

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Russia warns the West: 'We will be very tough if you 'steal' our assets'

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BRIEFLY

Govt grants last chance for employees to file annual property returns

SRINAGAR, Feb 13 (Agencies): The government on Monday extended the timeline as "last and final opportunity" for filing Annual Property Returns on PRS Portal by its workforce.

"Vide Circular No. 36-JK (GAD) of 2023 dated 21.12.2023, followed by notification dated 29.12.2023, all the employees working under Jammu and Kashmir Government were advised to file their property returns for the year 2023, w.e.f. from 1st of January, 2024 to 31st of January, 2024, on the PRS portal, which is accessible on <https://prs.jk.gov.in>," the government said in a circular.

However, the government said, it has been observed that many employees have failed to submit their property returns within the stipulated timeline and have thus made a default in this mandatory process.

It has also been observed that various employees have registered themselves on the portal but not submitted their property returns, thus they too have caused a default in submission of their details, it said.

The failure/non-submission of the property returns by the Government employees invites a punitive action under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and Rules made thereunder. Further, it said, the defaulting employees shall be guilty of committing criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act and shall be punishable under the Act.

Moreover, it said, non-submission of the property returns will result in denial of the vigilance clearance of defaulting employees.

"The matter has been considered in the General Administration Department and it has been decided that a last and final opportunity may be granted to these defaulting employees, who have failed to submit their property returns within the stipulated timeline," it said, adding, "Thereafter, no more opportunity shall be granted and action as

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Lt Governor launches 'J&K Sambhaav Utsav -2024' in New Delhi

Inaugurates various new projects undertaken by J&K's Resident Commission

NEW DELHI, Feb 13: On the eve of Basant Panchami, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha launched 'J&K Sambhaav Utsav-2024', organized by Resident Commission Jammu Kashmir at J&K House, New Delhi today.

The Lt Governor also launched Information-cum-facilitation hub 'Hello J&K'; Digital Photography, Painting and Singing competitions for Youth on the theme "Know Jammu Kashmir" and inaugurated various new projects undertaken by J&K's Resident Commission.

The Lt Governor congratulated the officials



of the Resident Commission Jammu Kashmir and all the associated departments of J&K Government.

He said the 7-day long vibrant exhibition will represent the very best of cultural artistic heritage, cuisine, agriculture

and handicraft products of J&K UT.

"Sambhaav Utsav also put the spotlight on the future of J&K which is readying to contribute in Viksit Bharat. It is a perfect occasion to reiterate our resolve to revive the ancient heritage and

preserve it for the generations to come," the Lt Governor said.

He said the new beginning by the J&K Resident Commission will provide glimpses of a new and resurgent J&K to the visitors.

The Lt Governor said the 'Hello J&K' initiative launched today will connect the youth of Jammu Kashmir with domain experts from various fields, both online and offline, facilitating a rich exchange of knowledge, insights and opportunities.

It will be a one-stop center for education, entrepreneurship,

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"PM Modi's upcoming public rally in Jammu: Union Minister Announces"

JAMMU, Feb 13 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a rally in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on February 20, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday.

The minister of state in the Prime Minister's office was in his parliamentary constituency Udhampur to witness the stoppage of the Katra-Delhi Vande Bharat Express train at the Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway station.

The brief stoppage of the medium-distance superfast express train at Udhampur and Kathua railway stations



was introduced to facilitate the people of the area.

"We want that the prime minister visit J-K before the start of the election code of conduct. His programme has been finalised for February 20 during which he will launch various projects and also address a public meeting," the minister told reporters in Udhampur.

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Farmers begin march towards Delhi, Punjab-Haryana borders fortified



CHANDIGARH, Feb 13 (Agencies): Farmers from Punjab on Tuesday morning commenced their 'Delhi Chalo' march to press for their demands, after a meeting with two Union ministers over their demands, including legal guarantee to MSP for crops, remained inconclusive.

The farmers plan to head to Delhi from the Ambala-Shambhu, Khanauri-Jind and the Dabwali borders.

Many farmers along with their tractor trolleys begun the march around 10 am from Fatehgarh Sahib and are moving towards Delhi via Shambhu

border. Another group is moving towards the national capital from Mehal Kalan in Sangrur through Khanauri border.

Authorities in Haryana have fortified the state's borders with Punjab at many places in Ambala, Jind, Fatehabad, Kurukshetra and Sirsa using

concrete blocks, iron nails and barbed wire to scuttle the proposed march.

Riot control vehicles, including water cannons, have also been deployed at many places at Punjab and Haryana borders.

The Haryana government has also imposed restrictions under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) in as many as 15 districts, prohibiting the assembly of five or more people and banning any kind of demonstration or march with tractor trolleys.

Security in Delhi has been intensified with multi-layer barricades, concrete blocks, iron nails and walls of containers at border points.

On Monday, tractor

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Farooq informs ED He is not in Srinagar, Wont depose on Tuesday



SRINAGAR, Feb 13 (Agencies): Summoned by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah has informed the agency he will not appear before it here on Tuesday as he is out of town, official sources said.

They said the Lok Sabha member from Srinagar has communicated it to the ED officials through "an email

and a letter".

He was asked to depose at the ED office in Srinagar on Tuesday, but sources said he is currently in Jammu.

The 86-year-old politician was last called by the central agency in this case on January 11 but he did not appear then as well.

The ED investigation pertains to alleged financial irregularities at the Jammu and

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Temperature improves marginally in J&K, Rain expected

SRINAGAR, Feb 13 (Agencies): Temperature across J&K improved marginally on Tuesday as the MeT office forecast another wet spell beginning February 18.

A Meteorological (MeT) Department statement said, "Another wet spell between February 18 to February 20 with possibility of light to moderate snow/rain at many places in J&K.

"In view of significant snow accumulation and sub-freezing temperatures over many hilly areas, travellers are advised to follow administration/traffic police advisory."

Srinagar had minus 2.5, Gulmarg minus 4.5 and Pahalgam minus 5.4 as the minimum

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J&K Govt assigns additional charge to IAS officer Aijaz Asad

SRINAGAR, Feb 13 (Agencies): Government of Jammu & Kashmir Tuesday assigned additional charge of the post of Civil Aviation Commissioner, to Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department Mohammad Aijaz Asad till further orders.

An order copy lies with Greater Kashmir reads, "In the interest of administration, it is hereby ordered that Mr. Mohammad Aijaz, IAS:2012,

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JK Arms License Case: ED files prosecution complaints against 21 accused

SRINAGAR, Feb 13 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has filed a prosecution complaint against 21 accused in a case linked to illegal arms licenses case in Jammu and Kashmir.

"ED filed the prosecution complaint against 21 accused which includes the then arms license authorities Rajeev Ranjan (IAS) and Itrat Hussain Rafiqi, judicial clerks, other officials of deputy magistrate Kupwara and gun house dealers, agents and middlemen including Rahul Grover, Syed Adde Hussain Shah and

Syed Akeel Shah before the special PMLA Court Jammu in a case related to illegal issuance of large number of arms licenses," reads a statement.

The statement reads that the ED initiated investigation based on various FIRs registered by the Anti-Terrorist Squad/Special Operations Group Rajasthan Police and Central Bureau of Investigation Chandigarh under various sections of IPC and Arms Act.

"ED investigation revealed that during the relevant period the then DM/ADMs, judi-

cial clerks and other officials of office of Kupwara in connivance with gun house dealers and agents hatched a criminal conspiracy among themselves and issued or renewed large number of illegal arms license to ineligible applicants in lieu of monetary consideration by flouting various norms, procedures of Arms Act," it reads.

It added that the accused were found to be in acquisition and possession of proceeds of crime generated out of criminal activities related to the above scheduled

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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

Shreyansh 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 Uthaa, NGO

Jansampark Mail, Newspaper

Mobile: 9419197591, 9419435338, 9419137172

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



SHRI SANJEEV GUPTA

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) from 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 Rawi, 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)

ANTIM ARDAS

To pay obeisance and last homage to the respected noble soul of **S. Prem Singh Ishar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Retd.)**, S/O S. Dhyansingh, who left for his heavenly abode on 5th Feb 2024, Akhand Path and Antim Ardass will be held as follows:

At our residence 22/7 Channi Himmat, Jammu
Arambh Shri Akhand Path on Monday, 12th Feb 24 at 9:30 AM

Bhog Shri Akhand Path on Wednesday, 14th Feb 24 at 9:30 AM

Antim Ardass at Gurdwara Guru Ka Bagh, Channi Himmat, Jammu on 14 Feb. 24 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM followed by Guru Ka Langar.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sardarni Harpreet Kaur & Dr. Gurmeet Singh Reen, Anaesthesiologist Mob. 9419182281

Daughters-in-Law & Sons:
Sardarni Harmeet Kaur & Major General Jagdeep Singh Ishar (Retd.) Mob. 8392925000
Sardarni Avesha Kaur & Commodore Harmeet Singh Ishar (Retd.) Mob. 9598021912

Grandchildren:
Gurpreet, Tanveer, Kamidh, Gurjwal, Birti, Gursagar, Idhbir and Anhad



S. Prem Singh Ishar
IFS, Chief Conservator
of Forests (Retd.)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Nimi Raina** W/o Shri T.N. Raina, earlier resident of Lal Nagar, Chanapora, Srinagar, Kashmir, currently residing at H.No.231, Sector-46, Second Floor - Faridabad, Haryana.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 14th Feb. 2024 (Wednesday) at Muradnagar Ghat (Chota Hatidwar).

Assembly will be held at our residence - 231, Sector-46, Faridabad at 2.30 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. T.N. Raina - **Husband**
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Rachana Raina and Sh. Arvind Raina (9899259923, 9811661608)

Sh. Ankit Raina - **Son** (9958191009)
Anushka Raina and Arushi Raina - **Grand Daughters**
Raina's, Zutshi's, Panjabi's, Saraf's, Jawansher's, Bhat's, Munshi's and Razdan's



Smt Nimi Raina

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 Rawi, 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 Janni Jammu at 1 PM onwards

Uthala Date: 16/02/2024 at Brahmam 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, 979677441



NITIN DOGRA,
RITU DOGRA

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 & UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Asha Rani** W/o Sh. Kasturi Lal Sharma R/o F-372, Rajpura Magotrian, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 4th Feb 2024.

The **10th Day** will be performed on 13-2-2024 at 11.30 am at Kali Mata Mandir Canal Road. **Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 14-2-2024 at 1 pm and **Uthala** will be performed on 19-2-2024 at 3 pm at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Raj Dulari and Sh. Ved Pal Sharma - **Devar**

Smt. Sushma Devi & Sh. Omkar Sharma - **Devar**

Smt. Ishu Magotra & Sh. Rajan Magotra - **Son**

Smt. Kajal Sharma & Sh. Sahil Magotra - **Son**

Smt. Ekta Sharma & Sh. Manu Magotra - **Nephew**

Smt. Shefali Sharma & Sh. Manish Magotra - **Nephew**

Miss Akshita Magotra - **Daughter**

Mr. Arjun Magotra - **Nephew**

Miss Avantika Magotra - **Niece**

Grand Children: Aarav, Viraj, Sarasvi, Paras, Shivoy, Viha

Mobile No: 9906398072, 9796259683, 8800138855, 94191-18686



Smt. Asha Rani

TENTH DAY/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Kewal Krishan Gupta** S/o Late Sh. Kaka Ram Gupta R/o House No. 290, Krishna Nagar, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on 13th of Feb. 2024 (Tuesday) at Guru Ravi Dass Mandir, Krishna Nagar from 11.00 am to 12.00 pm.

Rasam Pagri will be performed on 16th of Feb. 2024 (Friday) from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm at our residence, Krishna Nagar.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Asha Gupta - **Wife**

Daughter-in-law & Son

Smt. Anisha & Parul Gupta

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Payal & Sh. Pawan Gupta

Sister-in-law & Brother

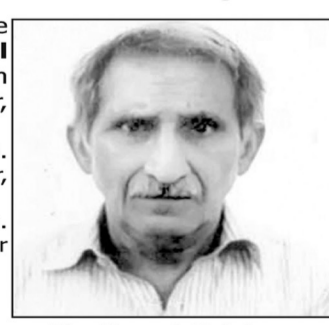
Smt. Darshana & Lt. Shri Om Parkash Mahajan (Kaku Shah Ji)

Lt. Smt. Veena & Sh. Parshotam Gupta

Dhairya, Drivya, Antriksh - **Grand Children**

DREAM SEQUENCE, Patta Bohri

Mob.: 7006625636



Sh. Kewal Krishan
Gupta

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/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 /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



Raizada Pawan Kumar Vaid
(Ex Employee of Govt
Ranbir Press)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Shri Autar Krishen Koul (Masterji)** S/o Late Sh. Jia Lal Koul originally resident of Batapora Shopian, Kashmir who attained Nirvana on 8th Feb 2024.

NSS Unit of GDC R. S. Pura organises college beautification drive

Top News Report

R S PURA, Feb 13: NSS Unit of Govt. Degree College R. S Pura conducted College Beautification Drive in the College premises on second day under "7 days Special Winter Camp".

The program was held under the patronage of the College Principal, Dr. Rajni Bhagat.

A group of 40 students participated in Two hour-long drive on the College campus.

They Painted the tree stump in Tricolor and also prepared Tricol-



or Decorative Stones which were used for beautification of college gardens.

The main purpose of the event was to chan-

nalise the non-recyclable waste into some constructive work.

The Principal of the College, Dr. Rajni Bhagat emphasized that

the objective of organizing such a programme was not just to clean the surroundings but to create awareness.

She also appreciated

the efforts of students who paint the trees and unusable stones.

She encouraged students to inculcate a spirit of selfless service in them and use their creative potential in innovative ways in the College campus to develop it in a beautiful place like their homes.

The events were successfully conducted under the guidance of Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO and coordinated by the members of the organizing committee viz. Dr. Hari Singh, Prof Shelly Kalsi and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch.

Barbaric treatment of farmers is strongly condemnable: Shiv Sena

Entire country is with farmers: Sahni

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has strongly condemned the barbaric behavior by the security forces at Shambhu border of Haryana, firing hundreds of tear gas shells and fortifications on the farmers' movement.

In a press release issued from the party state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the barbaric treatment of the country's food donors is a sign of dictatorship.

Farmers are marching towards Delhi to raise their voice for their legitimate rights and from



the fortifications being done by Haryana and Delhi Police and deployment of security forces, it seems as the army of an enemy country is marching towards Delhi. Sahni said that if similar promptness and strong arrangements had been made on the India-Pakistan border

adjacent to Jammu and Kashmir, then perhaps terrorism would not have flourished in Jammu and Kashmir today and hundreds of innocent people and security personnel would not have had to be martyred.

Sahni said that the Indian Constitution and law gives freedom to Indian citizens to protest and raise their voice for their legitimate rights.

But dictatorial arrangements are being made by the BJP ruled states and the central government to suppress the farmers' movement. Sahni said that the entire country stands with the food donors.

Moot Court Mock Drill held at PTTI Vijaypur

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Feb 13 : Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized a Moot Court Mock Drill proceedings under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case with a objective to familiarize Police personnel with regard to



appearance and record-

ing their statements

before the Courts as prosecution witnesses.

The proceedings were held at Moot Court PTTI Vijaypur under the supervision of Haseeb-Ur-Rehman-IPS, DIG SIU Jammu Zone.

A UAPA case of District Jammu was discussed during Mock drill in which Police witnesses of the case appeared

before the Moot Court and cross examined by designated defense counsel.

Speaking on the occasion, DIG SIU Jammu Zone stated that such mock prosecution drills would definitely help Police personnel to record their statements in the Hon'ble courts in a proper manner.

BJP Govt has made common man's life difficult by current surge in essentials: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: The current surge in prices of essential goods, especially food items, has made the common man's life difficult. If prices of day-to-day items keep rising like this, it's going to make surviving for common man much more difficult.

