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Daily Evening Newspaper

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BRIEFLY

E-Rickshaw plunges into river Jehlum at Lasjan, rescue operation on, driver safe

SRINAGAR, Feb 3 (Agencies): An e-Rickshaw vehicle fell into the River Jehlum near Lasjan bridge on Saturday while the rescue operations are underway, officials said.An official said, that the E-Rickshaw, driven by Umer Ahmad Dar Dar, a resident of SD colony Batmaloo, Srinagar, fell into the River Jehlum yesterday late in the evening.He added that the driver is safe, but the status regarding whether the vehicle was empty or carrying passengers is not known yet, and a search operation is underway to trace him. Also, ASI SDRF Abdul Rashid said they have retrieved the E-Vehicle from the water, and a rescue operation is ongoing in the area.

Verify **Credentials Of Firms Placing** Job **Advertisements: Press Council To Newspapers**

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): In a bid to protect youths from fraudsters, the Press Council of India (PCI) has asked newspapers to cross-check the credentials of a company placing advertisements for jobs.

In a statement here, the PCI advised the print media to adhere to the Norms of Journalistic Conduct while publishing employment

related advertisements. "Print Media should cross check the credentials of the Company/Organisation/ Institution/Person and carry out proper verification to establish their bona fides before booking Advertisements of Employment by private companies or under Government or Semi **Government Schemes** or Programmes in order to protect the vulnerable unemployed youth from fraudsters," the PCI said, quoting from the Norms of Journalistic Conduct. It also asked newspaper organisations to

have proper advertisement booking policy in place to contain

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Rajnath Singh Commissions INS Sandhayak, Warns Pirates



VISAKHAPATNAM, Feb 3 (Agencies): INS Sandhayak, the first

of four Survey Vessel Large (SVL) ships, was commissioned into the

Indian Navy on Saturday at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam, in the

Minister Rainath Singh. Stating that the SVL ship will go a long way in obtaining information about the oceans and achieving the twin objectives of protecting the country as well as others, Singh warned that those involved in maritime piracy and

presence of Defence

The primary role of INS Sandhayak is to carry out full scale

smuggling will not be

tolerated.

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KCCI President meets LG Sinha, raised issues with him

JAMMU. Feb 3: President Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Javed Ahmad Tenga met Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha, at Jammu and raised issues with him.

He demanded for renewal of Tourism Registration Licenses of Hotels /Restaurants / Houseboats etc under Single Window System in the spirit of ease of doing business. As presently the renewals take months and years because of the cumbersome process of obtaining NOCs from multiple



departments.

He also sought permission for repairs, renovation & reconstruction of hotels in Pahalgam/ Gulmarg/Sonmarg/ LCMA and other areas and implementation of policies for industries in letter and spirit.

"The suffering local industry needs to be provided a cushion by allocation of quota for locally produced items.

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Kargil observes complete bandh, massive protest rally taken out in Leh on KDA, LAB call



KARGIL, Feb 3 (Agencies): A complete bandh is being observed in Kargil district while as a massive protest rally was taken out in Leh district of Ladakh union territory on Saturday on

the call of Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) and Leh Apex Body (LAB), two conglomerate representing various political, social, religious, student organizations in Ladakh,

who had called for a complete 'Kargil bandh' and 'Leh Chalo' on February 03, in support of their four demands including Statehood for Ladakh. Constitutional Safeguards under Sixth Schedule, PSC for Ladakh and early job recruitment process and two separate parliament seats for Leh and Kargil. Both LAB and KDA held a meeting in Kargil bandh in the entire Ladakh region on February 03.

As per reports a complete bandh was observed in Kargil district with all business establishments, other private offices closed while transport was off the roads.

Similarly, a massive protest rally was taken out in Leh under Leh Apex Body joined by hundreds of people.

The two alliances have asked people to unite to fight for statehood and special status under the sixth schedule of the Constitution, the creation of a public service commission, job reservations for locals, an early recruitment drive and separate representation for Leh and Kargil districts in Parliament.

Member Kargil Democratic Alliance, Sajjad

Turn to page 9

Fresh Snowfall Blankets Kashmir, Gulmarg records minus 10.6 Deg C

SRINAGAR, Feb 3 (Agencies): Several parts of Kashmir, including Srinagar city, witnessed fresh snowfall on Saturday as the MeT department has forecast moderate top-heavy snowfall in the valley over the next 48 hours.

While it started snowing early in the morning in the higher reaches of Kashmir, the plains of the valley also witnessed snowfall as the day progressed, officials

They said the day temperatures are likely to stay between zero and three degrees Celsius at most places in Kashmir.

Authorities have issued avalanche warnings in hilly and mountainous areas of Kashmir while motorists have been advised to drive carefully in view of slippery roads, the officials said.

Meanwhile, there was respite from intense cold conditions last night but the minimum

temperature stayed several degrees below the normal for this time of the year.

Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 10.6 degrees Celsius, up by 1.4 degrees from the previous night's minus 12.0 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 8.3 degrees Celsius, up from minus 11.9 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Kokernag and Qazigund towns in south Kashmir both recorded a low of minus 5.4 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.7 degrees Celsius.

On Friday, the mercury had nosedived across Turn to page 9

Punjab **Governor Banwarilal Purohit Resigns**; Cites personal reasons

CHANDIGARH, Feb 3 (Agencies): Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Banwarilal Purohit submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday, citing personal reasons.

"Due to my personal reasons and certain other commitments. I tender my resignation from the post of governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh. Please accept the same and oblige," Purohit wrote in his resignation letter.

Purohit's resignation came a day after he met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi.

Their meeting came days after the BJP swept the Chandigarh mayoral polls, retaining all three posts, a setback to the Congress-AAP alliance which alleged tampering with ballot papers by the presiding officer.

Turn to page 9

Jammu-Srinagar National Highway reopens after two-day closure

and Leh and announced

JAMMU, Feb 3 (Agencies): Vehicular movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway resumed early Saturday after remaining suspended for two days following multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains and snowfall, officials said.

However, the traffic department advised commuters to follow lane discipline and drive cautiously as part of the arterial road near Sherbibi in Ramban district is single-lane and also slippery at a number of places.

The traffic on the 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was

suspended on Thursday morning after the road was damaged by a landslide at Kishtwar Patheri near Sherbibi, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded on both sides.

The snowfall also left the road slippery at various places between Ramban and Banihal, while several landslides triggered by rains blocked the road at Magerkote, Panthiyal, Mehar, Cafeteria Morh and Dalwas. After hectic efforts, the

concerned road clearance agencies cleared the debris and allowed stranded vehicles to move towards their respective destinations late Friday afternoon, paving the resumption of

normal traffic from both sides this morning, the officials said. A traffic department

official said the strategic 434-km Srinagar-Leh National Highway and the Mughal Road connecting the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district are still blocked due to heavy snowfall.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson of the Meteorological department forecast wet weather till Sunday evening and advised travellers to follow official advisories before starting their jour-

In its weather update, Turn to page 9

Avalanche warning issued for 8 J&K **Districts**

SRINAGAR, Feb 3 (Agencies): With the Meteorological centre here predicting moderate to heavy snowfall over the next 48 hours, eight districts of Jammu and Kashmir received avalanche warning on Saturday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) said avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur above 2,400 metres over districts of Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kupwara in Kashmir and Doda, Poonch and Ramban in Jammu

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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

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demsise of Late Sh. Varun Slathia S/o Charanjeet Singh Slathia R/o Bari Brahmana who left for their heavenly abode on 26-01-2024.

10TH DAY will be performed on (Sunday) 4th Feb 2024 at 11.00 AM. 13TH DAY will be performed on (Wednesday) 7th 2024 at 12.00 PM at H. No 72 ward No 6, Bari Brahmana.

GRIEF STRICKEN ALL NEAR AND DEAR ONES 7780852132, 9419212609



LATE SH. VARUN **SLATHIA**

Trilok Singh Batra,

(T.S. BATRA)

SH. INDER MOHAN BAKSHI

SSP (Retd) J&K Police

15th Aug 1938 - 27th January 2024

Karamyogi Sh Chuni

Lal Bindroo

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 Ardas 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 Ardas 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.

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

Rasam Pagri & Uthala will be performed on Monday

5th February, 2024 at "Celebration Banquet" Marble

Dr. Sweera Kumar W/o Late Dr. Ashutosh Kumar - Sister

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

Sh. Chander Mohan Bakshi (retd. DySP JKP) & Sunil Vinod Bakshi

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

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

Mr. Rajesh Bakshi (Chief Prosecuting Officer ACB,

JKPS) & Mrs. Vidushi Bakshi (Govt. Teacher)

Mrs. Nivedita Nayyar & Mr. Sunjay Nayyar

Mrs. Shivani Virdi & Mr. Sunil Virdi

Mrs. Versha Arora & Mr. Som Arora

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

Market Jammu from 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM.

IN GRIEF:-

Son & Daughter-in-law

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Brother & Sister-in-law

/erdan, Yashasvi, Vidwan

Relatives & Friends 9419116333, 9419210965

Followed by Guru Ka Langar GRIEF STRICKEN: Sdn. 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

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.

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. Udey Nath Fotedar (Brother) Smt. Santosh Fotedar (Bhabi)

Smt. Lalita Fotedar (Bhabi)

Smt. Basanti ji & Sh. Ashok Fotedar (Bhabi and Brother) Smt. Sweety ji & Sh. Vijay Fotedar (Bhabi and Brother) **Grand Children**

Bhavik Fotedar and Divva Fotedar

Phone Nos.: 9418490779, 7018527071, 9312091678, 8082024370



Dr. Payre Lal Fotedar

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform that Smt Indrawati Koul W/o Late Sh Bishember Nath Koul originally resident of Jogi Lanker Rainawari Srinagar presently at H No. 67 Lane No. 5 Buta 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 √eena Raina W/o B L Raina

Grand Children Sameer & Sheetu, Lisha & Aman, Suveni & Kapil Great Grand Children

Smt Indrawati Koul

Mob No. 7780922925, 7051474096, 8082152311

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

MOBILE NO: 7503646104, 9891838676

13TH DAY/UTHALA



SHRI SHAM SUNDER KAUL

SAMAST KAUL PARIWAR

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED LATE SH. VIKRANT BANOTRA S/O LATE SH. MADAN LAL R/O MOHALLA KAMA KHAN, H.NO.110, W.NO.7 POONCH.

13TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 4TH OF FEB. (SUNDAY)11.00 AM AND UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 5TH OF FEB. (MONDAY) 3:00 PM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

> **GRIEF STRICKEN: BANOTRA & DOGRA FAMILY** MOB: 8492938006, 9419200708, 6005680267



LATE SH. VIKRANT **BANOTRA**

FATEH KHAWANI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Mr. Wagar Hassan Pandith S/o Late Ghulam Hassan Pandith, Proprietor HASSAN MOTORS SOPORE who passed away on 01 February 2024, early morning.

May Almighty grant him highest place in Jannah.

The congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on Sunday on 04 February 2024 at their Graveyard Chinkipora Sopore at Hassan Pandith 11:00 am sharp.

Mr. Wagar

Madhu Bala (Retd. Sr. Asstt.

Information Department)

BEREAVED

Brother: Iftikhar Hassan Pandith **Brother:** Tarig Hassan Pandith Son: Mehmood UI Hassan Pandith Son-In-Law: Faisal Yousuf Mir **Nephew:** Jibraan Hassan Pandith **Nephew:** Qayim Hassan Pandith

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 4th Feb. (Sunday) and Assembly will be held at

Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 10.30 AM. **Grief Stricken**

on 26-1-2024 peacefully at Baroda Gujarat.

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

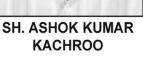
Contact: 9909978861, 7006454825

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Ashok Kumar Kachroo S/o Late Dwarka Nath & Somawati Kachroo original resident of Bagadagi, Kralyar Rainawari, Srinagar and at present F 59 Phase 1 New Palam Vihar Gurugram 122017 on 31-01-2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 09-02-2024 at 10.00 AM Block T Gauri Shankar Mandir New Palam Vihar Gurugram **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Kachroo's, Koul's, Labroo's, Razdan's Raina's, Bangroo's



MOBILE NO: 9818214055, 9910695689, 9891278383, 9967803832

10TH DAY/KRIYA & UTHALA

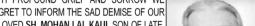
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of Madhu Bala (Retd. Sr. Asstt. Information Department) W/o Er. Dewakar Sharma (AEE Mech) R/o Katra at present C-9, Nideesh Enclave near Astro Mahindra Showroom Channi Jammu. 10th Day shall be performed on Sunday 4th Feb. 2024 at 11 am onwards.

Kriya shall be performed on Monday 5th Feb. 2024 at our residence and Uthala on same day i.e. 5th Feb. 2024 at 4.30 PM - 5.30 PM at Panch Mandii Channi Himmat Jammu.

Grief Stricken: Om Prakash Sharma -Father-in-law Heena & Gaurav Madan -Daughter & Son-in-law Ishan & Ridhi Sharma -Son & Daughter-in-law

(Ishan Electricals & Mechanical Engg Works & Ishan Garments) Er. Suraman & Rekha Sharma -Devar & Devrani Dinkar (Panka Amrit Medicos Katra) & Namrata Sharma -Devar & Devrani Rabia & Riyaan Madan -Grand Children

Contact: 9858193944, 7006952910 Fondly Remembered By: Barkulia and Rattan Pal Family



OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SH. MOHAN LAL KAUL SON OF LATE. SH. M.N. KAUL ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF KRAL-KHUD HABBA KADAL, SRINAGAR AT PRESENT C-201, BROTHERHOOD APPTS. H-BLOCK, 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

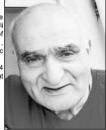
TENTH DAY KRIYA

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 Jodhamal Public School Spirit Colonia Lagorette. School, Sainik Colony, Jammu. 10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 4th February 2024 (Sunday) at Akhnoor Ghat. Assembly will be held at Muthi Gha near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 11:30 AM.

Arakesh Raina and Rita Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law) - 9312221233 Sanjay Raina and Jyot Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law) - 971369001 Sunita Pandita and R.L Pandita (Daughter & On-in-law)-9419182236 Rahul Raina & Kanika Raina (Grandson & Granddaughter-in-law) Sanjana Raina (Granddaughter) Vaishali Hangloo & Rohit Hangloo (Grand daughter & Grand son-in-law)

hakuntala Raina (Wife) - 9711369005

Reetika Pandita (Grand daughter)
Rovish Hangloo (Great Grand son)



SH. KRISHEN JI **RAINA**

Smt. Nancy Koul (Raniji)

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and peaceful demise of our beloved Smt. Nancy Koul (Raniji) W/o Late Sh. Triloki Nath Koul originally from old Fateh Kadal Srinagar at present H.No. 452-A Sector-2 Vinayak Nagar Muthi (near Lovey Lane Matador Stand) on 31-01-2024.

yon 31-01-2024.
The 10th Day shall be performed on Friday the 9th of Feb 2024 at Akhnoor. Assembly at Home at 12 Noon. Grief Stricken Ramesh Kumar Koul and Veena Koul - Beta and Bahu Manoj Kumar Koul and Rajni Koul - Beta and Bahu Vinod Kumar Koul and Swarna Koul - Beta and Bahu Vinod Kumar Koul and Swarna Koul - Beta and Bahu Sh. Girdari Lal Koul and Smt. Lalita Koul- Devar & Devrani Sh. Bushan Lal Koul and Smt. Jojti Koul- Devar & Devrani Sh. Bushan Lal Koul and Smt. Jojti Koul- Devar & Devrani Sh. Tej Krishan Koul- Jijajee Smt. Saria Raina & Sh. Ashwan Raina- Nanad & Jijajijee Smt. Saria Raina & Sh. Ashwan Raina- Nanad & Jijajijee Smt. Saria Raina & Sh. Ashwan Raina- Nanad & Jijajijee Smt. Kohini Koul - Behan Smt. Veena Ji Raina- Bhaiya & Bhabi Smt. Mohini Koul - Behan Smt. Kifi Koul (Hanjoora) & Sh. Rajesh Koul - Beti & Jamai Smt. Doora Tutoo Wio Lt. Sh. M.K. Tutoo- Niece Anshu, Prerana, Sukhad - Pota, Potee

Contacts: 9419789050, 9796446692, 9483900085

Tenth Day/Kriya/Uthala

Vith profound grief & sorrow, we regret to nform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Kamlesh Kumar Thakur S/o Lt. Nathi Lal Γhakur who left us for heavenly abode on 26-01-2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on 3-02-2024 (Saturday) at 11.00 am at our residence H.No. 14 Saraswati Lane Bohri, Jammu. Kriya will be performed on 5-02-2024

Monday) at our residence H.No. 14 Saraswati Sh Kamlesh Kumar ane Bohri, Jammu. Uthala will be performed from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm at Tawi Mahal Banquet Hall near Udhaywala Jammu

Grief Stricken

Smt Krishna Devi -Mother Smt Rrishna Devi -Mother Smt Radha Kumari -Wife Smt Jasbir Kour & Laxman Singh (Govt Contractor) -Bhabhi & Bhaiya Smt Poonam Kumari & Rakesh Kumar -Younger Brother

Miss Privanka Kumari -Daughter

Mr Hitesh Kumar -Son
Ph No. 9419108304, 9906014160, 7006297886

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that Sh Oma Dutt Sharma S/o Late P Mansa Ram Sharma R/o Ramkot (Billawar) who left for heavenly abode on 26th Jan 2024. The **10th Day** will be performed (Sunday) at our residence Ramkot on 4th Feb. 2024 at 11 A.M. **Kriya** will be performed on (Monday) 5th Feb 24

Uthala will be performed on (Wednesday) 76
Feb 24 at our residence at 3 PM to 4 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:

SONS & DAUGHTER IN LAW 3-5-27 to 26-1-24

3-5-27 to 26-1-24
(9906373119)
Sh Om Parkash Sharma & Smt Seema Sharma (9419187801)
Sh Satish Sharma (Ex Gen. Sect, BJP J&K) & Smt Anita Sharma (9419143931)
Daughters & Sons in law
Smt Amrit Prabha & Sh L D Khajuria
Smt Shashi & Sh Naresh Dubey
Grand Childrens:
Dr Vijay Khajuria & Dr Reema, Sonia Khajuria
Er Sushant Sharma & Geetika, Er Sumit Sharma & Sanya
Er. Prerak Sharma, Pranika Sharma, Aradhya Sharma
Anubhab Dubey, Arushi Dubey

BARKHI

One year has passed since you left us for a heavenly abode with tears in our eyes and an infallible void in our hearts & lives. The pain of osing you will never fade, but your divine blessings, love and affection will always be with us. Barkhi of our beloved father Sh. Bansi Lal Najawan S/o Late Sh. Sant Ram Najawna R/o House no. 325-B, Sec.-1, Lane No.-3, Durga Nagar, Roop Nagar, Jammu shall be performed at 01.30 pm on 04th February (Sunday) 2024 at our residence.



