

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Yami Gautam explains why being part of the scripting process is important for actors



NATIONAL | 7

Former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri's grandson quits Congress to join BJP

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Shehbaz Sharif likely to become Pakistan prime minister as coalition led by him is set to cross simple majority mark



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-44 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

PDD inspector dies of electrocution in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 14 (Agencies): A PDD inspector on Wednesday died due to electric shock in Parimpora area of Srinagar when he was carrying out some repair work, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the PDD inspector identified as Intiyaz Ahmad of Chattabal got electrocuted when he was carrying out some repair works.

He said that soon after the incident, he was shifted to SMHS hospital, however, he was pronounced dead. Police have taken cognizance of the incident and further investigation has been taken up, he said.

Former PDP leader joins BJP in Jammu

JAMMU, Feb 14: Former Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party leader Arshid Mehmood Khan Wednesday joined the BJP along with a number of his supporters here.

Khan, a three-time sarpanch from Dandesar village of Nowshera, and his supporters were welcomed into the BJP by the party's J&K president Ravinder Raina and other senior leaders, including former deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta and MP Jugal Kishore.

The former PDP leader had unsuccessfully contested the 2008 assembly elections from the Nowshera constituency of Rajouri district.

Addressing a press conference after the joining, Raina said the BJP was ready for elections in the Union territory.

"Announcing polls in Jammu and Kashmir is the prerogative of the Election Commission but we are ready for any election," he said.

Raina said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a massive rally in Jammu during his visit to the Union territory on February 20.

■ Turn to page 9

Rajya Sabha Polls | BJP nominates party Chief Nadda from Gujarat, Ashok Chavan from Maharashtra

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday released another list of seven names for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls, nominating party president JP Nadda from Gujarat and newly inducted leader Ashok Chavan from Maharashtra.

In its latest list, the BJP has declared four names from Gujarat and three from Maharashtra.

Besides JP Nadda, the BJP nominated Govin-



dbhai Dholakia, Mayanbhai Nayak and Jashvantsinh Parmar from Gujarat.

For Maharashtra, besides Ashok Chavan,

the party has named Medha Kulkarni and Ajit Gopchhad.

Former Maharashtra chief minister Chavan quit Congress earlier

this week and joined the BJP in the presence of deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Nadda, who is currently a Rajya Sabha member from Himachal Pradesh, is being fielded from Gujarat since the BJP does not have the numbers to win the lone seat in the Congress-ruled hill state.

Earlier today, the BJP announced that its nominating Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnav from

■ Turn to page 9

Delhi remains under tight security as farmer determined to march



NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): With protesting farmers seeking to march to the national capital, security remained tight on Wednesday

with personnel deployed in huge numbers and barricades regulating movement in central Delhi and at border points with Haryana, which can cause hardships to commuters.

The traffic movement at Singhu (Delhi-Sonapat) and Tikri borders (Delhi-Bahadurgarh) is suspended, an official said, adding the security personnel in anti-riot gear are deployed and drones being used to keep an eye on the situation.

Multiple layers of barricades, concrete blocks, iron nails and container walls have been placed at

■ Turn to page 9

Consumer Entitled to Vehicle Replacement for Manufacturing Defect: Hight Court

SRINAGAR, Feb 14 (Agencies): A Consumer who finds that the vehicle he purchased has a manufacturing defect is entitled to get the vehicle replaced, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh recently ruled.

The Court made a distinction between a defect that arose during the use of the car and a manufacturing defect existing at the time of purchase of the car.

A car manufacturer can get away by repairing the defect only if there is a technical defect arising during the use of the vehicle and not where the vehicle had the manufacturing defect right from the start.

"Repairs may be called for if the vehicles purchased during the course of its use suffers from a technical defect and not where the vehicle has manufacturing defect," the Court said.

The observation was made by a bench of Justices Sanjeev Kumar

■ Turn to page 9

IIT Jammu develops Anti-Drone System

JAMMU, Feb 14 (Agencies): Dr Karan Nathwani, professor in the Electrical Engineering department of IIT Jammu, has constructed an anti-drone system that works mainly on sound technology.

"It is the first of its kind, and we have developed an entirely new technology called sound-based detection. This system detects the sound emitted by drones, produc-

ing a unique signature that helps in their identification. We compare this signature with the system's database, and if a match is found, the drone is detected. The cost of this system is about Rs 4 lakh," he said.

"Not only is it cost-effective, but it is also user-friendly, making it accessible to the general public. It is easy to operate, and there are

no issues with cameras or radar. The system was designed considering various challenges," making it versatile, he added.

Sound-based drone detection systems will detect even drones and birds coming from Pakistan.

Along with dealing with terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the biggest challenge for the security forces at present is

■ Turn to page 9

FFMA pays tributes to martyred CRPF jawans



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: To pay homageto the CRPF martyrs, who were martyred in a Fidayeen attack at Pulwama in 2019, the Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) held

a function at Maheshpura Chowk, here on Wednesday. Rajiv Mahajan Chairman of the Association organized the function. Floral and candlelight tributes were paid by showering petals, candles were lit in

the honour of the Martyrs and a two-minute silence was observed in their honour. Speaking on the occasion, themembers said that Pakistan has become a "soar" in the civilized world, a country for

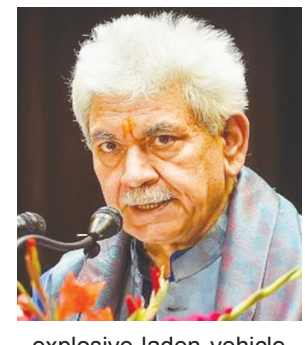
■ Turn to page 9

LG Sinha pays tributes to Pulwama heroes on fifth anniversary of attack

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday paid tributes to the 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who lost their lives in a terror attack in Pulwama district on this day in 2019.

The CRPF personnel were killed when a Pakistan-linked suicide bomber rammed his



explosive-laden vehicle into the CRPF convoy. In a retaliatory attack, the Indian Air Force had

targeted terror camps in Balakot in Pakistan.

"Humble tributes to the bravehearts who sacrificed their lives in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack. The nation will forever remain indebted to their exemplary courage, supreme sacrifice, and selfless service to the motherland," Sinha wrote on X.

Security forces, including the CRPF, political

■ Turn to page 9

DGP J&K pays homage to martyr's of 2019 Pulwama terror attack



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain on behalf of J&K Police Pariwar Wednesday

paid heartfelt homage to the courageous souls who made ultimate sacrifice in 2019 Pulwama terror attack.

He said the sacrifices of CRPF personnel will forever be etched in our hearts.

"On behalf of Jammu and Kashmir Police Pariwar DGP J&K Sh. R. R. Swain pays heartfelt homage to the courageous souls who made ultimate sacrifice in 2019 Pulwama terror attack.

■ Turn to page 9

Rajouri man dies of suffocation in Kulgam

KULGAM, Feb 14 (Agencies): A man died of suffocation caused by a gas heater at his accommodation in Pahloo area of Devsar belt in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a man identified as Karamat Hussain Choudary, son of Nazir Ahmad Choudary from Nowshera Rajouri was found dead at his accommodation in Pahloo, Kulgam.

They said the man has died probably due to a suffocation caused by a gas heater in his room.

Police party has been rushed to spot, to ascertain the facts, they added.

More details awaited

■ Turn to page 9

Nine unexploded shells found in Ladakh

LEH, Feb 14 (Agencies): Nine unexploded shells were found and subsequently destroyed in a controlled explosion in Ladakh, an official said on Wednesday.

The information about the presence of shells at Chulitise Kulum in Kharu was conveyed by Councillor Sonam Thardos to the Sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM), an official spokesman said.



He said the SDM took up the matter with the Trishul Division of the Army and subsequently its engineers ensured

■ Turn to page 9

CRYSTAL NEXA/SN SERIES

CRYSTAL CLARITY, ELEVATING CONNECTIONS, INTERCOM REIMAGINED

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Ports | 4Ports - 64 Ports |
| Trunks | 4 - 10 Trunk's |
| FND | Tri-Color |
| Scheduler | Small, ABS Body |
| KTS | Plugable Add on |
| Paging | Yes |
| Hotel Fn | Yes |
| MMOH | Plugable Add on |

www.crystalpbx.com

CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

**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. Pura 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****10TH DAY**

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Mr. Rakesh Chandan, AEE (JAL SHAKTI DEPTT)** S/o Sh. Shiv Ram, Retd. Principal (SED) and Smt. Geeta Devi R/o H.No. 1555, Ward No. 21, Kallar Himiti, Udhampur who left us for heavenly abode on 06/02/2024.

The **10th Day Satsang** program will be held on 15-02-2024 at 12.30 pm. Venue: Dee Pine Tree Hall, Opp. Veterinary Hospital Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Mrs. Shivani Bangotra - Wife

Children- Dhairya Chandan and Shehrish Chandan

Brother and Sister-in-law

Mr. Rajesh Chandan, Dy SP JKP and Dr. Pooja

Brother in Laws and Sisters

Prof. Kuldeep Raj and Mrs. Pinki

Lect. Des Raj and Mrs. Madhu

Sh. S K Dogra and Mrs. Rajni

Sh. N K Dogra and Mrs. Babli

Sh. Madan Dogra and Mrs. Sudesh

Brother in Laws and Sister in Laws

Dr. Deep Kumar Bangotra and Dr. Sonika Angurana

Mr. Pradeep Bangotra (PNB) and Mrs. Naina (SBI)

Mama and Mamma

Sh. Ram Dass and Ratna Devi

Sh. Krishan Lal Dogra Retd. Supdt. Engg. (BRO) and Mrs. Binla Dogra

Sh. Sita Ram Dogra Retd. Chief Engg. and Mrs. Makhna Dogra

Dr. K C Dogra (Retd. Dy. Director JKHS) and Mrs. Usha Dogra

Mr. Ashok Dogra JE (Irrigation Deptt.) and Mrs. Sangeeta Rai

Er. Vijay Dogra (GCE) and Mrs. Neelam Dogra (Lecturer)

Mr. Pawan Dogra (Principal SED) and Mrs. Sumanlata (Lecturer)

Contact Nos. 6005698780, 9103327322, 9419155557, 9419173519, 9622279919, 9419159754

**Mr. Rakesh Chandan
AEE (JAL SHAKTI DEPTT.)****10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sudden demise of **Advocate Sh. Gopal Singh Wazir (Owner Hotel Maa Saraswati Katra)**, S/o Lt. Shambu Nath Wazir, R/o H. No. 23, Lane No. 6, Talab Tillo, Jammu, who expired on 4 February 2024.

10TH DAY will be performed on 13th Feb 2024 (Tuesday) at 11:00 am at Rajpura Chungi opp AG Office near Flyover pillar 34.

KRIYA will be performed on 16th Feb 2024 (Friday) at 12:00 Noon at our Residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Chetan Pratap Singh Wazir (Cherry) (Son)

Smt. Palvi Rajput (Daughter in law)

Smt. Shilpi (Daughter)

Col. Virender Singh (Son in law)

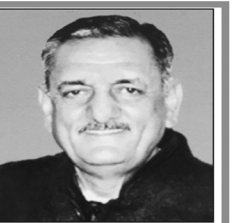
Laksh Chetan Wazir

Vikhyat Kashyap

Vivan Kashyap

Wazir Family & Jammwal Family

CONTACT NO: 7006450551

**ADVOCATE SH. GOPAL
SINGH WAZIR****10TH DAY/13TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Vaishno Devi** W/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta R/o Parnalla, Billawar.

10th Day will be performed on Thursday 15th February 2024 at Parnalla at 11:30 AM.

13th Day/Kriya will be performed on Sunday 18th February 2024 at Parnalla.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Son and Daughter-in-Law)

Sh. Shaish Paul Gupta and Smt. Suman Gupta

(Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Smt. Sheela Gupta and Sh. Lekh Raj Gupta

Smt. Reva Gupta and Sh. Dhani Ram Gupta

Smt. Sushma Gupta and Sh. Vidya Sagar Gupta

Smt. Usha Gupta and Sh. Ashok Gupta

Smt. Asha Gupta and Sh. Kushal Gupta

Smt. Rajni Gupta and Sh. Chander Shekhar Gupta

(Grand-Son) (Abhis Mahajan)

(Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-Law)

Minal Mahajan and Saurav Kudyar

Ph. 600615022, 9896517522

**SMT. VAISHNO DEVI****TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we are saddened to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Mother Smt. Tara Devi** W/o Late Sh. Raghunath Singh R/o A-14 Basant Nagar Janipur Jammu.

10TH DAY will be performed on 14th Feb 2024 at 10:30 AM (Wednesday).

KRIYA will be performed on 17th Feb. 2024 at 12:00 Noon (Saturday) at our residence A-14 Basant Nagar Janipur Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Mrs. Indu Bala & Mr. Rajinder Singh

Mrs. Anu Patyal & Mr. Narinder Singh

Smt. Kamla Devi W/o Late Sh. Sukhdev Singh

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Lalita Devi W/o Late Sh. Sohan Singh Wazir

Smt. Kiran Lengeh w/o Sh. Rajinder Singh Lengeh

Grand Children: Ishan, Aryanam, Nishant, Shiv Pratap, Avtar, Varinder, Narinder, Ajay, Kuldeep, Kritika, Manvi, Monika, Vandu and Shriya.

MOB: 9419690220, 9469292429

**SMT. TARA DEVI****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.

Mourning is being held at his residence H.No.29, Lane No. 2, Block D, Sector 1 Durga Nagar, Roop Nagar, Jammu.

His **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 17th Feb 2024, Saturday at Akhnoor & Assembly at Muthi Ghat near Director of School Education at 11.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Veena Ji Koul (Wife)

Bhopinder Kumar Koul and Jeeta Koul (Son & Daughter-in-Law)

Dr. Ravender Kumar Koul and Rainu Koul (Son & Daughter-in-Law)

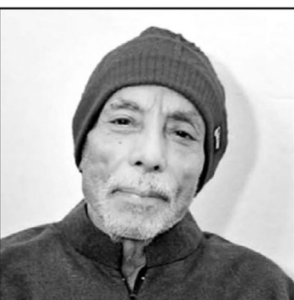
Madhuri Tikoo and Manoj Kumar Tikoo (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Rahul Koul and Pooja (Grandson and Grand Daughter-in-Law)

Pooja Koul, Dr. Anmol Kaul and Dr. Ashutosh Tikoo (Grand Children)

And Samast Koul Parivar

M- 9070432846, 094190094362

**Shri Autar Krishen
Koul (Masterji)****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 Brahman Sabha, Parade, Jammu at 3 PM to 4 PM.

Grief Stricken:

Santosh Dogra- Mother

Neha Malhotra & Sumit Malhotra- Sister and Brother-in-law

Rajeshwar Dogra & Neha Badan- Brother and Bhabhi

Karan Dogra- Brother

All Dogra Family

Mobile No: 9858698959, 9797677441

**NITIN DOGRA,
RITU DOGRA****TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Bansil Lal Pandotra (Retd. Sr Lecturer)** S/o Late Shri Krishan Dayal Pandotra R/o 205-A Shastri Nagar, Jammu (Fanthal Wale)

10th Day will be performed on (Wednesday) 14-02-2024, 11.30 am at our residence, Shastri Nagar, Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on (Thursday), 15-02-2024, 12.00 Noon at our residence, Shastri Nagar, Jammu.

Uthala will take place at Ram Mandir Shastri Nagar, Jammu on (Friday) 16-02-2024.

Time: 4.00 to 5.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Swarn Sharma (Retd Headmistress) -Wife

Smt Shakuntla Sharma (Retd Social Welfare Deptt) -Sister

Son & Daughter-in-law

Shri Alok Pandotra (Deputy Director Agriculture Trainings) and

Smt Samta Sharma (Asso. Prof. G.C.W Parade Ground Jammu)

Daughters & Son-in-law

Smt Usha Mishra and Shri Ved Mishra (Retd. Asst. Director Handicraft Dept)

Smt Arti Sharma & Shri Vijay Sharma (Pepsi Industries)

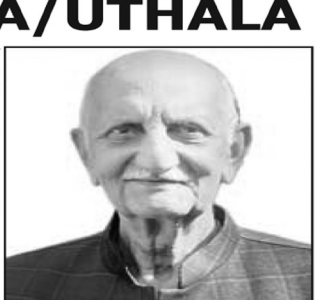
Smt Nisha Kesar and Shri Udeshe Kesar (Kesar Electronics)

Smt Anupama Pandotra (Asso. Prof. GCW Gandhi Nagar) and

Shri Vikas Sharma (Amtrak Technologies)

Grand Children: Anurag, Arunima, Akriti and Shivashu, Garima, Shreya, Sharanya, Deepak and Roshni, Vimal and Manju, Yug, Nitya

Contact: 7006099181, 7889632564

**Shri Bansil Lal Pandotra
(Retd. Sr Lecturer)****OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Bansil Lal Pandita** S/o Sh. Late Naranjan Nath Pandita originally from Pampore Kashmir, presently residing at Laleshwari Vatika Sector 21D Faridabad, on 12th February 2024.