This was stated by Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta on Tuesday.

Interacting with media, Gupta said that BJP government seems to have done very little in terms of regulating prices.

The common poor and lower middle class families are suffering badly. BJP government talks most promisingly about the "common man agenda" when it comes to lapping up votes but fails in times of real crisis.

Food prices have increased by 20 per cent in the last two months and by 40 per cent compared to last year.

The steady rise in prices of food items is



a cause for concern. With little resources available, it is becoming difficult for the common man to manage his budget. The way things are run here, it is a case of the poor remaining poor and the rich getting richer.

BSP leader said even the tax laws favour the rich, those in the salaried class suffers the most because they pay high Income Tax and in return get little. Inflation keeps rising every day and vegetable prices are shooting up. Govt is responsible for all this. Have BJP leaders already forgotten their duty towards the people? What happened to all the promises they made during election time? It is high time they delivered what they had promised. Also, power tariff, gas, petrol and diesel prices have increased. All this stems from the Central government's

inability to curtail prices at the grassroots level.

Rajesh Gupta alleged that J&K government was doing nothing to bring down the prices of electricity tariff and other essential commodities. It is high time the government identified the reasons for such a phenomenal rise in prices of so many essential items. The retail market has never been consumer-friendly, it is ready to hike prices at the slightest opportunity.

Gupta said BJP Government should subsidize prices of indispensable items like rice, dal, sugar and oil and lessen the burden on the common man's purse. The BJP Government has totally failed to control the matter. It seems the government is working hand-in-glove with hoarders and cheating the common people, he alleged.

Navya Srijan Sewa Sanstha organizes blood donation camp, Shradhanjali Sabha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: A Blood Donation Camp and Shradhanjali Sabha was organised by Navya Srijan Sewa Sanstha at Guru Hall Association Seminar Rani Talab Digiana.

The program was1 organised to pay rich tributes to Pulwama Martyrs who lost their lives in a tragic fideyean attack on 14th February 2019.

While welcoming the guests Deepak Gupta welcomed the Guests namely Dr. Deepak Kapoor (President, POJK Displaced People Sewa Samiti), Kartik Sahrotiya (IPS) and Ajay Sharma (SP City South Jammu) were distinguished guests on the occasion.

Blood Donors in dozens donated blood to pay rich tributes to Pulwama Martyrs and endorsed the spirit of Sacrifice for the nation if an when time comes.

People from Different sections of society joined the program and paid their rich tributes to the martyrs.

While addressing the gathering Dr. Deepak Kapoor said that Nation

will never forget the sacrifices of Martyrs and said that the current government has full conviction to take back what we have lost in previous 7 decades.

He said that what has happened can not be turned back but people stand firmly behind our jawans.

Kartik Sahrotiya appreciated the role of Navya Srijan Sewa Sanstha for their valuable contribution for organising such volunteering blood donation camp to pay tributes to Martyrs and also appreciated the society who came together to remember our martyrs.

Deepak Gupta thanked all volunteers for their valuable time and also thanked Mohinder Singh and entire gurudwara prabandhak committee for making all the arrangements that were required for organising the program.

Mohinder also appreciated Navya Srijan Sewa Sanstha and team for organising such programs which brings the society together to remember our martyrs

People working to further strengthen PM Modi's hands: Sham Langer

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Sham Lal Langer, Convenor Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Trade Cell, Jammu and Kashmir has asserted that every segment of the society is today working to further strengthening the hands of Narendra Modi in carrying forward PM Modi's mission of nation building.

He said that this is the result of the Govt's agenda of inclusiveness under the slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' in which every

section of the society irrespective of caste, creed, colour, religion or regional affiliations has become part of the narrative.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior BJP leader said that it is for the first time in the history of this nation that people of the nation feel that they are confidently marching ahead as proud Indians to become part of the country's growth story and a big leap to become an entity to reckon with at the global level. He said that today the nation is at the

threshold of becoming a world leader under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The nations across the globe are today looking towards India with a hope of being instrumental in resolving complex global and regional issues and there should be no doubt about it that we are poised to become the Vishwaguru very soon.

Sham Langer said that the greatest achievement of the Modi led Govt in J&K is abrogation of Article 370 of the constitution and deci-

ating the separatism and terrorism infrastructure and bringing the situation to near normalcy.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH
E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 20/2023-2024 Dated: 10/02/2024

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, N. Rly. Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
1	62245069A	High Tensile Centre Buffer Coupler (Non-Transition) for BVCW Wagons as per attached annexure-I RDSO Spec. WD-70-BD-10 (Rev.3) of May 2022.	800 Sets	07.03.24
2	62245070A	Air Brake Set (Twin Pipe) For BVCW Wagon Consisting of 70 items as per attached Annexure-I RDSO Spec. No. 02-ABR-02 And 04-ABR-02 With Latest Amendments	400 Sets	07.03.24

Note:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

463/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Speedy development is the hallmark of Modi Govt: Nitish

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Nitish Mahajan, Co-Incharge Social Media Department, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir has asserted that speedy development has been the hallmark of the Prime Minister Modi led Govt at the Centre during its twin tenure good governance and that on

the basis of its proven performance it is poised for the third consecutive term to rule the world's largest democracy.

While interacting with people of Trikuta Nagar here today, Nitish Mahajan said that BJP was the only party in India that has not only a proven track record of speedy development but also a clear vision for the future of the nation and its people.

Nitish said that it is due to the diverse initiatives implemented by Modi government in this direction that during the past ten years approximately 25 crore people have been pulled out of poverty across the nation. He said that this is a clear indication of the success of the BJP Govt's planning that envisages India as a developed nation within a short span of time.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu
e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 259 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in ₹)	Cost of document/ tender fee (in ₹)	Earnest money (in ₹)	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Replacement of damaged components of LT control panel installed at Tube well Rajinder Nagar 1 along with allied works.	98,500/-	200/-	2000/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned

Date of Publishing : 10-02-2024 (04.00 pm).

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 10-02-2024 (04.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 10-02-2024 (04.00 pm) to 16-02-2024 (04.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 17-02-2024 (04.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html> in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L₁ bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L₁ bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The original documents when submitted by L₁ bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days from last date of receipt of Bid. No exemption of any kind shall be allowed on this.
- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.
- Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.**
 - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.
 - The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
 - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

JSM/DNI/4967-69 **DIP/J-14942/23** Sd/-
Dated: 09-02-2024 Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu

EDITORIAL

Radio- a gift of science

There was a time when pigeons were used to transmit messages. How interesting that period must have been in the absence of technology, when no one would have had any information about what was happening in their state. But the invention of Radio i.e. All India Radio in the twentieth century changed the situation. Now, through one device, news from around the country and the world could be received while sitting in any part of the world. All India Radio or radio is such a gift of modern science. Which has influenced and attracted the human society the most. It is an audio medium which provides various types of information, education, news etc. and also entertains us while sitting at home. Radio is a great friend of man.

Radio was invented by an Italian scientist named Marconi. He invented radio after getting inspiration from the waves created by throwing a piece of stone in calm water. After this, many scientists made many improvements in radios. It is only as a result of his improvements that it has become more useful and important. Today radio has become such a simple device that we can even carry it in our pockets in the form of a transistor. It can entertain us everywhere. Radio broadcasting started in the year 1921. This was a huge step in the information revolution, in which news was broadcast from England to New Zealand through Akashvani, this amazing invention surprised the entire world. Because it was working beyond human imagination. At first, only people's conversations etc. could be broadcast on radio. But gradually with the help of technology, its form was further expanded and live telecast of songs, music, poetry, stories and drama etc. also started being done through radio. Gradually, with the increase in the number of listeners, radio stations also increased in the country and the world and it took the form of an industry. In which lakhs of people started getting direct employment. Radio kept providing information related to people sitting at home.

Only dialogues were heard. Later, after many scientific improvements, songs, music, poetry, stories and drama etc. also started being heard through him. Through this, radio stations were opened in many countries of the world to broadcast programs. It has become a means of livelihood for the families of thousands of artists, technicians, manufacturers, vendors and other employees. Through this, businessmen increase their profits by advertising their goods. It easily provides an international dimension to people's information by broadcasting several bulletins of latest news from morning till evening every day. On the basis of all these facts the importance of radio can be understood. An important contribution of science has become an evergreen invention of today. On the basis of the above facts, it is absolutely right to call All India Radio/Radio as Pandora's Box.

An unlikely spring in Pak: Will Army finally prevail?

By: Syed Ata Hasnain

Nations are known to throw up unclear verdicts in elections leading to hung legislatures and the cobbling of coalitions. However, Pakistan is one of those nations where such verdicts can bring threats to the nation's integrity and security because far too many extraneous factors play a role in bringing about such situations. In the recently-held general election in Pakistan the fractured mandate has created problems of national security, economic viability and the nation's existential status. It has led to four different parties taking pre-eminent positions in the provincial elections in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Balochistan and Sindh. The National Assembly's lower house, which decides the formation of the national government, is even worse. The pro-Army parties — PML(N) and PPP — which had earlier constituted the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), have scored 76 and 54 respectively in the 265-strong Parliament, which requires a grouping or a single party with 134 seats to form a government. Former PM and cricket icon Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which was barred from participating with a ban on its electoral symbol (a cricket bat), managed to have 97 Independent candidates elected — all supposedly backed by the PTI. Who then forms the government at the centre is a million-dollar question because we haven't as yet mentioned the elephant in the room — the Pakistan Army, which remains the final authority for putting together coalitions to govern with the acceptable personalities to lead them; it's not just a leader but one who has the credentials of acceptance by the Army.

To comprehend the complexity of the situation, one needs to be aware of the factors which impinge here and finally decide which way the nation will head. The PTI's legitimacy is suspect because of the legal factors and its ability to even retain the 97 Independents is questionable. However, its appeal is real and it's to the young who have apparently voted for the Independents who carry the PTI's backing. Under normal circumstances this vote would have gone further and created the right stability at the centre, but then PTI's leader Imran Khan isn't exactly the Army's favourite. At one time six years ago, he was. However, he ran afoul with the then Army chief Gen. Qamar Bajwa while attempting to follow a more independent defence and foreign policy that included the appointment of various generals in key appointments such as DG ISI. A surfeit of personal corruption charges was levelled against Imran Khan, with current Army Chief Gen. Asim Munir leading the investigations. Imran Khan was finally removed constitutionally and a coalition was cobbled which ruled Pakistan for almost 15 months. None in the coalition tried to exert the individuality of the constituent parties as long as the PTI was excluded and hounded by the Army. But now it's going to be different. The next government isn't an interim one, it's for five years, and so the factors which bring disunity, such as power play between the constituents, is something to contend with.

This election, or "selection", as it is often referred to, and its aftermath, had some important terms of reference unofficially laid down by the Pakistan Army. First was the necessity to exclude Imran Khan and his PTI from any potential of coming to power. Second, a single

party among the mainstream ones, such as PPP or PML(N), coming to power was avoidable as it would increase the possibility of confrontation with the Army if points of difference arose. Yet, to get any economic reprieve for Pakistan's nearly collapsed economy, a stable front had to be projected. In his long deliberations with American officials during his visit to Washington, Gen. Asim Munir probably took endorsement for his strategy and promised to also work on excluding the extremist elements so that they got no official handle to push the radical ideological agenda. For the US, which too is clandestinely helping the Taliban survive in Afghanistan, any furtherance of the Afghan Taliban agenda in Pakistan through the sponsored proxy Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) would be counter-productive. For Gen. Munir, his personal agenda was to achieve such an electoral status as to enable him to urge the following of a geo-economic rather than a geopolitical agenda. As part of the so-called Munir Doctrine, which is ascribed to his thinking, his intent was to transform Pakistan into a stabilising regional security actor following an agenda of strategic neutrality.

In many ways, the Pakistan Army has achieved at least some part of its overall agenda. However, its handling of the "selection" has been quite ham-handed, allowing itself to be targeted on legitimacy charges. It could have officially given warnings about Internet shutdowns and other control measures instead of just executing that, and then ascribing it to terrorist threats. It's never easy to conduct a controlled election without running the risk of achieving illegitimate status; in this case the Pakistan Army has once again come out with egg on its face. How-

ever, much of it can be forgotten if a credible coalition can be formed. That might become a challenge because the PPP may demand more than its pound of flesh; in terms of the appointment of the Prime Minister, and that too for someone as young as Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. In that case neither of the Sharif brothers can join the government, and it may be Maryam Nawaz who may be the one occupying the highest rank from the PML(N) — although this is a highly unlikely proposition. If such a formula is arrived at, the legitimacy of the government in the eyes of the international community will also be further eroded. That isn't something Pakistani economists would be looking at with glee.

All talk of government formation will only come to fruition once it is certain that the PTI will not object to the verdict and its declaration. If it proposes to oppose it and take to the streets, a completely different scenario may emerge. On the face of it, this seems less plausible and we may see government formation in a fortnight or so. Even the MQM could have a role in it; strange bed-fellows that they may all be. Whatever be the combination, one thing appears almost certain: that a new PDM 2.0 government will have even lesser legitimacy than its previous avatar. Gen. Asim Munir's grandiose thoughts of trying to prove that what Gen. Bajwa could only preach in the form of a doctrine, he (Gen. Munir) will actually execute, are more likely to come cropper, until another day, another election.

(The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 ("Chinar") Corps)

Essential for Regional Science Academies to Actively promote science through Regional media

By: Vijay GarG

It is essential for regional science academies to actively promote science through regional media and provide regular updates

Science education in the country is at a cross-roads, because of the declining trend among the new generation to pursue a career in Science. Across the country, many brilliant students move towards professional courses that fetch them a good placement soon after their studies. No one will wait 5 or 10 years to get a good placement. Even our policymakers neglect basic science education, forgetting the fact that it's the backbone for building a strong Viksit Bharat. The trend of student exodus to foreign countries is increasing. The public's initial encounter with scientific advancements often occurs

through newspapers, television programs, and various other media outlets. The reduction in space or airtime allocated to Science can be viewed as a direct challenge to the field. Many media organisations prioritise commercial considerations when making decisions about content allocation. They may contribute to a lack of public awareness and understanding of scientific concepts, potentially hindering progress in scientific literacy and societal engagement with Science.

This lack of awareness leads to parental pressure on students to move away from science courses. It is where our regional science academies in the country can play a lead role in building a robust scientific force for the future. We have three national science academies in India -the Indian National Science Academy, the Indian Academy of Sciences, and the National Academy of Sciences, India. Even though our National Science Academies are doing their service to promote Science, it doesn't reach every nook and corner of the country. Here, regional science academies come into the picture.

Regional science academies can play a crucial role in fos-

tering scientific advancement, education, and collaboration within specific geographic regions. These academies are well-positioned to address and prioritize issues that are specific to a particular region. They can focus on problems related to geography, climate, biodiversity, and other factors that may vary from one region to another. By bringing together scientists and researchers from a specific region, science academies help build a strong and collaborative scientific community. This facilitates the exchange of ideas, expertise, and resources, fostering a culture of innovation and cooperation.

It is essential for regional science academies to actively promote Science through regional language media channels, maintain regular interactions with journalists, and offer science updates in accessible format. Apart from science popularisation activities, many regional academies conduct studies on various topics that could affect the enhancement of Science in society, for example, student exodus to foreign countries, public perception of science and scientific research, etc. Regional academies can offer

insights into the unique challenges faced by their communities and contribute to developing informed policies that address regional needs.

Regional science academies can promote diversity and inclusion in Science by supporting underrepresented groups within the region. This contributes to a more inclusive and equitable scientific community. Regional science academies' contributions to nation-building and developing scientific temper are well documented in history. In our journey towards a Viksit Bharat, we should take various regional science academies and the National Science Academies' by affiliating them to the National body. When both academies work with a common goal, it can foster significant advancements in Indian Science. By aligning their efforts and resources, these academies can synergise their strengths, expertise, and networks to tackle scientific challenges more effectively.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

Uday Chib calls for rollback of Agnipath Scheme

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Senior Congress Leader and former President of Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress, Uday Bhanu Chib, has raised significant concerns over the implementation of the Agnipath scheme, calling for its immediate rollback. The scheme, which recruits individuals aged 17.5 to 21 years for a four-year service period in the Army, Navy, and Air Force, has been met with widespread opposition due to its perceived negative impacts on the Armed Forces.

