TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

|6

Kate Hudson still earns royalty from 1992 hit movie 'Home Alone 2'



NATIONAL

| 7

Rahul Gandhi reaffirms legal guarantee for MSP if INDIA bloc comes to power

INTERNATIONAL

JAMMU, Feb 16

(Agencies): Jammu

and Kashmir Police has

ordered transfer and

posting of 31 police offi-

cers and personnel in

An order issued in this

regard said Sub-Inspec-

tor (SI) Jasbir Singh has

been transferred from

Police Station Satwari

and posted to Police

Station Pacca Danga

as Investigating Officer

(IO), SI Tarsem Singh

from Police Post Greater

Kailash to Police Station

Janipur as IO, SI Tarsem

Lal from Police Station

Gharota to Police Sta-

tion Domana as IO,

and SI Bhola Nath

from Police Post Sainik

Colony to Police Station

Nowabad as IO.

Jammu division.

18

In Latest Blow. Rishi Sunak's **Party Loses 2 Seats To Opposition In Key Poll**

31 police officers, personnel

transferred in Jammu Kashmir

The order further said

PSI Zulfikar Ahmed has

been transferred from

Police Station Akhnoor

and posted as IO at

Police Station Gandhi

Nagar, PSI Basharat

Hussain from Police

Station Gandhi Nagar to

Police Station Akhnoor

as IO, PSI Mashqoor

Ahmed from Police Sta-

tion Bishnah to Police

Station Nagrota as IO,

PSI Mohammad Zahid

from Police Station

Nagrota to Police Sta-

tion Bishnah as IO, PSI

Aqib Lateef from Police

Station Bus Stand to

Police Station Gangyal

as IO, PSI lahtsham-

UI-Hag from Police Sta-

tion Gangyal to Police

Station Bus Stand, PSI

Arun Kumar Shan from



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-46 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

DPL Jammu to Police

Station Gharota as IO,

PSI Maroof Ahmed from

BRIEFLY

School building damaged in fire mishap in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 16 (Agencies): A school building got damaged due to a fire incident in Chattabal area of Srinagar district on Friday, officials said. An official said that fire broke out in Valley Common Wealth School in Chattabal Veer area today afternoon. He said that the school building got partially damaged in the fire incident, while cause of fire was being ascertained.

Ahead of wet Weather Forecast, **Summer** like weather prevails in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 16 (Agencies): Ahead of wet weather forecast summer like weather conditions prevailed on Friday.

There was a significant improvement in night temperature, but stayed below freezing point, at most of the stations of Kashmir

Bright sun appeared with clear sky in Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir valley as people and the tourists were seen basking under it at Lal Chowk, Partab Park and on the

The maximum temperature in Srinagar was recorded 7.8°C above normal of 9.9°C on the previous day. Meteorological centre Srinagar has predicted moderate to heavy rain and snowfall over the J&K from Sunday onwards.

banks of Dal Lake.

An intense Western Disturbances are most likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from Sunday onwards.

The main activity of the WD is likely to occur during 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 middle and higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Badgam, Shopian and Kulgam districts, the MeT office said.

Meanwhile, the MeT office said the minimum temperature during the intervening night of Wednesday and

Turn to page 9

Pakistani quadcopters found hovering near LoC in Poonch; Army Opens Fire or narcotics by the

(Agencies): "Army troops guarding the Line of Control (LoC) on February 16 opened fire to bring down Pakistani quadcopters at two different places in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district," officials said. "However, the flying

objects returned to the Pakistan side after briefly hovering over the Indian territory in Balnoi-Mendhar and Gulpur



sectors." they said. They said a search operation was launched

in both the sectors to ensure there was no dropping of weapons

quadcopters. Officials said troops noticed two quadcopters entering the Balnoi area of Mendhar, around 6.30 a.m., and opened fire but the remotely controlled machines returned.

"Similarly, a couple of quadcopters hovering over Gulpur sector around the same time returned in the face of firing by Indian troops,"

Turn to page 9

Farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' Call: Farmer to stay put at Punjab-Haryana borders as deadlock persists



CHANDIGARH, Feb 16 (Agencies): Protest-

ing farmers will stay put at the two borders

of Puniab and Harvana over their various

demands as the deadlock persisted despite the third round of talks with a panel of Union ministers.

A five-hour meeting, which started around 8:45 pm on Thursday, between three Union ministers and the farmer leaders remained inconclusive.

The two sides will now meet on February 18 for the fourth round of talks. The two previous rounds of dialogue on

■Turn to page 9

with arms, ammunition arrested in Kupwara; booked under UAPA: Police

Terrorist associate along



SRINAGAR, Feb 16 (Agencies): A terrorist associate has been arrested along with arms and ammunition in the Lalpora area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said on Thursday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Kupwara Shobhit Saxena, while speaking to ANI said that a joint naka was laid by Kupwara Police, 28 RR and CRPF 162Bn at Gundimacher

Bridge. He further said that during checking, a susone person carrying a white colored bag who was coming from Lalpo-

received input from Army about a suspected terrorist movement here. We put up a joint naka in Lalpora area," he said.

He further said that one pistol, a few rounds of bullets and a few grenades have been recovered from the possession of the accused.

"We apprehended one suspected person and found one pistol, a few rounds of bullets and a few grenades from him. We took him to the Police station for further investigation. A mobile phone was also recovered," he said.

Police Station Miran Sahib to Police Station Satwari as SHO, PSI Mohammad Altaf from Police Station Miran Sahib to Police Station Bahu Fort as IO, PSI Yasar Arfat from Police Station Nowabad to Police Station Miran Sahib as IO, PSI Tofehal Ahmed from Police Station Nowabad to Police Station RS Pura as IO, PSI Aziz Tariq from Police Station RS Pura to Police Station Now-

abad as IO, PSI Irshad Ahmed from Police Station Gharota to Police Station Miran Sahib as

SHO, and PSI Rashid **Turn to page 9**

Congress alleges Party's Accounts Frozen, Calls it "Freeze Of Democracy"

NEW DELHI, Feb 16 (Agencies): Congress general secretary Ajay Maken alleged that the party's accounts have been frozen by the Income Tax department and called it the "freeze of democracy".

headquarters in Delhi, Maken said, "I have very disturbing news to share with all of you. The accounts of the Con-



frozen and also those of the Youth Congress have been frozen.'

"We got information yesterday that banks are not honouring the cheque we are issuing. On further investigation, we got to know that the Youth Congress bank accounts have been frozen. The accounts of the Congress party have also been seized. Income tax asked for Rs 210 crore recovery from Youth Congress and Congress party. The crowdfunding money in

Turn to page 9

Highway toll collector IHMCL removes PayTm payments bank from list of banks authorised to issue FASTag

NEW DELHI, Feb 16 (Agencies): Indian Highways Management Company Ltd (IHMCL), toll collecting arm of state-owned NHAI, has advised highway users to buy FASTags from 32 authorised banks sans Paytm Payments Bank for hassle-free travel.

In a post on X, IHMCL said for hassle-free travel, buy your FASTag from 32 authorised banks.

The 32 authorised banks include Airtel Payments Bank, Allahabad Bank, Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDBI Bank, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, and Yes Bank, among others.

A senior NHAI official told PTI that India has over 8 crore FASTag users and Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) has around 30 per cent market share.

Earlier, IHMCL in a letter dated January 19, 2024 had barred Paytm Payments Bank from issuing fresh FASTags.

On January 31, the Reserve Bank directed Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) to stop accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer accounts, wallets, FASTTags and Turn to page 9

picious movement of



ra towards Gundmacher was observed. "Today morning, we

Saxena further said that an FIR has been registered under **Turn to page 9**

Residential quarters **building** damaged in fire incident at **MLA Hostel** in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 16 (Agencies): A fire incident damaged the residential quarter building at the Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) hostel in Srinagar on Friday, officials said.

