

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**FORMER CHILEAN PRESIDENT SEBASTIÁN PIÑERA DIES IN HELICOPTER CRASH**



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RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-37 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Cold Wave continues unabated in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 7 (Agencies): Due to clear night sky, cold wave conditions continued across Kashmir on Wednesday. The night temperature remained notches below the freezing point.

Met department has forecast dry weather till February 14. Srinagar had minus 2, Gulmarg minus 10 and Pahalgam minus 10.8 as the minimum temperature today.

In Ladakh region, Leh town had minus 16.2 and Kargil minus 19.5 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu city had 5, Katra 4.1, Batote minus 0.4, Bhaderwah minus 2 and Banihal minus 0.3 as the minimum temperature.

### High speed internet restricted in Rajouri, Poonch amid ST Status approval

SRINAGAR, Feb 7 (Agencies): The high speed internet services have been restricted in Rajouri and Poonch ahead of the approval of the Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, by the Rajya Sabha.

The bill, already passed by the Lok Sabha, includes the Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe, and Pahari Ethnic Group in the region's Scheduled Tribes list. The bill is set to be presented in the Rajya Sabha after Lok Sabha approval.

Mobile internet services are suspended, and internet speeds are reduced to maintain law and order. Guftar Ahmed, a local social activist in a pot on 'X' said: "Internet services snapped in Rajouri and Poonch. Why to put restrictions if you think your decision is right. By diluting ST status BJP have crushed Gujjar Bakarwal Community of Jammu and Kashmir".

### 3 bovine smuggling attempts foiled by Police in Udhampur, 27 bovines rescue

UDHAMPUR, Feb 7 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday foiled 3 bovine smuggling

## Lt Governor lays foundation stone of Synthetic Football Turf at Jagti Camp, Nagrota

*The achievements of Kashmiri Pandit community fill my heart with pride: LG Sinha*



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone of Synthetic Football Turf at Jagti Camp, Nagrota, today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the young sportspersons and football enthusiasts on the occasion.

The Synthetic Football Turf to be developed at

a cost of Rs 5.75 crore, will include G+1 pavilion with a covered area having seating capacity of about 600 spectators, change rooms and other amenities.

"The achievements of Kashmiri Pandit community fill my heart with pride. I dedicate this vital sports project at Jagti to the Youth of this Community and to their immense contribution to

nation-building," the Lt Governor said.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government is fully committed to the welfare of Kashmiri migrant families and this is also reflected in the interim budget of Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor observed.

He said the representation of Kashmiri Pandit

## SIA raids Sarjan Barkati's home in Shopian

SRINAGAR, Feb 7 (Agencies): The State Investigation Agency carried out a raid at the residence of cleric Sarjan Barkati in south Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said.

An official said that sleuths of SIA with the assistance of local police and CRPF carried out the raid at Sarjan Barkati home in Reban village.

He said that the raid was going on and further details will be shared later.

## Omar targets BJP over denial of permission to visit Rajouri, fears more curbs ahead of LS polls

JAMMU, Feb 7 (Agencies): National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the gates of his house here were locked by the police and he was escorted to his office like a "criminal" to stop him from visiting Sunderbani area of Rajouri district.



Taking potshots at the BJP and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Singh-

led administration, the former chief minister said, "This has not happened for the first time." "And as the (Lok Sabha) elections draw closer, I am sure such curbs will witness a spurt," he told reporters at the party headquarters here.

## Notorious criminal detained under PSA in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, Feb 7 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police in Udhampur on Wednesday has booked and detained notorious criminal under the J&K Public Safety Act (PSA) for his criminal activities on the detention orders issued by the District Magistrate Udhampur.

The accused namely Rakesh Kumar @ RakuS/O Yashpal Sharma R/O Ossu, A/P Sambal, Udhampur booked for his criminal activities in the area for which a number of cases had been registered against him in Police Station Udhampur.

A Police spokesperson

said that the accused was a notorious criminal and was continuously involved in a number of criminal activities.

He has become a threat to the peaceful atmosphere and also posing great threat to the public peace and tranquility thereby

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## PM has scripted a historic chapter for J&K by granting ST status to Paharis : Chugh

SRINAGAR, Feb 7 (Agencies): BJP National General Secretary and In-Charge J&K Tarun Chugh on Wednesday called the grant of ST status to Paharis as a watershed moment for the Union territory.

Chugh hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his pioneering initiative as the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was passed in the Lok Sabha.

The historic Bill aims at empowering (i) Pahari Ethnic Group (ii) Padari Tribes (iii) Koli and (iv) Gadda Brahmin by providing Scheduled Tribe status fulfilling the long-standing demand of these communities in J&K.

Lashing out at the



opposition parties for politicising the matter, Chugh said it is a historic moment for the Pahari Ethnic Community.

He said that passing of this bill with a thumping majority is a befitting reply to the political parties who were politicising the issue for their own vested interest.

Chugh said that these Bills have brought justice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and it has only been

possible under the leadership of PM Modi. "Congress and other regional parties have failed to deliver justice to the people over the last 70 years and used these communities for their own political benefits only," he said.

He said that these Bills will restore the rights of the people belonging to Pahari and other communities who have been added in the SC and ST lists, while the PM Modi-led government has also elevated the status of Gujjar and Bakerwal communities.

Chugh said the Prime Minister has in the recent past taken a number of initiatives that would go a long way in bringing about unprecedented development in

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## MeT forecasts rains, snow during Feb 18 to 20 in J&K

SRINAGAR, Feb 7 (Agencies): Meteorological Department has forecasted light snow and rains during February 18 to 20 in Jammu and Kashmir.

It also predicted dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir till February 14, with occasionally cloudy towards evening during Feb 14.

"Overall, dry weather till February 17 with occasionally cloudy towards evening during February 14. Also a possibility of light snow and rain during February 18 to 20," MeT officials said.

It also said that in view of significant snow

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## Punjab Police arrests three terror associates



CHANDIGARH, Feb 7 (Agencies): Three associates of terrorists Lakhbir Singh Landa and Harwinder Singh Rinda have been arrested in Punjab, a top police officer said on Wednesday.

While Landa is based in Canada, Rinda is based in Pakistan. Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the Anti-Gangster Task Force of the Punjab Police also recovered

two pistols and 10 cartridges from their possession.

"In a major breakthrough, #AGTF Punjab has arrested 3 associates (Jobanjit Singh @ Joban, Bikramjit Singh @ Bikka & Kulwinder Singh @ Kala) of terrorists #Canada-based Lakhbir Landa & #Pak-based Harwinder Rinda," Yadav said in a post.

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## Jammu-Srinagar National Highway opens for traffic

JAMMU, Feb 7 (Agencies): After remaining closed for maintenance, traffic was restored on the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway on Wednesday.

Traffic department officials said that the highway has been opened this morning.

"Light motor vehicles (LMVs) would be allowed to move on the highway from Srinagar and Jammu while the movement of heavy motor vehicles (HMs) will be regulated," officials said.

Due to shooting

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## Police rescue two 'trafficked' Bangladeshi girls in Jammu

JAMMU, Feb 7 (Agencies): Police have rescued two Bangladeshi girls who were being trafficked to Jammu and Kashmir, reports said today.

Quoting reliable sources, news agency Srinagar based news agency Kashmir Scroll reported that two Bangladeshi girls (name withheld) were saved by the police. It said one individual identified as Nishith Biswas from West Bengal was caught accompanying the girls during the rescue.

The Jammu Police acted swiftly after

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## Former MLC Shenaz Ganai thanks PM Modi for historic Scheduled Tribes amendment bill

SRINAGAR, Feb 7 (Agencies): Former MLA Dr Shenaz Ganai has thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the historic Scheduled Tribes amendment bill, saying this "landmark bill will pull the oppressed Paharis out of the clutches of the oppressors".

"On behalf of the Pahari community of Jammu & Kashmir, I express my gratitude to every Honourable member of the @LokSabhasectt, who voted in favour of the Constitution (Jammu & Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, granting scheduled tribes



status to Paharis Ethnic Group," she said, in a statement.

"This landmark bill will pull the oppressed Paharis out of the clutches of the oppressors who for long have been victimised and reduced to non-entity vote banks due to the dirty local politics.

"It is only due to the

humane approach of the Modi government towards the minorities, that this politically and economically vulnerable class of J&K's society finally found empowerment in real sense."

She added that the introduction and passing of this landmark legislation is only possible viz resolute belief of our Prime Minister @narendramodi towards empowerment of every class in J&K.

"Meanwhile, it is pity on part of the local political parties who claim to be saviours of people of J&K, still continue to penetrate a sense of

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9419143503



**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA**

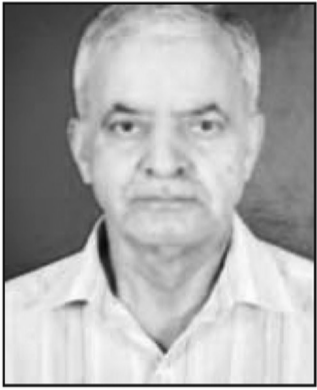
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ashok Kumar Kachroo** S/o Late Dwarka Nath & Somawati Kachroo original resident of Bagadagi, Kralyar Rainawari, Srinagar and at present F 59 Phase 1 New Palam Vihar Gurugram 122017 on 31-01-2024.

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

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

MOBILE NO: 9818214055, 9910695689, 9891278383, 9967803832



**SH. ASHOK KUMAR KACHROO**

**10TH DAY /KRIYA**

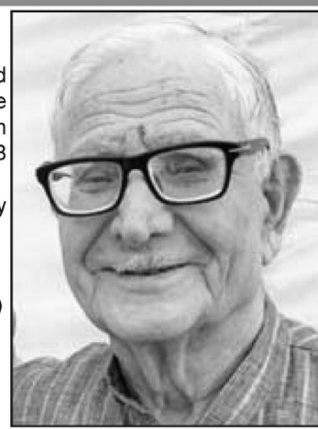
With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Payre Lal Fotedar** S/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Fotedar originally from Martand Mattan Anantnag Kashmir on 31st Jan 2024, presently at 40 B Pocket 6, DDA MIG Flats Mayur Vihar Phase 3 Delhi.

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

**Grief Stricken**

Dr. Shailee & Dr. Vikas Fotedar (Daughter in law & Son)  
Smt. Shanoo & Sh. Rahul Fotedar (Daughter in law and Son)  
Smt. Kishni and Sh. T.N. Pandita (Sister and Brother in law)  
Sh. Uday Nath Fotedar (Brother)  
Smt. Santosh Fotedar (Bhabi)  
Smt. Lalita Fotedar (Bhabi)  
Smt. Basanti ji & Sh. Ashok Fotedar (Bhabi and Brother)  
Smt. Sweety ji & Sh. Vijay Fotedar (Bhabi and Brother)  
**Grand Children**  
Bhavik Fotedar and Divya Fotedar

Phone Nos.: 9418490779, 7018527071, 9312091678, 8082024370



**Dr. Payre Lal Fotedar**

**10TH DAY**

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

**Grief Stricken**

Ramesh Kumar Koul and Veena Koul - Beta and Bahu  
Manoj Kumar Koul and Rajni Koul - Beta and Bahu  
Vinod Kumar Koul and Swarna Koul - Beta and Bahu  
Sh. Girdari Lal Koul and Smt. Lalita Koul-Devar & Devrani  
Sh. Bushan Lal Koul and Smt. Jyoti Koul-Devar & Devrani  
Sh. Adar Krishan Koul- Jijjee  
Smt. Sarla Raina & Sh. Ashwani Raina- Nadad & Jijjee  
Sh. Tej Krishan Raina & Smt. Veena Ji Raina- Bhaiya & Bhabhi  
Smt. Mohini Koul - Behan  
Smt. Kirti Koul (Hasejora) & Sh. Rajesh Koul - Bati & Jamal  
Smt. Dora Tutoo W/o Lt. Sh. M.K. Tutoo- Niece  
Anshu, Prerana, Sukhad - Pota, Potee

Contacts : 9419789050, 9796446692, 9483900085



**Smt. Nancy Koul (Ranjini)**

**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, Bellview 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.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Shella Trakroo - Wife  
Rajiv Trakroo & Anita Trakroo - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Sanjiv Trakroo - Son  
Geetanjali & Ramesh Warikoo - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Siddhanth, Rommel, Pamposh, Abhishek - Grandchildren  
**FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:**  
Samrat Trakroo's, Tickoo's, Wankoo's, Kaul's, Razdan's Parivaars.  
Ph.No. 9814361799 (Ramesh Warikoo) 9882311094 (Rajiv Trakroo), 9878431370 (Sanjiv Trakroo)



**Sh. Shyam Sunder Lal Trakroo**

**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.

**GRIEF STRICKEN****Daughter & Son-in-law**

Usha Misri and Ravinder Misri

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Sunil Dhar and Kalpana Dhar

Virender Dhar and Sunita Dhar

Rajesh Dhar and Anjana Dhar

Smt. Rupa Kaul and Sh. K.L. Kaul - Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Sheela Raina and Late Sh. C.L. Raina - Sister-in-law & Brother

**Grand Children:**

Dr. Rachita Lahori and Dr. Vikram Lahori

Ankit, Sakshi, Mukund, Mukul, Aashir, Rhea and Isha

**Great Grand Child:** Kunsh

**Samast Dhar Family, Bhatt's, Rainas (Kaw), Kauls, Misris, Walis, Kaks and Haks**

+91-9419130637, +91-9810124569, +91-9886613364



**Smt. Brij Mohini Dhar (Shanta Dhar)**

**OBITUARY**

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

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

**Grief Stricken**

Smt. Krishna Koul W/o Late P. K. Koul (Daughter in law)

Surinder Koul and Smt. Babli Koul (Son and Daughter in law)

**Daughters and Son in laws**

Rani Tickoo W/o Late P. N. Tickoo

Sharika Kantroo W/o Late B. L. Kantroo

Basanti Waffa W/o Sh. J. L. Waffa

Prabha Kak W/o Late T. K. Kak

Veena Raina W/o B. L. Raina

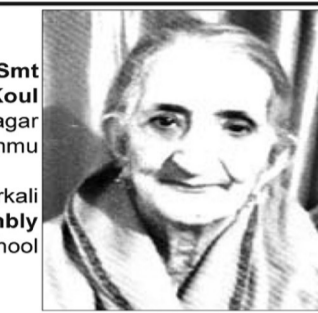
**Grand Children**

Sameer & Sheetu, Lisha & Aman, Suveni & Kapil

**Great Grand Children**

Danshu, Vanshu

Mob No. 7780922925, 7051474096, 8082152311



**Smt. Indrawati Koul**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to intimate the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Banti Raina** W/o Sh. Manoj Krishan Raina on February 2, 2024 originally resident of Sher-i-Kashmir Colony, Anantnag and presently at H.no. 122/A, Lane No. 2, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 11th February 2024 (Sunday) at Bhader Ghat Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan, Thalwal, Jammu. **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 11.30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

(Mother-in-law & Father-in-law)

Smt. Shanta Koul & Sh. A.N. Raina

Sh. Manoj Krishan Raina (Husband)

Yashika Raina (Muskan) (Daughter)

Smt. Sharika Kakroo & Sh. Sunil Ji Kakroo (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)

Smt. Geeta Raina & Sh. Deep Raina (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)

**Mobile : 9555027347, 9797580290, 9797555400**



**Smt. Banti Raina**

**IN LOVING MEMORY****10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Surinder Kumar Bhat (SBI)** Son of Late Shree Sham Lal Bhat on 31st Jan present residing at Flat 1104 Tower B5 Tulip Violet Sector 69, Gurgaon.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be on 9th Feb at 10 AM at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, Block-T, Sector 109, New Palam Vihar, Phase-I Gurgaon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

**Mother:** Sham Rani Bhat

**Wife:** Nirmala Bhat

**Sons and Daughter-in-laws**

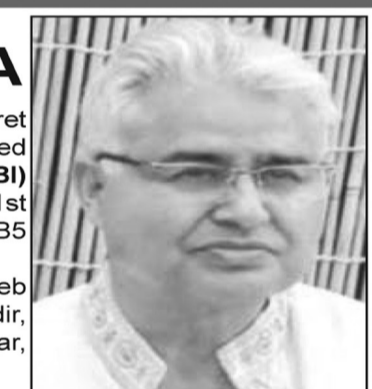
Sunny and Nupur

Shailesh and Neha

**Grand Daughters:** Ayana and Prisha

**BHAT FAMILY, KAUL FAMILY**

**MOB: 9910110772, 9811922945, 9810052644**



**Sh. Surinder Kumar Bhat (SBI)**

**CHOUBARSI**

"They say time heal all wounds, But your absence feels as real today as it did when we first lost you. There is a space in our lives that's shaped like you, a void that nothing else can fill. May God grant you eternal peace"

**CHOUBARSI** of our beloved **LATE SHRI SUBASH CHANDER SHARMA (S.I.JKAP)** on 08th of February 2024 at our residence Ward. No. 68 , Rattnuchak Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt. Manju Sharma (Wife)

Dr. Manik Sharma (Son)

Mrs. Deeksha & Mr. Vivek (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Baby Adira & Baby Akira (Grand Children)

**Deeply Missed & Remembered By:**

**All Members Of SARNAYAL Family.**

**Mob. No. 9906394829 , 9797440196 , 9906112174, 9622073405, 9622132646 , 7051107344**



**LATE SHRI SUBASH CHANDER SHARMA (S.I.JKAP)**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Khushal Chand Kalsi** S/o Late Santram Ji of 310, Royal Enclave, NITCO Lane Ext. Talab Tillo, Jammu.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 08-02-2024 (Thursday) at Shri Guru Ravidas Mandir, Krishna Nagar, Jammu.

