

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Man booked under PSA for 'Unlawful Activities' in Rajouri

SRINAGAR, Feb 11 (Agencies): A man was booked under the stringent Public Safety Act for his alleged involvement in unlawful activities that posed threat to peace and order in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, Police said here.

According to police, Mohammad Azam, a resident of Pukharni in Nowshera sub-division, was lodged in Rajouri district jail immediately after his arrest by police.

"Azam's detention order was issued by the Rajouri DM based on a detailed report submitted by the district police office," the police said.

The police in a statement further said that a number of criminal cases were registered against the accused at the Nowshera police station between 2013 and 2021.

"Despite being booked in a number of FIRs, the accused was still not mending his ways and was involved in 'unlawful acts' and was posing a threat to peace and order," it said.

### 2 brothers held for robbing man after posing as Policemen in Samba

JAMMU, Feb 11 (Agencies): Two brothers were arrested for allegedly injuring and robbing a man after posing as policemen in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

The accused Bachan Lal and Lovely Kumar, residents of Smailpur, allegedly stopped the man and asked him to accompany them to a police station in the Bari Brahmana area for 'investigation' into a case, Samba SSP Vinay Kumar Sharma said.

He said the victim got suspicious about the real identity of the culprits, who allegedly attacked him with sharp-edged weapons and fled the scene after robbing him.

Police arrested the accused within three hours of the crime and seized two knives, one police and one Army jackets and a police

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## Nari Shakti breaking barriers, inspiring new generation: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Sunday praised women participation in science, technology and research, saying the effort can build India as a global innovation powerhouse.

Lieutenant Governor was addressing 'J&K Women Science Congress 2024' a unique initiative by Jammu University for transforming the leadership trajectory for women in science, technology and innovation.



"In J&K, we have made consistent efforts to bridge the gender gap at all levels of science, technology, engi-

neering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Today, I am happy to see our daughters are driving innovation and

change," LG Sinha said. He said, "We are proud of women scientists & tech leaders. From space to Artificial Intel-

ligence, from entrepreneurship to healthcare, from education to innovation, from agriculture to research, the Nari Shakti is breaking barriers and inspiring the new generation".

Lieutenant Governor held that I strongly believe the active participation of women in science, technology and research can build India as a global innovation powerhouse. "Women-led development in J&K is our prime objective. It is our collective responsibility to achieve this goal," he said.

## Cash rewards offered by Police for Anti-National Activity Tips

SRINAGAR, Feb 11 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police Saturday announced cash rewards to the persons for sharing information regarding anti-national activities.

A cash reward of Rs 5 lakh has been announced for those who provide information about the trans-border tunnels used by anti-national elements to transport militants, explosives and contraband consignments.

A reward of Rs 3 lakh has been announced for those who sight drones

from across the border to drop narcotics and explosives and provide actionable information about the person receiving/transporting material dropped through drones from the border and Line of Control (LoC) to hinterland and Punjab.

Similarly a reward of Rs 2 lakh each has been announced for people providing information about inter-state narcotics modules and people talking to Pakistan based terrorist handlers and separatists in jails and persons talking to or communicating with

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## Security tightened near Tikri border ahead of farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' march



NEW DELHI, Feb 11 (Agencies): Security has been increased near the Tikri border amid calls issued by farmer organisations to march to the national capital on February 13.

To prevent any untoward incident, big containers, cemented and iron barricades, and water canons were placed by police officials at the Singhu border of Delhi. In Haryana, the

CRPF and other security agencies have been deployed to ensure law and order is maintained. Mobile internet services and bulk SMS have also been suspended in seven districts until February 13.

A top police official said that Section 144 has been imposed in Panchkula.

Sirsa-Chandigarh Highway has been blocked by digging the

road, and heavy stones have been placed near Musahib Wala village along the Haryana-Punjab border.

The Shambhu border has been sealed on the Punjab-Haryana border. BSF and RAF personnel have also been deployed.

DCP Arshdeep Singh told ANI, "Due to the farmers' movement, we have sealed the

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## CAPF constable Exam being conducted in 13 regional languages for first time

NEW DELHI, Feb 11 (Agencies): For the first time, the constable recruitment examination in the Central Armed Police Forces such as the CRPF, BSF and CISF will be conducted in 13 regional languages apart from Hindi and English.

The examination are being conducted from February 10-March 7 and around 48 lakh candidates are appearing in 128 cities across the country, according to an official statement.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had decided to conduct the constable (general duty) examination for recruitment in CAPFs in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English from January 1, 2024.

This "historic decision" has been taken on the



initiative of the home minister to increase the participation of local youths in the Central Armed Police Forces and to promote regional languages, it said.

In addition to Hindi and English, the question papers will now be prepared in the following 13 regional languages: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani.

Constable examina-

tion is one of the flagship recruitment tests conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) attracting lakhs of youths from across the country.

The MHA and Staff Selection Commission have signed an MoU to facilitate the conduct of the examination in the 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English. Accordingly, the SSC has issued notification in this regard.

The decision will result in lakhs of youth taking

part in the examination in their mother tongue or regional language and improve their selection prospects.

As a result, the reach of this examination will increase among the candidates in the entire country and everyone will get an equal opportunity for employment.

With this initiative of the central government, the youths across the country, have got a golden opportunity to participate in the

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## Gulmarg witnesses tourist surge after much awaited snowfall

GULMARG, Feb 11 (Agencies): For Russian tourist Andrew, the wait for snowfall to try his skiing skills on the slopes of Apharwat in this famous ski resort of north Kashmir was worth it.

The picturesque Gulmarg, known for its breathtaking landscapes and world-class skiing slopes, has become a hotspot for adventure seekers and nature enthusiasts' alike after the recent snowfall that ended over two months of dry spell.

The lack of snow during peak winter left the people connected with tourism disappointed as winter sports lovers waited eagerly to



see the locale turned white which finally happened towards the end of January, bringing cheers on the faces of both the locals and the tourists.

"It's big pleasure to ski here. In my country, we

have similar landscapes but not such high mountains. However, here it is something new, something different like the culture, the view and higher peaks," Andrew, who is in his late 30's, told PTI here.

Andrew lamented that he had to face disappointment and put his visit to the Valley on hold in view of the prolonged dry weather conditions and snow-less mountains.

"I arrived on January

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9419143503

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN****SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW**

DR. SANJAY RAINA AND SMT. PUSHPA BHAT RAINA  
SH. KULBUSHAN RAINA AND SMT. ANJALI RAINA

**DAUGHTERS AND SONS IN LAW**

SMT. NANA RAINA AND SH. VIJAY KUMAR PANDIT  
SMT. RAJNI KOUL AND SH. VIJAY KOUL

SMT. BASANTI RAINA AND SH. ROMESH CHANDER PANDITA

**GRAND CHILDREN**

RAHUL PANDIT AND SINDHIYA PANDIT  
PRAYERNA KOUL AND SAMEER SAWAKARE

DEEPSHIKHA PANDIT AND ANKUSH KOUL

ANKUSH KOUL, ASHISH PANDITA AND ARSH RAINA

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



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

**TENTH DAY/UTHALA**

We, sadly inform the untimely demise of **Shri Sanjeev Gupta** (Inspector, J&K Police), S/O Late Sh. Babu Ram Gupta, R/o 27, Chowghan Salathia, Jammu, on Friday, February 02, 2024.

**Tenth Day** on Sunday, February 11, 2024- Mahajan Hall, Shalamar, Jammu (11:00 am to 12:00 Noon).

**Kriya** on Wednesday, February 14, 2024- at Residence, (11:00 am).

**Uthala** on Wednesday, February 14, 2024- Mahajan Hall, Shalamar, Jammu (04:00 pm to 05:00 pm).

**Grief Stricken:****Mother**

Smt. Preeto Devi (W/o Late Babu Ram Gupta)

**Anju Gupta - Wife**

Shreyanshi Bangatia- **Son**

Shreyanshi Bangatia- **Daughter**

Er. Tanisha Gupta- **Daughter**

Pawan Gupta (Retd. J&K Police) and Seema Mahajan - **Brother and Bhabhi**

Bhomi Mahajan and Shivam Mahajan - **Nephews**

Manav Uthaan, NGO

**Jansampark Mail, Newspaper**

**Mobile: 9419197591, 9419435338, 9419137172**

Sunita and Chander Mohan Gupta (**Sister and Brother-in-law**)



**SHRI SANJEEV GUPTA**

**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, Jagti Migrant Camp Nagrota Jammu on 4/2/2024 (Sunday).

**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 Jagti Camp Lane No. 22, Near Old JK Bank ATM Community Hall.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Teja Dhar (Wife)

Sh. K.L. Dhar (Brother)

Sh. R.L. Dhar & Smt. Seema Dhar (Brother & Bhabhi)

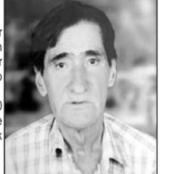
Bhawna Dhar & Sh. Ramesh Kumar (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Rahul Dhar & Sheetal Dhar (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Diksha Dhar (Daughter)

Siddhi Koul (Grand Daughter)

**Mobile: 6006404172, 9906113425, 9596838555**



**Sh. Avtar Krishan Dhar**

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and peaceful demise of our beloved **S. FOJA SINGH RAINA** (Retd. Excise & Taxation Officer) S/o S. Kesar Singh Raina of Village Atina Beru Budgam at present House 212, Sector 7, Street 7, Main Road Nanak Nagar, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on Saturday 03 February 2024.

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS** shall be performed as per the following scheduled programme:

**ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** at our residence on Saturday (10-02-2024) at 9:30 AM.

**BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** at our residence on Monday (12-02-2024) at 9:30 AM.

**KIRTAN & ANTIM ARDAS** at Gurudwara Sahib Shri Guru Singh Sabha Nanak Nagar on Monday (12-02-2024) from 10:30AM to 12:00PM, followed by 'Guru Ka Langar'.

**Deeply Mourned by Family, Friends and Relatives:**  
Sdr. Kamlesh Kour Raina - Wife

Sdr. Upesh Kour W/o Late S. Mohinder Singh Sangral of village Siakot Rafalabad- **Mother-in-Law**

**BHABHIS & BROTHERS**  
Sdr. Balvinder Kour W/o Late S. Harbans Singh Raina

Sdr. Kulwant Kour W/o Late S. Mohan Singh Raina

**SONS & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**  
S. Dalbir Singh Raina & Sdr. Parvinder Kour

S. Amarjeet Singh Raina & Sdr. Manpreet Kour

**DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW**  
Sdr. Daljeet Kour & S. Jatinder Singh (Vice President Gurudwara Sri G.S.S. Nanak Nagar)

**MOB: 788938842, 7006970031, 9858290111, 9419186936**



**S. FOJA SINGH RAINA**

**10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA (RASAM PAGRI)**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Kusum Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Puran Chand Basotra R/o 224-A Shastri Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 01-02-2024.

**10th Day** will be performed on 10-02-2024 (Saturday) at our residence at 11:00 AM onwards **Kriya** will be performed on 11-02-2024 (Sunday) from 09:00 AM onwards at our residence.

**Rasam Pagri /Uthala** shall be performed on 16-02-2024 (Friday) from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM at Laxmi Narayan Mandir Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN****Son & Daughter in Law**

Sh. Hitesh Basotra (**Ass. Professor**) & Kiran Devi (**HOD DIET**)

**Daughters & Son in Laws**

Smt Rekha Sharma & Sh. Anil Sharma (Canada)

Smt Anjana Sharma (Master) & Sh. Rajeev Sharma (**XEN PDD**)

Smt Ranjana Sharma & Sh. Rajeev Sharma (**PDD Deptt**)

**Grand Children:** Sagun Basotra (Dubai), Abhi Roop Sharma (Canada)

Nipun Basotra, Shimalika, Ingita, Tushar, (Canada), Tanmay, Vaibhav.



**SMT KUSUM SHARMA**

**TENTH DAY/UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Vimla Kumari** (Retd. H.O.D., D.I.E.T) Wife of Lt Sh. G.L. Bhardwaj (Retired S.E Mechanical) R/O 259-P Sector 2 Channi Himmat Near Telephone Exchange, Jammu Expired on 2nd February 2024.

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 11th February (Sunday) 12:30 p.m to 1:30 p.m (Satsang) at Panch Mandir Sector -2, Near Police Station Channi Himmat.

**13TH DAY/UTHALA** will be performed on 14th February 2024 (Wednesday) between 4:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m at Panch Mandir, Sector 2, Channi Himmat.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Abhinav Bhardwaj & Anu - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Abhishek Bhardwaj & Mona - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Eshan Bhardwaj & Kanwal Preet - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Sh Bua Ditta - **Brother-in-law**

Smt Shankri Devi - **Sister in law**

**Brother & Sister in law:**

Sh Lokinder Singh Ravi, Retd. Additional Director

General, GSI & Smt. Swami

Grand children: Aksh, Raaga, Avni & Rivan.

**Mobile no. 9419134112, 7889901030, 9103799217**



**Smt Vimla Kumari**  
(Retd. H.O.D., D.I.E.T)

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Nitin Dogra, Ritu Dogra** and their two daughters Bani Dogra and Khushi Dogra.

**10th day Date:** 12/02/2024 at Rani Park, tootian Jammu at 10:30 AM onwards

**Kriya Date:** 15/02/2024 at Atm Vallabh Jain Hall, Kali Jani Jammu at 1 PM onwards

**Uthala Date:** 16/02/2024 at Brahman Sabha, Parade, Jammu at 3 PM to 4 PM.

**Grief Stricken:**

Santosh Dogra- **Mother**

Neha Malhotra & Sumit Malhotra- **Sister and Brother-In-law**

Rajeshwar Dogra & Neha Badan- **Brother and Bhabhi**

Karan Dogra- **Brother**

**All Dogra Family**

**Mobile No: 9858698959, 9797677441**



**NITIN DOGRA, RITU DOGRA**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rajdulari Razdan** w/o Shri Shamboo Nath Razdan resident of upper Sathu Barbarashah, Srinagar (presently residing at 25-C, lane-3 Karan Nagar Jammu) on 3rd Feb 2024.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 12th Feb 2024 at Akhnoor & Assembly at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of school education at 12 Noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Shri Shamboo Nath Razdan (**Husband**)

Shubun & Rajni Razdan, Vijay & Pinky Razdan, Anil & Baby Razdan, Ramesh & Nalni Razdan, Sudesh & Ramesh Raina, Surinder & Savita Razdan, Dolly, Deepu & Kalyani Razdan, Minu, Sunny & Shalni Razdan

**Grand Children:-** Sumit-Tanu, Kanika- Aneesh, Nazuk-Vishav, Akshi- Shavet, Akhil, Nikhil- Sonam, Barbi- Sidarth

**Great Grand Children:** Vivan, Vihana, Evanshi & Tiyaana

**9419185041, 7006611825, 9419194007**



**Smt. Rajdulari Razdan**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Moti Lal Bhat** S/o Lt. Smt. Sham Rani Bhat & Lt. Pt. Sham Lal Bhat originally resident of Kaloosa, Bandipora Kashmir at present Flat No. 202, Harsh Housing Gali No. B-06, Ashok Vihar Phase-III Ext. Gurugram Haryana who left for heavenly abode on Sunday 4/2/2024 at Gurugram.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Tuesday 13/2/2024 at 8:00 am at Rohini Ghat / Canal, Sec-18 Rohini Delhi near Badli Telephone Exchange / DTC Bus Depot Opp. DESU Sub Station Bawana Road, Rohini Delhi nearest Metro Station Samaypur Badli (Yellow Line) and Assembly will be held at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, New Palam Vihar Block-T, Sec-109, Gurugram Haryana at 12:00 (Noon).

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Nisha Bhat (Wife)

Rakesh Bhat & Ishali Bhat (**Son & Daughter-in-law**)

Suman Koul & Sandeep Ji Koul (**Daughter & Son-in-law**)

Sheetu Bhat & Sunil Ji Bhat (**Daughter & Son-in-law**)

**Grand Children:** Sanvi, Sharvi, Sia, Siddhi

**Samast Bhat, Raina, Koul, Khar, Mattoo Parivar**

**Mobile: 767855272, 9796225617**



**Sh. Moti Lal Bhat**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Satpal** S/o Bua Ditta R/o 231 Moti Bazar, Jammu on 2-2-2024.

**Tenth Day** will be performed at Dogra Khatri Sabha Dewan Mandir near Old Post Office Jammu on Sunday 11/Feb/2024 at 11 am to 12 noon.