The fire broke out at around 9 a.m. in the upper story of the double-story residential quarters at MLA Hostel on Moulana Azad Road, causing extensive damage to the property, Fire and Emergency Service officials said.

A chinar tree and a wooden structure were also damaged in the fire incident.

The fire tenders were rushed to the spot from the nearby fire

Turn to pa



CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

In a press conference held at the AICC gress party have been

our accounts

Over dozen structures develop cracks in Doda



residential houses and

The protest was

cies): Over a dozen

a mosque have developed cracks in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, forcing the inhabitants to move in temporary shelters, officials said. Doda Deputy Commis-

sioner Harvinder Singh said that a team of officials visited the affected Gatsu hamlet to take stock of the situation and provided a few tents to

The leaders and activ-

"We are there for the villagers of Gatsu and monitoring the situation. If required, the families will be rehabilitated to safer places,' he said.

the affected families.

Located on Doda-Kishtwar stretch of National Highway-244, 10 km from Doda town, the affected residents of Gatsu blamed the **Turn to page 9**

50 detained ahead of protest in Lal Chowk in support of farmers' demands in J&K

SRINAGAR, Feb 16 planned in response (Agencies): The Jammu to the Samyukta and Kashmir Police on Kisan Morcha's call for a 'Bharat Bandh' to Friday detained 50 trade union leaders and activpress the government ists who were planning to accept the agitatto hold a protest at Lal ing farmers' demands, Chowk here in support including a legal guaranof the demands of agitattee of minimum support ing farmers. price (MSP) for crops.

police near Pratap Park on Residency Road as they were assembling for protests and taken to Kothibagh police station, officials said.

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami condemned the police action.

ists were detained by

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SMT. VAISHNO DEVI

SMT. TARA DEVI

Sh Jai Krishan

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 La

10th Day will be performed on Thursda 15th February 2024 at Parnalla at 11:3

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sh. Shaish Paul Gupta and Smt. Suman Gupt (Daughter and Son-in-Law) Smt. Sheela Gupta and Sh. Lekh Raj Gupta

Smt. Usha Gupta and Sh. Ashok Gupta Smt. Asha Gupta and Sh. Kushal Gupta Smt. Rajni Gupta and Sh. Chander Shekhar Gupta

Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-Law)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we are sad-

dened to inform you the sad demise of our belove Mother **Smt. Tara Devi** W/o Late Sh. Raghuna

Singh R/o A-14 Basant Nagar Janipur Jammu. 10TH DAY will be performed on 14th Feb 2024 a 10:30 AM (Wednesday).

KRIYA will be performed on 17th Feb. 2024 a

12:00 Noon (Saturday) at our residence A

Basant Nagar Janipur Jammu.

Sons & Daughters-in-law
Mrs. Indu Bala & Mr. Rajinder Singh
Mrs. Anu Patyal & Mr. Narinder Singh

GRIEF STRICKEN

(Grand-Son): Abheet Mahajan

Minal Mahajan and Saurav Kudyar Ph. 6006195022, 9896517522

Smt. Reva Gupta and Sh. Dhani Ram Gupta Smt. Sushma Gupta and Sh. Vidya Sagar Gupta

Gupta R/O Parnalla, Billawar.

Son and Daughter-in-Law)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

Nith profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Shri Autar Krishen Koul (Masterji) S/o Late Sh. Jia Lal Koul orig inally 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 Schoo Education at 11.00 am. GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Veena Ji Koul (Wife)

Shopinder 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)

Smt. Asha Rani

SMT. RAJ KUMARI

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 a 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

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW. WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. RAJ KUMARI** W/O LT. SH.OM PRAKASH GUPTA R/O MAITRA, RAMBAN WARD NO.6 NEAR BRIDGE.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 17/02/2024 SATURDAY AT OUR OWN RESI-DENCE, MAITRA AT 12 P.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sons & Daughter-in-laws

Mr. Vijay Gupta (Bittu) & Mrs. Anita Gupta Mr.Ashwani Gupta (Guddu) & Mrs.Sonia Gupta Mr.Rohit Gupta (Sonu) & Mrs.Sonam Gupta

Daughter & Son-in-law Mrs.Arti Gupta & Mr.Amit Gupta

Grandchildren

Bhargav, Khushi, Pranya, Kanheya, Prajwal, Samriddhi, Anvi,

Ananya, Sanvi **Entire Gupta Family**

Contact no.+91 70068 92203; +91 90183 04080; +91 78894 63009

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Sh. Mohan Singh Chib S/o Late Sh. Hans Raj Chib R/o H.No. 43, New Plot Jammu Opp. State Motor Garage.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 16-02-2024 at 11.30 AM at our residence.

KRIYA will be performed on 19-02-2024 (Monday) at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sudesh Kumari - Wife Son & Daughter-in-law Rakesh Chib & Neetu Chib

Nitish Chib - Son Narinder Chib & Sujata Chib - Brother & Sister-in-law

Daughter & Son-in-law Varsha & Parveen Singh Mob. No.: 9419335577

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform the sad demise Mr Samir Ji Bhat S/o Late Vesh Nath Bhat originally resident of Hugam-Anantnag at present 42-A Lane No. 6 Vaski Vihar opp Vaski Nag Temple Bantalab Jammu on 14th Feb 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 23-Feb 2024 followed by Assembly at Home 11:00 AM.

Grief Stricken:

Jyoti Bhat (Wife) - 9596109709 Vishal Bhat, Vivek Bhat- Sons **Brothers and Bhabhis** Kamal Ji Bhat & Rita Bhat

Shuban Ji Bhat & Basanti Bhat Sisters and Brothers- in law Sharika Raina W/o Mohan Lal Raina Princy Reshi W/o Pintoo Jee Reshi



Sh. Mohan Singh Chib

Mr Samir Ji Bhat

S. Rajinderpal Singh

7006135572, 9419242828, 7051454144

IN LOVING MEMORY

In Loving memory of S. Rajinderpal Singh S/o Late S. Tirath Singh R/o (Banday Bagh, Budgam) At present Mohalla Guru Angad Dev Ji, Preet Nagar.

ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB on Friday 16/02/2024, 9:00 am BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB on Sunday

18/02/2024, 9:00 am KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDASS at Gurudwara Sahib Guru

Angad Dev Ji, Preet Nagar, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (Followed by Guru ka langar) GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sdn. Rani Kour (Wife)

S.Maninderpal Singh (Son)

Gagandeep Kaur & Davinder Singh (Daughter & Son In law) Harinderpal Singh & Parkash Kour (Brother & Bhabi) Parampal Kour & Tara Singh (Sister & Brother in law)



inform the sad demise of our beloved father Sh. Bansi Lal Pandita S/o Sh Late Neranjan Nath Pandita originally from Pampore Kashmir, presently residing at Lalleshwari 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)

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, ORIGINALY RESIDENT OF 91 KARAN NAGAR SRINAGAR PRESENTLLY RESI-SIDING 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



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 LATE SMT SITA DEVI

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

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 Dwara Malhotra Street, Jammu who left for her heavenly abode or 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, Shalama

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

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

Daily Katha Kirtan at the residence from 5.30 PM to 6.30 PM Arambh 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 Ardas & Kirtan on 19-2-24 from 10 AM to 12.30 PM at Gurudwara Bala Pritam Trikuta Nagar Jammu. Grief Stricken :

Sardarni Darshan Kour- Wife **Brothers & Bhabis** Sardar Raiinder 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 Rajwant Kour

Son & Daughter in law S. Hardeep Singh (Tinku) & Sardarni Jaspreet Kour

Jasbir Singh (Son) Sons in law & Daughters

S. Harvinder Singh & Sardarni Avnish Kour

S. Bhupinder Singh & Sardarni Taranjit Kour

Uncle & Aunt

S. Gurdev Singh (Retd XEN Mech) & Sardarni Swarnjit Kour Mob No. 9906376329

10TH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that

our revered grandmother Smt Parkasho Devi W/o Lt Sh Milkhi Ram R/o JMC 2797 opp Govt Qtrs 'G' Block Subash Nagar, Jammu. 10th Day will take place at Shiv Mandir, Vikas Nagar

on 16 Feb 2024 at 11.30 AM. Kriya and Uthala on 19th Feb 2024 at our residence at 3 PM.

