

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Dozens of vegetable shops gutted in fire in Ramban

JAMMU, Feb 5 (Agencies): A fire broke out in a vegetable and fruit market with dozens of shops gutted in the Banihal area of Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Monday, officials said. There was no loss of life in the blaze, they said.

Locals, police, fire tenders and army personnel rushed to the spot and launched an operation to control the fire, they said.

The fire began at a kiosk in the market and quickly engulfed the entire market, making the operation to extinguish fire very difficult, officials said.

The fire was subsequently brought under control but dozens of tin and wooden sheds used by vendors were gutted in the fire, they said.

MeT predicts dry weather from Feb 6 to 14

SRINAGAR, Feb 5 (Agencies): Meteorological Department has predicted possible dry weather from February 6 to 14 in Jammu and Kashmir.

It said that during past 24 hours most places of Jammu and Kashmir received light to moderate snow and rains.

While it forecasted generally cloudy weather with possibility of light snow over isolated higher reaches on February 05.

It added that the weather will remain generally dry from February 6 to 14.

Body of man recovered 3 days after e-rickshaw fell in Jhelum in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 5 (Agencies): The body of a man, who was in the e-rickshaw that fell into the Jhelum River near Lasjan bridge, was retrieved on Monday after three days, officials said.

Quoting an official, KNO reported that after strenuous efforts, the body was recovered today by rescuers.

He identified the deceased as Mukhtar Ahmad Sheikh of

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Bill to amend J&K local bodies' laws introduced in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): A bill that seeks to amend laws related to local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to details available with KNS, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai introduced the bill in the Lok Sabha today.

The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, seeks to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989; the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000; and the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000.



Parliament budget session is underway and will end on February 09. This will be the last session of both houses ahead of the Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held in April-May this year.

Govt has collected Rs 600 Cr penalty for delay in PAN-Aadhaar Linking; 11.48 Cr PANs not linked yet

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): The Government has collected over Rs 600 crore as penalty for delay in linking PAN with Aadhaar, and about 11.48 crore Permanent Account Numbers are still not linked with biometric identity, Parliament was informed on Monday.

"Number of PANs not linked with Aadhaar, excluding exempted categories, is 11.48 crore as on January 29, 2024," Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

To a question regarding the details of government earning through late penalty of Rs 1,000 from the persons who have not linked their PAN and Aadhaar after the last date of June 30, 2023, Chaudhary said "the total collection of fee from persons who have not linked their PAN with Aadhaar is

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Lt Governor interacts with NCC cadets who participated in Republic Day Parade in New Delhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with the NCC cadets, who took part in the Republic Day Parade 2024 in New Delhi.

On the occasion, the Cadets shared their experience about the spectacular march on the Kartavya Path, interaction with youth from all over the country and wonderful exposure about the regimented



way of life they had at the Republic Day camp. The Lt Governor congratulated the Cadets of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh NCC Director-

ate for their historic participation in the Republic Day celebrations.

"National Cadets Corps represents the

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Centre likely to create additional Administrative Units in Ladakh

SRINAGAR, Feb 5 (Agencies): The Union government is considering the creation of new administrative units in Ladakh to address residents' demands for the Sixth Schedule and statehood.

While the BJP has been demanding the creation of five new districts in Ladakh, the Union Government is

likely to announce two new administrative units.

The Tribune reported that government may grant additional administrative units and enhance powers to Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils. While the demand for district status for Zaskar and Nubra is under consideration, full statehood is unlikely. Discussions on

the Sixth Schedule and local employment are ongoing.

Meanwhile, amid the ongoing agitations a delegation of leaders from Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), Ladakh L-G Brig BD Mishra (retd), MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, and Hill Development

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B R Sharma elected as Chairman, IIPA J&K Regional Branch



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: B.R.Sharma, IAS (Retd) was re-elected as Chairman of the IIPA, JK Regional Branch for the period 2024-2026 during the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Branch which was held on Monday. Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd), Former DGP, J&K Police

shall be mentoring the branch as Patron.

During the AGM, the new office bearers for the period 2024 - 2026 were also elected and the Executive Committee was also nominated.

The office bearers elected for the period 2024 - 2026 are Er. J. B. S. Johar- Vice Chairman (Jammu), Dr. G. N. Qasba- Vice

Chairman (Kashmir); K.B.Jandial, IAS(Retd)- Vice Chairman (Central); Prof Alka Sharma- Hony Secretary; Shri Vikrant Kuthiala- Hony Treasurer; Dr Anil Gupta- Joint Secretary (Jammu); G.M.Andrabi- Joint Secretary (Kashmir); Er M M Gupta, Director Seminars; Manoj Kumar Pandith Joint Director

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Theft case solved in Ganderbal, two accused arrested: Police

SRINAGAR, Feb 5 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday said to have solved a theft case within hours by arresting two accused and recovered stolen jewellery and cash from their possession in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

A Police spokesperson said, On Sunday at 1810 hours, Police Station Ganderbal received information through reliable sources that some unknown thieves had entered the residential house of Gh Mohd Sofi

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FM presents JK interim budget 2024-25 & revised estimates for current fiscal in Parl

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Feb 5: The Revised Estimates for 2023-24 and Interim Budget 2024-25 of Government of Jammu and Kashmir were today placed before the Parliament by Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman. The two Appropriation Bills on the Supplementary Budget for 2023-24 and Vote on Account for 2024-25 will be considered by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in this regard.

Finance Department of the UT had drafted the Supplementary Budget



for the current year and the Interim Budget for the next financial year. For this, the Department had assessed the revenue receipts of the UT Government from GST, motor spirit tax, excise, and stamp duty. Further, the non-tax revenue from elec-

tricity and water supply, mining royalty, timber sales, annual rent from industrial lands, etc were also examined. The own revenue of the UT Government has been estimated at Rs. 20,867 crore. The UT Government also pursued Government of India for getting central financial assistance.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo led the UT's efforts in this direction. Crucial meetings were held in August 2023, October 2023 and

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Mercury dips further in Kashmir amid cold wave, Pahalgam coldest with minus 11.9 Deg C

SRINAGAR, Feb 5 (Agencies): Cold wave conditions intensified in Kashmir on Monday as temperatures dipped further below freezing point at most places in the valley, officials said here.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, according to the weather office.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir, which serves

as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, was the coldest recorded place in the valley last night. It recorded a low of minus 11.9 degrees Celsius, nosediving from minus 3.5 degrees Celsius the previous night. Temperatures in Gulmarg in north Kashmir fell by three notches to minus 10 degrees Celsius from previous night's minus 7 degrees Celsius.

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JK Police arrest hardcore drug smuggler from Punjab

SRINAGAR, Feb 5 (Agencies): Police in Samba District arrested a major drug supplier from the Tarn-Taran area of Punjab on Sunday.

Police identified him as Kulwinder Singh from Gujjarpur, Tehsil Khandur Sahib, District Tarn Taran, Punjab.

They stated that he is a hardcore interstate heroin (chitta) smuggler and supplier, wanted in connection with a case under investigation in Samba.

"His arrest has been executed on the basis of backward link

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Traffic halted on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway

JAMMU, Feb 5 (Agencies): After opening briefly following its closure due to a landslide triggered by incessant rain, the traffic has been halted on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway as maintenance work was being carried out at Dalwas, officials said on Monday.

"Traffic halted from both sides at Dalwas on Jammu, a Srinagar National Highway due to maintenance of road," Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police said.

The Jammu Srinagar National Highway is the lifeline of the Kashmir valley and the main road link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country. Kashmir-bound trucks laden with

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10TH DAY/13TH DAY

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



LATE SH. VARUN SLATHIA

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



SH. ASHOK KUMAR KACHROO

10TH DAY & KRIYA

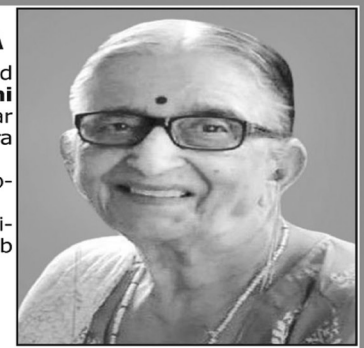
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna Sharma W/o Lt. Pt. Dina Nath Sharma** (Ex-Vice President, JMC & Former Vice President, State BJP) R/o 39 A New Plots Jammu at present H.No. 404/2, Upper Roop Nagar Jammu near JDA Club. **10TH DAY** will be performed on 5.2.24 at 11.00 AM and **Kriya** will be performed on 6.2.24 at 12.00 Noon at our residence.



Smt. Krishna Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother, **Smt Brij Mohini Dhar (Shanta Dhar)** W/o Late Brij Nath Dhar on 30-Jan-2024, originally from Nawa Kadal/Indra Nagar, Srinagar, presently at Janipur, Jammu. **The Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 08-Feb-2024 at Akhnoor. **Assembly** will be held at 12.30 PM in our residence: House No.63, Pawan Enclave, Naseeb Nagar, Janipur, Jammu.



Smt Brij Mohini Dhar (Shanta Dhar)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

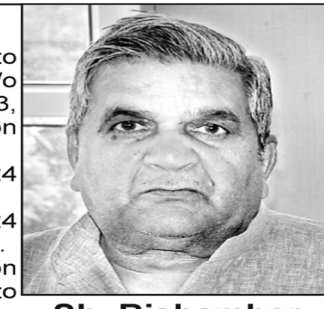
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and peaceful demise of our beloved **Gyani Surjit Singh Ji**, who left for his heavenly abode on Tuesday, 30th January 2024. **Bhog & Antim Ardass** shall be performed as per the following scheduled programme:
Sampuranta Shri Sehaj Path Sahib and Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence 144-B, Sainik Colony, Jammu on **Tuesday (06-02-2024) at 10:00 AM.**
Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on **Thursday (08-02-2024) at 10:00 AM.**
Kirtan & Antim Ardass at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Sainik Colony on **Thursday (08-02-2024) from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**, followed by **Guru Ka Langar.**
Deeply mourned by family and friends!
Sons and Daughters-in-Law
S. Inderjeet Singh & Sdr. Surinder Kaur
Col. Harinder Singh & Dr. Vikesh Kaur
S. Gurcharan Singh & Sdr. Jagrit Kaur
S. Paramjit Singh & Sdr. Bhupinder Kaur
Daughters & Sons-in-Law:
Sdr. Rajinder Kaur & S. Amarjeet Singh
Sdr. Satinder Kaur, Principal & S. Jatinder Singh (JKAS)
Grand Children
Dr. Jaspreet Singh & Dr. Vijender Kaur
Er. Harpreet Singh & Er. Ravneet Singh
Er. Tarunjeet Singh & Er. Guruchant Kaur
Er. Suhird Singh & Er. Insha Kaur
Er. Avleen Kour, Er. Gurtej Singh (IES), Dr. Anupreet Kaur, Er. Manjit Singh, Baveent Kaur, Er. Chiranjeev Singh, Ishmeet Kaur
Contact No.: 9906092061, 9419144433, 9419122233, 9419149086, 9419155575



GYANI SURJIT SINGH JI (1933-2024)

TENTH DAY / UTHALA

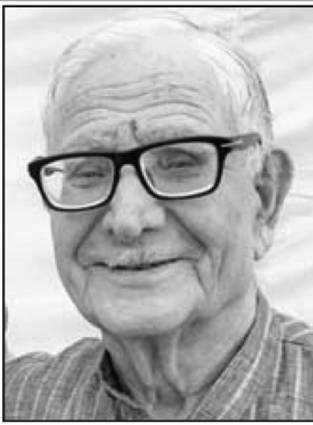
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that **Sh. Bishamber Nath Sangra S/o Lt. Sh. Daya Ram Sangra** (Kootah) R/o 268/3, Channi Himmat who attained divinely abode on date 28/1/2024 (Sunday). **10th Day** will be performed on 6th Feb. 2024 (Tuesday) at our residence. **Kriya** will be performed on 7th Feb., 2024 (Wednesday) from 9.00 am onwards at home. **Rasam Pagri / Uthala** shall be performed on 7th Feb., 2024 (Wednesday) from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm at Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat.



Sh. Bishamber Nath Sangra

10TH DAY /KRIYA

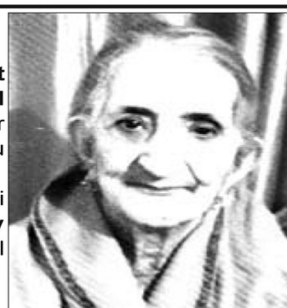
With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Payre Lal Fotedar S/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Fotedar** originally from Martand Mattan Anantnag Kashmir on 31st Jan 2024, presently at 40 B Pocket 6, DDA MIG Flats Mayur Vihar Phase 3 Delhi. **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on Friday 9th February 2024 at 10:30 am at Murad Nagar Ghaziabad UP.



Dr. Payre Lal Fotedar

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform that **Smt Indrawati Koul W/o Late Sh Bishembar Nath Koul** originally resident of Jogi Laner 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.



Smt Indrawati Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Shri Sham Sunder Kaul S/o Late Shri Damodar Kaul originally of 22-Wazir Bagh, Srinagar (Kashmir) passed away on 28-01-2024 at Noida. The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Ganga Canal, Muradnagar (UP) on 6th Feb, 2024 at 10:00 AM.



SHRI SHAM SUNDER KAUL

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The **Tenth Day Kriya** of our beloved **Karma Yogi Sh. Vijay Kumar Raina (Shair)**, originally resident of Shair House, Kanya Kadal/ Rawalpura, Srinagar will be performed on 6th February, 2024 (Tuesday) at Akhnoor Ghat. **Assembly** will be held at our residence, House No 39, Sector-1, Phase-II, New Rajinder Nagar, JDA Housing Colony, Bantalab, Jammu from 11:30 AM onwards.



SH. VIJAY KUMAR RAINA (SHAIR)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to intimate the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Banti Raina W/o Sh. Manoj Krishan Raina** on February 2, 2024 originally resident of Sher-i-Kashmir Colony, Anantnag and presently at H.No. 122/A, Lane No. 2, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 11th February 2024 (Sunday) at Bhader Ghat Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan, Thalwal, Jammu. **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 11.30 am.



Smt. Banti Raina

TENTH DAY / KRIYA/ UTHALA

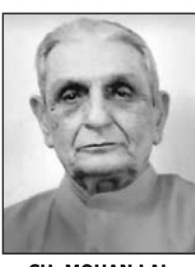
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Vinod Kumar Sudeen S/o Late Sh. Sat Pal Sudeen**, R/o H.No. 129, Sector-2, Pamposh Colony, Janipur, Jammu. **10th Day** will be performed on Tuesday, 06/02/2024, Time : 11.00 am at our residence. **Kriya** will be performed on Wednesday 07/02/2024, 12.00 Noon at our residence. **Uthala** will take place at Aap Shambhu Mandir, Roop Nagar, Jammu on 7/2/2024, Time : 4.00 to 5.00 pm.



Sh. Vinod Kumar Sudeen

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.



SH. MOHAN LAL KAUL

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and peaceful demise of our beloved **Smt. Nancy Koul (Ranjii) W/o Late Sh. Triloki Nath Koul** originally from Fatih Kadal Srinagar at present H.No. 452-A Sector-2 Vinayak Nagar Muthi (near Lovey Lane Matador Stand) on 31-01-2024. **The 10th Day** shall be performed on Friday the 9th of Feb 2024 at Akhnoor. **Assembly** at Home at 12 Noon.



Smt. Nancy Koul (Ranjii)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that **Sh. Oma Dutt Sharma S/o Late Pt Mansa Ram Sharma R/o Ramkot (Bilawar)** 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 at our residence. **Uthala** will be performed on (Wednesday) 7th Feb 24 at our residence at 3 PM to 4 PM.



Pt. Oma Dutt Sharma

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Shyam Sunder Lal Trakroo** originally resident of Gogji Bagh Srinagar presently residing at 403 Tulip, Bellevue Greens Apartment Near SAS Nagar Jalandhar. **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Beas ghat, Beas, Jalandhar Amritsar highway, on 9 Feb 2024 at 11 AM.



Sh. Shyam Sunder Lal Trakroo

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Kanya Lal Saproo S/o Lt. Sh. Tara Chand Saproo** originally resident of Gulab Bagh and Present address at H. No. 288 Sec 3 Bhagwati Nagar Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 29th January 2024. **Tenth Day** will be performed at 6 am-9 am Akhnoor Ghat on 07/02/24 (Wednesday) and **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat at 10:30 am.



Sh. Kanya Lal Saproo

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT SHAYAM DEVI (PARKASH DEVI) W/O LATE SH JAGDISH DUTT SHARMA**. **TENTH DAY** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 08 FEB 2024 (TUESDAY) AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 10:00 AM R/O H.NO. F/12 BHARAT NAGAR TALAB TILLO JAMMU. **KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 07 FEB 2024 (WEDNESDAY) AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 12:00 NOON R/O H.NO. F/12, BHARAT NAGAR TALAB TILLO, JAMMU. **UTHALA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT SHIV TEMPLE, NEAR TRIPLE(S) FARM FROM 4:00 PM TO 5:00 PM ON 07 FEB. 2024 (WEDNESDAY).



SMT SHAYAM DEVI (PARKASH DEVI)

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Shri Dwarka Nath Bhat S/o Lt. Shri Gopi Nath Bhat** originally from Kulgam Kashmir at present H.No. 126/A, Sector-1, Vinayak Nagar Muthi, Jammu Near Pamposh Gen. Store on 2 Feb. 2024. **Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 11 Feb. 2024 followed by the **Assembly** at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education Muthi at 10:30 AM.