Daughters and Son-in-Laws Sheetal and Kishor Chaudhari Neetu and Ashwani Kohli Sapna and Neerai Kaul Sapina and Neeraj Radi Son and Daughter-in-Law Pankaj Najawan and Savita Najawan Grand Children: Yash, Abhi, Avni, Aaradhya, Gudu and Bhavaya

GRIEF STRICKEN

Contact No.: 9797822350, 7006857076 ondly and respectfully remembered by: All near and dears

Mrs. Priyenayni Anand Phone: 9419195634, 9622247475, 9419624367, 9419200840

BARKHI

BARKHI of our beloved Smt. Sneh Lata Suri W/o Sh. Janak Bahadur Suri will be per-formed on Sunday, 4th February, 2024 at our residence 113, Sector-3, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu at 12 Noon.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:-

Janak Bahadur Suri **-Husband** (Retd. Director of Agriculture) Smt. Vatsala Bhalla **-Daughte**r Dr. Anil Kumar Bhalla **-Son-in-law** Brother's-in-law
Mrs. & Mr. Somesh Bahadur Suri- CE (Retd) CWC

Mrs & Brig (Retd) Yudhvir Suri Mrs. & Mr. Ramnik Suri **Sister's-in-law**

Mrs. Mrignayni Chadha

Smt. Sneh Lata Suri

BARKHI

Only a year has passed without you but your presence is deeply rooted in our mind, soul and heart. We will always miss your good values and kind heartedness. BARKHI of our beloved

Sh. Vasuneet Bakshi S/o Lt. Sh. Balbir Ra Bakshi will be held on 4th of Feb 2024 (Sunday) at 12 Noon at our residence H.No 151, Sector-3, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu. **DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-**

Smt Chandrika Bakshi -Wife Mr. Avineet Bakshi -Son liss Muskan Bakshi -Daughter GRIEF STRICKEN **Bakshi and Dubey Families**

Mob: 9419273642, 9419012613



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Marengo Asia Hospitals, QAI collaborate to establish 'Center of **Excellence in Quality & Patient Safety in Stroke Care'**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Marengo Asia Hospitals and the Quality and Accreditation Institute (QAI) have joined forces to establish the state-of-the-art 'Center of Excellence in Quality & Patient Safety in Stroke Care' at Marengo CIMS Hospital, Ahmedabad. This collaboration aims to enhance stroke care treatment, with the center focusing on fortifying the healthcare system in the state and region. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) for this collaboration was initiated by Dr. Raajiv Singhal, Managing Director & Group CEO of Marengo Asia Hospitals. and Dr. B K Rana, Chief Executive Officer of Quality & Accreditation Institute (QAI)

QAI was instituted to establish an educational, training, quality improvement, and accreditation/ certification ecosystem with a vision to create a platform for stakeholders. including professionals and organizations involved in any aspect of quality, to share their expertise and knowledge. Among the verticals within QAI is the Centre for Accreditation of Health and Social Care (CAHSC), which oversees accreditation/certification activities in the field of health and social care.

The primary goal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to establish a network of primary stroke centers by connecting smaller hospitals. The initiative involves collaborating with and benefiting nursing homes and clinics,

Top News

Report

School Satwari Cantt

Jammu and Govt Model

Middle School Satwari

Cantt Jammu in coopera-

tion with the management

joint General Secretary

North- 1 while addressing

the students in the Assem-

bly highlighted the main

of these Schools.

Arun Sharma P



incorporating them into the program to position themselves as local hubs for primary stroke care management, linked with Marengo CIMS Hospital and QAI. We aim to expand the comprehensive stroke program to fellow clinics and nursing homes, enabling them to play a more significant role in the community and deliver timely and appropriate care to all stroke patients. This endeavor will empower these stroke centers with the essential knowledge and skills required to provide standardized stroke care. Through this collaboration, we intend to extend top-notch stroke care to the residents of Ahmedabad by engaging nearby community hospitals, and offering them training and expertise to evolve into L1 and L2 stroke centers in association with MCIMS and QAI.

This unique partnership marks a significant step towards enhancing the overall healthcare ecosystem in stroke care, aiming for a lasting impact in Ahmedabad. Marengo CIMS Hospital has consistently taken the lead

in pioneering initiatives for the people of Gujarat, and the collaboration with the esteemed institution. QAI, underscores the hospital's enduring clinical expertise. The objective is to establish a network of primary stroke centers in collaboration with Marengo CIMS Hospital connecting these centers to stroke software or AI hospitals to reduce the diagnosis time. Doctors involved in this endeavour will receive joint certifications from Marengo CIMS Hospital and QAI. Additionally, the initiative encompasses various components, including the collective organization of Stroke Continuing Medical Education (CME) sessions, joint presentation, and publications of the program's impact at diverse forums, and heightened community awareness through community programs. The collaboration also focuses on training and implementing awareness protocols for stroke treatment., emphasizing adherence to critical time frames for patient care. the overarching goal is system, making it more effective in both, hub and

spoke locations.

Dr Raajiv Singhal, Managing Director & Group CEO, Marengo Asia Hospitals says, "In the critical domain of stroke management, the pursuit of excellence is a dedicated responsibility. The advanced Center of Excellence in Neurosciences at Marengo CIMS Hospital has consistently delivered unparalleled patient care in stroke management. To enhance the treatment of stroke care, the hospital introduced the Strokologist Program for Neurologists in Gujarat and beyond. Through this collaboration, our objective is to establish a Hub & Spoke model, incorporating advanced stroke centers and primary stroke centers. We are actively engaged in building the capacity of stroke teams in these centers by providing training in 'Clinical Management of Stroke Patients', and ensuring compliance with 'accreditation standards.' This ensures that the right treatment is administered to stroke-affected patients within the 'Golden Hour'

to minimize the impact of stroke because "every life matters, every minute counts".

Dr Singhal adds, "Emerging with a reputation for our hospital as an Advanced Center of Excellence for stroke care is a significant milestone. Our intervention in more than 550 cases in the past year has set a benchmark. This is also a step in instilling confidence in patients that our facility meets the highest standards in stroke management. This collaboration is a testament to our unwavering dedication, intense hard work, appropriate infrastructure, well-defined training regimes to impart rigorous training to doctors, and a single-focused approach to sustaining

quality standards." Dr B K Rana, Chief Executive Officer, Quality & Accreditation Institute (QAI) says, "I am delighted to announce setting up 'Centre of Excellence for Quality & Patient Safety in Stroke Care' at Marengo CIMS Hospital. It is a proud moment for QAI to enter into a partnership with Marengo CIMS hospital to work towards improving quality and patient safety in stroke care using multimodal strategies. This one of its kind collaboration between the Accreditation Body and the Healthcare Service Provider would set benchmarks and encourage more collaborations to support the Government's policy on Non-communicable Diseases. This initiative is aimed towards achieving better clinical outcomes in Stroke, capacity building, and establishing a network of competent stroke cen-

Considering combined threat, allocation of more funds in Defence **Budget mandatory: SSP**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Col S. S Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party J&K complimented interim budget and said it is a balanced, inclusive and innovative interim budget. He, however stated that considering global situation and country facing the combined threat of China and Pakistan, more funds needs to be allocated to ensure a credible defence deterrence.

"We certainly can't match the defence budget of USA and China, which is 800 and 230 billion dollars respectively but our armed forces need to be equipped in terms weapons, aircrafts, naval ships, submarines and effective anti-air defence," Pathania



He added, "We need to modernise and upgrade our weapon systems and platforms constantly, which needs huge finances. Research and development paves the way towards being Atam Nirbhar, hence a sizeable portion of the budget allocation must be diverted towards research and development projects, in collaboration with private players. Our allocation of 0.5 percent of GDP is too insignificant compare to

4.8 percent by Israel and 4.5 percent by South Korea and so on.'

"Though a good beginning in defence production has been made by the country and we are in top 25 countries exporting defence equipment and weapon systems, but we still remain number 1 country in the world in terms of being importer," he said adding that it is pertinent that learning lessons from Russia-Ukraine and Israel -Hamas wars, we can't let our quard down, no matter what is the cost for ensuring our sovereignty, integrity and security.

"We also should ensure an enhanced defence budget to meet our aspirations of being a global power, which we truly deserve," he added.

S.D TARA PURI HIGH SCHOOL celebrates students success in interstate speed ball championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Pallav Mehra and Parth Mehra from S.D Tara Puri High School for winning the Silver and Bronze Medals in the U12 Age Group Inter State Speed Ball Championship held in Delhi. It's indeed a remarkable achievement for the students and a testament to their dedication and hard work.

Special appreciation goes to Sunny Nanda, the chief coach of India, for his guidance and coaching that played a crucial role in preparing the students for the championship. It's evident that the efforts put in by both the students and the coach have paid off

Ms. Neeru Puri, the principal of S.D Tara Puri High School, acknowledging the coach's efforts and expressing pride in the students' achievements, reflects the school's commitment to fostering sports excellence. Such accomplishments contribute not only to the individual growth of the students but also enhance the school's reputation on a national level.

Once again, congratulations to Pallav Mehra and Parth Mehra, and best wishes for their future endeavors in the field of Speed Ball.

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

FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDER

xenpwdelecdiv.jammu@gmail.com

Fresh e-NIT No.EDJ/330 of 2023-2024 Dated 31-01-2024

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	Estim ated Cost ('in lacs)	Cost of docum ent (in `)	Earnest Money (in `)	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.	Facade Lighting at	PWD (R&B)	39.78	600/-	79560/-	45 Days.	10-02-2024	"A" Class
	Ranbireshwar	Electric Division					At or after	Electrical
	Mandir. (New). (4th	Jammu					(12:00 A.N)	Contractor.
	call).							

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-02-2024			
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01-02-2024 to 09-02-2024, 4:00 P.M			
3	Bid submission Start Date	01-02-2024			
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-02-2024 up to 4:00 P.M			
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	10-02-2024 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu			
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed			

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division **Iammu.** at the time of allotment.
- Bid Security Declaration should be kept in the Bid documents as per tendered.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical

The earnest money shall be forfeited, If :-

- Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
- Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from
- "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per
- Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid
- will be accepted in physical form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

No:- EDJ/17605-12 Dated:-31-01-2024

DIP/J-14623/23

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division



to enhance the efficiency

of the current stroke care

principles of the BVP and advised the students to adhere to these principles in general and its Sanskrit

values in particular. Warm sweaters were distributed to 71 most deserving and poor students in both the schools

Branch, Shastri Nagar.

The sweaters were arranged by donation from members of the BVP Tridev The function was attend-

Nagar. Bharat Gupta, Tara Chand Sharma, Pradeep Sharma, Ajay Gupta, Ravi Gupta and Dr. S.K Sharma, Members BVP Tridey Branch also participated in

IIM Jammu holds discussion on Budget 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu recently conducted an insightful session on the Financial Budget 2024.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, presided over the event. The event featured distinguished speakers, Prof. Dipankar Sengupta from the University of Jammu and Manjul Raizada, Income Tax Officer, Jammu.

Faculty members Dr. Sarbjit Singh, Assistant Professor, Economics & Business Environment, Dr. Bijoy Rakshit, Assistant Professor, Economics & Business Environment, and Dr. Malaya Ranjan Mohapatra, Assistant Professor, Finance and Accounting were also present.

The session witnessed active participation from faculty, officers, staff members, and students at the institute.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, emphasized the crucial role of the budget in mirroring the nation's dynamics. He underscored the significance of basing the budget on facts and figures, appreciating the government's confidence and past achieve-

He praised the budget as a guiding roadmap for India's development until 2047, lauding the government's dedication to social justice, especially for women, youth, and farmers.

He commended the innovative Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and substantial allocations for welfare schemes, research, and infrastructure



Highlighting IIM Jammu's commitment to gender diversity, he noted the remarkable 43% enrollment of females in STEM courses.

Additionally, he touched upon diverse budget allocations, including investments in solar power, medical benefits, and Ayodhya's development.

Emphasizing India's global growth ambitions to become the third-largest economy, he concluded by stressing the importance of honesty, assistance to the needy, and making challenging decisions for the nation's prosperity.

He expressed his contentment with the budget, highlighting its role in establishing a sturdy foundation for the country's growth.

Prof. Dipankar Sengupta from the University of Jammu delivered a compelling analysis of the Indian Budget 2024. He focused on economic growth and price stability, noting a shift towards monetary policy expansion over fiscal measures.

Stressing the significance of common sense in economic management, he commended the

government's adept handling of the COVID-19 crisis and provided nuanced insights into healthcare and infrastructure spending.

Concluding with a thoughtprovoking perspective, he characterized the budget as interim, challenging its traditional catego-

He urged stakeholders to recoanize the underlying strategies shaping the national budget.

Manjul Raizada, Income Tax Officer, Jammu, declared, "India is sitting in front of me," encapsulating the essence of each citizen's responsibility in contributing to the nation's growth.

He emphasized taxation's critical role in shaping India's future within the current fiscal landscape. He underscored the importance of taxation and its symbiotic relationship with key sectors such as infrastructure, railway, healthcare, renewable energy, agriculture, and aquaculture.

Recognizing the government's significant investments in education, health, and infrastructure, he addressed young leaders, urging them to envision a "Viksit Bharat"

(Developed India) by 2047, emphasizing the pivotal role of taxation in realizing this vision. He highlighted the importance of

dent. Vice President. Sec-

retary and Treasurer of

BVP Tridev Branch, Shastri

tax payments for securing a prosperous future, encouraging individuals to recognize themselves as pillars of the country.

The session aimed to provide valuable insights into the critical aspects of the Financial Budget for the year 2024. The valuable insights during the session contributed significantly to our understanding of the financial landscape. Such engagements empower our community with knowledge beyond the conven-

tional boundaries of education. The event was an enriching experience for all participants, fostering a deeper understanding of the financial landscape and its implications on various sectors. The engaging discussion explored diverse facets of the budget, providing a platform for knowledge exchange and informed discourse.

The participation of faculty, officers, staff, and students highlighted the broad interest and relevance of the Financial Budget, aligning with IIM Jammu's commitment to holistic education and awareness of contemporary issues. This session is part of IIM Jammu's ongoing efforts to facilitate learning beyond the traditional curriculum, ensuring that the institute's community stays abreast of current developments in the financial domain. The institute remains dedicated to providing its stakeholders a comprehensive and well-rounded educational experience.

EDITORIAL

CHOOSE RIGHT LEADER

Tn a democracy, every person has the right to cast his vote lacksquare and every person should also cast his vote so that the person can choose the ruler of the country as per his wish. Every citizen of the country should vote. It is the main duty of every citizen of the country to participate in the voting process. Everyone above 18 years of age can vote. On 20 January 1950, the Constitution of India came into force throughout the country. India is a democratic country under this constitution. This thing was mentioned. Voting is very important to maintain the system of democracy. Every citizen should consider voting as a responsibility so that our country remains a democratic coun-

Voting is very important for any democratic country. In a country, the selection of the ruler by the citizens of the country happens only because of the process of voting. It is only because of voting that the common man can elect an honest and virtuous representative as per his wish and the country can get a good government.

Voting increases the development of the country. If the country gets a good government then the development of the country will increase. The people of the country will gain strength and a wave of development will rise in every city and every village of the country.

If voting is not done and less number of people vote, then somewhere outside the wrong representative becomes the winner, due to which the country has to suffer huge loss. People also have to face problems due to becoming wrong rulers, hence it is important to vote. Every person should be aware about voting. People should spread awareness about voting around them.