In a statement issued here today, Uday Chib emphasized the damaging effects of the Agnipath scheme, particularly its division of soldiers within the same unit. "We are against the Agnipath scheme as it creates two sets of soldiers in the same unit and is damaging for the Armed Forces,"



Chib stated. He further highlighted the nationwide opposition to the scheme, underscoring the concerns echoed within the Congress party.

One of the primary concerns raised by Chib is the significant decline in recruitment numbers since the introduction of the Agnipath scheme. "Each year, 35-40 lakh personnel appear for the recruitment rallies. But since the Agnipath scheme has been launched, this number has drastically reduced. This decline in recruitment numbers, according to Chib, indicates a

"simmering discontent and a feeling of betrayal" among potential recruits.

Uday Chib also pointed out the disparity in training and service between Agnipath recruits and regular soldiers in the Armed Forces. He highlighted that while regular soldiers undergo rigorous training and gain extensive experience over several years, Agnipath recruits receive com-

paratively shorter training periods and shorter service tenures. This fundamental difference, Chib argued, results in Agnipath recruits being less prepared for deployment in challenging and harsh conditions compared to their regular counterparts.

The senior Congress leader Uday Chib raised concerns about pay disparities and differences in compensation for Agnipath recruits com-

pared to regular soldiers. He stressed the importance of honoring all soldiers equally, particularly in terms of compensation for those who make the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation.

Uday Chib asked the Central Government to reconsider the implementation of the Agnipath scheme and prioritize the welfare and effectiveness of the Armed Forces.

DPS Kathua hosts Disaster Management Awareness Program

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 13: DPS Kathua took a proactive step towards enhancing disaster preparedness by organizing a one-day awareness program on disaster management within its premises.

Led by DySP Sarabjeet Singh, Dy Controller

Civil Defense Kathua, a team from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) conducted an interactive session on disaster management techniques. The session provided students with practical insights into handling various emergency situations effectively.

Vivek Arora, Prin-

icipal of DPS Kathua, expressed his appreciation for the initiative and thanked the DYSP Sarabjeet Singh and the SDRF team for their informative session.

He emphasized the importance of disaster management in safeguarding lives and property during unforeseen events.

National Youth Parliament Festival 2024 on Feb 20

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 13: Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance senior leader Ajeet Bhagat urged government to digital system without cash for public. Cashless economy is a relatively new concept in India it has emerged recently, and despite initial challenges, it has witnessed high acceptance.

The advantages that have helped people shift towards going cashless. Bhagat said Digital transactions have one major benefit they bring transparency and accountability to the monetary system.

Digitizing monetary transactions helps banks recognize customers and track money flow.

This helps to reduce financial fraud and crimes such as tax evasion and counterfeit money in the economy.

Ajeet Bhagat said that the entire process of cashless systems ensures easier payments anytime and anywhere. For instance, if you want to send money to your family residing in another city, you don't have to go through the hassle of visiting the bank to initiate the transaction. A simple NEFT or IMPS from your phone does the job. Reduced cash-related crimes.

Bhagat said one of the primary reasons the government decided on demonetization was to restrict the use



of counterfeit money. Moreover, digital transactions always help curtail black money practices that negatively impact the country's growth.

Bhagat said the chances of flow of black money and illegal transactions are reduced when a transparent and rigid digital system is established. Ease of international transactions

Earlier, engaging in international transactions was troublesome due to the absence of facilities such as net banking and plastic money. Bhagat said Government initiatives to regulate digital payments, have eased up the process of international transactions for people living within and outside the country.

97 Bn BSF's Bharat Darshan tour for Kupwara students concludes



Top News Report

KUPWARA, Feb 13: Bharat Darshan Tour 2024 organized by 97 Battalion BSF Trehgam, Kupwara Kashmir under the Bharat Darshan program of MHA for Kashmiri students from Feb 6 to 12, 2024 concluded today.

A group of 14 Students (Boys) & 01 Teacher from Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Keran, Govt High School Mandian and Govt Upper Primary School, Naga which are located near Line of Control Participated in the said tour. On their arrival from the tour the group was given a warm welcome at 97 Bn BSF, Trehgam, Kupwara wherein the students enthusiastically shared their experiences and learnings from the tour.

The tour was ear-

lier flagged off by Brig (Retd) Manish Dutt Upadhyay, DIG, SHQ BSF Kupwara on 06 Feb 2024. During the 07 days tour, these students visited places of historical and cultural importance at Mumbai and witnessed the multicultural & multilingual diversity of mighty India.

These students visited all the major tourist attractions in Mumbai "The Economic capital of India" like Film City, Vidhansabha, Juhu Chopati, Marine Drive, Gate Way of India, Elephanta Caves, Fashion Street, Belapur Dubble Junction, Nexus Sea-wood mall, Atal Setu, Hazi Ali Dargah, Bandra, Bungalow of Film Stars, Campus Area of 102 RAF CRPF, Local Market and also enjoyed a ride in the Metro train.

During the tour, stu-

dents carried the message of love and peace from the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India.

The Chief Guest presented the a group with photo album containing their tour memories and further followed by tea and snacks. All participants appreciated the Bharat Darshan Tour 2024 and all the arrangements i.e. Accommodation, food, Transport, Curriculum, quality of the items issued to them. Participants further shared their experiences with the Chief Guest, Officers and troops, friends & families. This tour provided them a unique exposure to witness the rich culture of India and also enabled them to gain first-hand knowledge about various developments taking place in different parts of the country.

IGNOU extends last date for online admission for Jan 2024 session till Feb 15

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for fresh admission for the January 2024 session till 15th of February, 2024.

Before filling the admission form online, a candidate needs to create a User ID and Password on the SAM-ARTH portal and be ready with a Mobile No., Email ID, properly scanned academic documents, photograph and Bank Debit /Credit/ Net Banking for payment of fee.

Applicants can access the IGNOU admission portal 2024 at IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in or by directly following the link <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in>.

In case online payment made by any learner does not get updated, do not make the second payment immediately. Learners must wait for a day, check the payment status and then decide further course of action. Learners are

advised not to wait for the last date for submission of re-registration form since the servers get heavily overloaded towards the last date of online submission due to huge rush.

In a press statement, Regional Director Dr. Jai Prakash Verma informed that learners must exercise due caution in making online transactions and as far as possible must use their own card/net banking to make payment and in case the learners are using third-party services (cyber cafe or some other outlet) for submission of re-registration form, they must ensure that the courses have been correctly chosen and payment of programme fee has been made successfully.

The desirous candidates who wish to seek admission must avail this opportunity of date extension and apply for any of the programmes of their choice well before the last date, said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director.

Annual celebrations of Bawa Ballo Ji's Birthday on Basant Panchami gets underway

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: As part of the annual celebrations of Bawa Ballo Ji's birthday on Basant Panchami, the day began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Thathi Akhnoor and Ghor by Baba Yash Pal Ji Maharaj.

Atul Dulloo, Chief Secretary, honored the occasion by cutting the ribbon, symbolizing the auspiciousness of the day and the reverence for Bawa Ballo Ji's birthday at Mathwar.

Amidst the presence of hundreds of devotees and Sevadaars, Atul Dulloo, along with Yash Pal Ji, lit the

lamps at Devasthan and performed Pooja Archana.

The sacred rituals were conducted with utmost devotion, invoking blessings for the betterment of humanity, peace, and tranquility in the country. Bawa Yashpal Ji led the congregation in prayers, earnestly seeking divine blessings for the welfare of all beings.

His prayers resonated with the hearts of the gathered multitude, fostering a sense of unity and spiritual harmony among the attendees.

The event culminated with a vibrant community gathering at Mathwar, where hundreds of

people congregated to partake in the celebrations.

The atmosphere was filled with joy, devotion, and camaraderie, reflecting the spirit of togetherness and reverence for the esteemed occasion.

In conclusion, the annual celebrations of Bawa Ballo Ji's birthday on Basant Panchami were marked by profound reverence, spiritual fervor, and communal harmony. Through the collective prayers and blessings, the event served as a beacon of hope and inspiration, fostering goodwill and positivity among all participants.

Mudasir Ahanger expresses grief over death of spiritual Haji Mushtaq

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 13: BJP Minority Morcha Kishtwar District Vice President Mudasir Ahanger while issuing a condolence message, expressed his sorrow over the death of spiritual personality Haji Mushtaq Ahmad Shah, who always played important roles in spiri-

tual services within Jammu and Kashmir, has said that the death of the deceased has created a great void which is not only difficult but also impossible to fill.

He said that such personalities are rarely seen and a person who gained an important position in religious services from Kishtwar

district has passed away from this world.

They stand with the family and pray to Allah Almighty to grant Jannat ul-Firdus to the deceased and grant the family members the ability to bear this shock, he has said that we pray to Allah Almighty to grant the deceased a higher place in heaven.

NYK Doda organises sensitization programme on HIV awareness at Chiralla

Top News Report

DODA, Feb 13: Under "Out of School Youth Programme" of J&K AIDS Control Society, H&ME Department, Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Doda in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society organized a Sensitization/Awareness Programme on HIV/AIDS for Youth volunteers at Village Chiralla, Block Chiralla on Tuesday.

In this programme, resource persons were Dr. Daleep Kumar (Pharmacist and Health Educator) and Dr. Maninder Kumar (Senior Lecturer). The programme organised under the supervision of District Youth Offi-



cer, Khushal Gupta witnessed participation of 50 youth from across the block. Former Sarpanch Sh. Mohd Majid Wani was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Dr. Daleep Kumar delivered lecture on HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). He said that this virus attacks

cells that help the body fight infection, making a person more vulnerable to other infections and diseases. It is spread by contact with certain bodily fluids of an infected person most commonly during unprotected sex or through reusing injection drug equipment.

Dr. Maninder Kumar shed light on the various precautionary measures to avoid the transmission of this deadly virus. He also motivated the rural youth to arise out of the social stigma associated with AIDS as infected people usually hesitate to get themselves treated thereby

spreading the virus more rapidly.

He also focused on a crucial topic of Drug-Addiction and advised the youth to engage themselves in physical activities.

Mohd Majid Wani applauding the efforts of Nehru Yuva Kendra Doda said that such programmes must be organised in every village to generate awareness on these topics. He said that the youth being the future of our nation need to come forward and guide the rural folk on such contemporary issues.

The programme ended with the vote of thanks by National Youth Volunteers Rajesh Kumar and Inder Singh.

National Youth Parliament Festival 2024 on Feb 20

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 13: Nehru Yuva Kendra Udhampur, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India is going to host 5th edition of National Youth Parliament Festival at District Level on 20th February, 2024 in which youth will participate and deliberate on national issues towards achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

District Youth Officer, NYK Udhampur, Khushal Gupta briefed that the young boys and girls belonging to districts Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Leh & Kargil are urged to participate in the district level

event going to be held on Feb in virtual mode.

It is a golden opportunity for the youth to showcase their talent and put forth their views in this virtual event.

The participating youth must lie in the age group 18-25 years as on 01st February, 2024.

The theme of National Youth Parliament Festival 2024 is Young Voices - Engage and Empower For Nation's Transformation which will be deliberated on three topics i.e. Making India a global leader - The role of young entrepreneurs in boosting India's economic power, From Atmanirbhar to Viksit Bharat -

Charting India's Growth Trajectory powered by youth and Empowering the Future - Youth led initiatives paving the way for a responsible community.

It is pertinent to mention that all the participants will be given the certificate of participation at district as well as state level whereas at National Level, the first prize is Rs. 2 lakh, second prize is Rs. 1.5 lakh, third prize is Rs. 1 lakh and 2 consolation prizes of Rs. 50000/- each. To participate the interested youth may contact at 9906249020, 9 5 9 2 2 8 9 0 2 5, 9622979104 and application must be submitted well before 18th February, 2024.

Hindi cinema's most convincing villain, Pran was also Amitabh Bachchan's benefactor

One of the few actors who entered the industry without wanting to become a hero, his contribution to the Indian film industry was unmatched

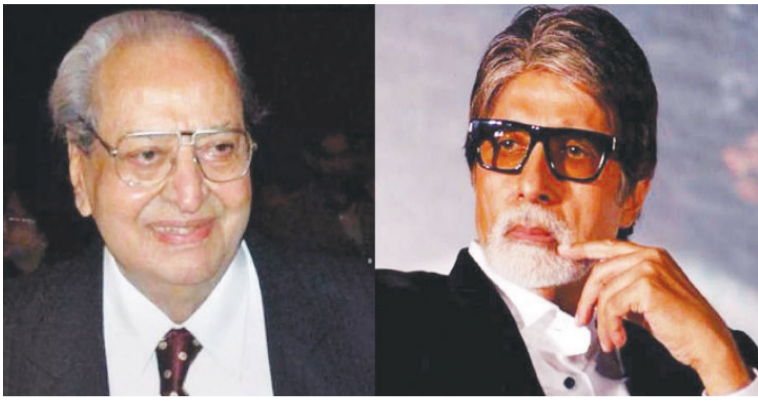
Notorious for terrorising at least two generations of top heroes - in reel life - with just his trademark glare, steely voice, and facial expressions ranging from ferocious to sneering, he especially stood out for his film relations with Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, whom he once bested onscreen with two words.

In one standard of the lost-and-found potboiler genre, Amitabh, with his role's habitual insouciance, asks a stern-looking, impeccably-dressed character, "Aap kaun hai mai-baap?". Pat came the terse reply, "Tumhara baap".

This was 'Amar Akbar Anthony' (1977) - one of the 11 films that Pran, born on this day (February 12) in 1920 - did with Amitabh, playing with his father two times more or a reluctant ally. Of these, at least nine films are intrinsic to the Amitabh legend, including 'Zanjeer' (1973), 'Don' (1978), 'Naseeb' (1981), 'Kaalia' (1981), 'Sharaabi' (1984), and 'Shahenshah' (1988).

Pran also had a major part in launching Amitabh's path to stardom as it was he - and co-star Ajit - who convinced Prakash Mehra to cast Amitabh, then a relative nobody despite 15-odd films, as hero in 'Zanjeer'.

One of the few actors who entered the industry without wanting to become a hero, his contribution to the Indian film industry was unmatched. When Pran passed away in 2013,



the centenary year of Indian cinema, he had been acting for nearly two-thirds of his 93 years, mostly a convincing villain whose name Indian parents did not use in front of their children for at least a quarter of a century.

Among the highest-paid actors in his time - sometimes even more than the hero, and a character actor with over a dozen songs, he also had the privilege of his name coming by itself at the end of the casting as 'And Pran'.

As he transformed the Hindi film villain from a stereotype to a well-delineated character, his reward was people abusing him in public, children hiding from him, most female stars afraid of him and his name becoming taboo for two generations.

Son of a prosperous government civil contractor Kewal Krishan Sikand, Pran did not seem destined to be an actor - apart from an appearance as Sita in a Ram Leela in Simla - with Madan Puri playing Ram.

He entered films in purely filmi

style - after a chance encounter at a pan shop in Lahore where he was working with a leading photograph studio.

Impressed by the way Pran ate pan, a man approached him and asked to come to a famous producer's office the next day to test for a role. Pran thought it was a joke and forgot about it. But when he went to the cinema the next Saturday, Pran ran into the same person - film writer Wali Mohammad, who walked across and "began abusing me with choice Punjabi invectives" and came to his house to pick him up, he recounted later.

He debuted as villain in 'Yamla Jat' (Punjabi, 1940) and then was cast as hero in the studio's first Hindi film 'Khandan' (1942) - opposite Noor Jehan. He did two dozen-odd films till partition - mostly as a hero, though he later confessed that he did not like singing songs and chasing heroines around trees!

