

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Vehicular movement on Srinagar-Jammu highway partially restored

SRINAGAR, Feb 2 (Agencies): Authorities on Friday restored vehicular movement on Srinagar-Jammu national highway after it remained closed for two days due to bad weather. Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police informed that stranded vehicles on the highway are being cleared, and advised commuters to drive with cautiously. "Traffic update at 1500 hrs. Jammu Srinagar NHW partially restored, stranded vehicles are being cleared. Commuters are advised to drive with cautiously, as part of road near Sherbibi is single lane & also slippery at a number of places," J&K Traffic Police in a post on X said.

Extreme cold wave hits parts of Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 2 (Agencies): A day after snowfall, an extreme cold wave hit several parts of Kashmir, with Larnoo in Anantnag district recording minus 17.7 degrees Celsius.

Officials said the night temperature witnessed a record drop in February all across the Kashmir valley on Friday.

The tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam recorded lows of -12.0°C and -11.9°C, respectively, after receiving snowfall during the past few days, triggering an extreme cold wave, officials said.

Meteorological Centre Srinagar said that the minimum temperature was 4.4°C below normal of -7.6°C at the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday.

This was the second-lowest minimum temperature recorded at Gulmarg during February in the past 2 years. On February 12, 2023, the minimum temperature at Gulmarg was recorded at -13.5°C. Gulmarg also received 10.8 mm of rainfall and 1.2 cm of snowfall during the past 24 hours.

Similarly, the tourist hotspot of Pahalgam in South Kashmir witnessed a record low of

BTech student dies by suicide, 3rd case from Kota in 10 days



KOTA (Rajasthan), Feb 2 (Agencies): A final year B.Tech student allegedly died by suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan in his paying guest room in Rajasthan's Kota, police said on Friday.

Noor Mohammed (27)

took the extreme step sometime on Wednesday but his body was recovered from his room in Vigyan Nagar area on Thursday night. No suicide note was recovered, they said.

A native of Uttar

Pradesh's Gonda, Mohammed was pursuing a B.Tech degree from SRM University, Chennai and lived as a paying guest here.

DSP (Vigyan Nagar) Dharmveer Singh said Mohammed studied in coaching institutes in Kota to prepare for the entrance exam from 2016 to 2019 and after being admitted to SRM University, he used to take online classes from his Kota PG.

He likely hanged himself from a ceiling fan using a bed sheet on Wednesday. A mess

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Avalanche warning issued for eight J&K districts

SRINAGAR, Feb 2 (Agencies): Authorities on Friday issued low and medium danger level avalanche warnings for eight districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

People in this regard have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further directions.

J&K Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) in a statement said that avalanche with LOW Danger Level is

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DGP Swain calls for strict action against drug traffickers in J&K



JAMMU, Feb 2 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police Director General of Police R R Swain has called for a strict and well-planned action against the criminals involved in drug ped-

dling in the Union Territory.

"The (narcotic) trade is extremely dangerous, as it not only destroys the younger generation but also being used to generate funds to sup-

port terrorist activities," Swain said, addressing a monthly crime review meeting here on Thursday.

He directed the officers to take strict and well-planned action against the criminals involved in the drug trade.

The DGP also directed them to maintain the record of drug peddlers as well as of drug consumers so that action is initiated in a more comprehensive manner, a police spokesperson said.

Swain impressed upon the officers to make a

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Fill potholes, eradicate overloading to prevent accidents: Div com tells DCs

SRINAGAR, Feb 2 (Agencies): The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri reviewed the post-snowfall situation in all the districts of Kashmir by taking stock of snow clearance on main roads and inner links besides those leading to major installations and tourism places.

At the outset, the Div Com took strong note of the Boniyar accident that resulted in loss of precious lives and injuries to others. He directed DCs to take stringent action against overloading and get potholes filled to prevent accidents.

He also made it clear that no such accident should happen in future. The Div Com also took stock of essential supplies, services, power and water supply scenarios, especially in far-off places including Sonmarg, Gurez, Tangdhar and



Karnah and Passes besides medical facilities in hospitals.

All the District heads informed the chair that all the major roads have been cleared of snow while inner links shall be cleared by Thursday evening. It was informed that except for a few issues, power supply is smooth and in case of

outages the same shall be restored by Thursday evening.

The District heads also assured that all the services, water supply are smooth besides there is no dearth of essential supplies. Meanwhile, the Div Com also convened a meeting, to review progress on Transit Accommodation for PM Package Employees.

The meeting also discussed the construction of boundary walls of these accommodations; it was informed that some of the accommodations are without boundary walling raising security concerns. The Div Com directed the concerned to erect temporary walling of accommodations wherever funds are not available yet, and construct boundary walls where funds have been allocated.

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Custodial Death | Two Police officials suspended, SHO attached to DPL



JAMMU, Feb 2 (Agencies): Police on Friday said that two police officials were suspended while as Station House Officer was attached after a person died in mysterious condition in custody in Jammu district.

Police said that the incident of custodial death occurred on 31.01.2024 at P/S Gandhi Nagar.

The deceased has been identified as Sahil Saini S/o Romesh Saini R/o Nagri, Kathua who was arrested in case FIR No. 20/2024 u/s 457/380 IPC of P/S Gandhi

Nagar, Jammu on 30.01.2024 and was on four days Police remand as per the order of Learned 3rd Additional Munsiff Court, Jammu, a police handout issued here said.

The police spokesman further stated that district Police Jammu suspended two officials and attached SHO Gandhi nagar to DPL, showing its commitment to a thorough and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. The District Magistrate Jammu has been requested for

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39 drug peddlers held, 24 cases registered under NDPS Act in Baramulla in January 2024: Police

SRINAGAR, Feb 2 (Agencies): Continuing its action against drug menace, Police have registered 24 cases under NDPS act, arrested 39 drug peddlers which include 3 hard-core drug peddlers who have been booked under PIT NDPS PSA in North Kashmir's Baramulla district during the month of January-2024. Police have also recovered contraband substances worth lacs (value of contraband in black market).

It is pertinent to mention here that the concerted efforts of the Baramulla Police have yielded a notable reduction in drug peddling

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'Terror-Funding': SIA raids five locations in Delhi, Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 2 (Agencies): The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Friday raided five locations in Summer capital Srinagar and Delhi in connection with investigation of a terror funding case.

A top official told Srinagar based news agency Kashmir Dot Com that SIA is conducting raids at two locations



in Srinagar. The raids are being conducted at

Saidapora Eidgah and Ahmadnagar area.

In Delhi, the agency is conducting searches at three locations, he said.

The case pertains to illegal raising, layering and laundering of illegal proceeds of crime by the accused persons which subsequently might have been used in unlawful activities

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Snowfall in Rajouri brings joy to tourists, farmers; road closures impact connectivity

RAJOURI, Feb 2 (Agencies): The Pirpanjal region in Rajouri District witnessed snowfall on Friday bringing smiles to the faces of tourists and farmers.

After a prolonged dry spell, higher reaches of the mountains in Rajouri District experienced snowfall, while lower areas received much-needed rainfall.

Tourists are now flocking to popular spots like DKG Dehra ki Galli and Manyal Galli in the Thanna Mandi Tehsil.

Najmul Hassan Dar, a teacher at Government Higher Secondary School in Maniyal, expressed delight at the long-awaited snowfall.

"Today, after many days, we got to see this snowfall, and we are enjoying it a lot. There are also tourist spots here. The winter season was devoid of rain and snow this time, so after a long wait, it has finally snowed today, and everyone is enjoying it. Along with that, it will be beneficial for

agriculture and horticulture due to this snow and rain. The roads were covered with snow today, so we walked half the way, and even children joined us. It's quite cold," Najmul Hassan Dar said.

Tahira Shamim Khan, a teacher from Manayal School, highlighted the challenges faced in reaching the school, walking 6-7 km due to road closures.

"After a long time, we got to see snow, especially since the winter months

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CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

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

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform about the sad demise of our beloved daughter **Akshna Mahajan (Mahi)** D/o Atun Khargal (AG Office) and Saniya Mahajan R/o Kote Bhalwal who left for her heavenly abode on 22nd January 2024.

Kriya will be performed on 03rd of February 2024 at 12.00 Noon at our residence at Village Kote.

Uthala will be performed on 3rd of February 2024 at 3.00 PM to 4 PM at our residence at Village Kote.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Dada and Dadi)
Narinder Kumar Gupta (Retd Excise Inspector) and Vijay Laxmi Virender Gupta and Asha Gupta (Nana and Nani)
Anshul Khargal and Geetika Gupta (Taya and Tai)
Ajay Vaid and Anjana Vaid (Fufad and Bua)
Rakesh Gupta and Neha Gupta (Fufad and Bua)
Varun Gupta and Radha Gupta (Mama and Mami)

Ardh Sainik Canteen Nardani Raipur Anand Travels
9419195956, 9419272850, 9419237888



Akshna Mahajan (Mahi)
02-01-2012 to 22-01-2024

10TH DAY /KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Payre Lal Fotedar S/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Fotedar** originally from Martand Mattan Anantnag Kashmir on 31st Jan 2024, presently at 40 B Pocket 6, DDA MIG Flats Mayur Vihar Phase 3 Delhi.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on Friday 9th February 2024 at 10:30 am at Murad Nagar Ghaziabad UP.

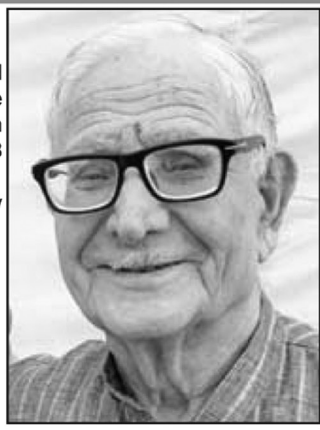
Grief Stricken

Dr. Shailee & Dr. Vikas Fotedar (Daughter in law & Son)
Smt. Shanoo & Sh. Rahul Fotedar (Daughter in law and Son)
Smt. Kishni and Sh. T.N Pandita (Sister and Brother in law)
Sh. Uday Nath Fotedar (Brother)
Smt. Santosh Fotedar (Bhabhi)
Smt. Lalita Fotedar (Bhabhi)
Smt. Basanti ji & Sh. Ashok Fotedar (Bhabhi and Brother)
Smt. Sweets ji & Sh. Vijay Fotedar (Bhabhi and Brother)

Grand Children

Bhavik Fotedar and Divya Fotedar

Phone Nos.: 9418490779, 7018527071, 9312091678, 8082024370



Dr. Payre Lal Fotedar

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 Feb 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

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved **Sdr. Trilok Singh Batra, (T.S. BATRA)** Retired Principal of Institute of Music and Fine Arts, R/o 270, 35/1A, Saraswati Lane, Bohri, Talab Tillo, Jammu-180002, J&K left for heavenly abode on 27-01-2024.

Bhog and Antim Ardhas will be performed as per following programme:

Arambh Shri Akhand Path at our residence on Friday, 2-2-2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Bhog Shri Akhand Path at our residence on Sunday, 4-2-2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Antim Ardhas will be performed at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, near Govt. Boys School, Camp Gole Gujral, Jammu, 180002 on Sunday, 4-2-2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Followed by Guru Ka Langar**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Sdr. Satnam Kaur (Wife)
Sdr. Kamleshwar Singh (Son)
Sdr. Balbir Singh Batra (Brother)
and all Family Members, Relatives, Friends, Near & Dears

CONTACT NO: 9810316649 6005038006 9419130268



Trilok Singh Batra, (T.S. BATRA)

KRIYA AND UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that **Sh. Inder Mohan Bakshi, SSP (Retd) J&K Police** left for his heavenly abode on Saturday 27th January, 2024. **Kriya** will be performed on Monday 5th February, 2024 at our residence H.No.166, Old Rehari, Jammu at 12.00 Noon.

Rasam Pagri & Uthala will be performed on Monday 5th February, 2024 at "Celebration Banquet" Marble Market Jammu from 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM.

IN GRIEF:-

Son & Daughter-in-law
Mr. Rajesh Bakshi (Chief Prosecuting Officer ACB, JKPS) & Mrs. Vidushi Bakshi (Govt. Teacher)

Daughters & Sons-in-law
Mrs. Nivedita Nayyar & Mr. Sunjay Nayyar
Mrs. Shivani Viridi & Mr. Sunil Viridi
Mrs. Verna Arora & Mr. Som Arora
Dr. Sweera Kumar W/o Late Dr. Ashutosh Kumar - **Sister**

Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh. Chandar Mohan Bakshi (retd. DySP JKP) & Sunil Vinod Bakshi

Smt. Alka Bakshi W/o Late Sh. Sunil Bakshi (Ex. Agriculture Officer) - **Daughter-in-law**

Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Mrs. Samridhi Surana & Mr. Nitesh Surana

Grand Children: Siddhant, Vanshika, Aryamann, Vedika, Ananditta

Verdan, Yashasvi, Vidwan

Relatives & Friends
9419116333, 9419210965



SH. INDER MOHAN BAKSHI SSP (Retd) J&K Police
15th Aug 1938 - 27th January 2024

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform that my father **Karamyogi Sh Chuni Lal Bindroo S/o Late Sh Govind Ram Bindroo R/o Mohalla Ramghat, Tehsil Baramulla Kashmir** presently at H.No. 112/A, Lane No. 4 Anand Nagar Bohri Jmu. attained Nirwan on 26-1-2024 peacefully at Baroda Gujarat.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnor Ghat on 4th Feb. (Sunday) and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 10.30 AM.

Grief Stricken

Smt Phoola Ji Bindroo -**Wife**

Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh Sanjay Bindroo & Sindhu Bindroo

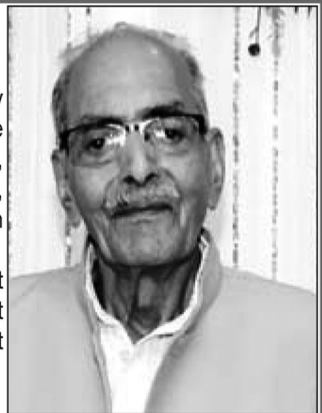
Koushik Bindroo -**Son**

Ayushi Bindroo -**Grand Daughter**

Smt Kiranji & Raj Nath Shah -**Daughter & Son-in-law**

SAMAST BINDROO, SHAH, ZUTSHI PARIWAR

Contact: 9909978861, 7006454825



Karamyogi Sh Chuni Lal Bindroo

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform that **Smt Indrawati Koul W/o Late Sh Bishembar Nath Koul** originally resident of Jogi Lanker Rainawari Srinagar presently at H No. 67 Lane No. 5 Bata Nagar Jammu attained nirwan on 31st Jan Wednesday 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Mata Baderkali Mandir Thalwal Jammu on 9th Feb Friday. **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 11:00 am.

Grief Stricken

Smt Krishna Koul W/o Late P K Koul (Daughter in law)
Surinder Koul and Smt Babli Koul (Son and Daughter in law)

Daughters and Son in laws

Rani Tickoo W/o Late P N Tickoo

Sharika Kantroo W/o Late B L Kantroo

Basanti Waffa W/o Sh J L Waffa

Prabha Kak W/o Late T K Kak

Veena Raina W/o B L Raina

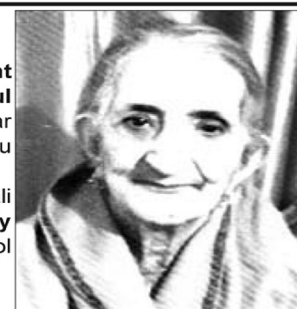
Grand Children

Sameer & Sheetu, Lisha & Aman, Suveni & Kapil

Great Grand Children

Danshu, Vanshu

Mob No. 7780922925,
7051474096, 8082152311



Smt Indrawati Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Shri Sham Sunder Kaul S/o Late Shri Damodar Kaul originally of 22-Wazir Bagh, Srinagar (Kashmir) passed away on 28-01-2024 at Noida.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Ganga Canal, Muradnagar (UP) on 6th Feb, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Pushpa Kaul & Pran Nath Kaul

Swaran Dhar & Manmohan Dhar

Renu Fotedar & Animesh Fotedar

SAMAST KAUL PARIWAR

MOBILE NO: 7503646104, 9891838676



SHRI SHAM SUNDER KAUL

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

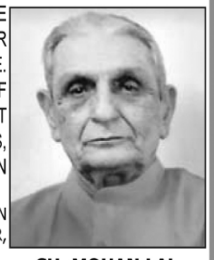
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. M.N. KAUL** ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF KRAL-KHUD HABBA KADAL, SRINAGAR AT PRESENT C-201, BROTHERHOOD APPTS, H-BLOCK, VIKASPURI, NEW DELHI- 110018 ON MIDNIGHT OF 28TH AND 29TH JANUARY 2024.

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 PARIVAR AND RELATIVES

CONTACT NO. 9811812774, 9711723925



SH. MOHAN LAL KAUL

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to intimate 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 Jodhamai Public School, Sainik Colony, Jammu.