Sons & Daughters in law Parvesh Chib & Veena Chib (7780980345)

Parshotam Chib & Chand Chib (9419189087) Krishan Chib & Sunita Chib (9419114263)

Daughter & Son in law Sudesh (Ji Rani) & Varinder Singh Grandson & Daughter in law Saujanya Chib & Vishaka Chib

Ankush Chib & Sapna Chib

Grand Son & Grand Daughter Shreya Chib, Samrat Chib & Mayra Chib

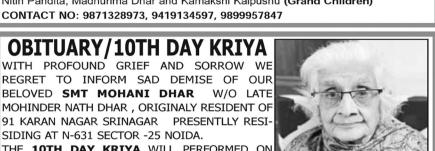
Smt Parkasho Devi





SH. BANSI LAL **PANDITA**

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



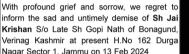
Smt Sushma Devi

S. Surinder Singh



SMT MOHANI DHAR





Nagar Sector 1, Jammu on 13 Feb 2024 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Akhno Ghat on 21st Feb(Wednesday), 2024. Assembly will be held at residence (H.No 162 Durga Nagar Sector 1 Jammu) at 11 am. Grief Stricken

Girja Ji (Wife) Susheela Ji (Pyari) (Bhabhi) Pushkar Nath Ji & Usha Ji (Brother & Bhabhi) Bushan Lal Ji & Shanti Devi (Brother & Bhabhi) Sandeep & Anuja (Son & Daughter-in-law) Virender & Sumita Trakroo (Son & Daughter-in-law)



Rohit (Son)

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that our revered mother

Smt. Phoola Kaloo W/o Lt. Sh. Hira Lal Kaloo R/o Badiyar Bala, Ganpatyar Srinagar at present H.No: 2, Lane No 2A, Adarsh Nagar, Bantalab Jammu le for her heavenly abode on 8-2-2024. 10TH DAY KRIYA will take place a Akhnoor Ghat on 17-2-2024 Additionally Public Assembly will b held at Muthi Ghat at 10:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Sheela Kaloo (Trakroo) (Daughter in law & Son) usum & Romesh Kaloo eeta & Sanjay Kaloo inku & Suresh Kaloo S<mark>on in Iaw & Daughter)</mark> Burinder Agha & Nimmi

Nancy Handoo (Mother)

Vinod Raina (Husband)

Anil Chaku & Swarn Satish Khoda & Pami Rajeev Gurkha & Archana Samast Tickoo, Trakroo, Saproo (Kalpushu) Koul, Bhat, Ogra, Zutshi, Goja & Dhar Parivaar. All Grand Children & Great Grand Children Mb. No: 9419877478, 9899035397, 9086013413

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief,it is to inform the demise o Raina Daughter in law of Late Smt. Mohini & Late Shri B L Raina R/o 15/11 Railway Road Nanak Nagar Jammu at present in flat N 8 - 504 Royal Nest Apartments, Techzone 4 Noid Extension UP attained Moksha on 08/02/2024. TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 17/02/2024 at Choti Ganga Nehar, Murad Naga Ghat at 9am. **ASSEMBLY** will be held at Clu House, Royal Nest Appartments at 11am CRIEF STRICKEN

/imarsh & Sugam (Son & Daughter in law) Vaibhav Raina (Son) Chand Raina & Purnima (Brother in law & Sister in law) Sunita Kaw & BL Kaw (Sister in law & Brother in law) Kamal & Yojna (Brother & Sister in law)

Sachu, Shivani, Gifty, Sahil, Aparna, Chinu, Joo, Manu, Mani, Sagar, Sunny

TENTH DAY KRIYA Vith profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved mot r **Smt. Sham Rani Dhar** W/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Dhar R/o 21 ane N.9, Shakti Nagar, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 8

RIEF STRICKEN aughters & Sons-in-lav

hana, Arpana, Anupama eetal, Akhil, Nikhil, Monika, Palakhohi & Parth





Sh Hem Raj Anand (19-07-1936 to 7-02-2024)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our belowed \$h Hem Raj Anand \$/o Late \$h Anant Ram Anand R/o House No. 23, Gali khilliona Pacca Daca, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 7-02-2024. Tenth Day will be performed on 17-02-2024 (Saturday) from 10 AM to 11 AM. Venue: \$Gurudwara opposite J&K Bank Jain Bazar, Jammu Kritya will be performed on 19-02-2024 (Monday) from 11 AM at hour residence.

Kriya will be performed on 19-02-2024 (Monday) from 4 PM 19-02-202

Janvi Verma
M/S NEW ANAND JEWELLERS JAIN BAZAR MOB- 7889881492
M/S SHREE KRISHNA JEWELLERS
MOB - 8492894062

10TH DAY KRIYA

10th Day Kriya of our beloved mother Smt. Jai Kishori Dhar W/o Lt. Shri Amarnath Dhar, Resident of Bagh Jogi Lanker, Rainawari, Kashmir (Originally from Vichar Nag, Kashmir) and presently residing at G-139, Sector-11, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, 201009, who was affection and love personified, embodiment of utmost humane nature and spiritual to the back bone; departed for heavenly abode on 11th February 2024 and left us totally griestricken. May Lord Vishnu Grant her eternal peace.
The 10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Tuesday, 20th February 2024 at Gang Nahar (Chhota Haridwar) Murad Nagar at 08:30 AM. Assembly at home G-139, Sector-11, Pratap Vihar - 11:00 AM onwards.
Deeply Remembered By:
Lal Ji Dhar, Satish Dhar and Kuldeep Dhar - Sons
Rundan Dhar, Bita Saproo and Babil Badam - Daughters
Ravinder Saproo - Son-In-Law
Rahasya Kaul, Piyush Saproo, Amrit Badam and Vrashank Dhar -Grand Sons
Pregiya Dhar, Karunashree Saproo and Triya Dhar - Grand Daughters
Ajit Sukanth - Grand Son-In-Law
Paras Bakshi Saproo and Aditi Badam - Grand Daughters-In-Law
Shiven, Abeer and Myra - Grand Grand Children
Contact No. 8810448579. 9810586193, 8860213684, 7303128520



Shiven, Abeer and Myra - Grand Grand Children Contact No. 9810448520, 9810596193, 8860213684, 7303128520

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Judo Championship held at Jammu North Assembly Segment



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: The Judo Championship, a highly anticipated and prestigious event, took place at the Jammu North Assembly Segment with great enthusiasm and participation from talented judo athletes.

Uday Chib, National General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress, graced the occasion as the chief guest, adding to the event's prestige and excitement. Among the distinguished guests

were Ranjodh Singh, Chairman of the Sports Cell JKPYC, Vikas Gupta, Vice President of the J&K Judo Association, Suraj Sharma, General Secretary of the J&K Judo Association, Suraj Bhan Singh, Chief Judo Coach, Rameshwar Singh Jamwal, Chief Coach of Shastri Judo Club, Avinash Sharma, Judo Coach, and Lakhan, Treasurer of the J&K Judo Association.