SHRI DWARIKA NATH BHAT

PRAYER MEET

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Vinod Raina R/o E-121, GK 2, New Delhi, 110048.** Join us in honouring his life and memory **PRAYER MEET** Arya Samaj Mandir, GK 2, New Delhi Wednesday 7th Feb 2024, 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm. **LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY** Smt. Savita Raina - Wife Aishwarya & Sarthak Raina - Daughter in Law & Son Vidhita Raina - Daughter Grandchildren Raina Family +918130083585



Shri Vinod Raina

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CSIR-IIIM to organize an International Conference on Plant-Based Medicines from Feb 16

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine would be organizing "International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Phytochemicals" and the "11th International Congress of Society of Ethnopharmacology (SFEC2024)", from 16th to 18th February, 2024, under the theme "Ethnopharmacology in Development of Phyto-pharmaceutical Drugs", in collaboration with the Society of Ethnopharmacology (SFE), Kolkata, India.

The event will likely be inaugurated by Chief Guest, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space and Vice President CSIR.

The inaugural session, to be held from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on 16th February, 2024 and will likely be graced with the presence of Vd. Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Gol,



Shekhar Dutt, Former Governor Chhattisgarh & Advisor, SFE, Dr. CP Thakur, Chairman, Former Governor Chhattisgarh, and Advisor SFE and Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Chairman, Scientific Services, SFEC-2024.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM informed that the Conference will have more than 20 scientific sessions, including and IConnect program: Business Meet, on the theme "Development of Phyto-pharmaceutical Drugs: Tradition to Translational", "Young Ethnopharmacologist Award Function", "American Chemical Society (ACS)

Best Oral Presentation Award Session", "SFE Best Poster Presentation Session", Panel Discussion on "Opportunities and Challenges in Cannabis Research" and Traditional Healers Meet.

Other scientific sessions would include talks on the themes "Phyto-pharmaceuticals: Drug Development from Traditional Medicine", "Evidence-Based Validation of Traditional Medicine", "Traditional Ethnopharmacology Inspired Drug Discovery and Development of Therapeutics", "Development of Botanical/Herbal Drugs: Global Perspective", "Global Positioning of AYUSH Products: Stan-

dardization and Validation", "Natural Products Inspired Modern Drug Discovery", "Network/Reverse Pharmacology in Herbal Drug Discovery", "New Approaches for Phyto-pharmaceutical Drugs Development", "Ethnomedicine: an Invaluable Source of Novel Drug", "Regulatory Aspects of Phyto-pharmaceutical Drugs (US FDA/EMA)", "Opportunities and Challenges in Cannabis Research", "Bioprospecting Plants and Microbes for Development of Therapeutics", "New Approaches in Natural Product Drug Discovery", etc.

More than 100 distinguished invited speak-

ers, from nearly 20 different countries, including the United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Ghana and India would be delivering their talks. Nearly 700 participants from all over India have registered for this mega event.

The international conference will be organized under the overall supervision of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM and the organizing Chairman for this International Conference with assistance from Dr. Prasson K. Gupta and Dr. Naveed Qazi as organizing secretaries for the conference.

Other members of the functional committee for this event are: Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Chairman, Scientific Services SFEC-2024, Dr. Subhash C Mandal, Secretary SFE, Birendra Kumar Sarkar, President SFE, Dr. CK Katiyar, Vice President SFE, Indraneel Das, Vice President, SFE, Dr. Amit Kar, Treasurer SFE, Dr. Vikash Babu, Treasurer.

Somnath Khujaria honored for his works



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: In the program organized on the 39th Annual Day of All Over India MESCS

Chairman Organization, Somnath Khujaria Chairman Builder Association Jammu Province, who arrived from

Jammu, was honored in view of his excellent works.

This honor was given to him by Major General Ashok Kumar. On this occasion, along with Somnath Khujaria, Secretary Arvind Gupta and Council member Raman Nargotra were also present.

After receiving the honour, Somnath Khujaria said that he is happy to receive this award. He said that this program was quite grand. He felt very happy to be a part of this program and also thanked the officials of All Over India MESCS Chairman Organization for honoring him.

He said that such national level programs should be organized in Jammu and Kashmir also. He gave special thanks to Major General Ashok Kumar.

DLL inaugurates a workshop on Computer Skills



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: Employment Information Bureau (EIAB), Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL), University of Jammu, on Monday inaugurated a three-day workshop on Computer skills at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Bazar Qasaban, Gujjar Nagar, Jammu for the students of the school.

The theme of this three-day workshop is to

provide computer-based knowledge to students, which will help them to become proficient in handling computer-based activities.

Kamlesh Bhagat, Principal of the school, in her welcome address, expressed the need for computer skill development programmes for the students of the school, as it helps to build a strong foundation for them.

She emphasised the importance of digitalization in this new era. She

also appreciated the efforts of the Department of Lifelong Learning to organise this workshop.

The workshop was organised under the guidance of Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director, DLL and was coordinated by Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB, DLL.

The resource person was Sanjay Manhas from the University of Jammu. Around 30 students have registered for the workshop.

NDA Chairman meets SSP Samba



Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 5: Nations Development Association met SSP Samba Vinay Kumar, meeting was presented by its Chairman Sushil Singh Charak. Charak welcomed SSP Samba Vinay Kumar JKPS by giving them Jade Plant.

Charak told that as soon as SSP Samba Vinay Kumar JKPS came to work, he has created an atmosphere of fear among the criminals and the shops of drug contractors are constantly being closed, and the police department is raiding every nook and corner. Charak appreciated efforts of SSP Samba Vinay Kumar JKPS.

In the meeting, Sushil told about SSP Samba Vinay Kumar JKPS that during Superintendent of Police (SP) Anti Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) J&K he broke the backbone of the criminals and the criminals surrendered before

him, Vinay Kumar JKPS made a huge impact on the criminals and worked tirelessly day and night for the public, the drug peddlers knelt down before him and He was praised by every community during his posting. Charak told Police Department and general Public are Proud of him.

SSP Samba Vinay Kumar JKPS also appreciated the efforts of Non Government Organization (NGO) Nations Development Association (NDA) for helping Child Protection and Awareness, Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response Environment Conservation, Health, Women Empowerment, Youth Empowerment & Skill Development and motivated them to work for public in future also.

Charak along with Swaran Singh Charak President Dogra Human Helping Foundation others were present during the meeting.

Dr Rohit Gupta calls on Director Health Services, Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: Apni Party Provincial Secretary and Incharge Membership Drive, Dr Rohit Gupta on Monday called on Director Health Services, Jammu, Dr Rakesh Magotra and discussed various issues with him.

As per a press release, Dr Rohit met the Director Health Services, Jammu and held a threadbare discussion regarding various issues of public health.

During the discussion, Rohit Gupta informed the Director Health Services Jammu about the shortage of staff, paramedics and doctors in the Primary Health Centers (PHCs) across the Region and the vacant posts shall be

fulfilled to provide better health care services.

While demanding 24/7 emergency services in the hospitals and PHCs, he said that the anti-venom vaccines should also be provided in the PHCs to ensure that the people get the vaccine at proper time.

He also demanded strengthening of the ambulance services, employing drivers for ambulances as well as the fuel so that they can be utilized whenever required during the emergency service.

After hearing him carefully, the Director Health Services, Jammu assured that the suggestions put forward by Rohit Gupta will be considered.

Anil Gupta re-elected as President of J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: Jammu & Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association on Monday unanimously re-elected Anil Gupta as President for the third consecutive term.

In the Annual General Meeting held in Jammu all the representatives from the different districts of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) were present in the AGM where the election body announced by Returning Officer Advocate Anshuja Tak, who was appointed as Returning Officer of J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association by Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council to conduct the elections.

The names of the elected office bearers announced by Returning Officer who were elected unanimously for the period 2024 to 2028 are Anil Gupta President, the President will have one Senior Vice-President Mohd. Sayed Baba, two Vice-Presidents Arun Gupta and Ghulam Mohammed Ganaie, while Kuldeep Kumar Gupta will take up the responsibility of General Secretary, two Joint Secretaries Gulzar Ahmad Ahanger and Abdul Rahman Padder, Treasurer Anil Modi and three Executive members of the Committee Tanveer Ahmed, Fazal Husain and Radha Bakshi.



Addressing the gathering, Anil Gupta thanked all the members present on the occasion for expressing their full faith in his abilities.

Gupta said main motive of association will be Promotion of Indigenous game of Kabaddi at J&K/UT level followed by more and more tournaments of Kabaddi resulting into the selections of J&K Kabaddi Players in the auction of Pro Kabaddi League, Yuva Kabaddi League at National and International level.

Anil Gupta appreciated the successful completion of the tenure of outgoing office bearers for their dedicated contribution towards Kabaddi game.

Further Gupta honoured the outgoing General Secretary Surinder Mohan and treasurer Sangram Singh with a memento and Shawl as token of love.

The responsibility of General Secretary is put on the shoulders of Kuldeep Kumar Gupta who was recently appointed as Technical Delegate in 19th Asian Games held at Hangzhou China in the year 2023.

Kuldeep Gupta assured that he will not leave any stone unturned to achieve the goal and shall always strive to bring forward and support the talented players of this game.

While lauding the services of outgoing office bearers which were highly commendable, specially the service of Surinder Mohan Gupta (General Secretary) are praiseworthy.

Further Kuldeep Gupta also told that the Referee's Examination will be conducted in all the district level as well as State/UT level so that the qualified referees will also be eligible to appear in All India

Examination conducted by Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India.

The services of district level examination will be started after the end of present financial year i.e. April onwards.

In the end, Kuldeep Gupta thanked the Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gull, Returning Officer Advocate Anshuja Tak and District Secretaries as well as district Presidents alongwith other valuable members present in the meeting for their kind cooperation and support.

Kuldeep also sought the cooperation and support of all the newly elected members to take the oath to take the "Swadeshi Game-KABADDI" in J&K/UT to new heights.

Moreover he has strong belief that the coaches will play their good role to teach



Sahil Mahajan praises 'Modi magic' as PM tops list of most popular global leader

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was ranked as the "world most popular leader" in the world by a US-based decision intelligence company, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) JK Ut Co-Convenor Sanskriti, Art Culture Cell Sahil Mahajan, remarked that "Modi's magic" has been endorsed even by an international survey.

He stated according to the survey by 'Morning Consult' PM Modi has a global approval rating of 76 per cent.

Sahil Mahajan expressed, that after the recently concluded assembly election results in five states, even an international poll has given a thumbs up to "Modi's guarantee and magic", which is about his model of governance and delivery in the last successful ten years.

He also noted that Modi scored high ratings even during an international crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic

when other world leaders suffered in popular support. Sahil Mahajan elaborates that It is because he had been able to deliver on development and growth while managing inflation and taking more than 13.5 crore people out of poverty. He said the approval rating will be reflected in the Lok Sabha upcoming polls in 2024. Sahil Mahajan said PM Modi's excellent administrative skills and legislative experience spanning decades coupled with empathetic leadership has found him a place in the hearts of millions of Indians," he added.

Sahil Mahajan counted that It also showed people continue to believe in Bharatiya

Janata Party ideology and see it as a beacon of trust, hope, and credibility, a positive signal for the party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as visionary Prime Minister Modi gets set for a chance to equal Jawaharlal Nehru's record of three straight stints as PM.

"The election results of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh are showing that the people of India have faith only in the politics of good governance and development and their faith in the BJP remains intact.

Sahil Mahajan highlights that the PM used "Modi ki guarantee" for the first time during the unveiling of Bharat Mandapam, setting the tone for the state polls as the phrase was used by party leaders to emphasize Modi's promises were pragmatic and deliverable.

Sahil Mahajan said the country was moving ahead under the clairvoyant leadership of PM Modi with the goal of a developed India.

the latest Techniques/Skills to the younger talent of the UT and have also been appreciated for their contribution.

The President & General Secretary will also nominate Chief Patron, Patrons the Chairman of different committee alongwith their convenor and Chairman, Associate Vice-Presidents, Associate Secretaries, Associate Press Secretary, Associate Residency Secretaries and Associate Executive Members, Selection Committees for National in boys and girls section in Senior, Junior and Sub-junior for beach and circle style categories including Yuva Kabaddi.

It was also decided that an eminent personality who is lover and promoter of kabaddi game be nominated as Chairman who must be citizen of India and may attend the General Council/Meeting of AKFI subject to authority letter signed by President and General Secretary of J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association.

All the unanimously elected members have assured to dedicate their services for the promotion of our indigenous game Kabaddi in the UT of J&K and to help and motivate players to enhance their performances and to keep themselves away from drugs.

EDITORIAL

JUNK FOOD

In the present times, the trend of junk food is increasing a lot, people are eating it with great enthusiasm, but it is very harmful for all those people who consume it. Although consuming junk food makes us feel better, it is very harmful for our health.

Junk food is a type of food, which is very attractive to look at and eat, but its disadvantages are also very high on health. Under junk food food, everything like pizza, burger, chow mein and fast food shop comes in the category of junk food.

At present, junk food is consumed the most by children, young women and men. Due to this, the consumption of junk food is increasing day by day, because they consider it their pride to adopt western civilization. There are two main reasons for the consumption of junk food, firstly, junk food is very tasty to eat and secondly, it is also very attractive in appearance.

Junk food has a lot to do with our health, that is, junk food leaves very negative effects for our body. Due to excessive consumption of junk food, the problem of obesity is increasing in most of the people. Junk food is such food, which is made from vegetables stored for many days, due to which these vegetables leave such a harmful effect on our body that our body becomes a victim of obesity. If you want to maintain your health, then you should stop consuming junk food. If you are not able to stop the consumption of junk food, then you should reduce the consumption of junk food, that is, if you like junk food more, then you can eat it once in a week.

If you already have any disease, then you should consume junk food only as per the advice of your doctor, otherwise not. Remember, whenever you want to consume junk food, get it from the market or make it at home, but not every day or once a week.

A lot of oil is used in the manufacturing of junk food and these oils are not completely pure, some impurities are also found in them. Not only this, as the amount of oil in junk food is high, the amount of nutrients is also less. For this reason, there is a lot of difficulty in digesting junk food.

Consumption of junk food causes many diseases in humans, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart attack, constipation etc. There is a lot of lack of nutrients in junk food, due to which we suffer a lot of harm. That is, the whole conclusion is that we should consume junk food very less or in other words, we should not eat junk food.

Will fasting help Sunak better his image? Greta got better of UK cops

By: Kishwar Desai

AND so, we know — in India — people were blown away when it was revealed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had fasted for close to eleven days before the inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. All he had was coconut water — and showed immense fortitude as he continued running the country and travelling. This kind of self-control is something we are used to hearing about where he is concerned — and so could other world leaders be far behind on the “fast” track?

Thus, recently Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has impressed everyone by telling them that he regularly fasts for thirty-six hours starting on a Sunday evening and continuing till Tuesday morning. So, for those 36 hours he has only tea or coffee.

In the UK, it was a very pleasant diversion for all to discuss how this kind of fasting could have beneficial effects. There have been heated media discussions and advice from leading dieticians what it could do to your metabolism.

Of course, the 5:2 “fast diet” has become popular all over the world, for some years now, and “intermittent fasting” is a buzz word — but these are all meant as weight loss methods. What Mr Modi did was also for spiritual purposes — and we know he fasts every year during the Navratras as well.

We do not know the motivation for Mr Sunak’s fasting — but it was definitely a good strategy to reveal his habitual fasting, and change the

narrative — as it has shown him as being disciplined and able to continue working and remaining fit. These are always impressive qualities in a leader and it certainly has helped his image at a time when the Tories are sinking steadily in the opinion polls.

It is rare to have a political party into its fifth Prime Minister in a decade to seek yet another successor. But that is the fate that Mr Sunak faces. There are plots and plans on the back benches with WhatsApp groups forming to conspire to remove the Prime Minister.

Let us hope he manages to hold “fast”.

JUST a few weeks ago we were all concerned about two royals undergoing surgery — the future Queen, Kate Middleton, and the present monarch, King Charles III. Fortunately, everything appears to be going smoothly for both — and there has been no crisis that a firm “stiff upper lip” has not sorted out. But recent news is that Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York — who had been married to Prince Andrew — has been diagnosed with melanoma, that is, skin cancer. Unlike Kate, whose mystery surgery we still don’t know about — Sarah has gone public with her own diagnosis, recovery, and treatment.

This has led to a remarkable surge in people going for checkups for their own suspected melanoma — and the NHS reports that hospital visits for melanoma is now eight times higher than what it was in previous weeks.

These kind of celebratory revelations of personal illnesses can lead to awareness for others — and possibly save many lives, especially as she has encouraged others to constantly examine any change in the shape, size and colour of any moles they find on their skin.

Of course, it does not harm the profile and popularity of the celebratory sharing these personal facts as it draws more sympathy towards them. Suddenly, we were also hearing that Sarah Ferguson and Prince Andrew, who have shared a very cordial post-divorce relationship, may be getting together again... while the latter news may have no basis (like the “Poonam Pandey” stunt in India), at least the Duchess used her own illness to spread awareness of a cancer that often goes unnoticed.

GRETA Thunberg is now not only world famous for protesting against climate change but she is everywhere she can make trouble. She is also smart enough to know her rights and wrongs.

Thus, recently she was arrested for protesting outside a conference of oil companies in a five-star hotel in London.

But when presented before a court, she got away because the judge said the police neither gave clear instructions as to where she could protest if not at the hotel, nor where it was legal for her to protest from. So, it was the police who got a rap on the knuckles, not Greta.

They obviously ought to award her a special pass for improving the capabilities of

the police while doing their job. And she keeps climate change in the news, at the same time!

BUT Greta’s getaway case is nothing compared to what is now going on across the English Channel in France.

The French farmers pay no heed to the police when they are out to protest, even dumping manure outside of government buildings. Scores of tractors are lined up on six-lane highways. It is more like a music festival rather than a protest, or rather a special Gallic version of protest a la mode.

Being a French protest, and that too by farmers, food is supplied along with drinks as vast areas are blocked off to accommodate farmers. By one count, there are 4,500 tractors spaced across 80 locations in France with nearly a million farmers being very angry over their inability to earn a decent living mainly due to pricing and cheap imports.

