

TOP NEWS OF J&K

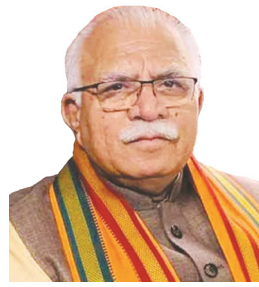
JAMMU, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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'Malicious fabrication': Russia dismisses US warning on nuclear weapons in space



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BRIEFLY

ACB raids on Cops

JAMMU, Feb 15 (Agencies): The Anti Corruption Bureau has been conducting raids at 5 locations of JKP Inspector Amit Koul and Havaladar Rajinder Sharma, posted with former DGP and Ex Cabinet Minister in Jammu.

Elderly man dies after falling from moving vehicle in Kulgam

KULGAM, Feb 15 (Agencies): A 58-year old man died after he fell from a moving vehicle in Cheyan village of Devsar in south Kashmir's Kulgam on Thursday, officials said.

They said the man was traveling in an automobile when he fell down on road from it in Cheyan village.

"The man died on the spot, while his body has been shifted to a nearby hospital for legal formalities," officials said.

He has been identified as Ghulam Hassan Bhat son of Abdul Aziz Bhat of Nawa Qazigund.

Driver dies as tipper plunges into Dal Lake

SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): A Tipper driver died after the vehicle he was driving plunged into the Dal Lake near Makaye Park in Srinagar, officials said.

A police official said that reports were received that a tipper bearing registration number JK06-2692 plunged into the Dal Lake near Makaye point, following which a team was dispatched to the spot. "Body of the driver has been fished out and has been taken in procession for further medico-legal formalities," the police official said.

The driver has been identified as Tariq Ahmad Khatana, son of Muhammad Hussain of Kangan. According to the police officials, the prima facie seems to be the loss of control over the vehicle, adding that the investigation into the incident has been started.

Explosive shell defused near LoC in Poonch

MENDHAR/JAMMU, Feb 15 (Agencies): The Indian Army on Wednesday defused an old explosive shell near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

The Automatic Grenade Launcher (AGL) shell was found during patrolling by the troops in Balnoi area of Mankote sector, they said. The officials said that the army experts later safely defused the shell.

SIA conducts searches at multiple locations in Srinagar in trans-national human trafficking case

SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Thursday conducted extensive searches at 18 locations in Srinagar city, as part of its investigation into a trans-national human trafficking case.

As per statement issued, special teams of the SIA, aided by the Srinagar police, started the searches in the early hours. During the operation, incriminating material and documents such as identity cards, bank documents, identity cards, and registers



besides digital devices like mobile phones and computers were seized from various HR consultancies.

The case pertains to the illegal trafficking of

foreign nationals into Indian territory, particularly from Myanmar and Bangladesh. Investigations reveal that vulnerable foreign nationals are trafficked to India under

the guise of employment opportunities. Upon their transportation to Jammu and Kashmir, they are sold to fake and illegal human resource agencies/ consultancies, who further exploit them under the garb of job opportunities such as domestic helpers, maids, and babysitters, often leading to sexual exploitation, statement said.

It added that this nefarious scheme is part of a broader conspiracy hatched by international terrorist organizations, in

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Woman found dead in Budgam, Police issues statement

SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): The Jammu Kashmir Police has issued a press release about the incident in Budgam in which a woman was found dead in Magam area of district on Wednesday morning.

A Police spokesperson said, "On 14th February 2024 a Call was received by Police Station Magam

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"NC will contest Parliamentary elections on its own, no second opinion on it", says Dr. Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah Thursday refuted any pre-poll alliance ahead of Lok Sabha polls, saying NC will contest Parliamentary elections on its own and there is no second opinion on it. He also hoped that elections for Lok Sabha and J&K Assembly may be held simultaneously.

Talking to media per-



sons on the sidelines of a party meeting at Nawa-e-Subh Srinagar, Dr. Farooq said that

upcoming Parliamentary elections and much-awaited Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir

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J&K's PAGD slams Centre over its handling of Farmers' protest; supports Nationwide Bandh

JAMMU, Feb 15 (Agencies): Criticising BJP-led Central Government's handling of farmers' protest, People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration on Thursday extended support to the 'Gramin Bharat Bandh' called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) on February 16.

PAGD, an amalgam of five political parties — National Conference, People's Democratic Party, CPI(M), CPM and Awami National



Conference (ANC) — was formed in 2019 for restoration of the spe-

cial status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"In response to a communication from the SKM seeking our support to their ongoing protest, the leadership of the PAGD is of the view that the demands of the farmers are genuine and we are extending our support to them," senior CPI(M) leader and spokesperson of the PAGD M Y Tarigami said.

He said the leadership, including National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, PDP president

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Braces for moderate to heavy rain, snowfall as night temp continues

SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): The night temperature at most places in Kashmir continues to settle below freezing, even as Kashmir is bracing up for possible heavy rain and snowfall from Monday.

An official said a couple of moderate-to-intense Western Disturbances (WD) are most likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from Saturday afternoon onwards.

Meteorological Centre Srinagar said under the influence of WD, an extended wet spell from February 17 night onwards till February 21 afternoon is most likely to cause moderate rain and snow at many places over J&K and adjoining areas.

The main activity of the WD is likely to occur on February 19-20.

During this period, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at most places, including plains and lower reaches, with the possibility of heavy snowfall over the middle and higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Badgam, Shopian, and Kulgam districts, the MeT office said.

It said that there is a possibility of light to moderate snow at many places till the afternoon or late afternoon and gradual improvement thereafter on February 21.

A significant drop in daytime temperature is

also expected during the period, it said.

An independent weather observer, Faizan Arif, said a strong WD is going to affect Jammu and Kashmir from the night or morning of Sunday onwards, and under its influence, moderate to heavy rain and snow are expected in the region.

Initially, there can be rain only on the plains, which can transform into snow later on February 18 or 19.

"There is uncertainty about whether it will continuously snow in the plains as temperatures may again rise on February 19 afternoon. However, for higher reaches, it is going to dump heavy to very heavy snowfall

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Police arrests notorious drug peddler in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Thursday have arrested notorious drug peddler and recovered contraband substances from his possession in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

A Spokesperson said, "A police party of police post Nihama established a checkpoint (Naka) at Nihama near bridge. During checking one person identified as Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat son of Bashir Ahmad Bhat a resident of Chogapora Manzgam on

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Farmers' Protest March | Delhi Police orders 30,000 tear gas shells



NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): The Delhi Police has placed orders for more than 30,000 tear gas shells, an official said, as the force prepares to prevent Punjab farmers from entering the national capital under their 'Dilli Chalo' protest.

Hundreds of farmers

marching from Punjab have been stopped at the state's border with Haryana near Ambala, about 200 kilometers away from Delhi. Haryana security forces have used tear gas on them to try and disperse them.

A Delhi Police source said they are determined to not let the protesters

enter the national capital should they advance. As part of the preparation, the Delhi Police has already stocked up a large number of tear gas shells and ordered 30,000 more from the BSF's Tear Smoke Unit (TSU) located at Tekanpur in Madhya Pradesh's

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3.40 Lakh Central Forces to be deployed for upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly Polls

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): A total of 3.40 lakh Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel are likely to be deployed during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as well as the assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim, officials said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) would decide to deploy the CAPF following consideration of a proposal sent by the Election Commission seeking the deployment of around 3,40,000 personnel of the paramilitary wings in all states and Union Territories in a phased manner to ensure the conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections.

The EC has sent the

proposal to the ministry following requests from the chief electoral officers of all the states and the UTs for the deployment of CAPFs for election-related duties such as area dominance, confidence-building measures, poll day-related duties, guarding of EVMs and strong room centres and counting centre security during the forthcoming general elections and the assembly elections in four states—Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim—and the officials privy to the development.

"The CAPFs will be distributed from the center and retained at different intervals."

As per a proposal, the Election Commission

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Militant Associate Arrested in North Kashmir: Arms Ammo Seized

SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): A militant associate has been arrested along with arms and ammunition in Lalpora area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said on Thursday.

A spokesperson said that a joint naka was laid by Kupwara Police, 28 RR and CRPF 162Bn at Gundmacher Bridge. The statement reads that during checking, a suspicious movement of one person carrying a white colored bag who was coming from Lalpora towards Gundmacher was observed.

"Acting swiftly, the police party and security forces apprehended

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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. Puran Chand Basotra R/o 224-A Shastri Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 01-02-2024.

10th Day will be performed on 10-02-2024 (Saturday) at our residence at 11.00 AM onwards **Kriya** will be performed on 11-02-2024 (Sunday) from 09.00 AM onwards at our residence.

Rasam Pagri /Uthala shall be performed on 16-02-2024 (Friday) from 3.00 PM - 4.00 PM at Laxmi Narayan Mandir Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter in Law

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

Daughters & Son in Laws

Smt Rekha Sharma & Sh. Anil Sharma (Canada)

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

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

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

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

**SMT KUSUM SHARMA****TENTH DAY/KRIYA/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 (Panthal 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)

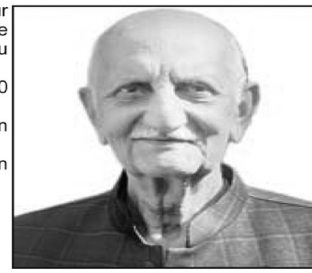
Smt Arti Sharma and Shri Vijay Sharma (Pepsi Industries)

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 Shivshu, Garima, Shreya, Sharanya, Deepak and Roshni, Vimal and Manju, Yug, Nitya

Contact: 7006099181, 7889632564

**Shri Bansil Lal Pandotra (Retd. Sr Lecturer)****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. Palti Rajput (Daughter in law)

Smt. Shilpi (Daughter)

Col. Virender Singh (Son in law)

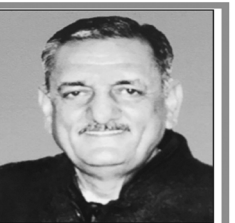
Laksh Chetan Wazir

Vikhyat Kashyap

Vivan Kashyap

Wazir Family & Jamwal 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, Billaوار.

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): Abheet Mahajan

(Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-Law)

Minal Mahajan and Saurav Kudyar

Ph. 6006195022, 9896517522

**SMT. VAISHNO 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)

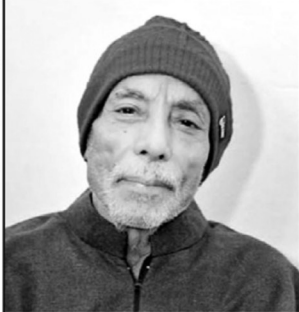
Madhuri Tikoo and Manoj Kumar Tikoo (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

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)****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)

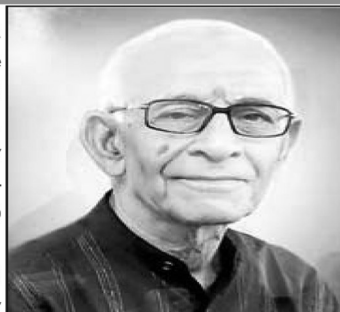
O.K.Pandita and Sunita Pandita (Son and Daughter in Law)

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. BANSI LAL PANDITA****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

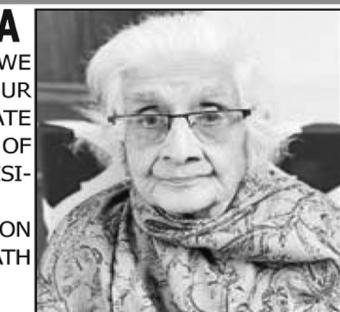
SATISH DHAR (SON)

MOB NO 9871962228

GRAND SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW

SANDEEP DHAR AND SUNNY DHAR

SALIL DHAR AND RICHA RANA DHAR

**SMT MOHANI DHAR****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, 979677441

**NITIN DOGRA, RITU DOGRA****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/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Smt Sita Devi** W/o late Sh. Bhagwan Dass R/o Janipur Jammu.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 16-02-2024 Friday at 11.30 AM at Shiv Mandir near Govt Quarter Janipur Jammu.

KRIYA will be performed on 17-02-2024 Saturday at our residence at 12.30 PM.

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 19-02-2024 Monday at Shiv Mandir near Govt Quarter Janipur Jammu at 5 PM to 6 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Late Sh. Joginder Pal Basotra & Rita Devi - Son & Daughter in Law

Bhupinder Kumar Basotra & Pooja Devi- Son & Daughter in Law

Smt. Sudesh Kumari Dabgotra & Late Jagdish Raj Dabgotra- Daughter & son in Law

Nirmal Kumari & Narinder Kumar Magotra - Daughter & son in Law

MOBILE NO: 9682512594, 9596673627

**LATE SMT SITA DEVI****TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Sushma Devi** W/o Sh. Jagdish Kumar Gupta (Kaka) R/o H.No 114 Gali Devi Dwar, Malhotra Street, Jammu who left for her heavenly abode on 07-02-2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 16-02-2024 (Friday) from 10:30 am to 11:30 am at First Floor Mahajan Sabha, Shalamar Road, Jammu.

KRIYA will be performed on 19-02-2024 (Monday) from 11:00 am onwards at their residence.

UTHALA will be performed on 19-02-2024 (Monday) from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm at First Floor Mahajan Sabha, Shalamar Road, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Father-in-law & Mother-in-law

Lt Sh Prabhu Dayal Gupta & Smt Pushpa Devi

Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law

Sh Sat Pal Gupta & Smt Shakuntla Devi

Sh Suresh Kumar Gupta & Smt Rajni Gupta

Nanad & Jija Ji

Smt Sushma Gupta & Sh Dev Raj Gupta

Smt Kamlesh Gupta & Sh Ashok Kumar Gupta

Smt Tripta Gupta & Lt Sh Pardeep Gupta

Smt Rashmi Gupta & Sh Suresh Gupta

Shubham Gupta (Son)

M/S PRABHU DAYAL SAT PAL, PEER MITHA

M/S KAKA COSMETIC STORE, PEER MITHA

MOB: 9541147095, 7006671226

**Smt Sushma Devi****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

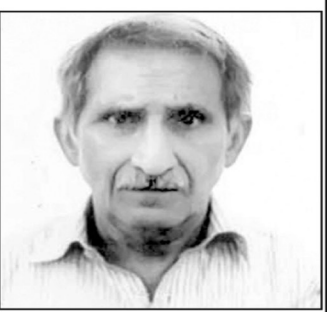
Smt. Darshana & Lt. Shri Om Parkash Mahajan (Kaku Shah Ji)

Lt. Smt. Veena & Sh. Parshotam Gupta

Dhairya, Drivya, Antriksh - Grand Children

DREAM SEQUENCE, Patta Bohri

MOB.: 7006625636

**Sh. Kewal Krishan Gupta****PATH AND ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Surinder Singh** S/o Late Gurbachan Singh Ji Parwana R/o H. No. 141, Sec-13 Nanak Nagar Jammu who breathed his last on 12-2-24.

Daily Katha Kirtan at the residence from 5.30 PM to 6.30 PM

Aarambh Sri Akhand Path at their residence on 17-2-24 at 9 AM.

Bhog of Sri Akhand at the residence on 19-2-24 at 9 AM.

Antim Ardass & Kirtan on 19-2-24 from 10 AM to 12.30 PM at Gurudwara Bala Pitam Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

Grief Stricken :

Sardarni Darshan Kour- Wife

Brothers & Bhabis

Sardar Rajinder Singh & Sardarni Gurmeet Kour

Er. S Kuldip Singh & Sardarni Tarvinder Kour

S. Anrik Singh (Rtd AEO) Agriculture Deptt. & Sardarni Surinder Kour

Er S Bachitar Singh & Sardarni Jasneet Kour

S. Rangil Singh (Navy Retired) & Sardarni Sarbjit Kour

S. Kamaljit Singh & Sardarni Rajwanti Kour

Master Sansar Chand Baru Trust's National Art Workshop concludes

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Feb 15: The Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust concluded its successful week-long National Art Workshop titled 'Tri-kuta - The Maharani of Mountains' on the picturesque banks of the River Chenab in Akhnoor.

Led by Anuradha Rishi, President of the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust, the workshop aimed to nurture artistic talent and foster a deeper appreciation for the arts among students and participants.

The concluding day of the workshop saw esteemed dignitaries gracing the occasion, including Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS, Principal Secretary of the Cultural Department; Mohd. Rafi, Director of Libraries; Raj Kumar Katoch, Director of Archaeology & Museum; Sanjeev



Rana, Additional Secretary of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages; Sangeeta Sharma, Assistant Director of Srinagar Circle; Brigadier Dr. Vijay Sagar; Akshay Garu, Secretary of Rising Athlete of Jammu and Kashmir; Dr. Romila Malavat, Principal of GDC Akhnoor; and Dr. Krishan Lal Bhagat, Ex MLA and social activist.

