

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Court of Adjudicating Office imposes Rs 3,30,000 fine on Food Business Operators for violation

KISHTWAR, Jan 31: In a decisive move towards upholding food safety standards, the Court of Adjudicating Office spearheaded by Adjudicating Officer/ (ADC) Kishtwar Inderjeet Singh Parihar took action by imposing a fine of Rs.330,000/- on Food business operators found guilty of violating regulations.

The judgment was delivered after a thorough hearing of the complaint filed by the Food Safety Officer Kishtwar. The Court found one manufacturer and three business operators/retailers guilty of selling substandard food items within the Kishtwar district, a clear violation under Section 26/51/52 of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI) 2006, along with the Rules and Regulations of 2011 made thereunder.

The manufacturer faced a substantial penalty of Rs.300,000/-, while each of the three business operators/retailers incurred fines of Rs.10,000/- for their involvement in distributing substandard food products.

This action reinforces the commitment of the Court of Adjudicating Office Kishtwar to ensure the highest standards of food safety and protect the well-being of the community.

The judgment serves as a stern warning to all food business operators to adhere strictly to the prescribed regulations to maintain the integrity of the food supply chain.

Kulgam police facilitates pregnant woman to hospital

SRINAGAR, Jan 31 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to help the needy, Kulgam police after receiving a distress call from Mashkooor Ahmad Malik a resident of Humpathri, DK Marag, stated that his wife (pregnant) was stuck as being a far flung area and family members were unable to carry her to hospital at their own as she was suffering from irresistible pain and was in need of immediate medical attention.

As per news agency Kashmir Scroll, on tip off, a police party of Kulgam police headed by IC PC DK Marag rushed to the spot immediately and amid

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8 dead, 7 injured after vehicle plunges into gorge in Uri

SRINAGAR, Jan 31 (Agencies): At least Eight passengers died and seven others were injured in a tragic road accident in the Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said today.

They said that a vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge at Bujthalan Tatt



mulla Uri this afternoon, leaving at least seven persons dead and

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Security Forces recover ammunition, warlike store in Kupwara

KUPWARA, Jan 31 (Agencies): Security forces on Wednesday claimed to have recovered ammunition and other warlike stores in

Kupwara's Magam area. According to a statement, a joint operation was launched in Cherramunji area of Magam, resulting in recovery of

ammunition and warlike stores.

The statement reads that the recovered ammunition includes 9

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Bank Fraud | ED raids in J&K, Punjab, UP in Bharat Papers Ltd Case

JAMMU, Jan 31 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday raided locations in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh in a Rs 200 crore alleged bank loan fraud case linked to the Bharat Papers Ltd. (BPL), official sources said.

At least nine premises in these regions are being searched by the central agency under the provisions of the Prevention of Money



Laundering Act (PMLA). Incorporated in September, 2006, the BPL is an associate of the Bharat Box Factory Industries Limited

(BBFIL), a paper board packaging industry based in Jammu and Ludhiana.

The primary

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Fresh snowfall in many higher areas of Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Jan 31 (Agencies): Many areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall, while the

plains were lashed by rains, officials said on Wednesday.

The tourist resorts of Gulmarg, Sonamarg

and Pahalgam received fresh light to moderate snowfall overnight, which was going on when last reports came in, they said.

They said the snowfall was also recorded in Anantnag district's Kokernag, Handwara in Kupwara, and Gurez in Bandipora district.

There are reports of fresh snowfall in other areas in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, including along

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Dense Fog shrouds Delhi, hampers flight, train operations; light rain likely

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): A layer of dense fog enveloped the national capital on Wednesday morning hampering flight and train operations, officials said.

The city is likely to receive light rain during the day, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Zero visibility was reported at the Indira

Gandhi Airport at 6.30 am as a thick layer of fog engulfed the area. The visibility remained the same till 9 am, they said.

The Delhi airport saw diversions of at least three flights on Wednesday morning due to bad weather, an official said.

Due to the "very dense" fog, several trains were running late, another official said.

According to the IMD,

light rain or thunder-shower accompanied by gusty winds with a speed of up to 30-40 kmph is likely towards the evening or night.

Weather fluctuations are expected to continue till February 3 because of a western disturbance, with further changes anticipated from thereon, a senior official said Delhi recorded a minimum tempera-

Rs 2.64 Crore cash seized from car in Durg

DURG, Jan 31 (Agencies): Police seized Rs. 2.64 crore in cash from a car in Chhattisgarh's Durg district on Wednesday, an official said.

On getting inputs about two suspicious cars parked near a bank in Sector-1 area, a joint team of Bhilai Bhatti police station personnel and the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit reached there in the early hours.

The police questioned three persons onboard the two vehicles, he said.

During checking, Rs. 2.64 crore in cash was found in one of the cars. As the three persons

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Jammu Police's 'Anti-Drug Cell' to launch crackdown against narcotic smugglers, dealers

JAMMU, Jan 31 (Agencies): Determined to fight against the drug abuse, an 'Anti-Drug Cell' of the Jammu Police with specialised teams will soon launch a crackdown against the narcotic suppliers and drug dealers.

Sources in the police department said the formation of the anti-drug cell will make a lot of difference in the working of the police teams that will function especially in handling drug abuse cases in the district.

"The anti-drug cell to control drug abuse in Jammu district will directly be working



under the leadership of SSP Jammu," official sources said.

They said the cell will have data collection related to narcotic smugglers, adding, "It will also investigate the backward and forward links in the smuggling cases registered in the

police stations." Sources said the Cell will be updated from District Police Office (DPO) and will have details related to narcotic dealers active in the district besides cases registered in 2023 to ascertain the links channelizing the operators.

"An officer of inspector rank will be acting as in-charge of the cell with an assistance of the respective Station House Officers (SHOs)," they said and added that the number of police stations in Jammu district are higher than any other district and on an

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KPDCL bans sale, purchase or use of nichrome coil-based crude gadgets

SRINAGAR, Jan 31 (Agencies): Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on Wednesday ordered a blanket ban on sale, purchase or use of Nichrome Coil based crude gadgets, directing all sub-divisional officers to implement the government order by circulating a copy of the same amongst the business outlets dealing in electrical equipment or items.

A complete ban was imposed on manufacture or import or transport or sale or purchase or use of Nichrome Coil-based crude heaters, boilers and steamers, as the same do not conform to the required specifications of BIS or International Electro-Technical Commission, as per an official order.

"All electrical divisions have done a

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High Court issues notice on AAP's plea alleging fraud in Chandigarh Mayoral poll

CHANDIGARH, Jan 31 (Agencies): The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday sought response from the Chandigarh administration and the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh on a petition alleging fraud in the election for the post of mayor held a day earlier.

However, no interim order was passed staying the results.

A division bench of Justice Sudhir Singh and Justice Harsh Bunker issued notice on Aam Aadmi Party mayoral candidate Kuldeep Kumar's petition and asked the respondents to file replies within three weeks.

The decision was challenged by AAP and Congress Party's Joint Candidate Kuldeep Kumar who accused the Presid-

ing Officer of resorting to fraud and forgery in the counting process.

In a major setback to the INDIA bloc's Congress-AAP alliance on Tuesday, the municipal corporation ruling BJP retained the mayoral seat for the ninth time in a row by winning the post with just four votes.

The AAP-Congress alliance lost the seat despite having the maximum councillors. Eight out of 36 votes were declared invalid by presiding authority Anil Masih, a nominated councillor, with no voting right. The BJP got 16 votes, while the AAP-Congress alliance had 12 votes despite having 20 councillors.

AAP-Congress joint candidate Kumar prayed for fresh election in a free and fair manner

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India logs 133 fresh Covid-19 Cases

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): India saw a single-day rise of 133 Covid cases, while the number of active cases stood at 1,389, the Union health ministry said on Wednesday.

Two deaths — one each from Gujarat and Maharashtra — have been reported in 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 cases had begun to increase after the emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions.

After December 5, a maximum of a single-day rise of 841 new cases was reported on December 31, 2023, which is 0.2 per cent of

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Dilip Kachroo S/o Lt. Sh. Kashi Nath Kachroo originally from Langate Kupwara. At present House No 141 Lane no 2 Amar Colony Camp Road Talab Tillo Jammu. 10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Bhadra Ghat Devangan Mata Bhaderkali Athsthan Thalwal Phallian Mandol Jammu on 01/02/2024 (Thursday). Assembly Prayer meeting shall be held at our residence. Time 11:30am GRIEF STRICKEN Smt. Rajni Kachroo -Wife Son & Daughter-in-Law Mr.Sunil Kachroo & Mrs.Kajal Kachroo Mr.Rahul Kachroo Brother & Sister-in-Law Sh.Avtar Krishan Kachroo & Smt. Meenakshi Kachroo Sh.Surinder Kachroo & Smt.Joyti Kachroo Lt.Sh.Ashok Kachroo & Smt Sonia Kachroo Sister & Brother-in-Law Sh.Prathvi Nath Sadhu & Lt.Smt Rajni Sadhu Sh.Satish Moza & Smt Veena Moza Deeply Remembered by Kachroo's , Sadhu, Moza , Pandits & Bhat's Contact No: 6005342892, 7889776262, 7889482983, 9810914985



Sh.Dilip Kachroo

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved mother Smt. Roopawati W/o Late Sham Lal Bhat R/o Inder Pulwama, presently at House No. 119/A Sector - 3, Near Govt. Ration Depo Durga Nagar Jammu, who attained Nirvana on 24-01-2024. 10th Day will be performed at Mata Badrakali Asthapan Bhadra Ghat Thalwal. Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 11.30 am on 2nd Feb. 2024. Grief Stricken Sons & Daughter-in-laws Pran Nath Bhat & Mrs. Ratni Bhat - 7006284900, 9149603331 Shubam Krishan Bhat & Mrs. Rajni Bhat - 7006303889 / 7006043308 Smt. Jaya Koul - Daughter 7042241856 Daughters & Son-in-laws Smt. Bimla Koul & Chaman Lal Koul - 9086620121 Smt. Girja Bhat & Chaman Lal Bhat - 8492848845 All Grand Children Nears & Dears



Smt. Roopawati

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Mohini Mattoo (Tathi) W/o Sh. Triloki Nath Mattoo R/o Manigam (Ganderbal) at Present H.No. 3, Lane No. 1, Laxmpuram Extn. (Opposite 7 Heaven) Chinore, Bantalab, Jammu on 24/1/2024. Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnor Ghat, on 22/2/2024 (Friday) and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat at 11.45 am. GRIEF STRICKEN Triloki Nath Mattoo (Husband) Smt. Santoshia Bhat (Sister-in-law) Sons & Daughter-in-law Jeevan Ji Mattoo (SP J&K Police) & Smt. Veena Mattoo Dileep Kumar Mattoo & Smt. Anjali Mattoo Smt. & Sh. Naresh Mattoo Smt. & Sh. Rajinder Kumar Koul Daughter & Sons-in-law Smt. Sunita Raina & Sh. Sanjay Raina Smt. Jullee Bhat & Sh. Sanjay Bhat Sh. Ashok Kumar Dhar H/o Late Smt. Prana Dhar and Samast Mattoo, Bhat, Raina, Koul & Dhar Pariwars Phone No's : 9419192718, 7006354587, 9999601466, 9596622698, 9149475583



Smt. Mohini Mattoo (Tathi)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Krishan Lal Pandita of Sheeri Baramulla, who left us for heavenly abode on 24/01/2024 at Our Jagti residence, Flat number 10, Block number 9, Lane number 2. (Mourning place - Community Hall backside lane number 7&8 Jagti) TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Mata Badrakali Temple, Thalwal Jammu on Friday 22/2/2024 at 7:30 am. Mourning assembly will be held in Jagti township Nagrota at Community Hall lane number 7&8 (back side) at 11:30 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN Smt Phoola Pandita - Wife Smt. Sheela Pandita W/o Late Sh. S.N. Pandita - (Sister) Sh. Ashok Ji Pandita - (Brother-in-law) Smt. Sweetly and Sh. Satish Ji Pandita (S/o Late Smt. Roopa and Giridhari Lal Pandita of Nahama Kmr - Sister-in-law) Smt. Nancy & Sh. D.N. Raina (Sister-in-law) (Daughters-in-Law & Son) Smt. Suman and Sh. Shami Kumar Pandita Smt. Anupama and Sh. Sanjay Pandita Smt. Arti W/o Sh. Veer Ji Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-Law) Smt. Bunty W/o Sh. Rakesh Rawal (Daughter & Son-in-Law) Smt. Sunita W/o Rakesh Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-Law) Vishant, Vishal, Uditi, Daksh, Kavish, Vaishnavi, Driшти & Tanush (Grand Children) Panditas, Shers, Bhats, Rawals, Chattas & all extended family of Sheeri Pariwar. Contact numbers: 7006425156, 9797581898, 7298168013, 7006933081, 9149442590, 7889429521, 70066 27976



SH. KRISHAN LAL PANDITA

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Chanchal Gupta W/o Sh Madan Lal Gupta R/o 215, Street No. 1, Rajpura Shakti Nagar, who left for heavenly abode on 23/01/24 Tuesday. Tenth Day will be held at Pawan Ice Cream Road, Opp CID Office Hari Ghat on 01/02/24 Thursday at 11.00 am to 12.00 Noon. Kriya will be performed at home R/o 215 Street No. 1, Rajpura Shakti Nagar, Jammu on 4/2/2024 at 12:00 Noon Sunday. Uthala will be held on 05/02/24 Monday Pawan Ice Cream Road, Opp CID Office at Hari Ghat from 03:00 to 04:00 pm. GRIEF STRICKEN Sh Madan Lal Gupta (Husband) Munish Gupta & Neetu (Son & Daughter in law) Shashi Kant & Neha (Son & Daughter in law) Mohinder & Anita (Son & Daughter in law) Gokul / Anamika / Kavish / Samarth Grand Children Contact : 9419308191, 8803177490, 9419352347



Late Smt. Chanchal Gupta 1958-2024

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Late Sh. Varun Slathia S/o Charanjeet Singh Slathia R/o Bari Brahmana who left for their heavenly abode on 26-01-2024. 10TH DAY will be performed on (Sunday) 4th Feb 2024 at 11.00 AM. 13TH DAY will be performed on (Wednesday) 7th 2024 at 12.00 PM at H. No 72 ward No 6, Bari Brahmana. GRIEF STRICKEN ALL NEAR AND DEAR ONES 7780852132, 9419212609



LATE SH. VARUN SLATHIA

BARKHI

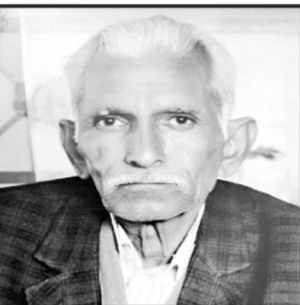
Only a year has passed without you but your presence is deeply rooted in our mind, soul and heart. We will always remember your good values and kind heartedness. Barkhi of our beloved father Sh. Narender Kumar Gupta S/o Lt. Sh. Charanjeet Lal will be held on 1st February 2024 (Thursday) at 12 Noon at our residence H.No. 4/8, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. DEEPLY REMEMBERED Smt. Shashi Mahajan (Wife) Son & Daughter-in-Law: Sh. Rahul Mahajan & Smt. Neha Mahajan Dr. Anshu Mahajan & Dr. Ashima Mahajan Daughter Dr. Arti Gupta W/o Lt. Dr. Vaneet Gupta Sisters & Brother-in-Law Smt. Premalata & Sh. Mohan Lal Swara Smt. Sudesh Gupta & Sh. Bharat Bhushan Gupta Smt. Swaran Kanta & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Gupta Sister-in-Law & Brother-in-Law Smt. Neelam Gupta W/o Lt. Sh. Rajeshwar Gupta Smt. Aradhana Gupta & Sh. Nand Kishore Gupta Grand Children: Anjani, Ainesh, Chaitanya, Tanish, Mishra M/s Harnam Dass & Bros., Pacca Danga, Jammu M/s Narendera Publishing House, Gangyal, Jammu Mob. 9419180999, 9779864015



Sh. Narender Kumar Gupta

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Kuldeep Singh Bandral (Raja) S/o Lt. Sh. Mohan Singh Bandral R/o W.No 7, H.No. 638, Opposite Vridh Ashram, Billan Bowli Road Udhampur. Tenth Day will be performed on 30 Jan 2024 (Tuesday) at our residence 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Kriya will be performed at Devika Ghat, Udhampur on 02 Feb 2024 (Friday). GRIEF STRICKEN:- Smt. Chenchla Devi (Wife) Smt. Karishma Rani & Sh. Goverdhan Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son) Smt. Indu Jandla & Sh. Gopal Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son) Smt. Vandhana Rani & Sh. Ram Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son) Smt. Menali & Sh Amit Kumar Parihar (Daughter & Son-in-law) Krishan Dev Singh, Kanwal Dev Singh (Brothers) Sh. Laxman Singh (Son) Utsav, Vishaish, Astha, Harshita, Shivi (Grand Children) Ph: 9018290183, 9596642750, 8082722280



Sh. Kuldeep Singh Bandral (Raja)

