

Bandipora Admn felicitates Padma Shri Faisal Ali

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: The District Administration Bandipora on Saturday felicitated Martial Arts coach Fasil Ali Dar after the Government of India conferred Padma Shri award to him.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad presided over the function while ASP Bandipora, Chief Planning officer Imtiyaz Ahmad, ACP Altaf Mosvi, Youth Services & Sports Officer and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

All the speakers on the occasion hailed the performance of Fasil Ali in the field of sports and wished him best for his future endeavors. They said the award to Faisal is acknowledgement of the contribution of Faisal Ali in Sports.

DC said Faisal gave a flip to sports activities in



DC Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad felicitating Padma Shri Fasil Ali Dar, Martial Arts coach.

Kashmir and attracted more youth towards sports. He said it's because of Faisal that youth are opting sports as a career that was impossible to think about in the recent past.

While praising the talent and efforts, the DC said that Fasil Ali is a living example and inspiration

for the entire Nation especially for the youth of UT J&K

On the occasion DC presented Fasil with the memento.

Faisal Ali, a former international martial arts champion, has set up a martial arts training academy in Bandipora.

PSPS PG College for Women G'Nagar organises webinar on 'Resume Preparation & Interview Skills'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS), Govt. PG College for Women, Gandhi Nagar Jammu in collaboration with District Employment Counselling Centre, Jammu on Saturday organized a webinar on 'Resume Preparation and Interview Skills'.

The Patron and Principal of the College, Dr. Sangita Nagari laid emphasis on organizing more such employability and skill development programmes for benefit of the students and achieving the aim of the education .

Prof. Ambica Kumari, Nodal Officer for Career Counseling & Coordinator for school linkages, Manodarpan, welcomed Dr. Sangita Nagari and Dr. Manisha Kaul, Deputy Director, DECC,

Jammu. Balvinder Singh, State Head HCL Technologies for Himachal Pradesh and J&K was the Resource Person, who informed that CV is a very indepth document that describes career journey step by step and resume is a short straight to-the-point document, created for the purpose of applying to a specific job. He guided the participants for preparing Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Resume. Balvinder Singh solved the queries raised by the students .

The programme was coordinated by Prof. Ambica Kumari, Dushyant Singh, CCO DECC and Shivali Choudhary, Employment Officer DE&CC.

Shivali Choudhary, Employment Officer DE&CC presented the vote of thanks.

Kathua Campus of JU organises webinar on 'Basic Programming & Data Analysis'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Computer Science & IT, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu (JU) organized a webinar titled 'Basic Programming and Data Analysis' for the students.

Dr. Anuj Kumar from Panjab University, Chandigarh was the resource person, who started his discussion with the basic coding concepts for computer programming and emphasized the high demand for computer programmers taking into consideration the world shift towards automation.

He stressed the prominence of usage of technology everywhere and advanced the discussion by elaborating the Python programming and its various libraries.

Further, he added that Python is one of the fastest-

growing programming languages which is easy to learn and deploy.

He summed up by explaining the rich arrangement of Python libraries and tools for dealing with data analysis and data science applications.

Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu said that these types of insightful interactions with the field experts help in strengthening the very foundation of students for upcoming challenges of the advanced times. She said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic there have been drastic changes in almost all the fields and the technology has made its place stronger.

Further, she deliberated the number of possibilities relating to the technology on one side and the dark side of the

technology on the other side and hence, suggested the students to take benefit of it in a positive way and disseminate awareness to others also.

She also lauded the efforts of Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Incharge Head, MCA for taking such fruitful initiatives in shaping the foundation of students.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Organizing Secretary of the webinar and Incharge Head, MCA Department thanked the resource person for the rich interaction with the students of the department and suggested the students take the best advantage of these types of events to compete with the competitive world.

Dr. Vivek Sharma, Amit Sharma, Dr. Sunny Sharma, Ritika Goyal and Pranav Ratta were also present during the webinar.

BJP Govt chased away criminals, mafias who flourished during SP regime in Uttar Pradesh: Shah

■ AGENCY

MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday took a swipe at Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, saying he does not have "shame" while talking "lies" about the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh where the BJP government has chased away criminals and mafias who flourished during the earlier regime.

He also scoffed at Yadav and RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary's display of togetherness and said leaders of these parties will be seen together only till election. He said in the event of government formation, people like Azam Khan and Atiq Ahmad will take centre stage and Chaudhary will not be seen anywhere.

Seeking support for the saffron party in western Uttar Pradesh, Shah invoked eminent Jat leader late prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh and farmers' leader Mahendra Singh Tikait, and asked if anyone can forget the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots during which victims were made accused .

The home minister also reeled out comparative crime figures under the present Yogi Adityanath-led state government and the one headed by Yadav before him, and dared the Samajwadi Party (SP) chief to come out with the statistics of his governance.