The workshop brought together a distinguished panel of ten nationally renowned artists from various corners of the country, including Ashok Kumar, Gopal K Samant, Gouri Vemula, Jiban Biswas, Nilesh

Vede, Rahul J Mhetra, Ranjeeta Kumar, Sanju Das, Suman Dongre, and Vijay Kumar.

Local government school students actively participated in the workshop, showcasing their budding artistic talents.

The senior artists actively engaged with students, imparting invaluable artistic skills and insights. They also conducted demonstrations, inspiring and guiding the young minds towards artistic excellence. Refreshments and gifts were distributed among the participating students, fostering a sense of camaraderie and appreciation for

their efforts.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar Gupta lauded the Trust for its commendable efforts in spreading art education to the far-flung regions of Jammu. He emphasized the importance of such workshops in nurturing creativity and cultural understanding among students.

In her vote of thanks, Anuradha Rishi reiterated the Trust's commitment to promoting art and nurturing artistic talent across Jammu and Kashmir. She highlighted the overwhelming enthusiasm shown by the students and emphasized the urgent need to enhance art education in the region.

The Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust has previously organized similar workshops in Patnitop, Chenani, Gulmarg, and other districts of the union territory, reaffirming its dedica-

tion to enriching the cultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

While presenting vote of thanks, Anuradha Rishi expressed the profound significance of organizing workshops that aimed to promote art and nurture the artistic abilities of students. She acknowledged that these workshops served as a platform for students to explore and develop their creativity, allowing them to express themselves through various art forms.

She highlighted the genuine interest displayed by the students during the workshop. Their eagerness to learn and embrace the world of art was truly inspiring. She emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for students to enhance their artistic skills, recognizing that art not only fosters self-expression but also nurtures critical thinking, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence.

J&K will witness new era of Peace, Development & Prosperity under Centre Govt: Vivek Bali

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: JD(U) State General Secretary Vivek Bali in connection with almost completion of five year of central government 2.0 at the Centre.

Vivek Bali said the last 10 years of Modi government were "the era of India's re-emergence as a world leader."

"During this brief period India has succeeded in resolving very significant but complicated issue within the country and also succeeded in emerging as the key player in international decision making having global impact," Bali said while enumerating the achievements of the NDA government at the Centre.

Vivek Bali said during the past ten years, J&K was deprived of the real development



and opportunities for economic growth and progress. Those who raised the slogans for the special status were instrumental in hollowing the structure. It was only a political tool for power for all of them with no benefit to the public. We are now in the re-organized J&K and let us give this new arrangement some time to yield results for the benefit of the welfare and development of the people".

Vivek Bali said the task in J&K was huge and every flaw was being removed step-by-step. He said the Lieutenant

Governor's administration was addressing to each and every problem in a structured manner. "We are hopeful that with the help of the Central government, the LG administration is changing the system of governance and making everybody feel that government means the welfare of the people, not their political exploitation," Bali said.

Bali said "We were going fast on the track of positive change in J&K but things cannot be changed overnight. Substituting the political chain of looting the public treasuries and amassing wealth while in power, we are creating a chain of systematic fool-proof and transparent public reach-out chain within J&K, so that the people are benefited without corruption and exploitation."

Shradhanjali Samaroh organised to pay tributes to Koushalya Devi



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: A Shradhanjali Samaroh was organised at Village Gho-Manhassan here today wherein a large number of people paid tributes to Koushalya Devi, the most respected lady.

While paying tribute, the religious persons said, our whole life is nothing but a school; one huge life long school. We take many courses. Some are easy, and some are very tough.

Our human bodies are special hosts that we merge with, in order to experience existence in this physical world. Every class we take in this school is customized for each and every one of us.

Our ultimate goals are to elevate our souls to higher spiritual levels. Basically, the higher you go, the more satisfaction you have, and the happier you become. The real you and I are the souls, not our human hosts. We

souls are immortal, and cannot die. When our human hosts die, we just slip back to our real homes in the afterlife. We stay there for varied periods of R&R, learning new things, and preparing for our next life, usually on earth.

Among others who paid tributes to Smt. Koushalya Devi included DDC Member Vidya Motan, Tarsem Khullar, Ex Dy Chairman Krishan Lal Kaith, Lieutenant Raj Kapoor Sargotra (Regd), Sub. Tilak Raj Motan (Regd), Hav. Des Raj Kaith (Regd), R.L.Kaith, Darshan Lal Motan, Duni Singh Motan, Krishan Lal Sandhu, Rachhpal Kaith, Surjeet Dogra, Ramesh Motan, Rattan Lal Motan, Dev Raj Tugga, Sikander Lal Chanjotra, Ramesh Chand Chanjotra, Jagdish Chander Chanjotra, Rakesh Kumar Lakhotra, Bishan Lal Tugga, Jagdish Lakhotra, Shashi Kumar Kaith, Tarsem Lal Lakhotra, Dhyam Chand Lakhotra and others.

Seven day Winter Camp inaugurated at adopted village Marheen by GDC Marheen

Top News Report

MARHEEN, Feb 15: NSS unit Government Degree College (GDC) Marheen started a 7 days Winter Camp at adopted village Marheen under the aegis of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 which was inaugurated by Dr. Anupama Gupta, Principal of the College in presence of Ritu Verma respected Ex- Sarpanch of the village, Sumit Singh Naib Saroanch, Ward members of the Panchayat Marheen, the local People, children, NSS Volunteers and Staff members of the college.

The function was started with the welcome address of Dr Arun Dev Singh NSS Programme Officer.

On this Occasion, the Principal of the College was Chief Guest and Ex-Sarpanch of the village was Guest of Honour.

The chief guest encouraged and appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers, NSS Programme Officer and NSS Organizing team for organizing the informative Camp for local people in the adopted Village which would open many opportunities to the masses.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN, DARHAL

email:-cdpofficialdarhal@gmail.com

Subject:- Advertisement for Recruitment Under Phase-II of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) of left out vacancies as on 31st of march 2023 in various Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Darhal.

Advertisement Notice: No.01 of 2024
Dated: 03-02-2024.

In view of poor response and inadequate publicity at local(ward) level applications are invited again on the Prescribed Format (Annexure "A") from the eligible candidates for engagement as Sangini(Anganwadi Worker) and Sahayika(Anganwadi Helper) on Honorarium basis for the below mentioned vacant posts of Anganwadi Centres:

A. Detail of Vacant Posts (AWWs/AWHs) alongwith name and location of AWC.

S.No.	Panchayat/Municipality	Name of Anganwadi Center.	Ward No./Name	Name of Post
1	Husplote	Danna Katarian W.No.01	Danna Katarian W.No. 01	Anganwadi Worker
2	Leeran	Leeran Chilla W.No.04	Leeran Chilla W.No.04	Anganwadi Worker
3	Shahdra	Faqira Nohalla W.No.05	Faqira Mohalla W.No.05	Anganwadi Helper
4	Mangota-B	Dhara Dhaki W.No.01	Dhara Dhahir W.No.01	Anganwadi Helper
5	Kothran	Rample Mohalla W.No. 03	Rample Mohalla W.No. 03	Anganwadi Helper
6	Ujhan-C	Dhandkote W.No. 05	Dhandkote W.No.05	Anganwadi Helper
7	Ujhan -C	Dhandkote W.No. 01	Dhandkote W.No. 01	Anganwadi Helper
8	Thanamang-C	Thanamang-A W.No. 05	Thanamang-A W.No. 05	Anganwadi Helper

The important dates/details:-

- Date of commencement for submission of applications-03-02-2024.
- Last date for submission of applications- 13-02-2024.
- Candidates who have applied earlier needs to apply afresh.

B. Eligibility:-

I. For Anganwadi Workers (Sanginis)

- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2023 shall be eligible.
- The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward (Panch ward) where Anganwadi Centre is situated. Name in the valid voter list for the ward shall be considered as the only proof of residence of the candidate and no application form shall be entertained without valid ward(Panchayat) voter list. In case the name of the candidate appears in the valid voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+2 and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission POSHAN J&K.
- In case suitable candidate is not available from the adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the panchayat/MC can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission POSHAN J&K.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and no other criteria is to be considered.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.
- In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWWs/AWHs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.

II. Anganwadi Helpers (Sahayikas)

- The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward(panch ward) where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2023 shall be eligible.
- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10th and selection shall be done purely on merit basis amongst married women candidates.
- In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.

C. How to Apply:-

Applications on prescribed format (enclosed as Annexure A) complete in all respect along with self attested copies of following documents should reach the Office of CDPO, Darhal, Near BDO Office Thannamandi Pin 1851212/District Programme office ICDS(Poshan), Rajouri Near Liberty Showroom Kheora Rajouri Pin 185131 , by hand or by registered post against proper receipt, by or before 27-11-2023 (upto 4PM):-

- Domicile Certificate.
- Date of birth certificate.
- Academic qualification Certificates with marks sheets.
- Copy of updated valid voter List containing the name of applicant in the concerned Panch ward.
- Unmarried certificate, issued by concerned Tehsildar, (in case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list alongwith her parents).

- Copy of Ration Card(e-Ticket only).
- Affidavit, as per format (Annexure-B).
- Proof of being from the family of retiring AWW/AWH.
- Passport size photograph.
- Aadhar Card/Voter ID.

D. Applicants who have applied in pursuance to this Notification No.02 of 2023, Dated:-11-11-2023 are required to apply afresh in view of cancellation of earlier Notice issued under dated:-02-02-2024.

ANNEXURE "A"

Application Format for the post of Anganwadi Worker/Anganwadi Helper

1. Name of Poshan Project Darhal.

2. Post applied for: (a) Anganwadi Worker (b) Anganwadi Helper

(Tick the appropriate box)

3. Name of Anganwadi Centre applied for: _____

4. Name of the Candidate (in block letter) _____

5. Father's Name _____

6. Marital Status: (a) Married (b) Unmarried (c) Others _____

7. Husband's Name _____

8. Permanent Residence _____ W.No. _____ Name of Ward _____

Panchayat _____ CD Block _____ Tehsil _____

9. Address for correspondence _____

10. Contact No. _____ e-mail:- _____

11. Date of Birth _____

12. Age as on 01.01.2023 _____

13. Academic Qualification:-

Sr. No.	Examination passed	Board/University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	Percentage

14. Do the candidate belongs to Retiring AWW/AWH(YES/NO)

15. Document to be attached as per Column D of Advertisement.

For Office Use Only	
Receipt No.	Date of Receipt of Application:-

Signature of the candidate
Date: _____

E. Document Verification

- The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other documents mentioned in the Advertisement on or before the last date of submission of application form.
- Candidates have to bring two passport size recent color photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:
 - Aadhaar Card
 - Voter ID card.
- The candidate must possess the eligibility requirements by or before the prescribed cut-off date and shall be required to produce the proof at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.
- Applications with educational qualifications, residential status etc after the cut off date shall not be entertained and shall be rejected summarily without any notice.

ANNEXURE B

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

- All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
- Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi workers and Class X for Anganwadi Helpers and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
- The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

DIP/J-15002
Dt: 14-02-2024

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Darhal
(Member Secretary)

EDITORIAL

BASANT RITU

Basant Ritu means spring season, spring season is better than all the seasons, the weather is very pleasant in it. That is why spring is called the king of seasons i.e. Rituraj. In this season the cold is less and the heat is also less. The weather in spring is normal in terms of summer and winter.

This season starts from the month of Chetra and lasts only for 2 months i.e. Chetra and Vaishakh, both these months are called spring season.

Talking about English months, the spring season starts from the last week of February or March and ends in April. Sometimes the English and Hindi calendars do not match with each other and sometimes this season moves a little ahead in March and April.

Spring season comes after winter season and it lasts for about 2 months. After spring comes summer in which the weather becomes very hot.

A different view of nature is seen in the spring season. In this season, nature is seen in a very beautiful manner. It seems as if there is an atmosphere of happiness of nature all around. There is great pleasure in seeing nature in spring because at this time nature is at its best. Trees and plants start getting adorned with new leaves and flowers. Mango trees bloom in this season, which is a type of mango flower. With this, the mango trees are fully laden and look very beautiful. When mango trees blossom, some new leaves also start growing on these trees which further enhances its beauty. Along with this, a sweet fragrance also comes from this mango blossom which adds to the beauty of nature. Apart from other seasons, this season has a different contribution in our lives. While we get relief from extreme cold in this season, we also do not have to face extreme heat in this season. The weather is so wonderful that one feels as if this weather would last for a few more days. But it is a rule of nature that the weather does not always remain the same. If we talk about the farmers in the spring season, then this season is very important for them also. Farmers' mustard fields are blooming with flowers in spring. The beautiful yellow flowers of mustard make this season even more attractive. Many crops of farmers like maize, coriander, lentils etc. are ready in this season. If we talk about some festivals in the Basant Ritu, then Vasant Panchami is celebrated with great joy in this season. And then the colorful festival of Holi also comes in this season. Just as trees and plants decorate themselves with colorful flowers, similarly people also color themselves on the auspicious occasion of Holi in this season. Spring season is directly related to nature. Because nature appears in a different way in spring. During these days the winds blow very cool. The cuckoo coos in the gardens with its sweet voice. In this pleasant weather, the call of the cuckoo adds sweetness to the ears. There are new leaves on the trees in the gardens which look very nice. That is why it is very pleasant to visit Vaga in spring season. In spring, it feels good to go out of the house and roam around, which is also better for our health. And the mind also gets peace. But there are some health related disadvantages in this season. As in this season, winter is about to end and summer season is ready to come. So during this period, due to the changing weather, our health may deteriorate a bit if we do not pay attention to it. We should take care of our health in every changing season.

Needed: A less intrusive, more inclusive civil code

By: Sanjeev Ahluwalia

A Uniform Civil Code (UCC) dealing with matters of personal law is a good idea in a multi-cultural country like India, given the rising number of cross-community marriages -- although still miniscule in proportion to total marriages. A UCC can be a framework to promote cross-community affinity by applying the benign principle of causing the least harm to any community, borrowing the best features from all personal laws, and ending practices rendered obsolete by time or plainly inequitable like gender inequality.

The Government of Uttarakhand notification dated May 27, 2022 setting up a committee chaired by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (Retd) merely states the desired end result of framing a common code for personal laws. It does not elaborate on the various laws which might be impacted or would need to be reconciled. The committee held 41 public meetings, including one in New Delhi, and had received 60,810 suggestions, which indicates the wide range of consultations.

These meetings could have been made more productive if the committee had shared a brief to inform stakeholders of "how" amalgamation across personal laws would be achieved and assured communities that the resulting common code would cause the least harm and reduce dissonance across the existing personal law legislation, thus promoting inter-community marriages, mixed community families and "ease of living" -- an oft repeated goal of the Narendra Modi government.

The success of the UCC will be assessed by a single metric -- citizen satisfaction that the discomfort and uncertainty from the new legislation is minimal and that the burden of compli-

ance with government regulations is reduced.

The UCC does well to recognise "live-in heterosexual relationships". These social arrangements are proliferating in cities, where the exigency of eye-wateringly expensive accommodation encourages the sharing of a house, albeit not always in the "nature of marriage". Recognising and defining such households also enables a new safeguard provision under Section 388, which provides maintenance rights for a woman deserted by a "live-in partner". Here the UCC falters by protecting only deserted women. Under Sections 33 and 34 of the code, maintenance rights are available to either spouse as per "good practice" gender neutral terms. In comparison, Section 388 errs in not reproducing this gender-neutral stance.

The code also errs in not using this opportunity to widen the scope of the landmark, nine-bench verdict of the Supreme Court of India in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd) versus the Union of India (2017). The right to privacy is protected as a fundamental right under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India. Indian laws do not recognise gay marriage. Extending provisions for live-in arrangements to the LGBTQ community could have been transformative by bestowing some legitimacy on such relationships. The UCC would have made global headlines for its vision, sagacity, and social empathy.

There is little doubt that codifying "live-in" arrangements, increase state micromanagement of private affairs is an intrusion, which reduces the "ease of living" and enhances litigation. Uncertainties persist. How will the police enforce compliance with the onerous provisions for registration? Is house to house checking next? Will it become mandatory for house owners renting prop-

erty to couples to ask for marriage or "live-in" certificates? How will a court distinguish between a man and a woman who are just sharing a house for economic reasons, or as friends -- where desertion by one would not qualify for maintenance rights -- from a man and a woman "cohabiting in the nature of marriage" -- where maintenance rights would be attracted?