10TH DAY will be performed at Murad Nagar Ghaziabad on 21st February (Wednesday) 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Shyama Pandita (Wife)

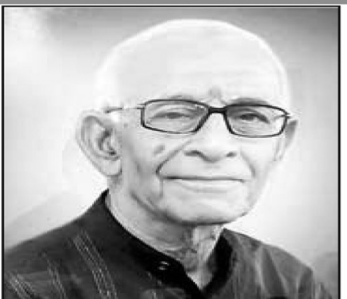
O.K.Pandita and Sunita Pandita (Son and Daughter in Law)

Sunita Kalpushu and Kuldeep Kalpushu (Daughter and Son in Law)

Sujata Dhar and Anil Dhar (Daughter and Son in Law)

Nitin Pandita, Madhurima Dhar and Kamakshi Kalpushu (Grand Children)

CONTACT NO: 9871328973, 9419134597, 9899957847

**SH. BANSIL LAL
PANDITA****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****UTHALA / RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the demise of our beloved **Sh. Brahm Prakash (Retired From RRL Now IIM)** R/O 57 Mohinder Nagar Ext., Canal Road, Jammu on 12.02.2024

UTHALA / RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 15th of Feb 2024 (Thursday) between 2 PM to 3 PM at SHREE GEETA MANDIR SIMRITI BHAWAN, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu (Backside of Karan Hotel)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-laws

Satya Prakash Arora & Pooja Arora

Lalit Arora & Meenu Arora

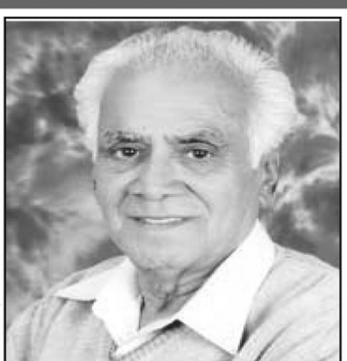
Grand Daughter and Grand Son- in- law

Dr. Osmi Arora & Shubam Sharma

Grand Sons & Grand Daughter

Vikalp Arora, Sanchit Arora, Charvi Arora

Mob: 9419184797, 9419193775

**Sh. Brahm Prakash****OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT MOHANI DHAR** W/O LATE MOHINDER NATH DHAR, ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF 91 KARAN NAGAR SRINAGAR PRESENTLY RESIDING AT N-631 SECTOR -25 NOIDA.

THE **10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL PERFORMED ON 19/2/2024 (MONDAY) AT MURAD NAGAR GATH CHOTA HARIDWAR, UP

GRIEF STRICKEN

SATISH DHAR (SON)

MOB NO 9871962228

GRAND SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW

SANDEEP DHAR AND SUNNY DHAR

Annual Science Projects Exhibition 2023-24 held

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Activity Hall of May Fair Higher Secondary School was abuzz with excitement and intellectual fervour as the school's Annual Science Projects Exhibition 2023-24, themed "Global Science for Global Well-being," was organized on Wednesday.

Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal, Deputy Director, J&KBOSE, inaugurated the Exhibition along with Distinguished Guests, Munish Gupta – Editor on Chief – Early Times, Sandeep Sharma – School Management Committee member, Vijay Kumar Basur – Chairperson & Abhey Basur Director, May Fair Schools &



Sunny Nanda General Secretary (J&K Sports Speedball Association) were also present on the occasion.

The exhibition aimed to encourage students to think beyond the boundaries of their classrooms and explore how science and inno-

vation can contribute to the well-being of the entire global community.

The participation from young minds at May Fair Schools across grades 7 to 12 responded to the challenge in the current global ground with inspiring projects and demonstrations that left

the visitors in admiration.

One of the most captivating aspects of the exhibition was the wide range of projects on display, covering various scientific disciplines including Robotics, curious corners filled with experimental set up and

innovative solutions to global challenges.

The day concluded with a sense of pride and accomplishment, as parents, teachers, and students left the exhibition with the assurance that the future was in capable hands.

Projects Wind Power and Chadrayaan of Aashita Class 9th and Vanshika & Suraiya Class 11th respectively bagged first prize while Projects Dialysis and Smart City of Pawana Class 7th and Shivam Class 9th respectively got second prize and This prize was shared by the projects Phases of Moon and Renewable Energy Resources respectively of Ritu Class 10th and Ayushmaan, Kavya, Anish Class 8th.

Road Safety Month concluded at GDC Udhampur

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 14: Under the flagship of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta the NSS Units of GDC Udhampur commemorates the Road Safety Month (15th Jan. to 14th Feb.) and organized series of events under the theme "Safe Drive Save Life".

The motive behind organizing such events was to inculcate a sense of realization and importance of life among general public especially youth about road safety. As about 1.5 lakh people die every year of road accidents so by adhering traffic rules those precious lives can be saved.

To start with the inaugural function was held on 16th January in the conference hall of the college whereby after lighting of traditional lamp and Sarswati Vandana, the NSS PO'S Dr. Gurpreet Kour and Prof. Sanjeet Singh welcomed and briefed about the Road Safety Month.

After that the Principal addressed the NSS Volunteers and the staff members present over there. He applauded and motivated our youth by providing road safety information for road users to encourage safer road user behavior among current and prospective road users and reduce the number of people killed and injured on our roads every year.

On 19th of January, 2024 NSS volunteers organized an In House Awareness campaign

in the campus whereby they sensitized the college students and staff about the traffic rules so as to prevent road accidents in future.

Road Safety Awareness Rally under the theme "Life is Precious" organized on 30th of January from College campus to MH Chowk (Most Crowded Area) Udhampur.

The rally was flagged off by Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta along with NSS PO'S and senior faculty members viz. Prof. B.L.Thakur, Prof. Suresh K. Dogra, Prof. S.K.Bhat, Prof. Shobana Samyial and staff secretary Dr. Jagjeet Singh from the college main gate, the onlookers including staff and students of the college were surprised to see the enthusiasm and the innovative placards made by volunteers.

Almost 50 volunteers along with POs started the rally from college main gate by shouting slogans on road safety, safe driving and riding habits, throughout their way from college campus to highly jammed MH road Udhampur, the volunteers shouted slogans about road safety, spread awareness about 'No horn', keep high car lights on highway, educate pedestrians on safe crossing, wear seat belts and refrain from using mobile while driving.

On 9th and 11th of Feb. 2024, NSS Units organized Slogan and Poster making competitions to showcase the significance of traffic

rules. Students from various disciplines whole heartedly participated in the events by creating stunning posters and ply cards which provided a platform to our budding artists and express their creativity while brazing awareness about traffic rules. The posters and slogans were evaluated on the basis of various criteria's including theme its impact on the public and relevancy by Prof. B.L.Thakur and Prof. Shobhna Samyial. In poster making Sonu and Mohit from sem. 4th were adjudged 1st and 2nd while Ambica and Monika of sem. 4th were adjudged 1st and 2nd in slogan writing competition.

On 14th of Feb. 2024, a valedictory function was organized to conclude the Road Safety Month. The function was inaugurated by the Worthy Principal Sir by addressing the Volunteers along with NSS PO'S and other faculty members by laying stress on the fact that since more prone to the road accidents are the youth so there is need to sensitize our youths as Youths are the pillars of our College as well as Nation.

NSS PO's Dr. Gurpreet Kour and Prof. Sanjeet Singh welcomed the dignitaries and volunteers. They briefed about the month long series of events organized by NSS UNITS and wished that their efforts to motivates and inculcate the habit of following the traffic rules to save life and strengthen the Nation.

Revoke Guest Faculty order in Kashmir Colleges: Dr. Shiraz

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 14: National Human Rights Law Protection & Khidmath Khalaq Chairman Dr. Shiraz Mir joined the protest and expressed grave concern over the issues faced by the Academic Arrangement faculties in the Govt. Degree Colleges across J&K especially Kashmir.

He strongly urged the LG administration especially Principal Secretary Alok Kumar to revoke the guest faculty order and extend their tenure for the entire academic session So that they may be able to get relief from mental tension to some extent. He further said that their long pending demand regarding the enhancement of salary and regularisation policy must be fulfilled without losing a single moment and take immediate step to frame favourable

policy for the hundreds highly qualified candidates who have been adversely affected and badly suffered.

He said that concerned authorities are making a injustice with the highly qualified Candidates and not showing sincerity towards their genuine issues.

It is pertinent to mention here that the teaching faculties engaged under academic arrangement are getting very low salary as compared to UGC guidelines as well as the decision of the Supreme Court, which advocated to pay equal pay for equal work, but unfortunately, no one try to resolved the same.

He further said that its high time for the authorities to revoke the guest faculty order and hike the salary as per the UGC guidelines and follow the criteria of other states and UTs as soon as possible.

Restore Jammu-Poonch Railway Project: Raman

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: The people of border districts of Rajouri and Poonch have been waiting for decades with a hope that their dream Jammu Poonch Railway Project sees the light of the day, but unfortunately for one reason or the other this prestigious and strategically important Railway project could not take off. Last survey report

of Jammu Poonch Rail link was submitted in year 2018 with the government of India and in year 2022 in response to an RTI Application, the railway ministry had informed that the Railway project of 223 KM has been shelved as it had projected the estimated cost of the project as Rs 22,771 Crore which as per the ministry's response was 'Financially Unviable'.

BJP J&K President releases Neha Lahotra's short film 'Pulwama' to honour CRPF Martvrs

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Ravinder Raina, BJP J&K president, released 'Pulwama,' a short film dedicated to paying tribute to the CRPF martyrs of the Pulwama attack in 2019 on Wednesday.

The film, directed and produced by renowned actress and director Neha Lahotra from Jammu, revolves around the story of a newly wedded couple. The CRPF Jawan in the convoy heading towards Kashmir was attacked in 2019 while his wife was planning to celebrate their first Valentine's Day on February 14.

The film, available on Neha Lahotra's YouTube channel here (https://youtu.be/rqmTAGI-SYA?si=cBm0Jf9PwgEm_UK), serves as a poignant reminder of the tragic Pulwama attack orchestrated by a Pakistan-sponsored terror organization.

Ravinder Raina expressed his condolences to the Martyrs stating, "This film has reminded us about the



barbaric attack on our CRPF Jawans by Pakistan sponsored terror organization. We pay our sincere tribute to the soldiers and assured their families that the entire country is standing with them."

He also commended Neha Lahotra for her selfless efforts in creating this short film, emphasizing that she not only paid tribute to the CRPF martyrs but also set an example for the youth to contribute to nation-building in their respective fields.

The film received high praise from those present in the auditorium. Neha Lahotra, in her

address, shared, "That incident touched me a lot, and by this movie, I tried to present the part of the women whose life was affected by this incident." She expressed that the film is her way of paying tribute to the martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice for the country.

Other contributors to the film include Ashish Sharma & Sonika Jamwal as actors, video shoot and editing by Vikran Mehta of Trine-tri Production, concept by Amit Khajuria, and costume & makeup by Sunita Chopra, with management by Sahil Chopra.

VKMI celebrates Basant Panchmi in HLF School



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: The spring season is the season of happiness for all and this call for Basant Panchmi celebrations. It is also known and celebrated as Saraswati Pooja in Eastern part of India. Panchmi marks the beginning of Basant or Spring, according to Hindu calendar. It is celebrated on the fifth day of Magha Maas(month).

Basant Panchmi was celebrated with great fervour in Himmat Learning Field Higher Secondary School.

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, President Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) & President HLF Managing Committee was the Chief Guest on the occasion, Sh Ashok Gupta, state vice president Bharat Vikas Parishad & Managing Trustee Sarv Uthan Trust presided

over the function. Indu Sharma, Principal welcomed Guest and participants, also threw light on the importance of Basant Panchmi.

Dr Jain, Main speaker of the function, said as per Hindu beliefs, Maa Saraswati, the Deity of Learning, Music & Art was born on this day and thus to achieve wisdom and art from her people celebrate Basant Panchmi as Saraswati Pooja.

This is very auspicious day to start new work, get married, entrance newly constructed houses or start anything new on this day, he said adding that Basant Panchmi symbolizes by the color yellow, which is Maa Saraswati's favorite color. Therefore yellow attire is worn by the devotees of Maa Saraswati, also signifies the harvest time for the mustered crop.

The color symbolizes

peace, prosperity and energy, he said.

Saraswati Pooja was arranged and get done with the students and staff by the principal.

Students of 9th class namely Chameli Chandra, Sandhya & Krishna Sharma presented a colorful song of Maa Saraswati.

Jasmeet Kour, Sujata Suri, Kamins, Pooja Sharma, Parveen Akhtar, Rimpi, Diksha Bhagar and Ajay Kumar umar, Staff members associated in presenting this function with great spirits. Sajni Gupta sung a song of Maa Saraswati in her melodious sound.

Ashok Gupta also gave advisory on Moral Values besides some activities on Hasya Yoga were performed.

Chander Mohan Sharma, Institution Chairman conducted the proceedings and presented Vote of Thanks.

GDC Vijaypur organises lecture on Voting Rights

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Feb 14: Department of Political Science in collaboration with NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur under the banner of Voting Awareness Campaign guided by the unwavering vision of Principal of the College Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta organised a lecture on the theme 'Voting Rights' to create awareness among the young college students/citizens

about the importance of their participation in the upcoming elections.

The lecture was also aimed at imparting information about the awareness of voting and its rights

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Anita Jamwal, Head, Department of Political Science to provide knowledge regarding voting rights and its importance for electing healthy and competent government. Further, she also elaborated

upon the initiatives of the government like launching of a new portal for registration of citizens so that they can prepare their voter cards online and also briefed them regarding the process of voting, electoral process, including the role of the Election Commission of India, the process of voter registration, the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), and the importance of ethical voting. She also interacted with students and also

answered the questions raised by them. The program was attended by faculty members, college students and NSS volunteers of the college.

The program received positive feedback from the students, who found it informative and engaging. Principal of the college, Prof. Dr. Vandana Gupta appreciated the efforts of the Department of Political Science and NSS in organizing such an informative and educative lecture

and also for creating awareness about the electoral process. The program was organized with the full support and coordination of the senior faculty member of the college Dr. Anoop Bhagat (HOD Sociology). The event was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Coordinator NSS) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO) and co-coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences) and Prof. Renuka Kundan.

| NORTHERN RAILWAY | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--|
| E-Tender Notice | | | | | | |
| Sr.DEN-II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.irps.gov.in with closing date 05.03.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.irps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.irps.gov.in | | | | | | |
| Tender Type | Tendering Section | Bidding System | Date of Uploading Tenders | Bid Starting Date | Bid Closing Date/Time | |
| Open | Works | Single Bid System | 12.02.2024 | 20.02.2024 | 05.03.2024/15:00 Hrs. | |
| S.N. Tender No. | | | | | | |
| Details of Tender | | | | | | |
| 1 | 416-2023-24-ADEN-JUC | Replacement of Arch Bridge No. 113 with RCC Box on ASR - KEMK section & Replacement of Girders with RCC slab of Br. No. 23 (UP & DN) line & 28 (siding) on JUC - ASR Section. | | | | |
| | | Advertised Value (Rs.) | Earnest money | Validity of Offer | Period of Completion | |
| | | 1,20,72,835.52/- | 2,10,400/- | 60 Days | 08 Months | |
| Similar Nature of work:- "RCC Bridge/Limited Height Subway Work". | | | | | | |
| 2 | 417-2023-24-ADEN-I-ASR | Upgradation/Improvement of Goods shed at Khasa on ASR - ATT section under ADEN-I/ASR. | | | | |
| | | Advertised Value (Rs.) | Earnest money | Validity of Offer | Period of Completion | |
| | | 78,42,431.67/- | 1,56,900/- | 60 Days | 06 Months | |
| Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work" | | | | | | |
| 3 | 418-2023-24-ADEN-II-ASR | Misc. P-way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P-Way/PAX under ADEN-II/ASR | | | | |
| | | Advertised Value (Rs.) | Earnest money | Validity of Offer | Period of Completion | |
| | | 55,00,090.88/- | 1,10,000/- | 60 Days | 09 Months | |
| Similar Nature of work:- "Any type of track work". | | | | | | |
| Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. | | | | | | |
| Tender Notice No:- 416-2023-24-ADEN-JUC, 417-2023-24-ADEN-I-ASR & 418-2023-24-ADEN-II-ASR Date: 12.02.2024 473/2024 | | | | | | |
| Serving Customers With A Smile | | | | | | |

EDITORIAL

BASANT
PANCHAMI

On the day of Basant Panchami, Goddess Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, wisdom and knowledge, appeared and gave voice to the world. Bhagwati Saraswati is full of Sattva qualities and we call her by many different names, like - Vak, Vani, Gira, Bhasha, Sharda, Vacha, Shrishwari, Vagishwari, Brahma, Gau, Somlata, Vagdevi and Vagdevta. We attain education, intelligence, speech, music and knowledge only by the grace of Mother Saraswati. Panchami Tithi of Maghamas has been chosen to worship Tejaswini and Gunshalini Goddess Saraswati. The month of Magh is very special for Hindus because the festival of Basant Panchami falls in this month only. The festival of Basant Panchami is celebrated every year with great pomp and enthusiasm throughout the country. On the day of Basant Panchami, everyone worships Goddess Saraswati and receives blessings from her. Goddess Saraswati is considered the goddess of learning, music and art. Basant Panchami is the fifth day of Shukla Paksha and is also celebrated as the birthday of Goddess Mahasaraswati, the presiding deity of knowledge. Basant Panchami is a seasonal festival of Hindus. Usually the festival of Basant Panchami falls in the months of February and March. According to the Hindu calendar, it is the month of Magha in which the festival of Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, music and art, is celebrated with great pomp throughout India. This festival is celebrated every year on the fifth day of Magh month i.e. Panchami Tithi. The spring season begins with Basant Panchami. The people of Hindu religion celebrate the festival of Basant with full liveliness, enthusiasm and happiness.