Addressing the 'matlaataas' (voters) here, Shah referred to the Muzaffarnagar riots during the Samajwadi Party rule.

Alleging that police acted with vote bank in mind during the riots, he said, "The victims were made accused and accused the victims, and thousands of fake cases were lodged. I congratulate the BJP which acted under party leader Sanjeev Baliyan and fought the 'nyay ki ladaai' (fight for justice) either in courts or on the roads."

"I want to ask the people of Muzaffarnagar and of western Uttar Pradesh if they have forgotten the riots? If the same mistake is done, then those who instigated the riots will sit on the seat of power in Lucknow, but if lotus' (BJP party symbol) is elected, there will be no riots," he said, giving the target of winning over 300 seats in the northern state. Muzaffarnagar had witnessed communal violence in 2013, killing over 60 people and

displacing 40,000 people.

Uttar Pradesh will go to polls in seven phases beginning February 10.

On the SP-RLD alliance for the assembly polls, Shah said, Akhileshji yesterday remarked that he and Jayant Chaudhary were 'saath-saath' (together), but till when? If the government is formed, Jayant blhai will go and Azam Khan will sit (in his place) . Jayant will not be seen with him (Akhilesh). Atiq Ahmed will also come. Why do you want to befool the people of the state? The distribution of tickets shows what is going to happen in the future."

Referring to the situation during the previous SP government, he said everyone in the state was concerned about security and the manner in which mafia flourished during SP, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) governments and those doing politics in the name of caste and religion, but today no one is worried about security after the Adityanath government came to power.

"All goondas' (hooligans) have run away from the boundary of Uttar Pradesh. As per our promise, the Yogi Adityanath government has chased away goondas and mafias.

"When Behenji's party (BSP) came to power, it talked of one caste, the Congress talked of one family and Akhilesh ji of goondas, mafias and appeasement, but the BJP talked of security and development," he said.

Taking a dig at Akhilesh Yadav for attacking the Uttar Pradesh government on law and order; the Union minister said, He does not have shame and speaks lies in such a manner that it could be taken as truth. I have brought the statistics and if you (Yadav) have the courage, hold a press conference with figures of your earlier government. He also highlighted that figures of kidnapping, murder and extortion have come down substantially in comparison with the time of SP rule (2012-17).

Terming vote as the biggest power in democracy, Shah exhorted his audience to use it judiciously.

"If it (vote) goes to SP and BSP, there will again be mafia raj' and if it goes to the BJP, it will help Uttar Pradesh become number one state in the country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership," he said.

MV International School hosts virtual debate

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

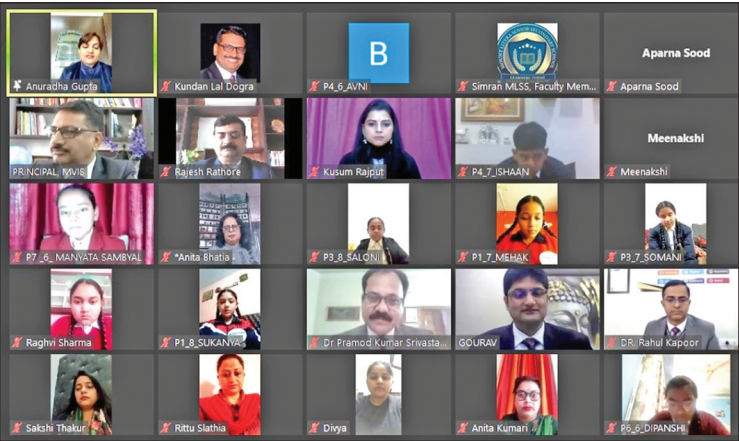
SAMBA: In order to promote collaborative learning among CBSE schools of District Samba, an Inter School Bilingual Turncoat Debate was organised for students of classes 6th to 8th via online mode on Saturday by MV International School.

The event was declared open by the Chief Guest, Anuradha Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Samba.

She enlightened the gathering by her pearls of wisdom and encouraged all students, teachers, principals and guests to do their best to uplift the glory of education.

She invited all school of the District to participate in a unique initiative - Har Ghar Champion that has been launched by the District Administration Samba.

The event was organized by MV International School, under Hubs of Learning Programme initiated by CBSE in which seven CBSE schools



of District Samba namely Army Public School Samba, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Nud, T h e Pathseekers International School Ramgarh, Mount Litera Senior Secondary School Tarore, The Shriram Universal School Jakh, Rich Harvest School Bari Brahmana along with MV

International School Vijayapur which is the Lead Collaborator for the hub of these schools.

Bilingual Turncoat is a unique debating concept where the participants put up their ideas both in favour and against the motion one after the other by switching their language of presentation as

per instructions of the organisers. It was a non-judgemental activity for the students.