Their presence added immense value to the event, highlighting the significance of judo in the

region and their commitment to its growth. The event witnessed the presence of officials Manya Chib, Palak Sharma, Sana Sharma, Priya Sharma, and Sana, who played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the championship.

The State Championship Judo not only showcased the exceptional talent of judo athletes but also promoted the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie. The enthusiasm displayed by the participants, along with the support of esteemed guests and officials, made the event a memorable and successful one.

Speaking on the occasion, Uday Chib congratulated the participants for their remarkable performances and praised their dedication and hard work towards the sport. He motivated the participants and showcased the support of the Indian Youth Congress towards the development of sports.

He also extended heartfelt congratulations to all the participants for their outstanding performances and dedication towards the sport. He expressed gratitude to all the guests and officials for their valuable contributions to the State Championship Judo. Their dedication and passion for the sport have undoubtedly contributed to the overall growth and development of judo in the region, he added.

SSP Jammu inaugurates free Health Checkup Camp at DPO



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: Samvedna Society Jammu organises 80th Free Heart check up camp at District Police Office Jammu, The camp was organised by Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra and was inaugurated by Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu Vinod

The Camp was also attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Kulbir Handa and Deputy Superintendent of Police Hqrs Jammu Ashok Kumar.

A medical team of

experts, including a Cardiologist & Physician from Medanta Hospital Gurgaon examined the Police Personnel of DPO Jammu, PFT (Pulmonary Function Test), ECG, Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and other tests were also done.

The motive of the camp was to provide the best health care services to the Police Personnel who are always busy in performing their duties Samvedna Organises this Health camp at their doorstep, More than 102 Police Personnel were examined by Cardiologists and Physicians.

Speaking on the occasion SSP Jammu Vinod Kumar IPS highlighted the importance of routine health check-ups and praised the society's initiative to provide voluntary services to the Police Personnel at their doorstep.

Speaking on the Occasion Keshav Chopra said that Samvedna Society is committed to Provide Best Health care Facilities to all and assured that he along with his team will continue conduct free medical camps in the future also..

Dr Arvind Sharma (Physician), Dr Shantanu (Cardiologist),Sandeep Singh Jamwal (Assistant Manager Marketing), Manshu Skolia, Saniya Sharma, Muneet, Riya, Pearl, Romeel, Nand Kishore,, Ikhlaq, Gazanfar, Azhar, Shameem, Gupta, Manoi, Divvansh and Others were also present.

Shri Guru Ravi Dass S.S. Trust to hold Shobha Yatra on Feb 18

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: A grand Shobha Yatra will be organised by Shri Guru Ravi Dass S S Trust/ Society J&K on February 18, 2024 (Sunday) under the aegis of Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri ji Maharaj.

The Shobha Yatra will start from Bari Brahmana at 11.00 AM and will culminate at Sukhsagar Bhawan, Sikanderpur Kothey Jammu via Bishnah

While addressing the media persons, CL Bansal (Retd IGP), Chairman Shri Guru Ravi Dass SS Trust appealed to Sangat to participate in the 'Shobha Yatra' alongwith colourful Jhankies and advised to Sewadars to maintain discipline during Shobha Yatra

The stalls of eatables, water etc will be arranged by different sabha's/sangat on the route of Shobha Yatra, he said adding that beautiful welcome gates will be established/prepared by different sabha's on the way of yatra.

He also informed that whosoever wants to prepare welcome gate, stalls of eatables or for any other information can contact mob nos:- 9419000438, 9419104480 and

9797433003.
The students of different schools are also participating in the Shobha Yatra and refreshment will be given to students and sangat under the supervision of SGRD Society/

Sabha Bari Brahamana at Bari Brahamana.

It is worthwhile to mention here that renowned Singer Priya Banga is also participating in the Shobha Yatra and she will sing bhajans giving message of Amritvani of Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj.

Guru ka Langar will be served to amang sangat and Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri ji Maharaj will deliver spiritual sermons, he said.

Er Ramesh Bhasin, Chairman Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Bishnah, Sham Lal Kundal, President Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha R S Pura, Dr. Devi Dass, General Secretary Shri Guru Ravi Dass S. S. Trust Sikanderpur, M L Banalia General Secretary Shri Guru Ravi Dass Satsang Society(J&K), Er Natha Ram Vice Chairman Shri Guru Ravi Dass S S Trust

Sikanderpur appealed to sangat to participate in the Shobha Yatra and during Sant Sammelan to be organised by Shri Guru Ravi Dass S. S Trust on 10th March(Sunday) 2024 at Sukhsagar Bhawan, Sikanderpur Kothey, Jammu, Those who participated/

addressed press conference included Kesar Singh, Er Joginder Pal, Er Surinder Devgowda, Er Baldev Chadgal, Parshotam Thapa, Capt Manohar Lal, Sham Lal Basson, Ramesh Bali, Devi Dass (Nitu) Mohan Lal, Bodh Raj Banalia, K. L. Thapa and others.

Shiv Sena resolves to become voice of players, medal winners waiting for jobs for a decade

Appeal PM to distribute appointment letters to medal winners



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (UBT) has resolved to raise its voice for the betterment of sports and sportspersons, terming the current sports policy as mere lip service.

In a press conference held today at the Press Club, Jammu, State Chief Manish Sahni said that under 'Khelo India' and 'Center of Excellence', exaggerated claims are being made for the betterment of sports and players in Jammu and Kashmir, proved to be hollow at the grassroots level.

The reality is that we do not have as many participants in interstate sports competitions as medal winners from other states.

Sahni said that under 'Khelo India', the figures are only being compensated by marking sports grounds in remote areas and in deserted fields.

Whereas there is nothing in the name of facilities including trainers.

The main MA Stadium in Jammu and Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar are also facing severe shortage of sports facilities as well as trainers.

At the same time, medal winners in sports at national and international level are becoming victims of neglect regarding government jobs. With the claims of betterment of the players, in 2021, SRO 349 (under which there was a provision to give government jobs to 25 players every year) was amended to SO 12, under which there was a provision to appoint players on five gazetted and 25 non-gazetted posts every year. But for the last 10 years, Champion has been growing older waiting to

get a job.
Sahni said that 'Sports
Cell' has been formed
by Shiv Sena with the

resolve to improve sports and become the voice of players.

Under which players and parents can give complaints and suggestions related to sports by calling 9419182952, WhatsApp or emailing "shivsenasahni@gmail. com" or give information to the party office.

We assure every possible effort to raise these issues before the Sports Department and higher administrative officials and find a solution.

Sahni also assured

that the names of the complainants will be kept secret. Sahni said that Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to address the rally at MA Stadium in Jammu on 20th February. It is expected that the Prime Minister will take care of sports, end the wait for champions and distribute appointment letters.

On this occasion president Mahila wing Meenakshi Chhibber , Vice president Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh were present.

Shaikshik Mahasangh J&K calls on Director School Education Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: A delegation of Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh J&K led by Rattan Sharma (State President) and Gulshan Raina (State Gen.Secretary) called on by Director School Education Jammu to discuss some important issues pertaining to the teaching fraternity.

ABRSM J&K demanded conduct of DPC of Teacher's to Masters and Master's to Lecturers as soon as possible and shows concern over delay in release of promotion list. As the Teacher's are anguished over delay in DPC of Teacher's to Master's pending since 2014.

The delegation members also discussed about ATD-2024 which has not yet started by the concerned department. The delegation members emphasize for transfer of Teacher's under ATD-2024. ABRSM also urged for regularisation of In-Charge Teacher's pending since 2018.