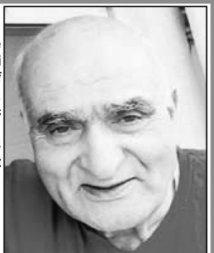
10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 4th February 2024 (Sunday) at Akhnor Ghat. Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 11:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Shakuntala Raina (Wife) - 9711369005
Rakesh Raina and Rita Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law) - 931221233
Sanyo Raina and Jyoti Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law) - 9711369001

Sunita Pandita and R.L. Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-law) - 9419182236
Rahul Raina & Kanika Raina (Grandson & Granddaughter-in-law)

Sargana Raina (Granddaughter)
Vishal Hangoo & Rohi Hangoo (Grand daughter & Grand son-in-law)
Reetika Pandita (Grand daughter)
Rovish Hangoo (Great Grand son)



SH. KRISHEN JI RAINA

TENTH DAY AND UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform about the sad and untimely demise of **Lt Sh Kulbushan Sharma (Babbu Sharma)** R/o Ward no 7 Kathua.

Tenth Day on 02-02-2024 (Friday) at our residence at 11:00 AM.

UTHALA on 03-02-2024 (Saturday).

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Asha Sharma - **Wife**

Daughter

Smt - Pinki Sharma & Ravi Kumar

Mob - 99061- 55071 / 96221-95248



Lt Sh Kulbushan Sharma (Babbu Sharma)

10TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Ch. Balwant Singh, Sr. Lecturer (Retd.) S/o Late. Sh. Ram Singh R/o Pantoot (Pallanwala), Khour A/P Lower Barnai, Jammu.**

The **10th Day** will be performed on Saturday February 3, 2024 at Nakul Palace, Akhnor Road, Barnai, Jammu From 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Raj Kumari (Wife)

(Daughter in- Laws & Sons)

Smt. Sarita & Er. Bhopinder Singh

Smt. Sanjli & Sh. Ravinder Singh

(Daughters & Son-in Laws)

Smt. Sharda Devi & Ch. Harbans Singh

Smt. Rekha Choudhary & Er. Sham Pual Randhawa

Grand Children: Dr. Ankit, Abhay, Animesh, Bhavish, Keshav, Ansh, Ashvika & Krish

Contact: 9419138155, 9419175340



Ch. Balwant Singh

UTHALA

With deep sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sumit Bali (Tinku)** on 31-01-2024, a beloved husband, father, brother & friend.

Uthala will be held on Saturday 03-02-2024 from 3 PM to 4 PM at Sanatan Dharam Sabha Rajour.

IN GRIEF

Smt. & Sh. Ramesh Bali & Neelam Bali- Parents

Smt. Anita Bali - **Wife**

Shreya Bali & Shivanshi Bali - **Daughters**

Brother & Bhabhi

Smt. & Sh. Vikram Bali & Rashmi Bali

Smt. & Sh. Aseem Bali & Meenakshi Bali

Chacha & Chachi

Late Sh. Ashok Bali & Smt. Kusum Bali

Smt. & Sh. Rakesh Bali & Champa Bali

Bali Family, Sharma Family & Friends

9906337646, 9419124213, 7889533958



Sh. Sumit Bali (Tinku)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that **Sh. Puneet Gupta S/o Lt. Sh. Natha Ram R/o Mast Garh Jammu** left for heavenly abode on 25-01-2024.

The **10th Day** will be performed at Laxmi Narayan Mandir Dhaki Sarajan, Link Road, Jammu on 03-02-2024 (Saturday) at 11.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sudershan Gupta - **Mother**

Smt. Madhavi Gupta - **Wife**

Mr. Pardeep Gupta - **Son**

Brother & Bhabhi

Smt. Jyoti Gupta & Sh. Pankaj Gupta

Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Poonam Gupta & Sh. Sham Gupta

Miss Shriya, Miss Mrindhu - **Daughters**

Mr. Rudhar, Mr. Suryansh, Mr. Vasu, Mr. Sidarth - **Nephew**

Contact No: 9796232063, 9492010810, 9018981880



SH. PUNEET GUPTA

Shiv Sena protests against sale of liquor near religious places, educational institutions

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit, giving impetus to its ongoing campaign against the sale of liquor near religious places and educational institutions, on Thursday protested outside the Maa Durga Temple at Vikram Chowk, Jammu and demands were made with immediate effect to close and relocate liquor shops near these institutions.

Under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni, Shiv Saniks protested peacefully holding placards "Stop liquor sale near religious and educational institutions", "Liquor sale should be banned in the city of temples", outside the Maa Durga temple of Vikram Chowk, (there is a liquor selling shop



at a distance of 10 feet of this temple).

Sahni said in his address that the Holy land of sages and prophets is full of liquor shops, even the sale of liquor near religious places and educational institutions was not avoided.

Due to which religious sentiments are being hurt and it is also having

a negative impact on the youth. The figures of drug addiction are increasing rapidly.

In Jammu and Kashmir, which has a population of 1.25 crores, about one million people have become drug addicts, he said.

Sahni added that there above demands are step towards de-addiction campaign. He

told that about 50 such shops have been identified in Jammu including Samba, Kathua, Udhampur against which their campaign will continue.

Sahni said that a memorandum has been sent to the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir regarding the above

demands.

He expressed hope that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, concerned about the increasing drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir, will issue immediate instructions regarding their demands.

Sahni appealed to the public to raise their voice in favor of this campaign.

Earlier, voice was raised against the sale of liquor near religious and educational institutions in Women's College, Parade, Jammu and Shiv Market near Railway Station.

Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, President Kanghar Wing Raj Singh, Balwant, Rakesh, Girdhari, Mukesh Kumar, Aman and Pankaj were also present.

Bhasha Sumbli's opera 'Vitasta' invited for prestigious Bharat Rang Mahotsav



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: It's a matter of Pride for Jammu & Kashmir that the biggest International Theatre Festival of the world- the prestigious 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav BRM, organised by National School of Drama, New Delhi, has invited Daughter of soil, prominent cine and theatre personality The Kashmir Files fame & Sangeet Natak Akademi Yuva Awardee for theatre direction, Bhasha Sumbli's widely acclaimed opera 'Vitasta written by legendary Kashmiri Writer Pandit Dina Nath Nadim and translated by esteemed Hindi poet Dr. Agnishekhar. The heritage Opera Vitasta showcases the glorious civilizational past of Kashmir through the legend of the River Goddess Vitasta. It goes to the credit of Bhasha Sumbli, that she has revived this legendary opera after more than 50 years which was first staged in early 60s of 20th century by the Tikes of

legends Padma Shri Pran Kishore Koul.

Pandit Virender Mohan and Pt. Krishan Langoo have composed the music and it's famous songs have been sung by Ghulam Hasan Sofi, Kailash Mehra Sadhu, Shameema Dev Azad and others.

Bhasha expressed gratitude towards the family of Pandit Dina Nath Nadim and Padmashree Pran Kishore Koul for providing all their support. The opera was first opened to wide acclaim in the Ministry of Culture's Vitasta festival in Srinagar, followed by many successful repeat shows at Central Vista, New Delhi and Abhimanch Auditorium in National School of Drama.

The show was presented latest in Jammu's Abhinav Theatre in July last year to a standing ovation by a jam-packed hall in Bharat Rang Mahotsav this year, it will be Performed by Bhasha Sumbli's theatre troupe "Hima Kaul Xalani-

dhi, in the epic Meghdoot open air theatre on 14th Feb at 7pm in New Delhi.

Speaking about it, in a press conference here in Jammu, Bhasha Sumbli expressed gratitude and stressed upon her focus on the need to do meaningful theatre, especially in the region of J&K and her motive of showcasing the ancient glory of her motherland through her theatrical presentations.

After BRM, Vitasta is scheduled to be showcased in Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore and abroad.

Bhasha has trained mostly the local talent of Jammu for this project, which boasts of a cast and crew from across the country including: Sahem Kashyap, Mohit Mehra, Abhishake Sharma, Rachayita Aggrawal, Sahoul Dutt, Sahit Bazaz, Harshita Khajuria, Akriti Panotra, Anisha Kotwal, Shriya Devi.

The Prop design is by senior Artist of the state Virji Sumbly, Set design by Shyam Sahani, Light design by Tamaralasi, Choreography and Acting Input by eminent Theatrist Vandana Vashisht. Research and Associate Direction by noted film and theatre actor Sunil Soni. Costumes are designed by Maansi, Rattan and Chandramohan.

Grand Saint Conference will be held in Nau Nath Ashram on Feb 13

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: A meeting was held here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Sadhguru Sant Shri Subhash Shastri Maharaj, Shri Ram Narayan Shastri Maharaj Mahant Rehal at Akhandparam Dham and Nau Nath Ashram, in which Mahant Gopal



Anand, Mahant Rajeshwar Giri, Mahant Desh

Raj, Baba Shibbo Dev Sthan, Master Dev Raj,

Jhangam Samaj and co-chalaks of Ankhad Dham participated.

The issue that was discussed during the meeting was that some people are interfering in the arrangements inside Nau Nath Ashram, the issue for which this meeting was called to discuss.

Addressing the meeting, Mahant Rajesh Bittu

said that a decision has been taken in the meeting, in which a very big Saint Conference will be held on 13th February, in which all the people from Jammu and Kashmir will come and there will be a grand atmosphere. in the Ashram.

He urged the people to participate enthusiastically in this conference.

World Wetlands Day celebrated at SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 2: School of Biotechnology in collaboration with NSS, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized an awareness programme at Matrika Auditorium on Thursday to mark the celebration of World Wetlands Day.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year on 2nd February to raise awareness about wetlands.

This day also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2024 is "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing".

Its goal is to highlight how all aspects of human wellbeing - physical, mental, and environmental - are tied to the health of the world's wetlands.

The programme started with the welcome address by the coordinator of the event Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Faculty member, School of Biotechnology.

She emphasised in her welcome address the urgent need to restore the wetlands of crucial importance.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, was the chief guest of the event.

The event was attended by Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Faculty of Sciences, Dr. S.K. Wanchoo, and Heads of various other schools.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of the uni-

versity. Dr. Ratna Chandra Head SoBT and convener of the event interacted with the participants and disseminated information related to the crucial importance of wetlands for meeting the sustainable development goals.

Prof Pragati Kumar in his address exhorted the younger generation to work for wetland protection for aesthetic and Wellness aspects.

He also highlighted the role wetlands play in the wellbeing of the human race.

He also underlined that lack of conservation of wetlands can have harmful consequences on aspects like climate change mitigation, water-food security, disaster management etc.

He emphasized the need for preserving the wetlands for sustainable development and avoiding ill effects of climate change and consumerism.

A declamation and poster competition on the topic "wetlands and human wellbeing" was planned as part of the event and awards were distributed to the winners. A cultural event was also organised by the students of the School of Biotechnology.

A skit prepared by the students of School of Biotechnology on the importance and restoration of wetlands was the main highlight of the event and was applauded by the audience at large.

The event concluded with the formal vote of thanks presented by the event Co-Coordinator Dr. Rajeev Kumar.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST
E-MAIL: eastdivisionjammu@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No.63 of 2023-2024/Jammu East Dated 30-01-2024

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

| S. No | Name of Work | Name of Division | Advertisement Cost (Rs. in lacs) | Cost of document (in Rs.) | Earnest Money (in Rs.) | Time Allowed for complete-on | Time and date of opening of tender | Class of Contractor |
|-------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | Establishment of Kindergarden at Govt. GPS Thatharian, Jammu | PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East | 0.50 | 600 | 2% of Advertised Cost | 10 Days | (1300 Hrs) on or after 06-02-2024 | A, B, C & D |
| 2 | Macadamization of road from link road to Sector 8 Upper Roop Nagar area. (under City & Town). | PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East | 25.90 | 600 | 2% of Advertised Cost | 01 Month | (1300 Hrs) on or after 06-02-2024 | A, B & C |
| 3 | Road safety Measures to be taken on road from Panjithirhi to Sidhra Bridge. | PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East | 2.00 | 600 | 2% of Advertised Cost | 20 Day | (1300 Hrs) on or after 06-02-2024 | A, B, C & D Class |

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 30-01-2024 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 30-01-2024 to 05-02-2024 upto 1800 Hrs |
| 3 | Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting | XXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East |
| 4 | Bid submission Start Date | 30-01-2024 |
| 5 | Bid Submission End Date | 05-02-2024 upto 1800 Hrs |
| 6 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 06-02-2024 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East |
| 7 | Date & time of opening of Financial Bids | To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed |

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East and upload the same i.e treasury challan/ receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The date for same shall be intimated separately, No :- 5645-55

Dated :- 30-01-2024
DIP/J-14576/23
(Er. Satish Bhagat)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Jammu East

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Civil Secretariat, J&K**

Subject:- Appointment of Assistant Professor, Biochemistry in the Higher Education Department.
Reference: Letter No. PSC/DR-HE/AP-Biochemistry/2023 dated 20-10-2023 from J&K Public Service Commission, J&K.
**Government Order No. 51-JK(HE) of 2024
Dated: 29-01-2024**

On the recommendations of the J&K public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of following candidate as Assistant Professor (Biochemistry) on regular temporary basis in the pay band of Rs. 15600-39100 with AGP Rs. 6000/- (Pre-revised) Academic Level-10 with pay structure of Rs. 57700/- in the Higher Education Department.

| S.No | Name Mr./Mrs. | Parentage | Address | Selection Category |
|------|----------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| 1. | Waseem Feeeroze Bhat | Ahmadullah Bhat | 36 Dangarpura Trenz Shopian | RBA |
| 2. | Mohammad Iqbal Sofi | Abdul Ahad Sofi | 43 Lawaypora Bandipora | OM |
| 3. | Vikas Bhagat | Subash Kumar | 73 Ward No. 2 Shangroo Near Panchayat Ghar Bhalla | SC |

Above mentioned Candidates shall report to the Nodal Principal, A.S College, Srinagar/GCW Prade, Jammu within a period of 21 days from the date of issue of this order failing which their appointment shall be deemed to have cancelled without any notice.

The appointment of candidate shall be subject to the following Conditions :-

- The appointees will be on probation for a period of two years from the date of joining.
- The appointment of the above candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009.
- The appointees shall, at the time of joining, produce the following testimonials in original which will be verified by the concerned Principal.
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Qualification and Marks Certificate i.e. NET/SLET/Ph.D. etc and marks cards/degrees.
 - Category certificate as may be applicable to the appointees.
 - Health and Medical Certificate.
 - Any other certificate as required under law.

The salary of the appointees shall be drawn and disbursed after the receipt of the satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate and subject to production of an affidavit (as per Annexure A) to this order.

The seniority of the candidates shall be determined in term of J&K Civil Services (Classification, control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.

The appointment of the candidates shall remain provisional till time as the certificates get verified by the concerned Principal and found to be in order. In case any certificate is found to be fake, inadequate or not consistent with eligibility requirements, the appointment of the candidate would be deemed to have been and void ab-initio.

The appointment of the candidates shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before the Court of law.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-
(Alok Kumar)IRS
Principal Secretary to the Government

**Annexure-A to Government Order No.- 51 -JK(HE) of 2024
Dated:- 29 :01:2024**

AFFIDAVIT

I, _____ S/o, D/o _____ R/o _____ do hereby solemnly declare on oath that:

(a) My name has been recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission for appointment as Assistant Professor _____ in the Higher Education Department.

(b) I understand that the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate has not been furnished by the concerned verifying agency in my case.

I, therefore, undertake that in the event of permitting me to join, pending receipt of the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate, I shall have no claim for the post in the event of my being adversely reported upon by the verifying agency found not to be genuine.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

The contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.

DEPONENT

EDITORIAL

SAVE
FUTURE

When a person starts taking drugs, his family life becomes dark. The sad thing is that despite knowing all this, the young generation is not giving up drug abuse. That is why in schools and colleges, children are being made aware about the harm caused by drug consumption through essays on drug addiction and the young generation.

India has the largest youth generation among the countries in the world. This is a matter of pride for India because the progress of the country depends only on the young generation. But when the young generation goes on the wrong path then how can the country progress. Today, addiction is ruining the young generation just like a termite ruins wood. Addiction is tantamount to destruction and today the young generation of India is rapidly adopting the trend of drug abuse.

Even according to an estimate, out of a population of 130 crore, 10 crore people are addicted to drugs.

Most of the young generation consume drugs to relieve their stress. Some of the younger generation start consuming drugs after seeing their elders consuming drugs, some people start consuming drugs after being in bad company. Drug addiction has become a fashion for the youth.

Nowadays even girls have started following the path of drugs. Is it only the government's responsibility to stop all these things? The families of the younger generation have equal responsibility along with the government. It is their duty to stop their children from going on the path of drugs. If adults use drugs in front of children, it will definitely have a negative impact on their children, who will later start following the path of drug addiction.

If today's youth is to be saved from drug abuse and they are to be prevented from taking the path of addiction, then the sale of drugs will have to be strictly banned. These drugs are sold with the label 'can prove harmful and deadly' so that the shopkeeper is not responsible for it. However, those who have drowned in the ocean of drugs will still buy drugs, no matter how many instructions are written on them. But the friends in this are those of drug manufacturing companies. The government should ban the companies manufacturing drugs and should also stop selling them openly in shops, only then the young generation will be able to avoid drug abuse.

