM Jammu for a second term. Prof. B.S. Sahay's reappointment mitment to advancing the during his initial tenure. heights of excellence. The appointment of Prof.



comes as a testament to institute's academic and instrumental in shaping research. His innovative his visionary leadership, research agenda. Under the strategic direction of dedication, and contribu- his guidance, IIM Jammu our institute, and I look tions to the growth and has achieved significant forward to our continued success of IIM Jammu milestones and scaled new collaboration in achieving Prof. B. S. Sahay, Direc- juncture, I would like to

IIM Act amended in 2023. his profound gratitude, IIM Jammu fraternity for and international arena. Having served with stating, "I am happy to their steadfast support and acumen, and a deep com- committed to leveraging frontiers of management Jammu.

our past successes as a education and research foundation, propelling our to make it a world-class institution to even greater Institute."

heights of excellence and Prof. B.S. Sahay's condistinction in the years tinued leadership will ahead. I extend my sincere provide stability and congratitude to the Board of tinuity to IIM Jammu as Governor, IIM Jammu for it embarks on its journey their trust and confidence towards greater excelin me. Their guidance lence and impact in manand leadership have been agement education and

and visionary approach, coupled with a strong focus on fostering academic rigor and industry our shared goals. At this engagement, will further elevate the institute's B.S. Sahay is done as per tor, IIM Jammu, expressed extend my thanks to the standing in the national

The Board of Governors distinction in his first be entrusted with the co-operation. It is through and IIM Jammu fraternity term, Prof. B.S. Sahay privilege of serving as the our collective efforts and congratulate Prof. B. S. has demonstrated exem- Director of IIM Jammu for shared vision that we will Sahay on his reappointplary vision, managerial a second term. I am deeply continue to advance the ment as Director, IIM

### Support INDI Alliance Candidate to safeguard J&K from BJP's divisive policies: Vijay Lochan

**JI NEWS SERVICE** JAMMU, APR 21

Vijay Lochan, Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference SC Cell, urged people of Jammu to rally behind the INDI Alliance candidate in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls with an aim to safeguard the democratic fabric of India and also to uphold the principles of justice and equality.

Today, a meeting was convened at Village Makhayala in Marh constituency to galvanize support for Raman Bhalla, INDI alliance Candidate

for Jammu Lok Sabha seat. The meeting was organised by Desh Raj Sangral in which Vijay Lochan, Chairman of JKNC SC Cell, was the Chief Guest.

vailing situation.

On the occasion, Ram Lal District President SC Cell, Som Nath Retd. Principal, Baldev Raj Retd Master, Lambardar Raj Kumar, emphasizing the pivotal Capt. Harbans Lal, Bodh Raj Rtd Inspector, Milki Ram, B.D Thappa, Jia Lal ing. During the meeting, reeling under depressed conditions as the pres-



privileged section of the BJP's divisive politics and nation's future and called society. He raised serious authoritarian tendencies for their active participaconcern over the increas- threaten the very essence tion in driving positive ing plight of the people, of our pluralistic society. It reforms. exacerbated by the preis imperative that we join Highlighting the urgent who prioritize the inter- Corporators, highlighted

Vijay Lochan urged the all else," he added. people to rally behind the Bua Ditta Retd Master, INDI Alliance candidate, people of the area to sup- ent dispensation. They port INDI Alliance Candi- emphasized the imperadate in the upcoming Lok tive of championing their role they must play in safeguarding the nation from Sabha polls with an aim rights and advocated for the BJP's divisive agenda. to get rid from the mis- inclusive policies that and Baljeet Kumar were He observed that the rule of BJP government uplift the marginalized. also present in the meet- resounding wave of sup- at the Centre. Rakesh They underscored the port in favor of the INDI Singh Raka, Central Zone pressing need for social Vijay Lochan asserted Alliance signals a ground- Vice President of Youth justice and equitable that the people belonging swell of resistance against Wing, highlighted the opportunities for all, resto OBC community are the forces threatening the detrimental impact of the onating deeply with the nation's democratic ethos. BJP regime on the youth, attendees and galvaniz-"The time has come for stressing the urgent need ing further support for the ent dispensation in J&K us, as responsible citizens, for transformative change. INDI Alliance candidate, has utterly failed to pro- to unite in defense of our He emphasized the youth's Raman Bhalla in the ensuvide justice to this under- democratic values. The pivotal role in shaping the ing Lok Sabha polls.

Sham Lal Basson and forces and elect leaders Rishpal Singh, former need for concerted action, ests of the people above the problems being faced by the weaker sections of

Lochan appealed to the society under the pres-

# NEWS

## Azad launches election campaign from Ancestral village in south Kashmir

#### JI NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR APRIL 21

Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad launched his election campaign for the Anantnag-Rajouri-Poonch seat from his ancestral village Nagam, Kokernag. Reflecting on the importance of roots, Azad emphasized the significance of never forgetting where we come from. He expressed joy in visiting Nagam, noting that many years ago, most of the people who now reside in "People of our Chenab declared Azad, "We ed from South Kashmir. bond with South Kashmir, be divided and deceived Despite the distance, they as many migrated from any longer. Both parties nection to their roots. He remain firmly planted agendas over the needs of the geographical divide.

of our shared culture, to developing both regions sentiments for personal where love and affection and fostering connectivity gain." He outlined a clear failing to deliver tangible ernance, inclusive develcontinue to thrive despite between them." Azad pledged that, once the parties NC & PDP for opment, employment, and elected Chief Minister, he perpetuating division peace. These are not mere would prioritize construct- and exploiting the people slogans but the pillars in the region, including

highlighted the resilience here. We are committed the people, manipulating Azad slammed both is straightforward: devel-

both regions. He said,

ing a tunnel to bridge the with empty slogans. Azad upon which a prosperous the establishment of a gap and improve connec- emphasized the urgent society is built. It's time tivity between the Chenab need to shift the political to move beyond rhetoric tion of roads, schools, and Valley and South Kashmir, discourse towards tan- and focus on real solutions hospitals. "It's time to hold

"Enough is enough," vision, stating, "My agenda

ensuring easier access for gible progress and unity. that uplift every citizen." Together, we can reject the politics of division and the Chenab Valley migrat- Valley maintain a strong cannot allow ourselves to embrace a path of progress that benefits every individual, regardless of have retained a strong con- there. However, our roots have prioritized their own background or affiliation. He slammed political leaders for seeking votes in South Kashmir while benefits to the people. He questioned their track record of governance and highlighted his own efforts medical college, construc-

our leaders accountable," asserted Azad. "Many are vying for votes in South Kashmir, but what have they truly accomplished for the people? I've personally invested in this region, establishing vital infrastructure and institutions that directly benefit the people." "Actions speak louder than words," he remarked. "While some leaders merely exploit voters with empty promises, I've delivered concrete results that improve the quality of life for residents in South Kashmir." Azad reaffirmed his dedication to addressing the pressing issues facing the region. "My record speaks for itself," he declared. "I stand for transparent govopment, and empowering every citizen to thrive." Among others who were present there include, Gen Secretary Ch Haroon Khatana, Spokesperson Adv Saleem Parray and Salman Nizami Chief

Police hosts drug prevention awareness programme in Budgam

### BUDGAM, APR 21

Continuing its steadfast Budgam have organattended by over 100 students and staff members. The program was

### People fed-up with BJP's misrule, craving for change: Uday Chib



### **JI NEWS SERVICE** JAMMU, APR 21

Uday Bhanu Chib, National General Secretary of deeds of ruling party at Indian Youth Congress, the Centre. He said issues today said that people of which the common man Harjeet Singh Bagi, Vice Jammu and Kashmir and is confronting right now President DCC Jammu elsewhere are fed-up with are mainly due to BJP's Urban, Surinder Kumar lies-riddle policies and thoughtless push to direcmisrule of BJP and long- tionless policies. ing for a change.

Sharma, President Youth new heights, democratic Congress at Ward No 36 institutions facing threat, in Jammu North Assembly and what not", he said is ly appointed President segment, the senior Con- the gift of BJP to people, gress leader said that the adding that it was Rahul heartfelt gratitude to BJP leadership is only pro- Gandhi who raised these ficient in selling lies which issues vociferously and it did very well in J&K also. forced ruling party to go Bhanu Chib, Amit Patha-He said that problems on back foot many times. which the people of trouble-torn J&K were facing only J&K but other States Bagi, and Surinder for since long, have been across the country are also entrusting him with the increased manifold under yearning for the change responsibility to serve. He the BJP Government with as BJP has done nothing acknowledged their confino respite coming to sight on ground except craft- dence in him and pledged in near future.

aim is to accomplish the common man. He empha-striving to make positive mission set in by the sized that Congress being contributions to the com-Congress leader Rahul a party of principles is all munity.

Gandhi in providing suc- set to shine in the upcomcour to masses by way of ing Lok Sabha polls and rendering selfless service will form Government at and highlighting the mis- the Centre.

Among those who were present include Vice Chairman SC Cell JKPCC, Deepanshu IYC "Unprecedented hike in National Spokesperson, Addressing the meet- fuel prices, ruthless farm Rushu President Ward 37, ing organized by Karan bills, inflation touching Madan Singh Chib, Tarun Vaid and others.

Karan Sharma, recentof Ward 36, expressed senior Youth Congress leaders Jagdev Gaga, Uday nia, Akash Bharat, Vankul Uday asserted that not Jamba, Harjeet Singh ing new 'Jumlas' on all to fulfill his duties with He said that his sole the issues which concern dedication and integrity,

## NC pays glowing tributes to Bodhraj Bali on his 21st death anniversary

#### JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU APRIL 21

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Sunday paid glowing tributes to former minister and senior party leader Mr Bodh Raj Bali on his 21st death anniversary, describing him as a leader par excellence who devoted all his life in service of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.



Leading the party cadre ent capacities. His contri- the National Conference Teli Chairman OBC Cell, in paying floral tributes bution in strengthening cadre by dint of his deter-

to Mr Bali, at a function National Conference at mination and hard-work retary Jammu Province, held at Sher-e-Kashmir the gross root level in the besides strengthening the Vijay Laxmi Datta Senior ing, Provincial Secretary a high point of his politi He said the best tribute G. H. Malik, Rita Gupta Vice Jammu Sheikh Bashir cal career, he said, adding would be to strengthen the President Central Zone, Ahmed highlighted the that the veteran leader party at gross root level Rakesh Singh Raka Vice immense contribution of made a distinct mark by and make it a vibrant force President Central Zone, the veteran leader in the serving the people, which to satiate the urges and Dr. Vikas Sharma Secdevelopment and progress will serve as a source of aspirations of the people. retary Jammu Province, inspiration for the coming He said that the late leader S. Tejinder Singh Aman Mr Bali, Sheikh Bashir further said that Mr Bali high political caliber and Urban YNC, Ashok Dogra Ahmed Provincial Secre- worked for strengthening having passion for serv- Vice President District tary Jammu said that the the fabric of secularism ing the people, especially Jammu Urban, Master Several senior lead-Paying tributes to Mr ers, including Pardeep Block President Jammu Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Bali, former minister and Bali, Ayub Malik Provin- East, Nitish Gowsami Prosaid that Mr Bali worked Central Zone President cial Secretaries Jammu, vincial Secretary Jammu tirelessly for the uplift- Jammu Babu Rampaul Bushan Lal Bhat former Province YNC, Som Raj ment of the poor and said the towering leader MLC, Vijay Lochan Chair Taroch, Ajay Kumar,

Ankush Abrol Joint Sec-Bhavan here this morn- Jammu Province remains party at gross root level. leader, Pyare Lal Sharma, Paying tributes to generations. Sheikh Bashir will be remembered for his District President Jammu Aslam Secretary Central Zone, Ashwani Charak

Spokesperson.

### **JI NEWS SERVICE**

motive towards a drug free society, Police in ised a DRUG Prevention Awareness Programme at Higher Secondary School Soibugh. The event was

focused on educating the participants about the ill effects of substance abuse thereby preventing their usage. During the programme

an informative lecture, addressing the early signs of substance abuse, methods of detection and identification of potential abusers was delivered by Ms. Insha-Incharge drugde addiction centre DPL



Vibodh urges support for

of Jammu and Kashmir.

with a sense of commit- state of J&K. ment.

JI NEWS SERVICE

Former Minister Sat

Sharma CA, along with

Mandal President BJP

Talab Tillo Keshav Chopra,

Ex Councillor Neelam

Nargotra, District Gen-

eral Secretary Adv Rajesh

Gupta and other leaders

commenced Door to door

campaign for BJP's candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma

in Ward No 40 of Talab

During the Campaign,

Sat Sharma met with

residents and highlighted

Tillo Mandal.

JAMMU, APR 21

departed leader worked and brotherhood in the poor and down-trodden.

down-trodden in differ- left an indelible mark on man SC Cell, Abdul Gani Sewak Singh and others.

to door Campaign at Talab Tillo

Sat, Keshav, Neelam commences Door

Budgam.

Moreover, the treatments that are available for the drug addicts were also discussed in detail. The event also emphasized on the crucial role that teachers play in the prevention of substance abuse.

This program also included an intra school debate competition and the winners were distributed with certificates from Budgam Police.

Illegal mining and transportation of minerals: Police seizes 4 tractors in Baramulla **JI NEWS SERVICE** BARAMULL, APR 21

Cracking a whip on illegal mining of minerals at Wagoora & Delina Baramulla, Police seized four tractors and arrested their drivers.

The Police initiated the action under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla, SDPO Kreeri assisted by IC PP Delina & IC PP Wagoora. The drivers have been identified as Showkat Ahmad Bhat son of Gh Mohammad resident Palpora Palhallan, Mohammad Umar Chopan son of Mohd Sultan resident of Mirangund, Shabir Ahmad Bhat son of Gh Rasool resident of Wagoora & Khurshid Ahmad Dar son of Gh Nabi resident of Delina

the same political parties

#### **JI NEWS SERVICE** JAMMU, APR 21

Narendra Modi, especially gathering,

that were accused of per- jeet Singh Khalsa stated In a bid to ramp up direct petrating scam after scam that every segment of people contact, BJP J&K and had been voted out society has experienced General Secretary and by the people in 2014 and significant relief under former MLC Vibodh Gupta 2019. Stating that India is the Modi Government, as led a day-long extensive lucky to have Narendra their longstanding genudoor-to-door election Modi Ji as Prime Minister, ine demands were met. He campaign in Nanak Nagar, who is close to the heart emphasized the Modi Gov-Digana, and Janipur in of the masses, Vibodh said ernment's commitment to support of BJP's candi- that by voting for BJP in its vision of "Sabka Saath, date Shri Jugal Kishore parliamentary elections, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vish-Sharma from the Jammu- people would not just was, and Sabka Prayas,' Reasi parliamentary seat. elect a government but attributing this progress to During the door-to-door also actively participate the abrogation of Article campaign, the BJP leader and contribute to Modi Ji's 370, which had hindered

culture of "appeasement not only promising but

alliance is a regrouping of dynastic politics. Former MLC Charanment of Jammu and Kash-Vibodh strongly assert- mir. Mandal president

popularized the achieve- vision of a Viksit Vishwa the progressive developments of Prime Minister Guru Bharat. in the Union Territory of ed that Modi Ji had done bharat Bhushan praised J&K. While addressing the away with the Congress the Modi government for Vibodh Gupta said that and caste polarization" also delivering good goverthe NDA government, and ushered in transfor- nance, development, and under the leadership of mative "politics of devel- transparency at the grass-PM Narendra Modi, has opment, performance, roots level. He urged the fast-tracked economic accountability, and people to overwhelmingly growth, strengthened reforms." He affirmed that support the BJP, which

rural infrastructure, and people are determined to stood for the development launched schemes for the give Prime Minister Nar- and empowerment of all empowerment of all in endra Modi a third term sections of society in the Jammu and Kashmir. He to reinforce their role in upcoming Lok Sabha elecmaintained that the INDI combating corruption and tions.

### Missing Girl Traced out and reunited with legal heirs by Police Post Rehari, Jammu

#### **JI NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU, APR 21

That on 20-12-2023, No. 15 Dated 18-04-2024 did strenuous efforts and heirs.

in Police Post Rehari with the help of technicomplaint.

Jammu on a written cal assistance, said missing girl, was got traced Acting upon this, a by the police team, and one missing girl (name Police team led by SHO after completing all legal withheld)R/o jammu Police Station Pacca formalities, she has been .\*was lodged Vide DDR Danga & IC PP Rehari handed over to his legal

communicate with the Sat further added.

voters and inform them

the welfare schemes and the goal of making Jammu Minister Modi JKUT has is the mood of the nation programmes initiated by Kashmir a developed UT. achieved many mile-

Modi's government. Sat These schemes are work- stones. IIT, IIM, AIIMS and Sharma said that the door- ing to change and raise lots are live examples of to-door campaign aims to people's standard of living the development. Keshav

Keshav Chopra while cast their vote in favour of about the development speaking highlighted the Jugal Kishore Sharma. works done by the Modi pace of development in for the poor are realizing Keshav said under Prime Modi as the Prime Minister present.

and added that whatever has been done in the last 10 years is unmatchable.

Abhishek Sharma, also urged the voters to Nitish Kumar, Karan Banotra, Vikas Kumar, Rajesh Langar, Ravi Kumar, Shob-Neelam Nargotra, while hit Sharma, Ashok Kumar, govt during its 10 years. the country under PM speaking claimed that the Goglu, Pradeep, Subhash The PM's welfare schemes Modi's Government, third term for Narendra Sharma and others were

Ghat.