The UCC is tilting at shadows by implicitly seeking to "protect women", thereby painting modern Uttarakhand women in gullible, faintly derogatory, patriarchal terms. Around 80.7 per cent of Uttarakhand's women are literate, versus the national average of 70.3 (NSO 2017). Independent women are the backbone of Uttarakhand's economy.

Women led the forest preservation "Chipko" movement in the 1970s. They manage lands and business, settle disputes, and yet remain homemakers because working men often emigrate for economic reasons or are in the Army posted far away. The world was recently presented visuals of a new Indian womanhood -- column after column of women soldiers, officers, and students -- marching down New Delhi's Kartavya Path on Republic Day -- confident, secure, serene -- more than at par with any developed country. The UCC does not internalise this sentiment.

There are good reasons why a uniform civil code makes eminent sense but force-feeding uniformity from the top is not one of them. Judicial law has already plugged loopholes and protected the right to privacy and women's rights. The rights of children are similarly protected with rights and responsibilities linked to parentage irrespective of the bond of marriage.

Conversely, consider the case of polyandry -- an ancient Indian practice mentioned in

the Mahabharata -- still practised under tribal law. Curiously, it has resurfaced as a coping strategy amongst poor, landholding families to prevent the fragmentation of land. The award-winning Punjabi film Kohrra, created by Sudip Sharma and directed by Randeep Jha for Netflix, documents this practice, illustrating the need for new laws to resonate with the prevailing economic and social circumstances.

There is much to be learnt from tribal law and striving to include tribal communities under a single code provides that opportunity. But that will never happen if tribal law remains a closed black box. The UCC chooses not to confront this vexed issue by exempting tribal communities from its provisions, thereby sheltering behind Part XXI of the Constitution, clause (25) of Article 366 read with Article 342. A plain reading shows that there is no constitutional bar in these provisions on a state legislature, after consultations with tribal communities, proposing to the President of India, a bridging device -- an appropriate, possibly lagged, procedure to merge non-conforming aspects of tribal law with the mainstream UCC provisions. Doing so would have provided other states with proactive, tested pathways for similar mainstreaming of tribal law.

The UCC was commendably legislated in record time. But it is error prone. Section 51 dealing with intestate succession, correctly uses the gender-neutral term "surviving spouse". But the supporting Schedule 2, mistakenly, mentions "widow", making male spouses ineligible for intestate succession. Sadly, what has been gained by haste is likely to be lost to higher costs during implementation and does not match the social cost of the lost opportunity, for Uttarakhand to showcase its time-honoured culture of open-minded scholarship, an open worldview and inclusive social relationships.

New CM, new team: Mohan Yadav signals change in MP

By: Dilip Cherian

The winds of change are sweeping through the administrative corridors of Madhya Pradesh as new chief minister Mohan Yadav is moving quickly to assemble his core team of officers. Mr Yadav's proactive approach hints at a shift in the state's governance dynamics, and an attempt, undoubtedly in close consultation with the Centre, to leave the legacy of his predecessor Shivraj Singh Chouhan behind.

In recent weeks, we've witnessed a flurry of appointments and reallocations, with senior babus, emblematic of Mr Chouhan's tenure, gracefully stepping aside to make room for fresh faces and new perspectives.

Sandeep Yadav's appointment as commissioner of public relations and Sameer Yadav's assignment as the head of the CM's security underscore the new CM's intent to infuse vigour and competence into critical positions. Additionally, the elevation of Raghuvendra Singh to the role of principal secretary in the Chief Minister's Office reflects a strategic move to blend experience with innovation. Others in the

new team include Bharat Tadv, Avinash Lavania, Chandrashekar Walimbe, Aditi Garg and Anshul Gupta.

The chief minister's recent meeting with director general of police Sudhir Saxena signals an imminent reshuffle of IPS officers as well, sources have told DKB. With change comes opportunity, and Mr Yadav's administration appears determined to capitalise on it.

The 'paper' wars

The white papers and the black papers on the economy have sent a lot of bureaucrats scurrying around for data. Everybody recognises that these papers are almost political weaponising of data figures. Still, at the moment, both former bureaucrats and current bureaucrats are locked in an almost death-like struggle to thread out new figures that can justify the policy measures that they had initiated during their terms in office.

Amid this struggle, there came an extremely erudite data stream from ex-Tamil Nadu finance minister and current DMK IT minister P. Thiaga Rajan, hailed by some as a financial statesman, who was able to show how the Dravidian model

has outdone the Gujarat model and any national model, especially the current flavour, the Uttar Pradesh model, as far as economic growth and its benefits are concerned.

Mr Rajan argues that the UP model is more a chimera than a fact, even with the continuous net transfer of tax revenues from better-off states such as Tamil Nadu to less developed Uttar Pradesh. He showed data that at an accelerated growth rate that is two per cent higher than Tamil Nadu's every year; it would still take 64 years for Uttar Pradesh's per capita net GDP to catch up with Tamil Nadu's!

But for the babus at the Centre, the UP success story is a great narrative to run with as we head into the poll season. Why let reality interfere with a dream?

Navigating the nexus

Serving and retired IAS officers, retired IPS and IFS officers, district judges and officials working in various departments are among the 370 people who have applied for the six posts of information commissioners in Karnataka.

The government issued a notification to fill six posts of information commissioners -- five in Bengaluru

and one in Belagavi -- in November. Among the applicants are IAS officers Mamata B.R. and Richard Vincent D'Souza, and retired IAS, IPS, IFS officers A B Ibrahim, B Balagopal, Allappa R., M.G. Hiremath, Ashit Mohan Prasad, K.T. Balakrishna, M.V. Amaranath and Rajeev Ranjan. The list also has four district judges, over 30 retired officials who served in posts ranging from directors to joint secretary and first division assistants.

With a diverse pool of candidates, the process appears to be teeming with potential. However, beneath the surface lies a contentious issue that has plagued such appointments for years -- the influence of political connections over meritocracy.

An activist who has revealed lapses in several departments through RTI said successive governments have ignored the basic principles during selection. Instances where individuals with dubious records or questionable integrity have been appointed to such positions undermine the very essence of transparency and erode public trust in institutions. The ramifications of such appointments are dire. How will Karnataka decide?

Empowering Women: J&K Bank's CSR hits 15th Distt

Top News Report

GANDERBAL, Feb 15: J&K Bank is delighted to announce a significant milestone in its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) collaboration with Live for Others - Being Helpful Foundation - "Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness Apply Pads)."

This initiative, aiming to promote menstrual hygiene awareness, encompasses the distribution of 500,000 sanitary napkins and the facilitation of 100 awareness seminars.

The project, implemented across all 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir, has already



reached 50,000 individuals, successfully dismantling taboos surrounding menstruation. Ganderbal, the 15th district to complete this mission, witnessed the distribution of over 16500 sanitary napkins and the delivery of three impactful awareness lectures, reaching more

than 1,650 people.

The seminars took place in both government and private schools, including Hyderia Model High School, Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Nunnar Ganderbal, Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kangan, Ganderbal.

The resource persons for these seminars were Ayesha, Hafsa and Gulnaz.

"We are thrilled with the progress of 'Mission R-SAP' and the positive impact it's having on women's health. Currently, we eagerly anticipate the initiative's expansion to other dis-

tricts, with our team working diligently on its implementation," said Shah Amir Joint Secretary, National Body LFO-BHF.

LFO-BHF expressed gratitude to the Director School Education Kashmir, C.E.O Ganderbal, and the Principals of all participating schools.

Special thanks go to J&K Bank for organizing this impactful activity through their CSR fund, as acknowledged by Urfee, Vice - President, Kashmir Province.

Key members present during this activity included Urfee, Haadi Hameed, Danish, Afreen Barkat, Sheikh Shahid.

Bhagat urges Govt to stop backdoor employment of blue eyed persons

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 15: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Sr. leader, Spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat urged the government stop backdoor employment of blue eyed persons and reserve employment quota for the SC, ST and OBC youths in the private sector.

The National Conference Senior Leader lashed out at the government and accused it of non functioning and creating tough circumstances for employees by not providing them with employment.

Stress was also laid on



the issue of employment of educated youths who were unemployed and distressed. Ajeet Bhagat demanded reservation for SC, ST and OBC educated youths. Meanwhile it was unanimously urged upon the Chairman Cum Managing Direc-

tor (CMD) NHPC New Delhi and Chenab Valley Power Projects (CVPP) authorities to fix the quota for SC, ST and OBC Community.

He urged upon Central Government, advertise and fill up the vacant posts reserved for SC, ST, and OBC quota at Pakal-Dul, Kiru, Kawar, and Rattle Hydroelectric Power Projects of District Kishtwar of Chenab Valley Zone.

Bhagat urged the Central Power Minister, Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to look into matter and act at the earliest.

Dental awareness camp inaugurated at District Jail Baderwah



Top News Report

BHADERWAH, Feb 15: Pr District and Sessions Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority Baderwah Sunit Gupta here today inaugurated a dental awareness cum hygiene camp for the inmates of District Jail Baderwah.

The camp was organised by Indira Gandhi Government Dental College in collaboration with J&K Legal Services Authority and Prison Department, J&K.

Secretary DLSA (Sub Judge) Ramesh Lal, Dr Azhar Malik from Govt Dental College Jammu, Supdt District Jail Mushtaq Ahmed Malla, Dy LDC Advocate Pooja Kotwal and Panel Lawyer DLSA Advocate Mohd Majid Malik along

with all PIVs of DLSA and team of 22 dental surgeons from Indira Gandhi Dental College Jammu were also present on the occasion.

While addressing after inaugurating the one camp, Pr District and Sessions Judge Sunit Gupta said that dental hygiene is equally important for every person but due to lack of awareness the people normally ignore these issues.

He said this awareness cum hygiene camp has been specially designed to address the dental problems being faced by the jail inmates.

He said that a number of jail inmates had raised the demand for referring them to dental hospitals for dental checkup. So, the J&K Legal Services

Authority after holding a detailed meeting with Principal Indira Gandhi, Government Dental College and Director General, Prisons formulated a calendar for organising dental awareness cum hygiene camps in all the jails of Jammu and Kashmir and said inmates of District Jail Baderwah will get benefit from camp where free medicines and surgery will be conducted.

On the occasion, various dental surgeons and Panel Lawyer District legal Services Authority Advocate Mohd Majid Malik also addressed the gathering and educated them about various precautions required for maintaining dental health and also threw light on rights of prisoners.

GDC R S Pura organizes extension lecture on armed forces

Top News Report

R S PURA, Feb 15: Career Counseling Committee, Institution Innovation Council, IIC and NCC Unit of GDC R S Pura organised an extension lecture under the patronship of Principal Dr Rajni and supervision of Dr Rakesh

emerging opportunities in the Indian Army and highlighted the significance of Agniveer scheme and its benefits for the student cadets. Apart from this, he highlighted other schemes and different modes of recruitment through which one could be part of defense forces.



Choudhary ANO, NCC and Prof Shelly Kalsi Convener, Career Counseling Committee today on Thursday.

The extension lecture was based on the theme of Career opportunities in Indian Armed Forces.

Major Rohit Vidhyarthi from Recruitment Office Jammu was the resource person for the lecture.

The extension begins with the introduction of resource person by Dr Rajinder Sharma, HOD Botany & IQAC Coordinator. Major Rohit Vidhyarthi started with the

Also, he spoke at length on the need to focus on the essence of character building and personality development in Defence forces.

In this lecture, 120-130 participants including NCC cadets attended the lecture.

The lecture was an effort for students to guide them about the opportunities in Defence particularly for women and for them to acknowledge the correspondent and obligation to our mother nation. Major Rohit broadened our perspective and knowledge about life and Defence by sharing us the insights of Fauj.

Principal Dr Rajni also motivated the students to work hard and be part of Indian Armed forces and serve the nation.

The extension lecture ended with a vote of thanks by Dr Sunil Kumar Mangoch, HOD Dogri.

Dimple welcomes SC verdict on electoral bonds



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Sunil Dimple President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir has welcomed the Supreme Court historical decision verdict on the political electoral bonds.

Addressing a public meeting at Janipur, Dimple said the SC has termed these electoral bonds unconstitutional & brought this under the RTI right to information act and the voters have right to know from where the political par-

ties are being funded.

Dimple said as per the SC verdict all the political parties will have to put the donations details on EC websites from March 6 to 31, before the Parliament elections.

Dimple said the SC verdict is a big setback for the BJP who collected huge donations from ambani, adani & also for all the political parties who get huge donations in the shape of black money.

He said this will also control the corruption

and the misuse of the capitalists by funding political parties, they earn huge benefits.

He further said this is now to check on all the political parties that they will have to post the donations, funds details on the websites of the election commission.

He also appealed to the Chief Justice of India to put a check on the BJP, which is misusing the ED, CBI, income tax and election commission for its vested interests.

NYK Doda organises sensitization programme on HIV awareness

Top News Report

DODA, Feb 15: Under "Out of School Youth Programme" of J&K AIDS Control Society, H&ME Department.

Nehru Yuva Kendra Doda in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society organized a Sensitization/Awareness Programme on HIV/AIDS for Youth Clubs of Block Ghat on 15-02-2024.

In this programme, resource persons were Dr. Azhar Saleem, Dr. Saboor Naik and Dr. Puneet Kotwal.

The programme organised under the supervision of District Youth Officer, Khushal Gupta witnessed participation of 50 youth from across the block.

Other prominent citizens present in the programme included Ankush Rana (DACYP Member), Akash Parihar (Chairman TEPP), Sohail Tak and Haseeb Khurwani (Social workers).

At the outset, Jugnu



Bhagat (President Shine Youth Club) welcomed the guests and participants and briefed them about the sensitization programme, its objectives and benefits for the rural youth.

Dr. Azhar Saleem delivered a lecture on the causes of HIV, precautions that should be taken and importance of its awareness in the present era.

He added that millions have lost their lives due to this deadly virus and the only way to save ourselves is to take precautions.

He said that the reusing needles had been

the biggest cause of its spread in addition to unprotected sex and coming in contact with infected bodily fluids through any means.

Dr. Saboor Naik also made the people aware of the Human immunodeficiency Virus adding that it attacks immune cells called CD4 cells, which are a type of T cell.

These are white blood cells that move around the body, detecting faults and anomalies in cells as well as infections. When HIV targets and infiltrates these cells, it reduces the body's ability to combat

other diseases.

Dr. Puneet Kotwal delivered an awareness lecture on Drug de-addiction citing that it is one of the biggest physical as well as social challenges that need to be repressed at an earliest.

It not only affects the person but the entire family and even generations.

He said that it is the youth only who can take initiative this evil from the society. At the end, certificates and refreshment were distributed among the participants with vote of thanks by Jugnu Bhagat.

NSS unit of GDC R S Pura conducts Shramdaan

Top News Report

R S PURA, Feb 15: The National Service Scheme of Government Degree College R. S. Pura organized Shramdaan in newly developed college park on day-fourth of the ongoing 7-Day NSS Special Winter Camp under the banners of 'My College My Pride' initiatives.

The drive was conducted under leadership of Dr. Rajni Bhagat, Principal of the College and under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Chanchal Angral, Programme Officer of the NSS unit of the College.

NSS Committee members and the NSS volunteers developed the park to carry out Shramdaan.

The volunteers and

the NSS Committee members contributed in the development of newly inaugurated Aromatic Park with full zeal and enthusiasm. Near about 40 Volunteers participated in the drive.

NSS committee members viz. Dr. Hari Singh and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch along with NSS student hosted the programme.

Social Activist Muzamil organises awareness rally regarding online scams, frauds

Top News Report

BUDGAM, Feb 15: Social Activist Muzamil Mehmood along with Sub Divisional Administration organized awareness rally regarding online scams and frauds in Main town Beerwah in Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

The rally commenced at the bus stand in Beerwah and concluded near the Beerwah Tehsil Office. Hundreds of the students from various parts of the Budgam district actively participated in this rally.

The students held placards with the message "Protect Yourself Online" as they marched.



The primary objective of the rally was to raise awareness among the public about online scams and frauds. Tehsildar Beerwah, Aliya Tabasum, and Station House Officer Beerwah, Mudaris Naseer,

Traders Federation President Beerwah Haji Farooq Ahmad and former Chairman MCB Khursheed Ahmad Bandy also took part in the rally.

The rally was organized by social activ-

ist Muzamil Mehmood in collaboration with Genius Classes Beerwah, initiated by Tariq Bhat, President of the Youth Civil Society Beerwah.