Basant and Vasant are both Sanskrit words and in Hindi language, "Basant" means a season when winter ends and summer does not begin; Honeymoon; Rituraj means spring season. Whereas "Panchami" means the fifth day. If we understand it in simple language, Basant Panchami is a festival celebrated on the fifth day of spring season. People also know Basant Panchami by the name of Saraswati Puja. One meaning of Basant is the one who resides in the mind or remains forever. In mythological beliefs, it is believed that this universe was created by Lord Brahma. When Lord Brahma created living beings and humans and when he looked very carefully at this creation, he saw nothing but a deserted and peaceful environment all around. Then he realized why no one was saying anything. Seeing all this Brahma ji became very disappointed. Brahma ji then went to Lord Vishnu ji and told him about his problem and requested him to find a solution to this problem. On the request of Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu sprinkled water on the earth from his Kamandal. The earth started shaking due to that water and tremors were created in the earth.

The earth continued to tremble for some time and then a beautiful woman with four hands appeared. This woman was none other than Mother Saraswati, who had amazing powers. He had a veena in one hand, groom's money in the other hand, a book in the third hand and a rosary in the fourth hand. Then Lord Brahma requested Mother Saraswati to play the Veena and as soon as she played the Veena, all living beings got the voice. That day was Basant Panchami and since then the festival of Basant Panchami started being celebrated as the birthday of Goddess Saraswati and she started being worshipped. There is also a belief among the people of Hindu religion that by worshipping and worshipping Goddess Saraswati on the day of Vasant Panchami, one gets the blessing of intelligence and knowledge. On the day of Vasant Panchami, people wear yellow clothes and offer yellow flowers at the feet of Goddess Saraswati. Goddess Saraswati is also worshipped on the festival of Basant Panchami in many schools, colleges and offices. It is also believed that Holi starts from the day of Vasant Panchami and the cold starts receding and the arrival of summer starts. Many people of Hindu religion also celebrate the day of Basant Panchami in dedication to Saraswati, the goddess of music, art, learning, speech and knowledge. The day of Vasant Panchami is also considered auspicious for marriage, house warming or other auspicious works. Basant Panchami is celebrated in different ways in different parts of India, like-

Punjab: Basant Panchami is celebrated with great enthusiasm in Punjab. There people wake up early in the morning and take bath and then go to Gurudwara or temple to seek blessings of God. To enjoy Basant Panchami, people there come together with their friends, family and neighbors to enjoy flying kites, sing songs and dance. On this day, people there also eat corn bread, mustard greens, khichdi, sweet rice and other delicious food.

Uttar Pradesh: Even in Uttar Pradesh, people worship Goddess Saraswati on the day of Basant Panchami. There people wear yellow and new clothes, distribute sweets to each other and also dance together. At many places in Uttar Pradesh, people also worship Lord Krishna on the day of Basant Panchami and offer him saffron rice. All the people there decorate their homes with yellow marigold flowers on this day.

West Bengal: Just as Durga Puja has special significance in West Bengal, in the same way Goddess Saraswati Puja also has its own importance there. On the day of Basant Panchami, the idol of Mother Saraswati is installed in Bengal and a pandal is also set up. People gather in large numbers in the pandal to worship the Mother Goddess, dance and sing and offer sweet yellow rice and Bundi laddus to the Mother Goddess. People of West Bengal prepare 13 dishes on the day of Basant Panchami.

Bihar: People of Bihar celebrate Vasant Panchami in a different way. He starts his day by waking up early in the morning and first seeing and worshipping Goddess Saraswati. After the puja, he offers Bundi laddus and kheer to Mother Goddess and then eats the remaining prasad by distributing it among his family members, neighbours, relatives and friends. Many people gather in a big ground or a park on the evening of Basant Panchami and then play drums, dance and sing.

Uttarakhand: Basant Panchami is one of the important festivals of Uttarakhand. People here worship Goddess Saraswati by offering flowers, leaves and palash wood. Many people also worship Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati on this day. People of Uttarakhand wear yellow clothes on this day and apply yellow tilak on their forehead. The people there dance on Basant Panchami and eat saffron halwa. What is the significance of Basant Panchami?

Mainly six types of seasons are found in our country. All seasons come at their own time and show their different colours, but spring season has a different and special significance of its own. That is why we call spring the king of seasons. The beauty of nature in this season is greater than all other seasons. Forest- Different types of flowers bloom in the garden. Attracted by the beauty of Gulmohar, Champa, sunflower and rose flowers, colorful butterflies and bees keep hovering around them. Seeing the beauty of these flowers, not only animals and birds but also humans start dancing with joy. This festival is also very dear to the students studying in schools and colleges. Mother Saraswati is worshipped in schools on Basant Panchami. All teachers tell their students the importance of education and inspire them to study with true hard work and dedication.

Yellow color has special significance on the day of Basant Panchami and on this day most of the women wear yellow clothes. Yellow color has the most impact on this festival of Basant Panchami because the color of Basanti is yellow. Yellow color also symbolizes happiness, prosperity, energy and light and this is also one of the main reasons why people wear yellow colored clothes on these days.

On this day, garlands of yellow flowers and yellow sweets are offered to Goddess Saraswati. On this holy occasion of Basant Panchami, delicious food is prepared in people's homes, which they eat with great gusto. Rituraj spring has its own importance, due to which waves of enthusiasm and joy start running among all the people, health becomes good and if we take a morning walk every day in this season, our mind also starts feeling happy. Spring season removes negative thoughts from within us and fills us with good thoughts.

In the end, it can only be said that Vasant Panchami is a celebration of beauty, which is spread in every particle of nature by the grace of Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Goddess Saraswati, which we can hear, see, Can touch, feel. This beauty is present in the light of the sun, moonlight, fragrance of flowers, greenery of plants, height of mountains, blue waters of springs, infinite knowledge of book and never ending love in the tune of music.

From Maldives & beyond: Why India needs the neighbourhood

By: Probal DasGupta

In a unique phenomenon, the Maldives periodically chooses between two of the largest contestants on earth in a national election. The individual candidates may go by any other name, but the influencer emerges from among the behemoths: India or China. In successive polls, power has changed hands with such metronomic fidelity that the losing candidate bides his time to turn the tables next time.

As President Mohammed Muizzu won power in Male, shocking Ibrahim Solih, it was known he would lean towards China. In Mr Muizzu's early days, with Beijing promising increased infrastructure investments, there was an eagerness to cosy up. This wasn't unusual as past governments had sided with either of the two powers. But this time, a fine balance was sacrificed in favour of brazenness and antipathy towards an old friend. A trio of deputy ministers threw the gauntlet by ridiculing India's Prime Minister in an unacceptable manner, rousing anti-India sentiments. The improper comments upset Indians, whose anger virtually scorched the digital space. The Maldives government acted in time and suspended the deputy ministers, but the damage was done. That junior ministers could actually whip up a frenzy and had the agency to drive a wedge in the India-Maldives equation was worrisome. Conversely, it also meant any traveling lowball could catch India's heels.

Does a collective national outburst over any comments, even

excessive ones, make India too predictable? Does it hurt India's journey to becoming a bigger force in the region?

The rivalry in the region between India and China has turned into a surrogate one. The scrimmage in the Himalayas is likely to be of contained tactical importance, since neither can make headway in the mountains. However, when dimensions of conflict expand to include the oceans and the nations that dot them, it gives rise to the real risk of a Chinese "string of pearls" around India through satellite states and naval bases. That is where emotional outbursts on every issue can become self-goals for India.

The Chinese positions have stayed the course. Beijing's thinking on the Maldives began even before the rise of Xi Jinping. Until 2002, there was no worthwhile trade, but in the next decade, trade increased from \$3 million to over \$60 million. In the next decade, trade volumes crossed \$500 million. China has been working hard in these countries to build infrastructure which it can later leverage.

The extent of China's footprint in the country can be gauged by the fact that China's Exim Bank funded the construction of the Sinamale bridge connection to Male and modernisation of Velana International Airport in Male alongside investments in agriculture.

Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma of the Vivekananda International Foundation believes that, unlike China's deep pockets for investment, India is known to build relationships through people and essential services

like medical tourism and education. Though he asserts the initial anguish against the remarks of the Maldivian ministers was normal, he cautions about going on an overdrive. A senior diplomat was heard on television sermonising our neighbours not to cross "red lines". "The strength of diplomacy is to deal with inimical governments," counters Lt. Gen. Sharma. In support, he notes recent examples of India's dealings with the Taliban and earlier with Pakistani governments where back channels were deftly used.

There is an impression in India that any hostile issue can be whipped up into a public interest phenomenon by crowding out unfavourable views using sheer numbers on social media. But those jumping on this bandwagon have little or no understanding of how international affairs and strategic choices work. The theatrics of tour and travel operators and celebrities falling over themselves by cancelling tours to prove loyalty, when the government had refrained from indulging in mudslinging, was a case of unsought genuflection by those whose decisions were skewed by an outburst of emotions.

Take the case of a tourism outfit promising to transform Lakshadweep into the Maldives. Any comparison of infrastructure and potential between the Maldives and Lakshadweep is untenable. To claim that Lakshadweep, with its vulnerable ecosystem and just 36 islands, can be transformed into a tourist paradise, outstripping the Maldives with over 1,100 islands (of which 187 are inhabited) is out-

rageous and fanciful.

According to Maldives' tourism ministry, the Chinese didn't comprise the top 10 list of tourists in January 2023 while Indian tourists were the second highest contributor.

However, by the end of 2023, the surge of Chinese tourists catapulted it to the third spot. Given the rapid change in tourist demographics, Mr Muizzu's plea to China for tourists will increase the Chinese footprint in the islands and could challenge India's influence in future.

In the Covid-19 pandemic, the Maldives was the only nation accessible to Indians without a visa. Previously, Sri Lanka went through a cycle of pro-China and pro-India periods. India's relations with Nepal hit a roller-coaster. After his China visit, Mr Muizzu spat out: "We may be small, but that doesn't give you the licence to bully us."

Mr Muizzu knows his cards well, having scrapped the India-Maldives hydrography agreement. This makes way for a Chinese research ship to dock in Male in February, despite India's concerns over Chinese vessels in the Indian Ocean. India managed to turn things around in Sri Lanka earlier. Given its location, size and lack of democracy, Maldives is a more vulnerable state. Lt. Gen. Sharma believes India needs to work with its neighbours if it aspires to leadership of the Global South. Given Beijing's malevolent machinations, a powerful India that treats its neighbours as equals stands to gain much greater acceptability. Like accountability in a war stops at the general's door, the buck in political tussles must stop at the gates of diplomacy.

Photos in the Growing trend of Reels



By: Vijay Garg

In the world before the advent of the Internet, the pace of change was slow. But now this process is so fast that the new is becoming old at a rapid pace. After the advent of social media, people used blog posts and pictures as a medium to express their views, then video and audio content became popular, but pictures or photographs remained in constant demand. It was the wonder of photographs itself, which developed the art of 'selfie' of taking one's own photographs through mobile and within no time the whole world got covered. But the increasing popularity of reels on the internet has not ended the popularity of these pictures,

but has definitely reduced it. Another format similar to reels that is making headlines on the internet is 'vlogging'. These are two different digital media formats used to create and share videos, which are causing photos to lose popularity. Vlogging means sharing personal experiences, knowledge, art, literature, travels etc. through videos. Their duration is longer than that of the reel. It is more. Reels are a type of video content commonly created on social media platforms like MX Short Video, Mauj, Josh, Chingari, Mitron Instagram, YouTube and Facebook. However, these are short videos on various topics, made by combining photos and clips with music, dialogue, etc. There is motion in the reels, whereas if motion is to be brought in the pictures, then one will have to take the help of reels only. According to Social Insider, Reels are twice as popular as any other content on Instagram. Creates access. Reels have an average reach rate of 30.81 percent, while carousels (posts that have more than one photo or video that users can view by swiping across the post through a phone

app) and photo posts have an average reach rate of 14.45 percent, respectively. And is 13.14 percent. It is important to note that there is a significant decline in the reach rate of carousel posts between 2022 and 2023. According to a report by Statista, the reach rate of Instagram Reels is far higher for accounts that have fewer followers, 50 Accounts with up to 0 followers have an average reach rate of 892 percent. Although this is several times higher than the reach rate of accounts with more followers, Instagram Reels from larger accounts are also seeing a significant increase in reach. These figures show that reels are a more effective method than photographs in India, which can help in convenient mass communication and gaining popularity. According to Demands Edge website, India is the most popular destination for Instagram Reels with 230.25 million Instagram users. The largest market is America at second place (15.975 crores) and Brazil at third place (11.945 crores). Reels are more popular because they are more attractive than still photos. Reels can tell stories,

show motion, and add music and sound effects, which can make them more engaging and interesting. Second, creating reels is easier than ever. With the advent of smartphones and video editing apps, anyone can create a reel. Third, Reel is a great way to reach a wider audience. Su is the way. They can be shared on social media platforms like Instagram, YouTube, Shorts, which have billions of users. Still the importance of still images has not ended. They can be printed and displayed in homes and businesses and even cherished for many years. Reels are often used to showcase humor, creativity, and personality. So even though reels are becoming popular, it's not as if they will eliminate still photos entirely. Both formats have their own strengths and weaknesses, and it remains difficult to predict how long they will be able to co-exist in the coming years.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

One Month long National Road Safety Campaign concluded at GDC Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 14: Road Safety Club, GDC Kathua in collaboration with NSS units GDC Kathua today concluded One Month long National Road Safety Campaign which was observed from 15th January - 14 February 2024 in and outside the college premises.

This campaign was concluded by organising a Road Safety Pledge in the college premises wherein numbers of faculty members, students



and volunteers took pledge to follow the traffic rules and road safety measures in their day to day life.

Pledge was read out by senior most NSS Volunteer Meenakshi

Bakshi.

Under this one month long campaign numbers of activities like Slogan Writing competition, Poster Making Competition, Door to door campaign, lectures on

Road safety in and outside the college premises particularly at Shaheedi Chowk, Shyama Parsad Mukherji chowk, Main bazaar Kathua and Main gate of the college were organised.

Principal GDC Kathua Prof Seema Mir congratulated and appreciated the efforts of Road Safety Club and NSS Units for observing this One Month long road safety campaign.

This One month long Road safety Awareness Campaign was organised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervised by Prof Manmohan Singh Convener Road Safety Club Gdc Kathua and NSS Prog officers Dr Kulbir Singh, Prof Pinkey and Dr Arvind Kumar.

Ajeet Bhagat urges government to regularize SPOs as constables

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 14: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference senior leader, spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat urged the government to regularize the SPOs of Jammu and Kashmir as constables in the Home Department.

Special Police Officers (SPOs) have been serving in Jammu and Kashmir for a long time. Bhagat urged the government to regularize all SPOs of Jammu and Kashmir as constables in the Home Department under the 2009 circular.



The National Conference leader said that according to the communication of the Home Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir dated September 25, 2009, SPOs who have completed seven years

of service are eligible for regularization, provided they have valid State or National level in any sports field. Have a certificate.

Bhagat said that despite this provision, the regularization process has been hampered since 2009, with many (SPOs) languishing as files are pending in the Home Department Office.

Bhagat urged officials including Director General of Police Jammu and Kashmir R R Swain to prioritize the issue of regularization to fulfill their long-standing demand.

Poonch Taekwondo players shine at National Championship

Top News Report

POONCH, Feb 14: Poonch Taekwondo Club players making whole Jammu and Kashmir proud by winning one silver and one bronze medal in recently concluded Sub Junior National Taekwondo Championship held at Raipur Chattisgarh organised by Taekwondo Federation of India under the banner of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The Jammu and Kashmir team consist of 18 boys and girls participated in this championship under the banner of J&K Taekwondo Association and sponsored by Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council. Mohd Arhaan of Poonch displayed excellent skills of taekwondo and beat his opponents from states like host Chattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and won silver medal for Jammu and Kashmir UT while Arohi Dutta of Poonch Taekwondo Club beat West Bengal,



Punjab and won silver for J&K UT.

Both these players are trained by Rajinder Singh Taekwondo Coach from Department of Youth Services and Sports Poonch.

On the arrival of both the medalist ADGP Jammu Anand Jain congratulated them for bringing laurel to Jammu and Kashmir UT by winning Medal at National Level for J&K.

He also assured every possible help for the development of Taekwondo in border district Poonch through their Civic action programme.

President of Poonch District Taekwondo Association Makhan Lal Sharma along with all the office bearers of PDTA congratulated the both the winners and their parents for this achievement. Atul Pangotra international Referee also Congratulated both the medal winners and coach.

Speaking on the occasion Rajinder Singh Taekwondo Coach thanked Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council Secretary Nuzhat Gull for her full support to the players of border district Poonch.

Basant Panchmi celebrated in CUJ

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: On the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchmi, the Central University of Jammu (CUJ), under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Office of the Dean Students' Welfare, organized a reverential Saraswati Vandana followed by the



distribution of Prasad at the DD Building of CUJ. The event, marked by spiritual fervour and cultural richness, commenced with Saraswati Vandana, homage to the Goddess of wisdom, knowledge, and art. Students, faculty, and staff gathered to seek blessings for wisdom and academic excellence.

Following the Saraswati Vandana, Prasad

was distributed amongst all participants, symbolizing the blessings of the deity and fostering a sense of unity and togetherness among the university community.

Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean of Students' Welfare and Dr. Vinay Kumar, Associate Dean Students' Welfare expressed gratitude to

all participants for their enthusiastic involvement and emphasized the importance of such cultural events in nurturing a harmonious and intellectually vibrant campus environment.