Of course, the anger is with Brussels, where the decision-makers of the European Union meet. President Emmanuel Macron shares Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s fate and is not very popular either.

However, now with Brexit keeping us somewhat immune from these protests, we can only hope it will not impact the prices of France’s best-known produce — wine and cheese.

Kishwar Desai is an award-winning author, playwright, and heritage buff who helmed the setting up of the two Partition Museums in Amritsar and Delhi, and chairs the trust that runs them. She also helped set up the Mahatma Gandhi statue outside the UK Parliament.

Use of Unfair Means (Cheating) in Examinations

By: Vijay GarG

Education System is a tool that enables people to lead productive lives according to their talents and interests. For Education systems to be fully effective it must give an individual the training of a independence and leadership. At the same time, it should provide for the development of all the vocational abilities needed for the creation of a progressive and democratic society. The quality of education that is imparted to youths contribute largely to the formation of their attitudes. So whatever kind of education is imparted will determine the quality and nature of the educated youth coming out of the schools, colleges and universities. Education is a great builder and if it is deficient or decadent it can be a destroyer too. History is proof of such deficiencies or lack in education. Greece and Rome were once world leaders owing to the fact that these were great centres of learning and education. But when these centres ceased to exist it resulted in the downfall of these empires.

If current education systems are to be evaluated they too suffer from various shortcomings and faults, though there are still many exceptions. Nonetheless, there is a need to address and end the malpractices that are commonly committed during examinations. These malpractices are at the pre-conduct, conduct and evaluation stages and range from leakage of question papers to copying, changing answer books, impersonation, misconduct in examination centre, approaching invigilators/examiners, making false entries in award list/ examination registers and issuing fake certificate/degrees etc. The use of unfair means in the examination is a trend that isn’t going to end soon.

The whole system of education revolves around Examinations which play a pivotal role in the success or failure of the system. They are also the barometers of the success or failure of students. The resort to copying and use of other unfair means/ malpractices

in examinations is a serious problem which needs an immediate solution. This problem is like a disease in our educational system which is messing up the future of the youth and the society as a whole as well.

Why do Students Resort to Unfair Means?

Fear of Failure: The fear of is one of the top reason for some students to cheat in exams. Some students anticipate a lot of problems if they fail the exams. Their fear dwells in their parents complain about bad grades, their friends mocking and a possible dark future too. They get stressed and the end result is cheating in exams.

Lack of Ability: There are few students who have no potential of taking up the challenge of exams. Low self-esteem and lack of self-confidence cause them to cheat. Instead of studying hard, paying attention to classes, reviewing lessons and doing exercises they cheat in exams.

Lack of Interest: Some students have no interest in studies at all. They find it useless as they know that they are going to take over their father’s business or follow traditional family business after their studies. For them, school is just a formality and a pass time. They find no need to study and cheating seems to be an easy way out.

Cheating for Fun & Show-off: Some students cheat in exams is because enjoy taking risks. It sounds ridiculous but in reality, there are certain students who get thrilled and excitement in doing such malpractices. They want to be popular by showing-off their ability. For some, it is an ego issue and for some, it is a dare for a bet or otherwise.

Availability of Sources: Technology and money facilitated cheating tools in the form of elements such as ex-students, co-students, parents, teachers, examiners, invigilators, examination staff and outside elements. They are readily available either due to money or otherwise.

Easy Approach: Using unfair means in the form of chits, guides, paid candidate, question paper leak, bribed teachers or examiners etc. appears to be a

shortcut to hard work. When there are shortcuts who wants to make efforts to study.

Habitual Use: For successful cheaters, it becomes a bad habit which gives them the confidence to do it again. Such students just can’t do without cheating in spite of the fear of getting caught as the fear is overshadowed by tasted success.

Poverty: Some students come from poor families and they are working too many hours in paid employment to cope with schoolwork. They can either study or work so an easy way out is using unfair means.

Substance Addiction: Some have developed an addiction to drugs or alcohol. Such students have only one thing in mind and that one thing sways them away from studies.

Anti-social Elements: Students from families having a history of violence and psychiatric problems tend to be influenced by their environment. They indulge in crime and other anti-social activities which alienates them from studies

Good Grades: Some students are ambitious and want good grades at all cost to get admissions in reputed college or university. Though many of them are bright students, they want to leave no chance to top and the temptation to cheat to get the coveted admission or scholarships becomes very powerful.

By Hook or by Crook: The prevalent attitude of getting things done either By Hook or By Crook in present times is becoming acceptable and sort of norm. Corrupt officials and governments are leading examples. In such an environment cheating is no big deal. How to deal with the Problem of Use of Unfair Means in Exam?

Purpose of Examinations: When the purpose of examinations becomes a method to gain grades rather than for it’s learning value, there is degradation in the value of examinations in the eyes of the students. It becomes a formality then.

Legal Consequences: Strict laws regarding cheating should be imple-

mented to prevent cheating.

Incentives to Informers: Students who are aware of cheaters should be given incentives in secret to prevent this malpractice.

Video Surveillance: Using cameras even if they are dummies instils a fear of being taped and 100 % chance of getting caught which itself will prevent cheating.

Tracking School Staff: School staff can be tracked by hired detectives for the possible perpetrator.

Extra Stress on Policies and Guidelines Regarding Cheating: These need to be fully communicated to students in various ways like the bulletin board, verbal announcement before the exams, warning on the exam sheet etc. This induces a fear and rejection of cheating.

Fair Exams: There is a need to create a test that is fair to the students. Some students use an instructor’s reputation for giving “unfair” tests as an excuse to cheat. “Fair” means that the exam tests the material that you said it would cover, that students have enough time to complete the exam and that there is a reasonable grade distribution.

Pre-coded Sheets: Use of Pre-code answer sheets and test booklets that use a numbering system so that the number on each test booklet matches the one on each student’s answer sheet is also an effective way to prevent cheating.

Clever Marking: To eliminate cheating after the exam has been returned to students, mark the answer sheets in such a way that answers cannot be altered (such as using a permanent felt-tip pen).

Seating Arrangements: Number seats and tests and then assign students to sit in the seat with the same number as the number on their test.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

GDC R S Pura observes World Cancer Day

Top News Report

R. S PURA, Feb 5: World Cancer Day is observed on February 4 annually to raise awareness of cancer and encourage its prevention, detection and treatment. The day is marked by different initiatives under the United Nations program to end the injustice of the preventable suffering from cancer.

This year the theme for World Cancer 2024 is "Together, we challenge those in power" which aims to encompass the global demand for leaders to prioritize and invest in cancer prevention and care and to do more to achieve a just and cancer-free world.

Keeping this in mind Red Ribbon Club of GDC R. S. Pura organise an extension lecture



for the benefit of the college student under the banner of Viksit Bharat @2047 Govt. initiative.

The primary objectives of the event are to dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding cancer and promote education about risk factors and prevention strategies to foster

a sense of solidarity among cancer survivors, patients, caregivers, and the wider community.

The event was organized under the able guidance of Dr. Rajni Bhagat, esteemed Principal of the college.

She exhorted that, World Cancer Day is a

day to inspire actions, and policy changes to minimize the infection and provide support and care to the affected individuals through collective efforts.

This annual event emphasizes the need to address challenges posed by cancer and work towards its preven-

tion and control.

Also, the day aims to reduce the increasing number of cancer patients through early detection and access to timely and quality treatment. Concluding the programme, the students of the college took 'Pledge to Action' which initiate a cancer awareness intervention on social networking and make people undertake a pledge towards cancer care.

The event was coordinated by Prof Neelam Kumari (Convener RRC) and coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch (Nodal Officer Viksit Bharat).

The faculty members of the college who were present on the occasion were Prof. Sudesh Kumar, Dr. Rupali Salathia and Dr. Rekha Rani.

JKBS members visit its serious patient at IVY hospital Amritsar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha on Monday went to IVY Hospital Amritsar where they paid a visit to its serious patient lying silently on her bed. From her face,

members guessed her pathetic plight.

She seemed to be disgusted with her disease but the behaviour of all in her family was worthy of commendation. They were acting most wisely and ably while handling her problems.

The plight of patient

and seriousness of the prevailing atmosphere touched members deeply. Members prayed for the patient to God to have mercy upon her and grant her strength and hope to envision new days ahead and a spirit of faith to take the risk of living fully once again.

Restart construction work of PMGSY road from Kandni to Ohli: Shiv Sena

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 5: President Shiv Sena Chenab Valley, Tilak Shan requested Advisor R.R Bhatnagar for necessary action regarding stoppage of ongoing construction work of PMGSY road Kandni to Ohli part 1st for the reason best known to the PMGSY department.

Shan said that in Tehsil Drabshalla district Kishtwar, PMGSY for the better road connectivity have started the construction of Kandni to Ohli road about 14 km phase VI PKG NO. JK04- 96 In the year October 18,



2010. He added that during the completion of about 07 km above road construction from Chandebani side, the execution of construction of the road work was stopped for the reasons best known to the concerned officials of the PMGSY. He said the aforesaid matter as not been set-

tled by authorities concerned so far and the construction of the road as not been started till date resulting in delay of construction of the road and the hardships to the inhabitants of the areas.

Keeping in view the above facts, Shiv Sena on behalf of the inhabitants of the area request Advisor that the matter may kindly be got looked into the execution of work the above said construction of the road which is under construction since the years 2010 is got started immediately so that the inhabitants of the surrounding area's do not suffer any more on this account.

NGPPWF stages protest, projects demands

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: The Non Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum (NGPPWF) staged a demonstration here at Hari Singh Park, Jammu today, alleging discrimination with the retired Police and J&K Fire Services' pensioners.

Ajit Singh, Chairman, NGPPWF said that the 5th Pay Commission was implemented in the erstwhile State in the year 1996 but the Police Department gave the benefits to the non-gazetted pensioners prospectively through a Government order number 229-F of 2014 dated October 17, 2014.

He demanded that these benefits should be given from the year 1996 itself as it has been done in other departments.

Ajit Singh said that some of the Police and J&K Fire Services' pensioners have passed away. "At least, those alive should get the benefits," he demanded.

He further demanded that the Medical Allowance paid to the UT pensioners should also be raised at par with the Central Government employees, which is Rs 1000. Currently, the non-gazetted police pensioners are paid Rs 300.

Phulail Singh assumes charge of ACD Kishtwar, RDD staff extends warm welcome

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 5: In a significant development, Phulail Singh has officially taken charge as the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) in Kishtwar. The Rural Development Department (RDD) staff warmly welcomed the newly appointed ACD, expressing enthusiasm about his leadership.

The handover-takeover ceremony from the outgoing ACD, Manoj Kumar, proceeded smoothly.

With an impressive background as the Tehsildar Kishtwar and District Social Welfare Officer in the same



district, Phulail Singh brings valuable experience and knowledge to the role, expected to significantly contribute to developmental initiatives. As Phulail Singh assumes his new role, all eyes are on the collaborative efforts expected to unfold

under his guidance. The RDD staff and the community eagerly anticipate the positive impact he will bring to Kishtwar's development landscape, signaling a new chapter in the district's journey towards sustained growth and welfare.

PM Vishwakarma Yojana is main pillar of self-reliant India: Braham Jyot

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: BJP organized PM Vishwakarma Scheme registration camp at Ward 29 Shakti Nagar, Jammu West.

Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha) was also present. The program was organised by Parveen Badyal (Vice President BJP OBC Morcha).

Kewal Verma (State Secretary OBC), Sanjay Verma (Mandal President OBC), Nathpal Choudhary, Sachin Chaudhary, Monu Talwar and others were present on the occasion.

In the program many people registered them-



selves for the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Braham Jyot briefed the benefits of PM Vishwakarma Scheme and said PM Vishwakarma Scheme is the main pillar of self-reliant India and it is beneficial for all classes.

The Scheme covers artisans and crafts-

people engaged in 18 trades, he said.

He said under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, there is a provision to provide training for skill development to artisans associated with 18 traditional vocations including blacksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, carpenters and cobblers, and

a training allowance of Rs 500 per day and an incentive amount of Rs 15,000 for tool kit.

He said that the PM Vishwakarma Scheme has designed to boost local economies, bridging the gap between age-old artistry and modern market demands.

By providing artisans with enhanced access to resources, training, and market exposure, the scheme promises to breathe new life into the diverse tapestry of Indian craftsmanship, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and preserving cultural legacies for future generations, he added.

He said especially

women are participating actively in this program and praising PM Narendra Modi for his efforts and tireless working for upliftment of middle class public.

He said now everyone is able to set up his/her business and becoming able to live life in a better way. This is all happening by our dynamic PM Narendra Modi.

By PM Vishwakarma Scheme no one will remain unemployed. This scheme is especially for our youth who want to open their work/business. They will get training and avail loan benefits for their business set up and can provide employment to others, he added.

Dangling wires on decaying poles pose threat to Kulgam residents

Top News Report

KULGAM, Feb 5: The residents of (Laway Mohalla) Manzgam area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district said that they are living under constant fear due to low-lying electric wires tied with decaying electric poles.

They said that these wires pose a grave threat to the locals and other pedestrians.

"We have informed the concerned Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) officials many a time but no action has been taken so far", residents said.

"The wooden poles that have decayed are posing a grave threat to the lives of people as well as to the properties in their area," they added.

"Electric wires were broken at various places in the area, and due to which we are suffering badly during these cold days of February. At many places the live electric wires were joined temporarily and the recent snowfall has also damaged these lines, adding the department concerned has failed to replace these wires despite several requests, but the hollow promises from the offi-

cial of KPDCL has disappointed us," said Shahid UI Islam another local resident.

Meanwhile, the residents have sought immediate intervention of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam to resolve the issue on a fast-track basis.

When contacted, Executive Engineer KPDCL, Kulgam, Ab Hamid Akhoun said that issue would be resolved under RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme).

"Process of replacing electric poles and wires would be done once the said scheme is implemented here" he said.

NC sole guarantor for welfare of masses: Bimla Luthra

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 5: J&K National Conference is sole guarantor for welfare of the masses especially for the women folk, and if people will pave way for this party to enter power corridors in J&K, their problems will vanish forever like a dream.

This was stated by Bimla Luthra, State Vice President Women Wing and former MLA Jammu while addressing a meeting of Party's Women Workers at Kathua.

The meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Parveen Kousar

District President, Kathua, Women Wing.

On the occasion, Satwant Kaur Dogra, Provincial President of J&K National Conference's Women Wing, was the Guest of Honour while senior NC leader Laxmi Dutta was also present.

Bimla Luthra, who was the Chief Guest of the conference, said that there is no doubt that the National Conference is the sole guarantor of people's interests and for adding persistency, NC cadre has to maintain close contact with the people for knowing their problems and finding ways to resolve them

on priority.

She asserted that the women's wing has always watered the values of the National Conference and is like a strong pillar which always stood by the party leadership to make it a force to reckon with in J&K.

Earlier, the District President apprised the senior NC functionaries about pitiable condition and the problems related to widow pension, inflation, kitchen budget and above all sky-rocketing unemployment in J&K.

Bimla Luthra said that National Conference has always stood for women

rights and will continue to do the same as it is indigenously to the party's norms and ethos. She castigated BJP leadership over its failure to contain inflation in the country.

"Household budgets are dwindling under directionless policies of helmsmen but there is no one to rectify the err", she said, adding that women are the worst sufferers of unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities as every day they have to think of doing new compromises to sustain life, reflecting the failure of government.

She said that under NC Government, there was 50 percent seats reserved for girl students in J&K but under the incumbents there is only rhetoric and nothing else.

Satwant Kaur Dogra, in her address, said that quantum of miseries of women folk in Jammu and Kashmir is increasing day by day just because of unending misdeeds of BJP leadership and its rule.

She said that present dispensation has expertise in giving big slogans and making lofty promises, which are not meant for fulfillment.

She said that party in power is paralyzed by policy deficit as far as women of the country are concerned because it is clueless about how to empower the women as the much publicized 'Women Reservation Bill' by this government has nothing to offer at present to the women of the country.

Citing the role of women in NC, Laxmi Dutta, senior NC leader, said that National Conference is a secular party and that is the reason behind its popularity in all the nooks and corners of the union territory unlike BJP, which has meager

presence in some pockets in only Jammu region with its leaders always fearing defeat in polls in those areas as well.

She, however, asked the party cadre to continue with the good work by remaining in touch with the people and also focus on problems of women folk in their areas to address them on priority.

Those who were present in the meeting included K.K Bakshi District Secretary Kathua, Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women wing, Ashu Rajput, Joginder Kour, Rama and others.

Grammys open with high-octane Dua Lipa performance and Miley Cyrus wins her first Grammy

Mariah Carey presented the first award of Grammy Awards, for best pop solo performance to Miley Cyrus for "Flowers," the singer's first ever Grammy.

Cyrus said she almost missed the start of the show because of driving rain that is pounding Los Angeles and said she was glad she didn't miss her chance to be onstage with Carey. Cyrus has been nominated eight times previously.

Afterwards, Luke Combs performed "Fast Car" with Tracy Chapman — his cover of the Chapman classic has dominated country radio and won him song of the year at the 2023 CMAs. In 1989, Chapman won best pop vocal performance, female for the song.

Dua Lipa opened the show with a high-octane medley: first, a tease of her forthcoming single, "Training Season," then, her most recent single, "Houdini," and finally, her disco-pop "Barbie" hit "Dance the Night." From the stage at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, four-time Grammy host — and two time nominee — Trevor Noah greeted an excited crowd, starting things off with a kiss on the cheek from Meryl Streep. "The Grammys are gonna win as Oscar," he joked about the moment.

Women outpace men in the major categories, so viewers can expect to see a spotlight on its female nominees as the night continues. SZA leads with nine nominations, followed closely by Victoria Monét and Phoebe Bridgers with seven. Bridgers' band boygenius has six, as does Taylor Swift, Olivia Rodrigo, Miley Cyrus, Eilish, Clark, Batiste and producer Jack Antonoff.

