

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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India does not trust US to lead; played smart by staying close with Russia: Nikki Haley



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BRIEFLY

Avalanche hits Sarbal area of Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, Feb 8 (Agencies): An avalanche hit the Sarbal area of Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said. "There was no loss of life or damage to property," officials told Greater Kashmir. The incident occurred close to the Zojila Tunnel workshop, prompting quick action from Mega Tunnel officials to ensure the safety of their employees.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) has issued an avalanche warning in few districts of the Union Territory, stressing proactive measures to reduce risks.

J&K witnessed driest, warmest January in 43 Years

SRINAGAR, Feb 8 (Agencies): Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar city, witnessed the warmest January in 43 years, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar's data said.

In terms of snowfall or rains, Srinagar city witnessed the second driest January in the past four decades, recording a mere 3.0 mm of precipitation in the month this year, it said.

The lowest precipitation in the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir was recorded in January 2018 when only 1.2 mm of rainfall or snow took place. According to data, the mean Tmax (maximum temperature) recorded in January over Srinagar station was 11.9 degrees Celsius while for Gulmarg in north Kashmir and Banihal in Ramban district, it was 5.7 degrees Celsius and 16.9 degrees Celsius respectively.

Jammu city recorded the lowest mean maximum temperature for the first month of the year in over four decades, it said.

This is the highest mean maximum temperature for the month of January for these stations in the past 43 years, the MeT Centre said in a post on X. "2024 January was one of the driest and warmest January in

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CS led Committee approves AAP for key Agri schemes

Stresses on percolating maximum benefits down to grassroots level

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Thursday chaired the UT level committee meetings called for giving approval to the Annual Action Plans (AAP) of some of the key Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for development of Agriculture and Horticulture sectors here in the UT.

Besides the Principal



Secretary, APD and Principal Secretary, Finance, the meeting was attended by MD, HADP; Secretary, RDD; DG, Codes; DG Resources and HoDs of the Agriculture Department who also happen to be the Mission Directors of these schemes for J&K.

While taking note of the components included in each scheme, the Chief

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Srinagar Terror Attack | Injured Punjab resident succumbs to injuries; death toll rises to 2

SRINAGAR, Feb 8 (Agencies): The death toll in the terror attack in Habba Kadal area of the city has risen to two as an injured worker from Punjab succumbed to injuries at a hospital here, officials said on Thursday.

Rohit Masih succumbed to injuries at the SKIMS Hospital here this morning. He was shifted to the tertiary care institution late Wednesday night after

his condition worsened at the SMHS Hospital, the officials said.

Another worker from Punjab, Amritpal Singh, had died in the terrorist firing at Shalla Kadal in Habba Kadal on Wednesday. It was the first targeted killing of the year.

The terrorists had carried out three attacks on non-local workers in 2023, resulting in the death of two persons

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Active Covid cases decline to 1,478

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): India has logged 211 fresh cases of Covid, while the number of active cases of the infection declined to 1,478 from 1,496, the health ministry said on Thursday.

One new death has been reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, 2023 but cases had begun to increase after emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions.

After December 5, a maximum of 841 new cases were reported on December 31, 2023 which is 0.2 per cent of the peak cases reported in May 2021, official sources said.

India has witnessed three waves of COVID-19 in the past with the peak incidence of daily new cases and deaths being reported during the Delta wave in April-June 2021.

At its peak, 414,188 new cases and 3,915 deaths were reported on May 7, 2021.

Since the pandemic began in early 2020, there have been more than 4.5 crore people getting infected and over 5.3 lakh deaths in about four years since then

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Mehraj-Ul-Alam observed with religious fervour in Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Feb 8 (Agencies): Mehraj-Ul-Alam, the auspicious occasion of Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) ascension to heavens,

was observed all across the Kashmir valley with religious fervour on Thursday.

The largest gathering was observed at Asar-

e-Sharief Hazratbal, housing the holy relic of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), on the bank of Dal Lake where thousands of devotees

including men, women and Children participated in night long prayers "Shab Khawani" during which special prayers was offered on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

Soon after the first prayer of the day "Fajr" namaz was offered today at the Hazratbal shrine, a priest displayed the "Moie-e-Muqadas" or Holy relic of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) before the devotees on the occasion.

The devotees would have the glimpse of the holy relic after every prayer for the two

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Explosives recovered in Sopore

SRINAGAR, Feb 8 (Agencies): Security forces on Thursday recovered explosives from Jammu & Kashmir's Sopore town.

A police statement said, "In a significant development, police recovered a cache of explosive materials from a house in the Kraknshiven colony in Sopore.

"The materials, suspected to be used in the manufacturing of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), were seized during a targeted operation conducted by the police.

"Today around 8 a.m. an operation named Caso was initiated by

Police station Tarzoo and 52 Rashtriya Rifles and CRPF at Kraknshiven village in connection with Fir No. 307/2023 of police station Sopore.

"During the search, explosive material, IEDs, a rusted pistol with a magazine and ammunition of SLR/AK47/pistol were found at the residence of Rashid Najar, who is the brother of the deceased terrorist Qayoom Najar of Kal-rankshivan Sopore.

"Rashid Najar has been detained. The recovery underscores the ongoing efforts by police to maintain security and

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Authorities fail to stop incident of target killings: Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Feb 8 (Agencies): Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari on Thursday alleged that the administration has failed to put a break on the incidents in which innocent people are being killed.

Reacting to the incident in which two Punjab residents were shot dead by unidentified militants on Wednesday evening in Srinagar's Shalkadal in down town, Bukhari said, "The administration is failing somewhere to keep a break on such



incidents." The administration should recognise the culprits and bring them under the purview of the law of the land, Bukhari told media persons in Srinagar on Thursday.

He said, "It is an unfortunate and shameful incident for us that innocent people are still getting killed in Kashmir." In reply to questions regarding upcoming parliamentary elections, Bukhari said Apni Party's first interest is to hold Assembly elections and still there is no talk about that.

"Parliament elections are just a ritual for Jammu and Kashmir, the elected people went there past and

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Kashmir continues to struggle with cold wave

SRINAGAR, Feb 8 (Agencies): Cold wave conditions continue in the Kashmir Valley, with nighttime temperatures witnessing a fall all across as Srinagar recorded a low of minus 5.2°C on Thursday, officials said.

After recent significant snowfall, the minimum temperatures at tourist destinations continue to slip.

The Meteorological Centre at Srinagar said

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ED arrests Kupwara resident under PMLA

SRINAGAR, Feb 8 (Agencies): Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said it arrested a resident of north Kashmir's Kupwara district under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The arrestee identified as Mohammad Abdul-

lah Shah, as per an Enforcement Directorate has been arrested "in connection with money laundering case wherein accused persons involved in terror financing were hand in glove with Pakistani handler Manzoor Ahmad Shah, who arranged admis-

sions in MBBS & other courses in the colleges of Pakistan for students from J&K."

The accused, as per the Directorate, was produced before the Court of the Special Judge ACB (CBI-Cases) Kashmir, Srinagar.

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Ensure vigilance against militant associates, boost LoC Intel: IGP Kashmir to Officers

SRINAGAR, Feb 8 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone, VK Birdi presided over a security review meeting today with officers of police, intelligence agencies and security forces to discuss various strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing law enforcement efforts.

As per a statement, a police spokesman said that the IGP was briefed by the participating officers about the security measures put in place to tackle any untoward incident across the valley.

The chair was also briefed about



the action taken against the terrorist associates as well as the inimical elements. The officers were

also directed to generate actionable inputs to thwart attempts of anti-national elements to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the valley.

He underscored the necessity to fortify the security grid, aiming to prevent potential terror attacks and maintain seamless coordination among the various forces operating on the ground.

Birdi directed officers to closely monitor the activities of terrorist associates and ensure strict legal measures are taken against them. He

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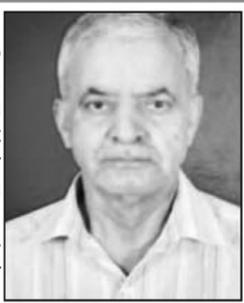
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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

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.



SH. ASHOK KUMAR KACHROO

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 09-02-2024 at 10.00 AM Block T Gauri Shankar Mandir New Palam Vihar Gurugram
GRIEF STRICKEN
Kachroo's, Koul's, Labroo's, Razdan's Raina's, Bangroo's
MOBILE NO: 9818214055, 9910695689, 9891278383, 9967803832

10TH DAY/KRIYA

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.



Sh. Jagdish Kumar Gupta (Batote Wale)

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

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.



SMT. RATTAN RANI (PIITI JIGRI)

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

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and peaceful demise of our mother, **Sardarni Inderjeet Kaur** W/o Lt. Sardar Gopal Singh, Retd ACF (Kutti Muzaffarabad) who left for her heavenly abode on Thursday, 1 Feb 2024.



Sardarni Inderjeet Kaur

Bhog and Antim Ardas shall be performed as per following:
- Arambh Shri Akhand Paath Sahib on Thursday, 8 Feb 2024 at 9:00 AM at our residence (38-B, Sector 7 Extn, Vaishnavi Enclave, Channi Himmat)
- Bhog Shri Akhand Paath Sahib on Saturday, 10 Feb 2024 at 9:30 AM
- Kirtan and Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Guru Ka Baag, Channi Himmat from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM
DEEPLY MOURNED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS:
- Er. Parvinder Singh (Retd S.E.) & Sardarni Amarjeet Kaur
- Lt. Er. Gurdinder Singh (A. E. E. PDD) & Sardarni Pushpinder Kaur
- Lt. Dr. Daljeet Singh & Sardarni Dalbir Kaur
Grand Daughter & Grand Sons-in-law
- Sudeep Kaur & Dr. Harbinder Pal Singh (Baramulla)
- Er. Sainyam Kaur & Er. Arshdeep Singh (Canada)
Grandsons & Grand Daughters-in-law
- Er. Ramandeep Singh & Veronica (USA)
- Amandeep Singh (UK)
- Er. Ravneet Singh & Er. Harpreet Kaur (USA)
- Barneet Singh & Gazalgeet Kaur (Dubai)
- Er. Harjot Singh & Er. Sahiba Kaur (USA)

KIRYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform that **Smt. Prabha Devi** W/o Sh. Avtar Krishan R/o H.No. 8 Panjirthi Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 27-01-2024.



Smt. Prabha Devi

KIRYA shall be performed on 08.02.2024 (Thursday) from 12 Noon onwards at Home H.No. 22, Sector 4, Upper Roop Nagar, Near Aap Shambu Temple Jammu.
UTHALA shall be perform on 09-02-2024 (Friday) from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM at our Home H.No. 22, Sector-4, Roop Nagar, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Bal Krishan- Brother-in-Law
Sh. Avtar Krishan- Husband (9797563274)
Sh. Ramanand- Brother-in-Law
Sh. Gautam- Son (9622722512)
Miss Natasha- Daughter

TENTH DAY /UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr. Aditya Rathore** S/o Sh. Daya Bhushan R/o Ward No. 60 Neel Sheel Vihar Paloura, Jammu.

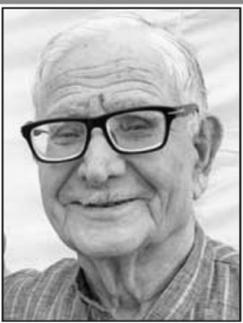


Mr. Aditya Rathore (DC)

TENTH DAY will be performed on 09-02-2024 (Friday) at Shiv Mandir Paloura Tube Well (Khoo) at 9:00 AM.
UTHALA will be performed on 09-02-2024 (Friday) at our residence at 12:00 Noon.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Father & Mother
Daya Bhushan & Khem Wazir
Sister & Brother-in-law
Tannu & Nipun
Smt. Parkash Rathore - **Tayee ji**
Smt. Aurna Rathore - **Tayee ji**
Sh. Omkar & Smt. Anita - **Chacha & Chachi ji**
Brother & Sister-in-law
Amit Rathore & Renu Manhas
Akit Rathore & Monika
Lalit Rathore - **Brother**
Contact No.: 9086728733, 9596952137

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.

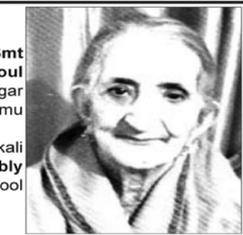


Dr. Payre Lal Fotedar

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

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform that **Smt Indrawati Koul** W/o **Late Sh Bishemher 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.



Smt Indrawati Koul

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 Wafia W/o Sh J L Wafia
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

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.



Smt. Banti Raina

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 (**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, 979755400

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.



Sh Surinder Kumar Bhat (SBI)

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

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.



Late Smt. Krishna Devi

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

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Brother in Law **Sh. Vinod Mahajan** (Jija Ji) S/o Late Sh. Krishan Lal Mahajan on 06-02-2024. **FIFTH DAY** will be performed on 09-02-2024 (Friday) at Mahajan Hall, Shalamar Road Jammu at 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM.



Sh. Vinod Mahajan

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Bimla Mahajan W/o Late Sh. Rattan Chand
Smt Prabha Mahajan W/o Sh. Bansi Mahajan
Smt Asha Mahajan W/o Sh. Chander Gupta
Smt Neelam Mahajan W/o Late Sh. Surinder Mahajan
Smt Veena Mahajan W/o Sh. Rakesh Mahajan
Smt Rekha Mahajan W/o Sh. Vijay Mahajan
Jagdamba Collection
Jagdamba Fashion (Jammu)
Contact No 9419126761, 9086026761, 9086096761

10TH DAY

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



Smt. Nancy Koul (Ranjiji)

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- **Nanad & Jijjee**
Sh. Tej Krishan Raina & Smt. Veena Ji Raina- **Bhaiya & Bhabhi**
Smt. Mohini Koul - **Behan**
Smt. Kirti Koul (Hajjora) & Sh. Rajesh Koul - **Beti & Jamai**
Smt. Dora Tutoo W/o Lt. Sh. M.K. Tutoo- **Niece**
Anshu, Prerana, Sukhad - **Pota, Potee**
Contacts : 9419789050, 9796446692, 9483900085

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, Bellary Greens Apartment Near SAS Nagar Jalandhar. **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Beas ghat, Beas, Jalandhar Amritsar highway , on 9 Feb 2024 at 11 AM.



Sh. Shyam Sunder Lal Trakroo

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, Warikoo's, Kaul's, Razdan's Parivaars.
Ph.No. 9814361798 (Ramesh Warikoo) 9882311094 (Rajiv Trakroo), 9878431370 (Sanjiv Trakroo)

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Shri Dwarika Nath Bhat** S/o Lt. Shri Gopi Nath Bhat originally from Kulgam Kashmir at present H.No. 126/A, Sector-1, Vinayak Nagar Muthi, Jammu Near Pamposh Gen. Store on 2 Feb, 2024.



SHRI DWARIKA NATH BHAT

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 11 Feb, 2024 followed by the **Assembly** at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education Muthi at 10:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter-in-law
Rakesh Kumar Bhat & Sh. Rajesh Kumar Bhat
Rakesh Kumar Bhat - **Son**
Daughters & Son-in-law
Smt. Jeeta Pandita & Sh. Purnan Krishan Pandita
Smt. Kanchan Saraf & Dr. Suresh Saraf
Sh. T.N. Koul - **Brother-in-law**
Smt. Rajulalari Raina - **Sister**
Grand Children:
Ashish Pandita & Anjana Pandita
Parmel Saraf & Sumedha Saraf
Akshaya Pandita & Harshita Pandita
Divya & Ashutosh
Suvenih, Sonali
Mob.No: 9419149835, 7006910548, 6006912971

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Avtar Krishan Dhar** S/o Late Sh. Mahanand Ram Dhar from Khawwara Tehsil Handwara District Kupwara Kashmir A/P Lane No. 16, Block No. 72, Flat No. 22, Jagji Migrant Camp Nagrota Jammu on 4/2/2024 (Sunday).



Sh. Avtar Krishan Dhar

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 13/2/2024 (Tuesday) at 9:00 am at Near Sainik School Nagrota Jammu and Assembly will be held at 10:30 am at Jagji Camp Lane No. 22, Near Old JK Bank ATM Community Hall.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Teji Dhar (Wife)
Sh. K.L. Dhar (Brother)
Sh. R.L. Dhar & Smt. Seema Dhar (Brother & Bhabhi)
Bhavana Dhar & Smt. Ramesh Kumar (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Rahul Dhar & Sheetal Dhar (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Diksha Dhar (Daughter)
Sidhi Koul (Grand Daughter)
Mobile : 6006404172, 9906113425, 9596383555

CHOUBARSI

Memories are the most valuable treasure and your memories will always stay in our hearts. We still yearn for your love and your warmth is imprinted in our souls. We hold dear to us, your lessons that have helped us through our lives and are grateful for your blessings. You will forever inspire us to become better versions of ourselves and we will continue to follow the path that you have led us to.