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW , WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER SH. RAJENDER RAINA S/O LATE SH MAKHAN LAL RAINA AND LATE SMT. SHAMA RAINA , ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF ALIKADAL, SRINAGAR. 10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY, 2ND 2024 AT GANGNEHAR, MURADNAGAR (CHOTA HARIDWAR) AT 8.00 AM FOLLOWED BY ASSEMBLY 11.30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE H.NO. 1354, GALI NO. 13, GOVINDPURI, NEW DELHI (LANDMARK: ENTRY THROUGH AZAD JUICE & SNACKS ADJACENT GALI). GRIEF STRICKEN PRERNA RAINA - WIFE SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW MOHIT AND PREETI RAINA DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW NEHA, RAINA, AND NAVEN RAINA SISTER -IN- LAW URMILA RAINA W/O LT. SH.KIRAN KUMAR RAINA UNCLE AND AUNTY MOTTI LAL RAINA AND PHOOLA RAINA USHA RAINA W/O LT SH.P.N.RAINA BROTHER-IN-LAW REETA AND AVANISH TICKOO ASHA AND S.P. DEMBI BROTHER-IN-LAW AND SISTER-IN-LAW SHAMA KOUL W/O LT.SH.M.L.KOUL T.K.ZUTSHI AND NANCY ZUTSHI GRAND CHILDREN YASHASVI RAINA NAVISHA RAINA RAINA'S (BAZAZ), ZUTSHI'S, TICKOO'S, DEMBI'S , KOUL'S, RAINA'S, CHOGTU'S CONTACT NOS. : +91 97117 78177, +91 99994 71475, +91 97113 78402



SH. RAJENDER RAINA

CHOUBARSI

Choubarsi of our beloved mother Smt Lajwanti Devi (Buaji) W/o Late Sh Kartar Singh Bandral will be performed on Thursday, 01 Feb 2024 at 12 Noon at 498-A, Gandhi Nagar (near Lakshminarayan Mandir) Jammu. Followed by Lunch Deeply Remembered by Daughter in Laws & Sons Bimla Devi W/o Late Surinder Singh Nirmal Singh & Col Rajinder Singh (Retd) Annusuiya Devi & Sh Narinder Singh (Under Secy) (Retd) Grand & Great Grand Children Mobile No. 9419165119, 9419128011



Smt Lajwanti Devi (Buaji)

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Veero Devi Wife of Sh. Ishar Dass R/o 33/10, Mohalla Arya Samaj Akhnor. 10th Day will be performed on 2nd of February 2024 (Friday) 12 Noon onwards at Saint Kabir Jee Mandir, Near Nirdosh Chowk Akhnor. GRIEF STRICKEN: Sh. Ishar Dass Retd. Principal- Husband Daughter and Son-in-law Mrs. Anita & Er. Pawan Kumar Bhagat (Retd. XEN) Dr. Geeta & Dr. Virinder Kumar (HOD Pediatrics GMC Kathua) Daughter-in-law and Son Mrs. Swarna & Mr. Om Parkash, Retd. (JKP) Mrs. Babli & Mr. Kewal Krishan (Sr. Geologist, Indian Bureau of Mines) Mrs. Renu Bala & Mr. Kuldeep Raj (Assistant Controller LMD, J&K Govt.) (9419121565, 9469502233, 8082075114)



Late Smt. Veero Devi Exp on 24-01-2024

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Smt Krishna Kumari W/o Sh Sakinder Dass R/o W.No.1 House No 201 Subash Nagar Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on 23/01/2024. Tenth Day will be performed on 01 Feb 2024 (Thursday) from 11:00 AM to 12 Noon at Shiv Mandir Hall, Phase-I, Housing Colony Udhampur. KRIYA will be performed on 04 Feb 2024 (Sunday) at our residence. UTHALA / RASAM PAGRI will take place on 5th Feb 2024, (Monday) at 5:30pm at our residence. GRIEF STRICKEN: Sh Sakinder Dass - Husband Daughter-in-law & Son Smt Jyoti & Sh Shyam Lal Kar Smt Shivani & Sh Vijay Kumar Kar Smt Shivali & Sh Abinash Kar Mob : 9797982063, 9469521222, 9419157953, 9622111127



Smt Krishna Kumari

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved brother Capt (Retd) Madan Lal (8 JAKLI) S/o Late Sh Mangra Ram R/o vill Nandpur, Teh. Arnia, Jammu on 22/01/2024 (Monday). TENTH DAY shall be performed on 31/01/24 (Wednesday) at our residence followed by satsang at 12:00 pm. KRIYA will be performed on 01/02/24 (Thursday) at our residence. GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt. Kamila Devi (Wife) Lokesh Bhagat (Son) Alpna Rani & Kuldeep Raj (Daughter and Son-in-law) Jyoti Devi & Yog Raj (Daughter and Son-in-law) Brothers & Bhabhi's Charan Dass Sansar Chand, Smt. Jito Devi



CAPT (RETD) MADAN LAL (8 JAKLI)

Capt Kartar Chand Prem Bhagat & Kanta Bhagat Smt Gita Devi and Samast Pariwar. Mob. No. 9622130568, 9622130379, 8082908655, 9419110433

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Mrs Usha Budki W/o Late Shri Chuni Lal Budki. 10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 2nd Feb 2024 at Akhnor Ghat and Prayer Meeting will be held at House No. 125/3 Vivek Vihar Paloura Jammu from 12:00 AM onwards. GRIEF STRICKEN Daughters & Son-in-laws Mrs Kiran & Vinod Ambaradar Mrs Elin & Ravi Kachroo Mrs Neeru & Bharat Rawat Mrs Nischal & Sarminder Anand Son- Mr Sanjeev Budki Grand Children : Ayush Budki Sakashi & Vineet Ambaradar Vishan Ambaradar Bulbul & Rahul Raj Koul Rahul Kachroo



MRS USHA BUDKI

Grand Children Love Rawat Kush Rawat Serena & Inder Singh Tiwana Neet Anand Great Grand Children Kimmaya & Elna Ph Nos: 9622070966, 7006449378, 94191-22320, 9899066536

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

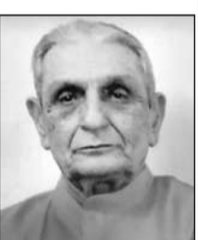
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that Smt Asha Rani W/o Sh Ravinder Singh R/o H No. 180, W No. 06, Slathia Chowk Udhampur left for heavenly abode on 22nd Jan, 2024. The Tenth Day will be performed at our residence on 31st Jan 2024 (Wednesday) at 12 noon. Kriya will be performed at our residence on 03 Feb 2024 (Saturday) at 12 noon. Grief Stricken Ravinder Singh (Husband) Arun Singh (Son) Puja (Daughter) Ravi Singh (Son-in-law) Mob No. 9622169874, 9596727055, 9797543020, 8899327355



Smt Asha Rani

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SH. MOHAN LAL KAUL SON OF LATE. SH. M.N. KAUL ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF KRAL-KHUD HABBA KADAL, SRINAGAR AT PRESENT C-201, BROTHERHOOD APPTS, H-BLOCK, VIKASपुरI, NEW DELHI- 110018 ON MIDNIGHT OF 28TH AND 29TH JANUARY 2024. TENTH-DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT GANG NEHAR, MURADNAGAR (CHOTA HARIDWAR) AT 10:30 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN:- SAMAST KAUL PARIWAR AND RELATIVES CONTACT NO. 9811812774, 9711723925



SH. MOHAN LAL KAUL

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that Sh. Paras Ram S/o Sh. Shanku Ram R/o Village Kotli Manotriah (Dogazi) left for heavenly abode on 23-01-2024. The 10TH DAY will be performed at our residence Kotli Manotriah Dogazi near Navodaya Vidyalya School) on 01-02-2024 Thursday at 11.00 AM followed by Guru Ka Langar. Deeply Mourned by: Chandan Family



SH. PARAS RAM

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Daddy, Sh. Krishen Ji Raina, on January 26, 2024. Originally a resident of Chowgam, Anantnag, and present address at C-311, Royal Nest Apartments, near Jodhamal Public School, Sainik Colony, Jammu. 10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 4th February 2024 (Sunday) at Akhnor Ghat. Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 11:30 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN: Shaktulata Raina (Wife) - 9711386005 Rakesh Raina and Rita Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law) - 9322221233 Sanjay Raina and Jyoti Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law) - 9711369001 Sunita Pandita and R.L. Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-law) 9419182236 Raju Raina & Kanika Raina (Grandson & Granddaughter-in-law) Sanjana Raina (Granddaughter) Vaishali Hangloo & Rohit Hangloo (Grand daughter & Grand son-in-law) Reetika Pandita (Grand daughter) Poojab Hangloo (Great Grand son)



SH. KRISHEN JI RAINA

CHOUBARSI

Days will pass and turns into years but we will always remember with silent tears. Four years have passed since you left us for your eternal journey and the void you left behind will remain for ever. Choubarsi of our beloved father Lt. Sh. Madan Lal Sharma Ji S/o Lt. Pt. Jagan Nath Ji R/o Pardhal, Near New Court Complex Katra (Vashno Devi) will be performed at our residence on 1st of Feb. 2024 (Thursday) at 12:00 Noon. DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY Smt. Kanta Devi - Wife Son & Daughter-in-law Sh. Vishal Sharma & Smt. Roshni Sharma Daughters & Sons-in-law Smt. Bindu Sharma & Sh. Jatinder Khajuria Smt. Indu Sharma & Sh. Pawan Sharma Rakesh Sharma - Brother Smt. Adhrsh Lata W/o Sh. Sukhdev Sharma - Sister Sham Sharma, Vasu Sharma - Nephew Mb. : 729800005, 9906146192



Lt. Sh. Madan Lal Sharma Ji

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SH MELA RAM S/O LATE BALI RAM R/O HOUSE NO 43 SECTOR E, LANE NO 2 SAINIK COLONY JAMMU ON 23RD JANUARY 2024. TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 01-02-2024 THURSDAY AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 12 NOON. KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 02-02-2024 AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 11AM. GRIEF STRICKEN SMT MELO DEVI -WIFE (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW) SH VIJAY KUMAR (CITIZENS COOPERATIVE BANK) & SMT SHARDA KUMARI GRAND SON: NAMAN KUMAR MOB: 9419180724, 9419205584



SH MELA RAM

DISCLAIMER

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DC Kulgam convenes Public Outreach programme at Waltengoo Kund

Top News Report

KULGAM, Jan 31: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan on Wednesday convened a public outreach programme under weekly Block Diwas at Waltengoo Kund, here.

The programme witnessed overwhelming response of people from Waltengoo, Oriel, Kraloo, Kanchloo, Panchgamnd, Waltengoo nad, Nigeenpora, Waripora, Razloo and other villages who apprised the DC about their issue and grievances for early redressal.

Auqaf Committee members members also participated in this grievance redressal camp and put forth issues and demands of the area.

Officers on the spot responded to the queries and demands of people pertaining to their departments.

The DC after giving patient hearing to the public addressed some of the immediate nature of grievances on the spot.

He also directed officers to ensure prompt and speedy redressal of issues and demands of people.

The DC also impressed upon the concerned to conduct awareness programmes in the areas to sensitize youth about various self-employment and other beneficiary oriented schemes.

Earlier, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Kulgam, Mohmmad Imran Khan also briefed about the action taken on various grievances and issues raised in previous Block Diwas.

He also briefed about the works taken up under various centrally sponsored schemes in the area by the Rural Development Department.

DDC member Kund besides ADC, ACR, ACD, ACP, CMO, Executive Engineers PMGSY and R&B, Tehsildar, BDO and other officers also attended the programme.

SKJAVS Trust pays tribute to Major Somnath on 101st birth anniversary



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan (SKJAVS) Trust organised a program at SD Memorial Higher Secondary School Karwanda, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu in the memory of First Param Vir Chakra awardee Major Somnath Sharma on his 101st birthday anniversary.

Trust Secretary Rakesh Gandotra highlighted on great role of Major Somnath Sharma, who laid down his life while defending the Srinagar Airport from the attack of tribals in collaboration with Pak Army on November 3, 1947.

Trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri appealed to the LG Manoj Sinha to pay homage to the great personality by rechristening Kashmir Airport on the name of Major Somnath Sharma and providing a suitable place to install statue of the martyr in the City of Temples.

Major Somnath Sharma was born on January 31, 1923 in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh in a Brahmin military family.

The D Company of 4 Kumaon led by Major Somnath Sharma was air lifted to Srinagar during tribal invasion of Kashmir on October 31st, Major Sharma was under plaster due to fracture and he was advised

rest but he insisted on being with his company at the crucial hour and was allowed to go. When heavy casualties adversely affected the firing power of the coy, Major Sharma with his right hand in plaster took upon himself task of filling magazines and issuing them to men operating light machine guns.

His last message to Brigade Headquarter received a few moments before he was killed "The enemy are only 50 yards from us, we are heavily outnumbered. We are under devastating fire I shall not withdraw an inch but will fight to our last man and our last round." School Principal Sheetal Gandotra was also present.

Army conducts rescue operation for skiing team



Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Jan 31: The post of Banal Ex Pattan Bn received info at 1930 hrs on 30 Jan about a skiing team of 7 individuals including 2 foreign nationals (Switzerland) got stranded due to bad weather after coming down from Sunshine peak. The info was from SDPO Tangmarg and on TA REP.

The party of str 02-02-20 under Maj Abhay received the information around 1930h and tried to establish contact.

Around 2245h, the rescue team was able to establish contact with the stranded civilian in SQ 1811 who are presently occupying a Dhok near Alu post stayed put for the night as the approach route was not accessible and bad vision was there.

The individuals were brought to Banal COB and given first aid and meals.

The individuals were further dispatched at Drang Rd Head by Civil Vehicles at 1300 hrs.

DHS Jammu Dr. Rajeev accorded warm send off

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma Director Health Services Jammu, who superannuated on Wednesday after rendering 34 years of glorious service in the department, was accorded a warm send off by the staff of Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

To bid him farewell, a function was organized in the premises of Directorate, where Dy. Director Health Services (Schemes and Dentistry) Jammu and other officers/ officials complimented Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma for his contribution to the Health Department.

Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma started his services as Medical Officer at AD Panchound Block Basantgarh and served the department in various other administrative capacities as, Deputy Medical Superintendent Government Hospital Sarwal, Medical Superintendent Chest Disease Hospital Jammu, Medical Superintendent Government Hospital Sarwal, Chief Medical Officer Reasi, Deputy Director (HQ) Health Services Jammu.

His integrity, honesty and perception were reflected in his work. The staff of Directorate wished him good health and prosperous post retirement life and thanked him for his guidance, support and cooperation. The work, ethic of Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma will be missed.



Rajeev Kumar Sharma for his contribution to the Health Department.

Simplicity of Nirankari weddings left everyone Spellbound



45 couples tied knot in presence of Holy Couple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: In the holy presence of Nirankari Satguru Mata Sukdisha Maharaj and Nirankari Rajpita, 45 couples tied the knot in a mass marriage ceremony held at the venue of the 57th Nirankari Sant Samagam in Nagpur, near Mihan.

Satguru Mata Ji blessed the newly married brides and grooms to live the household life with devotion and congratulated their families for adopting simple marriage through the Nirankari method and gave them best wishes.

In this mass marriage ceremony, the special symbol of Nirankari marriage with traditional Jayamala was made to be worn to each couple by representatives of

Odisha etc. After the mass marriage, proper arrangements for food for all were made at the meeting place.

It is noteworthy that simple marriages saw the inclusion of many brides and grooms who were graduates, post-graduates and highly educated. There were some families who could marry their children with great pomp but they chose to celebrate the event under the holy umbrella of the Satguru, adopting her divine teachings.

Undoubtedly, this ethereal scene of simple marriages was presenting a beautiful message of unity by eradicating the inequality of caste, creed, which is also the message of the Nirankari Mission.

Shiv Sena demands PHC at Drabshalla, sub centre at Kuttal Kuntwara



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 31: Shiv Sena District Kishtwar President, Tilak Shan urged the J&K UT Chief Secretary to provide Primary Health Centres (PHCs) at Drabshalla and Kuttal in Kuntwara Sub Centre of Kishtwar district besides providing good medical facilities and posting of doctors and other paramedical staff in the hospitals of the area.

Shan added, "I have already conveyed this issue to higher ups. Health is the necessary right of every native and they should be given this very essential right. Seeing the sad condition of my people I request to approve a sub centre at Kuttal Kuntwara area and for that reason for the betterment of people / patients and village."

After my request through memorandum forwarded a file to administration Secretary Health and Medical Education, Director Health Jammu taken a action regarding said case, he said.

In this context, he requested to furnish the report strictly adhering to the "Advisory" issued by the Administration department so that further action may be initiated accordingly.

Shan added but unfortunately file is pending in finance department for final approval.

Shan requested to Chief Secretary JK UT visit to see this remote area of Kuttal Kuntwara and listen to the grievances of neglected public.

Health Check-up-cum-Wellness camp for drivers held at Trikuta Nagar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: In line with ongoing Road Safety Month 2024 a medical camp organized by Team RTO Jammu, in collaboration with the Taxi Operators Union, here today at Trikuta Nagar.

RTO Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra said that such camps are being organized for prioritizing the physical well being of drivers as if they are healthy and fit it will significantly contribute to safety of passengers and other road users.

During the camp more than 300 drivers participated for various health check-up component included screenings, identifying health issues like BP, Sugar, Hb, Vision check-ups encompassed detailed eye examinations, with corrective measures such as prescription glasses distribution were arranged for drivers.

During the camp, awareness session on road safety was also conducted by ARTO and representatives from various transport unions.

Prominent speakers like C.M.O Jammu J.T C Transport Department and ARTOs addressed the audience on topics like safe driving practices, stress management, vehicle maintenance, and emergency response training.

J.T.C Transport Department said that such collaboration with the Taxi Operators Union for organizing awareness camps played a vital role in bringing the required behaviour change among drivers to promote road safety.

The programme was ended with vote of thanks by president Davinder Choudhary and Secretary AJKT W Secretary Sanjeev choudhary.

Among others SSP Traffic, CMO Jammu, Joint Transport Commissioner JK, ARTO Hq, ARTO Bol (G&P), DySP Traffic, representatives from various transport unions and drivers were present on the occasion.