**Satsang:** 12.00 PM, **Guru La Langer :** 1.00 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Janki Devi -Wife

Sh. Monaj Kalsi & Smt. Simmy -Son & Daughter-in-law

**Daughters & Sons-in-law**

Smt. Sunita & Sh. G.L. Lochan

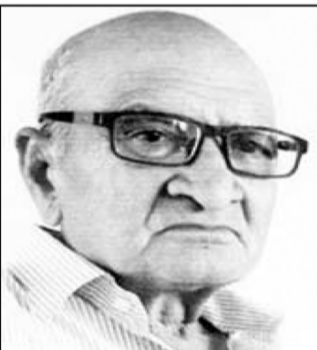
Smt. Anita & Sh. Chandan Kumar

Smt. Radha & Sh. Dev Raj

Smt. Manju & Sh. Vijay Kumar

**Grand Children:** Nipun, Sagarika, Vishal, Rahil, Suneha, Sahil, Punit, Sumit, Nawal, Sharun, Karan & Kashish

**Great Grand Children:** Aayan Lochan (Eenu)



**Sh. Khushal Chand Kalsi**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform that 10th Day of **Sh. Jagdish Kumar Gupta (Batote Wale)** H/o Smt. Lalita Gupta R/o 39-A Bharat Nagar Talab Tillo Jammu.

**10TH DAY** shall performed on 8th Feb (Thursday) 2024 at Mahajan Hall Shalamar Road Jammu at 11 AM & **KRIYA** shall be performed on 9th Feb (Friday) 2024 12 Noon at Home.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**M/S TOURIST REGENCY, BATOTE**

**M/S KINGS WAY TENT & LIGHT HOUSE**

**CONTACT NO: 94191-62100-8713093305**

**94191-82841- 9419194309**



**Sh. Jagdish Kumar Gupta (Batote Wale)**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. RATTAN RANI (PIITI JIGRI)** W/O LATE SH. DWARIKA NATH RAINA ORIGINALLY FROM KHA BAZAR ANANTNAG PRESENTLY AT 88/B, SECTOR 2, DURGA NAGAR, ROOP NAGAR, JAMMU ON 5TH FEB 2024.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT AKHNOOR GHAT FOLLOWED BY ASSEMBLY AT MUTHI GHAT ON 14TH FEB 2024 AT 10:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW**

DR. SANJAY RAINA AND SMT. PUSHPA BHAT RAINA

SH. KULBUSHAN RAINA AND SMT. ANJALI RAINA

**DAUGHTERS AND SONS IN LAW**

SMT. NANA RAINA AND SH. VIJAY KUMAR PANDIT

SMT. RAJNI KOUL AND SH. VIJAY KOUL

SMT. BASANTI RAINA AND SH. ROMESH CHANDER PANDITA

**GRAND CHILDREN**

RAHUL PANDIT AND SINDHIYA PANDIT

PRAYERNA KOUL AND SAMEER SAWAKARE

DEEPSHIKHA PANDIT AND ANKUSH KOUL

ANKUSH KOUL, ASHISH PANDITA AND ARSH RAINA

**CONTACT NO: 9419194594, 9419217147, 9419136715**



**SMT. RATTAN RANI (PIITI JIGRI)**

**TENTH DAY AND KRIYA**

With profound grief and heavy heart, it is inform that our beloved mother **Late Smt. Krishna Devi** W/o Late Sh. Ram Lal Mengi R/o Ward No. 2 House No. 49 Tea Garden Katra had left for her heavenly abode on 31/1/24.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 8/2/2024 at our residence at 11:00am. and **Kriya** will be performed on 11/2/24(Sunday) at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

**Sons & Daughter in law**

Ashok Mengi & Kanta Mengi

Narinder (Bittu) & Neelam Mengi

**Daughter & Son in law**

Sunita Kapoor & Ajeet Kapoor

Suman Nayyar & Rakesh Nayyar

**Grand Sons:**

Pankaj Mengi, Rohit Mengi, Abhi Mengi, Abhishek Mengi

**Grand Daughter in law**

Ishita Mengi, Palak Mengi, Sonali Mengi

and **All Family members**

**9419164580, 9858690000**

**M/s Narinder Conf. Store ( Bittu Fully wale )**

**Ashoka Filling Station**



**Late Smt. Krishna Devi**

**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:

**Sampurana Shri Sehaj Path Sahib and Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib** at our residence 144-B, Sainik Colony, Jammu on **Tuesday (06-02-2024) at 10:00 AM.**

**Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib** at our residence on **Thursday (08-02-2024) at 10:00 AM**

**Kirtan & Antim Ardas** at  **Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Sainik Colony on Thursday (08-02-2024) from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**, followed by **Guru Ka Langar.**

**Deeply mourned by family and friends!**

**Sons and Daughters-in-Law**

S. Inderjeet Singh & Sdr. Surinder Kaur

Col. Harinder Singh & Dr. Vikesh Kaur

S. Gurcharan Singh & Sdr. Jagrit Kaur

S. Paramjit Singh & Sdr. Bhupinder Kaur

**Daughters & Sons-in-Law:**

Sdr. Rajinder Kaur & S. Amarjeet Singh

Sdr. Satinder Kaur, Principal & S. Jatinder Singh (JKAS)

**Grand Children**

Dr. Jaspreet Singh & Dr. Vijender Kaur

Er. Harpreet Kour & Er. Ravneet Singh

Er. Tarunjeet Singh & Er. Gurchintan Kaur

Er. Suhird Singh & Er. Insha Kaur

Er. Avleen Kour, Er. Gurtej Singh (IES), Dr. Anupreet Kaur, Er. Manjot Singh, Bavnaveet Kaur, Er. Chiranjeev Singh, Ishmeet Kaur

**Contact No**



## J&K Records Investment Of Rs 5656.78 In Various Sectors After Article 370 Abrogation: Centre Tells LS

JAMMU, Feb 7 (Agencies): The Central government on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that an investment of over Rs 5600 crore has been made in various sectors of Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

In a reply to a query, Minister of State in Ministry of Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, said the Government has notified the New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on 19/02/2021



so as to attract investors to make capital investments.

This has been supplemented by the policies/schemes, to boost investment in the UT

of Jammu and Kashmir, which include, J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30, J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy, 2021-30, J&K Private Industrial Estate Development

Policy 2021-30, Policy for Promotion of Foreign Investment in Industrial Sector in J&K, 2022, J&K Single Window Rules, 2021, Turnover Incentive Scheme, 2021, J&K Wool Processing, Handicrafts and Handloom Policy, 2020, Financial Support Scheme for Cooperatives/Self Help Groups, 2020, Credit Card Scheme for Artisans and Weavers, 2020 and Kharkhandar Scheme for Development of Craft Sector in J&K, 2021, Revised Education Scheme 2022 for Arti-

sans/Weavers of Handicrafts and Handloom Department and Export Subsidy Scheme, 2021.

The impact of the steps have enabled investment of Rs 296.64 in 2019-20, Rs 412.74 in 2020-21, Rs 376.76 in 2021-22, Rs 2153.45 in 2022-23 and Rs 2417.19 in 2023-24.

Rai further said that the investments in various sectors like tourism, processing etc. and infrastructure such as construction, roads, power etc. will boost the development of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

## ESM And Civil Community Outreach Organised on Naushera Day by White Knight Corps



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: Indian Army, White Knight Corps on Tuesday Celebrated 76th 'Naushera Day' commemorating the supreme sacrifice of Nk Jadunath Singh, PVC in Battle of Naushera. It was the fiercest battle in 1947-48 Indo-Pak War in Naushera Sector of Rajouri District in Jammu & Kashmir. The Battle of Naushera is unique wherein the residents fought alongwith Army with little disregard to their own life or property to save the Motherland. As a tribute to locals con-

tribution, the event was celebrated with residents, ESM and Civil administration authorities.

Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, AVSM, SM, GOC 16 Corps, Maj Gen Gaurav Rishi, SC, SM, GOC 25 Inf Div, civil and military officials laid wreaths at Veer Bhoori in remembrance of Nk Jadunath Singh, PVC who made supreme sacrifice in service to the nation. The event was followed by a cultural fest by schools of Naushera. GOC White Knight Corps awarded the school children and the teachers for their enthusiasm and active partici-

pation. He also interacted with people of Naushera & ESMs, wherein he felicitated decorated soldiers, Veer Naris and Veterans from Naushera town and nearby border villages.

Speaking on the occasion, GOC paid tributes to the gallant population of Naushera who fought alongside the Indian Army. He also acknowledged the contribution of the Gurjar Bakarwal community towards maintaining peace in the region and assured them that Indian Army is always with them.

In the run up to 'Naushera Day Celebrations' Indian Army conducted various events to include Multi Specialty Medical Camp wherein 535 locals were treated, Artificial Limbs Camp which provided 54 Artificial limbs, 47 Wheel Chair and Crutches, Cross Country Run for youth population, Cricket Tournament, Professional and Vocational Courses.

## Ashok Koul, Shamsheer Manhas inaugurate PM Vishwakarma Yojana training camp at Nagrota



### Top News Report

NAGROTA, Feb 7: Ashok Koul, general secretary (organization), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, inaugurated a training camp for the Vishwakarma Yojana in the presence of Shamsheer Singh Manhas, former MP (Rajya Sabha) at Nagrota.

Somnath Khajuria, Senior leader BJP, Sunil Prajapati, President, J&K BJP OBC Morcha, and Gourav Khajuria, Chairman, GK Educational Trust were also present on the occasion.

The program was organized by the GK Educational Trust Training Partner NSDC. Ashok Koul, on the occasion, spoke about the importance of PM Vishwakarma training camps and boosted confidence in the trainees by discussing a variety of opportunities lined up & guiding them to avail maximum benefits from such schemes. He said that the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, being run across the country under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is an initiative to acknowledge and support the traditional artisans, who were earlier carrying out these 18 listed trades with minimal recognition and support.

Shamsheer Singh Manhas said that by running such schemes, the Prime Minister has given everyone a right to come and take training wherever they are skilled in the work they want to do. He said that the person availing the benefit can start work with the government's support. He said that after the successful training period, the bank will provide the trainee with a subsidized loan for the smooth operations of the technical work.

Sunil Prajapati highlighted salient features of the Vishwakarma Yojana asserting that it has the full potential of empowering the aspirants be it the youth including women or other artisans and crafts-persons.

It was also told on the occasion that a total cash benefit of about 4000 rupees will be given to each trainee/ beneficiary of the Vishwakarma Yojana during the training camp. Gourav Khajuria thanked all the dignitaries for their auspicious presence during the inauguration. He also said that the PM Vishwakarma Scheme is a great initiative by the Government of India & encouraged all the Vishwakarma to avail maximum benefits from such schemes.

## AIJMS extends financial assistance to parents of Gharjeet Choudhary, assures full support for his medical treatment

**No one will die due to lack of medical resources or money: Ch Manmohan Singh**

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: All India Jat Maha Sabha (AIJMS), under the leadership of Ch Manmohan Singh, extended full support to the family members of Gharjeet Choudhary during the challenging time as their son battles for recovery after a tragic accident.

In this regard, a delegation of the Sabha headed by Ch Manmohan Singh, President AIJMS, J&K and former Mayor, today visited the residence of Gharjeet Choudhary in village Nandpur, Ramgarh, to offer assistance and express solidarity.

Pertinent to mention here that Gharjeet Choudhary has been on a ventilator and fighting for his life for the past 10 days in a hospital in Ludhiana.

Ch Manmohan Singh, along with other members of the delegation, met with family members of Gharjeet Choudhary to inquire about his well-being. Recognizing the financial strain faced by the family due to the extensive medical treatment required, Ch Manmohan Singh provided immediate assistance of Rs 75000 which was contributed by the visiting members and pledged more support from the Jat Maha Sabha.

Ch Manmohan Singh conveyed sympathies and urged the parents of Gharjeet Choud-



hary to have faith on God during this difficult period. He emphasized the importance of community solidarity and appealed to members of the Jat community to join hands in supporting the Choudhary family.

"We stand with Gharjeet Choudhary and his family in this hour of crisis. Our priority is to ensure that they receive the necessary assistance and resources for the treatment and recovery of their son. The Jat Maha Sabha is committed to provide unwavering support to the Choudhary family, and we urge the community to rally together to offer assistance in any way possible," he added.

Ch Manmohan Singh reiterated the Sabha's commitment to stand by the Choudhary family until their son's full recovery and return home. He assured the parents of Gharjeet Choudhary that the Sabha would spare no effort in securing the required resources and support for their son's treatment, adding that money doesn't matter

to save the precious life of our community youth.

Ch Manmohan Singh emphasized that the Jat Maha Sabha will always stand with every single family of the Jat community and emphasized that no one will be allowed to die due to lack of financial resources while undergoing medical treatment.

Among those who contributed the finance assistance and visited the house of Gharjeet Choudhary include Col Shiv Choudhary, Avtar Krishan from Kathua, Sunil Choudhary (CA), Sardar Ranjeet Singh Goldi, Sarpanch Jagdish Bhatti, Vijay Choudhary (LIC), Ram Pal Choudhary (Gangyal), Rashpal Choudhary (Chak Slaria), Ex Sarpanch Prem Pal (Barota), Surinder Singh Bajwa, Bachan Singh Master, Kala Choudhary (Apna Vihar), Surjeet Choudhary (Nanak Nagar), Darshan Lal (Paloura), Kashmir Singh (Ramgarh), SatPal Choudhary (Kathua) and Darshan Lal (Kathua).

## Over 10,000 BJP workers will undertake Gaon Chalo Abhiyan from Feb 8: Ravinder Raina



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu Kashmir, while addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, informed that more than ten thousand (10,000) workers of the party will reach different rural and urban areas of the UT under "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan" from February 08 to 10, this month. These party workers will spend a minimum of 24 hours in a particular village or municipal ward to interact with the local

residents. Raina was flanked by BJP Vice President & Programme Incharge Pawan Khajuria, former minister & NEM Priya Sethi, Programme Co-Incharge & senior leader Sanjay Baru, and Media Relations Department co-incharge Balbir Ram Rattan.

Ravinder Raina said that the BJP is undertaking a country-wide mega campaign "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan" and in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it will be undertaken from February 08 to 10, this month, and cover every village in rural and

every ward in urban areas of the UT.

For the successful conduct of this mega exercise, the party is deputing its MPs, former ministers, state office bearers, Ex MPs, Ex MLAs and MLCs, Ex BDC Chairpersons, sitting DDC Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons, former VCs, DDC Members, District Office Bearers, Morcha teams, Sarpanches, Panches, he told.

Ravinder Raina further said that the objective of this 3-day Abhiyan is to meet the local residents, the beneficiaries of Modi government's schemes,

leaders of non-BJP parties, Self Help Groups, NGOs, retired employees, the business community, and other prominent personalities of a particular village or ward. The party activists visiting the village or ward, will seek feedback about the central government welfare schemes, and their impact on the lives of the poor, needy people and

compile suggestions, if any, for further implementation of the schemes. They will also place the BJP's report card before the people and make them aware of the need to support the BJP in the upcoming elections so that Narendra Modi assumes the chair of PM for the third consecutive term and further speed up the welfare schemes.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Dy.CS/TE/Works/LDH acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E-tenders in **Single packet system** from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

1	Name of work : "Provision of Double Distant on 'B' route in Jalandhar Cantt-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi section of Firozpur Division".
2	Approximate cost of the work : Rs. 7,65,49,611/- (Rs. Seven Crore, Sixty Five lacs, Forty Nine Thousand, Six hundred Eleven only)
3	Earnest money : Rs. 5,32,800 (Rs. Five lacs Thirty Two thousand and Eight hundred only).
4	Completion period : Twelve Months from the date of issue of acceptance letter/ telegrams.
5	Closing date : 01.03.2024 at 11.00 Hrs.
6	Validity of offer : 60 days from the date of opening of tender.

Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Bids are to be submitted online only. Manual bids/offers are not allowed against this tender, and any manual offer received shall be ignored. The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. Necessary changes, Corrigendum/supplement, if required, would be posted on this website only.  
No.: NR-SNT-W-LDH-78 Dated: 05.02.2024 388/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION RAJOURI**

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
**e-NIT No. 200 of 2023-24 Dated 03.02.2024**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri, invites e-tenders (in 2 covers) on item rate basis from Original pump manufacturers/memorandum of understanding with principal pump manufacturers / their authorized dealers/ registered in DIC / reputed contractors (electromechanical works) of MES/CPWD/Water works corporations of different states for below mentioned work at Water Supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri, of Jammu Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on Turnkey basis.

The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. **Cover I** consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and **Cover II** consisting of Financial Bid, in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Particular of the works	Estimated cost (in lakh)	Tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money deposit (in Rs)	Bid validity	Time of completion of work (Days)
1	Providing, installation, testing, commissioning of pumping machinery along with electro mechanical components at different locations of <b>WSS LAMBERI EAST</b> under JJM	68.00	1000.00 (Rs. One Thousand only)	50,000.00 (Fifty thousand only)	180 days	150 days

**Position of funds : Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**  
**Position of AAA : Accorded**  
**Position of T.S : Sanctioned**

**Tender inviting authority:** Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri.

**CRITICAL DATES:**

a)	Publish Date	05.02.2024
b)	Document Download/sale start date	05.02.2024
c)	Date of Pre-bid meeting	06.02.2024
d)	Bid submission start date	05.02.2024
e)	Bid submission end date	15.02.2024
f)	Date of Bid opening	16.02.2024

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).
- The pre-bid meeting shall held in the office chamber of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri.
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri.
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document and EMD as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table and shall be payable at Rajouri.
- EMD** to be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Rajouri. **EMD** will be in the form of CDR/ FDR of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 06 months from the last date of submission of bid.
- The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR under Major Head, **MH: 0215** WSS (Revenue head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank branch Rajouri bearing bank account No. **002001020000966**, IFSC code **JAKAORADISH** in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri. No Demand Draft/Cheque will be accepted. **No exemption of cost of tender documents of any kind shall be considered.**
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidders who are declared as item wise L1.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of **180 days** from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).
- Queries, if any, should be mailed to [xenphemrajouri@gmail.com](mailto:xenphemrajouri@gmail.com).

No. PHEP/MDR/8801-12  
Dated: 03.02.2024

-sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division  
Rajouri

DIP/J-14749/23



## EDITORIAL

SAFER  
INTERNET  
DAY

Safe internet day is celebrated every year on the second day of the second week of February. It is organized in about 15 countries around the world. Its aim is to provide secure and better internet service in the world. Safer Internet Day aims to ensure that every Internet user can use the Internet responsibly without exposing their data (personal information). This year, Safer Internet Day was celebrated across the world on 8 February. This is the 19th edition of Safer Internet Day.