**Kriya** will be performed on H.No.231 Moti Bazar, Jammu on Wednesday 14/Feb/2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt Sudesh Kumari -**Wife**

Vineet -**Son**

Rupali -**Daughter**

**Brothers & Bhabhi**

Romesh Chander and Darshna Devi

Rakesh Kumar (Bawa) and Anita Devi

Mohinder Kumar and Devi

**Sister & Brother-in-law**

Sureshta and Ravi



**Sh Satpal**

**Mob: 9419101763, 9419127095, 9906063155**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Smt Kusum Chib** W/o Swaran Singh Chib R/o 6 Sector 5, Pandoka Colony Paloura Jammu.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 11-02-2024 Sunday 12.00 Noon at our residence.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 14-02-2024 Wednesday at 1 PM at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Lt Keshav Singh & Late Smt Santosh Chib- **Jeth & Jethani**

Khajoor Singh & Smt Daya Rani Chib- **Devar & Devrani**

Pankaj Chib & Poonam Chib- **Son & Daughter in Law**

Ankush Chib - **Son**

Daljit Singh & Late Anu Chib - **Daughter & Son in Law**

**Grand Children:** Arab, Vikrant

**MOBILE NO: 7051085124, 8716037953, 7889610401**



**Late Smt Kusum Chib**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sanjeev Kumar Sharma (Happy)** S/o Shri Kanti Kumar Sharma on 03-02-2024 at DMC Ludhiana.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 11-02-2024 (Sunday) at Bua Datti Mandir Patoli Mangotrian Jammu at 11.00 AM

**KRIYA** will be performed on 12-02-2024 (Monday) at our residence, H. No 357 Patoli Mangotrian Near Shastri Memorial School, Ward No 39 at 12.00 Noon

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Kanchan Bala - **Mother**

Ekta Bakshi (Sonia) -**Wife**

Janvi Sanjeev Sharma - **Daughter**

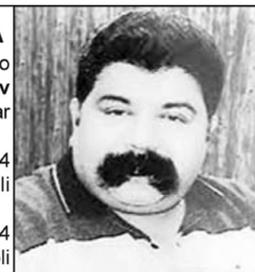
Ratni Devi - **Mother in Law**

Smt Varsha and Sh. Vikas Bakshi - **Sister in Law & Brother in law**

Smt Sonika Bakshi and Sh. Sidarth Bakshi - **Sister in Law & Brother in law**

Smt Ekta & Sh. Sameer Gandotra - **Sister & Brother in Law**

**MOBILE NO: 7006145487, 9419108891**



**SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA (HAPPY)**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA /UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Raizada Pawan Kumar Vaid (Ex Employee of Govt Ranbir Press)** S/o Late Krishan Dev Vaid and Late Shakuntla Vaid R/o H. no 279, Pacci Dhakki, Jammu on 02-02-2024.

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 11-02-2024 (Sunday) at 10.00 AM at Rani Park (Tutian) Jammu **KRIYA** will be performed on 12-02-2024 (Monday) at 1.00 PM at our residence.

**UTHALA** will be performed on 14-02-2024 (Wednesday) from 3 PM to 4 PM at Sanatan Dharam High School, Jullaka Mohalla, Jain Bazar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Geeta & Vijay Vaid -**Sister in Law & Brother**

Shashi W/o Lt Kishore Vaid -**Sister in Law & Brother**

Tripta & Ashwani Dutta -**Sister & Brother in Law**

Sonia & Neeraj Vaid - **Daughter in Law & Son**

Mamta & Dheeraj Vaid - **Daughter in Law & Son**

Chetna & Ram Pal Sharma - **Daughter & Son in Law**

**& All Elders, Youngsters and Children of Vaid Family**

**Mobile No: 9469694627, 6006407073, 9906308053**



## Rotary Club organizes Hip & Joint Pain consultation camp at Karbala Complex

**Kavinder highlights importance of healthcare initiatives for community well-being**

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: The Rotary Club of Jammu City, in collaboration with IVY Hospitals and Karbala management, successfully organized a free Hip & Joint Pain Consultation Camp for the people of Jammu at Karbala Complex.

The camp was inaugurated by Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister, and Sohail Kazmi, a prominent journalist. Recognizing the increasing prevalence of knee and hip problems in society, the Rotary Club of Jammu City took the initiative to provide free consultations to patients from all sections of society regarding knee, hip, and joint issues.

Eminent Orthopedician, Dr. Bhanu Pratap Saluja from IVY Hospitals, offered free check-ups and consultations during the camp. Furthermore, IVY Hospitals has pledged to organize a



multi-specialty health camp for the people of Jammu in the near future.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta praised the efforts of the Rotary Club, IVY Hospitals, and the management of Karbala for their collaborative efforts in organizing this camp and providing free consulta-

tion services to the people of Jammu. He emphasized the importance of addressing the rising prevalence of knee and hip problems in our society and the need to provide accessible healthcare services to all sections of society.

Gupta also commended the dedicated orthopedician, Dr.

Bhanu Pratap Saluja, for his expertise and contribution to the camp. He acknowledged the significance of such initiatives in improving the overall health and well-being of the community. He concluded by expressing his hope for the success of future healthcare camps and initiatives in Jammu.

The success of the camp can be attributed to the efforts of Robin Mehta, President of the Rotary Club Jammu City, Shivangi Gupta, Secretary, and the entire Club Committee. Project Director Sanjeev Vaid, along with the support of Rajesh Sharma, Arvind Kotwal, Sham Sundan, Abha Sundan, Pawan Dhunna, and Sanjay Sethi, played a crucial role in the organization of the camp.

The Rotary Club of Jammu City aims to continue organizing such healthcare camps and initiatives for the betterment of the community.

## SSH protests demanding immediate repair of Kool Kalyana Bridge in Arnia Block

### Top News Report

ARNIA, Feb 11: Activists of Shiv Sena Hindustan (SSH) J&K led by their president Rajesh Kesri staged a protest demonstration today demanding repair of bridge in Kool Kalyana Block Arnia.

The protesters torched effigy of govt and demanded from the government to make an estimate of the bridge as soon as possible because the condition of this bridge is very dilapidated, it can collapse any time and any untoward incident can happen on it, demanding to repair this bridge as soon as possible.

Speaking on the occasion, Kesri said that an estimate should be made at the earliest and the same should be forwarded to concerned department to analyze the durability of bridge so that the estimate can be passed as soon as possible and the gov-



ernment can know how much it has to be spent on its construction. Kesri further said that the roads in and around this bridge have been constructed but this bridge was deliberately ignored which speaks of callousness of govt and continuous disregard of area.

Kesri reminded govt that just a few days ago, dozens of people were seriously injured in an accident, some of whom are still undergoing treatment in the Govt Medical College and hospital and the wounds of seriously injured have still not been healed. Kesri demanded gov-

ernment that all the injured people should be given appropriate compensation as soon as possible so that these daily wage workers can support their families and pay the fees of their children demanding immediate intervention of SDM in this regard. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Balwant Saini, Suresh Kumar, Captain Gara Ram, Captain Om Prakash, Vijay Luthra, Rajkumar Baba, Sanjeev Sharma, Darshan Devi, Neeru Devi, Rajni Devi, besides prominent people of nearby villages.

## In past 4-5 years, J&K's GDP increases from Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2018 -2019 to Rs 2.64 lakh crore: LG Manoj Sinha

JAMMU, Feb 11 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Sunday said that the reforms done in the last four to five years have resulted in the growth of J&K's GDP from Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2018-19 to Rs 2.64 lakh crore in 2021-22.

"The reforms done in the last four to five years have resulted in efficient growth. J&K is on the path of good governance, development and peace," he said as per news agency.

To another query about reservation to SC's, he said that some people will continue to do politics over the issue the way they did on the issue of providing land to landless. "Let them continue their job, we will do ours," he said.

The LG said that J&K Bank that was a RS 1200 loss institution is now flourishing with RS 1300 Cr profit institution. "This year, we hope to see J&K Bank's profit touching Rs 1800 Crore," he said.

He said the present administration has inherited to re-pay the huge power debts worth Rs 28000 Crore.

About the recent vote on the account budget presented in the parlia-

ment for J&K recently, the LG said that the economic condition of the UT is much better than what it was earlier. "J&K administration's efforts have been to increase capital expenditure and decrease revenue expenditure," he said as per agency.

The LG said that revenue expenditure of J&K is Rs 80,000 Crore as a vast portion goes into salaries of employees while capital expenditure has recorded a quantum jump of Rs 38000 Crore from Rs 11000 Crore. On a query, about shifting of the office United Nations Military Observers Group of India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) located in Srinagar, the issue "will be looked into."

The LG stated this in reply to the query that now that J&K has been fully integrated into the Union of India while as there is zero tolerance against terrorism and Indian flag runs high across Kashmir, the UN office in Sonwar area of Srinagar continues to operate as whether there are plans to shift the same. "Now that the question has been asked, we will look into the issue....." the LG said.

## Dr. Preeti Bhagat organized free medical camp for villagers in suchetgarh



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat organized a free medical and medicine distribution camp in Suchetgarh village on Sunday. In this camp people from the surrounding areas were examined and given free medical consultation.

Dr. Preeti Bhagat said that due to lack of health facilities in the

border areas, people are not even aware of the diseases developing within them. The objective behind this medical camp is to provide health facilities to the people at their doorstep. Dr. Preeti Bhagat said that in today's time, the prevalence of BP, sugar, thyroid, high uric acid and other diseases is increasing even among the young generation. By the time people come to know about their dis-

ease, the situation has already worsened. After examining the patients coming to the camp, she gives them appropriate advice. If the disease can be cured by changing lifestyle and eating habits, then she tells people to do so. In many cases it becomes necessary to take medicine.

Dr. Preeti Bhagat says that even today there is a lack of awareness about health in India. People hesitate away from getting their treatment done by specialist doctors. People should get treatment from a doctor in case of illness and should not get confused. She said that she has organized more than 120 medical camps so far. She wants to dedicate her profession for the welfare of the people and such medical camps will continue to be organized in future also.

## Pahari, Gujjar, Bakerwal Tribes playing great role in Nation Building: Vibodh



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: In the wake of decades long neglect of Pahari, Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes of Jammu and Kashmir, by successive NC, Congress Governments, it is important to acknowledge the efforts of BJP Government under the able leadership of PM Modi in remedying the injustices of the past.

These remarks were made by the BJP J&K General Secretary while addressing a group of Pahari Tribe students who called on him at BJP party headquarters at Jammu. These students expressed their profound gratitude to Vibodh Gupta for all his efforts for the historic decision of BJP Government for grant of ST status to Pahari Ethnic Tribe. In his address, Vibodh said that by not doing justice to the Pahari, Gujjar and Bakerwal ethnic tribes, the past Governments of

NC, PDP and Congress have done a criminal neglect and people will never spare them for this. As a result of this these tribes have suffered from systematic neglect, hindering their socio-economic development and perpetuating cycles of poverty and deprivation, Vibodh added.

While highlighting the role of these tribal communities in nation building, Vibodh said that it is regrettable that despite their significant contributions to our cultural heritage and economy, the voices of the Pahari, Gujjar and Bakerwal communities were routinely disregarded by previous Governments. However, amidst this backdrop of neglect, PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have emerged as a beacon of hope for these marginalised tribal communities. Through targeted interventions and inclu-

sive policies, the Government has demonstrated a commitment to addressing the historical injustices faced by Pahari, Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes, Vibodh added. Latter the group of Pahari community students highlighted

Vibodh Gupta's role and contribution in the decades long struggle for the cause of Pahari Tribe. They thanked him for all his efforts and hard work towards this. As the Pahari community celebrates this historic milestone, the meeting stands as a testament to the power of collective action and advocacy in effecting positive change.

Prominent among others who were present on the occasion included Nadeem Ahmed Mir, Shafait Yaseen Shah, Saima Qazi, Ahjaz Mir, Sajjad Qazi, Misbah Ul Islam, Nazakat Manhas, Mehjabin Younis and Naveed Anjum Mir.

## Army Organises Medical Camp at Rajouri



### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Feb 11: As part of 'Op Sadbhavana', Indian Army organised a Medical Camp for the populace at Darhal, Rajouri District. In remote area challenges are further aggravated due to limited road connectivity, requiring residents to commute long distances to avail basic medical facilities. A joint team of doctors and support staff from the Army and Civil Health Department including specialist practitioner provided medical care, consul-

tation and counselling to the poor and under privileged residents of the border areas. A total of 761 civilians from the village and other far flung adjoining areas visited to avail medical treatment provided during the camp. The genuine efforts taken up by the Army to organise the medical camp were appreciated by the populace. Such an endeavour by the Army to reach out to the residents of remote areas will go a long way in developing and strengthening of trust between JAWAN and AWAAM.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No. 78-JJMOF2023-24 Dated: 07-02-2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur, invite tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies registered in DIC or any other state Government for below mentioned work at Water Supply scheme of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur, of Jammu Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. Cover 1<sup>st</sup> consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No.	Particulars of the works	Estimated cost (lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money deposit	Bid Validity	Time completion of work (days)
1	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical machinery alongwith allied works at WSS Sattrai (Refer to the scope of work)	As per ANNEXURE -I to this bid document	Rs. 500/-	2% of the estimated cost (in case of non-registered firms) Or 1% of the estimated cost (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	180 days	As per ANNEXURE -I to this bid document.

Position of funds : Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Position of AAA : Accorded

Position of T.S : Sanctioned

The tendering authority is Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur.

**CRITICAL DATES:**

i	Publish Date	07-02-2024 (18:30 Hrs.)
ii	Document Download Start Date	07-02-2024 (19:00 Hrs.)
iii	Clarification Start Date	09-02-2024
iv	Clarification End Date	12-02-2024
iv	Bid Submission Start Date	07-02-2024
v	Bid Submission End Date	16-02-2024 (15:00 PM)
vi	Date of Bid Opening	17-02-2024 (11:00 AM onwards)

- Bid documents can be accessed & downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur. Bids must be accompanied cost of Tender Document and EMD as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Jammu.
  - The cost of tender documents should be informed of Treasury challan / e-Challan towards the cost of tender document to be deposited in MH-0215-WSS (Revenue head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank branch Udhampur bearing bank account No. 0028010200000091, IFSC code JAKA0UDMPUR in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur
- Firms who will fulfill the following parameters are eligible to participate.
  - Average Annual financial turnover during the last 3 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year, should be at least 30% of this estimated cost.
  - "Experience certificate of having successfully completed or substantially completed one similar work during last seven years ending last day of the month previous to the one in which tenders are invited".
  - Definition of "similar work" should be clearly defined.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period, he makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).
- Queries by email if any should be made at [ee@hemudr@gmail.com](mailto:ee@hemudr@gmail.com).

No. JSPHEM/UDHR/2023-24/6505-18  
Dated: 07-02-2024

**DIP/J-14870/23**  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division  
Udhampur

## EDITORIAL

GOVT  
E-MARKETPLACE  
ACHIEVEMENTS

As on February 1st 2023, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has achieved a staggering Rs 1.5 lakh crore of Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) in FY23 alone. Going by the current run rate, GeM is suitably placed to exceed its annual target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

Cumulatively, GeM has surpassed the Rs 3 lakh crore GMV since inception, with the overwhelming support of its stakeholders. The total number of transactions on GeM has also crossed 1.3 crore. GeM has over 66,000 government buyer organisations and more than 58 lakh sellers and service providers offering a diverse range of goods and services.

The portal features over 11,000 product categories with more than 29 lakh listed products, as well as over 270 service categories with more than 2.5 lakh service offerings. Based on various studies, the minimum savings on the platform are about 10%, which translates into a savings of over Rs 30,000 crore worth of public money.

Government e Marketplace (GeM) is an online platform for public procurement in India that was envisaged by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. The initiative was launched on August 9, 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the objective of creating an inclusive, efficient, and transparent platform for the buyers and sellers to carry out procurement activities in a fair and competitive manner.

In the last 6.5 years, GeM has revolutionized the ecosystem of public procurement in the country through technology, the digitization of processes, the digital integration of all stakeholders, and the use of analytics. GeM is an example of how digital platforms created with a strategic and clear intent to reinvigorate and reimagine legacy processes can bring about lasting change for the nation as well as the underserved. GeM has been effectively contributing to the government's commitment of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance".

The GeM platform enables multiple procurement modes (direct purchase, L1 procurement, bidding, reverse auction, bid followed by reverse auction). GeM has evolved as a trust-based platform and is contactless, paperless, and cashless, where authentication of users is done through API integration with respective domain databases, i.e., Aadhar, PAN, Aadhar, Start Up, GSTN, MCA21, etc.

The marketplace includes policies for automated market adjustments as well as end-to-end digital processes that support a thriving buyer-seller ecosystem.

GeM has recently launched a focused campaign to boost procurement via States. Dedicated nodal officers with a comprehensive data backed roadmap have been identified for select states. The lessons learnt in these states will be replicated across the country. We have already seen a 55% Y-o-Y increase in the GMV in the States, and their GeM Utilization Ratio (GUR) has also shown considerable improvement.

GeM has successfully integrated with 1.5 lakh+ India Post offices and 5.2+ lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs [VLEs] via the CSCs for last-mile outreach and service delivery. Curated trainings are being conducted with the State Mission Coordinators and District Managers to help them understand about GeM and its features.

Through automation and digitization of processes, GeM has led to higher process efficiencies, better information sharing, improved transparency, reduced process cycle times, and a higher level of trust among bidders, which in turn have resulted in greater competition and higher savings. These innovations in GeM have also brought down waiting times and prices for buyers significantly and ensured timely payments to sellers. This is also expected to enhance the overall "Ease of Doing Business" while also promoting the highest standards of quality in public procurement in India.

## We need legal framework to regulate AI, deep fakes

By: Manish Tewari

The rise of deep fake videos targeting all genres of people has raised alarm bells, prompting widespread concern and an urgent need to curb the misuse of deep fake technology. The United States Senate has introduced bipartisan legislation called the Disrupt Explicit Forged Images and Non-Consensual Edits (DEFIANCE) Act. This law would make it illegal to share non-consensual, sexualised images, and videos created by artificial intelligence without the individual's consent. Similarly, the European Union's proposed Artificial Intelligence Act aims to provide strict regulations to address deep fakes. As this technology becomes more available to the public, an increasing number of countries are grappling with the dilemma of deep fakes and how to tackle this issue.