During the rally, Tehsildar Beerwah and Station House Officer Beerwah visited various locations to educate people about online scams.

Muzamil Mehmood emphasized the importance of spreading awareness about online scams and urged everyone to stay informed through different channels on how to protect themselves and others from falling victim to these scams.

Actor Jitendra Kumar, who recently essayed an impressive role in Lantrani, met school students in Chandigarh and emphasized the role of hard work

You've known him as the frustrated corporate, Jitu, from TVF Pitchers, the confused bridegroom from Permanent Roommates, the kind teacher, Jeetu bhaiya, from Kota Factory, the young urban secretary, Abhishek Tripathi, from Panchayat. He has also played a gay character, Aman Tripathi, opposite Ayushmaan Khurrana, in Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan. The most recent one would be his silent, yet powerful portrayal of a common man in Dharna Mana Hai from a story in Lantrani. Jitendra Kumar is an IITian civil engineer who turned to acting instinctively.

Almost a decade into the profession, he knows nothing comes easy. So, when he made his way to Chandigarh to interact with school students about filmmaking at Chitkara's CineMaestro, he not only shared notes from his acting journey, but also revealed the teacher within him. For the unversed, Jitendra used to teach part-time in Mumbai during the initial years of acting. Addressing aspiring actors in the crowd, he said, "I think everything can be learnt and that applies for acting too. In our journeys, no matter what profession, some magical things happen that make us and others feel that we are gifted or are in the right profession. But that's true for everything. When you set your mind to something, possibilities are unlimited. Be open to learning and keep pushing your boundaries. That's what I've understood over the years."



An artist, in Jitendra's eyes, cannot be ranked. There can't be a competition among them, as each one is playing different characters and living different stories. At the same time, his idea of success is, "To be honest with my craft and be able to show the reality of the time I live in. If in my works from 10 years back, I was able to convey what 2014 felt like even today, then I am satisfied with it."

Balancing act

He has a way of dealing with failures too. The actor, very honestly, admits there are more lows than highs in a profession like acting. "My set formula is haath pair chalaate raho. Whether something is successful or it fails, you have to keep making effort. In my case, if

something succeeds, I am even more scared because you really don't know what clicks with the audience and if you will be able to replicate it in your next project. But when something fails, you are somewhere aware of what was not up to the mark."

Even during the roughest times, Jitendra says, there will be people who will support you. "My mentors have been there for me through it all."

What we see on the screen is the outcome of many years and people coming together. But along the way, how one person is dealing with his day-to-day challenges is different for all. "To make a place for yourself in such a huge industry is difficult, but not impossible. When I first came to Mumbai, discouraged,

I returned home within three months, but came back after 10 months because the work I did in those initial months gained recognition by then. I understood there is no shortcut and the biggest requirement in our profession is consistency."

Team man

Jitendra's choice of work has introduced the world to rural India. But the actor refuses to take the credit alone. He says, "Those who conceived the ideas deserve a pat on their back. When I heard stories like Panchayat or Kota Factory, they were so impressive that I knew they needed to be told. Being a part of them has been pure joy."

Lantrani is also a story that sheds light on the problems of a subaltern couple and through them, people in general. Along with his on-screen wife, Jitendra protests outside a government office, but no one listens to them.

His work in National Award-winning director Gurvinder Singh's short story won praise, but Jatinder is all praise for the director. "His entire process of working is very unique. The way he distributes shoot in a day is unlike any director I have worked with. He starts the day early and completes the most demanding scenes in the first four-five hours. So, by 11 am or 12 pm we would be done with the most daunting task of the day. The remaining hours would be dedicated to some easy-breezy parts and by lunch, we were in a position to relax."

Julia Roberts was subjected to 'awful' bullying on 'Steel Magnolias' set



Actress Sally Field has shared that Holly-

wood star Julia Roberts was subjected to 'awful'

bullying on the set of Steel Magnolias. The 77-year-old actress was part of an all-star cast for the 1989 film alongside Shirley MacLaine and Dolly Parton, but alleged that the then-newcomer, Roberts, who was nominated for an Oscar for her role as the tragic Shelby, was always being 'picked on' by director Herbert Ross. So along with colleagues, she had to 'come to her aid' and 'rally around her' during production.

She shared, "Herb was pretty much giving me the freedom to do whatever. But he was very, very, very hard on Julia. If you ever talk to Julia, she'll tell you. We would all rally around Julia, because she was the baby. She was sort of the newcomer. And she was wonderful, and he just picked on her. It was awful."

The Academy Award-winning star was then asked if she was subjected to the same sort of behaviour from Herb — who died in 2001 at the age of 74 — but she insisted that would never have happened because she was a 'warrior' despite her small stature.

Expensive to be famous, says veteran Hollywood actress Sharon Stone



Actress Sharon Stone claims that being famous is a drag, as

she had to keep picking up \$3,000 dinner tabs! Sharon said she regu-

larly paid huge dinner cheques when she was out: "You go out to dinner, and there are 15 people at the table, and who gets the cheque? You get the \$3,000 dinner check every single time." She also said it was 'very expensive to be famous'. But she said she was far from stingy.

In her 2021 memoir The Beauty of Living Twice, Sharon said she handed a huge chunk of her pay cheque for 1995 Western The Quick and the Dead to Leonardo DiCaprio, 49, so he could also feature in the movie.

She told about giving the actor the cash after seeing him in What's Eating Gilbert Grape, "He was a superstar. I wanted to be in a great movie, not a stupid movie, so I got the best people to surround me that I possibly could."

Shannon K is out with a remake of Bappi Lahiri's iconic hit Jimmy Jimmy



Renowned artiste Shannon K, daughter of the legendary singer Kumar Sanu, is set to enchant audiences with an exhilarating remake of the classic hit Jimmy Jimmy. Collaborating with the talented Bappa Lahiri, son of the iconic Bappi Lahiri, Shannon K will deliver a fresh perspective and a unique musical experience. "Jimmy Jimmy is one of Bappi uncle's greatest hits. Turning grief into a tribute, Bappa and I decided to honour the memory of Bappi uncle and relive the iconic song. I'm excited and can't wait for the audience to also enjoy the track," says Shannon.

Katy Perry to exit American Idol

Singer-songwriter and TV personality Katy Perry has revealed that the upcoming 22nd season of American Idol will be her last.

On the latest episode of the American late-night political satire talk show Jimmy Kimmel Live!, Perry was asked directly by host Jimmy Kimmel how long she planned to stay on Idol, where she has served as a judge with Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan since the show was relaunched by ABC in 2018.

"Well, you know, this fall, this September, I'm going to be doing this huge music festival in Brazil called Rock in Rio. It's really exciting. It's a big deal for people all over the world, especially my Brazilian fans," Perry said in response to Kimmel's question, before adding, "So, I think this will probably be my last season for Idol." Later, on Instagram, Perry confirmed that



the upcoming season of Idol will be her last. American Idol has a select panel of judges. Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul, and Simon Cowell were the original judges for seasons one through eight. For the past three seasons on Fox, the judging panel

included singers Keith Urban, Jennifer Lopez, and Harry Connick Jr. Season 16 included three new judges, Lionel Richie, Katy Perry, and Luke Bryan. The show has been presented by radio celebrity Ryan Seacrest throughout its duration.

Supriya Raina Shukla plays a progressive woman

Adding a spark of excitement to the narrative is the arrival of Supriya Raina Shukla in the role of Sulakshana Singh, Veer's mother in Colors' Mera Balam Thanedaar.

Coming from a traditional Rajasthani background, Sulakshana is a stickler for discipline and a progressive woman. Recently recovering from a coma, she reunites with her family.

Talking about her entry into the show, Supriya says, "My character Sulakshana Singh is a strong-headed person and desires everything to be disciplined."



Showtime captures many different shades of the entertainment industry

Disney+Hotstar and Dharmatic Entertainment unveiled the trailer of their much awaited series, Showtime, which is releasing on March 8.

Showtime has Emraan Hashmi, Mahima Makwana, Mouni Roy, Rajeev Khandelwal, Shriya Saran, Vishal Vashishtha, Neeraj Madhav, Vijay Raaz and Naseeruddin Shah in pivotal roles.

Karan Johar, managing director, Dharmatic Entertainment, said, "Showtime is a show that showcases so many different shades of the industry. While there's showbiz, glitz, glamour, drama it also touches upon the unspoken



emotional rollercoaster that people go through behind the sets. The show is an attempt to bring audiences closer to the lives of people in the industry and to show what goes behind the making of a show/movie. It has a little bit of

everything and there's no better place than Disney+ Hotstar to tell such a story."

Emraan Hashmi added, "Having worked in the industry for over two decades, I have not come across a script like Showtime. To play

the character of Raghu Khanna, who is always at the top of his game, was indeed challenging and creatively enriching. Showtime is a story that resonated with me at various levels. I have struggled my way up in the industry so I do

understand the insider-outsider debate that is popular in this fraternity. At the same time, the industry has space for everyone who is passionate and hard-working. Showtime will expose many realities of Bollywood but again, who thought that I would be a part of a series as a privileged heir to a legacy and what is more interesting than the fact that Karan Johar himself is making a show on nepotism with outsiders. I enjoyed collaborating with Disney+ Hotstar, Dharmatic Entertainment, Directors Mihir and Archit and hope audiences enjoy the world of Showtime."

Electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional, should be cancelled: Supreme Court's big verdict ahead of Lok Sabha election

Orders SBI to stop issuing electoral bonds forthwith

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Ahead the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Supreme Court on Thursday declared unconstitutional the electoral bonds scheme that allowed individuals and companies to make unlimited anonymous donations to political parties.

"It (Electoral Bonds Scheme) is violative of Article 19(1)(a)," said a five-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud, declaring it unconstitutional.

The Bench -- which also included Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra -- ordered the State Bank of India to stop issuing Electoral Bonds immediately and submit all details to the Election Commission by March 6.

It ordered the Election Commission to make all donations public within a week of the receipt of the information.

All Electoral Bonds within the 15-day validity period shall be returned by political parties to the purchasers, it ordered.

It also struck down certain amendments to the Companies Act in this regard.

The only purpose of amending



section 182(3) of the Companies Act becomes otiose after we hold that the EB scheme, IT Act making non-disclosures acceptable and RP Amendment as unconstitutional, it said.

The top court said that curbing black money can't be accepted as a justified reason for lack of transparency in political funding.

Electoral bonds scheme was not the only means available to curb black money in political funding, it said.

It said the Electoral Bonds Scheme violated the voter's right to know under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna delivered a separate but concurring

judgment.

Welcoming the verdict, petitioner Association for Democratic Reforms counsel Prashant Bhushan said, "This is a salutary judgment which will enhance our democratic process."

Introduced through the Finance Act, 2017, an Electoral Bond is a bearer instrument like a Promissory Note which can be purchased by an Indian citizen or an Indian company whose identity would remain secret from everybody except the SBI from whom it has to be purchased. Once purchased, the buyer can give it to a political party, which can encash it using its bank account.

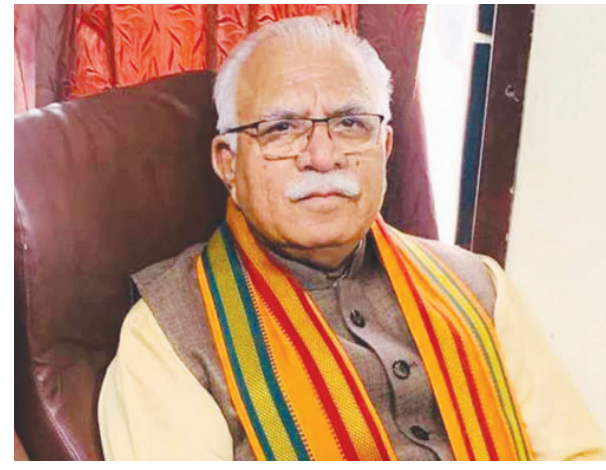
It was introduced through the Finance Act, 2017, which made amendments to several statutes, including the RBI Act, Representation of People Act, Income Tax Act and Companies Act to facilitate the scheme which was notified on January 2, 2018.

In its PIL filed in 2017, 'Association for Democratic Reforms' (ADR) alleged corruption and subversion of democracy through illicit and foreign funding of political parties and lack of transparency in their accounts. Besides ADR, CPI(M) and Common Cause have also challenged electoral bonds scheme.

Maintaining that several constitutional issues having a tremendous bearing on the sanctity of electoral process were involved in the petitions challenging the validity of Electoral Bonds Scheme, the petitioners had earlier urged the Supreme Court to refer the matter to a Constitution Bench.

The Centre maintained that the electoral bonds scheme was an "absolutely transparent" mode of political funding and it was impossible to get any black or unaccounted money through it.

"We Have Objection To Farmers' Method", Says Haryana Chief Minister



CHANDIGARH, Feb 15 (Agencies): Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday criticised the "method" adopted by farmers to press their demands, saying they are trying to march to Delhi like an army on the offensive.

He said the farmers are moving with tractor-trolleys, earth-movers and ration for a year -- just like an army.

"We have an objection to their method," Mr Khattar said on the farmers' call for going to Delhi. "We do not have any objection to them going to Delhi. There are trains, buses and

their own vehicles. But a tractor is not a mode of transport. It is an agricultural equipment." Farmers from Punjab are camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points seeking to march towards Delhi to press the Centre to accept their demands.

The farmer leaders have said they will not make any fresh attempt to move towards the national capital till the meeting is held, asserting that the next course of action will be decided on the basis of the Centre's proposals.

Mr Khattar also referred to the farm-

ers' previous agitation against the now-repealed farm laws and said how they camped at Tikri and Singhu borders for a year and causes hardships to many people.

"Even today, there are several videos of people appealing that they (farmers) should be stopped as their businesses will suffer," said Mr Khattar, responding to a question on the farmers' call for 'Dilli Chalo'.

"We have an objection to their (farmers) method," said Mr Khattar on farmers' call for going to Delhi.

Mr Khattar said everybody has democratic right to visit the national capital. "But how to proceed, what is the motive? These things must be kept in mind." To a question on Thursday's meeting between the three union ministers and farmer leaders in Chandigarh, Mr Khattar said he is hopeful that some way out will emerge.

Allahabad High Court Reserves Order On Plea Against Worship In Gyanvapi Mosque Cellar

PRAYAGRAJ, Feb 15 (Agencies): The Allahabad High Court on Thursday reserved its order on a plea challenging the Varanasi district court's decision to allow Hindu prayers in a cellar of the Gyanvapi mosque.

Justice Rohit Ranjan Agrawal heard the appeal filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee, which looks after the affairs of the mosque adjacent to the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi, and reserved its order, committee's lawyer S F A Naqvi said.

"The hearing of the matter is complete and the court has reserved



its order," Naqvi added.

The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee moved the high court on February 2 within hours of the Supreme Court refusing to hear its plea against the Varanasi district court order and

asking it to approach the high court.

The Varanasi district court had ruled on January 31 that a priest can perform prayers before the idols in the southern cellar of the Gyanvapi mosque.

Hope you will be with my family: Sonia Gandhi's emotional message to Rae Bareilly voters

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday informed voters of her Rae Bareilly constituency in Uttar Pradesh that she will not contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls due to health and age issues.

In an emotional message to the constituents of the segment she has represented since 2004, the 77-year-old also threw subtle hints of a possible entry of a member of her family from the Rae Bareilly segment.

"I am proud to say that whatever I am today, I am because of you and I have always done my best to honour your trust. Now on account of health and age issues, I will not contest the next



Lok Sabha election," she said in the message.

"After this decision, I will not have the opportunity to serve you directly but my heart and soul will always remain with you. I know that you will stand by me and my family in future, just as you have in the past," she said in the message written in Hindi.

The message to the voters comes a day after the former Con-

gress president filed her nomination for the Rajya Sabha seat from Rajasthan.

Speculation is rife that Sonia Gandhi's daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra could contest from the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency this time.

This is the first time that Sonia Gandhi would be entering the Rajya Sabha.

She will also be the

second member of the Gandhi family to do so, after Indira Gandhi who was a member of the upper house from 1964 to 1967.

In the message to voters, Sonia Gandhi further said, "My family in Delhi is incomplete without you. It completes when I come to Rae Bareilly and meet all of you. My ties with you are very old. I have inherited these ties as a good fortune from my in-laws."

Noting that ties of her family with Rae Bareilly are "very deep rooted", she said Rae Bareilly sent her father-in-law Feroze Gandhi to Lok Sabha in the first general election held after Independence.

After that, you accepted my mother-in-law

Indira Gandhi, she noted.

