

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Ex Pak PM Imran Khan Gets 10-Year Jail For Exposing Official Secrets



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BRIEFLY

Earthquake of Magnitude 3.4 hits Leh, Ladakh

LEH, Jan 30 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 3.4 on the Richter scale was recorded in Leh, Ladakh, on Tuesday morning, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said.

According to the NCS, tremors were felt at 05:39:56 Indian Standard Time (IST). The depth of the quake was recorded at 5 km.

"Earthquake of Magnitude:3.4, Occurred on 30-01-2024, 05:39:56 IST, Lat: 35.27 & Long: 75.40, Depth: 5 Km, Region: Leh, Ladakh," NCS posted on X.

Police attaches property of drug peddler under ndps act in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Jan 30 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday attached the property of a notorious drug peddler under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Police said an under-construction house on land Shamilat (4) bearing survey No. 220 belonging to a notorious drug peddler identified as Aijaz Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Gadihama, Kulgam, was attached under Section 68-F (2) of the NDPS Act 1985.

The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of the investigation and inquiry conducted by Kulgam Police.

The property was prima facie acquired by the owner from illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Permanently, the said drug peddler is involved in Case FIR number 184/2020 and in Case FIR number 83/2022 of Police Station Kulgam, police added.

Muslims help perform last rites of Kashmiri Pandit in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jan 30 (Agencies): Muslims neighbours on Tuesday helped perform last rites of a Kashmiri Pandit, who passed away at his home in Tenkipora area Srinagar.

A local told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Sohan Lal, a

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Lieutenant Governor pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 76th death anniversary



Top News Report

JAMMU / SRINAGAR, Jan 30: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday paid humble tributes to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his

76th death anniversary. LG Sinha said late Mahatma's life and ideas are abiding source of inspiration for humanity.

Taking to micro-blogging site X, Office of LG J&K posted "Humble

tributes to Father of the Nation, Pujya Mahatma Gandhi, on his Punyatithi. His life & ideas are abiding source of inspiration for humanity. On Martyr's Day, homage to all great leaders,

who laid their lives for the Nation. Their vision will forever live on in our hearts".

Meanwhile Jammu and Kashmir administration also paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his Punyatithi. At the occasion two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the Father of the Nation, and other martyr's who made supreme sacrifices in the struggle of India's freedom.

"J&K administration paid homage to Pujya Babu on his Punyatithi. Two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the Father of the Nation and the martyrs who made supreme sacrifice in the struggle for India's freedom," Office of LG J&K posted on X.

Police observe 2-minute silence across Kashmir to remember martyrs



SRINAGAR, Jan 30 (Agencies): In a solemn tribute to the brave hearts & paying respect and honour to the ultimate sacrifice of our National freedom fighters, two-minutes silence was observed in all Police establishments across Kashmir valley. IGP Kashmir V. K Birdi-IPS, SSP PCR Kash-

mir and other officers/officials observed two minutes silence in the memory of those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the nation in the Conference Hall of PCR Kashmir. Besides, two minute silence was also observed in all district headquarters & police establishments across the Kashmir

Valley, read an official handout.

The silence was observed in the memory of those who gave up their lives in the struggle for the freedom of country.

The day reminds us of the value of freedom and the sacrifices that were made by our revolutionary leaders and courageous freedom fighters to attain it. It inspires us to be patriotic and work towards the betterment of our country. The day is a symbol of 'Unity and Pride' for the nation as a whole and it helps us remember the brave-hearts who laid down their lives for the country's freedom, read the handout further.

IEDs fitted with Malaysia origin batteries recovered in Kathua

JAMMU, Jan 30 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday averted a major tragedy by recovering two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) fitted with Malaysian-origin batteries in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.

A police spokesman said that during an early morning search operation conducted by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of District Police Kathua along the Bein Nalla near cremation grounds, two suspicious objects packed in polythene were discovered hidden in bushes.

"Acting promptly, the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) was called to inspect the objects. Upon examination, it was revealed that both items were improvised explosive devices (IEDs)," said the spokesman.

He added that each IED was contained within a plastic bottle



and consisted of components such as an electric detonator, a 9V battery (originating from Malaysia), a circuit, screws serving as splinters, and explosive material.

Additionally, the plastic containers housing the IEDs were coated with plaster of Paris.

"The approximate weight of one IED was determined to be 1.5 kg, while the other weighed one kg," he added, and

he said that, recognising the potential danger, both IEDs were carefully and successfully dismantled on the spot by the police team, preventing any potential harm.

"The device was taken into possession after a controlled detonation," he said, adding that a case was registered at the concerned police station and further investigation to arrest those responsible for planting IED is going on.

Money Laundering Case | ED seizes Rs 36 Lakh, SUV from Soren's Delhi House

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has seized Rs 36 lakh, an SUV and some "incriminating" documents after it searched the Delhi residence of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, official sources said Tuesday.

The federal agency searched the 5/1 Shanti Niketan residence of the JMM leader in south Delhi on Monday and camped there for almost 13 hours in order to question him in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land deal case of Jharkhand.

The sources said the ED teams seized about Rs 36 lakh in cash, a HR

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19 Delhi-bound trains delayed, flights disrupted as fog reduces visibility

JAMMU, Jan 30 (Agencies): As many as 19 Delhi-bound trains were reported to be running behind schedule after heavy fog shrouded the national capital and vast swathes of North India on Tuesday morning, significantly reducing visibility, railway officials informed.

Among the trains running behind schedule owing to inclement weather were the Jammu Tawi-Delhi Express, Howrah-Delhi Doronho, Howrah-Delhi Rajdhani Express, Bhubaneswar-Delhi Rajdhani Express, Dibrugarh-Delhi Rajdhani Express and the Puri-Delhi Express.

The Rewa-Anand Vihar Terminal, Bhagalpur-Anandvihar Express, Banaras-Delhi Express, Chennai-Delhi Express, Hyderabad-Delhi Express and the

Ranikamlapati-Hazrat Nizamuddin Express were also affected by the fog.

Additionally, the Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Express, Delhi-Rajendra Nagar Terminal Express, Jabalpur-Hazrat Nizamuddin Express, Delhi-Sealdah Rajdhani, Delhi-Moga Express, Delhi-Mumbai Central Rajdhani and the Nizamuddin-Bengaluru Rajdhani Express were also running late on account of the fog, according to railway officials.

Passengers at the New Delhi Railway Station were stranded as the trains ran behind schedule.

Meanwhile, flight operations were also disrupted at the Delhi airport on account of the thick fog across the national capital on Tuesday morning.

The airport issued an

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India logs 124 fresh Covid Cases

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): India has logged 124 fresh Covid cases while the number of active cases of the infection is 1,415, the Union health ministry said on Tuesday.

No deaths have been reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, but it began to rise after the emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions.

After December 5, the highest single-day rise of 841 new cases were reported on December 31, 2023, which was 0.2 per cent of the peak cases reported in May 2021, official sources said.

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SP repatriated to J&K, Another deputed to Ladakh

JAMMU, Jan 30 (Agencies): A Superintendent of Police deputed to Ladakh has been repatriated to Jammu and Kashmir while another Superintendent of Police has been deputed to Ladakh.

"In the interest of administration, Ch. Iftikhar Ahmad, SP, presently on deputation to the Union territory of Ladakh, in terms of the Government Order No.232-Home of 2021 dated 07.10.2021, is hereby repatriated to the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir." Reads an order, a copy

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Widespread light to moderate rain, snow over J&K during next 24 hours: MeT

SRINAGAR, Jan 30 (Agencies): Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Tuesday forecast widespread light to moderate rain and snow over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

The MeT office said that there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at many places in J&K from today afternoon onwards, with chances of heavy snowfall over a few higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Shopian, Kulgam, and Anantnag districts, with peak activity on January 31.

The weather will remain generally dry with the possibility of very light snow at iso-

lated higher reaches on February 2, while from February 3-4, light to moderate rain or snow may occur at many places in J&K.

The weather will remain generally dry from February 5 to 10, it said.

The forecaster has also issued an advisory stating that the weather system may lead to the temporary closure of roads in higher reaches and important passes, including Sinthan Pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna and Razdan Pass, Zojila, etc., during the period. Travelers are advised to plan their trip accordingly, the MeT office added.

Farmers have also

been advised to withhold irrigation and fertilizer applications and drain out excess water from orchards and fields during the above-mentioned period.

The night temperature recorded a drop at most stations but stayed above normal in Kashmir Valley on Tuesday.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 0.8°C against the 3.6°C recorded on Monday. It was 1.8°C above normal during this period of the season.

The day temperature witnessed a rise in Srinagar and was recorded at 10.1°C the previous day, which was 2.6°C

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J&K Govt renames 33 educational institutions, roads after 'Martyrs & Eminent Personalities'

JAMMU, Jan 30 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday ordered for renaming of 33 educational institutions, including schools and colleges, and roads after the names of 'martyrs and eminent personalities' of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the newly named infrastructure/assets after the following martyrs/eminent personalities, include; Anantnag - Late Himayun Muzamil Bhat, Dy.SP. Government Degree College (Boys), Anantnag; Srinagar - Late Masroor Ali Wani, Inspector, Government Boys High School, Narwara; Jammu - Late Rachhpal Singh, HC. Government High School (Lehar) Sungal, Akhnour; Jammu - Late Vishal Sharma, Rfn. Government High School, Chak Malal, Zone Khour, Tehsil Khour, District Jammu; Udhampur - Late Krishan Singh, Subedar. Government Middle School, Uriyan, Udhampur; Udhampur - Late Yash Paul, Rfn. Government Girls High School, Mantailai; Poonch - Late Abdul Majid, Havaladar; Government High School, Ajote, Poonch; Kishtwar - Late Ravi Kumar, Rifleman. High School, Galigarh; Ramban - Late Tanveer Ahmed SPO Shaheed Tanveer Ahmed



Memorial Cricket Ground, Sargali; Jammu - Late Krishan Singh, LNK. Government High School, Sungal; Jammu - Late Dhian Singh Salaria, NK, Government Middle School, Dharam Khoo; Jammu - Late Sham Singh Langeh, Rfn. Government Higher Secondary School, Ghara; Jammu - Late Parshotam Kumar, Naib Subedar. Government High School, Mirjad Uttami; Ramban - Late Irshad Ahmad, SgCt. Ramsoo Chowk as "Shaheed Irshad Ahmad Chowk"; Ramban - Late Abdul Rehman, HC. Neel Chowk as "Shaheed Abdul Rehman Malik Chowk"; Ramban - Late Jagdish Singh, SPO, Government

Ram Chowk, Marog, Ramban; Ramban - Late Mohd Saleem, SPO, Shaheed Mohd Saleem Chowk, Sirlan; Ramban - Late Anar Singh, SPO. Shaheed Anar Singh Chowk, Hunga; Ramban - Late Abdul Majeed, Constable, Shaheed Abdul Majeed Bus Stand, Panchal; Ramban - Late Naseeb Singh, Constable, Shaheed Naseeb Singh Playground, Hochak; Ramban - Late Dhaler Singh, Constable. Shaheed Daler Singh Chowk, Digidol; Ramban - Late Sarfaraz Ahmad, Constable, Shaheed Sarfaraz Khatana Chowk Bharderwah Morh Batote and Ramban - Late Abdul Qayoom, ASI Shaheed Abdul Qayoom Faily Road.

The order has emphasised further that the concerned Administrative Secretaries shall take immediate necessary steps, including amending their records, for effecting the changes and Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu shall personally monitor the naming of the infrastructure/assets in their respective divisions. "Deputy Commissioner(s) shall ensure that appropriate events are held in connection with the naming of these infrastructure/assets", reads the order.

FFMA pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhion death anniversary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) on Tuesday held a function to remember Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary, here on Tuesday. The function was organised by chairman of the Association, Rajiv Mahajan in presence of Patron, Ved Gandotra. Floral tributes were paid to the noble soul. All the participants observed two minutes silence. The members threw light over the life history of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Rajiv



Mahajan said Gandhiji played a vital role in our freedom struggle. Ahimsa (non-violence) and truth were his weapons, he said adding that Mahatma Gandhi was imprisoned several times for his attempts to free India from the bondage of British, yet he never gave up.

"Gandhi proved to the world that freedom can be achieved through the path of non-violence," he said adding that his values and principles are timeless for students of the modern India.

The young generation should also follow the path of sacrifice and patriotism shown by the freedom fighters and martyrs, he advised. Others were present on the occasion were by Patron-in-Chief, Ved Gandotra, Vice Chairman R.C Puri (retd) KAS, President Prof S.S Bhalwal, General Secretary Karnail Chand, Vice President Pritam Sharma, Advisor Ravinder Mittal and Secretary Parbhat Kapahi.

BJP will sweep all Lok Sabha seats in JK, Ladakh: Ashok Koul

SRINAGAR, Jan 30 (Agencies): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul Tuesday asserted that the party will try its best to sweep all the Parliamentary seats in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.

He said people of the region are satisfied with the pro-people efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and want the same government to continue in future. Koul was speaking on

the sidelines of a function in southern Anantnag. "BJP has accelerated its efforts ahead of Lok Sabha polls. We have geared up party workers and activists to ensure success in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. In this regard the party has started to open offices in all Parliamentary segments so that political activities in these areas will get a boost," Koul said. He said people of Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country are satis-

fied with the efforts of PM Narendra Modi who worked day and night for the welfare of people. "People by and large are happy with the efforts taken by central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his pro-people measures. People want to continue this government in future too," he asserted. He said BJP is fully prepared for polls and will sweep all 6 Parliamentary seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

SAAOL Heart Centre inaugurates Jammu unit at Sainik Colony

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: Science And Art Of Living (SAAOL) Heart Centre today announced the opening of its Jammu centre at 323, Sector G, Sainik Colony, Jammu. This being - the first SAAOL Heart Centre in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the founder of SAAOL Heart Centre Dr Bimal Chhajer said, "SAAOL has been treating heart patients for the last 25 years successfully and its theory is now being proven correct by the most modern medical research. To avoid heart attack, all that a patient needs is thorough training on lifestyle and diet management. Cardiac ailments are a lifestyle related ailment and hence the treatment should also be focused in the same direction. SAAOL's non-invasive treatment modules include - lifestyle change; natural bypass treatment by US FDA approved EECF therapy, and a combination of time tested principles



of ayurveda, along with homeopathy, naturopathy, and detoxification." He further said, "Globally, over 20 crore people annually are diagnosed with CAD and 2 crore lose their lives, which amounts to 10% of the mortality rate. India alone accounts for 6 crore people who have some form of heart disease, with a mortality rate of 35 lakh per annum. India is the present-day leader in the whole world so far as the number of heart patients is concerned. It is estimated that about 9,000 people every day lose their lives to heart disease and the count is only increasing. Evidently, the rate of mortality due to Covid is restricted to within 2% whereas heart diseases

with Optimum Medical Management is the key to the solution of heart diseases. These are not only highly effective in ensuring a healthy heart, they can also avoid the need for bypass surgery or angioplasty.