Safe internet is an important topic. The Safer Internet Day program was launched in 2004 as part of the European Union's 'Better Internet for Children' programme. Before 2009, this day was celebrated only in European countries. After this it started being celebrated all over the world. Currently, Safe Internet Day is celebrated by around 200 countries globally. The aim of this initiative was to improve children and young people's access to high quality information, increase awareness and empowerment, establish a safe online space for children and free children from sexual exploitation. This day is now celebrated every year in about 200 countries around the world.

Safer Internet Day was launched in 2004 as an EU Safe Borders project. Subsequently, in 2005, Insafe was adopted as one of the first functions of the network. Since then its scope has increased and currently it is being celebrated globally. Every year a particular topic 'reflecting current issues' is selected as the theme for the Safer Internet initiative.

The 19th annual Safer Internet Day was celebrated in the year 2022. Under this, programs were organized at different places all over the world. The theme of Safer Internet Day this year is 'Together for a Better Internet'. This theme was chosen so that everyone associated with it could be encouraged to come together. So that the web can be made a safer and better place for everyone, especially children and youth.

In this era of internet and social media, the importance of Safe Internet Day has increased a lot. On this day, along with making people aware about the safe use of internet, they are also educated to face cyber attacks. On Safer Internet Day, many organizations try to spread awareness about online safety through webinars and podcasts. Celebrating Safer Internet Day every year aims to raise awareness among people about current concerns ranging from emerging online issues to cyberbullying, social networking and digital identity.

## Keep migrants safe as they seek jobs in conflict zones

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

Wars do not faze the poor. In every country, the desperate vote with their feet. So, it comes as no surprise that thousands of Indian workers are now queuing up for jobs in Israel, even as the war's devastation rages on, and there are serious concerns over ethics and safety.

This rush for construction jobs in war-torn Israel from a country where Italian luxury carmaker Lamborghini met its 2023 target in just one month is an Indian paradox, a telling marker of the grim employment prospects facing millions.

"If it is in our destiny to die, then we can die either here or there..." said Lekharam, a mason. He was among the many who gathered at a recent recruitment camp in Rohtak, Haryana, hoping to be selected for a job in Israel.

We have been down this road before. Indians have risked life and limb for a better deal for themselves and their families. In March 2018, for example, the Iraqi authorities found a mass grave with the bodies of 38 Indian construction workers who had been kidnapped when Islamic State (ISIS) militants overran Mosul in northern Iraq in 2014.

Successive governments have evacuated Indian citizens stranded in war-torn areas, including from Israel last year. The Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 in southern Israel killed Israelis as well as several migrant workers. Some migrant workers were among the hostages.

Since then, Israel's fierce air, sea and ground offensive in Gaza has killed over 26,000 Palestinians and wounded more than 65,000. Deaths and devastation continue, even after a damning ruling by the International Court of Justice, further polarising a terrifyingly fractured world.

Indians lining up for work in Israel in 2024 remain undeterred.

Last May, Israel and India officially signed an agreement that allows 42,000 Indians to work in Israel in construction and nursing. Over 3,000 people have already been selected from Uttar Pradesh for jobs in Israel's construction sector. Workers in Haryana are also gearing up for work in Israel. Five more states are reportedly keen to leverage war-torn Israel's labour crunch.

Clearly, the main attraction is the money. The promised monthly salary in Israel (more than Rs 1 lakh, plus medical insurance) is many times the amount that construction workers can ever hope to earn in India.

However, there are legitimate concerns about the safety and security of migrant workers in a conflict zone.

Most Indian migrant workers who go to conflict-prone regions or places without sufficient labour protections need to register with India's e-migrate portal run by the external affairs ministry. This is for their safety and security. Israel is not currently part of this system, point out trade unions and labour rights advocates who have serious reservations about the officially facilitated plan to send Indian workers to Israel.

"While previous government-to-government agreements facilitating the movement of Indian workers to Israel have been commended, the current proposal's timing given the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict raises many concerns," noted a policy brief by the Britain-based Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB).

"The implicit indication that Israel may be considering the replacement of Palestinian workers with Indian labour is particularly troubling," it added.

The IHRB raises some key questions: is it ethically acceptable to authorise the recruitment of Indian workers currently? How do the Israeli and Indian governments intend to ensure their safety and well-being? How can they ensure that the workers will not

be involved in the building of military barracks or internment camps for prisoners?

Another critical question: how aware are the Israel-bound migrant workers about the extent of the risk they are taking, and what can be done to ensure awareness?

Government agencies must ensure that migrant workers are fully aware of the fine print in their contract. This encompasses not only wages and the modality of their disbursement but also specifics about rest, which include overtime, vacation, medical leave, living conditions and safety.

Government agencies and labourers from India signing up for work in war-torn Israel must pay attention to ongoing conversations about pitfalls and discrepancies between expectations and reality in countries that have already sent workers to Israel, like Sri Lanka, Malawi, Kenya, Moldova, Thailand, and China. They also need to pay attention to what Israeli civil society is saying.

In Malawi, for example, the local media has spotlighted complaints that agents have grabbed a large chunk of workers' money. "We do not agree with this arrangement because we are the ones working here, not the agents. We want our money to be sent directly to our accounts," according to Malawi24, a news portal.

Recently, the local media in Moldova reported that the Moldova-Israel agreement for recruitment of construction workers has been temporarily postponed. The specific reason for the postponement remains undisclosed.

While government to government labour mobility pacts offer stronger protection to migrant workers, the key issue is implementation.

Bilateral agreements between governments on labour mobility have partly improved the situation. Recruitment fees have dipped significantly, notes a 2019 report "The Effectiveness of the Bilateral Agree-

ments", brought out by the Centre for International Migration and Integration, Israel.

However, implementation has been patchy across sectors.

"In the care-giving sector, there was an improvement in the wages after the implementation of the pilot agreement. However, part of this may be explained by the increase in overall minimum wage in Israel, and not by the agreement alone. It is important to note that there was no significant improvement in most of the other employment conditions of the migrant workers in caregiving. In the construction sector, there was a deterioration in employment conditions, especially in safety at work... also in the wages of the workers from China, even though the wages were still in compliance with the requirements of the collective agreements in the sector. In the agriculture sector, it is hard to identify a clear trend: some of the employment conditions improved, while others deteriorated and some remained unchanged," says the report.

"The safety requirements for the construction workers in Israel, including the migrant workers in this sector, need to significantly improve," it adds.

Bilateral agreements mandate that employers in Israel provide every migrant worker with an employment contract in a language the migrant understands, as well as health insurance and adequate housing. They also mandate pre-departure orientation, booklets about workers' rights, helplines for workers' questions in their mother tongue so that migrant workers know their entitlements in Israel.

These must be followed.

Protection mechanisms for migrant workers are paramount. While balancing risks with remittances, their welfare and safety must remain supreme.

## Coaching institute vs Education system

By: Vijay Garg

*(If we want to control the coaching institutes, then we should also control the students who go to study abroad every year)*

The Personnel Ministry of the Central Government has issued some rules on the suggestion of the Consumer Ministry to curb coaching institutes. There are orders for the selected candidates that they will not have any contact with any coaching institute after getting the appointment letter. That means no coaching institute will use his name. Immediate Reasons by UPSC There are exaggerated advertisements etc. made by the coaching institutes preparing for the Civil Services Examination. The Ministry's special objection is that the names of selected candidates are advertised by dozens of coaching institutes, due to which children from all over the country flock to these institutes. For example, in the year 2022, about nine hundred candidates were selected, while advertisements for three and a half thousand candidates were published by coaching institutes. Civil Services Examination is for administrative jobs in the country like IAS. IPS is the highest examination for recruitment of officers in Revenue, Railways, in which about nine hundred out of about twelve lakh students are selected every year. Obviously, for this the young generation and even more so their parents are ready to do anything. Coaching institutes are becoming an alternative to this. It is worth noting that in search of good education, there are not only coaching institutes for civil services examination, there are many times more coaching institutes ranging from IIT, Medical, IIM to becoming

a bank officer, teacher and the central coaching institute started in the last two years. Thousands of coaching institutes are running across the country for entrance exams in universities and they are increasing rapidly every year. According to an estimate, the annual turnover of the coaching industry is approximately sixty thousand crore rupees. But why is this business increasing every year? Are only the coaching institutes responsible for this? Actually, our education system is responsible for this. When teachers are not present in the schools of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, even if they are present, according to the recent report of 'Pratham', they are not educated in mathematics. K is being taught by people who do not have a degree in Mathematics and English is being taught by those who even spell the name of the school wrong in English. There is neither toilet nor a proper roof in their building and NCERT books are not available on time, so what option is left for these children and their parents? Now the entire cream of Bihar has started coming to Delhi schools for school education. That is why in the states where the education system has become so dilapidated, especially the government schools, there are equally nook and cranny private schools. And coaching centers are increasing. According to an estimate, where fifty years ago, more than ninety percent of affordable education was available in government schools, now it has reduced to less than forty-five percent and this is in all the states. According to a new order, coaching institutes have been instructed that they cannot give admission to children below sixteen years of age. Don't the policy makers know that coaching institutes are not only running in metros and big buildings, they are

running on every nook and corner of the street? How will the difference be made, home tushes And in the tuition of these big institutions? Thirty-forty years ago, the weakest child used to look for tuition, that too especially to prepare for class 10th-12th board exams. Then it started for engineering colleges etc., but due to falling standards, now the problem of tuition is in the first class. Has reached even before. Thirty years ago, educationist and scientist Professor Yashpal had considered tuition as very dangerous for education in the report 'Baste Ka Boj'. The governments have kept that report in some other bag. What government and Education officer is not familiar with this disease? Certainly, DMs and education officers at the state level can overcome this problem, but statistics show that more than 80 percent of DMs rarely inspect any school. Same is the condition of the education officers working under him. When there are less jobs, there are not enough good colleges and universities in proportion to the increasing population and where education is more about retrenchment than recruitment, where there is more emphasis on examination than knowledge, where improvement in education is not in the manifesto of any party. There is no question of R, what will happen if there is no flood of coaching institutes there? The main reason for the growth of coaching institutes is the quality of good teachers. For the prestige of their institute, coaching centers keep the best teachers by paying them handsome salaries and are constantly on the lookout for such teachers. 'Feedback' is taken daily from the children, otherwise neither caste, nor religion, nor region is visible outside and these teachers have become stars and superstars. At least talented teachers should get a

good opportunity to teach. Aren't the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and America attracting students from all over the world on the basis of this order of priority? If we have to control the coaching institutes, then the same control will need to be imposed on the students who go to study abroad every year. After all, why do they also run away to foreign countries? For the last ten years, it is continuously being heard that more than fifty percent of the posts are lying vacant in institutions like IIT, IIM. If suitable candidates are not found to fill them then In such circumstances the government does not accept the idea of de-reserving any post. What an irony that those who are fighting for each post on the basis of caste in government central universities and colleges send their children to those coaching institutes where there is no such reservation and 'roster'. Our new young generation is getting crushed between all these stones. Thirty-five thousand students have committed suicide in the three years from 2019 to 2021 in response to a question given in the Lok Sabha during the December Parliament session. how sad this is All ! Thirty-five suicides took place in Kota city alone last year and two students have committed suicide in the last week of January this year. If our education system from school education to university is improved, then neither will children rush to coaching institutes nor will they run away to study abroad after taking loans worth crores. This needs to be understood.

*(Vijay Garg Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout)*



## Swift action of BRO makes Road Traffic able

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 7: The 118 RCC of Border Roads Organization (BRO) has cleared the snow from much required Ishtiyari road by making it traffic worthy with in a record span.

A communication issued in this regard stated that the strategic clearance operation was aimed to facilitate the seamless movement of vehicular traffic along the vital Galhaar Sansari axis in the Paddar Sub Division.

OC of 118 RCC/BRO Gorav Tiwari told, "the swift clearance was undertaken to guarantee the unimpeded flow



of traffic, emphasizing the organization's commitment to ensuring connectivity and safety in challenging terrains in shortest possible time limit".

This proactive measure by BRO exemplifies its tireless efforts in maintaining crucial road

infrastructure, especially during adverse weather conditions, he added saying,

"The Ishtiyari road's successful clearance showcases the professionalism and efficiency of BRO, further reinforcing its pivotal role in enhancing accessibility

and connectivity in the region".

According to BRO, with the clearance of this stretch of road, medical facilities have become easily available to a huge population that had got disconnected due to recent heavy snowfall. In case of acute emergency conditions, ambulances and Fire Brigade Vehicles and other crucial facilities are reaching their destinations on time. Students equally are reaching their tuition centres easily now from these areas.

The whole exercise was carried out under the guidance and supervision of Commander 35 BRTF Udhampur S.K

Verma.

Meanwhile, General public have extended their gratitude to the Commander 35 BRTF Udhampur S.K Verma and Officer Commanding 118 RCC based at Bhadarwah for their relentless efforts to make this possible.

"The action of BRO has demonstrated its unwavering dedication by promptly clearing the Ishtiyari road after recent heavy snowfall giving a sigh of relief to the people who were cut off from the rest of the world," Suram Chand a resident of Galhaar Padder while expressing gratitude to the Organisation told.

## Delhi Public School Kathua welcomes Vivek Arora as Principal

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 7: Delhi Public School (DPS) Kathua announced the appointment of Vivek Arora as its new Principal. With a strong background in education and a commitment to excellence, Arora's leadership will undoubtedly enhance the educational experience at DPS Kathua.

Arora holds a Master's degree in Mathematics, Environmental Sciences, and Public Administration, in addition to a Masters in Education (M.Ed) and a Diploma in Computer Applications. His diverse academic background underscores his dedica-



tion to fostering holistic development among students.

A proactive participant, mentor, trainer, and observer of various CBSE programs, Arora's expertise extends beyond the classroom. His contributions to education have been recognized with prestigious awards, including the National Award (A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award) by IITA and the 'Most Qualified Principal of the Year' by National

School Awards.

"We are delighted to welcome Vivek Arora as the new Principal of DPS Kathua," said Kanta Andotra, Founder Chairperson, and Gauri Thakur, Director. "His wealth of experience and passion for education make him a valuable addition to our school community. We are confident that under his leadership, DPS Kathua will continue to thrive and inspire excellence."

## Awareness program on Road Safety held at GDC R S Pura



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: To spread awareness among the students and general masses, an awareness program on "Road Safety" was held in Government College R. S. Pura under the guidance of the Principal, Dr. Rajni Bhagat.

The event was organised by NSS and NCC unit of the college under the banner of Viksit Bharat@2047 initiative. Principal of the College, Dr. Rajni Bhagat, graced the event as Chief Guest and appreciated the college team for organising such awareness programs in educational institutions that will go a long way in sensitizing the students as well as masses regarding the road safety, traffic rules etc which is the need of the hour.

Earlier, Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, ANO NCC boys, presented the formal welcome address and briefed the students about the purpose of road safety awareness.

He told the students that lack of knowledge of road safety, traffic rules, road signals etc in the general public as well as among the youth is one of the major causes of road accidents.

Prof. Shifali Abrol, Associate Professor Zoology spoke on the Road safety guidelines and encouraged the students to obey traffic signals, boards and signs, drive their vehicles in permitted speed, avoid drunk driving, carry driving license and all necessary documents such as vehicle registration, insurance etc.

Prof Sankait Gupta, HOD Computer Application, acquainted the students with various traffic rules in detail like when we turn, how to keep left or right, where to park and where not to park, how to use indicators, not to move on the wrong side on a one way road, do not cross the stop line, etc.

Meanwhile a pledge ceremony was also organized where all the students and faculty pledged to follow the Road Safety Rules and spread the message of road safety among their near and dear.

The proceedings of the entire program was conducted by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Nodal Officer Viksit Bharat. Among others, Prof. Shelly Kalsi, Dr. Hari Singh and Prof. Vishal Sharma also graced the event with their benign

## Narinder demands ST status for PoJK DPs of 1947

### Top News Report

RS PURA, Feb 7: Senior PDP leader and leader of Displaced Persons (DPs) from PoJK Narinder Sharma today demanded grant of ST status for this community.

In a press statement, Sharma said Govt of India has granted Scheduled Tribes status to Pahari speaking people of UT JK in the ensuing Parliamentary session, this is a welcome step that rights of the Paharis of J&K has been acknowledged after long period /after independence.

It is brought to the notice of the Government of India that 1947 PoJK DPs who are equally situated having distinct culture, ethnic and linguistic identity and having Pahari traditions also deserve the Schedule Tribe Status under Pahari category. The Indian constitution till date recognizes the identity of PoJK DPs as belonging to PoJK when PoJK is more towards the high mountains ranges with Pahari language and their non-inclusion in Pahari reservation/ST Status will not only be injustice to PoJK DPs but also against the spirit of Constitution which endeavours to occupy the PoJK area and has also kept J&K Legislative Assembly seats vacant for the area.

## Under PM Modi's leadership, BJP aiming for a hat-trick in Lok Sabha polls: Vinay

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu North held ST Morcha meeting under the leadership of District President Omi Khajuria.

Eye on Lok Sabha polls Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu District North conducted an ST Morcha, a monthly meeting, examining forthcoming programs here at the District office Jammu North.

The meeting was chaired by BJP Jammu North Seh Prabhari Vinay Gupta.

He said, the BJP aiming for a hat-trick in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and he tightening its party mechanism in Jammu North, intensifying grassroots work ahead of 2024.

The meeting was performed in the esteem presence of Ajay Sharma and Surinder Baghat General Secretaries, Aksar Ali District President ST Morcha and others were present on the occasion.

Vinay Gupta and Omi Khajuria jointly hold threadbare discussions on the ongoing and upcoming organizational programs including



the important strategy for the upcoming parliamentary polls in 2024.

While addressing the meeting interacted with the ST Morcha team unit and sought first-hand information about various organizational activities.