The voting process in our country has been made very simple. However, a few years ago, in the form of voting, you had to put a stamp on the pages and put them in a box and after that all those pages were commented. But in today's time, the process of voting and voting is being run smoothly through EVM machines.

Through these machines, you see a button next to the photo and name of each representative. By clicking on that button you can cast your vote for the representative. Apart from this, you also get to see NOTA button. If you do not want to cast your vote for any representative or candidate, then you can press the NOTA button.

Voting is very important in the life of every common man. The reason for this is that the Constitution of the country gives every person the right to choose the candidate to stand and the reins of governance are handed over only to the candidate chosen by the people. Now it is obvious that if the right person has the power to run the country, then he will do many important things in the development of the country and the development of the people.

Global migration & India: Crisis will only get worse

By: Sunanda K Datta Ray

The heady extravaganza of the Rs 3,000-crore Ayodhya celebrations helped to distract attention from the disgrace that an American judge heaped on a Sikh couple for forcing a young relative to slave for them.

"The defendants exploited the victim's trust and his desire to attend school in the United States, and then inflicted physical and mental abuse on him, all so they could keep him working for their profit," said assistant attorneygeneral Kristen Clarke.

The horrified court in North Chesterfield, Virginia, heard how the victim was a minor when he was brought to the United States to work as cashier, cook, cleaner and manager of store records for well-to-do cousins who ran a petrol pump. He was subjected to various forms of coercion, including confiscation of his immigration documents, physical abuse, threats of force and other forms of serious harm as well as degrading living conditions to compel him to work long hours for a pittance.

This horrendous story is a small piece of the much larger tragedy of destitute migration. Boasting of a 35-million-strong diaspora, the world's largest, Indians are proud of sending back the world's highest annual remittances of \$110 billion. Joblessness at home force a phenomenal 2.5 million Indians to migrate every year.

It's also a matter of pride that Israel is seeking Indian cannon fodder who wish to avoid the risk of daily massacre. When legal channels are closed, Indians go abroad on fake student visas and drive taxis in Australia or slave in Indian shops in the British Midlands or, as in the court report cited, for exploitative relatives in

the United States.

It's to protect themselves from such abuse that British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Italy's Prime Minister Gloria Meloni have forged what some might call an unholy alliance. For others, it's the only way that developed countries can ward off the threat posed by stagnant economies like India's. Hugging each other at a convention of the political right in Rome, the two Prime Ministers vowed not to let "the Third World" "overwhelm" Europe's dynamic economies. Instead, they will "focus on joint efforts to tackle illegal immigration and organised crime".

Just as Mr Sunak has won a narrow vote of approval for his plan to shunt off unwanted illegal migrants to Rwanda, Ms Meloni has on hand a similar scheme to send migrants to Albania. Neither country has a shining human rights record. Critics of the two strategies fear that hapless migrants, legal or illegal, who are unlucky enough to fall into Rwandan or Albanian hands may end up in the country they were at such pains to leave in the first place. But Britain and Italy counter with the argument that their countrymen cannot continue to be penalised for the inefficiency or callousness (or both) of Afro-Asian regimes.

Out of the 745,000 migrants that reached Britain in 2022-23, 52,530 were irregular refugees, representing a 17 per cent increase in this category from the previous year's figure. Some 85 per cent of these immigrants arrived in small and often leaky boats that braved the waters of the Mediterranean Sea. The 105,129 people who tried to enter Italy (down from the 2016 record of 181,436) included 13,386 unaccompanied minors.

Many of these people were flee-

ing wars in Syria, Iraq, Sudan or Yemen. Others were trying to escape rigorous living conditions in austere war-torn societies like Afghanistan. Some were victims of chronic unemployment in India and Pakistan. Whatever the cause the remedy was the same. Families had pooled together their meagre resources, sold whatever little land they possessed, and handed over the proceeds to unscrupulous traffickers against a promise to guide them to new hope and a happy life far from the misery they had left behind.

The sinister arm of India's poverty makes itself felt again and again even in the distant North American continent. Mexicans understandably dominate the hordes of refugees clamouring for admission on America's southern frontier. But against 425,000 Mexicans, there are 202,000 Indians and 114,121 Chinese. If the global powers led by the United States do not move now to end the onslaught on Gaza and settle the Palestinian question with a speed and efficiency that has so far been notably absent in handling this crisis, the world may be plunged into an even more grave conflict involving not just human movement but also nuclear weapons.

If the solution lies in the two-state formula that has been the mantra ever since the Oslo Accords, the first demand will be for enough contiguous land for a viable Palestinian homeland. Second, Palestine will need funds to repair the devastation caused by Israel's relentless bombardment of Gaza and systematic encroachments on the West Bank which it calls Judea and Samaria, and obviously covets.

The Palestinians can do nothing unless the administration is rooted firmly in the majority's political will and is backed by powerful global support that can counter Israel's persistent obstruction. Failing these conditions, the world can expect more illegal migrants, boat people and refugees than Mr Sunak can pack off to Rwanda or Ms Meloni to Albania. It's a feature of the Palestinian tragedy that no Arab state seems genuinely interested in solving it.

Even the quiet moves under US Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden to secure advantageous settlements for individual Arab countries under the so-called Abrahamic Accords did not scratch the surface of the problem. Israel's relentless settlement of Jews in the West Bank has resulted in a colony of 750,000 illegals that can burgeon to over a million. They have robbed Palestinians of the land that is their birthright as effectively as the original "Naqba" (catastrophe) which drove 800,000 refugees out of their homes. Now, another Nagba looms over West Asia.

The open-air prison (as it's been called) of the Gaza Strip already has one of the world's highest population densities. The West Bank itself is criss-crossed by roads and security check-posts as well as private Palestinian properties that Jewish settlers have arbitrarily enclosed.

Given this territorial stranglehold, it's not surprising that rumours should circulate -- probably emanating from Zionist sources - that there is no land left for a second Palestinian state, and that the only solution lies in deporting the already homeless Palestinians. Such a harsh measure will add immeasureably to the distress of the world's billion homeless whose numbers are going up every year by about 15 million. This will be one grim statistic for which even India can't take any credit.

How do Virtual Autism Impact Children?

By: Vijay GarG

n the era of digitalization, technology has become a very vital part of our life. Every member of each house seems to have their own gadgets be it mobile phones, tablets and even laptops. The technology or digital dependence has not even spared children now. Children as young as 2-3 years also have their own tabs. This situation has given rise to 'Virtual Autism' which although is not a medically diagnosed condition, but has symptoms similar to ASD (Autism Spectrum

What is Virtual Autism?

Virtual Autism can be described as a state of having the potential negative effect of excessive screen time and digital engagement of toddlers which hampers their development.

Naturally, children learn by exploring things in their environment like touching things, moving, tasting, playing etc. They tend to learn and explore through activities which keeps them associated and in touch with reality or the real world. On the other hand, if they are constantly sitting in front of the screen and spending their time on digital gadgets, it will adversely affect their understanding of real world. Children of below 3 years who are exposed to such excessive screen time starts showing symptoms similar to ASD because of their low understanding of world they face problems in communication, expression and some other behavioral issues.

Some toddlers are so addicted to screen time that they need it during their toilet time, meal time and even before bed. It is also important to note that Virtual Autism does not mean that a child is Autistic. It simply means that the child is showing symptoms of Autism without being diagnosed with

Identifying Virtual Autism

Your child might be experiencing Virtual Autism if they show the symptoms like:

Hyperactivity, Delay in speech, Poor social interaction, Not paying attention,

Lack of interest in real life activities and more interested in digital games,

Cognitive power is decreasing, Experiencing mood swings

Getting irritated easily.

What Causes Virtual Autism?

Excessive use of gadgets is the main reason of finding such symptoms in children. It contributes a lot in such problematic and maladaptive behav-

Some of the other reasons that can be included are:

Excessive screen time like sitting in front of mobile, tablets, laptop or even television can result in higher risk of Virtual Autism because the child is consuming so much virtual content that it can be overwhelming to grasp.

A lot of time, children are restricted to their exposure to the real world. Not engaging in interpersonal communication with parents, extended family, friends or even neighbors can make it difficult for them to learn social skills interact with people. This can also affect their emotional understanding leading to virtual autism.

Children not spending time in physical and outdoor activities can leave a bad impact on their physical health and their development of sensory experiences eventually showing symptoms of virtual autism.

A lot of time, parents and caregivers themselves have excessive screen time usage, which can set a negative impact on toddlers and they start modeling the same behavior.

Also Read: What is Spectrum of Autism: Levels of Required Support How do Virtual Autism Impact Chil-

Although Virtual Autism impacts the overall development and well-being of children, here are some key areas that are impacted by Virtual Autism:

Physical Development Excessive engagement in screen time for an extended period of time can result in various health issues in toddlers. Their mealtime gets dependent on screen time as well, which can cause issues like obesity and binge eating patterns in such a young age. Constipation and poor toilet training is also very common in such cases. Exposure to screen prior to bedtime can also result in disrupted sleeping patterns. **Emotional Development**

Too much exposure to screen time leads in anxiety and stress in children, which may result in them struggling to differentiate between virtual and real life. The ability to empathize and understand other people's feelings also reduces in such kids due to their limited interaction with people around them. They also struggle to express their needs and feelings in a healthy manner. Social Development

Children with Virtual Autism fail to develop social skills that are essential to them to fit in a society. Skills like communication, understanding of others, empathy and reacting to a particular social scenario are not well developed. They fail to form meaningful relationships with others and also fail to emotionally connect with them. For example, they might be sitting in a park with a lot of other kids playing around them but struggle to interact and play with them. They might also end up isolating themselves from others.

Cognitive Development

Due to their immense exposure to virtual world, children might struggle in real life thought processing. Struggling with language development, speech development can be observed. They can also be seen struggling with attention, concentration and other cognitive process that involves thinking and creative skills. They also face issues in dealing with real life situations that involves the skills of problem solving, understanding or creating.

Relationship with Parents

As we discussed that emotional and social areas get impacted by virtual autism, it can be observed in the case of parent-child bond as well. Due to their excessive exposure to virtual world and reduced interaction, the issues might rise in the relationship between parents and child. Children fail to develop the feelings of affection, warmth and trust towards their parents leading to poor relationship between them.

Recovering from Virtual Autism

It is possible and there are chances to reduce the symptoms by limiting or even eliminating screen time from the routine of your child and making and helping them engage in real life activities and interaction with people. It is easier for young toddlers to unlearn something that they have learned. With right course of planning and action, it is possible for them to recover from such symptoms.

Every child is unique and may take their own time to learn new things. Therefore, it is important to give them time to unlearn their harmful habits.

Here are a few tips that can help your child to heal or even prevent from vir-

Eliminating screen time Engaging in fun activities (real life

Peer and face to face interactions Playing with groups/peers

Quality time with parents, which can include playing, cleaning, cooking, gardening, any sport etc.

Engaging in physical activities

Few alternatives that can be used in the place of screen time to keep your kids engaged are:

Introducing them to a sport Puzzle solving Sensory exposure games

Visiting parks, zoo, beaches Bonding with grandparents Taking them to relatives or family

Letting them explore their surround-

ings like playing with broomstick, folding clothes.

Engage them in household chores. It can be very challenging to be a parent and especially in today's busy era when both the parents are working hard in their respective ways and at the same time our dependence on digital gadgets is undeniable. However, we can be mindful about the amount of screen time our child is getting exposed to. It is important to limit that virtual engagement and give our children real life experiences for their overall being. Giving them exposure to real life experiences will not only keep them away from such harmful symptoms but will also add up to their personal

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist malout)

SAYWS attributes achievement of offering Langar services at Ayodhya to LG's admin

offering Langar services

solely with the support

of its office bearers,

without any external

"SAYWS is the only

religious organisation

from J&K which has

been invited by Shri

Ram Janmabhoomi

Teerth Kshetra Trust to

set up a free Langar in

SAYWS, which every

year sets up a free

langar opposite Jammu

railway station here

for Amarnath pilgrims,

will be offering free

Langar services for

two months from Janu-

ary 26 to March 25 to

Ram Bhakts visiting the

newly constructed Ram

Lalla temple in Ayodhya

The Langar on Janu-

from across the globe.

Ayodhya," he said.

contributions'.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: In a proud moment for J&K, Shree Amarnathji Yatra Welfare Society (SAYWS) has been invited by Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust to set up a free Langar in Ayodhya. SAYWS is the only Langar society from the UT which has been given this opportunity.

"It is a proud moment for the people of J&K," SAYWS president Kiran Wattal said and added, "The Langar services are being offered on behalf of the people of J&K."

"This is, indeed, a great occasion. I am sure that peace would permanently be restored in J&K with the blessings of Bhagwan Ram," he said.

He, however, attributed this achievement to LG Manoj Sinha, saying that 'SAYWS gets full support of his administration during the holy Amarnath Yatra when it sets up a langar outside Jammu railway station'.

He hoped that the administration's sup-



port would continue in future too.

Special thanks were extended to divisional commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar for his full support to SAYWS during Amarnath Yatra Langar.

The decision to provide Langar space and the requisite support infrastructure in Ayodhya was taken in a meeting taken by BJP's National General Secretary Tarun Chugh in Ayodhya on January 17. Besides Wattal, the

meeting was also attended by SAWYS senior vice-president Prem Sharma and general secretary Anil Gupta.

Wattal made it clear that SAYWS 'has been ary 26 was started by the families of Wattal and Prem.

"15,000 to 20,000 Ram Bhakts are being offered Langar Prasad every day," Wattal informed.

The Pran-Prathistha of Ram Lalla was performed in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi performing rituals as 'Yajman'.

SAYWS has set up Langar at Lata Mangeshkar Chowk near Ram Ki Poudi for the visiting devotees.

"We see this as the blessing of Shree Ram that we'll be running this community kitchen service for two months," SAYWS chairman Rajesh Gupta said.

"This opportunity has made every citizen of J&K very proud and registered our presence at the national scene," SAYWS national presi-

dent Kiran Watal said. Wattal said it was a Ram-provided opportunity and they would make sure that 'no one leaves the langar site unsatisfied'.

SAYWS senior vice-

president Prem Sharma. general secretary Anil Gupta, vice-presidents Raman Suri & Tapan Dubev. secretary Pintooji Pandita, media coordinator Kamal Gangoo and executive members - Kuldeep Luthra, Rakesh Malhotra, Ashwani Gupta, Ashwani & Ashok Sharma - have thanked all those who are helping in this noble cause and hoped that the initiative would go a long way in establishing J&K's linkage with the holy city in coming time.

It may be mentioned that, in Jammu too, SAYWS office bearers have the distinction of offering langar services with their own expenses without any outside contribution. SAYWS said that it had taken inspiration from VHP to hold Langars and do social service.

"SAYWS sister organisations - Mata Kheer Bhawani Welfare Society, Tourism Federation Jammu, Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj and Global Solace - are equally contributing for the success of SAYWS activi-

DPAP provincial President Mohd Amin visits Ziyarat Shareef Waltangoo Kund



Top News Report

KULGAM, Feb 3:

While paying obeision he was accompanied by block president

Mohd Amin bhat urged the LG led administration and concerned district administration Kulgam to ensure adequate arrangements for the devotes who would attend the Congregational prayers in connection with Urs-Mubarak of Hazrati Syed Noor-Shah Wali Bagdadi (RA) at Waltangoo Kund in south Kashmir's Kulgam Dis-

Bhat said that the government should make arrangements related to provision of transport, drinking water supply, cleanliness and sanitation, medical facilities, Road clearance and other basic amenities in and around shrines and mosques in Kund valley.

He also requested AEE mechanical, R&B and PMGSY Departments to make use of more machinary so that the roads should be able for double sided traffic that will provide relief to the people of

DPAP provincial president and Former MLA Devsar Mohammad Amin bhat today visited ziyarat Shareef waltangoo kund paid obeisance at the revered shrine of Hazrat Syed Noor shah Wali Baghdadi (RA)

sance at the revered shrine, he prayed for lasting peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. On the occa-

Farooq, Omar conveyed condolences

Top News Report

JAMMU. Feb 3: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the passing away of mother of Tarsem Khullar Secretary Central Zone JKNC and conveyed condolences

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

members of the family. In the condolence message, General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammed Sagar, Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretaries, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial Presi-

dent Jammu Province, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary and Babu Rampaul Central Zone President and former minister have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Raghbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Harshvardhan Singh, Ashok Kumar Attri, Som Raj Taroch, Master Aslam, Kuldeep Kumar Sharma, Nitish Gowsami, Ashraf and

Arun Pal Singh partici-

pated in the cremation today at Shastri Nagar, Jammu.

Senior leaders of the National Conference have also conveyed their condolences to the bereaved family.

Those who prayed for peace to the departed soul, include Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary, Bimla Luthra, Satwant Kour Dogra P.P Women Wing, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Dilshad Malik, Rita Gupta, Sandesh Shan, B.D Dalmotra, Surjeet Singh Sasan, S. Nirmal Singh, Pinky Knaisa District Presi dent Jammu Urban Women Wing.