The SAAOL Safety Circle is the best indicator of the heart's health. It has three circles and 12 factors to control, six parameters related to medicare, and four each related to healthy diet and lifestyle habits. The initiative to bring SAAOL Heart Center to the state of Jammu and Kashmir has been driven by Dr Bimal Chhajer, Founder SAAOL and Dr. Darpan Sharma & Dr. Anupama Sharma, Founder Wellness & Happiness Group and Senior Lifestyle consultants SAAOL along with their team.

On the occasion Narinder Verma, Dr Aftab Ahmed, Vikram Gupta, Mr Sanjay Goyal, Sanjeev Verma, Sanjay Dhiman, Jasvir Dass, Kulwant Singh, Gagndeeep Singh, Aakash Sharma, were also present.

Avalanche warning issued in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, Jan 30 (Agencies): The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Tuesday issued an avalanche warning in the wake of snowfall in the higher reaches of the valley, officials said. A low-danger level avalanche warning was issued to the people of the central Kashmir district, they said.

"Avalanche with low-danger level is likely to occur above 2,800 metres over Ganderbal in next 24 hours," the officials said. The people have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders, they said.

Indian Army conducts lecture on Safe Drive and Traffic Rules at Suigarh

Top News Report

DODA, Jan 30: As a part of on-going process of educating the residents, Campaign to Raise Awareness on traffic rules a awareness lecture on Safe Drive and Traffic Rules was conducted for the youth and inhabitants at Suigarh. Due to sudden increase in road accidents in region, a need was felt to take up an initiative to spread awareness on road safety, in which an interactive lecture and discussion was carried out among residents for awareness and adherence to safety measures on traffic rules.

A total of 40 students attended the lecture. Students were also made aware about road symbols and road etiquettes. Ankush Kumar, Teacher, Government High School, Thalela educated the students about the road marking and safety measures like wearing of seat belts, helmet and to avoid drunken driving.

He also informed about the offences related to road safety and the penalties associated with them.

APS Damana organizes Painting Exhibition 'Studio Oasis-Creativity Blooms here'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: "In the realm of art, every stroke is a heartbeat, and every shade is a whisper of artist's soul echoing through time." A Two-day Painting Exhibition was hosted by APS Damana at Abhinav Theatre in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages under the theme 'Studio Oasis-Creativity Blooms Here'.

The event was inaugurated on 30 January 2024 by the Chief Guest Padma Shri Mohan Singh Slathia, a versatile artist known for his exceptional work in the field of Dogri Language, Art and Literature and Guest of Honour Lt Col Randeep Singh Slathia SO School. Principal APS Damana, Pushpinder Kaur applauded the efforts of the young artists and appreciated the aesthetic sense

connectivity of young minds. Popinder Singh, Sr Editor and Exhibition Officer JKAAC also shared the dais with the dignitaries.

The art exhibition is an endeavour to showcase the aesthetic sensibility of the students', enhancing their artistic skills, creativity, and help them to be inquisitive and think analytically. The young budding artists of classes IX -XII spellbound the audience with their captivating prowess and exhibits.

The event was witnessed by APS Jammu Cantt, APS Miran Sahib, APS Samba, Model Academy and KV Banta lab which come under Cluster I and CBSE Hubs of Learning.

The occasion was graced by the august presence of almost 200 participants from various schools and their escort teachers.

The welcome note was presented by Vanshika Magotra, Head Girl of the school followed by inaugural address by the Chief Guest. The visitors had a glance on various artistic exhibits of the students.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
kenpwwdecddiv.jammu@gmail.com

e-NIT No.EDJ/322 of 2023-2024 Dated 25-01-2024

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (in)	Earnest Money (in)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contract
1	Electrification to the Building for Primary Health Centre at Raya Samba.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	18.34	600/-	36680/-	Linked with Civil Works	06-02-2024 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-01-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 26-01-2024 to 05-02-2024, 4:00 P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	26-01-2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	05-02-2024 up to 4:00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	06-02-2024 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu, at the time of allotment.
- Bid Security Declaration should be kept in the Bid documents as per tendered.**
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu.** The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.**
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, If :-**
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.

No:- EDJ/17362-69
Dated:-25-01-2024

DIP/J-14451/23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Electric Division
Jammu

EDITORIAL

Mahatma Gandhi-a great personality

The personality of Mahatma Gandhi, imbued with purposeful ideology, was excellent from the point of view of idealism. Mahatma Gandhi, honored with the title of Yug Purush of this era, is known as a social reformer but according to Mahatma Gandhi, contribution of education in the society is necessary for social upliftment. Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat. He was common by birth but became great through his deeds. Rabindranath Tagore addressed him as "Mahatma" Gandhi in a letter. Since then the world started calling him Mahatma Gandhi instead of Mr. Gandhi.

Taking the principle of "Ahimsa Parmo Dharma" as its foundation, through various movements, Mahatma Gandhi freed the country from the chains of slavery. He was a good politician as well as a very good speaker. The words spoken by him are repeated by people even today.

Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869, in a coastal town in Western India (present-day Gujarat). His father's name was Karamchand Gandhi and mother's name was Putlibai. Gandhiji's life was deeply influenced by his mother's devotion and the traditions of Jainism. At the age of 13, Gandhiji was married to Kasturba. His primary education was from Porbandar, he gave his high school examination from Rajkot, and for matriculation he was sent to Ahmedabad. Later he practiced law from London.

Mahatma Gandhi believed that Indian education is not subject to the government but to the society. That is why Mahatma Gandhi used to call Indian education as 'the beautiful tree'. He had a special contribution in the field of education. It was his wish that every citizen of India should be educated. Gandhiji's basic mantra was to 'establish a society free from exploitation'

He said that children of 7 to 14 years should get free and compulsory education. The medium of instruction should be mother tongue. Literacy cannot be called education. Education develops human qualities of the child.

Gandhiji had come to know from the Jalianwala Bagh massacre that it was futile to expect justice from the British government. Therefore, between September 1920 and February 1922, he launched the non-cooperation movement under the leadership of the Indian National Congress. This movement was highly successful due to the support of millions of Indians. And this caused a huge blow to the British government.

[30/01, 5:43 pm] Sanjay Sharma: From 12 March 1930, a 24-day foot march was taken out from Sabarmati Ashram (located in Ahmedabad) to Dandi village. This movement was launched against the British government's monopoly on salt. This was the most important movement among the movements carried out by Gandhiji.

All India Anti-Untouchability League was established by Gandhiji in 1932 and he started the anti-untouchability movement on 8 May 1933.

Quit India Movement was started by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942 during the Second World War from the Mumbai session of All India Congress to immediately liberate India from the British Empire.

British landowners were forcing poor farmers to cultivate indigo at very low prices. Due to this, a situation of starvation had arisen among the farmers. This movement was started in 1917 from Champaran district of Bihar. And this was his first political victory in India.

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi "Live as if you were to die tomorrow, learn as if you were to live forever". Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi lived his life on these principles and fought many movements against the British Empire for the independence of India.

India & France: Strategic relations to Vision 2047

By: K.C. Singh

President Emmanuel Macron of France was the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations. Amidst the public excitement it was forgotten that he was in fact standing-in for US President Joe Biden, who was first invited but later sent his regrets. It is the sixth time for a French chief guest, starting with Jacques Chirac in 1976, who attended as Prime Minister of France. It happened during India's 1975-77 Emergency, when many Western leaders would have avoided coming. He attended a second time as President in 1998, months before India's nuclear tests.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was both a Francophile and admired the French predisposition towards strategic autonomy. India also rested its foreign policy on the same principle. Thus, India felt comfortable building a strategic relationship with France on the three pillars of cooperation — defence, space and nuclear. Unlike the United States, the French did not bring ideological factors into play in conducting business with India in these core areas.

Underscoring this French *laissez faire* approach to foreign policy was the nonchalant reaction of the French to India's nuclear tests in May 1998, when the US and its allies went berserk threatening India and imposing sanctions. The stop-over visit to France by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in 1998, when relations with the US were just normalising, reflected France's pragmatic diplomacy. That is why France has been a natural partner of India in strategic fields for more than half a century.

The Emmanuel Macron visit, despite the short notice, is in keeping with the past warm relations and absence of irritants. The French keep relations with Pakistan calibrated

to not annoy India. The January 26 joint statement details the themes in play in India-France relations. It recalls the Horizon 2047 Roadmap showcased during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France just over six months ago, as chief guest at their Bastille Day celebrations on July 14, 2023. It provides an "ambitious and broad-ranging course for bilateral relationship".

However, some facts need recalling. A French military marching contingent participated in this year's Republic Day parade. A similar participation occurred when President Francois Hollande was the chief guest in 2016. Similarly, the Indian armed forces marched in Paris not only when Prime Minister Modi was the chief guest at last year's Bastille Day but also when Dr Manmohan Singh was similarly honoured. Thus, the French extension of special courtesies to Indian Prime Ministers is part of a long tradition. The two countries' bilateral relations have always tilted in favour of defence and space. Among European nations, including the United Kingdom, it stands rather low at the fifth spot amongst India's trading partners. It is also only the 11th largest foreign investor in India with aggregate foreign direct investment of \$10.49 billion. But France excels at cooperating in strategic fields.

The joint statement covers a plethora of issues. It reflects the expanded Indian economic and strategic profile globally. In line with the Narendra Modi government's penchant for catchy slogans, three new pillars are presented for bilateral engagement — "Partnership for Peace and Prosperity; Partnership for Planet; Partnership for People". These are general statements of intent more in the region of philosophy than diplomacy.

But concrete ideas are also available in the joint statement. The

Annual Defence Dialogue is recalled as the mechanism for enhancing the "co-design, co-development, co-production" of defence products. Based on the "atma nirbhar" principle, of self-reliance, Indian production capabilities are to be enhanced using foreign collaboration. The aim is to make India a base for exports to friendly nations.

An example is the Hindustan Aeronautics and Safran agreement to develop, certify, produce, sell and support helicopter engines. An existing joint venture produces Scorpene submarines, but no new deals were announced. However, Airbus Helicopters and the Tatas agreed to establish a production line of helicopters for civilian use. The year 2026 was declared as the "India-France Year of Innovation".

The joint statement prescribes that bilateral partnership must produce resilient and prosperous economies, ensure security, address global challenges, reinvigorate multilateralism and attain a stable international order. This sounds like utopian overreach as even the United Nations has failed to achieve these objectives. Two issues in the statement demonstrate this. On the Gaza conflict, besides condemning the terrorist attack on Israel, it is demanded that international humanitarian law be observed, humanitarian assistance provided and a "political process" initiated for a "two-state solution". Neither nation figures in the latest ceasefire talks proposed by the US.

Similarly, the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) agreement, announced during the G-20 summit in New Delhi last September, is reiterated. However, while Israel's existential warfare with Hamas in Gaza continues, talk of a corridor via the UAE and Saudi Arabia is fairly premature. Lauding it in the joint statement sounds anachronistic. It is also proposed to facilitate

French language teaching, target sending to France 30,000 Indian students annually and a Young Professional Scheme introduced to accelerate the movement of professionals. Mutual diplomatic presence will be increased by new consulates in Marseille and Hyderabad. The Indo-Pacific is favoured for closer cooperation. France retains territorial possessions like Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean, and New Caledonia and French Polynesia in the Pacific. France also has a trilateral dialogue framework with the UAE and India. Thus, France broadens India's network of plurilateral ties.

France provided India access to high technology when India still faced technology-denial regimes pre-1998. As Indo-US relations have improved, India's options for acquiring high technology weapons and platforms have widened. But France remains a reliable and tested partner, much like Russia. It also provides a counterweight to over-reliance on the United States. Ironically as President Macron witnessed India's Republic Day celebrations and parade, 70,000 French farmers were protesting across France. Over 40,000 tractors choked France's main arteries. European agricultural policy changed in 2023, pushing for a green, carbon-neutral European economy. In particular, the obligation to leave four per cent of land fallow to ensure biodiversity riled farmers.

France has an Indian diaspora of over one lakh. Increased and facilitated student and professional egress from India is desirable. But the rising xenophobic right-wing parties can be spoilers in France or elsewhere in Europe. The challenges of climate change, regional conflicts, financial crises and the global power shift provide new opportunities for India-France engagement. They can equally create hurdles.

These advancements are not only enhancing operational excellence but also shaping a future



By: Vijay GarG

Virtual reality and AI will transform real estate market

Artificial Intelligence and data analytics are empowering real estate professionals with actionable insights and predictive analytics

The integration of technology into the real estate sector is ushering in a new era of innovation and efficiency. As digital transformation accelerates, emerging technologies are poised to reshape the property landscape, offering unprecedented opportunities for stakeholders across the industry. Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) technologies are revolutionising the property viewing experience. By offering immersive virtual tours and interactive floor plans, these technologies enable prospective buyers and tenants to

explore properties remotely, thereby expanding market reach and enhancing customer engagement. In 2024, VR and AR applications will become increasingly sophisticated, offering personalised experiences.

Blockchain and Smart Contracts: Blockchain technology and smart contracts are transforming property transactions by enhancing security, transparency, and efficiency. By creating immutable digital records and automating contract execution, these technologies mitigate fraud risks and streamline the conveyancing process. In the coming years, the adoption of blockchain and smart contracts will become more widespread, enabling seamless, secure, and cost-effective real estate transactions.

AI and Data Analytics

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics are empowering real estate professionals with actionable insights and predictive analytics. By analyzing market trends, identifying investment opportunities, and optimizing property management processes, AI-driven solutions are enhancing decision-making capabilities and driving operational excellence. As AI algorithms become more advanced and

data analytics tools more sophisticated, the integration of these technologies will continue to redefine the real estate industry's competitive landscape.

In conclusion, the fusion of technology and real estate in 2024 is not merely a trend but a seismic shift that promises to redefine the very essence of property transactions and experiences. This transformative journey unfolds across multiple dimensions, each offering a unique blend of innovation, efficiency, and opportunity.

At the forefront, Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) are revolutionizing property exploration, transcending the limitations of physical distance and enabling prospective buyers and tenants to embark on immersive journeys through properties from the comfort of their homes. The evolution of these technologies in 2024 is set to introduce personalized experiences that resonate with individual preferences, thereby amplifying market reach and fostering deeper connections between properties and potential occupants. Parallely, the emergence of Blockchain technology and smart contracts is ushering in an era of unprecedented

security, transparency, and efficiency in property transactions. These innovations are not only mitigating fraud risks but also reimagining the conveyancing process, paving the way for seamless, secure, and cost-effective transactions that resonate with the demands of the modern era.