S. RANGEEL SINGH SASAN

CHOUBARSI of our beloved **S. Rangeel Singh Sasan** S/o. S. Sohan Singh Sasan, R/o 80/6, Guru Nanak Nagar Jammu will be performed as per the below programme.
PROGRAMME:
ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB: On 09th February 2024 (Friday) at 10:30AM at Gurudwara Sant Danna, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu.
BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB: On 11th February 2024 (Sunday) at 10:30AM at Gurudwara Sant Danna, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu.
KIRTAN & ARDAS: On 11th February 2024 from 10:30 AM to 12:00AM at Gurudwara Sant Danna, Guru Nanak Nagar.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Er. Bikramjeet Singh Sasan & Sdn. Amit Kour (**Son & Daughter-in-Law**)
Er. Jasmeet Singh Sasan & Sdn. Supreet Kour (**Son & Daughter-in-Law**)
Er. Amoleep Singh Sasan & Sdn. Rosemeen Kour (**Son & Daughter-in-Law**)
Sdn. Navdeep Kour & S. Amardeep Singh Raina (**Daughter & Son-in-Law**)
Grand Children: Harshjeet, Prakruti, Jasneh, Ragya, Japnoor
CONTACT: 7006958882, 980402665

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform sad & sudden demise of our beloved **Smt. Usha Mattoo (JKTDC)** cherished Wife of Sh. Vinod Kumar Mattoo (SBI) & a devoted mother on 31-01-2024 at 10:33 pm at PUNE (D/o Late Bhushan Lal Koul Charan (Deputy Director Agriculture). Her kindness & love touched the lives of everyone who came in contact with her.



Smt. Usha Mattoo (JKTDC)

Original R/o Bagh Jogi Lanker, Rainawari, Srinagar presently at Flat No. F-10, Kalpanamall Housing Society Near Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Kalamandir, Aurdi, Pune 411007.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at INDRAYANI GHAT, Alandi, Pune at 8:00 am on 9th Feb. 2024 (Sunday). Assembly will be at our Aurdi's residence, Pune at 10:30 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Vinod Mattoo (SBI) - **Husband (9419203398)**
Smt. Sheela Ganjoo Mattoo
Smt. Kishore & Asha Mattoo
Smt. Rita & S. Kotwal
Smt. Mihila & Saurabh Kachru
Smt. Varun & Romita Mattoo (08459320041, 0-9560460992)
Smt. Shivani & Akshay Khatu
Smt. Shilpa & Mital Darandale
Ms. Shreya Kotwal
Maternal Side:
Smt. Rati Koul (Mother)
Smt. Anita & Rakesh Dhar
Smt. Anandhar & Shalini Koul
Mobile No: 9419203398, 845320041, 9419200743, 7006679077, 9876442802

10TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh K.C. Katoch** (Dy. Labour Commissioner Retd.) R/o H.No.101-B Sec.5 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu who expired on 31st January, 2024, Wednesday.



Sh K.C. Katoch (Dy.Labour Commissioner Retd.)

10TH DAY will be performed on 9th Feb. 2024 (Friday) at 11:30 AM at our residence.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Bimla Katoch - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Mrs Chandni & Mr. Yogeshwar Katoch
Manager J&K Bank
Daughter & Son-in-law
Mrs Viresh & Mr Shashi Pal Chandel, Retd IFS
Ms Rajeshwari Katoch - **Daughter**
Nishant, Sagarika, Paramveer & Yashveer - **Grand children**
Katoch & Parihar Family
Mobile: 9906401221, 0191-2471867

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow **Karmayogini Smt. Gouri Shori Kaul** W/o Lt. Shambhooji Kaul R/o Azad Basti Natipora Srinagar presently residing at M504 KDP Grand Savanna Raj Nagar Extension has left for the heavenly abode.



Karmayogini Smt. Gouri Shori Kaul

Tenth Day Kriya will be held at Muradnagar Ghat Ganga Nahar Ghaziabad On 10th Feb 2024 at 08:00 Noon.
Moreover assembly will be held at M504 KDP Grand Savanna Rajnagar Extension Ghaziabad on 10th Feb 2024 at 12:00 Noon.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Tij Krishan Kaul (98668792) and Family
Usha Kaul (Daughter) (9149449388)and Family
Roop Krishan Kaul (9887968707) and Family
Ramesh Kaul (8904201174) and Family
Veer Ji Kaul (9625230778) and Family

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IDRS Jammu hosts J&K UT Referee Workshop / Certification Program 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Two day-long J&K UT Referee Workshop / Certification Program 2024 was conducted successfully by Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K. The course commenced on 7th February and was concluded on 8th February 2024 at International Daily Rising School (IDRS), Jammu.

The motive behind organizing the workshop and the certification program was to aware and provide advanced knowledge, new rules and new developments to the UT's coaches/referees regarding Ju-Jitsu, so that the UT based referees can held the championships at various District / UT level and also get a chance to officiate at National championships.

The chief examiner of



the above mentioned workshop was Shikha Pathak - International Technical Official & Joint Secretary Ju-Jitsu Association of India accompanied by Mr. Danish Sharma - National A Grade Referee as well as Technical Director Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K. "It is the professional

and elite course in which our aim was to aware and educate coaches and referees about the latest trends, techniques, rules, means and methods of the sport, Ju-Jitsu," the jury said.

More than 50+ Coaches from different districts of J&K Participated in the said workshop

. They further said that the participants having basic knowledge of officiating in the game were eligible for this course. The participants who attended this workshop told that such courses and seminars will prove fruitful for them in future.

"The course is useful and will update our knowledge and skills

that we can exhibit during officiating," they said. They further said that it was their long pending demand for conducting such course.

"We can enhance our precision to take decisions besides we will be able to give fair decisions as per the rule book of the game," they said.

"The objective of conducting this workshop and refresher course was to upgrade the future referees with technical knowledge and acquaint them with recent developments, rules of the sports".

The School Management staff Supinder Kaur (Chairperson), Raghav Gupta (MD), Dr Atul Hans Director Academics cum Principal & Vice Principal Ruchi Manhas were also present and appreciated the efforts of Ju - Jitsu team.

Manjit Singh demands release of full package in favour of DPs

Says no alternative to an elected Govt in J&K

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Feb 8: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and former Minister, Manjit Singh has demanded release of full package in favour of the Displaced Persons (DPs) in Jammu region.

"These DPs (refugees) were displaced from their respective places in 1947, 1965 and 1971 following hostility between India and Pakistan whereas then Govt of India announced a package for them i.e., Rs 25 lakhs for each DP family," said Manjit Singh, while addressing a Block Level Committee, Ramgarh at extreme border village Gokale Chak (P.S. Pura) in District Samba.

The meeting was organized by Block President, Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary.

In his address, he said that the package was sanctioned, and released in favour of the DPs so that they can be provided some financial support for their rehabilitation by the Govt of India.

"However, the authorities did not fully release the financial package. Instead, they released Rs 5.5 lakhs per family in support of DPs which was insufficient and improper implementation of the package that was sanctioned by the Govt of India," he stated.

He further said that the DPs remained sidelined and constantly ignored by the authorities regarding the release of pending packages and granting them property rights on the state/custodian department's land which were allotted to them decades back by the previous Govts.

"To reduce burden from their shoulders and worries about their children, the Govt should give property rights on



state/custodian lands to the DPs / farmers along the International Border," he stated.

While referring to the development and unemployment related issues, he stated that these issues can be addressed by an elected Govt. However, the elections have not been announced in Jammu and Kashmir that has deprived the people from their constitutional rights to elect their own Govt, and get their issues resolved, he added.

He said that the elections should not be delayed, and accordingly, the statehood should be restored to J&K.

He also demanded reservation of 8 Legislative Assembly seats of the Displaced Persons (DPs) while expressing disagreement with the reservation of one Legislative Assembly seat in favour of the DPs in J&K. "The DPs have a huge population, and they shall be given adequate representation in the assembly because they remained sidelined for decades," he added.

Meanwhile, he referred to the welfare policies of the Apni Party that would be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir for equitable development in both the regions, if the Party forms the next Govt in the erstwhile state.

He also highlighted the schemes of enhancing the widow pension up to Rs 5000, four cooking gas cylinders to each poor family in a year under Ujjwala

scheme, providing 500 units of electricity free of cost and 300 units of electricity during winters in Jammu region, enhancement of marriage assistance up to Rs 1 lakhs in favour of the girls from the economically weaker section, and similar other schemes.

The meeting was also addressed by District President, Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti. In his address, Adv Bharti highlighted the issues of underdevelopment, poor road connectivity, irregular drinking water supply, and constant unscheduled power cuts.

Block President, Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary also spoke on the occasion regarding various issues. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, Provincial President SC Wing, Lovely Mangol, State General Secretary SC Wing, Joginder Lal, Provincial President, Jammu, Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, Provincial Vice President Women Wing, Neelam Gupta, Provincial Secretary Women Wing, Sheetal Sharma, senior leader of the Party, Vishal Nariana, District President Women Wing, Priyanaka Devi, District President, Youth Wing Samba, Managat Ram, District President Minority Wing, Dalbir Singh, Bhagat Sai Dass, Block President Youth Wing Bari Brahmana, Irshan Choudhary and others.

Army organises Quami Ekta Meet at Dharamkot

Top News Report

DODA, Feb 8: To promote everlasting peace and prosperity in the region, a Quami Ekta Meet was organised at Dharamkot.

The Nation consists of people from diverse cultures, religions,

traditions and ethnicity, all co-existing within one entity.

Quami Ekta meet acts as a binder for National Integration to keep these diversities together.

The scope of this meeting was to include analysis of the communal and ethnic milieu exist-

ing in the region and the role of various pillars of society in promoting everlasting brotherhood, National Integration and Communal Harmony.

A total of 45 persons from both the communities attended the meeting. Speaking on the

occasion, Teacher of Government Primary School, Benzla thanked all the participants of Dharamkot, who whole heartedly participated and expressed their views on spreading the message of peace, harmony and brotherhood in the region.

SAKRS continues to empower J&K students with scholarships

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Shree Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha (SAKRS), Jammu and Kashmir, a prominent organization, continues to demonstrate its dedication to the welfare of the Rajput Community.

In the month of February 2024, it has provided educational scholarships to the tune of Rs 2,08,000 to 104 meritorious Rajput students belonging to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS).

Under the visionary leadership of President Pavitar Singh, a retired

judge, the Sabha has so far disbursed a total of Rs 10,62,000 in educational scholarships, benefiting numerous deserving students.

This generous financial support, made possible through the contributions of 485 members of the Rajput community, aims to empower and uplift students to pursue their academic aspirations.

Ashish Katoch, Organising Secretary of the Sabha, J&K, stated, "The Sabha's dedication to the welfare of the Rajput community extends beyond education. To date, a remark-

able financial assistance of Rs 20,42,000 has been disbursed under various welfare funds, including education/sports scholarships, marriage assistance, widow pension, family pension, and old age pension."

Under the guidance of Pavitar Singh, the Sabha remains actively involved in educational, social, and cultural initiatives to strengthen the community bonds and foster progress within the Rajput community and is achieving significant milestones in its pursuit.

ESM, Civil community outreach organised by Army



Top News Report

NOWSHERA, Feb 8: Army on Thursday 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 along with Army with little disregard to their own life or property to save the Motherland.

As a tribute to locals contribution, 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 Bhoomi 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 participation.

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.

Magh Gupt Navratri to commence from Feb 10: Mahant Rohit

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Magh Gupt Navaratri, a festival dedicated to the worship of Mother Adishakti, is set to commence from 10th February 2024.

Speaking about Gupt Navaratri, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, highlighted the significance of Puja and recitation in overcoming challenges.

Magh Gupt Navaratri will conclude on 18th February, and the Navaratri fasting will end on 19th February.

Muhurat Timings: The installation ceremony will commence from 8:44 AM to 10:11 AM on 10th February, and the auspicious time for worshipping Goddess Durga and lighting the lamp is from 12:12 PM to 12:58 PM on the same day.

While Chaitra or Vasant Navaratri is well-known, there are two other Navaratri known as Gupta Navaratri. The first one falls in



the Shukla Paksha of Magha month, and the second one in the Shukla Paksha of Ashadha month. These are called Gupt Navaratri due to the hidden mystical reasons associated with them.

Devotees observe fasting and perform Puja rituals for nine days, starting with the installation ceremony on the first day.

During these nine days, devotees worship the nine forms of Mother Shakti. Tantric practitioners focus on the ten Mahavidyas instead of the traditional Navadurga forms. These ten Mahavidyas are-Kali, Tara Devi, Tripur Sundari, Bhu-

vaneshwari, Chinna-masta, Tripur Bhairavi, Dhoomavati, Baglamukhi, Matangi, and Kamala Devi.

Devotees ardently worship Goddess Shakti from Pratipada to Navami, seeking the blessings for inner strength and liberation from worldly troubles.

Gupt Navaratri holds special significance for practitioners of Tantra, Shakti Sadhana, and Mahakal.

During this period, devotees strictly adhere to fasting and intense sadhana to attain rare powers. The observance includes puja of Goddess Durga and recitation of Durga Saptashati either personally or under the guidance of a knowledgeable priest.

These days are considered auspicious for those interested in tantra and mantra practices, as well as for householders seeking to awaken their inner powers. Observing charity and virtuous deeds during this time is also emphasized.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railways, Ferozpur for and on behalf of President of India is inviting open Tender (Two packet System) for Development of GCT at Awantipora Railway Station with details as under:-

Station	Awantipora	Code	ATPA	Period of contract	35 years
EMD Required (in ₹)	₹4,34,95,700/-			Tender form cost (in ₹)	₹11,800/-
Pre-Bid Meeting/Conference	19.02.2024 at 15:30 hrs. in DRM Office Conference Room				

Bids will be received only on IREPS on 27.03.2024 upto 15:00 hrs. For further details, please visit Railway's Website ireps.gov.in.

No.: 3AC-GCT-ATPA-FZR-24 Dated : 07.02.2024 405/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REWPOONCH
TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 311 of REWPOONCH 2023-24 dated: 06-02-2024 1st Call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
Under PRI Grant									
1	Upgradation of Tr. Road Nr. Mufti Sultan Sb.Pyt. Gohlad/Reelan Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24	Executive Engineer, REW Division Poonch	2.85	200	5700	30 days	(1000 Hrs) or after 13-02-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available /Demanded
2	Construction of Road Mohalla/Januan Ro SaydianPyt. Potha Lower Block Surankote Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24		4.80	300	9600	30 days			
3	Toilet Complex Pyt. SakhlMaidan 2 Nos.Pyt. SakhlMaidan Block Mendhar Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		3.00	200	6000	30 days			
4	Toilet Complex Pyt. SakhlMaidan Block Mendhar Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		4.00	300	8000	30 days			

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in local Panchayat works.

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-02-2024.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06-02-2024 to 12-02-2024, 1855Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	06-02-2024 from 1400Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	12-02-2024 up to 1855Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	13-02-2024 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period.
 - In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process. No-XEN/REW/P/4553-60

Dated: 06-02-2024

DIP/J-14808/23
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Poonch

EDITORIAL

NEED OF
RECYCLING

Reusing any type of waste and waste or converting it into new material is called recycling and recycling. Such as paper, plastic, glass or any other metal like aluminium, zinc etc., all these things can be recycled very easily.

If we want to keep and protect our future generations, recycling is very important for us which we cannot use again and such products can be converted into new products and this cycle is called recycling.

If we recycle anything, we can protect the earth's environment. As after recycling paper, paper can be produced without cutting trees. In this way the earth can be saved. If we recycle anything, we can save a lot of energy. For example, it takes the same amount of energy to make a new aluminium metal, but we can use that energy by recycling aluminium. With this, our metal will also be recycled, energy will be saved and the environment will also be beneficial.

The biggest main advantage is that it saves energy. Secondly, it also helps in reducing carbon and greenhouse gases. Recycling reduces pollution and does not release waste material into the environment.

If we recycle something, we do not have to invest money in other products, because it also costs the same, it costs less money and also uses less energy.

The biggest reason for not recycling in Pune is that people do not understand the process of recycling. They do not know which products should be recycled and which should not.

The first reason found for not recycling was that people are not aware about it. They do not understand recycling very well and find it a very difficult task, that is why they do not find it easy to pick up the garbage in their house and throw it away.

People are very limited in space when it comes to recycling. The biggest issue is that people's houses are very small and hence they do not want to see garbage around their house.

People also say that they do not have that much money for not recycling and do not show any kind of incentive. It is a misconception that people will not recycle anything unless there is a monetary benefit to it.

Paper waste contains many types of waste. Such as paper, newspaper, card board and other papers used in offices and teacher institutions etc. are included in the heaviest quantity. Pumpers and Templates Paper can be recycled in two ways, first by converting it into wood and secondly by converting it into water.

It is very good to recycle the grass, after cutting the grass instead of throwing it away for recycling, it should be cut down and left so that its nutrients develop and act as fertilizer in the soil.