The delegation members also discussed some



to RET Teacher's such as Transfer policy in favor of RET Teacher's, Conversion of Grade-III Teacher's to Grade-III na time bound manner as the files are still pending at the Directorate level, RET'S who are still working on Supernumerary posts and has not converted to Substantive posts is still pending in Jammu division except district Poonch which has already allotted Substantive posts to RET'S.

Moreover an important issue of mutual transfer of Female Teacher's on marriage and medical grounds was also discussed with the worthy Director sir.

JAMMUMUNICIPAL CORPORATION

patient hearing to the delegation members worthy Director sir assured the members that DPC of Teacher's to Masters is on the cards and the list will be out in couple of days.

He also apprised the

He also apprised the members that all other issues will be addressed one by one.

The other members of delegation are Sanjeev Dutta (State Secretary), Rahul (State Seh-Media Prabhari), Rakesh (State Executive member), Pawan (President District Jammu), Ved (Gen.Secretary District Jammu), Amit, Puran Chand, Vijay and Raj Kumar.

ABVP urges reinstatement of waiting list criteria in JKPSC & JKSSB selection

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Jammu Kashmir, advocated for fairness, transparency, and inclusivity in the selection processes conducted by the Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Jammu Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB).

Recently, there has been a significant concern regarding the removal of the waiting list criteria from these selection processes.

APVR Jammy Kashmir firmly

ABVP Jammu Kashmir firmly believes that reinstating the waiting list criteria is imperative to ensure equal opportunities for all deserving candidates and to uphold the principles of justice and meritocracy.

The waiting list system has long been a standard practice in recruitment processes, providing a backup pool of qualified candidates in case vacancies arise or selected candidates decline offers. It acts as a safety net, ensuring that vacancies are filled efficiently without the need for conducting new recruitment processes.

However, the decision to abolish this crucial aspect from the selection processes conducted by JKPSC and JKSSB has raised serious apprehensions among aspirants and stakehold-



Secretary Akshi Billowria said that it is the potential for vacancies to go unfilled due to the absence of a waiting list. In dynamic environments where unforeseen. circumstances such as candidate withdrawals or administrative changes can occur, having a waiting list becomes essential to prevent delays in the recruitment process. Without it, there is a risk of prolonging the process unnecessarily, causing inconvenience to both recruiters and candidates.

Furthermore, the removal of the waiting list can also result in missed opportunities for deserving candidates who narrowly missed the initial selection

cutoff.

These candidates, despite meeting the requisite qualifications and clearing the selec-

tion criteria, may lose out on employment prospects simply because there is no provision for their inclusion in case of vacancies. This not only undermines the efforts of aspirants but also diminishes the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire selection process

She emphasized the importance of meritocracy in public service recruitment. Reinstating the waiting list criteria aligns with this principle by ensuring that candidates are selected based on their qualifications, skills, and performance in the selection process. It fosters a competitive yet fair environment where individuals are judged solely on their merits, regardless of external factors.

Moreover, the waiting list serves as a mechanism to promote diversity and representation within government organi-

zations. By maintaining a pool of qualified candidates from diverse backgrounds, it enhances the chances of appointing individuals from underrepresented groups, thereby fostering inclusivity and equity in the workforce. This is particularly crucial in a region as diverse as Jammu Kashmir, where ensuring equal opportunities for all is paramount for social cohesion and development.

In light of these considerations, ABVP Jammu Kashmir called upon the authorities responsible for overseeing the recruitment processes at JKPSC and JKSSB to reconsider their decision and reinstate the waiting list criteria. This step is not only essential for safeguarding the interests of aspiring candidates but also for upholding the integrity and credibility of the recruitment processes.

ABVP Jammu Kashmir remains committed to advocating for reforms that promote transparency, fairness, and equal opportunities in public service recruitment, and urged all stakeholders to prioritize the reinstatement of the waiting list criteria for the greater benefit of the society.

In this press conference State Joint Secretary Sanak Shrivats, NEC Member Chahat Anand and Jammu Mahanagar Secretary Arman Khajuria were also present.

ExecutiveEngineer,JMCDivision-III,Jammu <u>e-NITNo.JMC/D-III/143 of 2023-24</u> Dated:05.02.2024

Dated:05.02.2024
Email: sen_jmcdivision3@gmail.com

For and on behalf of The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, the Executive Engineer, Division-III, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) invites online tenders **On Percentage basis** from registered class of Contractors/Firms as per the prescribed format for the works shown here under:-

S.No	Name of work	Advertised Amount (In lacs.)	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	EMD 2 % (In Rs.)	Class of Contract or	Time for Completi on	
143D01	Construction of lane at lane no. 05 Adarsh Nagar near Kumar Complex Barnai Road in Ward No. 63	3.28	600	6565	A , B,C & D	60 DAYS.	

MH: GIA (2023-24)
Position of AA:Accorded
Position of TS:Sanctioned

The Complete bidding process will be online.

The bids shall be uploaded in electronic format on the website http://jktenders.gov.inupto

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Critical Dates:

Bid submission Start Date.

13.02.2024

Bid Submission End Date.

04.03.2024 upto. 1400 Hrs.

Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)

05.03.2024 on or after 1400 Hrs.

To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- 3. Other details and terms/Conditions contained in the NIT can be downloaded from the site www.jktenders.gov.in
- A. Documents required to be uploaded online for Technical Bid:
- 1. Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Division-III. JMC. JAMMU.
- 2. Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to ExecutiveEngineer,Division-III, JMC, JAMMU/ tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html
- 3. Contractor Registration Card Duly Verified/Online Registered by the concerned issuing Authority and
- renewed upto 31-03-2024(Along with Proof)
 4. Scanned Copy of GST Card and Latest GST Return of preceding month/Quarter.
- 4. Scanned Copy of GS1 Card and Latest GS1 Return of preceded to the Scanned Copy of duly filled Annexure "A""B"& "C"
- Scanned Copy of PAN Card.
 Income Tax Return Last Two Years. Sd/-

No: JMC/D-III/6268-75 DIP/J-5353-P/23

Executive Engineer

JMC Division III

Jammu

Dt:-05-02-2024

EDITORIAL

FARMERS STRIKE

armers are the backbone of our society. It is the farmers who provide us with all the food that we eat and stay healthy. If you look at it, the entire population of the country is dependent on farmers. Be it the smallest country or the largest country. It is because of them that we are able to live on earth, live a healthy life and feed ourselves. Thus, farmers are considered to be one of the most important people in this world i.e. the backbone of our livelihood.

It is the farmers who provide us food to eat. There are different types of farmers and they all have equal importance.

First of all, there are those farmers who grow crops like wheat, barley, rice etc. Since wheat and rice are consumed the most in Indian homes. So, wheat and rice are cultivated more in agriculture. Apart from this, the farmers who grow these crops are of prime importance.

Second come the farmers who cultivate fruits. These farmers have to prepare soil for different types of fruits. Because these fruits grow according to the season. Therefore, farmers should have good knowledge about fruits and crops.

Along with this, there are many other farmers who do other types of farming. Apart from this, all those farmers have to work very hard for maximum harvest and their own livelihood.

The situation of farmers in India is very serious. Apart from this, farmers have always been living a difficult life. The problem is that they are not being paid adequately along with adequate resources. Apart from this, farmers do not even have money to send their children to school. Sometimes the situation becomes so bad that they are not even able to get proper food.

Apart from this, the second reason for the worst condition of the farmers is global warming. As global warming is affecting our planet in every way, it also affects our farmers. The season is getting delayed due to global warming. Since different crops have their own ripening season, they are not getting nutrition. Crops require proper sunlight and rain to grow. Therefore if the crop is not available then they get destroyed. This is one of the main reasons why farms are being destroyed. Due to this, farmers are committing suicide.