NOTICE

I, Anaya Dogra, D/o of Rakesh Bhagat and Nekha Devi, R/o Gurha Jagir, P/o Shoal, Tehsil Akhnour, stated that my name has wrongly been written as Anaya Dogra (wrong name) instead of Samayara Dogra (correct name) in my Date of Birth certificate issued on October 11, 2023 with registration No B-2023/190154-001424. I am applying for the correction of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within 7 days of the publication of this notice.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, NRly, Store Branch DRM Office, Firzpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
1	94235977A	Manufacturing, fabrication and supplying retroreflective sign boards made up of thermoset plastic toughened moulding composite sheets of 3.0 mm thickness	334 SQM	20.02.2024

NOTE-Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No. 10/2023-24 Date: 25.01.2024

322/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No:- 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR-395-2023-24-ADEN-LJRC acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date: 20.02.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
30.01.2024	06.02.2024	20.02.2024

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	395-2023-24-ADEN-JRC	Provision of cover shed at 6 LHS in severely waterlogged crossings No. 6 Shed at LHS No.S-71, S-72, S-73 and C-14, C-17 & C-24 on PGW-JRC section and JRC-HSX section in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-1FZJR (as per NR type plan no. MIS-110/GT/Br.)	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of offer	Period of completion	
68183777.86	60 Days	06 Months	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 311/24

G20 INDIA 2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of Executive Engineer, Machinery Division, Jammu
e-mail: mdjxen@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No:MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/80 DATED: 29.01.2024 DUE ON: 08.02.2024
MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/81 DATED: 29.01.2024 DUE ON: 08.02.2024

On behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Government of Jammu & Kashmir Bids are invited by Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu by e-Tendering mode from reputed firms for undertaking the work as per SBD/BOQ.

S.No.	e-NIT No.	Description of work	Cost of tender (Rs.)	Time of Completion	Tender opening authority
1.	MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/80	Repairs to vibratory compactor-1453P	200.00	10 days	Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu
2.	MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/81	Day to Day Maintenance of assets like Electrical Electronics Gadget Mechanical, Plumbing Civil and other related works of MED Complex Bikram Chowk Jammu Minor Repairs to various items in M&HED Complex Jammu	200.00	15 days	Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, bill of quantities can be seen / downloaded from J&K Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in.
All other information regarding the e-NIT can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during the working hours before due date.

DIP/J-14484/23

-Sd-
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division
Jammu.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU
(Near MLA Hostel, Indira Chowk Jammu, J&K, Pin: 180001
E-Mail: dhsjammu@rediffmail.com, dhsjammu@gmail.com
Tel. No: 0191- 2546338, 0191-2549632 Fax No: 0191- 2549632

Dr. Vinay Khajuria, I/C Consultant Physician
S/o Sh. Amar Nath Khajuria
R/o H.No.2 New Rahari, Jammu.

Subject: - Final Notice.

Whereas vide Govt. Order No.366-JK(HME) of 2023 dated 29.04.2023, you were transferred and posted at CHC Bani, where you did not join till date, as reported by Chief Medical Officer, Kathua vide letter No.CMO/K/7236 dated 29.12.2023; and

Whereas, a notice has already been issued vide office letter No.ES-3/4927/1713-16 dated 18.07.2023; and
Whereas, your unauthorised absence has caused a great inconvenience to the Public of the area as well as to the Administration; and
Whereas, under Art. 128 of J&K CSR Vol. I absence without leave or after the end of leave involves loss of appointment.

Now, therefore, as directed by the Secretary to Government Health and Medical Education Department, J&K, a final notice is hereby served upon you to join your duty within one week at your place of posting i.e. CHC Bani, otherwise, disciplinary action will be initiated against you as warranted under rules.

DIP/J-14504/23

Sd/-
(Dr. Rajeev Kr. Sharma)
Director Health Services
Jammu.

Dated: 27-01-2024

EDITORIAL

KEEP
ENVIRONMENT
CLEAN

If there is any attraction on planet Earth then it is only nature. Nature is defined as the natural earth and things on it, or any person or thing. Trees, forests, birds and animals are all examples of nature. Nature is the most important and integral part of our life. Emerson says, 'Nature is beautiful because it lives, moves, reproduces'.

Nature is called our real mother because all the main needs of our life like water to drink, air to breathe, fruits, vegetables and fruits are provided to us by Mother Nature. We grow up by playing in the lap of nature. Nature is also useful for our peace of mind and ultimate happiness. Even after giving so much, nature does not ask anything in return from us.

Nature is full of countless colors. Nature includes all living and non-living components. Nature can also refer to phenomena in the physical world and life in general.

Nature is very important for our existence. We cannot even imagine a world without nature. Nature is our only supplier. Nature gives us oxygen to survive through trees. Without oxygen we cannot survive even for a moment. Nature has provided us with water in the form of rivers, oceans, ponds and waterfalls.

Nature has given us food material for our body in the form of forests, animals, trees, plants. Natural cycles such as climate cycle and nutrient cycle are also the result of nature. Nature has given us sun, moon, stars, weather and atmosphere, due to which we get light and heat. Nature has been the favorite subject of poets, writers, artists and painters. Nature has a powerful transformative force.

We get countless benefits from nature. Nature itself is a healing touch. Nature reduces mental stress in our mind and gives the mind an experience of peace and happiness. The greenery of nature has the power that keeps our body away from diseases.

Nature gives us all the material needs of human beings. Nature is a mysterious expression that rejuvenates man with natural energy and dynamism. The destroyed mind and body become alive and healthy again by playing in the lap of nature. Nature is that house, living in which man gets a lot of satisfaction and solace. We get medicine for diseases like diabetes, heart disease, liver and digestive problems, brain problems etc. only from nature.

Nature is like a protective shield for us. It is the duty and responsibility of every human being to save the wealth of nature. Man should never tamper with nature for his own selfish ends. Due to continuous deforestation the problem of global warming is increasing on the earth. The balance of nature is deteriorating. They are having a direct impact on the climate cycle and nutrient cycle.

Conservation of nature is essential not only for human life but for all living beings. Many natural resources are gradually depleting due to human behavior and selfish needs. If we do not act to protect natural resources, we will face huge losses in terms of our survival. The future generations are going to suffer a lot due to lack of water, unavailability of fresh air to breathe and unavailability of proper and fresh food due to lack of vegetation. If nature has the capacity to protect us, it is also powerful enough to destroy the entire human race. We have to maintain the balance of the environment for the survival of our future generations on earth. Therefore, keeping the environment clean is our important responsibility and for this all the earthlings will have to unite.

The space sector in India on threshold of take-off, but few more steps needed

By: Indranil Banerjee

India's spectacular Chandrayaan-3 moon landing and the successful launch of its solar observation satellite Aditya-L1 last year have been so pathbreaking that they have overshadowed several other equally dramatic developments in the country's space sector. Ironically, these successes have also underplayed the fact that India still needs to take several major steps before it can truly become a dominant player in the rapidly spiralling global space sector.

Space is literally exploding with ideas, innovation, massive investments, startups and technologies that are already transforming lives and the capabilities of nations. India without doubt has forced its way into an expensive and exclusive club of just a handful of nations but it still has some distance to go.

This was more than obvious in India's dilemma with its latest communications satellite GSAT-20 (renamed as GSAT-N2). When NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), decided to put a 4.7 tonne communications satellite in orbit it had to scout for a foreign satellite launcher because Isro's biggest rockets cannot carry satellites weighing beyond four tonnes into high orbit. In the end, Elon Musk's SpaceX was contracted to launch NSIL's latest satellite. The launch of the Falcon-9 rocket that will carry Isro's latest satellite is expected to take place in the second quarter of this year.

SpaceX's massive Falcon-9 rocket, currently the biggest player in the global space industry, is capable of placing 26.7 tonnes in higher orbits. The US-based company has even more ambitious plans in the form of the behemoth Starship rocket series which could carry as much as 150 tonnes into orbit.

Next in line is the Boeing-Lockheed joint venture United Launch Alliance (ULA), which hit a milestone earlier this month with the successful launch of its next-generation Vulcan rocket. This rocket can lift up to 27 tonnes of satellites in a low orbit or 14.5 tonnes to higher orbits.

The third mega player is Blue Origin, promoted by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. This company is fast developing a launcher called New Glenn. It has already built a successful rocket engine, the BE-4 series, which was used to power the Vulcan rocket.

China is the other major space power but concentrates on launching its own satellites and probes. Russia appears to have fallen behind in the race, following the Ukraine war and its associated sanctions. The European Space Agency's Ariane-5 rockets, which could carry up to 10 tonnes to high orbits has been retired and its bigger replacement, the Ariane-6, is to be test launched in July this year. Similarly, Japan's space agency Jaxa is fast powering up to develop its heavy lift capacity rockets named H-3.

Dozens of governments and private players are racing to develop satellite launch capabilities. The proliferation of players is a direct consequence

of the fact that the demand for space launches is expanding faster than capacity. India, for instance, operates just about 53 satellites whereas it needs about 500. Space industry watchers claim it will take a full decade to clear the launch backlog.

Going by one estimate, in the last five years (January 2019 to December 2023), as many as 527 space operators from 72 nations deployed spacecraft into orbit. The United States led with 115 operators, followed by China with 103, Russia with 41 and Japan with 24. India with 11 such organisations is eleventh on the list.

Huge opportunities exist despite the dominance of American companies. The global commercial space market was \$400 billion in 2023 and is expected to balloon to \$1 trillion by 2030. India's share currently is a minuscule \$8 billion.

Isro realises that to be a dominant player in the space sector, far more investment, private players and research capabilities are required. Unlike other government organisations, Isro has always had a culture of collaborating with private industry and academia. Now its chairman S. Somnath wants to take that to another level. Fortunately the government has agreed to prise open this sector, which till recently was guarded and closed.

Mr Somnath astounded Indian business last year when he declared that Isro "will no longer be a secretive organisation" and will transfer its know-how to industry. Citing the need for huge investments, Mr Som-

nath felt the future lay in public-private partnerships.

The response to this opening up has been nothing short of spectacular. As many as 130 space startups are reported to have sprung up in the private sector in recent times. The country's first private sector rocket was launched in late 2022, with more to follow.

Isro announced this month it would build future heavy launch rockets of the LMV-3 series that carried Chandrayaan-3 to the moon in collaboration with private stakeholders. Already, NSIL is working with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Larsen and Toubro to make five PSLV rockets. It wants to rope in more companies to launch smaller satellites into low earth orbit.

Isro has shown the path to success lies in technological development. The unprecedented success of the American "Magnificent Seven" (which include tech giants like Apple, Nvidia and Microsoft) and Taiwan's chip-maker TSMC are testimony to the criticality of technological innovation in financial and geopolitical dominance.

Isro's outstanding achievements in blazing a trail into deep space should be an inspiration for India's academia, research establishments and industry. For, as the founder of India's space programme, Dr Vikram Sarabhai, had famously said: "To us, there is no ambiguity of purpose... we are convinced that if we are to play a meaningful role nationally, and in the community of nations, we must be second to none in application of advanced technologies to the real problems of Man and society."

Past Few Decades has been the Social Acceptance of Educating Girls

By: Vijay GarG

Rural India deserves better schooling. Despite the Government's support, the Annual Status of Education Report suggests that the urgency for educational reforms is not uniformly recognised across States

The recent 'Annual Status of Education Report' -ASER- published by the NGO Pratham has once again attracted the attention of all those interested in education and the future of India; and its march towards a knowledge society. The first ASER report came in 2005 and it was expected to stir the conscience of not only the education system but India as a whole. By that time, the credibility and public acceptance of government schools was already very low and anyone who could afford it financially made every effort to put their children in private schools, which interestingly, are known as public schools in India. The decline has continued and it is evident by the mad rush in cities and towns, for admission to pre-school classes in private schools. People are willing to pay exorbitant fees and the aspiring middle class is ready to cut even other necessary family expenses to educate their children in good schools. Over the years, school education in India has shown remarkable progress on various fronts, but several major concerns have also emerged regarding quality, skill acquisition and institutional work culture.

One of the great achieve-

ments of the past few decades has been the social acceptance of educating girls and this has become equally acceptable in rural India also. However, the present report indicates 43.7% of boys having a smartphone as against only 19.8% of girls. It is encouraging to note that 90% of youngsters have a smartphone at home. The present survey was conducted amongst rural kids of 14-18 age group in 28 districts of India across 26 states with a sample of 34,745 children. The quality of the 'growing up' is indicated by the percentages of children who indicated their work aspirations for the future. One was disappointed that 21% could not respond to what they would like to become in years ahead. The top preference of 13% is for a job in the police and 11.4% would like to become teachers.

Agriculture-related work is an aspiration of only 1.4%! One could safely state from other studies and interactions that in rural areas, preference for becoming a teacher is still considered an achievable choice by parents and family members. Getting a job as a police- it must be stated- is now suspect because of the widely prevalent public perception that it would require too much of resources and sources. Even for the job of teachers, perceptions are changing fast. There is no surety about regular recruitment or recruitment regularly. Even if one gets appointed as a Shiksha-karmi or an honorarium-paid teacher with any other fancy designation, the sword of uncertainty

looms large for years together with no guarantee of getting absorbed in the regular pay scale and grade.

One of the universal expectations is the system would become more compassionate, empathetic, transparent, responsive and helpful to the learner. The NEP-2020 has been announced and has entered its fourth year of implementation. One expects that the innovations and changes proposed will become visible shortly.

It must; however; be stated that improvements in the quality of school education -particularly rural schools - are mostly dependent upon the priority it gets from the state governments. The central government has been promptly assisting states in educational reforms in various ways and this includes academic and professional support along with financial contributions to enhance infrastructure, including additional teachers. Education is not getting its due priority in several states. This was particularly true for the states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which need educational reforms very urgently.

After going through the ASER report, one arrives at the inference that the nation must deliberate upon how significant it is to ensure that every child gets a good quality education and acquires the necessary skills, including the skill of acquiring new skills throughout his active professional life. It is also necessary that everyone acknowledges the primacy of the role of teachers and schools

in rebuilding a new India. This is not happening uniformly at present. To illustrate the point, I would like to quote the following from the National Education Policy - 2020: "15.2/ According to the Justice/ JS Verma Commission (2012) constituted by the Supreme Court. A majority of stand-alone TEIs - over 20,000 in number are not even attempting serious teacher education but are essentially selling degrees for a price. Regulatory efforts so far have neither been able to curb the malpractices in the system, nor enforce basic standards for quality, and in fact have had the negative effect of curbing the growth of excellence and innovation in the sector. The sector and its regulatory system are, therefore, in urgent need of revitalisation."

The ASER report must inspire individuals and institutions to ensure speedy, accurate and correct reforms are put in place. The neglect of practical work in schools and even in vocational training centres including polytechnics and engineering colleges is a cause of concern. This has already been established by the closure of hundreds of engineering and management institutions, but not much effective improvement is visible at the ground level. And this is just not acceptable in a vibrant responsive system.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

Rivers, springs gone dry in wake of decrease in rain, snowfall

Experts see agriculture, horticulture to get hit, water crisis in offing in summer

Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Jan 31: Bhadarwah, located in the midst of the lush green forests of Coniferous origin on the middle to the Upper Himalayan mountainous ranges in Doda district in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, is a breathtaking valley town with vast agricultural potential and stunningly beautiful landscapes.

In recent years, the region has come under immense pressure due to an environmental hazard of an entirely different kind – the drying up of its water sources. The menace has further got intensified by the continuous ongoing drought conditions.

As of today, all rivers and about 500 springs as per an estimate in Bhadarwah tehsil have gone dried, significantly affecting the local population and their livelihoods.

Population growth and consequent deforestation along with global climate change, have immensely contributed in it.

The effects of the dried up river and springs in Bhadarwah are myriad: ranging from the disruption of traditional farming activities due to lack of water to the closure of businesses dependent on fresh water supply to people who have already been forced to move out of the area in search of employment opportunities. Some of the local people have become increasingly dependent on outside sources for



water including exploiting underground aquifers and reducing their reliance on the springs.

Interestingly, snowfall is an important aspect of winter in much of the Jammu and Kashmir UT. Flow of water in springs and ravines depends on snow to provide water when it melts in the spring, including millions of people in the UT, where snowmelt provides 75 percent of the water supply.

Many communities also rely on snow for winter recreation. Some plants and animals also depend on snow and snowmelt for survival.

The amount of snow that falls in a particular area directly influences both snow cover and snowpack, which refers to snow that accumulates on the ground and hardens due to gradual super freezing process that eventually becomes a constant source of these springs to sustain their flow.

"Warmer temperatures cause more water to evaporate from the land and oceans,

which leads to more precipitation, larger storms and more variation in precipitation in some areas. In general, a warmer climate causes more of this precipitation to fall in the form of rain instead of snow," explained Prof Anuradha Sharma, Head of the Department of Geography University of Jammu.

"The water so percolates acts as a temporary phase source for the springs after which they dry up. Some places, however, could see more snowfall if temperatures rise but still remain below the freezing point or if storm tracks change," she told.

She further added that areas near large lakes might also experience more snowfall as lakes remain unfrozen for longer periods, allowing more water to evaporate.

"In contrast, other areas might experience less snowfall as a result of wintertime droughts," she further said.

The artificial interference in the form of so-called development, renovation activities of the natural springs on modernised patterns like tiling works, concretization etc has largely impacted on the existence of these springs. Resultantly, the naturally flowing springs have gone extinct by going dry.

It is construed that due to the man's unbecoming poking the nose in the nature's plan of consistent working, the water circulation system underground is miserably damaged.

As per analysis done following the disturbance caused by man, the naturally occurring pathways of percolation and seepage is either totally wiped out or disturbed resulting in drying up of the springs and fountains.