"Ever since, our relationship grew stronger on the difficult road to affection despite the highs and lows of life and our faith in this bond grew stronger.

"You allowed me space to walk along on this shining path. I came to you after losing my mother-in-law and husband and you accepted me with open arms," the former Congress chief said.

"I can never forget your staunch support for me through the adverse circumstances through the last two Lok Sabha elections," Gandhi recalled.

Sending her respect to elders and love to youngsters, she said, "I will see you soon".

'Trinamool leader BJP's target': Mamata Banerjee blames RSS for Sandeshkhali unrest

SANDESHKHALI, Feb 15 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday blamed the RSS for Sandeshkhali unrest, alleging the BJP's target was a Trinamool leader. She also said her government will take strict action against those found accused in the case.

"We are looking into the Sandeshkhali situation, no one involved in any wrongdoing will be spared, the BJP's target was a leader of the Trinamool Congress (Shajahan Sheikh)," Mamata Banerjee told the state Assembly.

"I have never allowed, will never allow any injustice to anyone," she said.

"We have sent the state women's commission, and have formed a police team for Sandeshkhali," the Chief Minister said, adding, "17 people have been arrested."

The West Bengal Chief Minister further said, "Our women's team is present there. A police team is visiting people at their doorsteps to listen to their grievances. We will definitely address the issues that will be reported. I need to know the matter to act on it. RSS has a base there. Riots took place there 7-8 years back. It is one of the vulnerable riot spots. We handled the situation strongly during Saraswati Pujya or else there were other plans."

Mamata Banerjee's statement came

hours after the BJP MLAs staged a walkout from the assembly demanding a statement from the Chief Minister on Sandeshkhali, which witnessed protests over alleged atrocities on locals by ruling Trinamool leaders.

At the time, Banerjee was not present in the House.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari said that Banerjee's remarks proved that the RSS is on the right track. Adhikari also called for the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to probe reports of sexual exploitation in Sandeshkhali.

On Monday, six BJP MLAs, including Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, were suspended from the House over protests regarding the Sandeshkhali issue.

Protests persisted in Sandeshkhali for the seventh consecutive day on Wednesday, with a significant number of women taking to the streets, demanding the arrest of Shajahan Sheikh and his followers.

The accusations against Shajahan and his aides include forcefully capturing land and sexually harassing women.

Sheikh has been absconding since January 5 when a mob attacked Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers during a raid on his residence in connection with an alleged ration scam.

Andhra woman found murdered, husband claims ex-lover hired goons to kill her

HYDERABAD, Feb 15 (Agencies): A 35-year-old woman named was found brutally murdered inside her home in Andhra Pradesh's Tenali on Wednesday night. Her husband has accused her ex-lover of being involved in the crime.

The victim, Ramiseti Alekya, lived with her husband, Bharat, who alleged that she was killed by goons sent by Annam Srinivas. Alekya had been in an extramarital relationship with Srinivas for seven

years, claimed Bharat.

The illicit relationship had led to legal disputes between the couple, culminating in a court case whose specifics are not known at present.

Alekya's body was discovered on Wednesday night in the downstairs room of her building, lying naked.

According to preliminary investigation, she was strangled.

Two Town police have cordoned off the scene and are conducting an investigation into the murder.



'Electoral bonds medium for bribe': Rahul Gandhi's swipe at PM after court order



NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Hours after the Supreme Court order struck down the electoral bonds scheme, Rahul Gandhi on Thursday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging, the scheme was a 'medium for bribes and commission'.

In an X post, the Congress leader said, "Another proof of Narendra Modi's corrupt policies is in front of you.

BJP had made electoral bonds a medium for taking bribes and commissions."

"Today this matter has been approved," a rough translation of Rahul Gandhi's post in Hindi suggested.

In a landmark judgment that delivered a big blow to the government, the Supreme Court on Thursday annulled the electoral bonds scheme, saying it violates the Constitutional right to

freedom of speech and expression as well as the right to information.

The court ordered the State Bank of India (SBI) to disclose to the Election Commission the names of the contributors to the six-year-old scheme.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud directed that the State Bank of India must disclose details of each electoral bond encashed by political parties.

The information should include the date of encashment and the denomination of the bonds and be submitted to the poll panel by March 6.

The Election Commission should publish the information shared by SBI on its official website by March 13, the bench said.

Israeli airstrikes kill 10 Lebanese civilians in a single day, Hezbollah vows to retaliate

The fatalities marked a significant escalation in more than four months of daily cross-border exchanges triggered by the Oct. 7 outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza

BEIRUT, Feb 15 (Agencies): The civilian death toll from two Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon has risen to 10, Lebanese state media reported Thursday, making the previous day the deadliest one in more than four months of cross-border exchanges.

The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah has vowed to retaliate for the strikes, which hit in the city of Nabatiyah and a village in southern Lebanon, just hours after projectiles from Lebanon killed an Israeli soldier.

In Nabatiyah, the strike knocked down part of a building, killing seven members of the same family, including a child, the state-run National



News Agency said. A boy initially reported missing was found alive under the rubble. Initial reports had said four people were killed.

In the village of Souaneh, a woman and her two young children were killed. The Lebanese civilian death toll included six women and three children.

Three Hezbollah fighters were also killed on Wednesday.

The fire from Lebanon earlier Wednesday struck the northern Israeli town of Safed, killing a female Israeli soldier and wounding eight people.

The fatalities marked a significant escalation in more than four months of daily cross-border exchanges triggered by the Oct. 7 outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. The war began with the surprise attack in southern Israel by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, an ally of Hezbollah.

Government institutions, schools and the Lebanese University were to close on Thursday in protest of the airstrikes.

US allies warn Israel against 'catastrophic' Rafah operation



SYDNEY, Feb 15 (Agencies): The leaders of Australia, Canada and New Zealand on Thursday warned Israel against a potentially "catastrophic" ground offensive in the southern Gazan city of Rafah, amplifying a growing chorus of international concern.

Urging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "not to go down this path", the trio of Commonwealth nations issued a rare joint statement expressing deep and growing worry about Israel's prosecution of the months-

long war. "About 1.5 million Palestinians are taking refuge in the area, including many of our citizens and their families," the group of US allies said.

"An expanded military operation would be devastating. We urge the Israeli government not to go down this path. There is simply nowhere else for civilians to go."

In the face of mounting international pressure and a death toll that Gaza authorities say has now topped 28,000, Netanyahu has vowed to press ahead.

He has promised Israeli forces will soon conduct a "powerful" operation in Rafah -- a city filled with countless Gazans displaced by fighting elsewhere in the territory.

Israel believes that Hamas operatives responsible for the October 7 attacks that killed around 1,160 people in Israel are holed up in the area, along with some of an estimated 130 hostages seized by the Palestinian Islamist group.

Bangkok Urges Work From Home As City Chokes Under Pollution

Public health crisis is brewing over the problem, with at least two million people in Thailand needing medical treatment because of pollution in 2023.

BANGKOK, Feb 15 (Agencies): Bangkok city employees have been told to work from home to avoid harmful air pollution, as a layer of noxious haze blanketed the Thai capital on Thursday.

City authorities asked for cooperation from employers to help workers in the city of some 11 million people avoid the pollution, which is expected to last into Friday.

The air monitoring website IQAir ranked Bangkok among the 10 most polluted cities in the world on Thursday morning.

Levels of the most dangerous PM2.5 particles so tiny they can enter the bloodstream -- were more than 15 times the World Health Organization's annual guideline, according to IQAir.

Bangkok governor Chadchart Sittipunt said late Wednesday that all city employees would work from home on Thursday and Friday. "I would like to ask for cooperation from the BMA network of about



151 companies and organisations, both government offices and the private sector," he said in a statement, adding that more than 60,000 people were affected.

BMA is an abbreviation for the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

Chadchart said at least 20 of Bangkok's 50 districts were expected to have unhealthy levels of PM2.5 particles, and the problem would linger because of calm weather.

Air quality in Thailand regularly plummets in the early months of the year as smoke from farmers burning stubble in the fields adds to industrial emissions and vehicle exhaust fumes.

Bangkok and the northern city of Chiang

Mai ranked among the most polluted cities in the world on a number of days last year.

A public health crisis is brewing over the problem, with at least two million people in Thailand needing medical treatment because of pollution in 2023.

government of Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin, which took over in August, has promised to make tackling air pollution a "national agenda", and a draft Clean Air Act was endorsed by his cabinet last month.

But the problem persists, and a court in Chiang Mai last month ordered the government to come up with an urgent plan to tackle air pollution within 90 days.

Police Seek Clues In Mass Shooting At US Super Bowl Rally, 3 Detained

KANSAS CITY, Feb 15 (Agencies): Three people were in custody in Kansas City, Missouri, on Thursday, facing questions about what led to a deadly mass shooting near the city's Super Bowl victory rally and who was behind it.

At least one person was killed and 21 others wounded by gunfire on Wednesday outside the city's landmark Union Station, where thousands of fans had gathered with the Kansas City Chiefs to celebrate the team's NFL championship triumph over the San Francisco 49ers, authorities said.

The bloodshed, which came at the end of the rally following a parade, turned the festive occasion into a scene of panic as throngs of attendees scrambled for cover at the sound of rapid-fire gunshots.

Local radio station KKFI identified the dead victim as Lisa Lopez, one of its disc jockeys and host of the show "Taste of Tejano." Fifteen other victims suffered life-threatening wounds, Fire Department Chief Ross Grundyson said at a late-afternoon news conference.

Eleven of those hurt by gunfire or the ensuing pandemonium were children as young as 6, officials said.

None of the football team, their coaches or other staff attending the rally was injured, the team said.

Police Chief Stacey Graves told on Wednesday evening news conference three people



were detained "and under investigation" in connection with the shooting, but she said investigators had yet to determine a motive.

CIRCUMSTANCES REMAIN MURKY

She said police were still unsure whether the Super Bowl victory celebration was targeted for attack, or whether the violence was incidental to the event and spilled over into it.

Authorities appealed to anyone who had information about the shooting or video that might help shed light on what transpired to share it with police.

Graves said she was aware of video purporting to show fans subduing a suspect, and that investigators were reviewing the footage to determine if the individual was one of the people taken into police custody.

Parade attendee Paul Contreras, told local television station KETV he was one of the fans who helped tackle the man, and saw him drop a gun when he

was knocked down.

"The whole time he's fighting to get up and run away," Paul said, adding police arrived within moments. "We're fighting each other, you know. We're fighting to keep him down and he's fighting to get up."

Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas lamented that city authorities ultimately were unable to prevent such violence despite the presence of more than 800 law enforcement officers, including federal agents, on security detail for the event.

"Parades, rallies, schools, movies - it seems like almost nothing is safe," Quinton, a Democrat, told reporters, recounting how he was among those who ran for cover at the sound of gunfire.

The barrage of gunshots happened near a garage west of the station, whose front entrance was the backdrop to the stage for the victory rally, according to police and local media.

Union Station, a 109-year-old

Beaux Arts building that once served as a major U.S. rail hub for passenger and freight traffic, is home to a museum and visiting attractions today, and is a terminal for Amtrak passenger service.

The Super Bowl celebration featured Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce on stage with quarterback Patrick Mahomes and other teammates, but Kelce's pop superstar girlfriend, Taylor Swift, was back on tour in Australia at the time.

The governors of Missouri and Kansas were among the dignitaries present at the event but they, too, were unhurt.

The shooting came three days after the Chiefs defeated the 49ers in overtime to win the Super Bowl, 25-22, marking their fourth National Football League championship.

On June 17, 1933, Union Station was the site of an outdoor shootout and murder of four law enforcement officers and a criminal fugitive in a notorious incident known as the Kansas City Massacre.

Wednesday's violence took place on the sixth anniversary of one of the most notorious mass shootings in recent U.S. history, when 17 people were killed and 17 more were injured at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The shooter in that incident, a former student who was 19 at the time, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.

US Private Moon Lander Launched Half Century After Last Apollo Mission

FLORIDA, Feb 15 (Agencies): A moon lander built by Houston-based aerospace company Intuitive Machines was launched from Florida early on Thursday on a mission to conduct the first U.S. lunar touchdown in more than a half century and the first by a privately owned spacecraft.

The company's Nova-C lander, dubbed Odysseus, lifted off shortly after 1 a.m. EST (0600 GMT) atop a Falcon 9 rocket flown by Elon Musk's SpaceX from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral.

A live NASA-SpaceX online video feed showed the two-stage, 25-story rocket roaring off the launch pad and streaking into the dark sky over Florida's Atlantic coast, trailed by a fiery yellowish plume of exhaust.

The launch, previously set for Wednesday morning, was postponed for 24 hours because of irregular temperatures detected in liquid methane used in the lander's propulsion system. SpaceX said the issue was later resolved. Although considered an Intuitive Machines mission, the IM-1 flight is carrying six NASA payloads of instruments designed to gather data about the lunar environment ahead of NASA's planned return of astronauts to the moon later this decade.

Thursday's launch came a month after the lunar lander of another private firm, Astrobotic Technology, suffered a propulsion system leak on its way to the moon shortly after being placed in orbit on Jan. 8 by a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Vulcan rocket making its debut flight.

The failure of Astrobotic's Peregrine lander,



which was also flying NASA payloads to the moon, marked the third time a private company had been unable to achieve a "soft landing" on the lunar surface, following ill-fated efforts by companies from Israel and Japan.

Those mishaps illustrated the risks NASA faces in leaning more heavily on the commercial sector than it had in the past to realize its spaceflight goals.

Plans call for Intuitive Machines' Nova-C vehicle, a hexagonal cylinder with four legs, to reach its destination after about a week-long flight on Feb. 22 for a landing at crater Malapert A near the moon's south pole.

If successful, the flight would represent the first controlled descent to the lunar surface by a U.S. spacecraft since the final Apollo crewed moon mission in 1972, and the first by a private company.

The feat also would mark the first journey to the lunar surface under NASA's Artemis moon program, as the U.S. races to return astronauts to Earth's natural satellite before China lands its own crewed spacecraft there.

IM-1 is the latest test of NASA's strategy of paying for the use of spacecraft built and

owned by private companies to slash the cost of the Artemis missions, envisioned as precursors to human exploration of Mars.

By contrast, during the Apollo era, NASA bought rockets and other technology from the private sector, but owned and operated them itself.

NASA announced last month that it was delaying its target date for a first crewed Artemis moon landing from 2025 to late 2026, while China has said it was aiming for 2030. Small landers such as Nova-C are expected to get there first, carrying instruments to closely survey the lunar landscape, its resources and potential hazards. Odysseus will focus on space weather interactions with the moon's surface, radio astronomy, precision landing technologies and navigation.

Intuitive Machine's IM-2 mission is scheduled to land at the lunar south pole in 2024, followed by an IM-3 mission later in the year with several small rovers.

Last month, Japan became the fifth country to place a lander on the moon, with its space agency JAXA achieving an unusually precise "pinpoint" touchdown of its SLIM probe last month. Last year, India became the fourth nation to land on the moon, after Russia failed in an attempt the same month.

The United States, the former Soviet Union and China are the only other countries that have carried out successful soft lunar touchdowns. China scored a world first in 2019 by achieving the first landing on the far side of the moon.

'Malicious fabrication': Russia dismisses US warning on nuclear weapons in space



MOSCOW, Feb 15 (Agencies): Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov has called reports about the deployment of Russian nuclear weapons in space a "malicious fabrication" of the United States, Russian state-owned news agency TASS reported on Thursday.

The development comes after the United States told Congress and allies in Europe about new intelligence related to Russian nuclear capabilities that could pose an international threat.

The new capabilities, related to Russian attempts to develop a space-

based weapon, do not pose an urgent threat to the United States, a source told news agency.

Dmitry Peskov, a spokesperson for the Kremlin said he would not comment on the substance of the reports until the details were unveiled by the White House.

He also said Washington's warning was clearly an attempt to get Congress to approve more money.

"It is obvious that the White House is trying, by hook or by crook, to encourage Congress to vote on a bill to allocate money, this is obvious," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted as saying by TASS.

"We'll see what tricks the White House will use," Peskov said.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine - something Moscow calls a special military operation - has triggered the biggest confrontation between the West and Russia since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. Both Moscow and Washington have warned of the risk of a conflict between NATO and Russia.

Russia and the United States, by far the biggest nuclear powers, have both expressed regret about the steady disintegration of arms-control treaties which sought to slow the Cold War arms race and reduce the risk of nuclear war.

KMDF delegation calls on CS, submits memorandum

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: The All Kashmiri Migrant Democratic Front (KMDF) has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo here, today outlining urgent demands for the welfare and rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants. Led by its patron M.K. Yogi, the KMDF highlighted several issues faced by the migrant community, urging prompt action from the authorities.