To save the farmers, our government is trying to provide them various privileges. Recently the government has exempted them from all loans. Apart from this, the government also pays them an annual pension of Rs 6000. This helps them to earn at least a few rupees for living in addition to their work.

Apart from this, the government provides quota (reservation) to the children of farmers. This ensures that their children get proper education. In today's world all children should get proper education. So that they get a chance to live a better life.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN) is a central sector scheme that provides income support to families of landholding farmers in India. This scheme has been designed to help the condition of the farmers and their good livelihood and this scheme helps the farmers to fulfill their needs. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi provides financial assistance to the farmers to meet their allied activities and household needs.

The families of all the farmers who have cultivable land are given financial assistance under this scheme by the government every year. An amount of Rs 6000 is provided to them as assistance.

Under this scheme, 100!^ funding is provided to the farmers by the Government of India. Its objective is to ensure proper harvest, good health and reasonable yield as well as to meet the needs of farmers economically.

India@2024: A portrait of power and fragility

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

t a time when the ruling BJP spares no effort in telling us why Bharat matters, heavy security has been deployed to stop thousands of farmers of the same Bharat from entering the nation's capital to renew their demands for assured crop prices. It is equally ironic that at a time when India's global clout is rising, and when its political messaging pivots around power, both within and outside the country, there are visible markers of fragility.

The protesting farmers, who began their march from Haryana and Punjab, are asking for a guaranteed minimum support price for all crops. Till date, there are no signs that they will give up their "Delhi Chalo".

We have been down this road before. Back in 2021, protesting farmers camped on the capital's outskirts for more than a year. Then, as now, the government responded in a by-now familiar way.

The government's response to "Delhi Chalo 2.0" exudes might and fragility. How else do you describe suspension of the Internet in several districts in Haryana, barriers of barbed wire, spikes, and cement blocks at Delhi's borders to deter tractors from pushing through. And teargas. The Delhi police, which is under the control of the Union home ministry, has sealed multiple entry points into the city.

At the time of writing, the national capital is under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). The entry of tractor trolleys into the city is not allowed. Ditto with large gatherings. The old CrPC still prevails because the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, the new law that is meant to replace it, is not yet in effect. We

are told this is a precautionary measure in response to the farmers' Delhi Chalo march.

This sense of siege goes beyond the capital 's territorial boundaries. Sauntering around Delhi's Lodhi Estate earlier this week, past the India International Centre, where Delhi's well-connected gather, I chanced upon a posse of policemen, barbed wire, and bright, yellow metal barricades. Clearly, some of these had been used during the G-20 summit in New Delhi last September. Stickers with the words "One Earth, One Family, One Future" remained.

This time, in a first, the Haryana government airdropped teargas shells on the protesters via drones, news reports say.

In the ongoing battle of optics, however, there can be unexpected twists. On Basant Panchami, visuals emerging from the Shambu border point between Punjab and Haryana showed the protesting farmers flying kites to restrict the teargas firing zone of the drones. This unorthodox strategy involves using the long strings of kites to entangle the rotors of the drones, potentially causing them to crash. Meanwhile, Punjab authorities have raised objections to Haryana's use of drones at the Shambhu border.

The obvious question: why should a democratically elected government with a hugely popular leader and a huge mandate, and which expects to return to power with a thumping majority very soon, resort to such a panoply of strategies to deal with its own citizens?

India is a complex country. No one ever said it is easy to deal with competing interest groups in a hugely diverse country of 1.4 billion people. But surely the point of a popular mandate is to be able to negotiate effectively with divergent interest groups without having to manifest or exercise brute power.

Protesting farmers are not unique to India. Farmers across Europe are up in arms. Friends in Europe tell me that the Internet has never been suspended anywhere to quell the protests.

Now, a petition has been filed in the Punjab and Haryana high court challenging the "obstructive actions" of the Central and state governments, including sealing of border between Haryana and Punjab to "prevent the farmers from exercising their constitutional right to assembly and protest peacefully", reports LiveLaw, a legal portal. The plea also questions the suspension of mobile Internet services and bulk SMS in several districts of Haryana, including Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa, stating that it "further exacerbates the situation, depriving the citizens of their right to information and communication".

Haryana is not the only place where the Internet is shut down. Remember Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir? It is part of a broader picture. Despite India's rising global stature, it features in the list of governments that use Internet shutdowns to deal with protests and political challenges. Eight governments in Asia imposed 55 Internet shutdowns in 2023, with most of them recorded in Iran and India, according to an analysis by Surfshark, a cybersecurity company focused on developing humanised privacy and security solutions. India imposed 11 Internet restrictions in 2023, of which eight were in relation to anti-government protests, according to the Surfshark report. This includes the ongoing mobile data service suspension in parts of Manipur, the analysis notes. Interestingly, neighbouring Pakistan also deals with political tensions by shutting down the Internet.

Internet shutdowns impact businesses, livelihoods, education, and healthcare for huge numbers of people. Between 2019 and 2021, the Internet was shut down in India for 14,280 hours and cost the national economy about \$4.7 billion, says Leaflet, a legal portal.

"Internet shutdowns were declared a violation of the freedom of expression in Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India by the Supreme Court of India," pointed out an October 2023 report by Software Freedom Law Center titled "A Trend of Long Internet Shutdowns in India, The Manipur Crisis".

Significantly, both Central and state governments in India have resorted to suspension of the Internet. From 2016 to 2022, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana have had the most Internet outages across India.

Another strategy increasingly used in India and part of the BJP's political messaging is what has come to be known as "bulldozer justice". It is intended to be a deterrent.

In several states, homes of people alleged to be rioters, many of whom are Muslims, have been bulldozed, citing provisions of local municipality laws terming such buildings as illegal encroachments.

Many have pointed out that adopting "bulldozer justice" is tantamount to giving up on the rule of law.

Once again, what is the message we want to send out? Is it one of a country which always follows the due process of law as mandated by the Constitution of India or is it one which resorts to extra-judicial methods? And what then?

No one knows how the ongoing farmers' protests will pan out. No one can predict the future with certainty. The bottom line -- in the battle of images, barbed wire, barricades and bulldozers -- reflects a deeply divided country. Persisting with dialogue is the only way out.

MALE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

By: NANCY SHARMA

Tomen's violence towards males is a widespread, less talked issue become a common problem today. Here, the men's perspectives regarding "False Domestic Violence And section 498A (Indian Penal Code/ Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita) Cases are explored. Any act that harms someone physically, psychologically, or emotionally is considered as violence. Domestic violence/violence is a sensitive issue that affects all. Females being the vulnerable and subjugated sex since time immemorial have been victims of abuse at their domestic circle and hence have been given special legal protections. The prevalence of these was meant to empower females but the statistics since past nearly two decades reveal rising misuse of these laws as swords against men for ulterior motives.

Domestic violence is any use of physical or sexual force, threatened in an intimate or domicile relationship. It may include a single act of violence; or a number of acts forming a pattern of abuse through the use of assaultive and controlling behavior. It is an intentional behavior. The

purpose of domestic violence is to establish and exert power and control over another. Anyone can be a victim and a survivor of domestic abuse. Men can also be a victim of domestic violence; thus, it does not just affect women only. Males or young men who are in close relationships with other people, such as marriage, cohabitation, dating, or within a family, may endure abusive conduct at home against them. Men welfare Trust(WMT) an integral part of Save Indian Family Movement, is a group that promotes men's rights. The foundation has started working to protect males from domestic abuse and has submitted a bill to the parliament for consideration. People find it difficult to accept that males can too experience domestic abuse on par with women in a country like India, where men have dominated society for millennia. Therefore, there might be a reason why domestic abuse of men is not recognized by Indian law. Contrary to popular assumption, more males are, in fact being physically and psychologically assaulted by women. The Indian Penal Code of 1860, Section 498A, explains that a man can only be held liable for engaging in violence against his wife; there is no provision in the entire Act that makes the women responsible for the same. As a result, there are no laws that protect men from intimate partner violence. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005 also declares in Section-3 that it solely shields women from such violence. No provision of the Act safeguards men against such violence. The existence of such a legislation creates the presumption that males are always guilty and women are always innocent. In addition to the legislation, there are additional factors that could prevent such situations from being reported. These factors include the stereotype that men are tough and don't weep easily, the possibility of discomfort for them and their families if they seek legal counsel, and a long list of others.

