

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Sachin Pilot says Congress could have won Rajasthan polls with 'more effort' and 'better candidates'**

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## BRIEFLY

**ACB Director to listen to public grievances in Jammu**



JAMMU, Feb 6 (Agencies): Director Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau, Shakti Kumar Pathak will remain available to listen to grievances of public on working day in Jammu.

Sh. Shakti Kumar Pathak, IPS, Director J&K Anti Corruption Bureau will remain Available to Listen to the grievances of general Public From 2pm-5 pm on All Working Days at ACB Hqrs. Behind Civil Sectt. Jammu, J&K Anti Corruption Bureau post on X (formerly twitter).

**Former Director Doordarshan, AIR Srinagar Farooq Nazki is no more**

SRINAGAR, Feb 6 (Agencies): Former Director, Doordarshan and AIR Srinagar, and Sahitya academy award winning poet Farooq Nazki is no more.

A renowned poet, broadcaster and media personality from Jammu and Kashmir, Nazki breathed his last at Narayana Hospital in Katra.

**IPS officer Rajiv Omprakash Pandey posted as DIG Central Kashmir**

SRINAGAR, Feb 6 (Agencies): Home Department on Tuesday posted IPS Officer Rajiv Omprakash Pandey as DIG Central Kashmir Range, relieving Altaf Ahmad Khan of additional charge of the post.

"In the interest of administration, it is hereby ordered that Shri Rajiv Omprakash Pandey, IPS (AGMUT:2010), upon repatriation to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is

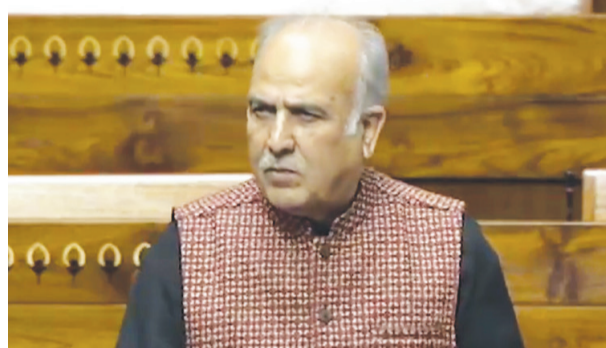
## Opposition members seek timeline for holding Assembly Polls in J&K

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Opposition members in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday urged the government to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest.

Participating in a debate on The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Hasnain Masoodi (NC) demanded that the polls in the union territory be held soon.

He said the central government should have decided on the polls before the Supreme Court had to intervene in the matter.

The top court had a few



months back asked the Election Commission to hold assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by September this year.

Masoodi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Monday said his government will take big decisions. Polls in the union territory should be held before other

big ticket decisions are taken, Masoodi said.

Minister of State for Home Ajay Misra intervened to point out that local bodies' elections were held in the erstwhile state.

Participating in the debate, TMC leader Saugata Roy also referred to the Supreme

Court observation and pitched for early assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir On August 5, 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was made a union territory with a provision for a legislative assembly through abrogation of Article 370.

At present, the UT is under central rule.

Supriya Sule of the NCP demanded a timeline and "not a vague" answer from the government on holding assembly polls and giving statehood to the people of J-K.

She said while the Election Commission will decide on the date, the government could at

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## Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi is New Vice Chief of Army Staff



SRINAGAR, Feb 6 (Agencies): Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar has been appointed as the new Northern Army Commander. He is succeeding Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, who is moving to Army Headquarters as VCOAS.

Prior to appointment of strategic command, Lt

Gen Kumar served as Vice Chief of the Army Staff and Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) at Army Headquarters. He has experience in intelligence, operations, force structuring, operational logistics and tech infusion in his recent appointments.

"An alumnus of Sainik School Bijapur and National Defence Acad-

emy, the General Officer was commissioned into 1 Assam Regiment in June 1985. He has commanded 59 Rashtriya Rifles Battalion (ASSAM), an Infantry Brigade and an Infantry Division on the Line of Control and the highly active White Knight Corps in Northern Command," officials sources said.

The General Officer has held various staff and instructional appointments to include an instructional tenure at Infantry School, Mhow, Senior Operations Officer in the United Nations Sector in Cambodia, Colonel (Policy) in Military Secretary Branch, Indian Army Training

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## Key conspirator of terror module busted in Kupwara arrested in New Delhi



SRINAGAR, Feb 6 (Agencies): The staffers of Police Station New Delhi have arrested key conspirator of a terror module recently busted in Kupwara.

"The staff of the PS-New Delhi Railway Station has arrested one of the key conspirators of the recently busted terror module in Kupwara by Jammu & Kash-

mir Police. The accused person has been identified as Riyaz Ahmed. On 04/02/2024, he was arrested by the staff of PS-New Delhi Railway Station. He was involved in hatching conspiracy along with one Khurshid Ahmad Rather and Ghulam Sarwar Rather in receiving arms and ammunition from across the LOC by the

terrorist handlers", reads a statement issued to GNS.

"On 04/02/2024, specific information was received from investigation agencies in Jammu & Kashmir that one Riyaz Ahmad Rather S/o Gh Rasool Rather R/o Village New Gabra Tehsil Karnah District Kupwara, J&K is wanted in the recent terror module case busted by them, wherein five persons were arrested and incriminating material including 5 AK rifles (short), 5 AK Magazines, 16 short AK rounds were recovered. In this regard, a Case FIR No: 07/2024 US 120B IPC, 7/25 Indian Arms Act, 13, 18, 20, 23, 38, 39 of UA (P) Act, Police

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## Sopore man, injured in scuffle with brother 2 days ago, succumbs in Srinagar hospital

SRINAGAR, Feb 6 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a 22-year-old youth from Sopore who was seriously injured after being hit by his brother in a family fight three days ago has passed away today morning.

Sources told News Agency Kashmir Scroll that Abid Rashid Bhat (22), a resident of Wadoora Payeen sustained serious injuries during a fight with his brother. Despite being in coma for several days, he succumbed to his injuries today.

Locals said that the elder brother involved in

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## Severe cold in Kashmir; Pahalgam shivers at minus 11.0°C, Gulmarg at minus 10.5°C

SRINAGAR, Feb 6 (Agencies): Severe cold conditions continued in Jammu and Kashmir with Pahalgam recording a low of minus 11.0°C and Gulmarg minus 10.5°C respectively on Tuesday, officials said.

A meteorological department official here told GNS that Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.4°C against minus 0.4°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.0°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 2.0°C against minus 1.4°C on the previous night, he said. The minimum temperature was 0.5°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the MeT official said. Pahalgam recorded

a low of minus 11.0°C against minus 11.9°C on the previous night and it was 4.8°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 2.4°C against minus 3.3°C on the previous night and the temperature was below normal by 0.4°C for the place, the official said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 3.4°C against minus 0.9°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg, the official said, recorded a low of minus 10.5°C against minus 10.0°C on the previous night and the temperature was below

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## Police attaches property of notorious drug peddler in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Feb 6 (Agencies): Continuing its action against drug peddlers, Kulgam Police attached property (02 storied residential house) belonging to a notorious drug peddler namely Khurshid Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Ismail Bhat resident of Sopat Devsar under section 68-F of NDPS Act 1985.

The said notorious drug peddler is involved in several NDPS cases including Case FIR No.63/2019 U/S 8/15, 20 NDPS Act, Case FIR No. 11/2021 U/S 8/20, 29 NDPS Act and 31/2021 U/S 8/20, 22 of NDPS Act of police station Devsar.

The property was identified as illegally

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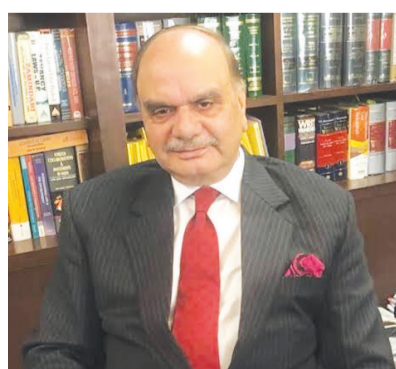
## KPSG welcomes 3 day visit of NHRC to Kashmir, plans open public hearing on HR violations

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Kashmir Policy and strategy Group (KPSG) in its executive meeting on Tuesday in Delhi, welcomed the ensuing three days visit of NHRC to Kashmir Valley to hear in person the grievances of the victims of the human rights abuses in turbulent vale.

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

This move represents a significant step towards addressing the human rights void that has persisted in Jammu and Kashmir since the abolition of the State Human Rights Commission in 2019. Numerous human rights organizations have ceased to function



due to government restrictions on dissent, leaving many unresolved cases of rights violations.

The Chairman Ashok Bhan said, "The people are carrying the burden as victims of conflict from 1947 and continuing consequences of armed insurgency resulting in exile of the religious minority and killings innocent civilians in the violence perpetrated by non State actors, others brutalised anti human groups including some

times the State actors."

19th January 1990 is a black day in Kashmir's glorious history. On this day the whole population of Kashmiri Pandit Community was excited by gun toting terrorists and since then they are living as refugees in their own Country.

34 years of exile for this native population is brutal, long and traumatic. They are the aborigines Kashmiri and are the prime stakeholders in the Kashmir affairs

"Kashmir calls for Democracy, Justice, restoration of the glory of peaceful coexistence & full enjoyment of human rights." KPSG urges the Union Government to engage with stakeholders, win the hearts & minds of people through a healing process and plan a dignified return back home of exiled natives.

Without KPs the -Kashmiri civilizational ethos is incomplete in these modern time and in Naya Kashmir Vision of the idea of India.

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**10TH DAY/13TH DAY**

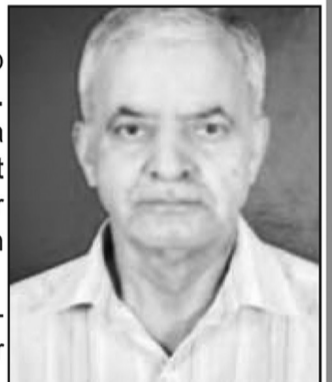
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Late Sh. Varun Slathia S/o Charanjeet Singh Slathia** R/o Bari Brahmana who left for their heavenly abode on 26-01-2024. **10TH DAY** will be performed on (Sunday) 4th Feb 2024 at 11.00 AM. **13TH DAY** will be performed on (Wednesday) 7th 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**

**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**

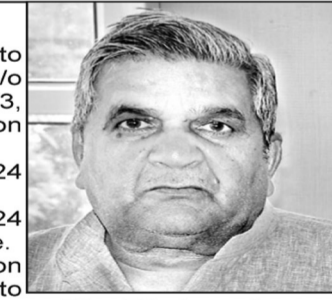
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and peaceful demise of our beloved **“Gyani Surjit Singh Ji”**, who left for his heavenly abode on Tuesday, 30th January 2024. **Bhog & Antim Ardas** shall be performed as per the following scheduled programme:



**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**

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

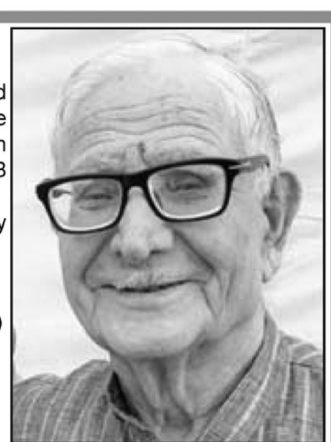
With a heavy heart we would like to inform you about the demise of our beloved **Sardarni Surjeet Kaur W/o Late Sujan Singh R/o Chatha Farm, Jammu.** The **Bhog Shree Akhand Path Sahib** will be at our residence on 7th February, 2024, Wednesday, 10:00 am, followed by **Kirtan** and the **Antim Ardas** from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Chatha Farm, Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** Rachhpal Singh Mehta (Brother) Inderjit Singh Mehta (Brother) Manmeet Singh and Kuldeep Kaur (Son and Daughter-in-law)



**SARDARNI SURJEET KAUR**

**10TH DAY /KRIYA**

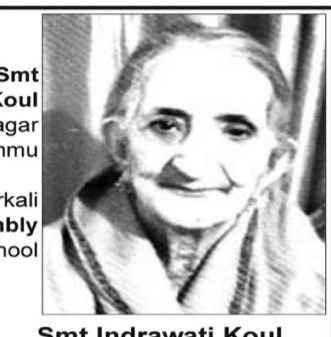
With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Payre Lal Fotedar S/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Fotedar** originally from Martand Mattan Anantnag Kashmir on 31st Jan 2024, presently at 40 B Pocket 6, DDA MIG Flats Mayur Vihar Phase 3 Delhi. **10th Day Kriya** will be performed 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 Lancker Rainawari Srinagar presently at H No. 67 Lane No. 5 Buta Nagar Jammu attained niwan 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**

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 Bhaader 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 Soden S/o Late Sh. Sat Pal Soden**, 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 Soden**

**FIFTH DAY**



**DR NADIA MAHAJAN**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved daughter **Dr Nadia Mahajan**. **Fifth Day** will be performed on 7th February, 2024 Wednesday between 12 PM to 1 PM at our residence Mahajan House near RR Gate, Shiv Nagar, Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

- Mrs Praveen and Subash Mahajan - Parents
- Tania Mahajan & Ashutosh Gupta - Sister & Brother-in-law
- Mrs Ranjana and Ashok Mahajan - Chachi & Chacha
- Arjun Mahajan and Meenakshi Mahajan - Brother & Sister
- Tania Mahajan & Ashutosh Gupta - Sister & Brother-in-law
- Neeli Mahajan & Sunil Mahajan - Sister & Brother-in-law

**Contact - 8716004383/9419162169**

**10TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and peaceful demise of our beloved **Smt. Nancy Koul (Ranjiji) W/o Late Sh. Triloki Nath Koul** originally from old Fath 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 (Ranjiji)**

**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 (Billawar)** who left for heavenly abode on 26th Jan 2024. **The 10th Day** will be performed (Sunday) at our residence Ramkot on 4th Feb. 2024 at 11 A.M. **Kriya** will be performed on (Monday) 5th Feb 24 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 3-5-27 to 26-1-24**

**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 TRIPLECROSS 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 Dwarika 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 & Saritha Raina - Daughter in Law & Son Vidhita Raina - Daughter Grandchildren Raina Family +918130083585



**Shri Vinod Raina 14-04-1958 - 02-02-2024**

**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 (Billawar)** who left for heavenly abode on 26th Jan 2024. **Uthala** will be performed on (Wednesday) 7th Feb 24 at our residence at 3 PM to 4 PM.