Furthermore, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics is empowering real estate professionals with a treasure trove of actionable insights and predictive capabilities. These advancements are not only enhancing operational excellence but also shaping a future where data-driven strategies and insights drive growth, innovation, and success.

Beyond the technological innovations, the real essence lies in the transformative impact these advancements are poised to create. In essence, as we venture further into 2024 and beyond, the confluence of technology and real estate is paving the way for a new era characterised by innovation, efficiency, and opportunity.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

Udhampur among most developed LS constituencies in last 10 years: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 30: India will emerge as the world's third largest economy in Shri Narendra Modi's third term as Prime Minister, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said today.

The country has great stakes in the return of a BJP led Government headed by PM Modi in order to continue the upward trend in Bharat's growth story, he said. The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh was speaking at the launch of the BJP Election Office for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

"In 2014, when PM Modi took over, India stood as the world's tenth economy. In less than ten years, we jumped to 5th position after overtaking the United Kingdom, which had ruled over us for nearly two centuries. Hopefully this year it will



emerge as the 4th largest economy and during PM Modi's 3rd term, India will be the world's 3rd largest economy, marching on to become the No.1 economy by 2047," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the last ten years under PM Modi, India is recording a rapid rise in a slew of global benchmarks. During Financial Year 2023-24, Indian economy grew at 7 per cent plus for the third successive year even as the global economy struggles to grow at more than 3 per cent. We are the third-largest fintech economy in the world after the USA and the UK, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India has the 3rd largest Start-up Ecosystem globally and is home to the fastest-growing unicorns. "From just about

350 StartUps in the year 2014, StartUps in India grew over 300 times in over nine years. After PM Modi gave the clarification 'StartUp India, Stand Up India' from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his Independence Day address and rolled out the special Startup scheme in 2016, today we have over 1,30,000 Startups, besides more than 110 Unicorns," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, within a short span of just about four years, the number of Space StartUps has gone up from a mere single digit to over 150. Besides, there are more than 6,300 BioTech Startups and over 3,000 Agritech Startups in the Lavender sector of Jammu & Kashmir itself.

"About 4,000 people are engaged with Lav-

ender cultivation and earning lakhs of rupees, quite a few of them do not have high qualifications, but are very innovative," he said.

[30/01, 3:26 pm] Sanjay Sharma: Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the Global Innovation Index we ranked 81 in 2014, we have jumped 41 places, today we are No. 40 in the world.

"India of 2024 is ready to take a giant leap, backed by its scientific acumen and technological prowess," he said.

Referring to Udhampur-Kathua-Doda as among the most developed Lok Sabha constituencies in the last 10 years since 2014, Dr Jitendra Singh said, today this constituency is being cited as a role model. He said, not only several national and first-of-its-kind projects

were brought in in the last 10 years, but even those projects which had been abandoned by the earlier governments were revived.

Very recently, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Bhaderwah town of his constituency made national news when its Lavender Farms were displayed in the Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path, New Delhi and the constituency is now known as the birth-place of "Purple Revolution", which has given the world a new genre of Agri-StartUps.

This is the only Lok Sabha Constituency, said Dr Jitendra Singh, which got three centrally funded Medical Colleges, two Passport offices, world's highest Railway Bridge, Asia's longest Road Tunnel from Chenani to Nashri called Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel, North India's first Industrial Biotech Park, North India's first Cable Free Bridge Atal Setu at Basohli, nearly 4 to 5 Hydro power projects in Kishtwar making it India's power hub, Shahpur-Kandi National

Irrigation project, longest Express Corridor from Katra to Delhi, two instead of one Vande Bharat Express Trains on the same route of Katra to Delhi, nearly 200 bridges and small bridges, while District Udhampur has been declared as India's top three districts in PMGSY Roads.

[30/01, 3:26 pm] Sanjay Sharma: While Manser lake has been included in the Government of India's Swarajya Plan, Mantalai which was left in ruins by the earlier Congress government has been revived as State-of-the-art Wellness Centre.

Dr Jitendra said, all that we need to do is to make the people aware of all this for their benefit and for the benefit of their children. He emphasised the need to effectively convey to the common masses, particularly youth and women, the enormous development that has taken place in this constituency in the last 10 years under the patronage of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi concerns over Security negligence

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 30: Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi, IT Head of J&K BJP Minority Morcha, has issued a press release highlighting his deep concern and disappointment regarding the apparent negligence displayed by the Security Headquarters J&K, in addressing threat assessment reports from various intelligence agencies, including IB, CID, and Police.

In his statement, Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi emphasized the critical importance of taking intelligence inputs seriously to ensure the safety and security of the region. He expressed dismay over the alleged lack of proactive measures to address potential threats identified by these agencies.

Reshi stated, "The security of our region should be a top priority, and it is disheartening to witness a perceived neglect in responding to vital threat assessment reports. We cannot afford to undermine the intelligence gathered by agencies such as IB, CID, and concerned Police Headquarters."

He called for an immediate and thorough investigation into the reasons behind the reported negligence, urging the authorities to take corrective actions promptly. "We must work together to enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of our security apparatus," Reshi added.

Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi concluded the press release by reaffirming his commitment to the safety and well-being of the people in the region. "It is crucial that we address these concerns promptly to strengthen our security infrastructure and protect the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir," he stated.

Role Based training Course on 'CCTNS and Capsule Course for PSOs' commenced at PTTI Vijaypur



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 30: One week "Role Based Training Course on CCTNS" and 10 days "Capsule Training Course for PSOs" commenced at PTTI Vijaypur in which Police personnel of various units of Police Department are participating. The objective of these courses is to enhance the capabilities and tactics of Police officials.

These courses were formally inaugurated by

Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Incharge Principal, PTTI Vijaypur who in his inaugural address, briefed the participating officers/officials about the basic concepts of these courses and emphasized upon the trainees to take keen interest in their training and maintain proper discipline in the Institute. Besides this, on the occasion of Martyr's Day, a two minutes silence was observed by all staff and trainees of the Institute in the memory of those

who lost their lives in the struggle for India's freedom.

While speaking on the occasion, Dr. Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Incharge Principal and Khushwant Singh, Dy. SP (Admn.) PTTI Vijaypur enlightened the objective behind the observance of this Day.

They stated that this day is observed every year on 30th January to remember the freedom fighters who lost their lives in the struggle for India's freedom.

World Anti Leprosy Day observed in Jammu Division under Directorate of Health Services Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: World Anti Leprosy Day was celebrated on Tuesday in Jammu Division under the guidance of Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma.

The theme for this year is "Beat Leprosy" that encapsulates the dual objectives of the day to eradicate the stigma associated with leprosy and to promote the dignity of people affected by the disease.

This year a fortnight Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign is to be observed from 30th January 2024 to 13th February 2024.

In Jammu District an event was organised by Dr. Sushma Mattoo, Zonal Leprosy Officer, Jammu at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu under the supervision of Medical Superintendent Gandhi Nagar Dr. Rakesh Magotra.

The purpose of this



event was to raise awareness about cause, transmission, sign and symptoms, treatment, prevention of leprosy and social stigma associated with the disease among the community.

The event started with observation of two minute silence to commemorate death anniversary of Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi followed by pledge taking ceremony on the occasion of Anti Leprosy Day.

Under the supervision of Principal ANMT School Government

Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu Dr. Daisy Parihar the students of ANMT School performed a cultural program that was appreciated by all present in the function.

A Rally was also flagged off by Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma from Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu enroute Gole Market area.

On this occasion a Tribute was paid to commemorate the Covid warriors. Deputy Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma, State Epidemiologist Dr. Harjeet Rai, and officers and officials from the Directorate of Health Services Jammu and Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu were present on the occasion.

World Anti Leprosy Day was also observed

in health institutions of all districts of Jammu division.

Various types of activities were conducted that included two minute silence followed by pledge taking ceremony, flagging off of rallies, Nukkad Natak, Poster making and awareness in Health institutions, Schools, Anganwadi Centres and among community. Cleanliness drives were also held in health institutions.

Emphasis was laid on early detection and its treatment which is provided free of cost at all health institutions so as to eradicate leprosy from the root level. On the occasion Information, Education and Communication material on the disease was also distributed amongst all field functionaries and the general masses by the health department.

GDC R S Pura observes Martyr's Day

Top News Report

RS PURA, Jan 30: January 30 is observed as Martyrs' Day, also known as 'Shaheed Diwas' or 'Sarvodaya Day', across the country to honour those who sacrificed their lives for the country's independence.

The day holds significance as it marks the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi -- the Father of the Nation.

To commemorate the day NSS, NCC and Viksit Bharat Club of GDC R S Pura organized a program to pay tribute and homage to the unsung heroes of our nation.

The event was presided over by Prof. Shifali Abrol, who gave an introductory speech on the event and threw



light on the significance of the day.

The event followed by a two-minute silence in memory of our martyrs which was followed by a pledge to follow the path of truth and non-violence.

During the program, Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, ANO NCC / HoD of Political Science, gave a speech in which he praised Mahatma Gandhi's role in India's

freedom struggle and urged the students to adopt Gandhi's three principles of truth, non-violence, and religious harmony in their lives.

"Mahatma Gandhi is a special person the world has ever seen," he said and added, "The role of Mahatma Gandhi in our freedom struggle is unforgettable. Adopting Gandhi's three basic principles truth, non-violence and religious har-

mony in our hearts will be the greatest respect we give to him."

While speaking on the occasion Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Nodal Officer Viksit Bharat said, "We are honored to commemorate Martyrs Day and pay tribute to the brave individuals who sacrificed their lives for our country's freedom.

We hope that this program will inspire our students to uphold the values of truth, non-violence, and religious harmony, which were so important to Mahatma Gandhi."

The event was organized under the guidance of Dr. Rajni Bhagat, Principal of the college. She went on to highlight how Gandhi's use of the simple weapon of 'Satyagrah'

guided India independence from the hands of the British, who had considered themselves as the mightiest.

"India is the only country in the entire world, which became independent without using violence, and the complete credit goes to Mahatma Gandhi," she observed.

There was an amazing feeling of contentment filled with pride when the day ended with a promise to join hands and work towards building a better nation ahead.

The event was attended by all the teaching, non-teaching faculty and students of the college with zeal, enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. Computer Science Department Head, Prof Sankeet Gupta gave a vote of thanks.

Bhaderwah Campus pays tributes to Martyrs

Top News Report

Bhaderwah, Jan 30: Bhaderwah Campus paid tributes to the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifices in safeguarding the sovereignty and independence of democratic nation India.

In this connection, a program was held in the Lall Ded Auditorium of the Campus. Students, Teaching and non-teaching staff paid homage to the heroes who laid down their lives for the country.

GDC Mahanpur observe silence on Martyrs' Day

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Jan 30: NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur organized two minutes silence at 11.00 AM, in the memory of those who sacrificed their lives during the struggle for India's freedom.

Martyrs' Day, also known as Shaheed Diwas, is observed in India on January 30 annually.

The day is dedicated to pay homage to the cou-

rageous soldiers who sacrificed their lives for their motherland. It also marks the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948. The event was organized under the supervision of Principal Dr. Sangeeta Sudan. Near about 20 NSS volunteers were present.

The staff members who were present on the occasion were Dr. Balbinder Singh, Prof. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Dr. Sudesh, Prof. Rupalee Jasrotia, Dr. Ajay

Manhas, Dr. Mohammad Sardar Bhatti, Dr. Hial, Prof Nishu, Nisha Baghat, Dr. Anil, Prof Suman, Romesh Lal, Ashok Kumar, Surinder Kumar, Sunny Sharma, Sewa Ram, Anu Radha, Anand, Shibu Din.

The event was organized by Prof. Rupalee Jasrotia (NSS Programme Officer).

The College Principal Dr. Sangeeta Sudan appreciated the efforts of NSS committee in organizing the event.

With a huge cast giving its best to a plot that has already found favour with the Punjabi audience, sequel to the film Warning promises much action once more. Gippy Grewal and other stars get candid

Back in the day, when Gippy Grewal came up with the series Warning, little did he think there would be a demand for a movie on the same lines. When Warning, the movie was released in 2021, it found a niche audience. As the release of its highly anticipated sequel nears on February 2, the team of Warning 2 gets candid.

Gippy Grewal, the brain behind the story, has played many a role in the universe of Warning. Writing, producing and acting in this film, he chooses his personal favourite. "I know people appreciate me as a romantic hero or in a comic avatar, but, personally, I love action films. I would love to do more such larger-than-life roles, hardcore fights and be loved for it." As a producer, Gippy had the responsibility of assembling the cast that Warning 2 proudly presents. Finding over 15 other actors for the film couldn't have been an easy task, "The right cast is 75 per cent of the battle won. But it's a long process. Some people just came to my mind as I was writing the roles, and then as a team we found the rest of our cast."

Gippy then mentioned that he had a four-minute role in 2021's Warning. "A good movie remains true to its story, not



merely relying on big stars. Luckily for us, we experience no ego clashes," he says. This unity and faith in his team also gives Gippy the confidence that Warning 2 would open to packed auditoriums. He admits, "We are aware that in Punjabi cinema, comedy is a genre that does well. Punjabi action films don't have much scope here or overseas. Irrespective of that, Warning, a small-budget film, was a hit. With Warning 2, which has been created on a grand scale, naturally our expectations are very high."

Household name

It is this film that changed the course of life for Prince Kanwaljit Singh, whose character 'Pamma' became a household name after the success of Warning. While the entire team is all praise for Prince Kanwaljit, he credits the movie for giving him a chance to showcase his talent. "It is with this film that the actor in me was born in the true sense. I became someone who could carry an entire film on his shoulders."

A dashing addition to the team of Warning 2 is Rahul Dev, who plays a cop, Ranjit Singh. Happy and emotional, in pure Punjabi,

he expresses his love for the state and his co-actors. "Menu bohat pyaar ditta hai Punjab ne te eh saare kalakaran ne." He goes on in English, "The innocence with which Prince portrays Pamma, how Gippy believes every actor deserves screen time to do justice to their characters and craft at the same time, how the people of Punjab shower so much love and warmth on everyone, I feel such a strong connection and am grateful for the experience."

Leading lady

While the trailer is loaded with action, Jasmin Bhasin adds a romantic touch to Warning 2 with her character, 'Raunak,' revealing that her role holds a surprise element. She says, "I am the raunak of this film and my role is going to leave you surprised." To be on board for Warning 2 was a 'blessing' for Jasmine, who is still in the initial phase of her Punjabi film career with few music videos and a movie before this. "We all wait to be discovered by the right production house or director for years, and I can safely say I got lucky. What can be a better platform to showcase your talent? While people have seen Gippy and me before in Honeymoon, I can say our chemistry in this one will sure touch your hearts."