The memorandum demanded enhancement of monthly cash assistance, introduction of a new employment package for unemployed migrant youth to facilitate their return and rehabilitation



in the Valley, clearance of old medical claims, expedited clearance of pending medical claims for migrants suffering from chronic illnesses, improvement of drinking water supply, provision of soft drinking water supply to migrant camps, particularly in Jagti and Nagrota, expediting provision of self-employment loans

to empower migrant youths and overaged youth, restarting of Engineering Wing, within the Relief office, installation of digital equipment and adequate staffing in medical centres to provide comprehensive healthcare services. It demanded implementation of a one-time settlement scheme and compensation for dam-

aged property in the Valley, equivalency of migrant cards with B.P.L cards, reservation in both Central and State Government jobs for migrant youths and addressing various issues faced by PM package employees.

The KMDF demanded prompt action by the authorities to address these pressing issues and improve the living conditions of Kashmiri migrants.

Besides, Yogi, Tej Krishan Dhar, Sunil Pandita, Pran Nath Pandita, Ashok Kumar Koul, Ashok Dhar, Anil Bhan, Vijay Kumar Mulsoo, Sarsothi Nath, Sanjay Raina, S.L. Koul, Bharat Kachroo, and others were in delegation.

Distribution camp to provide Aid & Assistive devices to 49 Sr. Citizens held

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar virtually inaugurated the distribution camp for free distribution of Aid & Assistive devices to Sr. Citizens under Rashtriya Vyoshri Yojna (RVY) scheme of Govt. of India at CRC Jammu.

Addressing on the occasion, Dr. Virendra Kumar said that under the leadership of Prime Minister department has done unprecedented work for welfare of Sr. Citizens consistently during the years. Speaking about the need of conducting such distribution camps, Minister said that organizing such camps helps in spreading the awareness about the welfare schemes run by central government for Sr. Citizens as also to empower them.

Total 49 number of Sr. Citizens of Jammu were pre identified with 103 number of assistive appliances of different category valuing worth of Rs. 03.07 Lakh.

The identification and registra-



tion of Sr. Citizens beneficiaries was done in the month of July 2019 by ALIMCO in association with District administration Jammu.

The distribution camp was organized by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), from Mohali (Punjab) Unit, working under the aegis of Department of Empowerment of Person with Disability (DEPWD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India in association with District administration Jammu as

per new approved Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Ministry.

Total number of Aids and appliances distributed in different blocks include 01 Wheel Chair, 02 Crutches, 12 Walking Sticks, 86 Hearing Aid, 02 Walker. Prominent among others Sher Singh, ADDC Jammu, Mamta Rajput, District Social Welfare Officer, Jammu, representative of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, officials from ALIMCO and officials of Social Welfare were also present during the occasion.

Literary book 'Akhian Bole Jannat' published on Kashmir Yatra launched

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 15: The latest literary book of Author Main Pal Sarswa on his journey to Kashmir, having the title 'Akhian Bole Jannat' was formally launched by Dr. Ravi Dutt Kausish, former professor of Punjabi University, Patiala, BS Chowdhury, former Acharya of DAV College, Abohar, Dr. IS Godara, Principal, Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Sri Ganganagar and Dr.



Rajinder Kumar Sen, Professor, Central University, Bathinda.

The author of the book Main Pal Sarswa said that, 'Akhian Bole Jannat' (Travelogue) describes the natural beauty of Kashmir

along with the life, culture, behavior of the people of Kashmir.

This book contains detailed information about the various tourist attractions of Kashmir along with pictorial descriptions.

This book attempts to bring out a beautiful, clear and realistic picture of Kashmir and its people.

Along with this, mutual understanding and unity of different cultures has also been fostered.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan program held in Dooru

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Feb 15: On the directions of district Social welfare officer Anantnag Muzaffar Ahmad Malik An awareness programme under the aegis of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) was organized by the Social Welfare department at Rasool Mir Auditorium Hall Dooru

on Thursday.

The President Municipality Mohd Iqbal Ahamer was the chief guest at the event.

Among others, Tehsil Social welfare Officer Dooru Zahid Hussain, Nodal In Charge Nasha Mukht Abhiyan Anantnag Kamal Bhat, Zonal Education Officer Dooru Naseer-ul-Haq, Renowned social activ-

ist Javid Ahmad Khan, Employees of different departments participated in the programme.

Moreover, teachers from various educational institutions and Aanganwari workers also participated in the event. The distinguished resource persons from various departments spoke extensively on drug-related issues.

NOTICE

I, Pardeep Kumar, S/o Sh Shambhu Nath, R/o Prinzal, Mughal Maidan, Kishtwar, have want to change the name of my minor son from Abhay Sharma to Rohan Sharma for all future purpose. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days from publication of this notice.

FROM PAGE 1

SIA conducts searches at multiple locations in Srinagar in trans-national human trafficking case

connivance with notorious trans-border human traffickers. These groups facilitate the infiltration of foreign nationals across international borders, concealing their original identities with forged Indian documents with an ultimate aim is to establish sleeper cells to aid, execute, or facilitate terrorist acts in the UT of J&K.

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) affirms that the seized material will be meticulously examined so that all the accused persons are identified and brought to book. Today's search operation marks the continuous pursuit of SIA in dismantling the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and unfurling the sinister agendas of international terrorist organizations operating in the region, statement reads.

Farmers' Protest March | Delhi Police orders 30,000 tear gas shells

Gwalior, an official said. The freshly ordered shells are being brought to Delhi from Gwalior, he said.

A tear gas shell is an anti-riot equipment which is used by security forces to disperse crowd. The gas brings tears by creating irritation in the eyes.

A stock of tear gas shell was also ordered before the G20 Summit held in September 2023, the officer said, adding, a fresh order has been given in the wake of farmers' agitation.

Another officer said the age of each tear gas shell is three years after which their impact slowly weakens, but they are used upto seven years for practice purposes by the forces.

Under the Delhi Police norms, once a stock gets acquired, the shells are distributed to the district police and other units of the force.

Another officer said that in view of the farmers' protest, the fresh stock may be distributed to the outer, outer-north and east district police — under whose jurisdiction the potential protest sites in the national capital fall.

The Delhi Police has made all logistical arrangements to stop the farmers at the Singhu (Sonipat side), Tikri (Bahadurgarh side) and Ghazipur (Ghaziabad side) borders.

Tikri comes under outer, Singhu under outer-north and Ghazipur in east district.

The security personnel deployed at these borders are already equipped with a large number of tear gas shells, water cannons and other anti-riot equipment.

The personnel deployed at the borders have been strictly asked to ensure not a single farmer or their tractor-trolley enters into the jurisdiction of the national capital.

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.

On the farmers who have gathered near the Shambhu border between Punjab and Haryana near Ambala, the Haryana police has also used tear gas shells, some of which they air-dropped through drones on protesting farmers.

The farmers seek to march to the national capital to press the Centre to agree to their various demands including a legal guarantee on Minimum Support Price of crops, implementation of the Swaminathan Committee report, loan waiver among others. 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.

"NC will contest Parliamentary elections on its own, no second opinion on it", says Dr. Farooq Abdullah

may take place simultaneously. Refuting any pre-poll alliance ahead of Parliamentary elections, the senior Abdullah said NC will contest elections on its own. "NC will contest elections on its own and there is no second opinion in it," he said.

The NC President while replying to a query on ED summons said that if they think NC will vanish with summons and arrest of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, then they are wrong. "I am going to appear before ED, but I want to make it clear if they think this act will push NC to disappearance then they are wrong," he said.

Woman found dead in Budgam, Police issues statement

reporting the recovery of Suspicious dead body in an open field.

"Following this report, an investigation under Section 174 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) commenced. The deceased was identified as Kulsum Rehman D/O Ab Rehman Lone R/O Drung Tangmarg", he said.

He said, "A suicide note recovered during a personal search of the deceased, impli-

3.40 Lakh Central Forces to be deployed for upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly Polls

has sought a maximum of 920 CAPF companies for West Bengal, followed by 635 in Jammu and Kashmir, which will witness its first Lok Sabha elections after scrapping Article 370 from the erstwhile state.

Besides, 360 companies of CAPF are sought for their deployment in Chhattisgarh during the polls; 295 in Bihar; 252 in Uttar Pradesh; 250 each in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Jharkhand; 200 each in Gujarat, Manipur, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu; 175 in Odisha; 160 each in Assam and Telangana; 150 in Maharashtra; 113 in Madhya Pradesh; 100 in Tripura; 95 in Haryana; 75 in Arunachal Pradesh; 70 each in Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Delhi; 66 in Kerala; 57 in Laddakh; 55 in Himachal Pradesh; 48 in Nagaland; 45 in Meghalaya; 17 in Sikkim; 15 in Mizoram; 14 in Dadra and Nagar Haveli; 12 in Goa; 11 in Chandigarh; 10 in Puducherry; five in Andaman and Nicobar; and three in Lakshadweep.

The MHA, however, would make decisions based on the availability of CAPFs as sought by the election watchdog.

The Lok Sabha elections are expected in April-May, to the 543-member House for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has exuded confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party will win 370 seats alone and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will cross 400 seats.

Militant Associate Arrested in North Kashmir: Arms Ammo Seized

him tactfully as he tried to flee from the spot. During preliminary questioning, the arrested disclosed his name as Rafeeq Ahmad Ganie S/O Gh Ahmad Ganie of Lalpora," it reads.

It added that during the search of the bag, a pistol, pistol magazine, 10 rounds, two hand grenades and a mobile phone were recovered.

It further reads that a case FIR No. 03/2024 U/S 7/25 AAct, 13, 18, 23, 39 ULA (P) has been registered in Police Station Lalpora and investigation set into motion.

J&K's PAGD slams Centre over its handling of Farmers' protest; supports Nationwide Bandh

Mehbooba Mufti and ANC vice president Muzaffar Shah also decided to extend support to the nationwide strike called by SKM (Non-Political) along with central trade unions in support of their demands, including a law guaranteeing a minimum support price or (MSP) for their produce.

The farmers also want to strengthen the MGNREGA, reinstate the old pension scheme, and ensure pension and social security for all workers in both formal and informal sectors.

Lashing out at the Government for using force against the protesting farmers to stop them from moving to Delhi, Tarigami said, "The attitude of the Government is unfortunate and authoritarian.

"Instead of holding purposeful and meaningful dialogue with the representatives of farmers, they are resorting to creating division among the peasants, workers and trade unions, and using authoritarian measures and police force to dislodge them," he said, adding "enough is enough as claims are not sufficient for addressing issues being faced by people".

Tarigami said more concrete measures need to be taken and this is what trade unions and the SKM have been demanding for long.

He accused the central government of not keeping its promises and alleged there is a credibility gap as it is saying one thing and doing what it wants without taking people into confidence.

"We have only seen oppression, injustice and falsehood and nothing else. Those running the government should provide relief to the people and address their pain but what we are seeing is that they are only working for the corporate capitalists," he alleged.

He said renowned scientist M S Swaminathan, who was recently bestowed with country's highest civilian honour — the Bharat Ratna — had recommended an MSP but the Government is hesitant to implement his recommendations.

Farmers were assured of withdrawal of all cases registered against them during their prolonged protest last year but more cases were filed against them, Tarigami said.

He also launched a scathing attack on the Government for its alleged failure to address "growing unemployment and inflation".

"A new trend of privatisation of the public sector was introduced by this government, depriving the people in general and workers in particular the benefits which they have attained after a long struggle during creation of such assets," he said. He said farmers do not want to commit

suicide but want to live a better life and the government is duty bound to provide such opportunities to the citizens of the country, which is allegedly lacking under BJP.

Braces for moderate to heavy rain, snowfall as night temp continues

till February 20," he said, adding that "over 5 feet of snow accumulations can also happen in a few areas."

He predicted the total amount of snow accumulation at Sadhna Top in north Kashmir's Kupwara district may be 10-12 feet and is likely to get closed for a long time now. A similar situation is expected for Razdan Pass in Bandipora district and Sinthan Pass in Kishtwar district of Jammu division.

For plains, if snow occurs and accumulates, it will be slightly denser and have the potential to cause damage.

The wet weather may cause landslides and shooting stones over the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway between February 18-21.

Meanwhile, the MeT office said the minimum temperature during the intervening nights of Wednesday and Thursday in Srinagar settled at -3.0°C for the second consecutive day. It was 4.0°C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway had a low of -2.0°C, while the picnic spot of Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of -0.2°C for the second consecutive day on Thursday.

The night temperature at Pahalgam dropped by a few notches and recorded a low of -5.4°C against -5.2°C. It was 1.0°C below normal for the tourist hot spot in south Kashmir.

Kupwara recorded a low of -3.3°C against -3.4°C, and it was 3.1°C below normal for the frontier north Kashmir district.

The minimum temperature at Gulmarg further improved and settled at -3.2°C against the -4.2°C recorded on Wednesday, and it was 3.6°C above normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir.

Police arrests notorious drug peddler in Kulgam

seeing the Police party tried to flee from the spot, however he was apprehended tactfully by the alert Police party. During his personal search, 340 grams of Cannabis powder and 30 grams of Charas like contrabands were recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to Police Station where he remains in custody.

"Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 12/2024 under section 8/20 NDPS act has been registered at Police Station Damhal Hanjipora and investigation has been initiated", he said.

Association for Welfare of Senior Citizens meets Chief Secretary, submits memorandum

JAMMU, Feb 15: Association for Welfare of Senior Citizens met Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo and submitted a memorandum to consider issues regarding the welfare of senior citizens in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are one of the registered NGOs actively dedicated to the welfare of senior citizens in the region since 2001. Unlike many other NGOs, we have been consistently conducting Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and regular elections for our Management Committee. Furthermore, we sustain our day-to-day expenses solely through contributions from our members, without relying on any government grants," they said.

While appreciating the efforts of the Social Welfare Department in issuing "the Jammu and Kashmir Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Rules 2021," they highlighted some pending issues that require support and intervention.

They requested the formula-



tion and phased implementation of a comprehensive plan to address the provisions outlined in Section 19 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

They sought CS assistance in expediting necessary actions by concerned authorities to implement provisions such as separate queues for senior citizens, expanded facilities

for chronic diseases, and earmarked facilities for geriatric patients in every District hospital.

They urged the concerned authorities to take appropriate measures for widespread publicity and awareness of the welfare measures provided in the Act for the benefit of senior citizens.

We note a lack of visible

action on the ground regarding the responsibilities outlined for Deputy Commissioners in Rule 20 of the Jammu and Kashmir Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Rules 2021.

They proposed the establishment of a "Welfare Fund" to meet obligations arising from the provisions of the Act and Rules.

They requested the early establishment of a 'UT Council of Senior Citizens' to advise the UT Administration on the effective implementation of the Act.

Despite a government order allocating land at village Dhami (Nagrota), they have not received possession. They also requested a small piece of land within Jammu city for constructing an Association Office cum Recreation/Day Care Centre.

They also demanded Implementation of CGHS Facilities for Pensioners.

They said CS kind intervention in addressing these concerns will significantly contribute to the well-being and rights of senior citizens in our region.

Esconet Tech plans to raise Rs. 28.22 Cr from IPO to be opened on Feb 16

SHRI RAM SHAW

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): The initial public offering (IPO) of Esconet Technologies Limited, a provider of high-end supercomputing solutions, and data center facilities that include storage servers, network security, virtualization, and data protection will open for public subscription on Friday (February 16). The anchor portion will be opened on Thursday (February 15), and the issue will conclude on Tuesday (February 20).

Discussing company's growth strategy and outlook; key orders and announcements; capex plan for coming 2-3 years; and upcoming IPO and utilization of the capital intended to be raised, Santosh Agrawal, Managing Director, told this journalist (Shri Ram Shaw), "IPO comprises a fresh issue of 33,60,000 Equity Shares with a face value of Rs. 10 each through the book-building route. The company plans to raise Rs. 28.22 crore from the IPO and intends to utilize Rs. 16 crore to fund its long-term working capital requirements and Rs. 2.5 crore to invest in its wholly-owned subsidiary Zea-Cloud Services Private Limited to fortify data backup capabilities."

"The company intends to raise approximately Rs. 28.22 crore (at upper band) from the offering and aims to be listed with NSE Emerge. The price band for the issue has been fixed at Rs. 80 - Rs. 84 per

share, and the lot size will be 1,600 equity shares. Corporate Capital Ventures has been appointed as the Book Running Lead Manager, and Skyline Financial Services Private Limited is the Registrar to the issue," he added.