In a policy brief for the International Centre of Counter-Terrorism, entitled the 'Weaponisation of Deep Fakes Digital Deception', the far right Ella Busch and Jacob Ware stated "the words, 'deep fake', are derived from the concept of deep learning, a subset of artificial intelligence-machine learning (AI/ML). Deep learning algorithms are composed of deep neural networks, which simulate the human brain in a way that enables the AI to 'learn' from large amounts of data. Deep learning is unique from machine learning for its ability to process unstructured data, such as text and images, which make it ideal for creating deep fake videos, audio, images, or text. Deep fakes are created using a specific deep learning algorithm called a generative adversarial network (GAN). GANs, first developed by researcher Ian Good fellow in 2014, consist of two neural networks — a generator algorithm and a discriminator algorithm. The generator algorithm creates a fake image (or other form of

media) and the discriminator judges the media's authenticity. The action repeats for hours, or even days, until reaching a stable state in which neither the generator nor the discriminator can improve their performance."

In other words, deep fakes are a type of synthetic media that involves the manipulation of someone's facial appearance through deep-generative methods. Although the technique of mimicking someone's face or voice isn't new, what is revolutionary about deep fake is its reliance on Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs). GANs rely on two AI models that work in tandem. The first AI model, the forger, helps in manipulating someone's face based on the provided sample. The second AI model, the detective, scrutinises the forger's creation and, based on Face Training Data, identifies all the reasons why it's fake. The forger then makes improvements based on the inputs provided by the detective. This process of improvement continues until the detective is unable to find any difference between the real image and the generated image.

Like any technology, deep fakes have both positive and negative uses. Filmmakers are extensively using this technology to translate films, age/de-age actors, help speed film production and reduce its costs. In the field of education, deep fakes can help in creating much more innovative lessons which are far more engaging than the traditional form of learning. It can be used to re-enact historical moments; help understand human anatomy and assist in architecture. It can also be used by medical researchers to develop new ways of treating diseases without actual patients. Deep fakes have numerous benefits to offer.

On the other hand, deep fakes are extensively being used to commit crimes such as financial scams, spread misinformation, and share sexually explicit videos.

According to Europol's Innovation Lab, deep fakes could become a staple tool for organised crimes, as they can be extensively used for bullying, allowing intellectual property violation, facilitating fraudulent documents, manipulating evidence, supporting terrorism, and fostering social unrest and political polarisation. There have been reports that deep fakes were employed in the last Assembly elections to malign opponents, and if no steps are taken, they may be widespread during 2024 general elections.

This writer, himself, was a victim of a deep fake video impersonating his voice that was maliciously circulated the day before polling in the 2019 parliamentary elections. Fortunately, the impersonation was so crude and amateurish that it got caught out and exposed before it could do substantial reputational and electoral damage. Nonetheless, the deep fake did end up creating apprehensions in the minds of a certain section of the electorate.

In response to an unstarred question raised in the Rajya Sabha regarding the regulation of AI and deep fakes, the ministry of information and broadcasting stated that it currently relies on Section 469 of the IPC (forgery for the purpose of harming reputation) and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021), to address the issue of deep fakes. These rules impose an obligation on social media intermediaries to ensure the expeditious removal of prohibited misinformation, patently false information, and deep fakes. Unfortunately, these rules fail to effectively address the issue of deep fakes. Moreover, these rules are highly ambiguous and generic, lacking substantial measures to regulate deep fakes. Even the proposed Digital India Bill fails to provide any provision or principle on which the

ministry intends to rely while regulating deep fakes. Thus, there exists a legal vacuum which results in the failure of properly regulating deep fakes.

This vacuum has resulted in a rise of AI and deep fake-related crime in India. According to McAfee's survey on AI voice scam, about 47 per cent of Indian adults have experienced some form of AI voice scam which is almost double the global average of 25 per cent. Moreover, according to the UK-based Sumsud Identity Fraud Report, India has witnessed 1,700 per cent growth in the number of deep fakes. This clearly shows that India is severely unequipped and unprepared to keep pace with the rapid advances in technology.

The first Industrial Revolution fundamentally transformed the world by enabling transition from agrarian and manual labour to machine-driven manufacturing. Similarly, the AI revolution holds the potential for a comparable paradigm shift. If India wants to reap the benefits of this AI revolution, then it must ensure that it is prepared to tackle the upcoming challenges.

Europol estimates that by the year 2026, nearly 90 per cent of the online content may be synthetically generated. This shall significantly alter the way we interact with one another, consume information and spend time on the internet. Similar to the United States, and the EU, India also needs a law to tackle the rise of artificial intelligence and deep fakes.

The next Parliament should suo motu constitute a joint committee of Parliament to address this issue, and ensure that proper consultations are carried out with all concerned stakeholders. The objective should be to draft a comprehensive legislation that takes into account the perspectives of all stakeholders, and helps shape a law that would tackle the challenge of deep fakes before it becomes portentously pervasive.

## "Navigating the Political Landscape: The Virtues of Patience, Decency, and Sobriety"

By: Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi

In the tumultuous arena of politics, cultivating patience, exhibiting decent behavior, and maintaining a sober nature are indispensable virtues. In a world often characterized by heated debates and polarized opinions, the ability to exercise restraint and thoughtful consideration becomes paramount.

Patience, as a cornerstone of political conduct, allows for the careful deliberation necessary for effective governance. Rushed decisions can lead to unintended consequences, and a patient approach fosters

a more thorough understanding of complex issues. In the face of adversity, politicians with a measured temperament can navigate challenges with resilience and foresight.

Decency, too, plays a crucial role in fostering a healthy political environment. Treating opponents and colleagues with respect, even in the midst of ideological differences, enhances the credibility of political discourse. By engaging in civil conversations and avoiding personal attacks, politicians can build bridges rather than walls, contributing to a more cooperative and constructive political landscape.

A sober nature, characterized

by rationality and a level-headed approach, is essential for making sound policy decisions. Emotional reactions can cloud judgment and hinder effective problem-solving. Politicians who maintain composure in the face of adversity are better positioned to address the needs of their constituents and find common ground in the pursuit of collective well-being.

In an era where sensationalism and divisive rhetoric often dominate the political sphere, the call for patience, decent behavior, and sobriety is more urgent than ever. These virtues not only contribute to a healthier political discourse but also serve as a

model for citizens who look to their leaders for guidance and inspiration.

Ultimately, the practice of patience, decent behavior, and a sober nature in politics is not a sign of weakness but a testament to strength and wisdom. It is a commitment to the greater good, fostering a political environment where collaboration and understanding can thrive, and where the well-being of society takes precedence over personal agendas.

(Article written by: Er. Sajad Mushtaq Reshi, Sr. Political Leader; Email politicianjk@gmail.com)

## DPS Kathua Organizes Memorable Farewell Party for Class XII Students

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 11: The vibrant ambience of DPS Kathua echoed with joy and nostalgia as the Class XI students orchestrated a dazzling farewell party for their esteemed Class XII seniors. The event was a testament to the strong bonds and cherished memories shared within the DPS Kathua family.

The farewell extravaganza featured a diverse array of activities that left attendees enthralled throughout the day. From engaging games that sparked laughter to enchanting Dogri dances that celebrated the region's rich cultural heritage, the program was a delightful showcase of talent and camaraderie. Attendees were treated to captivating



skits, infectious meme dances, and culminated with an exuberant Bhangra performance that had everyone on their feet.

The highlight of the evening was the coronation of Mr. DPS and Ms. DPS, with Hari Sanjay Magotra and Sunanda Devi being crowned to represent the school's spirit and

values.

Vivek Arora, Principal of DPS Kathua, took the stage to express his heartfelt appreciation to the students for their exceptional teamwork and dedication in hosting such a remarkable event. He extended his blessings to the outgoing Class XII students, encouraging them for

their future endeavors and wishing them the best of luck for their upcoming board examinations.

Smt. Kanta Andotra, Former MLA and Founder Chairperson, and Ms. Gauri Thakur Director of DPS Kathua, also graced the occasion with their presence, commending the students and staff

for their tireless efforts in making the farewell party a resounding success. Their words of encouragement and blessings resonated deeply with the attendees, instilling a sense of pride and accomplishment.

The event concluded on a poignant note with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Tajinder Kaur Maughal, Senior Coordinator of DPS Kathua, expressing gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the farewell party.

The farewell party organized by the students of DPS Kathua will be fondly remembered as a cherished chapter in the school's history, symbolizing the bonds of friendship and camaraderie that define the DPS Kathua experience.

## Dozens Join Shiv Sena: Shan



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 11: Shiv Sena's activities in the Chenab Valley, particularly with the direction of Shan, the party president. Shiv Sena leaders, Himmat Singh (General Secretary) and Rakesh Kumar, in recruiting new members to strengthen the party in the region. The party, under Shan's guidance, has promised to work tirelessly for the welfare of the poor and address their genuine grievances.

Rakesh Kumar, during the event, highlighted the party's policies and programs, assuring the new members of

respect and honor within the party. The newly inducted members expressed their commitment to working continuously to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

Additionally, Shan expressed gratitude towards the state president Ashwani Gupta, state General Secretary Rakesh Kak, state organizer, and other higher authorities for their exceptional support in the region.

Shiv Sena is actively expanding its influence and presence in the Chenab Valley, with a focus on addressing the needs of the local population and building a strong organizational base.

## BJP Talab Tillo Mandal pays tribute to Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: BJP Talab Tillo Mandal observed "Samarpan Diwas" to Commemorate the Contributions of its Founder leader Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay on his Death Anniversary. The Programme was Organised by Keshav Chopra President BJP Talab Tillo Mandal in which District President Jammu Parmod Kapahi, JKUT BJP Secretary Ayodhya Gupta, Senior Leader & Prabhari Nowshera Sanjay Kumar Baru, Ex Councillor Sr. Sucha Singh, District Vice President Manav Mahajan, District General Secretary Adv Rajesh Gupta also Paid their tribute to Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay.

Speaking on the Occasion Parmod Kapahi said that Pt. Deen Dayal was a thinker who always worked for the downtrodden sections of the Society, He described Deen Dayal Upadhyay as a Visionary, a great intellectual and a Man of Common Man.

Keshav Chopra spoke



in detail on the life of Pt. Deen Dayal said that Pandit Ji was a great Indian Philosopher, True Patriot. Pt. Deen Dayal was a Man of Soaring idealism and had a tremendous capacity, Pt Deen Dayal has always Worked For the upliftment of poor people.

Speaking during the Programme Ayodhya Gupta said that Pt. Deen Dayal was Founder of the Jan Sangh who also worked as General Secretary, He said that Pandit Ji was a proponent of an alternative model of governance and politics.

Sanjay Kumar Baru while speaking said "Pandit ji believed that neither Communism nor Capitalism were suitable for India and suggested political economical

governance model considering creating a harmony between the extremes and considering broader perspective called Integral Humanism Theory, which was adopted by Bhartiya Jan Sangh/BJP he further added.

Mandal General Secretary Munish Gupta Managed the Proceedings of The Stage and Mandal General Secretary Paramjeet Presented Vote Of Thanks.

Krishan Lal Sharma, Chakshu Kapoor, Ex Sarpanch Raj Kumar, Deepak Sharma, Bablu Chand, Yashpal Shivgotra, Vistarak Rajinder Tiku, Omkar Verma, Jaipal Sharma, S.K Rana, Ranju Vaid, Vikas Kumar, Ritesh Peer and several Others were also Present.

## Sadhguru Shri Madhuparamhans delivers lecture in Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: The world is perceived through the lens of the mind. Sadhguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, seems to emphasize the power and control the mind has over individual experiences and perceptions.

The mind is described as the originator of every action, influencing human behavior and resolutions.

The waves of the mind are compared to waves in the ocean, and it is suggested that people mistakenly identify these waves as their own.

Emotions like lust and anger are attributed to the mind, portraying it as both the creator and controller of human feelings.

The mind is portrayed as the king and subject, suggesting that it holds dominion over one's thoughts and actions.

The passage highlights the intoxicating influence of the mind, drawing parallels to a



drunkard's perception of reality and the inability to comprehend a different perspective.

The analogy of a dream is used to convey the illusory nature of the world, suggesting that the world is like a dream that appears real despite its fleeting and subjective nature.

The passage concludes with a notion that the world may seem real, akin to a dream during sleep, and people may find it challenging to understand the deeper truth due to the intoxication of the mind.

Overall, it reflects on the role of the mind in shaping human experiences and perceptions of the world, emphasizing the need for mindfulness and meditation to understand the deeper truths beyond the influence of the mind.

## Vinay, Samreen, Shazia among 15 nominated to TAC Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: Ministry of Communications, Govt of India, on the recommendations of MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, has nominated prominent social workers and activists as members to the Jammu Telephone Advisory Committee here. The nomination to Jammu Telephone Advisory Committee shall remain valid upto 13.07.2024 or till further orders, whichever is earlier.

The order further said that the nomination will be governed by the

guidelines contained in DoT Circular No. 02-01/2022-PHP dated 16/11/2022.

The prominent social activists and citizens nominated to the Jammu Telephone Advisory Committee include Vijay K. Gupta "Vinay" Shastri Nagar Jammu, Tilak Raj Gupta, Talab Tillo, Rajak Ali Putto Bathindi, Shazia Tabasum, Mehari Gujjaran, Rajouri, Munish Kumar Khajuria, Rajpura, Mangotrain Jammu, Samreen Khan, Tehsil Manjakote district Rajouri, Harbhajan Singh, Ranbir

Singhpura Jammu, Er. Mohd. Ashfaq, Teh Mendhar, district Poonch, Rajinder Singh Chib, Gho Manhasan Jammu, Waseem Ahmed Upper Bathindi, Jammu, Ashok Kumar, Gandhi, Jammu (Specially abled), Arshad Begum, Sangar, Block & Tehsil Purmandal, Samba, Mushtaq Inqalabi, Rajouri, Shahid Choudhary Vilage Kheri, Raipur, Block Bhalwal, Jammu, Sanjita Dogra, Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kacchi Chawni, Jammu and Rajan Gandhi, journalist, Purani Mandi, Jammu.

## 8.2 grams heroine like substance recovered in Reasi

### Top News Report

REASI, Feb 11: Continuing the drive against drug abuse launched by District Police Reasi, today Police party of Police Station Katra while conducting foot patrolling near railway station Katra found one person namely Sudharshan Singh son of Sunder Singh resident of Trintha, Reasi who was carrying a bag and

moving suspiciously. During frisking of the said bag, Heroine like substance (8.2 grams) recovered from the possession of the said person.

On this, case FIR No. 46/2024 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at P/S Katra and investigation initiated to unearth the forward and backward linkages. The whole operation is led by SHO Katra Nishant Gupta

under the supervision of SDPO Katra Surinder Baloria and SP Katra Vipin Chandran- JKPS. Mohita Sharma-IPS Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi while sharing the details conveyed that Reasi Police is working on multipronged strategy to deal with the problem of drug abuse, Illicit Liquor and will leave no stone unturned to curb this menace from the society.

## Ajeet Bhagat appeals SSP Kishtwar to conduct enquiry in Hakoo Paddar road accident

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 11: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Sr. Leader, Spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat said a Tata Sumo vehicle bearing number JK 17- 7378 while on way from Gulabgarh to Hakoo Pallali near Hakoo on Machail Gulabgarh road,

Bhagat said that the vehicle was fully overloaded carrying a total of 15 passengers which was more than the permissible limits. Out of 15 passengers, 03 persons died and 12 others were injured, 04 seriously injured who were later shifted to GMC Jammu.

Ajeet Bhagat also requested SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom Choudhary JKPS to take strict action against traffic violators and



expressed their stoic hope that the people of Kishtwar will surely be benefitted with the acumen and experience of SSP Kishtwar in the regulations and smooth traffic and transport

management system in Kishtwar District.

The National Senior leader also request was made to Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Chief

Secretary Atal Dulloo and Jammu and Kashmir Transport Commissioner Rajinder Singh Tara to personally monitor the issues of growing incidents of fatal road accident in Kishtwar, Doda, and Ramban Districts and take some immediate necessary action to prevent road accident in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts.

It needs to be mentioned here that many cases of over loading / rash driving are reported by general public wherein most drivers fearlessly carry passengers above the permitted capacity and also carry excessive load on the roof of their vehicle, but it has been seen that in 90% cases, the defaulters went scot free. Most immi-

nent and foremost duty of traffic and transport authorities is to vigorously verify the fitness of buses, mini buses, sumos, maxis, vans carrying passengers but alas only paper work done in reality in this regard reportedly owing to extraneous consideration and ulterior motives.

Even vehicles with naked surface tyres are seen running without any fear thereby putting the lives of innocent passengers to risk.

There seems to be a big Nexus which needs to be enquired at higher levels and unraveled and culprits must be put behind bars so that no more precious lives be lost in future due to mismanagement and blatant violations of traffic rules.

## Blood donation camp organized by Sant Nirankari Mission Branch Madhin

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: With the divine blessings of Most Revered Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, voluntary blood donation was done by 121 blood donors at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Madhin by Sant Nirankari Mission Branch Madhin. In this camp, blood donors of all age groups from Shakha Madhin, Muthi Rakwalan, Dayalachak and Hariyachak participated with great enthusiasm.