Other performers include SZA, a first-ever Grammys performance from Joni Mitchell, Billy Joel, Eilish, Rodrigo, Burna Boy and Travis Scott.

Bridgers took an early lead at the Grammys, quickly winning four trophies ahead of the main telecast, with her and her boygenius bandmates bringing an infectious energy to the Pre-



miere Ceremony.

Songwriter Justin Tranter gave her the first award Sunday, best pop duo/group performance, which went to SZA and Bridgers for "Ghost in the Machine." She wasn't on stage for that but skipped her way up with her band boygenius — made up of her, Lucy Dacus and Julian Baker — clad in matching white suits, when they won their first Grammy as a group for best rock performance for "Not Strong Enough."

"Oh my God I want to throw up," said Dacus in their acceptance speech. "This isn't real. Thank you." "Music saved my life," Baker jumped in. "Anyone can be in a band." Minutes later, they walked back out on stage for best rock song and best alternative music album.

Newcomer Coco Jones won best R&B performance for "ICU" in a stacked competition where she was up against SZA's "Kill Bill" and Victoria Monét's "How Does It Make You Feel." SZA's second win of the night came in the form of the best progressive R&B album for "S.O.S." Jack Antonoff took home producer of the year, non-classical for a third year in a row, tying Babyface as the only other producer to do so consecutively. "You need the door kicked open for you," he said in his acceptance speech. "Taylor Swift kicked that (expletive) door open for me," referencing their work together.

The first of three new categories

in 2024, best pop dance recording, was given out shortly afterward and went to Kylie Minogue for "Padam Padam" — her first win in 18 years.

About 80 Grammys were handed out pre-broadcast. Regional Mexican star Peso Pluma won his first Grammy for his first and only nomination, for best música Mexicana album for his "Genesis." Early on in the afternoon, "Barbie" took home two Grammys in quick succession: for compilation soundtrack for visual media and best song written for visual media.

Billie Eilish and Finneas arrived early in the afternoon to collect song written for visual media trophy for their "Barbie" ballad "What Was I Made For." "This is shocking to me," Eilish said. "I was expecting to turn right back around and leave." "I want to thank our parents, our dad, who worked as a construction worker at Mattel Corporation for much of our childhood to keep food the table," said Finneas.

Dozens of stars began arriving early, with Lipa and Monét among the stunning looks on the arrivals carpet.

Best African music performance, a new category which aims to highlight regional musical traditions and recognizing "recordings that utilize unique local expressions from across the African continent," went to South African singer Tyla for her ubiquitous hit, "Water."

It marks her first Grammy nomination and win. "I never

thought I'd say I won a Grammy at 21 years old," she said in her acceptance speech. "Last year God decided to change my whole life." Jimmy Jam presented the bulk of the R&B and rap categories, which included best traditional R&B performance. That one went to PJ Morton and Susan Carol for "Good Morning," — a sweet moment, but it meant Hazel Monét, Victoria Monét's 2-year-old daughter, lost her opportunity to become the youngest Grammy award winner of all time.

Best rap performance went to Killer Mike Featuring André 3000, Future and Eryn Allen Kane for "Scientists & Engineers." It meant Killer Mike won first Grammy in 21 years, since "The Whole World" won for best rap performance by a duo or group in 2003. It is also a first nomination and win for Eryn Allen Kane. And how could they not win: the standout song featured Future's hoarse vocals, Kane's superb crooning and fine verses delivered by Mike and Andre 3000.

Soon afterward, they won for "best rap song." Killer Mike also took home best rap album for "Michael," cheering, "It is a sweep! It is a sweep!" Brandy Clark, who has been nominated for 17 Grammy awards in her career — including six this year — took home her first Grammy for best americana performance for her track "Dear Insecurity." "I thank my mom for always believing in me, whatever my crazy dreams had been" she said. "And mostly I want to thank Brandi Carlile for making this record with me."

And Michelle Obama won her second Grammy, this time for best audio book, narration, and storytelling recording for "The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times," beating Meryl Streep, Williams Shatner, Rick Rubin and Sen. Bernie Sanders. When the nominations for the category were first announced, some fans were shocked Prince Harry's memoir "Spare" evaded recognition.

Nora Fatehi shares BTS video from the sets of her single, 'I'm Bossy'



Actress Nora Fatehi, who has come out with a single I'm Bossy, is unstoppable, going by her post on social media.

Nora took to Instagram, where she shared a behind-the-scenes clip of her getting her hair and make-up done for the music video. It

has her song playing in the background. For the caption, she wrote, "U can't stop me." The audio format for the track was dropped in December and the music video of the song dropped a week ago and features Nora, doing what she does best — energetic dance. The number has been choreographed by international choreographer Jojo Gomez, who has previously collaborated with the likes of Beyoncé, Britney Spears, Justin Bieber, Demi Lovato, J Balvin and Backstreet Boys.

On the acting front, Nora will be seen in Vidyut Jammwal-starrer Crakk - Jeethegaa Tuh Jiyegaa!

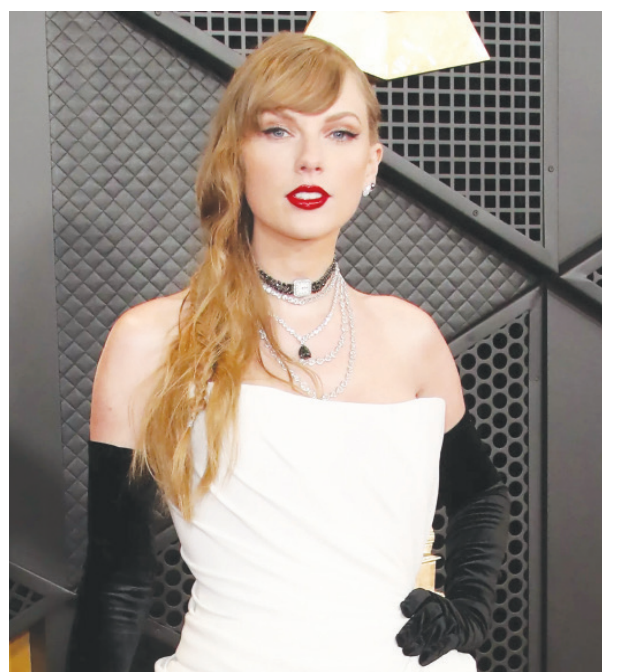
Grammy: Taylor Swift honoured with Album of the Year award for 'Midnights'

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, who earlier won Best Pop Vocal Album for 'Midnights' registered her second win at the 66th edition of the Grammy awards as she won the coveted Album of the Year award for 'Midnights'.

She defeated her fellow nominees Olivia Rodrigo, Jon Batiste, Boygenius, Miley Cyrus, Lana Del Rey and Janelle Monae.

'Midnights' is the tenth studio album by Swift. The singer conceived it as a concept album about nocturnal ruminations inspired by her sleepless nights.

The autobiographical songwriting explores broad emotions such as regrets, self-critique, fantasies, heartbreak, and infatuation, using confessional yet cryptic lyrics that allude to her personal life and public image.



The Recording Academy took to its official handle on micro-blogging site X and congratulated the winner. They wrote: "Congrats Album Of The Year winner - 'Midnights' @TaylorSwift13 #GRAMMYS."

The 66th annual Grammy Awards, which recognises the best recordings, compositions, and artists are being held at the Crypto.com Arena, Los Angeles Trevor Noah as the show's host.

Shilpa Saklani loves playing Kaikeyi on screen

Queen Kaikeyi, known for her beauty, intelligence, and political prowess, plays a pivotal role in Sony Entertainment Television's epic saga, Shrimad Ramayan. Her initial devotion to King Dashrath will soon be overshadowed by a dormant insecurity, fueled by Manthara, leading to a tumultuous phase in her relationship with Lord Ram.

Actress Shilpa Saklani, who has beautifully portrayed this complex character, elaborate, "Queen Kai-

keyi is a formidable character; her internal struggle between love and ambition needs an actor to add so much depth to the onscreen portrayal. Kaikeyi epitomises the complex emotions of human nature and showcases how insecurities can be manipulated for others' motives, making for one of the biggest teachings of the Ramayan. Warrior, diplomat, and the most favoured queen, there's so much more to Kaikeyi than just being a negative character."



Surbhi Chandna to make OTT debut

Amazon miniTV is set to take viewers on a patriotic journey with the second installment of its much-anticipated franchise, Rakshak — India's Braves: Chapter 2. Featuring Barun Sobti and Vishwas Kini in lead roles, the series will mark the OTT debut of Surbhi Chandna, who will be seen portraying a critical role in this tale of bravery and sacrifice. Produced by Juggernaut Productions, the



series, which chronicles the unparalleled tale of Naib Subedar Sombir Singh, will premiere exclusively on Amazon miniTV for free.

Sharing her excitement on debuting, the actress says, "Rakshak - India's Braves: Chapter 2 is a tribute to the Indian Army and their families for their sacrifices to keep us safe and secure. I am honoured to be part of this journey."

We are slowly being reduced to data and my film points at how fast we are losing humanity, says writer-director Ishan Shukla whose film Schirkoa: In Lies We Trust is creating a buzz in the festival

Naysayers might consider animation a kids' medium. But writer-director Ishan Shukla whose film Schirkoa: In Lies We Trust won the NETPAC Award at International Film Festival at Rotterdam, dispels misconceptions associated with the fast evolving genre of animation. For one, his film was not part of the animation section, rather Rotterdam festival doesn't have any such classification. Hence, Schirkoa is and was seen as pure cinema and adjudged the best Asian feature film by a jury from the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema.

In fact, Schirkoa is a rather complex film

which recreates what appears to be a futuristic dystopian world. Ishan, however, views it as a mirror image of both the worlds we inhabit and we as a civilisation may be headed towards.

Since his characters in the film wear bags and go by numbers, we wonder if they symbolise the death of individuality. He explains, "We are slowly being reduced to data. My film also points at how fast we are losing humanity."

Ishan creates not one but two worlds, one of which is a free world. Ideally, he would like to dwell in one where there are no rules. But as a creator he can also see the cracks in both.

In his assertion, of how unification becomes a ruse to impose uniformity, one can sense an echo of the current climate in the country. But he insists, "Schirkoa is not bound to a certain period. It's not about India but world at large."

Incidentally, not just his film, his personal story too is interesting. He quit engineering during his third year as he saw no point in wasting time in acquiring a degree which would be "no more than a piece of paper."

Schirkoa, also a graphic novel, is a logical extension of what he would do in the backbenches of his classroom. For someone who



has deft mastery over technology he writes with a pen on paper. "While writing you can

imagine the impossible," he says.

The challenges of visualising what he has

written come later and indeed there are quite a few. Funding is a major issue and often the gestation period runs into years. If his short film by the same name took four years in the making, the feature came about in five. His short film won many awards and did the entire festival circuit. After Rotterdam, Schirkoa will be screened at a film festival at Sweden.

But then Schirkoa is a not a regular animation feature. Ishan has not only used actual actors (motion capture technology) in the film, as movies like James Cameron's Avatar have done, but voices of who's who of the entertainment

industry. Shekhar Kapur, Anurag Kashyap, Piyush Mishra, Karan Johar and international names like Golshifteh Farahani; many bigwigs have lent their voices to the battery of characters.

How did he manage to rope them all? It's a long story. But the crux is that they all related to the idea. Support for animation too is forthcoming. Schirkoa for instance was supported by the NFDC and it was at its Film Bazaar that he found his French and German co-producers. No wonder, he is positive that the future of animation films is bright. In future, he is likely to make a movie that is not complete animation and

might use it in parts. The subject that he has in his mind will have something to do with space. But as he has already proven with Schirkoa, rest assured it will not be a simple sci-fi.

Simplistic might work for others, he looks at the world through absurdist lens for, "It simplifies core themes." And as he flips reality on its head and fantastical becomes the route for him, he takes viewers on a surreal journey with real and pressing concerns packed in. In Lies We Trust, goes the tagline of his film and he creates a beautiful one that is both visually compelling and intriguingly stimulating.

'Don't like state, stop payment' isn't possible': Centre rebuts Congress charge

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman slammed senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury over allegations that the Centre was discriminating against Karnataka in the disbursement of funds.

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday rejected claims by senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury over deprivation of funds to Karnataka, calling it a "politically vitiated narrative".

Responding to a question by the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha over deprivation of funds to non-BJP-ruled states by the Centre during the Parliament Budget Session, Sitharaman said, "This thing that certain states are being discriminated against is a politically vitiated narrative."

"If you are suddenly spending at times your state's budget can't sustain, don't blame me," Sitharaman said.

She further said that no Union Finance Minister can play with the Finance Commission's recommendations.

"This is just not a possibility that any finance minister can intervene to say that 'I don't like this state, stop payment'. No way. It can't happen that way. The system is well-placed," she said.

Speaking during the Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Chowdhury asked Sitharaman the reason



behind the "indiscriminate and arbitrary attitude" of the Centre towards Karnataka.

"I would like to know whether the state government of Karnataka has been deprived of obtaining their legitimate due because a few months ago, this situation was not there. Everything was hunky-dory, but after the installation of a new government... trouble started. What is the reason behind this," Chowdhury asked.

Responding to Sitharaman's comments, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that "this had nothing to do with guarantees".

"When the interim report was submitted to the finance minister, there were no guarantees. Who rejected the special grant of Rs 11,000 recommended by the Finance Commission? She promised Rs 5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project in her last Budget. Where is it?" he queried. In the past as well, the Congress government in Karnataka has accused the BJP-led Centre of discriminating against the state over the release of funds.

Accusing the Centre of delaying drought relief to farmers, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced in December 2023

that it would pay the first instalment of crop loss compensation.

He had alleged that although the state's Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda had spoken to Sitharaman about the release of compensation, there was no response from the Centre.

Sitharaman had countered Siddaramaiah's allegations, saying that nothing was pending with the Centre for Karnataka.

Just last week, Congress Lok Sabha MP DK Suresh courted a fresh controversy by claiming that Karnataka was not receiving "enough funds" from the Centre and there was no choice but to demand a "separate country" for South India. He made the comment just hours after the Union Finance Minister had presented the Interim Budget 2024-25 in Parliament on February 1.

The MP claimed that "injustice was being served to South India".

"Funds that were supposed to reach the South are getting diverted and distributed to North India." In response, DK Shivakumar, Karnataka's deputy chief minister and the MP's brother, said DK Suresh had only expressed "people's opinion".

Jailed Manish Sisodia Gets Court Permission To Meet Unwell Wife Once A Week



NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who remains in jail for over a year in the liquor policy case, has been allowed to meet his ailing wife and doctors once a week. Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court provided the relief to the AAP leader on Monday.

The last time he was granted custody parole to meet his ailing wife was during Diwali last November.

The former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi has requested that the court allow him for custody parole to meet his wife weekly. Special Judge MK Nagpal at Rouse Avenue Court issued a notice

to the Enforcement Directorate in the application on February 2.

While issuing notice, the court noted that the first application is for seeking his regular bail (second bail application), and the second is for seeking custody parole to meet his ailing wife for two days weekly.

Manish Sisodia was arrested and charge-sheeted in Delhi Excise policy cases of ED and CBI.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is in custody in connection with his alleged role in the Delhi Liquor scam.

The Supreme Court of India dismissed the bail petition of Manish Sisodia on October 30. His earlier bail applications were rejected by the High Court and the trial court on May 30 last year.

He was granted custody parole to meet his ailing wife on Diwali on November 10, 2023.

Manish Sisodia was arrested by the CBI on February 26. ED arrested him on March 9. The ED has alleged that proceeds of crime of around 622 crore have been generated due to the activities of the accused Manish Sisodia.

77-year-old Punjab businessman robbed, smothered to death in Goa

PANAJI, Feb 5 (Agencies): Two persons have been arrested for allegedly robbing and killing a 77-year-old businessman at his house in a village in North Goa, police said on Monday.

The victim, Narottam Singh Dhillon, alias Nims Dhillon, was found dead in his villa in Pilerne-Marra village on Sunday morning, an official said.

Following a probe, the Porvorim police arrested the accused, Jitendra Ramachandra Sahu (32) and Nitu Shankar Rajuja (22), from Navi Mumbai in neighbouring Maharashtra, Deputy Superintendent of Police Vishvesh Karpe said.

According to the police, the victim, who hailed from Punjab, had been living in Goa since



2015. Investigations revealed that the accused had visited the victim on Saturday night and had allegedly killed him and robbed him of gold, his mobile phone and a rented car, they said.

As per the preliminary probe, the victim was allegedly smothered to death, and minor injury marks were found on his body, police said.

The Navi Mumbai police were informed about the duo's movements and detained them, and a team from Porvorim police took their custody by Sunday evening, Karpe told agency.

The accused hail from Madhya Pradesh. Jitendra was involved in stock trading, while Nitu worked at an air-conditioner showroom in Bhopal, it was stated.

Delhi Police Arrests Neeraj Bawana Gang Shooter After Brief Encounter

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): The Delhi Police has arrested a suspected sharpshooter of the Neeraj Bawana gang following a brief firefight near southeast Delhi's Karni Singh Shooting Range, officials said on Monday.

The accused has been identified as Aehsaan Ali, a resident of Ambedkar Nagar. His associate Neeraj managed to escape, they said.

"On February 2, we received a tip that two sharpshooters of the Neeraj Bawana gang would come from Faridabad to the Karni Singh Shooting Range," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Rajesh Deo said.

A raiding team near Karni Singh Shooting Range was dispatched to the spot and the two suspected criminals on a motorcycle were inter-

cepted around 8.30 pm, Deo said.

"When the police team signalled them to stop, the pair attempted to escape. They tried to turn the motorcycle around but lost control and fell," he said.