Today, there are many government and other institutions which organize various types of programs to make the young generations free from drug addiction. But along with them, the young generation also needs to understand that they are educated and can differentiate between good and bad. That's why don't make drugs your addiction.

Boost for aspirational India, inclusivity and green energy

By: Chandrajit Banerjee

The interim Budget encapsulates the singular commitment of the government to proceed on the "Amrit Kaal" journey with elan and fulfil the aspirations of a "New India" that is ready to take a winning leap forward to realise a higher goal of becoming a developed country by 2047. While providing primacy to growth with inclusion, the Budget attempts to infuse a new momentum to the economy and strengthen India's remarkably resilient ecosystem so that the country emerges as a growth engine of the world.

The accent on addressing the socioeconomic challenges and improving the quality of life of every citizen of the country, with a special focus on youth, women, poor and farmers, is equally noteworthy and resonates well with the vision of New India.

The provisions to empower women is among the key pillars of the Budget and will increase women's participation in the workforce. The move to extend the coverage under the Ayushman Bharat scheme to all ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and helpers, expediting Poshan 2.0, improved nutritional delivery, encouraging vaccination for girls in the age group of nine to 14 years for prevention of cervical cancer, etc will increase the participation of women in the country's workforce.

The decision to enhance the target for "Lakshpati Didi" from two crores to three crores would promote entrepreneurship among women. In fact, the self-help groups (SHG), some of which have become lakshpati didis, have been one of the best instruments for women's empowerment by helping the marginalised and poor women come together and work towards economic self-sufficiency.

A well-articulated Budget, the

government's determination to move ahead with the execution of its vision to create infrastructure assets and channelising resources towards capital expenditure is exemplary and would spur the virtuous growth cycle and create jobs. The rise in capex outlay by 11.1 per cent to Rs. 11.11 lakh crores is noteworthy. So is the announcement of continuing the 50-year interest-free loan to states for capital expenditure. The PM Gatishakti rail corridors for energy, minerals, cement, port connectivity and high-traffic routes announced in the Budget are heartening and would improve logistics efficiency while bringing down logistics costs.

The interim Budget has an unmissable agriculture pivot with a firm commitment towards rural uplift and improving consumption demand while alleviating rural distress caused by patchy monsoons. Recognising that the path towards achieving the dream of "Viksit Bharat" hinges essentially on the transformation of the rural economy, the government has at the outset, announced its commitment to promote the much-needed investments in agri infrastructure by encouraging public and private investments in post-harvesting activities. Besides, the government would step up efforts for increased value addition under existing PM-SAMPADA and PM-FME which are expected to be beneficial to farmers and promote inclusive growth.

Further, the electronic agri mandi network and an accent on entrepreneurship and innovation will help in the deployment of technology solutions to make agriculture climate resilient. The move to set up a separate department for fisheries to encourage aquaculture production and exports, promotion of dairy sector, the "atma nirbhar" oilseed mission, etc, would encourage diversification beyond agriculture. The

rural housing sector would get a fillip through the Rural Awaz Yojana (Gramin) and act as a boon for the rural economy as it would create rural assets, transform rural growth, boost consumption, and rejuvenate the demand drivers in the rural economy.

Along with agriculture, the social sector has been a priority in the Budget to ensure protection of lives and livelihoods. The emphasis here is on health and education. Empowering the youth through the New Education Policy 2020, setting up new educational institutes for higher learning, promoting skill development, constituting a committee for building of more medical colleges, sanctioning of loans to meet the entrepreneurship aspirations of the youth, among others, are vital for improving employability and gearing up the growth engines of the economy.

The MSME sector, comprising 29 per cent of GDP, would gain significantly from government support towards the availability of timely and adequate credit, support to develop relevant technologies, provision of conducive regulatory environment and appropriate training for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. This will encourage units to build scale and compete globally.

Similarly, support to technology, R&D and an impetus to bolster the green economy reflects the futuristic vision of the government. The establishment of a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore with a 50-year interest-free loan, which would provide long-term finance at low or nil interest rates, would encourage the private sector to step up investment in R&D and strengthen India's competitiveness in the global landscape. Similarly, the new scheme for strengthening deep-tech technologies for defence purposes would promote "atma nirbharta" in high-tech manufacturing and

sunrise industries in a big way.

At the same time, the focus on green energy is commendable. The provision of viability gap funding to harness offshore wind energy, strengthening the e-vehicle ecosystem and charging infrastructure, coal gasification, rooftop solarisation, among others, would promote sustainability and green growth.

Recognising that many of the announcements would achieve fruition essentially through participation with the states, the Budget proposes to build a consensus with the states for effective implementation of reforms — a pivotal move which would unlock the potential of the economy. The government's move to withdraw certain outstanding direct tax demands would reduce tax litigation and improve ease of paying taxes.

The finance minister deserves credit for displaying astute financial management and eschewing populism to adhere to the fiscal deficit target at better than expected 5.8 per cent of GDP for the current fiscal while retaining the focus on capital expenditure which is no mean achievement considering the daunting external milieu and its impact on India. Moreover, the fiscal arithmetic appears to be broadly credible. The government has also done well to restrict fiscal deficit to 5.1 per cent of GDP for 2024-25, thus adhering to the glide path of achieving the goalpost of below 4.5 per cent of GDP by 2025-26.

Overall, the Budget outlines a broad direction for the economy — that of addressing short-term issues without losing sight of building long-term capabilities in the economy. No wonder, it is packed with a multitude of measures which would provide a fillip to growth with inclusion while adhering to the vision of making the Indian economy future-ready in our journey during the "Amrit Kaal".

Professional courses in technology are building careers of the future

By: Vijay GarG

On the one hand, Chat GPT models are among the most sophisticated AI technology on the market today, and they have the power to completely transform natural language processing and alter how humans communicate with computers.

However, because innovation in this industry is happening so quickly, it may be challenging job searchers to stay up-to-date on the most recent advancements and stand out in a crowded market.

Building an academic base Chat GPT, in particular, is a fascinating example of a large language model that has garnered significant attention in recent years. Trained on a massive corpus of text data, Chat GPT is capable of generating contextually appropriate and coherent responses

to natural language input, making it a valuable tool for a wide range of applications, including chat bots, language translation, and content generation.

The emergence of Chat GPT and other broad language models offers opportunities as well as obstacles for job seekers. On the one hand, these models are quite complicated and call for sophisticated knowledge in computer science, machine learning, and natural language processing. Because of this, it could be challenging for job searchers to obtain the training and expertise needed to work with these technologies.

For job seekers who are pared to put in the time and effort to acquire these abilities, there are plenty of chances due to the growing need for AI talent. Working with sophisticated language models like Chat GPT can be a useful tool for businesses

trying to gain a competitive edge as more and more industries turn to AI technologies for this purpose. There are a few things job seekers may do to improve their chances of success while trying to enter into the AI industry. First and foremost, it's critical to have a solid foundation in computer science, which includes knowledge of machine learning and natural language processing as well as programming languages like Python. After that, job applicants should concentrate on gaining real-world experience with AI technologies through volunteer work, independent initiatives, or university training. In a competitive job market, being able to deal with sophisticated language models like Chat GPT can make a resume stand out and make a candidate desirable for companies.

Job opportunities

There are a lot of opportuni-

ties in the field, which aspirants can take up. Right from a prompt engineer who can create precise instructions for generative AI models, to virtual developers who assist companies to enhance customer engagement, to even a data scientist for data analysis and decision-making, the possibilities are endless. In essence, AI will be a major factor in hiring, acquiring talent, and many other aspects of future professions. Candidates who can effectively use these models to increase productivity are likely to be given preference by employers. Consequently, it makes sense to begin studying and applying these language models to bolster your skill set so that you're ready for a time when having knowledge of AI will be highly sought after. The AI race has just begun.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

Noted lawyer Ashok Bhan briefs NHRC ahead of visiting Kashmir

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Feb 2: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is set to conduct a camp sitting and an open public hearing on grievances related to human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir.

This marks the first time the NHRC will address such issues in the region following the abolition of the State Human Rights Commission.

Noted lawyer Ashok Bhan, renowned for his expertise in international law, on Thursday briefed the NHRC Chairman, retired Supreme Court Judge Arun Mishra, at his office on the dire human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir and submitted a note in this behalf.

Bhan emphasized the need for a humanitarian approach towards the victims of the long-standing turbulence in the region, which has witnessed over 30 years of insurgency, leading to violence, displacement, and suffering.

In his two-hour meeting with Chairman NHRC, Bhan discussed the pressing issues facing the region, including the rehabilitation of internally displaced



native populations, addressing the drug menace, and ensuring economic stability for the youth.

Bhan highlighted the importance of winning the hearts and minds of the society and establishing a robust security ecosystem to build faith in the rule of law and democracy.

Human rights abuses in Jammu and Kashmir have ranged from mass killings, forced disappearances, torture, rape, abuses due to using pellet guns and suppression of freedom of speech to bans on religious gatherings, a situation akin to genocide and selective killings.

The NHRC is now gearing up to address these concerns.

The camp sitting and open public hearing are scheduled to take place from February 7 to 9 in Srinagar, with the

NHRC inviting individuals to submit complaints regarding alleged rights violations.

The NHRC will review these complaints, including acts of terrorism that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights, and recommend appropriate remedial measures. They will also examine treaties and international instruments on human rights for effective implementation.

Bhan also reminded the NHRC chairman that his body actually came up when India was in a bind on Kashmir at the UN Human Rights body in 1994.

It was after realizing this and to keep the international human rights bodies out from interfering in the domestic affairs that then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao conceived the idea of having an internal mechanism to

address human rights issues.

But Bhan added, that despite having its origin to address rights issues in Kashmir, the NHRC never sought any pro-activeness towards this region.

He said it is better late than never that the NHRC has woken up to take up the issue of human rights in Kashmir and also to order ways to ameliorate them.

This development follows the aftermath of the inoperability of Article 370 and the subsequent winding of the Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission. The Union Government empowered the NHRC to address human rights concerns in the Union Territory through the J&K Reorganisation Act.

The NHRC's decision to hold an open public hearing on rights violations comes after call of its conscience and from the Supreme Court opinion to create mechanisms allowing people in Jammu and Kashmir to file complaints directly with the NHRC.

This move represents a significant step towards addressing the human rights void that has persisted in Jammu and Kashmir since the abolition of the State

Human Rights Commission in 2019. Numerous human rights organizations have ceased to function due to government restrictions on dissent, leaving many unresolved cases of rights violations.

Bhan told NHRC about the brutal human rights situation faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community. Forced displacement, violence, and ongoing discrimination. That left them vulnerable and need of urgent government and NHRC intervention. The rights to life, liberty, and security of the Kashmiri Pandits are being systematically violated, and their cultural heritage is at risk of being obliterated and erased. National Human Rights Commission is once again urged to investigate these atrocities, ensure accountability, and implement measures to safeguard the well-being and rights of the Kashmiri Pandits, and their return to roots is a national demand that deserves serious recommendations.

It is hoped that NHRC's efforts shall be seen as a healing process and unifying factor for varied sections of the fractured society that lay shattered by the turbulence of last 35 years Bhan said.

GDC Kathua observes World Wetlands Day



Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 2: Govt Degree College (GDC) Kathua, Department of Environmental Sciences and Eco-club Ravi of the institution, under the patronage of Principal Prof. Seema Mir observed World Wetlands Day on Thursday.

This year the theme of the day is "Wetlands and human wellbeing". The day is celebrated to mark the significance of wetlands in our ecosystem.

To celebrate the day an educational documentary screening for the student was hosted.

The programme was started with the welcome address by Dr.

Shivali Panjgotra, Asstt. Professor Environmental Sciences.

Prof. Arvind Kumar, Head Department of Environmental Sciences, shared valuable insights into the ecological, economic, and social importance of wetlands which aimed to inspire students and attendees to appreciate the vital role wetlands play in sustaining life on Earth.

Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, Head Department of Urdu, also delivered a lecture on the occasion.

He highlighted the significance of these wetlands to maintain our ecosystem.

Dr. Ram Singh, Head Department of Educa-

tion and Coordinator IGNOU centre GDC Kathua, while addressing the students encouraged them to adopt sustainable habits and hoped that this type of events should foster a sense of responsibility and awareness about the importance of wetlands for a sustainable future.

The programme was ended with formal vote of thanks by Prof Meena Devi.

About 90 students attended the event. Other faculty members who graced the occasion were Prof. Manmohan Singh, Dr. Som Dutt, Prof. Jagmohan, Dr. Kulbir Singh and Prof. Heena Saini.

Advantec Wheels displays its Premium Flow-Forged Alloy Wheels at Automechanika Show 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: Advantec Wheels – a Jammu based alloy wheels manufacturer showcased all-new range of Made in India premium products viz. Kohinoor, Spyder and Black Widow at the

Automechanika 2024 at Pragati Maidan from February 1-3, 2024.

Speaking on game-changing marketing and sales strategies, Jasneet Singh (Co-Founder) Advantec Wheels Pvt Ltd. remarked, "With over 50% of the aftermarket demand

being served by largely unreliable imports customers are at the mercy of limited choices!

To correct this industry anomaly, we will be offering a range of premium flow-forged alloy wheels online through our website besides as well as through our pan

India B2B distribution network.

To this end, our cutting-edge and user-friendly mobile App uses Augmented Reality to effectively remove buyers' guesswork. It allows them to visualize how their alloy wheel fittings will finally

appear on their vehicles in the real world. Hence, by placing their smartphone's camera alongside their respective vehicles' tyres they can select their best-fit choice from amongst our wide range of alloy wheel designs and finishes."

Miffed music maestro Pyarelal scolds Govt for "obsoleting" legendary Laxmikant from Padma Awards list

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Feb 2: "Pyare is the only complete composer in this industry! He can read and write both Indian and Western notations, compose, arrange, conduct and record music. With minor tweaks, he could convert my 25-paise tune to a one-rupee song!" – The very uniquely respectful take on Pyarelal was from none other than Laxmikant, the senior half of the Laxmikant-Pyarelal duo, considered the king of melodies in Bollywood who have more than 650 Hindi film albums to their credit in their illustrious and variegated career spanning almost five decades.

Pyarelal, who was in a state of confusion regarding his reaction to the Padma Awards, told journalist Ram Shaw, "Ours is a match divinely ordained. One is incomplete without the other. Pyare is nothing without Laxmi. (Jahan Laxmi hai, wahan Pyare hai.)

They (government) should understand this. Agar koi nahin samajhta hai, toh bhala kya kar sakte hain! We have worked in this industry for 40-50 years. It



is good if you get an award. Even if you don't get it, it doesn't matter. For us artists, people's love, encouragement and good wishes give more satisfaction."

"The government should understand this and make much-needed corrections in the list of names. If no one understands then what can we do? Saying something may cause unnecessary controversy. Laxmi can never be separated from Pyare," a peeved Pyarelal said.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the list of this year's Padma Awards (arts field), only Pyarelal Sharma's name is mentioned, while there is no mention of Laxmikant's name. Pyarelal adds, "I don't grieve Laxmi's absence because, even today, I feel he is right here with me. Music

is the only way that heals us and brings us together, especially in the tough times."

Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar was, perhaps, even more remarkable as a man than as a composer. Iconic music director duo has enthralled music lovers for decades, be it films or their live performances. While Laxmikant passed away back in 1998, Pyarelal Ramprasad Sharma still continues to create magic with his soulful music. The legendary composer has continuously been casting a spell with his hypnotic melodies.

The country's highest civilian honours Padma Awards have been announced. Pyarelal has been honoured with the prestigious Padma Bhushan, not only as a celebration of his musical prowess, but also in

acknowledgment of his valuable contributions to art and pivotal role in defining the golden era of Hindi film music.

Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines / fields of activities, viz., art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March / April every year. For the year 2024, the President has approved conferment of 132 Padma Awards including 2 duo

cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one). The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri Awards. 30 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 8 persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and 9 Posthumous awardees.

Pyarelal (born on 3rd September, 1940) is the son of a renowned trumpeter Pandit Ramprasad Sharma (popularly known as Babaji), who taught him the basics of music. He then aced the violin under the guidance of the Goan musician Anthony Gonsalves, whom he went on to immortalise in the song 'My Name Is Anthony Gonsalves', which was pictured on Amitabh Bachchan (who also contributed to the vocals) in the 1977 film 'Amar Akbar Anthony'. He was also expert in western form of music. He even thought to try his fortune in the West and wanted to become a regular orchestra player with a renowned group. Laxmikant dissuaded him and then they started the amazing journey of music for Indian cinema.

Viksit Bharat Budget guarantees to strengthen foundation of developed India: Rohiin Chandan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Secretary Jammu South, Rohiin Chandan applauded the government's efforts to boost India's economy through structured policy reforms.

Rohiin praised that under the umbrella of PM Modi Jammu and Kashmir has been allocated Rs 37,277.74 crore in the interim union budget for 2024-25, which was unveiled by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha.

He said that always protecting and safeguarding the interests of the general public of J&K, Modi Sarkaar constantly contributed to the progress of development works, special focus on all segments of society.

Rohiin Chandan remarked that "Viksit Bharat Budget" guarantees to strengthen the foundation of a developed India" under the vibrant leadership of PM Modi. He said this budget carries the confidence of continuity and



this budget is a reflection of the aspirations of Young India. Rohiin added that Budget focuses on empowering the poor and middle class.