### **BJP believes in divide, crush and rule: Bhalla**

#### **JI NEWS SERVICE** REASI, APR 21

Huge public gatherings in favour of Congress candidates are an indication of the reality that Congress is emerging as first choice of people in Jammu region. This was stated by JKPCC Working President and Congress contesting candidate from Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat Raman Bhalla while addressing election gatherings at Shajroo, Maore, Rangli, Badar, Sungri, Chasana, Sanglikot, Kundan in Reasi District.Prominent among those present on the occasion include Ex Minister Bopinder Singh Jamwal, NC Leader Nawaz Ahmed constituency.

Addressing a largely expected them to deliver Kashmir. and come up to their of their vested agenda.

atmosphere besides failed proved to be worse of its strengthening the people," to deal with the security kind where the common Bhalla said. environment and finally masses were suffering and



NC Abdul Gani Malik, left J&K in political uncer- ruling class enjoyed royal District President Reasi tainty. He said that Con-lifestyle."They never care DDC Master Mohd Israil, remain steady on its prin- they got their votes. The Sarpanch Chatter Singh, ciples of secularism, and people who voted them Adv. Ayaz Hussain, Abdul equality for all & equitable to power faced frequent Gani Block President, development of J&K. He power cuts, lack of drink-Avub Avan, Imtiaz Wami, expressed confidence that ing water supply, price rise Mohd Ul Malik, Haji Mohd our strengthen booth units of essential commodities, Shafi, Mohd Iqbalb, Ch. will definitely win elector- failed to deal with Paki-Siraj Din, Haji Rafiq Mir, al battle from Jammu-Reasi stan on borders, due to

attended gathering, Bhalla ernment in J&K for creat- strong foreign policy," he said that Congress is the ing a mess of the whole alleged. He said that BJP only secular, democratic situation and worst ever has brought Jammu and alternative to the pres- misrule in the history Kashmir at a stage with ent dispensation which of the State.He said that one region is stood against believes in divide, crush 2014/2019 elections were other. and rule. He said that held in a totally polarwinds of change are blow- ized atmosphere and the ernment which always confidence shown by ing in J&K and Congress is BJP not only exploited kept J&K united as one emerging as a first choice the religious emotions of unit. There was equal in J&K in view of the con- people but also surren- share in development and sistency in its policy and dered before the hunger employment without any secular credentials. He of power. People saw real disparity," he said, while said that people in Jammu face of BJP when it came praising the people friend-& Kashmir feel cheated to power after total sur- ly policy of the previous from BJP whom they voted render of their agenda. Congress Government. to majority in 2014/2019. Expressing hope, Bhalla He said Congress will con-He said BJP so far has run claimed that Congress tinue to fight anti-people govt against the wishes of Party will form next Gov-policies of the Centre and J&KUT and Growth, hosthe people. Still people ernment in Jammu and LG's Administration in pitals, unemployment

Bhalla said BJP badly and they completely failed every worker is bound to lines and vitiated the Jammu and Kashmir. The people as Congress has overall social and secular first time rule under BJP the legacy of serving and

gress party would always for Jammu where from

which many soldiers got Bhalla charged the Gov- martyred in absence of

Congress will form next government in Jammu and Kashmir. He said bureaucratic rule has never been alternative to democratically elected Government. He said all major projects in J&K UT were mostly conceived and launched by Congress government. Bhalla said people of Jammu and Kashmir are eagerly, waiting for assembly elections and they will teach a lesson to BJP in J&K. He said Congress Party is serving people with dedication and without self-interest. Congress leader said he and his party is available for service at people 24×7. He said that Congress is only political force in the country consistently playing role of healthy opposition in the country.

Reiterating his resolve to institutionalize transparency and accountability in the governance, Bhalla said that the Congress had shown the way for strengthening democratic and constitutional institutions in the State by initiating various revolutionary steps during its tenure in the power. Complimenting people for their patience, Bhalla "It was Congress Gov- said that the trust and people in his party was the guiding force to transform Jammu and Kashmir as an island of peace and prosperity.

Bhalla said J&K had lost a great lot since its division. "We were told that the scene in Jammu & Kashmir will change after making J&K UT, besides defeating will be taken care of. But Bhalla coming down the challenges faced on that has not happened at expectations, to which heavily on BJP said, the various fronts especially, all. As a matter of fact, we they utterly failed because party befooled the people misleading politics of were far better off when with their false promises BJP."Party is supreme and it was being ruled by various Chief Ministers, divided the people on to fulfill the promises further strengthen it at Bhalla said. So, we are a regional and religious made with the people of grass roots level and serve great loser. We have been a great loser after the state's division into two parts. We have been a great loser ever since the Assembly Former Minister said was dissolved," he added.

## Heavy polling in 1st phase is a vote for change: Congress

#### **JI NEWS SERVICE** JAMMU APR 21

Congratulating the electorates of 4-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency for enthusiastic participation in the elections has reflected the faith of people in democratic setup and a sign of change. Addressing media per-

sons here today at PCC HQ Jammu, President JKPCC Shri Vikar Rasool Wani while congratulating the voters for larger participation in the Lok Sabha elections in 4-Udhampur basic amenities of life to to all of them in fixed time ing the salary of Angan-Constituency, despite rain and bad weather, most of the areas witnessed heavy polling is an indication of change. He said people are fed up from BJP and wanted a change, which is expected 1st phase heavy

polling. He expressed confi-Schemes for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, towards this end. dence that congress would emerge stronger and vic-Handicapped persons and all the socially neglected torious in 5-Jammu- Reasi sections of the society are Constituency and its alliance partner NC from 3 Lok Sabha seats of Kash-Congress party. mir Valley which will go to poll in 2nd and following bhases..

makes programmes for caste, creed, sex and the state of development in all Incharge PYC HQ Ricky ameliorating the lot of Congress party believes in most every aspect of life. Dalotra in the Press conthe people by providing giving best quality of life Congress party will contin-ference.



Healthcare, Provision of of the Congress party like

Modern Infrastructure, better housing facility, pol-

the Women and Welfare facilities of trade and

industry etc. are geared

cash on the personality of

#### JI NEWS SERVICE LADAKH, APR 21

Taruk, Eastern Ladakh, 17 & 20 April, 2024-Dah Diviorganized a quiz competi-Eastern Ladakh.

showcased Indian Army's conducted on two phases. session was organised by unwavering dedication to In Phase - 1, the kids were officers of the Indian Army, empower and engage the screened based on school to inspire the students and youth in remote regions. curriculum. The selected encourage them to pursue With a focus on promoting kids participated in Phase their passions. The success sion of the Indian Army, in learning and teamwork, - II, which covered a wide of the quiz competition its continued commitment the event aimed to bring range of questions on Kargil reflects the collaborative to fostering education, educational opportunities War and the war heroes, efforts of the Indian Army, inculcate a competitive to children while foster providing a platform to the the School Administration spirit and camaraderie in ing a sense of community children to showcase their and the Local Community. remote areas, successfully and unity. The event wit- intellect and knowledge. Such events play a crucial nessed lively participation The unique format of the role in fostering a sense of tion for children at Taruk, from 'Little Einsteins' who competition was thorough- belonging and empowershowcased their knowl- ly enjoyed by the kids, cre- ment among the children, The quiz competition, edge of science, history ating a vibrant atmosphere. ultimately contributing to held at Government Senior and general knowledge. In addition to the quiz the overall well-being and Secondary School, Taruk, The quiz competition was competition, an interactive progress of the region.

ue doing its utmost with courage and conviction with out indulging in hallow sloganeering.

NEWS

Chief PCC appealed to the electorates of district Jammu, Samba and Reasi to cast their valuable votes in favour of Congress party which guarantees restoration of statehood, security of land and jobs, employment for locals, enhanc-

all of them. Education, schedule. All the policies wadi workers, Asha workers, regularization of daily wagers, need based, ad uninterrupted Power lution free environment, hoc, contractual employ-Supply, Provision of safe decongestion of the exist- ees and ameliorating all and pure drinking water, ing cities, development of sorts problems of the Job creation for the unem- model cities, development people of the state includployed, Empowerment of of villages, enhancing the ing smart meters issue, water tariff etc.

Mr. Wani was flanked by PCC Vice President Vinod Wani said that the entire Sharma, General Secrepoll campaign of BJP is to tary (Org)

Narinder Gupta, Genon top most agenda of the one person whereas Con- eral Secretary Inavatullah gress is approaching the Rathar, Pradesh Mahila PCC Chief reiterated that voters with the history and Congress President Sha-Congress regards every cit- achievements of the party meema Raina, Media izen of the state as equal which brought the coun- Coordinator Neerai Gupta. Wani said, Congress irrespective of religion, try and the state to present Secretary Michael Wazir,

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### **Army progressing...**

length on the alleged anti-OBC stance of the Congress, ment. The BJP candidate further said that zero tolerance the exams.

infra-red homing-based VSHORADS.

The DRDO is working with two of its Development cum Production Partners Adani Defence and I-Comm for producing Laser Beam Riding VSHORADS.

The DRDO has tested the system based on a tripod and they are now expected to miniaturise the system for making it a shoulder-fired weapon system, the officials said.

In the meanwhile, the Indian Army and the Air Force used the Emergency Procurement powers to buy around 96 launchers of the Russian Igla of which the orders given in EP-1 while 48 are expected to be delivered in near future.

In this meanwhile, there is also a suggestion to revive ago in which the Russian side had emerged as the lowest bidder with its Igla-S system on offer.

soon to find out ways of carrying out the project under ity to the remotest of villages in Bihar. 'Make in India'.

expected to be worth around Rs 4,800 crore.

The importance and the versatility of "VSHORAD missiles have been regularly proved in battle including the recent Russia-Ukraine conflict, Defence Ministry officials stated.

The Indian forces have been progressing the cases for replacing their old VSHORADS system. (Agencies)

### If Congress and...

out Naxalism and reined in terrorism. When the Congress was in power, terrorists struck at will and nobody could muster the courage to retaliate.

In contrast, the attacks in Uri and Pulwama were followed quickly by surgical strikes and Balakot airstrikes. Our security personnel went across the border with Pakistan and the terrorists were bumped off in their own hideouts," said Shah.

He also slammed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for taking exception to raising the issue of abrogation of Article 370 in poll rallies outside Jammu and Kashmir, saying "it is a matter concerning the whole country". "People from Rajasthan and Bihar have shed their blood fighting the insurgency there.

that is being progressed is the Design and Development with the promise of caste census, besides forming alli- Economically Weaker Sections, have proved that the and all aspirants from J&K who have cleared UPSC CSEproject being carried out by the DRDO for making an ances with parties like the RJD that have roots in the Mandal movement.

> "The Congress slept on the Kaka Kalelkar Commission report and when recommendations of Mandal Commission were implemented, it opposed the same for years," alleged the BJP leader, who added it was under Modi that the OBC Commission was granted constitutional status.

"Not only is Modi the first OBC PM, but he also heads a cabinet in which 35 per cent of the ministers come from backward classes. This has all been made possible by the BJP," said the home minister, who urged 48 have already arrived as part of the first tranche of voters of Katihar to vote for JD(U) MP Dulal Chandra Goswami and help the PM secure a third consecutive term in office.

"If you go with the RJD and the Congress you will the contract which was scrapped almost over five years have to contend with riots, atrocities, poverty and food shortage. If you vote for the NDA you will continue to reap the benefits of the double-engine government," The stakeholders in the project are expected to meet said Shah. Shah said that Nitish Kumar brought electric-

'But the INDI alliance wants to take the state back to The project scrapped by the Defence Ministry was the lantern age," said the BJP leader, referring to the poll symbol of the RJD. He also charged the RJD with having ushered in a "jungle raj" in the state while in power and accused its supremo Lalu Prasad and his son Tejashwi Yadav of "sitting in the lap of Congress"

> The home minister also reeled out a number of statistics to highlight the progress made by the country under the Modi government. "In the last 10 years, on average, one university has been established every week, two new colleges have been set up every day and 55 patents have been registered every day.

> Besides, an average of 1 lakh mudra loans have been given to poor entrepreneurs every day," claimed Shah. Modi's rule has brought development to the entire

country, including Bihar. The central outlay for Bihar during the 10 years of the previous Congress government stood at 2.80 lakh crore. Under Modi, it shot up to 9.23 lakh crore," he added. (AGENCIES)

### Days of Congress...

NDA government under PM Narendra Modi, as, during the last ten years, broad changes have been witnessed in different sectors.

"The refugees from West Pakistan had been agitating Now Kashmir has been fully integrated with the rest for grant of citizenship rights but no one cared, rights of the country," he said. In his speech that lasted barely of the daughters of the soil were snatched on marrying 15 minutes, Shah, who spoke in the presence of Chief outside the state", Jugal said and added that the affected Minister Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president, also dwelt at and aggrieved sections got justice from Modi govern-

has not been very encouraging. Another programme which has sought to reach out to the backward classes towards terrorism, and reservation to STs, OBCs, and and welfare of every section and cannot discriminate or appease anyone for vote bank politics. Jugal said that today's Jammu and Kashmir is fast moving on the path of development, progress and prosperity as the Modi government has showered this UT with numerous mega and prestigious projects of infrastructure development as well as dozens of welfare schemes which, socially and economically, empowered the poor, needy and marginalized class. The credit for the restoration of peace, putting normal life on track, and massive development, goes to the Modi government and the people should come forward to express their gratitude to the Service (IPS), among others. (AGENCIES) PM by voting in favour of the BJP candidate and teach Congress a lesson by rejecting it in upcoming polls. OBC morcha state president Sunil Prajapati, Akash Chopra, Adv Dev Raj and others also accompanied.

### Emraan Hashmi shooting...

social media. This left fans worried. However, Emraan rubbished the rumours on his social media page. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir have been very warm and welcoming, it has been an absolute joy shooting in Srinagar and Pahalgam. The news of me Tihar jail. The ED also arrested Soren on January 31 in being injured in a stone pelting incident is inaccurate (sic)," he wrote on X.

The film also stars Sai Tamhankar and Mukesh Tiwari among others. Emraan is also set to make his Telugu film debut with 'They Call Him OG.

The film, which also stars Priyanka Arul Mohan, Arjun Das, Prakash Raj, is all set to release in September this year. Recently, Emraan made a special guest appearance in the historical thriller drama film 'Ae Watan Mere Watan.' (Agencies)

### Boy from J&K's Bharot...

that level where you can compete with peers."

"I was sick and missed the chance during the time of Covid-19. Also, I could not find my name last year due and one Pakistan-made pistol were recovered from the to time mismanagement during the mains examination," he said.

Speaking about his goals and vision, Din said, "If given a chance, I will try my best to make the government policies and schemes reach the beneficiaries in a transparent and better way. This is the only thing I will strive for. Later, if given a chance to make some policies, I would like to give some ideas that are in my mind..."

gratulated all the aspirants from J&K who had cleared

"Heartiest congratulations to Anmol Rathore (AIR:7) Modi government is concerned for peace, normalcy, 2023. Your remarkable achievements will inspire the youth of J&K. Best wishes to all the successful candidates," Manoj Sinha said in a post on X.

> The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) declared the results for the Civil Services Exam on April 16. A total of 1,016 candidates cleared the examination and have been recommended for different governmental services, the UPSC said.

> The Civil Services Exam is conducted annually in three stages - preliminary, main, and interview.- by the UPSC to select officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police

### Lord Ram belongs...

claiming He is only theirs." Attacking the saffron party, Abdullah said that it got scared of the popularity of former chief minister Hemant Soren and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. "They were put behind the bar without any fault," he said.

Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21 in a money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy. He is lodged in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged land fraud, immediately after his resignation as the chief minister. Abdullah appealed to people to cast their vote in favour of INDIA bloc candidates to save the country and democracy.

A total of 28 political parties took part in the rally. (Agencies)

### Govt teacher nabbed...

pistol and grenades in his house," they said.

Police added that the consignment recovered is suspected to be used to disturb the upcoming election in the Poonch area.

"The search is still in progress. Two Chinese grenades OGW," said police.

### Traffic disrupted...

The highway is being upgraded to four-lane and the work on the project has been going on since 2011. The work which included a number of small and major tunnels, bridges and flyovers is likely to be completed by Earlier, Jammu & Kashmir's LG, Manoj Sinha con- next year after missing several deadlines over the past decade. (Agencies)

# NEWS

## **Congress, NC, PDP looted resources,** ditched J&K residents: Ravinder Raina

### **JI NEWS SERVICE** JAMMU, APR 21

Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir, was addressing a public meeting at Bhatindi.

MP (Rajya Sabha) Ghulam Ali Khatana, former Deputy CM Kavinder Gupta, former MLA Devender Singh Rana, Vinay Gupta, Ankush Gupta, Ashraf, Wani, Khajuria, Jamwal, Pappu, Pushpinder, Rafiq, Liaqat, Noor Alam, Mohd Alam and others were also present on the occasion.

the BJP on the occasion.

meeting, said that as we Jugal Kishore Sharma. have already entered the



supporting the BJP's can- principle of "Sabka Sath, inter-district recruitment A large number of didate in these polls. He Sabka Vikas" during the prominent persons joined further asked the people last 10 years and India transportation of animals, to ask others also to vote is seen progressing on Ravinder Raina, while for the development and a fast pace. He said that the STs. addressing the public elect BJP's candidate, PM Modi considered the

election mode for the par- Minister Narendra Modi the welfare of every secliamentary elections 2024, has presented an examthe people have already ple of how a political cies of the Modi govern- said that the Modi govern- has initiated schemes ment and are massively ment has worked on the like political reservation, believes in taking all the cally and politically.

whole nation as his family

tion in every area.

gone through the develop- party should work for the that the Modi government with the brotherhood in ment works and the poli- welfare of the people. He belongs to everyone, it society.

issue, vehicles for the and other such steps for

He also recalled the time under the leadership for the welfare of people Raina said that Prime and sincerely worked for of former Prime Minister in every need. He said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee, when it is the Modi government the resurgence started Ravinder Raina said and the nation progressed

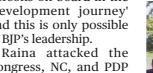
persons on board in the 'development journey' and this is only possible in BJP's leadership.