**Pt. Oma Dutt Sharma 3-5-27 to 26-1-24**

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## EDITORIAL

## SAFEGUARD

## NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

Preserving India's rich heritage should be of paramount importance, given its profound cultural, historical, and societal significance. Spanning millennia, India's diverse heritage reflects the convergence of numerous cultures, religions, and traditions, serving as a testament to the nation's identity and resilience.

From ancient cities like Mohenjo-Daro to iconic landmarks like the Taj Mahal, these sites hold immense historical value, representing pivotal moments in human civilization. Furthermore, India's heritage plays a pivotal role in driving tourism and economic growth, sustaining livelihoods and fostering sustainable tourism practices.

Similarly, people of India have gone to other parts of the world and various elements of culture carried by them have intermixed and integrated with the preexisting traditions. The mountains and the rivers systems have been an important factor in the emergence of a number of distinct cultural zones within the country. India's culture has been changing and developing due to internal factors and contacts with other cultures. The Harappan culture was the first urban culture to emerge in India.

Jainism and Buddhism which arose in the sixth century B.C. left a lasting influence on Indian life and culture. This period saw the spread throughout the country of beliefs and practices associated with Hinduism, including Vedic religion. The next phase in Ancient Indian History covers the period from about 200 B.C. to about A.D. 300. There were the Indo-Greeks, the Shakas, the Parthians and the Kushanas. There was significant progress of Buddhist art in the Deccan, and the beginning of Tamil literature in the south.

Additionally, heritage preservation contributes to environmental conservation by safeguarding natural ecosystems intertwined with many heritage sites. Moreover, India's heritage serves as a catalyst for cultural exchange and diplomacy, strengthening international ties and promoting mutual understanding.

By prioritizing heritage preservation through legal frameworks, conservation efforts, public awareness campaigns, and international collaborations, India can safeguard its cultural legacy for future generations while contributing to global efforts in heritage conservation and sustainable development.

For the first time in her history, India came under foreign rule. A new system of exploitation of one country by the dominant classes and groups of another country came into being. The long struggle for independence ended the imperialist exploitation of India. From the early decades of the nineteenth century, various social, religious, cultural and intellectual movements started which aimed at removing the state of stagnation of Indian society. The nationalist movement united the Indian people on a new basis. It recognized and cherished 'the unity in diversity' and composite nature of India's - culture as its unique feature.

## 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 check-ups 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.

## Books versus screen

By: Vijay GarG

Over the last few years, there has been a lot of brouhaha about how little youngsters are reading nowadays. Parents constantly ask how to get their children to read books at a time when technology offers a gamut of attractive tools.

While pondering over this tussle between reading and watching, I remembered the words of Groucho Marx, American comedian, writer, film, radio and television star: "I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book." For youngsters today, reading could be linked to watching and vice versa, as mobile phones have become ubiquitous. So where does the problem lie? Is it the way reading happens and the purpose? Does this suit the kind of immersive reading that earlier generations have known?

Let us consider a few valid arguments to support reading in the usual, conventional way.

Reading helps develop cognitive skills, includ-

ing language acquisition, vocabulary, and comprehension. It stimulates the imagination and helps in critical thinking. This naturally culminates in a formidable communicative skill and the art of writing is enhanced as well. When we read, we think, decide, decode, deliberate and then state our truths and beliefs.

As readers, one has to create mental images. Apart from being a leisure activity, reading can also strengthen familial bonds when stories are shared, discussed and reflected upon. What is imperative here is to understand is reading should not be forced down children's throats. This may lead to a deep-rooted aversion. Reading should be engaging and enjoyable.

When it comes to watching, children learn concepts easily when there is visual learning. The scope for multisensory experiences is also appealing. With digital platforms being a source of content, the array of resources available offers a diversity of perspectives and ideas even when one is within the four walls of a home.

Shared experiences

While no one can deny that technology is here to stay, is it possible to strike a balance between reading and watching? For example, what if adults were to be more proactive and design our lives to share the old and the new? For example, pick up the morning newspaper and show the children how it looks, feels and reads. Children learn best by imitation, so we need to practise what we wish our children to absorb.

How about visiting bookshops and choosing titles to read? If they like The Lion in the Library, do not buy Cinderella. If they like Nimmi's Wiggly Tooth do not give them Peter Pan. The time for Cinderella and Peter Pan will come. Spend time reading a book with them. Young children are more adaptable and curious. Ask questions about the story, discuss who they liked and why, make them critical thinkers even as you power their imagination. Follow this routine when they watch something. Sit with them and guide them to watch things that are enjoyable and in-

formative. If they want to see Paw Patrol, ask them what is so special about the dogs. Guide them to thinking about loyalty towards family and friends. When you start watching what they love to watch and read what they enjoy reading it becomes a shared experience. We need to frame a schedule for our engagements with our children. There can be a reading weekend and a watching hour. There can be a bookshop visit and a 'choose-your-entertainment' evening. There can be a 'dress-up' as your favourite book character and a family holiday video hour' as well. Do not make them choose between the two. The book and the screen can co-exist, as both are realities of life. So, prepare children to love what they are doing. It could be reading or watching; both play an important role in a child's development when used mindfully, while also giving them the freedom of choice.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)

# AIDS awareness campaign through folk media concludes

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Special AIDS Awareness Campaign through folk media organized by Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) & Sangam Tru Art Production at R S Pura and Bari Brahmana Block of District Jammu concluded on Tuesday after presenting two programs in close coordination with Jammu & Kashmir Aids Control Society, Govt. of J&K (UT).

On total, 8 programmes were presented at R S Pura, Bishnah, Puramandal, and Bari Brahmana Blocks by BLSKS Troupe.

The programs were inaugurated by the Chief Guest Kaniz Bibi, Headmaster, Govt. Middle School, Kanhal, Bishnah and Rakesh Verma, Headmaster Govt. Middle School Bari Brahmana respectively.

The Special Guests were



Arti Basist, Kirti Sagar, Sanjeet Sharma, Gulzar Ahmed. The Chief Guest speaking on the occasion said fever is usually the first sign of HIV for an HIV-positive person. If HIV is not treated, it can lead AIDS, he said adding that there is currently no effective cure.

Short plays written by Dr. M.L Dogra (Chairman BLSKS) were presented. The music was composed by M.C Kotwal, Music

Director of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan.

Dr. M.L Dogra explained the people living with HIV tend to be most infectious in the first few months after being infected, many are unaware of their status until the later stages.

This special awareness campaign presented under the overall Direction of Project Director, Aids Control Society, Madan Lal and Aashish Saraf,

DA, IEC Division, JKACS, H&ME Deptt. The singers, musician and actors who performed were M.C Kotwal, Rajni Gupta, Bindia Okheda, Nazuk Bhagat, Chahat Chadha, Gouri Lal, Deepak Kumar Dogra and students, teachers, youths & general public were present.

Rajni Gupta, Troupe Incharge, BLSKS presented vote of thanks for successful conduct of the program.

# NC deputation meets SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom

## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 6: A deputation of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Kishtwar under the leadership of Ajeet Bhagat Senior Leader and Spokesperson Chenab Valley Zone met with newly posted SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom Choudhary who joined as a new SSP in District Kishtwar.

Ajeet Bhagat welcomed the SSP Kishtwar with great honour and wished him for the upcoming achievements in District Kishtwar.

They discussed various issues related to District Kishtwar especially youths.

Ajeet Bhagat said we are proud on Kisht-



war Police. We have witnessed the great achievements of Police weather it is communal harmony, Law and order anti drugs programs, police public relations etc, we hope that the legacy will remain the same,

SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom Choudhary thanked for their warm welcome and said that I am hopeful that people of Kishtwar District will always support police so that there would be

a good relation between public and police and surely we will eject all the ills in Kishtwar District.

Those present on the occasion were Mansoor Ahmed Giri Ex Pench and Youth Leader National Conference, Imran Hussain Giri Executive Member National Conference, Sandeep Kumar Youth Leader National Conference and Sanjay Kumar Youth Leader National Conference.

# DPS Junior Kathua shines at Wushu Championship



## Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 6: Delhi Public School (DPS) Junior, Kathua announced the remarkable achievements of its young warriors at the Wushu Championship held in the region.

Students from classes UKG, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th showcased their exceptional skills and determination, bringing home a triumphant array of medals.

In a display of sheer talent and dedication, DPS Junior Kathua par-

ticipants demonstrated their prowess across various categories, clinching top honors in the competition.

"We are immensely proud of our students' outstanding performances at the Wushu Championship," said School Incharge Monika Singh.

"Their achievements reflect not only their individual skill and hard work but also the nurturing environment and encouragement provided by our school community," she added.

Participation in such events not only fosters a spirit of sportsmanship but also instills confidence and resilience in our students, she said.

DPS Junior Kathua continues to empower young minds, nurturing their holistic development beyond academics.

As a testament to the school's commitment to holistic education, DPS Junior, Kathua remains dedicated to providing opportunities that enrich students' lives and cultivate essential life skills.

# JKBS expresses shock over demise of Koushalya Devi

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members expressed deep shock over the demise of its lion-hearted member Koushalya Devi and said that she was very brave, courageous and compassionate, and would always respect everyone.

I had always seen her as independent in every walk of life. Whether it's taking decisions for her health or finances or any life issues, she stood tall and strong. She used to take care of everything in the family, her son in law R.L.Kaith said.

While her family said, It didn't matter what the problem was, she



had the solution ready for us along with a life example she had gone through. With her real experiences, life looked much more manageable.

All members present in the condolence meeting held here today, prayed to Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give family the forbearance to bear this immeasurable loss boldly.

# GDC Udhampur organizes Poetry Recitation on Drug de-addiction



## Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 6: NCORD Cell of Govt. Degree College, Udhampur organized a Poetry Recitation in collaboration with Department of Music and Urdu under the guidance of Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta and Prof. Shobhna Samyals, Convener of the NCORD Cell of the College.

Principal exhorted upon the students to play their role in spreading awareness among the masses as this is

an immediate need of the hour to eradicate the drug addiction 'A menace' from the society and students can play an important role to aware the adductors.

In this context Nikhil Brahmnu, Akshay, Sumit Akhil and other students of the College recited poems on this topic to create the awareness among the students of the college.

Prof. Sanjeev Kumar HoD Urdu and Prof. Samosh Kumar HoD Music coordinated the programme.

Prof Samosh Kumar

also revealed that the problem of drug addiction is spreading very quickly and we should control and eradicate it through the awareness among the youth and masses.

He also expressed that unfortunately, mostly young lot of the generation is going to affect badly. He also exhorted upon the students to play their role in spreading awareness among the masses to eradicate the drug addiction.

Prof. Sanjeev Kumar HoD Urdu presented the vote of thanks.

# Shameema Raina launches Nari Nyay Campaign

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: On the directions of National President Mahila Congress Alka Lamba, the Jammu and Kashmir Mahila Congress led by Shameema Raina launched Nari Nyay Campaign here on Tuesday at PCC HQ Shaheedi Chowk.

On the occasion PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani, General Secretaries Narinder Gupta(Org), Sr. Vice President JK Mahila Congress Bhanu Mahajan, Vice President Santosh Manhas, General Secretaries Shilpa Gupta, Parveen Akhtar, Sonika Sharma & Kamla Hans, Dist. Presidents Harneet Kour and Tehseen Bukhari, Secretaries Muni Devi, Dimly, Ashu Verma, Bandu, Naseem, Asha, Babita, Ritu Gupta and Shalu Verma were also present.

While addressing, Shameema Raina said, "Our leader Rahul Gandhi ji is currently on the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, where he is meeting scores of people from all backgrounds. We at All India Mahila Congress are consistently reaching out to the women to hear their views. We have received different



suggestions and we are hereby outlining our demands in the form of 'Nari Nyay'."

Speaking on price rise, she said, "It has become difficult for women to run their homes due to consistent price-rise and the failure of the government to regulate the same, including failure to regulate the prices of essential commodities such as LPG gas, edible oils, food grains, groceries, milk etc. severely affecting the nutrition of the entire family. Therefore the price of all these commodities needs to be regulated and control on emergency basis, providing substantial subsidies on the same."

As per the World Inequality Report 2022, in India, men earn 82 per cent of the labour income, whereas women earn 18 per cent of it and also women engaged in agriculture and in the salaried class make almost 20 per cent

less than men she said and demanded that the government needs to bring in regulations to ensure that the gender-gap parity is bridged at the earliest.

During Congress rule, she said, most primary health centers opened in villages are now either dysfunctional or operating without any medical staff.

The basic health-care infrastructure for women is completely lacking with most 57 % women aged 15 to 49 years in India suffering from anemia and also lack of delivery centers in villages means that women have to travel a long distance for deliveries increasing the risk and posing serious health hazard to women in their most critical stage, he said and asked government to come up with a comprehensive health package along with ensuring basic health infrastruc-

ture across India, especially in rural areas.

Congress helped usher in free primary education for all and set up several institutions of eminence including the IITs and IIMs, she said adding that the education system in India is collapsing with BJP government continuously decreasing the budgetary allotment towards education.

"The primary and middle schools in India lack teachers and these posts are not being filled by the government deliberately opting instead for guest 2 teachers as it is easy to keep them on lesser remuneration with easy to remove terms of service.

Also girls going to school do not feel safe and there are multiple news from across the country of girls being harassed while enroute to school." She said adding that education needs to be the top pri-

ority of the government along with ensuring basic safety to protect young girls from violence - physical, mental and cyber.