After partition, his family moved to Bombay, but he failed to find any work, despite intervention by friends like actor

Shyam and writer Sadat Hasan Manto.

His fate turned with Bombay Talkies casting him as villain in 'Ziddi' (1949) - which also launched Dev Anand's career as a hero. Offers started pouring in and his career was on a roll again - and continued till he retired in the 1990s due to his age and health issues.

Among his trademark roles were as the eponymous character in costumed drama 'Halaku' (1956), playing Genghis Khan's grandson with panache - opposite Ajit and Meena Kumari, Dilip Kumar's tormentor in films like 'Madhumati' (1958), 'Dil Diya Dard Liya' (1966), and 'Ram Aur Shyam' (1967), Raj Kapoor's near nemesis in 'Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai' (1959) -- where his rubbing of neck was to portray the dacoit's fear of the noose, Shammi Kapoor's thorn in 'Kashmir Ki Kali' (1964) and 'Brahmachari' (1968) and of Dev Anand in 'Munimjee' (1955).

However, roles of the dacoit in Manoj Kumar's 'Shaheed' (1965) and Malang Chacha in 'Upkar' (1967) paved way for more positive characters - though he had played the loyal doctor friend in Raj Kapoor's 'Aah' (1953) and this was attributed as a factor for it flopping!

Pran was also noted for turning down a Filmfare Award to protest a deserving candidate being left out in another category which initiated a fund to support distressed film artistes and technicians.

Sherleen Dutt's take on love and romance



Unconditional, forgiving, and unwavering; this is what describes love for actress Sherleen Dutt. The actress, who is known for being part of series Honey Trap Squad, says that there is nothing that is purer than love.

"Love is the purest emotion that a person can feel. We have all heard the timeless tales of Radha Krishna, Ram Sita and Shiv Parvati. That is love. It's all about forming that unwavering connection with someone that surpasses all

obstacles. It's a bond that is unconditional and relentless. That is love for me. It makes you who you are, and adds so much value to your life," she says.

Talking about her plans for Valentine's Day, she says, "This Valentine's Day, as I don't have a special person in my life, I've planned something truly meaningful. I'm dedicating the day to celebrating the purest love - the love of my parents. Instead of focusing on a romantic partner, I'll cherish the time spent with the two individuals who have always been my unwavering support and a source of unconditional love. Valentine's Day, for me, is a day to honour all forms of love, especially the enduring bond with family."

And about her idea of celebrating love, she says, "I am not someone who equates love with gifts or expensive dates and trips. For me, it's all about spending time, talking and making memories."

She adds, "My past relationships have taught me that everything happens for a reason. They have taught me that love can be accompanied by pain, but it is all worth it in the end. Love is about giving freely without anticipating the same in return."

Prime Video sets premiere date for 'Ae Watan Mere Watan' starring Sara Ali Khan



Sara Ali Khan-starrer 'Ae Watan Mere Watan' would start streaming on Prime Video from March 21, the platform announced on Tuesday. Billed as a historical thriller drama, the upcoming Hindi film is directed by Kannan Iyer from a story he wrote with Darab Farooqui. 'Ae Watan Mere Watan' is a Dharmatic Entertainment production and is backed by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta and Somen Mishra.

According to the makers, the movie—set during the Quit India Movement in 1942—is a fictional tale that draws inspiration from freedom fighter Usha Mehta.

Prime Video revealed the premiere date of 'Ae Watan Mere Watan' on the occasion of World Radio Day with a motion poster, featuring Sara's voice as Usha, urging the country to unite against the British Raj through a clandestine radio.

Aparna Purohit, head of Originals, India and Southeast Asia, Prime Video, described the film as "homage to the innumerable indomitable heroes" whose sacrifices defined India's path to freedom.

"The story struck a deep chord with us and we instinctively felt the need to bring it to life. 'Ae Watan Mere Watan' further cements our long-standing relationship with Dharmatic Entertainment and underscores our collective commitment to telling stories that are not only entertaining and immersive but have a robust emotional core," Purohit said in a statement.

Johar said 'Ae Watan Mere Watan' has been a dream in the making.

"At Dharmatic Entertainment, we have always taken pride in bringing forth stories that are told from the heart and 'Ae Watan Mere Watan' exemplifies that.

"Kannan and Darab have taken inspiration from a poignant point of India's history and woven a rich story with a strong emotional core that is further enriched by Sara's exceptional portrayal of a young revolutionary," the producer added.

'Ae Watan Mere Watan' would also be available on the streamer with dubs in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada.

Actors Sachin Khedekar, Abhay Verma, Sparsh Shrivastav, Alex O'Neil and Anand Tiwari also round out the cast of the film, which also has a special guest appearance by Emraan Hashmi.

Rachana Mistry steps into the shoes of Arya in 'Dabangii - Mulgi Aayi Re Aayi'



The viewers will witness a 14-year leap in Sony Entertainment Television's, Dabangii - Mulgi Aayi Re Aayi, and stepping into the shoes of a grown-up Arya will be talented actress Rachana Mistry.

Rachana shared, "Arya embodies the same Dabangii spirit from her childhood, yet her maturity now grants her a deeper understanding of the world. Her acts of kindness and empathy illuminate her path, prioritizing human connection over material pursuits; a reflection of all that her Baba, Ankush, has taught her. Despite the deep loss she has gone through, Arya's courage remains steadfast, fueled by a quest to face Satya, to avenge the death of her parents and his wrongdoings. The show and Arya's character have been loved by all; embracing this role comes with great responsibility though, following the benchmark set by the little dynamite Maahi Bhadra."

Shruti Haasan wishes 'Teach for Change' expands to encompass the entire nation

Actress Shruti Haasan, who stole the limelight as the showstopper for the Teach for Change fundraiser fashion show, has commended Lakshmi Manchu for her relentless efforts behind this noble initiative, aiming for the expansion of this endeavour to encompass all of South India, and, eventually, the entire nation.

The ninth edition of the Teach for Change's annual fundraiser, which was held in Hyderabad on Sunday, saw participation from fashion maestros Amit GT for women's wear, and Shashank Chelilla for men's wear.

This extravagant event, known for its blend of glamour and social impact, saw a host of actors walking the ramp. Shruti glided down the ramp for the fashion show in a black-hooded Indo-western lehenga by Amit GT.

About the event, Shruti said: "Lakshmi has been actively involved in Teach for Change's



distinctive efforts within government schools, and I'm excited to join in this year.

Ensuring every child receives quality education is paramount, and Teach for Change is making strides in

Telangana." "I hope this initiative expands to encompass all of South India and eventually the entire nation. Let's all contribute in our own small ways to make a significant impact together," she added.

Rakul Preet Singh, Jackky Bhagnani to get married on February 21; wedding card surfaces

Bollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh and producer-actor Jackky Bhagnani are all set to tie the knot on February 21.

The painted card has the mandap surrounded by coconut trees and the sea in the backdrop.

The opening card is in blue and white which has the hashtag #ABDONOBHAGNA-NI.

After dating for a few years, Rakul and Jackky have chosen Goa to be the venue for their wedding. The two had reportedly fallen in love in the same



location, according to reports.

Jackky's debut film was 'Kal Kissne Dekha', which came out in 2009. He then starred in films such as 'F.A.L.T.U.', 'Ajab Gazabb Love', 'Rangrez' and 'Youngistaan' among many others. Rakul made her acting debut with the Kannada film 'Gilli' in 2009. She stepped into the world of Hindi cinema with 'Yaariyan' after which she starred in films such as 'De De Pyaar De', 'Runway 34', 'Chhatriwali', 'I Love You' and 'Doctor G' among many others.

PM Modi Launches 'Muft Bijli' (Free Electricity) Scheme, Shares Link To Join

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana: PM Narendra Modi said the project would entail an investment of over 75,000 crore.

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): In a bid to boost solar power and sustainable progress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced that his government is launching the 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' which aims to light up one crore households by providing up to 300 units of free electricity every month.

PM Modi said the project would entail an investment of over 75,000 crore.

"In order to further sustainable development and people's well-being, we are launching the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. This project, with an investment of over 75,000 crore, aims to light up 1 crore households by providing up to 300 units of free



electricity every month," the Prime Minister said on X.

From substantive subsidies, which will be given directly to people's bank accounts, to

heavily concessional bank loans, the central government will ensure that there is no cost burden on the people, he said. All stakeholders will be inte-

grated to a National Online Portal, the Prime Minister added.

PM Modi said that in order to popularise this scheme at the grassroots, urban local bodies and panchayats shall be incentivised to promote rooftop solar systems in their jurisdictions.

"At the same time, the scheme will lead to more income, lesser power bills and employment generation for people," the Prime Minister said.

"Let's boost solar power and sustainable progress. I urge all residential consumers, especially youngsters, to strengthen the PM - Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana by applying at - <https://pmsuryaghar.gov.in>," PM Modi said.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee condemns 'assault' on protesting farmers in Haryana



KOLKATA, Feb 13 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday condemned the firing of tear gas shells at protesting farmers in Haryana, dubbing it as "BJP's brutal assault" on cultivators.

The Haryana Police lobbied tear gas shells at farmers who tried to break barricades set up at the state's border

with Punjab at Shambhu near Ambala, as growers demanding a law on minimum support price marched toward Delhi.

"How can our country progress when the farmers are attacked with tear gas shells for fighting for their basic rights? I strongly condemn the brutal assault on our farmers by the BJP," Banerjee said in a post on X.

"Instead of suppress-

ing their protest, BJP must focus on humbling their inflated egos, power-hungry ambitions, and inadequate governance that has harmed our nation," she added.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha had announced that farmers would head to Delhi on Tuesday to press for their demands, including the enactment of a law to guarantee a minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

In Delhi, security has been intensified with multi-layer barricades, concrete blocks, iron nails and walls of containers at border points, officials said.

JEE-Main: 23 candidates bag 100 score in first edition of exam, maximum of them from Telangana

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Twenty-three candidates have bagged the perfect 100 score in the engineering entrance exam JEE-Main with a maximum of them being from Telangana, the National Testing Agency announced on Tuesday.

Over 11.70 lakh candidates had appeared for the first edition of the crucial exam.

Among the candidates who scored 100 NTA scores, seven are from Telangana, two from Haryana, three each from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, two from Delhi and one each from Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

According to NTA officials, NTA score is not the same as percentage of marks but normalised scores.

"NTA scores are normalised scores across multi-session papers and are based on the relative performance of all those who appeared for the examination in one session.

The marks obtained are converted

into a scale ranging from 100 to 0 for each session of examinees," a senior official explained.

The Examination was held in Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

The Examination was also conducted outside India in Manama, Doha, Dubai, Kathmandu, Muscat, Riyadh, Sharjah, Singapore, Kuwait City, Kuala Lumpur, Lagos/Abuja, Colombo, Jakarta, Moscow, Ottawa, Port Louis, Bangkok, and Washington DC.

It was conducted in Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong, and Oslo for the first time.

While the first edition of the exam was conducted in January-February, the second edition is scheduled in April.

Based on the results of JEE-Mains Paper 1 and Paper 2, the candidates will be shortlisted to appear for the JEE-Advanced exam, which is a one-stop exam to get admission into the 23 premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

'Embarking on new journey': Former Maharashtra CM Ashok Chavan joins BJP day after quitting Congress

MUMBAI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan joined the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) here on Tuesday, a day after quitting the Congress, the party he was associated with for nearly four decades.

Chavan (65) was inducted into the BJP at the party office in Mumbai in the presence of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, BJP state president Chandrashekar Bawankule, Mumbai party unit head Ashish Shelar and cabinet minister Girish Mahajan.

Addressing a press conference after his induction, Chavan said he joined the BJP as he was impressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's work with the slogan of 'Sabka saath, sabka vikas'.

Stating that by joining the BJP he was embarking on a new journey of his political life, he added that he would work for increasing the saffron party's seats in Maharashtra.

Chavan, the son of former CM Shankarrao Chavan, tendered his resignation from the Congress on Monday, giving a jolt to the grand old party ahead of Lok Sabha elections.

Chavan's exit from the Congress came days



after senior Maharashtra Congress leaders Baba Siddique and Milind Deora quit the party.

Chavan had stepped down as the chief minister in 2010 for his alleged involvement in Adarsh Housing scam in Mumbai. He was the state Congress chief during 2014-19. He represented Bhokar assembly seat and is also a former MP from Nanded Lok Sabha constituency.

He is accused in the Adarsh Housing Society scam wherein a 31-storey posh building in south Mumbai was constructed allegedly on land owned by the Defence Ministry without getting the requisite permissions and clearances.

The backdrop of the Adarsh Housing Society scam mentioned in a white paper tabled in Parliament last week has drawn attention as a potential factor in Chavan's departure, a claim though denied by him.

When asked about

remarks. We even praised each other's good work. I will work as per the directives of the party. It was always my decision to switch over to the BJP," he said.

"It's a new beginning of my life, I would say. In the last 38 years of my political life...starting a new journey. I would like to do some good work and go ahead with progressive thoughts. Politics is a way of serving society. Some people have criticised my decision, but I will not make any personal remarks against anyone," Chavan added.

When asked about whether more people from the Congress could join the BJP, Chavan said, "I have not made any calls to other Congress leaders. BJP leaders, like Fadnavis, will take that decision. I have joined the party only today."

On the farmers' 'Dilli Chalo' march, Chavan said it was true that the cultivators were facing some issues. "But their issues will be addressed for sure. The government wants to stop farmers' suicides. The prime minister is capable, and he can make other leaders, like the agriculture minister, to find solutions," he said.

Chavan added that the Centre had earlier withdrawn the three contro-

versial farm laws. "So it is not a prestige issue," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Fadnavis said, "It is a delightful moment for all of us that a senior leader from Maharashtra, Ashok Chavan, has joined the BJP. He has worked on several portfolios as well as served as chief minister of the state two times. I welcome him to the party. I am sure his induction has strengthened the 'Mahayuti' government."

"Many leaders in the country are in favour of joining the BJP as the country is progressing under the leadership of PM Modi. He told us that he is not keen on any post in the party, and he wants to contribute to the country's development," he said.

Talking to reporters before joining the BJP, Chavan said, "Today is the beginning of my new political career." Asked if he had received any calls from senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Chavan evaded a reply.

Former Congress MLC Amarnath Rajurkar and several supporters of Chavan from his home district Nanded in Marathwada came to Mumbai and gathered at the BJP office in south Mumbai.

Centre gave Bharat Ratna to Chaudhary Charan Singh, but doing 'injustice' to farmers: Congress

AMBIKAPUR, Feb 13 (Agencies): Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday said the Centre has honoured Chaudhary Charan Singh, who championed for farmers' causes, and agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan with the Bharat Ratna but has been doing "injustice" to cultivators.

His remarks came against the backdrop of the 'Dilli Chalo' march call given by thousands of farmers demanding a law on minimum support price (MSP) and the national capital being made a virtual fortress with authorities stopping them from entering the city.

Addressing a press conference in Chhattisgarh's Surguja district headquarters Ambi-

kapur during the Congress' ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', Ramesh also targeted Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar for joining hands with the BJP and termed him "Palti Kumar" (one who does somersault).

Notably, security in Delhi has been intensified with multi-layer barricades, concrete blocks, iron nails and walls of containers at border points to stop the 'Dilli Chalo' march of farmers from entering the national capital on Tuesday, after talks between farm leaders and the Centre remained inconclusive.

Ramesh said, "A few back back, the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Bharat



Ratna (country's highest civilian honour) for great farmer leader Charan Singh and the 'father of green revolution' Swaminathan posthumously and we welcome the decision."

"But the government, which has announced the prestigious honour for the two legends, has been committing injustice to farmers," he claimed.