Congress, NC, and PDP for looting the resources the innocent residents of the erstwhile J&K state. He said that these parties did nothing for the empowergovernment has worked for the welfare of needy

and every religion. Ravinder Raina appealed to the people to vote for the Modi government, which has worked that took care of the needs of the Gujar-Bakerwals along with other com-

munities and empowered

### BJP gave political reservation to STs, fulfilled promise with community: Ashok Koul in a ST rally



of the state and ditching ment and the welfare of the needy communities like Gujjars, Bakerwals and other sections. Modi and neglected people representing every region

He said that the party them socially, economi-

### **JI NEWS SERVICE** KALAKOT, APR 21

Ashok Koul, General Sec-BJP, said that the Modi government has fulfilled the STs and other communities and gave a call development' to the massive gathering of people belonging to the ST comrally at Kalakot.

mandal president Vikram, assembly constituency.

since independence that steps for their welfare and has understood the core asked them to vote mas- the note of thanks.

**Titles in Sr. Category** 

communities and sincerely worked to resolve them on retary (organization), J&K priority. He said that the his address, said that the last 10 years of the Modi government have been its promises made with marked by numerous such tiple ways. He asked the ST formed the lives of people of 'vote for Modi, vote for belonging to these com- earlier ruling parties delibmunities.

munity during a public a nationalist community ernment, the development Ashok Koul, accom- the previous governments the far-flung areas. panied by Sanjay Baru, owing to their simplicity district prabhari, District and straightforwardness. to vote and support Jugal President Neena Sharma, He insisted that the previ- Kishore Sharma to supsenior leader Sardari Lal, ous governments led by port the development parties like NC, Congress BJYM leaders Yuvraj Singh, and PDP used the com- to strengthen the hands of Wasim Kohli addressed a munity as a vote bank PM Modi by ensuring the massive ST rally orga- only according to their Modi government for the nized by former Minister choice and harmed their third time. Abdul Gani Kohli at Sial interests at every step. But Sue in Kalakot-Sunderbani the Modi government took that the people in this area substantial steps for their have full faith in the Modi Ashok Koul, while empowerment politically, government and have addressing the rally, said socially and economically, made up their minds to that the Modi government gave them political reser- vote for the BJP candidate is the only government vations and took other Jugal Kishore Sharma.

Simriti, Shiv Clinch Bhaderkashi

**Chess Association DISTRICT Doda** 

issues faced by the people sively in favour of the Modi belonging to different government to continue the spree.

Abdul Ghani Kohli, in Modi government has changed their lives in muldecisions that have trans- people present in the rally to tell the others how the erately kept them away He said that the Gujjar- from the development, but Bakerwal community is now, under the Modi govthat faced the wrath of has reached them in even

> Sanjay Baru asked them works in the area and also

Neena Sharma stressed

Wasim Kohli presented

### BJP OBC Morcha holds Nukkad Meeting in Jammu Border, Initiates door to door campaign in Nougrah Panchayat, Jammu Border

#### **JI NEWS SERVICE** JAMMU, APR 21

Sunil Prajapati, State President BJP OBC Morcha said that people have been eagerly waiting to make Narendra Modi Prime Minister once again for the 3rd consecutive term as the 'Modi Wave' has become more intense this time after repealing of Art 370, construction of Ram Temple and BJP's crusade against corruption.

While intensifying door Jammu Border constitu- endra Modi to power. ency here, Prajapati main-



Sunil Prajapati said vailing under the patronduring his recent public turned stronger than the the country before BJP about people enthusiasti- Modi paved the way for however said that the scecally waiting for the polling the repealing of Art 370, nario in J&K is crystal clear regions. days to exercise their right construction of the Ram because massive crowds

to door campaign in the their favourite leader Nar decisive war against the ing the party leadership rampant corruption pre- whether it is nomination filing event or public raltained that he has observed that the Modi Wave has age of parties which ruled lies; the situation is foretelling devastating defeats interactions and rallies last two elections after PM came to power in 2014. He of the opposition parties in both Jammu and Kashmir

to franchise and bring back Temple and carried out a and gatherings are follow-reiterated that people Leaders.

sweep conditions for the BJP as Congress and other regional parties in J&K seem to have conceded defeat before the largest political party in the world as their workers have gone into hibernation with complete absence of zeal and zest. "The affection for Modi

have decided to offer clean

ji has become so much that leaders of opposition parties must have been fearing that their workers might ditch them by voting in favour of BJP", he added.

Prominent among those who were present during the campaigning include Ashok Verma (Secretary OBC Morcha), Kuldeep Sodi (General Secretary OBC Morcha Jammu The senior BJP leader Border) and other local BJP

ChessTitles in U-15, U-17, U-19 & Open categories in Girls section. While Shiv won in Open category, Shivang Kotwal Junior category title. Total 51 players participated in three day Chess trials. The tournament was inaugurated by Principal Adarsh Vidya Mandir Bhaderwah and lauded the efforts of BCADD in promoting

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APR 21



and lauded the efforts of BCADD for smooth conclusion of the trials in a transparent manner.

Smt Priya Kohli, Principal Bhartiya Vidhya Mandir Bhaderwah was the Chief guest in the Valiductory function on 11-04-2024 and distributed the certificates and Medals to the winners. All other players were given certificates. No entry egories and last days all was charged from the

### Proud to stand among 99% oppressed Kashmiris against NC's brutal legacy: Sajad Lone

### **JI NEWS SERVICE**

BARAMULLAH, APR 21

J&K Peoples Conference President Sajad Lone today said that he stands proud among the 99% of Kashmiris who have borne the brunt of NC's misrule rather than aligning with the 1% who perpetrated atrocities. Lone made these remarks while addressing a mammoth gathering of dedicated workers in Nihalpora, Pattan which was organised by PC Senior General Secretary Imran Reza Ansari. The gathering, attended by thousands of dedicated workers, witnessed a significant moment as senior political leader Riyaz Ahmad Sheikh from Singpora, Pattan and prominent social activist Irshad Pandit from Sariwarpora, officially embraced the party, fortifying its grassroots support.

In his address to the



assembled gathering, NC's decades-long reign at pushing the people to Kashmir, clinching victory Lone asserted that the of oppression, he said the wall. Yet, shamelessly, overwhelming major- that, "They have contrib- NC leaders are now seekity, comprising 99% of uted to creating martyrs' ing to portray this major-Kashmiris, have been the graveyards in almost every ity of Victims as agents of victims of brutality, sub- village and town. They Delhi." jected to imprisonment, have been at the helm torture, unjust deten- of regimes which killed tique of the National Contions under the PSA, and thousands of innocent ference's tenure, Lone even extrajudicial execu- Kashmiris, implemented questioned their account- their shameful complic- the people's grievances tions at the hands of a oppressive laws such as ability for the hardships ity during the abrogation and aspirations in the Parpowerful 1% minority of the POTA and PSA, along endured by the local popu- of Article-370. If they can liament with unwavering the National Conference. with the law for mandatory lace, despite their histori- address these issues con- courage and conviction,"

in LS elections nine out of ten times.

"They must answer for their 50-year rule post-Making a scathing cridevelopmental stagnation, oppression of Kashmiris, incarcerations and While denouncing the police verifications aimed cal dominance in North vincingly, we shall extend he asserted.

our sincerest apologies," he declared.

Lone further lambasted Omar Abdullah's attempts to portray himself as a paragon of virtue, recalling his tacit endorsement of human rights violations during his tenure under the Vajpayee government, amidst growing unrest in Kashmir.

"The same government expressed its desire to abolish Article 370, on record, if it had enough parliamentary support. It was the same dispensation that discarded the proposal for autonomy in J&K but Mr. Omar still remained clung to power. You lack moral authority to label the majority of the local populace, given your lack of ideological disagreement with the BJP. It's puzzling how you can even show your face here," he remarked.

Lone also underscored the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as pivotal, following the watershed events of 2019. He earnestly implored the people to rally behind PC, amplify-1975, characterized by ing their long-muted voices to the highest legislative echelons, the Parliament. "I pledge to represent

the game of Chess in the remote areas of Doda District.

51 players participated in players for participation in Open categories out which trials and all players were First day 34 players 26 were Girl players. Sh given refreshment during participated participated Rajesh Kotwal was the all three days. 6 players in different categories, Observer from J&K Sports were provided transpor-2nd day 28 players par- Council who personally tation facility also during ticipated in different cat- monitored all the games all three days.

### Scientific temperament instillation workshop for students was conducted at BHSS Hatmulla

### JI NEWS SERVICE KUPWARA, APR 21

BHSS Hatmulla, in collaboration with sarvodya foundation and MTG Publications, hosted a counseling session in the conference hall of BHSS Hatmulla. More than forty experts from various science disciplines participated in the session.

Principal Mr. Nazir Ahmad Khan motivational speaker delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the importance of smart work. Dr. Reyaz Ahad Mir, lecturer in botany, led a discussion on nurturing scientific temperament among fields and areas. young learners from an

early age.



institution and Nodal Offi- of Artificial Intelligence Sameer of sarvodya cer of the Astrophysics and Machine Learning foundation underscored labs Mr. Shah Mohd Iqbal techniques into the curthe vast opportunities highlighted the imminent riculum to enhance skill beyond NEET and JEE transformation of job sets and meet the evolvexams, advocating for markets, emphasizing the ing demands of the job guidance to explore new need to equip students market.

for future challenges. He The principal of the stressed the integration



### **EDITORIAL**

## Unfolding political drama in Kashmir!

The current exchange of words between former Chief Minister and NC Vice-President Omar Abdullah and his political rival, PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti, has added an extra layer of complexity to the already intriguing political landscape of Kashmir. Mehbooba's announcement that her party would contest all three Lok Sabha seats in the Kashmir Valley comes close on the heels of Omar Abdullah's claim that the PDP had not shown any inclination to field candidates. This brewing confrontation between the two stalwarts of Kashmiri politics has injected further drama into an already heated electoral contest. Both the PDP and the National Conference, as significant political entities in Kashmir, hold considerable sway over the region's political dynamics. Their recent decision to contest against each other on all three seats of the Kashmir Valley highlights the intensifying competition for electoral dominance. Despite their participation as allies in the INDIA bloc, recent events have showcased a breakdown in communication and cooperation between the two parties, leading to a divergence in their electoral strategies. Mehbooba's assertion that the PDP was compelled to field candidates due to the unilateral decision-making of the National Conference has underscored the tensions simmering beneath the surface. This rift between the two parties, once seen as potential allies, has not only fractured their political alliance but has also created a sense of uncertainty within Kashmir's political landscape. As both parties gear up for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, speculations abound regarding potential candidates and electoral strategies. Mehbooba Mufti is rumored to be eyeing the prestigious Anantnag-Rajouri seat, while Omar Abdullah is speculated to contest from the Srinagar-Pulwama constituency. These developments not only reflect the strategic calculations of the parties but also highlight the personal ambitions of their respective leaders. The entry of Ghulam Nabi Azad, the chief of the Democratic Progress Azad Party (DPAP), into the electoral fray for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat has added another more spice to the contest. Azad's decision to contest from this seat, rather than his stronghold in the Chenab region, has raised eyebrows and sparked speculation about his political motives. Amidst these developments, the Congress party finds itself in a precarious position, torn between its alliances with the PDP and the National Conference. The party's leadership is grappling with the dilemma of extending support to either of the two regional heavyweights, as it navigates the shifting sands of Kashmiri politics. As Kashmir braces itself for a fiercely contested electoral battle, the unfolding drama between the PDP and the National Conference serves as a reminder of the fluidity and unpredictability of politics in the region. The outcome of these elections will not only shape the representation of Kashmir in the Lok Sabha but will also have far-reaching implications for the region's political future. In this high-stakes game of power and ambition, only time will tell which party emerges victorious and what it means for the destiny of Kashmir.

## Human-elephant conflict: The way out

**BKP SINHA/ ARVIND JHA** ndia's rich biodiversity includes a significant population of Asian elephants, which are not only an integral part of the country's wildlife heritage but also hold cultural and religious significance. However, the increasing instances of human-elephant conflict (HEC) have become a pressing concern

for both conservationists and those

living near elephant habitats. The root causes of HEC are multifaceted, primarily stemming from habitat loss and fragmentation due to human activities. As India's population expands, so does the need for land for agricultural and developmental activities. This expansion often leads to encroachment into elephant territories, resulting in the destruction or fragmentation of their natural habitats. Consequently, elephants are forced to venture closer to human habitations in search of food and space. Mining activities, in particular, lead to deforestation and habitat degradation, disrupting elephant migratory routes and undermining the scope and health of elephant habitats. Similarly, urbanisation and infrastructure development often intersect with elephant corridors, pushing these gentle giants into unfamiliar and potentially dangerous territories. Climate change is another significant factor in this conflict. Changes in climate patterns can affect the availability and distribution of food and water sources in elephant habitats. Extreme weather events like droughts, floods and high temperatures can force elephants to migrate in search of these resources, often bringing them into conflict with humans.

The current State of HEC in India is alarming. Over 500 humans are killed annually in encounters with elephants and more than 100 elephants lose their lives due to human-related activities, including poaching for ivory, poisoning, electrocution and collisions with trains. Train collisions are the second-highest cause of unnatural

collisions have claimed the lives of more than 200 elephants.

consume up to 150 kilograms of forage and drink up to 190 litres of water per day. This necessitates a large foraging area, typically spanning 100-1,000 km<sup>2</sup> for a family herd, to provide a diverse diet of grasses, shrubs and fruits. However, navigating large areas to find sufficient food and water becomes a challenge when these areas overlap with human activities. This often results in crop raiding, property damage, and, in some tragic instances, human casualties. These incidents, unfortunately, lead to retaliatory actions from humans that can be fatal for these majestic creatures, further intensifying their fear and mistrust of humans. Farmers, particularly those with limited resources struggle to cope with crop losses. This hardship breeds resentment towards elephants, undermining conservation efforts and trapping both humans and elephants in a cycle of violence.

Since 2019, there have been over 1500 human fatalities reported due to elephant attacks. In 2023-24 alone, Odisha reported 149 elephant deaths due to HEC. Mineral-rich districts like Dhenkanal, Angul, Keonjhar and Sundargarh have been hit the hardest, with Dhenkanal alone witnessing 130 elephants and 227 human deaths over the last decade.

In August 2023, three elephants were electrocuted at the Rani Tea EState near Guwahati due to lowhanging high-voltage wires. This was not an isolated incident; back in October 2021, sagging power lines near the Dihing-Patkai National Park claimed the lives of another three elephants. The situation worsened in October 2022, when within a single week, 11 elephants across Assam lost their lives to human-related hazards including electrocution, crop poisoning and train collisions.

elephant deaths in the country, not traditionally known for ele- ferent habitats, thereby reducing following accidental electrocu- phant habitation, saw a significant tion. Over the past decade, train change in 2002 when elephants migrated from Karnataka. This movement was largely attrib-As mega-herbivores, elephants uted to their displacement from the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, a place they had inhabited comfortably until 1990. The construction of the Kali hydroelectric project is believed to have been the catalyst for their relocation to the districts of Kolhapur and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, leading to notable incidents of crop raiding. A similar pattern emerged in 2022 when a herd of 22 elephants trekked from Chhattisgarh to Maharashtra, settling in the lush forests along the Wain-Ganga, Pranhita and Dina river basins. This migration has been linked to increased human encroachment, the construction of two canals in Odisha and mining disturbances in their traditional corridors.

The Wayanad region, a vital watershed for Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, is currently facing a multitude of environmental challenges such as deforestation, irresponsible tourism and unscientific development. Such activities are posing a significant threat to the ecological balance of the region, endangering the lives of both humans and wildlife. Wayanad plays a critical role in maintaining regional biodiversity. However, ongoing habitat degradation in this region could potentially intensify the water crisis in the Kaveri basin and escalate the HEC, which has tragically led to 41 fatalities already. Similarly, in the northeastern States of Assam and West Bengal, expanding tea plantations and human settlements have encroached on elephants' traditional grounds, leading to frequent HEC incidents. Addressing HEC requires a

multi-pronged approach that balances the needs of wildlife conservation with the socio-economic realities of human populations living near elephant habitats. This includes securing and restoring elephant corridors to ensure safe Western Maharashtra, a region passage for elephants between dif-

the likelihood of them entering human-dominated landscapes. Recognising this need, the Indian Government has launched an ambitious initiative known as Project Elephant. This program focuses on enhancing elephant habitats by creating a network of reserves, corridors and protected areas. To address the common issue of crop raiding in human-elephant interactions, the project employs innovative technologies such as early warning systems and elephantproof barriers. It also implements various strategies like durable and solar-powered electric fences and biological deterrents including biofencing with cacti, beehive fences and chilli smoke to deter elephants. Enhancing the natural food

supply within forests is another es. Its implementation has someessential strategy for preventing elephants from entering human territories. This involves improving water conservation, regenerating forests by replanting and nurturing native trees and plants, implementing fire protection and removing invasive species. Programs focused on eco-tourism and livelihood diversification not only engage local communities in conservation but also provide them with sustainable economic alternatives. Success stories from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape underscore the effectiveness of community-led conservation endeavours, strategic land-use planning, trans-border collaboration and habitat restoration in diminishing conflict incidents. Kerala has also taken a bold initiative to relocate people from forest regions and reforest agricultural lands, despite the central Government's refusal to fund this Rs. 620 crore project. The State's declaration of HEC as a State-specific disaster and the involvement of the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority in conflict management, are significant steps towards addressing this complex issue.

addressing the HEC. Elephants, listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List, are protected under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

EDIT

Recent amendments to the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 have raised concerns regarding their impact on elephant reserves and corridors, particularly within the 100 km strip of India's boundary where the majority of these reserves and corridors are located. These changes could potentially worsen the fragmentation and degradation of these vital habitats, thereby intensifying the HEC. The Forest Rights Act of 2006, while well-intentioned in empowering forest-dwelling communities, has also had unintended consequenctimes resulted in further encroachments and habitat fragmentation, which can force elephants to venture into new areas in search of refuge and resources, increasing the likelihood and severity of conflicts. Post-project monitoring, particularly in the mining industry, is often insufficient, leading to a neglect of wildlife protection measures that were stipulated during the project's approval. This oversight can result in significant harm to elephant populations and their habitats, undermining conservation efforts.