She also demanded free public toilets for women be set up across cities and villages, at a distance of every 5 kms.

"Congress brought in the Panchayati Raj Act providing reservation for women at Panchayat level, giving representation to lakhs of women at grass roots level. We are also committed and demanded immediate implementation of the Women Reservation Act. However BJP is committing a huge fraud against the women of India by bringing in the Women Representation Act but keeping its implementation in suspension for an indefinite period.

This is one of the many jumlas of the present day government which is trying to woo the Indian women's votes without offering adequate representation. We call for the immediate implementation of the Women Reservation Act and the government's unflinching commitment to ensure its effective implementation during the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections," she said.

# Keshav organises Aadhaar Camp



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: To provide Aadhaar services at one place Samvedna Society Chairman Keshav Chopra organised an Aadhaar enrollment Camp for the employees and their dependents of Horticulture Marketing and Planning office Narwal Jammu. The Camp was inaugurated by Deputy Director Ayaz Ahmed Natnoo.

Through this Aadhaar Camp, Samvedna Society provided the services such as (New Enrollment, Biometric Updation, Correction of Aadhaar, Mobile Number Updation, Photograph Change, unlock

the Biometric lock in Aadhaar Etc).

The Camp was organised in collaboration with Aadhaar Sewa Kendra Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Ayaz Ahmed Natnoo said that due to their busy schedule in their office employees could not spare time to get Aadhaar Services and it's a very good initiative of Samvedna Society for providing Aadhaar card related services to the employees and their dependents of Horticulture (P&M) at one place, Natnoo also thanked Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra for organizing the Camp.

Keshav Chopra said that Mission of Samvedna Society is to provide all types of services to the Government Employees and common man at their doorstep and Samvedna will continue to organize these camps in future also.

Jagdish Raj Area Marketing Officer, Arvind Panigotra AD Marketing, Dr Punkaj Gupta Auditor, Vasu Pradha JSA Planning, Jagmohan Koul JA, Jagdeep Raj AMO Kisan Ghar, Operational Head Adhaar Sewa Kendra Peer Mubassir Shah, Operator Rahul Lalotra, Sourav, Abhishek Gupta, and others were also present.

## High five for Indians at Grammys; Zakir Hussain bags 3

Sound of Indian music has been winning the West for a long time. The first Grammy win came when sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar received one in 1968. Others too have walked the same hall of fame. More recently there has been a consistent acknowledgement of Indian musicians at what is considered music's biggest night, the most prestigious music awards, The Grammys. With five Indians — Rakesh Chaurasia, Shankar Mahadevan, Ganesh Rajagopalan, Selvaganesh Vinayakram and above all Ustad Zakir Hussain — winning Grammys at its 66th edition, it is clearly India's moment, the "shakti" of its music. Musician Ricky Kej, himself a three-time Grammy winner, aptly tweeted: "This is a great year for India at the Grammys."

Among the Indian winners this year, celebrated percussionist Hussain, the Padma Vibhushan recipient, picked up three Golden Gramophones. Apart from winning a Grammy for Best Global Music Album for his fusion band Shakti's album 'This Moment' along with musical talents vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan, kanjira player Selvaganesh Vinayakram and English guitarist John McLaughlin, Grammy for Best Global Music Performance too came his way.



'Pashto' from album As We Speak emerged the winner in this category. Interestingly, Falu and Gaurav Shah's 'Abundance In Millets' featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi, too, was in contention for the same.

One of India's greatest tabla exponents, Hussain, who has collaborated with Bela Fleck, Edgar Meyer and Rakesh Chaurasia for As We Speak,

also won a Grammy in the Best Contemporary Instrumental Album category.

Noted flautist Rakesh Chaurasia, nephew of legendary flute player Hari Prasad Chaurasia, won two Grammys for his collaboration with the Ustad.

Multiple awards are not new to the Grammy stage and music makers. Grammy favourite Taylor Swift has taken home

more than one Golden Gramophones more than once. Only this year, she has created history by becoming the first performer to win the prize for Album of the Year four times, moving past other greats such as Frank Sinatra, Stevie Wonder and Paul Simon.

More history was made on Sunday night. Miley Cyrus won her first Grammy with Record of the Year for Flowers. Karol G became the first female performer to win Best Música Urbana Album for her blockbuster 'Mañana Será Bonito' record. Billie Eilish won Song of the Year for the Barbie hit 'What Was I Made For?' The song from the superhit film happens to be an Oscar nominee too.

In a night in which ladies dominated, Killer Mike won three rap trophies. Drama, however, was not too far away as he was arrested for an altercation backstage. Of course, ultimately what dominated the stage on which Celine Dion presented Album of the Year award was music.

Hussain said in his acceptance speech: "Without love, music and harmony we are nothing." India sure struck more than a harmonious note as wins not only marked triumph on the global stage but also of our ability to create global sounds.

## Fashion designer Anjali Phougat takes Indian fashion global



Fashion designer Anjali Phougat will be supporting small businesses this year. She will be making sure that their talent gets global recognition.

India boasts incredible talent and exquisite craftsmanship, and my aim is to elevate Indian artisans onto global platforms. This year, much like before, I am actively supporting women-owned businesses.

This initiative originated during my shows at New York Fashion Week and Paris Fashion Week. I am proud to share that, in addition to showcasing my own jewellery designs, I am providing a platform for two women-owned businesses to exhibit their jewellery. It's a beautiful endeavour aimed at empowering and supporting small businesses, allowing them to pursue their passions," she says.

Anjali expresses her admiration for the global recognition of Indian fashion. "The fashion industry in India stands out. The diversity in cuts, colours, and overall creativity is truly impressive. From cleaner-cut structured outfits to vibrant patterns and playful colors, there's a rich variety. In my view, fashion is a reflection of one's personality and is not limited by geographical boundaries. However, it's undeniable that Indian clothing, including sarees, suits, and two-piece garments, has gained significant prominence on the global stage," she remarks.

## The Elnaaz Norouzi effect

Actress Elnaaz Norouzi stole the spotlight at a recent award show, captivating audiences with her sizzling vibes and red carpet glam. Clad in a jaw-dropping sequin body-con black dress, she effortlessly set the bar high for elegance and sophistication.

As she accepted the title of Fashionista of the Year, Elnaaz once again proved herself a true icon of style and grace.

What sets Elnaaz apart is her ability to make a fashion statement, regardless of the event.

Whether she's gracing the red carpet or attend-



ing a formal affair, she never fails to mesmerize with her impeccable sense of style.

## Young singer Apurva Sharma launches her song Teriyan Juadiyan

Living a childhood dream is Apurva Sharma. Working as an architect in Australia, she returned home to Patiala to give a chance to the singer inside her. On Monday, she launched her first song, Teriyan Judaiyan. All of 25, Apurva says she loves Indian music. "I've always been interested in Sufi songs. I started doing riyaz when I was in school. My father, Ashish Sharma, is a poet and he encouraged me to pursue singing along with my studies." For her debut song, Apurva says she



was working on it for the last five years. "I wanted to create something that blended Hindi and Punjabi lyrics, had some poetry. My song has all these elements."

Inspired by singers, including AP Dhillon, Neha Kakkar, Badshah, Shreya Ghoshal, Arijit Singh, she also enjoys Taylor Swift, Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber's songs. So, is she considering a switch in careers? She responds, "No, I will continue my practice as an architect in Australia, but would also focus on music. I am already

working on two other songs."

Apurva says during her growing-up years in Indonesia, she participated in stage shows where she did anchoring, choreographed songs and even sang. "People there are crazy about our music. They love Hindi and Punjabi songs. Even in school, I would sing and dance at the annual shows. Then I moved on to performing at the functions organised by the Indian government in Indonesia. During my college days in Australia, I continued to perform."

## Singer Demi Lovato, who has spent years in alcohol and drug abuse treatment, says she is a survivor



Singer Demi Lovato has spent years in alcohol and drug abuse treatment. However, she finally feels happy and healthy after overcoming her troubles.

On a show recently, Lovato said: "I feel happier than I've ever been. I feel like I'm in such a really great place, just spiritually and emotionally. Not only am I in love, but I'm also just mentally very strong. I've overcome a lot and I am a survivor. My story today is just one of overcoming a lot of hardships but finally feeling the love that I know I deserve."

Lovato shared that making music gives her purpose. "The most important thing when it comes to releasing music is being able to share your gift with others. It gives me purpose, being the reason why some people overcome their emotional struggles or heartbreak or personal obstacles."

## Nora Fatehi to set the stage of Dance+Pro on fire



Star Plus is back with the seventh season of Dance Plus, Dance+Pro. With the camaraderie of Remo D'Souza and the other captains, Shakti Mohan, Punit Pathak and Rahul Shetty, Dance Plus has kept audiences hooked on their television screens.

One of the major highlights of the show is going to be Nora Fatehi, who will groove along with Super Judge Remo Dsouza, the captains, and the contestants.

Remo shares, "It was a fun experience with Nora Fatehi gracing the stage of Dance+Pro. She is an incredible dancer we all know but she is also a very humble and gentle human being. It is a blessing to have her around, as she brings along with her a different energy and vibe that is radiated to us. Nora will be showcasing her stellar moves and will also be grooving along with the contestants. Brace yourselves for the dhamakadar performances."

## The Jamie Lever Show is a blend of laughter, impersonations and entertainment

One of the most talented and versatile comedians and actors, Jamie Lever is set to embark on India's inaugural one-woman show – The Jamie Lever Show.

This Hindi stand-up comedy extravaganza promises audiences an unforgettable experience with Jamie showcasing her best – from unique observations to spot-on impersonations, and even flaunting her singing and dancing skills seamlessly woven into her stand-up set.

Daughter of comedian Johnny Lever, Jamie has carved her niche in the comedy scene. She previously toured and performed worldwide as part of the Johnny Lever Live, which has had over 250 shows. The one woman show is set to take place in Mumbai on February 17 and 18 with one show in Nehru Centre and another in Kashinath Ghanekar Natyagraha in Thane.

Expressing her enthusiasm for the upcoming tour, Jamie Lever says,



"The Jamie Lever Show is a labour of love, bringing together all facets of my comedic and artistic abilities. It's a unique blend of laughter, impersonations and entertainment, giving the

audience a glimpse into my world. I'm thrilled to bring this one-woman show to my hometown, Mumbai, and can't wait to connect with the audience in a more intimate setting."

## India to see investment of USD 67 billion in next 5-6 years in energy sector: PM Modi

*Inaugurating the second edition of the India Energy Week here, Modi said the Indian economy is growing at the rate of more than 7.5 per cent*

PANAJI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that a major part of the proposed 11 crore budget pledged for infrastructure will be spent on the country's energy sector.

The PM, while addressing the second edition of India Energy Week in Goa, also mentioned that India's gas sector will see an investment of about 67 billion dollars in the next 5-6 years.

"This amount will create assets in railways, roadways, waterways, airways, or housing that will need energy, leading to India's efforts to expand its energy capacity," said the PM.

Modi also mentioned that India's energy demand will double by 2045. He said that the country is expected to increase its refining capacity from 254 MMTPA (million metric tons per year) to 450 MMTPA by 2023.

While highlighting India's progress in the biofuel sector, he said that ethanol blending witnessed a significant rise from 1.5% in 2014 to 12% in 2023, leading to a reduction in carbon emissions of about 42 million



metric tons.

"The government has set a target of 20% ethanol blending in gasoline by 2025," he said.

Recalling the initiation of 20% ethanol blending in more than 80 retail outlets during India Energy Week last year, the number of outlets has now increased to 9,000.

On the BioFuel Alliance, which Modi said was initiated during the G20 Summit held in India, about 22 nations and 12 international organizations came on board to encourage the use of biofuels around the world.

Highlighting the country's progress in solar energy, the PM said that in the past decade, India's solar energy installed capacity has grown by more than 20 times.

He noted that the launch of a major mission aimed at installing solar rooftop panels in one crore homes across India will not only make one crore families self-reliant in the energy sector but also establish mechanisms to deliver excess electricity generated directly to the grid.

On the green hydrogen sector, the PM said that it will pave

the way for India to become a center of hydrogen production and export. He expressed confidence that India's green energy sector can make both investors and industries sure-shot winners.

India, Modi said, is the third-largest consumer of crude oil and LPG and the fourth-largest importer of LNG.

Petrol and diesel prices reduced in India in last two years, said the prime minister recounting the country's energy management strategy in face of global problems.

He said all experts think that India is the fastest growing major economy and will soon become the world's third-largest economy.

India's GDP growth is now more than 7.5 per cent, he said, adding that this is more than estimated by global bodies.

Government reforms are helping boost domestic natural gas production and India is targeting to raise the share of gas in its energy mix to 15 pc by 2030, he added.

## Sachin Pilot says Congress could have won Rajasthan polls with 'more effort' and 'better candidates'



NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Congress leader Sachin Pilot said on Tuesday that his party could have won the Rajasthan Assembly polls if they had made some more efforts, adding that differences between him and former chief minister Ashok Gehlot had been ironed out and did not impact the poll results.

Speaking at the Lokmat National Conclave here, Pilot said the Congress gave a good fight in Rajasthan. However, he regretted that they did not win.

"I felt in Rajasthan we had a very good chance. We made a lot of effort. But if we had done a bit more, like changing the tickets, 17-18 out of 25 sitting ministers lost the election. If we would have picked different candidates, perhaps the performance would have been better," he said.

Pilot, who was the deputy chief minister in Rajasthan and was removed from the post after a fallout with Gehlot, said he and the former chief minister have discussed the issues that were there,

and they did not affect the election.

Asked if Gehlot needs to be changed as a face for the next election, he said, "Next election is five years away."

He also said the party may have failed to take care of its workers.