They asked all ST Morcha office bearers to work hard and stressed taking the public-friendly policies and programs of the BJP party and Narendra Modi-led Union Government to every nook and corner of the District.

Omi Khajuria said the Modi government's successful ten years had been "magnificent, with unparalleled progress".

He said the public-friendly decisions have helped in uplifting the agriculture and infrastructure sector besides

helping the economy in J&K and people have seen unprecedented development in every sector, Omi Khajuria further claimed that the overwhelming approach he received from the people as he visited their doorsteps confirmed, that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's victory in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls.

Outlining specific programs for ST Morcha (Wing) in preparation for the upcoming polls, giving vital tips to party cadres, Vinay Gupta remarked, requiring the office bearers and workers of the morcha to disseminate the party's programs at the grassroots level.

Vinay expressed that BJP sets a target of winning 400 plus seats in the upcoming Lok

Sabha elections with their new slogan "Teesri baar Modi Sarkar, ab ki baar 400 paar" and he guided the party workers, hardworking BJP cadre can reach the highest positions.

He said that the BJP leaders were the face of the party in their respective communities and needed to follow the party's principles to achieve success.

Vinay Gupta highlights that the BJP government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached out to all sections of society, irrespective of their religion and region. People love and support the BJP and we are confident that the lotus will bloom in both the regions (Kashmir and Jammu) in the next parliamentary polls in 2024.

## 22nd Sthapna Divas of Maa Durga Temple, Gagian celebrated

### Top News Report

RS PURA, Feb 7: The 22nd Sthapna Divas of Maa Durga Temple, Gagian RS Pura today celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety by Management Committee of Temple.

On this occasion huge Langar also organized for devotees after proper Havan and performing rituals of Sthapna Divas. Earlier day long Ramayan Path also organized where hundreds of devotees participated. To mark the occasion, Dr Ved Parkash Shastri mesmerized devotees with religious sermons emphasizing to make the younger generation aware of the possibilities that can be attained or learned from the ancient Vedic tradition as it is applied to the modern age. By training our children in the principles of Sanatana-dharma, they also learn about the greatness of the Indian identity or Vedic culture," Shastri said.



Addressing devotees, Shastri said that Sanatana Dharma is the oldest spiritual tradition known to humankind. The Vedas on the other hand are the oldest or the earliest expressions known to humankind to define the Sanatana Dharma. It focuses on living in harmony with each other and the nature by discharging one's duties honestly. Given the wide variety of roles that are warranted for smooth running of any society and preservation of the natural environment around us, it is logical that the duties and responsibilities of individuals will also vary as per their position in the society (Varna) and stage of life (Ashrama).

This implies that Varna is neither permanent nor hereditary. It may change within one's life or in successive generations depending on an individual's own calling, intellect, capabilities, opportunities available and the changing needs of the society. Shastri talked about different types of dharma - Grihastha Dharma, Sewa-Dharma and various other kinds of dharmas. Essentially, dharma means certain laws which are relevant for us to function in this existence.

Shastri further said that 'The young generations have to understand the beauty and science behind Sanatan Dharma. It has to be understood not as

rhetoric for other religions but as a way of life. Everything in the Santan Dharma, from the time we wake up to the time we bathe, to what we eat, how we pray is in sync with nature, the human body, the planets, and the cosmos.

The inter-linkedness had to be understood'. Shastri maintained that it is up to the parents, teachers and gurus to find the ways in which the youth of today can understand and learn about the customs and history of the Vedic tradition in a way that makes sense to them, he said, adding that they need to see that Vedic culture is a dynamic and living tradition that holds eternal spiritual truths that are as relevant today as they were thousands of years ago.

Chairman Temple Committee Capt Kundan Lal Sharma speaking on the occasion said that if a person is kind and gentle to everyone that means he is spiritual.

## Time for building a highly capable Aatmanirbhar defence space ecosystem, says CDS Gen Anil

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan has stressed that as the country is going through Amrit Kaal, it is time for building a highly capable Aatmanirbhar defence space ecosystem. Inaugurating "DEFSAT", a three-day Space Seminar and Exhibition at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt on February 7, 2024, Gen Anil Chauhan underlined that from space augmentation to exploration, the Government has envisioned big targets for the nation.

Highlighting the vitality of Space for the mankind and also for the armed forces engaged in combat, CDS said that Space can be used as a force multiplier to enhance combat capabilities in traditional domains of land, air, sea and even cyber. He called upon all the



stakeholders of defence space ecosystem to work on bolstering the Counter-Space capabilities as deterrent for safeguarding country's space assets.

Mentioning the major initiatives of the Government to capitalise space to strengthen armed forces capabilities, CDS mentioned about the 75 space related challenges as part of Mission DefSpace 2022 under the iDEX initiative. "Under this initiative, a total of five contracts have been signed and additional four contracts are at various stages of documentation. In

the similar timelines, a feasibility study of 12 Make-I challenges is also being progressed," said Gen Anil Chauhan.

The CDS emphasized that the Government is encouraging all the stakeholders including start-ups for development of a dependable space ecosystem within the nation. "We probably had one Start Up in 2014 which has grown to 204 Start Ups in space sector with 54 additions in 2023 itself. In 2023, we as a nation invested \$123 mn in the sector bringing the total funding to \$380.25 mn," said Gen Anil Chauhan.

Underscoring that the Indian Space economy is currently estimated to be around \$8.4 billion, CDS said, the indigenous space economy is expected to grow to \$44 billion by the year 2033. "The government initiatives like Seed Fund Scheme, 0% GST regime, sharing of testing facilities, technology transfer have provided the rightful support to the private industry. This framework along with alignment of demands and funding support provide the right environment for the private sector to grow," added Gen Anil Chauhan.



## Guru Randhawa, who takes his first step into acting with Hindi film *Kuch Khatta Ho Jaay*, talks about his co-star Saiee Manjrekar and how music will always remain his first love

In a fusion of melody and cinematic flair, Punjabi singer Guru Randhawa and actress Saiee Manjrekar join forces in the much-anticipated Hindi film *Kuch Khatta Ho Jaay*. The dynamic duo shares insights into their collaboration, experiences on set, and the exciting journey of bringing this unique project to life.

For Guru Randhawa, making his acting debut with *Kuch Khatta Ho Jaay* marks a shift from his musical roots to the Hindi film industry. Choosing to begin his acting career with a Hindi film for this Punjabi singer is about showcasing his talent. He says, "No matter the language, people will identify me as the quintessential Punjabi munda, representing his culture and roots."

Even Saiee Manjrekar, who is in the initial years of her acting career, says the choice between Hindi and other languages is not exclusive. "Hindi cinema holds a special place in my heart. However, my experience in South Indian cinema allowed me to step out of my comfort zone, explore different languages, and work with diverse talents."

Positive vibes  
Both Guru and Saiee believe the star-studded cast, featuring Anupam Kher, Paritosh Tripathi, Paresh Ganatra, Atul Srivastava and Ila Arun, adds to the excitement. And Guru says it makes



for an ideal start to his acting journey.

Reflecting on his experience with Saiee, he commends her support and predicts the audience will love their on-screen chemistry. "She is great at acting and I've learnt so much from her. Every day we had fun on set. She even missed me when I was away for my shows during the shoot. We make for a beautiful reel couple and people would love us."

Working with Guru Randhawa proved to be a joy for Saiee, too. "He is fun on set. I am a bit shy when I first meet people but with him, his openness and honesty were reasons I immediately felt connected."

In the future  
Guru views his foray into Hindi

cinema as a natural extension of his identity, emphasising the interconnectedness of Hindi and Punjabi in the entertainment industry. His next is a Punjabi film titled *Shahkot*, which will also be released this year. The actor in Guru is ready to conquer the big screen, "We are all one big industry doing the same job of entertaining the masses. It's just work. I am confident of my skills and I would also step into Hollywood one day," he beams.

Looking ahead, Saiee is thrilled to be a part of Neeraj Panday's upcoming film *Auron Mein Kaha Dam Tha*. "It has been a learning experience working with Neeraj."

Story line  
The film is a romantic story intertwined with a narrative of

women empowerment, Saiee appreciates the subtle portrayal of the struggles faced by working women. "It's a bunch of messages combined together, but my favourite one has to be about my character, Era. A working woman, how she balances work and personal life, something a lot of women are struggling to find." It also resonates with Guru's belief, "How a lover or boyfriend or husband supports the partner in giving their talent a chance is at the core of this film."

Despite his developing acting career, Guru ensures music remains an integral part of his identity. "Music will never take a backseat for me. Thanks to these movies, I've added 18 new songs to my repertoire. I also have collaborations with Bobby Randhawa, hip-hop artiste Paradox and American rapper Raja Kumari in the pipeline," he informs.

Saiee discusses her evolution as an actress and the guiding force her father Mahesh Manjrekar has been in the process. "Our dinner table conversations are often about work, how to get better at it. When he saw the teaser, he was ready with advice. Similarly, there's constructive criticism, which I really appreciate. Whenever we have the time, he does workshops with me and my sister."

## Sushmita Sen: Ram Madhvani revealed new layers in my acting



Actress Sushmita Sen expressed her delight in working with direc-

tor Ram Madhvani, and shared how the latter has revealed new layers

in her acting that she never knew existed.

Sushmita is seen as the lead in Ram Madhvani's crime thriller series 'Aarya'.

Sharing insights on working with the 'Neerja' director, Sushmita said, "Working with Ram Madhvani is always a delight. I truly admire his genius. He transformed Aarya from a naive, sheltered woman to someone resilient in facing life's challenges."

"Off-screen, Ram revealed new layers in my acting that I never knew existed. The trust he has in me is incredible; he saw Aarya in me before I could," said the former Miss Universe.

Sushmita added, "For 'Aarya Antim Vaar', Ram and I spent time understanding Aarya's soul. When he asked me to look into my soul, I followed his advice and isolated myself. You can see the pain and anger on screen - Ram's guidance brought those emotions to life."

'Aarya Antim Vaar' would be streaming on Disney+ Hotstar from February 9.

## 'Hugely gratifying to see 'Black' receiving so much love': Rani on film's OTT release

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan and actor Rani Mukerji's iconic film recently marked its debut on OTT.

The digital journey of 'Black' kickstarted on February 4 on Netflix to mark 19 years of the film, which was directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Interestingly, it's been almost 20 years since the film was released and to date, it is being loved by moviegoers.

On witnessing audience's love for Black on OTT, Rani said, "It is overwhelming and hugely gratifying to see that 'Black' is receiving so much love from the audience even after 19 years, with its OTT release."

The film holds a very special place in my filmography. The experience of working with legendary Amitabh Bachchan and being directed by my favourite filmmaker of all times Sanjay Leela Bhansali, is something that will stay with me forever."

She added, "I am glad



that the film is out on Netflix and all those who missed watching the magic of Black in theatres when it released 19 years ago, will be able to witness it, on their screens. It is always humbling to see your work reach a wider audience."

The film won the National Award for Best

Feature Film. Also, Amitabh Bachchan won the National Award for Best Actor. It's the first film to have won 11 awards at the Filmfare Awards.

The film draws inspiration from the life of Helen Keller, as well as the 1962 film based on her autobiography, *The Miracle Worker*.

## Celebrate success, don't take failures to your heart — celebs talk about finding true happiness

Having a positive attitude can do wonders to your happiness quotient, no matter what is happening in your life. These celebrities spill their secrets on how they stay positive and, in turn, content.

Practise patience  
Dannish Khan

Optimism is maintained when you understand that a tough phase is temporary and that with time that shall pass. When you learn and practise sabr (patience), half the battle is won. When you start speaking to yourself positively, the outcome will be positive. There are times when something does not work for me but later I realise that something better was in store. I speak to my family and friends if I am unable to maintain optimism. I am vulnerable and do cry. But once done, I am back to face the challenge and find a solution.

Think positive  
Sara Khan

It is important to live in the present. First of all, you need to be thankful for whatever God has given you. And, it's always good to fight for whatever you want to achieve in life and keep moving ahead. But it is also important to stop, look around, and be thankful for whatever you have. Just



being positive, thinking positive, living the moment and having gratitude works for me.

Prayer time  
Nikhil Nanda

Everything starts from the mind. The best exercise for your mind is meditation. My momentum of positivity comes from the blessings that I receive from Hanumanji every morning when I pray to him.

Be strong  
Sachin Parikh

It's been more than 15 years since I joined showbiz. This is a profession where you are

completely unsure where your journey will take you. Along the journey, you come across hurdles and face failures and rejections. An actor needs to be mentally strong. I try not to take success to my head and failures to my heart. I take it as it comes, enjoy and celebrate the success but do not get dejected with rejections and failures. I'm a spiritual person. So, I leave it up to nature and the universe to nurture my life and career.

Focus on bright side  
Rinku Dhawan

I stay optimistic by having a

positive attitude. There's always a bright side to every situation. We need to focus on that. You just have to lift yourself. Happiness or optimism is all within you. I found my happiness and my optimism with me.

Gratitude works  
Shivangi Verma

Staying optimistic is indeed the need of the hour, especially in today's fast-paced world where there is so much toxicity around us. I just focus on the things I love to do. That give me peace of mind. As I said, I focus on the things I love to do the most. A few tips for maintaining a positive mind-set are — focus on the present, try to always look at the brighter side and practice gratitude.

Music heals

Umarah Naushad Ali

Music always helps me to calm down. Also, I have a dog and I feel he is better than any therapist. Also, I have amazing friends and cousins, who are always there to lift my spirit and, of course, my husband who has always been my morale booster. It's easy for me to fall into the trap of negativity but I distract myself by watching a comedy show, cooking and listening to music.

## Ankur Tewari talks about the idea behind viral hit *Khalasi*

The viral hit song *Khalasi* has truly shaped the contours of the soundscape of social media.

The song had countless impressions on social media serving as the background score for many dramatic and funny reels on Instagram. Musician Ankur Tewari, who serves as the creative architect on the second season of *Coke Studio Bharat*, has decoded the idea behind the viral hit song *Khalasi*.

In a conversation, Ankur shared that the idea for the song was cracked within a couple of hours during their discussions. He also shared his philosophy

as a musician and how it finds a strength in a platform like *Coke Studio Bharat*, and opened up on some of the defining moments from the first season of the show.

Ankur said, "Working on *Khalasi* was an exhilarating experience, especially with Saumya Joshi and Kausar Munir, who were integral members of our think tank. The ideation for the song unfolded within a couple of hours during our discussions — a process that was both thrilling and creatively charged. Witnessing Achint join the team with his guitar in hand, playing it like a flamenco guitarist, added to the passion we all felt while



crafting the song."

He further mentioned that when Saumya stepped in, he took it upon himself as a challenge to narrate a story of Gujarat that hadn't been told before.

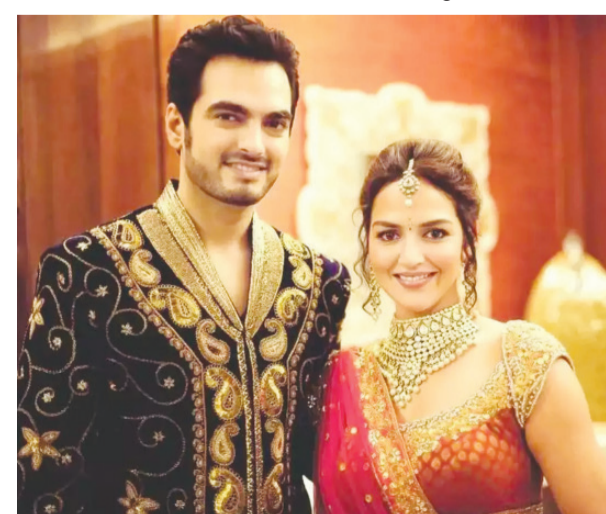
Ankur continued, "His perspective was beautifully articulated when he shared that India was discovered through Gujarat, the coast of Gujarat serving as the first touchpoint for those

arriving from outside India. This resonated as the perfect introduction to the new season of *Coke Studio Bharat*, presenting the story of a coast that perhaps hadn't been showcased to the world before."

Sharing his philosophy as a musician, he said, "One philosophy I really hold close to my heart, which even sometimes bothers my team, is to be honest with my expression and thoughts."

We try to be extremely honest with the stories we are trying to tell and not manufacture it like a product." The second season of *Coke Studio Bharat* is scheduled for launch on February 8.

## Dharmendra and Hema Malini daughter Esha Deol announces divorce after 11 years of marriage



Esha Deol and husband Bharat Takhtani announced their

divorce after 11 years of marriage. The couple issued a joint statement saying that the separation is "amicable".

Esha is the daughter of Bollywood couple Dharmendra and Hema Malini.

"We have mutually and amicably decided to part ways. Through this shift in our lives, the best interests and welfare of our two children is and will be of utmost importance to us. We'd appreciate our privacy is respected," says the statement issued to Delhi Times.

Esha and Bharat are parents to daughters Radhya, 6, and Miraya, 4.

They got married in 2012.



## PM Modi speaks in Rajya Sabha in last session before Lok Sabha polls

*The PM while speaking at the Rajya Sabha hit out at the Congress party for its divisive policies under Nehru and 'family before nation' approach.*

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): While speaking during his last Parliament session before the elections, Prime Minister Modi slams the Congress party and Kharge.

Taking a jibe at Kharge's 400 par statement from Rajya Sabha, Modi said he is thankful to the Congress leader as he is happy with the facts that Kharge spoke at length. He also added how Kharge got the freedom to speak so much in today's session.

"Mallikarjun Kharge ji spoke in Rajya Sabha for a long time and I was thinking about how he got the chance to speak for a long time and then I realised that two special commanders were not there so he took advantage of it and I think that Kharge ji must have heard that song 'Aisa mauka phir kaha milega'..."

Divisive policy  
During his address he stated that the Congress party's thoughts have become outdated. He added that the party will not be able to win more than 40 seats in the upcoming elections.



He also accused Congress of creating division between the South and North.

No reservation for backward class

The PM also accused the Congress of not giving complete reservation to the OBCs, the poor, or the general category.