My first live singing performance was everything I could wish for: Parineeti Chopra



Actress Parineeti Chopra finally made her live singing debut and said the performance

was everything she could wish for. Parineeti took to Instagram, where she shared a motley of pictures giving a glimpse of what her concert looked like. She also shared a video where she said the event was special because she performed in her own city — Mumbai.

For the caption, she wrote: "And it's done... I have tears of joy as I type this: my first ever live singing performance was last night and it was everything I could wish for and more. Thank you all for the love and kindness you all have shown. It means a lot to me." Earlier this month, Parineeti shared that she was now having two careers — acting and music. Talking about her acting career, Parineeti, who made her debut in 2011 with the film 'Ladies Vs Ricky Bahl', was last seen on screen in 'Mission Raniganj' opposite Akshay Kumar. Her next is with Diljit Dosanjh and the title of the film is 'Chamkila'.

Sushmita Sen says she felt like the last soldier in personal battle while shooting climax of Aarya

Sushmita Sen, who is gearing up for the upcoming season of her show Aarya, has shared that she felt like she was the last soldier in her own personal battle while shooting for the climax scene in the new season.

She also shared that she was fully prepared to shoot the climax and she felt that the line between Aarya and Sushmita almost got blurred.

Sushmita experienced this first-hand on the sets of the Emmy award-nominated show in which she portrays the titular character.

Elaborating on the same, the actress said, "Shooting the climax scenes in Aarya's Antim Vaar was quite a challenge for me, being a pretty emotional person. It felt like I was the last



soldier in my own personal battle. I was super prepared, especially during the action parts so much so that the line between Aarya and Sushmita almost got blurred."

She further mentioned,

"Playing Aarya doesn't feel like acting; it's more like a dedication to doing whatever it takes to protect family, just like I would.

The show will drop on Disney+ Hotstar on February 9.

Bigg Boss 17 winner Munawar Faruqui talks about his journey

Munawar Faruqui, who took home the Bigg Boss 17 winner's title, spoke about how his personal life was brought on national TV. He said that he went to the controversial show to entertain and not open up about details of his life.

During his 105 days journey in the show, Munawar faced several hiccups. One particularly being Ayesha Khan, who during her entry in the show on a wild card, claimed that the stand-up star "two-timed", "lied" and even proposed a "rishta" to a girl before entering the Salman Khan-hosted show.

Asked if he felt targeted with all his personal details out in the open, Munawar said, "You aren't ready for such things in life. When your personal life comes like



this, you are never ready for it. I had gone to the show to entertain and it was not for bringing out my personal life like this. But no one has control

over such things." "I was at a place where I got to know that a person had come and done this. It was an uncontrolled situation.

However, Munawar now feels like an evolved person as he stepped out with the trophy and Rs 50 lakh richer.

Does he feel evolved after such a tumultuous journey in the show? He said, "Definitely. Every moment of my life and in everything I feel evolved and good.

"And whatever I felt that I needed to better in my life or change and I will now be able to work on it and face it. I feel Bigg Boss has made me a better person." Now that the show is over, would he like to be in touch with the other 16 contestants, with whom he saw a love-hate relationship in the show. "I am not a person who holds grudges. I am a person who lets things go," he said.

Now, Munawar wants to reciprocate his love for the audience with

entertainment.

"I am looking to entertain my fans, the audience that gave me a lot of love. My dream is to give them entertainment in return," he said.

However, he did not share any details about him featuring in the stunt-based reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi.

Munawar, who won another reality show with similar concept hosted by Kangana Ranaut, was often heard talking about how he wants to take the trophy to Dongri, Mumbai, from where he comes. He said, "The trophy goes to Dongri only. This is a very good feeling that you have won a show like this and then won a bigger version of that show... Winning Bigg Boss... When you rule the TV, that happiness is unmeasurable."

Dakota Johnson calls Taylor Swift 'most powerful person in America'

Actress Dakota Johnson, who is known for Shades of Grey, dubbed singer-songwriter Taylor Swift as the 'most powerful person in America' during her stint on Saturday Night Live. She used this opportunity to tease Donald Trump, the former US president and current presidential candidate.

While reminiscing about the last time she hosted the show for its 40th Anniversary Special in 2015, Dakota showed a photo of herself surrounded by VIPs, like Sarah Palin, George Lucas, and Steven Spielberg. Pointing at Trump, who was also in the audience, she said: "And look who's sitting right behind me."

As the camera zoomed in on Taylor Swift, who was seated in front of her, Dakota quipped:



"Crazy to be standing so close to someone who would become the most powerful person in America." This joke had

the audience in stitches, with many cheering for Dakota. She was joined on stage at a recent gig

by Justin Timberlake who joked: "I remember those days, Dakota." She playfully responded: "Justin, what are you

doing up here? Are you lost?" Justin's humorous reply was: "I heard my name. I thought that was my cue."

In other news, Taylor Swift's presence at the Kansas City game to cheer on her beau Travis Kelce is still under wraps.

The couple has been an item since the start of the 2023 NFL season.

The fans searching for Taylor Swift on X aren't getting any joy after a controversy involving inappropriate AI-generated images. When typing in Taylor's name, an error message appears saying: "Posts aren't loading right now. Try again". Fans were left frustrated after unsavoury images tagged 'Taylor Swift AI' appeared, sparking calls for legal action.

For theatre artiste Aneesa Madhok acting in films was a far-fetched dream



Aneesa Madhok, who started her career with theatre, says that she has always been a Bollywood buff from the beginning.

"I was first joined theatre and I happened to get into films. When I was acting in the play Infidel, I was spotted by Hollywood filmmakers and two of them cast me as the lead in the ir films. Bully High, directed by Bill McAdams Jr, is out. Until then, acting in films was a far-fetched dream that I didn't know was a possibility for me," she says.

Ask her which film she loved, and she says, "I used to love the song Rangeela. I used to copy Urmila Matondkar's dance steps."

About the impact of OTT on her career, she says, "I like OTT because of the content. I am truly excited to play characters that provoke and emotions." Aneesa says taking feedback constructively is important. "One must be willing to listen to feedbacks but at the end of the day, instinct is the best guide. I'm an actor for my love for the art form, not the fame. Criticism don't affect me. For me, compliments or insults don't mean anything and I stay on that neutral path."

Ready to discuss every issue, Government tells Opposition on Budget session eve

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): The government on Tuesday told floor leaders of various parties that it was ready to discuss every issue in the upcoming Budget session of Parliament.

Emerging from the customary all-party meeting convened by the government on the eve of the Budget session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi described the interaction as "very cordial" and said the government was ready to discuss every issue during the brief session.

The session will be the last one of the present Lok Sabha before the dates for the parliamentary election are announced.

Defence Minister and



Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha, Rajnath Singh, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Joshi and his deputy Arjun Ram Meghwal represented the government at the meeting.

Congress' K Suresh, TMC's Sudip Bando-padyay, DMK's TR Baalu, Shiv Sena's Rahul Shewale, Samajwadi Party's ST Hasan, JD(U)'s Ram Nath Thakur and TDP's Jay-

adev Galla were among the leaders present at the meeting at the Parliament House complex.

Congress MP Pramod Tiwari, who represented the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, said he raised the issue of the "violent attack" on the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi in Assam and the state government's curbs on it.

An "unwritten dictatorship" prevails in the country, he said and accused the central government of misusing probe agencies such as the CBI and the ED to target Opposition leaders such as Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and RJD supremo Lalu Yadav.

Tiwari said he raised these issues after consulting Opposition parties.

It is a customary practice ahead of every session to convene a meeting as leaders of different parties highlight the issues they want to raise in Parliament, and the government offers them a glimpse into its agenda and seeks their cooperation.

It will be a short session this time, between January 31 and February 9, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman set to table an interim budget (on February 1) ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. The new government will present the full-fledged budget.

The session will begin with President Droupadi Murmu's address to a joint sitting of both Houses.

Those who glorify Godse will not be allowed to define idea of India: Congress on Gandhi's death anniversary

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): On Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, the Congress on Tuesday asserted that the true tribute to the father of the nation would be to not let the "flame of truth and harmony" be extinguished in the "storm of hatred".

The party also said that those who glorify Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse should not and will not be allowed to define the idea of India.

In a post on 'X', Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge cited a quote of Mahatma Gandhi, "The enemy is fear. We think it's hate but it is fear. On Martyrs Day, we pay our respects to Bapu, the moral compass of our nation. We must pledge to fight against those who seek to destroy his ideals based on 'sambhav' and 'sarvodaya'," Kharge said.

"Let us do everything to protect the India of

'unity in diversity' and ensure justice, equality and fraternity among our people," he said.

In a post on 'X' in Hindi, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said that on this very day, the ideology of hatred and violence had snatched away the revered Bapu from the country.

"And, today the same thinking wants to snatch away his principles and ideals from us," he said.

"But in this storm of hatred, the flame of truth and harmony must not be extinguished," the Congress leader said and added that this will be the true tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

A prayer meeting was held at the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra campsite in Araria in Bihar early in the morning to remember Mahatma Gandhi on the date of his assassination 76 years ago.

In a post on 'X', Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared

pictures from the prayer meeting where Rahul Gandhi and several other leaders paid tributes to the father of the nation.

"Our battle against the ideologies that resisted and rejected him in his lifetime, and now attempt to appropriate him ever so frequently, continues," Ramesh said.

"Those who glorify Godse should not and will not be allowed to define the idea of India," he said.

Former Union minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said Mahatma Gandhi may have been killed but there are millions of Indians, especially ordinary Indians, who cherish his life and his teachings of love, harmony, fraternity and peace.

"These values are being challenged today but, ultimately, Gandhi's values will triumph," he said.

Indian Navy rescues 19 Pakistani fishermen kidnapped by pirates in Arabian Sea

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): Indian warship INS Sumitra rescued 19 Pakistani fishermen from Somali Pirates who hijacked their fishing vessel late night.

The operation was carried East of Somalia in Africa, the Navy said on Tuesday morning. Eleven Somali pirates were on board the vessel.

It is the second rescue operation within a day for the Indian Navy after saving another Iranian-flagged fishing vessel, FV Iman, from Somali

pirates, which had 17 crew members onboard in its anti-piracy operations along the east coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden on Monday, an official statement said.

The response by the Indian Navy to the fresh incident came three days after its warship INS Visakhapatnam extinguished a fire onboard a commercial oil tanker with 22 Indian crew when the vessel was struck by a missile in the Gulf of Aden.

The Navy on January 5 thwarted an attempted



hijacking of Liberian-flagged vessel MV Lila Norfolk in the North Arabian Sea and rescued all

its crew members. Liberian-flagged vessel MV Chem Pluto, with 21 Indian crew

members, was the target of a drone attack off India's west coast on December 23.

Kerala court gives death sentence to 14 PFI-linked men convicted of killing BJP leader Ranjith Sreenivasan

ALAPPUZHA, Jan 30 (Agencies): A Kerala court on Tuesday sentenced to death 14 persons associated with the now-banned Islamist outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) in connection with the murder of BJP OBC wing leader

Ranjith Sreenivasan in this district in December 2021.

The sentence was pronounced by Mavelikkara Additional District judge V G Sreedevi.

The prosecution had sought the maximum sentence for the con-

victs, saying that they were a "trained killer squad" and the cruel and diabolical manner in which the victim was killed in front of his mother, infant, and wife brings it within the ambit of the "rarest of the rarest" of crimes.

Moments Before Dying Of Heart Attack, Driver Saved Over 60 Lives By Stopping Bus

BALASORE, Jan 30 (Agencies): A man died after suffering a heart attack while driving a bus, but not before stopping the vehicle on time, saving the lives of over 60 passengers in Odisha's Balasore district on Tuesday, police said.

The incident took place at Patapur Chhak in Odisha's Balasore district early on Tuesday.

Quoting preliminary information, police said that the bus carrying tourists from West Bengal was proceeding towards Panchalingeswar Temple in the district when the driver suffered a heart attack.



As soon as he felt pain, the driver stopped the bus on the side of the road and lost consciousness. Panicked passengers called the local people who rushed the driver identified as Sheikh Akhtar to the nearby Nilgiri sub-divisional hospital. He was declared dead by doctors, police said.

Amit Das, one of the

passengers said that the driver suddenly became sick and halted the bus. As soon as the vehicle stopped on one side of the road, he fainted. He was rushed to the hospital by local people where doctors pronounced him dead.

The passengers and local people praised the presence of mind of the driver.

'Modi's guarantee' a jumla, real issue in India is unemployment, inflation: Priyanka

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): Hitting out at the Centre over people seeking jobs in Israel, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday said talk of five trillion dollar economy and Modi's guarantee are just a "jumla" with the real issue in the country being that of unemployment and inflation for which she claimed the BJP government has no solution.

The Congress general secretary shared a video on X which showed people queuing up for a recruitment drive to send workers to Israel.

In a post on X in Hindi, Gandhi said, "If there is a war situation anywhere,



then first of all we rescue our citizens from there and bring them back to our country."

"But today unemployment has resulted in such a situation that the government is not even saving thousands of helpless youth from taking the risk of going to war-torn Israel," she said.

"This shows, that lack

of things like '5 trillion dollar economy', 'two crore jobs annually' and 'Modi's guarantee' during elections is just jumla (rhetoric)," she said.

Why are the youth not getting employment in their own country, she asked.

"Are these youth standing in long queues for two days not the chil-

dren of our country that we are happily ready to send them into the middle of such a terrible war?" Gandhi said.

Notice how cleverly the government is making this a personal issue of the youth of the country, she said.

"What is the role of government in this? On what basis has the Government of India given permission to war-torn Israel to sacrifice Indian youth? Who will take the responsibility of protecting the life and property of these youth of ours? God forbid, if an incident happens to someone, who will take responsibility?" the Congress leader said.

The real issue of India today is unemployment

and inflation and the BJP government has no solution to it, she claimed.

The youth of the country are now understanding this, she added.

The Congress on Saturday had attacked the government over people reportedly queuing up in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana for jobs in Israel, saying it was a reflection of the "grim unemployment situation" in the country and makes a "mockery" of the claims of a booming economy.

The Congress has been criticising the government over its handling of the economy and raising concerns over "increasing" unemployment and price rise.

Maharashtra: Class 8 boy injured in attack by classmate; accused detained

MUMBAI, Jan 30 (Agencies): A 14-year-old student of Class 8 received injuries after a fellow student allegedly attacked him with a sharp object inside the classroom of a school in Maharashtra's Sangli district, a police official said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Monday evening and a preliminary investigation revealed it was the fallout of a previous dispute between the two classmates, he said.