"I felt we needed some course correction. If we have taken a stand on an issue while in opposition, can I change it after winning? Our party workers worked hard for five years, which made the party win. If we would have given them more respect, a 'stakeholdership'. It's the energy of a worker that makes a party win," he said.

Asked about Congress leaders having not attended the Ram temple consecration, he said religion and practicing religion are personal choices.

"This is a religious country. Everyone should be proud of practicing their religion. But getting political gains out of it is wrong. State must be removed from religion," he said.

"The Ram temple was constructed after a Supreme Court deci-

sion. Everyone is happy that a Ram temple was made. But who will invite people, how many will be invited, who decides that? Are we not Ram bhakts? I did not get an invitation," he said.

"I can worship how I want and when I want. You cannot mandate it. It is a personal decision. Ram is everywhere," he said, adding that there is no "discomfort" in the Congress over the Ram temple, adding that the Constitution is the "big-gest scripture."

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on dynastic politics in Congress, he said the PM is "obsessed" with Congress.

"It was his last speech of the present Lok Sabha. We were hoping that he will give a message to the world. Unfortunately, it was about the Congress and not women and youth," he said.

"The BJP should introspect how many MLAs and MPs they have whose parents are in politics. The BJP and the PM have no issues. They're not talking about issues. They only want to do character assassination of the Congress," he said.

He also said the Congress has a democratic election to choose its president, as in the case of Mallikarjun Kharge. However, he questioned whether the BJP held an election to elect JP Nadda as its president. "No one from the Gandhi family has been a CM or a PM for the last 30 years," he added.

## 6 persons killed, 50 injured in blaze at firecrackers unit in Madhya Pradesh's Harda town

HARDA/BHOPAL, Feb 6 (Agencies): Six persons were killed and 50 others injured after a major fire broke out in a firecrackers factory in Harda town of Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday, an official said.

A number of people were also feared trapped in and around the unit, he said.

Some videos of the incident surfaced on social media showing the fire with intermittent explosions taking place at the site and people running to save themselves.

Six persons were killed and 50 others injured in the blaze at the firecrackers unit, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister

Mohan Yadav said.

The CM also spoke to the officials concerned and sought details of the incident, an official said.

The CM also directed minister Uday Pratap Singh, Additional Chief Secretary Ajit Kesari and Director General Home Guard Arvind Kumar to rush to Harda by a helicopter.

Burn units at hospitals in Indore, Bhopal and the AIIMS in the state capital were directed to make necessary arrangements for any emergency, the official said.

Fire brigades were also rushed from Indore and Bhopal to tackle the blaze. The chief minister has also called a meet-



ing in connection with the incident, the official added.

## 5 arrested for posing as ED officers, looting 1.69 crore in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Five people have been arrested for impersonating as Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials, conducting fake raid at a businessman's office and looting Rs 1.69 crore.

Two luxury cars and a couple of costly mobile phones were also taken away by the culprits.

The accused have been identified as Vijay Karthick (37), Narendra Nath (45), Rajasekar (39), Loganathan (41), Gopinath (46).

The arrests were made following a complaint from a person Anguraj and his partner Durai, both cotton yarn merchants in Tiruppur. The duo, according to the police complained that they were looted by certain people posing as ED officers.

The complainants said that they received a phone call from a private company in Hyderabad claiming that they were planning to execute a construction project in Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode.

The callers, according to Anguraj and Durai requested investments from them and assured them that they would be paid double the amount within a short time.

Police said that the duo believed the callers and managed to arrange Rs 1.69 crore. The callers then asked for the photograph of the money which both Anguraj and Durai sent immediately to the callers.

After sometime a group of five men reached Anguraj's office who claimed to be ED officials. Anguraj and Durai in their complaint said that the five took away the cash and drove away with the two luxury cars and mobile phones. They also took away the CCTV camera footage and fled the scene.

The cotton yarn merchants grew suspicious after the CCTV footage was taken away and lodged a complaint with the Tiruppur city police.

The police immediately constituted four special teams who traced the culprits and arrested them.

## Supreme Court sentences man to 30 years in jail for raping 7-year-old in temple, terms his action as barbaric

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Upholding the conviction of a man for raping a seven-year-old girl in a temple in Madhya Pradesh in 2018, the Supreme Court has sentenced him to 30 years in jail while noting that his action was barbaric.

The victim girl's grandmother lodged an FIR against the man who was 40 years old at the time of the crime, for kidnapping and raping the minor. The convict took the victim to a temple and committed raped her.

After finding the man guilty, the trial court awarded him the capital punishment under Section 376 AB (rape on woman under 12 years of age) of the Indian Penal Code. The Madhya Pradesh High Court, however, commuted the same to life imprisonment for the remainder of the convict's natural life.

A bench of Justices C T Ravikumar and Rajesh Bindal took into account the present age of the petitioner and the fact that he has already undergone incarceration.

While modifying his sentence, the top court also imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on the convict.



Noting how the incident may haunt the victim, the apex court said every visit to any temple may hark back to the unfortunate and barbaric action to which she was subjected to.

"It is noted that if the victim is religious, every visit to any temple may hark back to her the unfortunate, barbaric action to which she was subjected to. So also, the incident may haunt her and adversely impact her future married life," the bench said.

"Then, we are also to take into account the

present age of the petitioner and the fact that he has already undergone incarceration. On consideration of all such aspects, we are of the considered view that a fixed term of sentence of 30 years, which shall include the period already undergone, must be the modified sentence of imprisonment," the bench said.

The apex court said the High Court had lost sight of the fact that despite conviction under Section 376 (2) (i) and sections of the POCSO Act, no separate sentences were imposed on the man for the offence under the POCSO Act by the trial court, as the capital sentence was imposed on him.

"In terms of the provisions under Section 376 AB, IPC, when a sentence of imprisonment for a term not less than 20 years which may extend up to life imprisonment is imposed, the convict is also liable to suffer a sentence of fine which shall be just and reasonable to meet the medical expenses and rehabilitation of the victim which we quantify as Rs 1 lakh and the same shall be paid to the victim," the bench said.

## "Modiji Sat For 12 Hours": Union Minister's Jab At Arvind Kejriwal, Skipped Summons

*Ms Lekhi held Prime Minister Narendra Modi up as an ideal for Mr Kejriwal to follow, declaring Mr Modi had (when he was Gujarat Chief Minister) "sat for 12 hours answering questions".*

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Union Minister and BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi launched a sharp attack on the Aam Aadmi Party and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday, ramping up the bitter spat between the two parties over alleged corruption in the city's liquor excise policy and the water development authority.

An apoplectic Ms Lekhi held Prime Minister Narendra Modi up as an ideal for Mr Kejriwal to follow, declaring Mr Modi had (when he was Gujarat Chief Minister) "sat for 12 hours

answering questions"; the reference was to the PM being questioned by a special team investigating the 2002 Gujarat riots.

"That is how you face... instead of drama and corruption like Kejriwal," Ms Lekhi thundered.

The Union Minister's attack comes amid a tug-of-war between the Delhi Chief Minister and his AAP and the Enforcement Directorate, which has summoned Mr Kejriwal five times for questioning in the liquor policy case. Mr Kejriwal has skipped all five and could now be arrested by the central

agency. The agency - which the AAP and other opposition parties say is being used by the BJP to target rivals, particularly before elections - is investigating alleged money laundering of proceeds of crime, referring to "undue benefits" to liquor cartels as a result of the November 2021 excise policy.

Before Ms Lekhi's diatribe today, Delhi Minister Atishi had alleged the Enforcement Directorate case against the AAP is built on statements made by accused-turned-approvers. She said AAP leaders had



been "threatened... in the name of this so-called liquor scam" and stressed "even after hundreds of raids in two years, ED has not been able to recover a single rupee... no concrete evidence..."

Ms Lekhi also slammed

alleged corruption and money laundering in the Delhi Jal Board, over which two people - a retired chief engineer and a contractor - were arrested last week. In addition, three senior AAP leaders have also been arrested, in con-

nection with various cases - former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, former Health Minister Satyendra Jain, and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh.

"Delhi's governance model is on ventilator... excise policy is biggest scam one can think of (and now) while Chief Minister is avoiding answering ED summons, another scam came to the front," she said.

"And yesterday the Delhi High Court found a false affidavit was filed... it contains some remarks regarding procurement processes.

Where the audit report found central procurement processes are violative of law, and drugs procured are substandard, and also not adhering to regulations..."

Ms Lekhi ripped into the "power-hungry" AAP-led Delhi government.

"Delhi government is only bothered about publicity. They are hungry to stay in power at any cost. They are hungry and greedy for corruption..." she declared.

Meanwhile, Mr Kejriwal last week accused the BJP of trying to poach his party's lawmakers.

"They can do whatever they want. Nothing will happen. I am not going to bow to them. They say 'come to BJP, we won't trouble you'. No... I won't join. And what crime have we done they need to pardon us?"

The Crime Branch of Delhi Police - which reports to the Union Home Ministry - served notice to Mr Kejriwal Saturday, asking him to reply within three days. The same notice was also served to Atishi.

The BJP has refuted the allegations, calling them "false" and "baseless".

## US continues to monitor Pakistan's electoral process quite closely: Official

*Pakistan will hold its general elections on February 8*

WASHINGTON, Feb 6 (Agencies): The United States is closely monitoring Pakistan's electoral process, an official of the US State Department has said, observing that it has concerns over the infringement with respect for freedom of expression, assembly, and associations.

Speaking at his regular press briefing, US State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said that it wants the broad participation of the people of Pakistan in the country's election.

"We're continuing to monitor Pakistan's electoral process quite closely, and as we have said, we want to see that process take place in a way that facilitates broad participation with respect for freedom of expression, assembly, and associations," Patel said.



Pakistan will hold its general elections on February 8.

"We have concerns of all incidents of violence and restrictions on media freedom; freedom of expression, including internet freedom; and peaceful assembly and association. We're concerned by some of the

infringements that we've seen in that space. Pakistanis deserve to exercise their fundamental right to choose their future leaders through free and fair elections without fear, violence, or intimidation, and it is ultimately for the people of Pakistan to decide their political future,"

Patel said.

Meanwhile, The New York Times reported that a political crackdown has been more visible in Pakistan than those in previous years, making this week's vote among the least credible in the country's history.

"As Pakistan heads to the polls on Thursday, its powerful military is using a familiar playbook to sideline its nemesis of the hour, crippling PTI in the first national election since the party's leader, former Prime Minister Imran Khan, ran afoul of the generals and was ousted by Parliament in 2022," the daily reported.

The Foreign Policy reported that the military is still pulling the strings in Pakistan's elections.

The Washington Post said Pakistan's election looks more like a coronation or a sure bet.

## US plans visa ban for people connected to commercial spyware



WASHINGTON, Feb 6 (Agencies): The US government has announced a new policy that will allow the imposition of visa restrictions on individuals involved in the misuse of commercial spyware.

The misuse of commercial spyware has been linked to arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in the most egregious of cases.

Additionally, the misuse of these tools presents a security and counter-intelligence threat to US personnel, the government said in a statement.

The new policy covers investors and heads of companies, as well as those

acting on behalf of governments that carry out illegal surveillance.

The policy will be applied using the information in an individual's visa application.

"This new policy is the most recent action in the US' comprehensive approach to countering the misuse of commercial spyware. Previous actions have included the issuance of an Executive Order prohibiting the US government's use of commercial spyware that poses risks to US' national security or foreign policy interests," said the US State Department.

The misuse of commercial spyware threatens privacy and freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, said the government.

In March last year, the Joe Biden government via an executive order said that "it shall not make operational use of commercial spyware that poses significant counterintelligence or security risks to the US government or significant risks of improper use by a foreign government or foreign person"

## Yemen's Houthi Rebels Claim They Struck US, UK Ships In Red Sea

SANAA, Feb 6 (Agencies): Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels said Tuesday they struck US and British ships in two separate attacks in the Red Sea, one of which was confirmed by a security firm.

In a statement, Houthi spokesman

Yahya Saree said "the first attack targeted the American ship Star Nasia, while the other targeted the British ship Morning Tide". Security firm Ambrey had earlier reported a drone attack on a British-owned cargo ship.

## Thousands of vehicles stuck on highways in China as snow snarls Lunar New Year travel

BEIJING, Feb 6 (Agencies): Thousands of motorists were stuck on highways in central China as heavy snow snarled travel during the annual Lunar New Year rush.

Aerial images showed long traffic back-ups in Hubei province on Monday night.

About 4,000 vehicles were stuck because of icy conditions, a provincial official told state broadcaster CCTV. The jams were expected to be cleared by Tuesday.

The heavy snow, unusual for central China, was forecast to continue into Wednesday. Millions of people are

heading home for the Lunar New Year, which falls on Saturday. Families traditionally gather for dinner the night before. The airport in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei, temporarily closed runways several times because of icy conditions. Some flights and trains were cancelled, stranding travellers for hours.

One person was killed and 13 others injured in neighbouring Hunan province on Monday after a roof collapsed at a produce fair following a heavy snowfall, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Cotton-padded quilts and other relief items were being sent to Hunan, Xinhua said.

## Britain's King Charles diagnosed with cancer; PM Modi, global leaders wish him speedy recovery

*King Charles III has been diagnosed with cancer following his recent hospital procedure for a benign prostate enlargement*

LONDON, Feb 6 (Agencies): Leaders of several countries, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have wished King Charles III a "speedy recovery" after Buckingham Palace announced that the monarch was diagnosed with a form of cancer.

King Charles III has been diagnosed with cancer following his recent hospital procedure for a benign prostate enlargement, Buckingham Palace said in a statement.

While the palace has not specified the form of cancer, it said the 75-year-old monarch has started treatment and remains "wholly positive".

After the news about the monarch's health was out, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak wished King Charles a "speedy recovery".

The prime minister led global well-wishes to the King, posting on social media platform X, "Wishing His Majesty a full and speedy recovery".



"I have no doubt he'll be back to full strength in no time and I know the whole country will be wishing him well," he said.