Chandan hailed the Budget presented by the Finance Minister, as "not merely an interim budget but an inclusive and innovative budget. He asserted, budget 2024 carries the confidence of continuity." Rohiin Chandan further said this budget will empower all pillars of developed India - the youth, the poor, women, and farmers.

Commending Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for her vision, Rohiin stated, "Nirmala Ji's budget is a budget for building the future of the country."

He further added, that this extraordinary budget carries the guarantee of strengthening the foundation of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Rohiin emphasized that the interim Budget 2024 is historical, under the banner of PM Narendra Modi's leadership. He educates that the Modi-led government efforts to boost India's economy through structured policy reforms will accelerate the development of our Nation over the next few years.

Rohiin noted, the steps taken by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to empower the youth by fueling the entrepreneurial spirit and fostering innovation in technology through initiatives like the 1 lakh crore research corpus, create a golden era for sunrise sectors such as media & entertainment.

He added that the combination of youth and technology certainly holds immense potential and can lead to exciting new opportunities for content distribution and monetization, boosting the growth of the M&E sector at large.

With many A-listers from Hindi cinema looking towards South Indian film industries, the North-South divide is blurring

The cinematic landscape is witnessing a fascinating trend where the borders between Hindi and South Indian film industry are gradually fading away. This pan-India film phenomenon has gained momentum with notable collaborations, exemplified by the likes of Rajinikanth's *Jailer* and Atlee's Hindi directorial debut in 2023. In 2024, many exciting projects are set to redefine on-screen magic and captivate audiences nationwide. Here's a glimpse of film stars from Hindi cinema industry who are making their South Indian film debut this year.

Period drama

Janhvi Kapoor
Janhvi Kapoor is poised for her Telugu debut with the film *Devara*, alongside Jr NTR. The pan-India film is a period drama being directed by Koratala Siva. For Janhvi, working with Jr NTR it is a dream come true. And their pairing holds the promise of delivering captivating performances.

Epic mode

Deepika Padukone
In one of the grand collaborations of 2024, Deepika Padukone joins forces with South superstar Prabhas in *Kalki 2898 AD*. Helmed by Nag Ashwin and produced by Vyjayanthi Movies, this epic science fiction dystopian film boasts of a stellar cast, including Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan and Disha Patani. With a budget of Rs 600 crores, it is set to be the most expensive Indian film ever made, promising a riveting narrative and unparalleled visual spectacle. The film's music score is composed by Santhosh Narayanan with cinematography by Djordje Stojiljkovic



and production design by Nitin Zihani Choudhary. *Kalki 2898 AD* is scheduled to be released in cinemas on May 9.

Playing the villain

Saif Ali Khan
Known for his versatile acting, Saif Ali Khan steps into the shoes of an antagonist once more. He has already played negative roles in films like *Tanhaji: The Unsung Hero* and *Adipurush*. This time around, the actor is all set to play the villain opposite Jr NTR in *Devara*. This film, touted for its high-octane action and cutting-edge VFX, presents Saif with another opportunity to showcase his acting prowess in the South Indian cinematic landscape.

Winning accolades

Nawazuddin Siddiqui
Despite personal controversies in 2023, Nawazuddin Sid-

diqui's 2024 commenced with accolades for his Telugu debut, *Saindhav*. Starring alongside Venkatesh Daggubati, Nawazuddin's portrayal of Vikas Maalik, a 'ruthless yet hilarious' gangster, has earned him praise. In fact, going by fans' comments, Nawazuddin stands out from the rest of the cast in the film.

Unique pairing

Katrina Kaif

The year kicked off with the unexpected pairing of Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi in Sriram Raghavan's thriller, *Merry Christmas*. While Raghavan, Katrina and music maestro Pritam marked their Tamil debut with this film, it was Sethupathi's third Hindi film. This unique collaboration has not only intrigued critics, but also captivated fans.

New chapter

Disha Patani

Also venturing into the pan-Indian domain, Disha Patani enters a noteworthy chapter in her career with the majestic period drama *Kanguva*. Teaming up with South Indian icon Suriya, this movie represents a debut collaboration for the actress. Enthusiastic fans are eagerly wanting to witness the on-screen chemistry that this pair is set to deliver in 2024.

Riding high

Bobby Deol

Bobby Deol, who is riding high on the success of *Animal*, is set to make his debut in Tamil cinema with Suriya's upcoming period drama action film *Kanguva*. Portraying a menacing antagonist, Bobby is expected to bring a new dimension to the movie. Directed by Siva, it features Suriya in six roles, and also stars Yogi Babu, Jagapathi Babu, Disha Patani, among others.

Sci-fi zone

Akansha Ranjan Kapoor

Making a foray into South Indian cinema, Akansha Ranjan Kapoor is joining forces with Sundeep Kishan in CV Kumar's *MaayaOne*, sequel to the 2017 sci-fi thriller *Maayavan*. Thrilled to be part of the film, Akansha sees this as the perfect time to explore South Indian cinema.

First take

Shanaya Kapoor

Daughter of Maheep and Sanjay Kapoor, Shanaya Kapoor is set to make not just her acting debut, but also her South Indian debut with the film *Vrushabha*, opposite Mohanlal. Directed by Nanda Kishore, Shanaya has already wrapped up the first shooting schedule of the film, which she announced on Instagram.

Yet, Suniel Shetty says judging Dance Deewane is the best decision of his life



Colors' *Dance Deewane* is set to unite three generations of incredible artists.

Madhuri Dixit Nene reclaims her place on its judges' panel, joined by Suniel Shetty.

Sharing his thoughts about judging *Dance Deewane*, Shetty says, "Many people said that this is probably the best decision that I have taken. My mother said that too because she loves this show. My wife, daughter, son, and friends said the same thing. However, initially, I was doubtful about this decision. When the team of the show approached me, I asked 'Why me?' I have two left feet. The team mentioned that they wanted to change this thinking with this show. They said aap bus deewane banke appreciate karo jo apko accha lagta hai."

Director Taika Waititi is inspired by Indian films

Academy Award-winning director Taika Waititi is all set to return with his latest venture *Next Goal Wins*, which will be a comedy film based on a documentary by the same name. The film dives deep into the legendary football coach Thomas Rongen's journey of leading the American Samoan team from a disastrous defeat to a spectacular win in the 2014 World Cup.

After his critically acclaimed films *Jojo Rabbit* and *Thor*, Taika recently admitted to have drawn inspiration from Indian films during his early work days. Praising Satyajit Ray's work and talking about his favourite Indian film, he said, "Of course, the Satyajit Ray film *Pathar Panchali* (1955). It was beautiful and very inspirational while I was making my earlier films." *Next Goal*



Wins releases in theatres on February 2.

Tracy Chapman to perform 'Fast Car' with Luke Combs at Grammy Awards

Singer-songwriter Tracy Chapman, who has not performed in public for long, will return into the spotlight and perform a duet of *Fast Car* with Luke Combs at the Grammys on Sunday night. Luke Combs, who scored a massive hit with his cover version of *Fast Car* last year, is eager to perform with her.

Chapman's appearance comes as a significant surprise, as she has only performed for the cameras three times since wrapping up her last tour in 2009. The singer had thus far resisted the popular demand to take advantage of the resurgence of *Fast Car* as an international phenomenon.

Luke's version of *Fast Car* was a multi-format crossover hit for the country superstar, topping Billboard's Radio Songs chart for four weeks, making it to Number 1 on the adult pop and country formats for two weeks each, and an impressive Number 6 at Top 40 radio and Number 2 on the Hot 100.

Chapman's original version came out in 1988 and peaked at Number 6 on the Hot 100, not really a reflec-

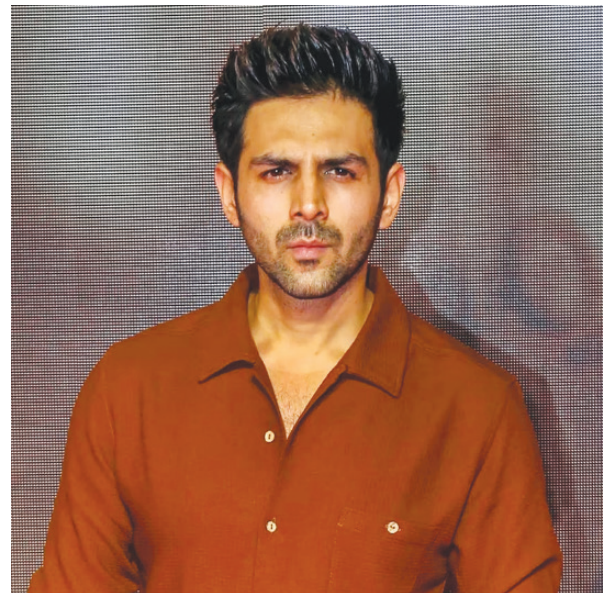


tion of how massive it was across demographics at that time. It reached the top 5 in the UK twice, once in 1988 and then again 23 years later in 2011. Chapman issued a statement of support for Combs' version, but otherwise has stayed out of the public eye since her song became dominant again last year.

Kartik Aaryan completes shooting of Kabir Khan's 'Chandu Champion'

Actor Kartik Aaryan has completed shooting for *Chandu Champion*, his upcoming movie with filmmaker Kabir Khan.

The Satyaprem Ki Katha star shared the update with fans and followers in an Instagram post on Wednesday. Aaryan, who was on a strict diet for his role of a sports hero in the film, shared a video from the film's wrap party, where Khan is seen feeding rasmalai to him. "This rasmalai tasted like victory! Finally, eating



sugar after a year! After more than a year of intense preparation and eight months of day and night shoots across the globe, today we complete the shooting journey of #ChanduChampion. And it couldn't have been sweeter than my fav, rasmalai — from the man himself who carved this challenging path for me... you have been a profound inspiration sir! @kabirkhankk (sic) the actor captioned the clip.

Aaryan started shooting for *Chandu Champion* in July 2023.

Academic pressure, stress, bullying, loneliness—celebs talk about causes of suicides among students and how to prevent it

The recent death of a JEE aspirant in Rajasthan's Kota whose suicide note went viral, has made us all think — as a society, where are we going wrong? Celebs share their viewpoint

Feeling of helplessness

Vaquar Shaikh

It is disturbing to hear when students commit suicide. There could be numerous reasons why students, especially those studying away from home, take such a drastic step. It might be the fear of not meeting the high expectations set by parents and society. Academic pressure, stress, bullying, and the pressure of love affairs are additional factors that contribute to the distress. Discrimination and feelings of loneliness can also lead someone to take such a drastic step. Parenting plays a significant role. Parents need to be vigilant and keep a check on their kids' behaviour, spending time with them, talking openly, and being friends with them.

Fear of failure

Sheezan Khan

Parents need to understand that they cannot impose their wishes on their children. Children cannot handle that pressure. They live in constant fear of failing and struggle to meet their parents' expectations.

The burden becomes so overwhelming that they find it difficult to cope and may resort to extreme measures. While having such thoughts is common, most of us have contemplated them at some point, but thankfully, we don't act upon them. We must not lose hope.

Pursuit of perfection

Charrul Malik

Witnessing young people take their own lives is truly disheartening. The pressure they face, fuelled by peer expectations and societal competition, often leads to drastic actions. Loneliness, anxiety, and the pursuit of perfection contribute to the distress. Communication is the key, emphasising the importance of mental health.

Mandatory mental health classes



for all students can address these issues.

Extreme competition

Sumbul Touqeer

There are several factors that can contribute to the complex issue of teenagers resorting to suicide. The intense focus on academic achievements can create an environment of extreme competition, pushing some students beyond their emotional limits. High expectations from parents to excel academically can add to the pressure.

The fear of disappointing their families may become overwhelming for some teenagers. Socio-economic factors can play a role. Financial instability or lack of resources can add stress to an already challenging situation. Open communication and reducing the stigma around mental health are crucial to address the issue.

High expectations

Kanchi Singh

The intense competition and high expectations in the academics are the possible factors. We need to

address the broader issues in the education system, support mental health, and encourage open conversations to help prevent these tragic situations.

False narrative

Somy Ali

Reflecting on my experience with victims of suicide and analyzing the suicide note, it's evident that societal pressures, instilled by parents or peers, contribute to a distorted self-perception. I attribute the alarming rise in youth suicides to societal and social media influences, perpetuating a false narrative of perfect lives. Mental health issues are often ignored, creating a universal elephant in the room. I urge influencers to use their clout for educational purposes, as it can save lives.

Society's reluctance to openly discuss depression is regrettable, and celebrities like Deepika set a commendable example. Parents are implored to choose their words carefully, recognising their significant impact on their children.

IAF Vayu Shakti 2024: Rafale fighter jets, attack choppers to participate

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): The Indian Air Force (IAF) will put on a full show of its firepower capabilities during the 2024 Vayu Shakti exercise on February 17 in Pokhran, Rajasthan. All frontline aircraft, including the Rafale fighter jets and Prachand attack choppers, will feature in the event.

"All frontline aircraft, including the Rafale fighter jets and Prachand attack choppers, will be taking part in the exercise. We will also be airlifting Army guns in the exercise," Vice Chief of Air Staff (VCAS), Air Marshal AP Singh said in Delhi on Friday.

This year's edition of the Vayu Shakti exercise will see all major fighter aircraft, including the Su-30MKIs, LCA Tejas,



Mirage 2000 and MiG-29s, and showcasing their firepower by shooting missiles and bombs at designated targets. A total of 77 fighter planes, 41 helicopters and five transport aircraft will take part in the exercise.

There will also be demonstrations of surface-to-air, air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons. The Vice Chief Air Marshal also said that "the 'Made in India' LCA Tejas, Prachand attack helicopters and ALH Dhruv will be taking part". "In a

span of two hours, we would be dropping around 40-50 tonnes of ordnance in a 1-2 km radius," he added.

"The Army will fire weapons from Rudra choppers during the exercise and the Ultra Light Howitzer will be showcased by underslung a Chinook chopper underlung."

This is the first time that the Rafale fighter jets, Prachand choppers, as well as the Samar surface-to-air weapon system will take part in the exercise which the IAF has been conducting since 1954.

"Air-to-air missiles, including the MICA missile from Rafale and R-73 missiles, will be fired from the LCA Tejas," the Vice Chief Air Marshal added.

Centre Merges 4 Medals Into One As 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak'

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): The Centre has merged, with immediate effect, four existing Home Minister's medals to institute one new medal named "Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak".

The new medal is named after merging the Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal, the Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, Asadharan Aasuchana Kushalata Padak and the Union Home Minister's Awards for Meritorious Service in Forensic Science.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced in a notification issued on Thursday, declaring "the existing Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal, Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, Asadharan Aasuchana Kushalata Padak and Union Home Minister's Awards for Meritorious Service in Forensic Science instituted by Ministry of Home Affairs are merged with immediate effect to institute one new medal i.e. 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak'."

The notification also mentioned "the Union Home Minister is pleased to institute the 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak' to be conferred on members of the Police Forces, Security Organizations and Intelligence Wing/Branch/Special Branch of States/Union Territories/Central Police Organizations (CPOs)/ Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)/ National Security Guard/Assam Rifles; and Forensic Science (Central/State/Union Territories) throughout the Indian Union in consideration for excellence in Operations (in the areas such as Counter Terrorism, Border Action, Arms Control, Left Wing extremism, Prevention of Narcotics Smuggling and Rescue Operation."

As per the notification, the personnel of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) will also be considered for award under the area of "Prevention of Narcotics Smuggling", outstanding service in Investigation, exceptional performance, indomitable and daring intelligence service, meritorious work done by serving government scientists in the field of Forensic Science and to make, ordain and establish the following statutes governing "Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak", which shall be deemed to have effect from the date of notification.

The award shall be in the form of medal and styled and designated as the "Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak" (hereinafter referred to as the medal), it says.

It further mentioned that the medal shall be circular in shape, made of Silver gold gilt, 38 mm in diameter, 3 mm in thickness and shall have embossed on the obverse the symbol of "face of Sardar Patel" in the centre with the words "Jai Bharat" (in Hindi) inscribed below and shall have engraved on the upper edge, the words "Rashtra Prahari" (in Hindi) and the words "Sentinel of the Nation" (in English) inscribed on the lower edge.

It pointed out that Hindi and English inscriptions shall be separated by a small star appearing on either side. On the reverse, it shall have embossed the Ashoka Chakra in the centre with the words "Satya Seva Suraksha" (in Hindi) inscribed below and the words "Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak" (in Hindi) and "Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak" (in English) on the upper and lower edge respectively. Hindi and English inscriptions shall be separated by a small star appearing on either side.

The Medal shall only be awarded for the successful conduct of opera-

tions that have a significant nature or scale and direct bearing or impact on the security of state and UT, region or country; (in areas such as counter-terrorism, border action, arms control, left-wing extremism, prevention of narcotics smuggling, and rescue operations), states the notification.