Dimple leads anti-Pak rally, demands to liberate POK, Gilgit

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood, took out anti-Pak rally, demanding liberation of PoK, Gilgit to send a loud and clear message to the visiting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to liberate the same and make these a part of Jammu Kashmir National state. Addressing the mass gathering Sunil Dimple pledged that he will

fight for the one crore thirty lakh people, youths of J&K, but will never compromise and in no case will tolerate the militancy, anti national activities, attacks on our security forces and targeted killings in J&K.

He warned Pakistani modules to stop terrorist activities. Dimple appealed the DGP J&K and the security forces, to start operation all out clear & elimination of ISI mod-

ules operating in J&K.

Dimple also paid tributes to the Pulwama martyrs. He said their sacrifices will not go waste and we will fight for the nation and will stand with their families.

Other leaders Vinay Agarwal, Jagdish Gupta, Sunil Bamba, Gurmeet Singh, Ashok Koul, Suresh Jamwal, Rahul Aggarwal, Narender Sharma, Shashi Pal and Vijay Virdi were also present.



to all martyrs. She said that thousands of Kashmiris along with the brave soldiers of security forces especially JK police, Army and CRPF have laid down lives to protect Kashmir and Kashmiris since 1947.

Tasleema said that the along with the security forces, Kashmiris were bravely fighting terrorism in Kashmir and the events that

took place in Kashmir after Pulwama attack established the fact that terrorism has no place in Kashmir and our security forces are capable of striking at will and own time of choice and place.

"With Balakot Air strike our security forces conveyed a strong message to enemy country that terrorism can't be tolerated at any point of time," she added.

Basant Panchami celebration at GDCW Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 14: Government Degree College for Women (GDCW) Kathua, celebrated Basant Panchami festival in the college campus with a lot of exuberance and funfair. The mood of the campus was

upbeat and the students were totally absorbed in the festive spirit.

The program started with lighting of lamp by Incharge-Principal of the college Dr Inderjeet Kaur, which was followed by Saraswati Vandana by students.

Dr. Rachna Devi

(DSW) in her welcome speech threw light on the importance of different festivals in India. Chief guest in her address appreciated the initiative taken by Students Welfare committee for making students aware about their culture on this special day. She

said that by organising such programs, students get acquainted with the rich tradition of the India and she encouraged the committee to celebrate such programs in future as well. Students presented colourful cultural program on the theme of Basant panchami.

NSS unit of GDC R S Pura unveils aromatic garden as a part of Special Winter Camp

Top News Report

RS PURA, Feb 14: As a part of the ongoing Special Winter Camp from February 12th to 19th and on the auspicious day of Basant Panchami, the NSS unit of the college under the able guidance of Principal of the College, v Dr. Rajni Bhagat and the supervision of NSS PO Dr. Chanchal Angral on the 3rd day of the special camp carried out a tree plantation drive and developed an aromatic garden in the campus on Wednesday.

Dr. Rajni Bhagat inaugurated the newly developed aromatic garden by planting the first sapling.

In her presidential address, she shared that the civic responsibility cast upon every citizen in the matter of clean, healthy and sustainable living.

She emphasized that all government and non-government bodies must take the responsibility with



enthusiasm to actively participate, and contribute in creating a better, brighter, healthier, safer and more harmonious world ahead.

Dr. Chanchal Angral, Programme Officer NSS also motivated the students to actively participate in these activities as such activities not only lead to campus develop-

ment but also the development of an individual as a whole.

NSS committee members viz. Dr. Hari Singh and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch along with NSS students hosted the programme. Principal applauded the effort put in by the NSS volunteers and the NSS team.

GDC Mahanpur celebrated Basant Panchami

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Feb 14: NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur organized a programme to celebrate Basant Panchami on Wednesday in the College Campus. Basant Panchami is a festival that marks the preparation for the arrival of spring. Goddess Saraswati, who is a symbol of knowledge, arts and prosperity, is worshipped on this festival.

Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College, lighted the diya and offered flowers along with the staff members and students.

Dr. Mohindar Nath Sharma, H.O.D. Sanskrit recited Mantras to worship Maa Saraswati. He also enlightened everyone about the



value and importance of Basant Panchami.

Saraswati Vandana was sung by a group of students on the occasion. The event was organized under the supervision of Principal Dr. Sangeeta Sudan.

Near about 50 NSS volunteers participated in the programme. The staff members

(teaching and non-teaching) present on the occasion were Dr. Balbinder Singh, Prof. Mohindar Nath Sharma, Dr. Sapna, Prof. Rupalee Jasrotia, Dr. Ajay Manhas, Dr. Mohamad Sardar Bhatti, Dr. Hilal, Dr. Nishu, Nisha Baghat, Dr. Anil, Prof Suman, Romesh Lal, Ashok Kumar, Surinder

Kumar, Sunny Sharma, Sewa Ram, Anu Radha, Anu radha and Shibu Din.

The event was organized by Prof. Rupalee Jasrotia (NSS Programme Officer).

The College Principal Dr. Sangeeta Sudan appreciated the efforts of NSS committee in organizing the event.

Love, for real

The day when lovers refresh their vows is here! A quiet dinner or just being together, celebs have special plans this Valentine's

It'll be right to say that Bollywood and romance are inseparable. During our growing up years, most of us imagined love as butterflies in the stomach, hand-in-hand walks in rain with your partner, romantic dinners and so much more. If in Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge Shah Rukh Khan's character, Rahul, falls in love with Simran (Kajol) on a holiday in Europe and then goes to Punjab to win her family over, in Kuch Kuch Hota Hai we learnt a new definition of love — pyaar dosti hai.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali showcased the passionate love story of Ram (Ranveer Singh) and Leela (Deepika Padukone), who belong to a rival family, in Ram Leela. And not to forget, the pure intense love story of Aditya Roy Kapoor and Shradha Kapoor in Aashiqui 2. There are countless movies that have shaped our perception of love. But how do those in the entertainment industry define love in real life? We ask them about their idea of a perfect Valentine's Day and how they celebrate it.

Wine & dine
The blue-eyed-boy of Bollywood Akshay Oberoi, who is winning hearts with his performance as the emotional, affable, Basheer Khan in Fighter, says, "My wife and I would cook a meal together, have a glass of wine and then enjoy the food. We will talk about life and how we've spent these years, grown up together and all things that excite us. For me, love is someone who brings out the best



version of you and helps you evolve. That's how the romance stays forever, else it's very fleeting."

Sreejita De, best known for

her role Mukta Rathore in the show Uttaran, got married to her German boyfriend Michael Blohm Pape last year. "We are quite private and love to spend

time together, so having a nice candle-light dinner in my balcony with some good food and nice music, our dogs around, is a perfect evening for us. I think love is an everyday phenomenon of making your loved ones feel valued."

Punjab's Ihana Dhillon, who has made a place for herself in the Hindi film industry, says, "To be at a secluded location with my loved one, chatting all night over a candle-light dinner is my idea of Valentine's Day. For me, there has to be chemistry and that longing to be with your partner."

Being together

Junooniyatt actress Aishwarya Sakhuja says, "With time the idea of love and romance changes. I have been with Rohit for 15 years. Earlier going out for fancy meals would excite me, but now just snuggling with him, watching our favourite film, having some really good food, being comfortable in pyjamas is the ideal Valentine's Day."

Udaariyan-fame Isha Malviya won hearts with her stint in Bigg Boss 17 but celebrating Valentine's Day is not her idea of love. "I don't believe in this day because I feel loved ones should be made to feel special every day. And why just one person? I would rather do something special for my parents whom I love the most in this world or anyone else who is close to me."

Words of wisdom



Gulki Joshi was first seen in Zee TV's show Phir Subah Hogi (2012) and has gone on to be one of the most popular stars of the small screen and theatre. Be it Zee Theatre's teleplay Purush opposite Ashutosh Rana or the social drama Kaalchakra, she has proven her versatility as an actor.

She plays an important role in Kaalchakra where a couple unhappy with the way they are

treated by their children, publish a newspaper advertisement asking if someone would like to adopt them. To everybody's surprise, they get a response.

Written by Jaywant Dalvi whose play Sandhya Chhaya also dealt with a similar theme, Kaalchakra depicts a multitude of issues. Gulki says, "I think when children become adult, they should have their individual life. Parents need to know that they

are not being abandoned and kids need to understand as well that becoming independent doesn't mean giving up on your family or your roots. There has to be a middle path where everybody can sit and have an adult conversation."

She cites the example of her own family and says, "We talk about anything and everything under the sun. Even when we are far apart, sometimes just texting each other "I miss you" is more than enough."

Discussing her passion for theatre, Gulki says, "I think theatre as a performing art is a lot tougher as a medium than all the others because you get to do it only once. You don't get a retake and your voice and your expressions should reach the person sitting in the last row. It's a lot more energy-consuming. Most importantly the instant reaction that you get from the live audience is addictive."

As for teleplays like Kaalchakra that deal with largely overlooked subjects, Gulki observes, "Teleplays, I think, are a brilliant way of reintroducing our generation to theatre because it is forgetting about the power and beauty that theatre has."

Yami Gautam explains why being part of the scripting process is important for actors

Actress Yami Gautam Dhar, who is gearing up for her upcoming action-political-drama film 'Article 370', has shared that as an actor, she enjoys being part of the scripting process.

For an actor, being involved in the film right from the scripting stage, greatly helps to understand the evolution and arc of the character.

The upcoming film, which has been co-written and produced by her husband Aditya Dhar, sees the actress in the role of an intelligence officer.

The film follows the events in the lead up to the abrogation of the contentious Article 370 of the Indian constitution.

Elaborating on the same, Yami said, "I am an actor who enjoys being a part of the scripting process. Film-making is a collabora-



tion of different creative minds coming together to create something as

one. Working in 'Article 370' has been one of the most satisfying experi-

ences."

The actress further spoke about her experience of working with the cast and the crew, as she said, "Vaibhav (Tatwadi), Ashwini (Kaul), all have done some amazing job in the film. They were all so easy to work with. It is always amazing to work with actors who are beaming with fresh energy. I even got an opportunity to work with some really good technicians. Based on my experience of working with Aditya (Jambhale, the director), he has so much regard for his technicians. As a director, he believes in them."

Presented by Jio Studios and produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Aditya Dhar, and Lokesh Dhar, 'Article 370' is slated to release in cinemas worldwide on February 23.

Munawar Faruqi, Hina Khan pose together for selfie as they wrap up Kolkata shoot



Rapper and singer Munawar Faruqi, who has collaborated with actress Hina Khan for a

project has announced the wrap up of the shooting in Kolkata, sharing a new picture

with the latter, sparking excitement among fans.

The ex 'Bigg Boss' contestants Hina and Munawar were recently spotted together. The viral pictures featured Hina donning a traditional Bengali saree.

The duo was seen indulged in a candid chat while laughing their heart out. The pictures had created a frenzy on the internet, with fans showering their love on them.

On Wednesday, Munawar, who is the winner of recently concluded 'Bigg Boss 17' took to Instagram stories and posted a mirror selfie with his co-star Hina.

In the picture, which is clicked in a lift, shows Hina wearing a yellow sweater and black leggings. She is standing close to Munawar, while the latter is clicking the photograph.

Munawar is sporting a black tee, matching jacket and blue jeans. He completed his dapper look with a black cap.

He wrote in the caption, 'VERY TALENTED AND HARD WORKING PERSON IN INDUSTRY WITH @REALHINA KHAN.'

Munawar added, 'Pack up'.

Hina, who was the first runner up of the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss 11', shared the picture on her Instagram stories and wrote, "APNE MOOH MIYAN MITTHU BANNA KOI INSE SEEKHE.."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Hina was last seen as a challenger in 'Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 13'.

She would soon be seen in the English and Hindi bilingual movie 'Country of Blind'.

National Film Awards: Names of Indira Gandhi, Nargis Dutt dropped from categories; other changes in place

The 'Indira Gandhi award for best debut film' and the 'Nargis Dutt award for best feature film on national integration' have been retitled with the names of the late prime minister and legendary actor being dropped as part of the changes for the National Film Awards.

The 'Regulations of 70th National Film Awards 2022' reflects the changes suggested by a committee set up by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to rationalise the honours given in different categories. The changes include an upward revision in the cash rewards, including for the Dadasaheb Phalke award, and several awards being fused.

Filmmaker Priyadarshan, who is also a member of the

panel, gave his final recommendations in December. "I have made a few recommendations in the technical department like sound," he said. Entries for the National Awards for 2022 closed on January 30. The awards are running a year late because of the pandemic with the National Awards for 2021 being given in 2023. In accordance with the changes suggested by the committee, and included in the 'Regulations', the 'Indira Gandhi award for best debut film of a director' has been renamed 'Best debut film of a director'. The prize money, which was earlier split between the producer and the director, will now only go to the director.

Similarly, the 'Nargis Dutt



award for best feature film on national integration' will now be called the 'Best feature film promoting national, social and environmental values'. This category also merges award sections for social issues and environ-

ment conservation into one.

The rationalisation committee was headed by Neeraja Sekhar, additional secretary in the I&B ministry. It included filmmakers Priyadarshan, Vipul Shah, Haobam Paban Kumar, Central Board of Film

Certification (CBFC) chief Prasoon Joshi, cinematographer S Nallamuthu as well as I&B joint secretary Prithul Kumar, and the ministry's director (finance) Kamlesh Kumar Sinha. The monetary reward for the Dada-

saheb Phalke award, which is presented every year to an Indian film personality for their outstanding contribution to Indian cinema, has been increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh.

Besides, the prize money for the Swarn Kamal awards has been increased to Rs 3 lakh and to Rs 2 lakh for Rajat Kamal winners across categories. Earlier, the award money varied from category to category. Swarn Kamal is given in these categories — best film, debut film, film providing wholesome entertainment, direction and children's film. Rajat Kamal is given to winners of best feature film promoting national, social and environmental values, all the acting categories, best screenplay, music

and other such categories.

In another notable change, the award for 'best animation film' and 'best special effects' have been clubbed under a new category named 'best AVGC (animation, visual effects, gaming and comics) film' with two sub-categories.

The 'best audiography' category, which had three sub-categories honouring location sound recordist, sound designer and recordist of the final mixed track, will now be known as Best sound design. The prize money, which has been raised to Rs 2 lakh from Rs 50,000, will be rewarded to the sound designer.

Changes have also been made in the best music direction category, which will now be known as 'Best background music'.

Sonia Gandhi files Nomination for Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan, fields Abhishek Singhvi in HP

If elected, Sonia Gandhi will be the second member of the Gandhi family to enter the Rajya Sabha after former PM Indira Gandhi, who was a member from August 1964 to February 1967.

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Former Congress President Sonia Gandhi has submitted her nomination for the Rajya Sabha seat from Rajasthan. Accompanied by senior Congress leaders, she arrived at the Rajasthan Assembly at around noon on Wednesday. Present during her nomination were also Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi. The formal announcement of Sonia's candidacy was made by the party after her arrival in Jaipur this morning.

Sonia Gandhi is set to occupy the seat previously held by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in the Rajya Sabha. Additionally, the party has unveiled the names of three other leaders contesting: Abhishek Manu Singhvi from Himachal Pradesh, Akhilesh Prasad Singh from Bihar, and Chandrakant Handore from Maharashtra.

Earlier in the day, Sonia Gandhi arrived in Jaipur around 9 am to complete the nomination process. Notably, Rajasthan is gearing up for the Rajya Sabha elections, with three seats up for grabs. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced candidates for two seats, the Congress has nominated Sonia Gandhi for one. The voting for the Rajya Sabha elections is scheduled for 27th February.

Ahead of Sonia Gandhi's



nomination, a legislature party meeting took place where Congress MLAs warmly welcomed Sonia Gandhi, Rahul, and Priyanka. During the meeting, State President Govind Singh Dotasara expressed confidence that Sonia Gandhi's entry into the Rajya Sabha would uplift the spirits of party workers. This development has been hailed as a moment of pride for Rajasthan. Following Dotasara's remarks, Leader of Opposition Tikaram Julie and former CM Ashok Gehlot also spoke, highlighting the positive impact on party morale.

The upcoming Rajya Sabha elections for three seats in Rajasthan are anticipated to proceed uncontested. While the BJP has nominated candidates for two seats, they have opted not to field a candidate for the third seat. Conversely, the Congress will contest for one seat, making the elections likely to be

uncontested. Nominations will undergo scrutiny on 1st and 6th of February, with the deadline for withdrawal set for 20th February.

Former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot addressed the media, underscoring Sonia Gandhi's significant political influence. He noted that while Sonia Gandhi could have been elected as a Rajya Sabha member from any state, she chose Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Congress State President Govind Singh Dotasara and Leader of Opposition Tikaram Julie had earlier sent a proposal to Sonia Gandhi on Sunday, urging her to contest for a Rajya Sabha seat from Rajasthan. There was widespread demand for Sonia Gandhi to represent Rajasthan in the Rajya Sabha, filling the vacancy left by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

It will be Sonia Gandhi's first

term in the Upper House after serving five terms as a Lok Sabha MP.

The 77-year-old, who represented Rae Bareilly in Lok Sabha, will not contest the next general elections. She was first elected as an MP in 1999 after taking over as the Congress president.

Sonia Gandhi will be the second member of the Gandhi family to enter Rajya Sabha after former prime minister Indira Gandhi, who was a member of the Upper House from August 1964 to February 1967.

The party has not formally declared any candidate for the biennial Rajya Sabha elections.

Gandhi had announced in 2019 that it would be her last Lok Sabha election.