As we move forward, let us remember that our fates are intertwined with those of the elephants and all wildlife. Their survival is our survival. Their well-being reflects the health of our planet and their continued existence enriches our world in ways that cannot be quantified. It's high time we recognise our role and act responsibly, ensuring a future where humans and wildlife coexist harmoniously, each playing their part in maintaining the balance of our shared ecosystem.

(The writers are former principal chief conservator of Forests, UP and Maharashtra; views are personal)

### Mind, the key to Hidden Fortune

### **RAVI VALLURI**

nce upon a time lived a woman. She was struck with an unexpected tragedy as her husband passed away untimely. The lady was now left with only one son and precious jewellery. Since she was hound-

carried this secret to the grave. that the creditors would appro- or present is true enlightenment Consequently, the son inher-priate the wealth. He too com- and mindfulness. The past is full ited plenty of debt, a barren hut mitted the cardinal mistake of of sorrows and regrets while the and a cot. The son had to work not sharing the secret with his future brims with anxieties and hard for sustenance and to repay wife and carried it to his grave. worries and humans are caged the ever-rising liabilities. He The mother and son were not in that mindset, thereby posttoiled hard to survive and regret- mindful and wakeful enough to poning their happiness quo- that it becomes centred. 'True ted his misfortune. 'Property is be in the Present Moment and tient. To appreciate true happi- happiness is not possible with-

Statutory support is funda-

mental in the conservation efforts

This fact can be appreciated only when the mind is centred. Breathing techniques such as Sudarshan Kriya, Pranayama, Yoga, Meditation and Vipassana all help in dissolving the mind so not the sacred right. When a rich remained prisoners of their past ness and joy, the human mind out freedom. We have to learn

debts accrued by her husband, tune, it is not a moral evil. When wealth.

In sheer desperation to keep the jewellery safe from creditors, the lady wrapped the precious wealth in a piece of cloth and hid it under a tree. The mother and son lived in an

ed by creditors to repay the man becomes poor it is a misfor- and future. she conjured a trick to hide the a poor man becomes destitute, once discussing a flag flapping it is a moral evil, teeming with

consequences and is injurious to society and morality,' opined Lord Acton. Indeed, the impoverishment of the poor is heartwrenching.

impoverished State. Her mind branches of a tree, he stumbled is the MIND that moves, neither was always disturbed by the fact upon the jewellery. Dumbfoundthat she did not share this piece ed and stupefied, the strapping of vital information with her youngster hid the bijouterie in their past and future to be in the pondered and replied, 'You are only son. As it turned out, she a pit he dug in the hut, petrified present. And being in the NOW already on the other side'.

Two Buddhist monks were in the wind. While one felt it was the wind moving, the other conjectured it was the flag fluttering. The imbroglio could not be resolved and they sought the intervention of a Zen Master. One day while cutting the The master impassively said, 'It the flag nor the wind.'

Humans need freedom from the other side. The senior monk

should not vacillate between the the habit of being free. We do past and the future but remain not allow our past, the future, in the PRESENT.

ties with the BJP.

A young monk was once travencountered a massive river that he could not cross. A short while later, he saw a senior monk on the other side of the river. He hailed him and sought assistance to cross the river to reach

our projects, or our fear to get hold of us. We are free. Every elling in pursuit of happiness step is free. Every step is nourand truth. During his travels, he ishment. Every step is healing. Every step is joy,' says Thich Nhat Hanh.

> (The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

## **Rahul Gandhi holds on to Wayanad despite speculation**

### KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

and K Surendran of the BJP. Ven as the Indian Annie, the spouse of D Raja, National Congress CPI's national general secre-tary, had rubbed Chief Min-Rahul Gandhi would contest this time, The Pioneer has reported that the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi clan would not leave Wayanad from where he was elected with a mammoth majority of four lakh votes in the 2019 edition of the General Election. The report was prepared after speaking to a cross-section of the electorate in the Wayanad constituency who were unanimous Gandhi should contest from Wayanad itself.

members and activists who made it known that Rahul should register a much

oil about the Lok Sabha ister Pinarayi Vijayan in the constituency from where wrong way and the CPI(M) cadres consider it as a cardinal sin. Raja too had publicly questioned the capability of Vijayan and this made the CPI(M) activists furious. Had the Congress or BJP leaders criticized Vijayan, they would not have bothered but the CPI had crossed the Lakshman Rekha (it could be Stalinist Rekha since the comrades do not accept Ramayana). The CPI(M) comrades in their opinion that Rahul would certainly teach Annie Raja a lesson or two in the art of politics. The truth

Those who reacted to is that the CPI(M) leaders the queries posed to them wanted Rahul Gandhi to included hardcore CPI(M) contest from Wayanad so that the CPI would lose one seat for sure.

The decision to field bigger majority than that Surendran, the Kerala State the people of the State see and fascist" forces. The waxing eloquence on Anto of the 2019 poll because president of the BJP, was in TV channels and newsthe opponent happened made much later. Suren- papers is the video images Muslim League! In Marxist didate who is pitted against

would lose by a big margin party line. The information coming out of the BJP office is that he may be given a gubernatorial position even if he loses the security deposit. There are

no suitable candidates in Kerala BJP to challenge the supremacy of Rahul Gandhi and the Congress. The question being asked by Wayand voters is that how many people remember the names of the 2019 challengers to Rahul Gandhi.

What is interesting is that the animosity between the CPI(M) and Congress has come down drastically with Gandhi filing the nomination from Wayanad. Though the Congress leaders lambast the CPI(M), it is just a façade to convince the hardcore members of these parties that there is no alliance

to be Annie Raja of the CPI dran himself knows that he and pictures of Sitaram parlance, they say that who-Anil. The former defence Yechury and D Raja hugging ever aligns with the CPI(M) minister lambasted the BJP but he has to kowtow the and kissing Rahul Gandhi is secular while the BJP is as anti-nationals, commuwhile in Tripura former CPI(M) Chief Minister Manik Sarkar openly campaigning any issues in accepting the his silence on the CPI(M) for the Congress party's candidates.

> where they act as if they are rivals and enemies. By the next election, one can see the Congress and the CPI(M) fighting it together in Kerala against the BJP-led front (provided the Hindutva party leadership throws

out all the rotten eggs from addressed by A K Antony, its basket). There is no difference between the Congress and the CPI(M) as of date

Political pundits have of how political marriages been asking both parties to officially legalize the ties parties could be arrayed under the flag of the Congress across the country the electorate to ensure the between them. But what against the "communal defeat of his son, he was secular parties include the Antony, the Congress can-

nalists and dictators. "communal and fascist". The CPI(M) does not have But what stood out was

former NDA constituents as candidates. Antony's ties allies once they call off the with the CPI(M) are infa-Kerala is the only State marriage of convenience mous as he had sailed with with the BJP. Telugu Desam the Marxists for almost two of Andhra Pradesh, BJD of years during 1980-1983.

Orissa, BSP and JD(U) are The CPI(M) and the Congress-led by Antony some of the major political outfits whose secularist fought the 1980 general credentials depend on their election together and ruled Kerala for almost two years. The press meeting The Congress faction was

pushed out of the LDF by the CPI(M) which demolthe Bheeshma Pitamah of the Congress on 9 April ished the offices of the Con-2024 at Thiruvananthagress across the State with puram was an indicator the police looking the other way. It is not without any take place in Kerala. While reason political pundits say Antony was cursing his son that politics make strange so that the entire secular Anil Antony who is contest-persons into bedfellows. Do ing from Pathanamthitta as we need more proof than A a BJP candidate and asking K Antony?

(The writer is special correspondent with The Pioneer; views are personal)

# HEALTH

## This could be a reason for your late-night chocolate cravings

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APRIL 21

If you have spent nights eating chocolates or ice cream, then 'loneliness' can be the reason behind the binging on sugary items, say researchers.

According to the study published in the journal JAMA Network Open, loneliness can cause an extreme desire for sugary foods.

To conduct the study, the researchers linked weight gain, cognitive loss, obesity.



brain chemistry from ate Professor at the Uni- loneliness. socially isolated individu- versity of California, Los als to poor mental health, Angeles, said that she 93 premenopausal parwanted to observe the ticipants, and the results and chronic diseases such brain pathways associ- indicated that people who as Type 2 diabetes and ated with obesity, depres- experienced loneliness social isolation can cause sion, and anxiety, as well or isolation had a higher Senior study author as binge eating, which is a body fat percentage. Arpana Gupta, an Associ- coping mechanism against

The study included

Moreover, they dis-

played poor eating behaviours such as food addiction and uncontrolled eating.

Scientists used MRI scans to monitor the participants' brain activity while they were looking at abstract images of sweet and savoury foods. The results revealed that individuals who experienced isolation had more activity in certain regions of the brain that are responsible for reacting to sugar cravings

These same participants showed a lower reaction in areas that deal with self-control.

According to Gupta, food cravings similar to "the cravings for social connections".

## Using dietary treatment, over 70 pc of patients reduced IBS symptoms: Study

### AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APRIL 21

In a new study a group of researchers found that dietary treatment is more effective than medications in treating irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and by doing so, more than seven out of 10 (70 per cent) patients had significantly reduced symptoms.

In the study, published in the journal The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology, the researchers compared three treatments -- two dietary and one based on the use of medications.

nosis that causes abdomi- of IBS", however, she nal pain, gas & abdominal noted that there are sevbloating, diarrhoea, and eral alternative treatments constipation, in various that are useful.



combinations and with varying degrees of sever- advised to follow a tradi-

tional IBS dietary advice, itv. According to Sanna Nybacka, researcher and behaviour combined with low intake of fermentable dietician at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, carbohydrates called FODwith this study, "we can MAPs. show that diet plays a cen-

IBS is a common diag- tral role in the treatment pain in IBS.

The second group was given a dietary treatment low in carbohydrates and high in protein and fat. The third group received medication based on their most troublesome IBS symptoms.

JINDRAH IMAGES

JAMMU, APRIL 22, 2024 MONDAY

About 76 per cent of those who received traditional IBS dietary advice and low FODMAPs content had significantly reduced symptoms.

The proportion was which focused on eating 71 per cent in the group receiving a low-carbohydrate and high-protein and fat diet, and 58 per cent in the medication group.

For example, FODMAPs As per the study, all groups reported signifiinclude products with legumes, onions, lactose cantly better quality of and grains, which ferment life, less physical comin the colon and can cause plaints, and fewer signs of anxiety and depression.

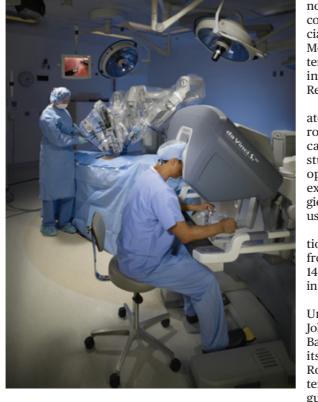
## World needs better robotics surgeons to improve patient outcomes: Experts woman with over 10 cm large hernia

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APRIL 21

As robot-assisted surgeries gain momentum globally, including in India, it is time to train surgeons employing the latest technological advances to improve patient outcomes, experts said on Sunday.

According to Dr Mahendra Bhandari, CEO of USbased Vattikuti Foundation, we should focus on how new robotic technology is being used, capturing data predictive models before, during, and after an operation to improve patient outcomes as well as surgeon didactic and training skills.

"We encourage teams of accomplished surgeons to prepare high-quality, digital submissions showcasing their most extraordinary surgical work employing the latest technological advances," Bhandari said.



The scope of the multi- dure innovation entries disciplinary technology can be from cardiac, gencompetition has been eral surgery, gynaecology, Vattikuti Foundation expanded to cover two head and neck, microsur- cover several hours of live has also announced the distinct tracks - robotic gery, organ transplant,

nological Innovation will cover areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Imaging Modalities, Robotic Systems, Tele Surgery, Training Modalities, Virtual Reality, and others.

The competition, initiated in 2015, is open to robotic surgeons, medical school faculty, and students, presenting an opportunity for a close examination of technologies and procedures being used globally.

The 2023 KS Innovation Awards saw entries from 429 surgeons from 14 countries, submitting in 10 different specialties.

Meanwhile, the Brady Urological Institute at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore has announced its first Brady-Vattikuti Robotic Academy masterclass in Urology under guidance of the accomplished robotic surgeons.

The week-long masterclass beginning May 13 will case observation, simula-

# Bengaluru doctors treat 63-year-old

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

A team of doctors on 63-year-old woman suffering from a large incisional hernia, measuring over cavity. 10 cm, as well as other

comorbidities. A hernia is a medical condition where a portion of an organ, typically the intestine, is displaced and protrudes through a weak- measuring over 10 cm. ened area in the abdomi-

nal wall. This protrusion can lead to discomfort, pain, and possible complications if left unaddressed. The woman presented

to Ramakrishna Hospital in Bengaluru had a complicated medical history, encompassing obesity, long-standing asthma, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus.

She also presented with symptoms of pain, vomittion persisting for two a giant or massive hernia. nath said. days.

the patient had experi- trude as well, leading to employed, including nonenced a significant reduc- a decrease in the abdomi- invasive ventilation to tion in abdominal space nal cavity's size and a manage respiratory dis-Saturday announced the (loss of domain), with the condition known as 'loss tress resulting from the successful treatment of a hernia occupying approxi- of domain'," Dr. Rajeev diminished abdominal mately 40 per cent of the Premnath, Laparoscopic remaining abdominal Surgeon and Endoscopist

> Furthermore, signs bowel loops. The hernial orifice was notably large,

had been aware of the tidisciplinary team opted presence of a sizable incisional hernia for nearly a decade, noting its progressive enlargement over time

As these hernias enlarge,

A CT scan revealed that other organs may pro- several interventions were

The first group was

at the Hospital told IANS. "Loss of domain presof intestinal obstruction ents challenges to surwere identified, as evi- geons due to the associdenced by dilated small ated respiratory distress caused by pressure on the

lungs," he added. Given the complexity Remarkably, the patient and risks involved, a mul-

for surgical intervention following discussions with the patient and her family. "The surgical approach included an open abdom-"An incisional hernia inal procedure, incorpois characterised by the rating hernia repair with displacement of part of mesh placement along- care and attention providan organ through a weak side abdominoplasty to ed by the doctor and the point in the abdominal address excess skin. To team during my hospital wall, often involving the mitigate risks linked to stay. The surgery and postintestine, at the site of pre-general anaesthesia, the operative care greatly convious surgery. When the surgery was conducted tributed to my improved hernial defect exceeds 10 under spinal and epidural mobility, and I am satisfied ing, and bowel dysfunc- centimetres, it is termed anaesthesia," Dr. Prem- with the outcome," said

Following the surgery,

space. In addition, physiother-

apy was administered to enhance respiratory function and mitigate potential complications such as atelectasis.

The doctors also diligently managed her underlying medical conditions, including diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.

"After a two-week hospitalisation, the woman regained mobility independence and was discharged in satisfactory condition," said the doctor.

"I am thankful for the the patient.

Awards in Robotic Surgery'.

2024 edition of its 'KS procedure innovation and orthopaedics, plastic sur- tion sessions and proctor-International Innovation technological innovation. gery, paediatrics, urology led procedural training According to the foun- and other areas. dation, the robotic proce-

The entries for Tech- foundation.

with experts, said the

### From breast cancer to brain, DNA damage - here's how ethylene oxide can affect your health

### HK, Singapore food regulators red flag 'cancercausing' ingredient in certain MDH, Everest spices

### AGENCIES

#### NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

Food regulators in Hong Kong and Singapore have warned people against using four products from two big spice brands --- three from MDH and one from Everest -- over the presence of ethylene oxide at "levels exceeding the permissible limit".

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified ethylene oxide as a 'Group 1 carcinogen'.

In a statement posted on its website on April 5, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS), Hong Kong's food Powder (spice blend for spokesperson. Madras Curry), Sambhar Powder (Mixed Masala Powder) -- along with Ever- ucts". est's Fish Curry Masala contain "a pesticide, ethvlene oxide"

Both MDH and Everest ment on the food regulators' claims.



spokesperson said.

in the matter.

Hong Kong.