AICC leader Solanki hits out at Modi govt for false promises J&k lost identity, status, democracy under BJP: Vikar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: AICC senior leader Incharge J&K affairs, former Union Power Minister Bharat Singh Solanki has accused BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of making false promises to check price rise, give two crore jobs and doubling the income of farmers but after ten years people realize that every time they come out with a diversionary tactics before elections.

Addressing a convention organised by OBC, Minority, ST & Kissan congress besides refugees at RS Pura today along with Senior PCC leadership and prominent leaders of these sections. Solanki termed BJP's policies against the poor, downtrodden and farmers who have suffered immensely under unprecedented price hike and joblessness.

Modi sold big dreams in 2014 to attract the poor and downtrodden towards BJP but unprecedented price hike, lack of jobs and anti poor, anti farmers policy has ruined them while

the rich are enjoying under BJP. He said Congress took care of all sections especially poor and downtrodden in it's policies and programmes and it implemented 73rd & 74th amendment for their political reservations



at all levels of grass roots institutions but in the delimitation justice was not done to various deprived sections, minority

communities & areas in J&K. With the abolishan of Upper House the minority sections will get deprived of due representation in the legislature. He also referred to the package for refugees framed by congress which was not fully implemented by BJP government.

He also referred to the power shortage and installation of smart meters etc, the former minister said that UPA gave huge funding for installation & argumentation of major power projects and there is still lot of scope for mini power projects too to generate power and provide employment besides giving subsidized power to people.

Solanki asked people to bring about change at the centre and J&K for a better future of their youth and common people.

The function was organised by Minority Chairman Rajinder Singh Nathu, Incharge ST Dept Hussain Ali Wafa, Vice Chairman Kissan Congress Daleep Kumar and OBC led by Madan Lal Chalotra.

JKPCC president Vikar Rasool Wani, AICC Secretary Manoj Yadav, working President Raman Bhalla, former Dy CM Tara Chand, Senior Vice President Ravinder Sharma, former Minister Gurbachan Kumari Rana, Vice presidents Naresh Gupta AICC Coordinator Jammu, Pranab Shagotra, General Secretary Narinder Gupta (Org), T S Tony, Suresh Dogra, Akash Bharat, Rajveer Singh, Vijay Shastri, Jatin Raina and Badri Nath attended.

Addressing the gathering PCC Chief said that J&K lost identity, status and rights to land and jobs besides democracy under BJP regime. Poor was evicted from their lands and unemployed have no jobs while our resources are looted & trade taken over by outsiders. Where are Achhe Din for poor, common man and the unemployed youth, farmers, daily wagers, old age, widows & other such sections he questioned.

He urged people to throw out BJP to save Constitution and democracy in the country, assuring to do justice to deserv-

ing sections. Raman Bhalla listed various anti poor, anti farmers and anti farmers & anti Dalit policies of the BJP government and said that only congress can deliver justice to all sections of the society and bind them together. The divisive policies of BJP

government have created a bad social and political atmosphere in the country against which congress is fighting a war. He sought cooperation of people to defeat BJP's false propaganda and uproot it from power. Former Dy CM Tara Chand

lashed out at the BJP for its anti downtrodden people policies and attempt to weaken the Constitution which guarantees equality and equal opportunities of progress.

He cautioned the people to safeguard the Constitution given to the nation under chairman ship of Dr B R Ambedkar ji, which is being weakened by BJP government.

He said that poor people especially weak & downtrodden have suffered a lot under the BJP regime and they are deprived of their lands under occupation and jobs besides deprived of resources and change is only way to protect common man.

Leaders of the respective wings of PCC minority wing, ST, OBC, Kissan congress and T S Tony spoke highlighted their issues and demands before the Congress leadership. Tony highlighted the demands of JAT community and border people, who he claimed feel

Swati gets 1st division in **MA Economics**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Swati Sharma from Village Samwan, post office Pallanwala, Tehsil Khour (Akhnoor), daughter of Subash Chander and Babli Sharma has got 1st division in MA Economics session 2021-2023 Roll No 1074 from the University of Jammu.

The Head of the Department has congratulated her with lots of best wishes for her future and also she was topper of bed session 2019-2021 in Jammu



University She was NCC Cadet and NSS Volunteer.

She is sports person and won gold medal in sports.

RGCN Jammu organizes awareness programme on World Cancer Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Cancer is a global disease and is spreading rapidly. In Healthcare systems across the world are facing stiff challenges to tackle this issue. This appears formidable when India's 1.3 billion population which is considered to spread across 29 states and 7 union territories with varying degree of population genetics, environment, lifestyle,

With the increasing trend of cancer in India, the awareness level is expected to change.

For this purpose Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing (RGCN), Chak Bhal-



Gap" in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Superspeciality Narayana Hospital, Katra at their campus, Chak Bhalwal Jammu.

All Nursing students including Nursing Faculty were present and actively participated and updated their knowledge regarding cancer and its early stages detection.

The session were started at 2:00 pm, in Auditorium, Asma Khursheed, a student of B.Sc Nursing 2nd Semester welcomed the Eminent Speaker and the delegates.

Further the lamp lightening ceremony was performed by Dr. Rajpal Singh, Senior Consultant Oncology Department Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Superspeciality Narayana Hospital, M.S Katoch, Chairman, RGCN, Anjana Bavouria, Director, RGCN along with faculty members.

The programme was conducted with great enthusiasm by conducting awareness session by Dr. Rajpal Singh, regarding cancer cells, precipitating factors and early detection of the disease and HPV vaccinations

Chairman RGCN, M.S Katoch explains the role and responsibility

of Nursing students in awareness and fighting against this deadly disease.

Director RGCN Anjana Bavouria encouraged the staff and students for organising such events and also praised the faculty members for organising this event.

She emphasized how such awareness program is crucial element in the chain of saving lives.

At long last votes of thanks were delivered by Bisma Bashir, Clinical Instructor.

The College Management is also thankful to IT department for their support and all participants who joined this program.

APSCC Chairman expresses grief over demise of mother of Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam Farooqi

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 3: All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) Chairman, Jagmohan Singh Raina has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of the mother of Mufti Nasirul-Islam Farooqi, Grand Mufti of Jammu & Kash-

Raina has conveyed

his condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

In a condolence message the APSCC Chairman said that the deceased lady was very pious and upright. The deceased was the wife of Bashir-ud-din Farooqi, former Grand Mufti of Jammu & Kash-

mir. Raina said that the entire Mufti family has always remained concerned about the safety and security of the minorities especially minority Sikh community. He said the family

has always been at the forefront of fostering brotherhood and compassion among the people of Kashmir irrespective of the religion they belonged to.

Poonam Pandey is alive; controversial actress lambasted over her antics of gaining 'cheap' publicity

On Friday morning, a post appeared on Pandey's official Instagram handle announcing her death from cervical cancer.

Actress Poonam Pandey is

Pandey posted a video on Instagram claiming 'awareness' for Cervical Cancer, saying "I am here, alive. Cervical Cancer didn't claim me, but tragically, it has claimed the lives of thousands of women who stemmed from a lack of knowledge on how to tackle this disease.'

The controversial actress was. however, lambasted over her antics of gaining 'cheap' pub-

She also wrote:.Unlike some other cancers, Cervical Cancer is entirely preventable. The key lies in the HPV vaccine and early detection tests. We have the means to ensure no one loses their life to this disease. Let's empower one another with critical awareness and ensure every woman is informed about the steps to take. Visit the link in the bio to delve deeper into what can be done. Together, let's strive to put an end to the devastating impact of the disease and bring #DeathToCervicalCancer."

On Friday, the actor's team made the shock announcement that Pandey passed away after a battle with cervical cancer but



for us. Deeply saddened to

inform you that we have lost

our beloved Poonam to cervi-

cal cancer. Every living form

that ever came in contact with

her was met with pure love and

there was no confirmation of the death of the model, influencer and sometime actor known for her bold statements and appearances.

"This morning is a tough one

would request for privacy while we remember her fondly for all that we shared," the post read. As Friday went by, reports of

kindness. In this time of grief, we

Pandey's death gave way to speculation, several celebrities including Kangana Ranaut and Anupam Kher took to their respective X handle to pay their tributes to the actress

Her last Instagram post, before the one on Friday announcing her death, was a video of her attending an event in Goa. She looked healthy and showed no signs of any physical weakness or mental distress.

However, Vinit Kakar, who was a co-contestant with Poonam Pandey in the first season of the Kangana Ranaut-hosted reality show 'Lock Upp', had dismissed the news about the death of the reality TV star as "100 per cent fake", but he added that it was not a publicity stunt as alleged by certain sections of the media.

Talking about the 'mysterious death', Kakar said: "I get the feeling this news is fake. I know Poonam, she is a strong lady. I have spent two weeks with her on the show 'Lock Upp'. I know her personality and character... She is a very strong lady."

Neha Dhupia all praise for OTT



Actress-host Neha Dhupia has boldly reaffirmed the pivotal role of OTT platforms in reshaping the dynamics of the Indian entertainment industry. In a recent statement, Dhupia declared, "Had there been no OTT, I would have been unemployed." Dhupia's journey into the realm of OTT began with her groundbreaking performance in A Thursday. In a thought-provoking panel discussion. Dhupia illuminated the seismic shifts catalyzed by the OTT revolution. "After the boom of OTT, the diaspora in Indian cinema and entertain-

changed for good," she asserted. Despite the enduring allure of the silver screen, Dhupia underscored the transformative impact of OTT as a lifeline for performers across generations.

Dhupia's professional trajectory exemplifies the evolving landscape of the entertainment industry. Last year, amidst a solitary feature film, she was immersed in three OTT projects, a testament to the platform's burgeoning influence. "OTT has brought a new lease of life to many senior actors," Dhupia acknowledged, emphasizing the democratizing effect on opportunities within the industry.

Amidst this transformative wave, Neha Dhupia embarks on new horizons, marking her international debut with Blue 52 and venturing into the OTT realm with Therapy Sherapy, a project centered on mental health awareness. Additionally, she returns as the producer and host for the sixth edition of the podcast No Filter.

Avika Gor on her second collaboration with Bhatts



Avika Gor, renowned for her diverse roles in films like Uyyala Jamapala and Ekka-

diki Pothavu Chinnavadahas, recently announced her next project, Bloody Ishq, which marks her second collaboration with the Bhatts. The movie, directed by Krishna Bhatt, has been written by Mahesh Bhatt and produced by Vikram

About her role in the film, Avika shared, "This film is truly beautiful, and it's great to have Vardhan Puri on board as well. As for my character, it provides an opportunity for me to showcase my acting skills. Similar to 1920, where I could give my all and do justice to the character, this role into my performance." "Being part of Mahesh ji and Vikram ji's film is a true blessing. They have a history of favourites, like Bipasha, and I feel fortunate to be in the same category. Every day on set feels like attending a film school, and I'm grateful to be part of their project for the second time.'

Nikita Sharma joins the cast of Shaitani Rasmein



Nikita Sharma is all set to join the cast of Star Bharat's recently launched show Shaitani Rasmein. alongside Shefali Jariwala, Naqiyah Haji and Vibhav Roy. In this compelling addition, Nikita will play the character of Saudamini, a dynamic researcher lured to Bhurangarh in pursuit of its enigmatic powers. Her character, promises to introduce a captivating dimension to the show.

Jennifer Lopez to be seen in Prime Video film, This Is Me... **Now: A Love Story**

At 65 minutes runtime, This Is Me... Now: A Love Story is like nothing you've ever seen before from Jennifer Lopez! Alongside director Dave Meyers, Jennifer has created a narrative-driven cinematic odyssey, steeped in mythological storytelling and personal healing.

With fantastical costumes, breathtaking choreography and starstudded cameos, this panorama is an introspective retrospective of Jennifer's resilient heart.

Starring Jennifer Lopez, Fat Joe, Trevor Noah, Kim Petras, Post Malone, Keke Palmer, Sofia Vergara, Jenifer Lewis, Jay Shetty, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Sadhguru, Tony Bellissimo, Derek Hough, Trevor Jackson, Paul Raci, Bella Gagliano, Brandon Delsid, Ashley Versher,



Malcolm Kelner, Alix Angelis, Danielle Larracuente, Matthew Law and Ben Affleck, This Is

Me...Now: A Love Story will release globally on February 16 on Prime Video.

In marriages, things sometimes do not go exactly as planned. Yet, life moves on. Here are a few celebs who remarried and found themselves in the lanes of love once more

It is said marriages are made in heaven, but then they fall apart on Mother Earth! Yet, finding love the second time around or even the third is not impossible. Here's a look at celebs who got married again and found conjugal bliss.

Shoaib Malik & Sana Javed Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik shared the news of his third marriage to Pakistani actress Sana Javed on January 20. The couple posted wedding pictures on Instagram and wrote, "And we created you in pairs." After his second wife, former Indian Tennis player Sania Mirza, opted for khula (Muslim women's right to divorce), Shoaib went on to marry Sana. Having been married for more than 12 years, Shoaib and Sania have a son, Izhaan Mirza Malik, together.

One January 19, he married Sana during an intimate nikah ceremony held at the latter's residence in Karachi.

She also changed her name to Sana Shoaib Malik on social media handles. Sana was earlier married to singer Umair Jaswal. The two had tied the knot in October 2020, but parted ways after three years.

Arbaaz Khan & Sshura Khan

On December 24, 2023, Arbaaz Khan married makeup artist Sshura Khan at his sister Arpita Khan's house. It's his second marriage, as he had earlier been married to Malaika Arora. Malaika and Arbaaz got married in 1998, and after spending nearly two decades together called it quits in 2017.

After an amicable divorce, while Malaika moved on by dating actor Arjun Kapoor, Arbaaz was in a relationship with actress Giorgia Andriani for almost four years. But it came as a surprise that he married Sshura and was tight-lipped about the girl until the wedding pictures were out. Sshura and



production venture, Patna Shukla, and the two started dating immediately after. It went on for nine months till the couple got married.

The two shared pictures of the wedding on social media and wrote, "In the presence of our loved ones, me and

mine begin a lifetime of love and togetherness from this day on! Need all your blessings and good wishes on our special day." It is Sshura's second marriage as well.

Arbaaz still co-parents his son Arhaan Khan with exwife Malaika Arora.

Masaba Gupta & Saty-

adeep Mishra

Fashion designer and actress Masaba Gupta found love for the second time in co-actor Satyadeep Mishra. It's quite a story for Mishra, as he was playing Masaba's ex-husband and film producer, Madhu Mantena, in her biographiAs they hit it off pretty well on and off camera, Mishra soon started dating Masaba. They finally got married on January 27, 2023. Mishra was also earlier married to actress Aditi Rao Hydari, whom he divorced in 2013. On the other hand, Masaba married Madhu Mantena in 2015 and announced her separation with him in 2019. Farhan Akhtar & Shibani Dandekar

cal series Masaba Masaba.

Farhan Akhtar and his livein partner Shibani Dandekar got married in February, 2022. Shibani met Farhan in 2015 during the show I Can Do That, where Farhan was the host and she was a contestant. The couple took their close friends and family to Khandala for their intimate wedding. Farhan was previously married to celebrity hair stylist Adhuna Bhabani (2000-2017) and has two daughters, Shakya Akhtar and Akira Akhtar, with her. From time to time, Shibani

and Farhan are seen posting cute pictures and Instagram stories about each other.

Hansal Mehta & Safeena Husain

Renowned filmmaker Hansal Mehta got married in his early 20s to Sunita and has two sons. After divorcing Sunita, Mehta started dating actor Yusuf Hussain's daughter Safeena Husain. They lived together and have two daughters — Kimaya and Rehana. But recently in 2022, Mehta married Safeena during a small ceremony in California to make it offi-

Ashish Vidyarthi & Rupali Barua

At 57, Ashish Vidyarthi got married to Guwahati-based entrepreneur Rupali Barua in Kolkata last year. Vidyarthi earlier got married to Piloo Vidyarthi aka Rajoshi Barua in 2001. They have a son Arth. The couple filed for mutual divorce in 2022 and the following year he found love in 50-year-old Rupali.

Bharat Ratna for LK Advani, architect of Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir

PM Modi announces the decision to confer Advani with the award

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced the government's decision to confer India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna on BJP veteran LK Advani, architect of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

"I am very happy to share that Shri LK Advani Ji will be conferred the Bharat Ratna. I also spoke to him and congratulated him on being conferred this honour. One of the most respected statesmen of our times, his contribution to the development of India is monumental. His is a life that started from working at the grassroots to serving the nation as our Deputy Prime Minister. He distinguished himself as our Home Minister and I&B Minister as well. His Parliamentary interventions have always been exemplary, full of rich insights," PM posted on X announcing the

A communique from President house said, "The President has been pleased to award Bharat Ratna to Shri Lal Krishna Advani."



As BJP National President at

the time, he pioneered the Ram

Janmabhoomi Movement in the

1990s after the party adopted a

resolution on the matter for the

first time at the meeting of its

National Executive in Palampur

(Himachal Pradesh) on June

In the Palampur resolution, the

BJP had endorsed the demand

for handing over Shri Ram Jan-

mabhoomi to Hindus for the con-

struction of a Ram Temple there.

The party had also stated that

9-11, 1989.