Speculation is rife that her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra could contest from Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency after Sonia Gandhi opted out this time.

That Sonia Gandhi chose to contest from Rajasthan and not from a southern state like Telangana or Karnataka, where the party is also comfortably placed to win, is also a signal that the Congress' first family is not abandoning the Hindi heartland.

biennial elections to fill 56 seats of Rajya Sabha will be held on February 27. The last date for filing of nominations is February 15.

Former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri's grandson quits Congress to join BJP

Vibhakar Shastri joins the BJP today



NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Vibhakar Shastri, grandson of former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri, joined the

BJP on Wednesday in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak.

In a post on X, Shastri

tagged Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as he tendered his resignation.

'Hon'ble Congress President Shri @kharge ji! Respected Sir, I hereby tender my resignation from the primary membership of Indian National Congress (@INCIndia) Regards Vibhakar Shastri', the post by Shastri read.

The resignation comes close on the heel of stalwarts like Ashok Chavan and Baba Siddique quitting the grand old party.

Rajya Sabha polls: BJP renominates Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw from Odisha, L Murugan from Madhya Pradesh

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): The BJP on Wednesday named Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and L Murugan its Rajya Sabha candidates from Odisha and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

If elected, it will be the second Rajya Sabha term for the two leaders from these states.

Railway Minister Vaishnaw is likely to get elected with the support of the state's ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD),



as was the case during the former IAS officer's election for the first term in 2019. From Madhya Pradesh, the BJP has named three more candidates besides Murugan, the MoS in the

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, for the five vacancies from the state.

The BJP has the numbers to win four seats while the Congress can win one.

7 BJP Rajya Sabha Candidates File Nominations From UP

LUCKNOW, Feb 14 (Agencies): Seven BJP candidates on Wednesday filed their nomination papers in Lucknow in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the forthcoming Rajya Sabha elections.

Those who filed the nominations included former Union Minister RPN Singh, former MP Chaudhary Tejveer Singh, state party general secretary Amarpal Maurya, former state minister Sangeeta Balwant, party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi,



former MLA Sadhna Singh and former Agra mayor Naveen Jain.

Besides the chief minister, state BJP president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, Deputy

Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak and BJP UP Lok Sabha in-charge Baijyant Panda were also present on the occasion.

Teacher, 26, Shot At By 2 Boys Near Noida Over Old Dispute, Hospitalised

The incident took place around 9 am near here after the teacher and the boys had a conversation on the road, some 100 metres away from the school in Sakipur village, police said.

NOIDA, Feb 14 (Agencies): A 26-year-old schoolteacher had a close shave Wednesday morning after he was shot at by two teenagers allegedly over some personal dispute, police officials said.

The incident took place around 9 am near here after the teacher and the boys had a conversation on the road, some 100 metres away from the



school in Sakipur village, they said.

A bullet grazed past an earlobe of the teacher, who was taken to a hospital where his condition

was stated to be normal, according to officials.

"Rakib Hussain, who lives in the Chand Wali Masjid Gali in the Surajpur area, was on his

way to Sushil Modern School today when the two boys, aged around 17 years, came to talk to him and later opened fire at him," a police spokesperson said.

"The bullet hit him near his right ear and he has been admitted to the hospital for treatment. The condition of injured Rakib Hussain is normal. He is out of danger," the spokesper-

son said. The police said they are investigating the case from all angles, including links to previous dispute between the two sides, and have launched a search for the duo involved in the attack.

Additional police force has been deployed in the area and there is no law and order problem, it added.

School bus overturns in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur, 4 students injured

ANANTAPUR, Feb 14 (Agencies): Four students suffered injuries after a private school bus overturned in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district on Wednesday.

The incident took place while the bus was travelling from Jarutla Rampuram to Uravakonda.

The bus, belonging to AVR School, reportedly experienced a steering malfunction, leading to

the overturning. Fortunately, despite the flip, the students narrowly escaped severe injuries.

Out of the 27 students aboard, four suffered minor injuries, while the rest emerged from the accident unscathed.

Authorities are conducting an investigation to determine the cause of the steering failure.

Earlier in January, a two-year-old girl was allegedly run over by a school bus in the Hab-



siguda area of Hyderabad. The child's family alleged that the bus driver was driving rashly and did not notice the child. The toddler had

accompanied her father to the pick-up point to see her elder brother off to school. The bus carried students of a private school in Habsiguda.

Bengal BJP Chief In Hospital After Clash With Cops On Way To Sandeshkhali

SANDESHKHALI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Dramatic scenes played out in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali this afternoon as BJP workers clashed with cops in their attempt to visit women who have accused Trinamool Congress leaders of sexual abuse. State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar was rushed to a hospital after he fainted during a scuffle with cops.

Mr Majumdar has been camping in the area after Sandeshkhali, an area in the North 24 Parganas, made headlines owing to shocking allegations by local women against Trinamool strongman Sheikh Shahjahan and his aides. Shahjahan is on the run for a month now after an Enforcement Directorate (ED) team, which raided his home in a ration scam case, came under a mob attack.

The state BJP chief and other party workers held a sit-in protest outside the police superintendent's office in Basirhat, demanding that they be allowed to visit Sandeshkhali. The local administration



has imposed prohibitory orders in the area, flagging concerns of a breach of peace.

This morning, Mr Majumdar alleged that he had been put under "house arrest". "I decided to stay at a lodge in Taki so that I could easily visit Sandeshkhali. But this morning, police blocked the entrance of the lodge and are not allowing me to step out," news agency quoted him as saying. "In Sandeshkhali, TMC workers have been raping women for months now - Sheikh Shahjahan, Shibu Hajra and Uttam Sardar are raping them. We had come to the SP peacefully with the demand to arrest them. If they do not arrest them, how will the women in Sandeshkhali gain confidence?" Mr Majumdar said yesterday.

Earlier, Union Minister Smriti Irani had accused the Mamata Banerjee government of shielding the local strongman. "You (Ms Banerjee) have traded the dignity of SC/ST, fishermen families and the farming communities and their women for your political benefit," she had said.

The ruling Trinamool has trashed the allegations and accused the BJP of instigating violence. Party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "The allegations are baseless. The BJP is trying to vitiate the atmosphere of the area. They want to disturb the law and order situation."

The Trinamool pointed to visuals of stonепelting in the area and alleged that Ms Irani's "provocative comments" prompted BJP workers to target the cops.

"It was a well-planned

conspiracy by the BJP to create unrest in Sandeshkhali. Yesterday, Smriti Irani made provocative comments in her press release from Delhi and today, on her instructions, Sukanta Majumdar-led workers and supporters of the BJP pelted stones at the police personnel," minister Shashi Panja said in a video message.

In allegations that have shocked the country, a group of women from Sandeshkhali have alleged that Sheikh Shahjahan and his aides sexually harass them and repeatedly ask them to visit the party office. There are also allegations of land grab by local Trinamool leaders.

There is an uneasy calm in Sandeshkhali. Senior police officer Sumit Kumar said the situation is under control. "Section 144 was imposed in around 19 places yesterday. The public is cooperating with us and we hope everything will be normal. The state government wants to establish peace in the area, extra force has been deployed," he said.

BSP chief Mayawati says govt should seriously consider demands of farmers

LUCKNOW, Feb 14 (Agencies): BSP chief Mayawati on Wednesday said the Centre should initiate talks with protesting farmers instead of taking action against them.

Her remarks come as protesting farmers from Punjab make an attempt to march to Delhi to press for various demands.

Mayawati said the government should take seriously the demands of the hardworking farm-



ers who have made India self-reliant in food production.

The Centre should resolve their issue promptly so that the farmers are not forced to protest again and

again in support of their demands, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said in a post on X.

"Instead of taking strict action against the agitating farmers under the current campaign of

'Dilli Chalo', it would be better if the Centre tries to end their movement by having proper talks with them," she added.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha have announced that more than 200 farm unions would march to Delhi to press the Centre to accept several demands, including

enactment of a law to guarantee a minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

Powerful Storm Sweeps Through Melbourne, 174,000 Homes Without Power

Australia storm: The winds tore off roofs, uprooted trees and flattened electricity pylons, according to media reports and images shared on social media.

MELBOURNE, Feb 14 (Agencies): Storms packing powerful winds toppled trees, killed one person and knocked out power to 174,000 homes and businesses in eastern Australia, officials said Wednesday.

The wild weather hit large swathes of Victoria on Tuesday, dumping torrents of rain and unleashing gusts of more than 150 km per hour (90 miles per hour), the state government and emergency services said.

A 50-year-old dairy farmer was killed in the storm, apparently struck by flying debris while working on a roof, Victoria police said in a statement.

The winds also fanned bushfires in the Grampians region west of Melbourne, burning an unknown number of homes in one small town, the state's Country Fire Authority said.

At its peak, 530,000 homes and businesses lost power, the



Australian Energy Market Operator said in an update.

About 174,000 were still cut off on Wednesday afternoon, it said.

"Given the extent of the widespread damage, it may take days if not weeks to restore electricity to all of those impacted," the authority said.

The winds tore off roofs,

uprooted trees and flattened electricity pylons, according to media reports and images shared on social media.

Fallen transmission towers led to the shutdown of Victoria's largest electricity generator, the coal-powered Loy Yang A, which is now being reconnected to the grid, the state's energy authority said in a statement.

"This has been one of the largest outage events in the state's history," Victoria Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio said.

Lightning strikes ignited "multiple fires" in Victoria, said the state's emergency management commissioner, Rick Nugent.

In the hard-hit Grampians region, flames incinerated "a number of residential homes" in Pomonal, home to a few hundred residents, Nugent told a news briefing.

It was too early to say how many homes were destroyed, state firefighters said, though a report in Melbourne's The Age newspaper said about 20 had been lost.

Victorian authorities said they were working to restore power and ascertain the full extent of fire damage as bushfire and weather warnings were lowered across the state.

1 Dead, 53 Injured As Church Balcony Collapses During Prayer In Philippines



MANILA, Feb 14 (Agencies): A Catholic church balcony collapsed, killing an elderly woman and injuring 53 during a packed mass in the Philippines on Ash Wednesday, when millions of Filipinos flock to services, local disaster officials said.

One of the busiest dates on the Church calendar, the day marks the beginning of Lent in Asia's Catholic outpost.

An 80-year-old woman expired from her chest injuries at a local hospital, Gina Ayson, civil defence chief of San Jose del Monte, near Manila, told agency.

The 30-year-old wooden gallery of the Saint Peter the Apostle church had been weakened by termites, she said.

It gave way during mass, apparently due to the added weight, plunging churchgoers to the aisle on the ground floor below, Ayson said.

"City building officials discovered that a section of the collapsed structure was infested with termites," she told agency. "It looked fine from outside. We did not know it was being eaten from the inside."

The other victims, who were also mostly elderly, sustained bruises and other slight injuries, she said, adding about 400 people were attending mass at the time.

Mayor Arthur Robes has ordered the damaged church shut as investigators inspected the building's structural safety, according to Ayson.

Pictures posted by Robes on his Facebook page showed part of the wooden balcony hanging less than a metre (3.3 feet) from the ground floor, which was littered with church pews, broken plastic chairs and debris.

Yellow police tape could be seen placed across the front of the building, built in 1994, while another photo showed a paramedic giving aid to a man.

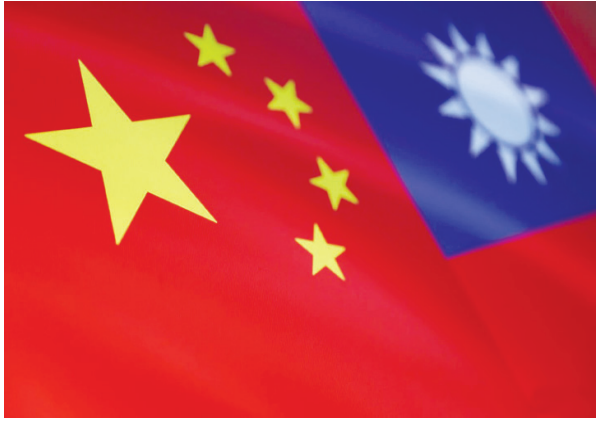
Taiwan Says Detected 14 Chinese Fighter Jets Carrying "Combat Readiness Patrol"

TAIPEI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Taiwan's defence ministry said it detected 14 Chinese air force planes operating around Taiwan and carrying out "joint combat readiness patrols" with Chinese warships on Wednesday.

China, which views Taiwan as its own territory, has over the past four years regularly sent warplanes and warships into the skies and waters around the island as it seeks to assert sovereignty claims that the Taipei government rejects.

Taiwan's defence ministry said that starting around 1 p.m. (0500 GMT) on Wednesday it had detected 14 Chinese aircraft including J-16 fighters and drones operating off northern and southwestern Taiwan.

Nine of those aircraft crossed the Taiwan



Strait's median line, or areas close by, working with Chinese warships to carry out "joint combat readiness patrols", the ministry added.

There was no immediate response from China's defence ministry. China is in the middle of its week-long Lunar New Year holiday.

Taiwan sent its own forces to monitor, its defence ministry said.

The strait's median line once served as an unofficial barrier between the

two sides, but Chinese planes now regularly fly over it. China says it does not recognise the line's existence.

Taiwan last month elected Vice President Lai Ching-te as its next president, a man China describes as a dangerous separatist.

Lai, who takes office in May, has offered talks with China, which have been rejected.

He says only Taiwan's people can decide their future.

North Korea fires several cruise missiles off east coast

SEOUL, Feb 14 (Agencies): North Korea fired multiple cruise missiles Wednesday, Seoul's military said, part of a string of weapons tests this year that have accompanied increasingly aggressive rhetoric from leader Kim Jong Un.

So far this year, Kim has declared South Korea his country's "principal enemy", jettisoned agencies dedicated to reunification and outreach, and threatened war over "even 0.001 mm" of territorial infringement.

Pyongyang has also ramped up weapons tests, including cruise missiles, an "underwater nuclear weapon system" and a solid-fuelled hypersonic ballistic missile.

"Our military detected several unknown cruise missiles over the waters northeast of Wonsan around 09:00 today (1200 GMT) and South Korea-US intelligence authorities are conducting a detailed analysis," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

It added that the military was "strengthening surveillance and vigilance, and closely watching for any additional signs and activities from North Korea."

Earlier this week, North Korea

announced it had tested a new control system for a multiple rocket launcher it said would have an "increased" battlefield role.

The cruise missile launches have prompted speculation from experts that it is testing the weapons before shipping them to Moscow for use in Ukraine.

Pyongyang and Moscow have bolstered ties in recent months, with leader Kim Jong Un making a rare trip to Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin in September.

Seoul and Washington have accused the North of supplying Russia with weapons in exchange for technical support for Kim's nascent satellite programme, which would violate a raft of UN sanctions on both regimes.

Unlike their ballistic counterparts, the testing of cruise missiles is not banned under current UN sanctions on Pyongyang.

Cruise missiles tend to be jet-propelled and fly at a lower altitude than more sophisticated ballistic missiles, making them harder to detect and intercept.

"It is believed that North Korea exported large quantities of multiple rocket launchers to

Russia last year," Ahn Chan-il, a defector-turned-researcher who runs the World Institute for North Korea Studies, told agency.

He added that there may have been quality issues with some of the exported weapons and that the recent spate of testing could be leader Kim "taking action to address the issue".

"Put an end" to South Korea Kim repeated last week that Pyongyang would not hesitate to "put an end" to South Korea if attacked, calling Seoul the North's "most dangerous and first enemy state and invariable arch-enemy".

In January, North Korea fired an artillery barrage near two South Korean border islands, prompting a live-fire drill by the South and evacuation orders for residents.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has vowed a strong response if Pyongyang attacks, calling on his military to "act first, report later" if provoked.

The hawkish Yoon has bolstered defence cooperation with the United States and Japan since coming to office in 2022, including expanding joint drills, to counter Pyongyang's growing threats.

With a US presidential election later this year, the North could potentially ramp up its provocations to take advantage of American political gridlock, Cheong Seong-chang, director of the Center for Korean Peninsula Strategy at the Sejong Institute, wrote in a report.

North Korea could "conduct attacks on (South Korea's) Baengnyeong Island, Daechong Island, and Socheong Island based on their confidence in the advancement of nuclear and missile capabilities," he wrote.

Pyongyang has drawn closer to Moscow in areas beyond defence, with a group of Russian tourists -- the first known foreign tour group since before pandemic-linked border closures in 2020 -- arriving in the North Friday for a four-day visit.

It has become harder for Russians to travel to Europe and the United States since sanctions were imposed following the invasion of Ukraine. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who has also visited Pyongyang, said last year that the North could be recommended as a tourist destination, Tass reported.

Shehbaz Sharif likely to become Pakistan prime minister as coalition led by him is set to cross simple majority mark

ISLAMABAD, Feb 14 (Agencies): Shehbaz Sharif, the younger brother of former premier Nawaz Sharif, is expected to become Pakistan's new prime minister as the coalition of leading political parties led by them is set to comfortably cross the simple majority mark to form the next government after elections produced a split mandate.

In a surprise move, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Tuesday night nominated Shehbaz as the prime ministerial candidate instead of the party's supreme and three-time former premier Nawaz Sharif.

Earlier, Shehbaz along with Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan Peoples Party and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui of Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) met at the residence of Shujaat Hussain of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) for a consultative meeting and agreed on government formation.