The Indian Constitution's Articles 14 and 15 safeguard citizens' fundamental rights to equality and forbid discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, caste, or place of birth. According to the Indian Constitution, every citizen has the right to life and liberty. Therefore, it is essential to amend the current legislation as needed. Further-

more, it is crucial to enact gender-neutral legislation so that wrongdoers can be held accountable and victims can receive care regardless of their gender. Therefore, gender-neutral laws must be applied and sexist legislation must not be passed in order to prevent and reduce domestic violence in this area. Domestic violence involves the routine application of several strategies, such as intimidation, threats, financial hardship, exclusion, and psychological and sexual assault. In our society, stigmatizing men by making them appear frail and feminine, which goes against stereotypes, is one of the most common reasons why atrocities against men frequently go unreported. Men frequently worry that violence will cause them needless annoyance because of manufactured cases. It is therefore preferable to avoid legal repercussions brought on by sex-specific laws in our country, whereas the general public also contributes significantly to upholding laws that favor one sex over the other.

(E-MAIL: knss2327@ gmail.com)

the national agenda of

self-reliance, contribut-

ing to the empowerment

of women in the indus-

try. By embracing and

embodying the spirit

of these initiatives, she

aspires to play a pivotal

role in fostering inno-

vation, resilience, and

women's empowerment

within the sericulture

sector.Dr. Bukhari's

dedication not only

extends to artistic excel-

lence but also to becom-

ing a catalyst for posi-

tive change, echoing the

transformative vision of

Prime Minister Narinder

Modi's initiatives on a

gratitude, Dr. Bukhari

thanked Director

Poonch Campus Prof.

national scale.

Expressing

Dr. Rubia Bukhari garners International **Acclaim for Cocoon Artistry**

Top News Report

BADHARWAH, Feb 16: Dr. Rubia Bukhari, earns International recognition for Cocoon Artistry.

Dr. Rubia Bukhari, lecturer in the Department of Sericulture at Poonch Campus, University of Jammu, has brought honor to the University of Jammu by showcasing her remarkable Cocoon Artistry at the recently concluded International Conference of the "Essential Oil Association of India" in Chennai.

Dr. Bukhari's innovative Cocoon Artistry initiative has not only captivated the audience but has also been hailed as a significant contribution to the field. Her expertise in sericulture has propelled her work to the forefront, turning heads at the prestigious international event.

With a passion for cocoon artistry, she is committed to reshap-



ing the landscape of sericulture practices and contributing to the "White Revolution" in the industry.

The momentous presentation of Dr. Rubia Bukhari's Cocoon Artistry at the conference underscores her commitment to advancing sericulture practices and exploring new frontiers in the field. The intricacy and creativity displayed in her work have positioned her as a trailblazer in the "White Revolution."

Dr. Bukhari expressed her gratitude for the platform provided by the Essential Oil Association of India, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts to revolutionize sericulture practices.

The initiative by Dr. Rubia Bukhari is not just a local triumph but a tale of "White Revolution" echoing from Poonch to Kanyakumari. Her dedication to advancing the artistry of sericulture promises to inspire a new wave of innovation in the industry.

In addition to her exemplary contributions to sericulture, Dr. Rubia Bukhari expresses her ardent desire to serve as an ambassador for Prime Minister Narinder Modi's "Atmnirbhar Bhaarat" and "narishakti" initiatives.

Dr. Bukhari envisions aligning her passion for cocoon artistry with

Rakesh Vaid for his unwavering support and guidance, which played a pivotal role in her jour-

She emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in revolutionizing sericulture practices and acknowledged the platform provided by the Essential Oil Association of India.

Dr. Rubia Bukhari extends her heartfelt gratitude to Touqeer Bagban, MD of JK Aroma and Essential Oil, for providing a global platform to showcase her groundbreaking Cocoon Artistry. The opportunity to present her work at an International level is a testament to the support and encouragement she has received from Mr. Bagban and his esteemed organization.

Dr. Bukhari acknowledges this collaboration as a significant step forward in promoting innovation and excellence in the field of Sericulture.

Rich Harvest School's student qualifies JEE Mains



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: Rich Harvest School is proud to announce that Amay Sharma, a diligent and talented student, has successfully qualified the Joint **Entrance Examination** (JEE) Mains, by securing 2nd rank all over Jammu and Kashmir with 99.92 percentile.

Amay Sharma's remarkable performance in the JEE Mains is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and exceptional academic abilities. This achievement not only reflects his personal commitment to excellence but also underscores the high-quality education and supportive environ-

ment provided by Rich

Harvest School.

The JEE Mains is known for its rigorous testing of student's knowledge in physics, chemistry and mathematics and qualifying this examination opens up a plethora of opportunities for higher education in top engineerIndia.

Amay Sharma's success is a source of pride and inspiration for our entire school community.

It exemplifies our commitment to nurturing talent, fostering academic excellence, and preparing our students for success in their future endeavors.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Amay Sharma on his outstanding achievement and wish him continued success in his academic journey.

GDCW Kathua's NSS Unit Hosts 7-Day Winter Camp

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 16: The NSS unit of Government Degree College for Women, Kathua, organized a 7-day special Winter Camp from 16th to 22nd February 2023, under the patronage of Dr. Inderjeet Kour, Incharge Principal of the college.

The inaugural session took place in the college Multipurpose Hall (MPH) with the presence of 35 volunteers and faculty members. Senior Faculty member, Dr. Ashwani Khajuria, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Dr. Rachna delivered an orientation lecture, shedding light on the National Service Scheme and its pivotal role in society.NSS Volunteer Prakriti started the program and Kash-



ish presented the plan of the activities to be done in the coming 7

days. The inaugural session featured the NSS song and two cultural activities performed by enthusiastic volunteers. Following the ceremony, a cleanliness drive was organized on the campus, with active participation from volunteers and other students of the college.

The entire Winter Camp was conducted

under the efficient supervision of Dr. Ritu Kumar Sharma, NSS Program Officer of GDCW Kathua. Key committee members, including Dr. Surbhi Gupta and Dr. Kamini Kapoor, along with faculty members Dr. Sachinjeet Singh, Dr. Mukesh Kumari, Dr. Ajay Sanotra Dr. Satish khajuria and Dr. Sonika Jasrotia, were also present, making the event a resounding suc-

GDC Billawar organizes awareness rally on Road Safety

Top News Report

BILLAWAR, Feb 16: GDC Billawar Organized Awareness Rally on Road Safety in the locality regarding traffic rules under the patronage of Dr. Alka Sharma, Principal of the college. Many NCC, NSS Volunteers and Road Safety Club participated in this rally with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The rally was flagged off by Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma



(Head, Deptt. of Physics) and Prof. Naresh Sharma. The message of the rally was conveyed with the help of recitation of Slogans by more than 50 students and volunteers besides urging the people to follow traffic rules to avoid mishappening on the road.