Coming down heavily on the opposition party, Modi added that Congress who do not have the guarantee of its leaders and policies is questioning Modi's guarantees. Congress

was aware of the problems that were faced by the country and did nothing to save the economy, he added.

"They gave out Bharat Ratna to family members and who ever they liked," he added.

"The Congress which did not consider Baba Saheb worthy of Bharat Ratna, kept giving Bharat Ratna only to its family," the PM said.

Accusing the Congress party of slowing down the country's growth, the PM said that the

BJP-led Centre brought back India's economy from number 12 to number 11 in the past 10 years.

"We brought India's economy to number 5 in just 10 years and this Congress is here to give us long speeches on economic policies..." the PM said.

The Congress could not decide whether nationalisation is important or privatisation, he added.

Sold large part of country to enemies

The PM also accused the Congress of selling the country to the enemies. The PM without naming any particular leader from the party said that the it was during the Congress period a large part of the country to its enemies.

"The Congress which stopped the modernisation of the country's armies, is today giving us speeches on national security and internal security, the Congress which, after independence, remained confused, whether industries are necessary or farming."

## ED conducts raids against former Uttarakhand minister Harak Singh Rawat in money laundering case



DEHRADUN, Feb 7 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted searches against Uttarakhand Congress leader and former minister Harak Singh Rawat as part of a money laundering investigation, official sources said.

The searches were carried out at multiple premises in Uttarakhand, including his residence in Dehradun, apart from Delhi and Chandigarh, they said.

Rawat, 63, had quit the BJP ahead of the 2022 Uttarakhand assembly polls and joined the Congress.

The ED investigation is understood to be linked to alleged illegal activities in the state's Corbett Tiger Reserve.

The Uttarakhand government's vigilance department had also raided Rawat last year in connection with a probe into alleged large-scale felling of trees and illegal constructions in the tiger reserve.

Thousands of trees were allegedly felled and constructions were carried out in the reserve during Rawat's tenure as the state forest minister in the previous BJP government.

Apart from the Congress and the BJP, Rawat has also been part of the BSP in the past.

He began his political career with the BJP in the undivided Uttar Pradesh, joined the BSP in 1996 and quit it two years later to join the Congress.

After a long stint of 18 years with the Congress, he rebelled against the previous Harish Rawat government to join the BJP in 2016.

He was expelled from the BJP in 2022 as he allegedly insisted on party tickets for himself and his daughter-in-law for the assembly polls.

## ED officials didn't conduct searches, sat in living room of CM Kejriwal's PA's house: Atishi

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): The ED officials who raided the premises of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's personal assistant Bibhav Kumar sat in the living room of his house and did not even pretend to carry out any searches, Delhi minister Atishi said on Wednesday.



The officials did not search any rooms or look for any documents. They did not even care to explain in connection with which case they had gone there, she said at a press conference.

There was no immediate response from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to Atishi's claims.

Sources had said on Tuesday that the raids were carried out in connection with "irregu-

larities" in a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) tendering process.

The 'panchnama' document showed that the ED team took with it just two Gmail account downloads and three family phones from Kumar's house, Atishi claimed.

The ED raids are nothing but an attack on Kejriwal to crush him because he is the only one who openly challenges the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she charged.

About 10-12 premises in the National Capital were covered by the ED as part of the raids carried out under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Besides Bibhav Kumar, the office of AAP treasurer N D Gupta, residences of former DJB member Shalabh Kumar, a chartered accountant (CA), Pankaj Mangal, and some others linked to the AAP were covered by the officials of the agency.

## Retired Soldier Opens Fire After Argument With Friend In Bengaluru, Arrested

BENGALURU, Feb 7 (Agencies): A 65-year-old retired Indian Army Naik was arrested for allegedly opening fire after a heated argument under the influence of alcohol, police said on Wednesday.

Police said Parashuram went to 31-year-old Suraj's house in Abbigere and started arguing with him and

his family members on Tuesday. The accused and Suraj's family had been friends and shared a good relationship. But of late, their relationship had strained due to some dispute, they said.

According to the police, when Suraj and his father stopped Parashuram from entering their house, it led to a heated argument

between them. In a fit of rage, and allegedly under the influence of alcohol, Parashuram took out his licensed revolver and pointed at Suraj, who ran away. The accused then opened fire in the air creating panic.

Neighbours calmed Parashuram down. Meanwhile, Suraj informed the police

who rushed to the spot, arrested Parashuram and seized his revolver, a senior police officer said.

No one was injured in the incident, he said.

In his complaint, Suraj alleged that Parashuram had known his family for the past few years and that he used to visit their house frequently under the influence of alcohol

and quarreled over trivial issues, he said.

"Based on the complaint, we registered a case under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code and sections of Arms Act at Gangamma Gudi Police station.

The accused was arrested and sent to judicial custody," he added.

## Trio who reached Mumbai from Kuwait on a boat held for illegal entry into India

MUMBAI, Feb 7 (Agencies): The Mumbai police on Wednesday arrested three persons for entering India illegally, a day after they reached the metropolis on a boat from Kuwait, an official said.

The boat with the trio on board was anchored at the Gateway of India

on Tuesday. Prima facie, nothing suspicious was found on the boat, he said.

The trio hails from Tamil Nadu.

After the boat was found, a case was registered against them by the Colaba police here, the official said.

"The police arrested

them after filing a case under section 3 (a) with penal section 6 (a) of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules for not following the due procedures required for entering India," he added.

According to the official, the trio had gone to Kuwait two years back

for work. They were allegedly ill-treated by their agent who took them to Kuwait following which they escaped from there.

Further investigation into the case was on, he said.

The incident has raised concerns over poten-

tial maritime security lapses.

Notably, 10 Pakistani terrorists who launched a terror strike in Mumbai in November 2008 had arrived by the sea route. The terror attacks had claimed the lives of 166 individuals and left more than 300 people injured.

## 'Wherever on earth you are': Revanth Reddy assures students after attacks in US

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy today said that his government would set up a dedicated help desk for all young people living in the USA, and other countries, especially students, to ensure all their needs are met.

The move was announced as the Chief Minister expressed concern over the recent deaths of four students in the United States this year.

"Very disconcerted to learn of the attack on Syed Mazhar Ali, a student from Hyderabad, by four robbers in Chicago. This follows a fatal attack on B. Shreyas Reddy, who

was killed in Ohio. I request Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar to kindly convey our concerns over safety of our students and citizens living there," Telangana CMO wrote on X.

"My government will set up a dedicated help desk for all youth living in USA, and other countries, especially students, to ensure all their needs are met. It is my assurance to all citizens of Telangana - wherever on earth you are - the Congress government is there for you," it added.

In the most recent case, Indian student Syed Mazhar Ali who hails from Hyderabad,



was attacked and robbed of his phone by armed men in the US's Chicago. His family appealed to the Indian government to intervene and ensure he got proper medical treat-

ment. Similarly, only last week, B. Shreyas Reddy, an Indian-origin student, was found dead in Ohio. The Indian mission in New York acknowledged Red-

dy's death, noting that there was no suspicion of foul play at this stage.

Sameer Kamath, another 23-year-old Indian-origin doctoral student at Indiana's Purdue University was found dead in the woods at a nature preserve.

This tragic event followed the death of Neel Acharya, another Indian student at Purdue, who was found dead on campus after being reported missing last month. Acharya was a double major in computer science and data science and a member of the John Martinson Honors College.

## 15 Former Legislators, Ex MP From Tamil Nadu Join BJP In Delhi

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): A number of leaders from Tamil Nadu, including 15 former MLAs and an ex-MP, joined the BJP here on Wednesday as the ruling party looks to strengthen its presence in the southern state in the run up to the Lok Sabha elections.

Most of these leaders are from the AIADMK, a former BJP ally in the state, and the joining took place in the presence of Union ministers Rajeve Chandrasekhar and L Murugan besides the state BJP president K Annamalai.

Welcoming them, Annamalai said they bring a wealth of experience to the BJP and want to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he is coming back to power for a straight third term.

They have been seeing the happenings in Tamil Nadu, he said in an apparent swipe

at the state's ruling DMK and its main rival AIADMK.

"Tamil Nadu is going the Bharatiya Janata Party way," claimed the young leader whose strong position on his party's ideological stand in the Dravidian state and sharp criticism of the entrenched parties has won him his share of admirers and detractors. Chandrasekhar said the joining at such a big scale shows Modi's popularity in a state like Tamil Nadu, where the BJP has traditionally been not a big force.

Noting that PM Modi has projected that the BJP will win 370 seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha and the NDA will cross 400, he claimed that many of these new seats will come from Tamil Nadu. "It is clear that every citizen of India wants the transformation of the last 10 years to continue," he said.

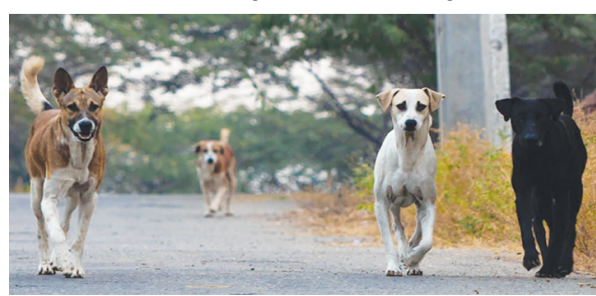
## Woman, 32, Mauled To Death By Nearly 20 Stray Dogs In Punjab

KAPURTHALA, Feb 7 (Agencies): Around 20 stray dogs mauled a 32-year-old woman to death in Passan Kadim village of this district, police on Wednesday said.

The incident took place in Sultanpur Lodhi here

on Tuesday evening when the woman went to the fields for grazing her cattle, they said.

When she did not return home, her husband started searching for her and later found her body in a mutilated condition, police said.



The victim was identified as Pari Devi (32), they said.

The stray dogs also attacked another woman of the same village and she was admitted to the Civil Hospital, police said.

The district administra-

tion will provide financial help to the victim's family, Deputy Commissioner Amit Kumar Panchal said.

He also directed the concerned department to remove stray dogs from the village.



## Former Chilean President Sebastián Piñera dies in helicopter crash

*Piñera's death comes as Chile already is recovering from massive deadly wildfires in county's central region*

VINA DEL MAR, Feb 7 (Agencies): Sebastián Piñera, the two-time former president of Chile who faced social upheaval followed by a pandemic in his second term, died on Tuesday in a helicopter crash. He was 74.

Chile Interior Minister Carolina Tohá confirmed the death of the former president. No further details were immediately released about the cause of the accident.

Serving as president from 2010 to 2014 and again from 2018 to 2022, Piñera led the South American nation during moments of crisis, including the aftermath of an 8.8-magnitude earthquake and tsunami.

He gained a spotlight for his administration's rescue of trapped Chilean miners in 2010, and his governance during the coronavirus pandemic, when Chile was placed among the top five countries for vaccination rates for the illness.

His legacy is marred by violent police repression in October 2019 against protesters who were demonstrating against the country's education, health and pension systems dating to the country's 1973-1990 military dictatorship. A United Nations investigation alleged that police used force "improperly and indiscriminately" injuring protesters, and that government mistreatment of detainees amounted to torture.

The social unrest ultimately led to two attempts to update the Constitution that was inherited from the military government,



but both have failed.

Piñera's death came as Chile already was recovering from massive deadly wildfires in the county's central region.

Chilean President Gabriel Boric honored Piñera in a speech on Tuesday afternoon as a leader "seeking the best for his country," highlighting his management of the pandemic and other emergencies. "He was a democrat from the very first moment," Boric said.

The death also drew an outpouring of condolences from leaders and former leaders across Latin America from both the left and right.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that it was sad that Piñera had died so "abruptly."

"We worked to strengthen the relationship between our countries and we always had a good dialogue when we were both presidents, and also when we weren't," he said.

Argentinian President Javier Milei sent condolences, as

did his predecessor, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner.

"As everyone knows, we did not have the same ideas, but we were always united by a relationship of great respect: he was a right-wing man but deeply democratic," Fernández said. "I remember with affection his sense of humor and the warmth of his family, whom I met in Chile."

Piñera was the owner of the fifth-largest fortune in Chile, estimated at some USD 3 billion. He worked as an academic in several universities for almost 20 years and as a consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank. When he closed his time in office, he had created an estimated 1 million jobs.

As a businessman in the 1970s through the 1990s, he worked in a variety of industries, including real estate. He held shares in major airlines, telecommunication, real estate and electricity companies. He also created one of the largest credit card compa-

nies in the country. In 2009, he handed over the management of his businesses to others.

He entered politics representing the center-right, which was the civilian support of the military regime. However, when he served as an independent senator, he voted against the extension of dictator Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990).

He ran three times for president of Chile. In 2006, he lost to socialist Michelle Bachelet; then in 2010 he defeated former President Eduardo Frei and was elected in 2010. Four years later, in 2018, he won a second four-year term after defeating a leftist independent.

Twelve days before the beginning of his first term, an 8.8 magnitude earthquake and a tsunami claimed the lives of 525 people and devastated the infrastructure of central-southern Chile.

Piñera's government agenda was postponed in order to take on emergency reconstruction. In 2010, he also led the unprecedented rescue of 33 miners trapped for 69 days at the bottom of a collapsed mine in the northern Atacama Desert.

The rescue and the adverse conditions the miners survived captured the world's attention. One of the final social media posts from the deceased leader commemorated their rescue.

It was a song to life that inspired the world and showed the best of the Chileans' mettle and the soul of our nation," he wrote.

## Five people killed, 31 injured in Philippine landslide



MANILA, Feb 7 (Agencies): At least five people were killed and 31 injured when a rain-induced landslide engulfed two buses and houses in a mountainous region of the southern Philippines, an official said Wednesday.

The landslide struck Tuesday night in a mining village in Davao de Oro province on Mindanao island, trapping at least 20 people inside two buses used to transport mine workers, provincial disaster official Edward Macapili told agency.

At least 28 people were on board the buses when the landslide hit, but eight managed to escape unhurt through the windows before the mud engulfed them, Macapili said.

The buses had been outside a gold mine operated by the Philippine company Apex Mining in Masara vil-

lage where buses drop off and pick up workers.

Five bodies were pulled from the mud, Macapili said, but it was not clear if they were on the bus.

Another 31 villagers were also injured. Two of them were seriously hurt and were airlifted to a hospital in Davao city for treatment, Macapili said.

"There was no sign that a landslide would occur because the rains stopped on Thursday and by Friday it was already sunny and hot," Macapili said.

Macapili said an earthquake shook the village shortly after the landslide. The search effort was halted at midnight because it was too hazardous to continue, but resumed at daylight, he said.

"Rescue work is hampered by limited visibility and intermittent slides," Apex Mining said in a statement on

its website.

It is not clear if other mine workers were also affected by the landslide or if other villagers are missing.

Meanwhile, 285 families from Masara and four nearby villages were forced to evacuate from their homes, Macapili said.

Military personnel have been deployed to help in the rescue efforts.

"The roads remain impassable, and there is no cellphone signal in the area," the military's Eastern Mindanao Command said on Facebook Wednesday.

Rain has pounded parts of Mindanao off and on for weeks, forcing tens of thousands into emergency shelters.

At least 18 people died from landslides and flooding in the region last week, the national disaster agency said in its latest update.

Landslides are frequent hazards across much of the archipelago nation owing to the mountainous terrain, heavy rainfall and widespread deforestation.

The Philippines is regularly ravaged by storms, with scientists warning they are becoming more powerful as the world gets warmer because of climate change.

## British-Indian politician Shreela Flather dies after brief illness

LONDON, Feb 7 (Agencies): Known for her elegant sarees in the UK's House of Lords, British-Indian politician Shreela Flather has died at the age of 89 following a brief illness. The news was confirmed by her family in a statement.

Also, a teacher, she was a life peer as Baroness Flather of Windsor and Maidenhead in Berkshire.

As the Lifetime President of the Memorial Gates Council, she was instrumental in the creation of the iconic Memorial Gates at Hyde Park Corner in London as a tribute to the war efforts made by some 5 million Commonwealth soldiers during the World Wars.

"Baroness Flather was a trailblazer, having been appointed as the first UK Asian Woman Justice of the Peace, Mayor and Baroness. She worked tirelessly for women's and girls' rights, and served the South Asian community in the UK," her sons, Marcus and Paul Flather said in the statement.

"She will be much missed for her sense of humour, plain speaking, and commitment to a range of causes linked to race, immigration and dignity of dying. She will be remembered especially for founding and setting up the Memorial Gates in central London, dedicated to the memory of non-white soldiers from the Commonwealth who fought in the two great wars," it noted.

Lord Karan Bilimoria, Chair of the Memo-



rial Gates Council, expressed his sadness at the passing away of Baroness Flather, the "driving force" behind the memorial and someone he knew for 30 years for breaking "one glass ceiling after another".

"I will always be grateful to her as she was the person who brought me into Parliament for the first time when she started an initiative called 'Asian Link', which brought in young Asians to events she organised with Cabinet ministers speaking at the House of Lords," shared Bilimoria in his tribute.

"She was a unique personality and a force of nature. Shreela was always proud of being Indian and Asian. She was an inspiration to me and to so many and paved the way for so many of us. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her," he said.

Baroness Flather addressed a gathering of war veterans and diplomats annually at the

gates opened in 2022 to mark Commonwealth Day in March.

"It is 20 years since we opened these Memorial Gates, and I am gratified that, over that time, the awareness and appreciation of the huge contributions to our war efforts made by some 5 million Commonwealth soldiers is so much more widely shared," said Baroness Flather on March 14, 2022, in one of her final addresses.

"The war raging again on the continent of Europe makes it all the more poignant to recall such sacrifices in the past. We owe this to the memory of all the Africans, West Indians, and Indians who fought for us in the two great wars. They knew which was the right side. I hope all Commonwealth countries, all democracies, remember that – and come out on the right side today – and not hide below the parapets," she said, with reference to the Russia-Ukraine conflict at the time.

## Blinken in Israel for talks on truce deal

*Blinken said Hamas's reply had been "shared" with Israel and he would discuss it there on Wednesday.*

TEL AVIV, Feb 7 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Israel on Wednesday, where he was expected to press for what he called an "essential" truce agreement as the war with Hamas entered its fifth month.