Santosh Agrawal further said, "As many as 9.53 lakh equity shares have been reserved for anchor portion, 1.76 lakh equity shares for Market Maker, 4.78 lakh equity shares allocated for HNIs, 6.36 lakh equity shares for QIBs, and Retail (RII) portion accounts for 11.15 lakh equity shares."

According to the RHP document, Esconet proposes to utilize Rs. 16 crore of the IPO proceeds towards funding its long-term working capital requirements, besides investing Rs. 2.5 crore in its wholly-owned subsidiary, Zea-Cloud Services Private Limited, to reinforce its infrastructure by acquiring additional hardware and software, with a goal of bolstering capacity, elevating security measures, and enhancing overall monitoring capabilities.

Founded in 2012 by second-generation entrepreneurs Santosh Kumar Agrawal and Sunil Kumar Agrawal, Esconet has been forging fruitful partnerships to deliver innovative and resilient IT solutions. The company counts renowned global technology firms - AMD, Amazon Web Services, Cisco, Dell Technologies, HP Enterprises, Intel, Microsoft, Nutanix, NVIDIA, Sophos,

Suse One, Trend Micro, and Veeam, among its technology partners. Its prestigious clientele includes the Ministry of Defence, National Informatics Centre (MeitY), National Informatics Centre Services Inc (MeitY), IIT, Bharat Electronics Limited, ONGC, Engineers India Limited and many others.

As per the restated consolidated financial statements, Esconet's revenue from operations stood at Rs. 71.41 crore and earned a profit (PAT) of Rs. 3.05 crore during the first half of the current fiscal year, which ended September 30, 2023, compared to an operating revenue of Rs. 96.59 crore and a profit (PAT) of Rs. 3.18 crore in FY 2022-23. A significant portion of the company's revenue in the last three years was generated from Government projects.

"Throughout its journey, Esconet has not only gained experience but also built a clientele base of private and public sector organizations.

Recognizing the demand in the Indian market, Esconet introduced its brand, Hexa-Data, specializing in high-end servers, workstations, and storage systems. Additionally, Esconet's strategic collaboration with NVIDIA has contributed to its growth in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) domain, enhancing its servers and workstations," Agrawal concluded.

Here's how Germany surpassed Japan as third largest economy despite shrinking GDP

MUMBAI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Germany has surpassed Japan as the third largest economy, with a GDP of \$4.5 trillion. Japan's economy stood at \$4.2 trillion.

This does not mean that Berlin has outperformed Tokyo. In fact, the German economy had plunged by 0.3 per cent last year. Though Tokyo performed better than Berlin, the recent change in rankings comes amid Bank of



Japan's move to maintain negative interest rates as well as yen's depreciation. The Japanese currency plunged over 18 per cent against the US dollar in 2022-23.

With a shrinking

population and falling birth rate expected to worsen worker shortage in Japan, the country's GDP is likely to slump further in the future. China had overtaken Japan in 2010 and India, which has a grow-

ing young population, is also set to witness a rapid GDP growth in the coming years.

S&P Global Ratings in its Global Credit Outlook 2024 earlier said India is set to become the third largest economy in the world by 2030. However, the International Monetary Fund believes that India will become the third largest by 2027 as the country is projected to surpass Japan in 2026 and Germany the following year.

The US, which is the largest economy, makes up for a quarter of the world's GDP at \$25.5 trillion. It is followed by China (\$18 trillion GDP), Germany (\$4.5 trillion GDP) and Japan (\$4.2 trillion GDP).

According to the S&P, India will be able to realize its demographic dividend if it can unlock the labour market potential by upskilling workers and introducing more women to the workforce.

Markets climb in early trade amid positive Asian and global trends

MUMBAI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Markets opened on a positive note on Thursday with Sensex and Nifty rising in early trade as investors tracked positive Asian and global cues.

The 30-share benchmark Sensex gained 115.89 points or 0.16 per cent to 71,938.72 points while the broader Nifty climbed 36.90 points or 0.17 per cent to 21,876.95 points.

In the Sensex pack, Mahindra and Mahindra, NTPC, Tata Steel, Wipro and Infosys were among the gainers while Reliance Indus-

tries and Maruti Suzuki were trading marginally lower.

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities, said equities in Asia opened higher Thursday after Wall Street resumed a rally as robust earnings helped overcome worries about persistent inflation.

"All three major stock indexes in the US finished higher on Wednesday, shaking off weakness seen earlier in the day, as investors considered whether there may have been an overreaction to US infla-

tion data in the previous session," he said.

On Wednesday, domestic equity market reversed its early losses and closed in the positive territory.

While Sensex jumped 267.64 points or 0.37 per cent to close at 71,822.83 points, Nifty went up 96.80 points or 0.45 per cent to end the day at 21,840.05 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers on Wednesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,929.60 crore, according to exchange data.

Bhan urges Home Minister to address complexities of Kashmir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: In an appeal to Home Minister Amit Shah, Ashok Bhan, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India andv Chairman, Kashmir (Policy and Strategy) Group said the intricacies of the Jammu and Kashmir issue have long been veiled by a dense fog of distorted historical narratives, self-serving myths, and conflicting political interests.

Yet, amidst this complexity, the current government has demonstrated a sincere commitment to fostering an environment conducive to peace and progress, aiming to break the cycle of violence perpetuated by adversaries, he said.

Analysts specializing in Kashmir affairs have lauded the government's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, coupled with initiatives for economic empowerment and extensive development efforts. As we approach the assembly elections, the prospect of restoring legitimate democracy in Kashmir holds promise not only for the region but for the entire nation. Such a move aligns with the constitutional ethos of our country and could serve as a precursor to the envisioned concept of one nation-one election Bhan said.

He added in the historical and social context of the Kashmir Valley, the scars of past conflicts weigh heavily upon its people. The fallout from the 1947 turmoil and the prolonged insurgency has resulted in the displacement of indigenous religious minorities and the senseless loss of innocent lives at the hands of non-state actors and militant groups, he said.

"The people are victims of the 1947 conflict and the

lingering aftermath of the armed insurgency that led to (a) the displacement of the entire indigenous religious minority and (b) the killing of innocent civilians by non-state actors, brutalised anti-people groups and other actors," he said.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing this plight, the Kashmir Policy and Strategy Group has tirelessly advocated for dialogue and societal healing, emphasizing the imperative of fostering peace, justice, and inclusivity in the region, he added.

The group has been conducting meetings and interactions highlighting the urgent need to end the sordid and brutal phase of societal devastation, death and destruction that has engulfed the entire South Asian region in general and Jammu and Kashmir in particular to promote peace, harmony, justice, dignity and honour of the people and build an inclusive and empowered society, Bhan said.

Despite significant strides in combating militancy, terrorism continues to pose a persistent challenge, fueled by external support and the grievances of a disillusioned minority. Recent incidents in Poonch, Rajouri, and Srinagar serve as stark reminders of this ongoing threat. Moreover, the plight of the Kashmiri Pandit community, forced into exile during the tumultuous events of 1990, remains unresolved.

The systematic ethnic cleansing perpetrated against them represents a dark chapter in Kashmir's history, recognized internationally as an act of genocide.

The National Human Rights Commission's condemnation of this tragedy underscores the gravity of the situation. Yet, for

three decades, the exiled Kashmiri Pandits have languished as refugees in their own country, longing to return to their ancestral homeland. The time has come for the government to demonstrate the political will and resolve necessary to facilitate their repatriation, thereby restoring the fabric of Kashmiri society and securing the region's stability.

Addressing the generational trauma inflicted by decades of conflict is paramount to fostering reconciliation and social cohesion in Kashmir. The Supreme Court's recent pronouncements on Article 370 emphasize the need to look towards the future, rather than dwelling on the past. A commission tasked with investigating human rights violations in the region since the 1980s offers a crucial step towards acknowledging and redressing the grievances of all affected parties.

As we navigate the complexities of Kashmir, it is imperative that we heed the Supreme Court's guidance and prioritize the restoration of communal harmony and respect for constitutional principles.

The Kashmir Policy and Strategy Group stands ready to support initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting a shared vision of peace and prosperity for all Kashmiris, Bhan said.

In conclusion, he urged Home Minister Amit Shah, to seize this moment as an opportunity to chart a path towards lasting peace and reconciliation in Kashmir. By embracing dialogue, inclusivity, and respect for human rights, we can pave the way for a brighter, more secure future for generations to come.

ED quizzes Paytm executives in preliminary probe into alleged FEMA irregularities



NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has questioned Paytm executives and sought more information regarding submitted documents as part of a preliminary probe into alleged FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) irregularities flagged by the Reserve Bank of India.

The ED questioned the senior officials after they submitted certain documents in connection with the inquiry. The central agency will decide if a formal probe is needed based on the findings in the ongoing inquiry.

RBI had stopped Paytm's banking arm Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) from accepting deposits or top-ups in customer accounts.

According to official sources, the ED has found no irregularities under FEMA so far.

Meanwhile they are already carrying out an investigation under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) involving the company, PTI quoted official sources as saying.

As for KYC non-compliance issues raised by the RBI, the ED cannot take any action as it comes under the purview of the central bank.

Paytm said PPBL does not undertake outward foreign remittances.

"One 97 Communications Limited (OCL), its subsidiaries and its associate, Paytm Payments Bank Limited, have over time been receiving notices and requisition for information, documents and explanations from the authorities, including Enforcement Directorate (ED), with respect to the customers that may have done business with the respective entities, and provided the required information, documents and explanations to the authorities," Paytm said in a regulatory filing.

Paytm shares slumped 5 per cent and struck a new 52-week low on Thursday, hitting lower circuit at 325.05 around 11.30am. This comes after bourses revised the circuit from 10 per cent to 5 per cent on February 15.

HDFC Bank's Home Loan business demonstrates strong performance

JAMMU, Feb 15: HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, today shared an update on its Home Loan Business which has witnessed healthy growth post the merger of HDFC Ltd with itself.

The Bank's market share has grown approximately by 18% to 20% on incremental disbursements, post the merger. It has exhibited robust and consistent higher double-digit, year-on-year growth across its Home Loan Business for the first six months, post the merger. On a sequential basis, the Bank has gained a leading position as it recorded a growth of 3.6% which was the highest amongst its peers in

home loans.

The Bank's fundamental strategy has been to improve the turnaround time of processing at front end. Post-merger turnaround time has reduced to almost one third. This coupled with the erstwhile HDFC Ltd.'s strength of connecting with customers in person is a potential game changer in terms of both sales turnover and cross-sell.

Added to this strategy is a renewed focus on the self-employed segment which will further increase opportunity size. Post-merger, the Bank has already launched and expanded its product basket through banking surrogates as well as GST programmes for better

assessment of such profiles.

By mid-March, the Bank will be launching a seamless straight through journey for Home Refurbishment Loans which can become a strong product offering for customers. Also, by April 2024, the Bank proposes to launch a Home Saver product. This will lay a robust foundation for a lucrative offering to the existing and prospective home buyers. Despite a substantially larger book than peers, the Bank's model is generating huge benefits on a monthly basis and its differentiated strengths are expected to generate substantial value for customers and the Bank in the future.

Rahul Dravid to remain India's head coach till T20 World Cup: Jay Shah

Dravid's contract ended after the ODI World Cup final last year, but he was asked to continue in his role along with other support staff for the December-January tour to South Africa without finalising the tenure

RAJKOT, Feb 15 (Agencies): Rahul Dravid will continue to remain in the position of India's head coach till the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 in June this year, confirmed BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

Dravid's contract ended after the ODI World Cup final last year, but he was asked to continue in his role along with other support staff for the December-January tour to South Africa without finalising the tenure.

But Shah said he held an initial talk with Dravid here before arriving at the decision to retain



the former captain's services till the ICC showpiece to be held in the West Indies and the US. "After the (2023) World Cup, Rahul bhai had to leave for the South Africa tour immediately. We did not get to meet in between which finally happened today," Shah

said here on the sidelines of the renaming function of the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Wednesday night. "Why are you worried about a contract for such a senior person like Rahul Dravid? Rahul bhai will remain the

coach in the T20 World Cup," Shah asserted. However, Shah indicated that they will hold a few more rounds of discussions ahead of the marquee event. "I will speak with him whenever there is time, there are back-to-back series happening right

now. They were in South Africa, then there was a (T20) series against Afghanistan (at home) and now England. We did not get to speak in between at all," he added.

Shah said the IPL franchises will have to comply with workload management guidelines set by the BCCI for the centrally contracted players.

"This is the BCCI's mandate. The BCCI is the supreme body and whatever it decides the franchises will have to follow — we are above the franchises," he said.

Rohit to captain India in T20 World Cup



RAJKOT, Feb 15 (Agencies): India will be playing the T20 World Cup 2024, to be organised in the Caribbean and the USA, under the captaincy of Rohit Sharma, said BCCI secretary Jay Shah at the renaming ceremony of the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium after veteran cricket administrator Niranjan Shah here.

"I want to promise you that in 2024 (T20 World Cup) in Barbados (venue for the final), under Rohit Sharma's captaincy, we will hoist the Indian flag," Shah said in his speech.

Sarfraz Khan's father makes commentary debut, his poetic reply to son's delayed India debut wins hearts

RAJKOT, Feb 15 (Agencies): Sarfraz Khan's father Naushad Khan was emotional after his son was handed a Test debut for India ahead of the third Test against England in Rajkot. Naushad Khan not only shed tears of joy but also shared screenspace with former Indian cricketer Aakash Chopra in the commentary box on Day 1 of the Rajkot Test.

As Sarfraz received his Test cap from the legendary leg-spinner Anil Kumble, his father-cum-coach, Naushad, couldn't hold back his emotions, visibly teary-eyed in the background. This poignant moment was captured and quickly went viral across social media platforms, touching the hearts of fans and spectators alike.

During his time in the commentary box, Naushad Khan was asked by Aakash Chopra if he felt that his son had to wait too long to make his debut. In response, Naushad delivered a poetic and profound reply, "It takes time for the night to pass; the sun is not going to rise according to my wish." His words resonated with the struggles and patience often required on the path to achieving one's dreams, especially in a sport as competitive as cricket.

Sarfraz Khan, who boasts an impres-



sive first-class average of nearly 70, had been eagerly anticipated to don the national colors. His selection came after a series of notable performances, including making runs for India 'A' in the series against England Lions in Ahmedabad. He replaced Shreyas Iyer in the playing eleven, alongside fellow debutant Dhruv Jurel, who took the place of KS Bharat.

The debut was not just a milestone for Sarfraz but also a testament to the dedication and guidance of his father, who has been his coach throughout his journey. As the sun rose on Sarfraz's international career, the poetic wisdom of his father's words highlighted the beauty of perseverance and the sweet reward that comes with time, marking a debut that will be remembered for both its emotional depth and the promise of a bright future for the young cricketer.

NZ vs SA, 2nd Test: David Bedingham's hundred sparks hopes of South Africa win despite batting collapse on Day 3

HAMILTON, Feb 15 (Agencies): Middle-order batter David Bedingham, who showed a lot of promise against India earlier in the year, hit his maiden Test hundred as he helped South Africa dream of a victory in the second Test against New Zealand in Hamilton. Bedingham's gritty hundred helped South Africa set New Zealand a tricky target of 267 at Seddon Park in Hamilton.

New Zealand openers Devon Conway and Tom Latham had a nerve hour to negate, but first-innings hero Dane Piedt gave South Africa a huge breakthrough, removing the Chennai Super Kings star with the last delivery of the day's play. New Zealand went to Stumps to 40 for 1, still needing 227 runs to win in an enthralling Test.

New Zealand have never beaten South Africa in a Test series and the BlackCaps were touted as favourites after they thrashed a hugely-weakened South African side in the first Test by 281 runs. However,



the Proteas have shown a lot of heart and grit in the 2nd Test to give themselves a chance of scripting a victory and draw the series.

David Bedingham embodied that fighting spirit of the South Africans as he hit 110 runs from 141 balls, hitting 12 boundaries and two sixes during his 98-run partnership with Keegan Petersen.

The partnership between Bedingham and Petersen was the only positive in an otherwise

sorry-looking South Africa batting card. The tourists, who sealed a 24-run first innings lead, failed to bat New Zealand out of the contest as the young side had too many men who failed to convert their starts.

WILL O'ROURKE SHINES FOR BLACKCAPS

Debutant paceman Will O'Rourke, the only New Zealander with less experience than most of the South Africans, took five for 34 as the last six Proteas wickets fell for 33 runs but the

day belonged to Bedingham.

All-rounder Rachin Ravindra ensured that Clyde Fortuin's miserable series with the bat continued, while O'Rourke got the rewards for some fine bowling with the wickets of Raynard van Tonder and skipper Neil Brand (34).