Neeraj, who was riding a pillion, escaped into the nearby forest area under the cover of darkness. However, he left his firearm behind, the officer said.

The other criminal, Ali, then brandished his firearm and fired at the police. The shot struck the bullet-proof jacket of a head constable. The police team retaliated by firing a warning shot in the air, he added.

When Ali attempted to fire another shot, the police team fired at his leg and he lost balance and fell, the police said.

"Swiftly, the police party overpowered him

and his identity was revealed as Aehsaan Ali," Deo said.

He suffered a minor injury on his leg and has been admitted to a hospital, the senior officer said.

"Ali revealed affiliations with the Neeraj Bawana gang.

The police have started an investigation and a manhunt has been launched to nab the other," he added.

AAP MLA 'poaching' row: Notice has no mention of FIR, such theatrics not good, says Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said the Delhi Police Crime Branch's notice to him over his allegations that the BJP was attempting to "poach" AAP MLAs has no mention of any FIR and asserted that the country will not progress through such "theatrics".

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event, Kejriwal said that the Delhi Police officers were made to indulge in "theatrics" by their "political bosses", which was quite "insulting" for them.

"I pity those officers. Young officers join police with a lot of idealism that they will pro-



tect women and reduce crime. They never think that they will be made to indulge in theatrics. Is that why they joined the police? The officer must have been feeling bad. This insult was caused by their political bosses," he said.

A team of Delhi Police's Crime Branch also visited Delhi minister Atishi's home over the MLA poaching alle-

gations and served her a notice on Sunday. Kejriwal received the notice on Saturday.

"They are asking who tried to poach AAP MLAs. The very people who are sending Crime Branch officers are those who tried to poach our MLAs," he added.

Speaking about the political situation in Jharkhand, Kejriwal said that the arrest of

a sitting chief minister "was not right."

Former Jharkhand Hemant Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate last week in an alleged money-laundering case.

"Arresting a sitting chief minister was wrong. They waited for 48 hours to see whether the Jharkhand government would topple, but JMM MLAs did not break. Whatever is happening in the country is not good for democracy," he added.

Jharkhand's JMM-led coalition government, headed by Hemant Soren's successor Chief Minister Champai Soren, won the vote of confidence in the assembly on Monday.

BJP's 'double engine' govt dealt several blows to people of Manipur: Congress chief Kharge

Kharge alleged that women and children are suffering because of the complete apathy and neglect shown by the BJP.

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attacked the government on Monday over the situation in Manipur, saying it has been nine months during which unabated violence has devastated innumerable lives, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not had the time to visit the state.

Kharge also alleged that the BJP's 'double engine' government has dealt several blows to the people of Manipur.

"It has been 9 months since the unabated violence has devastated innumerable lives in Manipur, but PM Modi hasn't had an hour to visit the state. Why? He last visited Manipur in February 2022, only to campaign for elections, and now has left the people of Manipur to fend for themselves," the Congress chief said on X.

More than 200 people have died since May 4, 2023, and 60,000 people have been displaced, he said.

"Around 50,000 people continue to languish in relief camps in despicable conditions



without adequate medical facilities and food. People have already lost everything — their homes, their livelihoods and their belongings. They can't go anywhere. Their future is bleak," Kharge said.

He said according to some reports, over 80 people have died in camps in Chura-chandpur alone, due to trauma, malnutrition and illness.

The Imphal camps are no better, he added.

Whatever help is being provided in camps has come from collective efforts of good samaritans, NGOs, and not the state government, he claimed.

Kharge alleged that women and children are suffering because of the complete apathy and neglect shown by the BJP.

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The Imphal camps are no better, he added. Whatever help is being provided in camps has come from collective efforts of good samaritans, NGOs, and not the state government, he claimed.

Kharge alleged that women and children are suffering because of the complete apathy and neglect shown by the BJP.

Since January 1 itself, 10 people have died in renewed violence. Police trainees of two communities are shooting at each other. Seven have been injured. On January 24, we witnessed how an armed group coerced MPs and MLAs to attend a meeting at heavily guarded Kangla Fort, where the Manipur Congress president was brutally assaulted and tortured," Kharge said.

"PM Modi's assurance to the people of Manipur in August 2023 in Parliament reverberates hollow! There is no normalcy and peace in sight," he said.

On Sunday, the Congress said the prime minister continues to maintain a "total silence" on the situation in Manipur and alleged that he had committed a "hor-

Gujarat police arrest Islamic preacher Salman Azhari from Mumbai in hate speech case

JUNAGADH, Feb 5 (Agencies): The Gujarat Police have arrested Islamic preacher Mufti Salman Azhari from Mumbai in connection with an FIR registered against him for allegedly delivering a hate speech and are bringing him back to the state, an official said on Monday. The speech was delivered at an event held on an open ground near the 'B' division police station in Gujarat's Junagadh city on the night of January 31.

After a video of it went viral, an FIR was registered against Azhari and local organisers Mohammad Yousuf Malek and Azim Habib Odedara under Indian Penal Code sections 153B (promoting enmity between different religious groups) and 505 (2) (making statements conducive to public mischief), police said.

Malek and Habib were arrested on Saturday, while the

police were searching for Azhari. The Gujarat Police traced Azhari to Mumbai and arrested him on Sunday. He was being brought back to Junagadh after securing a transit remand from a court in Mumbai, Junagadh crime branch police inspector J J Patel said.

The Junagadh police carried out the operation with the help of the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad, Patel said.

The accused was being brought to Junagadh where he will be produced before a court on Tuesday, he said.

As per officials, the arrested men had taken permission from police for the gathering stating that Azhari will speak about religion and spread awareness about de-addiction, but he allegedly delivered an inflammatory speech. The Junagadh local crime branch is investigating the case.

10 police personnel killed, 6 injured in attack on police station in Pakistan

Monday's attack occurred at 3 am local time, say police

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (PAKISTAN), Feb 5 (Agencies): At least 10 police personnel were killed and six others injured in a pre-dawn attack on Monday by militants on a police station in northwest Pakistan, police said, as violence escalated ahead of general elections this week.

At around 3 a.m. local time (2200 GMT Sunday) militants attacked the police station with sniper fire and then entered the building, said police officers in Pakistan's Draban region in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. "After entering the building, the terrorists used hand grenades which caused more casualties to the police," said Malik Anees ul Hassan, the deputy superintendent of police in Draban.



It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack and whether it was related to the election.

A national Assembly candidate was shot dead on Wednesday elsewhere in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. On the

same day, another political leader was shot dead in his party's election office in Balochistan province.

On Tuesday, a bomb attack following an election rally killed four people in Balochistan. Islamic State claimed respon-

sibility.

Draban lies in an area considered a stronghold of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party. The conservative religious party's leader, Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman, travelled last month to Afghanistan to meet the Taliban's supreme spiritual leader, local media reported, one of his few known meetings with foreign dignitaries.

The party has also called for a delay in Pakistan's polls due to security concerns.

Pakistan has seen a resurgence of attacks by Islamist militants, especially those targeting security personnel, since 2022, when a ceasefire between the Pakistani Taliban and the government broke down.

5 Kurdish Fighters Killed In Overnight Attack On US Base In Syria

BEIRUT, Feb 5 (Agencies): Five fighters from the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces were killed in an overnight attack on an American base in eastern Syria, a war monitor said Monday.

"Five members from SDF special forces were killed and around 20 wounded by a drone attack after midnight on Al-Omar oil field," the largest US-led coalition base in Syria, said Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, a loose alliance of pro-Iran fighters opposed to

US support for Israel in Gaza, claimed a drone attack on Sunday "against the US occupation base in the Al-Omar oil field".

The Observatory's Abdel Rahman said the attack hit an SDF section inside the base, in "the first attack by pro-Iran groups against American bases after the US strikes on Syria and Iraq" late last week.

On January 28, a drone slammed into a base in Jordan, killing three US soldiers and wounding more than 40, an attack Washington blamed on Iran-backed forces.

The US responded

Friday with a series of unilateral strikes on Iran-linked targets in Syria and Iraq, and has said it would press on with its retaliation.

The Observatory, which relies on a network of sources inside Syria, had said at least 29 pro-Iran fighters were killed in the US strikes in Syria.

A US-led coalition was set up in 2014 to fight Islamic State group jihadists who had seized swathes of Iraq and neighbouring Syria.

Roughly 2,500 US troops are deployed in Iraq and about 900 in Syria as part of the coalition.

Amid Clashes With US, Houthis Issue Big Warning To Italy

ROME, Feb 5 (Agencies): Italy will become a target if it takes part in attacks against Yemen, a senior official from Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said in an interview published on Monday.

Mohamed Ali al-Houthi, head of the Houthi's supreme revolutionary committee, told daily La Repubblica that Italy must be neutral in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and put pressure on Israel to stop attacks on Gaza, adding that would be the only way to achieve peace in the region.

Italy said that it would provide the admiral in command of a European Union Red Sea



naval mission it has joined to protect ships from attacks by Yemen's Houthi militia.

The mandate of the mission, which will be launched in mid-Feb-

ruary, will be to protect commercial ships and intercept attacks, but not take part in strikes against the Houthis, the EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has said.

First group of Indian troops to be sent back before March 10: Maldivian President Muizzu

MALE, Feb 5 (Agencies): Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu on Monday said the first group of Indian military personnel will be sent back from the island nation before March 10, while the remaining Indians manning two aviation platforms will be withdrawn by May 10.

In his maiden address to Parliament, Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leader, said he believes a large majority of Maldivians support his administration with the expectation that they will remove foreign military presence from the country, and recover the lost oceanic territory.

He said his administration will not allow any State agreements that may compromise the country's sovereignty, The Edition newspaper reported.

Soon after taking oath as the President of Maldives on November 17, Muizzu formally



requested India to withdraw 88 military personnel from his country by March 15, saying the Maldivian people have given him a "strong mandate" to make this request to New Delhi.

"Diplomatic discussions with other nations that the President can conduct are ongoing. We have officially requested India to remove its troops stationed in the Maldives. Deliberations

on this issue are ongoing.

"As per the most recent discussions, military personnel on one of the three aviation platforms will be recalled before March 10, 2024. The military personnel on the remaining two platforms will also be recalled by May 10, 2024," Muizzu told Parliament.

After the latest round of bilateral talks, India said on Feb-

ruary 2 that a "set of mutually workable solutions" was agreed upon with the Maldives for continuing the operations of Indian aviation platforms in the island nation. Currently, Indian military personnel are in the Maldives primarily to operate two helicopters and an aircraft that have carried out hundreds of medical evacuations and humanitarian missions.

The Indian platforms have been providing humanitarian and medical evacuation services to the people of the Maldives for the last few years.

The President said his administration would not do anything that could in any way compromise the nation's sovereignty.

He asserted that he would remain steadfast and not give in to any external pressures under any circumstances if it posed a risk to the country's independence and sovereignty.

Australian writer Yang Hengjun given suspended death sentence in Beijing

BEIJING, Feb 5 (Agencies): A Beijing court on Monday handed Australian writer Yang Hengjun a suspended death sentence, five years after he was first detained in China and three years after a closed-door trial on espionage charges.

Yang, a pro-democracy blogger, is an Australian citizen born in China who was working in New York before his arrest at Guangzhou airport in 2019. He had been accused of spying for a country China has not publicly identified and the details of the case against him have not been made public.

Sydney based scholar Feng Chongyi said a court on Monday delivered a suspended death sentence that would convert to life imprisonment after two years.

It was a "serious case of injustice", he said, adding that Yang had denied the charges. He urged the Australian government to seek medical parole for Yang.

Yang's sentence was confirmed by another human rights lawyer in Beijing who has been

following his case.

"He was found guilty of all charges," the lawyer said, asking to remain anonymous because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Australia is "appalled" at the court's decision and has called in China's ambassador, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said on Monday.

Wong said in a statement on Monday the Australian government understood the sentence can be commuted to life imprisonment after two years if the individual does not commit any serious crimes in that period.

"This is harrowing news for Dr Yang, his family and all who have supported him," she said.

Yang's family was "shocked and devastated by this news, which comes at the extreme end of worst expectations", said a family spokesman in Sydney.

Australia had said it was troubled by repeated delays in Yang's case, and had advocated for his well-being, including access to medical treatment "at the highest levels".

The Chinese foreign ministry



did not immediately respond to a agency request for comment.

A Beijing court heard Yang's trial in secret in May 2021 and the case against him has never been publicly disclosed. He has denied working as a spy for Australia or the United States.

Yang wrote about Chinese and U.S. politics as a high-profile blogger and also wrote a series of spy novels before his detention. His two sons, who live in Australia, wrote to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in October on the eve of his visit to Beijing, urging him to seek Yang's release on medical grounds.

"The verdict casts a shadow over bilateral ties and will for some time, as it acts as a potent reminder of the opacity of the Chinese system and its imperiousness to reasonable for-

eign complaints," said Richard McGregor, senior fellow at the Lowy Institute in Sydney.

His supporters have argued Yang should be released on medical parole, and he was told last year he had a 10 cm (4 inch) cyst on his kidney that may require surgery.

Yang was detained as Australia-China ties deteriorated in 2019, and hopes of his release had been raised by the release of Australian broadcaster Cheng Lei shortly before Albanese visited China last year.

James Laurenceson, Director of the Australia-China Relations Institute at University of Technology, Sydney, said that Beijing had said it wanted to move beyond the stabilisation of ties with Australia, but that the sentence would make a thaw harder.

"This decision makes it extremely difficult for the Albanese government to do so in terms of managing the domestic politics. The strong language already used by foreign minister makes plain their disappointment," he said.

Elon Musk's business partners 'forced to use drugs' to avoid upsetting him: Report



SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 5 (Agencies): Some board members at Tesla and SpaceX are aware of the "use of illegal drugs" by Elon Musk and regularly do drugs with him, "because they think refraining could upset the billionaire, who has made them a lot of money," the media reported.

They "don't want to risk losing the social capital that comes from being close to Musk, which for some feels akin to having proximity to a king," reports The Wall Street Journal (WSJ).

"Board members have reaped hundreds of millions from stock awards and separate investments, even as some have done drugs with Musk," the report mentioned.

According to the WSJ, friends and others close to Musk were worried that his drug use was getting worse, and "some asked him to go to rehab".

Musk replied on Monday that no one has

ever mentioned rehab to him.

"First, no one has ever mentioned rehab to me ever," the billionaire posted on X.

"Second, if they are saying that I was able to lead Tesla to be by far the most valuable carmaker and SpaceX to be by far the most valuable space company simultaneously, that is the greatest compliment I have ever received," he wrote.

Last week, a Delaware judge in the US struck down Musk's \$56 billion pay package at Tesla, saying it is "unfair" and asked board members to come up with a new pay proposal.

An angry Musk later announced that Tesla will move immediately to hold a shareholder vote to change its legal home from the US state of Delaware to Texas.

The WSJ report also claimed that multiple other directors of Musk's companies have "deep personal and financial ties to the billionaire-

entrepreneur, and have profited enormously from the relationship".

"Several current or former directors at Tesla and SpaceX attend parties with him, go on exotic vacations and hang out at Burning Man, the Nevada arts and music festival," the report alleged.

Musk was yet to respond to these allegations.

"Most members of Tesla's current eight-person board have amassed shares worth hundreds of millions of dollars from their seats over the years, significantly more than what board members at other companies make for their service," the report noted.

Some current and former Tesla and SpaceX directors have knowledge of Musk's illegal drug use but haven't taken public action, it alleged.

"The volume of drug use by Musk and with board members has become concerning," said the report, citing sources.

Reports earlier surfaced that Musk had allegedly used drugs, including cocaine, ecstasy, LSD and magic mushrooms.

Leaders at Tesla and SpaceX were concerned about his drug use, "particularly his recreational use of ketamine, for which Musk has said he has a prescription".

Boeing Identifies New Problems With Fuselage Of Flagship 737 Aircraft

NEW YORK, Feb 5 (Agencies): US aircraft manufacturer Boeing said that it has learned of new problems with the fuselage of its flagship 737 model which, while not posing an immediate in-flight danger, will require "rework" on dozens of planes.

"This past Thursday, a supplier notified us of a non-conformance in some 737 fuselages," Boeing Commercial Airplanes

chief executive Stan Deal said in a statement to employees that was released to reporters.

According to Deal, an employee working at the supplier "flagged to his manager that two holes may not have been drilled exactly to our requirements."

"While this potential condition is not an immediate flight safety issue and all 737s can continue operating safely, we currently believe we will have to perform

rework on about 50 undelivered airplanes," an issue that "could delay some near-term 737 deliveries." Deal described it as "the only course of action" to deliver perfect aircraft to clients.

Boeing has struggled over the past year with difficulties on its star plane, the 737 MAX, culminating with a major in-flight safety incident on Alaska Airlines in early January that prompted a sweeping investiga-

tion by the regulating body the Federal Aviation Administration.

In his letter, Deal said employees offered suggestions on more than 1,000 improvements since a series of training events following the January 5 incident.

Some have already been taken into account, Deal said, including a process to expedite the purchase of new tools and improve ease of access to certain parts of the plane.

Made in India' Galaxy S24 series goes on sale in India

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: Galaxy S24 series, Samsung's recently launched flagship, will go on sale in India starting today.

The 'Made in India' Galaxy S24 Ultra, Galaxy S24+ and Galaxy S24 smartphones come with Live Translate, Interpreter, Chat Assist, Note Assist and Transcript Assist features. Al built into Samsung Keyboard can also translate messages in real-time in 13 languages, including Hindi. In the car, Android Auto will automatically summarize incoming messages and suggest relevant replies and actions. Galaxy S24 series is being manufactured at Samsung's Noida factory in India.

Samsung has secured record pre-bookings for Galaxy S24 series, making it the most successful S series ever in India. Galaxy S24 series

marks a milestone in the history of search as the first phone to debut intuitive, gesture-driven 'Circle to Search' with Google.