The King has begun a schedule of regular treatments and has been advised to postpone his public-facing duties.

Former prime ministers Liz Truss, Boris Johnson and Sir Tony Blair posted similar messages, with Johnson saying: "The whole country will be rooting for the King today."

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi also wished Britain's King Charles III, a speedy recovery and good health. Modi posted on X, "I join the people of India in wishing speedy recovery and good health to His Majesty King Charles III."

Across the Atlantic, US President Joe Biden said he was "concerned" about King Charles and planned to call him later.

The US president told reporters: "I'm concerned about him. Just heard about his diagnosis. I'll be talking to him, God will-

ing," he said.

US former president Donald Trump called the King a "wonderful man, who I got to know well during my presidency".

Writing on his Truth Social platform in all capital letters, he added: "We all pray that he has a fast and full recovery!" Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said: "I like Canadians across the country and people around the world, I am thinking of His Majesty King Charles III as he undergoes treatment for cancer.

"We're sending him our very best wishes - and hoping for a fast and full recovery".

In the UK, messages poured in from across the political spectrum, with leaders of all the main parties wishing the King a full recovery.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer tweeted: "On behalf of the Labour Party, I wish His Majesty all the very best for his recovery."

## Thailand government says will ban recreational cannabis use

BANGKOK, Feb 6 (Agencies): Cannabis was taken off the list of banned narcotics in June 2022 under the previous government, which included the pro-legalisation Bhumjaithai party. The move prompted hundreds of cannabis dispensaries to sprout around the country, particularly in Bangkok, provoking concern from critics who urged the need for tighter legislation.

On Tuesday, the kingdom's health minister said the new bill - which bans the recreational

use of cannabis - will be proposed to the cabinet meeting next week. "The new bill will be amended from the existing one to only allow the use of cannabis for health and medicinal purposes," Chonlanan Srikaew told reporters.

"The use for fun is considered wrong."

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, who took office last August, has frequently voiced his opposition to the recreational use of the drug and said it should only be allowed for medicinal use. There



was fresh pressure from the public last weekend after attendees of Brit-

ish rock band Coldplay's shows in Bangkok complained on social media

saying "the entire concert smelled like marijuana".

## Man Falls Out Of Truck At Hong Kong Airport, Dies After Being Hit By Plane

HONG KONG, Feb 6 (Agencies): A Hong Kong airport ground worker was killed when he was hit by a towed aircraft on Tuesday, authorities said, a rare incident that prompted an arrest for dangerous driving.

The unnamed victim, a 34-year-old Jordanian national working in Hong Kong, is believed to have been riding in the passenger seat of a tow truck when he fell out of the vehicle and

hit by the plane being pulled behind it, police said.

Emergency workers found the man lying on a taxiway with multiple serious injuries in the early hours of Tuesday, the force said in a statement.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hong Kong's airport authority said the man was an employee at ground support and maintenance firm China Aircraft Services.

"It is suspected that the seat belt was left unfastened while the staff was working on the (vehicle)," the authority said.

Police said the vehicle's 60-year-old driver had been arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving causing death.

He has been detained pending an investigation, the police added.

China Aircraft Services did not immediately respond to agency request for comment.

## Won't become foreign minister if Nawaz Sharif returns as Pak PM: Bilawal Bhutto

ISLAMABAD, Feb 6 (Agencies): Pakistan Peoples Party chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that he would not become the country's top diplomat under Nawaz Sharif if the ex-prime minister comes back to power in Thursday's election.

The 35-year-old son of slain former prime minister Benazir Bhutto became the country's youngest foreign minister in the

coalition government led by Shehbaz Sharif, the younger brother of Nawaz Sharif, which was formed after ousting Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party in a no-confidence vote in Parliament earlier that month.

In an interview with Independent Urdu, Bilawal said it would be difficult for him to join hands with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party if it came to power after the Febru-

ary 8 polls.

"I will not become foreign minister if Nawaz comes to power again, I can't participate in the same old politics. If he breaks away from that and creates an environment that benefits democracy in the country, then I can stand with that," he was quoted as saying.

Bilawal said both major political parties, other than the PPP, engage in politics of hatred and division. "It feels



like having to choose between the devil and deep blue sea," he said, adding that he hoped the PPP was able to form the government on its

own.

Bilawal in another interview said his party is not seeking an electoral alliance with any party but is contesting

elections based on its manifesto.

Speaking to Voice of America Urdu, the PPP chairman expressed hopes for political stability in the country and Pakistan moving in "a positive direction".

A few days ago, Bilawal took a swipe at Nawaz Sharif and said that "giving an impression" of pre-decided results of the upcoming general elections is "an insult to the people" of Pakistan. He criticised

the three-time former prime minister for "not campaigning enough".

Bilawal, whose father Asif Ali Zardari served as the 11th president of Pakistan from September 2008 to September 2013, made the comments in a podcast interview, according to the Dawn newspaper.

Sharif is the only Pakistani politician who became the prime minister of the coup-prone country for a record three times. However,

each term has ended with his ousting from power, in 1993, 1999 and 2017.

The February 8 elections are taking place for 336 seats in the National Assembly, the lower house of Parliament, along with four provincial assemblies. About 18,000 candidates are in the race for the National Assembly and the four provincial assemblies in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.



# PM Modi's focus on appeasement, corruption, nepotism: Rohiin Chandan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Secretary Jammu South, Rohiin Chandan stated that the ongoing "Viksit Bharat" campaign on which clairvoyant leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid regular emphasis is set to be the key poll plank of BJP during the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Chandan proclaimed that the Modi Sarkar on reassessed focus on the campaign, asking party lawmakers to go full throttle to make it a victorious campaign. He expressed that Viksit Bharat is Set To Be BJP's Key Poll Plank In the 2024 LS Polls and



plays a "genius stroke" and the turning point in all corners.

Rohiin highlighted that the forthcoming 2024 Lok Sabha polls will be the first general election when the BJP will be seeking another term after fulfilling its decades-old poll promises like the construction of the Ram Temple

in Ayodhya, scrapping exclusive privileges to J&K under Article 370, abolition of triple talaq, other historical milestones and full fill the much-awaited desires of the common masses that shows that Modi led government accomplishing goals in the last ten triumphant years of good governance.

Rohiin underlined that having delivered its key polls promises, BJP, under Modi, plans to reach out to the voters with a "pro-incumbency" theme highlighting how the party intends to make India a developed country by 2047, for which a countrywide campaign has been launched by the government to ensure saturation of welfare initiatives and ensuring last-mile delivery in a time-bound manner.

Rohiin remarked that "We all must contribute to making the Viksit Bharat campaign a grand success.

He added today citizens of India are moving forward and the people of the country want to maintain this momen-

tum. I call upon every youth of the country to become the ambassador of a developed India, Chandan said.

Rohiin Chandan encouraged the Bharatiya Janata Party under the umbrella of vibrant leader PM Modi's focus on appeasement, corruption, and nepotism has had an impact in different areas.

He said Modi Sarkar's achievements in areas like free foodgrain, vaccination, and the successful conduct of G-20 have influenced BJP's campaigns and may help in the LS polls and the chaos benefits BJP, and Modi is closer to equalling Nehru's record of three consecutive terms as PM.

# Samsung India ties up with Blinkit to deliver Galaxy S24 series in 10 minutes in select cities

JAMMU, Feb 6: Samsung, India's largest electronics company, today announced a tie-up with quick-commerce platform Blinkit to deliver its recently launched Galaxy S24 series in India.

Customers in Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and Mumbai can order Galaxy S24 Ultra, Galaxy S24+ and Galaxy S24 smartphones on Blinkit and get the phone delivered in less than 10 minutes. Customers buying the Galaxy S24 series on Blinkit can avail an instant cashback of Rs 5000 if the purchase is done through HDFC Bank credit card.

The tie-up with Blinkit will help Samsung cater



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

More than 250,000 customers in India pre-booked a Galaxy S24 smartphone in just three days since January 18. 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.

AI 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 comes with gesture-driven 'Circle to Search' feature.

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.

# Week-long Skill Development Workshop on Mountaineering concluded at JU

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: The week long Skill Development Workshop on Mountaineering concluded at University of Jammu here today organized by Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu under the aegis of SIIEDC and RUSA.

More than 300 participants including students, staff members of the different departments of JU and affiliated colleges of Jammu University participated in the workshop. During this workshop, Sh. Pranav Bandral Director Pir Panjal Adventures and his entire team delivered training lectures on different topics like hiking, climbing, CPR, rappelling, river crossing, food hunting skills, tent pitching and other mountaineering skills were taken apart from these two

days field training on above mentions topic were imparted.

Prof. Prakash C. Anthal, Dean Student's Welfare was chief guest on the occasion while as Prof. Alka Sharma Director SIIEDC University of Jammu and Prof. Satya Paul Coordinator RUSA were the guests of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Prakash Anthal shared his experience with the participants. "Mountain climbing is an expedition that brings you closer to nature and helps you connect with it closely. It is an activity that teaches a lot about facing challenges and overcoming our fears," he added

Appreciating the efforts of Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, Prof. Prakash Anthal said that Since Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba have taken

over the charge of the department, there has been scores of activities to explore the hidden talent of the youths living in far off areas.

Prof. Alka Sharma Director SIIEDC, University of Jammu in her address said that the workshop SIIEDC and Directorate of Sports has organized, the outcome of the work shop is very encouraging. "Such programs will be organized in future also to involve more youths in mountaineering and hiking expeditions". Moreover she also requested the Directorate that a proposal must be sent to SIIEDC for initiating the certificate course on Mountaineering.

Prof. Dipankar Sen Gupta also lauded the efforts and initiatives of the Directorate of Sports & Physical Education for organizing these types of adventur-

ous activities and involving the young minds towards the healthy life. These types of activities also encourage the students to help the society in a better way.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan Anand, Principal GDC Sidhra, Dr. Maghna Dhar Department of Library and Information Science addressed the gathering with their remarkable words.

Dr. Rakesh Chib President JUNTEA also requested the Director to organize such activities for faculty and staff also.

Earlier, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu presented the detailed report about the workshop. He said all kindness and efforts to participate in this workshop and getting along with the tough training with the tough schedule. "I

am convinced that the most valuable outcome of this training workshop is getting together with each participant," he said adding that several important insights and action items were accomplished through this workshop.

"The basic idea of organising this workshop is to familiarize with the concept of adventure sports in and around Jammu province under the jurisdiction of University of Jammu" Dr. Daud added. Participants expressed their views about the seminar and thanked the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education for organising such events.

Those present were Irfan Goni, Dr. Mandheep Singh, Vimal Kishore, Raj Kumar Bakshi, Sanjeev Kumar, Manu Singh Pawar, Inderjeet Singh, Rishiv Sharma, Richa Mandla, Jeevan Kumar and Manjeet Kotwal.

# PG Department of Commerce organizes field visit to J&K Bank for students

JAMMU, Feb 6: P. G. Department of Commerce organized an insightful field visit to J&K Bank (Town Hall Branch) on February 6th, 2024, exclusively for the students of M Com fourth semester. The visit aimed at providing the students with a practical understanding of financial operations and management.

Under the guidance of Rakesh Gupta, Branch Head, J&K Bank (Town Hall), students had the opportunity to interact with industry professionals, which delve into various facets of banking & finance, gaining firsthand experience in areas such as investment banking, risk management, credit analysis and financial advisory services.

The hands-on-experience provides a unique opportunity for the students to bridge the gap between theoretical



class learning and real world applications in the dynamic field of finance enhancing their understanding of the subjects.

Rakesh Gupta expressed his enthusiasm for the field study of the students and felt delighted to nurture the next generation of finance professionals.

Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Head of the Department congratulated the students and emphasized the significance of such initiatives in preparing students for successful careers in finance.

This field study programme not only complements our rigorous academic curriculum

but also equips our students with the practical skill and insights necessary to thrive in today's competitive financial landscape.

The students had enriching experiential learning about financial management in a dynamic business environment. Dr. Jeevan Jyoti expressed her gratitude to J&K Bank for their warm hospitality and willingness to contribute to the education and professional development of future business leaders. Such initiatives play a crucial role in preparing students for the challenges of the corporate world.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Opposition members seek timeline for holding Assembly Polls in J&K

least give a tentative timeline for holding the democratic exercise.

BJP member from Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma said the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill would ensure justice to the other backward classes (OBCs) in the UT.

Chhinta Anuradha (YSRCP) said this is a progressive legislation and would help streamline the election process in the local bodies, including panchayats.

Moving the bill for discussion, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said after the abrogation of Article 370, the OBCs in J-K, who were being ignored earlier, have been put on the path of development.

This bill will ensure justice to the OBCs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Currently, there is no provision for reservation of seats for OBCs in panchayats and municipalities in the Union territory.

### Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi is New Vice Chief of Army Staff

Team at Lesotho, Brigadier General Staff (Operations) of a Corps in the Eastern Theatre, Additional Director General Military Intelligence and Director General Military Intelligence at Army HQ.

### Key conspirator of terror module busted in Kupwara arrested in New Delhi

Station-Karnah, Kupwara (J&K) was registered and under investigation", reads the

statement.

"These arms and ammunition were sent by POK based LeT Terrorist handlers namely Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh @ Shakoor S/o Wali Mohammad Seikh R/o Gabra Karnah and Qazi Mohammad Khushal S/o Qazi Syed Yaseen R/o Dhanni Karnah. Both were operating from across the border. Further, it was informed that the alleged Riyaz Ahmad is absconding and would shortly reach New Delhi Railway Station in the wee hours", reads the statement.

"Sensing the gravity of the matter, a team comprising of Insp. Vishwanath Paswan SHO/NDRS, SI Naseeb Singh, ASI Yadram, ASI Sushil, HC Jaiveer and HC Gaurav were constituted and immediately deployed at all the entry/exits and strategic points of New Delhi Railway Station. The alert staff acted promptly and identified the alleged Riyaz Ahmad in the crowd and apprehended him, when he was trying to flee from Exit Gate no 1, of New Delhi Railway Station in the early morning hours. The alleged was subjected to intensive interrogation, and it was revealed that he along with his friend Altaf had boarded Mahakaushal Express from Jabalpur and reached Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station at about 3:00 PM on 03.02.2024. From there they took an auto and reached NDRS. Riyaz Ahmad Rather was about to go to some other hideout."