Efforts to free examinations from cheating

By: Vijay Garg

The purpose of any competition is to test ability. In ancient times, this work was done for recruitment in the armies of the rulers. At that time, the criteria for such examinations used to be physical fitness. In modern times, in any competitive examination, studies, writing and mental understanding have become the basis, but what will happen if the examination which is required to determine the merit, is tainted with malpractices i.e. cheating and paper leaks? This is a question that every effort to get rid of it has been proving unsuccessful in the last decade and a half. Especially in the matters of paper leakage and copying, the infiltration of organized gangs has made the situation worse, but now a sure solution is going to be found. For the purpose of strictness, the Central Government has introduced the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill 2024 in the Parliament. After being passed in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, it will be sent to the President for approval. As soon as the President gives his approval, this bill will take the form of law. Took copy and form in this bill in cases of malpractices related to examination etc., a provision of fine up to Rs 1 crore and imprisonment for 10 years has been made. This bill, which has been brought with the aim of completely curbing those who commit any kind of irregularities in all types of government examinations, also aims to stop the atrocities being committed against the deserving and talented youth of the country due to the activities of organized gangs. However, some states have taken strict action to prevent rigging in various recruitment examinations. Rasuka on people involved in cases like paper leak Action has been taken under the (National Security Act), but incidents of malpractice coming from time to time have proved that efforts to circumvent recruitment examinations through illegal means are

continuing. The main reason for this is the immense income earned through such rigging, due to which such work is being carried out by forming organized gangs. Frustration of the candidates: Whenever the issue of malpractices in competitive or entrance examinations arises, the biggest question that comes up is the frustration of the candidates. Important competitive exams and prestigious courses If the papers of entrance examinations are leaked in advance, if recruitment is rigged by taking money or if candidates are made to pass by colluding, then those hard-working candidates who have passed an examination on the strength of their talent suffer the most. I try to prove my worth. Paper leaks definitely benefit a few students, but these incidents are extremely painful for thousands of other candidates and students. This continuous series of malpractices forces the candidates to appear again for the examination. The only option left is to bear all the expenses ranging from preparation to transportation, for which no government in our country has made any concrete effort to compensate. Sometimes, when such cases come to light, the governments of some states have given exemption from paying the examination fees again and have given the candidates the option of free return journey in roadways buses, but such balm does not provide relief to the wounds caused by these accidents. These incidents fill millions of unemployed people with extreme anger. However, deserving student candidates cannot afford this. That they would suffer the consequences of the system's flaws, but there was no assurance from anywhere that such incidents would not happen again in the future. The root of the problem lies elsewhere. In fact, in the last decade, incidents of paper leaking have increased so much that hardly any prestigious examination has been able to escape its grip. Apart from teacher recruitment, papers of UP-PCS, UP Combined Pre-Medical Test, UP-CPMT, SSC, ONGS and Railway

Recruitment Board examinations have been leaked on a large scale in recent years. It is also possible that g cases If not exposed, hundreds of people might have got jobs or admission in prestigious courses through such clever ways. Since these accidents are not a crime even after millions of arrangements and the busting and arrest of their gangs, a big question is whether the root of this problem lies somewhere else? The inability to stop the paper leak scandals proves that the examination system that determines the eligibility criteria has completely broken down. The government system has been taking paper leak incidents very lightly, that is why this problem is becoming incurable. gone. This is the reason why the examinations which have been made the standard for every qualification, started appearing meaningless. The solution will be found through willpower. It is not impossible to put any control on the failure of the system and the laziness of the officials and the criminals who leak the papers, provided the governments and the concerned departments want to do so. One aspect of this problem is also related to unemployment and the increased desire for government jobs. In most such competitive examinations, the number of applicants for a few hundred or thousand posts is in lakhs. like teacher recruitment Competitive examinations like TET and CTET, which provide eligibility for jobs, have gone a step ahead. These examinations neither provide any educational qualification nor provide a job, but have become such a ladder to become eligible for a job, through which even the slightest assurance of a job is available. Still, the situation is that the number of their applicants is in lakhs. Similarly, it has now become common for tens of lakhs of candidates to appear in the entrance examinations for other government jobs and medical and engineering colleges. Is. Due to high demand and low supply, the role of corruption and illegal tactics has increased in the system.

On the other hand, a dangerous attitude of the society has also come to the fore, in which people want to push their children towards government jobs etc. which provide social prestige. In this case, if they are not successful through legal means then they try illegal means. There are many such people who buy seats in good institutions for their children by donating. Here are those who enter any Or try to use tricks to get the recruitment exam form. Because of these people, the hard work and talent of lakhs of youth go waste, who want to build their future on the strength of their abilities. However, looking at the draft and suggestions of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill 2024, it can be said that keeping a watch on the corrupt system that blocks the path of honest and capable youth and people promoting malpractices like cheating in the form of organized gangs. but it is not very difficult to control, This work can be done by making strict laws with political will and ensuring their implementation. Here it is necessary to understand that just by making the examinations online or locking them in lockers before the exam, the demerits of a person are not guarded against. For this, it is necessary that the culprits are caught and they are given strict punishment. It is hoped that the latest legislative initiative to prevent malpractices in examinations will remove the flaws in the system and give a boost to this unemployment-stricken country and the dreams of its deserving and talented youth. Will create an environment for shaping.

*(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist MALOUT
Punjab)*

Beauty Tips to Look Awesome This Valentine's Day

By: Shahnaz Hussain

For couples in love and hopeful singles, February is the Paris of all months.

Finally, it is the time of the year when everything around you seems lovely and beautiful. It's Valentine's Day.

Getting ready for Valentine's Day is a hectic task. It requires a lot of things in place. You have to think about clothes, makeup, shoes or sandals. But at the same time, we forget about the basics of healthy skin. We try things from outside rather than caring for food, sleep, and regular skincare routine accurately.

Valentine's day is the most awaited time of the year, whether you've been together three months or three decades. Valentine day is the perfect opportunity for you to bond and reconnect with your partner, girlfriend, boyfriend, husband, or wife.

It doesn't matter if you are going on a special date for a romantic night out, looking for one or just a walk with friends and family, It brings the biggest date night of the year and the restlessness that comes along to look one's best on the special day.

If you can't be with your sweetie in person this year, then you might as well send them something sweet through online store/e-commerce websites. There are a lot of Valentine's gift packs in the market containing chocolate truffle flavours: milk chocolate, milk chocolate caramel, and dark chocolate strawberry. You may choose desi Ladoo /mithai depending on the taste of your sweetie.

Especially impressive if you live apart, a surprise gift might be the perfect way to share the love this year. Not sure what to buy? Keep it classic - paintings, art objects and flowers like roses will always be well-received and create a sense of occasion. Twinned with a scented candle, Valentine's Day will be

truly wrapped up.

Take advantage of sweater weather and escape into the wilderness, where you can relax by the fire and enjoy some hot chocolate. Take a scenic hike together and enjoy all the beautiful sights and the fresh air - it's a great way to bond while getting some much-needed time to unplug, too.

If you've got a new boyfriend, a hot date, or a tried-and-true love, Valentine day gives you the perfect excuse to pamper yourself to look romantic, sweet presentable, attractive with flawless looking radiant skin with youthful glow.

Water based moisture is key for glowing skin. Moisturizers provide a good base before applying any makeup. Moisturizers which are formulated with shea butter, dimethicone, ceramides, hyaluronic acid and aloe vera water help provide long-lasting hydration. Hydrate and nourish your skin every night before sleeping.

If your skin is clear, leave out the foundation during the day. Use baby powder or compact power. Pay more attention to the oily areas of the face, like the nose, forehead, and chin. Press the powder all over the face and neck, with a slightly damp sponge. This helps it to set and last longer.

If you want to use foundation at night, choose a water-based one. Add a drop of water for a lighter coverage. Before applying foundation, apply astringent lotion if your skin is oily, or moisturizing lotion for dry skin. Wait for a few minutes to allow the skin to absorb it. Next, use concealer to cover up pimples and scars, if any. Or, use two shades of foundation. One shade should be as close to your skin colour as possible. The other should be a shade lighter if the blemishes are dark. Take a little light coloured foundation and apply it directly on the pimple or pimple scar. Avoid rubbing or smearing. Pat it into

the skin. Then apply your normal foundation on the face and using a moist sponge, spread it evenly, going outwards. Remember the neck too. Blending is important to achieve a smooth finish then apply tinted loose powder on top to "set" the foundation. Or, use compact powder.

Blusher comes next, or you can apply it at the end. Use powder blusher. Pink or peach blusher would suit most skin tones. Apply on the cheekbones and slightly below it. Use your finger tips to dot the area with blusher. Then, blend with the brush, outwards and slightly upwards. Apply highlighter on the cheekbones. Highlighters should not be white. Choose from ivory or pale pink. Blend well.

For the eyes, use a brown eye shadow on the eyelids. Use the same brown shadow under the lower lashes, instead of eyeliner or kajal. Take a darker brown eye shadow and apply it on the upper lid, close to the upper lashes. The entire effect will be natural. If you want to line the eyes, use an eye pencil. Give your eyes a light touch of mascara. Make sure the lashes do not stick together. Brush them with an eyelash comb.

Wear a sunblock for outdoor events during the day, this acts as a shield and also works as a good under base for your foundation accelerating its performance.

Take proper sleep for at least eight hours during night. Lack of sleep will show on your face no matter how well you fashion your appearance. Put a drop or two of lavender oil on your pillowcase and try to relax. Sandalwood and Clary Sage are other good options.

For the night and for a more dramatic effect, use a dark brown, or dark grey eye shadow on the eyelids close to the lashes and stroke it upwards and outwards. For the smoky-eyed look, line the eyes with eyeliner close to the lashes

and then smudge the eyeliner slightly with a sponge-tipped applicator. It should not be a harsh line.

Who ever heard of a Valentine's Day date ending without a goodnight kiss? Go with a soft pink or berry hue that is no more than two shades darker than your natural lip color is a good way to keep your lips colored without going overboard.

Exfoliate your lips the night before date night with a gentle lip scrub to remove dead skin cells to soften your pucker and improve the look and application of your date night lipstick.

For the buttery soft and smooth lips, plain gloss can be enough for the day, or add a touch of gloss over light pink or mauve lipstick. Coloured gloss is also available. Avoid using lip liners and just brush the lips with lipstick, going for shades of pink, from pale pink, to rose or tawny pink. At night, go for rose, coral or bronze, or just stick to pink. Just don't forget to hydrate your lips with your favorite lip balm, salve, or conditioner after exfoliating.

Wear a light flowery or lemony fragrance, nothing too overpowering. Always be kind and confident. I think these two traits together make someone beautiful.

As the last step, touch up your nails, smooth your strands, and spritz on some perfume. You're ready to go!

*(The author is an
international fame
beauty expert and is
called Herbal Queen of
India)*

Congress announces Raj Salaria State Vice President of OBC wing

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Feb 8: The Delhi High Command of the Congress Party has made a major reshuffle in its leadership in Jammu and Kashmir. Recently, youth leader Raj Mohammad Salaria, who left the Aam Aadmi Party and joined the Congress Party in front of the State Congress High Command, has been given the post of State Vice President of the Congress OBC Wing by the party. Due to which there is a lot of happiness among the supporters of Raj Salaria.



At the same time, supporters of youth leader Raj Mohammad Salaria are reaching his residence in large numbers to congratulate him and are honoring the newly appointed State Vice President Raj Salaria

by giving him a necklace and wishing him good luck for the new innings. On this occasion, newly appointed State Vice President Raj Salaria thanked the party's National President Arjun Kharge, KC Venugopal, Rajni Patil, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Vikar Rasool Bani, Raman Bhalla and other top party officials from the bottom of his heart and said that he will try to live up to the responsibility assigned to him by the National Committee and will work day and night to make the party united and strong

in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Congress is the only party which can uplift the poor. He said that Congress has done many such works for the upliftment of the poor during its tenure which cannot be counted. Raj Salaria took a jibe at the BJP and said that the BJP is running a dictatorial government at the Center and in Jammu and Kashmir, but now the pot of their sins is full. In the upcoming elections, Congress will form the government in the country and state on its own.

Implement R&R Plan for Rattle: Shan

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 8: Tilak Shan, Shiv Sena President Chenab Valley, said Rattle Hydro Power Project is under construction in Tehsil Drabshalla District Kishtwar and for the welfare of general public and project affected families certain policies have been framed by the government from time to time and Relief and Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan is also a part of these policies. Tilak Shan urged Administrative Council (AC) headed by Lt Governor J&K of JK UT to issues directives to authorities of Jammu and Kashmir to approved RR plan of Rattle Hydro Power Project at Drabshalla and implement. Besides, Shan urged Prime Minister to take a strong note on Administrative Council regarding its delay in implementation of RR Plan so that



beneficiaries should not suffer more and development should be done in district Kishtwar at an earliest.

Jugal demands to start Jammu to Mumbai train on daily basis



Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Feb 8: Member of Parliament BJP Lok Sabha Jammu, Jugal Kishore Sharma on Thursday raised his voice in Lok Sabha at New Delhi and demanded a new train from Jammu to Mumbai and back Mumbai to Jammu on daily basis to be started soon. Jugal in Lok Sabha informed the house that there are many people

and labour of Jammu and Kashmir who are working in Maharashtra to earn their livelihood are used to travel through trains. Their connectivity mode is train which is economic and affordable to them, he said adding that there are more than 1000 people who want to travel on daily basis from Jammu to Maharashtra and back but they have to suffer a lot due to non-

availability of trains on daily basis. Only two trains presently in a week are running from Jammu to Mumbai. He urged Minister of Railways to start a new train on daily basis from Jammu to Mumbai and back from Mumbai to Jammu so that people may not have to suffer any more and can travel easily from Jammu to Maharashtra and Maharashtra to Jammu.

SSP holds introductory meeting with public at Bhadarwah, seeks cooperation

Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Feb 8: The newly appointed Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) district Doda Javed Iqbal Mir, held his first introductory meeting with the Sanathan Dharam Sabha, Anjuman-e-Islamia Bhadarwah, senior citizens and other civil society members at Dak Banglow Additional District Bhadarwah here Today. As per a press statement, "SSP Mir underscored the importance of cooperation between the police and the public in eradicating drugs and maintaining peace in the district," he stated. All the functionaries put their grievances before the SSP like drug menace and the thefts that are happening in the shops in Bhadarwah besides discussing other issues.



Upholding the high standards of integrity, SSP Mir emphasised the department's dedication to providing

better services to residents and weeding out corruption and inaction at the grassroots level. "We are committed

to fostering a culture of honesty, transparency and accountability within the police force," he asserted.

Recognising the importance of public trust, SSP Mir highlighted the need for honesty, humbleness and honour among police personnel. "We strive to win the confidence and hearts of the public by treating everyone with respect and dignity," he affirmed. Underscoring the importance of protection, SSP Mir assured that women, children and the elderly would receive special attention from the police force. "We will take strict action against criminals like drug peddlers, eve teasers, thieves and others," he declared. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Additional District Bhadarwah, DSP Bhadarwah, SHO Bhadarwah and others.

J&K BJP to facilitate Ayodhya pilgrimage for Ram devotees from J&K with Special 'Aastha' Trains: Yudhvir

Says Ayodhya sacred journey will strengthen bonds of communal harmony and nationalism

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, will facilitate the pilgrimage of Ram devotees from Jammu & Kashmir to Ayodhya. The Northern Railways is running special 'Aastha' trains which will be operated from Katra, Udhampur, and Jammu Railway Stations, ensuring accessibility for devotees from various regions of Jammu & Kashmir. He informed that the J&K based Member Parliaments will give a rousing reception to the devotees at Ayodhya. Sethi informed that the District Offices of the Bharatiya Janata Party across the Union Territory will extend all possible support to Ram devotees by assisting them in train ticket bookings, arranging accommodations, providing local conveniences, and facilitating their Darshan at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. This initiative comes at a significant time, as it marks the first collective pilgrimage of Ram devotees to Ayodhya since the consecration



ceremony at the Ram temple on January 22. The inaugural 'Aastha' train, which commenced its journey on February 6, received an overwhelming response from devotees, reflecting the enthusiasm and devotion of the people towards Lord Ram. Yudhvir Sethi expressed that this sacred journey to Ayodhya will not only deepen spiritual bonds but also reinforce the spirit of nationalism among devotees across the country. Emphasizing the significance of pilgrimage, he highlighted its role in fostering unity and solidarity. Additionally, he extended gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling the dreams of crores of people of the country with the historic construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya after

a gap of nearly 500 years. The senior BJP leader also extended its gratitude to the Northern Railways for their overwhelmed support in making this pilgrimage initiative possible. By facilitating the journey of Ram devotees to Ayodhya, the BJP aims to provide an opportunity for spiritual fulfillment and strengthen the bond of devotion among the people of Jammu & Kashmir, he added. For further information and assistance regarding the Ayodhya pilgrimage, he urged the Ram Bhakts to contact their respective District Offices of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Jammu and Kashmir and assured that full support will provide to them in their sacred journey from Katra to Ayodhya.