The camp was inaugurated by Shri Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge Jammu, speaking on the occasion he said that Sant Nirankari Mission is a mission

of universal brotherhood with spiritual ideology and believes that self-realization through God realization is the ultimate goal of human birth. Is the basic purpose of. The blood donors here participated voluntarily and happily donated blood for the welfare of mankind. He further said that under the guidance of Most Revered Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, the Mission is always ready to serve the society and for the last 38 years since 1986, blood donation camps are being organized by the Mission and every year about 600 blood donation camps are organized in India. Are organized.

Dina Nath Mukhi Madhin welcomed all the people present in the camp.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion included Dr. Zulfikar Ahmed, Dr. Mohsina from Blood Bank GMC Jammu, Dr. Somi BMO Hiranagar, Babu Ram Coordinator Kathua, Tarsem Lal Sharma Mukthi Mutthi Rakwala, Rajesh Kumar Mukhi Dayalachak, Satpal Nirankari Khetriya Director Kathua. Apart from this, many senior citizens and social workers were also present.

This camp is located at Government Medical College Jammu and Installed in collaboration with JKSAACS.

## Ankita Lokhande Asks People Not To Judge Her Relationship With Husband Vicky Jain, Says 'We Know Our Bond...'

Ankita Lokhande and her husband Vicky Jain have been one of the most controversial couples in the Bigg Boss 17 house. Throughout the reality show's journey, the couple experienced various ups and downs, heated arguments, and aggressive discussions. The actress, who emerged as the third runner-up of Salman Khan's show, participated in the Bigg Boss 17 along with her husband, Vicky Jain. The couple faced a lot of backlash on social media after they had several ugly fights on the show.

During a conversation with news agency, Ankita Lokhande talked about the issue she faced after coming out of the Bigg Boss 17 house and how people started to judge her relationship with her husband Vicky Jain. "Once I came out, there was media, questions. There was a pressure. Nobody is putting that pressure on you but you feel



pressured. People are judging your relationship. We know what kind of relationship we share. We know our bond very well. There (Bigg Boss 17 house) I said certain things, and he (Vicky Jain) said certain things. I don't want people to judge us on that because I am not judging any relationship," Ankita said.

She additionally implored everyone to allow her and Vicky the freedom to live their lives as they choose. The actress said, "I am not in any competition. I am not a perfect person but I am good for myself and my relationship. Couples fight at their homes but we do not see it. We did not know that we would

fight this much because we never had any problems. Our fights started there (Bigg Boss house) and ended there. Now people are like, 'How are they together?' People are commenting on divorce, putting us down. Stop judging us, guys. Live your life the way you want to live and let us live our life."

Further, the actress also revealed that she and her husband share a good friendship. "I want to tell everyone that there is nothing wrong. We fought there. It is normal. It is okay. We are Tom and Jerry. We are like that. We are more of buddies. It is okay," she said.

The 39-year-old actress wrapped up by addressing the accusations and negativity directed towards Vicky. While acknowledging that it greatly affected her, she emphasized that their experience in the Bigg Boss house has only strengthened their bond.

## Dakota Johnson talks about her cameo in The Office



Actress Dakota Johnson jokingly said it was the 'worst moment' of her life to film a cameo

for The Office. During her appearance on Late Night with Seth Meyers, the actress

said, "That was honestly the worst time of my life, they were like, 'do you want to be in the series finale?' And I was like, 'Of course,' thinking that I'd show up for like half a day. I was there for two weeks. And I'm barely in the show."

The 34-year-old went on to say that the atmosphere behind the scenes was uncomfortable. "They were sad," she said of the cast members as they were concluding a show after it ran for a decade. And also, like, there were weird dynamics that had been going on for the last 10 years."

She also told the host Seth, who also made an appearance in the finale, that she tried to fit in with the cast, which included returning cast members Steve Carell, Mindy Kaling and B.J. Novak. However, that didn't work because no one talked to her.

## Mrunal Thakur On Body Shaming And Being 'Sexy': 'I Have Thick Thighs...'

Mrunal Thakur received a great deal of praise from critics for her breakthrough, 'Love Sonia.' However, Mrunal complains that she hasn't had the same opportunities in Bollywood that she has had in South films like 'Sita Ramam' and 'Hi Nanna.' She spoke about the same during an interview that she was tired of pestering Bollywood producers to cast her. The actress expressed her dissatisfaction with the possibilities she is receiving from Hindi films, stating that they are not comparable to those of Sita, Yashna, or Sonia. She's not afraid to take on television roles such as mother or sister to work on parts that would push her as an actress.

Mrunal Thakur talked about body shaming in addition to stereotypes during her interview with news agency. The actress said that a casting director had passed on her because, in his opinion, she wasn't attractive enough or didn't fit the part. The actress claimed that while her toe's dead skin is attractive, she doesn't have to display it all the time. Mrunal said that she finds good conversations to be sexy. She said, "Also, it depends a lot on what is one's definition of sexy. What is it that people want to see? When I did a song, people were like, 'No don't do these, you need to lose weight.' I told them, 'Listen, I have thick thighs and I own them. If I am not uncomfortable, why are you feeling that?'"

Mrunal added, "There are of course makers who appreciate this. Primarily, I want to be a clay so that makers give me the shape they want for my char-



acter. Someone, while talking about a character, told me that it is something I would do even in my sleep. But it didn't impress me, because why would I want to take up something that easy then?"

On the work front, Mrunal Thakur will start working on Sanjay Leela Bhansali's film after finishing A.R. Murugadoss's Tamil action film starring Sivakarthikeyan. She is scheduled to film Navjot Gulati's thriller movie Pooja Meri Jaan in addition to the filming of Vijay Deverakonda's VD13.

## Celina Jaitley on recent online trolling: Women are still treated as outlaws in a man's world

Actor Celina Jaitley addresses a recent belittling comment on social media and talks about giving a befitting reply to the troll.

In a bold move against online toxicity, actor Celina Jaitley recently clapped back at a troll who attempted to belittle her by suggesting she should stick to bikinis instead of discussing international affairs. She took to social media to address the issue head-on with a video pointing out at the comment, giving a befitting reply to the troll who wrote, 'Your job is to wear a bikini rather than commenting on International affairs'. Talking about the same, she expresses, "Sometimes it's important to stand up for yourself and if you can stand up through that process for many others it is indeed an added bonus. I specifically did it as a comedy reel. I am an actor and I like to use that power within to reach out with



occasional lessons of importance to my circle of impact."

"I believe if one can entertain and get a message across the

an overwhelmingly positive response therefore proving that preaching alone won't get the point across. We're living in a world where children are dying of wars and its aftermath This is the time when we need artists and storytellers who create works through which we can better connect to this new world, understand how we feel about it and decide what we are going to do," says the actor, in reference to her video response.

Jaitley highlights the persistent challenges faced by women in today's society, remarking, "Women are still treated as outlaws in a man's world. We have to defend every stance constantly and are judged for everything we do," the 42-year-old asserts, adding, "The perceived danger of independent women continues to invite toxic bullying and name calling. Sometimes one has to

ignore trivial barking and sometimes one must use the occasion to set the record straight. When you can't find someone to follow, you have to find a way to lead by example."

Addressing the stereotype often imposed on actresses, Jaitley questions, "Why do you think actresses are stereotyped by such people?" How can one stay away from this negativity?" "No matter how much we (woman) have achieved in our lives we have to defend every stance constantly and are judged for everything we do. The perceived danger of independent women continues to invite toxic bullying and name calling. Sometimes one has to ignore trivial barking and sometimes one must use the occasion to set the record straight. When you can't find someone to follow, you have to find a way to lead by example," Jaitley wraps up.

## Sharvari Wagh: I did a road trip with my family across New Zealand

The love for travel runs in the blood and the statement sets absolutely fit for Sharvari Wagh as her family has always been "avid travelers", so "whenever we get the time, we make a plan. I have traveled the most with them, so it's a thing." The actor, who made her Bollywood debut with Bunty Aur Babli 2, took a break from her busy schedule go to New Zealand with her family recently. "I had gone over Christmas with my family. It is kind of like a ritual because my brother is in school and gets a Christmas break, so we mostly travel around this time only. We did a road trip across New Zealand, and it was really beautiful.

The best thing about the trip was being in a car with my entire family. It was a lot of fun and connected everyone; we had no option but to sit with each other for hours and hours," she shares.

Detailing about the unique experience during the road trip, she reveals, "We made some road trip games and played them all the while. We stopped at malls, towns, cafes, local food joints, and spoke to so many local people. These kinds of experiences are very enriching, adding, "We visited places like Auckland, Queenstown, and a town called Kaikora, where we even spotted whales and sea lions. We also crossed so many farms and lands of vegetation. We picked cherries and strawberries from different farms, and they were the best that I have ever had."

Unveiling her passion for photography, Wagh also highlights her fascination with capturing moments using her manual camera. "Whenever I go anywhere, I have this keeda of carrying my camera. I have a manual vintage camera, and it is really exciting



and new to use it. New Zealand has beautiful landscapes, and I was super excited to get the camera out and click pictures to learn a new skill. My brain was constantly functioning on what to click next," the 27-year-old expresses.

"Ever since I have had a phone, I have been clicking pictures. The interest bloomed 2 years back, and I have been using a camera since then.

The fun of it is that I can click a picture of the world, and then I am not

scrolling and spending time looking at it. Once I click the picture, it's done; then I can enjoy the moment. That's what I love the most about a manual camera," she further adds.

Its not just the New Zealand trip that was memorable for her, the actor loves travelling and has many more destinations in her dream list. "A few years ago, I went to Greece. It is a beautiful place and would be in my favorites list always. In India, I would love to do this trip of the seven sisters, the whole belt. It would be a beautiful tour, and I would love to do that someday," Wagh tells us.

"Mujhe Japan jaane ka bahut mann hai, I want to go and live their culture. I don't want to go there as a tourist; I want to make sushi, and I want to live like the Japanese. It's something in my mind, and I hope I can do it someday," she signs off.

## Preity Zinta says Mani Ratnam asked her to 'wash' her face for 'Dil Se'



Actress Preity Zinta recalled how filmmaker Mani Ratnam, on the first day on the sets of her 1998 film 'Dil Se', asked her to go make-up free.

Preity took to Instagram where she shared a still from the film, starring Shah Rukh Khan (SRK) and Manisha Koirala. She said, 'This picture was taken on the first

day on the set of 'Dil Se'. I was so excited to be working with Mani Ratnam sir & Shah Rukh Khan. When Mani sir saw me he smiled and politely asked me to wash my face.... But sir... my make up will come off, I said smiling.... That's exactly what I want... Pls wash your face.... He smiled back.' Preity thought Mani Ratnam was joking.

'I thought he was joking.... Then I realised he was not!!! So thanks to the amazing Santosh Sivan (our Director of Photography) I filmed with a freshly washed face and got away with it. I guess he shot me Dil Se.'

The romantic thriller was set against the backdrop of insurgency in Assam, where Manisha played a terrorist and SRK's character was of a programme executive in a radio station.

An example of parallel cinema, 'Dil Se' is noted as the final instalment in Ratnam's trilogy consisting of Roja (1992) and Bombay (1995).

Actress Dia Mirza took to the comment section and said that Preity did not need a spot of make-up.

"Best decision! You didn't need a spot of make up I remember watching you and thinking she looks so natural, vibrant and fresh," Dia wrote.

## Honoured to be born in Gujarat, says PM Modi as he stresses on need for education based on Indian values

Was virtually addressing an event organised to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Arya Samaj founder Swami Dayanand Saraswati at his birth place Tankara in Gujarat's Morbi district

TANKARA (GUJARAT), Feb 11 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that an education system based on Indian values is the need of the hour.

He was virtually addressing an event organised to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Arya Samaj founder Swami Dayanand Saraswati at his birth place Tankara in Gujarat's Morbi district.

"Swami Dayanand Saraswati at that time showed us how our orthodoxy and social evils had harmed us," Modi said.

He said the British rulers "tried to show our society in bad light



due to orthodoxy in society".

Swami Dayanand Saraswati had advocated for equal rights for women in society, the PM said.

"An education system based on Indian values is the need of the hour. Arya Samaj schools have been a centre for this. The country is now expanding it through the National Education Policy. It is our responsibility to connect society with these efforts," he said.

PM Modi also said he was honoured to be born in Gujarat, where Swami Dayanand Saraswati was born.

## 3 die, 16 injured as speeding milk tanker ploughs into crowd in Sikkim

GANGTOK, Feb 11 (Agencies): Three people were killed and 16 injured when a speeding milk tanker ploughed into a crowd at Ranipool in Gangtok district, police said on Sunday.

A crowd had gathered at the mela ground Ranipool, about 11 km from here, to play tombola when the speeding milk tanker ploughed into them around 7.30 pm on Saturday, the police said.

The driver of the tanker has been arrested, they

said. The injured were rushed to Central Referral Hospital where doctors declared two persons brought dead and one succumbed to injuries at the hospital, they said.

Doctors at the hospital said the condition of the five of the injured was "serious".

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Sing Tamang said he was deeply saddened by the tragic accident that occurred in Ranipool.

He announced a com-

ensation of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of those who died in the tragic accident.

"We are committed to providing every possible support during this difficult time. My thoughts are with the injured and their families, and I sincerely pray for their swift recovery. I also extend my deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this tragedy, and I pray for the departed souls to rest in eternal peace", the CM said in a post on Facebook.

## Gujarat Minister Raghavji Patel suffers stroke, hospitalised

AHMEDABAD, Feb 11 (Agencies): Gujarat Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Raghavji Patel, was hospitalised after suffering a brain stroke.

The condition of the 65-year-old cabinet minister is improving, doctors said on Sunday. "Raghavji Patel suffered from haemorrhage in the right side of his brain at around 10.30 pm on Saturday in Jamnagar.

He was given primary treatment at a hospital



in Jamnagar from where he was referred to our hospital," Dr Sanjay Tilala, a neurosurgeon at Rajkot's Synergy Hospital, told news agency.

Patel, who represents the Jamnagar (Rural) assembly constituency, suffered a brain stroke while he was attending a program in Jamnagar district.

## A few switching sides won't impact INDIA bloc; Mamata still part of alliance: Sachin Pilot

NEW DELHI, Feb 11 (Agencies): Amid some INDIA bloc constituents switching sides to the NDA, Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Sunday said the opposition alliance is "strong" and the BJP is attempting a "frantic rejig" of the political landscape as it is worried over the collective strength of the coalition.

In an interview with agency, Pilot also said West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee is very much part of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), and expressed confidence that a way forward will be found in seat-sharing talks with her party.

He also said the BJP talking about 370 seats for itself and 400-plus for the NDA was more of "bravado and rhetoric" than a practical assessment on the ground.

As the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra travels through Chhattisgarh, the AICC general secretary in-charge of the state dismissed suggestions that the yatra was adversely affecting the poll preparations of the party and asserted that talks for seat-sharing with allies were going on simultaneously.

"As we speak, we are finalising seat-sharing agreements with most of our allies in different states. So it is not a question of either/or. The yatra is going



on but other things are being handled by the AICC leadership and the state in-charges. The Congress president (Mallikarjun Kharge) is himself overseeing all these meetings and negotiations that are being held," Pilot said.

"Our attempt is to make sure we fight unitedly. Yes we have had some that have left our alliance but largely the alliance is intact and very soon we will be announcing the seat sharing and a future roadmap that the alliance will come up with," the Congress general secretary told agency.

Asked about suggestions that the INDIA bloc is unravelling with JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar crossing over to the NDA, RLD's Jayant Chaudhary's imminent switch-over and Banerjee attacking the Congress, Pilot said, "Look at the amount of partners that left the NDA 'Akali Dal, Shiv Sena, PDP, AIADMK. So the number of those leaving the NDA is far larger than some of those people who may not be

with us today."

"But the INDIA bloc is strong and Mamata Banerjee is a part of the INDIA alliance, we are having discussions with the TMC," the 46-year-old leader said.

He said Nitish Kumar's switch over to the NDA raises the question of credibility also and he would have to answer to the people of Bihar when he goes to polls.

"People may come and go, one or two moving sides will not make an impact on the effort we are putting in as the INDIA bloc."

A one-on-one contest between the INDIA bloc and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is tilted in favour of the opposition coalition, Pilot claimed.

"I can assure you that with regards to the INDIA bloc the final outcome will be a positive one. Every political party has its own turf to protect. A regional party will not want to cede too much space, as a national party, we also have an obligation to our state units. So there is always going to be some

give and take," he said. "We have to be mindful of the sensitivities of each of our partners but the final objective of the alliance is to come together and present an alternative to the country, and we will achieve that," he said.

The INDIA bloc is "strong" and very soon it will announce the seat-sharing arrangements in different states, he said, adding the alliance will pose a "formidable challenge" to the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections.

An arithmetic calculation will show that the vote share of the INDIA bloc was over 60 per cent in the 2019 elections and that of the NDA was around 35 per cent, therefore, they are trying to make sure the INDIA bloc does not come together whether it is by using central agencies, misinformation, propaganda or pressure, he said.

Congress leader Sachin Pilot

Twin jolts for INDIA bloc: Mamata, Mann say no alliance with Congress for LS polls in Bengal, Punjab

"Largely all this is futile because the INDIA bloc is strong. Mamata Banerjee is part of the alliance and her primary objective is to defeat the BJP. Therefore, we will work together and find a way forward," Pilot said.