Personnel of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) may also be considered for award under the area of "Prevention of Narcotics Smuggling" by the members of Police police forces of states and UTs, CAPFs/CPOs and security organisations within the territory of India or outside the country during their posting on deputation to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Personnel who have shown outstanding performance in investigations and engaged in

intelligence organization for combating terrorism, militancy, and insurgency and got breakthroughs in unearthing of modules of espionage, insurgency, terrorism, militancy, organized crime or in arrest, capture, and neutralization of members of such outfits, moreover, engaged in consistent excellence or exemplary contribution in collection, analysis and dissemination of intelligence in combating terrorism, militancy, insurgency; and done meritorious work in the field of Forensic Science, Research and Development on the subject, qualitative case examination work, crime scene management, training and awareness, Forensic Management and outstanding work to the scientists working in government laboratories, Research and Development institutions and training Institutions and Academic Institutions.

The names of those to whom this medal is awarded shall be published in the Gazette of India except in the field of intelligence, and a register of such names will be kept in PMA Cell, Police-I Division of Ministry of Home Affairs, it said.

"Each Medal shall be suspended from the left breast and the riband, of an inch and three eighths in width, shall be half blue and half red. Any deed in the field of special operation, investigation, intelligence and forensic science which is worthy of recognition by the award of "Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak" but is performed by one upon which the decoration has already been conferred, may be recorded by a Bar attached to the riband by which the medal is suspended," it stated.

For every such additional act, it also said, an additional Bar may be added and for each Bar awarded a small silver rose with gold gilt shall be added to the riband, when worn alone.

"It shall be competent for the Union Home Minister to withdraw the Medal, if the awardee is punished with dismissal, removal, major penalty or is found involved in criminal offence or is found indulging in conduct unbecoming of officer in the opinion of the government of the state and UT or the Union. It shall, however, be competent for the Union Home Minister to restore this Medal which may have been so forfeited."

Before receiving the same, the notification said, every person to whom the said decoration is awarded, shall enter into an agreement to return the medal, if, his or her name is erased as aforesaid. Notice of cancellation or restoration, in every case, shall be published in the Gazette of India.

At the end, the notification pointed that it shall be competent for the Ministry of Home Affairs to make rules to carry out the purpose of these statutes.

Champai Soren takes oath as Jharkhand chief minister

RANCHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): JMM legislature party leader Champai Soren on Friday took oath as the chief minister of Jharkhand.

He was administered the oath of office by Governor CP Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan here.

Along with Champai Soren, senior Congress leader Alamgir Alam and RJD leader Satyanand Bhokta took oath as state ministers.

The oath-taking ceremony was held at the

Durbar Hall of the Raj Bhavan and senior leaders of the JMM-led alliance were present on the occasion.

The 67-year-old tribal leader was sworn in as the 12th chief minister of the state. He became the sixth CM from Jharkhand's Kolhan region which comprises East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts.

Champai Soren was appointed to the chief

minister's post on Thursday after he urged the governor to accept his claim to form the government at the earliest as there was "confusion" in the state which was without a chief minister since the resignation of Hemant Soren on Wednesday, deepening a political crisis.

Champai Soren has been given 10 days to prove his government's majority, said state Congress chief Rajesh Thakur whose party is a constituent of the JMM-



led alliance. "We stand united. Our alliance is very strong. No one can break it," Champai Soren had said. JMM executive president Hemant Soren

was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday in a money-laundering case linked to an alleged land fraud after he resigned as Jharkhand chief minister.

Uniform Civil Code draft submitted to Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Dhama

DEHRADUN, Feb 2 (Agencies): A state government-appointed panel to prepare a draft of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) on Friday submitted the document to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama in Dehradun.

The draft was handed over to the chief minister by the five-member committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai.

Soon after the submission of the UCC, Dhama said, "It is yet another step towards the fulfilment of a commitment made to the people of the state during



the run-up to the assembly polls held in the state in 2022."

Dhama said after getting a historic mandate of the people for

a second consecutive term in office, his cabinet decided to constitute a committee to draft the UCC at its very first meeting to initiate the process of fulfilling that commitment.

"The long-awaited moment has arrived. The draft of UCC has now been submitted to us. We will examine, study and discuss it before tabling it in the state assembly to move in the direction of making it an act during its forthcoming session," he said.

A meeting of the state cabinet has been called on Saturday to discuss the draft.

Nine injured in fire triggered by gas leak at Mumbai chawl; three critical

MUMBAI, Feb 2 (Agencies): Nine persons, including four women, were injured in a fire that broke out after a gas leak in Mumbai's Chembur area, fire officials said on Friday.

Three of the injured persons have suffered more than 50 per cent burns and are critical, they said.

The LPG (cooking gas) leak occurred in a chawl at Siddharth Colony in Chembur East around 11.45 pm on Thursday, they said.

A fire brigade official said that one fire engine, a jety and ambulances were rushed

to the spot. The fire was doused in 10-15 minutes, he said.

Nine persons, including four women, in the age group of 17 to 60 suffered burns.

While six of them were admitted to the civic-run Rajawadi Hospital at Ghatkopar, one each was admitted to Sion hospital, Shatabdi hospital in Govandi and Manek hospital (Chembur), said the official.

The official said three injured persons, who suffered more than 50 per cent burns, are critical. While five are stable, a 42-year-old



man with minor injuries was discharged from Shatabdi hospital, he added.

Car falls into Sutlej river in Shimla after driver loses control, 3 dead

SHIMLA, Feb 2 (Agencies): Three people, including a couple, died and two others were injured when their car went tumbling down into the Sutlej river in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, police said on Friday.

The accident happened on Thursday evening on Luhri-Sunni road near Mahol in Kumarsein subdivision of the district when the driver lost control of the vehicle, and it fell into the river, police said.

Those killed have been identified as Abhay Kumar, Jitesh and his wife Vanshika, police added.

The injured passengers, identified as Rahul and Anshul, were rushed to Civil Hospital in Kumarsain from where they were shifted to Mahatma Gandhi Medical Service Complex in Khaneri, Rampur for further treatment, police said.

A police team reached the spot as soon as they received the information and rescued the injured as well as recovered the dead bodies.

Shimla Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said a case has been registered in the matter and further investigations are underway.

Model-Actor Poonam Pandey Dies Of Cervical Cancer At 32, Says Her Team



NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): Poonam Pandey, model and reality TV star, has died of cervical cancer, her manager said today, sparking shock and disbelief.

The 32-year-old, who was last seen on the reality show Lock Upp, "bravely fought the disease" and died this morning, her team said in a statement.

"Poonam Pandey, the beloved actress and social media personality, has tragically passed away this morning due to Cervical Cancer, leaving the entertainment industry in shock and mourning," her manager Nikita Sharma said.

"Her unwavering spirit amidst her health struggles was truly remarkable," shared Ms Sharma, highlighting the "critical need for increased awareness and proactive measures against preventable diseases like Cervical Cancer".

Her media manager Parul Chawla, who was cited by reports as having confirmed her death, later asserted that Poonam Pandey's sister had called "regarding her sudden demise" and that she was waiting for details.

"This is to place on record that we have received a call from her

family member (sister) this morning regarding her sudden demise (as posted on her official Insta id). We are awaiting further information from the family to update everyone. We will release official statement as we receive the further update to be shared," Ms Chawla said.

This morning, the news emerged when the model's team posted on her official Instagram page.

"This morning is a tough one for us. Deeply saddened to inform you that we have lost our beloved Poonam to cervical cancer. Every living form that ever came in contact with her was met with pure love and kindness. In this time of grief, we would request privacy while we remember her fondly for all that we shared," the statement said.

Teen Drugged, Raped By Friends She Met On Social Media In Delhi, 2 Arrested

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): An 18-year-old woman was allegedly raped here after being drugged by two men, who were her friends on a social media platform, police said on Friday.

They were arrested from Meerut in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday based on a case registered at the Ambedkar Nagar police station on Wednesday, they said.

The woman in her complaint said that around 1 pm on Monday, the men called her at a signalled intersection in Madangir, police said. She claimed that they asked her to sit on their scooter but she refused. The men threatened her with dire consequences and she agreed to travel with them, police said, citing her complaint.

The men took her to Malviya Nagar where they had food. The complainant claimed that the food was laced with drugs and she felt dizzy after having it, they said.

On gaining consciousness, she realised she was sexually assaulted, according to the woman's complaint. Police said the accused -- 19 and 21 years old -- have been arrested under Indian Penal Code sections 376-D (gang-rape), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention).

2 Dead, Nearly 300 Injured In Kenyan Capital Fire After Gas Explosion

NAIROBI, Feb 2 (Agencies): At least two people were killed and more than 200 injured in a massive fire when a truck laden with gas exploded in the Kenyan capital, a government spokesman said Friday. The explosion ignited a "huge ball of fire that spread widely", Isaac Maigua Mwaura said on social media platform X.

"Consequently, the inferno further damaged several vehicles and commercial properties, including many small and medium sized businesses," he said, adding that "residential houses in the neighborhood also caught fire, with a good number of residents still inside as it was late at night."

At least two people died from their injuries and another 222



were rushed to various hospitals in the capital, the government spokesman said.

Earlier, the Kenya Red Cross had reported nearly 300 injured.

The fire broke out Thursday night in the Embakasi neighbor-

hood southeast of the capital. Images broadcast by local media showed a huge fireball close to several homes.

"We were in the house and heard a huge explosion," James Ngoge, who lives across the

street from where the fire broke out, told agency.

"The whole building was shaken by a huge tremor, it felt like it was going to collapse. At first, we didn't even know what was happening, it was like an earthquake.

"I have a business on the road that was completely destroyed." Many of the area's residents spent the night outside, an agency journalist observed.

Police have cordoned off the affected area, but some people could be seen collecting their belongings and surveying the damage.

"The scene has now been secured and a command center is now in place to help coordinate rescue operations and other intervention efforts," said Mwaura.

Several Dead After Small Plane Crashes Into Florida Trailer Park



FLORIDA, Feb 2 (Agencies): Several people were killed after a small plane crashed into a trailer park on Thursday in Florida, setting fire to several homes, according to the BBC. The single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza V35 went down in the Bayside Waters mobile home park in Clearwater just south of the Clearwater Mall. Air traffic control heard the pilot declare a mayday before disappearing. It is unclear how many people were on board, but the crash resulted in "several fatalities, both from the aircraft and within the

mobile home," as per Clearwater Fire and Rescue Department.

A video of the crash site was shared on X by the fire department. It shows wreckage strewn into the street. "We're on scene of a small plane crash at a mobile home park south of Clearwater Mall. Multiple mobile homes have caught fire. Firefighters from multiple jurisdictions are on scene," the caption of the post read.

Speaking to reporters, Clearwater Fire Chief Scott Ehlers said four trailers were "heavily involved", and one was struck by the small

plane. The fires were "quickly extinguished," he said.

Further, as per the fire chief, 3 of the homes have been searched and found to contain no victims. Residents were inside when the plane crashed but were able to flee to safety, Mr Ehlers added.

Investigators are still working to approach the trailer that was directly hit by the plane. The pilot is believed to have died, officials said.

Separately, in a statement, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said that the plane was a single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza V35 that had reported an "engine failure" shortly before the crash. "It is not yet known how many people were on board," the statement added.

The crash will be investigated by the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

Hamas gives 'initial' approval to Gaza truce plan as fighting drags on

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, Feb 2 (Agencies): Fighting in Gaza dragged on into Friday with scores reported killed overnight, after mediator Qatar said Hamas had given its "initial" approval to a hostage-prisoner exchange deal that would pause its war with Israel.

Hamas's health ministry said 105 people were killed overnight from Thursday to Friday, while the group's press office reported raids and shelling around Khan Yunis -- southern Gaza's main city and the recent epicentre of hostilities.

Nearly four months of fighting have rendered Gaza "uninhabitable", according to the UN, while an Israeli siege has led to dire shortages of food, water, fuel and medicines.

The humanitarian crisis, coupled with soaring civilian casualties, has spurred increasing international calls for a ceasefire.

Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman, Majed al-Ansari, said Thursday that recent talks in Paris between Qatari, US, Israeli and Egyptian officials had yielded a consolidated truce proposal.

"That proposal has been approved by the Israeli side and now we have an initial positive

confirmation from the Hamas side."

Ansari said there were hopes of "good news" about a new pause in the fighting "in the next couple of weeks".

But a source close to Hamas told agency on Thursday: "There is no agreement on the framework of the agreement yet -- the factions have important observations -- and the Qatari statement is rushed and not true."

A Hamas source had previously told AFP the three-stage plan would start with an initial six-week halt to the fighting that would see more aid deliveries into Gaza.

Only "women, children and sick men over 60" held by militants would be freed during that stage in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israel, the source said, requesting anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

There would also be "negotiations around the withdrawal of Israeli forces", with possible additional phases involving more hostage-prisoner exchanges.

A deal 'right now' The war in Gaza was triggered by Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel, which resulted in the deaths of around 1,160 people, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally based on official figures.

Militants also seized about 250 hostages, and Israel says 132 remain in Gaza, including at least 27 believed to have been killed.

After the attack, Israel launched a withering offensive that has killed at least 27,019 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Visiting Khan Yunis on Thursday, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told troops that the local Hamas brigade had been "dismantled" and that the "same will happen in Rafah", the southern border town where hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians have fled.

"(Hamas) don't have weapons, they don't have ammunition, they have 10,000 eliminated terrorists and another 10,000 terrorists who are wounded and not functioning. This is a serious blow that erodes Hamas' abilities," he said.

Gallant also reiterated the government's long-standing position that only military means could ensure Israeli captives' release, telling troops their operations "bring us closer to enabling the return of the hostages, because Hamas only responds to pressure".

However, domestic

calls for a ceasefire and hostage deal have mounted, with protesters gathering again in Tel Aviv on Thursday night carrying placards featuring hostages' faces and slogans such as "No more bloodshed".

"This government, our leadership, needs to make decisions and they need to be brave," said activist Moran Zer Katzenstein. "We need them to bring the hostages back, right now."

Settler sanctions Violence has also flared in the occupied West Bank, where more than 370 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops and settlers since October 7.

The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on four Israeli settlers over the violence, in a rare US move against Israelis. Any assets they hold in the United States will be blocked, with Americans forbidden from financial transactions with them.

"The situation in the West Bank -- in particular high levels of extremist settler violence, forced displacement of people and villages, and property destruction -- has reached intolerable levels and constitutes a serious threat

to the peace, security and stability of the West Bank and Gaza, Israel, and the broader Middle East region," President Joe Biden said in an executive order laying the groundwork for US actions.

The war in Gaza has also given rise to an increase in attacks by Iran-backed allies of Hamas across the Middle East, drawing in US forces among others.

American forces shot down a drone of unspecified origin off Yemen on Thursday, and later destroyed an explosives-laden uncrewed surface vessel attributed to Huthi rebels that threatened ships in the Red Sea, the US military said.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) also said Yemen's Iran-backed Huthis had launched two anti-ship missiles that were possibly aimed at a cargo ship in the Red Sea, though they did not hit the vessel.

The United States had destroyed 10 Huthi drones and a ground control station shortly after midnight local time on Thursday.

The Huthis began targeting Red Sea shipping in November, saying they were acting in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

Cash-strapped Pakistan pledges support to Maldives after India cuts aid

ISLAMABAD, Feb 2 (Agencies): Cash-strapped Pakistan assured the Maldives of its support to address the "pressing development needs" of the island nation in the Indian Ocean.

During a telephone conversation with President Mohamed Muizzu, Pakistan's caretaker prime minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar discussed ways to fortify the bilateral ties between the two nations, the President's Office said in a press release.

Muizzu has also "been assured of the support of the Pakistani government to address the



pressing development needs of the Maldives," it said.

The two leaders discussed the top priorities for the two countries and spoke about enhancing cooperation in the international arena.

Kakar also conveyed his support and assistance to the Maldives'

efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, the release said.

The Maldives established diplomatic relations with Pakistan on July 26, 1966.

While Pakistan is a close ally of China, President Muizzu is also regarded as pro-Beijing.

Turkish police rescue hostages held at gunpoint for hours in Procter & Gamble plant in Gaza protest

ISTANBUL, Feb 2 (Agencies): Police have rescued seven hostages held at gunpoint for hours at a factory owned by US company Procter & Gamble in northwest Turkey, local officials said early Friday.

A gunman had sparked the standoff at the P&G facility in Gebze, Kocaeli province, in protest of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, Governor Seddar Yavuz was quoted as saying by state-run Anadolu news agency.

Police initiated the rescue after 10 hours of negotiation failed. "Our esteemed police members and our heroic security forces made the necessary intervention as soon as we were sure that no harm would come to the hostages," Yavuz said.

Previous reports said two suspects had taken

P&G staff prisoner, but Yavuz said it was a former employee acting alone.

The man had demanded a cease-fire in Gaza and the opening of aid routes into the Palestinian enclave, he added.

"The hostages were rescued safely and the person who committed the action was detained and a large-scale investigation was launched into the incident," Yavuz's office said in a statement.

A spokesman for Cincinnati-based P&G said the situation at its Gebze plant had been resolved and all personnel were safe.

"The fact that no one was harmed is our greatest relief. We are grateful to the authorities and first responders who managed the situation with courage and

professionalism," the spokesperson said.

The suspect was also unarmed.