"Last year also the extent and percentage of precipitation was very low due to which snowfall had decreased. This year due to North Atlantic Oscillation and weak Western Disturbance(WD) which otherwise brings moisture to Northern Indian parts including Jammu and Kashmir is a big factor for sharp decrease in rainfall and snowfall during this time of the year," Prof Sharma stated.

Earlier, villagers used to dig huge water harvesting tanks for the pondage purposes utilising much talked about process of age old method of water harvesting especially on the elevated and open sloppy areas of the tops of hills and mountains near habitations and public dwellings.

These pondage served as the constant source of water for springs and small brooks and fountains. In this way, besides satiating the rural population with the requirement of potable water, it sufficed invariably for the overall irrigation necessities and the agricultural lands used to retain considerable moisture contents even during hot and dry season and thus, surprisingly boosted agricultural production.

"There is every likelihood that if the situation continues like this, then the agriculture and horticulture sectors are going to be affected severely and the much required horticultural produce like apple, apricot, pears and Walnut will experience a big blow besides agricultural production," she further added.

The villagers have also been attempting to employ traditional means to restore the springs. These include creating small vegetation patches and nurturing plants that attract water by storing rainfall or enabling minimal water flow with the help of fragile structures like stone-lined check dams and percolation tanks. But this year, unprecedented drought conditions lacking optimal rain and snowfall during this time of the year, the alternative water harvesting methodology employed by the farmers seems not going to be fulfilled.

Overall, the residents of Bhadarwah are facing an uphill battle against the drying of their water sources. It is clear that more collective efforts are necessary in order to address this environmental hazard in the long-term.

In addition, the state authorities need to help protect and revive the existing springs and encourage sustainable practices among the locals to hold back further depletion of these resources. The future of Bhadarwah and the people squarely depend on it.

Abdul Qayoom takes charge as SSP Kishtwar



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 31: Abdul Qayoom assumed the charge as the Sr. Superintendent of Police (SSP) in Kishtwar today.

The new incumbent was warmly received by Senior Police officers at the District Police Headquarters, where a guard of honour was presented in his honour.

The outgoing SSP, Khalil Poswal handed over the baton to the new SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom in a brief but impressive function.

Upon assuming the charge, SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom held an introductory meeting

with Police officers of the Police District.

In his address, he emphasized the importance of dedication and enthusiasm in addressing the problems faced by the people of Kishtwar.

The new SSP stressed the need for teamwork and directed every officer to maintain open communication, keeping their doors always open for the general public to easily reach out with their concerns.

SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom brings a commitment to public service and a vision for collaborative efforts to enhance the safety and well-being of the community in Kishtwar.

JKBS hails 'Best BLO Certificate' awarded to Surinder Kaith on National Voters Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) held a meeting at Surya Vihar here today.

The meeting strongly hailed the 'Best BLO Certificate' awarded to Surinder Kaith by the Tehsildar Shri Nirbhay Sharma, for exhibiting outstanding performance in election work during SSR-2024.

BLO Surinder thanked the Tehsildar for giving the award certificate in his hand and said, "It makes me feel great on being rewarded for the hard work that I did. I am grateful to everyone who has always been a



part of my journey, from my family to friends, from boss to my team and everyone." The meeting among others was attended

by Messrs Des Raj Kaith, Rachhpal Kaith, R.L.Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, Naresh Kumar Kaith and Jagdish Raj Kaith.

Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Programme organised by J&K Bank in Samba District

Top News Report

SAMBA, Jan 31: J&K Bank is pleased to announce a significant achievement in its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) collaboration with Live for Others - Being Helpful Foundation. Under the banner of "Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness Apply Pads)," the initiative focuses on promoting menstrual hygiene awareness, involving the distribution of 5,00,000 sanitary napkins and conducting more than 100 awareness seminars across all 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

The project aims to successfully reach 50,000 individuals, breaking taboos related



to menstruation.

Samba, the 11th district to complete this mission, witnessed the distribution of over 25,100 sanitary napkins and the delivery of five impactful awareness lectures, reaching more

than 2166 people.

The seminars were conducted in various government and private schools, including Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Samba, and Govt. Higher Secondary School+ Govt. Middle

School, Nud. Where Stuti Abrol served as the resource person for these seminars.

"We are excited about the progress of 'Mission R-SAP' and its positive impact on women's health. Our team

eagerly looks forward to expanding the initiative to other districts," said Jyoti, President National Body of LFO-BHF.

LFO-BHF extends gratitude to the Director School Education Jammu, C.E.O Samba, Counselling Cell Samba, and the Principals of all participating schools.

Special thanks are conveyed to J&K Bank for organizing this impactful activity through their CSR fund, as acknowledged by Sahil, Vice-President, Jammu Province.

Key participants during this activity included Abhinandan, Abhishek Gupta, Vidit, Vivek Raina, Navya, and many more.

Rashtree Dogri Kavi Sammelan organised by JKAACL

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: JKAACL organised Rashtree Dogri Kavi Sammelan at Abhinav Theatre Jammu, today.

This is for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir that Rashtree Dogri Kavi Sammelan is being organised by JKAACL under the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Popular Poets of J&K joined the event organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages to celebrate 75th Republic Day.

The event was inaugurated by lighting of lamp by the Chief Guest Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture in the presence of Bharat Singh, JKAS, secretary,



JKAACL, Padma Shri Mohan Singh and other guests.

On the occasion, Bharat Singh, Secretary, JKAACL welcomed the veteran and acclaimed poets and the guests. He highlighted the important role of Dogri language in the art and culture of the

region. He added that we can give this language its due credit only if we start speaking Dogri at home and women can play a major role in doing so by guiding their children to speak in Dogri.

Today's Sammelan witnessed the par-

ticipation of renowned poets like Padma Shri Mohan Singh, Prof. Lalit Magotra, Padamshree Jitender Udhamपुरi, Prakash Premi, Vijay Sharma, Ashok Angurana, Vijay Verma, Naseeb Singh Manhas, Susheel Begana, Vijaya Thakur, Bishan Singh Dardi, Brij Mohan,

Promila Manhas, Randhir Singh Raipuria, Narinder Singh Chib, Abdul Qadir Kundriyan, Pawan Verma, Yash Paul Yash, Kuldeep Kippi, Ranbir Singh Chib and Sahil Badyal. The event was presided over by Padma Shri Mohan Singh.

Suresh Kumar Gupta in his concluding address stated that main motive for organising this event was to boost the Dogri Language.

He added that this Rashtree Dogri Kavi Sammelan will be a regular feature in the coming years.

Many renowned artists and people, especially the youth in large number were present on the occasion. Reeta Khadyal, in-charge program presented the vote of thanks.

IEC University organizes bike rally with message to drive away drug addiction

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: IEC University, Solan, organized a 'BBN Bike Ride' giving the message of respecting the motherland by staying away from drugs.

This grand bike rally was organized from Delhi to IEC University and from IEC University via Baddi back to Delhi, amidst full security arrangements. More than 60 bikers and others have participated in this bike ride.

The participants took a pledge to continue working in the interest of the country.

On this occasion, cultural programs based on patriotism were also organized by the students.

Vice Chancellor of IEC University, Prof. Ashok Puri expressed his gratitude to Ajitesh Choudhary, son of Chief Parliamentary Secretary (Industry, Revenue and Town Planning), Ram Kumar Choudhary, for being present in this program for making this mega event successful.

In this program, a music festival based on the theme "Nasha Bhagao" was also organized in collaboration with the famous Dhvani Social Welfare Society, Dr. Vaneet Gupta from 'I Hate Polythene' and the cooperation of the police was also appreciated and thanked.

Students and professors of IEC University along with members of Delhi's famous DRER (Delhi Royal Enfield Riders) bikers group also participated enthusiastically in this mega event.

At the end of the program all the participants were felicitated.

Students and professors of IEC University along with members of Delhi's famous DRER (Delhi Royal Enfield Riders) bikers group also participated enthusiastically in this mega event.

At the end of the program all the participants were felicitated.

In Karmma Calling, Raveena Tandon emotes well and manages to anchor the wobbling storyline

What goes around comes around... we all have grown up with the doctrine of karma. But the rich, ahem uber rich, clearly do not abide by it. How the rich use those lesser placed as pawns in their upward climb is a story that needs little repetition. Yet, Guilty director Ruchi Narain states the obvious in a dramatic thriller of sorts. She creates revenge drama Karmma Calling, adapted from the American show Revenge, and takes us into what lies beneath the surface gloss.

Thus we get a sneak-peek into the fissures, the cracks and the jet-setting life of crazily rich Kotharis. Why, they not only have an in-house event manager, they even use a chopper to search for that karwa-chauth moon! What fun... only if their lives were as perfect as we imagine them to be!

The first scene itself is a click-bait. A murder has been committed on the evening of an engagement party. All fingers point at the dead man's fiancée. The 90s' Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon playing the redoubtable Indrani Kothari whispers threateningly in her ear, 'Mera beta kahan hai.' Time for flashback and we are led (waylaid) back in time. A beautiful young damsel wants her pound of flesh. How God forgives but Karmma does not, is constantly hammered in. Karmma incidentally is the name of the heroine. Or, is it



really? Anyway, she is the pivot around which we are meant to invest our time and emotions. Only we fail to root for her and are equally unmoved by her tragic past.

Some obvious flashbacks are in store; a father who has been wronged by who else but richie rich Kotharis and their gang. Any wonder she lives and breathes revenge and justice. Yet, the revenge game seems far too simplistic, there is no sting in the tale. Her powerful enemies keep falling to her maneuverings like nine pins. The ease with which she goes about planting hidden cameras in the private spaces of the rich and famous seems less sleuth like and more farcical. Of course, she has a loyal ally in this customary gay character Zane Khan (Viraf Patel), a tech expert who is on the list of richest men in Asia. His reasons

for going out of the way to help her are as unpalatable as her means to trap her adversaries. If her actions seem incredulous, her acting doesn't help either. Namrata Sheth as Karmma looks pretty, dresses sassily enough but her emotion-scape leaves a lot to be desired. Add to it the flat tone dialogue delivery.

However, if you can sit through the first three episodes, the series does take a turn. Can't say for the better really, but it does have your attention. So does ravishing Raveena. The actress who made her digital debut with Aranyak grabs eyeballs with her ultra-glam part of Indrani Kothari and nails the part of this billionaire socialite with aplomb. Apart from looking drop-dead gorgeous, despite little help from writing, she emotes well and somewhat manages to anchor the wobbling storyline.

Some characters like the Kothari heirs do grow on you. Clearly not all rich kids are spoilt brats. Varun Sood as Ahaan Kothari, who finds his surname a big baggage, is earnest. And it's not just Karmma, you too warm up to him. Devangshi Sen as the younger sister is screechy to begin with but soon you begin to see her humane side. Of course, her falling for an average middle class boy, owner of a small-time café, is more perfunctory than romantic. Expecting it to be an insight into class divide would be asking for the moon. Here everything is surface gloss. Only if the makers had paid as much attention to sharpening their writing as they did to costume fits.

The seven-episode series meanders through the predictable flaws of the rich like adultery, financial scams and image-building to arrive at a cliffhanger. Yet, another click-bait which is likely to tempt viewers to watch the second season. Season 1 (streaming on Disney+Hotstar) has few redeeming features. The pace and short length of the episodes might make it a quick and easy watch. But should you watch it? Only if you forget and forgive easily. Indrani professes, 'Kuch nahi badlega, na mere opinions na mere kapde.' The show's ensuing seasons, however, could do with a makeover that is not just cosmetic.

Sandra Huller on attention she is getting after her Oscar nomination



German actor Sandra Huller, who landed a Best Actress Oscar nomination for her performance in the legal drama thriller film Anatomy of a Fall is amazed by the kind of attention

she is getting after the announcement. The 45-year-old talked about winning the Best Actress Oscar award for her outstanding performance as Sandra Voyter in Anatomy of a Fall in an inter-

view.

The actress said, "I find myself giggling in the morning because it is so nice," acknowledging that she is "definitely not" used to the attention that the nod is attracting. "When I walk my dog, people are shouting congratulations at me. People I've never seen before," she added. The 2023 French courtroom drama thriller Anatomy of a Fall is helmed by Justine Triet, based on a screenplay she co-wrote with Arthur Harari. Sandra Huller plays a writer who is attempting to clear her name of any involvement in her husband's passing. The French courtroom drama is also nominated for Best Picture at the 96th Academy Awards, as well as Best Editing, Best Director, and Best Original Screenplay by Justine Triet.

Huller's performance as Voyter, a novelist on trial for the strange murder of her husband Samuel (Samuel Theis), won her a Golden Globe nomination as well as a nomination for supporting actress at next month's BAFTA Awards.

Sakshi Chopra's debut single is a fusion of traditional music and contemporary pop

Sakshi Chopra, the rising star on the music horizon, presents her English single Ghosts, which is sung, written and composed by her.

It is a mesmerising blend of her Indian heritage and a contemporary pop-infused sound. This emotionally charged track has haunting echoes of a past love, where memories linger like ghosts in the singer's heart.

This debut single is a testament to Sakshi Chopra's artistry, skillfully combining traditional Indian elements with contemporary pop.

Sakshi says, "Indian artistes are headlining at Coachella and gaining recognition. There's no better time to put myself out there. India doesn't have much representation when it comes to English music, although we are the



second largest English speaking country in the

world. I'm thrilled to take on this journey."

Vishal Dadlani lauds Indian Idol 14 contestants for singing Vande Mataram for Hrithik's Fighter

Singer and music composer Vishal Dadlani spoke about the Indian Idol 14 contestants, who have lent their voices to the song Vande Mataram from Hrithik Roshan-starrer movie Fighter, saying that they have also stepped into the realm of playback singing.

In a ground-breaking collaboration, the contestants of the singing reality show, Indian Idol 14 were offered an opportunity to lend their unique voices to the iconic song, Vande Mataram (The Fighter Anthem) from the film Fighter.

This evocative track is composed by Vishal —Shekhar and contestants Vaibhav Gupta from Kanpur, Subhadeep Das Chowdhury and Dipan Mitra from Kolkata, Obom Tangu from Tutting, Utkarsh Wankhede from Nagpur, and Piyush Panwar from



Balotra, Rajasthan, were given the chance to sing in this powerfully rousing rendition, marking the beginning of their journey in the Hindi music industry.

Vishal said, "Seeing the Indian Idol contestants lend their voices to The Fighter Anthem Vande Mataram fills me with immense pride. These talented individu-

audiences on the big screen. This opportunity not only validates their hard work but also signifies a remarkable milestone in their musical journey," he further shared.

Vishal added, "Thanks to Hrithik (whose idea this was) and Siddharth Anand being so encouraging of new and genuine talent, our upcoming Idols have taken the first steps towards leaving a mark with their rendition of Vande Mataram in the album of Fighter."

Speaking about this opportunity, contestant Vaibhav said, "I am hugely grateful to receive such an opportunity from Vishal — Shekhar sir, for having faith in us and allowing us to be a part of Vande Mataram, The Fighter Anthem. It all started when we performed Sujalam Sufalam for the grand entry of Hrithik

Roshan sir, who graced our show to promote the film."

"He liked the performance and expressed his wish as a request to Vishal sir to get us to perform in the film. This is how we landed our biggest project to sing for Vishal — Shekhar sir, who called us to the studio to record the most anticipated song of 2024," he added.

Rajasthan's Piyush shared, "I am grateful to composers Vishal-Shekhar sir for their utmost trust and belief in us. And secondly, I would like to thank Hrithik sir, who helped me transform my appearance, which has immensely helped me build my confidence and subsequently landed us with this opportunity to perform on such a big scale."

Indian Idol 14 airs on Sony.

Jagjeet Sandhu & Irwin Meet Kaur-starrer Punjabi film Oye Bhole Oye set to release on February 16

Punjabi film Oye Bhole Oye starring Jagjeet Sandhu and Irwin Meet Kaur in lead roles is set to release on February 16. Jagjeet, who was last seen in Tufang, Sufna and Pataal Lok among others, is set to play a middle-class village boy in the film which is touted to be a satirical take on the ongoing issues in Punjab due to globalisation.

Jagjeet says, "Bhola is undoubtedly the closest character to my heart as I played a character named Bhola in my debut movie. It gave me my identity. I play a middle-class village boy with big dreams but who doesn't know how to fulfil them. Every single person who has seen

the rural life can relate to my role."

Sharing about what prompted him to take up this film, he says, "I have always felt that cinema is such a great and strong medium to connect with the masses and convey your ideas. The level of creativity and freshness in this film pulled me towards it." Highlighting the film's subject, he says, "This film delves into the ground-level impact of globalisation on everyday life. It satirises contemporary issues like land acquisition and construction projects, highlighting their ripple effects on the ordinary people."

Written by Gurpreet Bhullar and directed by Varinder Ramgharia,



Oye Bhole Oye is a joint collaboration of KV

Dhillon's Geet MP3 and Jagjeet Sandhu Films.

Sophie Turner goes Instagram official with new man after split from Joe Jonas

Actress Sophie Turner has gone Instagram official with new boyfriend as she moves on from Joe Jonas.

The actress split from her husband in September 2023 when he filed divorce papers. But now it seems she is putting more distance between them after getting close to British aristocrat Peregrine Pearson.

According to reports, the mega rich 29-year-old, eldest son of Michael Pearson, the fourth Viscount Cowdray, is heir to his \$284 million family fortune. They were seen kissing in London recently. It seems Sophie is now in no mood to hide their romance after Joe confirmed his relationship with model Stormi Bree. The Game Of Thrones



star, said to be worth \$12 million herself, shared a series of photos from the new couple's cute

ski trip. They were partying with friends on the slopes and she didn't

shy away from uploading a bikini snap. She is reportedly dropping 'child abduction' claims against ex, according to new legal documents. Filed back in September last year, Sophie alleged that Joe wasn't letting their two daughters, Willa and Delphine, fly from the US to see her in the UK, allegedly withholding their passports, an incident that quickly escalated to a federal level.