The accused and the victim, who is a resident of 100 Feet Road area in Sangli, used to have frequent quarrels over minor issues and they also had an argument two days ago, the official said.

On Monday, the accused boy carried a sharp object, presumably a small knife, in his school bag.

At around 5.30 pm, he allegedly

attacked his classmate with the sharp object while the latter was sitting on a bench.

The victim received severe injuries on his neck and hands, the official said.

The school administration immediately took the injured boy to a private hospital for treatment.

The boy was given stitches for a wound.

He is undergoing treatment in the hospital and his condition is stable, inspector Sanjay More from the City police station in Sangli said.

"We have detained the 15-year-old student who attacked the boy after registering an FIR under relevant Indian Penal Code sections including 307 (attempt to murder).

Further investigation is underway," the official said.

Teacher Shoots 2 Colleagues Dead At Jharkhand School, Then Turns Gun On Himself



RANCHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): A teacher allegedly shot dead two colleagues at a government school in Jharkhand's Godda district, before turning the gun on himself and suffering serious injuries, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place at Upgraded High School in Poraiyahat area, around 300 km from Ranchi, during school hours around 11 am, a police officer said.

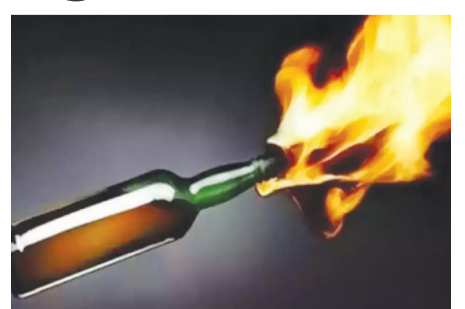
Godda Superintendent of Police Nathu Singh Meena told agency, "The bodies of two teachers, including a woman, were found lying in a pool of blood in a room at the school, while the accused teacher was also found seriously injured."

Petrol bomb thrown at house in Chennai after fight over marijuana smoking

CHENNAI, Jan 30 (Agencies): Chennai Police detained one person and are in search of two others after they threw a petrol bomb at the house of a Pudu Vannarapet resident. The victim had earlier allegedly confronted the men over smoking marijuana near the victim's house.

Siva, a resident of Desiya Nagar, noticed a group of people smoking ganja near his house. He approached them and requested them to leave, leading to a heated argument.

On Monday night, unidentified people retaliated by throwing a petrol bomb at Siva's gate. Neighbours ran to Siva's house and helped him in extinguishing the fire. The locals along with Siva complained about the matter at the



Pudu Vannarapet police station along with CCTV footage as evidence.

One of the three who was arrested, identified as Manoj, has a criminal history. The search is still on for the other two suspects who were involved in the attack.

The investigation into the matter is underway.

South Korea says North Korea fired cruise missiles in 3rd launch of such weapons this month

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest point in years, after Kim Jong Un accelerated his weapons development to an unprecedented pace.

SEOUL, Jan 30 (Agencies): North Korea fired multiple cruise missiles into waters off its western coast Tuesday in its third launch of such weapons this month, South Korea's military said, as the North continues to flaunt its expanding arsenal of weapons designed to overwhelm its rivals defenses.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the South Korean and US militaries were analyzing the launches that were detected around 7 am. It did not immediately provide more details, including the number of missiles fired, how far they flew, and whether they were launched from land or sea.

The launch followed tests on Jan. 24 and Jan. 28 of the Pulhwasal-3-31 cruise missile North Korea says is designed to be fired from submarines.

Following the second launch, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reiterated his goal of building a nuclear-armed navy to counter what he described as growing external threats. It's not yet clear if that water launch Sunday was conducted from an actual submarine or an underwater barge.

Tensions on the Korean Pen-



insula are at their highest point in years, after Kim accelerated his weapons development to an unprecedented pace while issuing provocative nuclear threats against the United States, South Korea and Japan.

The United States and its Asian allies in response have strengthened their combined military exercises, which are increasingly featuring U.S. strategic assets such as aircraft carriers, long-range bombers and nuclear-powered submarines. The countries are also sharpening their deterrence strategies, with Seoul in particular seeking stronger assurances from Washington that the United States would swiftly

and decisively use its nukes to defend its ally in the event of a North Korean nuclear attack.

The North on Jan. 14 also tested a new solid-fuel intermediate-range missile, which underscored its efforts to advance its weapons that could target U.S. assets in the Pacific, including the military hub of Guam.

There are concerns that Kim, emboldened by the steady advancement of his nuclear arsenal and strengthened ties with Russia, would further ramp up pressure against his rivals in an election year in the United States and South Korea.

Aside of weapons tests, there are also growing concerns in the South about a direct North

Korean provocation. The North in early January fired hundreds of artillery rounds for three consecutive days into waters near their disputed western sea border, prompting the South to conduct similar firings in response. The exchange caused no known casualties or damage, but the sea boundary had been the site of several bloody skirmishes and attacks in past years.

During a fiery speech at Pyongyang's parliament on Jan. 15, Kim declared that the country was abandoning its long-standing objective of a peaceful unification with war-divided rival South Korea and ordered the rewriting of the North Korean constitution to cement the South as its most hostile foreign adversary. He then said that the North has no intention to avoid war and would use its nukes to destroy the South if provoked.

Experts say the North is aiming to diminish South Korea's voice in international efforts to resolve the nuclear standoff and eventually force direct dealings with Washington as it seeks to cement its nuclear status and negotiate a release of U.S.-led sanctions from a position of strength.

Elon Musk says Neuralink installs first brain chip in human

The neurotechnology company co-founded by Musk in 2016 aims to build direct communication channels between the brain and computers.



SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 30 (Agencies): Elon Musk on Tuesday said his Neuralink startup had installed a brain implant in its first human patient with "promising" initial results.

The neurotechnology company co-founded by Musk in 2016 aims to build direct communication channels between the brain and computers.

The ambition is to supercharge human capabilities, treat neurological disorders like ALS or Parkinson's, and maybe one day achieve a symbiotic

relationship between humans and artificial intelligence.

"The first human received an implant from Neuralink yesterday and is recovering well," Musk said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

"Initial results show promising neuron spike detection," he added.

The start-up last year said it won approval from US regulators to test its brain implants in people.

Neuralink's technology will mainly work through an implant called the "Link" -- a device about the size of five stacked

coins that is placed inside the human brain through invasive surgery.

According to data company Pitchbook, last year California-based Neuralink had more than 400 employees and has raised at least \$363 million.

Though he wins most of the headlines, Musk is hardly alone in trying to make advances in the field, which is officially known as brain-machine or brain-computer interface research.

Hit with delays, the tycoon had reportedly reached out to join forces with implant developer Synchron about a potential investment.

Unlike Neuralink's Link, its implant version does not require cutting into the skull to install it.

The Australia-based Synchron implanted its first device in a US patient in July 2022.

Shark Attacks Woman Swimming At Australia Beach, Mauls Her Leg

SYDNEY, Jan 30 (Agencies): A shark mauled a woman as she swam in Sydney Harbour in a gory attack that left her in hospital with a "serious" leg injury, officials and media said Tuesday. The predator struck Monday evening as the woman swam off a wharf at Elizabeth Bay, less than two kilometres (1.2 miles) from the iconic Sydney Opera House, police said.

The woman suffered a "serious injury to her right leg", New South Wales police said in a statement.

It was the first shark attack in Sydney Harbour since 2009, when an Australian navy diver fought off a bull shark that bit him in the arm and leg in Woolloomooloo Bay.

Neighbours rushed to help the Elizabeth Bay victim, the Sydney Morning Herald said, identifying her as 29-year-old Lauren O'Neill.



It quoted one resident who heard her "soft yell" for help from his window. "She was trying to climb in and behind her was her leg, which was completely open and full of dark red blood behind her," resident Michael Porter was quoted as saying.

"It was surreal. We have always been worried and known about sharks in the harbour... it's only now that it feels very real."

A vet living nearby applied a tourniquet, the paper said.

"She swam out to the boat and on her way back she got bitten by, I think it was, a bull

shark," another witness told local news outlet OnScene Bondi. "We ran out. My wife's a vet and she basically bandaged it up," said the witness, who was not named.

The woman was in stable condition in intensive care at St Vincent's hospital, a hospital spokesperson said.

She was expected to undergo surgery during the day.

In February 2002, 35-year-old British diving instructor Simon Nellis was devoured off Sydney's ocean beach Little Bay, the first fatal attack in the city since 1963.

Ex Pak PM Imran Khan Gets 10-Year Jail For Exposing Official Secrets

Imran Khan and PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) vice-president Qureshi have been sentenced to 10 years each inside prison in the cypher case," a spokesman for the party told agency.

ISLAMABAD, Jan 30 (Agencies): Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan was sentenced Tuesday to 10 years in prison, less than two weeks before the country votes in an election his party has been hamstrung from contesting.

Khan's sentence was handed down inside Adiala jail, where he has been confined for much of the time since his August arrest and buried under an avalanche of court cases he says have been orchestrated to prevent his return to office.

The same sentence was handed down on Shah Mehmood Qureshi, vice-president of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party who served as foreign minister under Khan.

"Former prime minis-



ter Imran Khan and PTI vice-president Qureshi have been sentenced to 10 years each," a spokesman for the party told agency.

State media also reported the convictions and sentences.

The case against both men related to allegations they leaked classified state documents.

Khan was prime minister from 2018 to 2022 -- when he was ousted in a no confidence vote

after losing the backing of the nation's military kingmakers.

As opposition leader he waged an unprecedented campaign of defiance against the top brass, accusing them of ousting him in a US-backed conspiracy and of plotting an assassination attempt which wounded him.

Khan was briefly arrested last May, and Islamabad used the resulting unrest to jus-

tify a sweeping crackdown on PTI which has seen many senior leaders defect or go underground.

"This is murder of justice," said Tauseef Ahmed Khan, a human rights activist and political analyst.

"But his popularity among the people will grow in leaps and bounds as his sympathisers will increase because of this gross injustice."

PTI has been largely absent from the public sphere in the runup to elections.

The party has been stripped of its election symbol, and candidates forced to run as individuals.

At the same time Nawaz Sharif -- head of one of the dynastic parties which have historically helmed Pakistan

-- has returned from self-imposed exile and seen his myriad convictions dissolve in the courts.

Analysts say it's a sign the three-time former prime minister is the favoured candidate of the top brass, who have directly ruled Pakistan for much of its history.

According to Pakistan's constitution, elections must be held within 90 days of parliament being dissolved -- which happened five months ago in August.

The election commission blamed the delay on the need to redraw constituency boundaries following a new census in 2023.

In the interim Pakistan has been ruled by a caretaker government regarded as pliable by the military establishment.

China protests interrogations and deportations of its students at US entry points

BEIJING, Jan 30 (Agencies): The Chinese government has protested to the United States over the treatment of Chinese arriving to study in America, saying some have been interrogated for hours, had their electronic devices checked and in some cases were forcibly deported from the country.

Xie Feng, the Chinese ambassador in Washington, said dozens of Chinese holding valid visas have been denied entry over the past few months when returning to school from overseas travel or visiting relatives in China, according to a post on the Chinese Embassy website. "When they landed at the airport, what awaited them was an eight-hour-long interrogation

by officers who prohibited them from contacting their parents, made groundless accusations against them and even forcibly repatriated them and banned their entry," he said on Sunday at an event at the embassy on student exchanges.

"This is absolutely unacceptable." The protest comes as the US and China try to boost student and other exchanges to shore up their relations, which have turned confrontational in recent years over trade, technology, human rights and, more fundamentally, the future direction of the world.

Nearly 290,000 Chinese students are in the US, about one-third of the foreign students in the country, according to the embassy post.

China has more than 1.3 million students studying abroad, more than any other country, it said.

In a separate online statement, the Chinese Embassy said it had made "solemn representations" to the US government about the treatment of students arriving at Dulles airport in Washington, D.C. The statement reminded Chinese students to be cautious when entering through the airport.

It wasn't clear whether Xie's comments referenced cases only at Dulles or at other entry points as well.

China's state media have reported at least three cases since November at Dulles where Chinese students lost their valid student visas, received

a five-year entry ban and were repatriated following long hours of interrogations. They were asked if their studies were financed by the Chinese government, if they were members of the Chinese Communist Party or its youth arm, and if their research was linked to the Chinese government, the Chinese military or key state laboratories. The students were headed to the National Cancer Institute, Yale University and the University of Maryland respectively.

At least eight Chinese entering the US with valid documents were repatriated since November, according to state media reports.

The US Department of Homeland Security and the American

Embassy in Beijing did not respond to requests for comment.

The Chinese Embassy statement said the affected students had their electronic devices checked, were prohibited from communicating with anyone outside and, in some cases, held for more than 10 hours. It said the actions of border control officers "have had a serious impact on the studies of international students from China and caused great psychological harm".

The statement also said that the actions ran counter to the agreement between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping at their meeting last November to promote people-to-people exchanges.

Iranian foreign minister says 'third countries' supporting terrorism along border with Pakistan



ISLAMABAD, Jan 30 (Agencies): Less than a week after Iran attacked terrorist camps in a border region in Pakistan and the latter retaliated, the two countries have made a U-turn. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, who is visiting Pakistan, said that terrorism on the border between Iran and Pakistan is supported by 'third countries'.

"There is no doubt that the militants located in the border areas of Pakistan and Iran were led and supported by third countries and they never favour any good action in line with the benefits

of the Iranian and Pakistani governments and nations," Abdollahian said.

He had been invited by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani after Pakistan had recalled its Ambassador and asked the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan (who was in Iran then) not to return. Full diplomatic ties have now been restored.

The Iranian minister also said that the two nations 'never had any territorial differences'.

"Our historical and bilateral relations and connections testify that we are a single nation in two different geographical positions," Abdollahian said.

"We are here, so in a loud voice we will tell all terrorists that Iran and Pakistan will not provide them with any opportunity to endanger our common security," the Iranian FM added.

He also said that Iran and Pakistan have agreed to take further actions as soon as possible when it comes to border security and fighting terrorism, besides expanding trade, commerce and economic cooperation.

JKPCC pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhi

Top News Report

Jammu, Jan 30: Rich tributes were paid to father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi on his martyrdom in a function held at PCC HQ Shaheed Chowk Jammu.