Killing innocent people in Kashmir is proof of cowardice of terrorists: Dr Preeti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat has condemned the target killing of two people in Srinagar and said that terrorists want to spoil the communal harmony through these attacks at the behest of Pakistan. He said that last day terrorists shot two migrants in Srinagar in which one youth died on the spot while the other died on Thursday morning. He said that every citizen of the country has full faith in the bravery of the Indian security forces that



they will soon take revenge of this attack by sending the terrorists to hell, but no one can compensate the loss of those who have lost their relatives. During the investigation of this case, every aspect should be brought to the fore as to how the terrorists succeeded in their objective and who supported them. He said that this is not the first case of target killing in Kashmir, even before this terrorists have targeted many innocent people. Security forces should take strict steps to eliminate the terrorist network.

Jammu Sanskriti School Kathua students shine in Toycathon 2023

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 8: Toycathon 2023, organized under the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, witnessed significant participation from Jammu and Kashmir, with a total of 1,25,000 students involved. Among them, Jammu Division contributed 55,000 students, with Kathua District boasting the highest participation at 19,000 students. Sehrish, a dedicated student from class 8th, of Jammu Sanskriti School Kathua, represented her school in category 1 of the competition. Following her impressive performance, she was honored with a consolation prize during the felicitation ceremony organized by SCERT on 7th February 2024. Notably, Sehrish's innovative creation, the



she was mentored and guided by Sheetal (PGT Bio) and Mukesh (PGT Fine Arts).

BIOSCOPE, caught the attention of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (CGPDTM). This recognition underscores the importance of fostering creativity and innovation among young minds. CGPDTM's acknowledgment reaffirms the potential and originality of Sehrish's toy design, showcasing her talent on a national platform dedicated to promoting innovation and intellectual property rights in India.

With Diljit Dosanjh making Australian singer Sia croon lines in Punjabi for his song Hass Hass, cross-border collaborations in music are gaining popularity. Here's a look at the trend

Indian singers and their collaboration with global artistes often make for headlines. Cross-border collaborations also helps artistes reach out to a wider audience.

Recently, international singer Zayn Malik's Urdu verses for the remake of Pakistani band AUR's popular song, Tu Hai Kahan, created quite a buzz. Indian singers are not far behind! Here's a check.

Punjabi magic

When Australian singer Sia sang these lines in Punjabi, it was moment to behold!

"Dil tenu de ditte

Main tan soneya,

Jaan tere kadma ch rakhi hoyi

aa,

Marna main teriyan bahan ch chann ve,

Sohn tere pyaar di main chakki hoyi aa"

These are part of the song Hass Hass, which fuses Indian pop and international beats, by star singers Diljit Dosanjh and Sia. After performing at Coachella Music Festival, there was no stopping Diljit as news of him collaborating with American music producer Diplo started doing the rounds.

While Diljit shared a picture of him with Diplo, the latter posted a video with the caption, 'From Coachella to my studio'. Diljit



has previously worked with Colombian singer Camilo to create the song, Palpita. The single has verses by Camilo in Spanish, whereas Diljit does what he knows best — croon in Punjabi!

Last year, Karan Aujla collaborated with Grammy-winning DJ Tiësto for the song Softly (Tiësto remix). The song gained global recognition and was premiered at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix's after-race concert. While Softly has over 116 million views, its remix by Tiësto has amassed over 3.9 million views, and was dropped around mid-December 2023.

Desi videshi

MTV Hustle-fame King garnered quite a fan-following after

he released one album after another post his journey on the rap singing reality show. One of his top songs, Maan Meri Jaan got a Western twist when American singer Nick Jonas collaborated for the reprised version, titled Maan Meri Jaan (Afterlife).

For the first time, fans of Nick Jonas witnessed the Indian jiju, thanks to his marriage to Indian-American actress Priyanka Chopra, croon in Hindi. The captivating lyrics and rhythm made it a global hit.

Priyanka has also tried her hand at singing with renowned Western musicians like Will.i.am and Pitbull. Her debut single, In My City, was alongside Will.i.am and came out in 2012, whereas she sang Exotic ft. Pitbull the

next year. These songs were part of her album Desi Girl.

Fusion of sorts

Bollywood playback singer Armaan Malik and Shape of You hit-maker Ed Sheeran collaborated a few years ago for the song, 2step. Released in June 2022, the song helped the Indian singer garner a better global presence. The track, 2step, was originally part of Sheeran's 2021 album Equal. But it wasn't Armaan's first international collaboration, he had previously worked with American music producer, KSHMR, for the song Echo. Speaking of KSHMR, the artiste has also worked with another Indian artiste, Divine, whose popularity can be judged from the fact that international rap artiste Nas has signed him under his label. The American DJ and music producer KSHMR, alongside Divine, also released a track, Lion Heart, which was a fusion of rap and EDM.

Beyond borders

Pasoori-fame singer Ali Sethi announced in the first week of January 2024 that he was collaborating with Indian singer Jonita Gandhi. The Pakistani-American singer released the song, Love Like That, with the What Jhumka? singer, on January 12.

Main Monica is all about hard-hitting human stories and insight through dark humour



Paromita Ganguly has carved her niche in the world of entertainment with the success of her comedy-thriller, Main Monica, now available on Prime Video.

It stars Dibeyendu Bhattacharya, Ravi Mahashabde, Paritosh Sand, Abhishek Chauhan, Rahul Tewari, Disha Thakur, Suparna Marwah and Piyush Kumar in leading roles.

The witty and suspenseful series has received accolades from both viewers and critics alike, and for this feat she thanks her partners Ranjeet Chitrakra and Amber Wasi for making the narrative thought-provoking and packed with humour.

Reflecting on her journey, Paromita emphasises the responsibility that comes with the privilege of being a filmmaker. "Films and media are the most common and oldest medium to move mass mindset. With this opportunity comes a responsibility, to tell stories that people need to hear," she says.

Munmun Dutta reflects on her 16 year of TMKOC journey

Munmun Dutta, who is best known for her character Babita Iyer in the longest running sitcom Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah (TMKOC), feels grateful as the show has completed 4,000 episodes, reflecting upon her 16 years of hard work, big dreams and perseverance.

The show that aired first in July 2008, is now in its 16th year. It is based on the weekly column Duniya Ne Undha Chasma by Tarak Mehta in Chitralekh magazine.

Hailing from West Bengal, the 36-year-old actress plays the character of Babita, who is the wife of Iyer (played by Tanuj Mahashabde). Babita is the secret crush of Jethalal (played by Dilip Joshi).

Reflecting upon this remarkable feat achieved by the makers of the show, Munmun took to the Instagram, and shared several pictures, and behind-the-scenes videos with other cast members, celebrating 4,000 epi-



sodes.

In the photos, we can see Munmun posing in the Gokuldhama housing society. She is wearing a blue floral pantsuit and smiling ear to ear as she poses against a huge backdrop of marquee lights showing 4,000 episodes.

The string of photos

were captioned as: "4000 Episodes. More grateful for everything today. Couldn't have been more grateful for everything today... Small town girl with big dreams...16 years later, after immense hard work, hardships and perseverance, here I Am Today."

Car designer Dilip Chhabria resorted to extracting money illegally: Kapil Sharma to ED

Stand-up and actor Kapil Sharma has told ED that car designer Dilip Chhabria, accused of cheating several celebrities, tried to shift blame onto him for the non-delivery of a customised vehicle that he had ordered and resorted to illegal ways of extracting money from him.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has recorded the statement of Mohammed Hamid, the authorised representative of Sharma, as part of its chargesheet filed against Chhabria in a money laundering case.

A special PMLA court, presiding over the case, on Wednesday took cognizance of the chargesheet and issued summons to Chhabria and six other accused in the case. They have been asked to appear before it on February 26.

The ED case is based on three FIRs registered against the accused, including a cheating case filed by Sharma.

In his statement before



ED, the actor's representative said that Sharma, the sole proprietor of K9 Productions, had approached Chhabria for the purchase of a customised vanity van in December 2016.

Subsequently, an agreement was executed between K9 Productions and Dilip Chhabria Design Private Limited (DCDPL) in March 2017 for the delivery of a customised vanity van for Rs 4.5 crore (excluding taxes), he said.

As per agreed terms, a payment of Rs 5.31

crore (including taxes) was made by Sharma's production house, the statement said.

Hamid submitted that DCDPL neither delivered the promised vanity van to Sharma nor refunded any money.

On being asked about the delay in work on the vanity van, Chhabria told Hamid, who had gone to the car designer's Pune facility to inspect the vehicle, that all the materials for its interiors had been purchased and kept in a warehouse. Chhabria talked

about his stressed financial status and need for funds, the actor's representative said.

Later, Chhabria sent an additional quotation for Rs 54,20,800 to Sharma and sought the funds for the delivery of the vehicle.

The sudden demand for additional money raised doubt in Sharma's mind. When questioned about his intention to extract money from the actor, Chhabria took a hostile approach, the statement said.

The accused started sending mail correspondences to Sharma, falsely blaming him for the non-timely inspection of the vanity van and citing the same as the reason for the non-delivery of the vehicle, it said.

Sensing his intention to cheat, Sharma took legal steps and sent notice of recovery to the car designer's firm on April 18, 2019, the actor's representative said in the statement.

However, Chhabria resorted to multiple ille-

gal ways, including arbitrary parking charges for the non-delivered vanity van and seeking a loan for a sister concern (Mis DC Motor Works Pvt Ltd) to make payments to vendors, for extracting money from Sharma, it said.

Sharma then filed a police complaint against Chhabria and his associates, the statement said.

ED said the accused persons and company have knowingly indulged in illegitimate means for personal gains and have caused loss to all the complainants "to the tune of Rs 18 13 crore", which it termed the proceeds of crime.

Citing money trails, ED said the amount was directly or indirectly credited to the bank accounts of the accused company. It is proved through money trails that the generated proceeds of crime were laundered via illegal means by prime accused Chhabria, ED added.

Alia Bhatt comes onboard for crime series Poacher as executive producer

Prime Video recently announced that actor, producer and entrepreneur Alia Bhatt has come onboard as executive producer for its upcoming Amazon Original series, Poacher.

An investigative crime series based on true events, Poacher, unearths the largest ivory poaching ring in Indian history. Emmy-award winning filmmaker Richie Mehta has created, written and directed the series, which boasts of a diverse and talented cast, comprising Nimisha Sajayan, Roshan Mathew and Dibeyendu Bhattacharya in pivotal roles.

Poacher, which unfolds primarily in Malayalam, Hindi and English, is set to premiere on February 23.

Talking about coming onboard as the executive producer for



Poacher, Alia Bhatt says, "Being part of this incredibly significant project is an honour, for both me and the entire team at Eternal Sunshine Productions. The impact of Poacher was deeply personal, and Richie's portrayal of the urgent issue of wildlife crime resonated strongly with me and the team. The storytelling genuinely moved me, especially knowing it's based on true events that sheds light on brutal crimes occurring in our forests. I am confident that Poacher will serve as an eye-opener, delivering a powerful message to be more compassionate and considerate towards all living beings. It's a call to embrace co-existence and I am genuinely thrilled to be collaborating with Richie, QC and Prime Video and to contribute to this narrative."

Aneri Vajani talks about her role in Baghin



Starring Aneri Vajani, Star Bharat's show Baghin promises a thrilling ride as the protagonist takes on a vengeful

journey after being possessed by the spirit of a tigress.

The show features a stellar cast, including Ansh Bagri, Zeeshan Khan, and Krrip Kapur Suri, ensuring an enthralling viewing experience for the audience.

Aneri reflects on her experience as the lead actress in the show, describing it as a tumultuous journey. She says, "It has truly been a roller-coaster journey for me. Initially, I was hesitant about taking on this role because I couldn't gather the confidence to do something of this magnitude."

However, I chose to perceive it as a divine sign, turning Baghin into an adventure. Viewing it as an opportunity to embrace challenges, I welcomed the chance to step into a role I never imagined I'd undertake, given its considerable complexity for me as an actor." She adds, "The character's evolution from innocence to possessing a tigress-like demeanour intrigued me deeply."

Manmohan Singh will be remembered for strengthening democracy: Modi in Rajya Sabha farewell to retiring ex-PM

Modi hailed the former PM for always making it a point to come and vote in Rajya Sabha proceedings

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday bid farewell to his predecessor Manmohan Singh and said the former PM will be remembered for strengthening democracy.

Lauding Singh's contributions to Rajya Sabha and to the country as prime minister between 2004 and 2014, Modi said, "The way Manmohan Singh ji guided this house and the country, his contributions will surely be remembered when democratic annals of Indian history are discussed."



Modi also hailed the former PM for always making it a point to come and vote in Rajya Sabha proceedings as also in the parliamentary committee elections.

"He came to vote in parliamentary proceedings even in a wheelchair. Whether or not it strengthened someone it surely strengthened democracy," he said.

The PM bid farewell to Singh, a six term Rajya Sabha MP, praying for his long life and for him to "constantly guide and inspire us." Singh, 91, is among 57 MPs retiring in April.

PM Modi not OBC by birth, claims Rahul Gandhi



JHARSUGUDA (ODISHA), Feb 8 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not born in an Other Backward Class family, and he is "misleading" people by identifying himself as an OBC.

Gandhi, while making a brief speech here on the third and concluding day of his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' in Odisha, said Modi "was born in a family that

belonged to the general caste". "Modi ji has been misleading the people by saying that he is an OBC. He was born in a family of the Teli caste, which was included in the OBC list during the BJP government's tenure in Gujarat in 2000. Therefore, Modi ji is not an OBC by birth," the Congress MP asserted.

Gandhi also alleged that the Prime Minister does not shake hands with OBCs, but "hugs billionaires".

Clad in a white t-shirt, the former Congress president resumed the yatra on Thursday from the Old Bus Stand here and moved towards Kissan Chowk in an open jeep. He was accompanied by AICC leader Ajay Kumar and OPCC president Sarat Pattnayak.

The yatra will enter Chhattisgarh in the afternoon from Odisha.

Centre is waging war against Opposition governments: Arvind Kejriwal at Jantar Mantar

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday hit out at the BJP-led Centre, accusing it of waging a war against state governments led by Opposition parties.

Leaders and lawmakers from the Left Democratic Front of Kerala, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, staged a protest against the Union Government at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Thursday. Kejriwal participated in the protest.

"Opposition parties represent 70 crore people in the country. The BJP has waged a war against the opposition-ruled states. The Centre is using all the tactics to harass the opposition governments," Kejriwal said at the protest.

He added, "It is depriving them of valid funds, obstructs work through Governors and LGs. They are also harassing them by using central agencies to arrest opposition leaders."

He said the protesters were not "here to beg or ask for anything for our families."

"I have come here to ask for the right of 2 crore people. If you do not give us funds how will we build roads, provide electricity and work for development,"



the Aam Aadmi Party National Convener said.

Citing Punjab's instance, he said the state government had to go to the Supreme Court for release of rural development fund.

The governors are meddling with state subjects in opposition-ruled states and agencies like ED are being used to frame opposition leaders, he alleged.

"They have arrested Hemant Soren, now they can arrest even me. They can arrest anyone and send him jail to topple government."

"I want to ask BJP not to be arrogant. A time can come when we will be there (in power) and you will be here (in opposition) and the same laws can come to haunt you," Kejriwal said.

Congress releases 'black paper' on Modi Government's 'failures'; flags unemployment, neglect of non-BJP states

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): The Congress on Thursday released a "black paper" to highlight the "failures" of the Modi government, alleging that the last 10 years were a period of "injustice" with issues such as rising prices, unemployment, subversion of institutions and "discrimination" against non-BJP states plaguing the country.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge released a 54-page "charge sheet" indicting the Centre ahead of the government's tabling in Parliament of a "white paper" on the "mismanagement" of the economy prior to 2014 with an aim to draw lessons.

"We are bringing out a 'black paper' against the government. Whenever PM (Narendra) Modi presents his views in Parliament, he hides his failures. At the same time, when we speak about the failures of the government, it is not given importance. Therefore, we thought of bringing out a black paper and tell the public about the failures of the government," Kharge, who was flanked by party leaders Pawan Khara and Syed Naseer Husain, said at a press conference at his residence here.

The "black paper" highlights social, economic and political "injustices" committed during the Modi government's tenure.

"The Modi government's 10 years in power have devastated the country's economy, aggravated unemployment, destroyed the country's agricultural sector, abetted crimes against women



and committed grave injustices against minorities in the country," the party alleged in its 'black paper'.

Under the "economic injustice" segment, the 'black paper' talks about the "unemployment crisis", lack of jobs and low labour force participation.

"The Modi government is silent on price rise...the prices of petrol, diesel and daily essentials has reached record levels," the 'black paper' said.