"Alleged Riyaz Ahmad is suspected of having received a consignment of arms and ammunition from Khursheed Ahmad Rather S/o Lt Mohd. Yousuf Rather R/o New Gabra Karnah Kupwara J&K and Ghulam Sarwar Rather S/o Mohd Yousuf Rather R/o New Gabra Karnah Kupwara both already arrested by J&K Police. Accused Riyaz Ahmad and his friend Altaf have been retired from Indian Army on 31.01.2023", the statement reads.

"One mobile phone and one SIM card has been recovered from his possession. Accused Riyaz Ahmad has been arrested

under appropriate sections of law and Police Officials of concerned Police Station of J&K have been informed for further necessary action at their end", reads the statement adding further investigation is continued to unearth the whole conspiracy.

### Sopore man, injured in scuffle with brother 2 days ago, succumbs in Srinagar hospital

the altercation is a Hafiz-e-Quran.

A senior police officer stated to News Agency Kashmir Scroll that an investigation is underway to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident. The officer added that the police is currently cross-referencing various reports and will provide more information to the media after a thorough investigation has been completed.

### Severe cold in Kashmir; Pahalgam shivers at minus 11.0°C, Gulmarg at minus 10.5°C

normal by 3.8°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 6.0°C and it was below normal by 3.5°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of minus 1.8°C, Batote minus 0.3°C and Bhadernah minus 1.8°C, he said.

Regarding the forecast, the MeT official said that weather is expected to be dry till February 13.

As 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harsh period of winter ended on January 29, Kashmir is presently in the middle of 20-day-long winter period called 'Chillai-Khurud' that ends on February 19 and is followed by a 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) which starts from February 20 to March 1.

### Police attaches property of notorious drug peddler in Kulgam

acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Police. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddler. The notorious drug peddler is currently under detention at Kote-Bhalwal Jammu under PIT-NDPS Act.

This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area hailed the initiative of Police with regard to the attachment of immovable properties which has been raised/used from illicit trafficking of narcotics by the drug peddler in the district Kulgam.

### KPSG welcomes 3 day visit of NHRC to Kashmir, plans open public hearing on HR violations

Dr MM Ansari the Convenor said, "Taken the ground level claims of Union government and LG administration -this is the opportune time to give legitimate right to democracy to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and end the prolonged governor rule. The constitutionalism that our Country practices the democracy through an adult franchise is a rule and governor rule is an exception."

The elections to the legislature can be held along with the ensuing parliamentary elections. The honourable Supreme Court has also commanded the elections to be held not later than September 2024.

Former governor BK Singh and veteran journalist HK Dua said -The honourable Supreme Court in its legal and institutional wisdom has shown a way forward :

While delivering the unanimous judgment on the jurisprudence on the inoperability of Article 370 of the Constitution.

The Judges have empathically held a view that social fabric is waning and inter generational trauma has already fractured the Kashmiri Society.

Serious efforts are necessary in order to heal the wounds and make a forward movement and restore coexistence, tolerance, mutual respect and communal & societal harmony.

KPSG said that the institution of the National Human Rights Commission is a protector of human rights should live upto its jurisprudential mandate to expeditiously take cognisance of human rights situation and investigate and report on the human rights violations by non state and state actors perpetrated in Jammu & Kashmir at least since 1980s and recommend measures for reconciliation.

NHRC shall before the memories fade and escape, exercise its powers and act in a time bound frame and present the recommendations to set right the grievances of the victims.

Chairman Bhan hopes that a loud and clear message from NHRC shall be that NHRC's efforts as an internationally accomplished protective institution shall be seen as a "healing process and unifying factor " for varied sections of the fractured society that lay devastated by death & destruction phenomenon and shattered by the turbulence for last 35 years.

### IPS officer Rajiv Omprakash Pande posted as DIG Central Kashmir

posted as DIG, Central Kashmir Range, against an available vacancy, relieving Shri Altaf Ahmad Khan, IPS of the additional charge of the said post," an order reads.

## Paytm, Jio Financial Services dismiss reports on wallet acquisition talks

*Paytm said the reports are 'speculative, baseless and factually incorrect'*

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Paytm and Jio Financial Services Ltd have dismissed reports that they are negotiating acquisition of Paytm wallet.

"We have always made and will continue to make disclosures in compliance with our obligations," Jio Financial Services Ltd said in a statement to the exchanges.

Calling reports about the acquisition "speculative, baseless and factually incorrect," Paytm's parent company One97 Communications Ltd



stated, "We have not been in any negotiations in this regard. We have

been informed by Paytm Payments Bank Limited, our associate company,

that they also have not been in any negotiations in this regard."

This comes after Hindu Business Line reported that HDFC Bank and Jio Financial Services are the top contenders to acquire Paytm wallet, adding that Jio Financial Services has also applied for approval to conduct mutual fund activities in collaboration with BlackRock Financial Management.

On January 31, the RBI informed asked the Paytm Payments Bank to stop accepting fresh deposits and credit transactions after February 29.

## Sensex, Nifty trade firm on buying in IT stocks

MUMBAI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices climbed in early trade on Tuesday amid buying in IT majors, mainly Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys along with fresh foreign fund inflows.

After a firm beginning, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 243.4 points to 71,974.82 in early trade. The Nifty went up by 72.9 points to 21,844.60.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services, Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies, Wipro, Maruti, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors, Hindustan Unilever and Mahindra & Mahindra were the

major gainers.

Bharti Airtel climbed over 2 per cent after the company on Monday posted 54 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,442.2 crore for the December quarter, mainly on account of growth in high value customers.

Power Grid, NTPC, Axis Bank and JSW Steel were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo quoted in the negative territory while Shanghai and Hong Kong traded in the green.

The US markets ended lower on Monday. "The positive takeaway is that the US economy is doing surprisingly

well and a sharp global slowdown triggered by a possible US recession is very unlikely," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 518.88 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark declined by 354.21 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 71,731.42 on Monday. The Nifty fell by 82.10 points or 0.38 per cent to close at 21,771.70.

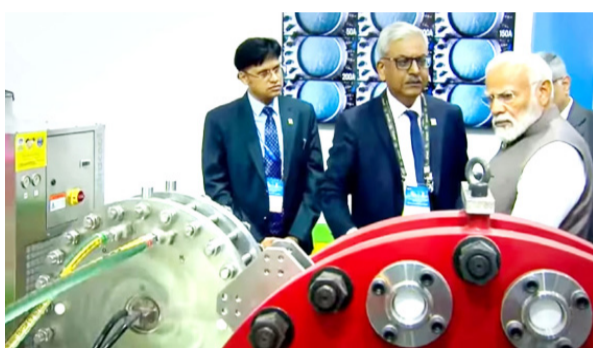
Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.08 per cent to USD 78.05 a barrel.

## India-Qatar LNG term contract likely to be extended for 20 years at a lower rate

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): India Qatar Gas Deal: India and Qatar are likely to ink a deal on Tuesday (February 6) to extend the supply of 7.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for another 20 years beyond 2028, sources in the know told The Indian Express. The agreement to extend the supply contract is likely to be inked at the India Energy Week in Goa.

As per the information available, the renewed contract is expected to be at a lower price than the present deal.

The current term contract between Petronet LNG and Qatar Gas is the biggest in India by supply volumes and is set to expire in the year 2028. Negotiations for extending the supply contract had been going



on for some time with involvement from the governments of the two countries.

LNG in the existing contract is priced at a slope of 12.67 per cent of Brent crude oil futures and a fixed charge of 52 cents per million British thermal unit (mBtu). According to sources, the fixed charge may not be there in the renewed contract, even as the slope to Brent may be in the same range. Additionally, the renewed contract will see supplies on the

delivered ex-ship (DES) basis, instead of the current free on board (FOB) basis. In DES, shipping is arranged by the seller, while in FOB, it is arranged by the buyer. Moving to DES deliveries is expected to lower the landed price of LNG under the contract further.

India wants to increase the share of natural gas in its primary energy mix to 15 per cent by 2030 from a little over 6 per cent at present. The country already depends on LNG

imports to meet around half of its gas demand, and as demand grows, imports of the natural gas are also set to grow.

World's largest exporter of LNG, Qatar, accounts for over half of India's imports. India imported a total of 19.85 million tonnes of LNG in 2022-23 (FY23), of which 10.74 million tonnes, or 54 per cent, came from Doha, as per India's official trade data. India's total imports from Qatar in FY23 were valued at \$16.81 billion, of which LNG imports alone were worth \$8.32 billion, or 49.5 per cent of the overall imports from Doha.

Natural gas is seen as a significantly cleaner alternative to conventional petroleum fuels like diesel and petrol and is usually cheaper than crude oil.

## Vi Business launches IoT Smart Central, Self-Care Platform for IoT Asset Management

JAMMU, Feb 6: Vi Business, the enterprise arm of Vi, a leading telecom player and one of the largest IoT players in India, has launched Vi Business IoT Smart Central - a future-ready, fully integrated, self-care IoT connectivity and device management platform. The newly launched Vi Business IoT Smart Central platform empowers enterprises to control, monitor, and manage IoT assets remotely on a real-time basis.

Vi Business IoT Smart Central provides a comprehensive view of all IoT assets and enables enterprises to remotely manage and control the SIM lifecycle of everything from easy to complex projects across various industries such as automobiles, banking, utilities, and more. It offers real-time diagnosis and remote troubleshooting for any IoT

device installed in the system, with proactive alerts to avoid overlooking of mission critical issues. One of the key differentiators of Vi Business IoT Smart Central is that it empowers enterprises with a full-fledged dynamic billing model and tailored rate plans based on usage patterns using advanced analytics.

Expounding on the launch of this initiative, Amit Satpathy, EVP and Head IoT Business, Vodafone Idea said, "With the growing adoption of IoT, the next decade will see the development of a massive IoT ecosystem, enabling billions of connected devices. The launch of Vi Business IoT Smart Central is a natural progression to supplement our robust capabilities and leadership in India's IoT segment. This future-ready platform will enable

enterprises to harness the power of IoT to compete in a smart and connected world. The transformative end-to-end platform will give enterprises an edge to centrally manage, control, and monitor connectivity options for their IoT devices across industries and use cases. We appreciate the efforts taken by the government to create a conducive environment for the IoT growth story in India. Programs such as Digital India, Make in India, and initiatives such as the IoT Centre of Excellence (CoE) will further boost the adoption of IoT in the country." Providing a definite business edge to enterprises, Vi Business IoT Smart Central comes with predictive maintenance features to reduce operational downtime, thus improving tech efficiencies. Simultaneously, using

the portal's self-service capabilities, users can instantly raise and track query, request, and complaint (QRC) and get faster resolution within 48 hours.

Elaborating on the business benefits Vi Business IoT Smart Central have brought to the customers, Sandeep Kumar, Director, Revolt Motors said, "As an electric motorcycle leader in Indian market, we aim to lead the IoT technology and delivery best in class experience to our customers. To continue our competitive advantage, our IoT solution partner Vi Business plays a very critical role. They are instrumental in providing us with the most advanced future ready IoT Smart Central platform which enables us to seamlessly manage the end to end lifecycle of the IoT asset, from onboarding to in life operations.

## Yamaha Motor leads \$40 million funding in e-scooter startup River

MUMBAI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Electric scooter startup River on Tuesday announced it has raised USD 40 million (Rs 335 crore) in Series B funding led by Japan's Yamaha Motor Co. Ltd. The funds will be utilised for scaling up the distribution and service network, among others. "The investment is a significant boost for our plan to build a billion dollar global utility-lifestyle brand by 2030. We have built a great base in R&D and manufacturing over the last two years and now, it's time to grow," said Aravind Mani, Co-founder and CEO of River.

The company entered the domestic EV market with its first e-scooter, Indie, in October last year, and in January it opened its first River store in Bengaluru.

The Series B funding round also saw participation from existing investors AI-Futtaim Automotive, Lowercarbon Capital, Toyota Ventures and Maniv Mobility, River said.

With the latest capital infusion, the total funding secured by the company since its inception in March 2021 stands at USD 68-million (Rs 565 crores), according to River.

With this funding, the

company plans to scale the distribution and service network across the country and invest further in R&D for future lineup of products.

"The collaboration with Yamaha will help us leverage the design and technology capability that we have built at River," said Vipin George, Co-founder and Chief Product Officer, River.

The company said its maiden e-scooter, Indie, has been fully designed and developed at its R&D facility in Bengaluru and manufactured at its Hoskote manufacturing facility on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

## Foods that can help prevent breast cancer recurrence

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): An international study published in the journal JNCI Cancer Spectrum finds that consuming certain plant-based food can reduce the risk of breast cancer recurrence and death, especially in post-menopausal women.

Researchers reviewed 22 published studies that examined the



impact of phytonutrients found in soybeans, lignans (found in a variety of plants such as seeds, nuts, legumes, whole grains, fruits and vegetables), cruciferous vegetables (cabbage, cauliflower, etc.), and green tea on breast cancer recurrence and mortality as well as on mortality from all causes.

A high intake of soy isoflavones was associated with a 26 per cent reduction in breast cancer recurrence.

The greatest benefit came from a daily intake of 60 milligrams which is equivalent to two or

three cups of soy milk, three ounces of tofu or half a cup cooked soybeans, the study said. But the effect of soy consumption on breast cancer mortality risk was smaller—just 12 per cent.

Enterolactone, a compound which is formed in the gut when lignans are digested, reduced the risk of breast cancer mortality by 28 per cent and death from any cause by 31 per cent overall, and 35 per cent in postmenopausal women.