"Today, we have united to tell the nation that we all accept the split mandate. I am thank-

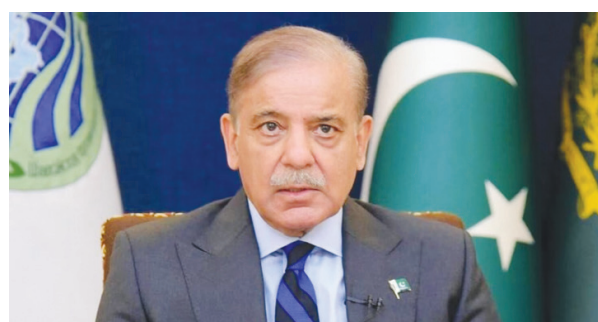
ful to Zardari and Bilawal (Bhutto) that they decided for their party to vote for the PML-N," he said.

PML-N Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that party supremo Nawaz Sharif has nominated the party president and his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif, 72, for the post of the country's prime minister.

She added that PML-N Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz was nominated for the post of Punjab's chief minister.

"Nawaz Sharif has thanked the political parties which provided support to the PML-N (in forming the upcoming government) and expressed hope that through such decisions Pakistan will come out of crises," she said.

Shehbaz, 72, who was prime minister after the Imran Khan-led government was ousted in April 2022, said the other parties that joined hands with the PML-N enjoyed "almost 2/3 majority" of Parliament after the elections. He also said that the new government would pull



the country out of trouble.

According to the Election Commission of Pakistan's tally, the total number of general seats won by the six parties -- the PML-N, PPP, MQM-P, PML-Q, IPP (Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party) and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) which announced their plans to form a coalition led by Shehbaz -- comes to 152.

This clearly shows that these parties will easily achieve the minimum required number of 169 to form the government at the Centre after the addition of 60 women and 10 minority seats in their tally.

However, it is yet to be seen if these parties will be able to get to the next magic number of 224, which is required to obtain the elusive two-thirds majority in a

336-member National Assembly (NA).

"Now our war is against the country's challenges. The first challenge is the economy. We have to stabilise it which is a tall task. Nations move forward when their leadership unites and decides to end conflicts and take the nation forward to eliminate problems," he said.

The PML-N reportedly enjoys the backing of the powerful Pakistan Army. Reacting to the latest political developments, jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said that the best option for the PML-N is to "accept [its] defeat gracefully" and let their party founder Imran Khan "fix and heal the country".

Independent candi-

dates backed by the PTI won the most seats in Parliament.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said on Tuesday that his party had won 180 seats across the country, and the name of the party's prime ministerial candidate would be announced by Thursday. During a conversation with the media, after meeting with the party's founding chairman and former premier Khan in Adiala Jail, along with other PTI leaders, he said that they had secured all three NA seats in Islamabad and an additional four seats in Balochistan.

Zardari speaking alongside Shehbaz said that a coalition government would be set up.

"We have decided to form a coalition government and pull the country out of the economic crisis," he said and added that the new government would also try to reconcile with everyone including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party of Imran Khan.

He promised to deliver the country out of these troubles and lead on to the road to prosperity.

Families Of Hostages Still Captive In Gaza Approach World Court Against Hamas

JERUSALEM, Feb 14 (Agencies): About 100 representatives of Gaza hostages flew to The Hague Wednesday to file a "crimes against humanity" complaint at the International Criminal Court against Hamas.

Palestinian militants led by Hamas abducted around 250 hostages during their attack on Israel on October 7, of which some 130 are still held captive in Gaza, according to Israeli officials.

Twenty-nine of them are believed to be dead.

"This is not just our story. If we don't stop this, tomorrow it will be the story of the entire world," said Ofri Bibas, whose brother is one of the captives held in Gaza.

"The entire human race must stand together against a global terror army, of which Hamas is just one unit on its mission," she said, minutes before she boarded a flight for The Hague.

Haim Rubinstein from the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said the campaign group will file a case against Hamas leaders at the ICC.

"We are the families of the hostages who have gone through and are still going through this terrible hell," Rubinstein said in a televised briefing from Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.

"We will file charges against Hamas members and their collaborators and ensure that they pay the heaviest price for the crimes against humanity that they continue to commit."

The Hamas attack that launched the

war resulted in the deaths of about 1,160 people in Israel, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally based on Israeli official figures.

At least 28,473 people, mostly women and children, have been killed in Israel's response, according to the health ministry.

Families of hostages have kept up pressure on Israeli authorities to secure the release of the remaining captives.

Their latest attempt comes as Israeli intelligence chief David Barnea met CIA Director William Burns in the Egyptian capital on Tuesday for talks on a Qatari-brokered plan to halt fighting in Gaza.

The negotiations, which also involved Qatar's prime minister and Egyptian officials, are part of an intensifying effort to secure a ceasefire before Israel proceeds with a ground incursion into the southern city of Rafah, where more than half of the territory's population has fled.

The ICC is the world's only independent court set up to probe the gravest offences including genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The court's chief prosecutor Karim Khan on Monday called for the release of all hostages held in Gaza as he also voiced concern about a possible Israeli ground incursion into Rafah.

Khan said on X, formerly Twitter, that his office's investigation into events in Gaza is "being taken forward as a matter of the utmost urgency".

GDC Vijaypur organises lecture on Career Counselling

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Feb 14: Career Counselling Cell of GDC Vijaypur in collaboration with Department of Commerce organized a highly successful career counselling session aimed at guiding students towards informed and confident career choices.

Students of the college attended the lecture enthusiastically with great fervor and zeal.

Principal of the college Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta addressed the students and emphasized that career counselling helps to overcome the obstacles and chalk out the path to career success by providing relevant



knowledge and further added that the students should adopt the best practices that will pave the way to career success. The right knowledge will build the confidence, boost the morale and overcomes barriers easily.

Convener of the Career Counselling Cell and HOD Commerce,

Prof. Mamta Gupta welcomed the students and impressed upon that career counselling is particularly important for students.

She further stated that students are at a critical juncture in their lives when they need to make decisions that can significantly impact their future. Career Counsel-

ing for students significantly impact their educational and professional trajectories. Resource Person, Aryan Verma, Centre Head of T.I.M.E Jammu, started the lecture by throwing light on career counselling options and discussed in detail about career jobs and aspirations; networking

strategies; assessment of skills advancement; work values and references; entrepreneurship exploration and global perspectives.

Near about hundred students attended the lecture. The lecture was coordinated by Prof. Mamta Gupta, Convener, Career Counselling Cell and Head, Department of Commerce. It was co-ordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Co-Convener) Dr Naseem Choudhary (NSS PO), Dr. Pooja Gupta and Dr. Tisha Singh.

Other faculty members who were present during the programme were Prof. Anita Jamwal, Prof. Anoop Bhagat, Prof. Poonam Kundan and Prof. Manoj Heer.

NGO Border Youth Helping Hand donates cycles to girl students

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Feb 24: "Border Youth Helping Hand", an NGO working in district Samba, has taken a unique initiative and distributed bicycles to poor girls so that they will not face any problem in coming to school and their studies will also not be affected.

NGO President Santy Choudhary told that he had come to know that girls coming from poor families study in a government school in Chhowani village of Ramgarh area of Samba district. Those who neither have fare for an auto nor have a bicycle. Due to which she is not able to reach



school on time. After this, all the members of the organization gave their respective contribution and bought a total of 12 bicycles and went to the school and presented them to the needy girls.

Santy Choudhary told that people of the society only talk about Beti Bachao Beti Padhao but

when it comes to helping them, no one comes forward.

Today our NGO has distributed 12 bicycles to the girls to boost their morale, this will provide a lot of comfort to the girls walking to school. After receiving the bicycle, the girls thanked the NGO Border Youth Helping Hand.

Congress pays tributes to brave heroes martyred in Pulwama



Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 14: Congress Party workers, headed by Indian National Congress District Samba President Sanjeev Sharma, paid tribute to the soldiers martyred in the terrorist attack on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy in Pul-

wama in the year 2019.

Paying tribute, Congress leaders said that the country will always remember his sacrifice. Congress State SC Department Vice Chairman Vinay Bhushan, District Vice President Balram Kundal, Avinash Attri youth leader, Monu Rajput and other work-

ers were present in the tribute ceremony.

Congress leaders raised slogans of 'Shahid Jawan Amar Rahe' and paid tribute to the 40 soldiers martyred in the Pulwama attack.

On this occasion, District President Sanjeev Sharma said that 'I pay tribute to the brave sol-

diers martyred in Pulwama. His service and sacrifice for the country will always be remembered.

Sanjeev Sharma said that we salute the brave martyrs of Pulwama, who sacrificed their lives for our motherland. His supreme sacrifice will always be remembered.

The nation will always be indebted to our brave men. Let it be known that on 14 February 2019, 40 CRPF soldiers were martyred in a terrorist attack sponsored by Pakistan in Pulwama, South Kashmir. A suicide bomber hit a CRPF bus with a vehicle laden with explosives, following which 40 force personnel were martyred in the blast. This bus was part of a convoy going from Jammu to Srinagar.

PM Shri Govt Higher Secondary School Bhalra pays tribute to Pulwama martyrs



Top News Report

BADHARWAH, Feb 14: THE PM Shri Govt. Higher Secondary School Bhalra, Baderwah today paid rich tributes to the Pulwama Martyrs on Martyrs Day (Black Day) in collaboration with 2 J&K (I) Coy NCC Baderwah.

On this occasion, NCC Cadets along with staff members of the Institution during a programme paid homage to the CRPF martyrs who lost their precious lives

in the Pulwama terror attack on the same day in February 2019.

Remembering the brave soldiers of 2019 Pulwama terror attack who laid down their lives to protect the National Integrity, Sovereignty, Welfare and well being of the Nation, participants placed floral garlands on the photographs of the martyrs and resolved to work wholeheartedly for the progress and prosperity of the mother nation.

Earlier, the event was marked

by lighting the Lamps in remembrance of the martyrs followed by two minutes of silence and National Anthem.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul (Associate NCC Officer) said that the entire nation was devastated on February 14th incident in which 40 brave Indian soldiers were martyred in a cowardly suicide bomb attack, sponsored by Pakistan based terror group, Jaish-e-Mohammad.

The prominent guests who were present during the event included Bihari Lal Sharma (Social Activist), Vijay Kumar (Ex-serviceman), Daresh Chander (Chowkidaar), Puran Singh, Man Raj and students of the Institution.

Posters displaying the valour of our brave soldiers by various students were also presented. "The event has gone a long way in strengthening the bond of mutual understanding, respect and brotherhood between awam and jawan," Dr Koul further stated.

The whole programme was organised under the supervision of Pardeep Singh Billawaria (Principal of the Institution).

FROM PAGE 1

Rajya Sabha Polls | BJP nominates party Chief Nadda from Gujarat, Ashok Chavan from Maharashtra

Odisha and L Murugan from Madhya Pradesh for the upcoming elections.

On Sunday, the BJP named 14 candidates for the Rajya Sabha polls, including former Union Minister R P N Singh and party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi.

The last day for filing nomination papers is February 15. The term for Rajya Sabha MPs is six years and elections are held after every two years for 33 per cent of the seats. Currently, the Rajya Sabha has a strength of 245 members.

Out of the total 245 members, out of which 233 are representatives of the States and Union territories of Delhi, Puducherry Jammu and Kashmir (w.e.f. 31.10. 2019) 12 are nominated by the President.

Based on population, each state is allocated a certain number of candidates in the Upper House.

Members of the state legislative assemblies choose Rajya Sabha members through an indirect election system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.

The Election Commission has scheduled the Rajya Sabha elections for 15 states, including Uttar Pradesh, for February 27.

Voting will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on this date, with the deadline for nominations set for February 15.

The results of the elections will be announced on the same day, February 27.

The Election Commission has announced the biennial Rajya Sabha polls on February 27 for 56 seats, as the tenure of incumbents ends in April.

LG Sinha pays tributes to Pulwama heroes on fifth anniversary of attack

and social groups, and various other

organisations have planned separate functions to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the attack.

Delhi remains under tight security as farmer determined to march

Singhu and Tikri borders as well as Ghazipur border.

An official said the security arrangements at border points and in central Delhi could be increased if required.

With massive security arrangements at the three border points, commuters may again face difficulties in reaching their destination.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha are spearheading the "Delhi Chalo" agitation to put pressure on the BJP-led Centre for their demands, including a law on a minimum support price for crops and loan waivers.

On Tuesday, farmers from Punjab faced tear gas shells — some dropped by a drone — at two border points of Haryana-Punjab as protesters tried to break past barricades that were installed to stop them from heading to Delhi. Till late night, as they were remained stopped at Punjab-Haryana border by Harayana police.

Traffic crawled at many places in the Delhi-National Capital Region on Tuesday as well due to the barricading at border and in several parts of Delhi.

The metro commuters had to face difficulties as some gates of nine metro stations in Central Delhi were shut till the evening.

The Red Fort complex was temporarily closed for visitors on Tuesday.

The Delhi Police has issued prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) for a month — banning an assembly of five or more people, processions or rallies and the entry of tractor-trolleys ferrying people.

During their protest in 2020, farmers from different states, mainly Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, had staged a sit-in at the Singhu, Ghazipur and Tikri borders. They sat there from August 2020 to December 2021.

Police had to rush logistics in 2020 to check the entry of the farmers moving in a procession of tractors.

DGP J&K pays homage to martyr's of 2019 Pulwama terror attack

"The sacrifices of CRPF personnel will forever be etched in our hearts. As we remember these heroes, let's renew our commitment to securing peace." J&K Police quoted DGP Swain as having said.

IIT Jammu develops Anti-Drone System

drones. Arms, ammunition, cash and drugs are being sent from Pakistan through drones. In such a situation, different technologies are being developed for the security forces to deal with the increasing trend of drones. In this series, IIT Jammu has prepared a sound-based drone detection system.

When asked about the development time, it took between 6 months to 1 year to create this technology. The primary challenge we faced was related to data.

He further said that our security forces need a foolproof anti-drone Grid system on IB and LOC and many anti-drone technologies have already been installed and are being developed.

"We can provide this system to the army only when they provide us with data from similar environments, allowing our AI technology to incorporate and adapt," Dr Nathwani said.

With the help of this sound-based drone detection system, this device will be able to easily detect drones, aircraft, multiple drones or birds flying up to 300 meters by their sound. The cost of making this drone ranges from Rs 25 to 40 thousand.

Nine unexploded shells found in Ladakh

the swift disposal of the shells in the presence of the local police.

Officials said the shells were destroyed in a controlled explosion by army experts.

Consumer Entitled to Vehicle Replacement for Manufacturing Defect: High Court

and Puneet Gupta while dismissing an appeal filed by Maruti Suzuki India.

By way of background, a consumer complaint was filed by one Ramesh Chander Sharma against Maruti and a car dealer, M/S Pathankot Vehicleleades Pvt Limited, Pathankot for allegedly selling a defective Maruti 800 car to a consumer.

The consumer complained that the vehicle suffered from a technical snag from the very beginning. The consumer said that he brought this issue to the notice of the dealer early on, but that the dealer delayed resolution of the matter giving one excuse or the other.

Ultimately, it was found that the engine of the vehicle had a manufacturing defect. The consumer, therefore, sought the replacement of the defective vehicle.

Maruti, however, declined to give a replacement and proposed to repair the defect instead. Therefore, Sharma the approached the consumer forum seeking a replacement or a refund.

The district and State consumer courts ruled against Maruti and ordered the car company to either replace the car for the consumer or refund the entire amount of ₹1.94 lakh paid for the vehicle along with interest and costs.

This was challenged by Maruti before the High Court which proceeded to uphold the consumer court orders.

"Indisputably, the vehicle i e Maruti Car 800 CC purchased by respondent No 1 was suffering from a manufacturing defect from the very beginning and, therefore, as is rightly held by the Forum, it was a case of replacement of the vehicle by a new vehicle and not a case of repair," the High Court held.

The Court also noted that the State consumer forum had dismissed Maruti's appeal since the appeal was filed after a delay and without making a pre-deposit of the amount ordered to be paid by the

district forum.

In view of this aspect as well, the High Court opined that there was no case made out to interfere with the consumer forum's decision to dismiss Maruti's appeal.

"The Forum has, therefore, taken a correct view of the matter and directed the petitioner along with respondent No 2 to either replace the vehicle by new one or in alternative refund the amount of Rs 1,94,195/- along with interest @ 9 percent per annum. Viewed from any angle, we do not find any merit in this petition and the same is, accordingly, dismissed," the High Court said.

Advocate Aruna Thakur represented Maruti before the High Court.—(Bar and Bench).

FFMA pays tributes to martyred CRPF jawans

breeding deadly terrorists a safe haven for internationalterrorists.R.C Puri (Vice Chairman, Retd. K.A.S) said that our jawans were very much prepared to counter the terrorist activities by Pakistan and we the whole "Nation" were very much proud of Jawans. Rajiv Mahajan said that the Army and para-military forces were the backbone of the country and this waste activeness and vigilance by our Jawans, that the whole of India sleeps comfortably they added the whole of India was with the army and para-militaryJawans and were always with them in their happiness and sorrows.The prominent who spoke on the occasion were Ved Gandotra, Karnail Chand, Pritam Sharma, Nirmal Kishore, K.L.Varma, Parbhat Kapahi and others.

Former PDP leader joins BJP in Jammu

"Modi opened the coffers for the development of J&K. The restoration of peace and brotherhood is his biggest gift to the people. He has ensured 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas' and provided justice to all sections of society," he added.

Asked about speculations around some senior political leaders joining the BJP in the presence of the Prime Minister, Raine said, "We will whole-heartedly welcome anyone who comes."