He said there is a cause for worry for the BJP and therefore "this frantic rejigging of the

political landscape is happening".

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent statement in Parliament that the BJP will get 370 seats and the NDA over 400, Pilot said Parliament is for discussing policy and legislation but that platform was used to make a purely political speech on the eve of the general elections.

"It was a sort of bravado and chest-thumping. I think the people of India will decide and no election is won or lost till the last vote is counted. I have great faith in the wisdom and objectivity of our voters, they know the difference between truth and propaganda," he said.

The INDIA bloc coming together is certainly a worry for the BJP and this thing about "300 paar, 400 paar" is more rhetoric than a true reflection of reality, he said.

Pilot claimed that the BJP's poll plank is very unclear as it is not going to the people with its 10-year report card or with a blueprint on how to deal with "record unemployment, sky-rocketing inflation, agrarian distress and ever-increasing gap between the rich and poor".

"They have not come through on their commitments for doubling farmers' income, providing jobs, legal framework for MSP, or on eradicating black money," he said.

## Three Bodies Found In Agra Home, Police Suspect Suicide Over Debt Of Rs 1.5 Crore



LUCKNOW, Feb 11 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, three members of a family were found dead at their home in Agra, cops said. While the circumstances around the deaths are still unknown, police suspect that the family may

have committed suicide.

The incident came to light when Tarun alias Jolly, a piper trader, was found hanging when the domestic help arrived for her routine work today morning. She immediately informed the neighbours, who called the police.

When cops arrived at the house, they also found the bodies of Tarun's mother and his 12-year-old son in another room.

According to reports, the police found a video from the businessman's mobile which was recorded just before his death, in which he has explained the grim motives behind the incident.

In the video recorded months ago, Jolly said that he had incurred a substantial business loss, amounting to approximately ₹ 1.5 crore. Plagued by mounting debts, the trader decided to take a drastic step.

## War of words between NDA, Mahagathbandhan ahead of Bihar floor test tomorrow

PATNA, Feb 11 (Agencies): At a time when keeping the flock together remains the most pertinent question for political parties in Bihar, as the newly inducted NDA government is set to undergo floor test in the Budget Session on Monday, yet another war of words has erupted between the ruling NDA and Mahagathbandhan.

Political maneuvering became visible with clear optics as informal, yet critical get-togethers were organised in ruling and Opposition camps almost back to back.

To start with, the lunch for JDU legislators at the residence of minister Shrawan Kumar saw several legislators missing. Interestingly, even Chief Minister Nitish Kumar did not spend much time there.

Second was the one at Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav's official residence, where RJD legislators were later joined by their CPIML colleagues. Later,

the support staff of the legislators were spotted sending clothes and other essentials inside, saying their respective bosses demanded them to do so.

In a statement, clarifying the RJD legislators' 'stay-over' at Tejashwi's residence, MP Manoj Jha said the legislators had decided to spend the next 48 hours together. He also said the RJD MLAs were playing 'antakshari' inside.

Later, a video that emerged from Tejashwi's residence triggered yet another volley of potshots between the incumbent NDA and the Opposition! While the RJD claimed that the Mahagathbandhan was intact and the legislators were enjoying their time together, the BJP claimed that the RJD, fearing a defection, had 'kidnapped' its MLAs.

"These kidnapped MLAs are forced to put up a smiling face for Tejashwi's PR activities and are further pushed to



sing songs," BJP spokesperson Kuntal Krishna alleged.

"The song 'Na chhedo humein hum sataye hue hain...' actually depicts the pain and grief of honourable RJD MLAs," he claimed.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras claimed that the deal was already through due to which the RJD leadership was forced to hold its MLAs in Patna.

They have been held captive at

Tejashwi's residence as they're afraid of the 'Khela' themselves, claimed Paras.

Predicting an imminent mutiny within the RJD's ranks, JDU MP Sunil Kumar Pintu claimed that Tejashwi's decision to keep his legislators at his residence shows that the party is wary of its MLAs.

He further claimed that the RJD would find it difficult to meet their own numbers, let alone the magic figure.

## Man accused of sexually assaulting minor girl in Thane acquitted after victim turns hostile

THANE, Feb 11 (Agencies): A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has acquitted a 31-year-old man accused of sexually assaulting and harassing a minor girl in 2019 after the victim and her mother turned hostile.

Special POC SO court judge V V Virkar, in the order passed on February 4, held that the prosecution has failed to prove the charges against the accused, who needs to be given the benefit of doubt.

A copy of the order was made available on Sunday.

The prosecution alleged that on November 17, 2019, the man, resident of Thakurpada in Kalwa area of Thane, sexually assaulted and

harassed the girl, then aged 13 and residing in the same area.

The accused on several earlier occasions followed the girl, made advances towards her and touched her inappropriately, the prosecution claimed.

The man was booked under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

However, defense counsels contested the charges and told the court that all the allegations against the accused were false and baseless.

The judge in her order said as far as the contents of the complaint or happening of the inci-

dent are concerned, the testimony of the investigation officer "cannot be said to be of any use to the prosecution and such contents can be said to be proved only upon the evidence of the prosecutrix or her mother to whom she narrated the incident."

"But as is clear, the prosecutrix and her mother did not support the prosecution case and turned hostile, there is nothing on record to establish the allegations as mentioned in the complaint," she said.

Hence, none of the allegations can be held to have been proved against the accused, the court said, while acquitting him of all charges in the case.

## Israel PM "Promises Safe Passage" To Palestinians Ahead Of Big Military Op

**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the plan for a ground operation in Rafah only days after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Israel seeking a ceasefire and hostage-prisoner exchange.**

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, Feb 11 (Agencies): The threat of an Israeli incursion into Gaza's southernmost town of Rafah persisted Sunday, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised "safe passage" to civilians displaced there.

In an interview airing Sunday, Netanyahu reiterated his intention to extend Israel's military operation against Hamas into Rafah.

Despite international alarm over the potential for carnage in a place crammed with more than half of the Gaza Strip's 2.4 million people, Netanyahu told ABC News: "We're going to do it".

"We're going to do it while providing safe passage for the civilian population so they can leave," he said, according to published extracts of the interview.

It remains unclear, however, where the large number of people pressed up against the border with Egypt and sheltering in makeshift tents can go.

When asked, Netanyahu would only say they are "working out a detailed plan".

As Israeli forces have pushed steadily southwards, Rafah has become the last major population centre in Gaza that troops have yet to enter, even as it is bombarded by air strikes almost daily.

"They said Rafah is safe, but it is not. All places are being targeted," Palestinian Mohammed Saydam said after an Israeli strike destroyed a police vehicle in the city on Saturday.

The Israeli premier, who contends "victory" over Hamas cannot be achieved without clearing battalions in Rafah, directed his military on Friday to prepare for the operation. His announcement set off a chorus of concern from world leaders and aid groups.

"The people in Gaza cannot disappear into thin air," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock wrote on social media platform X, adding that an Israeli



offensive on Rafah would be a "humanitarian catastrophe in the making."

Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry warned Saturday of "very serious repercussions of storming and targeting" Rafah and called for an urgent UN Security Council meeting, while UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron said he is "deeply concerned" about the prospective offensive.

"The priority must be an immediate pause in the fighting to get aid in and hostages out," he wrote.

- Sharpening US rebuke -

The war in Gaza was sparked by Palestinian Islamist group Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on Israel, which resulted in the deaths of about 1,160 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

Vowing to eliminate Hamas, Israel launched a massive military offensive in Gaza that the territory's health ministry says has killed at least 28,064 people, mostly women and children.

Militants also seized 250 hostages, 132 of whom are still in Gaza, although 29 are presumed dead, Israel has said.

Netanyahu announced the plan for a ground operation in Rafah only days after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Israel seeking a ceasefire and hostage-prisoner exchange.

Netanyahu has rejected the proposed truce after what he called "bizarre demands" from Hamas.

But Israel's plans for Rafah

have drawn sharp rebuke from main ally and military backer Washington, with the State Department warning that if not properly planned, such an operation risks "disaster".

In unusually sharp criticism, US President Joe Biden on Thursday called Israel's retaliatory campaign "over the top".

Gaza's Hamas rulers warned on Saturday that a full-scale Israeli invasion of Rafah could cause "tens of thousands" of casualties.

The office of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas said the move "threatens security and peace in the region and the world" and is "a blatant violation of all red lines".

The Hamas-run territory's health ministry said on Sunday that 94 people were killed in overnight bombardments across Gaza, including in Rafah.

The Israeli military said it killed two "senior Hamas operatives" in a strike on Rafah Saturday.

It was part of a wider bombardment that killed at least 25 people in the city, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

- UNRWA under pressure -

To the north in Gaza City, Israel's military claimed that its troops uncovered a Hamas tunnel under the evacuated headquarters of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz called for its head, Philippe Lazzarini, to quit.

Lazzarini said the agency had not operated from the com-

pound since October 12 when staff evacuated it under instruction from Israeli forces.

Already under pressure after Israel claimed 12 UNRWA staff were involved in the October 7 Hamas attack, he called for an independent investigation into the latest Israeli accusations.

An agency photographer was among a number of journalists taken to the compound and tunnel by the Israeli military on Thursday.

UN premises are considered "inviolable" in international law and immune from "search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference".

Hamas has repeatedly denied Israeli accusations that it has dug a network of tunnels under schools, hospitals and other civilian infrastructure as cover for its activities.

On Sunday, Israeli government spokesperson Eylon Levy called UNRWA "a Hamas front".

- Public fury -

The war, now in its fifth month, has spawned intensifying public fury in Israel.

Protesters took to the streets of Tel Aviv on Saturday night to demand the release of the hostages, Netanyahu step down and fresh elections be called.

"It's clear Netanyahu is dragging out the war, he has no idea what to do on the day after," Israeli protester Gil Gordon said.

The war has had far-reaching impact well beyond Israel and Gaza, with violence involving Iran-backed allies of Hamas surging across the Middle East.

A senior Hamas officer survived an Israeli assassination attempt in Lebanon, Palestinian and Lebanese security sources told agency, but two other people including a Hezbollah member were killed in the attack.

And in Syria, Israeli strikes near Damascus killed three people, a war monitor said, adding the targeted neighbourhood hosted villas for top military and civilian officials.

## 'Say it to my face': Nikki Haley's challenge to Trump after he mocks her husband



WASHINGTON, Feb 11 (Agencies): Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley lashed out at former President and his rival in the polls, Donald Trump, on Sunday after he questioned why Haley's husband wasn't on the campaign trail. Responding sharply to Trump, she asked him for a direct debate instead of saying things behind her back.

"Michael is deployed serving our country, something you know nothing about... Donald, if you have

something to say, don't say it behind my back. Get on a debate stage and say it to my face," she said in a campaign event.

In a statement later, Haley said, "If you mock the service of a combat veteran, you don't deserve a driver's licence, let alone to be the President of the United States."

Trump, while campaigning in Nikki Haley's home turf South Carolina on Saturday, questioned "What happened to her [Haley] husband?"

"Where is he? He's gone. He knew. He knew," Trump said.

"Donald Trump had a rally in South Carolina today. And at that rally, he mocked my husband's military service. My husband, Michael, is deployed serving our country. I'm proud of Michael's service. Every military spouse knows it's a family sacrifice," Haley said.

She urged her supporters to elect a commander in chief who "supports our troops and understands the sacrifices our military families make".

"Getting involved in this election has never been more important. This is a battle for the soul of our country," Haley added.

Nikki Haley is Trump's last remaining rival for the Republican presidential nomination. Both leaders held events across South Carolina in the past few days, during which they attacked each other, ahead of the February 24 Republican primary.

## Fractured mandate in Pakistan polls; PML invites MQM to discuss poll strategy

ISLAMABAD, Feb 11 (Agencies): Amid split mandate in the Pakistan general polls, hectic parleys are on among the political parties to stitch an alliance and form the government.

PML(N) has invited MQM(P) delegation to discuss poll strategies.

Earlier, PML(N) supreme Nawaz Sharif had claimed that his party has emerged as the single largest party in the polls and invited political parties, barring PTI, to come together



and form a coalition government, Dawn reported.

PML(N) president Shehbaz Sharif and PPP president Asif Ali Zardari had held dis-

ussion but would be consulting with their parties to form coalition government, PML(N) spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb told a TV channel.

## Imran Khan's party-backed independents lead in final tally in Pakistan elections

ISLAMABAD, Feb 11 (Agencies): Pakistan's election commission on Sunday declared the final result of Thursday's general elections in which independent candidates backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party got the biggest piece of the cake by winning 101 seats.

The unusual delay in the announcement of results vitiated the atmosphere as several parties cried foul play and some resorted to protests.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced the results of 264 out of 265 contested seats.

The result of NA 88 in Khushab in Punjab province was withheld by the ECP due to complaints of fraud and it would be announced after redressing the grievances of the aggrieved. Election to one seat was postponed after the death of a can-



didate.

Independent candidates, a vast majority of them backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), secured 101 seats in the National Assembly.

They were followed by three-time former Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) with 75 seats, which technically is the single largest party in Parliament.

The Pakistan Peoples Party of Bilawal Zardari Bhutto got 54 seats, and the Karachi-based Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P)

of Urdu-speaking people who migrated from India during partition, got 17 seats.

Other smaller parties won the rest of the 12 seats.

To form a government, a party must win 133 seats out of 265 contested seats in the National Assembly.

Overall, 169 seats are needed to secure a simple majority out of a total of 336 seats in the National Assembly, which include the reserved slots for women and minorities which will be decided later.

Meanwhile, the complete results of the three provincial assemblies of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa have been announced but the results of the three constituencies of the Balochistan assembly were still pending.

In Punjab's 296 contested seats, independents got 138 seats, closely followed by PML-N with 137 and other parties getting 21 seats.

In Sindh's total 130 contested seats, results of 129 were announced while the ECP ordered a re-poll in one constituency due to corruption.

In Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, a total of 113 seats were up for grabs, and results of 112 seats had been announced and withheld the outcome on one seat.

Earlier, elections on two seats were postponed before election day due to the deaths of the candidates.

## 3 gunmen shoot dead 9 Pakistanis in Iran; injure 3 others

DUBAI, Feb 11 (Agencies): Three unidentified gunmen have shot and killed at least nine

Pakistani nationals and wounded 3 others in southeastern Iran on Sunday, semi-official

Tasnim news agency reported according to a provincial security official.

This follows a similar incident last month that took the lives of nine Pakistani workers.

## "Using Son's Death To...": US First Lady Slams Report On Biden Age Concerns

**Jill Biden's defence came in response to the voluminous report of Special Counsel Robert Hur in which he said that Biden, 81, "willfully" mishandled classified documents as a private citizen.**



WASHINGTON, Feb 11 (Agencies): US First Lady Jill Biden has come out in defence of her husband President Joe Biden's health and memory and she slammed the special counsel for using their son's death to score political points.

Her defence came in response to the voluminous report of Special Counsel Robert Hur in which he said that Biden, 81, "willfully" mishandled classified documents as a private citizen.

The special counsel in his report early this week recommended against filing any charges against Biden for misuse of classified documents when he was a private citizen but made scathing observations on his mental health and memory and claimed that the president did not even remember the date of the death of his son.

"The reason I'm writing is because of what else was in the report: Inaccurate and personal political attacks about Joe. Rather than just saying the case was closed, as they have for others, the Special Counsel claimed that Joe "couldn't remember the year his son died." Believe me, like anyone who has lost a child, Beau and his death never leave him," Jill wrote in a mass email to her supporters on Saturday "I hope you can imagine how it felt to read that attack -- not just as Joe's wife, but as Beau's mother. I don't know what this Special Counsel was trying to achieve," she said.

Beau Biden, who died of brain cancer in 2015, appears 16 times in the pages of the report prepared by Hur, the special counsel appointed to investigate Biden's handling of classified documents

after serving as vice president until 2017.

"We should give everyone grace, and I can't imagine someone would try to use our son's death to score political points. If you've experienced a loss like that, you know that you don't measure it in years -- you measure it in grief," she said.

"May 30th is a day forever etched on our hearts. It shattered me, it shattered our family" she said.

She said Biden's experience and expertise are assets.

"Joe is 81, that's true, but he's 81 doing more in an hour than most people do in a day. Joe has wisdom, empathy, and vision. He has delivered on so many of his promises as President precisely because he's learned a lot in those 81 years. His age, with his experience and expertise, is an incredible asset and he proves it every day," Jill Biden said.

"Look at all he's accomplished: He brought our country back from COVID. He brought our economy back from the brink. He created 14 million jobs. Gas prices are down. Inflation is down. Energy costs are down. He got bipartisan legislation passed -- even in the midst of this hyper-partisan environment. The media may not give him credit, but I'm thankful you realise all he's done for this country," she said.

"Joe is the most resilient person I've ever known," she wrote.

## 1200 take part in Paras Health 'Run for health' on cancer awareness



### Top News Report

JAMMU / PANCHKULA, Feb 11: As many as 1200 participants including doctors, army personnel, senior citizens, women and kids participated in 'Run for health' on cancer awareness, which was organized by Paras Health Panchkula in association with Blue-buck media at Panchkula on Sunday.