Flaxseeds, cashew nuts, broccoli and Brussels sprouts contain especially high levels of lignans.

Consuming three to five or more cups of green tea daily was associated with 44 per cent reduced risk of breast cancer recurrence in women with stage I or II breast cancer.

"It is critically important to stress that these studies were conducted on women who received medical and/or surgical treatment for breast cancer, and that these foods and phytonutrients should not be considered as alternatives to treatment," the study emphasised.

## Truecaller, Karnataka Govt collaborate to promote safety in digital communication



JAMMU, Feb 6: Truecaller, the leading global communications and Caller ID platform collaborates with the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeIT), Government of Karnataka to combat the growing incidents of cybercrime, impersonation, and fraud, and promote user safety in digital communication.

Forged in the presence of Priyank Kharge, Minister for Information Technology & Bio Technology and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj on the advent of Safer Internet Day, this initiative aims to empower citizens' cyber safety awareness and skills.

As a part of this collaboration, Truecaller will carry out a series of initiatives to create awareness and build the capacity of citizens

across the state to navigate the internet safely, and protect themselves from online harms, especially phone-based frauds and scams.

Speaking on the collaboration, Priyank Kharge, Minister for Information Technology & Bio Technology and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj said "This partnership underscores the Government of Karnataka's commitment to prioritizing the safety of our citizens in the digital ecosystem. Cybercrimes and fraud in digital communication are growing at a rapid pace with advancing technology thus exposing vulnerable citizens to high risk. The Government is taking proactive steps to increase awareness and promote safety in digital communications. Bengaluru is synonymous with innovation and is recognized

as a thriving tech hub. We take pride in adopting a collaborative approach to enhancing citizens' online safety here."

Sharing his thoughts on the initiative, Rishit Jhunjhunwala, Chief Product Officer and Managing Director, India at Truecaller said "We are delighted to collaborate with the Government of Karnataka to enhance digital safety in communication, empowering citizens to make the most of opportunities available to them in the digital world. Over the past year, our Government Directory Services feature has assisted over 31.2 million users in identifying verified calls from spam and fraud, while also helping them easily access helplines and key government numbers on the platform.

## Bengaluru cyclist dies of heart attack at 45

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): The death of Anil Kadsur, a 45-year-old cyclist and fitness trainer in Bengaluru, because of a heart attack, proves that physical fitness is not equivalent to cardiac fitness.

No matter how disciplined and compulsive you are about your fitness and think you can push your body, the endurance capacity of the heart depends

on many other factors. Excess physical activity can lead to cardiac complications when the exercise capacity of the heart is unknown. Nobody should cross 80 per cent of their maximum possible heart rate. Breaching this mark drastically increases the risk of a heart attack.

First of all, a physically fit person can have a heart attack if he has an underlying condition

or co-morbidities like diabetes, cholesterol, hypertension, blood pressure and family history. Under the presumption of being athletic, most active people usually do not undergo any evaluation, assuming all parameters are working fine. Any form of exercise keeps your weight in check, but cannot prevent plaque buildup or heart blockages if there are other triggers.

## Indian pitches mystify coach Rahul Dravid

VISAKHAPATNAM, Feb 6 (Agencies): India head coach Rahul Dravid said that the team management does not ask for rank turners while playing at home and it is tough to predict how a particular pitch would play out over the course of five days in a Test.

The previous series against England in 2021 and against Australia last year were played on raging turners with most games ending within three days. However, the first two Tests against England in the ongoing series have gone on for four days.

While Hyderabad was a slow turner, Vizag surface remained flat for the major part of the match.

Dravid is someone who is regular with his pitch inspections before and during the game and a lot of times in between sessions as well.

His long-time teammate Sourav Ganguly recently said



that India don't need to play on rank turners as they have a well-balanced bowling attack.

Asked if more pitches like Vizag could be seen in the next three Tests, Dravid said he was clueless on the subject like anybody else.

"Curators make the pitches. We don't ask for rank turners. Obviously, tracks in India would spin, how much they'll spin, how less they'll spin. I'm not

an expert. I sometimes get told they'll turn on the third day, but they turn on the first day. Sometimes I get told they'll turn on the second day and they don't turn till Day 4," Dravid said.

"So, I'm sometimes as clueless as anybody else. We look at the wicket and we try and do the best we can on what we get. We go to Rajkot, we'll see what we can get and play with whatever we get in front of," he

added.

Praise for England  
England's refreshing approach to Test cricket has found an admirer in Dravid, who expects tough cricket in the remaining three matches between the sides.

The former India captain appreciated England's approach, built around swashbuckling batting, to a format he held close to his heart. "I'm not sure how happy they are about the term, but they are playing really good cricket, let's be honest about it," Dravid said. "It's not wild slogging, they are actually showing some very good skills. Some of the shots they are playing require a lot of skills and ability. You can't just come and execute those things."

Dravid said England's approach was not one-dimensional. "There's more to it than just attacking cricket. I have seen at times they know when to pull back, when to attack," he added.

## Harmanpreet Singh hopes young guns learn to fire



BHUBANESWAR, Feb 6 (Agencies): Captain Harmanpreet Singh wants the young players to get familiar with the playing styles of the best teams in the world during the FIH Pro League, and hoped the country would seal a direct qualification for the 2026 World Cup with a title-winning run here.

The Indian team arrived here today to participate in the Pro League scheduled at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium from February 10 to 16 and Birsa Munda

Hockey Stadium in Rourkela from February 19 to 25.

India narrowly missed out on a podium finish in the previous season, finishing fourth behind Netherlands, Great Britain and Belgium.

"We have just come back from a successful tour in South Africa where we played against France, South Africa, and the Netherlands to begin the Pro League in the best shape possible," Harmanpreet said. "A few young players have been included in the squad this time and this will be a great opportunity for them to familiarise themselves with the play style of some of the best teams in the world."

Five national teams — Ireland, Netherlands, India, Spain and Australia — will participate in the India leg of the Pro League, facing each other once in Bhubaneswar and once in Rourkela. "We are taking the Pro League very seriously as winning it would not only mean direct qualification for the World Cup but these games will also be crucial in the build-up to the Paris 2024 Olympics," Harmanpreet said.

## AUS vs WI: Shai Hope 'can't make sense' as Australia hammer West Indies, chasing 87 in just 6.5 overs

CANBERRA, Feb 6 (Agencies): West Indies captain Shai Hope was lost for words, unable to fathom what went wrong as the tourists suffered a humbling 8-wicket defeat in the 3rd and final ODI of their series in Australia in Canberra on February 6. West Indies were bundled out for just 86 and Australia chased down the target in 6.5 overs, exposing the lack of fighting spirit from the Shai Hope-led touring side against the world champions.

It was disappointing for the West Indies as the 3-0 whitewash in the ODI series came days after they scripted a historic Test match win in Brisbane, riding on pacer Shamar Joseph's heroics.

The West Indies, having been put into bat after Australia won the toss, succumbed to a relentless Australian bowling attack. Xavier Bartlett, continuing his golden summer with the ball, was the chief architect of the visitors' downfall, claiming an impressive 4 for 21. His efforts contributed to the West Indies being bundled out for a paltry 86 runs

in just 24.1 overs, marking their fifth-lowest ODI total and second-lowest against Australia in the 50-over format of the game.

"Not sure if we can make sense of it, our batters let us down. We need to do some real searching. Can't put your finger on one thing, comes down to mindset. Few things we can look at but we didn't bat as well as we should have. Keacy (Carty) played really well, he should take a lot of confidence, Roston Chase also played well. We must take the positives with us to negate the negatives," Shai Hope said on Tuesday.

With a modest target of 87 runs set before them, the Australian batsmen approached the chase with a ferocity that left spectators at Manuka Oval and viewers worldwide in awe. The innings commenced with a barrage of boundaries as openers Josh Inglis and Jake Fraser-McGurk unleashed a torrent of strokes that saw the team race to their fastest 50 in men's ODIs since 2002.

Fraser-McGurk, in particular, showcased an explosive display of batting, hammering 41 runs off a mere 18 balls. His innings, studded with three sixes in a single over, set the tone for what was to become a historic day for Australian cricket. The hosts required a mere 6.5 overs to reach the target, leaving a staggering 259 balls to spare - the most in their ODI history.

This remarkable victory, completed in just over half an hour of play, was the shortest men's ODI ever played on Australian soil in terms of deliveries bowled. It was a day when the Australian team demonstrated their dominance in the 50-over format, recording their 12th consecutive win and leaving the West Indies in disarray, reflecting on a series of performances they would rather forget.

The two teams will meet in a 3-match T20I series from February 9 to 13 in Hobart, Adelaide and Perth and the tourists will certainly hope for a better showing there.

## Magical Bumrah was difference between two sides in 2nd Test, says former England captain Nasser Hussain

LONDON, Feb 6 (Agencies): The magical first innings spell by Jasprit Bumrah was the difference between India and England in the just-concluded second Test, according to former England captain Nasser Hussain, who said the visitors were powerless against the Indian pacer's genius.

India's go-to bowler in all formats, Bumrah displayed brilliance with the ball to play a key role in the team's series-leveling 106-run win.

The pacer put up a reverse swing masterclass in England's first innings that yielded him six wickets (6/45), following it up with a three-wicket haul in their second essay for match figures of 9 for 91.

"I think, really, it was just the magic of Jasprit Bumrah that was the difference. He got three-for today (Monday), but it was that incredible



spell in the first innings, 6-45, that blew away England for 253 on a really good, flat pitch," Hussain wrote in his column for 'Sky Sports'. Bumrah's bowling and young Yashasvi Jaiswal's first innings double ton were the highlights of India's win in Visakhapatnam.

Hussain felt that England could do nothing but "doff their cap" to the genius of Bumrah.

"Sometimes you can be critical of your own

team, look at your performance and say, 'what could we do better?' But sometimes you also have to just doff your cap to the opposition and say they were touched by genius."

"That's exactly what happened. That spell from Bumrah in England's first innings was genius. Reverse swing, with his slightly unorthodox action and the way he leans across to the offside, he creates angles," he added.

Bumrah dismissed Joe Root for the eighth time in Test cricket before producing a ripping yorker that bamboozled an in-form Ollie Pope in England's first innings.

"He's all over Joe Root at the moment - he's got him out eight times in Test cricket - and he got Ollie Pope with an absolute beauty of an in-swinging yorker."

"He also bowled Ben Stokes round the wicket, who dropped his bat in disbelief."

Series set up perfectly ahead of third Test  
Hussain feels England should be prepared for an even stronger hit-back from the hosts in the remaining three Tests.

"It is set up perfectly, with three Tests to play. I think it will be a tight series but England are going to have to expect India to come back even harder."

In the opening two

Tests, India were without the services of Virat Kohli, who opted out due to personal reasons and the injured Mohammed Shami.

The hosts suffered another blow when Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul were ruled out of the second Test as well.

"India have missed quite a few key players so far. Mohammad Shami, I think, is out for the series, Ravi Jadeja could well be out for another Test match and Virat Kohli has been out of the first two. We are talking about some serious cricketers there."

"Kohli may well come back in, KL Rahul also, so I would expect a stronger Indian side in those last three games of the series. England will know that they're going to have to up their game," Hussain said.

The third Test will begin in Rajkot on February 15.

## WPL 2024: Michael Klinger replaces Rachael Haynes as Gujarat Giants head coach

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Michael Klinger has replaced Rachael Haynes as the new head coach of the Gujarat Giants ahead of the 2024 edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL).

Klinger has joined mentor Mithali Raj and bowling coach Nooshin Al Khadeer in the coaching staff. He recently coached the Sydney Thunder, who advanced to the playoffs in the 2023 edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL).

Klinger sounded excited about his appointment and was looking forward to working with Mithali, one of India's greatest batters across men's and women's cricket.

"The Gujarat Giants have a chance to do something special in Season two of the Women's Premier League. I'm eagerly looking forward to working with cricketering legend Mithali Raj, who has played a transformative role in women's cricket in India. I hope to take the team to ultimate glory," Klinger said.

While coaching the Thunder, Klinger also worked with young left-handed batter Phoebe Litchfield, who was bought by the Giants in the auction at a whopping price of INR 1 crore.

"Working with Michael will help bring out the best in the Gujarat Giants players. His expertise with the bat is also



well-known, and will surely benefit some of the younger members of our team. We look forward to having Klinger in the dressing room. We are sure of attaining success with him as head coach," Mithali said.

Klinger played 206 T20s from 2006 to 2019 and scored 5960 runs at an average of 34.45 and a strike-rate of 123.08 with 8 hundreds and 33 fifties.

Klinger also played 3 T20Is for Australia, scoring 143 runs at an average of 47.66 with a top score of 62 to his name.

The Giants finished at the bottom of the season last time, winning only 2 out of 8 matches.

They will begin their campaign in the upcoming season against defending champions Mumbai Indians on Sunday, February 25 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore.

## NZ vs SA: Kane Williamson hits twin hundreds as New Zealand stretch lead past 500 against helpless South Africa

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Kane Williamson followed his century in the first innings with another as New Zealand led South Africa by 528 runs with six second-innings wickets in hand at stumps Tuesday on the third day of the first Test.

Williamson became only the fifth New Zealander after Glenn Turner, Geoff Howarth, Andrew Jones and Peter Fulton to score centuries in each innings of a Test. He scored 118 in New Zealand's first innings of 511 - his 30th Test century - and added his 31st on Tuesday before being dismissed for 109 close to stumps.

Williamson took 241 balls to reach a century on the first day but only 125 balls to repeat the feat as New Zealand piled on runs after choosing not to enforce the follow-on.

He finally was out stumped by Clyde Forstun from the bowling of Neil Brand chasing runs, only the third time Williamson has been dismissed in that manner in 97 Tests. At stumps, New Zealand were 179 for 4 with Daryl Mitchell on 11 and Tom Blundell on 5.

"I think it's only the (fifth) time in New Zealand history that a player has got two centuries in one match," New Zealand head coach

Gary Stead said.