The programme was graced by Special Guests, Col. Ranveer Singh Jamwal famous mountaineer from District Samba and Col. Jaswant Singh Slathia (Retd) founder member of Guidance & Counselling Cell, Gurah Slathia.

The Guest of Honour of the event was Dr. Pramod Kumar Srivastava, DTC Jammu & Principal Model Academy Jammu. Gourav Abrol, Director, MV International School graced the occasion as a special invitee. Principals of participating schools, Anita Bhatia, Dr Rahul Kapoor, Rajesh Rathore, Sanjeev Pradhan and Kundan Lal Dogra were also present. The event was coordinated by Vikas, Kusum and Sakshi from MV International School.

Govt sends back PEM to DYSS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Youth Services and Sports has repatriated Physical Education Master (PEM), Sanjay Sharma to the parent organisation of Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS). Sanjay Sharma, along with other 10 such officials of the DYSS deputed with the J&K Sports Council (JKSC) in 2018. And on completion of his four-year tenure with the Sports Council, he has been repatriated to the DYSS for further posting. During his stay with the Sports Council, Sanjay Sharma remained posted as Volleyball coach at Subash Stadium, Udhampur.

Lakshya, Malvika to lead Indian teams at Badminton Asia Team Championships

■ AGENCY

NEW DELHI: India Open champion Lakshya Sen and Syed Modi International finalist Malvika Bansod will lead the Indian men's and women's squad in the Badminton Asia Team Championships to be played at Shah Alam, Malaysia from February 15-20.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) announced a new look team for the continental team championship giving importance to the performances in the two All India Ranking tournaments played in Chennai and Hyderabad last

month.

The players were selected on the basis of aggregate ranking points scored in the two events.

"We have been considering domestic tournaments for selection for a while now and selecting players in the top-25 world ranking directly. But with most senior players recovering from Covid and injury, it is a good opportunity for us to give the bench strength opportunities to make their mark in the tournament," BAI secretary Ajay Singhania said in a statement.

The men's team had won

the bronze medal in the last edition of the tournament in Manila, Philippines while the women's team was withdrawn due to the pandemic as most players were not willing to travel then.

The men's doubles charge will be led by Kerala's PS Ravi Krishna and Udaykumar Shankarprasad, who also impressed with their performance against the experienced Malaysian combination of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi at the India Open.

The combination of Simran Singh and Khushi Gupta along with the experienced

Aarthi Sara Sunil and Riza Mahreen would look to make a mark in women's doubles.

Teams:

Men's singles: Lakshya Sen, Mithun Manjunath, Kiran George, Raghu M Doubles: PS Ravi Krishna/ UdayKumar Shankar Prasad, Ansakarunan Hariharan/ Ruban Kumar, Dingku Singh Konthoujam/ Manjit Singh Khwairakpam.

Women's singles: Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap, Ashmita Chaliha, Tara Shah Doubles: Simran Singhi/ Khushi Gupta, V Nila/Arubala, Aarthi Sara Sunil/Riza Mahreen.

Naidu to chair virtual meeting with parties on RS agenda for budget session

■ AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu will hold a virtual meeting with leaders of various parties and groups in the House on Monday evening for setting the agenda for the Budget session of Parliament.

It is customary for the Rajya Sabha chairman to hold a meeting with leaders of various parties and

groups ahead of every session of Parliament to seek their cooperation in the smooth running of the house and for discussing the agenda for the session.

The first such session-related virtual interaction will be held at 5 pm on January 31, sources close to Naidu said.

Naidu will return to Delhi on Sunday evening after a week-long home quarantine

in Hyderabad after testing positive for Covid last week.

The budget session of Parliament begins on Monday with the address of President Ram Nath Kovind to a joint sitting of both houses.

The union budget for 2022-23 will be presented in the Lok Sabha on February 1 at 11 AM and will be tabled in the Rajya Sabha in the evening.

Legendary Anand to mentor Indian chess players ahead of Asian Games

■ AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Five-time chess world champion Viswanathan Anand has been roped in as a mentor of the Indian players looking to break into the team for the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, where the sport will make a comeback after a gap of 12 years.

The All India Chess Federation (AICF) is eyeing a rich medal haul from its players at the Games, which are sched-

uled to be held from September 10 to 25.

"Eyeing the four gold medals at stake in the games, the legendary Grandmaster Anand took a different role and will mentor the team and the first session between him and the players will kick start next Thursday," the AICF said in a release.

The AICF is hoping to improve on India's performance at the 2010 Guangzhou Games, where India won two bronze

medals.

"The All India Chess Federations started the preparation well in advance by selecting 10 probable each for the men and women's team."

The players have been selected on the basis of their international rating.