"The test results is liable to a maximum fine regulatory authority, said showed that the samples of \$50,000 and impristhat three spice products contained a pesticide, eth- onment for six months of MDH -- Madras Curry ylene oxide," said to a CFS

The regulator instruct-Masala (Mixed Masala ed the vendors "to stop "investigations are ongo-Powder), and Curry the sale and remove from ing" and "appropriate shelves the affected prod-

Recalls have been initiated on the products, it said

"According to the Pes-Foods were yet to com- ticide Residues in Food Masala due to the pres-Regulation (Cap. 132CM), food for human consump-Under its routine food tion containing pesticide missible limit".

surveillance programme, residue may only be sold if from three retail outlets in not dangerous or prejudi- that said it "has directed causes cancer".

the importer, Sp Muthiah & Sons Pte. Ltd., to recall the products. The recall is ongoing." The SFA noted that ethylene oxide is not fit for consumption, but is "used to fumigate agricultural products to prevent microbial contamination".

However, under Singapore's food regulations, ethylene oxide can be "used in the sterilisation of spices".

cial to health. An offender While there is no immediate risk to eating foods "with low levels of ethylene oxide, long-term upon conviction," the CFS exposure may lead to health issues", said the The CFS noted that SFA, noting that exposure to the "substance should be minimised as much as action" may be initiated possible".

It also advised people Meanwhile, the Singawho bought the product pore Food Agency (SFA) to not "consume it", and also ordered a recall those who have concerns of Everest's Fish Curry about their health after consumption must "seek ence of ethylene oxide at medical advice".

According to the US levels "exceeding the per-**Environmental Protection** The SFA posted a release Agency, "ethylene oxide the CFS took the products consumption of the food is on its website on April 18 is a human carcinogen. It

Ethylene oxide is a cancer-causing agent that can raise the risk of breast

NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

AGENCIES

cancer, as well as cause damage to the DNA, the brain, and the nervous system in humans. The carcinogen has been found in four products from two big spice brands in India -- three from MDH and one from Everest -- at levels exceeding the permissible limit.

What is ethylene oxide?

The Spices Board, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, defines ethylene oxide as a "flammable, colourless gas at temperatures above

10.7 Celsius". It serves as a "disinfectant, fumigant, sterilising agent and insecticide".

It is majorly used to sterand to reduce microbial contamination in spices. Besides being produced

from natural sources, it can also be generated from water-logged soil, manure, and sewage sludge.

What are the health effects?

The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies



conclude that it can cause reproductive problems. cancer in humans".

the human central nervous system, and cause depression and irritation of the eyes and mucous membranes but prolonged exposure can irritate the Institute, ethylene oxide is and over 9.1 lakh deaths in brain and nervous system,

as per the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

oxide is carcinogenic to

ethylene oxide as a 'Group' humans by the inhalation 1 carcinogen', meaning it route of exposure", and can be exposed to ethylhas "enough evidence to has also been linked to ene oxide via inhalation

Short-term exposure to indicates that exposure al, consumer, or environilise medical equipment the carcinogen can affect to ethylene oxide increases the risk of lymphoid cancer and, for females, breast cancer," it noted. Further, according to

eyes, skin, nose, throat, frequently reported to be 2022. and lungs, and damage the associated with lymphoma and leukaemia.

Stomach and breast in 2025, according to the cancers may also be asso- Indian Council of Medical ciated with ethylene oxide Research-National Cancer The EPA said "ethylene exposure, the institute said.

It stated that people and ingestion, which may "Evidence in humans occur through occupationmental exposure.

According to the latest estimates of cancer's global burden by the WHO, India has more than the US National Cancer 14.1 lakh new cancer cases

> The number is projected to go up to 15.7 lakh Registry Programme (ICMR-NCRP).

# NATIONAL

## Hubballi murder: Accused's father apologises to Neha's family

JINDRAH IMAGES

JAMMU, APRIL 22, 2024 MONDAY

#### AGENCIES HUBBALLI, APR 21

Demanding maximum punishment for his son, the father of 23-year-old Fayaz, who allegedly killed the daughter of a Congress councillor inside a college campus in Hubballi, has apologised to the victim's family and said his son should be given strict punishment.

Baba Saheb Subani, a school teacher and Fayaz's father told media on Saturabout the incident around act.

he said with teary eyes.

three months ago.



shattered with his son's daughter. Admitting that folded hands.

his son made a mistake, "He (Fayaz) should be he said that Fayaz and family has been demandpunished in a way that Neha loved each other ing that the accused be no one dares to do such and were in a relationship. hanged to death and only a thing in future. With "Fayaz told me he wanted then will their daughter's folded hands, I apologise to marry her but I refused soul rest in peace. They to Neha's family members. it with folded hands," he maintained that their She was like my daughter," added. Condemning his daughter was not in a rela-Subani said that he and said that no one should said the accused stabbed his wife have been living commit any such atrocities Neha because she rejected separately for the past against women. "I request his proposal. six years and that Fayaz the people of Karnataka stayed with his mother to forgive me. My son has several parts of the state

day that he came to know that around eight months of Munavalli (Fayaz's ago, Neha's family had hometown) please forgive 6 pm on Thursday and was called him to inform that me. You raised us. Please completely shocked and his son was troubling their forgive me," he cried with

> However, the victim's son's act, Fayaz's father tionship with Fayaz and There were protests in

and called him whenever done wrong. He will be demanding capital punhe needed money. He last punished by the law of the ishment for Fayaz, who spoke to his son about land and I welcome it. My has been arrested in con- and verified, but he was

The alleged murder of the daughter of the city corporation councillor on her college campus has sparked widespread condemnation and protests.

The issue has snowballed into a political slugfest between the ruling Congress and opposition BJP in Karnataka. While the ruling party has tried to project it as an "incident with a personal angle", the saffron party suspects "love jihad" and said that it points to the "deterioration of law and order" in the state.

Neha was allegedly stabbed to death on the campus of BVB College on Thursday. The accused Fayaz Khondunaik, who fled the scene, was arrested by police subsequently. Neha was a first-year MCA student and Fayaz was her former classmate.

According to a senior police officer, Fayaz allegedly stabbed her multiple times. During interrogation, he claimed that the two had been in a relationship but she had been avoiding him of late. "It needs to be corroborated officer said.

## Siblings found murdered a day after dad's death in Delhi's Pandav Nagar

### AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APR 21

A 15-year-old boy and his 9-year-old sister were discovered dead in their home in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar on Saturday - a day after their father was found dead on a railway track at Anand Vihar. The mother was found unconscious and severely injured in a separate room.

Shyamji Chaurasiya, 42, was married to Sannu, 39, and had two children, Kartik, 15, and Gunnu, 9. Police said that the

mother survived the attack and was in intensive care at AIIMS Trauma Centre. Chaurasiya ran a tea stall and his two brothers ran a cigarette shop close by at a market in the area. They lived in the dingy lanes of bed completely soaked in Pandav Nagar.

family's house was locked for the last two days and who incessantly called to investigate.



and fainted. I remember gruesome sight fainted," seeing two bodies on the said Jeetlal.

blood, their faces beyond that of the father or the customers continued to Finally, police were called said they saw the bodies had happened. being taken out of the

Tihar requested diabetologist after claiming they already

Mamta, sister-in-law house. "The bodies had at the tea stall, said that of Sannu and an eyewit- turned black and the faces the accused had a drinking ness to the opening of the were unrecognisable. The problem which affected home door, narrated to bloodied clothes as well his behaviour. "He makes TOI the events that unfold- as a rod were taken out the best tea in the area. He ed. "The key maker came of the house. The bodies developed a liver disease and opened the door of of both the children were a few months ago, which the house. Inside, I could found like this. Some of caused him to have a lot of not believe what I saw the people who saw the weakness. Due to this, he began to hire helpers at his stall. The last helper lasted

Meanwhile, as a crowd 3-4 months. The worker gathered in the street to said that he was employed According to the resi- recognition. We couldn't discuss the gruesome by the elder brother Ramji dents, the door of the tell if the male body was murder of the minors, to work at the tea stall. son." The body of the throng the tea stall of the learnt to have asked DCP there was no activity seen mother was found on the accused and UPI payments (East) Apoorva Gupta to outside. This raised sus- floor in a room adjacent to were swiftly being made have the cases investigatpicion of Sannu's family, the one where the bodies into his account. The ed thoroughly It is being of the children were dis- native of Bihar's Begusarai ascertained if the father of her on her mobile phone covered. Jyoti and Jeetlal, nonchalantly served sever- the children was involved to find her not responding. relatives of the family, all cups of tea as if nothing in the killings or where the murders were the handi-

Rahul Gupta, a regular work of an outsider.

### 'Bihar was converted into 'Jungle Raj' under Lalu-Rabri govt': Amit Shah

said.

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHL APR 21

Union home minister Amit Congress party, I want to "Jungle Raj".

lives of impoverished indi- ment came to power and Prime Minister from Other viduals.

"PM Modi has done ties against everyone have community. the work to annihilate stopped. Nitish ji has pro-

Bihar was converted into a Narendra Modi took bold 'jungle raj.' Today he (Lalu steps to revoke it in August Yadav) is sitting with the 2019.

"Modi ji ended Naxalism Shah launched a blister- tell him (Lalu Yadav) that and cracked down on tering attack on Rashtriya the same Congress party rorism. There was the UPA Janata Dal (RJD) leaders opposed Backward class- government, and terrorists on Sunday, claiming that es, suppressed the report from Pakistan used to come Bihar experienced a period of the Kakasaheb Kalelkar and carry out bomb blasts of lawlessness under the Commission report, and here. Within 10 days of the governance of Lalu-Rabri, opposed the Mandal Com- Uri and Pulwama attacks, earning the moniker mission report," Amit Shah Modi ji conducted surgical and air strikes in Pakistan Addressing an election "The poor, backward, and eliminated terrorists." rally, Shah said that PM and OBCs were all sub- Shah said. Shah also under-Modi has spearheaded a jected to atrocities. Ever scored that the BJP made huge transformation in the since the NDA govern- Narendra Modi the first

> Nitish became CM, atroci- Backward Classes (OBC) "We made a poor tea

## have adequate medical facilities: Saurabh Bharadwaj

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APR 21

Amid the ongoing row, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday presented a letter in which the Director General of Tihar jail requested AIIMS hospital for a diabetologist the previous day, contradicting Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) claims of adequate days, a doctor from AIIMS medical provisions being for Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.



was asked for yesterday. available inside the jail For so many days, Arvind Kejriwal has been saying that take me to a diabe-

Party spokesperson and tes specialist and give me Arvind Kejriwal has been

towards 'slow death' "Overall, it was a con- lin to control his blood spiracy to finish Kejri- sugar level since his arrest, wal so his multiple organ terming it 'shocking' and damage and when he comes out of jail after 2-4 ment of kidney, heart and

other organs," he said. "Arvind Kejriwal has been suffering from diabetes for 20-22 years. He There is a hospital, clinic, has been on insulin for 12 sweets everyday to create beds, and insulin. Everyyears. Once a patient goes thing is there and Arvind on insulin, his sugar can bail or shift to a hospital. Kejriwal is lying," he said. be controlled only with However, Kejriwal refuted "For the past 20 days, insulin," he added.

intake like mangoes and grounds for a medical the central agency's claim

'alarming.' Previously, the Enforcemonths he goes for treat- ment Directorate had claimed that Kejriwal, despite having type 2 diabetes, was purposefully eating food with high sugar

CM has been denied insu-

The police brass is

Meanwhile, the Tihar in the court and asserted Delhi health minister Sau- insulin. Till now the BJP with them. He is diabetic. Jail administration on Sat- that the food he consumed rabh Bharadwaj accused government at the Centre He is asking to meet a dia- urday submitted its report was in conformity with the the central government was saying that there are betologist, he is asking for regarding Kejriwal's health diet chart prepared by his of being accomplice in specialists in the jail; what insulin. A normal doctor, I status to Delhi Lieutenant doctor. don't know how he is there Governor. According to Kejriwal was arrested in jail, on his recommen- the report, Delhi CM was by the ED on March 21 in dations all these manipula- on insulin for diabetes connection with a money tions are being done and control. The report also laundering probe relating the elected CM of Delhi is called it 'incorrect' to say to alleged irregularities in that the chief minister was the now-scrapped Delhi being denied insulin by excise policy 2021-22. Earlier, Bharadwaj had jail authorities. Earlier on The trial court, on April alleged that a conspiracy Friday, Kejriwal's council 15, extended the judicial is being hatched to kill senior advocate Abhishek custody of Kejriwal until April 2.

town has got a black mark nection with the incident arrested immediately," the Fayaz's father recalled because of my son. People that occurred on April 18.

Lalu-Rabri government, whereas Prime Minister added.

'parivarvaad'. PM Modi vided electricity to every seller's son the PM. Modi ji also destroyed casteism, village and every house, has made 35 per cent backand appeasement and but the INDI Alliance wants ward and extremely backworked for the upliftment to take Bihar back to the ward MPs as ministers in of every citizen. PM Modi Lantern era and oppress his cabinet and has worked has brought a huge trans- OBCs," the Union home on adding 16 new castes to formation in the lives of minister added. Further, OBC. We gave free ration to poor people. Today Lalu the Union home minister more than 80 lakh people, Yadav and Congress party emphasised that both the built more than 12 crore together fighting the elec- grand old party and Lalu toilets, and gave Ujiwala tion against BJP and JD(U). Yadav had evaded issue of gas connections to more You all remember the Article 370 for 70 years, than 10 crore mothers," he

incumbent CM by deny- from outside?" ing him adequate medical treatment inside Tihar terday wrote to AIIMS that jail. Taking to his official X they need a diabetologist. handle, Bharadwaj posted a picture of the letter written by DG of Tihar jail to of everyone. Till yesterday, AIIMS and said "Exposure! There was no diabetes spe-

a conspiracy to kill the is the need for specialists

"The DG of Tihar jail yes-Today, the BJP government has been exposed in front they were saying that they

added. have all specialists. Every-

being denied insulin," he

cialist in the jail. After 20 thing is available in the jail. Kejriwal by pushing him Singhvi said that the jailed

### BJP-led Union govt wants to change Constitution, curtail people's rights: Priyanka Gandhi

### AGENCIES

#### RAIPUR, APR 21

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Sunday said the BJP-led Union government wants to change the Constitution and curtail the rights of people.

Addressing a rally in Chhattisgarh's Balod in support of the Congress' Kanker Lok Sabha candidate Biresh Thakur, she also decried the use of religion in politics and said this was never the tradition of the country.

"The Constitution has government wants to leader alleged. change this Constitution



given you the right to lead a respectable life since there and it should be seen vote, given you reserva- their rights would be lost, on television. There has to tions, ensured protection including that of asking be showing off." "Indiraji of tribal culture and facili- questions. The intention (former prime minister tated the development of of the BJP-led Centre is not Indira Gandhi) had a puja Dalits. The BJP-led Union right, the senior Congress room to perform rituals but she did it in solitude. It

Asserting that "show off was not to show off. Reliand curtail people's rights," politics" had gained ground gion should not be used she claimed. She said any and was the trend in the in politics as it has not leader claimed. Voting change in the Constitution country, she said, "Today, been our tradition," the will held in Kanker in the will impact everyone and when a leader performs Congress leader further second phase of Lok Sabha people would not be able to puja, a camera must be said. Religion means truth polls on April 26.

and service and if a leader makes false promises from the stage, then he or she is neither religious nor on the path of truth, Gandhi asserted.

"The BJP-led Union government is only working for a few industrialist friends of PM Modi. If it was working for you (citizens), then your problems would have been solved gradually. Modiji's government has been in power for 10 years. Has your life changed?" she questioned. BJP leaders keep claim-

ing Prime Minister Modi has become a powerful leader in the world, but if that was the case then why did he not reduce unemployment or control inflation, Gandhi said. The PM waived loans of Rs 16 lakh crore of industrialist friends, the Congress

### In 2019 Fadnavis eyed Union finance minister post, said he'd groom Aaditya for CM: Uddhav Thackeray

### AGENCIES

MUMBAI, APR 21

Uddhav Thackeray said deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis wanted to become finance minister at the centre and had promised in 2019 that he would groom Aaditya (Thackeray) very well so that he could be made the CM after 2.5 years. He was speaking at a rally in Antop Hill for his party's candidate from Mumbai South Central Anil Desai Saturday evening.

Uddhav said it was then BJP national president Amit Shah who had asked Fadnavis to wait outside Balasaheb's (Thackeray) room at Matoshree, the Thackeray family home

have to think to speak the truth. "I advised Aaditya elections...Going forward, the party would have been of making him a minister, let alone the chief min-

you lie again and again. keray got exposed. My old Delhi] as I know things friend Uddhav Thackeray about the finance ministry. when Shah had come is a bit delusional. He said That means he wanted to there to finalise the alli- that I was to go to Delhi by become finance minister ance with the Sena in 2019. making Aaditya Thackeray at the centre. Now he's Uddhav hit out at Fad- the chief minister. He must hitting back as I exposed navis's comments in have gone mad. But I'm him," Uddhav said.

which he called Balasa- not mad," Fadnavis said. heb's room at Matoshree CM Eknath Shinde said as 'some room'. Uddhav there is a limit to lying. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief described Fadnavis as a "He [Uddhav] wanted worthless person without to become CM which he any shame, was a disgrace. could not become in the Fadnavis hit back at Sena-BJP alliance. So he Uddhav's allegations, lied that Amit Shah promsaying that one doesn't ised him the CMship of 2.5 years. But Amit Shah has denied this," CM Shinde Thackeray to contest the said. "I told Fadnavis don't put things into Aaditya's head of being chief handed over, the party, so minister. He's just starthe should get some groom- ing his career as an MLA, ing. But I had no intention groom him but don't put the idea of chief ministership in his head. But I ister. But lying requires asked how a senior leader thinking. Once you lie, like him would work under Aaditya [as chief minis-Then you get exposed ter]. Then he said after somewhere. Uddhav Thac- 2.5 years, I'll head up [to

Maoists cry 17 of their 29 cadres shot in cold blood in Kanker

### AGENCIES

RAIPUR, APR 21

Maoists on Saturday alleged that 17 of their 29 cadres killed in the April 16 Kanker encounter were shot dead in cold blood by the security forces.