Yavuz said the man had two guns and an unspecified "device." Turkish media had published an image of the suspect inside the factory wearing what appeared to be a rudimentary explosives belt and holding a handgun.

Private news agency DHA said a man entered the main building of the facility around 3 p.m. local time and took seven staff members hostage.

Police sealed off surrounding roads at the factory and tried to negotiate with the hostage-taker.

P&G Turkey employs 700 people at three sites in Istanbul and Kocaeli, according to

the company's website. It produces cleaning and hygiene brands such as Ariel washing powder and Oral B toothpaste.

"Thank God, we were reunited," said Fatma Dursun, who told Anadolu her niece had been among the hostages. "May God bless our people, our police and our security forces."

Public feeling against Israel and its main ally the US has risen in Turkey since the conflict began, with regular protests in support of the Palestinian people in major cities and calls for an immediate ceasefire.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been particularly outspoken, referring to Israeli "war crimes" and comparing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanya-

hu to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.

The US Embassy in Ankara issued a warning in November about demonstrations "critical of US foreign policy" and calls for boycotts of US businesses. The advice followed protests and attacks on outlets such as McDonald's and Starbucks over the conflict in Gaza.

The photograph of the suspect carried in the Turkish media shows him with a black-and-white Arabic headscarf covering his face. He is standing next to a graffitied wall showing the Turkish and Palestinian flags with the slogan "The gates will open. Either musalla or death for Gaza." A musalla is an open prayer area for Muslims, usually used for funeral rites.

BMW Group India presents India Art Fair 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: BMW Group India is the presenting partner of the latest edition of India Art Fair from 1 - 4 February 2024 at the NSIC Exhibition Grounds in New Delhi. India Art Fair is the leading platform for showcasing modern and contemporary art in India and South Asia.

The fair has brought hundreds of artists from the region to the world's attention over its many successful editions.

Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "BMW Group India is deeply committed to nurturing corporate citizenship and fostering intercultural dialogue, integral to our societal responsibilities. We are proud partners for the fair, as it celebrates 15 incredible years of



establishing itself as the leading platform for discovering modern and contemporary art in India and South Asia. As the 'Presenting Partner' of the India Art Fair, we have been instrumental in promoting the growth and visibility of modern Indian art and artists. This year, BMW India is excited to unveil the third installment of the 'Future is Born of Art' commission. We invite art and automobile enthusiasts

alike to join us in exploring new realms of creative expression at the India Art Fair."

BMW Group India has supported the evolution and exposure of modern contemporary Indian art and artists since 2012. Through this year's collaboration, BMW India will exhibit the first-ever fully electric BMW i7 sedan as part of third 'The Future is Born of Art' commission and host the BMW Art Talk

on the theme 'Through the Looking Glass'.

The first-ever BMW i7 is a true all-electric luxury sedan that clearly demonstrates how an exclusive driving experience can be combined with an unwavering commitment to sustainability. The i7 offers all-electric innovation, visionary design, and powerful driving dynamics so that you can make a striking impression everywhere you go. Built for the luminaries with next-level style and substance, it is undeniably alluring from the inside out.

'The Future is Born of Art' commission is an initiative by BMW India and India Art Fair which aims to propel emerging Indian artists and boost BMW Group's commitment to promote art, sustainability and innovation. BMW India will

showcase its third commission based on the theme 'Forwardism'.

SashikanthThavudoz is the winner of the third edition of 'The Future is Born of Art' commission, following FaizaHasan and DevikaSundar, the winners of the 2022 and 2023 commissions, respectively. Selected by the advisory panel comprising of HRH Radhikaraje Gaekwad-a distinguished patron and conservationist, Jaya Asokan-director, India Art Fair, Veerangana Solanki, curator and Sameer Kulavoor, contemporary artist.

Both Dube and Kallat have been leading the Kochi-Muziris Biennale as artistic directors in 2018, and 2014, respectively. BMW is a committed long-term partner of the biennial since its inception in 2012.

Redress issues of Academic Arrangement faculties: Shiraz Mir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: National Human Rights Law Protection & Khidmath Khalaq Chairman. Shiraz Mir expressed grave concern over the issues faced by the Academic Arrangement faculties in the Govt. Degree Colleges across J&K.

He strongly urged the LG administration especially Principal Secretary Alok Kumar to address their long pending demand regarding the enhancement of salary and take immediate step to bring relief to the hundreds qualified candidates who have been affected by the unfavourable policies of authorities.

He said that concerned authorities are making an injustice with the highly qualified candidates and not showing sincerity towards their genuine issues.

Earlier Higher Education Department had sent a detailed proposal to the Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor to enhance monthly remuneration but unfortunately, no action has been done so far, he said.



It is pertinent to mention here that the teaching faculties engaged under academic arrangement are getting very low salary as compared to UGC guidelines as well as the decision of the Supreme Court, which advocated to pay equal pay for equal work.

He further said that its high time for the authorities to hike the salary for the same community as per the UGC guidelines and follow the criteria of other states and UTs as soon as possible.

KCCI team discusses Traders' issues with Commissioner Taxes

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 2: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) team made a presentation of issues facing Trade, Commerce & Industry in a meeting convened by the Commissioner Taxes, P. L. Bhat at Srinagar on Thursday.

The KCCI team led by Secretary General, Faiz Ahmad Bakshi comprised of Fayaz Ahmad (Alfa), Rajwant Singh and Abid Hussain Pandita members of KCCI. The Commissioners attention was invited to the issues dating back to 2014 floods, Vat and GST regime that have remained unresolved.

KCCI welcomed the announcement of the recent pre-GST Amnesty Scheme and sought its application in a way that suited smaller and larger amnesty seekers. KCCI stressed upon



the need for awareness among taxpayers and interpretation of various provisions of the GST Act which the taxpayers and tax experts find conflicting with the interpretation of the officials. The commissioner's attention was also drawn on the need to have a friendly relationship between the Department and the taxpayers about which there are many complaints.

It was demanded that the raid system should end and the taxpaying business community treated with respect and dignity it deserves,

more so, in the light of increased tax collection year by year.

The KCCI raised pre-GST & Post GST unresolved issues especially the discrepancies in GST Tax returns during the initial stage of GST regime.

The matter of tax mismatch on GST, failure of GST Deposit by Government Departments to suppliers/ contractors, non-existing Tribunals, non-imbursement were among other issues raised and presented in a memorandum to the commissioner.

He assured that there was no scope of

harassment caused to the trading community by Tax officials and if such complaints were reported the same be communicated to the Addl. Commissioner or him. He also assured that whatever was within his jurisdiction would be done and that he will make efforts to formulate an opinion at higher level for taking up the matters with the GST Council adding that some of the issues raised were being faced and raised by traders across the country which he hoped would be addressed in coming times.

GDC Thannamandi celebrates World Wetlands Day

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Feb 2: The Eco-club in collaboration with Departments of Botany and Zoology of GDC Thannamandi celebrated World Wetlands Day as part of Viksit Bharat Abhiyan here today.

On this occasion an intra-college symposium cum quiz competition on the theme "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing" organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of the college.

Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Head, Department of History and senior most Faculty in the College was Chief Guest on the occasion.

In his message, Prof. Farooq Ahmed emphasized upon the need of conservation of Wetlands which are critically important ecosystems that contribute to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability as well as world economies.

He appreciated the initiative of organizing Departments to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands among students and

youth and increase people understanding of these critically important ecosystems at large.

Dr. Nazakat said that it is more important to raise awareness at local level to accomplish national and global awareness goals about wetlands for reversing their rapid loss and encourage actions to conserve and restore them.

In the intra-college symposium Adnan Aqib of B.Sc 6th Semester won 1st prize whereas Nosheen Qureshi of B.Sc 4th Semester and Saba Naz of B.Sc 6th Semester bagged 2nd prize and 3rd prize respectively.

The speakers gave an overview of about 2500 Ramsar sites worldwide including 80 across the nation and 7 in Jammu & Kashmir.

Seven lakes in Pirpanjal needed to be promoted as UNESCO heritage/Ramsar sites, the young speakers raised concern. Dr. Gulshan Rashid, HoD Geography, Fatima Parveen, Convener Women Development Cell, and Prof. Rummy Dar, HoD - English, served as judges of the symposium. The symposium was followed by instant and open to all

quiz in which winners were gifted pens as token of appreciation.

Earlier, Dr. Ashaq Malik, IQAC Coordinator and Head, Department of Botany welcomed and introduced the audience about the Day World Wetlands Day which is celebrated each year on 2 February to raise awareness about wetlands.

This day also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.

Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, HoD Zoology, coordinated the programme whereas Dr. Junaid Ahmed, Convener, Eco-club and Head Department of Environmental Sciences presented the vote of thanks. Adnan Aqib Head Boy conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Abdul Haq Naimi, Prof. Asif Ajaz Lone, Dr. Nazar Ul Islam, Dr. Gohar Iqbal, Prof. Supriya Gupta, Anuj Bali (Librarian), Dr. Nusrat Farooq, Dr. Sajjad, Dr. Nisar Bhat and Dr. Wahid Qazi,

FROM PAGE 1

BTech student dies by suicide, 3rd case from Kota in 10 days

boy noticed a tiffin box kept untouched outside Mohammed's room on Thursday evening and informed the PG owner, the officer said.

The police were informed about the incident at around 8 pm on Thursday, Singh said.

The body has been placed in the mortuary for post-mortem, he said, adding that the student's family has been informed and they are on their way to Kota.

So far, three suicides have been reported in Kota this year. On January 29, 18-year-old Niharika Singh preparing for JEE allegedly hanged herself at her home in this coaching hub, leaving behind a suicide note saying sorry to her parents and calling herself a "loser".

On January 23, 19-year-old Mohammed Zaid was found hanging in his hostel room in Kota.

He had come to the city from Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad district a year back to prepare for the medical entrance exam NEET. No suicide note was found in that case.

Last year, 26 students allegedly died by suicide in Kota, where children come from across the country to prepare for competitive tests like the National Entrance Exam (JEE) for admission to top engineering colleges.

DGP Swain calls for strict action against drug traffickers in J&K

'master list' of repeatedly offending vehicles and also directed for indexing of drivers and vehicles found involved in transportation of drugs.

He stressed on the classification of victims, peddlers and dealers and impressed upon the officers to look forward and background linkages benefiting from the past experiences.

During the meeting, the spokesperson said several crucial aspects of improving the investigation and disposal of crime

cases particularly drugs and bovine smuggling were deliberated upon.

"The crime picture of a district or zone should highlight the rate of disposal and quality of disposal of the crime cases registered, and to improve the efficiency of crime disposal, we must create a comprehensive, up-to-date and accurate database of the criminals," the DGP said.

"A robust crime case database will help in utilising the data for investigations," Swain said.

The DGP directed the officers to take strict action against bovine smugglers, as the trade is often associated with various other unlawful activities including transportation of criminals and unlawful material.

"Strict action must be initiated against the vehicle owners whose vehicles are repeatedly used for the trade," he said.

As an added incentive to motivate the officers, the DGP announced that those who demonstrate exceptional performance in the investigations would be rewarded as best district and best police station.

Avalanche warning issued for eight J&K districts

likely to occur above 2400 metres over BANDIPORE, BARAMULLA, KUPWARA & GANDERBAL districts in next 24 hours.

It also said that avalanche with MEDIUM Danger Level is likely to occur above 3000 metres over DODA, KISHTWAR, POONCH, & RAMBAN districts in next 24 hours.

Fill potholes, eradicate overloading to prevent accidents: Div com tells DCs

Reviewing the progress of other projects undertaken by the PWD(R&B) department, the Div Com was informed that some of the projects are nearing completion and are under finishing phase while work is going on in other projects. Besides, work on some of the projects has been stalled due to lack of funds. The Div Com directed the concerned to complete the projects that

are nearing completion by March, 2024 and also complete the balance work on other projects within timelines.

Custodial Death | Two Police officials suspended, SHO attached to DPL

initiating Magisterial Enquiry into the incident.

As per standard protocol, the dead body of the accused was shifted to GMC, Bakshi Nagar Jammu and request has been made for constitution of Board of Doctors for conducting autopsy in presence of Executive Magistrate 1st Class to determine the cause of death, he said.

District Police Jammu understands the public's concern and emphasizes its commitment to upholding the highest standards of accountability and transparency in law enforcement operations, reads the statement.

39 drug peddlers held, 24 cases registered under NDPS Act in Baramulla in January 2024: Police

cases in year 2023. 264 cases under NDPS Act registered, 75 drug peddlers have been booked under PIT NDPS Act/PSA, 07 properties with an estimated combined worth of Rs. 3 crores attached; seized contraband worth 34 crores destroyed.

'Terror-Funding': SIA raids five locations in Delhi, Srinagar

including secessionism and militancy. The official stated that a case had been registered at Police Station SIA Kashmir following a thorough investigation.

During the course of the inquiry, it was discovered that a staggering amount of Rs 85 crores had been illicitly raised and laundered within a brief period of less than

two years.

A case under FIR No 08 of 2023 under the appropriate sections of the law was registered at SIA Kashmir and further investigation of the case is going on.

Snowfall in Rajouri brings joy to tourists, farmers; road closures impact connectivity

started, and we were eagerly waiting for the snowfall and rain. We are very happy. It's a bit challenging, like walking about 6-7 km to reach school. At this time, road connectivity has been cut off, but slowly tourists are coming, including children. I appeal to the government that this top hill, Manihal, has everything good but lacks development. So, my appeal is to develop this area. Many tourists are coming here, and perhaps more would come if there was road connectivity, which is currently blocked due to snowfall," Tahira Shamim Khan said.

Aurangzeb, a local farmer, echoed the sentiments, emphasizing the positive impact of snowfall on agriculture and horticulture.

"After a long time, there has been snowfall, and we are very happy. The reason for this happiness is that horticulture and agriculture benefit greatly from it. For example, the department facing a complete drought in terms of drinking water and the Atta Chakki that had shut down due to the lack of water is now benefiting from the abundant rainfall. The crops needed water, and now they are flourishing due to the rain. Even diseases that had increased are now getting better. Tourists will also come here now. The only issue is that the road connectivity is quite poor, and today it's closed due to snowfall, but even otherwise, it's not in good condition," Aurangzeb said.

The snowfall has provided big relief to farmers in the agriculture and horticulture sectors, as the precipitation is expected to be beneficial for crops. However, the joy comes with challenges, as the Mughal road track and the entire Pirpanchal ranges of the Poonch district are covered with a thick blanket of snow. The Mughal Road has been closed for the last seven days, due

to the heavy snowfall impacting the movement of both tourists and locals.

Despite the challenges posed by road closures, the locals are urging tourists to visit and experience the scenic beauty of the snow-covered landscape.

Extreme cold wave hits parts of Kashmir

below 5.8°C against the normal of -6.1°C on Friday. The earlier minimum temperature recorded at Pahalgam was -10.3°C on February 13, 2023.

It also received 12.2mm of rainfall and 8.5cm of snowfall during the past 24 hours.

Kashmir weather, an independent forecaster, said that Larnoo recorded a low of -17.7°C, Shopian -10.7°C, Kulgam -9.3°C, and Anantnag -8.5°C in south Kashmir, and Sonamarg in Ganderbal district had a low of -15.1°C on Friday.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu National High also witnessed the lowest temperature in the last 16 years at -9.4°C on Friday. The earlier lowest temperature was recorded at -12.2°C on February 13, 2008.

Qazigund also received 17.8 mm of rainfall and 14.0cm of snowfall during the past 24 hours.

Kokernag in south Kashmir also witnessed a record low of -9.4°C on Friday. The earlier lowest minimum temperature at the picnic spot was recorded at -4.6°C on February 13, 2023. It also received 17.1mm of rainfall and 12.2cm of snowfall during the past 24 hours.

Kupwara had a low of -4.4°C, and it was -2.1°C below normal for the frontier Kashmir district on Friday. It also received 0.6mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours.

Srinagar recorded a low of -0.3°C, and it was 0.4°C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season. Srinagar also received 0.4mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours, the MeT office said.

The MeT forecast weather will generally remain dry with the possibility of very light snow at isolated higher reaches today, while from February 3-4, there is a possibility of light to moderate snow or rain (Jammu) at many places in J&K, while the weather will generally remain dry from February 5 to 12.

India unveils "hybrid strategy" to achieve net zero target by 2070

Rooftop solarization, EV charging incentives highlighted in Interim Budget 2024

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): A green push through a "hybrid strategy" is the plan forward to achieve the net zero target by 2070. The announcements made by the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman for sustainable development underscores "green growth" through multi-sectoral targeted interventions. Harnessing wind energy, coal gasification, rooftop solarization, promoting bio-manufacturing & bio-foundry, blending compressed biogas, financial assistance to procure biomass aggregation and strengthening e-vehicle ecosystem are the major takeaways from the budget announcements.

Says Swasti Raizada, policy advisor, international institute for sustainable development (IISD), "In anticipation of surging energy demands, the interim budget adopts a hybrid strategy to bolster various energy sources, encompassing both fossil fuels and clean energy. While maintain-



ing this balance, the government prioritizes clean energy adoption on the consumption side evident through incentives for solar rooftops and strengthening EV charging infrastructure."