Termining the 2016 move of demonetisation as a blunder, the party said that seven years after the "disastrous demonetisation" the economic affects continue to haunt the country.

The black paper also raised issues such as "unemployment, price rise, farmers' distress, failure to carry out a caste census and injustice to women".

Attacking Prime Minister Modi, Kharge said he talks of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi when asked about price rise but "they

are ruling now and they should answer what they have done".

It was Modi's guarantee to provide 2 crore jobs and ensure MSP to farmers and now the prime minister should say he could not do it a but instead he has come up with new guarantees.

"The Congress ensured country's independence and in 2024, it will take country out of BJP's 'darkness of injustice'," he said.

Accusing the BJP government of "finishing democracy", Kharge said, "There is a danger to democracy in the country."

He accused the BJP of attempting and also toppling elected governments.

"They tried to do this in Jharkhand also but we stopped them," he said.

Kharge alleged that the Modi government discriminated against non-BJP led states over the last decade.

The 'black paper' also alleged that India has become "electoral

autocracy" and cited the V-Dem institute. It also claimed that federalism was weakened by the Modi government.

Sharing a link to the black paper, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh recalled that on January 4, 2014, in his press conference lasting about 75 minutes, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had made two far reaching statements that are most relevant for today.

"It encapsulates the Black Paper on 10 Saal Anyay Kaal just released by the Congress Party and the so-called 'White Paper' which will be tabled by the Modi government today. Dr. Manmohan Singh said: 1. History will be kinder to me. 2. It will be disastrous for the country to have Shri Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister. Both statements have been proved right today."

The party also hit out at the government over the Manipur issue and the border situation with China.

PM Modi dubs Cong's 'black paper' as 'kaala teeka'

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday took a jibe at the Congress for coming out with a "black paper" on the NDA Government, calling it a "kaala teeka" that will ward off the evil eye on the achievements of his government.

"Whenever a good thing happens, we apply the 'kaala teeka' (to ward off the evil eye), and I thank (Mallikarjun) Kharge ji for doing this honour today," the Prime Minister said in the Rajya Sabha.

Rajasthan FM proposes Rs 1,000 crore for schools, colleges, hospitals; recruitment to 70,000 posts



JAIPUR, Feb 8 (Agencies): Provision of Rs 1,000 crore to establish and upgrade schools, colleges, hospitals and administrative buildings," she said.

The minister said a Detailed Project Report to expand Jaipur Metro from Sitapura to Ambabari will be prepared in view of the problem of traffic congestion in Jaipur city.

Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan-2 will be started to create 5 lakh water harvesting structures in 20,000 villages in the next four years with a provision of Rs 11,200 crore and recruitment on 70,000 posts will be done, Kumari said.

A full Budget for 2024-25 will be presented in July.

Under Article 116 of the Constitution, a vote on account is presented to meet essential government expenditure for a limited period until the Budget is approved.

It is granted for a few months for an amount equivalent to one-sixth of the total estimates.

Earlier, the Rajasthan Assembly witnessed

heavy uproar during the presentation of vote on account (Interim Budget) by the Finance Minister, who targeted the former Congress government during her speech.

The minister accused the former government of financial mismanagement, corruption and lack of vision.

She also held it responsible for the financial burden on Rajasthan, debt on the state and the financial burden on the electricity companies among others.

As the minister blamed the former government, the opposition Congress members raised objections and created uproar in the House.

Chief Minister Bhajanalal Sharma requested them to listen to the Budget speech presented by the woman finance minister.

Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly said there is no objection over presentation of vote on account by a woman minister, but it was inappropriate to make political allegations in it.

He said that the Finance Minister should not include political accusations in her Budget and should only read what is written in the speech.

The House came in order when the Finance Minister started reading the speech without making allegations on the former government.

Motorists spent hours in the crawling traffic as the police personnel with heavy equipment were on alert to restrict movement on the road at the Delhi-Noida borders near Mayur Vihar, as the farmers tried to enter the national capital.

Under the banners of Sanyukt Kisan Morcha and Akhil Bharatiya Kisan Sabha, farmers on

Farmers stage protest march towards Parliament from Delhi-Noida border; Police steps up security



NOIDA, Feb 8 (Agencies): The Uttar Pradesh on Thursday stepped up security along its borders with Delhi as thousands of farmers and villages descended on the ground with a plan to march to the Parliament, officials said.

Motorists spent hours in the crawling traffic as the police personnel with heavy equipment were on alert to restrict movement on the road at the Delhi-Noida borders near Mayur Vihar, as the farmers tried to enter the national capital.

Under the banners of Sanyukt Kisan Morcha and Akhil Bharatiya Kisan Sabha, farmers on

Thursday gathered outside the NTCP office in Noida Sector 24 and the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority's office, demanding 10 percent of abadi land.

Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait joined the protestors in Greater Noida in the afternoon, where his Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) members have been protesting outside the local authority office.

In Noida, the protestors are led by the Bharatiya Kisan Parishad, whose activists have held camps outside the local authority office since December 2023.

"In view of the farmers' movement, barriers are being installed

at all the borders of Delhi and at Kisan Chowk and other places. Each vehicle is being checked and passed, due to which the traffic is moving slowly," a police spokesperson said.

"Senior officials and other personnel are present at various locations to control the traffic. The traffic is being monitored continuously," he added.

The farmers demand that 10 percent of abadi plots or their equivalent compensation be given to them in lieu of land acquired from them for development projects.

Speaking about the protest march, a farmer said, "Nobody listens to us; what should we do? It seems that we have been protesting for over 5 years now. We will take what is in our rights. We are not asking for anything extra; we are asking for what has already been passed. It is our right for 10 percent of Abadi land."

The farmers led by the Bharatiya Kisan Parishad assembled at the Mahamaya Flyover in Noida at 12.30 pm on Thursday with a proposed plan to march towards the Parliament.

"From Mahamaya Flyover, the farmers shall march towards the

Parliament in Delhi to press for our long-pending demands," BKP leader Sukhbir Yadav 'Khalifa' said.

Ahead of the protest demonstration by the farmers in Noida and Greater Noida, the Gautam Buddha Nagar Police had already imposed CrPC Section 144 for Wednesday and Thursday.

The police also issued a traffic advisory, cautioning the commuters against diversions on some routes in the twin cities in view of the farmers' movement on tractors.

By 1 pm, heavy traffic jams were witnessed on the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway, DND loop, Kanlindi Kunj bridge, around Dalit Prerna Sthal, Atta Chowk and Rajnigandha Chowk in Noida.

Similar snarls were witnessed at Pari Chowk in Greater Noida, with the police saying that they were making efforts to ensure smooth traffic movement.

The farmer groups in Noida and Greater Noida have been on protest since December 2023, with demands for hiked compensation and developed plots against their land acquired by the local development authorities in the past.

Mobile services suspended across Pakistan as voting begins in General Election to elect new government

More than 12.85 crore registered voters will cast their votes at 90,000 polling stations

ISLAMABAD, Feb 8 (Agencies): Pakistanis on Thursday began voting in the General Election to elect a new government to rule the cash-strapped country amid speculation that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's PML-N may emerge as the largest party in Parliament as it is backed by the powerful military.

The polling started at 8.00 AM and will continue without any break till 5.00 PM. A country-wide public holiday has been declared to enable a total of 128,585,760 registered voters to cast their votes.

The counting will start soon after the conclusion of the voting.

Nearly 650,000 security personnel have been deployed across the country as more than 12.85 crore registered voters will cast their ballots at 90,000 polling stations. Pakistan has decided to temporarily suspend the mobile service due to the threat of militancy.

With former prime minister Imran Khan in jail, Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is tipped to emerge as the single largest party in the elections.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidates are contesting the polls independently after the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the election commission to deprive his party of its iconic election symbol cricket 'bat'.

In a brief pre-recorded mes-



sage, the jailed founding chairman of PTI urged voters to use their ballot.

"Make sure you come out and vote in huge numbers tomorrow," he was quoted as saying in a video posted on his X handle.

Sharif, 74, will be eyeing the premiership for a record fourth time.

The contest also involves the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, who has been declared as the party's prime minister face.

Stepped-up security is imperative given the spree of violence with the latest being two devastating bomb blasts targeting election offices on Wednesday in the restive Balochistan province that saw at least 30 people killed and more than 40 others injured.

Punjab has the most number of 73,207,896 registered voters followed by Sindh with

26,994,769, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 21,928,119, Balochistan with 5,371,947 and Federal Capital Islamabad 1,083,029.

According to ECP, a total of 5,121 candidates are in the race for the National Assembly (NA) seats. These include 4807 male, 312 female and two trans-genders. For the four provincial assemblies, 12,695 candidates are in the field including 12,123 males, 570 women and two trans-genders.

In total 266 NA seats were up for grabs out of 336, but polling was postponed on at least one seat after a candidate was killed in a gun attack in Bajaur. Sixty seats are reserved for women and another 10 for minorities, and are allotted to the winning parties on the basis of proportional representation.

Another 593 seats of the four provincial assemblies, out of a total 749, were open for con-

test but the ECP delayed polls on at least three seats, two in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and one in Punjab, after two candidates died and one was killed.

A total of 132 seats in the four provinces are reserved for women in four provinces and another 24 for minorities.

The reserved seats will be allotted to the winning political parties on the basis of the general seats they win in the elections. Both women and non-Muslim minorities can also contest on all general seats in addition to the reserved seats set aside for them in the national and provincial assemblies.

Whoever wins the Feb 8 polls will find a daunting task ahead due to the dwindling economy and deteriorating security situation.

Last year, the country narrowly averted a default when the International Monetary Fund provided a USD 3 billion short-term loan.

Economic experts believe that the new government would need an urgent new IMF programme on more stringent conditions.

Pakistan's more than two-decades-old fight against terrorism is also unravelling as the rebels have resurged since 2021 after the Afghan Taliban came to power.

The new government will find it tougher to deal with the militancy by the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and Baloch nationalists.

India does not trust US to lead; played smart by staying close with Russia: Nikki Haley



WASHINGTON, Feb 8 (Agencies): Indian-American Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley has said that India wants to be a partner with the US but considers it "weak" and is playing "smart" by staying close to Russia from where it gets a lot of their military equipment.

"I have dealt with India too. I have got to say, I have dealt with India too. I have talked with (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi. India wants to be a partner with us. They don't want to be a partner with Russia," Haley, 52, said.

Haley, the only Republican candidate in the race for the party's nomination against Donald Trump, said that New Delhi has played smart in the current global situation and stayed close to Russia.

"The problem is, India doesn't trust us to win. They don't trust us to lead. They see right now that we're weak. India has always played it smart. They have played it smart, and they have stayed close with Russia because that's where they get a lot of their military equipment," Haley, a former US ambassador to the UN, said in response to a question.

India has longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Russia in the field of defence.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding a warning by the US that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions under the provisions of Countering America's Adversaries

Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

"When we start to lead again, when we start to get the weakness out and stop putting our head in the sand, that's when our friends, India, Australia, New Zealand, all of them will -- and Israel, Japan, South Korea -- all of them want to do that. Japan gave themselves a billion-dollar stimulus to become less dependent on China," Haley, a former governor of South Carolina, said.

"India gave themselves a billion-dollar stimulus to become less dependent on China," she told Fox Business News, adding that the US needs to start building up its alliances.

Haley also said China is not doing well economically and is preparing for a war with the US.

"Financially, they're not doing well. You see their government has become more controlling. They have been preparing for war with us for years. That's their mistake," she said.

Haley was born Nimarata Randhawa in South Carolina to immigrant Sikh parents from Amritsar, Punjab.

Israeli PM Netanyahu rejects Hamas's Gaza ceasefire offer, vows to defeat group

JERUSALEM, Feb 8 (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected a proposal for a Gaza war truce by Hamas, saying victory was within reach and only total defeat of the movement that rules the blockaded strip would ensure Israel's security.

"We are on the path to total victory. Victory is within reach," he said at a televised press briefing, adding that triumph was months away. "Only total victory will allow us to restore security in Israel, both in the north and in the south."

The Israeli premier was speaking a day after Hamas said it had delivered its response to a proposed ceasefire deal for Gaza drawn up by US and Israeli spy chiefs and delivered to Hamas last week by Qatari and Egyptian mediators.

Hamas's response offered a ceasefire in Gaza for four-and-a-half months, during which all hostages would be released, Israel would withdraw its forces from the Gaza Strip and an agreement would be reached on an end to the war.

By paving a path for the return of the remaining 136 hostages Israel says are still held in Gaza, the offer meets one of Israel's declared war goals. However, it also challenges Israel's main pledge to keep fighting until Hamas is destroyed.

"The day after is the day after Hamas. All of Hamas," Netanyahu told a news conference, saying Israel's military had killed or wounded more than half of Hamas's armed forces in the four months of the war.



Netanyahu is under competing pressure from far-right members of his coalition government, who say they will quit rather than endorse any deal that fails to eradicate Hamas, and from families of hostages who demand a deal to bring them home.

Israel's air and ground offensive in Gaza has killed at least 27,500 Palestinians, displaced most of the strip's 2.3 million population and plunged the blockaded coastal enclave into a humanitarian catastrophe, prompting a charge of genocide, denied by Israel, at the International Court of Justice.

The war was triggered by a Hamas-led attack on southern Israeli towns and military bases on October 7, in which 1,200 people were killed and 253 seized as hostages.

During the only truce so far, which lasted a week at the end of November, a total of 110 Israeli and foreign hostages were released in exchange for 240 Palestinians Israel was holding.

Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan votes by postal ballot, wife Bushra Bibi misses out

ISLAMABAD, Feb 8 (Agencies): Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan and other prominent incarcerated political figures have cast their votes through postal ballot from jail, according to a media report on Thursday.

However, Bushra Bibi, Khan's wife, was unable to participate in the voting as she was convicted and arrested after the completion of the postal voting process, Dawn News reported.

Political leaders who have managed to vote by mail included former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, former Punjab chief minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid, and former information minister Fawad Chaudhry, the report quoted Adiala Jail sources as saying.

Overall, fewer than 100 prisoners of Adiala Jail were able to vote, constituting only about one per cent of the prison's 7,000 inmates.

Sources said the jail administration allowed only those inmates to cast their votes who had valid computerised national identity cards (CNICs), and the reason for a low turnout was that an overwhelming majority of the prisoners did not have the original CNIC.

"There are criminals, dacoits, thieves, convicts in the heinous crimes and under-trial prisoners (UTPs) detained in the jail," a senior official said.

He said most criminals did not carry the CNIC to avoid their identity, while the identity cards of the UTPs were generally withheld by the police stations.

The official said the Adiala Jail administration received postal ballots from the Election Commission in mid-January and the ballots were provided to the inmates. The last date for submission was January 22.

However, Asad Javed Warraich, the jail superintendent, extended the time after



which the votes were transmitted to the district returning officers (DROs) of respective constituencies in sealed envelopes.

A senior official said that since some inmates were from far-flung areas, the exercise was completed at least a fortnight before the elections to ensure the delivery to the DROs before final counting.

Jail sources said that former first lady Bushra Bibi also wanted to cast a vote through a postal ballot, but her request could not be entertained since the process had been completed by the time she was detained.

Bushra Bibi, 49, was imprisoned at Khan's Bani Gala residence here after an accountability court last week sentenced the couple to 14 years in jail in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Mashal Yousafzai, a spokesperson for Bushra Bibi, confirmed that the spouse of the former prime minister had been denied casting the vote through a postal ballot.

Meanwhile, as cash-strapped Pakistan goes to polls on Thursday, the PTI has appealed to the public to remember the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's incarcerated founding chairman, Imran Khan, who it said was fighting the battle to restore the country's dignity, honour and sovereignty and

ensure the welfare of its people.

In a message, PTI Central Information Secretary Raouf Hasan said Khan, 71, had dedicated everything, including his life, to that cause.

"As citizens of the country, we have a debt to pay. We must use our vote to change the face of Pakistan by dismantling a rotten system that has cast a vicious stranglehold on the country and its people," he said in a post on X.

Khan's PTI party is leading the social media campaign for its candidates contesting as independents on multiple different symbols after the Supreme Court ruling stripped off its electoral symbol, the iconic cricket bat, in a case related to intra-party elections.

Cricketer-turned-politician Khan, who has been in jail since August last year, has recently been given ten, 14 and seven years imprisonment in cipher, Toshakhana and Iddat (his third unlawful marriage) cases, respectively.

Many other PTI leaders have been languishing in various jails across Pakistan following the May 9 attacks, including on military installations, across the country following Khan's arrest in a corruption case.

Khan and his party have alleged there is no level playing field in the ongoing election process.

The PTI leader has also blamed the powerful military establishment for preventing him from riding back to power.

The election body has stripped his party of the iconic cricket bat as the election symbol, rejected his nomination papers and those of other party leaders, at least one of his party leaders is killed during polling-related violence and the latest, a key candidate from Lahore indicted in a terrorism case.