Police have rejected the charge, terming the allega tion a "ruse to gain people's sympathy and discredit the security forces".

Maoist spokesperson for north sub-zonal bureau, Mangli, alleged that after the encounter, security forces rounded up unarmed or injured Maoists and shot them down. He announced a bandh on April 25 in Mohla-Manpur, Kanker and Narayanpur, a day before Kanker goes to poll. A joint team of BSF and District Reserve Guards had launched a massive anti-Maoist operation on April 16 in the forests of Chhotebethiya in Kanker. Three jawans were injured in the gunfight.

# INTERNATIONAL

## London Mayoral race heats up as Indian-origin Tarun Ghulati challenges incumbent Sadiq Khan

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 21

Indian-origin Tarun Ghulati has kicked off his campaign for the office of London Mayor as he challenges Sadiq Khan from winning his third continuous term.

Ghulati wishes to run London like a 'seasoned CEO' who delivers profits for all and thinks that his experience as a busineeds to revive its fortunes build London's balance down by all major political sheet such that it is the parties. premier choice for investresidents. I will transform a seasoned CEO. London doners," he declared. will be a profitable corpohe added.

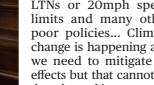
unique global city, akin London Assembly.



to the 'global bank of the world' where diverse cul- the streets of the city is nessman and investment tures converge to flour- among his other major priexpert is what London ish," Ghulati said in a orities, with visible comspeech this week. Accordas the 'global bank of the ing to Ghulati, citizens officers patrolling on the world'. "As Mayor, I will of London have been let beat on the agenda.

"I would not be a candiment, safeguarding safety date for Mayor if the politiand prosperity for all its cal candidates were doing their jobs; which means what they should be. They and run London effec- have let us down. This is for women to walk at tively and efficiently like all about London and Lon-

The 63-year-old is ration where profitability standing as an Indepenmeans the well-being of dent candidate among 13 all. You will all be part of contestants in the fray for to scrape down Labour the journey. Let's do it for the local elections on May Party incumbent Sadig our London, our home," 2 when Londoners will Khan's policies such as the "I view London as a also for members of the Ultra Low Emissions Zone



Additionally, safety on munity policing and more "It is about having

enough bobbies on the beat, having the resources for police officers to do making the streets safe night, with muggers and burglars being caught and punished," he said during in his speech.

Ghulati also pledges vote for their Mayor and high costs associated with (ULEZ) charges and Low

Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) across the city also make up Ghulati's key policy planks.

"We did not want ULEZ, LTNs or 20mph speed limits and many other poor policies... Climate change is happening and we need to mitigate its effects but that cannot be done by making everyone live 15 minutes from home or to penalise commuters in areas with little public transport. What changes we need to make must be paced with public opinion, not imposed arbitrarily on wallets coping with the cost of living," Ghulati said. Ghulati also launched a scathing attack on Conservative Party candidate for Mayor, Susan Hall, for failing to block the Mayor's controversial policies despite being an assembly member for London for many years.

Creating more affordable housing, minimising council tax, increasing focus on tourism to the UK capital and ensuring free school meals are among some of Ghulati's other focus areas

## Death toll due to sweltering heat in Bangladesh rises to four

#### AGENCIES DHAKA, APRIL 21

The death toll due to scorching heat in Bangladesh has mounted to four on Sunday.

A middle-aged woman reportedly died on Sunday morning, pushing the death toll due to blistering heat to four in the past two days, Xinhua news agency reported.

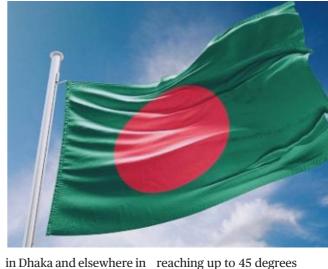
Millions of people are at risk of heat-related impacts in the country, experts have warned, linking the early onset of an intense summer to climate change.

the country.

To cope with the logical Department (BMD) unbearable heat, the govhas already issued a "heatwave warning". "A very ernment has decided to severe heatwave is sweepkeep all schools, colleges, ing over Pabna, Jashore madrasas, and technical education institutions and Chuadanga districts as Jashore on Saturday. across the country closed severe heat wave is sweepfrom April 21 to 27. The Bangladeshi gov-

ernment urged the relevant authorities to take hi," it said on Sunday. precautionary measures to manage blistering summer heat, which touched highs of 42 degrees Celsius in parts of the country.

The heat started in early sibility of further severe April and continues to to very severe heat waves Wave". leave the people gasping in later this month with whatever shade they find maximum temperatures



Celsius in parts of the lation. Bangladesh Meteorocountry.

desh's highest tempera- late in the coming years ture of this summer due to erratic rainfall and season was recorded at high temperatures, posing 42.6 degrees Celsius in a threat to Bangladesh,

In Dhaka, the temperature rose to 40 degrees ing over Dhaka and rest part of Khulna divisions Celsius Saturday, she said.

and the district of Rajsha-"The prevailing heat Afroza Sultana, a metesions including Rangpur orologist who works at the may continue and may Storm Warning Centre of the BMD told Xinhua on next couple of days," she ernment has decided to Sunday that there is a pos-

country which sits on a massive river delta. In recent years, natural disasters like floods and heatwaves induced by extreme weather

the discomfort

may increase in the South Asian

owing to climate change have caused more frequent-than-usual disasters in the country of some 165 million popu-

Experts said the heat-Sultana said Bangla- waves would likely esca-

one of the biggest victims of global warming.

Bangladesh's capital Dhaka experienced 40.6 degrees Celsius on April 16 wave over several divi- last year, the highest in the capital in 58 years.

To cope with the spread further for the unbearable heat, the govadded, quoting the BMD's keep all schools, colleges, "Warning Message for Heat madrasas, and technical education institutions Due to increasing mois- across the country closed

ture incursions, she said from April 21 to 27.

### Iran president Ebrahim Raisi to begin 3-day visit to Pakistan

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APR 21

Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi is set to visit Pakistan this week, as per an announcement made by Islamabad on Sunday. This visit comes as both Muslim countries aim to improve relations following recent tensions, including missile strikes exchanged in Ianuarv

Initially in doubt due to rising tensions in the Middle East, especially after Iran's attack on Israel and an alleged Israeli spreading further. strike on central Iran, Rai-



all parties in the Middle During his visit, Raisi East to exercise restraint

### West Bank holds general strike to protest Israeli violence

AGENCIES JERUSALEM, APRIL 21

People in the West Bank launched a general strike on Sunday in protest against Israel's killing of Palestinians in a refugee camp in Tulkarm and the Gaza Strip.

The Fatah movement, among other groups, had called for the strike.

According to eyewitnesses, there was hardly any traffic on the streets of Ramallah on Sunday morning and stores were closed.

In the northern West



The situation in the in the West Bank until Sat-West Bank has worsened urday evening. According

significantly since the war to the army, they killed between Israel and the at least 10 gunmen. Nine militant Palestinian organ- Israeli security forces were isation Hamas in the Gaza also injured in battles in Strip began on October 7. the Nur Shams refugee

### Russia warns of banning Pakistani rice again after contaminant found AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 21

Russia has warned Pakistan of banning rice imports from the country again after detecting the presence of a quarantine organism in a recent shipment, reports said on Sunday.

Russia's Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (FSVPS) issued a notification, earlier this month, regarding violations of international and Russian phytosanitary requirements over a shipment of rice imported from Pakistan which contained the 'Megaselia scalaris' fly, the Dawn reported.

It has asked the Pakistani Embassy in Russia to order an immediate investigation into the matter, as well as seeking such violations not occur again in the future and the relevant phytosanitary standards be maintained for trade in agricultural commodities.

The Pakistani mission has sent an English translation of the Russian authority's letter to the Department of Plant Protection (DPP) in the Ministry of Food Security and other government offices concerned, seeking a prompt investigation and sharing of the report to avoid any ban on rice exports. Russia had previously imposed a ban on similar grounds in 2019, which remained in place for around two years and was only lifted after a series of negotiations between officials of both sides on food safety standards.

soon.

seemingly to prevent the tions. Israel-Gaza conflict from

si's visit was confirmed by will meet with Pakistan's and de-escalate tensions. Pakistan's ministry of for- president, prime minis- While Iran and Pakistan eign affairs. Pakistan had ter, and other key figures. have a history of strained indicated Raisi's visit since They will discuss regional relations, the missile January, with the prime and global developments, strikes in January marked minister stating last week bilateral cooperation a significant escalation. that it would happen "very against terrorism, and However, both sides trade ties. Raisi plans to swiftly worked to ease Tehran downplayed the visit cities like Lahore tensions and pledged to recent events and showed and Karachi to focus on expand security cooperano intention of retaliation, enhancing bilateral rela- tion while respecting each

Pakistan has urged territorial integrity.

other's sovereignty and

footage of a police officer

Bank city of Hebron, meanwhile, two Palestin- try of Health, more than Israeli soldiers on Sunday been killed in the West morning. The Palestin- Bank alone since then, ian Ministry of Health most of them died in Israereported that it had been li attacks. informed of the men's deaths by the Israeli authorities. According to the army, they had previously attacked Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint.

According to the Miniscamp in Tulkarm.

The Ministry of Health ians were shot dead by 450 Palestinians have in the West Bank reported 14 dead and several injured in the operation, including a 16-year-old. Israel took control of

In Gaza, more than the West Bank and East 33,000 people have been Jerusalem in the 1967 Sixkilled in the last six months Day War. The Palestinians and many more thousands claim the territories for injured. Israeli forces car- their own state with East ried out a major operation Jerusalem as its capital.

### Massive avalanche in Nepal's Manaslu, no casualties

### AGENCIES

KATHMANDU, APRIL 21

An avalanche hit Nepal's Manaslu mountain on Sunday descending near Birendra lake, causing it to swell and overflow into the Budhigandaki river below, local media reported.

No casualties have been reported in the incident so far, The Himalayan Times reported.

Authorities have raised concerns over a potential flood in Budhigandaki.

After getting information about the avalanche at Manaslu, the world's eighth-highest peak, a team was rushed to the spot, police said.

There is no immediate threat of further damage, the police said.

A wooden bridge was damaged in the nature's fury.

### Polling for parliamentary polls underway in Maldives

#### AGENCIES

MALE, APRIL 21

Polling is underway on Sunday for the parliamentary elections in the Maldives where over 2.8 lakh people are expected to cast their vote to seal the fate of 368 candidates.

According to the Maldivian Election Commission, an estimated 52 per cent voter turnout was recorded till 2 p.m., Sun online reported.

Voting is underway to elect 93 members of the Maldivian Parliament also known as Majlis.

A total of 368 candidates are in the fray with the main contest between the People's National Congress (PNC) and the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP).

The results of the polls will be announced later in the day. Three people have been arrested in connection with the election-related incidents.

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu will not be affected by the vote.

### London police chief faces calls to quit over Gaza protests

#### AGENCIES

LONDON, APRIL 21

Metropolitan (Met) Police under his command and Palestinian protests.

home secretary Suella of having "emboldened" antisemites.

Braverman used an Enough is enough." op-ed in The Sunday Telegraph to demand Rowley's UK Deputy Prime Minis- continue to police with resignation, saying people ter Oliver Dowden were courage, empathy and who were "flagrantly anti- highly critical of the Met impartiality." on by the police."

She said: "Either this is gross incompetence, or it's Sunday Telegraph that keep our mouths shut and violence, accused the Met stay out of the way."

In a statement, the antisemitism."

ists, extremists and ter- determined to rorist sympathisers have ensure that London watched the excuses is a city in which The head of London's and inertia of the Met everyone feels safe. "We absolutely is facing calls to quit over been emboldened by his understand how the force's handling of pro- inaction at precisely the vulnerable Jewish moment when he should and Muslim Lon-Both the Campaign be signalling a renewed doners feel since Against Antisemitism determination to crack the terrorist attacks (CAA) and former UK down on this criminality. on Israel.

"What the Met under "Some of our Braverman have called for Sir Mark has done to the actions have Sir Mark Rowley to resign Jewish community over increased this conor be sacked, accusing him the course of six months cern. I personally is utterly unforgivable and reiterate our apology from it is time for him to go. earlier this week. "Today, as with every

Other figures including other day, our officers will

semitic" were being "waved but stopped short of saying Rowley should go.

a culture coming from the the force had been "disrewhile the rest of us have to ment's adviser on political central London on April 13. of displaying "institutional cer told Falter he would

Gideon Falter, said: "Rac- member of the Met is was "causing a breach of of six months of inertia and apology, and recognise original public response."



peace with all these other people" as his presence concerned" and would was "antagonising."

The Met apologised on Friday, suggesting opponents of pro-Palestinian marches "must know that their presence is provocative" and they are "increas-Falter has been at the centre of a row about the ing the likelihood of an Dowden told The policing of demonstrations altercation" by lining the after the CAA published route to object.

But the force subseto intimidate and harass Walney, the UK govern- Jewish" during a protest in statement apologising for the "further offence" In the clip, another officaused by its first apology. Falter said his treatment

contextualising the complexities of policcrimes away by a ing fast-moving public Met that has cur- protests, but simply being tailed the rights Jewish - or of any other of law-abiding race or religion - should Londoners in never be seen as provocaorder to appease tive. "Anyone of any religion mobs rife with

sympathisers."

ister Chris Philp Khan said: "Everybody

meet Rowley the following week to discuss the incident.

He said: "No-one should

arrest solely because of extremely difficult job someone else's anticipated unreasonable reaction."

London Mayor Sadiq Khan about the incident.

anti-Jewish rac- should be free to go about ists and terrorist their lives and feel safe doing so.' Policing min-A spokesperson for

"The way the original

said on Saturday must feel safe going about he was "deeply in London wherever they please.

incident was dealt with by

be told their religion is provocative, nor an innocent

top, where thugs are free specting" Jews while Lord describing him as "openly quently issued another James Cleverly has also marches - but in the end written to the Met and the Met must have the con-

be arrested if he did not had been "a disgrace" and spokesperson said: "We for the way the incident CAA's chief executive, Rowley said: "Every leave the area because he "the inevitable conclusion welcome the Met Police's was handled and their

the Met was concerning and the original response put out by them was insensitive and wrong. "The Met have an person threatened with

particularly so when it comes to operational decisions taken while policing

fidence of the communities

they serve and it is right A UK Home Office that they have apologised

UK Home Secretary



# BUSINESS

## New income tax regime vs old tax regime: Which should you pick? Deductions you claim are important

### New Tax Regime Vs Old Tax Regime

Selecting the most tax-efficier income tax regime, either th old or new, can be a challeng ing decision for many salarie taxpayers. The optimal choic depends on the amount o deductions from gross tota income that can be claimed t reduce the taxable income. the gross total income and th minimum amount of deduc tions at which the tax liability would be the same under both if you don't tell your employer tax regime were known, the decision would be straightfor- tax regime. ward.

When deductions exceed this New Income Tax Regime: minimum threshold, the old tax Important points to know regime would be more advantageous, while the new tax regime the new tax regime underwent would result in lower taxes if the revisions effective from April 1,

regime for TDS on salary, tax- 2024-March 31, 2025). The new payers typically use estimated tax regime offers a basic income figures for gross total income exemption limit of Rs 3 lakh for and proposed deductions. How- all taxpayers and introduces ever, once the financial year additional income tax slabs with concludes and the final income reduced tax rates. and deduction figures are available, precise calculations must salaried individuals are entitled be performed before selecting to two deductions: a standard an income tax regime while deduction of Rs 50,000 from filing the income tax return. their salary or pension income, Taxpayers can change the tax and an employer's contribution regime chosen by them earlier to their NPS account, which can return, provided they file within 14% of the basic salary for govthe deadline. Also, one very ernment employees), states an important point to note is that ET report. the new income tax regime is now the default tax regime, so New vs Old Tax Regime

Gross taxable income	Total deductions including standard deduction	Net taxable income	Final tax payable
8 lakh	2.5 lakh	5.5 lakh	23,400
12 lakh	2.5 lakh	9.5 lakh	1,06,600
Calculation unde	er new tax regime (Rs)	<u>^</u>	<u>.</u>
Gross taxable income	Standard deduction (only deduction available)	Net taxable income	Final tax payable
8 lakh	50,000	7.5 lakh	31,200
12 lakh	50,000	11.5 lakh	85,800

the new tax regime and the old your preferred regime, the tax regimes, it's crucial to note that the table is based on spewill be deducted as per the new

The income tax laws under deductions fall below this level. 2023, and remain unchanged for

Under the new tax regime, at the time of filing income tax be up to 10% of their salary (or of Rs 50,000.