S. Paramjeet Singh and Giani Jagjeet Singh, Administrator and Head Granthi at Gurdwara Nada Sahib respectively were chief guests during the occasion. Speaking during the occasion, Dr Pankaj Mittal facility director Paras Health said that 'Run for health' was organized on this year's World Cancer

Day theme of 'close the care gap'. We tried to make sure participation of people from all walks of life in the Run to spread awareness on this theme. Addressing participants, Paras cancer center experts said that one third of the cancers can be prevented by lifestyle modification. One should stop smoking,

limit alcohol intake, lose weight and exercise regularly.

Eat more fruits, vegetables and whole grains and less meat. Add more fruits, vegetables and fiber to your diet, experts maintained.

Meanwhile, the 5 km Run in male category was won by Rahul. Ashok and Siddhant got second and third place respectively. In the 10 km male, Dayal emerged the winner followed by Garu and Pankaj. In the women's 10 km, Nandini won the Run. Payal and Reeta remained at second and third places respectively. Jaspreet won the 21 km male Run followed by Amit and Amit Kumar at second and third places respectively. Manisha won the women's 21 km Run with Mukesh Kumari and Paramjit Kaur getting second and third places respectively.

## JKTJAC holds meeting at Chenani, demands resolution of burning issues

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: A meeting of Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) today on 11.02.2024 held at Chenani under the leadership of Zonal President Ajaz Ahmed Wani wherein UT President Vinod Sharma, District President Lekh Raj Parihar, UT Chief Press and Media Secretary Sukesh Khajuria and District Chief Organiser Sandeep Sharma were chiefly present as special invitees. The meeting was attended by a large number of teachers from eight clusters of zone Chenani including executive members of JKTJAC.

While speaking on the occasion Mr Vinod Sharma demanded the resolution of genuine issues of the teaching fraternity which include:- Conversion of RREts to Teachers Grade II/ III; Regularisation of ReTs who have completed their 5 years ReT period; Comprehensive



transfer policy in favour of teachers appointed under ReT scheme who have been working in the same schools for last more than two decades;

Conversion of head-teachers posts into non plan posts of masters; Issuance of mutual transfer list of inter district of teachers Grade II/III;

Provision of permission to Teachers/masters to enhance their qualifications.

Speaking on the occasion District President Lekh Raj Parihar demanded the Issuance of DPC list of teachers to masters who have been

waiting for the same for a long time and immediate release of pending dues of Mid Day Meals which the teachers have managed from their own pockets.

While speaking zonal president Ajaz Ahmed Wani raised the issue of updating of service books of the teachers of zone Chenani and also demanded release of CA in favour of teachers who have worked in the area on rationalisation.

Others who were present on the occasion included Jagdish Chander Sharma, Rajinder Singh Katoch, Shankar Singh, Jai Parkash, Shabir Ahmed, Ranjit

Singh, Bashir Ahmed, Mohd Ashraf, Ashok Singh, Tilk Raj Sharma, Ranjeet Singh, Vijay Kumar, Vishamber Singh, Kulbeer Singh, Nishat Bhat, Mohinder Singh, Subash Singh, Sanjay Singh, Pardeep Singh, Kafit Ullah, Ram Lal, Rakesh Tripathi, Kuldeep Singh, Ravi Kumar, Romesh Singh, Ganesh Dass, Jagdish Chander, Omkar Chand, Kartar Sharma, Girdhari Lal Sharma, Darshan Kumar, Chanchal Singh, Ashok Singh, Atul Mathur, Rakesh Kumar, Yash Paul, Mohinder Goswami, Mohinder Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Vabal Singh, Jagdev Singh, Madan Kumar, Sansar Chand, Shankar Singh, Amit Sharma, Subash Chander, Sushil Kumar, Atul Bharti, Kuldeep Raj, Yashpau Singh, Niku Ram, Santosh Kumar, Krishan Singh, Jai Chand, Kamlesh Singh, Mohar Singh, Mohinder Goswami, Joginder Sharma, Sudesh Kumar and many others.

## JLS condemned attacks of BJP Activists in Pune on freedom of art and expression, demanding strict action

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: On February 2 this month, the play 'Jab We Met', which was being staged as an exam assignment at Savitribai Phule, Pune University's Fine Arts Center, was disrupted by the RSS-BJP affiliated student organization ABVP and caused ruckus and vandalism. ABVP and BYUM registered an FIR against Prof. Pravin Dattatreya Bhole and five other students, on the basis of which these six people were arrested. The university administration sided with the rioters and called their statement not only an apology for hurting sentiments but also a 'parody of a mythical or historical figure' as 'completely wrong and prohibited'. After that, the meeting of the management council of the university on February 6 started with the slogan of 'Jai Shriram' by many members.

Exactly the same situation was witnessed in 2022 at Sayajirao University in Varoda, Gujarat where members of ABVP vandalized an exhibition being held for the evaluation of examinations in the Faculty of Fine Arts, before the commencement of the exhibition and then vandalized the artwork. Feelings were 'hurt', the varsity syndicate dismissed its perpetrators, first-year student Kundan Yadav, and issued show-cause notices to his teachers, supervisors and the dean of the faculty.

A few days after the Pune University incident, a lecture by 66-year-old senior journalist Nikhil Wagle, lawyer Asim Sarode and Vishwambhar Chaudhary and their colleagues was held by the Nirbhay Banon Vichar Manch in Pune on February 9. All of them were



detained by the police for 3 hours before leaving to the venue. They were chased by the mob of BJP workers and attacked with stones, ink, egg and iron bars 4 times at different places within half an hour on Prabhat Road, Karve Road, Shastri Marg and Dandekar Bridge. The assailants severely damaged his car in a deadly attack. But Pune Police did not arrested any BJP workers at the time of attack.

The 'Janwadi Lekhak Sangh' strongly condemns this hooliganism and murderous attacks on organizations associated with radical Communal organisations. These attacks are direct attacks on freedom of expression. For the past several years, writers and intellectuals who have questioned the government have been targeted. After the attack, Nikhil Wagle tweeted that "This attack happened with the collusion of the police. They are not afraid of this attack and it can not stop their voices. This is the land of Jotiba Phule and Ambedkar."

Janavadi Writers Sangh con-

demns the attack on Savitribai Phule Pune University and the attitude of the administration and police in this regard. The central executive of the JLS also demanded that the charges levelled against the chairman and students of the Faculty of Fine Arts should be withdrawn and that appropriate action should be taken immediately against those who created ruckus and vandalism in the name of hurting sentiments.

In Maharashtra, attacks by frenzied mobs are increasing in BJP regime. The role of the Maharashtra government in all these attacks ambiguous. These brutal violent attacks are attempt to forcefully suppress freedom of expression. The Janawadi Lekhak Sangh demanded the strict police action against these fascist attackers of RSS-BJP workers. JLS Maharashtra State Committee strongly condemned these two recent violent incidents and has appealed to all the artists and writers associated with the art and writing fields of the country to openly oppose this oppression.

## 154 government employees sacked over anti-national activities: LG Sinha

JAMMU, Feb 11 (Agencies): As many as 154 government employees were removed from service so far after they were found involved in terror activities. Action against such people will continue, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said here.

Speaking at the ET Now Global Business Summit 2024 here, he said that 154 government employees were removed from service after they were found involved in terror activities. Action against such people will continue, he asserted.

Holding Article 370 responsible for terrorism and separatism in Jammu and Kashmir, the LG took a dig at previous governments and accused them of pushing Jammu and Kashmir into turmoil. Sinha said while stone pelting and strikes at the behest of Pakistan has become history, today's reality is that the youth are holding the tricolour with pride.

Cinema halls were reopened in the Valley after 30 years and markets no longer wear a deserted look, he said. "The transformation

in Jammu and Kashmir is credited to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, achieving once deemed impossible targets, notably the Article 370 abrogation. Stone pelting and Pakistan-backed strikes are history, with the region now progressing akin to other parts of India, witnessing the revival of nightlife and cinema halls. Sinha affirmed his administration's firm stance against Pakistan supporters, prioritizing the restoration of law and order," the LG added.

## Army Personnel Interact with People at Rajouri

RAJOURI, Feb 11: Army personnel interacted with prominent personalities & opinion makers of Darhal at Rajouri. It was an informal interaction, wherein the issues of development of area and its people, to include infrastructure development, social welfare, education, religious harmony & important role played by Army were discussed. Civilian dignitaries lauded this confidence building measure of the Indian Army.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Cash rewards offered by Police for Anti-National Activity Tips

terrorist handlers across the border or with their agents within JK and branding citizens as informers.

A reward of Rs one lakh has been announced for persons who give information about persons in masjids or madrassas or schools or colleges who are encouraging, inducing and inciting people to join terrorist ranks or to pick up gun and the information gets corroborated during investigation/enquiries that are initiated on receipt of the information.

General public may give information to, SSP Srinagar on 9419096599, SSP Ganderbal on 9419130411, SSP Budgam on 9419059877, SSP Anantnag on 7051117500, SSP Kulgam on 7051510651, SSP Shopian on 7006045309, SSP Awantipora on 9419157306, SSP Pulwama on 9818774764, SSP Baramulla on 7051000999, SSP Handwara on 9419049747, SSP Kupwara on 6005904906, SSP Sopore on 9596773001, SSP Bandipora on 9596767418, Telephone number of Jammu zone, SSP Jammu on 9419351111, SSP Kathua on 9419030202, SSP Samba on 9419119266, SSP Udhampur on 9419010420, SSP Reasi on 925571332, SSP Poonch on 9419102402, SSP Rajouri on 9541900721, SSP Doda on 9469076014, SSP Ramban on 9716033581 and SSP Kishtwar on 9419172000.

### Security tightened near

### Tikri border ahead of farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' march

Shambhu border...When they come here, we will request that they not go beyond this because they do not have permission for it. We want them to end the movement peacefully...

Deputy Superintendent of Police Subhash Chandra and Sirsa Sadar Police Station Incharge Sukhdev Singh are present at the spot to oversee security arrangements.

Traffic restrictions have been imposed on vehicular movement between Haryana and Punjab. Roads leading to Punjab have been blocked near Dabwali, Rodi, and Kalanwali in Haryana.

According to Panchkula DCP Sumer Singh Pratap, "Section 144 has been imposed in Panchkula. A ban was imposed on taking out processions, demonstrations, march pasts on foot or with tractor trolleys and other vehicles, and carrying any sticks, rods or weapons."

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar-led Haryana government on Saturday announced the suspension of mobile internet, bulk SMS, and all dongle services in several districts till February 13 in view of the farmers call.

According to a notification issued by the Haryana administration, bulk SMS and all dongle services provided on mobile networks, except voice calls, will remain suspended.

According to an official order, mobile internet services will remain suspended in seven districts—Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad, and Sirsa—

from 6 am on February 11 till 11.59 pm on February 13.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, security was tightened in Jind, Haryana, ahead of the scheduled 'Delhi Chalo' march of the farmers.

Earlier Jind Police issued a traffic advisory as a precautionary measure for the convenience of the passengers. Motorists and commuters have been advised to use the main roads of the state only in urgent situations on the day of the scheduled march.

### CAPF constable Exam being conducted in 13 regional languages for first time

constable (GD) examination in the Central Armed Police Forces conducted by the SSC in their mother tongue and make a career in the service of the nation, the statement said.

### Gulmarg witnesses tourist surge after much awaited snowfall

18 and expected a lot of snow. However, there was no snowfall and I had to wait for a long time to witness one. I travelled to Chandigarh, Shimla and Dharamshala just waiting for proper conditions. I am happy being here now," he said.

Like Andrew, hundreds of tourists from the country and abroad are visiting the famous ski resort to enjoy their time with families in the peaceful and tranquil atmo-

sphere of Gulmarg, around 50 km from the summer capital Srinagar.

With the arrival of fresh snow, tourists from far and wide are flocking to Gulmarg to experience the thrill of skiing down the powdery slopes and revel in the serene beauty of the snow-covered mountains.

The dry spell over the last two months, including Chilai-e-Kalan — the harshest 40-day winter period when the chances of snow are higher — had prompted many tourists to either cancel or postpone their visit to the Valley.

According to the tourism department, the destination witnessed a staggering influx of 19,532 tourists within just six days of February after the fresh bout of snow.

The data available with the department says 15,086 domestic visitors, 4,290 locals and 156 foreigners have visited Gulmarg from February 1 to 6.

"We had put our booking to Kashmir on hold for two months because of no snowfall. However, as soon as we heard of snowfall, we rushed to Kashmir," Rohit, who comes from Madhya Pradesh, said.

Rohit came in a car to Srinagar in a tiring 24-hour journey after his flight to Srinagar got cancelled due to fresh snowfall.

"It's really heaven here, it is truly beautiful. It's for the first time I am witnessing something like this," he said, adding that he also enjoyed sledding during his trip to Gulmarg.

He urged the fellow countrymen to visit Kashmir at least once in their life to enjoy the natural beauty of the Valley.

Not just Rohit, but many tourists from other parts of the country have also been left spellbound by the mesmerizing beauty of Gulmarg.

Among them is Deepanshi from Hary-

ana, who waited for nearly three months to embark on her dream trip to Kashmir.

"Finally, we are here in Gulmarg, the winter wonderland and we are enjoying it a lot. It's gorgeous. We are playing in the snow and having a great time here," she added.

Tourism stakeholders are happy and hopeful of further surge in the arrival of visitors with the start of the second edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 from February 21 to 25.

Originally scheduled to take place in Gulmarg from February 2 to 6, the fourth edition of the grassroots-level multi-sports competition was shifted from J&K to the Union Territory of Ladakh for the first time due to lack of snow in the top skiing destination of the country.

Jammu and Kashmir hosted the previous editions of the games in 2020, 2021 and 2023.

The weatherman has predicted another bout of snowfall at many places in Jammu and Kashmir from February 18 to 20.

### 2 brothers held for robbing man after posing as Policemen in Samba

cap allegedly used in the crime, the officer said.

He said the arrested accused are hardcore criminals and it is a matter of investigation whether they were involved in any other such incident in the past.

Police have registered a case under the relevant sections of law and further investigation is on, the officer said.

## Chhattisgarh budget aims to put economy on high road

*Chhattisgarh's budget is a comprehensive roadmap for doubling GDP while ensuring inclusive and sustainable economic growth.*

RAIPUR, Feb 11 (Agencies): Chhattisgarh budget's focus on GYAN will rejuvenate more than 70% of the state's population. The infrastructure push will have a spillover effect on socio-economic development and large-scale industrial investments. The state is poised to double incomes in the next five years.

The budget focuses on ten pillars: Economic Development: Gareeb, Yuva, Anndata & Naari (GYAN), rapid economic growth through technology driven reforms governance, maximum capital expenditure, optimum utilization of natural resources, emphasis on new possibilities of service sector of the economy, ensuring private investments, focus on Bastar-Surguja, Decentralized Development Pockets (DDP), promoting Chhattisgarhi culture and importance of implementation.

Considering the socio-economic patterns and past downturns, the state has very rightly focussed on Gareeb, Yuva, Anndata and Naari (GYAN), which will cover more than 70% of the state's population. GYAN has become popular for the socio-economic development of India. The Interim Budget of the Central Government for 2024-25 has a significant focus on GYAN. The Chhattisgarh government has also followed

suit.

To support the GYAN segments of the states' economy, the budget has announced numerous initiatives, including Rs 8369 crore for the Awas Yojana, Rs 10 thousand crore for the Krishi Unnati Yojana, with special attention to Bastar and Surguja regions for economic development, an annual Rs 12000 under Mahtari Vandan Yojana for eligible women, Udyam Kranti Yojana to provide self-employment to the youth and the establishment of Chhattisgarh Institutes of Technology, among others.

Focus on the use of Artificial Intelligence in governance and administration will speed up the economic growth trajectory of the state. The free ration for five years will help the poor in the multidimensional poverty, whereas Rs 10,000 crore to farmers will bring enhanced productivity of the farm sector and boost the aggregate demand in the state.

Chhattisgarh's budget is a comprehensive roadmap for doubling GDP while ensuring inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Chhattisgarh's Viksit Yatra is paving the way for Viksit Bharat 2047. The Budget aims to double the state's GDP from Rs 5 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore within five years and approximately double the

incomes of the people of the state.

The capital expenditure of the state for FY 2024-25 is estimated to Rs 22,300 crore which is 15% of total budget and 20% higher than previous year budget. This is up from the last five years' average Capital Expenditure of 12%. The budget allocates Rs 266 crore for technical enrichment, with a 20% boost in capital expenditure.

Under the Decentralized Development Process, various initiatives have been announced such as; Development of State Capital Region (SCR) around Raipur-Bhilai area for world class IT Sector, Wedding, Education & Health Destination, Livelihood Center of Excellence in Nava Raipur, Center of Entrepreneurship in Bhilai, along with focus on development of cities such as Raipur, Nava Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Bhilai, Ambikapur, Jagdalpur, Korba & Raigarh, etc. as "Growth Engine" and Special focus and encouragement to Agricultural & Rural Development, among others.

The budget has announced highly supportive strategic measures for the industrial sector to further enhance the ease of doing business, such as Provision of Rs. 5 crores for organizing Invest Chhattisgarh, "Plug & Play Model" for growth of IT industry & genera-

tion of IT employment in Nava Raipur, Industry Policy to be drafted focusing rich industry areas such as Korba, Janjgir, Raigarh, Urla, Siltara, etc.