The diplomat was due to meet Israel's leaders as part of a Middle East crisis tour after earlier stops in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Qatar.

Qatar, which mediated a temporary ceasefire earlier in the conflict, said Hamas had given a response to a new proposed deal to pause the fighting.

"The reply includes some comments, but in general it is positive," Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said after meeting Blinken in Doha.

Blinken said Hamas's reply had been "shared" with Israel and he would discuss it there on Wednesday.

He also said there was still "a lot of work to be done" but that he believed "that an agreement is possible and indeed essential".

Israel's spy agency Mossad also received the Hamas response, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said, and "its details are being thoroughly evaluated".

Netanyahu, who has yet to comment directly on the response, said on Tuesday: "We are on the way to the total victory and we will not stop." Pressure for a ceasefire has mounted as Israeli forces push towards the town of Rafah on Gaza's southern border with Egypt, where more than half the besieged territory's population has taken shelter.

"To be clear, intensified hostilities in Rafah in this situation could lead to large-scale loss of civilian lives, and we must do everything possible within our power to avoid that," said Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN aid coordination office OCHA.

'Children scared all the time' The war started with Hamas's



unprecedented attacks on Israel on October 7, which killed about 1,160 people, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally based on official Israeli figures.

Militants also seized around 250 hostages, with Israel saying 132 remain in Gaza.

Vowing to eliminate Hamas, Israel has launched air strikes and a land offensive that have killed at least 27,585 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

The campaign has devastated swathes of Gaza, destroyed hospitals and displaced more than half of its population of 2.4 million, while food, water, fuel and medicine are in dire shortage.

"The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is beyond catastrophic," said Tommaso Della Longa, spokesman for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Israeli troops, with air and naval support, have been engaged in heavy combat centred on Gaza's main southern city of Khan Yunis, the hometown of Hamas's Gaza chief, Yahya Sinwar, accused by Israel of masterminding the October 7 attack.

Around 8,000 displaced people had been evacuated from the besieged Al-Amal hospital in Khan Yunis, where they

had sought refuge, after weeks of heavy shelling and fighting nearby, according to the Red Cross.

Gaza's health ministry said at least 100 people were killed overnight Tuesday to Wednesday.

Israel has warned it could also push on into Rafah, the last place of refuge for many Palestinians fleeing the fighting.

The army "will reach places where we have not yet fought... right up to the last Hamas bastion, which is Rafah", Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said earlier this week.

Safia Marouf, sheltering in Rafah with her family after being uprooted from their home further north, said she is afraid of what is to come.

"The children are scared all the time, and if we want to leave Rafah, we don't know where to go. What will be our destiny and that of our children?"

Diplomatic push Last week, a Hamas source said the proposed truce calls for a six-week pause to fighting for a hostage-prisoner exchange, as well as more aid for Gaza.

On Monday, Netanyahu said Hamas had presented "demands that we will not accept" for an exchange involving thousands of prisoners.

The Israeli leader is under pressure to end the war and bring the hostages home, amid divisions within his cabinet and

public fury over the fate of the remaining captives.

The United States has strongly backed Israel with munitions and diplomatic support but also urged steps to reduce civilian casualties.

On his latest diplomatic tour to the region, Blinken first stopped in Saudi Arabia, which Washington has been pushing to normalise ties with Israel.

After comments from Washington indicated "positive feedback" on establishing ties, the kingdom emphasised it would not be willing to do so without recognition for an independent Palestinian state.

"The Kingdom has communicated its firm position to the US administration that there will be no diplomatic relations with Israel unless an independent Palestinian state is recognised on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital," the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

Regional violence flares Violence has also flared in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, where Iran-backed groups have launched attacks in support of Hamas, triggering counterattacks by Israel, the United States and its partners.

Israeli strikes on the Syrian city of Homs killed five people, including three civilians, on Wednesday, a war monitor said.

Its fighter jets had also targeted bases of the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement near Marwahin and Meiss El Jabal in southern Lebanon.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi have meanwhile for weeks been targeting what they say are Israel-linked ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in solidarity with Palestinians.

The attacks have disrupted global trade and prompted reprisals by US and British forces.

Last week, the United States carried out strikes on Iran-backed groups in Syria and Iraq, killing dozens in retaliation for a deadly attack on its troops in Jordan.



## Samsung R&D Institute signs MoU with IIT Kanpur

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: Samsung R&D Institute, Noida (SRI-Noida) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) for a period of five years to focus on key growth areas that will include joint research projects by IIT Kanpur students, faculty and Samsung engineers, helping students become industry-ready.

These research projects will span areas such as health, visual, framework and B2B security, and cutting-edge technology areas such as Generative AI and Cloud. Apart from research projects, the MoU seeks to provide



opportunities for upskilling Samsung engineers in key technology areas such as AI, Cloud and other emerging technologies. The MoU was signed by Kyungyun Roo, Managing Director, SRI-Noida, Prof. Tarun Gupta, Dean, Research and Development, IIT Kanpur and in the presence of Prof. S. Ganesh, Director, IIT Kanpur; Prof. Sandeep Verma, Department of Chemistry, IIT Kanpur;

Prof. Tushar Sandhan, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Kanpur; and other senior delegates from Samsung. We are excited to begin this collaborative journey with IIT Kanpur. This collaboration reflects our dedication towards merging academic excellence with industrial innovation, thereby making students industry-ready. We look forward to a dynamic exchange of ideas,

knowledge and talent, which will certainly play a crucial role in the success of groundbreaking projects and contribute to the growth of both Samsung and IIT Kanpur," said Kyungyun Roo, Managing Director, SRI-Noida. "By combining the academic excellence of IIT Kanpur with the industry expertise of Samsung India, we aim to create a dynamic environment for cutting-edge

projects and provide invaluable opportunities for our students and researchers. This MoU complements IIT Kanpur's relentless efforts in bridging the gap between academia and industry, while creating a connection between theoretical knowledge and practical industry solutions," said Prof. S. Ganesh, Director, IIT Kanpur. "The MoU reflects our commitment to providing our students and researchers with opportunities that go beyond academics, contributing significantly to technological advancements and growth of the academic landscape of our institute," said Prof. Tarun Gupta, Dean, Research and Development, IIT Kanpur.

## Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt on a visit to Riyadh for World Defence Show 2024

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Feb 7: Bearing testimony to the growing defence ties between India and Saudi Arabia, Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt is on a visit to Riyadh as head of the Indian delegation for the ongoing World Defence Show (WDS) 2024. The five-day show, which commenced on February 04, 2024, is showcasing the latest advancements in defence technology serving as a vital platform for international collaboration amongst the participating companies. On behalf of the Government of India, the Raksha Rajya Mantri extended his

greetings to the leadership of Saudi Arabia for hosting the impressive event which culminates on February 08, 2024. On February 6, 2024, the Raksha Rajya Mantri held a meeting with the Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the sidelines of the show. They discussed various aspects of bilateral defence cooperation. Shri Ajay Bhatt also held talks with the Assistant Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia Dr Khaled Al-Bayari, with whom he discussed ways to further strengthen the long-standing and multifaceted defence coop-

eration between the two countries. The discussions centred around exploring avenues for collaboration in areas of mutual interest, including increasing the scope of joint training exercises, technology transfer and exchange of expertise. In addition, the Raksha Rajya Mantri held a meeting with the Governor of Saudi Arabia's General Authority for Military Industries (GAMI) Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Ohali. They discussed the way ahead towards collaborating in varied areas of defence production, Research & Development, besides niche technologies.

## Rich Harvest School bids farewell to graduate class of 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: Rich Harvest School is an institute renowned and dedicated for providing a holistic and nurturing learning environment for its students. With a focus on academic excellence, character development, and social responsibility, the school empowers its students to become well-rounded individuals prepared to excel in their chosen fields and contribute positively to society.

Rich Harvest School celebrated the achievements and bid a heartfelt farewell to its graduating class of 2024 with a memorable farewell party on Wednesday. The afternoon brimmed with nostalgia, laughter, and well wishes as students, teachers, and esteemed guests came together to mark the culmination of a significant chapter in the lives of these young individuals.

The event commenced with a heart warming



welcome speech by the school principal, highlighting the remarkable journey of the graduating class and their contributions to the Rich Harvest School community. Throughout the afternoon, students showcased their talents through captivating performances, including dance routines,

musical presentations, and through heartfelt speeches they shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to their teachers and mentors. The ceremony also recognized outstanding academic achievements and contributions towards extracurricular activities. Awards were

presented to students who excelled in various fields, showcasing the diverse talents and dedication of the graduating class. Guest speakers, including ASP SDPO Bari Brahmana IPS Mukund Tibrewal, Managing Director Gambhir Dev Singh Charak Ji, Director Ruchi Charak

and Principal Mrs. Anita Bhatia offered inspiring words of encouragement and shared valuable insights for the students' future endeavours.

A special segment was dedicated to acknowledge the tireless efforts and dedication of teachers who have nurtured and guided the students throughout their academic journey. Students expressed their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation through personalised messages and tokens of appreciation.

The farewell party concluded with a vibrant dance floor, allowing students and teachers to create lasting memories.

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, joy, and a sense of camaraderie as everyone celebrated the successes and embraced the bittersweet emotions of farewell.

Sharan Raj Aryan of class 12th was crowned as RHS and Vishakha was crowned as Ms. RHS.

## Samsung launches Galaxy XCover7, its first-ever enterprise exclusive smartphone

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: Galaxy XCover7, a powerful device which is rugged, and offers exceptional usability. Galaxy XCover7, engineered to survive extreme conditions aims to ease the lives of professionals, providing faster connectivity, seamless continuity, and minimizing risk of interruptions caused by external factors, allowing them to work faster and smarter.

The Galaxy XCover7 will deliver enhanced mobility with 5G connectivity, upgraded mobile processor performance and increased memory. Additionally, the Galaxy XCover7 comes with a new powerful rear camera optimised for single and multiple barcode/QR code scanning and expanded display size and resolution, providing users the ability to work in a variety of settings. The easy POGO charging pin for convenient recharging in any setting, and increased touch sensitivity to support usage even with the gloves on makes Galaxy XCover7 a reliable and convenience-oriented product. Defined by its durability and cutting-edge features, the Galaxy XCover7 ensures seamless continuity and enhanced productivity that enable users to work from anywhere in the world.

The smartphone series come with an immersive, wide-screen display that enhances visual clarity, allowing users to work more efficiently even on the field. Knox Vault in Galaxy XCover7 helps protect the most critical data on these devices, including lock screen information like PIN codes, passwords



and patterns.

"At Samsung our objective is to provide our users convenience and durability through our product offerings. We have introduced Galaxy XCover7 series in two variants, the Galaxy XCover7 Enterprise Edition and Standard Edition. Both devices are engineered with cutting-edge technologies making them extremely powerful and resistant to tough weather conditions.

Powered by Knox, we are excited to bring these revolutionary made in India products to our corporate customers and are optimistic that it will enhance employee productivity and ensure data security", said Akash Saxena, Vice President, Enterprise Business, Samsung India.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Lt Governor lays foundation stone of Synthetic Football Turf at Jagti Camp, Nagrota

Community in J&K's Legislative Assembly is a major step towards the empowerment of the community.

"I urge the youth of Kashmiri Pandit community to avail limitless opportunities in diverse sectors and fulfill the goal of Viksit Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

He said the State-of-the-Art sports facility to be developed as per FIFA Standards demonstrates the unwavering commitment and dedication of the UT Administration to promote sports in the Union Territory.

In this Financial Year, indoor stadium, outdoor gym and cricket stadium with all facilities will be developed at Jagti, while Rs 30 lakh has already been allocated for the creation of badminton and volleyball court facilities, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the efforts of the administration to develop the massive infrastructure that has brought sports revolution in J&K, post 2019.

We have completed 702 sports projects. Multipurpose indoor sports halls have been constructed in almost every district. Playfields have been developed in every panchayat, he observed.

International level sports facilities are being developed in Jammu and Srinagar. Centres of Excellence have been established in Canoeing, Rowing and Fencing in both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions. Floodlighting and synthetic turfing are being installed in several stadia, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commit-

ment of the UT Administration to extend necessary assistance and handholding to the budding sports persons and enterprising youth in different sectors.

He said the financial assistance to the 1049 youth identified during the Special camp will be provided by the end of February this year.

He instructed the Relief Commissioner and concerned officials to facilitate more youth interested in self-employment ventures and ensure their inclusion among the already selected candidates for assistance.

The Lt Governor called upon the community members to take the lead in creating large employment opportunities for the local youth and assured them every support from the administration in their endeavours.

He further directed for organizing the second leg of the Special Grievance Camp for Kashmiri Migrants in the coming days.

The work on the approved Yatri Niwas will start soon which will further augment the facilities for the devotees during the Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela, the Lt Governor said.

Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services & Sports J&K; Sh Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K, Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; senior officials, prominent citizens, sportspersons and people in large number were presents.

### Notorious criminal detained under PSA in Udhampur

forcing authorities to detain him under J&K Public Safety Act, 1978.

"On the directions of Sh. Joginder Singh-JKPS Senior Superintendent of Police Udhampur, his dossier for PSA was framed and sent for necessary detention orders," he said.

The spokesperson said that after getting necessary detention orders Rakesh Kumar was arrested by the team of Police Station Udhampur led by Insp Raghuraj Singh and DySP Hqrs. Udhampur S. Gurmeet Singh under supervision of Adl. SP Udhampur Sh. Baljit Singh.

### PM has scripted a historic chapter for J&K by granting ST status to Paharis : Chugh

J&K besides improving the economic condition of the people.

While terrorism has been largely controlled, defeating the designs of the Pakistan's ISI a new era of peace and development has dawned in J&K.

### MeT forecasts rains, snow during Feb 18 to 20 in J&K

accumulation and sub-freezing temperature over many hilly areas, travelers are advised to follow advisories issued from administration and Traffic Police.

### Punjab Police arrests three terror associates

Joban was wanted for offences committed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Narcotic Drugs and Psycho-

tropic Substances Act, the Arms Act and the IT Act and had remained absconding for long.

"Joban and Bikka were also wanted in more than one IPC 307 (attempt to murder) cases," said Yadav.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused were carrying out criminal activities on the directions of their foreign handlers," Yadav added.

### Jammu-Srinagar National Highway opens for traffic

stones/landslides, the highway was damaged at a number of places earlier this week while maximum damage to road was caused in the Sherbibi stretch in Ramban district.

### Police rescue two 'trafficked' Bangladeshi girls in Jammu

receiving information about a potential human trafficking case and registered a First Information Report (FIR) under sections 366A/370/370A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The official further said that the investigation of the case has been entrusted to the Senior Deputy Police Officer (SDPO) of City North Jammu.

### Former MLC Shenaz Ganai thanks PM Modi for historic Scheduled Tribes amendment bill

fear among the other Schedule Tribes of J&K regarding the dilution of their Schedule Tribe status. They do this to stay relevant in J&K political arena by systematically exploiting both the Pahari and the Gujjar tribes for their petty vote bank politics.

"I fervently believe there is no more any scope for such vested interest politics as the J&K Schedule Tribes stands awakened communities and are loyal to the government for all times to come."

### 3 bovine smuggling attempts foiled by Police in Udhampur, 27 bovines rescue

attempts in Udhampur, and 27 bovines rescued.

A Police spokesperson said Udhampur Police rescued 27 Bovines and seized 03 vehicles used for bovine smuggling. He said team of Police Post Tikri foiled two bovine smuggling bids in which 21 bovines were rescued and vehicle (Pickup Truck and truck) bearing registration number JK14H 6958 and JK02DD 750 seized from Tikri nakapoint.

In this regard, two cases FIR under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Rehambal. Earlier police team of Police Post Roundomail rescued 06 bovines from one vehicle bearing registration number JK14J 1971 at naka point Roundomail. The driver of the vehicle fled away from the spot after leaving behind the vehicle on road. All the bovines were rescued and vehicle seized, the spokesperson said.

He said in this connection, a case FIR under relevant sections of law stands registered in PS Udhampur and further investigation of the case is underway.



## Markets climb for 2nd day running on buying in SBI, Reliance, firm US market trends

Fresh foreign fund inflows also added to the positive momentum in equities

MUMBAI, Feb 7 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices climbed in early trade on Wednesday amid buying in shares of State Bank of India and Reliance Industries along with firm trends in the US markets.

Fresh foreign fund inflows also added to the positive momentum in equities.

Extending its previous day's rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 373.12 points to 72,559.21 in early trade. The Nifty climbed 123.9 points to 22,053.30.

Among the Sensex



firms, State Bank of India, Axis Bank, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Sun Pharma

and Reliance Industries were the major gainers. HCL Technologies, Infosys, Power Grid, Wipro, Tech Mahindra and ICICI Bank were

among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Shanghai were trading in the positive territory while Tokyo and Hong Kong were

quoted in the negative zone.

The US markets ended with gains on Tuesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 92.52 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark climbed 454.67 points or 0.63 per cent to settle at 72,186.09 on Tuesday. The Nifty went up by 157.70 points or 0.72 per cent to 21,929.40.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.20 per cent to USD 78.75 a barrel

## Paytm shares climb for second day, rises 10% to continue recovery

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): Shares of One97 Communications Ltd, which owns Paytm brand, climbed 10 per cent on Wednesday morning, continuing its recovery journey.

The stock jumped 9.99 per cent to Rs 496.75 on the BSE after a firm beginning. Shares of the company climbed 9.99 per cent to Rs 496.25 on the NSE.

The stock of One97 Communications Ltd rebounded by over 3 per cent on Tuesday after three days of sharp fall.

From February 1-5 (three days of trading), the company's stock tumbled over 42 per cent, wiping out Rs



20,471.25 crore from its market valuation, following the RBI's crackdown.

Last week, RBI ordered Paytm Payments Bank Ltd, a restricted bank that can take deposits but cannot

lend, to not take any further deposits or conduct credit transactions or carry out top-ups on any customers accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, and cards for

paying road tolls after February 29.

Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) is an associate of One97 Communications Limited (OCL).