'Hide and seek': How Russia is dodging

that the minimum deductions cific assumptions mentioned required to equalize the tax earlier and does not cover all outgo in both regimes vary possible scenarios. depending on the income level. Individuals with different gross taxable incomes, such as Rs 8 lakh and Rs 12 lakh, will need to amount payable is lower in the claim different total deductions old tax regime if the total deducin the old tax regime to make When determining the tax the current FY, 2024-25 (April 1, the tax payable equal in both regimes. If an individual's actual total deduction in the old tax regime falls below this breakeven level, the new tax regime becomes more advantageous. To illustrate this point, ET

considers the example of two individuals, A and B, with gross taxable incomes of Rs 8 lakh and Rs 12 lakh, respectively. Both work for you? Do you want to can claim a deduction of Rs 2.5 lakh in a financial year, which income tax regime better? Then includes a standard deduction register and join TOI Master-The final tax liability incor-

porates a 4% cess. In both tax 3:00 PM. regime calculations, the deduction claimed on the employer's **Deductions that can be claimed** contribution to NPS has been under old tax regime

When comparing the tax excluded. It is important to note

The above table shows that for Mr A with gross taxable income of Rs 8 lakh, the final tax tion of Rs 2.5 lakh is claimed.

However, despite the same deduction amount, Mr B with a gross taxable income of Rs 12 lakh will find the tax outgo lower in the new tax regime. The old tax regime will be favourable for a person with taxable income of Rs 12 lakh only if more deductions are claimed.

So, what tax regime will understand the old and the new class on New Tax Regime vs Old Tax Regime on April 26, 2024 at

Under the old tax regime, individuals can avail various deductions from their gross total income and claim tax exemptions. Both salaried and non-salaried individuals can claim deductions of up to Rs 1.5 lakh under Section 80C by making specified investments and expenditures. These include investing in Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Public Provident Fund (PPF), ELSS mutual fund, repayment of principal of home loan and payment of children's tuition fees.

In addition to Section 80C, individuals can claim an extra deduction of Rs 50,000 for investments made in the National Pension System (NPS) according to specified rules, bringing the total deduction to Rs 2 lakh. Deductions can also be claimed for health insurance premium payments, with the amount varying based on the individual's age and whether the policy covers their parents.

Furthermore, individuals can claim a deduction of Rs 2 lakh for interest paid on a home loan during the financial year, while interest paid on an education loan is eligible for deduction under Section 80E without any monetary limit. Savings account interest is eligible for deduction under Section 80TTA, and senior citizens can claim a deduction of Rs 50,000 under Section 80TTB for interest earned from various deposits, including savings accounts and fixed deposits.

### Direct tax collections exceed estimates in FY24; jump 18% to Rs 19.58 lakh crore

been issued in FY 2023-

24, indicating an increase

of 22.74% compared to the

crore issued in FY 2022-

23, as per the statement.

The gross collection

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APR 21

Net direct tax collections refunds of Rs 3.09 lakh experienced a significant increase of 17.7% year-onyear, reaching Rs 19.58 crore in the fiscal year that (provisional) of Direct ended in March 2024, the Taxes (before adjusting tax department reported for refunds) for FY 2023on Sunday. This figure 24 amounted to Rs 23.37 surpassed the revised lakh crore, representing estimates by a substan- a growth of 18.48% comtial margin. The net col- pared to the gross colleclections of income and tion of Rs 19.72 lakh crore corporate taxes, which in FY 2022-23. The gross constitute the majority corporate tax collection of direct taxes, exceeded (provisional) in FY 2023the Budget estimates by 24 increased by 13.06% Rs 1.35 lakh crore (7.40%) to Rs 11.32 lakh crore, and the revised estimates compared to the gross by Rs 13,000 crore for the corporate tax collection 2023-24 financial year.

The CBDT stated in a previous year. The Net statement, "The provi-Corporate Tax collection sional figures of Direct (provisional) in FY 2023-Tax collections for the 24 stood at Rs 9.11 lakh financial year (FY) 2023- crore, showing a growth 24 show that net collec- of 10.26% over the net tions are at Rs 19.58 lakh corporate tax collection crore, compared to Rs of Rs 8.26 lakh crore in 16.64 lakh crore in the pre- the preceding year. The ceding financial year i.e. FY 2022-23." The Budget Tax collection, including for the 2023-24 fiscal year Securities Transaction had initially estimated Tax (provisional), in FY the collections at Rs 18.23 2023-24 amounted to Rs lakh crore, which were 12.01 lakh crore, marking later revised to Rs 19.45 a 24.26% increase over the lakh crore. "The provi- previous year's collection sional Direct Tax collec- of Rs 9.67 lakh crore. The tions (net of the refunds) Net Personal Income Tax have exceeded the Budget collection, including STT Estimate by 7.40% and (provisional), in FY 2023-Revised Estimates by 0.67%," the statement crore, showing a growth added.

Gross Personal Income 24 reached Rs 10.44 lakh of 25.23% over the preced-

of Rs 10 lakh crore in the

Refunds amounting to ing fiscal year's figure of Rs 3.79 lakh crore have Rs 8.33 lakh crore.

### **IRDAI** removes age limit on health insurance policies AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

Insurance regulator IRDAI has removed the age limit of 65 years for purchasing health insurance policies in order to provide enough protection from healthcare expenses to senior citizens and to broaden the market.

Earlier, individuals were allowed to buy a new insurance policy only till the age of 65 as per the guidelines.

IRDAI stated that the latest which has been effective from April 1 will help the individuals in securing comprehensive healthcare coverage.

In a recent gazette notification, IRDAI said, "insurers shall ensure that they offer health insurance products to cater to all age groups. Insurers may design products specifically for senior citizens, students, children, maternity, and any other group as specified by the Competent Authority." Additionally, insurers have also been asked to provide health policies to individuals with pre-existing medical conditions of any kind. They are prohibited from declining to issue policies to individuals with severe medical conditions like cancer, heart or renal failure, and AIDS. IRDAI, in its notification, also directs the companies to allowed policyholders to offer premium payment in instal ments for their convenience. There is no limit on AYUSH treatment coverage. Treatments under systems like Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy will receive coverage up to the sum insured without any cap, it said. Policyholders with benefit-based policies can file multiple claims with various insurers, enhancing flexibility and options, it said. The notification also mentions that there will a dedicated platform to handle the complaints and claims of senior citizens.



pops up. New firms, going by names unfamiliar to even the most experienced merchants across Asia, have been constantly emerging to handle shipments between the the OPEC+ producer and



### Large Indian real estate developers continue to snap up land: Anarock

#### AGENCIES MUMBAI, APR 21

continues to drive the which also reflects in the Amid all-time high residential demand, several large and listed developers and other entities continued to snap up land.

housing are also driving thanks to their rapidly them to buy land across

total land deals in FY-24, for 1,886+ acres in 2022over 83 deals for about 23 to approx 101 deals for 1,135 acres were closed The residential segment in the top 7 cities alone," says Anuj Puri, Chair-Indian real estate market, man - ANAROCK Group. "The remaining 18 deals, land deals it is generating. accounting for over 1,853 acres, were sealed in various tier 2 and 3 cities like Ahmedabad, Ayodhya, Jaipur, Nagpur, Mysuru, peak in 2023-24. Ludhiana, and Surat. Tier Other than residential, 2 and 3 cities have once and listed developers

2,989+ acres in the current financial year. In terms of total area, around 58 per cent more land has been purchased in the 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23.

At 4.93 lakh units, residential sales across the top 7 cities have created a new

"In particular, large commercial, retail, indus- again emerged as redoubt- have seen very high sales, trial, logistics and ware- able growth engines, and it makes sense for

previous financial year

saw some very prominent

land deals taking place,"

The top developers

who bought land parcels

for various developments

Global, Oberoi Realty, DLF

India, Prestige Group, K

Raheja Corp, and Brigade

Puri added.

the world's third-largest importer and consumer, according to traders and

Highlighting the diffienforcement, they are not been seen or heard, an ever-evolving network little from that level. of transporters, creating a growing challenge for smaller trading compathe Biden administration nies is that they're easily as it seeks to punish those replaceable, with many helping to fund the Krem- firms existing for less than lin's war machine. The a year, said Viktor Katona, ty to adapt - including with however, is a headache for a churn of little-known enforcers even as the US entities - has long worried sanctions numerous tradeven sanctions advocates. ers, ships and shippers for That is now playing out.

previously unknown enti- the \$60-a-barrel price ties – Blackford, Black limit. Pearl and Vertex – have nificant role in supplying India's private and state inundated by requests not years.

Traders said the ease of genuine. incorporating new busi-



Indian refinery executives. has been pivotal to the show the people behind creation of pop-up firms. them have typically sold culties of global sanctions Most of these names had Russian oil to India before. often connected to the even by those close to the eral cargoes of Russian oil same individuals. Many trade, just months ear- bound for India got stuck of the new names have lier. With the support of as the US ramped up sancbecome marketers of Rus- these merchants, as well tions targeting traders and sian grades only in the as the ones that came shipowners such as Sovpast few months, after the before, India's imports comflot PJSC. Some deliv-US slapped sanctions on from Russia surged from eries have been diverted Bellatrix Energy Ltd and almost zero pre-Ukraine to China as a result of Zeenit Supply and Trading war to a peak of over two these complications, DMCC, the people said. million barrels a day last while others attempted to These companies form year, before slipping a transfer their cargoes onto

The advantage of and of the industry's abili- Kpler. The turnover rate, to prevent any supply

their role in the Russian oil Between January and trade – in particular, for

their firms have been they said. processors with Russian from new entities looking play hide and seek game as crude, said the traders and to register themselves as no one wants to be caught refinery executives, who approved suppliers. The asked not to be named as companies conduct due- Jayendu Krishna, directorthey're not authorized to diligence checks with the deputy head at shipping speak publicly. They are help of third-party firms, consultancy firm Drewry likely to last months, but who help to confirm that Maritime Advisors. India

In recent months, sevother vessels at locations

such as Oman.

Treasury department officials, meanwhile, said Washington has never expected India to stop importing Russian oil as question of unintended lead crude analyst at com- it's in the US's interest sanctions consequences modity intelligence firm to keep energy flowing shocks

Russian flows to China, meanwhile, have been less impacted by sanctions, traders said. That's because of the presence February this year, three transactions done above of more middlemen in the chain of supply from producer to end-user, includ-

Indian refining execu- ing some Chinese state together played a sig- tives told Bloomberg that and regional companies,

"Everybody is trying to violating sanctions," said the pop-up traders are needs cheap crude oil to dampen inflationary pres-

The executives said sures, and these intermenesses in locations such that, while the entities diaries are crucial to help as Dubai and Hong Kong may appear new, checks keep oil flowing, he added.

prime land deals in key improving infrastructure prominent urban microaccording to real estate ties." consultant Anarock.

that various developers and entities sealed approximately 101 separate land deals in fiscal vear 2023-24, cumulatively accounting for nearly terms of total land area, Properties, Eldeco Group, 2,989 acres across the country. In contrast, the for 490+ acres transacted financial year 2022-23 saw - the highest among all top 88 land deals for approximately 1,886 acres closed across various cities.

locations across India, and growth opportuni- markets. Resultantly, the

Among land deals in the Anarock data indicated top 7 cities, NCR topped out with 29 deals for 313+ acres, followed by greater Mumbai region with 19 deals for approximately 157+ acres. Notably, in in 2023-24 include Godrej

Bengaluru saw 14 deals AdRealty, Signature 7 cities.

The number of deals Group, among others, as in 2023-24 has risen sig-"Interestingly, out of the nificantly - from 88 deals

### Centre's direct tax kitty up 18 pc in FY24, exceeds Budget target

#### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 21

The government's net direct tax mop-up surged 17.70 per cent year-on-year to Rs 19.58 lakh crore in financial year 2023-24 (FY24) exceeding the fullyear Budget estimate, according to data released by Finance Ministry on Sunday.

The Budget Estimates (BE) for direct tax revenue in the Union Budget for FY24 were fixed at Rs 18.23 lakh crore which were revised and the Revised Estimates (RE) was pegged at Rs 19.45 lakh crore.

The provisional direct tax collections (net of the

tions (provisional) for over the net corporate tax cial release said.

Financial Year (FY) 2023- collection of Rs 8.26 lakh 24 exceed Union Budget crore of the preceding Estimates by Rs 1.35 lakh year," Finance Ministry

per Anarock.

al income tax collection (including securities trans-

collections for FY 2023- is at Rs 12.01 lakh crore and has shown a growth of 24.26 per cent over the of 18.48 per cent year-ongross personal income tax

collection (including STT) The gross corporate tax of Rs 9.67 lakh crore of the preceding year. collection (provisional) in FY24 is at Rs 11.32 lakh "The net personal income tax collection crore showing a growth of 13.06 per cent over the (including STT) (provigross corporate tax collecsional) in FY 2023-24 is

the preceding year.

the BE by 7.40 per cent FY 2023- 24 is at Rs 9.11 collection (including STT) and RE by 0.67 per cent. lakh crore and has shown of Rs 8.33 lakh crore of the "Net direct tax collec- a growth of 10.26 per cent preceding year," the offi-

### FPIs turn net sellers in India stocks amid Middle East crisis

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 21

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have recently become net sellers in Indian stocks as they cumulatively sold stocks worth Rs 5,254 crore, as per the recent data the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL).

Last time, they turned net sellers in January this year after which they consecutively were the net buyers in February and March.

One of the major reasons of FPIs pulling out funds from the Indian markets is said to be the ongoing geopolitical crisis in the Middle East.

FPIs were the major sellers in IT and FMCG sectors while they infused funds in auto and telecom. "Coming to portfolio changes by the FPIs, this month FPIs have been big sellers in IT in anticipation of poor Q4 results. They were also sellers in FMCG and consumer durables. FPIs were buyers in autos, capital goods, telecom, financial services, and power," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

The Indian economy is showing promising signs of growth and stability. The country's GDP expanded by 8.4 percent in the October-December quarter of the financial year 2023-24, maintaining its position as the fastest-growing major economy. This growth is expected to continue in the future, supported by factors such as firm GDP growth forecasts, manageable inflation levels, political stability at the central government level, and indications that the central bank has completed its monetary policy tightening cycle.

crore i.e. by 7.40 per cent," said. the Finance Ministry said As per the provisional in a statement. tax data, the gross person-

The provisional numbers showed the government's gross direct tax action tax or STT) in FY24 24 stand at Rs 23.37 lakh crore registering a growth

year.

tion of Rs 10 lakh crore of at Rs 10.44 lakh crore

and has shown a growth "The net corporate tax of 25.23 per cent over the refunds) have exceeded collection (provisional) in net personal income tax

# SPORTS

## **Golf: Scottie Scheffler takes lead at RBC** Heritage; Sahith Theegala placed fourth

### AGENCIES

HILTON HEAD ISLAND (USA), APRIL 21

Scottie Scheffler, who won a second Masters title last week, added 65-63 in the second and third rounds to move into sole lead in the RBC Heritage golf championship at the Hilton Head in the Signature event on the PGA Tour.

Scheffler's third round of 8-under 63 took him to up the World No. 1 posi-16-under 197 and is one- tion, saying, "He was a year cast

lying tied fourth and three tournaments. At least I've think." behind Scheffler, summed beaten him in a pro event



before. I've got that. shot ahead of Sepp Straka ahead of me in school and whole life. He's been a great (67) who got to 15-under played with him most of my player the whole time, and after a 65. They will be in life. Actually, didn't play he's been a great dude the the final group on Sunday, in the same group as him whole time, too. He doesn't with different wind and much, but just played a lot have to go talk to me, for thunderstorms in the fore- of tournaments with him. I instance, and he's always don't actually know if I beat been super nice. Couldn't the No.1 player in the world Sahith Theegala, who is him in any junior or college be a better World No. 1, I

The other Indian Ameri- Woods in his prime.

can in the field, Akshay Bhatia (71-67-69), shot 4-under in the last four holes of his second round, including an eagle to card 67. He added 69 in Round three and was T-33.

Two-time major winner Collin Morikawa made one mistake late, coming up short of the 16th green and missing a 10-foot par putt. He had a 68 and was two shots behind Scheffler.

Masters runner-up "I've played with him my Ludvig Åberg (66-66-68) was among those three shots back. The others being Theegala (66-67-67) and Patrick Rogers (66-66-

All of them are chasing amid a dominant stretch of golf not seen since Tiger

## WTA Tour: Rybakina beats Kostyuk, storms to third title of the season in Stuttgart

AGENCIES STUTTGART (GERMANY), APRIL 21

World No.4 Elena Rybakina claimed her third WTA Tour title of the year, defeating No.27 Marta Kostyuk 6-2, 6-2 in the final of the Tennis Grand Prix event in Stuttgart on Sunday. The victory over Kostyuk was her tour-leading 26th win of the season.

The triumph at Stuttgart is Rybakina's eighth career title and third on clay, following wins at 2023 Rome and 2019 Bucharest. The 24-year-old leaves Germany with the outright lead in titles this season, adding Stuttgart to a collection that includes Brisbane and Abu

Dhabi. Rvbakina came into

Sunday's final after ending never looked back. With effi-World No.1 Iga Swiatek's cient serve, Rybakina, the 10-match win streak at Stutt- tour leader in aces served, gart, winning 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in the semifinals.

of the season, Rybakina (15 of 16) and did not face a finished the match unbroopened the match by break- break point. Rybakina won ken, saving all three break ing Kostyuk's serve and 30 points to Kostyuk's 17.

A confident Rybakina turned out to be a bridge too far for Kostyuk, who engineered a groundbreaking week in Stuttgart to make her second final of the year. Amid the best season of her career, Kostyuk will rise to a new career-high ranking of No.21 on Monday.

Coming into the final with a 1-1 record against Rybakina, Kostyuk could find no inroads against the World No.4. Kostyuk made just six unforced errors in the first set, but Rybakina's baseline aggression extracted 16 forced errors.

Rybakina continued her sealed the first set after just momentum in the second 30 minutes. She lost just set to close out the win after Playing in her fifth final one point on her first serve 1 hour and 9 minutes. She points she faced.

game, Sukant made a strong

comeback and rallied hard

In the third and deciding

game, Sukant made some

errors which proved costly,

and he went down fighting.