Users can circle, highlight, scribble on, or tap anything on Galaxy S24's screen to see helpful, high-quality search results. For certain searches, generative AI-powered overviews can provide helpful information and context pulled together from across the web.

Galaxy S24 series' ProVisual Engine is a comprehensive suite of AI-powered tools that transform image capturing abilities and maximize creative freedom.

The Quad Tele System on Galaxy S24 Ultra now comes with a new 5x optical zoom lens that works with the 50MP sensor to enable optical-quality performance at zoom levels from 2x, 3x, 5x to 10x, thanks to

Adaptive Pixel Sensor. Images also show crystal clear results at 100x with enhanced digital zoom.

With upgraded Nightography capabilities, photos and videos shot on Galaxy S24 Space Zoom are brilliant in any conditions, even when zoomed in. Galaxy S24 Ultra's larger pixel size, now 1.4 µm, is 60% bigger, helping capture more light in dim conditions.

Wider optical image stabilizer (OIS) angles and enhanced handshake compensation help reduce blur. Both front and rear cameras are equipped with Dedicated ISP Block for noise reduction.

Galaxy AI editing tools on Galaxy S24 series enable simple edits like erase, re-compose, and remaster. Edit Suggestion uses Galaxy AI to suggest perfectly suitable tweaks for each

photo, while Generative Edit can fill in parts of an image background with generative AI. Anytime Galaxy S24 deploys generative AI to amplify an image, a watermark will appear on the image and in metadata.

Galaxy S24 Ultra comes with a 1.9 times larger vapor chamber, improving device surface temperature while also maximizing sustained performance power. Ray tracing enables life-like visuals with superior shadow and reflection effect. Galaxy S24 reaches 2600nit peak brightness, making it the brightest Galaxy smartphone ever. Corning® Gorilla® Armor on the Galaxy S24 Ultra is optically enhanced for superior durability.

Galaxy S24+ comes with a 6.7-inch and Galaxy S24 has a 6.2-inch display. Galaxy S24 Ultra has a 6.8-inch flat-ter display, optimized not

just for viewing but also for productivity. Galaxy S24+ now supports the same level of QHD+ found on Galaxy S24 Ultra. Galaxy S24 Ultra is the first-ever Galaxy phone to feature a titanium frame, enhancing device durability and longevity.

Samsung launches SSD 990 EVO: a high-performance, power-efficient internal storage device

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has today introduced its latest SSD 990 EVO — the newest addition to the company's lineup of solid

state drives. With better energy efficiency, the SSD 990 EVO delivers powerful performance which is designed to enhance everyday computing experiences like gaming, work and video/photo editing. Equipped with a sequential read/write speed of up to 5,000 MB/s and up to 4,200 MB/s, NVMe SSD is expected to be an ideal solution for a diverse range of users.

"We place our products at the intersection of innovation and practicality.

This enables us to design products that enhance computing experiences for users. With the latest addition of SSD 990 EVO in the lineup of our SSDs, we are aiming to leverage advanced memory technologies and provide a versatile, high-performance and reliable solution for consumers' data storage needs. SSD 990 EVO

is a power-efficient, performance maestro that is the future of computing for business and creative endeavours of consumers", said. Puneet Sethi, Vice President, Consumer Electronics Enterprise Business, Samsung India.

The 990 EVO offers enhanced performance of up to 43% compared to the previous model, 970 EVO Plus. Sequential read speeds come up to 5,000 megabytes-per-second (MB/s) and write speeds up to 4,200 MB/s. Random read and write speeds also get a boost with up to 700K input/output operations per second (IOPS) and 800K IOPS, respectively.

By using Host Memory Buffer (HMB) technology to directly link to the host processor's DRAM, the SSD can achieve optimized performance even with a DRAM-less design.

SMVDU student publishes Edited Book

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 5: Anshikka Jain, a student of B. Arch. (3rd Semester) published a Kindle book as Co-Editor along with Dr. Deepak Jain (Faculty, School of Business, SMVDU & Editor) titled Requirement to Know Policies and Procedures for Doing Business: A Road Map for Success on Amazon available at <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0CPQ9YSSK>. The ISBN No.: 978-93-6076-335-0 (13 Digit ISBN) & 93-6076-335-7 (10 Digit ISBN) are issued by Raja Ram-mohun Roy National Agency for ISBN, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India. The book records the policies and procedures required for Doing Business in India. India's startup economy has been booming.

FROM PAGE 1

FM presents JK interim budget 2024-25 & revised estimates for current fiscal in Parl

January 2024 in Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance to review these demands of the UT Government. Union Home Minister and Union Finance Minister personally reviewed the fiscal management of the UT Government in recent months.

Accordingly, the Central Government has agreed to provide Rs. 41751.44 Cr to the UT Government in this financial year and Rs. 37277.74 Cr in the next financial year. These assistance figures have been duly captured in the Revised Estimates of 2023-24 and the Budget Estimates of 2024-25 of the Union Government. This assistance will be provided under the MHA's demand no 58 for assistance to the UT. This assistance includes the normal assistance (resource gap) to the UT Government, equity contribution for hydropower projects at Kiru, Kwar and Rattle, etc. These assistance figures are captured in the Union Budget which is already before the Parliament and the same will be taken up for discussion before the UT's interim budget.

Building on this, Government of Jammu and Kashmir drafted its Supplementary Budget for 2023-24 and Vote on Account for 2024-25. Finance Department also drafted the two Appropriation Bills (Supplementary Demands and Vote on Account) for placing before the Parliament.

The revised estimates for 2023-24 is overall lower than the budgeted estimates 2023-24 as the UT government was successful in streamlining its expenditure. The supplementary demands for 2023-24 of Rs. 8,712.90 Cr pertain to the four Departments of Finance, Power Development, Hospitality and Protocol and Cooperatives.

The supplementary budget is required by Finance department in view of the repayment of debt, while Power Development department needs to provide for power procurement. The Hospitality and Protocol department intends to develop the new J&K Bhawan at Dwarka, New Delhi for which land will be allotted from DDA. The Cooperative department requires the funding additionally for its new CSS, Assistance to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). These additional demands are proposed to be catered with Supplementary Demands for the current year 2023-24.

The interim budget for 2024-25 makes provisions for the ongoing initiatives for infrastructure development, sustainable agriculture, new industrial estate, PRI level works, employment generation, developing tourism, and social inclusion.

During preparation of the interim budget proposals, consultations were held with all the Departments and various stakeholders to provide for ongoing initiatives and arrive at realistic budgetary numbers. For finalizing expenditure proposals, assessment of financing needs of infrastructure projects, social and economic measures undertaken by Departments was undertaken.

The budgetary exercise focused on the imperative of advancing the cause of the greater collective good within the realistically realizable resources. While the budgetary estimate for the next financial year 2024-25 is about Rs. 1,18,728 Cr, the UT Government has proposed the Vote on Account for Rs. 59,364 Cr.

This interim budget for 2024-25 covers revenue expenditure of Rs. 40,081 Cr and capital expenditure of Rs. 19,283 Cr. The interim budget of Jammu and Kashmir for 2024-25 provides for the ongoing mea-

asures and schemes as Rs. 2959 Cr provisioned for tap-water connectivity for rural areas under Jal Jeevan Mission with Rs 532 crore as UT Share; Rs. 934 Cr for transforming agriculture and allied sectors of the UT through the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), including provisions for IFAD funded J&K Comprehensive Investment Plan (JKCIP); Rs. 1907 Cr for rejuvenating school education infrastructure and services through funding under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan; Provision of improving road connectivity with Rs. 1683 Cr for PMGSY roads, Rs. 300 Cr for CRF roads, and Rs. 1000 Cr NABARD scheme; Rs. 1313 Cr for strengthening decentralized governance by providing for local area works of panchayat and urban local bodies; Rs. 1271 Cr for strengthening infrastructure and services in the health sector under National Health Mission mechanism; Rs. 1093 Cr for rural housing under PM Awajojana-Grameen scheme; Rs. 1000 Cr for comprehensive social security coverage for Old aged, Widow and Disabled pensions by saturation approach; Rs. 660 Cr for J&K's equity for in the hydro electric projects at Ratle, Kwar, and Kiru, which would provide stable revenue source and cheaper power; Rs. 505 Cr for timely procurement of machinery, equipments, prosthetic aids and drugs in Health sector through the dedicated corporation; Rs. 500 Cr for capitalization of the banks, including Cooperative Banks, Rural Banks and J&K Bank, Rs. 450 Cr for infrastructure of new Colleges and Universities as per NEP vision; Rs. 430 Cr for women empowerment intervention of Ladli Beti and Marriage Assistance; Rs. 400 Cr for construction of Transit accommodations for Kashmiri Pandit employees; Rs. 400 Cr for development of Industrial Estates and related infrastructure; Rs. 370 Cr under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban) scheme; Rs. 390 Cr for Flood Management Project of River Jhelum; Rs. 450 Cr for GST re-imbursment to ensure timely reimbursement of the claims; Rs. 272Cr for DDC/BDC grants improving local governance at district and block level; Rs. 174 Cr for development of model schools under PM-Shri scheme; Rs. 150 Cr for developing rooftop solar and other avenues of new and renewable energy; Rs. 140 Cr for creation of Sports Infrastructure; Rs. 100 Cr for conclusion of World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project; Rs. 100 Cr for Mission Youth programmes for education, skilling, and employment; Rs. 100 Cr for heritage preservation; Rs. 91 Cr for new tourism destinations, new circuits, Sufi circuit and identified religious circuits, ropeways, highway resting places and promotion of Golf; Rs. 70 Cr under infrastructure for welfare of tribals for construction of Tribal Hostels/ Milk Villages/ Nomad Shelters/Libraries for Gujjars; Rs. 100 Cr for sewerage projects in urban areas, Rs. 70 Cr for development of new Townships and affordable housing and Rs. ₹ 0 Cr for Dal development; Rs. 40 Cr for Tourism promotion, Rs. 15 Cr for the festival promotion and for promotion of cinema/ theatre; Rs. 40 Cr for meeting incentives as per the provisions of the Industrial Policy and Start-ups; Rs. 15 Cr for trade promotion through J&K TPO; and Rs. 100 Cr for Youth startup/Job fairs/employment fairs; Rs. 30 Cr for establishment of cold storage and Rs. 30 Cr for high density plantation; Rs. 80 Cr for establishment of DDC/BDC/PRI accommodation and offices as also for security arrangements of DDC/BDC/PRI representatives; Rs. 59 Cr for construction of Police Housing colony and relief and rehabilitation; Rs. 45 Cr for construction of Bunkers and for digitization and CCTVs in Police Stations; Rs. 30 Cr for improving Quality in Schools, School

Infrastructure, for Career Counseling and for introduction of additional Streams in Schools; and Rs. 5 Cr for replacement of old fleet in transport sector.

The two Appropriation Bills on the Supplementary Demands for 2023-24 and Vote on Account for 2024-25 of the UT Government are likely to be considered by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha during 7th to 9th February 2024.

Lt Governor interacts with NCC cadets who participated in Republic Day Parade in New Delhi

great diversity of India and its unity. It is known for the values like discipline, comradeship, dedication to the Nation and to the cause of social equity," the Lt Governor observed.

He said the remarkable achievements of NCC cadets like Captain Ulfat Khan are an inspiring example for country's youth.

"Truly proud of Captain Ulfat Khan, the Parade Commander of Prime Minister's rally. You have made us all very proud," the Lt Governor said.

He also congratulated the JUO Dechen Chuskit for receiving the prestigious Raksha Mantri Padak.

During the exchange of ideas with the cadets on the role of youth in nation-building, the Lt Governor emphasised on importance of self-discovery, dream and aspirations of youth.

"I want youth to hold the rein of change because Youth is the only power that is future-oriented, in sync with reality and equipped with skills to contribute in journey of Viksit Bharat," the Lt Governor said. Every NCC Cadet is the symbol of the limitless potential of our youth. I am confident that the young Cadets will continue to carry forward the rich legacy of this world's largest uniformed youth organization to build a prosperous and united society, he said.

Over the years, NCC has established its reputation of serving the society and the nation. The four new battalions will further cement the very foundation of the National Cadets Corps and increase the strength of cadets in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh from 27,870 to 40,730, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor also felicitated the Cadets and instructors of J&K and Ladakh NCC Directorate with LG's Appreciation Certificates and mementos. He extended his felicitations to the NCC Cadets who have been selected for J&K Police and Defence Force.

A total of 122 cadets of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh NCC Directorate had participated in this year's Republic Day celebration. 12 NCC cadets were selected to march on the Kartavya path and 09 cadets were selected for Guard of Honour. Senior Under Officer Rohit Sharma was the Guard of Honour Commander of the Prime Minister's Rally.

Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Higher Education; Maj Gen Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva, ADG, NCC Directorate, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh; Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary, School Education Department; senior Officers and Instructors of NCC were present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.

Mercury dips further in Kashmir amid cold wave, Pahalgam coldest with minus 11.9 Deg C

Kokernag and Qazigund towns in south

Kashmir recorded a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius and minus 3.3 degrees Celsius respectively, the officials said.

As per the MeT department forecast, the weather is expected to improve in Kashmir from Tuesday.

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 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) which will be followed by a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

JK Police arrest hardcore drug smuggler from Punjab

investigation in a case involving the arrest of notorious heroin smuggler Farman Ali of Balole Khad, who was caught for allegedly transferring money amounting to Rs 4.50 lakh to a Punjab based supplier and possessing a cash amounting to Rs 1.29 lakh," police spokesperson said in the statement.

Traffic halted on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway

essential supplies and other vehicles pass through the highway.

Govt has collected Rs 600 Cr penalty for delay in PAN-Aadhaar Linking; 11.48 Cr PANs not linked yet

Rs 601.97 crore from July 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024".

The last date for linking PAN with biometric Aadhaar was June 30, 2023.

The Income Tax department had said the PAN of taxpayers who have failed to intimate their Aadhaar shall become inoperative from July 1, 2023 and no refunds would be made against such PANs. Also, TDS and TCS shall be deducted/collected at higher rate.

The PAN can be made operative again by paying a late fee of Rs 1,000.

Centre likely to create additional Administrative Units in Ladakh

Council's chairpersons, are set to meet Union Minister Nityanand Rai on February 19.

The Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal has also discussed with senior leaders the negative impact the agitation can have on the Lok Sabha election for the sole seat in the UT. "The central government may soon announce two new districts — Zaskar and Nubra — in Ladakh which will fulfil the long-standing demand of the locals as both the areas are located very far from the present district headquarters," sources told the newspaper.

B R Sharma elected as Chairman, IIPA J&K Regional Branch

Seminar (Jammu) Prof Nasirulqbal- Joint Director Seminars (Kashmir).

The 15 member Executive Committee nominated include Kuldeep Khoda IPS

(Retd), A.M.Watali IPS (Retd); Dr.C.M.Sethi IFS (Retd), Prof. Rekha Choudhary, Col (Retd) Karan Singh, Prof.Mehraj-ud-din, Prem Gupta IPS (Retd), Narinder Khajuria, JKAS; Dr.Komal Nagar, Smt Ansuya Jamwal, JKAS, Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS, Bashir Ahmad Shah, Dr Bharat Bhushan, JKAS, Mohammad Yaseen Kichloo, IPS, Mubashir Amin Khan, JKAS.

B R Sharma in his address complimented the outgoing team said that effort s shall be undertaken to strengthen the branch by undertaking programs across the region.

He reiterated that the existence of IIPA is because of the mandate so we should undertake such activities which will benefit the society and government together.

Dr. Ashok Bhan in his address while congratulating the branch for achieving the distinction of being adjudged the 1st best branch in the country said that the branch is in the phase of consolidation, where the experience and energy are in synergy.

He stressed that the Vision of IIPA should be the guiding spirit for the branch and excel in Training programs and research initiatives and build its credibility among various agencies, as we celebrate our golden jubilee in next 5 years.

Prof Alka Sharma, Hony Secretary presented the annual report and Sh. Vikrant Kuthiala, Hony Treasurer presented the statement of accounts for the last financial year.

Prof Alka Sharma formally welcomed the gathering and Dr Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary conducted the proceedings of the function and presented the formal vote of thanks.

Prem Gupta, IPS (Retd) was the returning officer during the conduct of the elections.

Theft case solved in Ganderbal, two accused arrested: Police

S/O Noor-Din Sofi R/O Patipora Saloor and taken away some jewellery & Cash.

"In this regard, Case FIR No.18/2024 under relevant sections registered and further investigation was set into motion."

"Acting Swiftly on the directions of SSP Ganderbal Sandeep Gupta-IPS, a Special Police team was constituted under the supervision of Dy.SP Hqr's Ganderbal Shri Gh Hassan-JKPS lead by SHO PS Ganderbal Inspector Manzoor Ahmad. After strenuous efforts, the Police Party with the help of technical inputs & CCTV footage apprehended two persons. The accused persons were identified as; Imran Ismail Bhat S/O Mohammad Ismail Bhat & Umar Shafi Gilkar, both residents of Tailbal Hazratbal", he said.

He said, "During preliminary investigation, the duo accused confessed to the crime & upon their disclosure, Stolen Jewellery; one Golden Ring, a pair of Golden Ear Rings, a Golden Badge & Cash Rs/-13000. (Rupees Thirteen thousand only) have been recovered & both the accused have been put behind bars. The Amaze Car Bearing Regd. No.JK01AT-1953 used in the commission of the crime was also seized."

Body of man recovered 3 days after e-rickshaw fell in Jhelum in Srinagar

Srinagar's Batmaloo. Pertinently, on Saturday, an e-rickshaw fell into the Jhelum near Lasjan bridge, prompting a search and rescue operation to be launched.