One97 Communications holds 49 per cent of the paid-up share capital (directly and through its subsidiary) of PPBL. Founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma has a 51 per cent stake in the bank.

## India to be largest global oil demand growth driver through 2030, says IEA

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): India is expected to be the largest driver of global oil demand growth between 2023 and 2030, narrowly taking the lead from top importer China, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Wednesday.

The world's third-largest oil importer and consumer is on track to post an oil demand increase of almost 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd), accounting for more than one-third of the projected 3.2 million bpd global gains, the IEA said in a report released at the India Energy Week in Goa.

The agency forecast India's demand would reach 6.6 million bpd in 2030, up from 5.5 million bpd in 2023.

"India will become the largest source



of global oil demand growth between now and 2030, while growth in developed economies and China initially slows and then subsequently goes into reverse in our outlook," it added.

To meet this demand,

India is expected to add 1 million bpd of new refining capacity over the seven-year period and this will increase its crude imports further to 5.8 million bpd by 2030,

the IEA said.

Among products, diesel will be India's single largest source of oil demand growth on the back of massive industrial expansion, accounting for almost half of the rise in the nation's demand and more than one-sixth of total global oil demand growth through to 2030, the IEA said.

Jet fuel is poised to grow at 5.9% annually

on average but this will be from a low base compared with other countries, it added.

The electrification of India's vehicle fleet will lead to a more muted 0.7% annual growth average for gasoline, the IEA said. New electric vehicles and energy efficiency improvements in India will avoid 480,000 bpd of extra oil demand from now to 2030, it added.

## Basmati output rises to 13 mt, yet prices climb for millers, consumers

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): India's basmati paddy output is up from 11 million tonnes (mt) in 2022-23 to 13 mt this year, yet both millers and consumers are paying more for the premium grain.

"The crop size is bigger this time, but we have paid an average price of Rs 50 per kg for paddy delivered at our plant, versus around Rs 46 in 2022-23. Farmer realisations have correspondingly risen from Rs 41-42 to Rs 44-45," said Kunal Gupta, senior manager (procurement & production) at KRBL Ltd, India's largest basmati miller and branded rice seller.

He attributed the higher prices to export demand and a growing domestic market. Last year's 11 mt basmati paddy production would have yielded

about 7.25 mt of milled rice (at 66 per cent recovery) and 5.5 mt of "head" or non-broken grain (at 50 per cent). India exported 4.56 mt of basmati rice in 2022-23. Shipments during April-November 2023, at 2.99 mt, were 9.6 per cent more than the 2.73 mt for the corresponding eight months of 2022-23.

The Centre hasn't imposed any export prohibitions on basmati rice, unlike with non-basmati grain. The latter exports have dipped 33.5 per cent from 11.57 mt in April-November 2022 to 7.69 mt in April-November 2023. Basmati shipments, entirely comprising head rice, are continuing as before on the back of robust demand.

The second reason for price rise has to do with the domestic market, accounting for

the balance 2.7-3 mt. That market is growing, especially in the non-metros and also the South, which is not a traditional basmati consumer.

"Between 2016-17 and 2022-23, the top 10 cities have seen their share in domestic packaged basmati rice sales fall from 60 per cent to 40 per cent. It has shrunk more, from 48 per cent to 30 per cent, for metros in the South," noted Ayush Gupta, KRBL's business head.

The domestic market in basmati is also under-penetrated relative to other FMCG products — soap, shampoo, toothpaste or even edible oils. "We have consumers upgrading, from non-basmati to basmati as well as from loose, non-branded to branded packs in the latter," he added.

The growing domestic market, plus exports, has resulted in the average retail price of branded basmati rice (across categories from broken to aged whole grains) going up from Rs 80 to Rs 90/kg in the last one year. The modal price of regular non-basmati rice has also increased — from Rs 35 to Rs 40, as per the department of consumer affairs — despite curbs on exports. That has been primarily due to a smaller non-basmati crop this year from subnormal monsoon rain.

Out of the nearly 3-mt domestic basmati market, one mt is constituted by head rice. KRBL claims to have a 0.25 mt (25 per cent) share of that through its 'India Gate' (up to 2-years aged white rice) and 'Unity' (steamed rice) brands.

## HDFC Bank raises \$300 million via maiden sustainable finance bond issue

MUMBAI, Feb 7 (Agencies): India's HDFC Bank has raised \$300 million through its debut sustainable finance dollar-denominated bond issue, the lender said in a release on Wednesday.

The country's biggest private lender by market capitalisation priced its three-year sustainability bond at a yield of 5.196%. This is 95 basis points (bps) over the three-year U.S. Treasury yield, sharply lower than the initial guidance of a 125-bps spread.

"The funds raised through the sustain-

able finance bonds will be prioritised for lending towards electric vehicles, small and medium enterprises and affordable housing," said Arup Rakshit, group head-treasury at HDFC Bank.

The bank has also raised another \$450 million via senior unsecured five-year dollar bonds, at a coupon of 5.180%. These notes were priced 108 bps over the five-year U.S. yield, also lower than the initial guidance of 140 bps.

The proceeds from the five-year notes will be used for funding and

expansion of the bank's foreign branches and foreign subsidiaries as well as for general corporate purposes, the lender said.

The Regulation-S dollar notes will be rated Baa3 by Moody's and BBB- by S&P Ratings. The notes will be issued by the bank's Gujarat International Finance Tech City branch and will be listed on the India International Exchange.

Barclays, Bank of America, JP Morgan, MUFG and Standard Chartered are the joint global coordinators and lead managers.

## Is your waterproof mascara, foundation and lipstick making you sick?

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): Who doesn't like a smooth and shimmering skin with a water-resistant moisturiser, a mascara that doesn't run, an eyeliner that stays in place and a lipstick that doesn't smudge? These convenience cosmetics are often touted as safe and long-lasting but have now been linked to cancers, high cholesterol, thyroid disease, liver damage, asthma and allergies. That's because of their highest concentrations of man-made chemicals called perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), commonly known as forever chemicals.

In fact, this is one of the reasons why New Zealand is set to become one of the first countries to ban them from cosmetic products as early as 2026.

"Of course, these chemicals form a barrier on the skin, protecting it against environmental damage and waterproofing you. Unfortunately, these forever chemicals, which have fluorine and carbon, are difficult to break down inside the body. Although they have been in use since the 1950s and incorporated in consumer goods, including non-stick cookware, they

have the potential to enter faster through the lips, skin and eyes," says Dr Trupti D Agarwal, Consultant Dermatologist, Trichologist And Aesthetic Dermatologist, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai.

"The thin mucus membranes near the mouth and tear ducts allow PFAS to be absorbed. Lipstick wearers may swallow up to several ounces of the cosmetic over the course of their lives, and lipstick is more likely to be consumed unintentionally. So it is advisable that we act wisely and check such ingredients before purchase," she says.

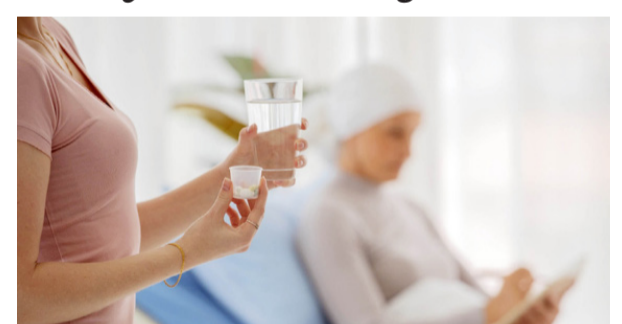
Studies have shown that forever chemicals can be easily absorbed through the skin and cannot be eliminated by the body that easily. "This extended presence increases their levels over time and can result in adverse health effects," says Dr S K Kashyap, Consultant, Dermatology and Lasers Expert, Marengo Asia Hospitals, Gurugram.

## Patients and doctors unite to challenge harsh side effects of cancer drugs

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): In a major shift, cancer patients and doctors are uniting to question the necessity of enduring harsh side effects caused by powerful drugs. As advances in cancer treatment enable millions to live longer with incurable cancers, the movement aims to radically transform the way new cancer drugs are tested. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has urged drug-makers to prioritize finding the lowest effective dose, even if it means investing more time in research and development.

Traditionally, cancer drug development has focused on determining the maximum tolerated dose, a practice that often results in severe side effects for patients. To accelerate chemotherapy drug testing, researchers have historically increased the dosage for a small number of patients in early studies to determine the highest dose tolerated. However, this approach may not be suitable for newer, more targeted cancer drugs.

Unlike chemotherapy, which acts as a battering ram in its aggressive approach, newer cancer drugs function more like a front door key. They specifi-



cally target cancer cell growth drivers, such as mutations, or enhance the body's immune system to combat the disease. Consequently, lower doses of these drugs may be sufficient to achieve the desired results.

Dr Lillian Siu, head of cancer drug development at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, explains, "You might only need a low dose to turn off that cancer driver. If you can get the same bang for your buck, why go higher?"

In response to growing calls from patients and advocates for more tolerable cancer drugs, the FDA has launched a program called Project Optimus. The initiative encourages drug-makers to include a greater number of patients in early dose-finding trials to obtain more accurate data on the effectiveness of lower doses. "The motivation for the project stems from the increasing demand to develop cancer drugs

that are more tolerable," states FDA spokesperson Chanapa Tantibanchachai.

Many new cancer drugs were developed using the maximum tolerated dose strategy, leading to issues when patients experience severe side effects, causing them to skip doses or discontinue treatment. Some drugs have had their recommended doses officially lowered post-approval, while individual patients often require personalized dose adjustments. According to a recent study, nearly half of the patients in late-stage trials of 28 targeted therapy drugs needed dose reductions.

Dr. Patricia LoRusso, head of drug discovery at the Yale School of Medicine, acknowledges this approach: "We were pushing the dose as high as we could go. You get side effects, and then you have to stop the drug to recover from the side effects, and the tumor can grow."

## Does milk spike your blood sugar levels?

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): Why is milk so popular among us historically? It is easily accessible, a rich source of protein and calcium. A 240 ml cup of cow's milk contains about 160 calories and 7.7 g protein (casein 80 per cent, whey 20 per cent), 12 g sugar and 8 g of (mostly saturated) fat. Buffalo milk is thicker, contains 100 per cent more fat and almost 40 per cent more calories than cow's milk. The challenge with whole milk is its saturated fat content, which is

thought to be bad for the heart, although recent studies on whole milk suggest otherwise.

Milk from which fat has been partially removed is lower in calories while skimmed milk has zero fat and only 80 calories in 240 ml. Given these properties of milk, is it a suitable drink for people with diabetes?

Milk will raise your blood sugar levels, although whole milk raises them slightly slowly due to its fat and protein content. On the other hand, the total calorie content of whole

milk is higher, so keep that in mind.

However, recent studies have shown that total dairy product, yogurt and whole milk consumption is associated with an 11-17 per cent decreased risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Dairy products have high protein — in particular, whey protein — and that has beneficial effects on glucose metabolism and body weight. Probiotics in dairy like yogurt could also have a favourable influence on metabolic health.



## On This Day: Anil Kumble rips through Pakistan in New Delhi to pick up 10 wickets in an innings

NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): February 7, 1996, was a historic day in the history of Indian cricket. 28 years ago, on this very day, Anil Kumble became the first from his country to pick up 10 wickets in a Test innings. Kumble accomplished the feat in the second Test of the 2-match series against Pakistan at New Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla, now known as the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Kumble became the second bowler to reach the landmark after England's Jim Laker, who picked up a 10-wicket haul against Australia at the Old Trafford in Manchester way back in July 1956.

Going into the New Delhi Test, India were under immense pressure after losing the first Test in Chennai by 12 runs. However, Mohammad Azharuddin and Co. finished the series 1-1 after Kumble pulled off an absolute spectacle with the ball in hand.

Starting with, Kumble helped India take a substantial lead



of 80 runs in their first innings. The leg-spinner dismissed Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Yousuf and Saqlain Mushtaq to finish with impressive figures of 24.3-4-75-4.

Thereafter, Sadagopan Ramesh, Sourav Ganguly and Javagal Srinath scored 96, 62 and 49 respectively to make

sure that India set Pakistan a stiff target of 420 to chase down.

Anil Kumble unleashes hell at Kotla

Pakistan made an impressive start to their run-chase after Saeed Anwar and Shahid Afridi put on 101 runs for the opening wicket off 24.2 overs. Just when it seemed that Pakistan were

gradually getting themselves in a position of command, Kumble got the prized wicket of Afridi, who made 41 runs off 64 balls with 7 fours.

After Kumble made the initial breakthrough, Pakistan lost their way completely and were reduced to 128 for 6 in a space of 11.5 overs. Anwar made 69 runs off 128 balls before Kumble got rid of him.

Saleem Malik and skipper Wasim Akram tried to restore sanity with a partnership of 58 runs, but their efforts were never going to be enough for Pakistan to go past the finish line.

Kumble finished with figures of 26.3-9-74-10 as Pakistan were bowled out for 207 in 60.3 overs.

Apart from Laker and Kumble, New Zealand's Ajaz Patel also holds the distinction of picking up 10 wickets in an innings. Patel achieved the feat in the Black Caps' Test against India back in December 2021 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

## Tests need better revenue-sharing model: Graeme Smith



CAPE TOWN, Feb 7 (Agencies): As Test engagements shrink amid mushrooming T20 leagues across the world, former South Africa captain-turned-administrator Graeme Smith said the five-day format needs a balanced revenue-sharing model than a busy calendar to survive.

Currently, India is the biggest beneficiary of the ICC's revenue distribution model, assured of 38.5 per cent of the total earnings for the 2024-27 cycle. While the Indian board will get \$231 million annually, the West Indies would get about \$27.50 million, South Africa \$26.24 million and a minnow like Afghanistan would fetch only \$16.82 million per year.

Smith said the challenge lies in addressing this disparity. "Everyone talks about scheduling but the real challenge for Test cricket is financial modelling. You have heard Johnny Grave (Cricket West Indies CEO), he has been openly speaking about the revenue sharing model," Smith, who is the commissioner of the ongoing SA T20 League, said.

"West Indies winning the Test in Australia is great for the game but they didn't get any revenue for that tour. We discuss in the MCC committee meetings what should be the revenue sharing model to make nations so financially strong that they want to play Test cricket. Players feel that they can make more money playing T20s rather than Tests. Those financial decisions eventually impact the format," added the former MCC committee member.

Several West Indies players prefer to be T20 freelancers and reject contractual agreement with the cricket board, citing lack of funds. As a result, the Caribbean board, along with Pakistan, has been vocal in its criticism of the model. Smith said the T20 format is important for the growth of the game and making sure that it remains commercially viable.

## Rishabh Pant is confident of playing entire IPL, but...: Delhi Capitals head coach Ponting

MELBOURNE, Feb 7 (Agencies): Rishabh Pant is confident of playing the entire IPL but the flamboyant cricketer could only be available as a batter and not behind the stumps, according to Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting.

Pant was involved in a life-threatening car accident in December 2022 that forced him to undergo ligament reconstruction surgeries.

"Rishabh is very confident that he's going to be right to play. In what capacity we're not quite sure yet," was quoted as saying by 'ESPNCricinfo'.

"You would have seen all the social-media stuff, he's up and about and running well. But in saying that we're only six weeks away from the first game as well. So we're not sure if we'll get wicketkeeping out of him this year."

"We'll just keep our fingers crossed and hope that he can be out there and play. Even if it's not all the games, if we can manage him through 10 of the 14 games or whatever that might be then whatever games you can get out of him will be a bonus."

In case Pant is not able to fulfil wicketkeeping duties, the 26-year-old could play as a pure



batter or could be used as an Impact Player in the upcoming IPL, expected to begin in March.

"But I'll guarantee if I asked him now he'll say, 'I'm playing every game, I'm keeping every game and I'm batting at No.4.' That's just what he's like, but we'll keep our fingers crossed."

"He's such a dynamic player. He's obviously our captain. We missed him incredibly last year. If you understand the journey he's been on the last 12-13 months, it was a horrific incident. One that I know he feels very lucky to have even survived, let alone have the chance to play cricket again."

Warner to lead if Pant unavailable

David Warner led the Capitals last season and Ponting confirmed that star Australian batter would be captain if Pant is unavailable to do the job.

The franchise picked up young England batter Harry Brook for

Rs 4 crore at the auction last year. While Ponting is happy with his squad, the two-time World Cup winning captain acknowledged the team has underperformed in the past two seasons.

"With Harry Brook coming into the set-up as well, so Warner, [Mitch] Marsh, Harry Brook, we've got some really good overseas batters," Ponting said.

"Marsh and Warner will bat up the top somewhere and Harry Brook has been finishing off with England, so he'll probably play a finishing role for us there."

"[I]f we can get [Anrich] Nortje and Jhye Richardson fit, and with the two spin options we've got with Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav we've got a really good squad that to be fair has probably underperformed the last couple of years, so we've got some work to do."

The Capitals had finished fifth in 2022 and ninth last season.

## New Zealand beats under-strength South Africa by 281 runs in test cricket series opener

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, Feb 7 (Agencies): New Zealand beat an under-strength South Africa lineup by 281 runs on the fourth day of the first cricket test Wednesday to take an early lead in the two-match series.

Captain Tim Southee declared New Zealand's second innings overnight at 179-4, with an overall lead of 528. New Zealand bowled out South Africa in the fourth innings for 247.

New Zealand posted 511 batting first and dismissed South Africa for 162 for a 349-run first innings lead. Southee chose not to enforce the follow-on and Kane Williamson completed his second century of the match, the 31st of his career, before the declaration.

"I think it was pretty good on a good (pitch) for the batters to set it up and the bowlers to take 20 wickets," Southee said. "We knew the South Africa side would be a strong one. You look at them in all sports, they compete, they're a very proud nation so we knew they were going to come out and fight."

South Africa was in trouble early Wednesday, losing the wickets of openers Neil Brand and Edward Moore within the first four overs.

Zubayr Hamza and



Raynard van Tonder batted more than 100 minutes to carry South Africa to lunch without further loss. But both were out to undisciplined shots immediately after the break, hastening the end.