Veteran South African-born seamer Neil Wagner finally got his chance with the ball after the break and made an immediate impact with a trademark short ball which Zubayr Hamza (17) only succeeded in pulling to Will Young at deep square leg.

Phillips then took over, removing Ruan de Swardt and Piedt cheaply with his right-arm spin and taking another fine catch at gully to finally send Bedingham back and give O'Rourke his fourth victim.

O'Rourke completed the skittling of the tail when he had Dane Paterson caught behind to secure his maiden test five-wicket haul and take his match tally to 9-93.

'Wrestlers under threat again': Sakshee, Bajrang write open letter to UWW over revoking WFI suspension

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Olympics medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshee Malikkh wrote an open letter to the world wrestling body (United World Wrestling) on Thursday, two days after it revoked the suspension of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). The two wrestlers said the UWW lifting the suspension has put the wrestlers under threat again, saying that they will be subject to harassment from the elected members of the WFI.

The lifting of the WFI ban meant that Indian wrestlers would now be able to compete under the country's flag in international events. Notably, the UWW suspended WFI in August last year over a delay in holding general body elections.

Bajrang and Sakshee urged the world body to take necessary actions against the WFI, accusing Sanjay Singh, the newly-elected president of the WFI, of acting against the Sports Ministry's directives. Bajrang and Sakshee said that Singh-led WFI hadn't paid heed to the directives of the ad-hoc committee which was appointed to oversee the operations of WFI after



the national body was suspended in December by the Sports Ministry. Notably, days after Sanjay Singh was elected as the WFI president, the Sports Ministry suspended the newly-elected WFI general body, highlighting Singh's close ties with former president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexually harassing female wrestlers.

However, Sanjay Singh-led elected body has, time and again, rejected the Sports Ministry's decision.

"This decision has again put Indian wrestlers under threat and harassment by WFI members. This is to bring to your notice that this WFI was suspended by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYAS) dated 27

December 2023 due to serious anomalies after a couple of days of taking charge," Bajrang and Vinesh wrote in their open letter.

"MYAS also formed an Ad Hoc Committee to oversee and conduct wrestling activities. Even after this suspension, WFI members took blatant decisions to conduct sporting activities without any recognition from sports ministries under the same leadership. Wrestlers all over India have lost trust and belief in the functioning of Wrestling Federation of India. Because of this MYAS took diligent steps and issued a circular dated 7th January 2024.

"Even after this they have publicly issued statements against wrestlers and Ad Hoc

Committee. This elected body is still being run by same individual and their allies who serious charges against them and MYAS also took the same in consideration while suspending the body. For your reference we have attached the mentioned letters.

"We wrestlers request you kindly support Indian athletes against unfair practices and harassment through various means. Indian wrestlers are looking up to you for justice and their rights to fair and safe play.

"We are hopeful that you will consider our request to support clean and fair sports activities in India and take necessary actions against the WFI," it added.

WHY WAS WFI SUSPENSION LIFTED? The United World

Wrestling, in its statement on Tuesday, lifted the suspension of WFI, noting that the elections took place in December. However, it sought written guarantees from the WFI that it wouldn't discriminate against certain wrestlers while picking players for international tournaments.

"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 had said in its statement.

The WFI has been locked in a turf war with the ad-hoc committee. The two bodies held separate national championships recently, confusing within the wrestling community.

Notably, Sakshee Malikkh alleged that fake certificates were being handed out to wrestlers at the national championships held by the suspended WFI body.

Klinsmann fate as coach in balance as South Korean FA meets

SEOUL, Feb 15 (Agencies): Jürgen Klinsmann's fate as coach topped the agenda as South Korean football bosses met Thursday, a day after revelations about an Asian Cup bust-up between players that left Son Heung-min with an injured finger.

The closed-door Korea Football Association meeting, which had been scheduled to take place no matter how the team fared at the Asian Cup, has taken on extra significance.

Yonhap news agency reported, citing unnamed sources, that the KFA would consider a temporary appointment for next month's World Cup qualifiers against Thailand if Klinsmann were to be sacked.

The KFA was due to hold a press conference later Thursday and a smattering of protesters gathered outside KFA headquarters in Seoul, demanding Klinsmann's removal.

The German former striker, who was appointed in February last year, is clinging to his job following a humiliating 2-0 defeat to Jordan in the semi-finals of the Asian Cup.

Klinsmann, who has never won over South Korean fans or media,

had promised to deliver the country's first Asian title in 64 years. He has refused to resign despite fierce pressure.

On top of that, details have now emerged about a brawl that took place the night before last week's game.

Paris Saint-Germain's Lee Kang-in on Wednesday issued an apology after Yonhap said the 22-year-old had tried to punch skipper and Tottenham star Son.

Lee's representatives have denied there was a punch.

The fracas was reportedly triggered by younger players -- including Lee -- rushing through their dinner so they could leave early and play table tennis.

This angered some of the older players, including Son, who wanted to honour long-standing tradition that the pre-game dinner be a team bonding experience, triggering the brawl.

Lee and Son both played in the Jordan defeat, the latter with two of the fingers strapped together.

He had the same dressing on his fingers when he came on at the weekend in Tottenham's 2-1 win over Brighton.

Blame game The incident has

fuelled calls for Klinsmann to be sacked, with some saying it was more evidence of his weak management.

The fact the players fought on the eve of such a crucial match is "more shocking than the semi-finals elimination", sports outlet OSEN wrote.

"The 2024 Asian Cup will go down in history as the worst tournament, marked by incompetence of a smiling Klinsmann and a divided national squad," OSEN said.

The incident highlighted a generational and cultural shift in the South Korean team, Song Gi-seong, a sports journalist at broadcaster MBC, told agency.

It is partly due to a "cultural gap between Son, who went to Europe after finishing middle school, and Lee, who went to Spain to train at age nine", he said.

The fact that the bust-up was leaked and then quickly confirmed by the KFA may indicate the KFA were trying to shift blame for the Asian Cup exit from the coaching staff to the players.

"Under normal circumstances KFA usually denies it or makes no comment, but on this topic they were so unusually quick in confirming it," said Song.

Valmiki Community should be given 3 out of 7 reserved Assembly seats: Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: National Chairman of the National Valmiki Army, Raju Chandel, while speaking to journalists today, stated that for the past 70 years, the Valmiki community in Jammu and Kashmir has been neglected.

Chandel said even today, despite the progress towards Ram Rajya by the Modi government and the nation, the Valmiki community residing in Jammu and Kashmir has yet to receive justice.

Those from the Valmiki community who wish to return home are facing bureaucratic hurdles in obtaining caste certificates from administrative officials, he



said.

He added since the abrogation of Article 370 and the passage of legislation providing reservation benefits to Dalit communities in the Lok Sabha, the administration of Jammu and Kashmir has turned a blind

eye, continuing to obstruct the process of issuing caste certificates to Valmiki community members.

While the central government has reserved seven assembly seats for Scheduled Caste communities in Jammu and Kashmir, the benefits will only reach the Valmiki community when they possess caste certificates, he said.

Additionally, reservation benefits will only be accessible to Valmiki community children when they possess caste certificates, he said, adding that the administration of Jammu and Kashmir continues to procrastinate in issuing caste certificates to Valmiki community members. Chandel has written a letter

to the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, demanding that out of the seven assembly seats reserved in Jammu and Kashmir, three seats should be allocated to candidates from the Valmiki community.

He emphasized that justice will only prevail for the Valmiki community, as they have borne the brunt of the most suffering and humiliation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Furthermore, urgent measures should be taken to expedite the process of issuing Scheduled Caste certificates in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that the benefits of reservation reach the Valmiki community and their children residing in the region, he added.

Govt should fulfill legitimate demands of farmers through talks: Dr. Preeti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Supporting the farmers' movement, social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat has said that the farmers want to go to Delhi to remind the Central Government of the promise of Minimum Support Price (MSP). But the government is adamant in crushing the farmers' march to Delhi.

She said that there has been a deadlock between the farmers and the government for the past few days. Farmers are on protest regarding their old demands. The govern-



ment is not ready to even listen to them. To prevent Annadata from entering Delhi, spikes have been placed on the border. Farmers pool their blood and water to produce food grains that feed 140

crore people of the country. Everyone has the right to demonstrate peacefully in a democracy. Whenever farmers have raised their voice for their rights, work has been done to suppress them.

Even in the previous movement, the government had tried its best to stop the farmers, but failed. After a long movement, the central government had withdrawn all three laws and promised that MSP would be implemented on the crops. Farmers were waiting for the implementation of this order for a long time.

National Level Training Program on NEP Sensitization and Orientation begins at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 15: Eight-Day training program entitled "NEP Orientation & Sensitization Program" inaugurated The UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra. The program is being conducted for University and College teachers from all over India.

The training program is based on India's National Education Policy 2020.

By participating in the program, the Faculty Members get trained to impart holistic education, ICT, Indian Knowledge system, Research, Management.

Thus, the teachers and learners are expected to acquire the concept of the Indian Knowledge System and apply it in real life for the advancement and creation of knowledge.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor extended his wishes to all the participants and interacted to maximize their learnings from this program.

The Inaugural address



was delivered by the Prof. Supran Kumar Sharma, Director MMTTC SMVDU who dwelt upon the role of NEP-2020 which is founded on the five guiding pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability. Prof. Sharma, dwelt upon the need for sensitizing faculty members in realizing their role in futuristic institution building in the Indian education policy ecosystem. He also spoke about aspects of redesigning the higher education ecosystem as envisaged by NEP 2020 which requires strengthening the role of the Faculty.

The Coordinator of the program is Dr. Surender Singh and Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj.

Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena coordinated the inaugural session which was supported by the MMTTC team comprising of Dr. Sharada

Potukuchi.

Prof. Raghendra Mishra, Prof. Ankush Anand, Dr. Sunanda and Dr. Kamaldeep, Members of MMTTC-SMVDU assisted in conceiving and planning out the Program.

The event spread over 08 working days shall include 16 technical sessions and the speakers have been specifically selected from various institutions of the country to enunciate the need for imparting training and skills to faculty members for the smooth and successful implementation of NEP-2020 as per the UGC at institutions of higher learning across the country.

This program will also ensure holistic development of the teachers and learners with the inculcation of ethics and human values as enshrined in Indian culture and develop multidisciplinary and critical thinking abilities in them.

IIM Jammu in collaboration with ICSSR hosts workshop on Govt Initiative: Assessment of Year of Millets 2023

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR), organized a thought-provoking workshop centered on the "Assessment of Year of Millets 2023 Government Initiative" on 15th Feb 2024 at its Jagti Campus.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a warm welcome address by Dr. Kulwinder Kaur, setting the tone for the day's discussions.

This workshop was a pivotal component of the ICSSR-sponsored short-term empirical research project, that delved into the theme of "Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition through Millet Promotion: A study of selected areas of North-west.

Dr. Kulwinder Kaur, Project Director and Assistant Professor, IIM Jammu stated that the primary objective of the workshop was to analyse the impact of the Government Initiative

on sustainable agriculture and nutrition, and its role in shaping the future of food security and nutrition.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, provided a comprehensive overview of IIM Jammu's initiatives and underscored the strategic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in emphasizing the importance of millets.

He emphasized the significance of shifting dietary patterns towards millets, citing their medicinal, nutritional, and anti-inflammatory properties. He stressed the need to leverage branding and marketing strategies to popularize millets as a superfood and promote its consumption.

As a proactive measure, he announced that IIM Jammu promotes increased millet consumption by providing a full-day meal made of millet once a week to students and faculty, promoting a healthier lifestyle on campus. He urged farmers to contribute to this endeavour and join hands in making the new campus of IIM Jammu environmentally friendly.



He underlined the profound significance of the workshop and the collaborative efforts aimed at fostering sustainable development in the region. He articulated how initiatives such as the Year of Millets 2023 Government Initiative serve as catalysts for positive change, not only in promoting sustainable agriculture but also in enhancing nutritional security and fostering economic prosperity in the region.

He extended an invitation to farmers, academia, and industry stakeholders to collaborate with IIM Jammu in initiatives related to millet marketing, branding, and pricing. He assured support from IIM Jammu in facilitating farmers and entrepreneurs in their endeav-

ours.

Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST, delivered a compelling address highlighting the significance of millets in achieving food security and nutrition goals. He shed light on the initiatives undertaken by the Government of India, spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to declare 2023 as the "International Year of Millets" (IYoM). He emphasized the government's efforts to incorporate millets into the public distribution system, aiming to raise awareness about their nutritional benefits along with the inclusion of Millet delicacy in the recently concluded G20 Summit.

Drawing attention to inspiring examples, he shared the stories of Raimati Ghiuria, a

tribal farmer from Odisha's Koraput district, who has preserved 30 varieties of millets, and Dr. Khader Vali, also known as the Millet Man of India, a Padma Shri awardee renowned for his sustainable agricultural practices.

He underscored the importance of reviving millet consumption, emphasizing that millets were widely consumed before the Green Revolution. He urged farmers to collaborate with institutions such as IIM Jammu, ICSSR, and SKUAST to promote millet cultivation and consumption. He emphasized the value of workshops like the one hosted by IIM Jammu, providing a platform for experts to share insights and create a healthy ecosystem for millet promotion.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer, IIM Jammu extended heartfelt gratitude to all participants, speakers, and collaborators for their invaluable contributions to the workshop's success, reaffirming IIM Jammu's commitment to advancing research and fostering sustainable development.

Nursing Association seeks simplification of Nursing Admission process in Punjab

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Chandigarh, Punjab Govt has created an excellent environment for education in Punjab. This will eventually help nursing colleges to nurture the medical professionals from their grassroots. These sentiments were expressed by the Nursing Training Institutes Association (NTIA), an association which represents nearly 250 nursing colleges across the state.

Addressing a press conference held at Chandigarh Press Club, Sector 27 on Wednesday, Association's President Gurdial Singh Buttar & Dr. Anshu Kataria, Advisor & President, Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA); Chairman, Aryans



Institute of Nursing, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh said that State Govt has established new benchmarks in medical and nursing education but since last year, Indian Nursing Council (INC) has introduced the condition of entrance test in the admission process which allows students from many other states to seek the admission. Bhutter was of the opinion that if the students from state Punjab

are not able to take admission they will be deprived of their favorite subject.

The NEET exam also allows promising students from other states to get admission in Punjab while Punjab's own students remain ignorant. The association has demanded that the Punjab Govt should simplify the admission process on the lines of Haryana, Rajasthan and Karnataka and give

admission to nursing courses in Punjab on the basis of 12th class merit.

During the press conference, General Secretary Dr. Sahil Mittal said that every session nearly 25,000 passed out this nursing course from Punjab and later prove their talent in other countries including Canada, Europe, America, Australia. He believes that 'brain drain' is a matter of big

concern. He appealed to the state Govt to establish new dimensions by strengthening the medical sector like-wise other industries so that the students' talent can be utilized at home only.

Opening of at least one medical college in every district of the state will strengthen this effort and will also strengthen the CM's initiative to youth empowerment instead of seeking job opportunities overseas.

Association will be soon going to start a special campaign for students which will impart students about the immense possibilities available in the nursing sector. Association expressed hope from the Govt that it will support them in this direction.

Congress is another name for development and harmony: Vikar

Top News Report

BANIHAL, Feb 15: JKPCC President Vikar Rasool Wani delivered a compelling speech at a grand public gathering in village Chaknarwaw, panchayat Lavelle of Banihal Segment. The event witnessed the presence of prominent personalities like General Secretary Imtayaz Ahmad Khanday DCC Banihal B, Sarpanch Muneer Ahmed, Block Presidents Mushtaq Ahmed and Abdul Rashid Naik, among others.

During his address, Wani expressed immense delight and gratitude towards the overwhelming response from the people. Their unwavering support for the Congress Party was a testament to the party's dedicated efforts towards the overall



development, harmony and progress of Banihal, ensuring a better future for its residents.

Wani took this opportunity to extend his heartfelt congratulations to the people for their recognition of the Congress Party's proactive role in bringing about positive change. Their trust and confidence in the party's initiatives and pro-people policies were deeply appreciated.

The Congress Party, on its part, remains resolute in its determination

to emerge triumphantly and become even stronger in the forthcoming Lok Sabha and other upcoming elections. The party wholeheartedly pledges to fiercely safeguard the fundamental rights of the people, as it steadfastly believes in creating an environment where every citizen can thrive and flourish, he added.

By acknowledging the people's appreciation, Wani emphasized the importance of their involvement in shaping the future of Banihal.