Samsung chief Lee Jae-yong is acquitted of financial crimes by South Korean court

Lee served 18 months in prison after being convicted in 2017 over bribery charges

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): A South Korean court acquitted Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong who was accused of stock price manipulation and accounting fraud in relation to a contentious merger between two Samsung affiliates in 2015 that tightened his grip over South Korea's biggest company.

The ruling by the Seoul Central District Court on Monday could ease the legal troubles surrounding the Samsung heir less than two years after he was pardoned of a separate conviction of bribing a former



president in a corruption scandal that toppled a previous South Korean government.

The court said the prosecution failed to sufficiently prove that the merger between

Samsung C&T and Cheil Industries was unlawfully conducted with an aim to strengthen Lee's control over Samsung Electronics.

Prosecutors had sought a five-year jail term for Lee. It wasn't immediately clear whether they would appeal. Lee had denied wrongdoing over the current case, saying that the 2015 merger was part of normal business activity.

Lee served 18 months in prison after being convicted in 2017 over separate bribery charges related to the 2015 deal. He was originally

sentenced for five years in prison for offering 8.6 billion won (\$6.4 million) worth of bribes to former President Park Geun-hye and her close confidante to win government support for the 2015 merger, which was key to strengthening his control over the Samsung business empire.

Lee was released on parole in 2021 and pardoned by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in 2022, in moves that extended a history of leniency toward major white-collar crime in South Korea and preferential treatment for convicted tycoons.

'Hyundai plans Diwali IPO in Indian stock markets; slated to be largest ever surpassing LIC issue size'

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): Hyundai IPO on the cards? Hyundai Motor Co, the South Korean automaker, is considering listing its local unit in India to take advantage of the country's booming IPO market, according to sources familiar with the matter quoted agency. This move, which comes after nearly three decades since the launch of Hyundai Motor India (HMI), could potentially become India's largest initial public offering.

HMI was the second-largest passenger vehicle seller in India last year.

Marquee global investment banks such as Goldman Sachs, Citi, Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan, Bank of Amer-

ica, HSBC, Deutsche Bank, and UBS recently made IPO pitches to the leadership of Hyundai in Seoul. The company is estimated to have a value of \$22-28 billion and is exploring a 15-20% dilution to raise \$3.3-5.6 billion (Rs 27,390 crore to Rs 46,480 crore). Hyundai's global head of communications in Seoul has not responded to queries regarding the matter.

In 2022, LIC of India established an IPO record with an issue size of Rs 21,000 crore. India has recently climbed to become the fourth-largest equity market globally, surpassing Hong Kong.

If priced at the upper band of \$28 billion (Rs 23.2 lakh crore), HMI's

valuation will exceed that of Mahindra and Mahindra, Adani Power, and Bajaj Auto.

Among major Indian auto companies, only Maruti Suzuki and Tata Motors have higher valuations at current market prices.

Hyundai Motor Co, listed in South Korea with a market capitalization of \$39 billion, aims to improve the valuation of its underperforming stocks and reduce the 'Korea discount' in the financial markets through the listing of its Indian subsidiary, feel analysts.

South Korean automakers are currently trading at lower price-to-earnings (P/E) ratios compared to their Japanese and US counterparts.

Income Tax notice coming your way? CBDT says some taxpayers will get notices soon for not filing their ITRs

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): The income tax department is set to send notices to individuals who have not filed tax returns, despite having tax deducted at source on their incomes, according to Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman Nitin Gupta. In an interview with ET, Gupta stated that there are approximately 15 million such taxpayers. Notices will be sent to a "few thousand".

The department is utilizing the extensive data it receives to identify inconsistencies and is urging taxpayers to update their returns if any details have been overlooked. With 5.1 million updated returns, the department has collected Rs 4,600 crore thus far.



Gupta emphasized that the focus is on enhancing taxpayer services, including expediting refund timelines and resolving significant tax disputes. To facilitate this, the CBDT has established a demand management center in Mysuru, Karnataka, which concentrates on resolving tax disputes above Rs 1 crore. By bringing together chartered accountants, assessing officials, and taxpayers, the center

aims to reach agreement on assessments.

Originally limited to Karnataka, the centre has expanded its scope to encompass cases from all over India. In the two years since its inception, the centre has successfully resolved 250,000 such matters. Additionally, the CBDT will release a comprehensive circular to implement the Union Budget 2024 announcement regarding the withdrawal of outstanding

small tax demands up to Rs 25,000 until FY15.

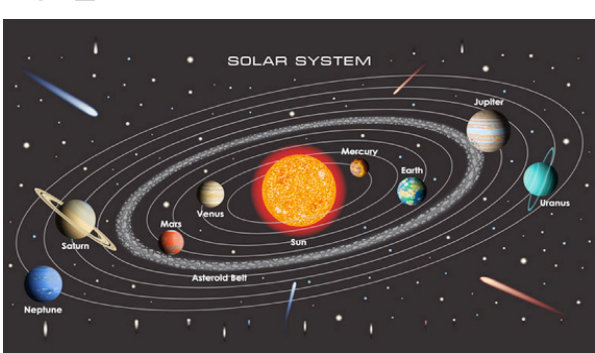
Gupta confirmed that the cumulative threshold will be maintained at Rs 1 lakh crore, which includes penalty and interest. Taxpayers will be notified and won't be required to take any action. As of now, 60% of taxpayers have transitioned to the new tax regime introduced in the February 2022 budget, he said. The department intends to assess the response and filing patterns before considering any rate adjustments, he added.

Gupta mentioned that the additional disclosures requested in income tax returns are largely based on recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee and the Election Commission of India.

Cosmic symphony: The rhythmic alignment of planets in orbital resonance

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): Planets orbit their parent stars while separated by enormous distances in our solar system, planets are like grains of sand in a region the size of a football field. The time that planets take to orbit their suns have no specific relationship to each other.

But sometimes, their orbits display striking patterns. For example, astronomers studying six planets orbiting a star 100 light years away have just found that they orbit their star with an almost rhythmic beat, in perfect synchrony. Each pair of planets completes their orbits in times that are the ratios of whole numbers, allowing the planets to align and exert a



gravitational push and pull on the other during their orbit.

This type of gravitational alignment is called orbital resonance, and it's like a harmony between distant planets.

I'm an astronomer who studies and writes about cosmology. Researchers have discovered over 5,600 exoplanets in the past 30 years, and their extraordinary diversity continues to

surprise astronomers.

Greek mathematician Pythagoras discovered the principles of musical harmony 2,500 years ago by analyzing the sounds of blacksmiths' hammers and plucked strings.

He believed mathematics was at the heart of the natural world and proposed that the Sun, Moon and planets each emit unique hums based on their orbital properties. He thought this

music of the spheres would be imperceptible to the human ear.

Four hundred years ago, Johannes Kepler picked up this idea. He proposed that musical intervals and harmonies described the motions of the six known planets at the time.

To Kepler, the solar system had two basses, Jupiter and Saturn; a tenor, Mars; two altos, Venus and Earth; and a soprano, Mercury. These roles reflected how long it took each planet to orbit the Sun, lower speeds for the outer planets and higher speeds for the inner planets.

He called the book he wrote on these mathematical relationships 'The Harmony of the World.'

Wonderful benefits of walking 4000 steps for brain health

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): Leading a sedentary lifestyle? Even moving a little bit can help bring multiple benefits for your brain health. A new study says that walking fewer than 4,000 steps can have a positive impact on brain health. The research published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease says even a modest amount of exercise can have a significant impact on brain health. The study examined brain scans of 10,000 people and concluded that a daily walk of fewer than 4,000 steps could enlarge brain volume and offer neuroprotective effects. If you are someone who doesn't get much time for physical activity, a simple walk of 30-35 minutes can be useful to enhance your memory and cognitive health.

Why walking is good for your body and mind Regular walking has been linked with a range of benefits for both physical and mental health. Daily walks can work wonders for your heart health, improving circulation and managing blood pressure. It can also help manage weight which could further reduce risk of several chronic diseases. Dedicating some time for walking can help

promote release of happy hormones which can reduce stress and promote feeling of well-being. Walking is also good for your bones and joints and helps promote bone density

How walking improves your mental health

Dr Samrat D Shah, Internal medicine expert at Bhatia Hospital Mumbai says walking 4000 steps can offer numerous benefits for mental health.

"Firstly, exercise, including walking, releases endorphins, known as 'feel-good' hormones.

These endorphins can help reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, promoting a more positive mood and overall mental well-being. Additionally, walking improves blood circulation, including to the brain, enhancing cognitive function and memory," says Dr Shah.

The expert notes that walking can help provide a break from daily stressors, allowing one to clear the mind and gain a fresh perspective.

Benefits of walking 4000 steps daily

Dr Jyoti Kapoor, Founder-Director and Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali shares more benefits of walking 4,000 steps daily.

Stress reduction: Engaging in a daily walking routine, even with just 4000 steps, can act as a powerful stress-reducer. Physical activity prompts the release of endorphins, the body's natural mood lifters, helping to alleviate stress and tension. The rhythmic nature of walking also provides an opportunity for mindfulness, allowing individuals to focus on the present moment and temporarily escape from the pressures of daily life.

Improved mood and emotional well-being: Walking has been linked to an increase in serotonin levels, a neurotransmitter associated with mood regulation.

By regularly achieving the 4000-step goal, individuals may experience an uplift in their overall mood and emotional well-being.

Enhanced cognitive function: Walking has been shown to have positive effects on cognitive function, including improved memory and creativity. The increased blood flow to the brain during physical activity promotes the growth of new neurons and fosters better connectivity, contributing to sharper cognitive abilities.

10 telltale signs of zinc deficiency you shouldn't ignore

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): Your body may require small amounts of zinc, but without this crucial mineral, many important functions may be affected, leading to worrying symptoms. Zinc helps in growth of cells, healing the body and supporting a robust immune system. Meats, poultry, seafood, legumes, whole grains are all good sources of zinc. In case of a deficiency, zinc supplements are also recommended. A deficiency of zinc can affect your sense of taste and smell, apart from hair and skin health. It can also manifest as a non-healing wound or even mood swings and memory issues. Zinc requirement may increase during times of rapid growth like in childhood, adolescence or pregnancy.

While its deficiency may disrupt body functions, too much of zinc can cause toxicity and result in symptoms such as nausea and vomiting. This is the reason zinc supplements should be taken only on advice of your doctor.

Hair loss: Have you been losing too much hair of late? You may be deficient in zinc. An important mineral for hair growth and mainte-

nance, zinc deficiency may result in hair loss or thinning.

Eye problems: Zinc is crucial for maintaining the health of the eyes. Deficiency may lead to vision problems, night blindness, or difficulty adapting to low light conditions.

Loss of taste and smell: Not just Covid, zinc deficiency can also lead to loss of taste and smell. Zinc is essential for proper functioning of taste and smell receptors. A lack of zinc can lead to a reduced ability to taste and smell.

Impaired wound healing: Zinc plays a vital role in the healing process, and a deficiency can slow down wound healing and increase the risk of infections.

Skin issues: Do not always blame extreme winter or scorching summer for your skin issues. How your skin looks can also depend on the intake of crucial nutrients. Zinc deficiency may manifest in various skin problems, including dry skin, dermatitis, or other skin conditions.

Frequent infections: Zinc is necessary for a healthy immune system. A lack of zinc may result in an increased susceptibility to infections and illnesses.

Uttara Kannada on alert after 25 infected with monkey fever



BENGALURU, Feb 5 (Agencies): Kyananur Forest Disease (KFD), commonly known as monkey fever, has infected 25 people in Siddapur taluk of Uttara Kannada district in the last 12 days, health department officials said.

"21 people from Siddapur taluk of the district were found infected with Kyananur Forest Disease until last Saturday, and the number has risen by 4 more, bringing the tally to 25 in the last 12 days," said Uttara Kannada district health officer Dr BV Niraj.

Dr Niraj said two infected individuals have been admitted to Manipal Hospital in Mangaluru, 8 in the government taluk hospital in Siddapur, and 15 are undergoing treatment

at their homes under the medical supervision of the district health department. Despite not receiving the vaccine, the infected are steadily recovering, and Dr Niraj expressed confidence that they may recover within a week.

Referring to the medical staff attending to the infected, he said, "All the 25 infected individuals are out of danger, despite not receiving the vaccine."

Dr Niraj explained that since most of the infected individuals reside in hamlets within thick forestry, health care staff are regularly attending to them. "Dozens of hamlets in thick forest zones, which lack safe transportation, are being attended to by our field staff to treat the infected," he said.

According to Siddapur

taluk government hospital officials, the vaccine crucial for preventing the infection from reaching a fatal stage is not available in the district and must be obtained from Mysuru.

"The life-saving KFD infection vaccine was depleted in the district in 2020. Despite many requests, it has not been supplied," said a staff member attending to KFD cases.

"People residing in thick forest zones in the state, such as Mysuru, Shivamogga, Belagavi, and Karwar districts, become victims of the temporary infected KFD disease every summer from November to June," said the staff member, adding that while the disease is not fatal, it has adverse impacts on the future life of the infected person.

2nd Test: India bounce back against England's 'Bazballers' to level series 1-1

India dismissed England for 292 runs in their second innings on day four to register a series-levelling 106-run win in the second Test.

VISAKHAPATNAM, Feb 5 (Agencies): Indian bowlers won an engrossing battle against England's firebrand batting for a series-levelling 106-run victory in the second Test here on Monday, blunting 'Bazball' with their resilience in a roller-coaster contest.

England began day four at 67 for one, chasing a record target of 399. They were bowled out for 292 in the extended afternoon session.

India dismissed England for 292 runs in their second innings on day four to register a series-levelling 106-run win in the second Test.

The visiting team's no-holds-barred approach, which has largely been successful, did not work on this occasion as India picked up nine wickets over the course of two sessions to bounce back in the five-match series.

The third Test will be played in Rajkot from February 15.

Only Zak Crawley's (73 off 132 balls) strategy of mixing caution with aggression worked before the collective efforts of Jasprit Bumrah (3/46), R Ashwin (3/71), Axar Patel (1/75) and Kuldeep Yadav (1/60) yielded the desired results for the hosts who were under pressure going into day four.

After James Anderson claimed that India were nervous while batting in the second innings and did not know a safe target to counter 'Bazball', England walked the talk on Monday and went ballistic.

They would have been better



served taking a cue from Crawley, who saw out an intense morning spell from Bumrah before going for his strokes.

Night-hawk Rehan Ahmed (23) wanted to smash his first ball of the day out of the park while Hyderabad Test hero Ollie Pope (23) and Joe Root (16) were pushing their luck, frequently attempting sweeps and reverse sweeps on a pitch with variable bounce.

The visitors managed to make 127 runs in the opening session but the loss of five wickets effectively sealed their fate.

When skipper Ben Stokes (11 off 29balls) got run out via a brilliant direct hit from Shreyas Iyer post lunch, there was no coming back for England.

But Ben Foakes (36) and Tom Hartley (36) frustrated the visitors with a 55-run partnership for the eighth wicket.

Hartley could have been Ashwin's landmark 500th wicket but the TV umpire overturned the on-field decision of a catch

as the ball had ballooned after hitting the batter's arm and not the glove.

However, Rohit and Co. were not convinced with the DRS showing umpire's call for LBW. Since the appeal was only for a catch and not LBW, the umpire's call for the latter was not considered.

At stroke of lunch, Kuldeep Yadav dismissed Jonny Bairstow while Bumrah trapped Jonny Bairstow (26) in front to deal a massive blow to England, who slipped to 194 for six at the break.

Crawley, by far the best batter on show, was adjudged LBW off Kuldeep with a close DRS call.

On the sixth ball of his first over, Kuldeep got one to turn back in from middle stump.

It seemed the ball was going down leg but DRS showed that it was hitting the leg-stump.

India's standout bowler in the game, Bumrah, bowled his heart out in the two-hour session.

For someone who was operating in four-over spells, Bumrah

bowled one extra in his opening burst before returning towards the end of the session to send back Bairstow. He also cleaned up Hartley to end the game.

Root and Pope perished while going for their strokes.

Root, in particular, would be disappointed with his effort as he danced down the track and went for a wild slog without getting to the pitch of the ball to be caught at short third man, giving Ashwin his 499th wicket.

While Axar Patel found Rehan's pads with a straighter one, Pope offered a sharp catch to Rohit Sharma at first slip off Ashwin and the Indian skipper made no mistake in pouching it.

Crawley's play in the first session stood out. He was patient enough to leave balls in Bumrah's opening spell and when the champion fast bowler did for a full ball, the England opener was quick to put it away with a straight bat.

His cover and straight drive off Bumrah were the standout strokes of his innings.

When Axar was bowling his first spell, India were a tad defensive and had both long off and long on in place for Rehan, who was promoted to bat at number three before stumps on day three.

Pope played a sweep, flick and stepped out to Axar in the same over for three boundaries.

Root, who had missed the last two sessions on Sunday due to an injured right little finger, was in full attack mode with his first two scoring shots being reverse sweep for four.

Ravindra's double ton has New Zealand in control against Proteas in first Test

Ravindra crafted a career-best 240 as the home side were dismissed for 511, before the tourists' inexperience was exposed as they were reduced to 80-4 at stumps on day two.



MOUNT MAUNGANUI (NEW ZEALAND), Feb 5 (Agencies): Rachin Ravindra struck an impressive double century before South Africa's top order collapsed on Monday, leaving New Zealand in command of the first Test in Mount Maunganui.

Ravindra crafted a career-best 240 as the home side were dismissed for 511, before the tourists' inexperience was exposed as they were reduced to 80-4 at stumps on day two.

A Proteas team featuring six players new to international cricket will resume on Tuesday facing a deficit of 431 runs, after four wickets tumbled in the space of 14 overs late at Bay Oval.

Kyle Jamieson took 2-21 and could have had a third if Matt Henry had held a chance in the outfield to remove David

Bedingham.

Instead, Bedingham was unbeaten on 29 at stumps, alongside Keegan Petersen on two.