David Bedingham lifted South Africa's hopes after lunch with a career-best 87 from 96 balls in a partnership of 105 for the fifth wicket with Keegan Petersen (16).

The partnership occupied most of the middle session and while Bedingham and Petersen were together New Zealand was faced with the prospect that the test might continue into the fifth day.

Bedingham had benefited from New Zealand's short-pitched bowling, hitting 13 fours and a six. But he chased a short ball once too

often and fell to Kyle Jamieson not long after the tea interval.

Jamieson removed both partners as South Africa slumped from 178-4 to 181-6. Bedingham tried to pull a ball which reached him sooner than he expected and his miscued shot flew to Mitchell Santner at deep midwicket.

Petersen attempted to hook a ball which bounced to chest height, tucked him up and his pull shot was taken by Rachin Ravindra at fine leg.

With such a big lead, New Zealand was able to work on plans to dismiss the key South Africa batters and, while it was expensive, the short-pitch policy eventually yielded the wicket of Bedingham.

Clyde Fortuin's dismissal was indicative of the bad luck South

Africa has had throughout the test. He pushed a rank short ball from part-time spinner Glenn Phillips which hit the knee of Tom Latham as he ducked at short leg and flew up to be caught by wicketkeeper Tom Blundell.

Duanne Olivier was caught by Daryl Mitchell at first slip from Santner's bowling as he pushed forward outside off. Santner found a lot of turn earlier in the day and was unlucky not to enjoy more success.

Tshepo Moreki was caught out by a ball from Santner which pitched in line and hurried on, catching him in front as he squared up in front of his stumps.

The end finally came 40 minutes before scheduled stumps when Dane Paterson holed out to Williamson from Santner's bowling.

New Zealand's win was set up on the first day when Williamson and Ravindra made centuries in a partnership eventually worth 232. Williamson was out early on the second day for 118 but Ravindra turned his maiden test century into a double century before he was out for 240.

Ravindra also took his first two wickets in tests in the first innings as New Zealand control of the match.

South Africa selected six new caps in its lineup for the test, stripped of most of its leading players who stayed home to play in a domestic T20 series. Inevitably, there were signs of inexperience: notably that batsmen who had made a start got out after a break in play.

But there were promising signs from South Africa's middle order batters. Brand opened in both innings and made 4 and 3 with the bat. But he excelled with the ball, taking eight wickets with his part-time spinners.

"We were completely outplayed by a very good New Zealand team," Brand said. "I think our patience was tested on this wicket. Guys got in then got themselves out. Back to the drawing board and I hope we can compete more in the second test."

## U-19 World Cup: Sachin Dhas, Uday Saharan give India two-wicket win and place in final

BENONI (SOUTH AFRICA), Feb 7 (Agencies): Fuelled by splendid fifties by Sachin Dhas and captain Uday Saharan, defending champions India battled past South Africa by two wickets to storm into the final, their fifth consecutive, of the ICC Under-19 World Cup here.

Dhas (96 off 95 balls, with 11 fours and one six) and Saharan (81 off 124 balls, with six fours), who were India's guiding forces in their last match against Nepal with a hundred each, garnered 171 runs for the fifth wicket as India hunted down the target of 245 with just seven balls to spare.

India will face either Australia or Pakistan in the summit clash to be played at this venue on Sunday, searching for their sixth trophy in the marquee event.

But the beginning of India's chase resembled a debris yard, losing four wickets for just 32 runs by the 12th over.

New-ball bowler Kwena Maphaka jolted India with the first ball of their innings, dismissing Adarsh Singh with a nasty climbing delivery that the batter edged to wicket-keeper Lhuan-dre Pretorius.



His partner Tristan Luus soon joined the fun with the wickets of Musheer Khan, Arshin Kulkarni and Priyanshu Moliya as all three India batters were indecisive outside the off-stump while hanging their bats to dry.

But the Indians found their saviours in Dhas and Saharan, who dished out innings of vastly contrasting nature and tempo. Dhas was aggressive despite the situation his team was in, but Saharan was happy to keep his end going.

Dhas' knock was a treatise on playing cross-

batted shots as he cracked a six, pulled fours besides those well-placed nudges through the vacant spots on the on-side.

Saharan, on the other hand, was more traditional but was not entirely hesitant to bring out an exquisite drive or rasping cut whenever an opportunity was there for him to do so. In the process, Saharan also became the highest run-getter in this World Cup with 389 runs. Earlier, bowlers played a significant part in shaping India's victory, limiting 2014 champions South Africa to 244/7 on a pitch that offered them considerable assistance.

SA found fight through wicketkeeper Lhuan-dre Pretorius (76 off 102 balls) and Richard Seletswane (64 off 100 balls) after early blows.

The South African top-order just could not get going against India pacers Naman Tiwari (1/52) and Raj Limbani (3/60) who found appreciable pace, bounce and carry.

Brief scores: South Africa: 244/7 in 50 overs (Pretorius 76, Seletswane 64; Limbani 3/60, Musheer 2/43); India: 248/8 in 48.5 overs (Dhas 96, Saharan 81; Maphaka 3/32, Luus 3/37).

## Jasprit Bumrah becomes first India pacer to top ICC Test Rankings



NEW DELHI, Feb 7 (Agencies): India pacer Jasprit Bumrah has claimed the No.1 spot on the latest ICC Men's Test Bowler rankings following his bowling heroics in Vizag Test. This is the first time that an India pacer has become the top-ranked Test bowler.

Bumrah rose to the top for the first time on the back of his tremendous match figures of 9/91 during his side's series-equaling 106-run victory over England in the second Test in Vizag, an effort that saw the right-arm pacer become the first quick from India claim

the top Test ranking.

Bumrah's nine-wicket haul earned him Player of the Match honours in the second Test and propelled him three places up the latest Test rankings for bowlers, taking top spot from teammate Ravichandran Ashwin.

Ashwin, who has held the top spot since March last year, took only three wickets for India in that match and falls two places to third in the updated Test bowling rankings, with South Africa pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada remaining in second despite missing the Proteas' Test series in New Zealand.

It is the first time Bumrah has held the top spot, as the 30-year-old has never finished higher than third despite having 10 five-wicket hauls for his country in 34 Test match outings. Bumrah has two five-wicket hauls in Test matches in 2024, with stats of 6/61 against South Africa in Cape Town at the start of the year and a similarly spectacular spell of 6/45 in his most recent game against England.



## Jharkhand & Chandigarh episode- bad Omen for BJP: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: In a meeting, during door to door campaigning at Kamal Nagar, JMC, Ward No. 63, in Jammu North Assembly Constituency, today several join AAP, in the presence of Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, State Organization Building & Manifesto drafting Committee Member AAP- J&KUT & Sr. AAP leader, Ghulam Nabi Khan, getting impressed with the magical & dramatic socio-welfare schemes launched in Delhi by AAP under dynamic leadership of its leader Arvind Kejriwal.

Those who joined AAP include S/Sh. Nisar Khan, Sahabina Koser, Asiya Bano, Shada Begum & Yasmeena Bano. The new entrants have resolved to carry forward the agenda of AAP of Delhi governance to every poor household of Ward No. 63 & said that poor sections are fed up with the misrule and rising prices of all essential commodities, be it domestic LPG, Diesel, Petrol, sand, Bajri stones etc and the life of common man is being reduced to a situation like hell. Welcoming to the new entrants into Party fold, Kuldeep Kumar Rao & Khan said that the AAP is serious to give a clean time tested alternative to the electorates in J&K UT to get rid of 75 years misrule of corruption, nepotism, casteism & divisive politics of religion & region.

They further said that



the only alternative before the people is 4-point magical Mantra of Delhi model (i) free electricity up to 200 units without any cut (ii) free potable water up to 20,000 litres per house hold (iii) quality Health service on door steps through Mohalla clinics & (iv) quality Education in government Institutions for Delhites besides Char Dham yatra free of cost to Senior citizens, free Metro & bus services to women irrespective of caste, creed & colour, in addition to several other social welfare schemes.

The AAP leaders said that AAP has revolutionized & galvanized the lives of Delhites which can be done here also in J&K if AAP is brought to power.

They further said that time has come now when every Indian is appreciative of Delhi Model of governance which, in the first instance, hammers a death blow to the virus of caste, creed & colour and instead ensures development of all sections of society.

They further exhorted upon the new entrants that Delhi Model of

governance is the only alternative before the people to salvage from the clutches of present dispensation as more troubles are at the threshold in the form of various taxes like Dog Tax, Cow & goat Tax, TV & scooter Tax etc.

The AAP leaders have appealed the general masses to rise above the politics of religion & region in the larger interest of poor people & integration of the country and see through the game of divisive politics as well as Divide & rule policy of ruling dispensation as also the previous Political Parties who ruled the country as well as J&K, who simply boast of "VIKAS" from the roof top but in fact, on ground, they are sowing the seeds of hatred, division in the society, leading & dragging the country to a situation of 1947 which is highly dangerous for the unity & integrity of the Nation.

The country has to run on the foot hold of its Constitution which teaches us to give regard to its religious sects on all costs, the AAP leaders maintained, the frenzy of

casteism, polarization in the name of religion will harm us than doing any good and that people not get misled and swayed by emotive slogans and imaginary Jumlas the AAP leaders said & added that the defeat of BJP-the biggest Party in the world, at the hands of smallest party of the world, in Delhi Assembly elections in 2015, 2020 & in MCD elections & also in Punjab Assembly elections by AAP, is itself remarkable & significant the AAP leaders exclaimed.

They further said that a beginning of BJP "Mukt Bharat because of their anti-poor & pro- capitalist policies and the day is not far when "JHAROO" will sweep the whole country because of unique model of Delhi governance acclaimed not only nationally but also inter-nationally, they maintained.

They further said that on one hand BJP is arresting political opponents on fake corruption charges while they themselves are on an MLA purchasing spree.

Hard-earned public money is being misused to quench BJP's thirst for power, the AAP leaders alleged. They further said that the BJP & Prime Minister Modi cannot talk about fighting corruption now; the tainted leaders under the scanner of ED & CBI for corruption have been put into "washing machine" & BJP's detergent washing powder cleans all spots in seconds.

Strange, the Modi washing powder failed to take effect in case of Manish Sisodia, Satyinder Jain, Sanjay Singh, and AAP Councilors in MCD & also in Council of Ministers & MLAs in Delhi & Punjab governments & now failed in case of CM, Jharkhand. They further said that BJP led Government has been completely exposed because of white lies, corruption, un-employment, unprecedented price rise of LPG, Diesel, Petrol, fertilizers, edible oil, pulses, hike in transport charges etc and that people are fed up with them and badly see an alternative in AAP because of magical pro-poor, pro- workers, laborers and pro-people policies of AAP launched in Delhi & Punjab, the AAP Volunteers said and added that enough is enough now and that all the people can't be befooled for all the time as the people have seen through the game of polarization, of all traditional Political Parties so called the savior of Hindus & Muslims.

They further said that Jharkhand & Chandigarh episode- bad Omen for BJP. The Supreme Court gave the BJP victory at Chandigarh mayoral elections a jolt, threatening to order fresh elections after a video played in the open court room on Monday showed the Returning officer' obviously defacing 'ballot papers, while taking stealthy glances at the camera overhead like a "fugitive".

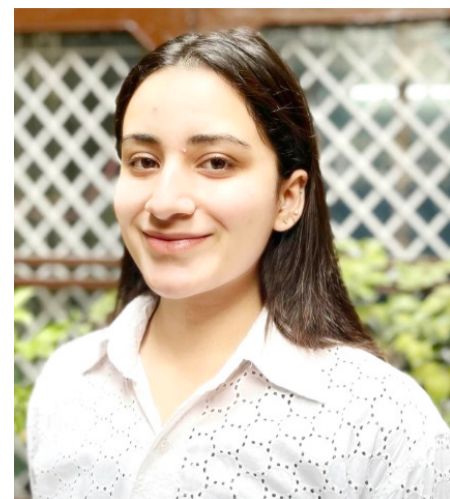
## SMVDU student published Paper in Scopus-Indexed Journal

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 7: Hemani Sharma a student of B. Sc Biotechnology at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University published a research paper titled "New Insights into Recent Trends and Emerging Technologies in Apple Sorting" in the Scopus-Indexed journal ACS Food Science and Technology. In this paper, various advanced technologies have been discussed for sorting.

The physical and chemical characteristics of the items are examined by using a variety of techniques, including machine vision, X-rays, MRI, and HSI, based on the optical properties. Using DIP (Digital Image Processing), a 2-d image can be prepared which is used in studying the stem and calyx parts of apple to determine the quality check.

This paper throws light on the various robotics, machine learning and sensor technologies that can be used to detect



the internal as well as external qualities of apples, to make it less labour intensive. The student has expressed her gratitude to the university authorities for providing her infrastructural support and shaping her research acumen and ability.

## Dimple gives 72-hr ultimatum to PWD, JMC to blacktop roads, construct footpaths



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: Sunil Dimple President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir along with traders led a protest on Janipur High Court road, against the PWD R&B, JMC against the worst condition of Road & foot paths.

Addressing the protesters Sunil Dimple gave 72 hours ultimatum to PWD R&B, JMC to start blacktopping and construct the main road, drains, foot paths damaged by smart city projects, PWD R&B, JMC, for Jio, Reliance cable works otherwise

we will start massive agitation. The prominent market presidents present in the protest were Happy Kumar, Jagdish Raj, Manjiet Anand, Sachin Soi, Sat Sharma, Rajesh Kumar, Swarn Lal Verma, Narendar Kumar, and many others.

## Sant Nirankari Mission Samba organizes Satsang

Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 7: Sant Nirankari Mission branch Samba organized open Satsang outskirts Samba in which devotees and people from civil society participated in large number.

Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge, Zone Jammu, in his sermon said that despite the fact that all human beings are having their common origin, yet people have made their different identities based upon their individual faith in one particular religion, language, cast, culture



and eatery habits.

Such a feeling of being superior over other fellow beings has remained the cause of sufferings, conflicts and hatred.

Singh further said, the real concept of true

religion is to know the all pervading formless God by seeking God knowledge from the true master of the time and obtain salvation from unending cycle of birth and death.

Ajit Singh said saints

and Sages from time immemorial have come in this world with sole mission to enlighten the ignorant with divine knowledge and made man acquainted with his true self, the spirit.

Thus spiritually

enlightened beings perceive The One In All And All In One through the divine vision thus all man made distances are removed and well practised slogan of Sant Nirankari Mission " Religion unites never divides" is bringing about visible changes among the human fraternity which is most prominent need for survival and prosperity of humanity all over the world, said Ajit Singh.

In the end, KC Bhagat Sanyojak Samba presented vote of thanks. Guru Ka Langar (Prasad) was also served to all.

## One day UT-Level Farmers summit concluded

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 7: Under the chairmanship of Dileep Singhani Chairman, National Coop Union of India, (NCUI) and IFFO and guidance of Dr. Krishan Bir Chaudhary (National President, BKS) one day UT-Level Farmers summit concluded at Jammu with threadbare discussion on Agri-Cooperatives (FPOs) and Agri-Entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir UT.

Babila Rakwal Secretary Cooperatives was the guest of honor.

Dileep Singhani (Chairman NSUI, IFFCO) said that Cooperatives are vital for rural economy and JK UT should work together for creation JK UT chapters of all the national Federations like NCDFI, NAFED, IFFCO, NOCL NECL and others.

He said that schemes like formation of 10000 FPOs and HADP in JK UT will have long-term impact on all the sectors of Jammu and Kashmir. He appreciated creation of Dairy Cooperative federation in JK UT and Participation in Unati agri-allied and market-



ing multistate cooperative.

Dr. Krishan Bir Chaudhary (National President, BKS) said that his association with farmer's community is since last 4 decades and farmers especially females and youth should get actively involved in programs of agri-entrepreneurship and help building strong rural economy in Amritkal.

The initiative of Schem-India to help farmer start-ups should be appreciated. He further said that membership for newly created federations is underway in JK UT and local cooperatives to should get fair representation in new and old national level apex federations since there have been new surge in this sector. Vikrant Dogra (Chairman, Jammu and

Kashmir Dairy Coop federation Ltd, & Unati Multistate) gave the welcome address briefed the gathering that JK UT in last three years have witnessed huge growth in agri-allied activities with cooperatives as the basis which involves farmers at grass root level to boost rural economy.

He further said that since both Dileep Singhani and Dr. Krishan Bir Ch are members of High Power Committee on MSP formed by GOI, their visit to JK UT will help in morale boost of farmer cooperatives in JK UT. Sunil Choudhary (president, BKS) presented vote of thanks. He further said that JK UT has revived Center for Cooperative education affiliated with NCUI where diploma in cooperative management is provided.

## NCC Cadets of GDC Udhampur get ADG Appreciation

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 7: It is a proud moment for Government Degree Boys College, Udhampur, as two cadets namely Cadet Swati Thakur of 2 J&K Girls Battalion and Cadet Vinay Kumar of 2 J&K Boys Battalion got ADG appreciation for their participation in Republic Day Parade at New Delhi on Jan. 26, 2024.

Cadet Swati Thakur marched proudly on Kartavyapath (Rajpath) as a part of NCC Contingent. She also did pilot-



ing for lieutenant governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and Additional Director General NCC JK&L Directorate Maj Gen. RK Sachdeva

Whereas cadet Vinay Kumar was a part of

the NCC Contingent JK&L Directorate during Prime Minister Rally.

Both the cadets had undergone two and a half months' rigorous training in drill at NCC Camping Ground Nagrota and New Delhi.

The Principal of the College Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta congratulated the cadets on their selection for Kartavya Path and PM Rally and also appreciated and acknowledged their

dedication, hard work, and discipline.

While interacting with the cadets, he urged the cadets to act as role models for the young generation and play the active role as torch-bearers for the other students, especially in curbing drug menace among the youth.

He also congratulated ANO (Girls Wing) Prof. Captain Shivani Sharma and ANO (Boys Wing) Prof. Vijay Kumar for their consistent efforts in grooming cadets who in turn brought laurels to the college.