North Korea Abolishes Economic Cooperation With South Korea

Ties between the two Koreas have been in a deep freeze as Pyongyang accelerates weapons development and Seoul ramps up military cooperation with US and Japan.

SEOUL, Feb 8 (Agencies): North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament has voted to abolish laws on economic cooperation with the South, state media said Thursday, as relations between the two neighbours hit new lows.

Ties between the two Koreas have been in a deep freeze as Pyongyang accelerates its weapons development programmes and Seoul ramps up military coop-

eration with Washington and Tokyo, with key inter-Korean economic cooperation projects suspended for years.

At a plenary meeting of the Supreme People's Assembly on Wednesday, officials voted to scrap the law on inter-Korean economic cooperation "with unanimous approbation", the Korean Central News Agency reported.

The latest decision comes after Pyongyang

last month declared Seoul its main enemy, jettisoned agencies dedicated to reunification, and threatened to occupy the South during war.

The parliament also unanimously approved a plan to abolish a special law on the operation of the Mount Kumgang tourism project, once a prominent symbol of inter-Korean cooperation.

The resort was built



by South Korea's Hyundai Asan on one of the North's most scenic mountains, and once drew hundreds of thousands of visitors from

the South.

But its tours ended abruptly in 2008 after a North Korean soldier shot dead a tourist from the South who strayed

off an approved path, and Seoul suspended travel.

The Mount Kumgang resort was once one of the two biggest inter-Korean projects, along with the now-shuttered Kaesong Industrial Complex, where Southern companies employed North Korean workers while paying Pyongyang for their services.

Seoul pulled out of the venture -- launched in the wake of a 2000

inter-Korean summit -- in 2016 in response to a nuclear test and missile launches by the North, saying Kaesong profits were helping fund the provocations.

In 2020, the North blew up a liaison office with the South on its side of the border -- paid for by Seoul -- saying it had no interest in talks.

After years of Covid-linked border closures, restarting its lucrative tourism business would

offer the North a means of generating hard cash, but could now violate international sanctions imposed on Pyongyang over its nuclear and ballistic weapons programmes.

As Pyongyang draws closer to Moscow -- also under a raft of global sanctions over the war in Ukraine -- Seoul-based website NK News has reported that Russian tourists are set to visit the North this month.

Jio-bp launches "You-Deserve-More" campaign

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Jio-bp (the operating brand of Reliance BP Mobility Limited, fuel and retailing joint venture of Reliance Industries and bp), a leading mobility solution provider, today launched their You-Deserve-More campaign showcasing their unique customer propositions to elevate India's fuelling experience.

Marching through the Amrit Kaal towards the 100th anniversary of Independence, India will continue to remain the bright spot for global energy.

Offering "More" to India, the You-Deserve-More (YDM) campaign highlights the unique customer propositions on offer from Jio-bp, focusing on three pillars of performance, service, and cutting-edge technology.



The YDM campaign touches upon diesel delivering up to 4.3% higher mileage and petrol that keeps engines up to 10X cleaner through internationally developed bespoke 'ACTIVE' technology at no extra cost along with a rapidly growing Jio-bp pulse EV charging point network.

Also highlighted is the 24x7 shop for snacks, confectionery and travel need items, along with signature coffee under an international on-the-move brand Wild Bean Café, amongst other propositions at the country-wide network of Jio-bp Mobility Stations.

In line with their vision of reimagining mobility for the country with low carbon solutions, Jio-bp also retails a bouquet of energy offerings including compressed biogas, ethanol based E20 petrol, and EV battery charging and swapping.

Even beyond Mobility Stations, Jio-bp is the pioneer in taking diesel to customer's doorsteps through automation driven puffer proof mobile dispensers and patented packed HDPE containers. Their seamless easy ordering, real-time tracking, optimized delivery routes and geo-tagging, have enabled Indian customers belief in safe and quality on-demand delivery. In lower carbon EV solutions, Jio-bp's hassle free Jio-bp pulse app, dynamic load sharing and auto-charge features are helping to accelerate EV adoption in the country.

Going beyond just automation led 100% tracking of every drop of fuel or electron sold, Jio-bp is committed to harnessing every data byte, to build bigger, better, and smarter offers for India. As the YDM campaign unfolds, customers are encouraged to dream unlimited and embrace a new era of mobility with Jio-bp.

SSH team felicitates SP Headquarters and SHO Arnia



Top News Report

ARNIA, Feb 8: Prominent members of Shiv Sena Hindustan today met Superintendent of Police Headquarters Jammu Irshad Rather and SHO Deepak Katoch in Arnia today to congratulate Police officers for taking effective steps to address drug addiction in the area by solving many theft cases by SHO Deepak Katoch terming it very remarkable. The delegation highlighted the significance of preventive education, awareness generation, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation of affected persons and greater involvement of society in eradicating the menace. The prevailing situation vis-à-vis drug menace has already received the priority attention of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Lieutenant Governor has already passed instructions to all the concerned agencies to leave no stone unturned to plug the smuggling routes and

generate awareness by involving all the educational institutions.

They made appeal to the society from various platforms to extend all possible assistance to the Government in this regard as it is the collective responsibility of the society to rehabilitate youngsters who have fallen prey to the drug addiction conspiracy hatched by neighbouring country. They appreciated Jammu and Kashmir Police and Anti-Narcotics Task Force for adopting "Zero Tolerance Policy" towards the menace and because of collective efforts of all the concerned agencies large number of drugs have been seized as indicative of the effectiveness of the policy.

They said that young generation have become addicted to drugs in these areas and some people are selling drugs without license due to which our young generation is getting spoiled because of these hidden drugs. It does not cause bad breath nor does it stum-

ble and the parents think that because their child is not drinking alcohol, hence no one would be intoxicated, they added. By the time the parents come to know about it, it is too late and on the other hand. They also expressed concern over production of desi liquor in these areas which is produced by the people in the desi Bhatti.

They said Police is also doing its work, but it is a matter of big concern that now drug peddlers have also included women in this illegal trade, which is very dangerous for the society besides Police also have to face a lot of problems to catch them.

However the government and the police are catching them and putting them in jails but after coming out, they again start doing the same work again because they do not have any other work. He demanded enhancing funds for identification, motivation, counseling, de-addiction, after care and rehabilitation of the drug users.

Kesri condemns killing of Sikh worker in Srinagar, demands suitable compensation to deceased family

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today strongly condemned targeted killing of Sikh worker from Punjab and serious injuries to another non-local in Habba Kadal area of Srinagar city. Condemning the attack on civilians, Kesri demanded Govt that no efforts should be spared to bring the perpetrators to justice demanding civil and police administration to ensure all assistance to the families.

Addressing media persons in Jammu during a press conference, Kesri blamed Pakistan for



the killing of a non-local man from Amritsar by terrorists in Srinagar, calling it a cowardly and inhumane act. He said

Pakistan was unhappy with the peace in Kashmir and was targeting innocent lives. "This clearly shows that Pakistan is not liking the peace in Kashmir. It is attacking non-locals in the dark of the night, like cowards," Kesri said. Kesri condemned the incidents of terrorism, saying terror violence has no place in a civilized society. Time has come to tackle the terrorists sternly, who have unleashed terror regime in our land of Rishis and Sufis. He said that a united fight has become imperative to meet the challenge, lest the monster of terror eats up the vitals of the inclusive society.

Kesri said "for almost 30

years, this land of peaceful co-existence of almost all religious sects had to suffer due to state-sponsored terrorism by our neighbouring country. However, security forces, isolated the terror ecosystem, which thrived with support from across the border. J&K is now witnessing a new era that has opened limitless possibilities for growth and peace," Kesri said. He added that the government's initiatives have helped bring about change on the ground in J&K. "Today's J&K is not the land of hartals, separatism or stone pelting but it has become a land of peace and prosperity which is difficult for Pakistan to digest," he said.

FROM PAGE 1

CS led Committee approves AAP for key Agri schemes

Secretary maintained that these schemes are meant to enhance the overall productivity and quality of crops thereby substantially increasing the returns for the farmers. He remarked that the timely interventions on part of the department could aid in meeting the objectives in a time-bound manner.

He called for regular monitoring and evaluation of these schemes at higher level so that the bottlenecks if any are removed instantly. He also advised for inter-department coordination for smooth implementation of these schemes here in the UT.

Dulloo also stressed upon making the scheme benefits readily available to the prospective beneficiaries by simplifying the procedures. He also called for making necessary amendments as per the guidelines, wherever required, for orienting these with the interests of farmers here.

The Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar informed the meeting about the monitoring mechanism put in place by the department for achieving the targets on time. He also made out that the department has ironed out certain complications for the applicants based on their feedback.

He also threw light on the overall picture of the implementation of these schemes here besides the measures the department is contemplating to enhance the outcomes for each such scheme under implementation in the UT.

The respective Mission Directors presented the performance made in each scheme during the ensuing financial year. They also unveiled the AAP for the financial year 2024-25.

It was given out that under for CSS Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) funds to the tune of Rs 13.21 Cr were released by central government for different projects like RKVY- Normal, Agriculture Machinization, Soil Health Fertility, Rainfed Area Development (RAD), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Agroforestry.

The outcomes of the scheme includes distribution of one crore vegetable seedlings among farmers, installation of borewells, bower systems. Similarly 230 clusters had been established for promotion of organic farming under PMKVY and distribution of 41 water lifting devices, 82 vermi compost units, 252 apiculture hives has also been

done under RAD.

The meeting also held deliberations about the AAP under RKVY 2024-25. It was appraised that the AAP amounting to Rs 63.03 Cr has been laid for the next financial year. This includes Rs 6.51 Cr for RKVY- Normal, Rs 22.45 Cr for Agriculture Machinization, Rs 2.38 Cr for Soil Health Fertility, Rs 2.10 Cr for Rainfed Area Development (RAD), Rs 6.71 Cr for PKVY and Rs 18.75 Cr for Per Drop More Crop besides allocations for other sub-projects of this scheme.

The outcomes of the scheme includes 15-20% increase in production of vegetables and availability of 3.65 Cr vegetable seedlings, distribution of 82,846 quintals of quality seeds, assured irrigation, employment generation, gender-friendly machinery, better utilisation of Natural resources, better marketing and better returns by reducing distress sale among farmers besides dozens of other benefits accruing to them.

The meeting also discussed the projections made under the Saffron Mission, Bamboo Mission, Krishanoti Yojana, ATMA, and the Mission for Integrative Development of Horticulture (MIDH). It was said that the AAP proposed under MIDH for 2024-25 is Rs 60.00 Cr.

The meeting also discussed the projects initiated on increasing the product of Saffron, honey besides other niche crops in the UT. It also deliberated upon establishment of two Centres of Excellence in Horticulture with the help of Netherland here besides the impact of HADP among other farmer oriented schemes implemented in J&K.

Srinagar Terror Attack | Injured Punjab resident succumbs to injuries; death toll rises to 2

and injuries to three others. While a circus worker from Udhampur district was shot dead by terrorists on May 30, 2023 in Anantnag district, brick kiln worker Mukesh Kumar from Bihar was shot dead by the ultras on October 31 last year in Pulwama district. Three labourers were injured in an attack by terrorists in Gagren area of Shopian district on July 13.

Active Covid cases decline to 1,478

across the country. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at over 4.4 crore, according to the ministry's website.

Explosives recovered in Sopore

prevent potential threats in the town."

ED arrests Kupwara resident under PMLA

The Court has granted ED custody till 13/02/2024.

Kashmir continues to struggle with cold wave

the Sonamarg tourist resort in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district registered the night temperature at -13.1 °C.

The MeT said the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of -12°C. Pahalgam registered a low of -11.9°C, against the -10.8°C recorded a day ago. It was 4.9°C below normal for the valley of shepherds in south Kashmir.

The MeT office said Srinagar recorded a low of -5.2°C against -2.0°C Wednesday night. It was -4.8°C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season.

The other stations of the valley, including Larnoo, recorded a low of -9.9°C, Shopian -8.0°C, Kulgam -6.0°C, Pulwama -5.8°C, and Anantnag -5.2°C, the Kashmir weather forecaster said.

The minimum temperature at Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu National High plunged to a low of 6.4°C against the -3.2°C a day ago, and Kokernag recorded a minimum of -4.5°C against the -4.3°C the previous night.

Kupwara plunged to a low of -5.4°C against the -3.3°C recorded the previous night. It was 3.4°C below normal for the frontier Kashmir district of north Kashmir, the MeT office said.

The MeT office said the weather will remain dry until February 17, with occasionally cloudy evenings on February 14. It said there is a possibility of snow and rain during February 18-20.

It has also issued an advisory for travellers in view of significant snow accumulation and sub-freezing temperatures in many hilly areas to follow the traffic police advisory issued by the administration.

Mehraj-ul-Alam observed with religious fervour in Kashmir

days at the shrine and on the following Friday.

Late night, prayer functions were also held at Jenab Sahab Soura Srinagar, other shrines and mosques of the valley on Wednesday.

Authorities have also pressed into service Srinagar Smart City Buses which will ply from various parts of the Kashmir including Srinagar to transport devotees to the holy shrine of Hazratbal.

Meanwhile, elaborate arrangements were made by the authorities for the devotees at the Hazratbal Shrine.

Several political leaders and social activists extended their greetings to the people on the occasion.

Authorities fail to stop incident of target killings: Bukhari

what happen", he said and added "to hold parliamentary elections is a ritual that has to be conducted." People and our hopes are associated with the assembly elections and when that is happening we will tell you our programme, he added People are joining the Apni Party continuously and today people from north Kashmir Pattan, Wagoora and Kreri joined.

"The doors of Apni Party are open for everybody those who have faith in the Indian constitution", he added. "I am not endorsing Hurriyat or any other party, I recognize the people of Jammu and Kashmir who are joining the Apni Party.

Either in the past they would have affiliated with Jamaat-e-Islami, Hurriyat or any other party", Bukhari said.

Ensure vigilance against militant associates, boost LoC Intel: IGP Kashmir to Officers

also emphasized the need to strengthen intelligence networks, particularly in districts near the Line of Control (LoC) where the possibility of terrorist infiltration exists.

During the meeting, IGP Kashmir emphasized the importance of proactive policing measures to address emerging challenges and maintain law and order effectively. Discussions in detail about the implementation of innovative policing techniques, leveraging technology for crime prevention, and strengthening community engagement initiatives were held.

The chair also highlighted the need for enhanced efforts to curb the drug menace by dealing actively against the drug peddlers who are ruining the lives of people living in the valley. The integration of technology in policing operations was among the points of discussion, with a focus on leveraging advanced surveillance systems, data analytics, and digital platforms to enhance investigative capabilities and improve overall efficiency.

The meeting was attended by DIG BSF Srinagar S.S Chandel, DIG IRP Kashmir Abdul Qayoum, DIG CRPF (SOS) Dinesh Kumar Singh, DIG CRPF (KOS) Pramod Kumar Mehra, DC SB Srinagar, SSP PCR Kashmir, SSP Security Kashmir, SSP CID SB Kashmir, SSP Traffic City Srinagar, SP South Srinagar, SP PC Srinagar and other officers & representatives from ITBP, SSB, CISF. Moreover, the meeting was attended virtually by DIG SKR Anantnag Altaf Ahmad Khan, DIG NKR Baramulla Vivek Gupta & all SSSP of the districts across the valley.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to implement the discussed strategies effectively and maintain close coordination among all stakeholders to address present and future challenges in law enforcement.

J&K witnessed driest, warmest January in 43 Years

the last 43 years for most of the stations of J-K except the stations of plains of Jammu (Jammu, Samba and Kathua)," it added.

It said Jammu station, on the other hand, observed a mean maximum temperature of 13.4 degrees Celsius in January, which is the lowest since 1983.

The mean minimum temperature for January observed over Srinagar, Jammu, Gulmarg and Banihal were minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, 5.5 degrees Celsius, minus 3.9 degrees Celsius and 0.1 degrees Celsius respectively. "The 2024 mean Tmin is one of the highest for Gulmarg in the last 43 years," the MET centre said.

Equity mutual fund inflow hits almost 2-year high of Rs 21,780 crore in January

The flow in January was the highest since March 2022

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): Equity mutual funds experienced a net inflow of Rs 21,780 crore in January, making it the highest monthly infusion in nearly two years, propelled by investors' continued preference for small-cap funds.

In comparison, an inflow of around Rs 17,000 crore was seen in the category in December, according to the data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Thursday.

The flow in January was the highest since March 2022, when equity-oriented mutual funds witnessed an inflow of



Rs 28,463 crore. Also, the latest flow marks the 35th consecutive month of net inflows in equity funds.

Barring value fund, all categories experienced inflow in equity segments.

The category was aided by fund collection to the tune of Rs 4,805 crore in thematic funds,

followed by Rs 3,257 crore in small-cap funds and Rs 3,039 crore in multi-cap funds.

The highlight of this month was the fund flows into the large-cap category at Rs 1,287 crore, which was at the highest-level in more than 13 months.