The decision to award Bharat Ratna to Advani close on the heels of the inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya is a recognition of the veteran leader's role in the movement and signals solidarity with Hindu cadres at a time when questions were being raised about the veteran leader's absence at the January 22 consecration ceremony which Modi led. Advani, 96, is credited with the electoral and political rise of the BJP between 1980s and 1990s.

the dispute at Ayodhya should be resolved through mutual dialoque between the two communities or, if this was not possible, through an enabling legislation. Ever since then, Ram Mandir was a constant pledge in all BJP Lok Sabha poll manifestos. The result of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement paid off. The BJP secured 85 Lok

Sabha seats in the 1989 general election, 120 in 1991, 161 in 1996 and 182 in 1999, as against two in 1984.

The BJP's rise coincided with Congress' fall.

The Congress was reduced from a high of 414 Lok Sabha seats in 1984 to just 114 in 1999. Since the formation of Bharatiya Janata Party in 1980, Advani remained on the post of party president for the longest period. After playing a long innings of three decades as an MP, Advani first became the Home Minister and later became Deputy Prime Minister in PM Atal ji's cabinet (1999-2004). Advani did not contest the 2019 Lok Sabha poll.

Justice PS Dinesh Kumar takes oath as Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court



HC BENGALURU, Feb 3 (Agencies): Justice Pratinidhi Srinivasacharya Dinesh Kumar on Saturday took oath as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office to him.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and state Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil were among those who were present.

Justice Kumar was born on February 25,

1962. He is an alumnus of National College and BMS College in Benga-

He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court on January 2, 2015 and permanent judge on December 30, 2016.

Justice Kumar's legal practice began in the High Court of Karnataka in 1990 in the chambers of Justice Shivaraj V Patil.

Justice Kumar was appointed as an Additional central government standing counsel in 1998 and as senior standing counsel in

He had also served as a senior panel counsel for Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), senior standing counsel for BSNL, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Counsel for Technical Education (AICTE), National Counsel for Teacher Education (NCTE).

Justice Kumar had worked as a mediator and a trainer in mediation and appeared in several important cases in different High Courts and Supreme Court in matters concerning appointment of Director, CBI, dis-investment of ITDC Hotels, defamation case against the Union Finance Minister, corruption cases against former union minister and former chief minis-

All parties should come together to fight BJP in Lok Sabha polls: Jairam Ramesh

GODDA, Feb 3 (Agencies): Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday said that the party assumes West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is still part of the opposition bloc INDIA and all should come together to fight the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls.

His statement came a day after Banerjee expressed doubt whether the Congress will secure even 40 seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

Ramesh, on the sideline of Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' in Godda, said, "We are assuming that she (Mamata Baneriee) is still part of the INDIA bloc, a group of 27 parties. Her priority, she claims, is to fight the BJP. Our priority is also to fight the BJP. I think it is better if we all come

together". "We were together in Patna, in Bengaluru and Mumbai. But, something seems to have happened. First, Shiv Sena split, then Nitish Kumar did his 'Palti'. Now, Mamata Banerjee ji is making these comments. I think we should

realise this is not locallevel elections", he told agency

Addressing a dharna in Kolkata on Friday, Banerjee said, "I proposed that Congress contest 300 seats (across the country where BJP is the main opposition), but they refused to heed. I doubt whether they will secure even 40 seats if they contested 300.

BJP MLA held for shooting, injuring Shiv Sena leader inside police station in Maharashtra Ganpat Gaikwad also

THANE, Feb 3 (Agencies): A Bharatiya Janata Party MLA has been arrested for allegedly shooting and injuring a leader of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena over a land dispute in Maharashtra's Thane district, officials said on Saturday.

Kalyan MLA Ganpat Gaikwad of BJP opened fire on Mahesh Gaikwad, the Shiv Sena chief of Kalyan, inside the chamber of the senior inspector of Hill Line police station in Ulhasnagar area on Friday night, Additional Commissioner of Police Dattatrva Shinde told the media.

Talking to a news chan-



nel before his arrest, Ganpat Gaikwad said that he used the firearm as his son was being beaten at the police station. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is trying to establish a "kingdom of criminals" in Maharashtra, he alleged.

Mahesh Gaikwad was taken to a local hospital before being shifted to a private medical facility in Thane. "He underwent surgery, which was successful," said Gopal Landge, Kalyan in-charge of Sena.

According to Additional CP Shinde, Ganpat Gaikwad's son had come to the police station to lodge a complaint in connection with a land dispute when Mahesh Gaikwad arrived along with his men. Later,

reached the police sta-

During an altercation between the MLA and the Sena leader, Ganpat Gaikwad allegedly fired shots at Mahesh Gaikwad inside the senior inspector's chamber, injuring him and his associate, the official said.

"Yes, I shot (him) myself. I have no regrets. If my son is being beaten in front of the police inside the police station, what will I do," asked Ganpat Gaikwad while talking to a news channel. He claimed that he fired five rounds.

The BJP MLA alleged

that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is "trying to create a kingdom of criminals in Maharashtra". BJP and Shinde-led Shiv Sena belong to the ruling coalition in Maharashtra.

"If Eknath Shinde is the chief minister, only criminals will be born in Maharashtra. He has made a good person like me a criminal today," he said.

Besides Ganpat Gaikwad, the police have also arrested two others. They have been booked under Indian Penal Code sections, including 307 (attempt to murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy), said an official

Court allows former CM Hemant Soren to participate in trust vote in Jharkhand Assembly

RANCHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): A special court in Ranchi on Saturday allowed former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren to participate in the trust vote in the state Assembly on February 5.

Soren, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday in a money-laundering case, filed a petition before the special PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) court, seeking permission to participate in the trust vote sought by the new government.

He was remanded in ED custody for five days by the court on Friday.

Soren pleaded before the court that he is a members of the Assembly and has a right to participate in the special session.



"Applicant (Soren) is, therefore, filing the present Application seeking an order from this Hon'ble Court to permit the Applicant to attend the Special Session of the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly and participate in the proceedings of the Floor Test slated for February 5 at 11 AM," the petition said. The new government led by Champai Soren

has sought the floor test to prove its majority in the House. He took over as the Chief Minister after Hemant Soren was arrested. Advocate General Rajeev Ranjan told PTI that the ED vehemently objected to the peti-

"We said now the cat is out of the bag, and the purpose of the ED is not to do any investigation but to scuttle the formation of a new government or to bring down the government. They have no business to object to proceedings of the Assembly when he is not interfering with the investigation. Therefore, the court has accepted our petition and our petition has been allowed," he said.

Dismissed From Army In Cheating Case, Odisha Man Dupes Woman Of 1 Lakh

BERHAMPUR, Feb 3 (Agencies): A 34-yearold man, dismissed from the Army, was arrested in Odisha's Ganjam district for allegedly duping a woman of around 1.25 lakh by promising her a job and not providing it, police said on Saturday. Santosh Kumar Sethy, resident of Nandighar in Dharakote block,

was dismissed from

the Army after he was arrested in two cases of cheating last year, they said.

After he got out on bail, he befriended the woman telling her about his defence background, and took 1.25 lakh promising her the job of a clerk in an Army college, they added.

As he could neither give her a job nor return the money, the woman filed a complaint at the Gopalpur police station, Superintendent of Police (Berhampur)

Saravana Vivek M said. Subsequently, an investigation was started, and Sethy was arrested, he said.

Police said they suspect that he may have cheated more people, promising them jobs.

Trinamool Congress leader's bodyguard found dead at MLA hostel



KOLKATA, Feb 3 (Agencies): The body of a Trinamool Congress legislator's bodyguard was found in the premises of MLA hostel in Kolkata on Saturday morning, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Jaydeb Ghorai, who was the bodyguard of Trinamool Congress MLA Rajib Lochan from Bandwan in Purulia, they said. Police said the cause of the unnatural death was

being ascertained and the body has been sent for

post-mortem. West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee visited the MLA hostel after hearing of the incident.

on forged documents NEW DELHI. Feb 3 (Agencies): The CBI conducted searches at eight locations in Kolkata and 24 North Parganas district of West Bengal on

Saturday over alleged forged use of domicile documents to take benefit available to border-area residents in Central Armed Police Forces recruitment, officials said

The CBI took over the probe last August on the directions of the Calcutta High Court to look into the allegations that several candidates were recruited illegally in the armed forces and the CAPFs via forged domicile certificates purportedly showing them to



be from border areas, thus getting through at lower cutoff marks

Some Pakistani nationals had also benefitted, the FIR had alleged.

The searches on Saturday were conducted on the prem-

allegedly involved in creating forged domicile certificates, officials said.

CBI searches at 8 locations in WB over CAPF recruitment

Going through the findings of the CBI preliminary enquiry, Justice Jay Sengupta had noted that no irregularity was

detected in armed forces recruitment but four instances were found in Central Para Military forces.

"However, as regards employment in the Central Para Military Forces, some irregularities have already been detected. During preliminary enquiry, at least four such instances have come to light," Justice Jay Sengupta

had noted. West Bengal, being a border state, allows lower cut-off marks in the examinations for employment in the Central Para Military Forces, he had

"This seems to have prompt-

ed people from other states, especially from the northern part of the country, to forge documents to show that they were domiciled in the State of West Bengal," Justice Sengupta noted, citing submissions of the deputy solicitor general.

"Domicile certificates, matriculation certificates and caste certificates have been forged. It will be a matter of a more in-depth investigation whether foreign nationals have also taken recourse to the same modus operandi in applying for jobs in the Indian forces," he had said.

US begins retaliatory strikes in Iraq and Syria against Iran-linked targets

US military forces struck more than 85 targets, with numerous aircraft to include longrange bombers flown from the United States

WASHINGTON, Feb 3 (Agencies): The United States has retaliated against the killing of its soldiers in Jordan by striking on a dozens of sites in Iraq and Syria used by Iranian-backed militias and the Iranian Revo**lutionary Guard**

President Joe Biden and other top US leaders had been warning for days that America would strike back at the militias, and they made it clear it wouldn't be just one hit but a "tiered response" over time.

"The United States does not seek conflict in the Middle East or anywhere else in the world. But let all those who might seek to do us harm know this: If you harm an American, we will respond," Biden said in a statement after the US started carrying out such strikes on Friday.

Biden said this past Sunday that three American soldiers were killed in Jordan by a drone launched by militant groups backed by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).



Earlier in the day, he attended the dignified return of these brave Americans at Dover Airforce Base. He also spoke with each of their families.

"This afternoon, at my direction, US military forces struck targets at facilities in Iraq and Syria that the IRGC and affiliated militia use to attack US forces. Our response began today. It will continue at times and places of our choosing,"

According to US Central Com-

mand, at 4:00 pm EST (2.30 am IST) its forces conducted airstrikes in Iraq and Syria against IRGC Quds Force and affiliated militia groups.

US military forces struck more than 85 targets, with numerous aircraft to include long-range bombers flown from the United States. The airstrikes employed more than 125 precision munitions.

The facilities that were struck included command and control operations centers, intelligence centers, rockets, and missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicle storages, and logistics and munition supply chain facilities of militia groups and their IRGC sponsors who facilitated attacks against US and Coalition forces. the CENTCOM said.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said these strikes were at seven facilities that IRGC and affiliated militias use to attack US forces.

"This is the start of our response. The President has directed additional actions to hold the IRGC and affiliated militias accountable for their attacks on US and Coalition Forces," he said.

"These will unfold at times and places of our choosing. We do not seek conflict in the Middle East or anywhere else, but the President and I will not tolerate attacks on American forces. We will take all necessary actions to defend the United States, our forces, and our interests," Austin

3 Injured In Knife Attack At Major Paris Railway Station, **Suspect Arrested**



PARIS, Feb 3 (Agencies): Three people were injured Saturday in a knife attack at Paris's Gare de Lyon railway station, a major travel hub, police said, adding that the suspect

had been arrested. The detained man, whose nationality was not revealed, went on a stabbing spree at around 8:00 am (0700 GMT) at the station,

which serves domestic

trains as well as those heading to Switzerland and Italy.

One person suffered serious injuries while two others were lightly wounded, police said.

"The suspect did not cry out (any religious slogans) during his attack," a police source said. "He presented the police an Italian driving licence".

The area between halls one and three was temporarily inaccessible, rail operator SNCF said on X, formerly Twitter.

Minority Hindus feel left out of poll process in Pakistan

KARACHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): Ahead of the February 8 general elections in Pakistan, members of the minority Hindu community feel they are mostly left out of the poll process despite having a notable presence, especially in the southern Sindh province.

The census showed that Hindus account for just 2.14 per cent of the total population in Muslim-majority Pakistan and in Sindh itself their large concentration means they account for nearly nine per cent.

Under Pakistan's Constitution, 10 seats are reserved for members of minority communities in the National Assembly and 24 seats in the

provinces. Leaders and members of the Hindu community rue the fact that they are not given proper representation and many are not even registered as

Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, the Patron-in-Chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council, noted that the Hindu community, especially those belonging to the lower economic sector or those living in remote villages in Sindh feel left out of the election process.

"In the national census carried out before the elections, the Hindus were not counted fully and we don't agree with the population tally finalised by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) where you have to register as a voter," he said.

According to the law, a citizen must be registered with the state and then must register with the ECP as a voter before they can exercise their right to franchise.

However, members of the lower caste Hindus, the largest minority community living in Sindh, claim that compared to their population, few people are registered as voters due to issues in their identification documents.

"The count of the Hindu population is not correct and because many live in remote areas and are not educated their identification documents carry discrepancies which means they are not registered as voters," said Shiva Kaachi, a local Hindu community leader

from Mirpurkhas. When the last general

elections were held in 2018 approximately 105.9 million voters had exercised their right to vote and some 3.626 million voters were from minority communities.

Kaachi said in reality Hindus make up the largest minority community in Pakistan, especially in Sindh, numbering around 4.77 million but officially only 1.777 million are registered as

The Christian community is second with 1.639 million voters. Ahmadis had 165,369 votes, while the Sikhs had 8,833 voters.

From 2.77 million in 2013 to 3.626 million in 2018, minority voters in Pakistan have increased by more than a million to 4.43 million in 2023 but Hindus from lower castes are still not given voting rights, another community leader, Mukesh Meghwar said.

"This means their impact and representation in the election process is not as it should be." he added.

He did admit that because of the class and caste differences in the Hindu community, those at the lower rung feel left out.

Kaachi agrees and points out that in different areas of Sindh many times the authorities differentiate between Hindus and Dalits even when using the official box of religion in government documents.

"Because of this, Dalits and other lower caste people feel segregated from the Hindu community - a religious minority to which they ascribe,"

He said that Hindus in Sindh despite speaking several languages including Sindhi, Saraiki, Dhatki, Gera, Gwariya, Gargula, Jandwara, Kobutra, Koli, Luwarki, Marwari, Sansi, Wagharia and Gujarati are still not getting proper representation either as voters or to contest elections.

Shahnaz Sheikh, a journalist and social worker in Sindh's Hyderabad city, says that Hindus who are rich businessmen, traders, landlords or professionally qualified are mainly picked by political parties and given tickets for elections.

"The problem is they don't truly represent public voices as they live in urban areas and have little connection with the grassroots Hindu community so the challenges of healthcare,

unemployment, proper representation, and education remain for minorities," she said.

Tharparkar's Krishna Kumari Kohli became the first female senator from the Hindu community of Sindh in 2018 and she feels seats in Parliament should be increased for minorities based on population which is why all minorities must be registered

properly. Minorities also make their way into legislative assemblies through reserved seats.

Krishna noted there are just four seats for minorities in the Senate - one for each province.

"They should be increased to at least eight in accordance with population increase. If the provincial assembly in Sindh has nine reserved seats, then there is a dire need to increase them to at least

"When

increase in Parliament our voices against forced conversion, kidnapping for ransom, forced marriages, lack of educational and employment opportunities, and health issues can be forcefully addressed," Krishna said.

numbers

Facing Flak Over Lack Of Action, China Begins Escorting Ships In Red Sea: Report

BEIJING, Feb 3 (Agencies): The Chinese navy has started escorting Chinese cargo ships through the Red Sea, according to a shipping company and Chinese state media reports, Voice of America (VOA) reported.

The development comes at a time when various cargo shipping companies have decided to avoid the globally important trade passage citing attacks from Houthi rebels.

Since November, Iran-backed Houthis have launched scores of drone and missile attacks on ships passing through the Red Sea, acts that they say are in support of Palestinian militant group Hamas in the war with Israel.

Significantly, weighing in on recent attacks on merchant ships by armed Houthi rebels and suspected pirates on the Red Sea and western Arabian Sea, experts and distinguished voices from across the world, while commending the prompt response by the Indian Navy to distressed vessels, called out China over the lack of similar rescue missions.

Hailing the rescue of crew from distressed merchant vessel Marlin Luanda in the Gulf of Aden, the experts noted that despite being considered a world power

and having a naval base in Diibouti (near the area of the incident), did not respond to the distress call and it was the Indian Navy that demonstrated swift action.

"India takes over. Superpower rising... Stop drooling over China," Europe-based historian and researcher, Martin Sauerbrey posted on X.

British journalist Mark Urban also called it 'fascinating' that India, and not China, has risen to the crisis in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

"Among the emerging great powers fascinating to see how India has risen to the crisis in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea...China not so much," Urban posted on X.