Working President JKPCC Raman Bhalla (former Minister) presided over the function and was attended by Sr. Vice President & Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Vinod Sharma-PCC Vice President Incharge HQ, Narinder Gupta General Secretary (Org), Narinder Sharma-General Secretary, Thomas Khokhar-General Secretary, Th. Manmohan Singh-DCC President Jammu (Urban), DCC President Ramban Pervaz Ahmed Wani, Secretaries Sahil Sharma, Bhavishya Sudan, Michael Wazir, Sdr. A.S. Lucky, Sandeep Dogra, Ricky Dalotra -Incharge Office PYC, DCC functionaries Dr. R. K. Khajuria, Chander Shekhar Sharma,



Atul Sharma, Janak Raj Mehra, Varinder Manhas and others.

Speaking on the occasion Raman Bhalla paid rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and remembered the great contribution of father of nation who led the freedom movement of the country and achieved it through non violence means. His philosophy of non violence, peace and brotherhood is becoming more relevant with every passing day as the entire World looks towards Mahatma Gandhi for guidance.

He cautioned the people against the

communal and divisive forces who are bent upon to divide the society for their vested interest which goes against basic principle and ideology of Mahatma Gandhi who preached patience and religious tolerance which is fundamental to the security and integrity of the nation.

He also cautioned the people and the party workers about the attempt to torpedo the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi by certain forces who glorify his killer and said that such a path is a threat to the secular fabric of this nation, as secularism is

the basic strength of our pluralistic society.

Ravinder Sharma in his address said that the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi is becoming more relevant with every passing day.

The entire World tries to learn a lesson from his life and principles. His philosophy holds the key to peace and religious harmony in the World. He taught non-violence and tolerance to deal with all issues confronting the humanity.

The countrymen should follow his principles to have peace & harmony.

ABVP CU Jammu unit submits memorandum to VC, demands to reduce fee in campus

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Central University of Jammu unit submits a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sanjeev Jain regarding the increase in fees in the University.

ABVP CU Jammu unit President, Prabhakar Bhardwaj said that the course fee is being increased every year by the university administration, since most of the students in the university belong to poor and lower middle class families, and also a large number of them from different states are coming to study here.

Due to continuous fee hike, there is more burden on the students, due to which they are forced to leave the education.

Unit Secretary Shagun Sharma said that



the university is also increasing the hostel fees from three consecutive years. In the year 2021-22, the hostel fee was Rs 5,000 per semester, in the year 2022-23 the hostel fee was increased to Rs 9,000 per semester and in the last year 2023-24 the hostel fee was increased to Rs 12,000 per semester.

ABVP demanded that there should be no increase in course and

hostel fees this year and the previous fee increase should also be reduced so that all students can get quality education at easy, accessible and reasonable fees.

Prabhakar said, ABVP hopes that university administration will take appropriate action as soon as possible keeping in mind the interests of the students, otherwise the ABVP will start an agitation in the uni-

versity in the coming days for the genuine demands of the students.

The Vice Chancellor of the University has assured that the decisions taken regarding fee increase will be considered keeping in view the interest of the students.

Meenakshi, Prachi, Simran, Nandani, Rahul, Manoj also remains present on this occasion.

Two-day seminar on 'Sustainable Building Materials with a Futuristic Approach' held at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 30: The School of Architecture and Landscape Design (SoALD) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) hosted a comprehensive seminar on Sustainable Building

Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, and Ar. A.K Singh, Head of SoALD. Additionally, the event was graced by resource persons from industry such as 3M, Asahi India Limited, and Rehau, who shared invaluable insights into sustainable

ture to organize similar events in the future.

The Vote of Thanks was extended by Ar. Abhinay Gupta, the Organizing Secretary, acknowledging the contributions of all participants and supporters.

The presence of Prof.



Materials with a Futuristic Approach in collaboration with MMTTC SMVDU from the 23rd to the 24th January 2024.

The event aimed to delve into emerging trends and practices in construction materials that prioritize sustainability and innovation.

The inaugural address was delivered by Ar. Navin Gupta, Convenor of the seminar, who extended a warm welcome to esteemed guests, including Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble

building materials and their applications.

The seminar served as a crucial learning platform for the students of Architecture at SMVDU, providing them with a deeper understanding of sustainable practices and cutting-edge technologies in the field of construction.

In his address, Prof. Pragati Kumar emphasized the significance of such seminars in enriching students' learning experiences and encouraged the School of Architec-

Suparn Sharma, Director of DGAC SMVDU, added to the significance of the event, highlighting the university's commitment to fostering academic excellence and innovation in the field of architecture.

The seminar underscored SMVDU's dedication to providing its students with practical knowledge and exposure to contemporary practices, ensuring their readiness to address the challenges of tomorrow's built.

164 Bn CRPF organises Free Medical Camp at Dooru



Top News Report

Anantnag, Jan 30: 164 Bn CRPF organized free medical camp under Civic Action Programme at Rasool Mir Auditorium Hall Dooru in Anantnag district on Tuesday which was inaugurated by a local senior citizen aged 90 with Commandant 164 BN Navin Kumar.

On the occasion Tehsildar Dooru Khalid Zaffar, Ex. President MC Dooru Verinag Mohd Iqbal Ahanger, Coy. commander Dooru Narsi Singh Lodhi and other officers of CRPF was present.

Large gathering of people participated in the camp and they were treated free of cost and free medicines was also provided to the needy people.

Locals thanked CRPF for their Endeavor as they expressed desire more such camps shall be held in future as well.

On the occasion Commandant Kumar Navin said that our aim is to reach out to the poor people. He said that whatever the problems

people face, CRPF is ready for any help.

He assured the local public that CRPF has always been helping the Kashmiri people and putting all out efforts for peace, prosperity and development of the society.

He added that they will continue to conduct such Civic Action Programs for the benefit of the local public in future. During the addressed, he motivated the gathering to make efforts in such a way that the benefits of such Medical camps out reach more to needy villagers and also thanking the dignitaries present over there, it would also informed that such Medical Camps would continue to be organized from time to time by other CRPF units in their deployment area.

The people who came to the camp thanked 164 Battalion CRPF and said that CRPF always organizes such free medical camps for the poor people here and hoped that CRPF will organize such camps in the future.

All India Open Karate C'ship 2024 begins

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: Right 2 Fight Champion Trophy (Series 1) All India Open Karate Championship 2024 organised by Japan Shotokan Karate-Do kanninjuku Organization J&K at Indoor Sports Complex, Bhagwati Nagar Stadium, Jammu.

Kyoshi Paramjeet Singh Chief Instructor & Exmainer India (JSKKO), RC Councilor Karate India Organisation (KIO), Referee Asian Karate - Do Federation (AKF)

was chief guest on the occasion, Whereas Er Mohinder Manhas AEE in J&K Government, Senior Journalist Lalit Khajuria Head (Jammu Samvad), Acharya Rakesh Sharma, Neete kour khalsa, International gold medalist in powerlifting, Sanjay Tutoo, General Secretary AKAJK, Renowned

Singer & Owner CMD Production Sushma Rajput, Renowned Actor & Director Vidya Bhushan, Renowned Editor & Director Rahul Dutta, Renowned Writer Shivani Tak, Journalist Amit Rajawat, Journalist Naresh Sharma, Gurnam kour Sudan Principal Army Goodwill Public School Rajouri, Vinay Babbar, Sashi Janotra, Renowned Choreographer Sunil Sharma, Ajay Sharma and Rahul Saini were Guest on the occasion.

Rajni Gupta and Sugandha Bakshi from medical team also present in this championship.

The overall championship was organized under the Presidentship of Dr. Tarun Sharma, Actor / Director, President Japan Shotokan Karate-Do kanninjuku Organization J&K, President Nat Manch and Incharge Cultural Cell BJYM J&K and Shihan Ganesh Gupta.

More than 200 students from various places participated in one of the biggest Karate event in J&K.

The huge number of Technical team including referees were Vikas Charak, Anil Sharma, Rinku Sharma, Rinku Mehta, Mohammad Amin Dar, Tushant Gupta, Manik, Chaya, Geetanji, Anil Kumar, Gopal, Ravi Kumar, Rashid Ahmed, Amit Kumar, Dheeraj and many more are present to carry on the vent swiftly.

While speaking on the occasion Kyoshi Paramjeet Singh appreciated the efforts made by Dr. Tarun Sharma President of the Association in promoting Karate across J&K.

Paramjeet Singh also congratulated players on fact that Karate is now an Olympic game and said it will provide massive opportunities now to youth.

Geological Survey of India organizes workshop

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: Geological Survey of India, organized a workshop on 30th of January 2024, on the topic of "Application of National Geochemical Mapping (NGCM) Data and National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR)" with the objective to provide a platform for the participants to learn about the application of NGCM data gath-

ered over the years by GSI with case studies/success stories relevant to respective union territories and data available at NGDR portal and its potential applications.

The workshop was attended by representatives from different institutions like SKAUST, Jammu, Directorate of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, IIT Jammu, National Institute of Hydrology, Jammu,

Central University, Jammu, University of Jammu, MAM College, Jammu, Cluster University, Jammu, Department of Geology and Mining, Jammu, Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, Jammu, State Pollution Control Board, J&K, Centre Ground Water Board, Jammu, University of Ladakh and Department of Geology and Mining, UT: Ladakh.

FROM PAGE 1

Money Laundering Case | ED seizes Rs 36 Lakh, SUV from Soren's Delhi House

(Haryana) number plate bearing BMW registered under a "benami" name and some "incriminating" documents during the day-long operation.

Soren, 48, has informed the ED that he is ready to depose before them on Wednesday at his Ranchi residence around 1 pm.

A party official said in Ranchi that all the legislators of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led ruling alliance in Jharkhand have been asked not to leave the state capital and to attend a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the current political situation in the state.

19 Delhi-bound trains delayed, flights disrupted as fog reduces visibility

advisory on Tuesday stating that flights not meeting the CAT III (Category III) standards might encounter disturbances during landings and take-offs.

The airport advisory also urged passengers to contact airlines for updated information with regard to the status of flights. Dense fog has thrown flight services haywire this month, reducing both general and runway visual range visibility.

The prevailing situation has led to a disruption of flight movement, with the visibility falling below the required standards.

Even on Monday, the prevailing fog and cold affected rail and air traffic in the national capital, with several trains and flights delayed.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had predicted fog across several parts of the national capital on Tuesday.

India logs 124 fresh Covid Cases

Of the total active cases, a large majority of these (around 92 per cent) are recovering under home isolation.

"The currently available data suggests that the JN.1 variant is neither leading to an exponential rise in the new cases nor a surge in the hospitalisation and mortality," an official source said.

India has witnessed three waves of COVID-19 in the past with the peak incidence of daily new cases and deaths being reported during the delta wave in April-June 2021.

At its peak, 4,14,188 new cases and 3,915 deaths were reported on May 7, 2021.

Since the pandemic began in early 2020, there have been more than 4.5 crore people getting infected and over 5.3 lakh deaths in about four years since then across the country.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according to the ministry's website.

It stated that 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country.

SP repatriated to J&K, Another deputed to Ladakh

"Consequent upon the above, Shri Farhan Jehanzeb Naqash, SP (JKPS-116023), is hereby deputed to the Union territory of Ladakh from the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with immediate effect, for a period of two years or till the final apportionment is made in terms of Section 89(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act, 2019," it states further.

Widespread light to moderate rain, snow over J&K during next 24 hours: MeT

above normal during this period of the season. Qazigund on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway recorded a low of 0.4°C against 2.0°C the previous night,

while Kokernag in south Kashmir had a low of 0.7°C against 0.5°C. Pahalgam had a low of -3.3°C against the 0.7°C recorded a day ago. It was 2.8°C above normal for the tourist hot spot in south Kashmir. Kupwara settled at 0.3°C against the 1.7°C recorded the previous night. It was 2.8°C above normal for the frontier Kashmir district during this period of the season.

Gulmarg recorded a low of -6.0°C against the -3.2°C recorded a day ago. It was still 1.5°C above normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir, the MeT office said.

Muslims help perform last rites of Kashmiri Pandit in Srinagar

Kashmiri Pandit, passed away at his home late last night. He said that soon after the news of death broke, Muslim neighbours gathered at his residence.

Later, they helped the Pandit family to perform last rites of the deceased Sohan Lal.

What is Neuralink? Elon Musk startup was slammed for animal cruelty before first human brain implant

Around 1,500 animals were reportedly killed in clinical trials

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): In what is seen as a groundbreaking development, Elon Musk has revealed that Neuralink, a brain chip startup founded by the billionaire, has successfully implanted a wireless chip in a human for the first time.

The recipient underwent the procedure on January 28 and is recovering. "The first human received an implant from @Neuralink yesterday and is recovering well," Musk posted on X. "Initial results show promising neuron spike detection."

What is Neuralink?

Neuralink is a neuro-technology company co-founded by Musk in 2016. It aims to build



direct communication channels between brain and computers in a bid to treat neurological disorders like ALS and Parkinson's.

The brain chip startup won approval from the US Food and Drug

Administration in May 2023 to conduct its first trial on humans.

Animal testing controversies

Neuralink first tested its technology on animals after inking a deal with University of Cali-

fornia to test its brain chip at UC Davis's primate centre.

These clinical trials reportedly killed around 1,500 animals, including primates and pigs, since 2018, according to Reuters. Neuralink

terminated its agreement with UC Davis in 2020 but the animals reportedly continued to get killed during experiments held in internal departments.

In August 2020, Neuralink demonstrated brain activity in a chip-implanted pig. Less than a year later, the company showed how a chip-implanted monkey plays Pong.

The FDA dismissed Neuralink's application for human trials in 2022, citing the potential for the implant's threads to migrate to other areas of the brain, reported Reuters.

Later in May 2023, Musk announced that Neuralink received FDA approval.

How cash-strapped Byju's \$22 billion valuation plummeted by 99%



NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): With edtech major Byju's set to raise \$200 million in funds, the valuation of the cash-strapped company has plummeted by 99 per cent from \$22 billion to \$220-230 million.

The current fund raising is being carried out through a rights issue to meet the edtech major's operational sustainability after company failed to raise external capital

since early 2022. The company had almost finalised a fundraising of \$1 billion in 2023 but the talks fizzled out after auditor Deloitte quit the firm.

However, the Byju's founders, who are the company's largest shareholders, have raised more than \$1.1 billion capital during this period.

Founder Byju Raveendran said the funds will be utilised to clear

immediate liabilities and meet operational requirements, while maintaining the current rights of the shareholders.

"I am also happy to share that Byju's is now less than a quarter away from achieving operational profitability, reflecting the effectiveness of our strategic initiatives and the resilience of our business model," Raveendran added.