Start-up incubation centers and IT Parks to be formed for promoting start up culture and other IT services in the state, ease of doing business, adoption of PPP model, minimum government and maximum governance, single window system and online permission have also been announced to boost the industrial development of the state.

The state is rich in natural resources and hence optimum utilization of Natural Resources is one of the pillars that the budget has focused on for the state's holistic development, such as, preparation of Climate Action Plan for reduction in carbon emission in addition to encouragement to solar rooftop, e-Vehicles, adoption of Kusum Yojna, and development of Eco-tourism and Naturo-therapy centers in Bastar and Surguja areas, among others.

The Economic Survey 2023-24 of the state highlights the agriculture and allied sector to contribute 15.32% in GSDP at constant prices in 2023-24. The manufacturing sector is projected to contribute 34.63% and the services sector is projected to contribute 31.19% in the GSDP

during the same period. The state has advantages to create employment in manufacturing as a significant proportion of manufacturing contributes to the GSDP. At this juncture, more ease of doing business and efforts to reduce cost of doing business, including, Costs of capital, costs of power, costs of logistics, costs of land /availability of land, costs of labor/availability of skilled labor, and costs of compliance, will attract chunks of investments and create lakhs of employment opportunities for the growing young population.

In FY 2024-25, the Gross Fiscal Deficit of the state is estimated to Rs. 19,696 crores (including Rs. 3,400 crores of Special Assistance for Capital Expenditure by GoI). Hence, the Net Fiscal Deficit of the state is estimated to Rs. 16,296 crores which is 2.90% of GSDP. This is within the limit of 3% set in the FRBM Act. The benign fiscal scenario of the state will be lucrative destination for domestic and global investors to come and make in Chhattisgarh.

The Rs 1 lakh 47 thousand 500 crore Budget for the financial year 2024-25 is a vision document to transform Chhattisgarh from a developing to a developed state by 2047 which has been named "Amrit Kaal-Chhattisgarh Vision at 2047".

## RMC Switchgears unveils subsidiary for Water Management in India with IoT Tech



JAIPUR, Feb 11 (Agencies): RMC Switchgears Limited ('RMC') is pleased to announce the establishment of its new subsidiary, Intelligent Hydrel Solutions Private Limited, marking a significant stride in the realm of Water IoT Solutions.

With a majority stake of 51% in the newly formed entity, RMC is set to make its mark in the water management sector through innovative, intelligent solutions tailored for the Indian landscape.

This venture comes at a critical time for India, where water scarcity and inefficient water management pose significant challenges to sustainable development.

By leveraging IoT and smart technologies,

RMC aims to enhance the efficiency of water use, reduce waste, and improve water quality across various sectors.

In a statement, Ankit Agrawal, Whole-time Director & CFO of RMC Switchgears Limited, emphasized the significance of this initiative, "The formation of Intelligent Hydrel Solutions is a direct response to India's acute need for advanced water management solutions."

"By integrating IoT technology with our expertise in electrical and water systems, we are poised to make an impact on how water is conserved, distributed, and managed," he said.

"This initiative not only represents a significant business opportunity for RMC but also our commitment to contributing

to a sustainable future for India," Agrawal added.

Intelligent Hydrel Solutions Private Limited is founded with the mission to address the pressing needs of water distribution, treatment, conservation, and monitoring in India.

The company is dedicated to developing, installing, and maintaining smart solutions (both hardware and software) that cater to the comprehensive management of water resources.

These include systems for water distribution, treatments, filtration, conservation, restoration, monitoring, accounting, and the treatment of wastewater or sewer using advanced physical, chemical, or biological processes.

Additionally, Intelligent Hydrel Solutions aims to innovate in the domain of smart devices and hardware for water, gas, and electrical solutions, focusing on IoT-based applications for both low voltage and high voltage electrical systems.

## Ensure compliance of order on bicycle reflectors: Avon Cycles appeals to BIS

CHANDIGARH, Feb 11 (Agencies): The Managing Director of Avon Cycles, Onkar Singh Pahwa, has appealed to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to enforce the compliance of quality control order on mandatory cycle reflectors to save cyclists from accidents.

The Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety directed the implementation of 10 mandatory reflectors as per ISO 6742-2 on new adult bicycles on September 1, 2016, to enhance the visibility of cyclists' and protect their lives. Subsequently, a quality control order (QCO) under the BIS Act and regulation on the same was brought in place on July 1 last year to enforce

the above direction in letter and spirit through the BIS.

Pahwa said, "Despite the QCO mechanism in place, a significant number of bicycle assemblers/manufacturers and/or dealers are reportedly violating reflector compliance by resorting to affixing an inadequate number of reflectors, inferior quality of the reflector, invoicing kids instead of adult bicycles and recycling reflectors by dealers." He added that it is impacting compliant vs non-compliant bicycle manufacturers thus distorting fair competition, and is also likely to underutilise new reflector capacity in India.

Pahwa said the MORTH GOI data confirms the deaths of more

than 4,000 cyclists in road accidents every year in India, which is of great concern. Therefore, the mandatory reflectors measure is specifically meant to prevent such deaths, which involve mostly the underprivileged sections of society, he added.

"It is therefore requested that the BIS ensure enforcing bicycle reflector compliance in letter and spirit at a pan-India level at the reflector manufacturers, bicycle manufacturers/assemblers and dealers so that the objective of preventing accidents of cyclists is eventually achieved. This needs to be dealt with as an urgent matter for remedial concurrent actions in a mission mode," he said.

## V2 Retail has a blowout quarter after languishing for two years

NEW DELHI, Feb 11 (Agencies): V2 Retail Limited, a retailer that specializes in affordably priced garments and grocery, reported a 56% jump in its third quarter revenue, boosted primarily by a strong performance by its existing chain of stores. This marks a sharp turnaround for a company that had never really managed to shake-off the COVID lockdown blues.

The company witnessed healthy same store sales growth of 47% in Q3 FY24 and

29% for the nine months period.

As of December 31, 2023, V2 Retail operates 107 stores with total retail space of around 11.4 lakh sq. ft. During the April-December 2023 period, V2 Retail opened 14 new stores and closed 9 unviable stores as part of improving overall store productivity metrics.

Part of the reason for the strong performance is the weak year-ago performance. The company had been seeing poor growth in recent years due to

weak demand in rural and semi-urban India. It has been trying various strategies, including discounting, to lure customers back to its stores.

The company said its in-house designing and manufacturing capabilities have provided competitive differentiation in product offerings across price points.

Going forward, V2 Retail remains committed to expanding its stores network with the aim of being ever more proximate and easily

accessible to its growing customer base across India's value retail consumption market.

Rising Profitability The company has seen an improvement in its profitability during the quarter, despite pricing pressures that seemed to have dented its gross margin.

Gross margins fell to 31.4% during the quarter from 35.9% a year earlier.

However, thanks to strict quality control, the company was able to improve operating and

net profit margins.

Operating profit jumped 60% to Rs 60.9 crores from Rs 38.1 crores last year, with margin rising to 16.3% from 15.9%.

Net profit zoomed 153% to Rs 23.6 crores. For the nine months period ended December 2023, V2 Retail's consolidated revenue grew by 35% to Rs 868.7 crores, operating profit rose by 67% and the company swung to a profit of Rs 24.1 crores from a loss of Rs 5.1 crores last year.

## This new medical technology can detect genetic diseases in womb

NEW DELHI, Feb 11 (Agencies): In a significant advancement for prenatal care, Sabine Hospital in Kerala is revolutionising the detection of genetic diseases within the womb through the introduction of the Next Generation Sequencer (NGS).

This cutting-edge technology will be a cornerstone in the hospital's commitment to providing accessible and advanced diagnostic services to the public. The NGS machine can identify a range of genetic conditions, including various cancers, sickle cell anaemia, haemophilia, Down syndrome, and Turner syndrome early on.

By analysing DNA samples from fetuses, particularly those conceived via IVF treatments, the NGS can pinpoint risk factors and genetic irregularities.

The foresight provided by this technology enables healthcare providers to implement preventative measures or begin treatment at the earliest stages so that it mitigates the impact of these conditions post-birth through vigilant testing and monitoring.

This innovative equipment will be installed within Sabine Hospital's newly inaugurated genetic department, an institution to advance fetal medicine.

The department is complemented by the Fetal Medicine department, which is under the expert guidance of Dr Jitha, who ensures that pregnant women and

their unborn children receive the highest standard of care and treatment.

Similarly, Dr Rithu heads the genetic department, focusing on the study and treatment of genetic factors and diseases. The hospital has also enhanced its facilities with an upgraded Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), boasting a 50-bed capacity and a Level 3 NICU rating. This state-of-the-art NICU is equipped to provide world-class care for newborns, ensuring that they receive the best possible start in life.

Sabine Hospital's integration of the Next Generation Sequencer marks a pivotal step forward in prenatal and neonatal healthcare, promising a future where genetic diseases can be detected and addressed even before birth.

The Next Generation Sequencing technology allows labs to:

Rapidly sequence whole genomes. Deeply sequence target regions. Utilize RNA sequencing (RNA-Seq) to discover novel RNA variants and splice sites, or quantify mRNAs for gene expression analysis.

Analyze epigenetic factors such as genome-wide DNA methylation and DNA-protein interactions.

Sequence cancer samples to study rare somatic variants, tumor subclones, and more.

Study the human microbiome. Identify novel pathogens.

## Syphilis spreading across US: All about the sexually transmitted infection

WASHINGTON, Feb 11 (Agencies): One of the most alarming trends observed in the US is the spike in syphilis cases across the country. The troubling resurgence of the sexually transmitted disease, which was once on the brink of elimination, is now hitting levels not seen for 70 years.

A new report by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that syphilis cases are the highest they've been since the 1950s.

Congenital syphilis, which is caused by the transmission of bacterial infection from the mother to the fetus, has increased by 80% in the past five years.

Health experts have said that the spike in cases shows there's a need for improved public outreach and awareness.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the bacteria - Treponema pallidum. If left untreated, it can cause permanent damage to the organs.

It progresses through stages, starting with primary syphilis,



which typically presents as a small, painless sore or ulcer known as a chancre.

It can manifest a wide array of symptoms, mimicking other diseases and making its diagnosis quite challenging.

These chancres can appear on the genitals, mouth, skin, or rectum and usually heal by themselves within 3 to 6 weeks. However, without treatment, the infection advances to secondary syphilis, showing skin rashes and mucous membrane lesions.

If still left untreated, it can enter latent and tertiary stages, potentially causing severe

damage to the heart, brain, and other organs.

The disease spreads predominantly through sexual contact, including vaginal, anal, or oral sex, and can also be transmitted from mother to child during pregnancy, leading to congenital syphilis.

While casual contact with objects like toilet seats or door-knobs does not spread syphilis, the increase in cases among all demographics, particularly gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men (MSM), as well as heterosexual men and women, signals a public health crisis.

One of the primary ways of preventing syphilis is abstaining from sexual activity. But for those who are sexually active, engaging in safer sex practices, such as using condoms correctly every time and being in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a tested partner, is highly recommended.

Regular STI testing, especially for pregnant individuals, is essential for early detection and prevention of congenital syphilis.

Fortunately, syphilis is curable, particularly when caught in its early stages. Penicillin remains the preferred treatment across all stages of the infection.

A single injection of long-acting Benzathine penicillin G can cure primary, secondary, or early latent stages of syphilis.

For those allergic to penicillin, alternatives like doxycycline or tetracycline are available.

It's important to note that while treatment can eliminate the infection, it may not reverse any damage already done by the disease.

## U-19 Final: India's formidable young turks gear up for World Cup glory against Australia

*Skipper Hugh Weibgen, opener Harry Dixon, seamers Tom Straker and Callum Vidler to spell trouble for India*

BENONI (SOUTH AFRICA), Feb 11 (Agencies): Few careers would get wings to soar while some would fade into oblivion but, on Sunday, all those sprightly 18 and 19-year-old Indian boys would leave no stone unturned to win a record sixth ICC U-19 World Cup when they face Australia in the summit clash here.

On November 19 last year, an Australian team left Rohit Sharma and his band teary-eyed on a global stage and for Uday Saharan, Sachin Dha, Musheer Khan and Saumy Kumar Pandey, beating an Aussie team would certainly be very sweet.

"No, we are not thinking about revenge. We are firmly focussed on present. We neither want to dwell on the past or look far ahead," skipper Saharan recently told agency Bhasha in Benoni.

The Aussies have a quartet which could spell trouble for India and they are skipper Hugh Weibgen, opener Harry Dixon, seamers Tom Straker and Callum Vidler, the consistent performers during this edition.

India U-19 had beaten Australia in the 2012 and 2018 finals, and would again start favourites during this edition's title match.

The Indian team has always been an age-group powerhouse, thanks to the talent the country produces in hundreds and their ninth global final is a testimony to the system that has been put in place for the last two decades.

From 2016, India U-19s have played all the finals, winning the



2018 and 2022 editions while losing in 2016 and 2020.

Since Virat Kohli's side won the trophy in 2008, U-19 World Cup has gained a lot of traction and the curiosity value does increase due to live TV coverage and streaming.

The U-19 World Cup has presented stars like Yuvraj Singh, Mohammed Kaif, Suresh Raina, Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal to name a few, who have risen through the ranks.

But cold facts will tell us that the list of those who have failed to make it to the top grade after instant stardom is way bigger.

From Reetinder Singh Sodhi and Gaurav Dhiman, back in early 2000s, to Unmukt Chand, Harmeet Singh, Vijay Zol, Sandeep Sharma, Ajitesh Argal, Kamal Passi, Siddharth Kaul, Smit Patel, Ravikant Singh and Kamlesh Nagarkoti, the list goes on.

People do tend to forget that senior domestic cricket is a huge step up from the U-19s

where bossing the age-group players from other nations, although praiseworthy, isn't a big deal.

The quick walk to stardom does create a false sense of vanity and people fail to replicate that in their senior years.

Someone like Prithvi Shaw lost the grip on his career and is trying to regain the foothold, and a few like Yash Dhull are finding it extremely difficult to cope with the standards of senior level cricket. Truth be told, the current team led by Saharan, didn't initially look like a great outfit as it even failed to enter the final of the U-19 Asia Cup a couple of months back. But here all pieces of the puzzle have fallen in place.

Led by Saharan, who is leading the batting charts with 389 runs, the team's performance got better with each match and the only time it has been pushed to a corner in the tournament is the semifinal where it pipped hosts South Africa by a solitary wicket.

The jury is still out on how many of them can actually make

it big but if there have been two stand-out players, who looked cut out for bigger things, one is young Maharashtra batter Dhas, who has revelled in the role of a finisher, and left-arm spinner Saumy Pandey, who has so far taken 17 wickets.

Dhas didn't get an IPL contract as he had not yet played any senior level game, hence ineligible for the auction. However, he is one batter who has shown temperament, a pre-requisite for the highest level.

Saharan is more of an accumulator while Sarfaraz Khan's younger brother Musheer, who is the second highest run-getter, is also a handy left-arm spinner.

Right-arm pacer Raj Limbani and left-arm seamer Naman Tiwari have been effective but are far from ready for the next level.

But on Sunday, their best will be more than enough for this level.

Teams

India: Uday Saharan ©, Arshin Kulkarni, Adarsh Singh, Rudra Mayur Patel, Sachin Dhas, Priyanshu Moliya, Musheer Khan, Aravelly Avanish Rao (WK), Saumy Kumar Pandey (VC), Murugan Abhishek, Inness Mahajan (WK), Dhanush Gowda, Aaradhya Shukla, Raj Limbani, Naman Tiwari.

Australia: Hugh Weibgen ©, Lachlan Aitken, Charlie Anderson, Harkirat Bajwa, Mahli Beardman, Tom Campbell, Harry Dixon, Ryan Hicks (wk), Sam Konstas, Rafael MacMillan, Aidan O'Connor, Harjas Singh, Tom Straker, Callum Vidler, Ollie Peake.

## Prithvi Shaw focused on winning Ranji Trophy with Mumbai, not expecting comeback call from Indian team



MUMBAI, Feb 11 (Agencies): India batter Prithvi Shaw made a return to the domestic arena after a long lay-over from injury. Shaw was out of cricketing action since his stint in County cricket in 2023 after he copped a knee injury. In his second match back for Mumbai, Shaw hit a rapid hundred (159 off 185) to give his team an incredible start against Chhattisgarh on Day 1 of the four-day game.

Asked about his thoughts of making a comeback into the Indian team, Shaw shunned the idea and said that he was focused on winning the Ranji Trophy with Mumbai. "I'm not thinking too far

off and want to stay in the present. There is no expectation, I'm happy that I'm back playing cricket. I have just come back after injury and just want to give my best. My aim is to win the Ranji Trophy for Mumbai and I'm trying to achieve that by contributing as much as I can going ahead," Prithvi Shaw said in an interview.

The batter said that it felt a little strange to bat after such a five-month-long injury lay-over. Shaw said that his nerves were settled after he spent a good amount of time in the crease.

"I wanted to do well but somewhere I wondered whether I would be able to bat in my style or not.

Kaise kheloonga (how will I play), when I would make a comeback and whether it will be on a good note or not. These were the thoughts which were going around. But after I stayed for a few hours, things became normal," Shaw added.