"So it's pretty special to be part of. He's been an incredible player for us and just keeps churning out the runs."

ALL-ROUND RACHIN SHINES

Rachin Ravindra couldn't follow his maiden double century in the first innings with another but he added his first two wickets in tests as New Zealand bowled out South Africa for 162 in reply to its first innings of 511, a first-innings lead of 349.

With its seam bowlers fully rested after sharing 42 overs in the South Africa innings, New Zealand should be in a position to declare on the fourth day with time available to bowl out South Africa for a second time.

The pitch at Bay Oval has flattened out but could be difficult in the fourth innings if it cracks after four days under a hot sun. Ravindra (2-16) and left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner (3-34) shared five wickets Tuesday as the pitch showed signs of turn.

South Africa resumed Tuesday at 80-4 and was in deeper trouble when it lost three wickets before lunch, including two in one over bowled by seamer Matt Henry.

David Bedingham was 29 not out overnight

and fell to Henry on 32 while Ruan de Swardt fell lbw for a duck two balls later. The New Zealand seamers bowled wicket to wicket, keeping the lbw in play on a relatively unresponsive pitch.

Santner and Ravindra then wrapped up the South Africa innings. Fortuin fell to Santner before lunch at which South Africa was 129-7. Ravindra dismissed Keegan Petersen (45) for his first wicket in Tests.

Petersen was the best of the South Africa batters, staying at the crease for almost three hours and facing 132 balls. Santner dismissed Tshupo Moreki and Ravindra bowled Dane Paterson to end the innings.

New Zealand has been disinclined to enforce the follow-on in recent years, often taking into consideration the workload that already has fallen on its bowlers.

With more than seven sessions still at its disposal, New Zealand captain Tim Southee recognized there was still plenty of time available for his batters to take the match completely away from South Africa and for his bowlers to dismiss the tourists for a second time.

## England, After 2nd Test Loss In 5-Match Series, To Leave India. This Is The Reason

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): The touring England team will head back to their pre series base, Abu Dhabi, for a much-needed break during which Ben Stokes and Co will also indulge in some golf before returning in time for the third Test in Rajkot, starting from February 15. The visiting team has decided to go to Abu Dhabi to utilize the 10-day break between the second and third Test.

The second Test in Hyderabad ended with a day to spare as hosts India, having lost the series opener, staged a remarkable comeback here to level the rubber at 1-1.

England prepared for the highly anticipated Test series against India with an extensive conditioning camp in Abu Dhabi instead of arriving in the subcontinent early for practice matches.

During the Abu Dhabi camp prior to the series, the England team spent a lot of time working on ways to tackle the Indian spinners.

While they rallied to emerge winners in the opener, the English batters were blown away by Jasprit Bumrah's brilliant exhibition of reverse swing bowling in the first innings of the second Test before succumbing in a record 399-run chase to a dis-

ciplined Indian bowling unit in their second innings.

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

Resuming at 194 for six, England lost the remaining four wickets in the post-lunch session to be bowled out in 69.2 overs as India levelled the rubber.

## Senior Citizens Service Support Club presents Dogri play Comrade Dhanwantri

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: The Senior Citizens Service Support Club presented play Comrade Dhanwantri in Dogri language at its premises at Chowadi.

The play was written and directed by Rajneesh Gupta, a well-known face in the field of culture.

The play was an outcome of research work by the writer on the lone Dogra freedom fighter Comrade Dhanwantri about whom we the Jammuites do not know very much.

Dhanwantri was an associate of Bhagat Singh and Chander Shekhar Azad. He spent his whole life for the welfare of people and in



jails, mainly Kaala Paani for more than 6 years and in other jails too for more than 6 years. He was an extremist and fought bravely with Britishers for the cause of his countrymen.

In the play, the role of Dhanwantri was excellently performed by Amit

Bhalla, a talented young man of the city.

Lala Lajpat Rai was played by seasoned & very senior artist of J&K Mandan Rangila.

Rekha Sharma did four different roles diligently while Vinay Dagger was dashing as a cruel Englishman.

Tarun Charak a young and talented artist & National scholarship holder by the Ministry of Culture, played the role of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh with a very impressive manner & enthralled the audience.

The role of Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi was played by Talented & Energetic Theatre Artist of Jammu Pawan Verma (J&K State Awardee) and the role of Chander Shekhar Azad was played by young & Energetic artist of Jammu Rishab Manhas. The other artists who also gave scintillating performances, were Harbans Lal, Savita Khajuria, Tarun Sharma, Avinash Lakhnotra, Shiv

Vohra, Sudesh Kumar and Deepak Sharma. The artistic makeup was done by Shammi Dameer and music was handled and executed by Yuvraj Gupta.

Prominent among the audience, who witnessed the play, included Dr Kasturi Lal Gupta, Chairman of the club and former Principal GMC; Ashok Gupta, President of the club; Maj Gen S K Sharma, General Secretary of the club, Raj Bharti, Chairman, Viraj Kala Kendra; Pushpa Bharti, Usha Gupta, Executive Trustee, Lajwanti Medical Trust, O.P Sharma, Senior Journalist, Padam Dev Singh, Assistant Prof., Dogri Department, Jammu University & others.

## KP delegation calls on Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner J&K

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: A delegation of prominent socio-political leaders of Kashmiri Pandit community from all Camps and Non Camps of Jammu called on Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani at his office chamber in Jammu on Tuesday to discuss and deliberate upon the genuine problems being faced by all the migrants living in exile for last more than thirty four years under the leadership M.K Yogi Senior leader of the Community.

Yogi apprised new Commissioner with the pertinent problems of the community like long pending demand of enhancement of monthly cash assistance from Rs. 13000 to Rs.25000 per month, allotment of accommodation to PM package employees working in valley who live on rent basis outside transit camps, implementation of migrant immovable Property Act 1997 in letter and spirit, construction of more quarters in Jammu for non camp migrants who live still on rent in different parts of Jammu and udhampur.

Yogi appealed newly appointed officer to seriously take up all these issues with Lt. Governor J&K for early resolution, being the nodal agency of all migrants.

While welcoming the newly appointed Relief



Commissioner, Vinod Pandita and Vishal Jotshi Socio prominent Political activists apprised the newly appointed Commissioner about the genuine problems being faced by the community in exile like the formation of a concrete-time bound Rehabilitation Policy for Kashmiri Pandits back in valley, creation of new 10 ten thousand posts in different departments for educated unemployed migrant youth as unemployment is on rise in the community.

Pandita appealed the Relief Commissioner to take up these important issues with the concerned Higher ups for early resolution being the nodal agency of migrants. Pintoo Ji, Ashwani Bhat and Tej Dhar prominent KP activists while welcoming the newly appointed Commissioner apprised the Relief Commissioner about the genuine problems of camps like better provisions of regular supply of drinking water, electricity in all camps in Jammu, internal repairment of Quarters, allotment of

130 shops to deserving people in Jagti, adequate supply of medicines in Jagti Hospital, maintenance of inter link roads, Parks etc in Jagti township, releasing of withheld three hundred relief holder category ration cards etc. as well appealed to new RC Jammu to address the above listed problems on priority.

Dr. T.K. Bhat, Dr. Romesh Bhat, Ashok Dhar, S.L.Koul, B.L.Dhar, Anil Bhan, Vijay Kumar Mahajan, Ashok Sumbli, Ram Rattan and others highlighted the problems of Muthi and Purkhoo migrant Camps like better provisions of regular supply of drinking water in all camps of Muthi, Buta Nagar and Purkhoo Jammu, internal repairment of Quarters, construction of Shops in Muthi Camp, Camp school issues, regular Sanitation in all migrant Camps, quick disposal of public issues in RC office and at Zones etc.

Relief Commissioner expressed gratitude to the delegates and assured them that he would leave no stone unturned in mitigating the sufferings of the displaced community. Dr. Riyaz Ahmed and Ritika Arora ACR Relief were also present in the meeting

In the end, a vote of thanks was presented by M.K. Yogi senior leader of the community.

## KDP Wing of DPAP demands creation of employment avenues for Kashmiri displaced youth

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) J&K I President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, Raj Kumar Tickoo General Secretary, Naveen Gosani Youth President and Rahul Raina Youth Vice President along with other members in statement issued has put forth demands before the Govt.of India as well as Govt.of J&K for earliest consideration to the Kashmiri Displaced educated youth from starvation.

They demanded reservation of 5 percent employment quota in J&K U.T for Kashmiri Displaced Hindu Youth, being the community falling in Minority category of Kashmir Valley, besides reservation for said youth in Central Government Employment.

They also demanded creation of two special police recruitment Battalions in J&K Police among low educated youth of Kashmiri Displaced People, with relaxation of recruitment norms, as was done before two decades, who can

besides employment can guard the security well in Valley to curb anti- National elements and will become a bridge of the resettlement rehabilitation policy for Exiled People back in valley.

They further demanded creation of direct reserved employment avenues in Private Sector of Valley for Technical educated youth of Kashmiri Displaced Hindus, to attract them back to Valley, as a part of return policy.; Providing of subsidised loan schemes for over aged educated youth with relaxation of all norms for extending of Trade and Private earning Units, but in Valley, to add the return Policy of exiled youth; Providing of Govt. Subsidised Commercial light vehicles as stands provided in Kashmir Valley for ensuring earnings to the displaced youth, as various candidates/people are interested to get the same; Providing of monthly stipend to the unemployed youth of Kashmiri Displaced People who are highly educated but idle Ness is leading them towards starvation, frustration, till they get employment avenues; Creation of such an scheme for

the youth of Displaced People, so that the thousands of youth having undergone Engineering in Different Trades, can serve in Valley Private or Govt. Sector Projects, requires to be called back through any new scheme, so that the progress of development in each sector get encouraged and it also will add a good factor to return policy; providing of a special employment scheme in shape of self help group projects for Kashmiri Hindu Exiled educated daughters at Jammu especially in Camps with special financial help and other facilities, either through Social Welfare, or through other such agencies.

All KDP wing leaders have appealed all unemployed low and highly educated youth to unite and to avoid every evil, to strengthen the Society and to help for getting employment avenues created, for which a good road map will be devised on which the Youth wing of KDP Wing of DPAP will lead as front liner and has thanked all youth for their full cooperation at each stage, especially in organising various sports events.

## Despite foundation stone, Amarnath Yatri Niwas construction is yet to take off even after 27 months: Shiv Sena

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit strongly condemned the indifferent attitude of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board towards the construction work of Shri Amarnath Base Camp at Jammu and called for taking forward the construction work of Base Camp from the foundation stone.

In a press conference organized at the party state office here today, state chief Manish Sahni said that the grand temple of Lord Shri Ram has been inaugurated in Ayodhya in about three years.

But the construction work of the base camp for the pilgrims coming for the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra in Jammu has not progressed beyond the foundation stone in the last 27 months which proves that today vote bank politics has taken place under the guise of religion.

Sahni said that in Sidhra on the outskirts of Jammu in November 2021, the foundation stone was laid by the Lieutenant Governor

of Jammu and Kashmir and once again on 6th June 2023, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha jointly offered prayers with full rituals and laid the foundation stone.

For this, he said, financial allocation of Rs 51 crore was provided by ONGC and construction of base camp for 30,000 pilgrims, emergency medical facilities, disaster management centre, 54 rooms and 18 dormitories, a kitchen and a restaurant along with passenger accommodation was announced but there is nothing except heaps of filth at the designated site, seeing which the religious sentiments of Hindus are being hurt.

Sahni said that the round of meetings has started by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board regarding Yatra management and facilities for the Yatra 2024.

He appealed to the Chairman of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to start the construction work of Yatri Niwas with immediate effect.

## JSS triumphs in Exemplary Recognition for Dedication to Sustainable Development Goals



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Jammu Sanskriti School (JSS) Jammu announced the well-earned acclaim bestowed upon Rohini Aima, Principal cum Vice-Chairperson, and Meena Kumari, Coordinator Middle Wing.

The steadfast devotion and visionary leadership of Rohini Aima has been instrumental in propelling JSS towards the attainment of UN sustainable development goals which address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

The pinnacle moment arrived as JSS was honored with the esteemed Health and Wellness Award and Nature Conservation Award at a ceremony hosted by Go sharpener in Delhi on February 3, 2024.

This accolade stands as a manifestation of the institution's dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.

The jubilation persists as JSS proudly acknowledges the extraordinary accomplishments of its students. Aaradhya Charak of class 8th and Sadha Bharti of class 7th exhibited their brilliance in the PPT Presentation and Quiz on SDGs organized by GOSHARPENER in Delhi.

Their exceptional performance reflects not only academic prowess but also a profound understanding of the intricacies of sustainability.

They not only excelled academically but also embraced the opportunity to delve into the cultural and historical opulence of Delhi.

The educational expedition included visits to

iconic monuments such as Qutab Minar, India Gate, Lotus Temple, President House and more.

This immersive experience not only enriched their knowledge but also contributed to transforming the trip into an educational odyssey. Rohini Aima, Principal cum Vice-Chairperson, applauded these accomplishments and urged more students to step forward and participate in such national-level competitions, offering them a platform to explore and learn.

At a broad level, SDG's are aligned with five pillars of "People, prosperity, planet, peace and partnership". Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu aims sensitize all the students, faculty and community to work for a better and more sustainable future for all.

## DLI inaugurates workshop on Computer Skills

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Employment Information cum Advisory Bureau (EIAB), Department of

Lifelong Learning (DLL), University of Jammu on Tuesday inaugurated a 3-days 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 days 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 dire need for computer skill development programmes for the students of the

school as it helps to build a strong foundation for them. She emphasized about the importance of digitalization in this new era. She also appreciated the efforts of Department of Lifelong Learning to organise this workshop.

The workshop was organized under the guidance of Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director DLL and it was coordinated by Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB, DLL. The resource person was Sanjay Manhas from University of Jammu. Around 30 students have registered for the workshop.