Farmers have been staging protests in

support of three-four demands which the Modi government promised to be fulfil when it rolled back three 'black' farm laws, Ramesh said.

He said farmers have been demanding a law on minimum support price and that the MSP should be fixed at 1.5 times the production cost of the crops, as per the formula of Swaminathan.

The third demand of

farmers is loan waiver. The Modi government waived loans amounting to Rs 14 lakh crore of "chandadata" (donation givers) but not the Rs 1 lakh crore loans of "annadata" (referring to farmers), Ramesh claimed.

In 2008, the then Congress government at the Centre waived farmers' loans of Rs 72,000 crore, he said.

The Modi government has not been fulfilling its assurance given to farmers, which reflects its intention, he claimed. The Congress is standing with the farmers and supports them, he added.

Asked about some parties exiting the opposition INDIA alliance, formed to counter the BJP in the upcom-

ing Lok Sabha polls, Ramesh said, "There were 28 parties and only two of them have left. Of the two, one is 'Palti Kumar' (referring to Bihar CM Nitish Kumar), 'Palti' (political somersault) is in his blood, he does volte face again and again."

"We were not expecting anything else other than volte face. The other one is the RLD (Rashtriya Lok Dal) which took some other decisions after the announcement of the Bharat Ratna for Chaudhary Charan Singh. Only two parties have left. There are 26 parties and the alliance is strong," he said.

Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar was also present at the press conference.

Delhi Man Stabbed To Death In Broad Daylight By 5 Drunk Men: Police

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): A 25-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by five people in full public view in a narrow lane of Sultanpuri in Outer Delhi, police said on Tuesday.

Three of the accused have been arrested, they added.

The accused were in an inebriated state when they killed the man, the police said.

The victim, identified as Azad, received multiple stab injuries due to which he died on the spot, they added.

According to a police officer, Azad had an argument with the five men after they pushed his motorcycle.

"The attackers, who were in drunk condi-

tion, pulled down Azad's parked motorcycle on the ground. When Azad objected to it, they attacked him with knife and stones," an officer said.

A CCTV video clip of the incident also surfaced on social media where the accused could be seen attacking Azad, causing panic among the passersby who started running away in fear.

The officer said three among the five accused were held in the early hours of Tuesday and teams have been formed to nab the remaining two.

Investigation is underway in the murder case that was registered following the incident.

Jailed Former Thailand PM Thaksin Shinawatra To Be Freed

The controversial billionaire, twice elected premier and ousted in a 2006 military coup, was jailed for eight years on graft and abuse of power charges in August.

BANGKOK, Feb 13 (Agencies): Jailed former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra is to be freed, the kingdom's justice minister said Tuesday, possibly as soon as the weekend -- just six months after returning from 15 years of self-imposed exile.

The controversial billionaire, twice elected premier and ousted in a 2006 military coup, was jailed for eight years on graft and abuse of power charges in August, but within days had his sentence cut to one year by King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Justice Minister Taweewee Sod-song said Tuesday that the former Manchester City owner, 74, would be among 930 prisoners granted early release.

"He is in the group where they are in a critical condition or aged over 70. He will be released after six months automatically," Taweewee Sod-song told reporters.

Thaksin was jailed on August 22 last year, and Thai media



reported that his release could come any day from Saturday.

The exact details of his release are not clear, but he may be subject to monitoring -- possibly with an ankle tag -- and restrictions on his right to travel.

His homecoming coincided with his Pheu Thai party returning to government in alliance with pro-military parties, leading many to conclude that an agreement had been struck to cut his jail time.

The rumours grew stronger

when he was transferred to a police hospital within hours of being sentenced because of his poor health, and it is not clear that he has spent any time in a prison cell.

Local media reported Thaksin had been suffering from chest tightness and high blood pressure when he was admitted to hospital, and in the following months, his family said he had undergone two operations.

Divisive figure
The former telecoms tycoon

is one of the most influential but divisive figures in modern Thai history.

Loved by millions of rural Thais for his populist policies in the early 2000s, Thaksin is reviled by the country's royalist and pro-military establishment.

Much of Thai politics over the last two decades has been coloured by the tussle for power between the establishment and Thaksin and his allies.

When he landed home in Bangkok, his supporters gave him a hero's welcome, and his first public act was to prostrate himself in homage before a portrait of the king at the airport.

Last week, police laid lese-majeste charges against him over comments he made in South Korea almost a decade ago, though it is not clear whether prosecutors will take the case to court.

Thaksin denies the charge and has written to the attorney general asking for fair treatment.

Sri Lanka To Amend Online Censorship Law After Backlash From Tech Giants



COLOMBO, Feb 13 (Agencies): Sri Lanka said Tuesday it would amend its strict new internet censorship law after opposition from global tech giants, who risked criminal prosecutions for content shared on social media.

Information minister Bandula Gunawardana said cabinet had decided to amend the controversial Online Safety Law, which was rushed through parliament last month despite vocal opposition.

A new bill would take "into consideration the proposals of experts in

the field", he told reporters in Colombo.

The law as passed makes social media companies liable for any content posted on their platforms deemed offensive by Sri Lankan authorities.

A coalition of international tech companies warned Colombo last month the legislation was "unworkable" and that they would not cooperate with local authorities to implement it.

Opposition lawmakers had decried the law as an effort to censor political speech ahead

of presidential elections due later this year.

Social media was a key tool used by protesters during Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis in 2022, which precipitated nationwide demonstrations that eventually compelled then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to step down.

The law mandates prison terms of up to 10 years for executives of social media platforms if their offices fail to disclose user details of those accused of creating posts deemed illegal.

It also makes anonymous and parody social media accounts illegal and applies to users posting from outside the island nation.

Public security minister Tiran Alles had earlier denied the law would be used to stifle dissent.

OpenAI CEO warns that 'societal misalignments' could make artificial intelligence dangerous

DUBAI, Feb 13 (Agencies): The CEO of ChatGPT-maker OpenAI said Tuesday that the dangers that keep him awake at night regarding artificial intelligence are the "very subtle societal misalignments" that could make the systems wreak havoc.

Sam Altman, speaking at the World Government Summit in Dubai via a video call, reiterated his call for a body like the International Atomic Energy Agency to be created to oversee AI that's likely advancing faster than the world expects.

"There's some things in there that are easy to imagine where things really go wrong. And I'm not that interested in the killer robots walking on the street direction of things going wrong," Altman said. "I'm much more interested in the very subtle societal misalignments where we just have these systems out in society and through no particular ill intention, things just go horribly wrong."

However, Altman stressed that the AI industry, like OpenAI, shouldn't be in the driver's seat when it comes to making regulations governing the industry.

"We're still in the stage of a lot of discussion. So there's you know, everybody in the world is having a conference. Everyone's got

an idea, a policy paper, and that's OK," Altman said. "I think we're still at a time where debate is needed and healthy, but at some point in the next few years, I think we have to move towards an action plan with real buy-in around the world."

OpenAI, a San Francisco-based artificial intelligence startup, is one of the leaders in the field. Microsoft has invested some \$1 billion in OpenAI. The Associated Press has signed a deal with OpenAI for it to access its news archive. Meanwhile, The New York Times has sued OpenAI and Microsoft over the use of its stories without permission to train OpenAI's chatbots.

OpenAI's success has made Altman the public face for generative AI's rapid commercialization — and the fears over what may come from the new technology.

The UAE, an autocratic federation of seven hereditarily ruled sheikhdoms, has signs of that risk. Speech remains tightly controlled. Those restrictions affect the flow of accurate information — the same details AI programs like ChatGPT rely on as machine-learning systems to provide their answers for users.

The Emirates also has the Abu Dhabi firm G42,

overseen by the country's powerful national security adviser. G42 has what experts suggest is the world's leading Arabic-language artificial intelligence model. The company has faced spying allegations for its ties to a mobile phone app identified as spyware. It has also faced claims it could have gathered genetic material secretly from Americans for the Chinese government.

G42 has said it would cut ties to Chinese suppliers over American concerns. However, the discussion with Altman, moderated by the UAE's Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence Omar Al-Olama, touched on none of the local concerns.

For his part, Altman said he was heartened to see that schools, where teachers feared students would use AI to write papers, now embrace the technology as crucial for the future. But he added that AI remains in its infancy.

"I think the reason is the current technology that we have is like ... that very first cellphone with a black-and-white screen," Altman said. "So give us some time. But I will say I think in a few more years it'll be much better than it is now. And in a decade it should be pretty remarkable."

Pakistan's General Elections: Bilawal Bhutto's PPP split on whether to join coalition government or sit on Opposition benches

KARACHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): The Bilawal Bhutto-led Pakistan Peoples Party which won the third largest number of seats in the National Assembly in the elections appears to be split on whether to join a coalition government or sit on Opposition benches.

The Central Executive Committee (CEC) of the PPP which met in Islamabad to deliberate on the post-poll scenario and proposals regarding the coalition government has decided to reach out to all political parties, including the PTI-backed independents, for a possible power-sharing deal.

Addressing a press conference after the CEC meeting on Monday night, Senator Sherry Rehman said, "The PPP will approach all (political) parties, and a committee will be set up."

The committee will be formed on Tuesday, while the CEC meeting which ended without reaching any final decision will also resume at 3 pm.

A highly reliable source within the party said this was the main reason for the party's central executive committee which met on Monday. They failed to reach a final decision on whether to form a coalition government with the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif led Pakistan



Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) or sit on Opposition benches with the independents elected on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) tickets.

"The PML-N is pressurising Asif Zardari to agree to power-sharing where sharing the prime minister's post has also been discussed," the source said.

"The negotiations have centred around Shehbaz Sharif remaining prime minister for half of the elected term and then Bilawal replacing him as leader of the House in Parliament," he added.

The source confirmed there were still differences remaining over who would be nominated for key ministerial positions like foreign minister, home minister, finance minister and also the chief minister of Pakistan's largest province, Punjab.

But the source confided that Bilawal, the 35-year-old former foreign minister, and some

of his like-minded supporters on the Central Executive Committee CEC of the PPP are not in favour of aligning with the PML-N as they point out that they are serious doubts over whether Nawaz Sharif, his brother Shahbaz Sharif and daughter, Maryam Nawaz did even win genuinely from their constituencies or were given a mandate by the establishment.

"Bilawal has said the PML-N is presently lacking credibility in the eyes of the people who surprised everyone by voting in favour of the PTI independents in many constituencies and he believes it is better to sit on Opposition benches and give a tough time to whichever coalition government takes power," the source said.

The source said Bilawal was not in favour of sharing the prime minister's position or the key ministerial posts.

"There is yet to be consensus to be developed in the PPP on their next line of action even though Asif Zardari is carrying on his talks with the PML-N and some other parties," the source said.

Bilawal, an Oxford University graduate in his election rallies has kept on highlighting the need for free and fair democracy in the country and for parties to stop wheeling and dealing with the establishment to get power.

He also publicly criticised the jail term given to Imran Khan in the Nikah case and said even in politics he does not support going to this level.

The PPP has a strong legacy in Pakistan politics owing to the Bhutto family which gave the country two prime ministers Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and his daughter, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

Both had abrasive relations with the establishment with Z.A. Bhutto being charged on a murder charge in 1979 and Benazir assassinated in Rawalpindi in December 2007.

Since the assassination of Benazir Bhutto who was twice elected prime minister, her husband Asif Ali Zardari, a former President and only son, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has carried forward the legacy of the

party. But while the senior Zardari has built a reputation for being flexible and an astute negotiator, his son Bilawal appears to follow a different path and philosophy.

Political analyst and a professor in political science, Safdar Abbas believes Bilawal is clearly trying to form his own independent political identity which distances him politically from his father's philosophies.

"Presently it appears that Asif Zardari still holds the cards in the PPP but the rebellion from Bilawal is there for all to see. Even at the provincial level in Sindh Bilawal's push for more development in Karachi is obvious," Abbas said. Bilawal, not fluent in Urdu has been more forthcoming in his election campaign mingling with the people and making sound for causes and issues that affect the common man.

Abbas said the next 48 hours will be crucial because if there is a coalition government formed by the PPP and PML-N it will not last long.

The PML-N has already snared some of the independents who won PTI seats but its total tally of 78 seats in the parliament is not enough to form a government, something it can't do without forming a coalition government.

Russia warns the West: 'We will be very tough if you 'steal' our assets'

MOSCOW, Feb 13 (Agencies): Russia warned the West, on Tuesday, that Moscow would be very tough if the United States and European Union seized hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of Russian assets.

After President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine in 2022, the United States and its allies prohibited transactions with Russia's central bank and finance ministry, blocking around \$300 billion of sovereign Russian assets in the West.

The EU, on Monday, adopted a law to set aside windfall profits made on frozen Russian central



bank assets in a first concrete step towards the bloc's aim of using the money to finance the reconstruction of Ukraine.

"This is theft. It's the appropriation of something that doesn't belong

to you," Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Sputnik radio, TASS reported. Zakharova said the response from Moscow would be "extremely tough" as Russia felt it was essentially dealing with thieves.

"Considering that our country has qualified this as theft, the attitude will be towards thieves," Zakharova said.

"Not as political manipulators, not as overplayed technologists, but as thieves."

Russia has said that if its property is seized then it would seize US, European and other assets in responses.

China Urges Israel To Stop Military Ops In Rafah 'As Soon As Possible'

BEIJING, Feb 13 (Agencies): China urged Israel on Tuesday to stop its military operation in the Gaza city of Rafah "as soon as possible", warning of a "serious humanitarian disaster" there if fighting did not stop.

"China follows closely the developments in the Rafah area, opposes and condemns actions that harm civilians and violate international law," a foreign ministry spokesperson said in a

statement.

Beijing urged Israel to "to stop its military operation as soon as possible, (and) make every effort to avoid innocent civilian casualties, in order to prevent a more serious humanitarian disaster in the Rafah area".

Israel is facing growing international pressure to agree to a ceasefire with Hamas as it prepares for an incursion into Rafah, the southern Gaza border city where

more than a million displaced Palestinians are trapped.

Israel conducted a predawn raid in Rafah on Monday that freed two hostages and killed around 100 people, after rejecting Hamas's terms for a truce last week.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed the overnight operation as "perfect", while the Palestinian foreign ministry said the deaths of dozens of Gazans amounted to a "mas-

sacre".

The rare rescue mission under heavy air strikes came hours after Netanyahu spoke with US President Joe Biden, who reiterated his opposition to a major assault on Rafah.

The United Nations has also warned Israel against carrying out a ground offensive into Rafah without a plan to protect civilians, who say they have nowhere left to go.

State Yoga Commissioner felicitates Dr Kailash Nath Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: State Yoga Commissioner & State Chairman Indian Yoga Association Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, felicitated Dr Kailash Nath Sharma, who do not want to come out of the veil of anonymity.

He is a physiotherapist par excellence having made significant contribution for the Society, country and mankind, a leader and source of inspiration for the student community and youth of the Nation and the world.

The honour will motivate the said soldier, poet and scholar to inspire the future generations. His life and works are a source of inspiration, motivation and encouragements for the generations to come. He has donor extremely well throughout his life in different fields.

Dr Kailash Nath "Georgian" is a dynamic, veritable and all-round creative



genius. He is a warrior having participated in the 1971 Indo Pak war as a bay. He is son of a great infantry Commander of Ref grouse of Indian Army. He fall is war veteran having won the 1962, 1965 & 1971 wars. He is also a Singer, Actor, dancer, Pol Analysts and strategist.

Dr Sharma has served in the Indian Army for 06 years in the most terrific Battalion 62 cavalry of Indian Army. He has participated in largest exercise "1986" Brassstacles in the world. He has brought the concept of surgical strikes in India and is a man of revolution.

He is known for the English oratory and multi skills. As a motivational speaker he has delivered many brain storming lectures on various life skills and lan-

guage skills. He has the honor of streamlining more than 30, 10+2 institutions in Chenab Valley and Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr Kailash Sharma is a terrific Indo Russian Tank commander of Indian Army. He is the batchmate of the Indian Army Commanders having the rails of Brigs and above.