Passenger vehicle wholesales rise 14% to 3,93,074 units in January

Two-wheeler wholesales rose 26 per cent to 14,95,183 units

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales rose 14 per cent year-on-year to 3,93,074 units last month, the best-ever figure for January, amid robust demand for utility vehicles, industry body SIAM said on Wednesday.

As per the latest data issued by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), dispatches of passenger vehicle from manufacturers to dealers stood at 3,46,080 units in January 2023.

Two-wheeler wholesales rose 26 per cent



to 14,95,183 units last month as compared with 11,84,376 units in January last year.

"Passenger vehicle

sales have remained resilient led by positive consumer sentiments, while the two-wheeler segment witnessed

good growth in January as well as the rural market continues to recover," Society of Indian Automobile

Manufacturers (SIAM) President Vinod Aggarwal said.

Though the commercial vehicle sector did not grow in January 2024, it is likely to see good offtake in the next two months of this financial year, he added.

Three-wheeler wholesales witnessed a growth of 9 per cent at 53,537 units as against 48,903 units in January 2023. "Passenger vehicles and three-wheelers continue to post their highest-ever sales till date, in FY 24, for the period April to January," SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said.

ED to probe alleged FEMA rule violations by Paytm Payments Bank

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): In another setback for Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, the Enforcement Directorate has launched a preliminary investigation into overseas transactions of its banking arm Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL), said reports.

This comes after an earlier Reuters report claimed that ED had initiated a probe on suspicion of violations of FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) rules.

Earlier, the company dismissed reports of ED probe saying, "We have consistently assured that neither Paytm nor any of its associates are under investigation by any regulatory agency.



This stance has been further validated by recent statements from senior government officials. Our commitment remains unwavering towards operating in compliance with regulatory guidance and continuously enhancing our processes to further the reach of digital payments across India."

Following the RBI curbs on the fintech major, the stock of Paytm's parent company One97 Communica-

tions Ltd plummeted by around 55 per cent of its market value. On Wednesday alone, the company lost about 10 per cent of its market value.

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 seg-

Stock market slides in early trade; Sensex slumps over 675 points

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices plummeted in early trade on Wednesday and Sensex slumped more than 675 points tracking negative cues in the global market as higher than expected inflation numbers in the US hit investor sentiments.

The broader 50-share Nifty tumbled 187.85 points or 0.86 per cent to 21,555.40 points while the 30-share Sensex crashed 675.79 points or 0.94 per cent to 70,879.40 points.

The latest inflation data from the US has upended expectations of when the Federal Reserve might start slashing interest rates.

As many as 27 scripts in the Sensex index declined. Infosys, Tech



Mahindra, Wipro, HDFC Bank and TCS were among the major losers in the early trade.

In the Nifty pack, 44 stocks were in the red.

"January's hotter-than-expected US inflation report threw the financial market into a tailspin on Tuesday and upended investors' expectations about how soon and by how much the Federal Reserve might start cutting interest rates,"

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities, said. In the US, the consumer price index rose 0.3 per cent in January and the core rate -- which excludes volatile food and energy costs -- rose 0.4 per cent, a tick above Wall Street expectations.

Asian markets witnessed mixed trends on Wednesday, with Japan's Nikkei 225 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng indices trading lower

while China's SSE Composite Index gained over 1 per cent. On Tuesday, US and European stocks closed in the red.

"Asian stocks tracked a drop on Wall Street following hotter-than-expected US inflation data, while a slump in the yen past 150 per dollar triggered a warning from Japan," Jasani said. BSE Sensex surged 482.70 points to close at 71,555.19 points on Tuesday while the broader NSE Nifty gained 127.20 points to end the day at 21,743.25 points. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) were net buyers on Tuesday as they purchased shares worth Rs 376.32 crore, according to data available with BSE.

Wholesale inflation eases to 3-month low of 0.27 per cent in January

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased to a three-month low of 0.27 per cent in January, mainly due to moderation of food prices, including vegetables.

The WPI inflation was in the negative zone from April to October and had turned positive in November at 0.39 per cent.

In January 2023, it was at 4.8 per cent and in December 2023 it was 0.73 per cent.

"The annual rate of inflation based on the All India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is 0.27 per cent (provisional) for the month of January, 2024 (over January, 2023)," the commerce and industry ministry said in a state-

ment on Wednesday. The previous low level of WPI inflation was recorded in October 2023, when it was (-) 0.26 per cent.

In January, food inflation declined to 6.85 per cent, from 9.38 per cent in December 2023.

Within food articles, inflation in vegetables eased to 19.71 per cent from 26.3 per cent in December. Inflation in potatoes was in the negative zone.

The prices of fruits, eggs, milk, fish, and milk have eased.

In the fuel and power segment, inflation was (-) 0.51 per cent in January, as against (-) 2.41 per cent in December 2023.

In manufactured products, inflation was (-) 1.13 per cent, as against



(-) 0.71 per cent in the previous month.

The Reserve Bank in its bi-monthly monetary policy earlier month held interest rates steady with a view to bring down Consumer Price Index (CPI) or retail inflation at 4 per cent. Retail inflation still rules over 5 per cent.

As per government data, the month-over-month change in WPI index for January, 2024 stood at (-) 0.33 per cent, as compared to December, 2023.

The index for primary particles declined by 1.04 per cent to 181 in January, 2024 from 182.9 for December.

Prices of minerals (0.93 per cent) increased in January, this year over December 2023. On the other hand, prices of crude petroleum and natural gas (-) 0.33 per cent, non-food articles (-) 0.49 per cent and food articles (-) 1.36 per cent declined in January, 2024 as compared to December, 2023.

Plant-based diet linked to better sexual health in males treated with prostate cancer

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): According to a new study, a diet low in meat and dairy but high in fruits, vegetables, grains, and nuts is associated with lower rates of erectile dysfunction, urinary incontinence, and other frequent side effects in prostate cancer patients.

Led by researchers at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and Har-

vard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the analysis of more than 3,500 men with prostate cancer explored whether eating a more plant-based diet was associated with quality-of-life issues that often arise after treatment. Sorting patients into five groups (quintiles) based on the proportion of plant versus animal foods the men said they eat,

the authors found that the quintile that consumed the most plants scored 8% to 11% better in measures of sexual function compared with the group that consumed the least.

Similarly, the results revealed up to 14% better scores for urinary health, with fewer instances of incontinence, obstruction, and irritation.

5 amazing dry fruits that can help speed up weight loss

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): If there is one small addition to your diet that can bring massive results is inclusion of dry fruits in your morning or evening routine. During weight loss journey, at times planning the snacks is trickier than putting together the mail meals. What may seem like harmless munching can derail your efforts completely and add to the calories, making it difficult for you to achieve your weight loss goals. Consuming dry fruits from almonds, walnuts, pistachios, to raisins can play a significant role in keeping hunger pangs at bay, digestive health on track and calorie management. It can also help control blood sugar

levels, supporting an active lifestyle. Additionally, the fibre content aids in digestion and helps maintain stable blood sugar levels, reducing the likelihood of unhealthy snacking," says Dietitian Amreen Shaikh, Head Dietitian, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central.

Shaikh however advises to consume dry fruits in moderation as their calorie content can be high. "Pairing dry fruits with a balanced diet and regular exercise enhances their positive impact on weight management. Some other healthy sources include sun-dried tomatoes, seaweed snacks, flax seeds, dried figs, chia seeds and berries," says the nutritionist.

Given that mental health is a continuum, how do you isolate eco elements that contribute to anxiety? Living in a high-crime area or a politically volatile area that witnesses frequent community clashes and war creates and enhances anxiety. The same is true for living in an area with poor air and water quality. People living in areas prone to natural disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes, drought, mudslides, cloudbursts, forest fires or floods can suffer constant anxiety and fear of potential harm/recurrence. Extreme weather conditions can be a trigger for anxiety in some and lead to stress in daily living.

Understanding the impact of the environment on mental health

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Eco-anxiety is a growing concern in today's world, as the state of the environment continues to deteriorate. In this interview, Consultant Psychologist Rita Aggarwal sheds light on the connection between the environment and anxiety, discussing the various manifestations of eco-anxiety and providing strategies for managing it.

Given that mental health is a continuum, how do you isolate eco elements that contribute to anxiety?

Living in a high-crime area or a politically volatile area that witnesses frequent community clashes and war creates and enhances anxiety. The same is true for living in an area with poor air and water quality. People living in areas prone to natural disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes, drought, mudslides, cloudbursts, forest fires or floods can suffer constant anxiety and fear of potential harm/recurrence. Extreme weather conditions can be a trigger for anxiety in some and lead to stress in daily living.

What are the most common manifestations of eco-anxiety?

Like other forms of anxiety, eco-anxiety can manifest physically as headaches, fatigue, muscle tension, and

sleep disturbances. Other symptoms include excessive worry and fear, restlessness, irritability, poor concentration, palpitations, sweating, trembling, digestive issues, etc.

Anxiety is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon and symptoms vary. Those who recognise anxiety as a disorder may get assistance sooner to prevent the condition from getting worse.

Do patients seek specific help- can they identify it as a cause, or do they come to you for more generalised reasons?

People experiencing eco-anxiety may or may not explicitly identify it as the primary reason for seeking help, and their approach to seeking assistance can vary. In many cases, individuals with eco-anxiety may initially exhibit more generalized symptoms of anxiety, depression, or stress. It is, however, likely that during the course of therapy the underlying cause of their distress may be explored, and patients may eventually express concerns related to the environment and climate change. The disease spectrum connects the mind-body as a whole and cannot be seen in isolation. Besides anxiety disorder, it could also present as post-traumatic stress

disorder (PTSD), mood disorders, substance use disorders, and self-harm and suicide in extreme scenarios.

Is there a gender and demographic differential?

Research studies suggest that there is a gender and demographic differential for anxiety. As caregivers, women are more prone to experience anxiety disorders than men and certain demographic factors such as age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status may also play a role in the prevalence and expression of anxiety. Societal and cultural factors can also influence the perception and experience of anxiety within different demographic groups.

What elements- such as doomscrolling, information overload etc. contribute to enhance it?

Excessive indulgence in social media can add to the already existing state of anxiety. New terms have been coined to explain certain phenomena related to social media that contribute to anxiety- such as, 'doomscrolling' which means exposing oneself to negative or alarming news and updates; 'information overload' which indicates that the constant stream of news, opinions, and updates can be overwhelming as



one is unable to process it properly. There are more new terms, such as, 'sensationalising', 'fear mongering', 'FOMO' due to social comparisons which can generate feelings of helplessness and anxiety.

Take us through a treatment protocol.

Although eco-anxiety is not a clinically recognized disorder with specific treatment protocols, general mental health strategies can be beneficial and be used for good results. General counseling by a mental health professional helps in identifying the stressors causing the negative emotions and thoughts.

Therapies such as deep breathing, relaxation methods, cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), yoga, meditation, mindfulness strategies, can help manage anxiety. Physical exercise, nature walks, gardening, socializing, support groups of affected persons can be relieving. Limiting news consumption and social

media scrolling can be useful. Developing coping strategies such as building resilience, problem solving, emotional regulation, can be helpful in the long run.

Between the physical manifestations of pollution induced diseases and the mental manifestations of it, which is likely to grow faster and have graver impacts?

The physical manifestations of pollution on people are imminent as it impacts everyone exposed to it. For example, if there is a dust storm, everyone exposed will cough. The mental manifestations are slow to show-up, go generally unreported and not understood by the sufferer as well as the others. The awareness of mental impacts is poor and hence manifests itself only in the long run as it becomes a chronic condition. We know that besides pollution, there are multiple factors in the environment that impact the individual.

Change is coming: Depleted India have Dhruv Chand Jurel, Sarfaraz Khan in line for debut; Shubman Gill skips training

RAJKOT, Feb 14 (Agencies): An injury-hit India could well go into the third Test against England with two debutants — domestic run-machine Sarfaraz Khan and hard-hitting keeper-batter Dhruv Chand Jurel — on a track that will be quite similar to the first two Test matches.

Last match's centurion Shubman Gill, however, did not attend the optional training today. It must be noted that Gill hurt his right index finger while fielding in the second Test in Visakhapatnam. He didn't field during the England's second innings, but later said the injury wasn't too serious.

With Shreyas Iyer being dropped and KL Rahul yet to recover, doors have opened for Sarfaraz, who has been one of the most prolific performers in the Ranji Trophy.

In case of Jurel, it is his superior batting quality that could get him the nod ahead of KS Bharat, who has failed to score a single half-century in seven successive Tests.

With Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz and Jurel batting between Nos. 4 to 7, three of the four middle-order players (other being Ravindra Jadeja) will go into the Test match with a collective experience of a solitary game. Patidar made his debut



in Visakhapatnam.

Beginning of transition?

With a transition phase looming large, a glimpse into the future of India's Test side became apparent here today when the team hit the ground running to prepare for the third Test.

Usually spoilt for choices when it comes to selection and perennially dominant at home, India have had to make do with a mix of experienced and rookie players against England in the first two Tests of the five-match series in the absence of regular stars.

Patidar and Sarfaraz were both part of a new-look slip cordon when India began their

training here at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

While Patidar, positioned at gully, and Sarfaraz at first slip did attract attention when the training session got underway, it was also the sight of a lean and bubbly young keeper Jurel taking some sharp catches which sparked a lot of interest.

Accompanying them at the second slip was the dashing opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who at times celebrated taking catches as if he was playing a game, throwing the ball high in the air in jubilation.

Having had a look at the pitch upon arrival, Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid watched the proceedings from a distance for

a while before the Indian skipper decided to join the catching session for a brief period of time.

The coach, meanwhile, was again spotted having a long chat with the local groundsmen close to the end of the session.

After the conclusion of the slip catching session, both Patidar and Sarfaraz spent some time training for catches at close-in positions — silly point and short-leg — which indicated their possible roles in the upcoming match.

Rohit then headed into the nets, where he was joined by Patidar and Sarfaraz, who both had extended sessions facing local bowlers, Indian spinners and throwdown specialists.

In the adjacent nets, Bharat, whose lack of runs have possibly opened the door for further selection changes in the playing XI, trained alone and cut a lonely figure.

India's star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who scored a century the last time he played a Test at his hometown here, batted for a longer duration than he bowled.

For that matter, each of the four Indian spinners were in operation during the team's training session for a second consecutive day.

Wrestling Federation of India breathes easy as UWW lifts suspension

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): The international wrestling federation (UWW) has lifted the suspension of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). The decision comes after the UWW bureau met on February 9.

The UWW had put the Indian body under provisional suspension in August last year after the elections were delayed amidst the ongoing wrestlers' protest and subsequent court cases.

"The United World Wrestling has lifted the suspension on the Wrestling Federation of India with immediate effect. UWW had placed the WFI under provisional suspension on August 23 last year after the Indian body failed to hold an election in due course. The UWW Disciplinary Chamber decided that it had sufficient grounds to impose the provisional suspension on the body as the situation in the federation prevailed for at least six months," the UWW said in its statement.

However, the UWW has said that the recognition was conditional as the WFI needs to hold elections of its Athletes' Commission and a written guarantee that the wrestlers who took part in the protest will not be targeted.

"The WFI has to re-convene the elections of its Athletes' Commission. The candidates for this commission shall be active athletes or retired for no longer than four years. The voters shall be exclusively athletes. These elections shall take place during trials or any senior national championships where

this operation can take place, but no later than July 1, 2024," the letter further said.

"The WFI has to immediately provide UWW with written guarantees that all wrestlers will be considered for participation without any discrimination in all WFI events, in particular trials for the Olympic Games and any other major national and international events. This non-discrimination includes the three athletes who protested against alleged wrongdoings by the former President. UWW remains in touch with the wrestlers and will follow up with them in the coming days," it added.

The development comes as a shot in the arm for the WFI, which had called the suspension a direct attack on its autonomy. The UWW's decision also means that the country's wrestlers will now be allowed to compete under the Indian flag.

The new WFI president, Sanjay Singh, welcomed the development and has assured that all conditions sought by the UWW will be met soon.

"First of all I want to say that we are there for all wrestlers. Those who protested will also be welcomed for the trials and other meets," Singh told agency.

"We will hold the Athletes' Commission election soon. It may happen during the trials and we will fulfill all conditions laid out by the UWW," he added.

Top-100 Dream Realised, Sumit Nagal Eyes Olympic Glory Next

BENGALURU, Feb 14 (Agencies): His dream of being inside the global top-100 has been realised but Sumit Nagal is nowhere close to being a content man as the Indian tennis ace says he now faces the challenge of improving or holding on to his standing for direct entry into Grand Slams and the Paris Olympics. Nagal's victory in the recent Chennai Open propelled him to a career-high world No. 98, and he is the first Indian to achieve the feat since Prajnesh Gunneswaran did that in 2019.

"Every tennis player dreams about being in the top 100. I have dreamt about being in the top 100 from a very young age and it felt very good when it happened. It was certainly an emotional day after working for years," Nagal told agency in an interview after his first-round win in the Bengaluru Open on Tuesday night.

The 26-year-old, who is seeded second here, entered the second round of the tournament with a breezy 6-2, 6-2 win over Frenchman Geff Blancaneaux.

But he is not ready to rest on his laurels and has set his eyes on bigger achievements.

"Yes, it was a big moment (entering top 100). But now I am in a new tournament, you know, tennis, you need to take it week by week. So, emotions have come down now. While in Bangalore I am focusing on this tournament.

"But the real goal is to go and represent my country in the Olympics. It's one of my goals, and it really motivates me and I really want to play the Olympics, and take a medal back for the country," he said.