A US-led coalition has responded to the attacks with missile strikes on Houthi positions, backed by a collective force from Bahrain, Britain, Canada, France, Holland, Italy, Norway, the Seychelles, and Spain. But they have so far not stopped ships from being targeted, as per VOA.

At a time when most shipping companies have re-routed to go around Africa, doubling costs and shipping times, Sea Legend Shipping, a Qingdaobased company registered in Singapore, is actively promoting its cargo business through

the Red Sea.

The company said since January, the Chinese navy has provided security escorts for its five cargo ships in the Red Sea, making it one of the few still operating in the region, according to Chinese media.

In an emailed response to a request for confirmation and comment on the scope of protection being provided, Yuan Mu, a spokesperson for China's Embassy in Washington, referred VOA to departments directly responsible, according to VOA.

The spokesperson in an emailed response said, "On the whole, China stands ready to work with all parties to safeguard the safety of international shipping

Although the Houthis have said that ships from some countries. including China and Russia, can safely pass through the Red Sea, a British oil tanker carrying Russian oil was hit by a Houthi missile and caught fire last week.

Shipping news site oilprice.com reports that even tankers carrying Russian fuel are now avoiding the Red Sea.

About 40 per cent of trade between Europe and Asia goes through the Red Sea and Suez Canal, and about 12 per cent of the globe's sea trade in oil.

Another 'atmospheric river' storm to hit California with potentially deadly floods

Forecasters have warned of life-threatening floods and landslides to hit Southern California this weekend due to a powerful atmospheric river storm.

LOS ANGELES, Feb 3 (Agencies): A second, more powerful atmospheric river storm was headed for Southern California this weekend, threatening to unleash lifethreatening floods and landslides, forecasters warned, even as much of the state was drying out from an earlier deluge.

Gradually intensifying rain was expected to begin dousing California on Saturday, with the most intense downpours soaking a 300-mile (480-km) stretch of coast on Sunday and Monday (February 5) as the storm spreads from San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara south through Los Angeles and San Diego counties.

The National Weather Service (NWS) posted flashflood watches for the entire region in anticipation of staggering amounts of precipitation likely to fall over a 36-hour period, accompanied by strong gusty winds.

Rainfall averaging 3-6 inches (7-15 cm) was forecast for most of the region's coastal and valley areas through Monday (February 5), with 6-12 inches expected in the foothills and lowerelevation mountains.

With soil already saturated and streams running high from the storm that drenched the region on Thursday, the flood potential from the coming onslaught is even higher than it would be otherwise, forecasters said.

"People need to start preparing now for a major flooding event," the weather service said in a forecast discussion posted online.

The NWS said there was a good chance of rainfall totals as high as 15 inches (38 cm) in mountainous parts of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, where the storm would probably hit hardest.

Communities on the southfacing slopes of mountains and foothills are expected to



receive the heaviest downpours, leaving them most vulnerable to potential flash floods, mud flows and land-

Hillsides and canyons scarred by recent wildfires are particularly prone to washouts.

WIDESPREAD RISKS Flood hazards from the impending storm abound, the weather service said in its notice on Friday, warning in upper-case letters: "All areas, including highly populated urban areas, will be at risk for life-threatening flooding."

In Los Angeles, the height of the encroaching storm is expected to coincide with

the music industry's Grammy Awards show on Sunday, prompting organisers to set up large tents for the pre-ceremony red carpet procession of the stars.

Elsewhere, crews were busy filling and stacking sandbags and clearing storm drains and culverts.

Flash-flood watches were

also in effect along a relatively narrow stretch of California's Central Coast, including Big Sur, extending north into the San Francisco Bay Area.

High winds in those areas may prove to be a bigger factor than rain, said Daniel Swain, a meteorologist and climate scientist at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Southern California remains the focal point of flood risks, he added.

Ski areas, on the other hand, were looking forward to a bonanza, as snowfalls measuring 2–4 feet (60-120 cm) are expected in the higher-elevation mountains, the

NWS said. Frozen precipitation from the storm will also benefit the region's snowpack, helping to rebuild a key source of freshwater that has lagged below normal despite last year's record-breaking

winter storms. Much of the region on

Friday was still cleaning up from heavy rains that swept northern and southern portions of the state on Wednesday and Thursday, triggering scattered street flooding, rock slides and mud flows.

Both storms formed from vast airborne currents of dense moisture called atmospheric rivers.

They also fit the definition of a storm system known as a "Pineapple Express", drawing on especially warm, subtropical waters around the Hawaiian islands.

About a dozen atmospheric river storms lashed California in rapid succession last winter, causing mass evacuations, power outages, levee breaches and road closures in a state long preoccupied with drought and wildfires.

At least 20 people perished in those storms, which nevertheless helped break the grip of a years-long drought in California.

GCOE organizes rally on Road safety week

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: The NSS unit of Government College of Education (GCoE), Canal Road organised a rally on the occasion of the Road safety week

The students spread awareness using slogans and pamphlets on the importance of using helmet, seatbelt, following traffic rules and use of footpaths and zebracrossing.

A month long activities will be conducted by the students under the guidance of officiating Principal, Prof Satish kumar Sharma, took the



opportunity to share his words of wisdom with students on rash driving among youngsters. He encouraged students to

actively engage in social and community work.

On the occasion of celebration of World Wetlands day on 02 Febru-

ary, a documentary was shown to students highlighting the importance of Wetlands for the conservation of Flora and The theme of the year

is 'Wetlands and human well-being.' It highlighted the urgent need for the restoration of wetlands.

Others present were Prof Sarita NSS P.O, Convener Nature Club GCOE, Prof Shalini Sharma, Prof Rupa, Prof Kiran, Dr Shubhra Jamwal and Prof Ambica Sharma.

These activities play a crucial role in promoting values of compassion and service among students. Social activities create active citizenry in the country and help in generating knowledge among them.

Cancer survivor felicitated during 'Hausla meet'



Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Feb 3: On the eve of World Cancer Day, cancer survivors were felicitated during a 'Hausla meet' at Paras Health, Panchkula on Saturday.

During the occasion, the survivors accompanied by Brig Dr Ajay Sharma director haematology & bone marrow transplant, Brig Dr. Rajeshwar Singh director- medical oncology and Brig Dr Harinder Pal Singh associate director medical oncology gave the message of living the life with hope and happiness while never giving up.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig Dr Ajay Sharma said, "Through this program, we want to give a message to those who are currently facing this challenging disease.

According to throat and lung cancer survivor Ravi Kant (name changed), you lose when you lose hope and when you rely on yourself and those who helped you get through the worst, But if you have faith, you can overcome all difficulties.

A 80-year-old survivor said, "The important thing is not how many years you have in your life, but how much life you have in your years. As the saying goes, once you choose to hope, anything is possible.

Brig Dr. Rajeshwar Singh said, "On World Cancer Day, we have gathered here to honor cancer survivors and show the world that life after a cancer diagnosis can be rewarding as well as inspiring.

DPS Junior Kathua hosts Group Poem Recitation Competition



Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 3: Delhi Public School (DPS) Junior, Kathua was abuzz with poetic fervour here on Saturday as it hosted the Group Poem Recitation Competition.

The event, dedicated to the artistry of words and the beauty of expression, showcased the talents of young minds from classes I to IV.

The program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the illumination of knowl-

edge and creativity. Monika Singh, the School Incharge, welcomed the audience with a heartfelt speech, setting the stage for a day filled with poetic

Distinguished guests, Dr. Hardev Gupta and Dr. Guru Sharma, graced the occasion as chief guests, bringing with them a wealth of expertise and wisdom.

Their presence added prestige to the event, inspiring the budding poets to reach new heights.

Gauri Thakur, the Guest of Honour, brought her support and encouragement to the forefront, emphasizing the importance of nurturing artistic talents in young minds.

The competition itself was a testament to the diversity of themes explored by the students—ranging from peace and heritage to nature, motherland. and nation. Each poem reflected the unique perspectives of the participants, leaving an

indelible mark on the

hearts of the audience. Following the enchanting recitations, a certification ceremony took place, where the winners were awarded certificates by the judges of the day Dr. Hardev Gupta, Dr. Guru Sharma and Gauri Thakur.

The guests also shared their insightful views, further enriching the experience for all in attendance.

The day concluded with a gracious vote of thanks delivered by School Incharge Monika Singh.

The event was a resounding success, celebrating the literary talents of the young poets and fostering a love for expression and creativity within the school community.

DPS Jammu embraces fond farewell to class XII graduates "Bazm-E-Rukhsat"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu bid an emotional adieu to the graduating Class XII students in a spectacular ceremony named "Bazm-E-Rukhsat" held on Saturday. The event was a harmonious blend of cultural magnificence, artistic prowess, and heartfelt farewells, bright selfie corners, leaving an enduring imprint on the hearts of students and faculty alike.

The day commenced with the traditional Tilak Ceremony, a symbol of warm reception by Class XI students, who enthusiastically welcomed their seniors.

Following this, the presentation of personalized mementoes and titles provided a tangible reminder of the cherished moments shared throughout their academic journey.

Aradhya Sharma of Class XI set the tone with a soul-stirring welcome song, setting the stage for an evening filled with talent and emotions. The dynamic dancers of Class XI

captivated the audience with a mesmerizing performance, showcasing the incredible artistic diversity within the school.

The highlight of the evening was the DPS Titles Round-1, where approximately 30 students competed for prestigious titles. Adding a touch of glamour, Class XI students showcased an Indian **Cultural Trends-inspired** ramp walk cum fashion show. The subsequent DPS Titles Round-2 featured 18 selected students displaying their exceptional talents in various categories, including singing, rap, dancing, slam poetry, baking, drawing, and

Round 3, the Question Round, tested the shortlisted candidates' quick-wittedness, confidence, and spontaneity, resulting in a suspenseful competition with multiple ties.

more.

The expert panel of Judges Bhavna Malhotra, Preeti Abrol, and Kamini Sawhney announced the winners, marking a high point in the evening.

SOTTO presents organ donation awareness at 166 Military Hospital Satwari

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: J&K State Organ and Tissue **Transplant Organization** (SOTTO) presented Human Organ Awareness Programme at 166 Military Hospital Satwari on Saturday to sensitize medical personnel of the hospital including field staff and families of army persons about the importance of donating organs/tissues to those in need posthumously. Dr. Elias Sharma, HoD

Urology & Kidney Transplant SSH Jammu and Nodal Officer SOTTO explained the procedure involved in human organ donation with legal implications. He said that the human body was not a commodity, to be bought or sold, it is purely an altruistic act of donation of organs and tissues.

Dr. Sanjeev Puri, Joint Director, SOTTO provided insights into the National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. He assured support from SOTTO J&K to encourage Military Hospital Satwari to start Organ Retrieval Centre and Cornea Retrieval Centre in this hospital

Anshu Sharma, Consultant (IEC/Media), SOTTO encouraged the audience to actively participate in the organ donation pledge drive under Ayushman Bhav.

Irfan Ahmed, Transplant Coordinator at SOTTO, elucidated the sequence of events during cadaveric organ donation in a hospital.

Col. Awanish Karan, Officiating Commandant thanked SOTTO J&K for the awareness campaign which is the need of the hour. It is important to dispel certain myths to encourage masses to come forward for pledge.

Lt. Col Ajay Shankar Sharma encouraged the audience for pledd ing for donation, a noble

Rajnath Singh Commissions INS Sandhayak, **Warns Pirates**

hydrographic surveys of ports, harbours, navigational channels, routes, coastal areas and deep seas to enable safe marine navigation.

"Many choke points, like the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Guinea etc. Are present in the Indian Ocean, through which a large amount of international trade takes place. Many threats remain at these choke points, the biggest being from pirates," Singh said, referring to the Indian Navy's prompt response to rescue ships from pirates.

The minister warned that those involved in maritime piracy and smuggling would not be tolerated and lauded the Indian Navy for providing security not only to Indian ships but also those belonging to friendly

He reiterated India's determination to maintain freedom of navigation, trade and commerce among different countries, along with stopping illegal and unregulated fishing in the Indian Ocean.

"INS Sandhayak will further strengthen India's role as a superpower in the Indo-Pacific region and help the Indian Navy in maintaining peace and security," said Singh in an official release.

According to the defence minister, the country is marching ahead on the path of development with a more than ever strong Navy, providing security in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific region as the first responder.

INS Sandhayak was built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. This project was steered by the Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy.

It has a displacement of 3,400 tons and a length of 110 metres with a beam of 16 m, equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment, including deep sea and shallow

water multibeam echo sounders, autonomous underwater vehicles and others.

Side scan sonars, data acquisition and processing system, remotely operated vehicle, data acquisition and processing system and other advanced features are also a part of INS Sandhayak, which contains 80 per cent indigenous content.

KCCI President meets LG Sinha, raised issues with him

There is also a need to implement ease of doing business and Single Window System for growth and development of industry which will go a long way in addressing the growing unemployment problem in the state and removal of capping on additional assistance for Capex Budget," he said.

KCC&I participation in major international trade fairs for growth and promotion of Kashmir products and GI tagged Pashmina, Carpets and other GI Certified items for growth and promotion of handicrafts and boast exports.

He demanded amnesty of commercial power consumers on the analogy of amnesty granted to domestic consumers. In the meantime stop coercive action against consumers.

The amnesty would enable the department to recover arrears and the consumers who are willing to pay feel relieved of the mental agony, he said.

He asked for expansion of Srinagar Airport in view of growing tourism arrivals.

He said there is an urgent need for announcement of another One Time Settlement Scheme (OTS) with higher cap and longer duration. It will be beneficial both for J&K Bank which will recover the money and the borrowers to regularize their accounts.

The Lt. Governor assured KCCI President that the points raised by KCC&I are under serious consideration of the administration

and will get resolved soon including the Power Amnesty / OTS Scheme at a faster pace. The President KCC&I expressed gratitude to the Lt. Governor for his time and kind consideration.

FROM PAGE 1

The President KCCI was accompanied by Senior Vice President Ashaq Hussain Shangloo & Treasurer Zubair Mahajan.

Kargil observes complete bandh, massive protest rally taken out in Leh on KDA, LAB call

Hussain Kargili said that the protest call has been given in support of the four demands by the Ladakh bodies. Kargili said that the government should listen to the people of Ladakh and fulfill their demands without any delay.

Pertinent to mention that amid the protest call given by the KDA and LAB, the Ministry of Home Affairs has called for a High Powered Committee meeting in Delhi on February 19 to discuss the issues.

" Happening Now in #Ladakh | Despite harsh cold people in #Leh gathered and marching with the demand for Statehood, Constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule, and PSC and employment opportunities for Ladakh" Sajad Hussain Kargili tweeted.

Fresh Snowfall **Blankets Kashmir. Gulmarg records minus 10.6 Deg C**

Kashmir with unofficial data suggesting that Larnoo town in south Kashmir Anantnag district had recorded minus 17.1 degrees Celsius followed by Sonamarg resort on the Srinagar-Leh highway which recorded a low of minus 15.1 degrees Cel-

Although 'Chilla-i-Kalan' — the 40-day harshest winter period — ended earlier this week, the cold wave has continued in Kashmir.

The valley is currently going through a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) which shall be followed by a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit Resigns; Cites personal reasons

On Wednesday, a division bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court denied interim relief to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The party had sought fresh polls under the supervision of a retired judge of the court.

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to consider an AAP councillor's request seeking urgent hearing of his plea challenging the high court order.

Purohit had been at loggerheads with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann over various issues in the past.

Jammu-Srinagar National **Highway reopens after** two-day closure

the MeT department predicted the possibility of light to moderate snow or rain at many places on Saturday, the possibility of light to moderate snow or rain at most places with chances of heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches on Sunday.

"Middle and higher reaches of the north, north-western and central parts (of Kashmir) may receive 7-10 inches of snow, lower reaches and plains may receive 3-6 inches, while plains of central Kashmir may receive rain with 1-2 inches of snow," the spokesperson said.

"Middle and higher reaches of south Kashmir may receive 12-15 inches of snow, while lower reaches and plains may receive 6-9 inches. Plains of Jammu division may receive light to moderate rain with thunder/lightning," the spokesperson said.

He said light to moderate snow over higher reaches of Pirpanjal Range and Chenab Valley with heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts of Jammu region are expected till Sunday night.

Avalanche warning issued for 8 J&K **Districts**

region in the next 24 hours.

People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing out into areas prone to avalanche, JKDMA added. Several parts of Kashmir including Srinagar witnessed fresh snowfall on Saturday. The intensity of the snow is likely to increase this evening.

Verify Credentials Of Firms Placing Job Advertisements: Press Council To Newspapers

misleading advertisements.

Earlier, the PCI had asked the print media to refrain from publishing any content on the Ram temple consecration that may be "false or manipulated or has the potential to disturb communal harmony or public order". It said the information and broadcasting ministry had "observed that certain unverified, provocative and fake messages are being spread" after the consecration on January 22. "This was despite the ministry issuing an advisory on January 20 instructing media" the PCI had said last month.