"With midcaps at 15 per cent and small

caps at 20 per cent premiums, investors are realising the considerable valuation gap with the large-cap segment, and accordingly making adjustments to their investments.

"Though small-cap funds garnered greater than Rs 3,000 crore of net flows for the fourth consecutive month, the quantum was lower by Rs 600 crore on a month-on-month basis," Gopal Kavalireddi, Vice President of Research at Fyers, said.

Apart from equities, debt-oriented schemes witnessed a net inflow of Rs 76,469 crore in January after withdrawing funds in the preceding

two months. The segment had witnessed a net outflow of Rs 75,560 crore in December and Rs 4,707 crore in November.

Additionally, hybrid schemes saw an inflow of Rs 20,637 crore.

Overall, the mutual fund industry has witnessed an inflow of Rs 1.23 lakh crore in the month under review as compared to an outflow of Rs 40,685 crore in December.

The strong inflow pushed the mutual fund industry's assets under management to Rs 52.74 lakh crore in January-end as compared to Rs 50.78 lakh crore at the end of December.

Bank stocks pull down Sensex, Nifty after RBI monetary policy decision

MUMBAI, Feb 8 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices tanked in late morning trade on Thursday pulled down by bank stocks, after the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision.

Erasing all its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 746.62 points to 71,405.38. The Nifty declined 220.95 points to 21,709.55.

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday decided to keep the key policy rate unchanged for the sixth time in a row as it maintains a tight vigil on inflation.

Announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided



to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

Among the Sensex firms, Axis Bank, Nestle, ICI Bank, ITC, Maruti, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance and Asian Paints were the major laggards.

PowerGrid defied the broader market trend and jumped nearly 5 per cent after the company posted a 10.5 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 4,028.25 crore in the December quarter, mainly on the back of higher rev-

enues.

State Bank of India, HCL Technologies and Tata Consultancy Services were the other gainers.

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

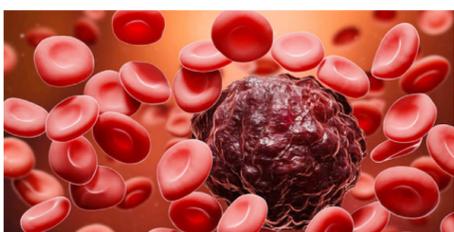
The US markets ended with gains on Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.28 per cent to USD 79.43 per barrel.

Why NexCAR19, India's own CAR-T cell therapy, is a boon for blood cancer patients

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): In a promising development in the area of cancer treatment, NexCAR19, India's first indigenously developed CAR-T cell therapy is now available for commercial use. It can be given to cancer patients, especially those who are suffering from blood cancer, including leukaemia and lymphomas.

In this process, a patient's white blood cells (also called lymphocytes) are extracted, genetically modified to equip them with tools to identify and destroy cancer cells wherever they may be present in the body. NexCAR19 is administered in the patient as a single intravenous infusion after the patient has been



through chemotherapy. Developed collaboratively by ImmunoACT, a company incubated at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) and Tata Memorial Hospital, the therapy has, reportedly, been administered to 15 patients in India.

In January this year, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai became the first one to offer the CAR-T cell therapy to its cancer patients.

"This is a milestone, really," said Dr Preetam Jain, medical oncologist, Bhatia Hospital. "Blood cancers usually spread so fast in the body that it becomes a challenge to contain the disease in time."

Late last year, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) granted market authorisation for NexCAR19, paving way for the commercial launch of this therapy in India. The best part

about the indigenous development is that the treatment with this therapy will now be available at a tenth of the cost abroad.

Earlier, in 2021, THE WEEK had reported how the Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy was about to emerge as a breakthrough in cancer treatment. Clinical trials conducted globally had shown promising results in end stage patients, especially in patients suffering from Acute Lymphocytic Leukaemia. At the time, despite it having a remarkable therapeutic potential for cancer patients, this technology was not available in India and patients would shell out Rs 3 to Rs 4 crore for their CAR-T cell therapy abroad.

Apple mulls underwater mode that lets users operate iPhones at 40m depth

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): Apple has won a new patent for "underwater mode" that gets activated when the iPhone is immersed in water. The mode can reportedly allow users to operate touchscreen and camera seamlessly at up to 40 metre depth.

The 78-page patent filed in 2021 was published on Tuesday.

It outlines an alternative interface tailored specifically for underwater use of iPhone. In the patent, Apple says iOS 17 is "cumbersome and inefficient" when the phone becomes wet.

In order to overcome these hurdles, the Cupertino giant has come up with the idea of an underwater mode



similar to the dive mode currently available on Apple Watch Ultra models.

The Ultra series can sustain water pressure up to 100 metre. However, the up to 40m-deep underwater mode for iPhone is a first for any smartphones currently in the market. The latest iPhone 15 series has an IP68 rating, allowing it to withstand submersion for up to 30 minutes at six-metre depth.

However, the water resistance of iPhone

boarding, along with recreational scuba diving to 40 meters with the new Oceanic+ app. To support these underwater adventures, Apple Watch Ultra is certified to WR100. Apple Watch Ultra is also certified to EN 13319, which is an internationally recognised standard for dive accessories, including depth gauges that are relied upon by recreational divers around the world.

We can expect similar features in the next iPhone model that features the underwater mode. However, it is not clear whether the next iPhone 16 Pro Max or a speculated iPhone 16 'Ultra' will feature this underwater interface.

India's fuel consumption rises 8% year-on-year in January

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): India's fuel consumption rose 8.2% year-on-year in January, government data showed on Thursday, helped by strong industrial activity in the world's third top oil consumer. Total consumption, a proxy for oil demand, totalled 20.04 million tonnes in January, up from 18.51 million tonnes last year, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed.

However, consumption edged down about 0.1% on a month-on-month basis after hitting a seven-month high

in December at 20.05 million tonnes. Sales of diesel, mainly used by trucks and commercially-run passenger vehicles, rose by 3.5% year-on-year to 7.43 million tons in January.

India's manufacturing industry improved substantially at the start of 2024 with factory activity expanding at its fastest pace in four months in January on robust demand and an upbeat year-ahead outlook, a private survey showed on Thursday.

Sales of gasoline in January rose 9.6% from the previous year to 3.10 million tons. Indian

carmakers reported record sales in January as they looked to build up inventory of new and refreshed models this calendar year, wholesale data from the companies showed on Thursday.

Sales of bitumen, used for making roads, rose by 11.6% from last January, while fuel oil use decreased by 4.7% year-on-year. Cooking gas, or liquefied petroleum gas sales rose by 7.6% to 2.70 million tons, while naphtha sales jumped by 15.2% to about 1.30 million tons, compared with last January, the data showed.

Respiratory infections to allergies; 5 health issues to watch out for as weather transitions to summer

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): Winter season is almost over in North India and in another week, the mercury is expected to climb up, bringing a shift to warmer temperatures and heralding the onset of spring. As the environmental conditions shift and our bodies adapt to the change, it is pertinent to guard against health conditions prevalent during spring and summer. Pollen levels in air are bound to go up in spring season which could act as a trigger for people who are susceptible to it causing allergies, asthma attacks, and other respiratory issues. Gut health issues are also common during weather transitions and so are depression and anxiety issues. As winter gradually gives way to the warmth of summer, it brings about a shift in environmental conditions that can influence our health.

Dr Manjusha Agarwal, senior Consultant- Internal Medicine, Global Hospitals, Parel Mumbai shares health issues in winter transitions to summer.

Allergies: With the arrival of spring, pollen levels rise, triggering allergies in susceptible individuals. Common symptoms include

sneezing, nasal congestion, and itchy eyes. As flowers bloom and trees release pollen, those prone to hay fever or other allergies may experience an uptick in their symptoms. It's essential to stay informed about local pollen forecasts, take preventive measures such as using air purifiers, and consider consulting with a healthcare professional for effective allergy management.

Dehydration: As temperatures rise, there's an increased risk of dehydration. The warmer weather, coupled with outdoor activities, can lead to higher fluid loss through sweat. Dehydration can manifest with symptoms like dizziness, fatigue, and dark urine. Be mindful of your fluid intake, especially during outdoor activities, and replenish electrolytes if engaging in strenuous exercises.

Sunburn and skin issues: The transition from winter to summer often means more time spent outdoors.

While exposure to sunlight is essential for vitamin D production, excessive sun exposure can lead to sunburn, premature aging, and an increased risk of skin cancer.

RBI says action against Paytm Payments Bank after persistent non-compliance

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): The action against Paytm Payments Bank late in January was taken after persistent non-compliance by the entity, the Reserve Bank of India stated on Thursday. It also signalled that the action was initiated after a lengthy bilateral engagement with the company.

Last week RBI announced severe curbs on Paytm Payments Bank, effectively curtailing it from doing much of its business after February 29. Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma has clarified several times that the payment app would continue to function normally after February 29 too. But there has been a lot of confusion among its users and the stock too has taken a beating.

Under the restrictions on the payments bank, no further deposits or credit transactions or top ups shall be allowed in any customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags, NCMC (national common mobility) cards, etc. after February 29. Customers will be able to withdraw or utilise their balances in the Paytm Payments Bank account. The nodal accounts of One97



Communications and Paytm Payment Services are to be terminated at the earliest, not later than February 29.

"This is a supervisory action on a regulated entity for a persistent non-compliance. Such supervisory actions are invariably preceded by months and at times years of bilateral engagement where we not only pointing out the deficiencies but also provide adequate time for them to take corrective action," Swaminathan J, the deputy governor of RBI told reporters.

He also clarified that the action taken was on the payments bank and it was not to be confused with the payments app.

"As an app, (Paytm) is not impacted by this action," he said.

The Reserve Bank plans to bring out an FAQ (frequently asked questions) next week to address the questions and clarifications in relation to the action taken on the payments bank.

Paytm Payments Bank is an associate of fintech One97 Commu-

nications Ltd. Sharma holds 51 per cent stake in the payments bank, with One97 holding the rest. One97 operates the payments app Paytm.

Governor Shaktikanta Das said that sufficient time is given to every entity supervised by the Reserve Bank to comply with the regulatory requirements. He also said that RBI being a responsible regulator wouldn't have to act against any entity if everything was compliant.

"When constructive engagement does not work or when the regulated entity doesn't take effective action, we go for imposing supervisory or business restrictions. Such restrictions, which we impose are always proportionate to the gravity of the situation," Das stressed.

He added that all its actions against any regulated entity were in the best interest of systemic stability and protection of depositors and customers.

"These aspects cannot be compromised. Individual entities should be mindful of these aspects for their long-term success," said Das, adding that the Reserve Bank would continue to encourage innovation and technology in the financial sector.

Weight loss surgery is more effective in controlling hypertension rates: Study

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): According to a study published today in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, bariatric surgery is more effective at controlling hypertension rates, or high blood pressure, in people with obesity and uncontrolled high blood pressure, than blood pressure medication alone.

People who had bariatric surgery had a lower BMI and were on fewer drugs after five

years while maintaining normal blood pressure levels than those who solely used antihypertensive medications.

According to the CDC, the U.S. obesity and hypertension rates in adults are 41.9 per cent and 45.4 per cent, respectively.

Obesity is a proven risk factor for cardiovascular disease and a key contributor to high blood pressure, both of which can increase the chance of a heart attack, stroke, and heart

failure.

"In clinical practice, obesity is an overlooked condition. As a consequence, there is a frequent failure in approaching obesity as a crucial step for mitigating the risk of important cardiovascular risk factors including hypertension," said Carlos Aurelio Schiavon, MD, FACS, lead author of the study and a surgeon specializing in bariatric surgery at Heart Hospital and BP Hospital in Sao Paulo.

Kohli to miss more action

Likely to sit out of next two Tests due to 'personal reasons', also doubtful for final game

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): India's star batter Virat Kohli is likely to miss the third and fourth Tests against England due to personal reasons, which also kept him out of the first two matches of the series, a BCCI source said.

Chances of Kohli playing the final Test of the series in Dharamsala (from March 7 to 11) are also remote but the board isn't looking that far ahead as that particular match is still a month away.

The third Test will be held in Rajkot from February 15 to 19, while the fourth game is in Ranchi from February 23 to 27.

Last week, it was reported that there is no clarity on Kohli's participation in the series and he will only be picked if he is in a position to play.

Recently Kohli's close friend and former South African skipper AB de Villiers had revealed on his YouTube show that the Indian batting ace is missing action due to the impending arrival of his second child.



"The BCCI has time and again made it clear that when it comes to family matters, it stands firmly behind the cricketer and it will be Virat's call when he is ready to make a comeback. As of now, it looks unlikely that he will play in the series," a BCCI source said.

Bumrah's workload

The other big question has been Jasprit Bumrah's workload management after the team's bowling spearhead sent down

33 overs for a match-winning haul of nine wickets in the second Test.

It is understood that the third Test's result could go a long way in deciding the course of the series which would make it difficult to rest Bumrah in the Rajkot game. If he plays in Rajkot, it is a foregone conclusion that he will not play the next game in Ranchi, which starts in three days' time.

Among the imminent comebacks, KL Rahul is likely to return to the playing XI and Rajat Patidar will then have to sit out as Shreyas Iyer, after his tremendous work in the field including a superb run out of Ben Stokes in Visakhapatnam, will get another go.

Ravindra Jadeja's progress has been positive and his hamstring is healing well but it might not be good enough to allow him to get cracking on his home turf in Rajkot.

Mohammed Siraj will be back after being given workload-related rest in Visakhapatnam and Mukesh Kumar is more than 100% certain to sit out.

If Bumrah isn't rested, it will be interesting to see if head coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma play two pacers along with three spinners or include a batting all-rounder like Washington Sundar, who has had scores of 85 not out and 96 not out in the previous home series against the same opposition.

Strandja memorial: Panghal, Akash punch quarters ticket



SOFIA (BULGARIA), Feb 8 (Agencies): Commonwealth Games gold medallist Amit Panghal, national champion Akash and Abhimanyu Loura put up a stellar show to move into the quarterfinals of the 75th Strandja Memorial tournament here.

Amit had Rudyk Maksym's challenge to tackle as he eyed his place in the quarters in the 51kg category. The experienced campaigner quickly got into his groove and his ability

to efficiently get into the attacking position was on display throughout the bout.

The first two rounds were all about taking on the opponent, while in the third, Amit employed his defensive tactics to frustrate his Ukrainian opponent and capitalise on his errors, advancing to a dominant 5-0 unanimous decision win. Amit will face Aldarkhishig Battulga of Mongolia on Friday.

Akash (71kg) was up against Traore Makan

of France. Akash started slow but soon picked up the pace as he landed a flurry of punches, surprising his opponent and gaining a significant lead.

Akash continued to dominate in the second round as well. Traore did make a comeback in the third but Akash's exploits in the first two rounds were enough to give him a 3-1 win. Akash will now take on Mckeever Eugene of Ireland on Friday.

Abhimanyu (80kg) showed a similar display against Monny Raphael of France. Standing at 6'3", the Haryana boxer made full use of his long reach as he delivered lethal punches.

Abhimanyu grabbed the win with a 5-0 verdict and will face the Asian Games gold medallist China's Tuohetaerbieke Tanglatihan in the quarterfinal on Friday.

AUS vs WI: Covid-19 hits Australia camp again, captain Mitchell Marsh to lead T20I team despite testing positive

HOBART, Feb 8 (Agencies): Australia captain Mitchell Marsh has been given the green light to lead the team in the upcoming T20I series opener against the West Indies on Friday despite testing positive for Covid-19. Cricket Australia confirmed that Marsh will be allowed to do the duties of the captain on the field while following strict social-distancing protocols.

Australia will take on the West Indies in the first of the three-match T20I series at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart. Mitchell Marsh will have a separate dressing room and will maintain a distance from his teammates while fielding.

Australia have been rocked by Covid-19 concerns in the recent past. In the Test series against the West Indies, Cameron Green tested positive for Covid-19 but he took the field in the 2nd Test in Brisbane while following distancing protocols. In a light-hearted moment,

fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was seen 'shooing away' Cameron Green, who took a catch and came near the huddle to celebrate the wicket.

Josh Inglis, their wicketkeeper, also tested positive during the recently concluded ODI series, but he was allowed to take the field.

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald also contracted the virus recently and followed strict protocols while traveling with the team before he recovered.

Mitchell Marsh has been seen as a potential captaincy option for Australia at this year's T20 World Cup. While the star all-rounder will lead the team against the West Indies, he was named Australia's skipper for an upcoming T20I series against New Zealand. Marsh will lead a star-studded side that sees the return of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins to T20I action.

There has been a notable rise in Covid-19 cases in the cricket fraternity. During a T20I

series between New Zealand and Pakistan in January, several players from the home team camp contracted the virus. None of them led to serious implications, but the players missed cricket matches.