But after reaching a rough custody agreement in their still ongoing bitter divorce battle, it appears Sophie wants to drop those claims. The two are thought to be in a much better place and have decided when the kids will travel to England and New York.

In last 10 years, 25 crore people have come out of poverty, says President Droupadi Murmu while addressing Budget Session of Parliament

Congratulates PM Narendra Modi for passing the women's reservation bill

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday addressed a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament at the start of the Budget Session.

The President said, "This is my first address in new Parliament building which was built at the beginning of 'Amrit Kaal'."

She congratulated PM Modi for passing the women's reservation bill.

Building of Ram temple has been a dream of centuries, it is a reality now, President Murmu said.



According to NITI Aayog, in the last 10 years, nearly 25 crore people have come out of poverty, she said, adding, "In the

last 10 years, we have seen India become one of the top five economies from 'Fragile 5'."

Earlier, the country's rate of inflation was in double digits which is now within 4 per cent, the President said.

In the last 10 years, India has seen completion of many such works in national interest for which people had been waiting for decades, Murmu said, adding, "We have been hearing slogans of eradicating poverty for long; now for the first time, we are seeing poverty being eradicated on a large scale."

"Will Bring Full Budget After Forming Government": PM Modi Ahead Of Session

Prime Minister Narendra Modi started and concluded his address with the salutation 'Ram Ram'.



NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the media ahead of the Budget session underlining that this would be an interim budget even as he questioned the conduct of opposition MPs in the last session.

In his customary interaction with the media ahead of the Budget session outside the Parliament building, the Prime Minister started and concluded his address with the salutation 'Ram Ram'.

"Ram Ram to all of you for the year 2024. At the end of the first session held in the new Parliament building, this Parliament took a very dignified decision of clearing the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam," PM Modi said.

Noting that country witnessed the Nari Shakti on display in this year's Republic Day celebrations, the Prime Minister said the Budget session, commenced today with President Droupadi Murmu's address, is a festival of the Nari Shakti.

"And today the budget session is starting under the guidance of President Droupadi Murmu and tomorrow the interim budget by Nirmala Sitharaman ji is in a way a festival of Nari Shakti," he said.

Hitting out at the 'trouble-making' Members of Parliament, he said, "Those who want to disrupt by habit and those who disrupt democracy, today these parliamentarians will look into their own conduct and ask themselves what they did in ten years. Even their own constituents won't know what they did."

Those who showed concern for people's issues they have done democracy a good turn, but those who only did disruption no one will remember them. This session is one for them to repent and leave good footprints. Please do not let the opportunity go a begging and give the country something good.

While maintaining that this Budget Session is an opportunity to express remorse

and leave good footprints behind, PM Modi requested MPs to not let this opportunity slip.

"Perform the best, give the benefit of your thoughts to the House in the interest of the country and fill the country with enthusiasm and excitement," he said in a request to MPs.

Exuding confidence on his third straight victory in Lok Sabha polls, he said that a complete budget will come after the formation of the new government.

"Just before election we don't submit a full budget, this we will do after a new government is elected. This interim budget is a guideline for us. I am hopeful that the country will touch new heights of prosperity. Development for everyone is taking place. This journey will continue with your blessings. Ram Ram" the Prime Minister said.

The Budget Session of Parliament commenced with President Droupadi Murmu addressing a joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha at 11 am on Wednesday.

The last session before Lok Sabha polls expected to be held in April-May this year is to provide a total of eight sittings spread over a period of 10 days.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the interim budget on Thursday (February 1).

Man slits 8-year-old daughter's throat, throws her into bushes assuming her dead; girl survives

BHOPAL, Jan 31 (Agencies): In a heart-wrenching incident, a man slit the throat of his eight-year-old daughter and threw her into the bushes assuming she was dead.

Fortunately, the minor not only survived but managed to come out on roadside from the bushes. Some passersby noticed her semi-conscious and alerted the police.

This inhumane act of the man was reported from Koh-e-Fiza locality in Madhya Pradesh's capital city Bhopal on Tuesday.

The child was rushed to a hospital where she is recuperating from

injuries.

According to the police, the minor girl was found near Saifia College. After the incident, when the minor regained consciousness, she came out from the bushes and asked for help.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Riyaz Iqbal said her father Tej Singh Lodhi took her along asking her to go to her relative's house.

"The accused slit the throat of the girl in a deserted area near Saifia College and threw her into the bushes.

The accused thought the minor would die, but as soon as she regained consciousness, the girl came out from the

bushes to the road."

"The girl was bleeding and asking for help. As soon as the police received information about the incident, they reached the spot and admitted the girl to Hamidia Hospital," the DCP said.

He said a case had been registered.

Tej Singh Lodhi works at a tent house shop and lives in Teela Jamal-pura area in the city in a rented house. He is originally a resident of Sagar.

The minor is Lodhi's daughter from his first wife who passed away. Lodhi lives here with his second wife with whom he has a boy.

Rahul Gandhi's car 'pelted with stones' during Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in West Bengal



MALDA, Jan 31 (Agencies): A car in which Rahul Gandhi was travelling in West Bengal's Malda district as part of 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' was pelted with stones by unidentified people on Wednesday, claimed state party chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

The rear window pane of the vehicle was smashed in the incident but Gandhi did not suffer an injury.

Television visuals showed Gandhi alighting from the vehicle after reaching a designated halt and inspecting the damaged windowpane.

The attack took place in Malda's Harischandrapur area as the yatra re-entered West Bengal from Bihar. "The rear window pane of the vehicle Rahul Gandhi was travelling in was smashed after being pelted with stones...this is unacceptable," Chowdhury said.

Hindus can pray in Gyanvapi mosque's basement, says Varanasi court

VARANASI, Jan 31 (Agencies): The Varanasi Court on Wednesday granted permission to the Hindu side petitioners to perform puja in the basement of the Gyanvapi mosque premises.

The judgment pertains to the case of one Somnath Vyas' basement. Vyas' family used to perform puja in the basement till 1993, however, following the state government's order, the worshipping was stopped.

In its order, the court said prayers could be conducted by priests from the Vishwanath Temple and said arrangements should be made to remove bar-



ricades blocking entry to the mosque's basement, which had been ordered sealed by the Supreme Court during the ASI survey op

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the Hindu side told agency, "...Puja will start within seven days. Everyone will have the right to perform Puja..." "Hindu side allowed to offer prayers at 'Vyas Ka Tekhana'. The Dis-

trict Administration will have to make arrangements within 7 days," Jain said.

The mosque has four 'takhnasas' (cellars) in the basement out of which one is still in possession of the Vyas family who used to live here.

Vyas had petitioned that as hereditary pujari he be allowed to enter the takkhana and resume pooja.

"Part Ways With Left": Mamata Banerjee's New Condition For Congress Tie-Up

MALDA, Jan 31 (Agencies): In remarks that indicated that the INDIA bloc's troubles in Bengal are far from over, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee today said the Congress must part ways with the CPM if they want any tie-up with her party.

The Bengal Chief Minister also said that the Congress had rejected the Trinamool's offer for two seats during seat-sharing negotiations and now she "won't give a single seat".

The CPM has physically attacked me on several occasions in the past. I was mercilessly beaten up. I am alive only because of the blessings of my well-wishers. I can never forgive the Left, I can never forgive the CPM. So those who are with CPM today, they can also be with the BJP. I won't forgive them," she told a gathering in Malda.

Incidentally, her remarks came on a day when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra re-entered Bengal after its Bihar leg.

"I told congress you don't have a single MLA in the assembly. We will give you two parliamentary seats and we will make sure your candidate wins. But they want more seats, so I told them I won't give you a single seat until u leave the company of the Left," she said.



The CPM has earlier ruled out an alliance with the Trinamool. Back in June, CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury had said, "Mamata Banerjee and the CPM will not happen. There will be secular parties along with the Left and the Congress in Bengal which will fight against the BJP and the TMC," he had said.

Seat-sharing talks between the Trinamool and Congress hit a roadblock a week back when Ms Banerjee announced that her party will contest the Lok Sabha polls alone and any decision on an alliance will be taken after the election.

The Trinamool blamed Congress's hard bargaining and strong remarks by its state chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for Ms Banerjee for the situation. Mr Chowdhury had

argued that the two seats being offered to the Congress were the party's strongholds anyway, and said the Congress is equipped to win elections on its own. In a personal attack on the Trinamool supremo, he had called her an "opportunist" leader.

Following Ms Banerjee's outburst, the Congress leadership swiftly moved into damage control and said it cannot imagine an INDIA bloc without Mamata Banerjee. The Trinamool chief's remarks today suggest that the issue is nowhere close to being sorted.

Trinamool is just one among the regional forces locked in a tug-of-war with the Congress over seat-sharing. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has said they are preparing to contest all 13 Lok Sabha seats in the state. In Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has announced 16 candidates amid seat-sharing talks. Mr Yadav has stressed that he is doing what is best for the party and a clearance from Congress is not needed.

The exit of the Nitish Kumar-led JDU from INDIA bloc and its allegation that the Congress is trying to hijack the alliance has only pushed the grand old party into a corner as it preps for the big fight against the BJP.

Tipu Sultan's portrait garlanded with footwear in Karnataka, protests erupt

RAICHUR, Jan 31 (Agencies): Tension gripped Karnataka's Raichur district on Wednesday after a portrait of Tipu Sultan, the erstwhile ruler of Mysore, was garlanded with footwear.

The Muslim community staged a massive protest by blocking traffic and demanded the arrest of the miscreants. The protesters also set fire to tyres in Sirwar town. The garland was later removed from the portrait.

The police have

assured protesters that they would arrest the miscreants within 24 hours. Following this assurance, the protest has been withdrawn. An FIR has been registered at Sirwar Police Station in Raichur.

However, this is not the first time that protests involving Tipu Sultan have broken out in Karnataka. In December last year, Congress MLA Prasad Abbayya's proposal to rename the Mysuru airport after Tipu Sultan had drawn sharp criticism from the



Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs in the Karnataka Assembly.

The proposal by the Hubballi-Dharwad (East) MLA came during a discussion on the state government writing to

the Centre to change the names of airports.

During the session, Abbayya said, "I propose the renaming of Mysuru airport to Tipu Sultan airport." This led to an uproar among the

BJP and among the BJP MLAs.

The 18th century ruler has been at the centre of a war of words between the Congress and BJP for several years.

The row over the Muslim ruler first started in 2016, when the then Siddaramaiah-led Congress government began celebrating his birthday on November 10 as 'Tipu Jayanti'. However, the BJP opposed the move and it was scrapped after it came to power in the state in 2019.

Maharashtra woman dies as portion of wall collapses on her after bus hits it



PALGHAR, Jan 31 (Agencies): A 19-year-old woman was killed when a portion of the compound wall of a school collapsed on her after a bus hit it in Palghar district of Maharashtra, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place around 7 am

on Tuesday in the Virar area.

The woman had gone to drop her younger brother off at school for a picnic, an official from Virar police station said.

After seeing off her brother, the woman was standing on the premises of the school, when a private bus which was being reversed hit its compound wall.

A part of the compound wall collapsed on the victim, who received severe injuries, the official said.

The woman was rushed to a local hospital where she died during treatment, he said.

The body was sent to a government hospital for post-mortem, police said.

Imran Khan, wife sentenced to 14 years in jail in Toshakhana corruption case

The verdict, which comes 8 days before the February 8 general election, has increased the legal woes of the 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician

ISLAMABAD, Jan 31 (Agencies): Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were sentenced to 14 years in prison on Wednesday in a corruption case for retaining expensive state gifts when he was in power, dealing another blow to the jailed former premier, a day after he was handed a 10-year jail term for leaking sensitive state secrets.

The verdict, which comes eight days before the February 8 general election, has increased the legal woes of the 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician who is already serving a three-year jail term after being convicted of corruption.

Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) faced numerous troubles before the election starting with the denial of its election symbol, the cricket bat, to the rejection of nomination papers of Khan, former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and several other party leaders.



Accountability Court Judge Mohammad Bashir conducted the hearing at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, where the former premier is incarcerated, in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Khan and his wife were also barred from holding any public office for 10 years and slapped with a fine of Rs 787 million each. Bushra Bibi did not appear before the court on Wednesday.

Last month, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) filed a fresh case against the two in an accountability court

for retaining a jewellery set received from the Saudi crown prince against undervalued assessment.

Khan told the court that his wife had nothing to do with the case and was being humiliated by being forcibly dragged into it.

At the outset of the hearing on Wednesday, Judge Bashir asked Khan if he recorded his statement. To this, the former premier said that he would submit his statement once his lawyers came.

"I have been deceived as I was

only called to mark my attendance for the hearing," said the PTI founder.

The sentence comes just a day after a special court established under the Official Secrets Act sentenced Khan and Qureshi to 10 years in prison for the breach of state secrets.

The latest conviction and sentencing are Khan's third since 2022 when he was ousted from power.

According to reports, Khan and his wife received 108 gifts from various heads of state, out of which they kept 58. They were also undervalued by them while paying a mandatory price to the state.

Under the rules governing Toshakhana — a Persian word meaning "treasure house" — government officials can keep gifts by paying a price for them but first the gift should be deposited. The two either failed to deposit the gift or got it for a low price by allegedly using their authority.

Elon Musk's \$56 bn pay package is unfair, deeply flawed: US judge



SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 31 (Agencies): A US judge has ruled that Elon Musk's \$56 billion pay package is unfair and the Tesla board will need to come up with a new pay proposal.

The decision, issued in the Delaware Court of Chancery by Judge Kathaleen McCormick, means that Musk can't keep the 2018 compensation package. In her ruling, McCormick wrote that Tesla "bore the burden of proving that the compensation plan was fair, and they failed to meet their

burden."

"Never incorporate your company in the state of Delaware," Musk posted on X after the ruling.

He later posted a poll asking whether Tesla should change its state of incorporation to Texas. "Should Tesla change its state of incorporation to Texas, home of its physical headquarters?" according to the poll.

The compensation plan approved by shareholders in 2018 consisted of 20.3 million stock option awards broken

up into 12 tranches of 1.69 million shares.

Under the agreement, the options vested in 12 increments if Tesla hit specific milestones on market cap, revenue and adjusted earnings (excluding certain one-time charges such as stock compensation).

In her ruling, McCormick described the process leading to the approval of Musk's compensation plan as "deeply flawed".

"The process for coming up with Elon's comp plan wasn't independent because Elon controlled the Board and the directors who approved the plan weren't truly independent. Further, the shareholders who approved the comp plan weren't made aware of this controlled relationship. Hence, the \$55.8 billion comp plan is voided," she wrote.

Yemen's Houthis fire missiles at US warship in Red Sea

SANAA, Jan 31 (Agencies): Yemen's Houthi rebels fired "several" missiles at a US warship in the Red Sea, they said on Wednesday, hours after the US military reported shooting down a missile.

"The naval forces of the Yemeni Armed Forces, with the help of God Almighty, fired several... naval missiles at the American destroyer USS Gravelly in the Red Sea," the Houthi statement said.

Earlier, US Central Command said the USS Gravelly shot down a Houthi missile at about 11:30 pm (2030 GMT)



on Tuesday -- the latest in a series of such incidents in the Red Sea.

"Iranian-backed Houthi militants fired one anti-ship cruise missile from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen toward the Red Sea," a Centcom statement said.

"The missile was shot

down by USS Gravelly. There were no injuries or damage reported."

The Houthis, part of the anti-Western, anti-Israel "axis of resistance" of Iranian loyalist groups, have been harassing Red Sea shipping for months, triggering US and UK reprisal attacks.

China Executes Couple Who Threw 2 Young Children Off 15th Floor

BEIJING, Jan 31 (Agencies): China on Wednesday executed a couple for throwing two young children out of the window of an apartment building, in a case that caused nationwide outrage.

Zhang Bo and Ye Chengchen were previously found responsible for the fatal falls of a two-year-old girl and one-year-old boy from the 15th floor of a residential tower in southwest China's Chongqing.

Zhang, who was the father of the two children, had begun an

affair with Ye, who was initially unaware he was married and had children.

She then urged Zhang to kill his two children, which she "regarded as obstacles" to their getting married and a "burden on their future life together", the Chongqing No. 5 Intermediate People's Court said in a statement.

In November 2020, Zhang threw his children out of the window of the apartment in the absence of their mother, with whom he had agreed to divorce.

Both were found guilty of conspiring "to kill his daughter and younger son by staging an accidental fall from the 15th floor of his apartment building", state-backed China Daily reported last year.

The couple were sentenced to death in December 2021 and executed Wednesday, the court said.

The news came the same day as another high-profile execution -- of Wu Xieyu, found guilty of killing his mother by repeatedly striking her with a dumbbell in 2015,

a statement by a court in eastern Fujian province said.

China keeps data on its use of the death penalty secret, although rights group Amnesty International estimates the country is the top executioner globally -- with thousands executed and sentenced to death each year.

Sentences are frequently handed down for crimes ranging from drug trafficking to corruption and murder, with lethal injection the most common method of execution.

Zhang and Ye's crime sent shock waves across China for its cold-blooded premeditation, as well as the youth of the victims.

Their executions quickly rose to the top of a list of trending topics on Chinese social media site Weibo on Wednesday, receiving nearly 200 million views.

"Today is truly a good day," read one widely liked comment under a related post by state news agency Xinhua.

"The punishment fits the crime", wrote another.