The probable for the men's include, Vidit Gujarathi, P Harikrishna, Nihal Sarin, S L Narayanan, K Sasikiran, B Adhiban,

Karthikeyan Murali, Arjun Erigaisi, Abhijeet Gupta and Surya Shekhar Ganguly.

The women's team probable comprises Koneru Humpy, D Harika, Vaishali R, Tania Sachdev, Bhakti Kulkarni, Vantika Agrawal, Mary Ann Gomes, Soumya Swaminathan and Eesha Karavade.

The selection committee consisting of Abhijit Kunte, Dibeyandu Barua

and Dinesh Sharma will decide the final list of five players in April.

The chess event at the Games will start on September 11 and will be played in two formats. The individual event for men and women will be played in Rapid time control from September 11 to 14 September while four board five-member team event will be played under Standard time control from September 16 to September 24.

Amit Shah to unveil mural of Mahatma Gandhi made from 'Kulhad' cups

■ AGENCY

AHMEDABAD: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate a grand wall mural of Mahatma Gandhi made from 2,975 clay kulhads (earthen cups) at Sabarmati Riverfront here on Sunday, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) said.

The mural, commissioned by the KVIC, was put together by 75 potters brought here from across the country, a KVIC official said on Saturday.

The event, which will mark the 74th Martyrs' Day, will also be attended by Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. The KVIC has undertaken

Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Programme for empowering potters, he said.

Shah will also distribute electric pottery wheels to members of the potter community from his Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency on this occasion.

The mural, measuring 100 square meters, has been created by arranging kulhads on an aluminum sheet to form the Mahatma's visage, said the official. It will be only the second of its kind in the country, the KVIC official said, adding that the first one is installed at Palika Kendra in New Delhi.

In 2018, the KVIC had installed a large stainless steel 'charkha' (spinning wheel) at Sabarmati Riverfront, which too was inaugurated by Shah.

■ AGENCY

ISLAMABAD: A prominent Hindu lawmaker from Pakistan's ruling party has announced a delay in the visit of a delegation to India under his faith tourism initiative since New Delhi needs time to make arrangements for visitors due to COVID-19 restrictions, hours after India said it has a "positive approach" on the matter and is willing to engage with Islamabad on it.

India on Friday said there is an interest on both the Indian and Pakistani sides to expand the agreed list of shrines and mode of travel under the 1974 protocol for visits to religious places, asserting that it has a positive approach on the matter and is willing to engage with Islamabad on it.

"Let me underline that India has a positive approach on this matter and is willing to engage the Pakistani side. You are also aware that currently restrictions are in place on movement and gatherings in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation normalises, we expect that this time can be utilised to hold discussions under the bilateral Protocol," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

"It is our hope to facilitate early exchange of visits to all shrines of interest to pilgrims," Arindam Bagchi said in New Delhi.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, the Patron-in-chief of Pakistan Hindu Council and lawmaker of

Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party, later on Friday issued a statement saying the trip was delayed.

The visit has been delayed as India needs time to make arrangements due to COVID-19 situation but it has not been cancelled, he said, urging people to get registered for the trip, amidst a chill in bilateral ties between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism.

Vankwani had on Monday announced to lead a delegation of Pakistani pilgrims to India on January 29. But it turned out that the announcement was made by him without approval by India.

Vankwani in a video message on Wednesday said that

a group of 170 pilgrims, who were ready to go to India by a special flight of Pakistan International Airline (PIA), were waiting for approval by New Delhi.

He also, through a letter, asked India to urgently issue visas to his delegation of pilgrims.

Reacting to Vankwani's initiative, Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad told the media that the reported trip to India was an initiative by Pakistan Hindu Council to promote faith tourism.

He said that at the start of the new year there was a large group of pilgrims from India that visited the Teri Mandir and other religious shrines in Pakistan.

We understand there is a desire on part of the

Pakistan Hindu Council to continue with this initiative. We are supportive of the idea and we understand the Indian side has a positive view as well. This obviously needs to be done with agreement and mutual understanding, he said.

Nearly 200 Hindu pilgrims from India visited the 100-year-old renovated Maharaja Paramhans Ji mandir in Teri village, Karak district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on January 1 amidst tight security, one year after the temple was demolished by a mob belonging to a radical Islamist party.

Earlier, Vankwani had said that his idea of faith tourism enjoys the support of the governments of both Pakistan and India and the religious tourism had

already begun on January 1 when a delegation came from India.

He had planned to take the pilgrims on January 29 for a three-day trip on a chartered PIA flight to visit Ajmer Sharif, Jaipur, Agra, New Delhi and Haridwar and then fly back on February 1.

He said that a delegation of 170 devotees from India would travel to Pakistan on February 20, followed by another delegation from India on March 1.

He also said that the faith tourism initiative has the potential to deepen bilateral relations and in days to come, it will expand from religious tourism to trade and travel and finally work as a big bridge to improve ties between the two countries.