"I wasn't nervous but the feeling was a bit ajeeb (strange) when I resumed my batting. However, I did a match simulation and was motivating myself that everything will be fine. My body language was fine," he explained.

The India batter has not played for the national team since 2021. Once regarded as a prodigious talent, Shaw has not been able to do justice to his talent.

## "Never Had A Team As Strong As Mumbai Indians": Ex-Star On RCB's Winless Indian Premier League Streak

NEW DELHI, Feb 11 (Agencies): New season, same optimism. Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) will look to go all the way this time around when the new season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) kicks off. The tournament is expected to begin in the final week of March, following the conclusion of the Women's Premier League (WPL). Over the past two seasons, only a handful of teams have failed to win the IPL title, with RCB being one of them. RCB have played three finals under different captains (Anil Kumble in 2009, Daniel Vettori in 2011 and Virat Kohli in 2016) but an IPL title has eluded the franchise.

In 2009, Deccan Chargers (now defunct) defeated RCB in the final in South Africa. A couple years later, Chennai Super Kings made it back to back IPL wins after beating Vettori's RCB.

RCB's last final appearance came back in 2016 when they lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the final, despite Virat Kohli ending the season with a record 973 runs, the most in a single season till date.

On the franchise's winless streak in IPL, former RCB and New Zealand all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme has given the reason behind the same.

De Grandhomme, who played for

RCB in 2018 and 2019, feels RCB have never had a team as strong as Mumbai Indians, who have won a joint-record five titles.

He further explained that RCB has always been a team reliant on a couple of individuals.

"RCB have never had a team as strong as Mumbai Indians where the all-round composition of the team has been excellent. RCB have a very good side, but over-dependence on two, or three players has never worked their way, which is why they have never stood out as a well-balanced side," said De Grandhomme in an exclusive interview.

RCB have made some additions to their squad for the upcoming season.

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) IPL 2024 squad: Faf du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Suyash Prabhudessai, Will Jacks, Mahipal Lomror, Karn Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Mayank Dagar (traded from SRH), Cameron Green (traded from MI), Alzarri Joseph, Yash Dayal, Tom Curran, Lockie Ferguson, Swapnil Singh, Saurav Chauhan.

## "People Are Insecure At Times": MS Dhoni Intriguing Statement On Lessons In Captaincy

*Along with Rohit Sharma, MS Dhoni is the most successful captain in the IPL. Both have won five IPL titles each.*

MUMBAI, Feb 11 (Agencies): MS Dhoni - one name which always comes to the mind when one speaks about captaincy in cricket. Arguably the greatest captain in world cricket, MS Dhoni is a force to reckon with in the Indian Premier League too. He is the only Indian cricket team captain to win the T20 World Cup, the ODI World Cup and the Champions Trophy too. Under MS Dhoni, India became the world No. 1 Test side also. While MS Dhoni has retired from international cricket, he still competes in the IPL for Chennai Super Kings. He led his team to the title in the IPL 2023 and will aim to emulate the feat again this year.



Along with Rohit Sharma, MS Dhoni is the most successful captain in the IPL. Both have won five IPL titles each.

With such a track record, when MS Dhoni speaks about leadership, one should listen wholeheartedly. MS Dhoni spoke about leadership and cap-

tain during an event in Mumbai. MS Dhoni said the respect for a leader comes from his deeds rather than words. "I always felt that earning respect (as a leader) is important as it does not come with the chair or rank. It comes with your conduct. People are insecure at times.

Sometimes, even if the team believes in you, you are actually the first person who will not believe in you," he said.

"To sum it up, don't try to command respect but earn it, as it is very organic. Once you have that loyalty then the performance too will follow," he said.

But the first step for that, Dhoni said, is to understand each and every player in the dressing room - their strengths and weaknesses.

"Some people love pressure and some people don't like pressure. What is important is to understand the strength of the individual and the weakness of the individual.

"Once you have done

that, you will start working on the weakness of a player without actually telling him that this is a weakness.

"So, it keeps a player confident and keeps the player from doubting himself. They like to see how it works and that is the job of a captain or coach to figure out what works for who," he added.

MA Dhoni added as a leader one has to keep things simple to get the best results out of a team.

"In that process, the simpler you keep things, the easier it will become for you. I always felt that the team (that he captained) had character because all of us were different," he said.

## Disappointed Umesh Yadav posts cryptic story after being snubbed from India's squad for England Tests

*Veteran Indian pacer Umesh Yadav expressed his disappointment on Instagram, following his exclusion from India's squad for the upcoming Test matches against England.*

NEW DELHI, Feb 11 (Agencies): Veteran India pacer Umesh Yadav took to Instagram to express his feelings cryptically after being left out of India's squad for the upcoming Test matches against England. Umesh's latest Instagram story, written in Hindi, "Kitaa-bon par dhoon jamne se, kahaaniyan khatm

nahi hoti," translates to "Just because books are covered with dust, the stories don't end." This message was widely interpreted as a reflexion of his disappointment at not being selected despite his recent impressive performances.

Umesh Yadav had been showcasing his skills in the Ranji Trophy,

where he claimed 18 wickets in just three matches for Vidarbha, proving himself to be one of the top pacers in the tournament. Despite this, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a squad on February 10th that did not include him for the last three Tests against England. Instead, a maiden call-



up was given to Akash Deep, while Jasprit Bumrah, Mukesh Kumar, and Mohammed Siraj

retained their spots. Yadav's exclusion came after his last appearance for India

in the ICC World Test Championship final in 2023 against Australia, a match that did not go well for him. Since then, he has been absent from the Test team, and his recent social media post suggests a sense of ongoing ambition and a belief that his career is far from over, despite the setback.

With a record of 101

wickets in 32 home Tests, including two five-wicket hauls and one ten-wicket match haul, Umesh Yadav has been a significant contributor to India's success on home soil. Overall, he has played 57 Test matches and taken 170 wickets at an average of around 30. His ability to generate pace on spin-friendly tracks has been

a highlight of his career. As Umesh Yadav continues to perform in domestic cricket, fans and commentators alike will be watching to see if he can make a comeback to the national team. His cryptic Instagram story serves as a reminder that his journey and contributions to Indian cricket are far from concluded.

## Women Development Cell of GDC Udhampur celebrates Int'l Day of Women and Girls in Science

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 11: Women Development Cell, in collaboration with NSS units of the college, hosted a special event featuring a power point presentation on the theme "Women in Science: Emerging Concepts and Technologies in Vaccine Development" to commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, 2024. As a part of commitment to foster the diversity and inclusion of the women in the field of science and technology under the patronage of the worthy principal Dr Romesh Kumar Gupta.

Dr Anita Sharma, convener Women Develop-



ment Cell welcomed the Chief guest of the event Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, faculty, and students.

In her welcome address, she highlighted the remarkable contribution of women and girls in various scientific disciplines, especially in vaccine development.

While speaking on the occasion, the worthy principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar

Gupta, enumerated the contribution and role of women in the field of science and technology.

He eulogised the role of women by citing the examples like that of Madam Curie who was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize, and also the first person to win a Nobel Prize twice.

In his address, he added that women can bring a fresh approach and offer unique perspectives

to meet challenges and solve problems. He applauded the efforts of organizers to organize such an activity as it underscores our dedication in promoting gender equality and empowering women in science.

He further added that through such kinds of activities, students got the opportunity to gain insights into cutting-edge developments across the field of sci-

ence and technology.

Around 50 students attended the event and 10 students gave their presentations on the theme of the event. Ambica of Sem-iv, Monika of Sem-iv, and Neelakshi of Sem-vi were adjudged as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, respectively for their thoughtful presentations. The event ended with the formal vote of thanks by Dr Gurpreet Kour, NSS PO. Prof. Shivi Mehra, Prof. Tania Akhtar Prof. Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Sakshi Sharma, Dr. Anju Rani, Prof. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Anil Thappa, Dr. Richa Sharma, Dr. Jasmeet Kour and Prof. Sanjeet Singh, NSS PO graced the occasion with their benign presence.

## J&K EJAC demands long-promised job policy for NHM employees

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: In a fervent call for justice, Wajahat Hussain Durrani, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Action Committee (JKEJAC), urgently appeals to the Government to formulate a job policy for National Health Mission (NHM) employees. This plea arises from a series of unfulfilled promises by previous administrations, leaving dedicated NHM workers in a precarious situation.

During Bali Bhagat's tenure as the State Health Minister, a solemn commitment was made in the legislative assembly to regularize NHM employees in a phased manner. Regrettably, despite these assurances, tangible progress towards fulfilling this commitment has been lacking. Subsequent efforts, including the establishment of a high-power committee by CM Mehbooba Mufti in 2017 and 2018, have failed to yield the desired results.

"The delay in formulating a comprehensive policy has had dire consequences, resulting in the tragic loss of approximately 60 NHM employees. The families left behind are grappling with severe hardships, as these deceased employees were the primary breadwinners," laments President Wajahat Hussain Durrani.

Expressing a sense of urgency,



President Durrani emphasizes the critical need for implementing the long-promised regularization policy. Meanwhile, the JKEJAC stands united in its demand for the immediate application of the principle of equal pay for equal work, a substantial increase in monthly salaries, enhanced yearly increments, and a comprehensive pay revision for all categories of NHM employees.

The unfolding crisis faced by NHM employees serves as a poignant reminder of the pressing need for swift government intervention. President Wajahat Hussain Durrani implores the lieutenant Government to act promptly, alleviating the suffering of affected families and honoring the commitment made to these diligent workers.

## Blood Donation Camp Organized by Sant Nirankari Mission Branch Marheen

121 Units of Blood donated by the devotees

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: With the divine blessings of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudhiksha Ji Maharaj, Sant Nirankari Mission branch Marheen organizes a voluntarily Blood Donation Camp at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Marheen. Donors of all age group from branch Marheen, Muthi Rakwalan, Dayalchak and Hariachak participated with great enthusiasm in this camp.

This camp was inaugurated by Sh Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge Jammu w hile speaking on the occasion he said that the Sant Nirankari Mission is a mission of Universal Brotherhood with a spiritual ideology and beliefs that self-realization through God realization is the fundamental objective of human birth. Donors here voluntarily participated and happily donated blood for the



welfare of Humankind. He further said that the mission under the guidance of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudhiksha Ji Maharaj always ready to serve the society and since 1986 from the last 38 years Blood Donation Camps are being organized by the Mission and nearly 600 blood donation camps organized in India every year.

Dina Nath Mukhi Marheen welcome all presented in the Camp.

Other Dignitaries presented on the occasion

were Dr Zulfikar Ahmed Consultant, Dr. Mohsina from Blood Bank GMC Jammu, Dr. Soami BMO Hiranagar, Babu Ram Sanyojak Kathua, Tarsem Lal Sharma Mukhi Muthi Rakwalan, Rajesh Kumar Mukhi Dayalchak, Satpal Nirankari Khetriya Sanchalak Kathua and several senior citizens and social workers of the society.

The camp was held in collaboration with blood & transfusion dept. of Govt. Medical College Jammu and JKSAACS.

## Natrang presents Hindi play 'Short Cut'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: Natrang presented a new Hindi devised and improvised play 'Short Cut' here today at Natrang Studio Theatre in its weekly Sunday Theatre series. The play was devised and directed by Neeraj Kant. The play Short Cut is the story of a couple who rob people in an attempt to become rich overnight and are finally caught.

As the play begins, a young couple is seen fighting with each other in their house over dowry. Kajal accuses her husband Akash of lying to her family that their son is a doctor. Actually, Kajal is very regretful about her husband being an animal doctor. She says that her husband's family had demanded a motorcycle from them as dowry. During their fight, noise of slogans along with drumming is heard from the locality. Just then Vibhu enters with a box of sweets in his hand and tells that he has got the title of best doctor and has bought a new house and a new car. On this, Kajal curses her husband that while treating animals, he has not even bought a scooter with his own money. Vibhu's wife praises Kajal's saree and necklace. On this Kajal says that due to fear of thieves, she has kept all her jewelry hidden in her husband Akash's clinic. As soon as they come to know about this, Vibhu and his wife leave from there.

After this, since there are no patients in Akash's clinic, his brother-in-law is seen having fun. And then a couple enters who have come to steal the jewelry from Akash's clinic on the pretext of getting treatment. Both of them try to render Akash unconscious by inhaling chloroform, when Akash's brother-in-law catches them. And these two are Akash's neighbours Vibhu and his wife who had become rich by robbing people in the same way. In this way, the short cut method of Vibhu and his wife is exposed and they are handed over to the police.

Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Mehak Singh, Anand Verma, Vishal Sharma, Chaitanaya Shekhar and Vandana Thakur. The lights were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## Under Gaon chalo Campaign, BJP leaders hold the Public Outreach Program at Jammu West



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: The Gaon Chalo Campaign organized by the BJP in

Jammu West appears to be a comprehensive initiative aimed at connecting with the public, especially in rural areas. The program involved various BJP leaders, including Sat Sharma and Braham Jyot Satti, along with other party workers, reaching out to the residents of Shakti Nagar in Jammu West.

During the three-day campaign, BJP leaders engaged in door-to-door interactions with the public, seeking feedback on government schemes and welfare initiatives. The leaders also explained the welfare schemes of the Central Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, encouraging people to avail themselves of the benefits.

The symbolic act of drawing the lotus, the BJP's party symbol, on the walls of the houses seems to have been well-received, with people expressing happiness and reportedly joining the BJP instantly during the campaign.

Sat Sharma highlighted the positive response from the

public, emphasizing the effectiveness of BJP's governance and the benefits derived from government schemes. The goal of the campaign was to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas, ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives reach the grassroots level.

The leaders, including Braham Jyot, conveyed their gratitude to the Prime Minister and commended his dedication, working over 18 hours a day for the well-being of society. The campaign also involved presenting the BJP's performance report to the public, stressing the importance of supporting the party in upcoming elections to secure Narendra Modi's third consecutive term and accelerate the implementation of welfare schemes.

Overall, the Gaon Chalo Campaign in Jammu West appears to have been successful, with positive responses from the public and an emphasis on connecting with people at the grassroots level.

## Basant Panchami on 14th February: Mahant Rohit Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 11: The Magh month Shukla Paksha's Panchami is celebrated as Basant Panchami. Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, informed that in the year 2024, the Magh Shukla Paksha Panchami will commence on 13th February at 2:43 PM and conclude on 14th February, Wednesday, at 12:10 PM. Hence, Basant Panchami will be celebrated on Wednesday, 14th February. Basant Panchami is also known as Shri Panchami, Vagesh-wari Jayanti, and Saraswati Panchami. Vasant Panchami is considered auspicious throughout the day, and any auspicious work can be undertaken.

Initiating education is considered auspicious on Basant Panchami

or Magh Panchami as the manifestation day of Goddess Saraswati. On this day, the arrival of the spring season is celebrated. Worship of Lord Ganesha, Goddess Saraswati, Lord Lakshminarayan, and Lord Krishna - Radha is performed. Offerings of yellow flowers, sweet and yellow rice, and yellow sweets are made to the deities, and yellow attire is worn. On this day, Kamadeva and his wife Rati descend to earth, spreading the essence of love in nature. Therefore, on Basant Panchami, worship of Goddess Saraswati along with Kamadeva and Rati is essential. Performing puja of Kamadeva and Rati together ensures overall happiness and prosperity in marital life. Traders worship Lord Lakshminarayan on Vasant Panchami.



Students worship their books and study materials. Poets, authors, singers, musicians, playwrights, or dancers initiate their work on this day by worshipping their instruments and tools and paying homage to Goddess Saraswati.

On this day, children are taught to write their first alphabet. It is believed to be auspicious for initiating education. Mahant Rohit Shastri explained that the association of Goddess Saraswati is with intellect and knowledge.

If a child faces difficulty in studying or if there is an increase in feelings of despair in one's life, then worshipping Goddess Saraswati on Basant Panchami is recommended. Reciting Saraswati stotra daily benefits students, enhancing their knowledge and aiding in making correct decisions in life.

For those experiencing speech impediments, filling a bamboo flute with honey, sealing it with wax, and burying it in the ground should be done on Vasant Panchami. This practice is believed to alleviate speech difficulties. Alternatively, after worshipping Goddess Saraswati on Basant Panchami, chanting the seed mantra 'Aim' with the tongue touching the palate is advised.

To make a child knowledgeable, drawing the symbol 'Om' on their

tongue with honey is recommended on this day.

Applying saffron or yellow sandalwood tilak on the forehead on Basant Panchami is believed to bring growth in knowledge and wealth. On this day, young girls are served yellow-sweet rice, and they are worshipped. It is advised to donate to the needy as much as possible.

Chanting 'Om Jum Sah' is recommended for health.

Chanting 'Om Shreem Namah' or 'Om Kleem Namah' is recommended for wealth.

On Vasant Panchami, or daily in the morning, children should observe their palms. It is believed that the palms house Goddess Saraswati, and seeing them is equivalent to seeing the Goddess herself.

Taking a bath, performing charity, and worshipping on Vasant

Panchami help in dispelling sins and ignorance. According to astrology, Basant Panchami is considered an auspicious day. Hence, any auspicious work like sacred thread ceremony, mundan ceremony, vehicle purchase, land purchase, housewarming, etc., can be performed without looking for an auspicious moment.

On this day, a fair is organized at Baba Ballo Ji Temple in Mathwar. Additionally, worshipping a Shiva Lingam with yellow flowers is considered highly auspicious.

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