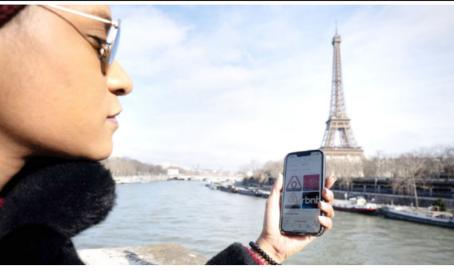
Eiffel Tower becomes first merchant to offer UPI payments in France

The service will soon be extended to other merchants across France and Europe

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): India on Friday formally launched UPI at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris, terming it as taking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of taking UPI global.

"UPI formally launched at the iconic Eiffel Tower at the huge Republic Day Reception. Implementing PM @narendramodi's announcement & the vision of taking UPI global," the official X handle of India's Embassy in France posted along with the photos of the

Replying to this, Modi said, "Great to see thisit marks a significant step towards taking UPI global. This is a wonderful example of encouraging digital payments and fostering stronger ties.



UPI is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank). merging several banking features, seamless fund routing and merchant payments into one hood, according to

Incidentally, at the invitation of Prime Min-

ister Modi, Emmanuel Macron, President of France, was the Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi on January 26.

"The new energy in India-France ties from a historic year in the Strategic Partnership visible at 75th Republic Day reception," the official handle X posted and thanked the Minister Delegate in charge of Democratic Renewal, Government Spokesperson Prisca Thevenot for honouring the occa-

It also thanked the members of Parliament, business leaders, scholars, friends of India & Indians in France.

The NPCI said in a statement that its arm NPCI International Payments (NIPL) has tied up with French e-commerce and proximity payments Lyra, which will help ensure that the UPI payment mechanism is accepted in the European country, starting with the Eiffel Tower.

At present, Indian tourists rank as the second largest group of international visitors to the Eiffel Tower, it said. Indian tourists can simply scan a QR code generated on the merchant's website and initiate a payment.

Eiffel Tower is the first merchant to offer UPI payments in France, and the service will soon be extended to other merchants in the tourism and retail space across France and Europe.

Byju's crisis explained: Why edtech firm, once valued at \$22 bn, is witnessing financial downfall

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): Ed-tech company Byju's has been grappling with a financial crisis, and in their latest move, the shareholders of the company have moved a resolution seeking the ouster of the founders from top leadership roles, including CEO Byju Raveendran.

The investors and CEO continue to be at a standoff as Byju's is currently facing a lawsuit in the United States disputing terms and payment of a loan. The company's valuation has taken a major hit, diminishing to nearly 10 percent of its all time high.

At its peak, Byju's was valued at \$22 billion in March 2022, when online education demand was skyrocketing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the company's valuation has fallen to between \$1 billion and \$3 billion,



some of the investors of the firm said.

After layoffs of thousands of employees and constant payroll interruptions over the last year, here is all you need to know about the ongoing financial crisis in Byju's, and how top leadership is responding to it.

Byju's valuation started to take a hit in 2023 when the demand for online education started to subside, especially with more competition in the industry. In April 2023, the ed-tech firm's struggle began when it came under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), with three of its offices raided under provisions of the

Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

ED slapped a FEMA violation notice on Byju's worth ₹9,362.35 crore. Legal troubles continued to mount for the ed-tech company after one of its foreign lenders ended up filing a lawsuit against Byju's in 2023.

US-based investment firm Redwood cut a loan of \$1.2 billion to Byju's in November 2021, but the ed-tech firm failed to make a quarterly interest payment of ₹330 crore. After being faced with a lawsuit, Byju's further filed a case against Redwood for "accelerating its demand" to pay the loan.

This prompted several high profile exits from the company, including three of its board of directors - GV Ravi Shankar, Russell Dreisenstock and Vivian Wu. Deloitte, the financial auditor of the company, also resigned in 2023.

Tata Motors starts work on gigafactory in UK

NEW YORK, Feb 3 (Agencies): Tata Motors on Friday said it has started working on its gigafactory in Somerset in the UK, and the financial closure for the project is underway.

At the post-earnings concall, Tata Motors Group Chief Financial Officer P B Balaji said the company has seen some impact of the Red Sea crisis but "it is manageable at this point of

Earlier in the day, Tata Motors posted a 133.2 per cent growth in net profit at Rs 7,100 crore in the December quarter, while the consolidated revenue rose 25 per cent vear-on-vear at Rs 1,10,600 crore.

"The site has been procured and we have already started the landlevelling work in that



space," Balaji said. Tata Motors had last

year in July announced plans to set up a global battery cell gigafactory in the UK at an investment of over 4 billion pounds to help power the automotive sector's transition to electric mobility.

"We are quite well advanced in terms of executing the plans on the ground there. Accordingly, financial

closure for the project is also underway as we speak," he said.

> As far as the execution of the ground is concerned in the UK, "it is all systems green", he added.

Balaji said there is some "degree of impact" of the Red Sea crisis, but, "I wouldn't say there is no impact but having said that, we believe at this point in time, it is manageable and we are

trying to ensure that we minimise any impact that may come." "Rerouting is adding about 10-odd days in the portfolio and for specific lanes, the thick products, we are finding ways to navigate it," he said.

On Electric Vehicle (EV) sales, he said the volumes have been increasing sequentially.

According to him, there is no cannibalisation happening between the EV and CNG segments.

"We do see strong growths coming through in CNG and EV part of a portfolio and that is expected to continue. And these are all incremental volumes," he

Balaji also said that the company is targeting 25-30 per cent of the sales from EVs in FY25 and FY26.

Jeff Bezos discloses plan to sell 50 million Amazon shares as stock surges

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): Jeff Bezos plans to sell as many as 50 million shares of Amazon.com Inc. over the next 12 months, potentially cashing in on a stock surge that's put him within reach of becoming the world's richest person.

The disclosure comes after Amazon reported its best online sales growth since early in the pandemic, sending its shares rallying by nearly 8% to \$172. Bezos' wealth jumped a commensurate amount, gaining \$12.1 billion Friday to put him \$8.1 billion behind first-place Elon Musk, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Bezos hasn't been No. 1 on the index since 2021.

The gap between



price.

Bezos and Musk has been narrowing as Amazon and Tesla Inc. shares move in opposite directions.

Amazon has benefited from a rebound in tech shares that's sent US stock indexes to all-time highs, while Tesla has been beset by a series of negative headlines. Musk's wealth could also take a hit after a Delaware judge voided his \$55 billion pay package this week.

Bezos, 60, adopted a trading plan to sell 50 million shares anytime before Jan. 31, 2025, according to a filing Friday. That would be worth about \$8.6 billion at the current share

Amazon disclosed the planned stock sales of Bezos, other board members and senior executives in its annual report, complying with new Securities and Exchange Commission rules that require greater transparency for corporate insiders who sell shares under prearranged trading plans. A spokesperson for the Seattle-based company declined to comment on the planned stock sales.

If Bezos follows through with the plan, it would mark the first time he has sold Amazon stock since 2021.

He did buy a single share of the company in May, his first recorded purchase in records going back to 2002, though without explanation.

The Amazon co-founder recently announced he's moving to Miami from the Seattle area, which means Washington state could miss out on a tax windfall from any potential share sale. Washington recently introduced a capitalgains tax, while Florida doesn't have one.

The link between dieting, weight suppression, and eating disorder

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): Up to 72 per cent of women and 61 per cent of men are dissatisfied with their weight or body image, according to a U.S. study. Globally, millions of people attempt to lose weight every year with the hope that weight loss will have positive effects on their body image, health and quality of life.

However, these motivated individuals often struggle to maintain new diets or exercise regimens. The rise of medications such as semaglutides, like Ozempic or Wegovy, might be viewed as an appealing quick fix alternative to meet weight loss goals.

Research led by our team and others suggests that such attempts to lose weight often do more harm than good, and even increase the risk of developing an eating disorder.

Weight loss and eating disorders

Eating disorders are serious mental health conditions primarily characterized by extreme patterns of under- or over-eating, concerns about one's other behaviours intended to influence body shape or weight such as exercising excessively or self-inducing vomiting.

Although once thought to only affect young, white adolescent girls, eating disorders do not discriminate: eating disorders can develop in people of any age, sex, gender or racial/ethnic background, with an estimated one million Canadians suffering from an eating disorder at any given time. Feb. 1 to 7 is National Eating Disorders Awareness Week

As a clinical psychologist and clinical psychology graduate student, our research has focused on how eating disorders develop and what keeps them going. Pertinent to society's focus on weight-related goals, our research has examined associations between weight loss and eating disorder symp-

Eating disorders and weight suppression

In eating disorders research, the state of maintaining weight loss is referred to as weight suppression. Weight shape or body weight or suppression is typically

defined as the difference between a person's current weight and their highest lifetime weight (excluding pregnancy).

> Despite the belief that weight loss will improve body satisfaction, we found that in a sample of over 600 men and women, weight loss had no impact on women's negative body image and was associated with increased body dissatisfaction in men. Importantly, being more weight suppressed has been associated with the onset of eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa

One proposed explanation for the relationship between weight suppression and eating disorders is that maintaining weight loss becomes increasingly difficult as body systems that reduce metabolic rate and energy expenditure, and increase appetite, are activated to promote weight gain.

There is growing awareness that weight regain is highly likely following conventional diet programs. This might lead people to engage in more and more extreme behaviours to control their weight, or they might shift between extreme restriction of food intake and episodes of overeating or binge eating, the characteristic symptoms of bulimia nervosa.

Ozempic and other semaglutide drugs

Semaglutide drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy are part of a class of drug called glucagonlike peptide-1 agonists (GLP-1As). These drugs work by mimicking the hormone GLP-1 to interact with neural pathways that signal satiety (fullness) and slow stomach emptying, leading to reduced food intake.

Although GLP-1As are indicated to treat Type 2 diabetes, they are increasingly prescribed off-label or being illegally purchased without a prescription because of their observed effectiveness at inducing weight

like Ozempic do often lead to weight loss, the rate of weight loss may slow down or stop over Research by Lindsay Bodell, one of the

authors of this story,

and her colleagues on

weight suppression may

Although medications

help explain why effects of semaglutides diminish over time, as weight suppression is associated with reduced GLP-1 response.

This means those suppressing their weight could become less responsive to the satiety signals activated by GLP-1As.

Additionally, weight loss effects are only seen for as long as the medication is taken, meaning those who take these drugs to achieve some weight loss goal are likely to regain most, if not all, weight lost when they stop taking the medication.

Risks of dieting and weight-loss drugs

The growing market for off-label weight loss drugs is concerning, because of the exacerbation of weight stigma and the serious health risks associated with unsupervised weight loss, including developing eating disorders.

Researchers and health professionals are already raising the alarm about the use of GLP-1As in children and adolescents, due to concerns about their possible impact on growth and development.

Early breakfast and dinner can reduce cardiovascular disease risk



NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): The timing of our daily meals, especially breakfast and dinner, can affect our risk of heart attack and stroke. Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death in the world, with 18.6 million annual deaths in 2019, of which around 7.9 million can be attributed to diet.

To study the impact of food intake patterns and cardiovascular disease risk, European researchers used data from 1,03,389 participants with an average age of 42, and 79 per cent women. During an

average follow-up of 7.2 years, there were 2,036 cases of cardiovascular disease.

Those who skipped breakfast or ate their first meal later in the day had a higher risk of cardiovascular disease, with a six per cent increase in risk per hour delay.

For instance, a person who ate breakfast at 9am was six per cent more likely to develop cardiovascular disease than someone who ate at 8am.

Eating dinner after 9pm was associated with a 28 per cent increase in the risk of

cerebrovascular diseases such as stroke compared with eating before 8pm, especially in women.

A longer duration of night-time fasting was also associated with a lower risk of cerebrovascular disease, suggesting that an early dinner is ideal.

The findings published in the journal Nature Communications suggest that adopting the habit of eating your breakfast before 8am and dinner before 9pm with a longer period of night-time fasting could help prevent the risk of cardiovascular disease.

'Ice Cool' Yashasvi Jaiswal completes maiden double hundred with 6 and 4 vs Shoaib Bashir

VISAKHAPATNAM, Feb 3 (Agencies): Young Yashasvi Jaiswal completed a glorious double hundred on Saturday, 3 February, while batting in the 2nd Test match against England in Vizag. Jaiswal, who was unbeaten at 179 at the end of the first day reached his maiden double hundred with two riveting shots.

The 'ice cool' 22-year-old smashed Shoaib Bashir for a six and a four behind the square leg to bring up his feat.

Earlier in the innings, Jaiswal had completed his 50, 100, 150 with boundaries and sixes as well.

The cricketer became the third youngest India batter to hit a double century in Test cricket. Only Vinod Kambli and



Sunil Gavaskar were younger than the 22-year-old when they reached their personal feats. Jaiswal was also the first India left-handed opener to score a double hundred against England.

Jaiswal is currently playing his 6th Test match and has

already created a mega-impact at the top. The batter made his debut in 2023 when India visited West Indies. Jaiswal, in his very first Test, had scored 171 runs stamping his authority in the position ahead of the likes of Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan, who have been around the Indian team, fighting for a top-order spot.

Jaiswal innings helped India finish with a commendable total of 396 runs in the first innings of the match.

Apart from Jaiswal, not a single India player scored a half century in the innings. Shubman Gill was the second highest scorer for the team with 34 runs off 46 balls. Shubman Gill and Shreyas lyer failed once again and remain without a fifty in their 11th Test innings. Shubman looked promising for his 34 runs but fell to James Anderson on Day 1.

James Anderson, Shoaib Bashir and Rehan Ahmed picked up 3 wickets each for England during the opening innings of the match.

ICC U-19 world cup: India enter semis with win over Nepal



BLOEMFONTEIN, Feb 3 (Agencies): Contrasting hundreds by Sachin Dhas and skipper Uday Saharan were the twin pillars on which India built their commanding 132-run win over Nepal in their final Super Six Group 1 match, which also carried them to the semifinals of the ICC Under-19 World Cup here.

Dhas (116, 101 balls) and Saharan (100, 107 balls), who added 215 off 202 balls, lifted India from a tricky 62/3 to a formidable 297/5 after they opted to bat first. The tournament favourites, who now have eight points, then limited the Himalayan nation to 165/9. In the semis, India are all set to face South Africa at Benoni on Tuesday.

Nepal made a rather strong start to their chase reaching 65/1 in the 14th over before they fell headlong, losing six wickets for a mere 12 runs to be placed at 77/7 in the 28th over. Left-arm spinner Saumy Pandey, who now has 16 wickets to be placed at the second spot in the tournament's highest wickettaker list, sparked the collapse with figures of 10-1-29-4.

Brief scores: India 297/5 (Dhas 116, Saharan 100; Jha 3/56); Nepal 165/9 (Pandey 4/29, Kulkarni 2/18).

Travis Head released from white-ball squads to 'refresh': Cricket Australia

BRISBANE, Feb 3 (Agencies): World Cupwinning quick Josh Hazlewood has been added to Australia's squad for the second ODI against the West Indies at the SCG after opener Travis Head was released to "refresh" following a busy Test summer.

Head won't play in the final two ODIs or the three T20 internationals that follow and will return home to Adelaide for a break ahead of Australia's T20 and Test tour of New Zealand later this month.

The left-hander crashed his first ball for four in last night's first ODI at the MCG before swinging and missing at another two, then edging behind for four as Josh Inglis (65), Cameron Green (77no) and Steve Smith (79no) led Australia to a comfortable eight-wicket



Australia have also confirmed paceman Xavier Bartlett will be rested from tomorrow's second match despite an outstanding first game in international colours where he collected the second-best figures (4-17) for the nation on men's ODI

debut.
A Cricket Australia statement said the decision formed part of his "ongoing management"

after the 25-year-old Queenslander missed the first half of the domestic season following his return from a back stress injury.

Head's release opens the door for an international debut for batting sensation Jake Fraser-McGurk, while it could also give two-time BBL player of the tournament Matt Short an opportunity to move to the top of the order in his preferred batting position.

Footballer Dani Alves Set For Rape Trial In Spain

After offering cham-

pagne to the young

woman and her friend,

Alves allegedly invited

the woman to enter a

small enclosure at the

nightclub, which she

says she did not know

Once inside the foot-

baller showed a "violent

attitude" towards the

woman, whom he forced

to have intercourse

despite her resistance,

prosecutors say accord-

"The victim asked him

several times... to let her

go, saying she wanted

to leave but the defen-

dant prevented her from

doing so," according to

the indictment, which

describes a "situation of

ing to the indictment.

was a lavatory.

BRASÍLIA, Feb 3 (Agencies): Former Brazil football star Dani Alves will go on trial Monday in Barcelona for allegedly raping a woman at an upscale nightclub, with prosecutors seeking a nine-year iail sentence. The highprofile trial is scheduled to start at 10 am (0900 GMT) at a court in Spain's second city where the 40-year-old former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain player has been in jail since his arrest in January 2023. A young woman accuses Alves of raping her in a bathroom of the VIP area of the upscale Sutton nightclub in Barcelona in the early hours of December 31, 2022.

Alves has said he had consensual sex with his accuser after initially denying knowing the woman during a television interview.

Public prosecutors have demanded Alves receive a prison term of nine years and pay his alleged victim 150,000



euros (\$162,000) in compensation.