As an author he has authored 21 Books: 7 books on English Grammar and composition, 07 books on English Poetry & 07 books on Post Pandemic times.

He is the first teacher to top the list of M. Phil scholar from the University of Jammu. He worked on the Topic "MIND AND ART OF TAGORE" for M.Phil theses. He completed PhD in English from the University of Jammu on the Topic "Nature in the poetry of Tagore & Words worth A comparative Study.

He belongs to a remote village Dusset "Doda" in Chenab Valley. Having

marched in more than 25 states in billed condition.

Dr Kailash has earned BA (Hon) degree from SD SC Ambala Cantt, MA in English Literature from Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar Punjab, B Ed from University of Jammu.

His biography in manuscript "Win We Must" is very interesting and inspiring. He is the most popular alumine from the No 1 Military School in the World King George Royal Indian Military College-Chail- Shimla (Himachal Pradesh). He is possession of more than 200 Wards in different fields.

It is a proud privilege for Vichar Kranti Manch International to honor such a great Personality through its President Dr Jain, A Social Activist, Faculty in Jammu University and Central University Jammu. He assured that Dr Kailash Nath Sharma will be honored with "Life Time Achievement Award" publicly in a function.

Hindi-Dogri Dictionary released by Dogri Sanstha Jammu, J&KRBPS

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Dogri Sanstha Jammu and Jammu & Kashmir Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti (J&KRBPS) Jammu released Hindi-Dogri Dictionary in a simple but an impressive function organized at Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar Jammu.

On this occasion Prof. Sunil Babu Kulkarni, Director Central Hindi Directorate Agra and Central Hindi Directorate New Delhi was the Chief Guest.

While speaking on the occasion, Prof. Kulkarni said that it is appreciable that a Hindi-Dogri Dictionary has been completed and released today because it is of utmost importance for



litterateurs in particular and for language lovers in general.

He said that writers of both languages Dogri and Hindi will get benefitted from the recent edition of Dictionary.

He also hoped that modifications and additions in Dictionary should become a regular feature so that more words be added thus helping in increasing vocabulary and having a better understanding of words and understand what they mean in real terms.

It helps the writers to use words judiciously.

Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu, Prof. Veena Gupta, Vice President Dogri Sanstha Jammu and Prof. Bhatrat Bhushan Sharma, Secretary Jammu & Kashmir Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti Jammu also shared their views on the importance of Dictionary in literature.

The function was attended in good number by literature of Dogri, Hindi and literature lovers.

Col Mahan initiates crucial road project to fulfill 40-year demand in Kathua's isolated villages

Top News Report

BASOHLI, Feb 13: Addressing a long standing concern for the residents of Farnot and surrounding villages, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman of the District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, initiated the commencement of a vital road construction project. The endeavor aims to address connectivity challenges faced by over 30,000 individuals residing in areas affect-

ed by the construction of the Ranjit Sagar Dam (RSD) reservoir in the 1990s.

The project, encompassing the construction of a 5.2-kilometer road under Phase III of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) at a cost of Rs 5.39 Crores, is poised to significantly enhance accessibility for local inhabitants. Scheduled for completion within the next year, the initiative heralds a new era of connectivity and development for the region.



During the project's inauguration, Col Mahan expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh, and the BJP Government for their unwavering commitment to fulfilling public aspirations

in isolated regions. He underscored the transformative impact of improved road connectivity, envisioning a future where migration is curtailed, living standards are elevated, and economic prosperity is revitalized.

Awareness campaign on road safety measures held by GDC Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 13: In continuation to its activities under National Road Safety Month campaign, Road Safety Club GDC Kathua in collaboration with NSS Units organised fifth awareness campaign regarding road safety measures at Sheedi Chowk, Shyama Parsad Mukherji chowk and main bazaar in Kathua city.

Volunteers interacted with shopkeepers and the people in the market and aware them about Road Safety and Traffic rules. Volunteers holding

placard in their hands containing messages on road safety measures and rules started this campaign. Volunteers appealed the people to Wear Helmet while driving Two wheelers, Dont Drink and Drive, Wear seat belt while driving four wheelers, Dont use mobile while driving, Follow traffic signals, Avoid Modified Silencer bikes, Avoid wrong parking of vehicles, Drive within speed limit, Don't Drive without licence, Avoid tripling on two wheel-er, Pillion rider also use helmet, Overtake

from the right, Maintain a safe distance, Give way for emergency vehicles, maintain lane discipline, Avoid distractions etc. Volunteers also appealed the people to carry forward this campaign in their respective localities also. This campaign is being observed for one month w.e.f 15.01.2024 to 14.02 2024. In its earlier activities Road Safety Club Govt Degree College Kathua organised Slogan Writing competition, Poster Making competition and door to door campaign on Road Safety mea-

sures in which more than two hundred volunteers participated.

All these activities are being organised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervised by Prof Manmohan Singh Convenor Road Safety Club Gdc Kathua and NSS Prog Officers Dr Kulbir Singh, Dr Arvind Kumar and Dr Pinky. Senior most volunteers Mahroof Chudhary, Vishal Gupta, Nandani Bajrajta and Mansha contributing a lot in observing this one month long National campaign on Road safety.

FROM PAGE 1

Lt Governor launches 'J&K Sambhaav Utsav -2024' in New Delhi

livelihood, health and wellness, tour and travel guidance, safety & security of citizens of Jammu Kashmir living outside the UT, he said.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lt Governor shared the transformation of Jammu Kashmir, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

In last few years, the UT of Jammu Kashmir has witnessed a complete turnaround in the development scenario. A big section of the population in J&K who were neglected earlier, have been empowered. People's participation is now shaping the future of J&K's growth journey, he said.

Today, J&K is seen as a model in urban transformation, innovation, start-ups, agriculture, industrial development and has created a niche in tourism. The achievements of the youth, women and farmers of J&K are inspiring the country, the Lt Governor observed.

Now, the UT of Jammu Kashmir is seen as a hot-spot of tourism and not the hotspot of terrorism. Last year, a record 2.11 crore tourists visited Jammu Kashmir. The arrival of foreign tourists in the UT has also increased manifold. Gurez and Lolab Valley were chosen as the most beautiful offbeat destinations of the country in last two years, he added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the key initiatives of the UT Administration including Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), GI tagging for niche products, better market linkage, capacity building of farmers and promotion of local products. I am confident that in the next 4 years, J&K will be number one in terms of farmers' income in the county, he said.

A number of departments including Tourism, JKTPD, Agriculture, Horticulture, Information and Technology are showcasing their activities in different ways to a wide array of stakeholders during the exhibition.

Products of diverse range, featuring ODO items, Handmade GI-tagged carpets, GI-tagged Pashmina shawls, silk sarees, chain stitches, authentic Kashmiri suits, paper mache, crewel woodcarving items etc have been put to display for the visitors and the potential buyers.

On the occasion, Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making competition by Department of Information & Public Relations J&K was also launched.

The Information department invited the filmmakers and citizens of J&K to participate in the competition and submit their short films highlighting development in Jammu Kashmir over the last four years. The Winners will have the opportunity to

interact with leading filmmakers in Mumbai. The contest will remain open till February 28, 2024.

The facilities inaugurated by the Lt Governor today include Officers' Transit Accommodation at Rajaji Marg, Office-cum-Utility Area at J&K House, Chanakypuri and Fitness Centre at JK House, 5- Prithviraj Road.

Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Satish Chandra, Chairman RERA; Dr Rashmi Singh, Principal Resident Commissioner; senior officials of J&K Government; members of business and trade associations, representatives of SIDBI, PHD Chamber, ASSOCHAM, FICCI, Invest India, NGOs; artisans, entrepreneurs, artists and citizens of J&K living in the national capital and other parts of the country were present.

"PM Modi's upcoming public rally in Jammu: Union Minister Announces"

Modi is also likely to inaugurate over 33-km Banihal-Samber section which is ready for train operations, the officials said, adding the dream project to connect Kashmir with rest of the country through train is rescheduled for May to complete the pending works.

The minister said Jammu and Kashmir, especially Udhampur has always remained on the priority list of the prime minister who started his 2014 election campaign after 'darshan' at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine. He also thanked the Railway minister for accepting the demand of the people for stoppage of Vande Bharat train at Udhampur and Kathua.

"The railway ministry accepted our demand and we are thankful to them. Udhampur, which houses the headquarters of the northern command, is going to emerge as an important juncture after Kashmir is connected with the rest of the country by train in the next two to three months," the minister said. He said the railway station has been included in the Amrit Rail station category for its development.

Likewise, Kathua district borders Himachal Pradesh and Punjab and the new initiative (stoppage of Vande Bharat) will boost industry and trade besides facilitating the youth, especially the students, the minister said.

Farmers begin march towards Delhi, Punjab-Haryana borders fortified

trolleys set out from different parts of

Punjab to join the protest march.

On the tractor trolleys sporting flags of the farm unions, farmers packed essential items, including dry ration, mattresses and utensils, among others.

An excavator was also among the convoy of tractor trolleys, with a farmer in Amritsar saying it would be used to break the barricades.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha had announced that farmers would head to Delhi on Tuesday to press the Centre to accept their demands, including the enactment of a law to guarantee a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops.

Sarwan Singh Pandher — general secretary of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, while referring to the deadlock with the Centre over their demands, said they did not want a new committee concerning their demands, saying any committee would have meant putting the issue on the backburner.

"We do not want to break any barricades. We want resolution of our issues through dialogue. But if they (the Centre) do nothing then what will we do? It is our compulsion," said Pandher while speaking to reporters in Fatehgarh Sahib district on Tuesday.

He claimed that they were getting immense support from the farmers in Haryana.

Following a second round of meeting that lasted more than five hours with the Centre late on Monday, Pandher said, "We do not think the government is serious about any of our demands. We do not think they want to fulfil our demands. Tomorrow, we will march towards Delhi at 10 am."

However, Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda, who, along with Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal, attended the second round of talks with the farm leaders, said a consensus was reached on most issues and a formula was proposed for resolving some others through the formation of a committee.

"We are still hopeful that farmer bodies will hold talks. We will try to resolve issues in the coming days," Munda said after the meeting.

Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) (Non-Political) leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal said the government wanted the formation of a committee on the issues of giving legal guarantee to MSP, debt waiver and the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations.

"We will apprise our farmers in a forum what happened in the meeting," he said.

"It is our compulsion to move towards Delhi," he added when asked about the 'Delhi Chalo' march call.

Besides a legal guarantee for MSP, the farmers are also demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's

J&K Govt assigns additional charge to IAS officer Aijaz Asad

Administrative Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department holding the additional charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department shall also hold the charge of the post of Civil Aviation Commissioner, in addition to his own duties, till further orders"

JK Arms License Case: ED files prosecution complaints against 21 accused

Earlier, ED had issued provisional attachment order attaching movable and immovable properties of the accused worth of Rs 4.69 crore and seized cash to the tune of Rs. 1.58 crore and gold during search.

Govt grants last chance for employees to file annual property returns

mentioned above shall be initiated against the defaulters. Accordingly, it said, the submission of property returns by the defaulting employees shall be allowed through online mode on the Property Return System (PRS Portal) w.e.f. 13.02.2024 to 27.02.2024.

"Further, all those employees who had registered themselves on the Portal but not submitted their property returns shall submit the same, besides, the unregistered employees shall get themselves registered on the portal and subsequently submit their property returns, during the above stipulated period," the Circular reads, adding, "In case the employees encounter issues related to OTP, they shall update their current mobile numbers and email IDs on CPIS portal and further, in case of any other issue/technical support, they may forward their concerns on support-prs@jk.gov.in for speedy redressal."

The government further enjoined upon all the Controlling Officers/Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DOs) to ensure compliance with regard to filing of property returns by all the defaulting employees of their establishment.

"Further, Administrative Departments shall also assess the progress in this regard."

Farooq informs ED He is not in Srinagar, Wont depose on Tuesday

Kashmir Cricket Association. The former chief minister was charge-sheeted by the Enforcement Directorate in this case in 2022.

The case relates to alleged siphoning off JKCA funds by transferring to various personal bank accounts of unrelated parties, including those of JKCA office-bearers, and by way of unexplained cash withdrawals from its bank accounts, the ED had said.

The agency's case is based on a 2018 charge-sheet filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the same accused.

Temperature improves marginally in J&K, Rain expected

temperature. Leh town in Ladakh region had minus 8.3 and Kargil minus 15.9 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu city had 8.4, Katra 8.8, Batote 3.7, Bhaderwah 2 and Banihal 1 as minimum temperature.

Auto sales on a high, but will elections play spoilsport?

Commercial vehicle sales are still slow in revival

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Automobile sales in the country went up by a neat 15 per cent last month, with passenger vehicles (cars and vans) smashing an all-time record to hit nearly four lakh vehicles in January. The monthly retail sales figures were unveiled Tuesday by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA).

However, a demand taper and a likely impact of a long drawn out election campaign, the industry worries, could likely have a slowdown impact in the coming months. This, combined with the fact that commercial vehicle sales are still slow in revival, means a lot will depend on the crop production season and how well the harvest will be in.



In more ways than one, this dependence on the rains and farm output stands testament to the K-shaped divergence in economy playing out since the pandemic, with one section of the populace faring way better than the majority (read: lower middle class and rural populace). This, in

auto sales speak, plays out in some categories doing well compared to others. So while passenger cars charged ahead with a sale of 3.9 lakh units, amounting to a growth of 13 per cent year-on-year, commercial vehicles, on the other end of the spectrum and something that signifies robust all-

round economic activity, was barely there at 0.01 per cent growth.

But a turnaround, however, ephemeral it may turn out to be before the rain gods make their call, seems to be in the offing.

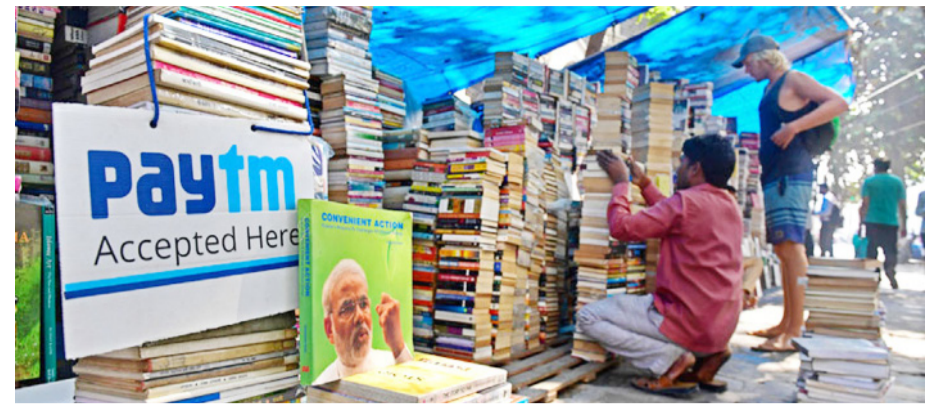
Interestingly, not only are sales in January better than that of December (traditional-

ly, December is one of the peak festive sales period, while January-March registers less volumes), last month's sales are an all-time high, beating out the previous high registered in the Diwali month of November 2023.

As a glimmer of hope, the two-wheeler segment has also registered robust sales in January after being in the downside of the K-shaped economy impact for long.

FADA says many factors are responsible for this, from improved vehicle availability as well as new model launches and effective marketing, the good harvest leaving rural customers flush with cash, as well as the ongoing marriage season.

Paytm shares plunge below Rs 400 mark in a first after Macquarie's 'underperform' downgrade



NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): In a first, the crisis-hit Paytm's parent company One97 Communications plunged below the Rs 400 threshold, after the stock hit as low as Rs 385.60 on Tuesday morning. This comes after global brokerage firm Macquarie downgraded One97 Communications' rating to 'Underperform', cutting its target price from Rs 650 to Rs 275 per share amid significant

loss in revenues across segments.