The final score read 13-21,

Sukant said, "I think I had

a great tournament, in the

final also I played well but

Tarun played really well.

Now my focus is the Grade

Level 1 Spanish Tournament

which starts next week. I will

analyze the mistakes from

the tournament and ensure

I do not repeat them."

Talking about the match,

to win 21-16.

21-16, 16-21.

## Athletics: Jepchirchir breaks women-only world marathon record in London

AGENCIES MUMBAI, APRIL 21

Olympic champion Peres Jepchirchir smashed the women-only world record by 45 seconds at the London Marathon, winning the World Athletics Platinum Label Road Race in 2:16:16 in London on Sunday.

The three-time world half-marathon champion sprinted away from World Record-holder winner Joyciline Jepkosgei and last year's runner-up Megertu Alemu -- all of 10km in 31:26. By the time quartet of Jepchirchir, whom finished inside 2:17 they reached halfway Assefa, Jepkosgei and -- to notch up her third vic- in 1:07:04, the pack was Alemu managed to detach tory in a World Marathon down to seven women, themselves from the rest Majors race.



The pace had been in a report on its website Tigist Assefa, 2021 London swift from the outset on Sunday.

as a lead pack of nine It was about 18 miles women passed through into the race when the the World Athletics said of the field, and they ran Kenenisa Bekele.

together for the best part of eight miles.

As the clock ticked to 2:15, with little more than a minute of running left, Alemu was finally dropped. Seconds later, Jepchirchir unleashed her trademark finish to leave behind Jepkosgei and Assefa

The diminutive Kenyan charged through the finish line in 2:16:16, breaking the women-only world record of 2:17:01 set by Mary Keitany in 2017.

Moments later, Alexander Mutiso Munyao made it a Kenyan double by winning the men's race in 2:04:01, finishing 14 seconds ahead of Ethiopia's

## Sukant Kadam bags silver medal in **Spanish Para-Badminton 2024**

NEW DELHI, APRIL 21

Ace Para-shuttler Sukant Kadam secured a silver medal in the Spanish Para-Badminton International 2024-II tournament played at Vitoria, Spain. Sukant went down fighting to India's Tarun in the final of the SL 4 category.

In the semifinals, Sukant defeated World Champion Suhas Yathiraj.

In the final, Sukant faced compatriot Tarun. Sukant started the match really well but went down in the first game 13-21. In the second

Greco-Roman wrestlers draw blank in **Asian Olympic Qualifiers** 

AGENCIES BISHKEK (KYRGYZSTAN), APRIL

Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers returned empty-handed from the Asian Olympic Qualifiers as reports. The events behind didn't deter Verstappen, none of the six particiwho sealed his fourth race pants managed to secure a win of the season ahead of Paris Olympic quota place Lando Norris in an impreson Sunday. A total of 36 quotas in sive second for McLaren, the first round. three styles, 12 in each, while Perez rounded out the podium for Red Bull were up for grabs in the competition. The winner Charles Leclerc was the of the semifinals in each lead Ferrari in fourth from Olympic weight class team mate Carlos Sainz in earned an Olympic quota for their countries. There fifth and the Mercedes of were no gold and bronze George Russell in sixth. Alonso was seventh, with medal bouts as well as no Oscar Piastri, Lewis Hamrepechage rounds. Five of the six Greco- terfinal. ilton - who had climbed up from P18 on the grid. Roman wrestlers -- Sumit (60kg), Ashu (67kg), Vikas tlers were in the hunt for late for weigh-ins in Bish- Arash Yoshida in the first After his Q1 exit and some tyre-related strug-(77kg), Nitesh (97kg), quota places at the Asian kek after they were stuck round.



in Dubai due to heavy rainfall in the region.

After they were ruled out, India had only four competitors in the fray of which only Aman Sehrawat (57kg) came close to

After starting his cam-

paign by defeating Kazakh-

a qualifying spot.

AGENCIES SHANGHAI, APRIL 21

victory in Chinese Grand Prix

Formula 1: Max Verstappen takes

dents unfolding between a number of cars, Formula 1

AGENCIES

Max Verstappen added to his tally of wins by claiming a victory in the Chinese Grand Prix, marking his fourth win from five races so far this season.

Verstappen of Red Bull Racing had led off the line at the race start, while Fernando Alonso swept past Sergio Perez to take P2 into Turn 1, though the Spaniard lost the position in the laps that followed before slipping back further later on.

He maintained control for most of a tactical race at the Shanghai International Circuit, which included a Virtual Safety Car and two full Safety Car interventions. Through out the unfolding drama at the forefront.

midway through the race of pit stops slightly mixed restart, with separate inci- top 10.

behind him, the Dutch- when a Safety Car was up the order and, while man remained composed called after Valtteri Bottas Verstappen remained pulled off track with a in the lead, it was all go There was drama mechanical issue. A flurry further back upon the on offer to complete the

Hamilton worked his way up the order amid drama around him, and thanks to some smart overtakes, to wind up ninth, with Haas driver Nico Hulkenberg claiming the final point

gles in the early laps, Lewis

in third.

only Indian wrestler who Sakabe 5-1 in the qualification round, before going down 2-4 against the reigning Asian Games champion Jalgasbay Berdimuratov of Uzbekistan in the quar-

stan's Yerassyl Mukhtaruly Naveen (130kg) -- lost in Wrestling Olympic Qualifiers. Of which, only three Sunil (87kg) was the women wrestlers -- Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Anshu ority in the quarterfinals, was able to win a bout as Malik (57kg) and Reetika he defeated Japan's Soh Hooda (76kg) -- succeeded stan's Gulomjon Abdullaev in securing quota places in the semifinal. for India.

Male freestyle wrestlers was eliminated in the also failed to bag a quota quarterfinals while Sumit place. Olympian Deepak too lost at the same stage Punia (86kg) and Sujeet in the men's 125kg divi-(65kg) were not allowed sion. Indian wrestler In all 17 Indian wres- to compete as they arrived Deepak lost to Japan's

by technical superiority, defeated Kim Sunggwon 11-1 by technical superibefore losing to Uzbeki-Jaideep, in men's 74kg,

## **Olympic shooting trials: Manu, Anish** on course for second successive win

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI, APRIL 21

ification rounds here at

of 585 in the Women's 25M Pistol OST T2 qualifica-

pian had won the T1 trials on Saturday.

while Simranpreet Kaur

In the Men's 25M Rapid-572 and Rhythm Sangwan, Fire Pistol (RFP) OST T2, Esha Singh followed her the second Paris Olympic odds-on favourite Anish in second spot with a 581, quota holder in the field Bhanwala continued to along with Manu, with dominate the proceed-

ings, topping the qualifi cation round with a score of 582. His fellow Paris quota-holder Vijayveer Sidhu was second with 580, while Bhavesh Shekhawat was third on the same score as Vijayveer, but with lesser inner 10s.

Ankur Goel (573) and Adarsh Singh (571), barring a miracle in the final two trials in Bhopal, look out of the reckoning already.

As things stand, Manu and Esha in the women's pistol and Anish and Vijayveer in the men's RFP look the more likely to take the flight to Paris from these events.

All the finals, and with them the crucial podium points, will be held on Monday

### 'Mera gaon, mera Gukesh': Anand Mahindra on chess Grandmaster's winning the game

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APRIL 21

Gukesh coming out of the He defeated the French GM venue after beating Alireza in Round 13. Firouzja and becoming the sole leader in the 2024 FIDE GUKESH...," Mahindra taken last year at the press Candidates Tournament, wrote on the social media Mahindra Group Chairman platform X. Anand Mahindra on Sunday proudly said, "Mera gaon, post has been viewed by mera Gukesh", which is more than 85K times. inspired by the 70s Bolly-

wood movie, 'Mera Gaon Mahindra Group Chairman Mera Desh'.

The 17-year-old Gukesh is obvious technical skills, he Sharing a video of Indian just one win away from win- has coolness, composure vears

"MERA GAON, MERA of him meeting Gukesh

Since being shared the Chess League (GCL) Live. place in my albums for this In another post, the pic," Mahindra wrote.

He also mentioned that said, in addition to Gukesh's he played a game with Gukesh for the camera.

"We played for the camchess Grandmaster (GM) D ning this year's tournament. and maturity beyond his era...I used the Ruy Lopez opening and he very gra-He even shared a picture ciously called it a draw after a few moves to save me enormous embarrassment," conference of the launch of Mahindra said

> the Tech Mahindra Global In addition, he stated that Gukesh is going to be a "I will keep a special star for many years and will inspire new generations of Indians to take up the game.

### Olympians Manu Bhaker and Anish Bhanwala remained on course for a second successive win in the ongoing Olympic Selection Trials 1&2, topping their respective qual-

the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range near here on Sunday. Manu shot an aggregate

tion, to lead the five-woman field into the finals in

pole position. The Olym- Brar was third with 577. 566, brought up the rear. Abhidnya Ashok Patil with





### Lok Sabha Elections 2024 **RO 02-Srinagar PC reviews preparations** in all 18 Assembly segments

JI NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, APRIL 21

Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Sunday chaired a meeting of all Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Deputy District Election Officers (Dy. DEOs), Nodal Officers for Postal Ballot, EDC and ETPBS for the upcoming Parliamentary Elections-2024 in the 2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency comprising 18 Assembly segments of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam (Partly) and Pulwama and Shopian (Partly) Districts.

The meeting was held in O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

At the outset, the RO Nodal Officers with regard and fair elections. to tasks assigned to them Sabha Elections-2024 in resolve and capability of the Constituency.

of the Lok Sabha Elec- Elections-2024 in 02-Sri- chise in the Parliamentary arrangements at Polling stituency. Stations, Transportation



Polling Staff/ EDC, Postal Code of Conduct (MCC), rations made and arrange- and other related activiments put in place for ties aimed at ensuring period. conduct of the upcoming smooth, transparent and Lok Sabha Elections-2024 peaceful General Elec- Bilal informed that as tions in 02-Srinagar Constituency.

took a firsthand appraisal Officers to work with due the upcoming Lok Sabha from all the AROs, Dy. diligence and dedication Elections-2024 in Srinagar DEOs and designated to ensure smooth, free Parliamentary Constituen-

for smooth conduct of Lok dence in the collective 61 Transgenders. all the Officers to fulfil as many as 15431 voters The RO reviewed the their roles effectively and of over 85 years, 11679 preparations being made efficiently, thereby con- PWDs, 56915 Migrants by all concerned Officers tributing to the successful and 960 Service Voters related to key aspects conduct of the Lok Sabha are exercising their fran-

tions-2024 including AMF/ nagar Parliamentary Con- Constituency on May 13, of Polling Staff/ Electronic cers to work with a proac- (EVMs) have been kept in nience while discharging

Postal Ballot and Voting by allotted tasks on ground Voting Centre (PVC), and coordination with implementation of Model the line departments. He further asked them to go at the Conference Hall of Material Management, through comprehensive the DC Office Complex Sri- Training programmes, ECI guidelines regarding and designated Nodal nagar to review the prepa- Welfare measures, SVEEP duties and responsibilities during the election

> On the occasion, Dr. many as 1748091 registered electorates are exer-The RO directed all the cising their franchise in

cy including 875865 male He expressed confi- 872165 female and about

> The RO added that 2024 for which 2503 Elec-

He stressed all the Offi- tronic voting Machines Voting Machines (EVMs), tive approach and execute ready state. The RO also their duties

informed that Model Polling Stations have also been setup at various locations across the Parliamentary Constituency including 36 Mobile Polling stations, 20 Pink Polling Stations, 18 PWDs Polling Stations, 18 Green Polling Stations and 18 Youth Polling Stations have been established in the Constituency to facilitate the voters on the Poll day and welcome them to experience a festive-like environment. He added that dedi-

cated facilities for voters including clean drinking water and ramps etc and maintain cooperation are also meticulously arranged to enhance the voting experience.

Earlier, the RO was briefed by all the AROs Officers about the preparations made so far for the conduct of upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024.

The RO also emphasized encouragement of first-time voters so that they exercise their democratic right and make the poll process more participative.

He said 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency has nearly 2.0 lakh firsttime voters in the 18-20 age group eligible to vote in the Lok Sabha Elections on May 13, 2024 in the Constituency.

The RO also stressed on taking welfare measures for Polling Staff on the Poll day so that they do not face any inconve-

### **District SVEEP Cell Rajouri hosts Natrang's** travelling show series "Lokatantra Ka Asli Mantra" at Sunderbani

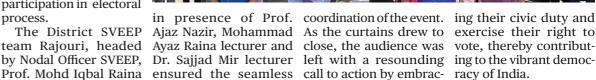
#### **JI NEWS SERVICE** RAJOURI, APRIL 21

District SVEEP Cell Rajouri, under the leadership of District Election Officer, Om Prakash Bhagat, orchestrated Natrang's Travelling Show Series "Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra" at Bus Stand Sunderbani here today. The Natrang travelling

show, renowned for its impactful presentations, delivered a compelling performance aimed at enlightening the masses about importance of voting.

Penned by Padamshree, Balwant Thakur and skilfully directed by Neeraj Kant, the play captivated audiences with its poignant narrative, emphasizing pivotal role of every citizen in shaping the nation's destiny through active participation in electoral process.

The District SVEEP



### Lok Sabha Elections 2024 **SVEEP Cell, Sports Association hosts Rajouri Cup T20 Cricket tournament**

### JI NEWS SERVICE RAJOURI, APRIL 21

SVEEP Cell Rajouri, in collaboration with the Sports Association on Sunday organised Rajouri Cup T20 tournament here under the supervision of District Election officer, Om Parkash Bhagat.

Nodal officer SVEEP, Prof Mohammad Iqbal Raina coordinated the sports event themed 'Chunav ka Parv Desh ka Garv'.

The tournament was



### DHSK, DHS-Kulgam conduct training session on Tobacco Control Measures at Kulgam

#### JI NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, APRIL 21

In a collaborative endeavor, the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) together with the District Health Society



Kulgam (DHSK) today conduct a comprehensive training session on at Kulgam.

The training aimed about the National Tobac- Ahmad. co Control Programme (NTCP).

and drug administration, Mushtaq, Nodal Officer of relevant sectors, actively gramme at DHSK. participated in the one-

tobacco control measures day training cum work- the Tobacco Control Pro- Mussarif Ahmad, shed shop.

The training compants about COTPA Act overview of the program depth presentations on and aware law enforcers by District Health Officer topics such as Tobaccoand enforcement squads (DHO) Kulgam, Dr. Zahoor Free Educational Institutions (TOFEI), the roles

After this a detailed pre- and responsibilities of difsentation on the Cigarettes ferent stakeholders, and Various stakeholders, and Other Tobacco Prod- the online resources availincluding officers and ucts Act (COTPA) 2003, able for the Tobacco Conofficials from the police, and vendor licensing pro- trol Programme in Jammu education, health, food tocols was given by Dr. Mir and Kashmir.

municipalities, and other the Tobacco Control Pro- speakers from the District the Tobacco Control Pro-Expert trainers from Dr. Arjumand Rasool and Act.

gramme, including Dr light on the adverse effects Mohd Naser and Er Zakir of tobacco products and to educate the partici- menced with an insightful Hussain, provided in- secondhand smoking, emphasizing the importance of awareness and enforcement.

The event also featured an interactive questionand-answer session moderated by the State Nodal Officer for Tobacco Control Program where experts addressed numer-During the session, ous inquiries related to

Health Society, including gramme and the COTPA

inaugurated by the District Election Officer in presence of President Sports Association Rajouri and SVEEP team of Rajouri.

The DEO emphasized the importance of informed and responsible voting. He urged the participants to spread the message of electoral literacy in the society and encourage people to featured several teams,

right. The tournament the electoral process.

exercise their democratic while also learning about also provides an excellent local residents, who comopportunity to engage mended the SVEEP team Dr. Khalid Rayaz, with the youth and raise and organising team of providing a platform to member of SVEEP team awareness about elector- Rajouri Cup T20 tournayoung people from across said that this tournament al literacy. The initiative ment for their innovative the district to showcase not only promoted the was widely appreciated approach to voter educatheir cricketing skills sport of cricket, but it by the participants and tion.

## **SMC conducts Cleanliness Drive in Ward** Nos 11 & 17 of Srinagar's Zone North

#### **JI NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR, APRIL 21

In a proactive move towards ensuring clean Srinagar City, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation today executed a highly effective cleanliness drive in Zone North Ward No. 11 and 17.

Led by SMC officials, including the Chief Sanitation Officer and Zonal Sanitation Officer, the initiative focused on raising cleanliness standards and promoting hygiene at Sikh Bagh.

The drive concentrated on improving the overall



cleanliness and visual aesthetics of the area by implementing efficient waste collection and disposal practices, as well as clearing unwanted vegetation and grass.

By engaging the community in these activities, the SMC aims to foster a sense of civic responsibility among residents and advocate for sustainable and hygienic practices. These endeavors are aimed at cultivating a cleaner and healthier environment for all residents.

### Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Election Training for micro observers held at Bandipora

**JI NEWS SERVICE** BANDIPORA, APRIL 21

The District Election Office Bandipora on Sunday organised a day-long election training for micro observers at Conference Hall Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The training sessions was aimed to equip micro observers with the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. Participants received comprehensive instruction on their roles and responsibilities, including moni-



toring voting procedures, observing polling stations, and reporting any irregularities. The training was provided by District Level Master Trainer, M. Iqbal Samoon. Coordinator Manpower and Trainings, Maq-Irfan bool, ALMTs and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

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