Equity markets open on strong note; Sensex jumps 503 points

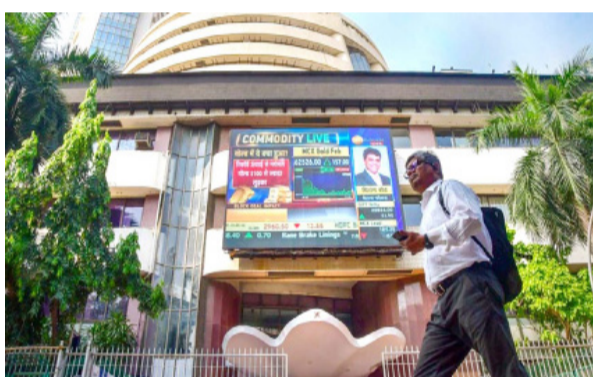
MUMBAI, Jan 30 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices declined after beginning the trade on a positive note on Tuesday as investors preferred to stay on the sidelines ahead of key events due later this week such as the interim budget and the US Fed interest rate decision.

Also, decline in the stocks of Bajaj Finance and Reliance Industries pulled the markets lower.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 94.08 points to 71,847.49. The Nifty dipped 31.6 points to 21,706.

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance fell nearly 4 per cent after its December quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

Bajaj Finserv, Ultra-Tech Cement, Titan, NTPC, Larsen & Toubro and Reliance Industries



were among the other major laggards.

Hindustan Unilever, JSW Steel, Wipro and Tata Motors were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo were trading in the positive territory while Shanghai and Hong Kong quoted lower.

The US markets ended higher on Monday.

The BSE benchmark jumped 1,240.90 points or 1.76 per cent to settle at 71,941.57 on Monday. The Nifty climbed 385 points or 1.80 per cent

to 21,737.60.

"Key upcoming events include the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) rate decision, interim budget, and the US jobs report," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.22 per cent to USD 82.58 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 110.01 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Adani Total Gas Q3 results: Profit up 18% to Rs 177 crore; sales up 5%

MUMBAI, Jan 30 (Agencies): Adani Total Gas Ltd on Tuesday reported an 18 per cent year-on-year (YoY) rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 177 crore for the December quarter compared with Rs 150 crore in the same quarter last year. Revenue from operations rose 4.89 per cent YoY to Rs 1,244 crore against Rs 1,186 crore in the same quarter last year.

Ebitda for the quarter came in at Rs 300 crore, up 26 per cent YoY over Rs 238 crore in the same quarter last year.

"With expansion of CGD infrastructure, together with ceasing opportunity in the areas of e-mobility, biomass and LNG for Transport & Mining (LTM), ATGL has once again delivered a double-digit growth in volumes of 13% Y-o-Y on nine months basis. The rise in volume coupled with efficient gas sourcing and an eye on opex have led to increase in EBITDA by 20% Y-o-Y in nine months," said ED & CEO Suresh P Manglani.

Manglani said Adani Total Gas' present priority is on providing easy access of natural gas in the form of PNG and CNG by fast tracking the infrastructure development in all geographical areas.

In the case of Adani TotalEnergies E-mobility Limited (ATEL), 329 EV charging points have been commissioned across 10 states, 46 cities, Adani Total Gas said. The company said an additional 1050-plus EV charging points were under construction and that about 300-plus charge points will be built at five cities through city municipal corporations and 750-plus charge points at multiple cities were being partnered with various players, which includes various EV fleets companies, government authorities and various tourism departments etc.

"With these EV network will be spread across which 20 states and 130 cities," it said.

In the case of Adani TotalEnergies Biomass Limited (ATBL),

Prioritising economic growth in election year: Will govt frontload capital expenditure?

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): Over the last three budgets, India has seen a rising trend in the capital expenditure (capex) budget with a sharp increase of 33-37 per cent each year. While presenting the capex budget of Rs 10 lakh crores for fiscal year 2023-24, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that "Investments in infrastructure and productive capacity have a large multiplier impact on growth and employment."

In subsequent GDP growth readings, analysts have cited the government's capex push as one of the main drivers of the country's economic growth. With this outlook, it is expected that the capex budget will continue with the rising trend this financial year as well.

Last year, we saw the government spending approximately 50 per cent of its total budget till September 2023, indicating that the gov-

ernment is likely to focus on frontload spending in the upcoming quarters and increase the share of capital investment, including public infrastructure, for pushing economic growth.

While the new budget comes against the backdrop of robust spending on infrastructure and strong economic growth, it is expected that the government would focus on attaining its objectives by diverting a substantial portion of its expenses towards green and sustainable energy, particularly bio-energy, solar and wind projects. With the vision of achieving non-fossil energy capacity of 500 GW by 2030, we have seen the government giving a boost to the renewable sector in recent years.

Since 2024 is the election year, the budget to be presented on February 1 shall be a vote-on-account and the final budget will be expected after the polls. Accord-

ingly, the interim budget is not likely to have any extreme reforms, especially since this will be the last budget before the new government is formed. Some relief or reforms which can be expected either in the interim budget or the final budget, are as follows:

Beneficial corporate income-tax rate of 15 per cent under Section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act (ITA) is applicable to companies incorporated post October 2019 and which commence manufacturing activity by March 31, 2024. Since this clause is nearing its sunset and given that the government is looking to promote the infrastructure and manufacturing sector, which creates more employment opportunities, requires higher capex, and is likely to have a multiplier effect on the economy, it is expected that the government will extend this benefit for a few more.

Study shows every year of education improves life expectancy

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): Every year spent in school or university may improve life expectancy, while not attending an educational institute could be as bad as smoking or heavy drinking, according to a study published in The Lancet Public Health journal.

The research identified data from 59 countries and included over 10,000 data points collected from more than 600 published articles.

The team, including researchers at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), found that education saves lives regardless of age, sex, location, and social and demographic backgrounds.

They found that the risk of death drops by 2 per cent with every additional year of education. That means those who completed six years of primary school had a lower risk of death by an average of 13 per cent.

After graduating from



secondary school, the risk of dying was cut by nearly 25 per cent, and 18 years of education lowered the risk by 34 per cent, according to the study.

Researchers also compared the effects of education to other risk factors such as eating a healthy diet, smoking, and drinking too much alcohol, and they found the health outcome to be similar.

For example, the benefit of 18 years of education can be compared to that of eating the ideal amount of vegetables, as opposed to not eating vegetables at all, they said.

Not going to school at all is as bad as drinking five or more alcoholic drinks per day or

smoking ten cigarettes a day for 10 years, the researchers said.

"Education is important in its own right, not just for its benefits on health, but now being able to quantify the magnitude of this benefit is a significant development," said study co author Terje Andreas Eikemo from NTNU.

While the benefits of education are greatest for young people, those older than 50 and even 70 years still benefit from the protective effects of education, the researchers said.

They found no significant difference in the effects of education between countries that have reached different stages of development.

This salt alternative could help reduce blood pressure

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): One in three Australian adults has high blood pressure (hypertension). Excess salt (sodium) increases the risk of high blood pressure so everyone with hypertension is advised to reduce salt in their diet.

But despite decades of strong recommendations we have failed to get Australians to cut their intake. It's hard for people to change the way they cook, season their food differently, pick low-salt foods off the supermarket shelves and accept a less salty taste.

Now there is a simple and effective solution: potassium-enriched salt. It can be used just like regular salt and most people don't notice any important difference in taste.

Switching to potassium-enriched salt is feasible in a way that cutting salt intake is not. Our new research concludes clinical guidelines for hypertension should give patients clear recommendations to switch.

What is potassium-enriched salt?

Potassium-enriched salts replace some of the sodium chloride that makes up regular salt with potassium chloride. They're also called low-sodium



salt, potassium salt, heart salt, mineral salt, or sodium-reduced salt.

Potassium chloride looks the same as sodium chloride and tastes very similar.

Potassium-enriched salt works to lower blood pressure not only because it reduces sodium intake but also because it increases potassium intake. Insufficient potassium, which mostly comes from fruit and vegetables, is another big cause of high blood pressure.

What is the evidence?

We have strong evidence from a randomised trial of 20,995 people that switching to potassium-enriched salt lowers blood

pressure and reduces the risks of stroke, heart attacks and early death.

The participants had a history of stroke or were 60 years of age or older and had high blood pressure.

An overview of 21 other studies suggests much of the world's population could benefit from potassium-enriched salt.

The World Health Organisation's 2023 global report on hypertension highlighted potassium-enriched salt as an affordable strategy to reduce blood pressure and prevent cardiovascular events such as strokes.

What should clinical guide-

lines say?

We teamed up with researchers from the United States, Australia, Japan, South Africa and India to review 32 clinical guidelines for managing high blood pressure across the world.

Our findings are published today in the American Heart Association's journal, Hypertension.

We found current guidelines don't give clear and consistent advice on using potassium-enriched salt.

While many guidelines recommend increasing dietary potassium intake, and all refer to reducing sodium intake, only two guidelines the Chinese and European recommend using potassium-enriched salt.

Why do so few people use it?

Most people are unaware of how much salt they eat or the health issues it can cause. Few people know a simple switch to potassium-enriched salt can help lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of a stroke and heart disease.

Limited availability is another challenge. Several Australian retailers stock potassium-enriched salt but there is usually only one brand available, and it is often on the bottom shelf or in a special food aisle.

BCCI To Announce India Squad For Remaining 3 Tests vs England. Will Virat Kohli Return?

Virat Kohli pulled out of the first two Tests against England. Will he return for the remaining three matches of the series?

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): After announcing replacements for injured KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja for the second Test against England, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selection committee is likely to sit and finalise the roster for the remaining three Tests. The selectors are likely to have a formal meeting on the selection for the remaining matches of the Test assignment on January 30, though the board hasn't made it official yet. Though the squad is likely to mostly remain the same, there is a big question mark on the return of Virat Kohli.

Will Virat Kohli Return For Last 3 Matches Of Test Series?

Kohli decided to withdraw from the first two Tests against England, owing to a personal reason.

The BCCI stood in support with the former skipper but refused to reveal the matter that prompted late withdrawal from Virat.



The press release from the Indian board confirmed that Kohli would miss the first two matches. But, there hasn't been an update on his return yet. The talismanic batter seems to be going through a rough personal phase that has kept him away from social media as well. Whether he returns for the last

three matches of the series or not, would be interesting to see.

On Monday, the BCCI added Sarfaraz Khan, Sourabh Kumar and Washington Sundar to the Test squad for the second match in Vizag, following the injuries to KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja.

While Rahul's injury doesn't

seem to be serious, reports claim that Jadeja could be out for a longer period. With Kuldeep Yadav waiting on the bench, the selection of spinners for the second Test wouldn't be the easiest for the team management.

Sundar has come in as like-for-like replacement for Jadeja while Kuldeep is a more specialist spinner. After India's loss in the first Test, certain players are under pressure and the BCCI could decide to bring in a few fresh faces in a bid to make a comeback.

India's updated Squad for 2nd Test vs England: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer, KS Bharat (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Avesh Khan, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Washington Sundar, Sourabh Kumar.

India spinner Deepti Sharma rises to joint second in latest ICC women's T20I bowling rankings



DUBAI, Jan 30 (Agencies): India's Deepti Sharma climbed to joint second place, while her team-mate Renuka Singh also ascended to 10th in the latest ICC women's T20I bowling rankings issued on Tuesday. Deepti's advancement was primarily due to South Africa spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba dropping from second to fifth after taking just one wicket in two games against Australia. Likewise, Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal joined Deepti in the second spot after moving up one place, with England's

Sarah Glenn following closely at fourth. England's Sophie Ecclestone continued to dominate the T20I rankings for bowlers. Meanwhile, there were no changes in the top 10 of the all-rounders' rankings, with Deepti holding onto the fourth position.

In the batting rankings, India's vice-captain Smriti Mandhana maintained her fourth position, leading among Indian players. Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, and Harmanpreet Kaur retained their 13th, 16th, and 17th spots, respectively.

Australia's Beth Mooney claimed the top spot in the T20I rankings for batters, surpassing her compatriot Tahlia McGrath, following an outstanding innings against South Africa. Mooney showcased her form with two half-centuries in 2024, including a remarkable unbeaten 72 off 57 balls, earning her the Player of the Match award in a game against South Africa in Canberra.

McGrath currently holds second place after scoring 24 and 23 in the first two games of Australia's T20I series against South Africa. Proteas captain Laura Wolvaardt, after her stellar performance in the series, maintained third place and attained a new career-high rating.

Already qualified for Olympics, race walker Akshdeep breaks own NR in men's 20km event

Akshdeep Singh clocked 1 hour 19 minutes and 38 seconds to better his earlier national mark of 1:19:55.

CHANDIGARH, Jan 30 (Agencies): A Paris Olympics berth already secured, Akshdeep Singh of Punjab shattered his own national record en route retaining the men's 20km title at the National Open Race Walking Competition here on Tuesday.

Akshdeep, who qualified for this year's Olympics while winning the title in the 2023 edition of the National Open Race Walking Competition in Ranchi, clocked 1 hour 19 minutes and 38 seconds to better his earlier national mark of 1:19:55.

Second place finisher Suraj Panwar of Uttara



rakhand also breached the Paris Games qualifying mark of 1:20:10 by clocking 1:19:43. Panwar is the fourth Indian in men's 20km race walk event to qualify for Paris Olympics.

Pramjeet Bisht and Vikas Singh had also qualified for the Paris Games during the Asian

Race Walk Championships in Japan last year. A country can send only three athletes in an individual track and field event in the Olympics and it will now be up to the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to determine who makes the cut for Paris Games out of the four race walkers.

Indian Chess Player Divya Deshmukh Alleges Sexism By Spectators In Tournament

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): Indian chess player Divya Deshmukh has alleged that she endured sexist behaviour from spectators at the recently-concluded Tata Steel Masters in Wijk Aan Zee, Netherlands, saying they "focussed on irrelevant things like her hair, clothes and accent" during the tournament. The 18-year-old International Master from Nagpur, who won the Asian women's chess championship last year, shared a lengthy social media post calling out the misogyny that women players face routinely while elaborating on her unpleasant experience in Wijk Aan Zee.

"I have been wanting to address this for a while but was waiting



for my tournament to be over. I got told and also myself noticed how women in chess are often just taken for granted by spectators," Deshmukh said.

"Most recent example of this on a personal level would be in this tournament, I played a few games which I felt were quite good and I was proud of them.

"I got told by people how the audience was

not even bothered with the game but instead focused on every single possible thing in the world: my clothes, hair, accent and every other irrelevant thing," she wrote in an Instagram post.

Deshmukh finished 12th in the Challengers section with a score of 4.5 at the Tata Steel Masters.

The teenager said while male players

were getting their share of spotlight purely for their game, the women were judged for aspects which had nothing to do with their ability on the chess board.

"I was quite upset to hear this and I think is the sad truth that people when women play chess they often overlook how good they actually are, the games they play and their strength," she said.