The pair are the only members of South Africa's tour squad who played in the drawn home Test series against India a month ago, with the bulk of their first-choice players having committed to play in the country's domestic Twenty20 league.

Opener and captain Neil Brand was Jamieson's first victim, caught behind for four, before fellow-debutant Raynard van Tonder departed in the same over, trapped leg before wicket for a two-ball duck.

Edward Moore (23) ballooned a Henry bouncer to a close fielder before Zubayr Hamza (22) played-on a ball from spinner Mitch-

ell Santner.

Earlier, New Zealand's last five wickets fell for 38 as they pushed for quick runs.

One of them was Ravindra, whose 366-ball knock was a dramatic turnaround in the longest format, having never scored more than 18 in his six previous Test innings.

The left-hander, who began the day on 118, struck 26 fours and one six, with stroke-making reminiscent of his prolific efforts at last year's 50-over World Cup in India.

The 24-year-old was bowled trying to pull left-arm spinner Brand, who went on to claim figures of 6-119.

Brand became the first South African spinner to take six wickets on Test debut and his figures are the fourth best by a Proteas captain.

His most spectacular scalp was a sharp caught-and-bowled to remove Daryl Mitchell for 34 and end a 103-run partnership with Ravindra for the fourth wicket.

That followed a stand of 232 between Ravindra and Kane Williamson, who was caught on 118 trying for a big hit off Ruan de Swardt.

After missing IPL 2024, Josh Hazlewood looks for more game time ahead of T20 World Cup

SYDNEY, Feb 5 (Agencies): Josh Hazlewood said that he wished to get as much game time as possible when international cricketers will be busy taking part in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Hazlewood is expected to be a key member of the Australian team in the T20 World Cup to be held later this year in the West Indies and United States of America (USA).

After playing 4 seasons in a row, first for the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and then for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), Hazlewood went unsold in the auction for the upcoming edition of the tournament.

"With missing IPL... I want to play as much as I can now and then put the feet up for April," Hazlewood said, as quoted by cricket.com.au.

Hazlewood is currently taking part in the 3-match ODI series against the West Indies, where Australia have already taken an unassailable 2-0 lead.

'Full-strength' Australia to face New Zealand After playing against the West Indies, Australia will head to New Zealand where they will play 3 T20Is and 2 Tests in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch.



Bearing in mind the strength of the Black Caps, Hazlewood said that Australia would send a full-strength squad.

"I think it'll be full strength for that New Zealand series, they're a quality side in particular over there and the Test team looks outstanding as well.

"That's going to be a tough couple of weeks over there in New Zealand," he stated.

Hazlewood also lauded the likes of Xavier Bartlett, Lance Morris, Will Sutherland and Aaron Hardie for their performances in recent times. But he also backed the call of not playing them in every match of the series.

"It's three games in five days, for the young kids to play three international games in that space with travel, they thought it was a bit tough," Hazlewood added.

PCB, SLC locked in financial dispute over extra expenses during Asia Cup last year

LAHORE, Feb 5 (Agencies): The cricket boards of Pakistan and Sri Lanka are locked in a financial dispute over who should bear the additional \$3-4 million burden incurred due to the shifting of the Asia Cup to the island nation last year.

With the BCCI unwilling to send its team to Pakistan, the original host, due to geo-political tensions, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) decided on a hybrid model and roped in Sri Lanka to host the majority of the matches.

This resulted in extra expenses being incurred on chartered flights, hotel bookings, venue hiring fees and travel, among others.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) made it clear during the ACC council meeting in Bali last week that it was not will-



ing to take the financial burden as it did not earn extra and was also not the official host of the tournament.

The expenses also reportedly soared because the former PCB chairman, Zaka Ashraf, changed the venue of the first match from Lahore to Multan.

The PCB is also making a case for the ACC to pay for the additional expenses as the continental cricket governing body took the

decision to take away Pakistan's hosting rights and split the event.

A source in the know of things said that during the Bali meeting, ACC chief Jay Shah made it clear that it was the PCB which insisted on hosting four matches after the ACC board had decided to move the entire tournament to Sri Lanka.

"When the financial dispute was discussed by the acting chairman of the PCB, Khawar

Shah, and CEO Salman Naseer (in Bali), Jay Shah and the SLC were on the same page," the source said.

He said that Shah explained that since Pakistan remained the host of the event and Sri Lanka's venue and facilities were used, SLC's dues should be cleared by PCB.

The source added that SLC president Shami Silva expressed concern to the ACC that

PCB had still not cleared the bills for hotel stay and chartered flights.

Shah advised Silva to deal directly with the PCB. Naseer, however, has assured Silva that some bills pertaining to hotel stay and venue rental were "in the process of verification and would be cleared soon" by the PCB.

However, the issue of expenses incurred on chartered flight remains unresolved, with the PCB insisting that the flights were booked through Classic Travel, a "non-prequalified" Sri Lankan company.

Apparently, the PCB has so far paid an upfront amount of \$281,700 and agreed to give SLC \$2,069,885 for the venues. But, now, the PCB is insisting the ACC, being the parent body, share some of the additional costs and pay the hosting fee of 2.5 million dollars.

Supreme Court stays ex-IPS officer's sentence in Dhoni's contempt plea

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (Agencies): The Supreme Court, on Monday, granted an interim stay on the 15-day simple imprisonment given by the Madras High Court to retired IPS officer G Sampath Kumar in a contempt of court case filed by former team India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

A bench of Justices A S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan issued notice on Kumar's plea against the high court order.

on March 8. The high court on December 15 last year had found Kumar guilty of committing criminal contempt and sentenced him to 15-day simple imprisonment.

In his contempt petition, Dhoni sought to punish Kumar for the remarks made by him against the judiciary in his written statement filed in response to a Rs 100 crore defamation suit.

Dhoni had moved the court in 2014 against the former cop for having named the popular

cricketer in the Indian Premier League (IPL) betting scam.

In its order, the high court had said Kumar has consciously made an attempt to scandalise and to lower the authority of this court and the Supreme Court. It was established that an affidavit or any pleading that was presented by a party before the court was an act of publication.

The high court had said when a general statement was made against it for granting interim order describ-



ing the order as an abuse of process of law, it was not a fair comment. Similarly, accusing the Supreme Court that it failed to focus on

"Rule of Law" cannot be accepted as a fair expression of grievance of a party to the dispute, the bench added.

The high court had said

Kumar was a responsible police officer who had the occasion to investigate a crime.

The freedom of speech and expression cannot be extended to undermine the statutory limits as contained in the Contempt of Courts Act. Since maintenance of dignity of courts was one of the cardinal principles of Rule of Law, any publication or a public speech which results in undermining it cannot be permitted, as held by the Supreme Court in several precedents, the high court had said.

The high court had said the Contempt of Courts Act has been enacted to secure public respect and confidence in the judiciary as an institution.

"If persons like Sampath Kumar were allowed to shake the confidence of the public in the impartial administration of justice, it should be treated as an attack on the judiciary.

"In the present case, we are convinced that the statements made by the respondent in the additional written statement is with an intention

to scandalise this court, to lower its authority, and to destroy the confidence of people in the administration of justice.

"From the language and the context, this court has no hesitation to hold that the respondent wants to convey a message in the additional written statement that the high court as well as the Supreme Court, while passing orders, either do not follow Rule of Law or pass orders which are nothing but abuse of process of law", the high court had said.

Vivek Bali attends Juhu Koliwada Seafood festival

Top News Report

JAMMU / MUMBAI , Feb 5: Vivek Bali State General Secretary JD(U) J&K said that the aroma of spices and the sound of laughter filled the air as seafood enthusiasts gathered at the Juhu Koliwada Seafood Festival for a delightful culinary experience. Hosted by Dhiren Gawde, this two-day extravaganza celebrated the rich flavors of West India's coastal cuisine.

The festival, held at Juhu Koliwada in Mumbai, showcased an array of delectable seafood dishes prepared by talented fisher women clad in resplendent sarees. From succulent fish curries to crispy fried delicacies, attendees indulged in a gastronomic journey through the region's



culinary heritage.

Highlighting the event was the presence of Vivek Bali, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Known for his passion for culinary exploration and cultural appreciation, Bali immersed himself in the festivities, engaging with attendees and savoring the

authentic flavors of coastal cuisine. Pravin Rahangdale also got an award as he was also present there as a guest "I am honored to be part of this vibrant celebration of seafood and culture," remarked Vivek Bali.

"The dedication and skill of the fisher women behind these exquisite

dishes are truly commendable."

Besides Vivek Bali notable personalities present were Narendra Gawde, Pravin Rahangdale, Dhiren Gawde, Jyoti Gawde, Pravin Sakpal, Kiran Choudhary, Sachin Gawde, Sunil Mandela, Tushar Sakpal, Kiran Revaskar, Prashant Gawde,

Dinesh Sutar, Muskan Gawde, and also thanks cake group Farm.

The Juhu Koliwada Seafood Festival not only delighted the taste buds but also served as a platform to showcase the culinary heritage and traditions of the region. From traditional recipes passed down through generations to innovative culinary creations, the festival celebrated the diverse culinary landscape of West India.

As the sun set over the horizon, attendees departed with memories of laughter, camaraderie, and the lingering flavors of coastal delicacies.

The Juhu Koliwada Seafood Festival promises to return, offering food enthusiasts another opportunity to savor the essence of West India's coastal cuisine.

JKBS holds general body meet, elects Jagdish Lakhotra as Youth President

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) held its general body meeting at Shahzadpur, which was chaired by former JMC Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj and attended by a large number of Batwal community members hailing from different corners.

The meeting gave a final touch to the activities to be organised on the eve of Sri Guru

Gyagi Ji's 127th birthday slated to be held on Saturday at Shahzadpur.

During the course of meeting, the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha elected Jagdish Lakhotra as its youth president and authorised him to nominate the executive body of his own accord.

The meeting among others was attended by DDC member Balbir Lal, Hony Captain Om Parkash Kaith, Hans Raj

Loria, Des Raj Kaith, R.L.Kaith, Rachhpal Kaith, Darshan Lal Motan, Mohinder Singh Motan, Karan Kumar Kaith, Joginder Sargotra, Joginder Kaith, Madan Lal Lakhotra, Surjeet Dogra, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Bishan Lal Tugga, Ujjagar Singh Bassa, Babu Ram Lakhotra, Darshan Kumar Lakhotra, Davinder Lakhotra, Gurdeep Ramesh Lal Motan, Gandharb Motan, Ram Lal and Parshotam Lal.



Legal luminaries can play major role in shaping future of J&K: Mir

Adv Safir Hussain from Samba joins Apni Party

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: Apni Party Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir on Monday said that the legal luminaries can play a major role to shape the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

He gave this statement in a program at Apni Party Office, Gandhi Nagar in Jammu. The program was organized by Provincial President, Legal Cell, Vikram Rathore.

While speaking on the occasion, Mir appreciated the role of Advocates in making them aware about the law and defending the constitutional rights of the people as they are well versed with the laws.

"The lawyers are an intellectual community, and they interact with the different segments of society that widens their connection with the masses in comparison to others," he said.

He stated that the people get awareness of the constitution from the lawyers and their rights are protected by them whenever they are violated.

In this manner, he said that the lawyers play an important role by defending the citizen's constitutional rights and providing them legal guidance to get justice.

"The legal community defends people to get rid from the exploitation," he stated, while asserting that the lawyers have also an important role to educate



people about the constitutional misunderstandings which have been spread in Jammu and Kashmir because they interact with people from various fields.

He said that the interaction of lawyers with the people can make the people understand about the policy and developmental agenda of the Apni Party.

On this occasion, a prominent advocate from Samba, Adv Safir Hussain joined the Party in presence of the senior leadership.

Ghulam Hassan Mir welcomed the new entrants into the Party fold and hoped that his joining would help the Apni Party to strengthen its roots in the district.

Meanwhile, Apni Party's Chairman Parliamentary Board, Mohammed Dilawar Mir also spoke on the occasion, while

elaborating the role of advocates in strengthening the roots of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

He explained how the advocates can help in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir by spreading the message of Apni Party's equitable development and protection of rights of the locals.

On this occasion, General Secretary of the Party, Vijay Bakaya also addressed the meeting and underlined the importance of advocates in providing justice to the people using their legal profession.

Provincial President of the Party, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh was also there in the meeting, and he appreciated the Legal Cell for their efforts to increase the membership in the Party and holding a series of public meetings.

To explain their working, and problems faced by the advocates, the Provincial President of Legal Cell, Vikram Rathore highlighted various issues and assured that he would continue to fight for the rights of the people as well as the lawyers.

He said that the people in rural areas are the worst sufferers because they are often denied justice and hence, the Apni Party helps the poor and needy people by providing them legal assistance without costing any fee. "We have devoted ourselves to help the people with legal means so that they get justice," he added.

Provincial Secretary-Membership Drive Incharge, Dr Rohit Gupta, Provincial President, Jammu (Women Wing), Pavnnet Kour and other leaders of the Party were also present in the program.

Sub Junior Boys & Girls Handball teams leave for National

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: Jammu and Kashmir Handball teams on Monday left for participation in the 38th Sub Junior (Boys & Girls) National Handball Championship shall take place at Chittogharh, Rajasthan from February 7 to 11.

The J&K teams were screened by J&K Sports Council (JKSC),

Girls: Sundus Nighat, Huda Ashiq, Rutba Farooq, Mohsina Riyaz, Nandita Sharma,



Pragya Manhas, Kareena Kumari, Preeti, Khushi Devi, Simran Devi, Shakshi Devi, Mitali Mehra, Tarun Kumari, Aradhya Bakhshi, Isha Devi and Mansi Sharma.

Boys: Masoom Gupta, Daljit Kumar, Ganesh, Aashray Bhasin, Aujas

Kirni, Vikas, Samarth Singh, Sahil Majeed, Sahil mehran, Mozin Fayaz, Adnan Ahmed Shah, Misba ul Haq, Waseem Nabi, Arfat Altaf, Inam ul Haq and Namish Gupta. Mushtaq Mir (Coach) and Gulam Mohi Ud Din Zargar (Manager) of the teams.

Dir Skill Development J&K inaugurates PM Vishwakarma scheme at Govt ITI Hiranagar

Top News Report

HIRANAGAR, Feb 5: The launching programme of PM Vishwakarma Scheme was held at Govt ITI Hiranagar on Monday.

Sudershan Kumar, Director Skill Development J&K, attended the program as the Chief Guest and Rakesh Kumar, SDM Hiranagar was the Guest of Honour which was attended by Gurmeet Singh Assistant Director RDSDE Jammu, 30 local artisans and craftsmen enrolled for training in first batch among others.

Chief Guest applauded the initiatives taken up by the Union Government for bringing up the new scheme called PM Vishwakarma for upliftment of local artisans and traditional craftsmen.

He also elaborated the aims and objectives of the scheme and urged the local artisans and traditional craftsmen to avail the scheme and make use of it in a proper manner.

Also speaking on the occasion, Guest of Honour Rakesh Kumar said that it was indeed a momentous day to launch PM Vishwakarma Scheme to support local artisans, craftsmen and small busi-



nessmen. Support provided to them through the scheme will not only contribute to preservation of cultural practices, but also provide an identity and recognition to them, he added.

He thanked all the stakeholders for their sincere efforts and commitment to scale up the unorganized sector and boost up their business.

He requested to embrace the newly introduced scheme as their own and foster collective action to make the scheme a resounding success.

Gurmeet Singh, Assistant Director RDSDE & Nazir Moulvi Media Coordinator DSD also addressed the gathering briefing about the objectives and benefits of the PM Vishwakarma scheme under implementation in different ITIs of Jammu Division.

Principal ITI Hiranagar Mandeep Dogra gave a

keynote address on the occasion followed by a power point presentation briefing the initiatives taken for imparting up-skilling training in ITI Hiranagar.

An interactive session was also held with the participating Vishwakarma/beneficiaries of 1st batch expressed gratitude for the opportunity given to them through PMVY Scheme and pledged to dedicate themselves to acquiring skills that would not only benefit their individual careers but also contribute to the overall development of the country.

Chief Guest and Guest of Honour also inaugurated the newly established Training Centre and IT Lab established under PM Vishwakarma Scheme. Vote of thanks was presented by Rachhpal Singh, Supervisor ITI Hiranagar.

JKMEF delegation meets Director Health Services Jammu, discusses employees issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 5: A meeting of all Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF) held Monday at federation office DHS Complex Jammu under the Chairmanship of Sushil Sudan President JKMEF Jammu.

In the meeting various demands were discussed in detail which requires immediate redressal.

The demand include settlement of long pending salary issue of 2211 Head as the employees of 2211 Head are suffering badly and are without salary since six months, re-designation



of Pharmacist as Pharmacy officer on the Pattern of other state and UTs, cover all employees and retirees under CGHS on the pattern of Central Govt employees, release payment of GP Funds of employees and retirees which

are pending in the Treasuries without further delay, Re-Designation of electricians Posts as Jr Senior Supervisor and Head Electrician, creation the posts of Technical Officer for all technical trades i.e O.T. Tech Ophthalmic Tech-

nician, X-rays Technicians on the pattern of Lab Technician.

Its permanent solution must be settled without further delay, JKMEF president Sushil Sudan said.

The delegation under the leadership of Sushil

Sudan President met new Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rakesh Magotra and greeted him for prestigious assignment.

In the deputation other leaders of JKMEF were present including Bharat Bhushan Bhagat President Pharmacist, Parfulat Singh, General Secretary, Onkar Singh, Vice President JKMEF, Jaswinder Singh President OT Tech, Aslam Bhai, Pawan Singh Jamwal, Anita Bhagat, Tejinder Singh, Sapna Gupta, Suria Begum, Arti, R.P Singh, Surjeet Kumar, Sanjay Choudhary, Subash Choudhary, Kulwant Singh and Bahadur Singh.