New Zealand's stand-in captain Mitchell Santner missed the series opener due to Covid-19, while opener Devon Conway missed the fourth match after contracting the virus. Their bowling coach Andre Adams also contracted the virus during the series.

Despite the challenges, New Zealand went on to hammer Pakistan and win the 5-match series 4-1.

AUSTRALIA SQUAD FOR WEST INDIES T20Is

Mitchell Marsh (c), Sean Abbott, Jason Behrendorff, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Matt Short, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Adam Zampa.

Brendon McCullum's Blunt Response When Asked About Strategy To Tackle Jasprit Bumrah Threat

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): England were at the receiving end of Jasprit Bumrah's sensational spell in the second Test but head coach Brendon McCullum expects his players to work out a way to tackle the immense threat posed by the star Indian pacer. Bumrah ran through the England batting line-up, known for their ultra-aggressive Bazball approach, returning figures of 6/45 to help dismiss the tourists for 253 in their first innings and set up India's series-levelling win in Visakhapatnam.

McCullum, also known for his aggressive batting during his playing days, was non-committal when asked how England plan to deal with Bumrah in the remaining three Tests, simply saying that his team does not believe in theories.

"We don't really do theories. It is about making sure the guys are totally clear and present, confident and have conviction in their method. They are a lot



better than I ever was and they will work it out how best to go about it," McCullum said.

"There are contrasting ways of going about it... we will see where we get to. For now, we have to tip our cap to Jasprit and say that spell (in the first innings of the second Test) was as good as anything we have seen so far on this trip," he was quoted as saying by 'ESPNCricinfo'.

The former New Zealand captain, however, lauded the skill-sets the Indian strike bowler possesses.

"It's all condition-dependent. When the ball is swinging like

that he becomes even more of a threat. He is a fantastic bowler in all forms of the game. He is unique with his release points and with how much swing he can generate in the air.

"No doubt he is very good, but we have come up against very good bowlers all through the last 18 months or so and found ways to counter them and that is what we have got to do in this one." He also said that the 1-1 scoreline after two Tests was a "fair reflection that we're in the contest".

"We've played some really good cricket over the last two Test matches. Yes, we have come out on the wrong side of it here, but we got it across the line in the first one."

"There will not be a whole lot of training. The boys have worked incredibly hard in Abu Dhabi keeping in mind they all came here with a lot of cricket under their belts as well."

es. Yes, we have come out on the wrong side of it here, but we got it across the line in the first one.

"The conviction about how we go about it is as strong as it ever has been. We have done some really good things over the last couple of weeks." The England side flew back to Abu Dhabi, their pre-series base, after the second Test in Visakhapatnam. They will return to India on February 12 and reach Rajkot on the same day ahead of the third Test beginning on February 15.

McCullum said it will be a different "camp" to the one ahead of the tour.

"There will not be a whole lot of training. The boys have worked incredibly hard in Abu Dhabi keeping in mind they all came here with a lot of cricket under their belts as well."

"We have had plenty of training days, two varying Test matches, and this is an opportunity to step away from the heat

of the battle.

"I was talking to Rahul Dravid and he mentioned all his boys are shooting home as well. Home for us is a little way away, so we chose Abu Dhabi, and we are going to enjoy the families. Then when we get to Rajkot, we drop the shoulder and go hard."

On his key batter Joe Root, who struggles in the first two Tests, McCullum said, "He's a world-class player and as good as any player England has ever seen. His method (in the final innings of second Test), whilst people will look to the dismissal, look at the method of his option and he was trying to get the field back so he could milk them."

"It is the bravery you have to take at times, and sometimes you get out doing it, but that's just the way the game rolls. There is no doubt from our point of view in that approach."

"There are three Tests left, still an opportunity to score a whole (lot) of runs."

Ishan Kishan's Act Raises Eyebrows Despite Rahul Dravid's 'Play Some Cricket' Plea

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): Wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan remains away from the Indian team, with the likes of KS Bharat and Dhruv Jurel vying for the spot behind the stumps in the first two Tests against England. Kishan asked the team management for rest during the tour of South Africa and hasn't since returned to action. When India head coach Rahul Dravid was asked about Kishan's return, he made it clear that

the wicket-keeper batter has to play some sort of cricket to be eligible for selection.

While Kishan has decided to stay away from the Ranji Trophy, despite the crystal clear message from Dravid and the team, a report has claimed that he has been training for the past couple of weeks with Hardik and Krunal Pandya at the Reliance Stadium.

"Whenever he is ready, I didn't say he has to play domestic

cricket; I said whenever he is ready... he needs to play some cricket and come back. The choice is his. We are not forcing him to do anything. We are in touch with him," Dravid had said in the post-match press conference after the conclusion of the second Test in Vizag.

A report in Cricbuzz has claimed that Ishan has been training at the Reliance Stadium in Baroda for the past couple of weeks with the Pandya brothers.

Kishan's actions do spark curiosity as Hardik Pandya is the skipper of the Mumbai Indians franchise, the team Kishan also plays for.

According to former India cricketer, Kiran More, Kishan is training at his academy.

Kishan has not played for the Indian team in any of the three formats since November last year, but was on the bench for a few other games.

The talented wicket-

keeper batter, however, he has shown no inclination towards playing competitive cricket like Ranji Trophy, despite Dravid suggesting that he needs the player to play some sort of cricket in order to make the selectors pick him for the national team's assignments.

With the BCCI all but set to announce the squad for the remaining three Tests against England, it isn't yet clear if Ishan will be considered for selection.

New Zealand ponder over Daryl Mitchell's fitness as star batter out of 2nd South Africa Test, Australia T20Is

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, Feb 8 (Agencies): Daryl Mitchell has been ruled out of New Zealand's second Test against South Africa in Hamilton and the upcoming T20I series against Australia.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) left him out to give him enough time to recover from a foot injury. Mitchell did not play in the final T20I against Pakistan and missed Canterbury's Super Smash Final against Auckland as well.

He returned to play in the opening Test against South Africa at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui where he got scores of 34 and 11 not out.

However, Mitchell kept experiencing discomfort and hence, NZC decided to give him an

extended rehabilitation period.

Black Caps' head coach Gary Stead said that Mitchell was rested, keeping in mind the Test series against Australia, which starts on February 29.

"We took the opportunity to rest him a little earlier but after seeking medical advice on this as well it's likely that he needs a longer period of time," Stead said in a press release.

"It's really tough, because there's not a lot breaks coming up in the next week while so thought this gives us nearly three weeks to try and give him the chance of the best recuperation from it."

"There's no guarantees this will still work in that period of time, but we are very hopeful that

it will improve his chances of getting through a longer stint with us."

Has New Zealand named a replacement for Daryl Mitchell?

The Kiwis have not named a replacement for Mitchell as Will Young is most likely to take his place in the playing eleven.

Stead also confirmed that Canterbury bowler Will O'Rourke stayed in contention for a debut. Former skipper Kane Williamson is likely to miss out on the series against Australia as his wife is expecting his third child.

On Wednesday, Tim Southee's New Zealand beat South Africa by 281 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the 2-match series.

The T20Is against Australia start on Wednesday, February 21.

U-15 & U-20 wrestling nationals postponed

NEW DELHI, Feb 8 (Agencies): A couple of days after hosting the senior national championship, the ad-hoc committee running wrestling in the country decided to postpone the U-15 and U-20 nationals scheduled in Gwalior from February 11-17.

A statement issued by the panel chairperson Bhopender Singh Bajwa said that a few state units have requested to reschedule the tournament. "Representations from

some state wrestling associations have been received to reschedule the U20 & U15 National Wrestling Championship.

They have urged that in such a short duration of time, they are unable to send the teams as trials for the same have not been conducted to date. Also, they are facing problems in making necessary arrangements like travelling, playing kit etc," read the statement. The panel has said that

the revised schedule and venue will be announced soon.

It should be noted that the panel also announced to hold the national camp from February 9 till Paris Olympics. It announced that the women's camp will be held in Patiala while the men's camp for Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestlers will be held in Sonapat. Sources at the panel asserted that the national camp will go ahead as scheduled.

Panthers condemn Habba Kadal terror attack

Demand strict action against Pakistan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Vilakshan Singh, President J&K National Panthers Party has strongly condemned the Habba Kadal terrorist attack in which two non-locals belonging to minority community were attacked out of which One Amritpal Singh of Punjab lost his life and another person namely Rohit is seriously injured. Vilakshan expressed condolences to the

family of Amritpal Singh who was martyred in the terrorist attack and prayed for the speedy recovery of Rohit who is battling for his life. Singh said that the minority community in J&K is witnessing persistent attacks at the hands of Pak sponsored terrorists and the government has failed to ensure safety of the minority community. He said that despite making tall claims BJP has failed to ensure the safety of minorities in

the valley. He said that members of the minority community are being attacked by the terrorists at their whims and fancies but the government seems to be helpless and has failed to prevent such attacks on the minority community. Singh said that such attacks are on the rise during the recent past. Singh said that the government should take concrete steps for ensuring safety of minorities in J&K.

Singh said that terrorists funded by Pakistan are time and again raising their heads and are required to be dealt with iron hands. Singh said that Pakistan till date has not mended its ways and is doing every effort to disturb peace and harmony in J&K. He said that the centre needs to take a tougher stand against Pakistan and Pakistan needs to be taught a lesson so that it doesn't dare to repeat its acts of cowardice. Singh said

that terrorist camps on the other side of LOC need to be uprooted once again to ensure peace in J&K. He urged the central government to destroy all the terrorist camps on the other side of LOC so that the backbone of the terrorism may be broken. He demanded that adequate security arrangements should be made to ensure that members of minority communities are not attacked by the terrorists in future.

Manjit grieved over demise of Saleem Alam's mother-in-law

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh has grieved over the demise of Rashida Bibi, mother-in-law of President ST Wing, Saleem Alam. "I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family for the loss of their loved one,

especially to my colleague Saleem Alam," said Manjit Singh in his condolence message. Expressing solidarity with the Party colleague, he expressed shock over the demise of Rashida Bibi and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. While expressing sympathy with the bereaved family members on

behalf of all the leaders in the Party, he also prayed courage to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss. Meanwhile, other leaders of the Party have also expressed their grief and sorrow over the demise of Rashida Bibi - who was the mother-in-law of President J&K ST Wing, Saleem Alam.

Foundational Training Programme for Hostel Staff organized at SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 8: A seven-day training programme, aimed at enhancing computer literacy among hostel caretakers and supervisors, concluded successfully on Thursday. Titled 'Foundational Training: MS Word, MS Excel, and Email Basics', the initiative was designed to improve efficiency and productivity in hostel management through the development of skills in document creation, data manage-

ment, and email communication. Prof. R.K. Mishra, Dean of Students, led the opening session motivating participants to hone their skills. The resource persons Dr. Sonika, Dr. Sunanda, Dr. Sakshi, Dr. Arti, Dr. Shafaq, Dr. Shazia, Dr. Purnima, Dr. Pooja, and Dr. Deepak offered hands-on sessions on MS Word, MS Excel, email basics and note writing. The training was geared towards enabling better record-keeping and stream-

lined communication with the administration, addressing the specific needs of hostel management. Dr. Sonika Gupta and Dr. Rashi Taggar successfully conducted this training program and expressed their gratitude to Prof. Pragati Kumar, the Vice-Chancellor of SMVD University, who consistently offers guidance and inspiration for such programs as university's dedication to empowering its staff in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat Abhiyan.

Baba Sahib Ambedkar Sports Club to organize Kabaddi Tournament on Feb 11

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Baba Sahib Ambedkar Sports Club J&K is going to organize Kabaddi Tournament 2024 on February 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM onwards at Prem Resorts, Muthi, Jammu. "Young students across the Jammu province will participate and showcase their athletic abilities in the tournament," members of the club said in a press



conference, here on Friday. They added that there are total eight teams playing in this under-19 tournament. "We are not charging entry fees from children for this tournament and also ensured that nutritious food and educational items will be provided to all the players." They said adding that it is an initiative for youths to take part in sports activities to curb the drugs menace and for improving social leadership and sportsmanship skills.

Shiv Barat on March 7

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Mahant of Shri Ranbireswar Ji Temple Shri Shri 108 Mahant Rishi Ban on Thursday informed all people of Jammu that a grand Shobha Yatra (Shiv Barat) will be taken out on the holy occasion of Mahashivratri in old Jammu city on March 8, 2024.



He said that Shobha Yatra will be organized under the banner of Shri Ranbireswar Ji Mandir Welfare committee with the active cooperation of religious societies viz. Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj Mandli Dewan Mandir, Hudh Mata Trisandhya Committee Dachhan Kishtwar Jammu Branch, Nat Manch, Trinetra Dhari Shiv Shambo Seva Dal Shalamar Road, Shishu Kala Kendra Kanji House, Shiv Mandir

Welfare Committee Chinore Luxmipuram and others. Rishi Ban also informed that the route of Shobha Yatra is main gate of Shri Ranbireswar ji Temple, Indira Chowk, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazaar Chowk, Raghunath Bazar, City Chowk, Old Hospital Road, Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazaar, Pacca Danga, Moti Bazaar, Parade Chowk and will finally culminate at Shri Ranbireswar ji Temple. He made an appeal to people of Jammu to participate in large number in this Shobha Yatra and also made an appeal to trader organizations of old Jammu city to decorate their markets on the occasion of Shobha Yatra and Mahashivratri festival.

Over 1500 students from Govt schools visit Aryans Campus

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: In a move to encourage scientific curiosity, visits of students studying in various Govt Senior School were organized at Aryans Group of Colleges, near Chandigarh. Around 1500 students visited the Aryans campus. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group interacted & advised the students to be disciplined, laborious and be worthwhile citizens of the state and



the country. During the tour, the students visited various Laboratories including Pharma, nursing, engineering, computer etc and learnt the technologies with various Aryans faculty members under the leadership of Manpreet Maan, Dean, Scholarship Department, Aryans Group. An awareness ses-

sion for the available scholarships in various courses including Engineering, Pharma, Nursing, Law, Physiotherapy, Paramedical Management, BBA, BCA, was also held. The students, hailing from various Govt. Senior Secondary Schools including Rajpura, Patiala, Banur, Bathinda & Sri Muktsar Sahib visited campus. The Principal and the staff members after their visit at Aryans expressed their gratitude for the visit to campus

76 Bn CRPF, Health Deptt organize free medical camp



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: Continuing the wellness of civilians, 76 Battalion CRPF in collaboration with J&K Health Department, organized a free medical camp under Civic Action Programme on Thursday at Prem Bhawan Banquet Hall Below CM House Residency Road, Jammu (J&K) under the guidance of Shri Sandeep Khirwar, IPS IG Jammu Sector and Shri Ramesh Kumar, DIG Jammu Range. The main objective of the camp was to reach out to the needy people

of the area to provide free health care and make them aware about their health. In the medical camp, two Medical Officers namely Dr. S. Sowmiya, 76 Battalion, CRPF and Dr. Sanjay Bhasin, Medical Officer, conducted free medical check-up of around 290 civilians and provided free medicines. T.H. Khan, Commandant-76 Bn inaugurated the Civic Action programme and appealed to all people of the area to remain fit by doing physical exercises regularly and sensitized them to maintain

a healthy lifestyle & hygiene. Besides, he also elaborated the role of the CRPF in maintaining cordial relationship between locals & force. Mahendra Singh 2IC, Rajesh Kumar Yadav 2IC, Girish Chandra Singh Sontiyal, Deputy Commandant, Priyanka Singh Parihar, Asstt. Comdt. and Praveen Kumar Asstt. Comdt. of 76 Bn CRPF also participated in the camp. The initiative drew positive response and was received well by the locals with the urge that CRPF to organize such camps in the future also.

BJP holds joining programme

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 8: In its efforts to expand the base of the party BJP Talab Tillo Mandal led by its President Keshav Chopra on Thursday organised joining programme at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kachi Chawni in which several women joined the party in presence of BJP Jammu District President Parmod Kapahi, BJP JKUT Vice President Yudhvir Sethi, Mandal President Rehari Bakshi Mandal Atul Bakshi, District General Secretary Adv



Rajesh Gupta, Vistarak Ashok Kumar and other leaders. Parmod Kapahi said the policies of the Narendra Modi Government have directly benefited the people belonging to the most neglected and oppressed sections of the society. Yudhvir Sethi praised the ground level impact of the Modi government's scheme and said that BJP has worked for the welfare of every citizen of the country. Keshav Chopra, while addressing, said that BJP has always recog-

nized the importance of empowerment of the women's, Narendra Modi government has launched several welfare schemes for the socio-economic upliftment of the women. Ex Sarpanch Raj Kumar, Arun Dubey, Rajesh Saini, Bishan Singh, Mohinder, Kewal Krishan Verma, Ranju Vaid, Kushant Daffara, Vijay Lakshmi, Neeru Gupta, Rekha Sharma, Sangeeta Anand, Sudesh Gupta, Kamini Verma, Nitasha Vaid, Radhika Jandyal and others were also present.