US F-16 Fighter Jet Crashes Off South Korea, Pilot Rescued

SEOUL, Jan 31 (Agencies): An American F-16 fighter jet experienced an "in-flight emergency" over the West Sea off South Korea and crashed early Wednesday, the US military said, adding the pilot had been rescued.

"An F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to the 8th Fighter Wing here experienced an in-flight emergency over the West Sea and crashed at approximately 8:41am (2341 GMT) today," the military said in a statement.

"The pilot ejected safely and was recovered at around 9:30

am. He is conscious and was transported to a medical facility for assessment."

The statement hailed the close cooperation with South Korea during the rescue operation.

"We are very thankful to the Republic of Korea rescue forces and all of our teammates who made the swift recovery of our pilot possible," said Colonel Matthew C. Gaetke, 8th Fighter Wing commander.

"Now we will shift our focus to search and recovery of the aircraft," he added.

"Information on the cause of the in-flight



emergency will not be made available until the conclusion of thorough safety and accident investigations," the statement said.

The Korea Coast Guard told AFP the fighter jet had crashed near Mokdeok island, which is off South Korea's west coast.

This is the third crash of an American F-16 fighter jet in South Korea since May 2023.

A US F-16 fighter jet crashed in December during a routine training exercise after experiencing what the US military said was "an in-flight emergency". That pilot was also rescued.

In May last year, a US F-16 jet crashed during a routine training exercise in a farming area south of Seoul. The pilot ejected safely and the accident caused no other casualties.

Washington is Seoul's most important security ally and stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea to help protect it from the nuclear-armed North.

In neighbouring Japan, the US military announced late last year that it was grounding its fleet of V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft following a deadly crash that killed eight US airmen.

US woman, 60, falls into garbage truck, gets compacted 4 times, rescued later



NEW HAMPSHIRE, Jan 31 (Agencies): A 60-year-old woman was miraculously rescued from inside a garbage truck after she accidentally fell into a dumpster outside her residence in New Hampshire, United States. The woman was found injured after being compacted in the truck,

at least four times.

According to her statement to the firefighters, she fell into the dumpster when she was trying to throw out a bag of trash. It is unknown how long she remained inside the truck before being noticed by the driver on the internal camera. Acting swiftly,

the driver called 911, initiating a dramatic rescue operation.

With the help of specialised equipment to cut through the metal and remove compacted debris, the woman was taken out in a 30-minute effort.

The woman, yet to be identified, was hospitalised on Monday with critical injuries and is recovering, news outlet Boston 25 reported.

The firefighters said that they are still examining how the incident happened.

The woman was in agony and not alert enough to answer the officials' questions.

US Announces Fresh Selection Criteria For H-1B Visa, New Rules From October

H-1B Visa: The rule introduces a beneficiary-centric selection process, ensuring fairness and equal opportunities for all beneficiaries.

WASHINGTON, Jan 31 (Agencies): In a move to fortify the integrity of the H-1B registration process and mitigate fraud risks, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced a final rule for the fiscal year 2025 (FY 2025) H-1B cap.

The rule introduces a beneficiary-centric selection process, ensuring fairness and equal opportunities for all beneficiaries, regardless of the number of registrations submitted on their behalf.

Registrations will now be selected based on unique beneficiaries, reducing

the potential for fraud and ensuring equal chances of selection. Beginning with the FY 2025 initial registration period, USCIS will mandate registrants to provide valid passport information or valid travel document information for each beneficiary.

The final rule clarifies requirements regarding the requested employment start date on certain petitions subject to the H-1B cap, allowing filing with requested start dates after October 1 of the relevant fiscal year.

The rule codifies USCIS' ability to deny



or revoke H-1B petitions if the registration contains false attestation or is otherwise invalid.

USCIS has also announced a Fee Sched-

ule final rule, effective after the initial registration period for FY 2025 H-1B cap.

The initial registration period for the FY 2025 H-1B cap will open on March 6, 2024, and run through March 22, 2024.

USCIS will launch organisational accounts on February 28, 2024, allowing collaboration on H-1B registrations, petitions, and associated forms. Online filing of Form I-129 and Form I-907 for non-cap H-1B petitions will also commence on the same date.

While petitioners can continue to file

paper Form I-129 H-1B petitions, online filing options will be available starting April 1, 2024.

USCIS Director Ur M Jaddou stated, "The improvements in these areas should make H-1B selections more equitable for petitioners and beneficiaries and will allow for the H-1B process to be fully electronic from registration until final decision."

These reforms aim to enhance the overall H-1B programme, making it more transparent, efficient, and resistant to fraudulent activities.

PGI, Chandigarh & Fortis, Mohali conduct Blood Donation & Health Check-Up Camp at Aryans

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: Aryans Institute of Nursing, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh with the support of Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh & Fortis Hospital, Mohali today organized a Blood Donation & Free Health Check Up Camp at Aryans Campus, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh.

The camp was inaugurated by Buta Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Ghanaur, after lighting up the lamp. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group presided over the event. Dr. Ekta, Senior Resident, Dept. of Blood Transfusion, PGI; Dr. Tejnoor Singh, Senior



Consultant, Internal Medicine; Dr. Priyanka Sarama, Senior Consultant, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Dt Sonia Gandhi, Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics, Fortis Hospital Mohali was the team of expert in this camp.

While addressing all present, DSP Ghanaur said that this is a noble initiative & every year this camp is conducted by Aryans Group of Colleges, he appreciated. He lauded the participants for their selfless contribution towards the society. He added that the group is regularly conducting many health care awareness drives and rally in nearby villages which is remarkable. A 7 members team of

blood transfusion from PGI, Chandigarh under the leadership of Dr. Ekta conducted a thorough medical checkup of voluntary donors and selected the eligible donors to donate blood. A 6 member team from Fortis Hospital conducted a free health check-up Camp.

Dr. Tejnoor & Dr. Ekta appreciated the special initiative taken by Aryans to provide health care services to meet the needs of the Indian population & also to meet the immediate health care needs of the marginalized community through this health camp. Dr. Priyanka & Dt. Gandhi also applauded Aryans for reaching out to the needy people with health solutions.

Dr. R.K. Uppal conferred upon MTC Global Chair Professor: Banking and Finance

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a prolific writer, a Man of Letters, a distinguished Professor of Emeritus, an acclaimed academician, a research stalwart, and the more ingenious guide has won accolades not only in the academic field but also in the genre of research.

Presently, he is serving in the most exalted institution, Baba Farid College of Management and Technology (Punjab), as a Professor-cum-Principal. He is also MTC Global Chair Professor: of Banking and Finance.

Dr. Uppal is also a Research Professor in the Area of Finance at the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi.

Dr. Uppal is an accomplished academician, a distinguished author, a collaborative researcher, and an effective mentor to young scholars.

He is also a frequent reviewer, discussant, and on session chair for several professional organizations. Truly, he is a visionary in the field of banking and finance, with exceptional theoretical and applied contributions to the subject.

He also published many national and International Patents based on his research.

Little did he know that this inclination towards a subject could ignite his passion in ways that would lead him to make global records.

Completing the Maximum Number of Major Post-Doctoral Research Projects on Banking and Finance, he has registered his name in the India Book of Records, Asia Book of Records, International Book of Records, and World Book of Records.

He completed his post-graduation and Ph.D. from Punjabi University, Patiala.

He is considered a master of professional academic work. Dr. Uppal observed that information technology (IT) is playing a key role in the development and modernization of banks in India. Information technology was also attaining new peaks every year in our country and all these developments were in conformation with the liberalization and globalization wave.

As a matter of fact, his research fervor and academic zeal primarily focus on banking and finance. He heralded a new era of a globally competitive Indian banking system. He authored/edited seventy-five books and among his prominent books are Indian Banking in the Globalized World-2013, Information

Technology in Banks- A New Gateway for Success-2018, E-Age Banking - A Future Outlook-2018, Banking with Technology- A New Vision 2020, Managing Transformation in Indian Banks Through E-Delivery Channels-2021 have won an array of laurels.

Many of his books are serving as text and reference books in many professional programs being run by Indian colleges and universities. Through his books, he envisaged the challenges and opportunities regarding the use of e-banking particularly in public sector banks.

He was instrumental in suggesting the reforms in banking and financial sector through e-technology. His prodigious research talent gave him leverage to write as many as two fifty-five research papers on banking and finance and since 2017 some of his research papers earned global recognition with Google Scholar citations such as 779, h-index 15, and i10 index 23.

He presented ninety-five research papers at different national and international conferences.

His claim as a researcher was never unfounded as eight of his research papers were lauded at different international conferences held in Hawaii, Indonesia, Finland, Costa Rica, Australia, London, and Pakistan respectively. His insatiable craving for research was a stimulant under the aegis of UGC and HRD.

As many as seven major post-doctorate research projects were funded by UGC, ICSSR, and HRD, New Delhi. He reciprocated successfully and harnessed his research skills with incredible finesse and ease. His able guidance inspired even many young teachers to wade into the ocean of research and he has guided several Ph. Ds and over five dozen M.Phil candidates.

Although it is not possible to circumscribe his comprehensive achievements into a finite space, the pile of his degrees and awards speaks volumes of his marvelous eruditeness.

His services were acknowledged at different forums from time to time. He was even awarded Honorary D.Litt by a reputed Business University, in Costa Rica in 2014. International Peace University awarded an honorary D.Litt 2019 and Nelson Mandela University, USA also awarded a Doctor of Letters to Dr. Uppal. The University of South America was also awarded an honorary D.Litt. International Journal; Pune conferred the Best Reviewer Award on him.

Stranded due to snowfall, Kulgam police helps pregnant woman for reaching hospital in time

Top News Report

KULGAM, Jan 31: A pregnant woman in labor pain who was stranded due to a heavy accumulation of snow was taken to hospital by Kulgam police on Wednesday.

A police official said, "We received a distress call from Mashkoor Ahmad Malik a resident of Humpathri, DK Marag, stated that his wife (pregnant) was stuck as being a far flung area and family members were unable to carry her to hospital at their own as she was suffering from irresistible pain and was in need of immediate medical attention".

"On tip off, a police party of Kulgam police headed by IC PC DK Marag rushed to the spot immediately and amid slippery roads due to recent snowfall, evacuated the lady to nearby hospital at DK Marag for medical treatment in official vehicle. As no ambulance service or any regular vehicle could be used to shift the lady to hos-



pital", he said.

Locals especially family members of the pregnant lady shifted to Hospital thanked and applauded the efforts of Kulgam Police for prompt response and timely assistance in such a crucial juncture.

Farooq, Omar express grief over demise of Sheikh Mohd Raza

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed profound grief and sorrow over the untimely demise of Sheikh Mohd Raza former Councillor Choskore Constituency LAHDC Kargil in a tragic road accident at Kargil who was last breath at Soura Hospital Srinagar Yesterday.

In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with other members of the family.

In their messages, General Secretary and former minister Haji Ali Mohd Sagar, Dr. Sheikh

Mustafa Kamaal and Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretaries also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

In this connection a condolence meeting was held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today Qamar Ali Akhona Additional General Secretary Ladakh and former minister, Nasir Aslam Wani Provincial President Kashmir, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu, Feroz Ahmed Khan former minister, Haji Haneefa Jan District President Kargil, Syed Ahmed Rizvi former MLC, Mubarak Sha Naqvi former executive councillor also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed Soul.

FROM PAGE 1

8 dead, 7 injured after vehicle plunges into gorge in Uri

several others injured.

A police official said a rescue operation was immediately launched at the site of the accident. He said the road had become slippery due to snowfall.

He said the injured have been shifted to GMC Baramulla for treatment. More details are awaited.

Security Forces recover ammunition, warlike store in Kupwara

UBGL shells, 4 IED receivers, 30 commercial grade detonators with their original factory packaging, 138 rounds of AK47, a loaded magazine of sniper rifle, blank rounds of AK 47 and 4 magazines of 9mm pistol.

Rs 2.64 Crore cash seized from car in Durg

failed to give a satisfactory reply about the money, it was seized, the official said.

The Income Tax department has been informed about the cash seizure, he said.

The questioning of the three persons is underway and further action will be taken accordingly, he added.

Jammu Police's 'Anti-Drug Cell' to launch crackdown against narcotic smugglers, dealers

average two to three cases of drugs are being registered in each police station that will be monitored in routine by the Cell teams.

SSP Jammu has formed an anti-drug cell to fight the menace, sources said and added, "The backward and forward links of the cases registered in Jammu district shall be investigated while dossiers are to be issued by the police stations under PIT

NDPS while exercise is also on cards to attach property of smugglers."

Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Vinod Kumar when contacted said, "A complete list of drug addicts and smugglers will be maintained in Jammu district and action shall be initiated against drug hotspots."

He said the list of smugglers who have been released from the jail in the last five years is also being prepared, adding, "The Cell will work jointly with police stations to aggressively fight against the narcotics related cases."

"The campaign against drug abuse is continuing and a roadmap is ready to curb the menace with the help of civil society members."

Bank Fraud | ED raids in J&K, Punjab, UP in Bharat Papers Ltd Case

allegations against the company are that its directors have perpetrated a bank loan fraud of about Rs 200 crore with a consortium of banks with lead bank as the State Bank of India.

The other banks include J&K Bank, PNB and Karur Vysya Bank.

It is alleged that the accused "siphoned off" funds to sister concerns/bogus entities and undertook sale of imported/indigenous machinery without permission of lender banks by raising "fake" invoices.

The directors of the Bharat Papers Limited are Rajinder Kumar, Parveen Kumar, Baljinder Singh, Anil Kumar, and Anil Kashyap.

KPDCL bans sale, purchase or use of nichrome coil-based crude gadgets

remarkable job in seizing these crude heating appliances from a vast majority of the consumers. However, it has been observed that after seizure, the consumers buy fresh Nichrome coil-based crude gadgets from the market where these are easily available, and revert to abuse of electricity, thereby nullifying your tireless

efforts put in," read the order.

In order to permanently remove the availability of Nichrome Coil based heaters, boilers and steamers from the markets, all sub-divisional officers of KPDCCL are hereby directed to implement the aforesaid Government order by circulating a copy of the same amongst the business outlets dealing in electrical equipment/items. They shall be advised not to procure and sell any Nichrome Coil based heating gadgets, failing which the same shall be seized, read the order further.

High Court issues notice on AAP's plea alleging fraud in Chandigarh Mayoral poll

under the supervision of a retired High Court judge.

In the petition, he alleged in complete departure of the practice and rules, the presiding officer refused to allow the nominees of parties to monitor the counting of votes.

"The presiding officer in most flimsy manner addressed to the House that he does not want any assistance from the members nominated by the parties contesting the election and he will count the vote himself. The voices were raised by the Aam Admi Party and the Congress but their requests were not heeded, but surprisingly the Deputy Commissioner and the prescribed authority, who was also in the same capacity in the last year's election, remained mum," the petition said.

India logs 133 fresh Covid-19 Cases

the peak cases reported in May 2021, official sources said.

A majority (around 92 per cent) of the total active cases are under home isolation, they said.

"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," the official source stated.

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.

According to the website, 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country.

Fresh snowfall in many higher areas of Kashmir

the Zojila axis on the Srinagar-Leh highway, the officials added.

The weather office has forecast a possibility of light to moderate rain/snow at many places in the Union Territory on Wednesday and Thursday, with chances of heavy snowfall over a few higher reaches in Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Shopian, Gulgam and Anantnag districts.

The weather would remain mainly dry with a possibility of very light snow at isolated higher reaches on February 2.

From February 3 to 4, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow in several places, following which the weather would remain dry till February 10.

The 40-day harsh winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' ended on Tuesday with no snowfall in the plains of Kashmir and below-normal precipitation in the higher reaches of the valley.

While there was light to moderate snowfall in the higher reaches of the valley at the fag-end of the 40-day period, most of the Chilla-i-Kalan — when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent — remained dry.

The valley witnessed a prolonged dry spell this winter, with no snowfall in the plains.

During the 40-day harsh winter period, a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies and water in

supply pipes.

The cold conditions continue in Kashmir even after the culmination of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' with a 20-day 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

Meanwhile, there was an improvement in the night temperature across the Kashmir valley. Srinagar city, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius — up from 0.8 degrees Celsius on the previous night. Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of 0.1 degrees Celsius, Qazigund 0.4 degrees Celsius, Kokernag minus 0.2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara 1.3 degrees Celsius. Gulmarg registered a low of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius — up from minus 6 degrees Celsius and was the coldest place in the valley.

Dense Fog shrouds Delhi, hampers flight, train operations; light rain likely

the same period was pegged at 6.2 degrees Celsius, the second lowest in 13 years, the data showed.

Meanwhile, the Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded in the 'very poor' category with a reading of 370 at 8 am. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

Kulgam police facilitates pregnant woman to hospital

slippery roads due to recent snowfall, evacuated the lady to nearby hospital at DK Marag for medical treatment in official vehicle.

"As no ambulance service or any regular vehicle could be used to shift the lady to hospital", an official said, adding that locals especially family members of the pregnant lady shifted to Hospital thanked and applauded the efforts of Kulgam Police for prompt response and timely assistance in such a crucial juncture.

Why is PayPal laying off 2,500 employees? January 2024 sees over 28,000 job cuts

The job cuts amount to 9 per cent of the global PayPal workforce

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): PayPal Holdings said it will lay off 2,500 employees from its global workforce this year, according to a letter sent by the payments firm's CEO Alex Chriss on January 30. This amounts to 9 per cent of the total number of PayPal employees.

Why is PayPal cutting 2,500 jobs?

Chriss said the layoffs were necessitated in order to 'right-size' its business and focus on automation. PayPal is also seeing diminished growth in its branded products amid pressure from rivals like Apple,



Block and Zelle. **What did PayPal CEO say?**

"Today, I am writing to share the difficult news that we will be reduc-

ing our global workforce by approximately 9 per cent through both direct reductions and the elimination of open roles over the course of

the year," Chriss stated.