"I was quite disappointed to see how everything was discussed about in my interviews (by the audience) except my games, very few people paid attention to it and it is quite a sad thing.

"I felt it was unfair in a way because if I go to any guy's interview there would be way less judgement on a personal level, actual compliments about the game

and the player," she asserted.

Despite the progress made in women's sports in terms of pay scale, female athletes are still subjected to sexist behaviour and are often asked about their outfits.

Deshmukh said women players are under-appreciated in general and often endure hatred.

"...every irrelevant thing is focused on and hated on while guys would probably get away with the same things. I think women face this on a daily basis and I'm barely 18.

"I have faced so much judgement including hatred over the years for things that don't even matter. I think women should start getting equal respect," she added.

Mitchell Starc looking forward to IPL 2024, talks about equation with Virat Kohli: Got to know him at RCB

Australia pacer Mitchell Starc is looking forward to playing in the Indian Premier League. Starc became the most expensive player in the history of IPL in the 2023 mini-auction.

SYDNEY, Jan 30 (Agencies): Australia pacer Mitchell Starc is looking forward to playing in the Indian Premier League 2024 season. Starc is making his return to the tournament after 9 long years. He last represented Royal Challengers Bangalore in the 2014 and 2015 season.

Starc has prioritised Test cricket and spending time with his family ever since. Starc returned to the tournament to prepare for the T20 World Cup 2024, set to be jointly hosted by the Caribbean islands and the United States of America. The fast bowler was brought by Kolkata Knight Riders for a record price in the IPL mini-auction in 2023, hosted in the United Arab Emirates. The franchise shelled out Rs. 24.75 crore for

the World Cup winner.

The Australian pacer in a promotional video for Star Sports was asked about his feelings on return to the tournament. Starc said that he was excited about it and was looking forward to playing in front of loud Indian crowds.

Asked about what comes to his mind on Virat Kohli, Starc said that the Indian star was a 'fierce competitor off the field but warm and humble off it.'

"I do remember fondly the couple of years that I had at the RCB alongside Virat. He was the captain as well. That was the first time I got to know him properly, particularly off the field. He is such a different person off the field. Such a humble and warm character off the field and then fiercely competitive on it. I



remember that the most about him," Starc said in the interview.

Kolkata Knight Riders would be looking forward to the speedster, who has accomplished a lot in 2023. Starc won the World Test Championship with Australia and then doubled it up with the ODI World

Cup. Both times, Australia defeated India in the final of the competition. The fast bowler will bring the ability to bowl at a fierce pace and experience needed for KKR.

Starc has played 27 matches in the IPL and has picked up 34 wickets at an economy of 7.17.

Go Get Em, Sarfaraz Khan: Chris Gayle congratulates former RCB teammate for maiden India Test call-up

NEW DELHI, Jan 30 (Agencies): Legendary West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle congratulated Sarfaraz Khan for the young batter's maiden India call-up with a social media post on Tuesday, January 30. Gayle, in his inimitable style, wished the young batter the best for his Test career with a story on his Instagram page.

Sarfaraz Khan received his much-awaited India call-up for the second Test match against England in Visakhapatnam on Monday. Sarfaraz was overlooked several times in the past, but the Mumbai batter made sure he kept knocking on the selectors' doors with his consistent run in domestic cricket and in the opportunities he got to represent India A.

"Go, get em Sarfaraz Khan," Chris Gayle said in his Instagram story, sharing a photo of himself and the young batter. Chris Gayle and



Sarfaraz Khan were first teammates at Royal Challengers Bangalore and then at Punjab Kings toward the latter stage of the West Indies great's IPL career.

Chris Gayle has often spoken about his fondness for Sarfaraz Khan, rating him as one of the highly-rated young bat-

ters in the country.

As early as 2016, Gayle had predicted Sarfaraz would become one of the future superstars in Indian cricket.

"We get along well. Sarfaraz keeps texting me...He's too young and he's like a son to me. He's definitely one for the future and one must

keep an eye on him," Gayle had said.

Sarfaraz was added to India's squad for the 2nd Test after Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul were ruled out due to injury concerns. India added the Mumbai batter, Uttar Pradesh left-arm spinner Sourabh Kumar and Tamil Nadu all-rounder Washington Sundar were added to the squad.

Sarfaraz is likely to compete for a spot in the XI in the 2nd Test with Rajat Patidar, the Madhya Pradesh batter who has been travelling with the squad from the first Test.

Sarfaraz was chuffed after learning about his Test selection on Monday. The 25-year-old batter shared a photo with his father and a celebratory song as part of his Insta story. He also trained at a local ground in Mumbai early on Tuesday morning before linking-up with the squad in Visakhapatnam.

JSS Jammu triumphs in Group Song Competition on Patriotism

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: Vin a moment of pride and accomplishment, students from Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu emerged victorious, clinching the first prize in the Group Song Competition on Patriotism and Second prize in group dance competition held recently on 75th Republic Day Celebration organised at M.A Stadium.

Their remarkable performance was celebrated and acknowledged during a felicitation ceremony presided over by the esteemed Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The winning group, under the guidance of dedicated mentors Krishan (H.O.D Music Department), Sonu



(Music Deptt.), Monika Wazir (H.O.D Dance Department) and Ricky (Dance Teacher), showcased unparalleled commitment, creativity, and passion in their portrayal of patriotism.

Their presentation resonated with the theme, inspiring both judges and spectators

alike. Rohini Aima -Principal Cum Vice-Chairperson expressed immense pride in the students' achievement, emphasizing the school's commitment to fostering holistic development.

"Our students have not only demonstrated academic excellence

but have also showcased their dedication to values that contribute to the nation's growth and prosperity," she said. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha presented the cash prize of Rs 15000 to the 1st prize winners of group song competition & commended the students for

their outstanding performance and dedication to promoting patriotism. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in nurturing a sense of pride and responsibility among the youth.

IAS Officer Ramesh Kumar, who felicitated the second prize winners of group dance competition & praised their artistic prowess and the mentors for their guidance.

He highlighted the importance of such cultural endeavors in promoting nationalistic fervor and unity.

Management of the school congratulated the staff and students for their outstanding performances and awarded inhouse cash prize to all the mentors.

JKNPP constitutes Manifesto Committee

Top News Report

Jammu, Jan 30: Vilakshan Singh, President of the J&K National Panthers Party, has taken a significant step towards shaping the party's vision for the future by constituting a Manifesto Committee.

The committee will play a crucial role in formulating the party's manifesto for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Balwan Singh (State General Secretary) shall be the Chairman of the Manifesto Committee. The Committee shall comprise of two sub committees one for Jammu Province and another for Kashmir Province.

The Manifesto Committee of the party shall comprise of the following two sub committees:

Sub-Committee for Jammu Province-

Naresh Chib (State General Secretary), Rajesh Gondhi (State General Secretary), Ravinder Jamwal (State Secretary), and Sham Gorkha (Provincial President Jammu).

Sub-Committee for Kashmir Province-

Adv. Ishfaq Ahmed Khan (State Vice-President), Hakim Arif Ali (State Secretary), Jahangir Ahmed Khan (State Secretary) and Farooq Ahmed Dar (Provincial President Jammu).

In an effort to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive manifesto that addresses the diverse needs and concerns of the constituents, the Manifesto Committee will engage with various social organizations across the region. The committee aims to gather insights, opinions, and recommendations from a wide spectrum of society to create a document that truly reflects the aspirations and priorities of the people.

Vilakshan Singh emphasized the importance of an inclusive approach in shaping the party's agenda. "The Manifesto Committee will serve as a bridge between the party and the community, ensuring that the concerns and expectations of the

people are at the forefront of our electoral promises," stated Vilakshan Singh.

The committee will conduct meetings with representatives of social organizations and other stakeholders to gather input on key issues such as development, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and more. These interactions will form the basis for the finalization of the party's manifesto.

The J&K National Panthers Party is committed to fostering transparency, accountability, and participatory governance. The formation of the Manifesto Committee aligns with the party's core values of inclusivity and responsiveness to the needs of the people.

As the committee embarks on this crucial task, the J&K National Panthers Party invites all relevant stakeholders to actively participate and contribute to the process, ensuring that the final manifesto truly reflects the collective will and vision of the people.

GDC Kathua observes 76th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 30: Department of History GDC Kathua observed 76th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

On this occasion a lecture was organised on the life and contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in National Freedom struggle movement. Programme was started with formal welcome note by Prof Manmohan Singh

Head, Department of History GDC Kathua.

Prof Ram Singh Head Department of Education and Coordinator IGNOU was the chief resource person on this occasion.

He expressed his views and threw light on the role played by Mahatma Gandhi Ji in the Indian National Freedom struggle movement.

He apprised the august gath-

ing that how the political scenario was changed after the entry of Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom struggle movement.

He highlighted the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi ji in the educational field. He further added that how Gandhi ji's political weapon like Truth and Non-Violence worked in achieving the goal of Independence from the hands of britishers.

He also threw light on Gandhi

Ji's freedom struggle movement like Champaran Satyagraha, Ahmedabad Mill Strike, Non-Cooperation Movement, Dandi March, Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement.

On this occasion students of department of History also expressed their views and paid rich tribute by recalling the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi Ji.

NGO Anti Crime Bureau distributes Ration items

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: Non Government Organization Anti Crime Bureau (Regd) today under the leadership of its Chairman Sham Lal Gupta provided ration items to the needy people at Bawe Mata Temple Jammu.

Gupta along with Bharatiya Janata Party J&K All Cell Co Incharge Ved Parkash Sharma, ASI Rashpal Singh Chowki In Charge-Bawe and Corporator Sahil Gupta from MC Bishnah distributed Ration among the needy people which included Handicap, Elderly people and women.



They were given bags of flour and rice by the organization. Gupta told that organization works without any government help and believes in helping, people.

People were very happy after getting the food items and thanked the members of the

organization. Gupta along with Councilor Sahil Gupta from Municipal Committee Bishnah and NGO Members Rattan Lal, Anchal Sharma, Vijay Kumar, Tushar Digra, Rohit Kumar, Akshay Sharma, Vansh, and others were Present.

Tarun Sharma honour artist Pawan Verma for J&K Award-2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: Incharge Cultural Cell BJP Youth Wing J&K and President Nat Manch, Dr. Tarun Sharma congratulated and honour Pawan Verma, a well-known Theatre Artist for receiving get J&K State Award-2024 in Performing Arts category. Jammu and Kashmir administration has announced the state awards on the occasion of Republic Day & Pawan Verma (Theatre Artist) got State Award in Performing Arts category.

This award is very prestigious award & announced every



year on the occasion of Republic Day by Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Dr. Tarun Sharma said that this accomplishment is the true recognition of Pawan's sincere efforts and hard work and wished him high success in his future endeavours.

Without democratic setup people issues can't be solved: Pavneet



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: Apni Party Women Wing, Provincial President, Jammu, Pavneet Kour has emphasized the critical role of a democratic setup in resolving people's issues.

As per a press release, Pavneet Kour was addressing a meeting that was held at Chak Manga village in the Jammu South Assembly Constituency.

Highlighting the challenges faced by the people, Kour pointed out issues such as difficulties in accessing pensions and other government schemes. She underscored the significance of an elected

government, stating that the current situation has left people feeling hopeless. Kour informed the gathering that the Apni Party President, Altaf Bukhari, had already made significant announcements to address these concerns.

Among these concerns include a commitment to provide 500 units of free electricity during peak seasons and 300 units during normal seasons. Additionally, the Party pledged to raise pensions from one thousand to five thousand units, she added.

Expressing confidence in the support of the people, she stated,

"The residents have already made up their minds to elect the Apni Party government, recognizing our commitment to addressing their pressing needs through a democratic process."

She further stated that the Apni Party remains dedicated to fostering positive change and addressing the concerns of the people through democratic governance.

Prominent among those who attended the meeting include Vice President Transport, Devinder Singh Gill, General Secretary Transport, Yash Choudhary, District Secretary, Ritu Devi, Varsha, Bebeta Devi and others

Chandel raises alarm over illegal encroachment of Govt land by infiltrators in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 30: Hindu nationalist BJP leader Gurujji Raju Chandel, while addressing media persons in Jammu today, expressed grave concerns over the rampant illegal encroachments by infiltrators and land mafias in the region. He called for immediate action, urging the government to deploy bulldozers to reclaim the illegally seized government lands.

Highlighting the issue, Chandel emphasized that infiltrators from Bangladesh and Myanmar, along with land mafias associated with the PDP-NC Congress



and the Aam Aadmi Party, have unlawfully occupied government-owned lands in Jammu. He asserted that it is essential for the administration to promptly liberate these lands from the clutches of political goons and infiltrators.

Chandel urged the government to swiftly

evict the political leaders and infiltrators who have taken possession of government lands, citing instances where political parties have donated government lands to their relatives under the guise of the Roshni Act. He demanded the use of government bulldozers, following the example of Uttar Pradesh, to clear the encroachments on these lands.

Expressing concern for the impoverished individuals unknowingly occupying government lands, Chandel proposed that the government provide suitable arrangements for their housing and living conditions. He stressed the

importance of distinguishing between genuine residents facing difficulties and infiltrators taking advantage of the situation.

Chandel also drew attention to the increasing number of foreign infiltrators residing forcibly in Jammu and Kashmir, receiving protection from various political organizations. He urged the authorities to identify and guide these individuals towards an exit from Jammu and Kashmir.

He specifically mentioned areas like Sidhra and Bathindi, where a syndicate of land mafias and politicians is actively engaging in illegal activities.

Calling for immediate action against land mafias, Chandel asserted that the time has come to expose their deceitful practices.

He emphasized that until government lands are freed from the clutches of mafias and foreign infiltrators, the vision of a smart city cannot be realized with honesty.

Chandel appealed to the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha to take swift action against the illegal occupiers by employing bulldozers and ensuring that alternative arrangements are made for the genuine residents facing difficulties.

GDC Udhampur observes Martyr's Day

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 30: GDC Udhampur observed Martyr's Day to pay homage to the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for freedom of the nation under the patronage of Principal Prof.(Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta.

The Martyr's Day also known as Shaheed Diwas also marks the Punyatithi (Death Anni-

versary) of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Nation. Staff and students of GDC Udhampur observed two minutes silence in the memory at 11:00 am in the College Vatika.

The two minute silence was observed in the memory of those who laid down their lives during the struggle against British Colonial rule.

Faculty members

along with NSS PO and Volunteers paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh & Chandershekar Azad to mark 76th Death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and to honor his contribution to the freedom of country. Martyr's Day holds immense historical importance symbolizing the spirit of sacrifice and the relentless struggle for independence.