Responding to the finance minister's announcement of funding the viability gap for harnessing offshore wind energy potential for initial capacity of one giga-watt, Raizada adds, "This initiative is poised to bolster the government's ambitious goal of installing 500 GW of non-fossil power, with an anticipated 130 GW to be generated through offshore wind sources."

Setting up of 100 MT coal gasification and

liquefaction capacity by 2030, phased mandatory blending of compressed biogas in compressed natural gas (CNG) for transport and piped natural gas (PNG) for domestic purposes and new schemes for bio-foundry are also seen by the experts as positive steps in bolstering green energy and promoting circular economy. Says Arti Khosla, director, climate trends, "The FM's speech indicates strong intent towards building a net zero green economy and lays a clear path for what to expect from the full budget. Measures like promoting bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry to provide environment-friendly

alternatives such as biodegradable polymers, bio-plastics, biopharmaceuticals and bio-agri-inputs can drive a progressive circular economy clearly setting an example for the world." The decision to provide financial assistance for procurement of biomass aggregation is also likely to encourage farmers to participate in the bioenergy supply chain.

The budget's solarization push through rooftop installations will enable "muft bijli" up to 300 units to one crore households every month and will result in savings up to Rs. 15000-18000 annually. The surplus can be sold to distribution companies. Says Khosla, "Such incentivisation will not only generate income but add up to put India in a strong position of climate leadership ahead of COP33 which Prime Minister Modi committed to host in Dubai last year."

Adoption of effuses for public transport network and strengthening e-vehicle ecosystem by

supporting manufacturing and charging are welcome steps to accelerate the adoption of EVs across the country, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector. "The interim budget, not so surprisingly, fell short of any big announcements.

But, we do hope that the July budget has more capital outlay and tax concessions for domestic manufacturing of battery storage, electrolyzers and other components for decarbonising various sectors, along with more support for EVs for public and freight vehicles," says Vibhuti Garg, director, South Asia, institute for energy economics and financial analysis.

"The budget iterates that a suitable financial architecture will be created for 'sustainable economic growth', which sends strong signals of intent towards transitioning into a green economy," believes Dhruva Purkayastha, India director, climate policy initiative.

Torrent Pharma Q3 profit up 51.7% at Rs 443 crore, revenue up 9.7% on-year

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): Torrent Pharma on Friday reported its third quarter earnings for the financial year 2023-24 with profit at Rs 443 crore, up 51.7 per cent in comparison to Rs 292 crore during the corresponding quarter of FY23, beating estimates. It posted revenue from operations at Rs 2732 crore, up 9.7 per cent as against Rs 2491 crore during the third quarter of FY23. The company EBITDA stood at Rs 869 crore, up 20 per cent on-year. According to a CNBC TV18 poll, Torrent Pharma was expected to report Q3FY24 profit at Rs 363 crore and revenue for the quarter in review was estimated at Rs 2783.7 crore.

The company board also declared an interim dividend of Rs 22 (440 per cent) per equity share of Rs 5 fully paid up. The dividend, it said, is expected to be paid on or around 23rd February, 2024.

The Board of Directors also acceded to the desire of Sudhir Mehta to step down as the Director of the Company while continuing



as Chairman Emeritus effective from 1 April 2024. The company board also informed that Shailesh Haribhakti and Haigreve Khaitan will be completing their term as Independent Directors of the Company on 31st March, 2024.

"The decision to step down is rooted in a deep desire to spend more quality time with my family and on social causes. At 70, I now feel the urge to follow my heart and delve into a very different kind of challenge. I have a strong desire to spend more time with my grandchildren and help them follow their dreams. I also want to carry on and complete the work that my father had started by giving back to society, which will require immense effort and commitment to bring the desired level of execution," Sudhir Mehta said in his letter

to the company. "While I look forward to maintaining a supportive role and will remain connected with the Company as Chairman Emeritus, I would request the board to determine the date of relieving me of my duties from the board," he added.

The company's India revenue was at Rs 1415 crore, up 12 per cent. It said that the company has outperformed the market across all focus therapies aided by strong new launch performance. For YTD Dec FY24, revenue was at Rs 4286 crore, up 15 per cent.

Torrent Pharma's Brazil revenue for the quarter was at Rs 312 crore, up 26 per cent. Growth, it added, was aided by four launches in 2022 and three launches in 2023 as well as performance of top brands and growth in the generic business.

Paytm shares tank another 20%; hit fresh lower circuit limit

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): Shares of One97 Communications Ltd, which owns Paytm brand, slumped another 20 per cent on Friday, as the RBI has directed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) to stop accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer accounts, wallets, FASTags and other instruments after February 29.

The stock tanked 20 per cent to Rs 487.05 — its lowest trading permissible limit for the day — at the BSE.

On the NSE, it tumbled 20 per cent to hit the lower circuit limit of Rs 487.20.

Shares of One97 Communications plummeted 20 per cent on Thursday as well.

In two days, the company's market capitali-

sation (mcap) eroded by Rs 17,378.41 crore to Rs 30,931.59 crore.

Fintech firm Paytm sees an impact of Rs 300-500 crore on its annual operational profit, as its customers will not be able to add money to their wallets, FASTags etc as RBI barred Paytm Payments Bank Ltd from accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer account.

Railway stocks dip post-Budget announcement as railway expenditure less than market estimate

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): Railway-linked stocks, including IRFC, Rail Vikas Nigam (RVNL), Railtel, and others, witnessed a dip in their stock prices following Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's conclusion of her interim Budget speech in the Lok Sabha on Thursday. Shares of IRFC, RVNL, Railtel, and other



related stocks are grappling with losses rang-

ing between 3% and 5% post budget speech.

Despite the market's anticipation, the Budget allocated a capital expenditure (capex) of ₹2.55 lakh crore for the Indian Railways. While this figure is marginally higher than the ₹2.4 lakh crore announced in the previous year's Budget, brokerages had anticipated a more substantial increase in rail sector capex. Notably,

Nirmal Bang was expecting a 20% surge in Railway Capex during this interim Budget.

The proposed capex boost aims to drive further expansion of the Dedicated Freight Corridor, rolling stock, and High-Speed Rail (HSR) Networks. Analysts were particularly hopeful for an elevated allocation in these areas.

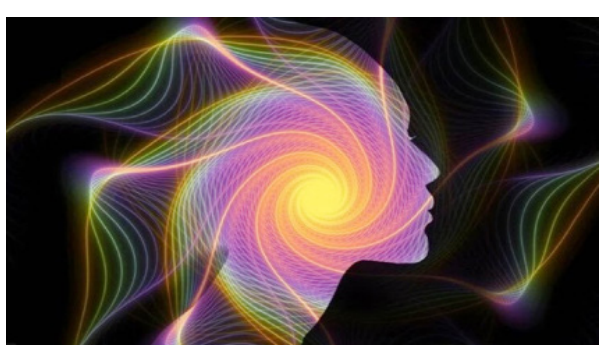
Do you feel like a 'failure' despite all your achievements? You might be dealing with your 'inner critic'

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): Does the voice in your head sometimes go: "You suck..."? "What the hell have you done?" "Ugh, not again!" This is exactly what your inner critic sounds like. Dr Rohan Kumar, a consultant psychiatrist at Regency Hospital, defines it as the "internalised voice or thought process that individuals develop, often unconsciously, which tends to be harsh, judgmental, and critical of oneself."

You might be thinking, "How can this inner critic really affect us, after all, it's just a voice in our head?" Well, this 'inner critic' can have a profound impact on an individual's emotional well-being and self-esteem. "This inner voice can be a relentless adversary, casting judgments upon one's actions and achievements," Neha Cadabam, a psychologist and executive director at Cadabams Hospital, explained.

So, what is the solution? Can we really silence this inner critic?

Picture the inner critic as the driver of our body. Like any driver, it can be experienced or inexperience—prone to making mistakes. Rather than



attempting to change the driver (which we can't psychologically), the focus should be on training it to avoid future accidents. "Since this phenomenon is rooted in negative self-talk—a concept within cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) — individuals can seek therapy to help identify and challenge these thoughts to promote healthier thinking patterns," noted Dr Kumar.

What are the steps to manage this inner critic?

First, said Cadabam, is to recognise the signs. "Acknowledging that you are grappling with an inner critic is the foundational step. This unveils the battleground where self-doubt clashes with self-acceptance."

Negative self-talk: Constantly berating oneself with harsh words and self-criticism.

Perfectionism: Setting unrealistically high

standards for oneself and feeling inadequate when these standards are not met.

Overgeneralisation: Drawing sweeping conclusions about personal abilities or worth based on specific instances of perceived failure.

Catastrophising: Magnifying the importance of mistakes or setbacks, viewing them as disasters.

Low self-esteem: Feeling consistently unworthy or lacking in self-confidence.

Now that you know the indicators, it is important to subject this inner critic to rational scrutiny.

What are the other strategies?

Journaling for insight: The act of journaling can be a powerful tool for unraveling the inner critic's patterns. Documenting these self-critical thoughts provides a tangible record, revealing recurrent themes and triggers.

Why have coconut water with sabja seeds?

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): Coconut water is packed with nutrients such as potassium, magnesium, and electrolytes. But did you know that when combined with sabja seeds or basil seeds, it can become a natural coolant for the body? The unique combination offers the best of both worlds and helps your body fight issues like acidity.

"Coconut water is rich in soluble fibre and antioxidants. It is best for people suffering from frequent dehydration. Being low in calories, coconut water can be substituted by any sugary sports beverage," said dietitian Simrat Bhui.

Sabja seeds also called basil seeds act as a natural body coolant. "It is rich in fibre which improves blood sugar levels as well as helps deal with constipation," Bhui said.

It also helps deal with excess heat in the body, said Lakshita Jain, clinical dietitian and founder, NUTR, Delhi.

Giving the body a cooling effect and hydration, the combination increases the fibre content just with a drink and helps in acidity, Bhui added. According to nutritionist Kiran Kukreja, coconut

water with soaked sabja seeds helps to relieve acidity as it can neutralise the acidic effect of HCL in the body. "Both being high in antioxidants provides good detoxification and promote weight loss," Bhui said.

Nutritionist Aarti Babhota, founder, Yukah, community director, Vaatalya shared that it is not a mandate that it works only with coconut water. "It can work with simple water or lemon water. It should be taken in moderation," said Babhota.

"You can consume this drink once a day at 11 am and 4 pm, said Kukreja.

Packed with essential nutrients like fibre, iron, and protein, you can consume the seeds with water in the morning or add them to porridges, sherbet, herbal teas, smoothies, yogurt, or on top of your salad, Jain said.

Many people mistakenly believe that using them alone will lead to weight loss.

"While they are a healthy addition, overall lifestyle choices, including a well-rounded diet and regular exercise, play a crucial role in achieving and maintaining a healthy weight," said Jain.

Brain changes behind pain sensitivity may affect older women more, study shows

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): Why older women feel more pain could be because of gender-specific changes in brain regions involved in pain perception brought about by ageing, new research has found.

These changes were found to heighten these older women's sensitivity to pain compared to their men counterparts, and hence make them experience more pain.

Researchers clarified that these gender-specific changes may not be related only to one's biological sex, but also to social factors influencing their responses to pain.

While previous studies have shown women to be more sensitive to pain, the researchers, including those at The Ohio State University, US, said that their study looked at gender by age.

"Most of the work characterising which regions in the brain respond to pain have been done in people aged 18 to 40. (We wanted) to understand what's happening between the ages of 30 and 90 years old because that's when people are beginning to experience chronic



pain," said Michelle Failla, assistant professor in the College of Nursing at The Ohio State University and lead author of the study published in The Journal of Pain.

For the study, the researchers included 27 women and 32 men aged 30-86 years old, who were exposed to increasing levels of heat. They were asked to report when the applied heat reached levels of just-noticeable, weak and moderate pain and to rate the unpleasantness of each level.

The team used functional MRI (fMRI) imaging to observe the hub of brain regions that work together in pain perception - the descending pain modulatory system (DPMS). The DPMS is also involved in triggering opioid receptors that help reduce pain.

An increased DPMS

response is thus presumed to translate into a higher or greater pain perception, they explained, even as they said researchers are still working towards describing exactly how the system works.

The researchers found gender-specific changes brought about by ageing in some of these brain regions within the DPMS.

They found that at the moderate pain level, men showed an increased DPMS response with older age (reduced pain perception), while as women aged, the DPMS response decreased (greater pain perception). The team was however not clear if this brain system was triggered later in order to catch up with the pain, or if it was already in action, meaning that the pain could have been worse to begin with.

Davis Cup 2024: 'India are still the better team', says Vijay Amritraj

India takes on Pakistan in the 2024 Davis Cup Group I Play-Off tie in Islamabad on February 3 and 4.

CHENNAI, Feb 2 (Agencies): With India taking on Pakistan in the 2024 Davis Cup Group I Play-Off tie in Islamabad on February 3 and 4, pressure is on the former to put on a good show in the two-day event.

Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj has said that India are the better team and they would want Ramkumar to get going to have a good contest. "Well, we're still the better team. I hope Ramkumar serves well and gets his act going. Qureshi (Aisam-Ul-Haq) and Khan (Aqeel, coach) are pretty experienced on grass and the fact is it's a two-day event, best of three sets on grass. I don't know the quality of the grass. So if the grass is not very good, it's going to favour them. It's going to be a good contest," he said during a press conference ahead of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger 100 tournament beginning here on Sunday.

Tamil Nadu Tennis Association, in their pursuit to foster



young talent, have given wild cards in the qualifying round for four youngsters and two wild cards (Ramkumar, Mukund) in the main draw. Amritraj said that the upcoming event in the city is for the Indian players and they want to ensure more local stars are getting into the main draw.

"Yeah, I think the important thing to note here is that this event is here for our Indian players and every year we want to make sure that more Indians can get into the main draw and qualify. What I would like to eventually see is all these wild-

cards being given to teenagers in the qualifying round is to do well and get into the main draw.

That's the goal of this," Amritraj said on Thursday. "We are trying to create champions in the future, that's the goal. When we go to a Grand Slam, we cannot see an Indian in the draw. We need to have tournaments like these which are the ones that are stepping stones."

Rohan Bopanna's recent success at the Australian Open shows that one should never give up and keep trying. However, at the moment the field looks

barren with none from Indians close to going anywhere in the Grand Slams main draw.

Amritraj feels fitness and staying healthy remains the key. "I think you work harder when you're younger and you work harder when you're over. So I think that there are several reasons, and it's the fitness, it's the ability to stay healthy.

Sometimes you overdo it when you're young. The injuries that you get stay with you for the rest of your life. And then they're nagging injuries. They keep coming and going, coming and going," he said.

Sumit to spearhead India Sumit Nagal will spearhead Indian challenge in the men's singles at the Chennai Open ATP Challenger 100. Luca Nardi of Italy is the top-seed as players from 14 countries will be taking part in the tournament here. Last year's winner Max Purcell of Australia will not be competing this time as he is featuring in other ATP events.

Thailand masters: Treesa-Gayatri, Manjunath enter quarters



BANGKOK, Feb 2 (Agencies): Sixth seeds Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand entered the women's doubles quarterfinals, but former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth was upstaged by lower-ranked compatri-

ot Mithun Manjunath on a mixed day for Indians at the Thailand Masters badminton tournament here.

With the tough three-game win over Srikanth, Manjunath, along with Ashmita Chaliha in the

women's draw, progressed to the last-eight stage of the singles' competition. Treesa and Gayatri beat fellow Indians Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa 21-15 24-22 in their Round of 16 match.

Manjunath, the current national champion who is ranked 63rd in the world, had to sweat it out for 54 minutes to get the better of Srikanth 21-9 13-21 21-17 in a Round of 16 match. Ashmita also made the next round, beating Chinese Taipei's Yu Po Pai 21-12 15-21 21-17. But Malvika Bansod made an early exit.

Pakistani players playing solely for contracts? Ex-coach Mickey Arthur points out insecurity in Pak cricket

ISLAMABAD, Feb 2 (Agencies): Former team director of Pakistan Mickey Arthur has pointed out that the team's instability has resulted in players solely focusing on securing their spots in the squad rather than team performance. Furthermore, there has been a notable restructuring within the team, including changes in the coaching staff and new captain appointments, indicating a substantial overhaul in the team's structure.

"When there's security within the environment, Pakistan is very good. When there's that insecurity, players start playing for themselves instead of the team because they're thinking of the next tour, and the next contract. That's a dangerous place to be in, and that's kind of where Pakistan cricket is now. And that's something that's very disappointing and sad for me," Arthur said in an interview with ESPN Cricinfo.

Mickey Arthur, a prominent figure in Pakistan cricket through various



coaching roles, has emphasized the deficiencies in the team's setup, particularly in terms of fostering and developing promising talent.

"There's a massive amount of talent there. There are some world-class players, not just talented players. They're not given the support structure that they need to flourish," he added.

Mohammed Hafeez recently attributed the series of defeats in Australia and New Zealand to the players' lack of focus, citing their upcoming commitments in franchise T20 cricket as a contributing factor. Although their partner-

ship ultimately ended on a sour note, the collaboration between Mickey Arthur and Pakistan Cricket had its highlights, particularly during the veteran coach's initial tenure. He steered Pakistan to a memorable victory in the 2017 Champions Trophy, and the team experienced significant success in Test and T20I rankings under his leadership.