"We are doing this to right-size our business, allowing us to move with the speed needed to

deliver for our customers and drive profitable growth.

At the same time, we will continue to invest in areas of the business we believe will create and accelerate growth," the CEO added.

28,963 job cuts in Jan 2024

January 2024 has seen at least 28,963 layoffs across 103 companies so far, according to layoffs.fyi.

These include tech giants such as Meta, Amazon, Google and Microsoft. Around 2,60,000 jobs were cut in the tech sector in 2023.

Equity markets bounce back after weak beginning ahead of Interim Budget 2024



MUMBAI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices began the day on a bearish note on Wednesday tracking weak Asian markets and fresh foreign fund outflows, but later recovered all the lost ground to trade in the green on buying in Reliance Industries.

Investors are eyeing the two important events lined up ahead -- the interim budget and the US Fed interest rate decision -- to derive further cues from.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 243.07 points to 70,896.83 in early deals. The Nifty also slipped 73.25 points to 21,448.85.

However, later both the benchmark equity indices recovered the early lost ground and were

trading in the green. The Sensex quoted 146.33 points up at 71,286.23, and the Nifty traded higher by 58.25 points to 21,580.35.

Among the Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro declined 5 per cent after its December quarter earnings.

Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Axis Bank and State Bank of India were among the other laggards.

Tata Motors, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading lower.

The US markets ended mostly down on Tuesday. The Nifty declined 215.50 points or 0.99 per cent to 21,522.10.

tonight and the interim budget tomorrow will weigh on markets in the near-term. Global markets will be keenly watching the Fed comment on the timeline and quantum of rate cuts," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.45 per cent to USD 82.50 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,970.52 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. The BSE benchmark fell by 801.67 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 71,139.90 on Tuesday. The Nifty declined 215.50 points or 0.99 per cent to 21,522.10.

Maruti Suzuki Q3 results: Profit jumps 33% to Rs 3,207 cr; stock rises 3%

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Maruti Suzuki India Ltd on Wednesday reported a 33 per cent jump in the consolidated net profit on a year-on-year (YoY) at Rs 3,206.8 crore for the quarter ended on December 31, 2023. The company had reported a net profit at Rs 2,406.1 crore in the year ago period.

Maruti's consolidated revenue from operations grew 14.4 per cent YoY to Rs 31,860 crore for the third quarter of the ongoing fiscal. The company's revenue from operations came in at Rs 27,849.2 crore in the year ago period. Ebitda for the Q3FY24 came in at Rs 3,908 crore for the quarter with margins coming in at 11.7 per cent.

Following the announcement of quarterly results, shares of Maruti Suzuki surged about 2.83 per cent to Rs 10239.70 on



Wednesday, commanding a total valuation of more than Rs 1.4 lakh crore. The scrip had settled at Rs 9957.25 in the previous trading session.

Maruti Suzuki sold a total of 5,01,207 vehicles during the quarter, said the company in its statement. "Despite the small car segment continuing to be subdued, the company registered sales of 429,422 units in the domestic market. It exported 71,785 cars, its highest-ever in any quarter," it added.

Maruti Suzuki clocked a net profit of Rs 9,331.6 crore for the nine months ended in December 31,

2023, surging 72 per cent YoY, compared to a year ago period where its net profit stood at Rs 5,425 crore. It reported a revenue from operations of Rs 98,240.3 crore, a growth of 20.3 per cent YoY, during the period under review.

Maruti sold a total of 15,51,292 units during the April-December 2023 period, up about 7 per cent YoY.

Sales in the domestic market stood at 13,46,965 units and exports at 2,04,327 units. The company recorded its highest-ever nine-monthly sales volume, net sales and net profit.

Adani Wilmar Q3 results: Net profit down 18% at Rs 201 crore YoY

MUMBAI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Adani Wilmar on Wednesday reported a 18.29 per cent drop in its year-on-year (YoY) consolidated net profit during the third-quarter of the ongoing financial year 2023-24 (Q3 FY24). The company's net profit came at Rs 201 crore as against Rs 246 crore in the same period last fiscal.

Revenue from operations fell 16.91 per cent to Rs 12,828 crore from Rs 15,438 crore in the year-ago period.

"Consumer demand in packaged staple foods stayed strong during the festive season of Q3. The branded products that comprises around 80 per cent of edible oils, foods and FMCG sale, grew faster than the overall sales in both segments.

Rural sales also stayed steady for us. Despite good volume growth, revenue is optically lower by 17 per cent YoY in Q3, as prod-

uct pricing has been lower during the year, in-line with lower raw-material costs," Adani Wilmar stated.

"Profitability of Bangladesh subsidiary continues to be in stress due to the local currency issues. Standalone EBITDA was higher at Rs 530 crore in Q3," it added.

Angshu Mallick, MD & CEO at Adani Wilmar, said, "We continued to witness the growth momentum in packaged staple foods driven by shift in consumer preferences for hygienic and quality products. The revenues from the branded products in the domestic market, under the food & FMCG segment have been growing at 40 per cent YoY in the past 9 quarters enabling us to close FY24 with an estimated Rs 5,000 crore of revenue in the segment."

The stock was last seen trading 0.89 per cent higher at Rs 360.85.

Can slashed import duties on mobile phone components translate to cheaper smartphones?

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): A day before the Interim Budget, the central government announced a reduction in import duties on mobile phone spare parts from 15% to 10%. As detailed in the Gazette released by the government on Tuesday, this lowered import duty applies to specific components such as battery covers, main lenses, back covers, and other mechanical

items crafted from plastic and metal.

Currently, only 15%-18% of the components are sourced locally, says Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Research.

As the majority of components are imported for assembly in India, by lowering import duty, mobile phone manufacturers can now obtain components at reduced cost. This could bring down the prices of

smartphones in the country, but manufacturers may not cut prices by a significant amount.

"Ideally, this should bring down the prices. On a quick look, components comprising 20-25% of BOM (bill of materials) now have 10% duty instead of the existing 15%. So, this should result in bringing down the costs," says Faisal Kawoosa, founder and Chief Analyst at Techarc.

6 Simple Ways to Reduce Your Risk of Heart Disease

NEW YORK, Jan 31 (Agencies): New research has found that more than half of US adults don't know heart disease is the leading cause of death.

51% of respondents in a 2023 Harris Poll survey conducted on behalf of the American Heart Association did not identify heart disease as the leading cause of death in the US.

This is despite the fact that it's been the leading cause of death for the past 100 years, claiming more lives than all forms of cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease combined. Only 49% of people named heart disease as the leading cause of death.

Meanwhile, 16% said they didn't know the leading cause, and 18% listed cancer as the top cause of death.

Heart disease is used to describe a range of conditions that affect the heart, including arrhythmia, atherosclerosis, cardiomyopathy, and congenital heart defects.

However, health experts say the follow-



ing are six simple ways you can help reduce your risk.

Knowing your risk can be an important first step in reducing it. Dr. Norman Lepor, cardiologist and director of the National Heart Institute, says physicians will look at several factors to determine your heart disease risk -- and you might like to consider these, too.

Your cholesterol levels, family history, and other risk factors like hypertension, diabetes, and smoking can all impact your heart disease risk.

"A simple and inexpensive test called a coronary calcium scan can further improve our ability to assess an individual's risk of coronary heart disease," Lepor

adds. It probably won't come as much of a surprise that eating well can reduce your risk of heart disease.

"A heart-healthy diet consists of whole and unprocessed foods such as whole grains, fruits, and vegetables," says Dr. Rohit Vupuluri, a double-board certified interventional cardiologist.

"Also vitally important is limiting saturated and trans fats, found in processed and deep fried foods"

The good news is you don't have to follow a "fancy" diet.

Lepor says a diet like the Mediterranean diet with healthy protein sources and relatively low carbohydrates is best.

How a walk in the great outdoors boosts attention and cognitive abilities

MUMBAI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Researchers from the University of Utah have provided scientific evidence that spending time in nature not only benefits the heart and soul but also enhances attention and cognitive abilities. Using electroencephalography (EEG) to measure brain activity, the research team found that a walk in nature stimulates certain executive control processes in the brain, going beyond the benefits associated with exercise alone. This study adds to the growing body of scientific literature that highlights the positive impact of natural settings on physical and mental health.

The research, led by Amy McDonnell and David Strayer, contributes to the emerging field of "Nature and Human Health," which aims to explore the relationship between nature and well-being. With the establishment of the Nature and Human Health Utah research group, the University of Utah is committed to addressing the human-nature divide and pro-

posing solutions to bridge this gap.

According to Strayer, the dense urban jungle that characterizes modern urban environments, with its constant distractions and technological advancements, is in stark contrast to the restorative environment that humans have evolved to connect with. This concept, known as biophilia, suggests that humans have a primal need for nature and that the diminishing access to natural environments poses a risk to our health.

The study by Strayer's Applied Cognition Lab conducted at Utah's Red Butte Garden involved 92 participants who underwent a 40-minute walk either through Red Butte, the lush arboretum in the foothills, or through the nearby asphalt-laden medical campus.

Prior to the walk, participants were subjected to a mentally draining cognitive task, followed by an attention task. The purpose was to deplete their attentional reserves before measuring their attentional capacity.

Eating Three Servings of Kimchi Daily Linked to Lower Risk of Obesity

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Eating up to three daily servings of kimchi could reduce men's risk of obesity. Also, radish kimchi is associated with a lower prevalence of abdominal obesity in both men and women, according to a new study.

Researchers looked at data from the Health Examinees (HEXA) study, which included 115,726 participants (36,756 men, 78,970 women who were 51 years old, on average). HEXA examines environmental and genetic risk factors for chronic health conditions among Korean adults over 40.

Participants answered a 106-item food frequency questionnaire, sharing how frequently they ate certain foods, from never to 3 times a day. Height, weight and waist circumference were also measured.

Results showed consuming as many as 3 daily servings of total kimchi was associated with an 11% lower prevalence of obesity compared with less than 1 daily serving.

For men, 3 or more daily servings of baechu



kimchi was linked to a 10% decreased prevalence of obesity and a 10% decreased prevalence of abdominal obesity compared to 1 serving.

For women, 2 to 3 daily servings of baechu kimchi (napa cabbage kimchi) was linked to an 8% decreased prevalence of obesity, whereas 1 to 2 servings each day was linked with a 6% lower prevalence of abdominal obesity.

In addition, consuming below-average quantities of kkakdugi kimchi (cubed radish kimchi) was associated with approximately a 9% lower likelihood of obesity in both men and women.

"This is an observational study, so it doesn't show that eating kimchi causes a reduction in

obesity risk," Samantha Cassetty, MS, RD, nutrition and wellness expert and co-author of Sugar Shock. "But it suggests a link between the two, which raises the possibility. It's in line with previous research with similar findings—that kimchi intake is associated with a lower risk of obesity and may help reduce body weight and waist size.

That said, the study was limited to Korean participants, so the association between kimchi and protection against obesity might not hold up in other populations."

Cassetty continued: "If you want to try this, it's healthy for most people, however, kimchi is high in sodium, and most people are already over-

Indian Cricketer Mayank Agarwal Files Police Complaint After Hospitalisation

Mayank Agarwal was rushed to a local hospital after falling ill just before his New Delhi-bound flight was about to take off.

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Out-of-favour India opener and current Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal was rushed to a local hospital after falling ill just before his New Delhi-bound flight was about to take off, an incident that shocked cricket fraternity as the player lodged an official police complaint alleging foul-play. He is believed to be out of danger after drinking from liquid from a pouch which he thought was water and was kept on his seat while travelling by IndiGo airlines. In fact, Agarwal lodged a formal complaint with the police through his manager. "Mayank Agarwal, an international cricketer. Now he is stable and his vitals are normal. But his manager has lodged a specific complaint under NCCPS (New Capital Complex Police Station) to investigate the matter," SP West Tripura Kiran Kumar told agency.

Asked about details, the top cop also said: "His manager said that when he was sitting in the airplane, there was a pouch in front of him. He drank a little bit not much but suddenly there was irritation in his mouth and suddenly he couldn't talk also and was brought to ILS hospital. He had swelling and ulcers in the mouth. Otherwise his vitals are stable."

State health secretary Kiran Gite added: "Police has admitted his complaint and we will investigate as to what hap-



pened. As per his manager, he will travel tomorrow to Bengaluru and meanwhile whatever best treatment is available in Agartala, we will provide him."

On behalf of ILS Hospital, manager, Business Development Manoj Kumar Debnath issued a press release, stating that the cricketer was "experiencing some oral irritation and swelling on his lips." "After being assessed by the consultants of the hospital in emergency, he was admitted. For now, he is clinically stable and is being constantly clinically monitored."

Agarwal, who has played 21 Tests for India, led Karnataka to a 29-run win against Tripura on Monday.

"He (Agarwal) is not in any kind of danger. He is under observation currently in a hospital at Agartala, and we will fly

him back to Bengaluru once we get an update from the doctors, which we are expecting tonight," a Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) official told agency on condition of anonymity.

However, Agarwal will not play the next Ranji Trophy game against Railways in Surat.

"He will not be playing in Karnataka's next match (against Railways at Surat from February 2). But other than that, there is no truth in any rumours going around. He is stable now, and we are in touch with doctors and other state officials," the official said.

Nikin Jose is expected to take over the team's captaincy in the next match as he is the designated vice-captain.

IndiGo issued a statement, which didn't elaborate the

reason for a medical emergency.

"IndiGo flight 6E 5177 operating from Agartala to Delhi returned to origin due to a medical emergency onboard. The passenger was off-loaded and was rushed to the hospital for further medical assistance. The aircraft took off again for its destination at 1620h," the airline said in its press release.

Agarwal, who scored 51 and 17 in the last game, was supposed to travel with the whole team to Surat via Delhi, when the incident happened. Karnataka are playing Railways in Surat in their next match.

"The team was on flight and apparently Agarwal started feeling uneasy and vomited a couple of times sitting on the flight. Since he started feeling sick, he de-boarded."

"From KSCA MR Shahvir Tarapore called and we quickly sent two of our representatives to the ILS hospital. He is under observation and we are told doctors are running some tests. Now there are multiple theories as to what he might have consumed," a Tripura Cricket Association official said on the condition of anonymity. He will fly back to Bengaluru the moment he is in a position to travel.

Multiple sources said that Agarwal probably mistook some other transparent liquid as water and drank it, after which he started feeling uneasy.

U-19 World Cup: Musheer brilliance

Batter excels again as India thump New Zealand by 214 runs



BLOEMFONTEIN, Jan 31 (Agencies): Musheer Khan's superlative batting in the ongoing ICC U-19 World Cup continued as his second hundred trampled New Zealand by 214 runs in a Super Six encounter here.

After Musheer's 131 backed by opener Adarsh Singh's 52 powered India to a huge total of 295/8, left-arm spinner Saurya Kumar Pandey (4/19) and pacer Raj Limbani (2/17) ripped apart New Zealand's top-order to bowl them out for a mere 81 in 28.1 over.

Limbani struck on the first and the fifth balls of New Zealand's innings to swing the momentum in India's way. Vice-captain Pandey finished with splendid figures of 10-2-19-4 as he knocked the stuffing out of the Black Caps.

Left reeling at 27/4 in the powerplay, New Zealand could never really stage a comeback as the Indian colts marched on.

For New Zealand, it was their third-heaviest defeat in terms of runs and also their third-lowest total at the U-19 World Cup stage.

Earlier, Musheer played New Zealand attack with his second century as India posted a 296-run target.

On a perfect batting wicket at the

Mangaung Oval, Musheer tore apart the Kiwis' bowling line-up to become the first batter in the current competition to breach the 300-run mark, going past Pakistan's Shoaib Khan with his stupendous effort.

En route his 131, Musheer struck 13 fours and three sixes off just 125 balls and showed admirable temperament to up the ante just when it was required.

The 18-year-old Musheer motored on from one end unleashing strokes in all directions, while he began with an upper-cut for a four.

His innings was spruced with fine running between the wickets and ended in the death overs when he was looking to accelerate.

Musheer and Adarsh carried out a fine recovery job with a 77-run stand for the second wicket after an early blow for India.

Adarsh took charge of attacking the bowlers as he looked good while driving on the rise and also played the pull-shot with elan.

It was only unfortunate that he failed to keep a drive in check when Zac Cumming (1/37) teased him with one outside off.

A thick edge off Adarsh's bat flew to Oliver Tewatiya at point in the 18th over, which ended the charge for the left-handed Indian opener who struck six fours in his knock.

There also was some disappointment in store for India captain Uday Saharan who failed to convert his start and was dismissed for 35 off 57 balls. He had two fifties on trot at the start of the tournament.

Saharan, nevertheless, did a fine job of consolidating the innings for his side, putting on 87 with Musheer which also happened to be the best stand for India in this game.

Brief scores: India U-19: 295/8 in 50 overs (Musheer 131, Adarsh 52, Uday 35; Clarke 4/64); New Zealand U-19: 81 in 28.1 overs (Oscar 19; Pandey 4/19, Limbani 2/17).

"Won't Be Afraid To...": Brendon McCullum Hints At Big Gamble Against India In 2nd Test

VISAKHAPATNAM, Jan 31 (Agencies): Tom Hartley has not only won the opening Test for England but more importantly dented the psyche of the Indian batters, who might have to face an all-spin attack in the second Test starting on Friday. England beat India by 28 runs in the opening Test with debutant Tom Hartley bagging seven in the second innings having gone for plenty in the first. McCullum is eagerly waiting to have a look at the track and judge how it would behave. Although traditionally a high-scoring ground, it has seen domination by the spinners lately, deeming that the conditions are likely to suit the latter.