Top 56 players in the ATP (men) and WTA (women) rankings, as on June 10 this year, will get direct qualification for the July-August Paris Games provided the number per country does not exceed four.

Entries would be permitted from outside the top-56 for countries who have less than four automatic qualifiers.

The remaining eight slots of the 64-strong draw would be reserved for continental champions (4), previous Olympic gold-medallists or Grand Slam champions (2), host nation (1) and Universality (1).

Nagal would have a good chance of making it if he can add some more good results to his record.

Staying inside the top 100 will have another benefit for the Haryana-born lad as he would no longer need to wait for qualifiers or wildcards to enter the main draw of Grand Slams.

Last month, he had made the Australian Open main draw through qualifiers and defeated the then world No. 31 Alexander Bublik 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (5) in the first round.

"Yeah, that's a big positive (being in the top 100). That's why every player wants to be inside the top 100 because you want to play in the Grand Slams," he said.

"So, if I can do that, and keep my



ranking up and inside the top 100, that will be very good for me as we are fast approaching the French Open season," he added.

Not long ago, Nagal was struggling to attract sponsors and was left with a meagre USD 900 in his bank account.

But being in the top 100 is set to fetch him more money from the ATP players' fund, which will go a long way in helping him meet his expenses on the Tour.

"It is a big help to be in the top 100 financially. That's one of the reasons why players want to be in the top 100 because the money allocation is higher as per your ranking points, and it helps you throughout the year," he explained.

"I am no different here. I would love to, you know, keep pushing and stay in the top 100 ranking where I can get myself a chance to play in the Slams and also take the benefits that come along with it," said Nagal.

He might be in a good space after his exploits in the Australian Open and three Challenger titles in the past nine months but Nagal says he can never forget the massive struggle he endured in the last couple of years.

He had to stay away from tennis for six months following a hip surgery and also saw his rankings plummet to 638 by the end of 2022.

Nagal said those tough times instilled a lot of determination in him.

"I have always spoken highly about having a good team and having good friends around you, family too, because the summers of 2021 and 2022 were the toughest in my life. I'm very glad that I had those people around me so that I could get out of that dark zone or hole," he recalled.

"They helped me keep my mindset simple, focusing on the present and not worrying too much about the future. They were telling me just go to a court and start hitting the balls and 'you will be better', and that's exactly what I did," he elaborated.

Nagal's confidence was evident through the opening round fixture against Blancaneaux here at the KSLTA courts last night.

"Nothing to complain about, to be honest, and I am feeling good and motivated. I am just eager to continue to play in this manner for the coming week and months," he signed off.

South Africa bowls out New Zealand for 211, leads by 31 in the 2nd cricket test

HAMILTON, Feb 14 (Agencies): Dane Piedt took a career-best 5-89 as South Africa bowled out New Zealand for 211 to take an unexpected first-innings lead Wednesday on the second day of the second cricket test.

South Africa was bowled out for 242 after resuming Day 2 at 220-6 and New Zealand conceded a 31 run lead as bowlers dominated and 14 wickets fell in the day.

New Zealand had been 183-9 and the deficit might have been greater but for a late innings of 33 by the redoubtable Neil Wagner.

Piedt reached the high point of a checkered test career as he captured the wickets of Tom Latham, Kane Williamson, Will Young and Glenn Phillips to highlight an excellent bowling performance by the Proteas. Dane Paterson took the wicket of Devon Conway (0) in the first over of the New Zealand innings and finished with 3-39.

"My test career has been ups and downs with injuries and I'm seriously proud of the way we fought today," Piedt said. "We had a nice talk out in the middle, reflecting on the first test (which New Zealand won by 281 runs) and I'm glad everyone stood up today and put something forward for the public."

Four batters, two from each team, were out bowled off an inside edge and another was caught behind off an inside edge onto the pad on a day of inconsistent bounce at Seddon Park. There were signs the usu-



ally seamer-friendly pitch wasn't performing to character when part-time spinner Rachin Ravindra bowled 21 overs for New Zealand on the first day.

Off-spinner Piedt came into his own in the middle session when the ball turned sharply and he asked questions even the best New Zealand batters couldn't answer.

The 33-year-old made his test debut against Zimbabwe in 2014 and played another six tests over the next two years. He dropped out of the team but was recalled for two tests in India in 2019 but took only two wickets in two tests appearances.

Piedt had begun to explore changing his allegiance to the United States when he received his latest recall for the current series.

Ruan de Swardt in his second test and Shaun von Berg, on debut at 37, shared an unbroken partnership of 70 for South Africa's seventh wicket before stumps on Day 1 in what is prov-

ing to be a rare display of batting fortitude.

Their defiance didn't last long on the second morning. Von Berg was out in the third over of the day for 38 and de Swardt followed soon after for 64 after reaching his maiden test half century on Tuesday.

Both de Swardt and von Berg chopped balls from Will O'Rourke back onto their stumps. O'Rourke also took the last two wickets of the innings with consecutive balls and finished with 4-59 on his test debut.

The South Africa innings crumbled and its last three wickets fell for eight runs including Piedt for 4.

New Zealand got an early taste of the difficulty of batting on a pitch which was livelier on the second day than the first when Conway continued a run of poor form and was out to the fourth ball of the innings.

Paterson angled a ball into Conway from around the wicket and it straightened late, catch-

ing the edge and going on to wicketkeeper Clyde Fortuin. Conway now has gone seven innings and almost a year without a test 50.

Latham and Williamson steadied the innings in a partnership of 74 for the second wicket but they had to be constantly watchful and scoring was difficult. Neither team has scored above three runs per over so far in the test.

Latham fell for 40, bowled by Piedt as he pushed forward to a ball which turned past the outside edge and hit off stump.

Williamson was 43 when he received a ball from Piedt which bounced unexpectedly and came off the inside edge, onto the thigh pad and flew to Raynard van Tonder at short leg.

"I think as a bowling unit we had the discussion of bowling in pairs and just trying to strangle them," Piedt said. Latham and Williamson "are two very good players and they do fight through those tough periods."

"We said he just have to keep grinding away and luck will go our way, and fortunately it did."

Rachin Ravindra made 29, then dragged a ball from Tshepo Moreki back onto his stumps and Tom Blundell fell in similar fashion, deciding too late to leave a ball from Paterson which bounced more than he expected.

Will Young fell to Piedt when he was 36, holing out to de Swardt at long-on.

Wagner's late contribution might prove vital in a match of small margins.

WPL 2024: Run-machine Beth Mooney returns as skipper of Gujarat Giants, Sneha Rana named vice-captain

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Beth Mooney has returned as the skipper of the Gujarat Giants for the 2024 edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024. The Australian left-hander played only one match last season before being ruled out due to a calf strain.

The veteran had to retire hurt after playing only 3 balls in the match against eventual champions Mumbai Indians at the Dr DY Patil Sports Academy in Mumbai. Thereafter, Sneha Rana took over as their captain for the remainder



of the season. With Mooney's return to the helm, Rana will act as her deputy for the upcoming season in the WPL.

"I am delighted to be

played in Bengaluru and New Delhi, which are new to the tournament," Mooney said.

"The second season of WPL will be another festival of cricket. That Beth is back as skipper is fantastic news, and I will do everything I can to support her. The squad is well-balanced, and we are in a good place as a team," Rana said.

Rana had a tough time as skipper last year after the Giants finished at the bottom of the table with wins in only 2 out of 8 matches.

Mooney's departure left a massive void in

their batting lineup, something which they were unable to fill throughout the season.

Mooney has been in incredible form after she became the No.1 ranked batter in Women's T20s following the series against South Africa. Mooney also finished as the leading run-scorer in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), where she notched 557 runs.

The Titans are scheduled to start their campaign against Harmanpreet Kaur's MI on Sunday, February 25 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore.

Return of PoK will be true tribute to martyrdom: Shiv Sena

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit paid heartfelt tributes to the martyrs of Pulwama attack and burnt the effigy of terrorism active in Jammu and Kashmir.

Along with this, a demand was made to strong strike on Pakistan and make POK a part of India.

A tribute program was organized at the party state office in Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu. The present state leaders including Chief Manish Sahni paid heartfelt tribute to the Indian soldiers martyred in the suicide terrorist attack in Pulwama on February 14, 2019.

After this, Shiv Sainiks



holding placards written "Return of PoK is the true tribute to the martyrs" and demanded the same, raised slogans against terrorism and Pakistan and burnt effigies of terrorists operating in the state.

Sahni said in his

address that this cowardly act was carried out on 14 February 2019 at the behest of Pakistan.

However, soon made the supreme sacrifice while fighting the terrorists, he said adding that 78 Indian soldiers were martyred in 2019, 56 in

nefarious and cowardly activities, he said.

In the last five years, around 200 Indian soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice while fighting the terrorists, he said adding that 78 Indian soldiers were martyred in 2019, 56 in

2020, 45 in 2021, 30 in 2022 and 31 in 2023.

Sahni said that for how long will we tolerate the martyrdom of our soldiers. The time has come to teach Pakistan a lesson by striking strongly and making Pakistan's illegally occupied PoK a part of India, he asserted.

It will be a true tribute to the martyrdom of Indian soldiers, he added.

On this occasion vice president Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh, president Kamghar Raj Singh, secretary Mangu Ram, Teetu Sehgal, Organizer Imran Shekh, Bituji Bhat, SK Raina, Prem Kumar, Raju, Nitin Chib, Ashok Chib, Rinku and others were present.

Sewa Social Welfare Jammu helps in marriage of needy girl

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Sewa Social Welfare Jammu MD Manik Sareen and Chairman Sahil Mahajan today donated marriage material to a needy girl of Kasim Nagar by Providing Ration and other items to the family.

Singer and MD Manik Sareen, Chairman & Anchor Sahil Mahajan along with team members request to provide the Ration and other items to the family.

After which Manik Sareen approached Chairman Sahil Mahajan with the request to provide her financial help or raw material which could help



for wedding of needy girl on behalf of report of Sewa Social Welfare Jammu.

It was seen that there was no source of financial income in their House and they were facing many problem's at which Sewa Social Welfare Jammu decided to donate the Material for her Marriage. Manik Sareen decided

for serving the Society with their team Members and to continue same in social field. MD Manik sareen also thanked Sahil mahajan and team for helping their urgent demand. And whole family appreciated efforts of Sewa Social Welfare Jammu for providing the Ration Material for the needy family.

Modi Govt trying to suppress voice of farmers: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), today launched a scathing attack on the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre, accusing it of attempting to stifle the voices of the farmers amidst ongoing protests.

He denounced the government's actions, alleging a betrayal of promises made to farmers over the past decade. In a hard hitting statement issued here today, the senior NC leader vigorously condemned the use of tear gas and the detention of farmers instead of addressing their legitimate grievances, particularly regarding the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He criticized the deployment of barbed wires and iron nails at protest sites, equating it to an authoritarian attempt to suppress dissenting voices.

Gupta emphasized that instead of engaging in meaningful dialogue and addressing the concerns raised by the agricultural commu-

nity, the government has resorted to repression and coercion.

"The actions taken by the BJP-led Central government against farmers exercising their democratic right to protest are reprehensible and unacceptable. Using tear gas and incarcerating peaceful demonstrators is a clear violation of their fundamental rights and undermines the democratic fabric of our nation," he added.

The Provincial President anguished that more than 700 farmers lost their lives, yet despite this harrowing toll, the government remains unwilling to provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers. He asserted that this stark reality underscores the deep-seated injustices and neglect faced by the agricultural community, whose livelihoods are at stake.

Highlighting broken promises, Rattan Lal Gupta cited the government's failure to fulfill commitments such as doubling farmers' income by 2022 and granting legal status to the Minimum Support Price. He lamented the lack of dialogue

between the government and farmers, stressing the need for the Central Government to engage with farmers and address their concerns earnestly.

"The Modi government's decade-long tenure will be remembered as a period of relentless hardship inflicted upon farmers. The transformation of Delhi into a fortress to silence the voices of our food providers reflects the cruelty of the BJP government," he said. Gupta reiterated the National Conference's unwavering support for the farmers' demand for fair MSP and urged the government to engage in sincere dialogue to resolve this serious issues otherwise ready to face the consequences in the upcoming Parliamentary polls in the country.

"J&K National Conference stand in solidarity with the farmers in their struggle for justice and dignity. It is incumbent upon the government to heed their demands and work towards a constructive resolution that upholds the principles of fairness and equity," he added.

District Level-National Youth Parl Festival 2024 on Feb 20

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu, J&K, 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.

The young boys and girls belonging to districts Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch are urged to participate in the district level event going to be held on February 20 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, and third prize is Rs. 1 lakh and 2 consolation prizes of Rs. 50000/- each. Winners from earlier National Youth Parliament Festivals at National Level are not eligible to take part in this event.

To participate the interested youth may contact at 0191-2435063 or their respective district office. Applications can be accepted through MyBharat portal only and application must be submitted well before 18th February, 2024. To Register for event follow these steps-Login/ Register on MyBharat Portal-Events-Search Event-Join Event.

VMC continues dominance for consecutive 10 yrs as J&K's Premier Coaching Institute with Stellar JEE Mains 2024 Results

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Vidyamandir Classes (VMC), the distinguished coaching institute, proudly maintains its legacy of producing the best ranks in Jammu & Kashmir for the past nine consecutive years.

In the recently declared JEE Mains 2024 January results, VMC once again emerged triumphant by showcasing exceptional performances from its students.

The institute's commitment to excellence was further demonstrated in 2023 when Tejas Singh secured the title of State Topper in both JEE Mains and Advanced. Meanwhile, Naman Gupta achieved an outstanding score of 700/720 in NEET 2023, which is best ever score from

Jammu in NEET, reinforcing VMC's reputation for nurturing top talent across various competitive exams.

In the JEE Mains 2024 January attempt, VMC continues to shine, with Divyanshi Mahajan emerging as the State Topper among girls with an impressive percentile of 98.15.

This accomplishment adds to the institute's rich history of producing top-performing students.

Several other students from Vidyamandir Classes have achieved remarkable percentiles in JEE Mains 2024, further solidifying the institute's position as a leader in competitive exam preparation: Aryan Abrol 99.76 percentile, Kshitij Oswal 99.53 percentile, Aditya Koulb99.47 percentile, Tapas Gupta 98.97 percentile, Kanak

Reshi 98.80 percentile, Arindham Brall 98.47 percentile, Chaitanya Mahajan 98.30 percentile, and Arnab Pandita 98.23 percentile.

More than 30 students have secured a percentile of 90 or above.

VMC remains steadfast in its commitment to providing quality education for all JEE, NEET, and Olympiad aspirants. The institute's consistent success in producing top ranks is a testament to its dedicated faculty, innovative teaching methodologies, and unwavering focus on student excellence.

As Vidyamandir Classes celebrates these outstanding achievements, it extends heartfelt congratulations to all successful candidates and wishes them continued success in their academic journey.

Modi Govt is committed to empower marginalised section of Society: Rekha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Modi Govt is committed to empower marginalised section of Society by taking central government schemes to the last person, Rekha Mahajan, District President Jammu South addressed the ST community at Booth 54, Bathindi, organised by Booth President Mohd Yaqoob which was attended large number of people belonging to ST community included Sarpanch Bashir Ahmed khatana, Panch Mushtaq, District Secretary Sadeeq Choudhary, ST Morcha District President Rafiq Choudhary.

During this meeting she highlighted the



welfare schemes for the Scheduled Tribes has risen by five times and the scholarship for tribal students has grown by two-and-a-half times in the last 10 years under the Modi government. During this meeting she emphasised that the government has exerted

its full force to ensure that extremely backwards among the tribal population benefit from its every scheme. More than four crore pucca houses have been built for the poor by the Modi government.

She mentioned asserting that those who were

always ignored earlier have not only been reached out by him but also worshipped.

During the event, Rekha Mahajan interacted with some beneficiaries of PM-JANMAN as they highlighted the positive changes in their lives after they availed of

government schemes. It is the endeavour of our government that no one is left out of its welfare schemes.

Rekha mahajan stressed that the Modi government initiative are for the welfare of the people. By offering the loan amount to people, the Stand Up Loan scheme promotes entrepreneurship among SC, ST communities and women. As it helps people to become financially stable, this scheme has come under the financial inclusion agenda. During the discussions made at the meeting the people of ST community were contended to talk about the benefits which are provided by the Government.

AAP Jammu remembers Pulwama Martyrs, pay homage



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu Province activists, while paying homage to Puleama Martyrs, assembled in Party office Laxmipuram-Chinore, Jammu and paid their respect to the 40 Jawans who laid their lives for the sake of Nation on 14th February, 2019.

On the occasion, the speakers, highlighted the sacrifices of our Jawans to keep our Tiranga high and said that whole Nation is proud of our valiant Jawans, the bravery of whom is known to the world.

They further expressed great dismay and regret that till date the culprits have remained

at large and nothing is being heard as to how around 300 kgs of RDX was smuggled in our territory and under what circumstances a private vehicle loaded with deadly smuggled RDX managed its entry in between the Convoy and caused the human loss by detonating the RDX? It is really sad that our well knit network of investigating agencies have chosen to remain silent they said and added that real Nationalism is made known to the world when Israel sneaked into Pak territory and affected surgical strike to pullout their two soldiers from their Jail.

This is the real Nationalism who acted instead of gaining mileage, they claimed. Prominent among those who attended and spoke on the occasion included Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Ghulam Nabi Khan, Ranjodh Singh, Sham Lal Thakur, Harsh Dev Singh & others.