Since the court rejected a request from the prosecution for the trial to be held behind closed doors, the media will be able to follow the proceedings, except for when Alves' accuser takes the stand.

Her identity will not be revealed, and she will not have to be "visually confronted with the accused".

According to the prosecution, Alves knew the layout of the nightclub well and was there that night with a friend. He was on holiday in Barcelona at the time after playing for Brazil at the World Cup in Qatar.

the young woman.
'Clear conscience'
The woman, w

The woman, who received medical treatment after leaving the nightclub, is being treated for "post-traumatic stress of overall high intensity", according to prosecutors.

anguish and terror" for

Alves told Barcelonabased daily La Vanguardia in June that he had lied at first about knowing his accuser because he was afraid his wife would leave him if he admitted being with another woman.

"I have a really clear conscience regarding what happened that night in the bathroom of the VIP area of the Sutton nightclub," he told the newspaper.

"What happened and what didn't happen. And what didn't happen is that I forced this woman to do anything that we did."

Spanish courts have repeatedly rejected requests that Alves be released pending his trial, arguing there was a risk he could flee to his native Brazil which generally does not extradite its citizens.

In Spain a plea deal remains possible right until the start of the trial, meaning Alves could still admit guilt in exchange for a softer penalty.

The accuser's lawyer in November denied she had reached such an agreement, but she admitted "talks" had been held at the request of the player's legal team which had not led to a deal.

The trial is expected to wrap up on Wednesday. After his arrest, Alves was sacked by his Mexican club Pumas UNAM. In a highly successful

In a highly successful career, Alves won 42 trophies, including three Champions Leagues with Barcelona and two Copa Americas with Brazil.

At the 2022 World Cup, he became the oldest player to represent Brazil at football's showpiece tournament.

No Salary, Medical Benefit In Pakistan Hockey For Six Months, Senior Players Clash With Management

LAHORE, Feb 3 (Agencies): The never ending ordeal of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) continued as the cash-strapped national body has not paid its employees for the last six months. According to details, all the employees of PHF at its headquarters in Lahore and sub-office in Karachi are still waiting to get their salaries

for the last six months. Over 80 office and ground employees are said to be in dire straits as they have also not been getting any medical benefits for the last six months.

To make matters worse even the national senior players have neither been paid their contract salaries or allowances for the last 4-5 months for even participating

in the recent Olympic qualifiers in Oman.

A source aware of the developments said that Pakistan captain, Imad Shakeel Butt and some other players also clashed with the team management during the qualifiers over the issue of non-payment of their daily dues.

"At one stage Butt even threatened not to play further matches

until the dailies were cleared," the source

said.
The nadir is that no one knows who is to blamed for this sorry situation in Pakistan hockey.

While the sacked former President Brig (retd) Khalid Sajjad Khokar blamed his predecessors and also his successor for the financial crunch, the source

said it is a fact that the government has not only stopped giving funds to the PHF, its accounts have been suspended because of an ongoing inquiry into financial misappropriation of funds by the federation.

"Presently the PHF is said to owe around 80 million rupees in dues to its employees, players, coaches and other clients," the source added.

Misbah-ul-Haq concerned over Pakistan Cricket Board's short-sighted policies



KARACHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): Former Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq expressed concerns over the uncertainty and short-term vision within the PCB, suggesting that it prohibits both foreign and local coaches from working with the country's cricket board.

Reflecting on his own experiences as head coach and chief selector from 2019 to 2021, Misbah lamented the tendency within Pakistan cricket to dismiss players and coaches after just a few series or due to shifts in the board's leadership.

"If you look at the policies of the board, leave alone foreign coaches I don't think even our local coaches want to work with the PCB," he told the media in Karachi

Misbah is currently coaching the Hyderabad

franchise, which has successfully qualified for the ongoing Sindh Premier League being held in the city.

"Pakistan cricket should not be run in such a haphazard manner and we need to have long term plans for the team management, selectors and grooming of players. Unfortunately in Pakistan a change in the board leadership changes everything," he said.

he said.

Misbah questioned how players could feel assured and cement their positions in the national team when the board's actions leave them uncertain about the situation.

"I believe you can't make a good team or groom quality players if proper time is not given for this process. We need to look at the systems of some other countries who are suc-

of the three cricket formats. "Why not I think you can pick the best captain's as per the needs of the format." Misbah expressed

Misbah didn't see any

issue with having dis-

tinct captains for each

confidence that Pakistan will consistently pose a significant threat in the T20 World Cup. "Our players are also used to conditions in the West Indies so we should be among the front runners."

The ex-captain also

advocated for a review of NOC policies to enable players to participate in international leagues more reasonably. "If a player is free for say two months why shouldn't he be allowed to go and earn money in a league but yes giving permission to players before the World Cup was a big mistake. I say have a situation based policy for NOCs and foreign leagues."

Misbah emphasized that the enduring appeal of Test cricket will never fade, highlighting it as the ultimate pinnacle of the sport. "You can say the popularity of T20 cricket has affected ODI cricket but Test format will go on," he said.

Taskin Ahmed to retire from Tests? Pacer asks BCB to not consider him for red-ball cricket

DHAKA, Feb 3 (Agencies): Bangladesh fast bowler Taskin Ahmed has requested the Bangladesh Cricket Board for an exit from Test cricket. Taskin, one of Bangladesh's best pacers in the recent times has told the board that he wants to focus only on the white-ball format of the game.

BCB cricket operation chairman Jalal Yunus confirmed the development to Cricbuzz on Saturday, 3 February. Jalal stated that the fast bowler had sent in an letter with a request and that would be looked at after the conclusion of the Bangladesh Premier League.

"He(Taskin) had sent a letter stating that he does not want to play longer-version cricket. After the game [of the ongoing BPL] is over we will sit with him in this regard," Jalal Yunus told Cricbuzz on Saturday.

"Let the coach [head coach Chandika Hathurusingha] come and we need to talk with him as well," he added.

Cricbuzz further added that the Bangladesh coach was aware about the development.

The fast bowler had a shoulder injury during the recently concluded ODI World Cup 2023. It could be possible that the pacer might not want to play long format crick-



et for similar reasons. BCB's chief selector Minhajul Abedin spoke to Cricbuzz about the

same and said that the BCB will be siting with the physios to discuss the nature of the injury. "He [Taskin] is our across-format contracted player. We have to talk with our doctors and get a report on his injury status and later can make a decision in this regard," he said.

Bangladesh will be

playing two Test matches in India later in 2024.
Bangladesh cricket are

currently going through a leadership crisis. After Tamim Iqbal's departure from the national set up, Shakib Al Hasan was reappointed as the captain of the side. However, in the recently concluded 2-Test series against New Zealand Najmul Shanto captained the side.

AAP holds protest against BJP, Election Commissioner over cheating in Chandigarh Mayoral Election

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Aam Aadmi Party J&K, Jammu unit held a protest demonstration against BJP & Election Commissioner of India over cheating in the Chandigarh Mayoral Election, in front of **Election Commissioner** office, Jammu on Saturday with play cards and banners in their hands.

While addressing the media persons, Party spokes person Nirmal Mahna & other AAP leaders, said that the Chandigarh Municipal corporation, which has 35 elected councilors & one MP Kirron Kher, total 36 votes & the INDI Alliance had 20 votes (13 AAP councilors and Seven Congress councilors) & BJP had 16 (14 councilors, one MP Kirron Kher and one



SAD councilor) & INDI Alliance was anticipating a clean sweep.

However, the presiding officer used his own pen to mark and invalidate eight votes, clearly visible in the video circulated in social media & showing Anil Masih engaging in fraudulent activity.

The AAP leaders said

that the BJP appointed an officer from its minority wing as the presiding officer & the election agent from Parties were not permitted to inspect the invalid votes and even the Deputy Commissioner was not called for oversight.

They said that it was for the first time in the Mayoral election that

The AAP leader's urged the Chief Election Commissioner of India to take stern action against the concerned Presiding officer and conduct a fresh, impartial election without any

Prominent AAP lead-

ers who attended the protest demonstration include, Farooq Ahmed Banday, Dr. Ghulam Mustafa, Mudasir Sahib, Mehraj Malik, Nirmal Mahana, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Amit Langer, Safeer Chaudhary, Adv. Arvind Bandral, Amrik Singh Sasan, Mehar Singh, Rajesh Pargotra, Dr. Rajinder Thapa, Sandeep Singh Parihar, Shadi Lal, Kandeel Gupta, Robin Singh, Dixit Gupta, Asif Gill, Sham Lal Thakur, Karan Atri and Chotay

Capacity building programme held at Shri Ram Universal School

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Capacity building for teachers is crucial for ensuring effective teaching and learning outcomes. It involves providing professional development opportunities, resources, and support to enhance educators' skills, knowledge, and practices.

The Shri Ram Universal School Jammu (TSUSJ) takes due care as far as empowering its teachers is concerned and feels proud about the wherewithal available in terms of the trained resource personnel empanelled with Shri Educare Limited (SEL), New Delhi who shoulder this responsibility in an impeccable manner.

Representing Shri Educare Limited (SEL), Ishita Sanyal with 20 years plus of school teaching and leadership and Shaveta Bhagria, a maths professional with more than 16 years of experience in teaching maths conducted a two-day Capacity Build-



ing Programme for the teachers of TSUSJ.

The resource persons deliberated in length the nuances of integrating educational technology tools and introducing a wide range of teaching platforms stuffed with educational resources such as textbooks and supplementary materials to enhance learning experiences and promote digital literacy.

The more experienced teachers were paired with newer or less experienced colleagues to provide guidance, support, and feedback on teaching practices and professional growth.

The resource persons emphasised the need of collaboration which fosters a culture of continuous improvement. focused on areas such as pedagogy, curriculum development, assessment strategies, classroom management, and student engagement.

Highlight of the programme was providing training on inclusive teaching practices to ensure that educators can effectively support the diverse needs of all students, including those with disabilities or special educational needs.Investing into comprehensive capacity building programme is expected to empower teachers to continually enhance their skills and expertise, ultimately leading to improved student outcomes.

Dozens including BJP leaders join Shiv Sena



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Influenced by the policies and ideas of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit, today about two dozen youth including BJP leaders and workers joined the party. In a program organized at the party state central office, in the presence of state chief Manish Sahni, BJP Minority Cell State Secretary Sheikh Imran and famous musician and social worker Amit Singh Rajput joined the party along with dozens of their supporters.

Sahni welcomed the new members with Shiv Bandhan.

Sheikh Imran was appointed as the organizer and Amit Singh as the district president of the art and culture wing Sahni said that under

by the party state unit. the guidance of the party chief Honorable Uddhav Saheb Thackeray and the party high command, the state unit

is raising its voice on

better education, health

facilities along with res-

toration of rights of the

local people. He is very much sure that Shiv Sena will create history and hoist our flag in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and Lok Sabha. On this occasion, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, President Kamgar Wing Raj Singh were

Birthday of Mata Jeevni celebrated at Bawa Ballo Devasthan Mathwar



Top News Report

eight votes, all from the

opposition parties, were

declared invalid, while

not a single vote from

the BJP faced such dis-

They termed the Chan-

digarh mayoral polls as

unconstitutional and ille-

gal and added that BJP

completely exposed

before the Nation and

world in Chandigarh

qualification.

JAMMU, Feb 3: Like every year at ancient Devasthan of Bawa Ballo, the birthday of his mother Mata Jeevni ji was celebrated at Mathwar, 40 kms away from Jammu under the aegis of present Bawa Yashpal Maharaj in which thousands of devotees including people from outside, civil and Army men took part.

Pooja and large Havan for the peace of India, particularly for Jammu and Kashmir was performed

Later on Bawa Yash Pal showered blessings on devotees present there and thereafter Bhandara was served. Helicopter from

Vaishno Mata hovered around the Darbar and showered flowered there.

DSS welcomes closure of Sarore Toll Plaza, condemns increase in Ban & Lakhanpur Toll fees

was in no way justified.

Charak said that the

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: After the meeting of working committee of Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) J&K in a statement, Th Gulchain Singh Charak, former Cabinet Minister & President of the Sabha has welcomed the closure of toll plaza at Sarore by the National Highway Authority of India with effect from 26th January, 2024, but at the same time criticised the simultaneous announcement of hike in user fee rates at Lakhanpur and Ban toll plazas.

In a statement to the press, he said that the 'carrot and stick' policy of the authority in this regard was not in conformity with the people friendly approach that a government should reflect. Charak said that whereas the scrapping of toll plaza at Sarore was a due, although belated, recognition of the public demand, enhancement of toll fees at Lakhanpur and Ban

extremely poor condition of a number of segments of the national highway NH-44, particularly between Jammu and Kathua has made it very much uncomfortable for the commuters to travel on these stretches. Not only the inconvenience caused due to the damages to Tarnah Bridge, but also the ongoing construction of the flyover on this strategic and the most vital highway, has

the travel time. Condition of causeway near the Tarnah bridge and even all along the highway, is very poor, particularly for light motor vehicles (LMV). The number of potholes which have taken the shape of hazardous craters at several places, are causing frequent accidents. damage to vehicles and reducing their lifespan.

immensely prolonged

He said that although the Toll tax is a means to generate funds for

repairing and maintaining road infrastructure. but for the last several years, the road and flyover construction in this segment is going on without any respite. Plying of vehicles on this highway has become increasingly risky and damaging to men and material (the vehicles).

As such, there is no iustification in overburdening the commuters through increase in the rates of this tax. Moreover, he said that the hike in the fees is a dis-incentive for the visitors to Jammu, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, Katra etc.

While thanking the NHAI and the government for closing down the Toll plaza at Sarore, Charak urged upon the government and concerned highway authorities to ensure elimination of the ever-increasing potholes and craters and also emphasized to fully black top the road immediately to provide desirable services to the commuters.

Additional Director Sericulture commends Poonch Campus for Cocoon Art & Craft Initiative

also present.

Top News Report

POONCH, Feb 3: In a momentous occasion, the Additional Director of the State Sericulture Development Department Ashwani Kumar Sharma visited the Poonch Campus, where he engaged with the students and teaching faculty of the Department of Sericulture. The visit aimed to

assess the progress and initiatives taken by the campus in the field of sericulture, particularly the innovative Cocoon Art and Craft Initiative by Dr. Rubia Bukhari, the Campus Officer, and In-Charge of the Department of Sericulture.

During the visit, the Additional Director of the State Sericulture Development Department Ashwani Kumar Sharma expressed his profound satisfaction with the Cocoon Art and Craft Initiative, recognizing it as a commendable effort in utilizing defective cocoons to



ture sector. Imparting words of encouragement to the students, the Additional Director urged them to actively participate in Dr. Bukhari's initiative, emphasizing the importance of fostering creativity and sustainability within the sericulture industry

In recognition of the inspiring efforts of the Director of Poonch Campus, Prof. Rakesh Vaid, the Additional Director of the State Sericulture Development Department Ashwani Kumar Sharma extended his congratulations for motivating both teachers and students to engage in such innovative initiatives. "Prof. Vaid's leadership has played a pivotal role in instilling a spirit of creativity and entrepreneurship within the

campus," he added

Dr. Rubia Bukhari, while speaking on the occasion, expressed her gratitude to the Additional Director Sericulture Development Department for taking the time to interact with the faculty and students of Poonch Campus. She underscored some of the significant achievements of the Department of Sericulture, showcasing the department's commitment to excellence and innova-

The visit not only highlighted the success of the Cocoon Art and Craft Initiative but also served as a platform for fostering collaboration and dialogue between the State Sericulture Department and the Poonch Campus. The Additional Director's positive feedback further motivates the campus to continue its endeavors in contributing to the growth and development of the sericulture sector

Additional Director Sericulture Development Department was accompanied by Avinder Kour Sericulture Assistant, Sericulture Development Department Poonch, Mohd Amin Inspector G1 Sericulture Development Department Mendhar, Harish Dutta and Zulfkar Ahmed Junior Assistant DSO Office Poonch others present on the occasion were; Dr. Jyoty Angotra, Dr. Palvi Sharma, Sahil Choudhary, Mohd Sageer and Sandeep Kumar and Students of the Department of Sericulture,

Poonch Campus.

Dogri translation of Gandhi Chitrakatha by Inderjeet Kesar released

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3; Gandhi Chitrakatha, a book for Children written by Ms. Sarla Mazumdar originally in Gujarati language and translated in Dogri Language by eminent Sahitya Akademi & State Awardee veteran Dogri writer Inderjeet Kesar was released in a simple but an impressive function organized by Gandhi Chitrakatha Parivar at Huthee Singh Visual Arts Centre, Ahmedabad.

The function was attended by a galaxy of writers from Gujarat,



Goa, Punjab, Manipur, Jammu and Mumbai

On this occasion, a painting exhibition was also held at Kanoria Visual Arts Centre.

The efforts of Inderjeet Kesar were appreciated by one and all for translating Gandhi Chitrakatha in Dogri language for the very first time.

The book will especially enable the school going children to learn about the human values of Mahatma Gandhi. During his interaction with the august gathering Inderjeet Kesar expressed his gratitude to Tarak Ojha, Bhushan Ojha and Pranav Desai, members of Gandhi Chitrakatha Parivar for involving him in translation work of an ambitious project and inviting and honoring him in the function.

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e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

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