"I still follow Pakistan cricket and I'll always follow it. But the vigour and thirst and passion I have for Pakistan cricket waned a little bit after that. To be brutally honest, I think Pakistan cricket is in a very disappointing place," the veteran coach concluded.

I missed a stumping in Mohali, and the crowd started to chant 'Dhoni Dhoni': Pant

NEW DELHI, Feb 2 (Agencies): Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been Rishabh Pant's sounding board for a while now but there was a time when comparisons with the legendary former India skipper left the young keeper-batter so stressed that he struggled "to breathe".

Pant is still recovering from a life-threatening car crash in 2022 and acknowledged that at this stage, Dhoni is the only person with whom he is comfortable sharing just about everything in his life.

But he also admitted that comparisons with the iconic Ranchi man were hard to take in the early days of his career.

"I used to really feel very bad. I used to go back to my room and cry at 20-21 years of

age. Under stress, I couldn't breathe. So much pressure, and I didn't know what to do. I missed a stumping in Mohali, and the crowd started to chant 'Dhoni Dhoni'," Pant said in a 'Star Sports' series that documents his recovery from the accident.

Pant said at this point he feels emotionally overwhelmed while talking about his dynamics with the 2011 World Cup winner.

"I always find it difficult to explain my relationship with MS. Dhoni. There are some with whom you can talk freely. I discuss everything with MSD. I have learned so much from him.

"I discuss things with him that I wouldn't discuss with anybody else. That's the kind of rela-

tionship (I have) with him," Pant said.

Pant, who was arguably India's biggest game-changer in Test cricket before being thrown off track by the horrific crash, said before it became hurtful, he was genuinely confused by the comparisons with a bonafide legend like Dhoni.

"First of all, I didn't understand why questions were raised. I had just made it to the team, and people were talking about being a replacement," Pant said.

"Why were people raising such questions at a youngster? Why are you comparing? There shouldn't be any comparison at all. Some have played five matches and the others have played 500. It's been such a long journey, so



many ups and downs, so the comparison is not fair."

Pant said he would forever be indebted to seniors like Yuvraj Singh for making him comfortable when he first came in.

"At the start, I was very young, and there were a lot of senior players, a lot of them actually.

Yuvraj Singh, MS were there, all seniors. It does take some time, but I didn't get the feeling of them being super seniors.

"They were very welcoming and made me very comfortable. They make every new player very comfortable. This is the culture of the Indian team," he said.

IND v ENG, 2nd Test: Yashasvi Jaiswal hits first Test hundred at home after learning from Hyderabad mistake

VISAKHAPATNAM, Feb 2 (Agencies): Yashasvi Jaiswal told the world that he is a quick learner when he notched up his second hundred in Tests and his first at home on Day 1 of the second Test between India and England in Visakhapatnam on Friday, February 2. Jaiswal came up with a beautifully controlled knock as he got to his hundred in just 151 balls in the second session on a hot and humid day in the coastal city of Andhra Pradesh.

3 India batters, including Yashasvi Jaiswal, went past the 50-run mark in the first innings of the first Test in Hyderabad last week and none of them went on and got a big hundred, something that head coach Rahul Dravid pointed fingers at after the hosts were handed a shock loss in the series opener by England. India managed 436 in the first innings and sealed a 190-run lead, but the quite a



few agreed with the assessment India could have pressed on and got more. However, in Visakhapatnam, the first Indian batter who went past fifty made sure he got to the three-figure mark. Yashasvi Jaiswal flaunted his ability to bat at multiple gears as he was not as aggressive he was in Hyderabad at the start of the Indian innings in Vizag. After

Rohit Sharma won the toss and opted to bat, both the Indian openers took their time to blunt the new-ball attack of England, who opened the bowling with James Anderson and Joe Root.

Yashasvi showed real signs of aggression only toward the end of the first session as he tore into debutant Shoaib Bashir, who got the big wicket of Rohit Sharma

in the first session. Yashasvi got to his fifty in the penultimate over of the first session, hitting a six and a boundary. England bowled 31 overs in the first session and got two wickets, including that of Shubman Gill who fluffed a start to get out to James Anderson, but Yashasvi looked clam and composed.

Post Lunch, Yashasvi Jaiswal once again, partnering with Shreyas Iyer, who walked in at No. 4. Towards the end of the hour mark in the second session, the young opener switched gears and tore into the England spinners, hitting Tom Hartley for three successive boundaries as he raced into the 90s.

Yashasvi Jaiswal got to his hundred, running down the track and hitting a huge six in Tom Hartley's over to get to the milestone. The young left-hander took off his helmet and soaked in the applause from the dressing room and the crowd in Vizag.

West Indies' 'Gabba Hero' Shamar Joseph Rewarded With International Retainer Contract



BRISBANE, Feb 2 (Agencies): After his heroic performance in the Gabba Test against Australia gave West Indies its first win on Australian soil in more than two decades, pacer Shamar Joseph has been rewarded the International retainer contract by Cricket West Indies (CWI). The pacer received an upgrade from his current Franchise contract to an International retainer contract. Shamar, who took seven wickets in the second innings to help the West Indies win by eight runs, had previously been on a franchise deal.

"Cricket West Indies (CWI) proudly announces the upgrade of Shamar Joseph from his current Franchise contract to a CWI International retainer contract. This decision comes in recognition of Joseph's outstanding performance and invaluable contribution to the recent historic victory against Australia on their home soil in Brisbane, marking Australia's first defeat to the West Indies since 1997," CWI said in an official statement.

Last Sunday, Joseph shocked the cricket world by taking 7 for 68

and leading the West Indies to a historic Test victory over Australia at the Gabba. His effort followed a historic five-wicket haul in his first Test match in Adelaide, where he dismissed Steven Smith with the opening delivery of the match.

Miles Bascombe, West Indies' Director of Cricket, stated that the new deal underlined the young pacer's promise and bright future. "Shamar's elevation to a CWI International retainer contract reflects his potential and the bright future ahead for West Indies cricket. We have also offered Chemar Holder a franchise contract as we double down on securing the best fast-bowling talent available. We are excited to see both men continue to excel," Bascombe said in an official statement.

Joseph bowled an awe-inspiring stint in the second Test in Brisbane, despite sustaining a toe injury off a Mitchell Starc yorker. He took seven wickets for 68 runs, including a six-wicket haul in a ten-over session that significantly changed the game's momentum.

His blistering speed, which peaked at 150 km/h, shredded the Australian batting order, leading to the West Indies' first Test victory on Australian territory in 27 years. Joseph's effort was vital in tying the series 1-1.

Budget 2024: Setting tone for Viksit Bharat and Sustainable Mobility, says Devendra Chawla

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: We commend the major announcements made by Finance Minister Nirjala Sitharaman in the Interim Budget 2024.

The government's commitment to promoting sustainable mobility is a welcome step towards a greener future. Focusing on increased usage of e-buses for public transport networks is a noteworthy initiative.

As a green mobility firm, we applaud this effort for its potential to greatly cut carbon emissions and improve the overall efficiency of public transit networks. This decision is completely aligned with our aim to promote ecologically friendly urban



mobility alternatives.

Furthermore, encouraging states to undertake the entire development of renowned tourist destinations and sell them worldwide is a smart decision. This not only benefits the tourism industry, but it also presents opportunity for sustainable transportation solutions in these places. We look forward to contributing to such projects with our environmentally friendly

mobility solutions.

The commitment to a significant FY25 capex spend of 3.4% of GDP and a capex target of Rs 11.1 trillion, an 11.1% increase, is very bold and forward looking step. It demonstrates the Government's commitment to infrastructure development. The assistance for the production and manufacture of electric mobility is well aligned with our main business. We applaud the Government's measures in promotion of sustainable mobility which plays a crucial role in creating a cleaner and greener world.

The announcement highlights the promotion of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles and increased

adoption of e-buses in public transport networks. This will be facilitated through a payment security mechanism. The government's initiative not only drives electric vehicle adoption but also creates entrepreneurial opportunities for vendors involved in the supply and installation of EV chargers. This approach contributes to employment generation, particularly for skilled youth, aligning with our vision of promoting sustainability and fostering economic growth.

Lastly, the focus on solar energy and the rooftop solarisation scheme is a forward-looking initiative.

It not only aims to provide free electricity to households but also acts as a catalyst for the

growth of the electric vehicle charging ecosystem.

We appreciate the holistic approach towards sustainable development, which not only considers the end-users but also fosters entrepreneurship and employment opportunities across the value chain.

At last, the Interim Budget 2024 sets an optimistic tone for the future. We believe that the next few years will indeed be filled with golden moments as the nation progresses toward a more sustainable and resilient future. We eagerly look forward to contributing to and benefiting from these positive changes in the mobility and energy sector.

Not hopeful of centre holding assembly polls in J&K in 2024, Says Congress' Bhakt Charan Das

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2 (Agencies): Senior Congress leader and former MP Bhakta Charan Das on Friday said he was not hopeful of the BJP-led central government holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir before September-end. However, he said, the government should respect democracy, aspirations of the people of J&K and the Supreme Court (which had directed holding of assembly polls before September-end). The election can happen if the government is willing but I do not see it happening. They have not respected democracy at many places. But it will be good if they hold the assembly polls here," the Congress leader said.



J&K Pradesh Election committee here.

"The (Narendra) Modi-led government should respect democracy, aspirations of the people of J&K and the Supreme Court (which had directed holding of assembly polls before September-end). The election can happen if the government is willing but I do not see it happening. They have not respected democracy at many places. But it will be good if they hold the assembly polls here," the Congress leader said.

He was responding to a question about the party's preparations for the assembly elections in the Union Territory.

Last month, the Congress announced five screening committees for recommending party candidates for Lok Sabha elections. The party has grouped states and Union territories in five clusters. "The cluster-IV screening committee is covering almost all of north India. We had a first round with the Pradesh Congress and today we will go into some technicalities like how to fight the next LS election and the alliance partners. We will submit our report to the five-member screening committee which was constituted for the purpose," he said.

Ehsaas Trust holds meet at Doda Nominates functionaries through resolution

Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Feb 2: "Ehsaas" a Social Organisation today convened a meeting of its office bearers at Doda today in which major functionaries were unanimously nominated through a joint resolution. As per press statement issued by the NGO, a meeting of the organisation was held under the chairmanship of its Chairman Shahab Ul Haq Butt.

The main aim of the meet was to address critical issues like healthcare, education

and community development. The statement said that the Trust is committed to implementing a comprehensive action plan focusing on medical camps, education initiatives and social events.

"The Trust acknowledges the importance of providing accessible healthcare services and pledges to organise medical camps in underserved areas, aiming to address the immediate health needs of communities," Butt said. He further added, "A body with in "Ehsaas" Trust is formed to streamline

operations with designated roles and responsibilities. The newly formed body has been tasked with overseeing and implementing the outlined initiatives".

On this occasion, Shahab Ul Haq Butt was nominated as Chairman/ Account Signatory while Zaffar Hussain Wani, Bashir Ahmed Bandy, Mohammad Ashraf Indrabi as President, Vice President/ Account Signatory, General Secretary/ Account Signatory, Secretary and Cashier respectively, Statement further added.

Dr Gautam elected President of Dental Association

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb.2: Dr. Gautam Sharma, has again been elected as the President of Indian Dental Association (IDA), Jammu. This is the third time that Dr. Gautam has taken over as President of IDA.

Dr Nipun Gupta was elected as President for the year 2025.

The executive body of IDA Jammu will comprise of Dr Himja Mengi and Dr Nimrat Kaur as vice-presidents, Dr Vibha Raina (branch secretary), Dr Rajiv Mengi, consultant dentistry, J&K Govt (representative to Govt.), Dr Premalata (editor), Dr Aayush Sharma (treasurer), Dr. Burhan (joint secretary), Dr Manik Gupta (convener CDE), Dr Arshia (convener CDH), Sunaina (student representative). Executive committee will include Dr Parul, Dr Abhimanyu Rohmetra, Dr Ankur Salada, Dr Himani Angurana, Dr Anshu Gupta, Dr Nippun Vaid, Dr Iram.



JKBS congrat SI Pawan on being honoured during R-Day Parade

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members at a special meeting held here today, congratulated Punjab Police's Sub Inspector Pawan Kumar Lakhotra on being honoured during the Republic Day Parade for performing his duties with conspicuous devotion, skill and courage.

JKBS's General Secretary R.L.Kaith and other members said, "We are happy that



someone from our Batwal Community achieved, and we are even happier that it was Sub Inspector Pawan Kumar Lakhotra.

SI Pawan thanked the JKBS members for congratulating him and said, "I'm so overwhelmed with all the love that is pouring in."

Secy Dharmath Trust pays obeisance at Tirupati Temple



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: Ashok Sharma, Secretary Dharmath Trust, Dr Varun Padha and Suresh Shastri on Thursday paid obeisance at Tirupati Balaji Temple Jammu and participated in the special Abhishek Puja.

They prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of Abhishek of Lord Venkateshwar is performed.

Ashok Sharma expressed happiness over the temple said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu.

With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is heavenly, he said and appealed people to visit the temple and pay obeisance here.

Ashok Sharma said that is ready for any kind of help to the temple and devotees.

Dr Varun Padha said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic development and employment opportunities in the Union Territory.

Subramanyam, the Superintendent of Temple, also appealed Transport Commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple.

He also emphasized to start the Bharat Darshan bus service here so that tourists also came to know about the temple.

Other dignitaries present were Sai Krishna, Temple Inspector, Subramanyam, Superintendent Raviteja, Pradhana Pandit, Amit Shukla and Veda Pandit.

"Sustainable Solutions Take Center Stage in Government Budget Plans"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: Dr. Sudhir Mehta, Founder & Chairman Pinnacle Industries & EKA Mobility said, "The union government has yet again reinstated its commitment to sustainably growing and strengthening the economy. Capital allocation of 11.11 lakh crore towards infrastructure development will play a pivotal role in fostering economic growth and prosperity. Additionally, investments in infrastructure create jobs, stimulate demand for goods and services, and attract private-sector investment. The government's initiatives and focus on uplifting women entrepreneurship will significantly enhance the startup ecosystem, propelling the Indian economy to new heights."

He added, "The emphasis on improving manufacturing and charging infrastructure aligns perfectly with our aim for a more environmentally responsible tomorrow.

Simultaneously, the growing adoption of e-buses for public transport networks is a commendable step that not only solves environmental issues but also paves the way for significant growth in the electric vehicle market. The emphasis on EV charging infrastructure not only accelerates the transition to greener energy, but also encourages entrepreneurial possibilities for vendors, creating jobs for young people skilled in manufacture, installation, and maintenance."

Furthermore, he said, the introduction of the rooftop solarisation scheme, the conversion of 40,000 rail coaches to



Vande Bharat standards, and the ambitious goal of establishing 100 million tonnes of coal gasification and liquefaction capacity by 2030 demonstrate a comprehensive approach to sustainable development.

Additional efforts, such as starting a new biomanufacturing and bio-foundry plan and legislating the gradual mixing of CNG and biogas, add to the budget's optimistic tone for a future in which economic growth and environmental science coexist. And we look forward to benefiting from these positive developments.

The implementation of such measures serves as a significant boost to Make in India and contributes to the realization of our vision to promote domestic manufacturing, he added.

Dr. Rakesh Magotra assumes charge of DHSJ

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: Dr. Rakesh Magotra assumed the charge of Director Health Services Jammu (DHSJ) on Thursday.

He was Medical Superintendent Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu prior to joining as Director Health Services Jammu.

The charge of Director Health Services Jammu is in addition to the post



of Dy. Director Health Services (HQ) Jammu that has been assigned to Dr. Rakesh Magotra. He joined as Assistant Surgeon in Health

Department and served the department in various other capacities as Block Medical Officer Bishnah, Dy. Chief Medical Officer Samba and Chief Medical Officer Kathua.

As the new Director, Dr. Rakesh Magotra shall oversee the health services in Jammu Division and with his previous administrative experiences will contribute to the betterment of the healthcare system.

Budget reiterates Govt commitment to strengthen nation's backbone: Godrej Agro MD

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 2: Managing Director, Godrej Agrovet Limited, Balram Singh Yadav has said, "The Interim Budget 2024-25 reiterates government's commitment to strengthening the 'Annadata' and backbone of our nation - our farmers."

In a statement issued by the company, the MD said, "From direct financial assistance through PM-KISAN SAMMAN Yojana to expanding farmer-centric policies

and promoting innovations, the budget paves the way for inclusive, sustainable growth in the agricultural sector. Initiatives such as e-NAM and PMMSY are empowering farmers with better market access and infrastructure, while the focus on enhancing adoption of Nano-DAP clearly showcase the government's intent to handhold farmers amidst the continuously evolving weather conditions. The proposals to

improve milk yields and aquaculture productivity in addition to achieving 'Atma-Nirbharta' for oilseeds, demonstrates the government's commitment to food security and livelihood of generation across diverse agricultural fields.

Overall, today's Interim Budget 2024-25 offers a promising roadmap for empowering our farmers, ensuring food security, and propelling the agricultural sector towards a brighter future."