Citing the "serious risk of exodus of customers" following the Reserve Bank of India's action against Paytm Payments Bank over irregularities and KYC non-compliance, Macquarie said that shifting customers to other banks by the February 29 deadline is "an arduous task," as it would require customers to submit Know Your Customer (KYC)

details again.

The brokerage firm added that Paytm's lending partners are re-evaluating their relationship with the company and this could potentially lead to a decline in lending business revenue.

This also comes a day after Paytm revealed in a regulatory filing that Paytm Payments Bank Ltd independent director Manju Agarwal resigned from the board due to personal reasons.

Reliance Industries becomes first Indian firm to cross Rs 20 lakh crore in Mcap

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): The price of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) shares touched a record Rs 2,958 in the Sensex graph around 11.15 am on Tuesday, making it the first company in the country to reach the Rs 20 lakh crore milestone in market valuation.

The Mukesh Ambani-backed company reached the Rs 15 lakh crore in September 2021 when the market began to resurge post-Covid up from its Rs 10 lakh crore market



valuation in November 2019, months before the pandemic lockdown.

The latest rally comes amid reports that RIL is mulling to merge its Jio Cinema with Disney+

Hotstar this month.

If the merger comes to fruition, Reliance will own 51 per cent of the company that will be India's largest entertainment business. Walt Disney will own the

remaining 49 per cent. The deal will also see both companies raising \$1.5 billion.

RIL is followed by TCS with a market cap of Rs 14.94 lakh crore, HDFC Bank with Rs 10.58 lakh crore, ICICI Bank with 7.17 lakh crore, Infosys with Rs 6.93 lakh crore, Bharti Airtel with Rs 6.55 lakh crore, LIC with 6.37 lakh crore, SBI with 6.36 lakh crore, Hindustan Unilever with Rs 5.62 lakh crore and ITC with Rs 5.07 lakh crore, as of 1.30 pm on Tuesday.

Sensex, Nifty fall in early trade amid persisting volatility, mixed global trends

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell in early trade on Tuesday as volatility persisted amid mixed trends in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on a positive note and climbed 116.42 points to 71,188.91 points. However, it soon took a U-turn and fell 129.92 points to 70,942.57 points.

Showing a similar trend, the broader Nifty rose 14.80 points to

21,630.85 points initially but lost ground and declined 63.25 points to 21,552.80 points.

In the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, PowerGrid and Wipro were among the major losers while ICICI Bank, NTPC, ITC and Kotak Bank were trading in the green.

BSE smallcap index fell 1.65 per cent, midcap index dropped 0.57 per cent and large-cap index slipped 0.12 per cent.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at

Geojit Financial Services, said midcap and smallcap stocks are likely to see a sharp fall as many such scrips are excessively valued.

"Correction will give opportunities to buy fairly valued stocks in this segment like PSU banks," he noted.

In Asia, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 and China's Shanghai Composite were trading in the positive territory while Hong Kong's Hang Seng was in the red.

European markets ended Monday's ses-

sion in the green with CAC 40 of France and DAX of Germany rising 0.55 per cent and 0.65 per cent respectively.

On Monday, the US market ended on a mixed note.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude rose 0.09 per cent to USD 82.07 a barrel on Tuesday.

On Monday, Sensex settled 523 points or 0.73 per cent lower at 71,072.49 points while the Nifty closed 166.45 points or 0.76 per cent down at 21,616.05 points.

Nissan innovates with 'Nissan One' to transform customer experience

CHANDIGARH, Feb 13: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) has launched the Nissan web platform called 'Nissan One' as part of its 2024 customer-centric initiatives, celebrating the 100,000 Magnite Customers.

Nissan One, an innovative single sign-on web platform allows customers to seamlessly access a wide variety of service requests throughout the entire customer journey - from initial inquiry, test drive booking, car selection, and booking, to service.

This pioneering and first of its kind platform has been introduced, marking a significant leap in the Indian automotive industry, as Nissan One brings together various customer touchpoints into a single, user-friendly, and easy-to-navigate experience that has been designed keeping in mind customer needs. This is part of the continuing transformation and business acceleration plan undertaken by Nissan for India which recently saw new Magnite variant introductions, network expansion

and leadership appointments.

This robust, innovative platform is a reflection of Nissan's 'Customer First' philosophy. It offers information, customizations to cater to specific needs of all buyers, potential and existing.

The refer and earn Program, first of its kind in the industry, is the brands way of rewarding our buyers and showing gratitude for their faith in Nissan, said Mohan Wilson, director marketing, product & customer experience at Nissan Motor India.

Here's why Tata slashed Nexon EV and Tiago EV prices but not Punch EV

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Tata Motors has slashed the prices of the EV versions of its sub-compact SUV Nexon and hatchback Tiago.

The Nexon EV gets price cut of up to Rs 1.2 lakh, reducing the starting ex-showroom price to Rs 14.49 lakh.



The long-range version now starts at Rs 16.99 lakh (ex-showroom).

The Tiago EV now comes with a starting ex-showroom price of Rs 7.99 lakh after the cost was cut by Rs 70,000.

A detailed variant-wise price of Tata's EV models are still awaited. Why the price cut?

The cost of battery cells, which forms a significant share of the overall cost of an EV, have come down recently and this has prompted Tata Motors to cut prices of its electric vehicles.

Why Punch EV did not

get a price cut?

Tata Motors said that the prices of the Punch EV, which was launched recently, was already pegged in accordance with the decrease in battery cost and hence the model will not get a price cut like Nexon and Tiago.

"Battery costs con-

stitute a substantial part of the overall cost of an EV. With battery cell prices having softened in the recent past, and considering their potential reduction in the foreseeable future, we have chosen to proactively pass on the resulting benefits directly to customers," Vivek Srivatsa, Chief Commercial Officer, TPEM, said, "We believe that at these accessible prices, the best-selling Nexon EV and Tiago EV become an even more compelling proposition to attract a larger pool of customers."

Shalby Hospital Mohali Launches Innovative Services for Kidney Transplant and Knee Replacement



JAMMU, Feb 13: Shalby Hospital Mohali recently inaugurated its cutting-edge kidney care unit, a significant milestone in the field of kidney transplant services within the region. Spearheaded by Dr. Priyadarshi Ranjan, former Director of the Kidney Transplant Unit at Fortis Hospital, Mohali, and Dr. KL Gupta, former HOD at PGI Chandigarh, the unit has already achieved a series of successful kidney transplants.

What sets this hospital apart is its innovative approach, allowing patients without a compatible donor to benefit from kidney transplants through ABO incompatible/swap or deceased donor procedures.

Dr. Prabhjot Singh, Deputy CEO at Shalby Hospital, Mohali, commended Dr. Ranjan's expertise and dedication. He said, "A huge

number of patients from the Jammu region have already been cured by successful kidney transplant by Dr. Ranjan and he is a very familiar name here. We also follow a modern immunosuppression regime based on risk stratification for donors and recipients, resulting in a remarkable success rate of nearly 100 per cent with minimal rejection incidents. The hospital also runs a post-transplant fitness program called "Trans Care", aimed at increasing longevity, preserving muscle mass, and minimizing side effects of immunosuppression."

Revolutionary ROBO-N 3D Knee Resurfacing Technique: Dr. G.S. Natt, Senior Consultant and Head of Orthopedics & Joint Replacement at Shalby Hospitals Mohali, is an expert in the ROBO-N

3D Knee Resurfacing Technique (Robotics Assisted Natural 3D Knee Resurfacing). This innovative technique is set to revolutionize the treatment options available for knee arthritis patients.

The ROBO-N 3D Knee Resurfacing technique is a part of Shalby Hospital's 'Let's Walk Again' campaign. It combines surgical skills, artificial intelligence, and augmented reality to provide a personalized treatment plan for each patient.

"The benefits of this advanced technique are manifold. It leaves healthy bones, ligaments, and cartilage intact, ensuring minimal surgical time and physiotherapy. Patients can look forward to a fast-track recovery, natural knee motion, and there is no need for blood transfusion or ICU stay," said Dr. Natt.

HOTEL Association delegation calls on CMD, IRCTC

Good facilities, best use of railway infrastructure top priority of railways: Jain

KATRA, Feb 13: Chairman cum Managing Director Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) Sanjay Kumar Jain, while speaking to a Joint delegation of various organisations led by Hotel & Restaurant Katra (HRAK), wherein Chief Commercial Manager Railways S.S. Aggarwal, Station Director (DTM) Jammu Parateek Srivastava, Divisional Commercial Manager Freight Manu Garg, Station Manager Katra Raj Kumar Haku etc. were also present said that best facilities to the Railway passengers and best usage of

the Railway infrastructure is the prime focus of Railways/IRCTC.

The delegation was comprising of HRAK President Rakesh Wazir, Chairman Shyam Lal Kesar, Sr. Vice President HRAK & President Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Katra Virender Kesar, President Press Club Katra Arun Sharma, President Taxi Union Katra Parkash Raj, Rajeshwar Singh, Shubham Sharma, Rakesh Singh etc.

Rakesh Wazir while speaking on the occasion requested for starting of new trains to Katra besides extension

of certain trains/DMUs which come upto Jammu/Udhampur only because most of the passengers in these trains remains the pilgrims of Vaishnodevi ji and besides inconvenience to the pilgrims is a major revenue loss to Railways as well.

He also suggested that world's highest Railway bridge be developed as good Tourist destination with all Tourist facilities over there besides extending of vestadome to Katra/Jammu which is already running at Srinagar or new vestadome be started between Jammu & Srinagar.

Dattajirao Gaekwad, who was India's oldest-living Test cricketer, dies aged 95: Irfan Pathan mourns demise

Dattajirao Gaekwad, who played 11 Tests for India between 1952 and 1961, died at his residence in Baroda on Tuesday, February 13. He was 95.

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Former India Test captain Dattajirao Gaekwad, who held the record of being the oldest-living Test cricketer in the country, died aged 95 at his residence in Baroda on Tuesday, February 13. Dattajirao played 11 Tests for India and led in 4 of them in a Test career that spanned 9 years.

Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan took to social media to mourn the loss of the Baroda cricketer, recalling how Dattajirao Gaekwad scouted young talents in the region. The former India Test captain, who made his debut in England in June 1952, earned the distinction of India's oldest-living Test cricketer in mid-2016 after the death of Deepak Shodhan, who was 87.

Dattajirao was battling for life in the ICU of a Baroda hospital for the last 12 days, news agency said.



"Under the shade of the banyan tree at the Motibag cricket ground, from his blue Maruti car, Indian captain D.K. Gaekwad sir tirelessly scouted young talent for Baroda cricket, shaping the future of our team. His absence will be deeply felt.



A great loss for the cricketing community," Irfan Pathan said in a social media post.

Dattajirao Gaekwad was the father of former India cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad, who played 40 Tests and 15 ODIs for India between 1975 and 1987.

Dattajirao scored 350 runs in 11 matches, including a fifty in his Test career. He led India in four Tests during a series in England in 1959. Despite scoring over 1000 runs on the tour, Dattajirao was not able to translate the form into the Test series.

Nonetheless, Dattajirao Gaekwad was a prolific run-getter in first-class cricket for Baroda in a domestic career that spanned 17 years -- from 1947 to 1964. Dattajirao scored 5788 runs in 110 matches, including 17 hundreds and 23 fifties. His highest score was 249 not out in first-class cricket.

The Indian Cricketers' Association also mourned the death of Datta Gaekwad, who contributed immensely to the growth of Baroda cricket.

Dattajirao Gaikwad played his last Test against Pakistan in Chennai in 1961.

Rehan Ahmed faces visa issues ahead of Rajkot Test



RAJKOT, Feb 13 (Agencies): England cricketer Rehan Ahmed faced a visa issue as he was stopped at the Hirasar Airport on Tuesday ahead of the third Test against India.

The ongoing five-match Test series is poised at 1-1 after the completion of the first two Tests. The third match of the series will be played at Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Thursday.

As per the media reports, England travelled to Abu Dhabi after the end of the second Test at Visakhapatnam as there was a 10-day gap between the second and third match of the series. While returning, Rehan was stopped at the Airport as he only held a single-

entry visa. A BCCI official has asserted that the visitors have been advised to process the player's visa again in the next two days.

"The England team has been advised to process the visa again which will be happening in the next two days. The player was allowed to enter the country with the rest of the team and he will be appearing in practice on Tuesday," a BCCI official was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

Rehan has played both matches of the ongoing series, where he has snapped eight wickets at an average of 36.37. Talking about his batting, the right-hand batter has scored 70 runs which includes a cameo of 23 at No.3 in the second Test at Visakhapatnam.

Earlier, before the start of the series, young off-spinner Shoaib Basheer received the visa late because of which he arrived in India a week after the series started and missed the first Test at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad.

Earlier on Monday, the Three Lions seamer Ollie Robinson stated that he received the visa on the morning when the team was leaving for Rajkot from Abu Dhabi.

India vs England: Aakash Chopra urges BCCI to send strong message to players who skip domestic cricket

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Former India opener Aakash Chopra, emphasizing the importance of first-class cricket, has called upon the Indian selectors to refrain from selecting players who are neglecting the Ranji Trophy. Chopra's latest remarks come as a response to the observation that some young Indian players are not playing the Ranji Trophy, instead relying on their IPL performances to secure a place in the national team.

Aakash Chopra highlighted the dedication of seasoned players like Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, who continue to compete in the domestic circuit despite being dropped from the Test team. He pointed out that both Pujara and Rahane, along with Umesh Yadav, were removed from the Test side after India's defeat in the World Test Championship final against Australia in June last year. Despite this setback, they have not given up hope of returning to the national team and are actively playing in the Ranji Trophy.

"I am hearing that a lot of youngsters are not playing. They don't play at all because their names have already come in the IPL. People have started thinking that they would be selected if they do well in the IPL, which is not a good thing, because Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane are still playing," Aakash Chopra said in his YouTube video.

According to reports, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has issued a mandate requiring all cricket-

ers not currently in the national team to participate in the upcoming round of the premier domestic tournament. The BCCI's mandate comes after reports stating that Ishan Kishan has not been available for selection for Jharkhand despite not being engaged in national duties. Kishan, aged 25, hasn't represented India since November 2023, when he withdrew from the tour of South Africa midway citing mental fatigue. Curiously, he hasn't featured for his state team either, a fact that has left many, including former Indian pacer Irfan Pathan, puzzled.

The commentator emphasized the importance of first-class cricket for selection for the Indian team and urged the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to enforce participation in domestic tournaments. He expects the selection committee, led by Ajit Agarkar, to draw a clear line and send a strong message that players will only be considered for national selection if they actively participate in first-class cricket.

"If first-class cricket is happening and if you are fit and are not part of the Indian team, go and play. If someone feels that he will return without playing, a strong message has to be sent that you will only be considered when you go and play. If you feel you will only play the IPL and play all cricket based on that, I am expecting the selection committee under Ajit Agarkar's leadership to put that line in the sand, that it's not going to happen. If this is being imposed, please do it even more," Chopra added.

India batter KL Rahul ruled out of third Test against England, Devdutt Padikkal named as replacement

RAJKOT, Feb 13 (Agencies): Senior India batter KL Rahul was ruled out of the third Test against England after failing to fully recover from his quadriceps strain that forced him to miss the second match in Visakhapatnam.

Devdutt Padikkal, the talented Karnataka left-hander who is enjoying a great first class season, replaced Rahul in the squad.

"KL Rahul, whose availability for the remaining three Tests was subject to fitness, has been ruled out of the third Test against England in Rajkot. Rahul has reached 90 per cent of match fitness and is progressing well under the supervision of the BCCI Medical Team," the BCCI said in a press release.

KL Rahul will continue his recovery at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru as he looks to return for the fourth and fifth Test. The series is currently locked 1-1.

The selectors had earlier named both Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja in the squad subject to clearance from the BCCI's medical team.