On the same note, McCullum warned that if the pitch indeed favours the spinners, the Three Lions would not be afraid to field an all-spin attack, hinting that uncapped spinner Shoaib Bashir, who missed out on Hyderabad due to visa delay, could be handed his debut. However senior-most spinner Jack Leach's knee injury will be a concern.

However in Hartley, Joe Root, Rehan Ahmed and Shoaib Bashir, he would still have four spinners and he can replace Mark Wood with an extra batter.

"If the wickets continue to spin as much as what we saw in the first Test as the series goes on, look, we won't be afraid to play all spinners or a balance of what we've got," the former New Zealand skipper was quoted as saying to SEN Radio.

"Bash (Bashir), he was obviously with us during our camp in Abu Dhabi, and he really impressed with his skill set. He fitted in seamlessly within the group, and he's a guy who's got an immense amount of enthusiasm, albeit at a young age and pretty limited in his first-class experience." "When he arrived, boys gave him a huge cheer, and he got to witness something pretty special with the fellas bowling us to a Test win. He comes into calculations for the next Test match," added McCullum.

McCullum was all praise for the manner in which Ben Stokes handled a relatively inexperienced spin attack with such ease.

Hartley managed to grab nine wickets in his debut Test, including mesmerising figures of seven for 62 in the second innings.

Although the 24-year-old was hammered for 131 in the first innings, especially by young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, he overcame the obstacles in



the subsequent innings, as McCullum believes that allowing him to play with freedom was a real sign of leadership from Stokes.

"He's only played a handful of first-class games and was probably a bit of a punt, selection-wise. But, we saw something in him that we thought would work over there, and he's a tough character." "The way that the skipper handled him was quite remarkable, and he obviously brought us to a Test win. I thought that was a real sign of leadership."

"It was a clear message to not just Tom, but those that are around the squad, that when we talk about freedom, taking the game on and trying to come in and make a difference, you're not going to be cast aside or taken off the crease from the first sign of danger."

"I thought it was a magnificent decision by the skipper to do that. And, I think it allowed Tom to feel like he belonged and he knew what his role was." McCullum also admitted that the selection of Hartley did raise some eyebrows, especially since he had only 40 First-Class wickets in his kitty in 20 outings.

But, he also quickly drew reference to veteran Australian spinner Nathan Lyon, who too was selected on a similar basis before heading to become a vital cog in the Aussie spin department.

"Let's not forget - and I think this is quite a pertinent point - but Nathan Lyon had only played a handful of first-class games and averaged 40-odd when he first got picked for Australia." "When you see guys you think are good enough and who you think are going to suit the conditions, it's sort of horses for courses. You've got to back your judgement."

"Sometimes, you've got to be a little bit brave with selections. If you like a character and you like their skill set, and you think it can be suited to conditions, then it's kind of an educated punt," the coach signed off.

Pakistan must have one captain for all formats: Shahid Afridi urges PCB to appoint skipper for at least 3 years

ISLAMABAD, Jan 31 (Agencies): Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has made a strong case for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to adopt a policy of having a single captain across all formats of the game. Afridi's latest remarks come in light of recent changes in the leadership structure of the national team, where Babar Azam stepped down as captain of all formats after the team's underperformance at the ODI World Cup.

Subsequently, Shan Masood and Shaheen Shah Afridi were appointed as Test and



T20I captains, respectively. Afridi believes that having one captain would prevent internal conflicts over the captaincy and provide clear leadership within the team. He believes that this approach would also send a clear message to

the players about who is in charge.

"The PCB must have one captain for all formats and there is no need to have a vice-captain. This will give a clear message to all players who is in charge," Afridi told reporters.

Moreover, Afridi supports the idea of giving the captain and team management three-year contracts to ensure stability and allow them time to develop the team without the pressure of short-term results.

"If you think Muhammad Hafeez is good then don't just judge him on one series give him proper time and the same should apply to the captain as well he should be there for three years."

Afridi emphasized the importance of continuity and confidence amongst the players, especially in the lead-up to the World

T20 Cup. The 46-year-old suggested that the current T20 squad should be given a long run to prepare for the upcoming tournament.

"The World T20 Cup is going to be a very tough tournament this year with some very strong teams in the hunt for the title. I also don't think this is the time to make any changes in the format squad," he said.

"We just need to continue with the same group of players and give them confidence. But yes I would like to see Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub open the batting in T20s," he said.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah reappointed as chairman of Asian Cricket Council, set for third term as ACC chief



NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Indian cricket board (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah will continue to head the Asian Cricket Council. His reappointment as the continental body's chief was unanimously agreed upon during the ACC Annual General Meeting in Bali on Wednesday, January 31.

Jay Shah was appointed as the president of the Asian Cricket Council for the first time in 2021 when he replaced Nazmul Hassan in January that year. His tenure as the ACC president was extended until 2024 January. At 32 in 2021, Jay Shah had become the youngest administrator to take over the ACC chief role.

Jay Shah will continue to serve as the ACC chief for another two years. He served out his first two-year term in 2021-22 and was reappointed as the ACC chief in 2023.

Virat Kohli's brother Vikas rubbishes rumours about mother's health: Mom is absolutely fine

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Star Indian cricketer Virat Kohli's elder brother, Vikas Kohli, took to Instagram to dismiss rumours concerning their mother Saroj Kohli's health while urging fans to not spread fake news without proper information. There were rumors suggesting that Virat Kohli sought a break from the first two Tests against England due to his mother's illness.

Virat Kohli withdrew from the first two Tests of the ongoing 5-match series between India and England, citing personal reasons.

The star batter missed the first Test, which India lost by 28 runs after England fought back from behind in Hyderabad.

mom is absolutely fit and fine. Also I would request everyone and also the media, not to spread such news without proper information. Thanks everyone for your concern," Vikas wrote on his Instagram story.

Notably, it was initially rumored that Kohli requested a break from the first two Tests against England due to his mother's illness. However, there were no official updates confirming this reason.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had urged fans and media to respect Kohli's privacy and refrain from speculating about the nature of his reasons for withdrawing from the first two matches of the five-Test series against England.

There is no clarity on whether Virat Kohli would return to the squad for the last three

Tests of the series. The BCCI selection committee will pick the squad for the last three matches in the coming days.

Notably, India suffered a major setback when KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja were ruled out of the 2nd Test, starting February 2 in Vizag. India will miss three of their finest batters in the line-up as they look to fightback against a confident England side.

India certainly missed Virat Kohli's presence on the field in the first Test as they let a 190-run lead slip in Hyderabad. Notably, former England captain Michael Vaughan said earlier in the week that India wouldn't have lost had Virat Kohli led the side. The star batter quit as Test captain in 2022, but his energy on the field has made life difficult for oppositions even after his descendancy from the leadership position.

KDP Wing of DPAP demands permanent solution for PM package employees

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: The Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of Democratic Progressive Azad Party in a joint statement issued through its President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita and General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku and others have put forth the demands regarding vanishing of all sufferings being faced by P.M.Package Employees with treatment of step motherly criteria being rightful citizens of J&K.

The status of P.M.Package Employees requires to be brought under cadre at par with state/ U.T.Cader, including Promoted people,with ambit of U.T. exchequre budget,as these employees are

serving in Valley in different cadres giving a regular service to the people of Valley,so that the felt disparity among employees breathing is removed,as the U.T. Employees /Officers treat P.M Package employees always with step Motherly behaviour, besides release of pending promotions in all departments require to be cleared.

The SRO 43 Cases for P.M.Package employees require to be preferred at Par with U.T.Government Rules. The Promotions/ Time bond promotions of P.M.Package employees require to be regularised at par with U. T.Govt.employees, including creation of their budgetary funds from U.T. Govt.Exchequer.

Transfer of

P.M.Package employees to suitable places on medical/life consuming grounds,where they can be available medical facilities at any time. Earliest accomodation in Transit Camps require to made in favour of disabled, suffering from life consuming disease, widow, divorced singly women P.M.Package employees require priority besides till then a house rent for employees on rent require to be paid as the HRA amount does not suffice being rent of private accomodations on unaffordable basis especially for class IV.

The exemption of Bio Metric Attendances is the top requirement of P.M.Package employees,as on any security alert these employees are advised by Concerned Police

Stations to remain inside their residences,while on the otherside their offices compel them to strictly adhere to Bio Metric Attendances.

Creation of Employment avenues for displaced people in valley on special basis with creation of two Kashmiri Hindu Low educated youth of Displaced people,as well as among the youth of Hindus still living in Valley is required to be given a priority with a view to pave a efficient passage for displaced people as a diversion of resettlement and rehabilitation back in valley as no displaced people is happy to remain outside valley.

The Leaders have demanded that the Govt.of India as well as U.T.Govt. may at an earliest to constitute an

Independent Committee of Authorised Govt. Dignities,with inclusion of Nominated Displaced People,and few Civil Society Members of Valley Majority Community to assess the open spot situation of displaced people in Jammu Migrant Camps,as well as in Transit Camps of Valley for preparation of a white paper with recommendations of a road map for our resettlement, rehabilitation policy back in Valley,as was recommended by a Parliamentary Committee during 2009,lead by Smt.Sushma Swaraj, if the Govt.at Centre/ U.T.is sincere to find out our Rehabilitation policy, thereby using the process of leaving our displacement on each political electioneering platform,exercised since last 34 Years.

Rajesh Gupta appeals LG to give priority to health sector

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K UT General Secretary Rajesh Gupta showed great concern on the pathetic condition of patients admitted in Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital Jammu. He lambasted on concern health department.BSP leader said this on Wednesday in an interview with a local channel.

Gupta said the patients are suffering badly, as due to acute crisis of beds two or three patients are bound to share one bed. Moreover, the condition of Labour Room and Neonatal ICU is also worst.

One can always see more than one patient on a bed because sharing bed has become a compulsion here in SMGS Hospital, which is the biggest hospital

of Jammu region and is known for its infrastructure and facilities in the adjoining districts but nowadays almost in every ward you can see lack of infrastructure and facilities, Gupta said.

Gupta further said though there is huge rush of patients in every ward but the most suffering patients are of maternity wards where two or three patients have to adjust on a single bed that too with their new born babies.

Same is the condition in pediatrics wards where one cannot find a single bed with one patient. On each bed, there are at least two patients that too suffering from separate diseases. In such a situation the chances of infection reaches to its peak, Gupta added.

Gupta maintained and said that the condition

of Labour Room is also pathetic where there is no room for cleanliness. There is no care of patients in Labour Room.

Leaving the patients to cry in pain for hours, the nursing staff and junior doctors remain busy in gossips.

Moreover, the nursing staff abuses the patients and shouts at them whenever they call them for help, he said adding that the bed sheets are not changed timely and the new patients are asked to lay on the dirty and blood stained bed sheets.

"Senior doctors seldom visit there due to which nurses and junior doctors remains negligent," he added.

Rajesh appealed to LG Manoj Sinha to give priority to health sector and visit physically and see the condition of hospitals.

Climber Shivani shines in 4th Tata Steel Sport Climbing C'ship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: Shivani Charak, an ace sport climber of J&K, added two more medals to her Kitty by winning a Silver medal in Speed Climbing and a Bronze medal in Speed Relay on the last day of the 4th Tata Steel Sport Climbing Championship organised by Tata Steel Adventure Foundation at TSAF Sport Climbing Training Centre, Bistupur, Jamshedpur from January 26 to 29, 2024. Shivani had bagged a Gold medal in Lead climbing & Bouldering (Combined) on the first day of the competition. She was honoured with a total cash prize of Rs. 33000 for the three medals.

Meanwhile, members



of the Mountaineering Association of J&K led by Zorawar Singh Jamwal, President; Ram Khajuria, Sr. Vice President; Shawetica Khajuria, General Secretary and Rahul Sharma, Chairman of Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Jammu have congratulated Shivani for the splendid feat in the Tata Steel Competition, the biggest Sport Climbing Competition

in India which carried a total prize money to the tune of Rs.6.50 lakh. Now, Shivani Charak, a cancer survivor who is the top ranked sport climber of India shall proceed to Pune where she has been invited as a Guest of Honour for UMEED Cancer Support Forum Marathon-"Umeed KiRun", to be held at Pune on 4th February, on the occasion of World Cancer Day.

Lecture on 'History of Education' organized at GDC Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 31: GDC Kathua is organising a series of interdisciplinary lectures to enhance the knowledge of the students.

Under this initiative, Department of Education on Wednesday organised a lecture on the theme-History of Education.

The programme started with formal welcome address by Head Department of Education Dr Ram Singh.

The lecture was delivered by resource person Prof Manmohan Singh Head Department of History, GDC Kathua.

In his lecture, he threw light on the history of educational tradition since ancient times to upto Post Independence period included

New Education Policy. He apprised the students about the changes which were brought in educational system from time to time.

He elaborated the contribution of Vedic people, medieval rulers and Britishers in the establishment of educational set up.

He also highlighted the contribution of post independence Governments for widening the area of education in quality and accessibility of education in Indian society.

He also appealed the students to utilise your knowledge for the development of society as well as nation.

He further appealed them to share your knowledge with the society and promote the theme of each one teach one.

KSJ incorporates more youth for the welfare of entire district



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: Kishwar Sangathan Jammu (KSJ) has decided to incorporate more and more youth within the ambit of the organisation for the welfare and betterment of the entire Kishtwar district.

This was decided in an Annual General Meet (AGM) of the Sangathan, held at Amar Singh Club here.

The meeting also decided to reach maximum people of Kishtwar living in Jammu to continue for the welfare of the people of the district, especially those who are downtrodden and need help in various spheres including education, health etc.

Meeting was presided over by Er G C Parihar as chief guest and Mahesh Sharma, Ram Sevak Aryan and Er

Jagmohan Sharma as guests of honour.

The Sangathan, a self funded society, was formed in December 2020 and got registered with the Registrar of Societies J&K UT in June 2023.

The proceedings of the meeting were diligently managed by Sudhir Singh Rana and Capt Hem Raj Thakur Speaking on the occasion, B L Sharma Vice President of the Sangathan, explained overall working of the Sangathan in his opening address.

While speaking on the occasion, Chairman of KSJ Ashok Kumar Sen presented overall gist of activities which the Sangathan has organised from its inception in 2020 to till date.

He also sought support of youth to further strengthen the Sanga-

than in near future.

The President of the Sangathan, Rajinder Singh Sen narrated his views for new programs as well as ways and means for improvement in working of the Sangathan.

He also briefed the members about each and every program which the KSJ is conducting at present and new activities to be taken up in future.

The House was also opened for the suggestions from the participants. Many members gave their valuable suggestions.

The members who spoke on the occasion included Shamsher Singh Parihar, Ashok Sharma, Ajit Sharma, Vanshaj Sharma and Advocate Nitin Parihar.

Oath taking ceremony was held to the newly elected body.

JMC fails to develop Nanak Nagar under Smart City Project, says Manjit Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 31: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Wednesday conducted a tour of Nanak Nagar falling under Bahu Constituency in District Jammu.

As per the press release, the former Minister was accompanied by other Party leaders from Jammu.

During the tour, he was accompanied by large numbers of local people who showed the damaged lanes and choked drains in their locality at sector 6 in Nanak Nagar.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the work being done by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), the locals raised issues of slow pace of development and poor cleanliness in their locality.

While speaking on the occasion, Manjit Singh assured them that he



would highlight their issues before the concerned authorities so that the pending / damaged work is completed within a stipulated time frame.

The Former Minister said that it was unfortunate to see the heaps of garbage on the roadside and unclean lanes.

"The JMC claims that they have converted Jammu into a Smart City with no flaws, but one can witness that the lanes here in Nanak Nagar's sector 6 are in shabby condition and the scattered garbage," he said.

He said that similar issues were raised

by the people in other areas of Jammu Municipal limits where the authorities which have responsibility to keep the city and its residential areas clean and provide basic amenities have failed completely.

He further pointed towards the damaged electric poles and mounted live wires on them in sector number 6 where the residents were worried for their lives, especially children.

"These electric poles should be replaced immediately by Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) with new poles

and the live wires should also be replaced in the wake of visible threat to the lives of the residents," he added.

Although some development can be seen in some of the areas, he said, it appears the developmental projects are implemented in a selective manner to appease a political party and ignore the larger chunk of population.

Following the tour, Manjit Singh chaired a meeting with the people including the Party leaders to discuss the developmental and other issues.

He stated further that the people assured that they would support the Party in upcoming elections, and its candidate because they feel betrayed by the other traditional political parties who used them as vote banks and did nothing for them.

"The failure of political representatives has

brought misery for the people of Jammu. The people are understood, and they know who to support and who to ignore in the coming assembly and parliamentary elections," he said, while denouncing the divisive policies to gain votes by exploiting the people emotionally in both the regions.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include Provincial Vice President, Women Wing, Neelam Gupta, Senior Vice President, Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, District President Minority Wing, Jammu, Dalbir Singh, Provincial Secretary Women Wing, Sheetal Sharma, Provincial General Secretary, Legal Cell, Kuldeep Sudan, District Secretary Jammu Urban, Vishal Jotshi, Provincial General Secretary, Transport Union, Yash Chowdhury, Incharge Ward no. 43, Ravinder Kour and others.

Sonali Sharma qualifies PhD

Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 31: Sonali Sharma, Research Student, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Mathematics.

Sonali worked on the topic, "A study of difference sequence spaces and their Characteristics", under the supervision of Dr. Kuldeep Raj, Faculty, School of Mathematics, SMVDU.

During her Ph.D., she has published research work in SCIE and Scopus indexed International Journals of repute and presented papers at international and national conferences. The researcher has expressed her gratitude



to her parents and SMVD University for providing all facilities and necessary support.