"KL Rahul hasn't yet reported in Rajkot. Ravindra Jadeja, the local boy has linked up with the team. It was always a case of



subject to fitness and BCCI medical team is still not confident that he is match fit," a senior BCCI source told agency on the condition of anonymity.

In his most recent Ranji Trophy match, the 23-year-old Padikkal scored 151 with the chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar watching his knock from the stands.

Padikkal has been in excellent form this season. Having started with a 193 against Punjab in the opening game, he struck 103 against Goa.

Besides his exploits in Ranji, Padikkal also scored 105, 65 and 21 in his three innings for India A in the two unofficial Tests against England Lions.

Coming back to Rahul, the 31-year-old batter's extended

break raises a serious question about whether the senior India players and the BCCI's medical team are giving proper picture about the injury status of certain players.

"If the BCCI's medical team knew in first place that Rahul's quad injury is as serious as it looks, why in the first place was he kept in provisional squad. And why is the player sending wrong signals by posting videos of his batting on Instagram stories," a senior BCCI official asked.

Another senior player, who was recently told that he would be dropped for his poor form, pulled out on pretext of multiple injuries, something that the board hasn't even mentioned.

The case of Ishan Kishan is even more curious as he hasn't even spoken to his home state unit on whether he would play a Ranji Trophy match or not.

With Rahul ruled out of the third Test and possibly fourth, the doors could open for Sarfaraz Khan in the middle-order now that Shreyas Iyer has also been dropped. However, there will be more selection conundrum if Jadeja takes his rightful place in the XI.

Axar Patel has batted well in the two Tests so far and Kuldeep Yadav was the second best Indian bowler in Visakhapatnam after Jasprit Bumrah.

As far as the keeper's slot is concerned, time is running out for KS Bharath with Dhruv Jurel breathing down his neck, but the former could still get one last chance in Rajkot.

India's updated squad for the third Test:

Rohit Sharma (C), Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel (WK), KS Bharat (WK), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Devdutt Padikkal.

NZ vs SA, 2nd Test: Rachin Ravindra spins a web before late South Africa fightback on Day 1

HAMILTON, Feb 13 (Agencies): All-rounder Rachin Ravindra shone with the ball before lower middle-order batter Ruan de Swardt led a defiant resistance for South Africa against New Zealand on Day 1 of their 2nd Test in Hamilton. Rachin Ravindra bowled 21 overs and picked up 3 wickets, but South Africa headed to Stumps at 220 for 6 with the 7th-wicket partnership reading 70 not out.

South Africa managed just 162 and 247 in the first Test which they lost by a mammoth margin of 281 runs. However, the tourists, who have been hamstrung by the absence of their top players, came up with a much-improved show with the bat.

Ruan de Swardt, who showed signs of adapting to the highest level with a fighting 34 not out in the final innings of the first Test, hit his maiden Test fifty, stalling the New Zealand charge. De Swardt hit 55 not out after batting out 135 balls along with Shaun Von Berg, who batted 82 balls for his 34 not out.

The two batters will be looking to resume action on Wednesday on a steady note and help South Africa post a competitive first-innings total. Notably, South Africa have never lost a Test series to New



Zealand, but they are in danger of doing so after losing the opener by a massive margin. South Africa sent a weakened team to New Zealand as their senior players opted to play in the SA20 Twenty20 league, a decision that was backed by the national cricket board.

"Unbelievable. It was quite a hard graft out there, I thought the New Zealanders bowled pretty well but for me, it was just get stuck into them, have that mental toughness and keep going," de Swardt said.

"I think if we can bat well tomorrow, get past 300, 350, we're definitely in with a chance," he added. South Africa won the toss and opted to bat on a bright morning at Seddon Park. However, they lost wicketkeeper and opener Clyde

Fortuin for 0 in the second over of the day with Matt Henry striking.

New Zealand played 4 pacers along with a lone spinner in Rachin Ravindra. Captain Neil Brand was dismissed by William O'Rourke while the likes of Raynard van Tonder, Zubayr Hamza and David Bedingham all got starts but failed to convert them into big knocks.

Experienced Keegan Petersen fell for 2 to Rachin Ravindra, who ran through the middle-order, breaking the back of the South African batting unit with wickets of Hamza and Bedingham as well.

All eyes will be on Rachin Ravindra as the young all-rounder, who hit a double hundred in the first Test, will be gunning for his maiden 5-wicket haul on Wednesday.

Pakistan Super League 2024 hit by pullouts of many high-profile overseas cricketers

LAHORE, Feb 13 (Agencies): Several high-profile international cricketers have pulled out of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) due to the overlapping of dates with other franchise-based tournaments and many cricket boards denying permission to their players to compete in domestic T20 competitions.

The PSL begins in Lahore on February 17 and all six franchises have been hit hard with several players opting for the Bangladesh Premier League, ILT20 and SA20 leagues.

PSL side Multan Sultans have lost several players they had initially signed up for the upcoming season, with England pace bowler Reece Topley being the latest to pull out due to an injury.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) also said it had



not issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) to Topley to play in the PSL.

Some other boards are also having second thoughts about giving no-objection certificates for PSL.

Multan will also be without Pakistan fast bowler Ehsanullah, who has failed to recover from an elbow surgery he suffered last year after the PSL.

Peshawar Zalmi have also lost a big name in Lungi Ngidi of South Africa, while Quetta Gladiators will be without Sri Lanka's Wanandu Hasaranga.

West Indies cricketers Shai Hope, Matthew Forde and Akeal Hosein, South Africa's Tabraiz Shamshi and Rassie van Der Dussen, England's James Vince and Afghanistan's Noor Ahmed and Naveen ul Haq, among others, will also skip the entire tournament.

APSL franchise owner has asked the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to revisit the tournament window, as it is not possible to get big players when three leagues are happening on after the other.

"The SA20 ended recently and the ILT20

concludes on the day the PSL begins, so it is getting difficult to sign big players now," he said on condition of anonymity. He also pointed out that January-February is a busy season for international cricket series. Sri Lanka are playing a series against Afghanistan, South Africa are in the middle of a two-Test series against New Zealand while West Indies are playing a series against Australia.

"There is an acute need to change the PSL window, else it will lose its charm if we don't get big overseas names," he added.

AJBRCEAK hopes for redressal of genuine issues, after MLAs delegation met Lt Governor

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir has expressed strong hope that all the genuine demands of Employees are going to be fulfilled shortly.

This has been stated by Chairman AJBRCEAK Vipen Kumar after a delegation of Ex MLAs of BJP representing reserved categories met Lt Governor at Raj Bhavan.

Vipen Kumar further expressed that we are quite sure and optimistic about the outcome of the meeting, we believe more positive



steps are on the cards for welfare of Jammu Based reserved category Employees working in Kashmir, "Especially the commitment of LG Administration regarding Comprehensive Transfer Policy and Reservation in Promotion is deeply associ-

ated with sentiments of the Employees and community as whole," Chairman AJBRCEAK added.

Meanwhile President of AJBRCEAK Anil Radhey in his statement again reiterated that shortly the employees community will get their demand ful-

filled and Administration is actively considering all their issues on merit and we have high hopes now.

The leadership of the AJBRCEAK in its press brief once again extend their gratitude for LG Administration and Representatives for taking

the issues of employees on priority,

AJBRCEAK always sought a possible resolution of justified demands and Definitely in coming days Employees will see more positive steps in this direction.

AJBRCEAK in one voice expressed, strong faith in the employee friendly approach of LG Administration under the dynamic leadership of Lt Governor J&K UT Manoj Sinha, We always believe that this is an era of peace, progress and prosperity, and definitely employees are also optimistic about their wishes "AJBRCEAK reiterated.

Residents of Vasuki Vihar appeal to Comm JMC to address their genuine problem forthwith

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: The residents of Ward No. 67 Vasuki Vihar (Rajouri Lines) behind Army Quarters face tough challenge and threat of few stray dogs who have made the lives of residents as well as people passing through the inner link road leading to Kailash Vihar Kothey Netar via transformer from primary School Vasuki Vihar risky as these stray dogs day in and day out bite the people as well as cause a great physical harm to them.

In a statement issued today by a prominent social activist and Pres-

ident Vasuki Vihar Eelfare Committee Vinod Pandita on behalf of the inhabitants said that the residents of the Ward 67 have lodged many complaints and written representation to the concerned wing of Municipal Corporation of Jammu but till date no action has taken by the ground staff due to unknown reasons and with the result a great resentment is brewing among the residents of this area for non seriousness.

Pandita appealed to Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation to personally intervene into the matter and issue immediate neces-

sary to directions to the concerned wing solely made for the purpose to address this public issue forthwith to save the people and children of the area from further harm and inconvenience caused due to stray dogs.

Pandita also added that the sanitation and hygiene condition of the area is also quite pathetic and poor for want of regular cleanliness and maintenance of a blocked lane which also deserves an immediate humanitarian consideration as the area wholly falls under the jurisdiction of the Jammu Municipal corporation.

2 students of Aakash BYJU'S from Jammu achieves 90 and above Percentile in first session of JEE Mains 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Aakash BYJU'S is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of five of its students from Jammu, who scored above 90 percentile in the first session of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2024.

The notable achievers are Agambir Singh who secured 96.51 and Pardeep Singh 93.37.

Three other students from Udhampur branch Sunny, Sushant Singh, Parth Gupta have secured high percentile amongst others.

The top percentiles of the students showcase their unwavering commitment and academic excellence in one of India's most competitive exams.

The National Testing Agency unveiled the results earlier today, marking the commencement of the first of the two scheduled Joint Entrance Examinations for Engineering this year.

Enrolling in Aakash's



classroom program with the aspiration of conquering the formidable IIT JEE, renowned as the most challenging entrance exam globally. The students credited their ascent to the top percentiles to their dedication to comprehending fundamental concepts and maintaining a disciplined study regimen.

Expressing gratitude, they remarked, "We are thankful to Aakash for aiding us in both aspects. Without the institute's comprehensive content and coaching, mastering the concepts of numerous subjects within a short timeframe would have been unlikely."

Congratulating the students, Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, Aakash BYJU'S, commended, "The students remarkable performance exemplifies Aakash BYJU'S commitment to empowering students with comprehensive coaching and innovative learning solutions, thereby enabling them to excel in competitive examinations. We wish them all the best for the next attempt as well as for their future endeavours."

Also, in the recently declared NSE results 16 students from J&K scored above MAS and 6 students are selected for INO 2024.

Power Point Competition held in JKMS

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: A Power Point Competition was held in JK Montessorie Sen. Sec. School under the Forum of Youth Talent Search where students of various schools across the city participated in large number namely SD Tara Puri Public School, Alexander Memorial School, Elite Public School, Playway House Hr. Sec. School, BHMP School, Humanity Public School, New Era Environmental School & JK Montessorie Sen. Sec. School.

Youth Talent Search is a Forum which aims at exploring the latent talents in children and encourages them to give flight to their dreams by organizing different activities and competitions at different levels. It serves as a platform for the students to showcase their talents.

The topics of the competition were Cyber Crime / G-20. This Competition was open for the students of class 8th only. The motive of the competition was to enhance the technical minds and skills of presenting the topic.

The event provided a platform to the students to exhibit their talents with great enthusiasm and passion. Their brilliance reflected fully in their presentations.

The participants were very enthusiastic and well prepared.

They impressed the audience with their confidence, research work and their way of presentation. Their Competitive spirit was commendable.

The judges Anuradha Kumari and Surbhi Sharma Senior lecturers Boys Higher Sec. School Nowabad were also impressed with the remarkable show of talent and congratulated the winners. They appreciated all the participants and spoke about an unlimited potential in every individual that can be honed at every opportunity and at every stage. They were full of praise for the participants and urged them to learn from every experience of their lives.

The first prize was bagged by two schools namely Elite Public High School and JK Montessorie Sen. Sec. School. The second prize went to Humanity Public School while Alexander Memorial School stood third in the competition. The winners were facilitated by the Judges and the Principal of the School.

LG Admn neglected border dwellers on all fronts: Raghbir Manhas



Top News Report

JAMMU Feb 13: Raghbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A J&K National Conference, Jammu, raised serious concerns about the neglect of the border belt in the entire Jammu region by the LG-led administration. The meeting was under the chairmanship of Choudhary Mohinder Singh Block President Khour.

Raghbir Singh Manhas while addressing a meeting of party workers of Block Khour in Village Dhonchak District Jammu Rural A in connection with the upcoming of Parliament elections. He highlighted the disappointment felt over the present government's failure in providing basic ameni-

ties to the border dwellers.

He said people deprived of regular water, and power supply, lack of medical facilities, inadequate infrastructure at health centres and government schools.

He further said that unemployment and rising prices has made very difficult for border dwellers to live normal life.

He demanded that special package be given to the youth of border dwellers so that they could earn and feed their families.

Raghbir asked party workers to actively engage with the public and raise awareness about the contributions of the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir in making J&K

Taj of India. He expressed confidence that the National Conference will perform well in the upcoming Parliament elections.

Among those who were present in the meeting include Dr. Gafoor Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Master Balder Singh Bhau Vice President Central Zone, Rakesh Kumar Sharma District President YNC Jammu Rural A, Kuldeep Khour District President Women Wing Jammu Rural A, Randhir Singh Chib Organizer District Jammu Rural A, M.K Rana Joint Secretary Central Zone, Madan Lal Block President Akhnoor, Devi Dayal Jogi Block Secretary Khour, Manga Ram and others.

Under Gaon Chalo Campaign, Braham Jyot holds Public Outreach Program at Jammu West

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Under Gaon Chalo Campaign, Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) along with BJP workers held public outreach programs at Ward 29, booth 35 and 36 Shakti Nagar Jammu West.

Surinder Choudhary (ex Councillor), Perveen Badyal (District Vice President OBC), Kamal Kishore (Booth president), Som Nath (State Secretary SC Morcha) and others were present on the occasion.

The Program was supervised and detailed by Kamal Kishore (Booth President BJP). BJP has launched the 3 days long Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan to bridge the gap between urban and

rural areas. Under the campaign, party workers will go to seven lakh villages and all urban booths will take the work done by Narendra Modi government to the last person.

Over 30 lakh party workers will participate in the Abhiyaan across Nation.

In the program they interacted with the public in a door to door outreach program. They distributed Pamphlets and briefed about the 10 year's working of BJP Government. They also took people's feedback about government schemes.

People were very happy by this and gave a very positive response and joined the BJP instantly during this campaign.

Speaking on the occa-



sion Braham Jyot said that during this Gaon chalo Campaign we visited to the houses of many people and public response was awesome. People are very happy with the working of BJP and many people joined BJP instantly during this

campaign. He said that we briefed the public about the welfare schemes of the Central Government being run under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and appealed them to take benefits of these

schemes.

He said that the goal of this three-day campaign is to talk to local people, those who got benefit from the government's schemes and to take their feedback to make these schemes more effective on the grassroot level.

He said we also present the BJP's performance report to the people, emphasising the importance of supporting the BJP in the upcoming elections to enable Narendra Modi's third consecutive term and accelerate the pace of welfare schemes.

He briefed government schemes among public and said we are blessed to PM like Narendra Modi who works more than 18 hours a day for the well being of all segments of Society.

University of Philippines gives honorary doctorate degree to Heeralal Chitrakar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Conferred the Degree of Doctor of Arts by sending online the Doctor of Arts by Dr. Alan Peach, Principal Professor of Global Nation Open University Philippines.

This honor has been given to Heeralal Chitrakar for the message of world peace and brotherhood he is spreading through art at the global level.

The Chitrakar has been involved in national and international social work along with humanity and human rights for the last many years.

In view of his work, many international organizations have honored him with certificates and he has been awarded an honorary doctorate by Priton Church and University and the painter has been honored with many certificates from India and abroad.

Heeralal Chitrakar is also the director of The King of Arts Garu. There is joy among the officials of the organization



on receiving the doctorate degree from the Open University.