They focused on the fact that safety on road is equivalent to a long life. The rally was meticulously supervised and managed by Road Safety Club (Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Convenor, Prof. Kanchan Mala and Prof. Sunita Devi), NCC Officer (Akshay Sharma) and NSS PO (Prof. Bansi Lal).

GDC Udhampur commemorates Martyrs of Pulwama Attack

ing institutions across



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 16: NCC Wing of GDC Udhampur including 30 SW Cadets of 2 J&K Girls Battalion and 40 SD Cadets of 2 J&K Boys Battalion, under the guidance of worthy principal, Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, paid floral tribute to the Martyrs of Pulwama

attack. The cadets lighted the candles in the memory of brave hearts

A two-minute silence was also observed in the memory of those who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

While addressing the NCC Cadets and

the occasion, the principal urged the cadets that in order to build a strong and prosperous nation, we need to be altruistic and patriotic in our duties towards our country. He stressed that the supreme sacrifices made by our brave hearts should not go in vain.

others presented on

to carry forward the dream and vision of our martyrs, every Indian, especially our youth, must have to imbibe and inculcate the spirit of selflessness and altruism in their characters.

Therefore, in order

He also motivated and encouraged the NCC cadets to join the Armed Forces and

serve the nation to the best of their ability. In his concluding remarks, the worthy principal appreciated, as well as encouraged both the ANOs to carry on the tradition of remembering our martyrs so that the spark of nationalism and patriotism always keep guiding the spirit of the cadets.

Other than cadets, senior faculty members Dr. Sukh Chain Singh and Dr. Jagjeet Singh were also present on the occasion.

The whole event was coordinated by Prof. (Captain) Shivani Sharma (ANO Girls Wing) and Prof. Vijay Kumar (ANO Boys Wing).

AGM FCI, J&K reaches Doda, highlights Central Government schemes for people's welfare

Top News Report

DODA, Feb 16:- Satyaprakash. Assistant General Manager FCI RO Jammu. Sanjeev Kumar Atri, Manager Quality Control, FCI RO Jammu Manager Depot, FCI Doda visit Doda and held press conference. He said that the Food

Corporation of India (FCI), J&K region, implements Central Government schemes for people's welfare. This includes Pradhanv Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), Mid-Day Meal (MDM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), National Food Security Act (NFSA), and Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)

FCI procures wheat, rice, and paddy at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Foodgrains adhere to uniform specifications and are stored in FCI godowns under quality control. They are provid-



for the Public Distribution System (PDS) to ensure national food security. Presently, FCI maintains a buffer stock of 279.64 lakh metric tonnes (LT) of wheat, 330.24 LT of regular rice, and 94.41 LT of fortified rice. Aligned with Prime Minister NarendraModi's vision of "AatmNirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India), FCI strives for self-sufficiency in foodgrains. Fortified rice (FRK) will replace normal rice in all schemes by 2024, as

Minister.

Satyaprakash added that the government is committed to caring for vulnerable sections of society and enhancing infrastructure for nationwide food security. Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, FCI distributed 324 LT of rice and 455 LT of wheat under PMGKAY. Additionally, 6.68 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of FRK rice were distributed under NFSA, MDM, and other welfare schemes in 2021-22 and 2022-23 to combat

To prevent reuse of

raw rice, FCI implements age testing using the Mixed Indicator Method (MIM). IT infrastructure improvements include the Depot Online System (DOS), Financial Accounting Package (FAP), and Bill Tracking System (BTS). FCI facilitates Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to farmers through an online procurement portal. Depots have CCTV surveillance and live web streaming for public access.

FCI J&K region covers Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. It operates 31 depots, 26 in J&K and 5 in Ladakh, serving the food requirements of the public. Storage capacity is approximately 2.54 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), with a current stock of around 1.92 LMT. Monthly stock requirement, including PMGKAY, is approximately 95,000 metric tonnes. Moreover, FCI announces the sale of wheat and rice through the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) for 2023.

The sale of wheat and rice through OMSS (D) presents an opportunity for various stakeholders, including traders, wholesalers, and retailers, to procure grains directly from FCI. Under OMSS(D), J&K Region has floated the 1,89,700 MT of Wheat out of which 1,81,190 MT has been allotted and in respect of Rice 1,21,400 MT has been floated out of which 4864 MT has been allotted.

Principal GDC Kathua felicitates winners of Intercollege Football Tournament



Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 16: Principal GDC Kathua Prof. Seema Mir today felicitated the winners teams of Jammu University Football (M&W) Inter-college organized by Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, University of Jammu.

The felicitation ceremony was organized by the Department of Physical Education and Sports, GDC Kathua.

The Football (M&W) Team of GDC Kathua defeated the Football team of ASCOMS in

straight set of matches by the lead of 1 points penalty shoot out. Previously, Football (M&W) teams got the BYE and fought for the second match and entered the quarter Finals with Govt. Degree College Samba, where GDC Kathua boys out played GDC Samba by 10 points and Entered to Semi Final with Govt. Degree College Udhampur. Gdc Kathua played well but, lost to

In the last GDC Kathua played a crucial match for third Position with

Final by 02 points.

GDC Udhampur in Semi

GDC Bhaderwah and won by one minute lead. GDC Kathua women Football Team secured third position in the battle of 04 teams from all the affiliated colleges of Jammu University.

The team lead by Dr Pinky Sharma, Department of Physical Education & Sports, GDC Kathua, whereas GDC Kathua Men tean snatched first position by defeating ASCOMS.

The men team was lead by Prof. Ashok Kumar from Department of BCA. The Principal of the college applauded the students of Football (M&W) teams for this marvelous win in the University level tournament.

She also congratulated the Physical Directors for the miraculous achievement of the students of the college.

As renowned singer Sukhwinder Singh gears up for a concert in City Beautiful, he says he always tries to reinvent himself with each song

Catching singer Sukhwinder Singh live is a vibe! The Jai Ho singer lands in Chandigarh on Thursday to promote his first ticketed concert to be held in the city. Sukhwinder talks about his journey, love for food and the City Beautiful. In a mood to sing too, Sukhwinder croons a few of his fan-favourite melodies and charms everyone with fun stories from his life.

Even though Sukhwinder started his musical journey very early — performed at eight and composed at 13 — he believes it's never late to follow one's passion for singing. He says, "An artiste should never stop learning. I always try to reinvent myself and in doing so, it is for the first time that I will be performing with an orchestra of more than 37 members. Earlier, I used to perform with a 15-person team. But I wish to create an immersive experience for audiences. I am inspired from Taal Kacheri and wish to include a similar process in my concerts, starting from Chan-

Chandigarh love

Praising Chandigarh for being a blessed city with the Sukhna



Lake, hill stations at a few kilometres drive, systematic and planned infrastructure, Sukhwinder expresses his wish to own a small abode in the city. He adds, "Also, I find people in Chandigarh to be good- looking, with great sense of dressing and they are very welcoming too. Ithe aa ke dil aashigana ho janda e."

Sukhwinder, who hails from Ambarsar (Amritsar), as he calls it, says the attachment with chole kulche stems from his home city, but eating it anywhere in Punjab gives him the same happy feeling. He often visits Chandigarh and Punjab, but sometimes likes to keep it a

Visual element Sukhwinder confesses how sometimes he likes to have a visual element to get into the mood of a song. He shares,

private affair.

"For the song Dard-E-Disco (Om Shanti Om), I requested Shah Rukh Khan for flowers in the whole studio where we were recording. Similarly, for the song Fashion Ka Jalwa (Fashion), I had requested Madhur Bhandarkar to bring a glamour element to the studio; if not the main cast, at least the others. It helped me in understanding the essence of the song."

memory bank

Sukhwinder recalls wearing a red tie at a live show in Panjab University years ago and how a fan held on to it, before putting forth a weird demand. The other was an impromptu concert for Army personnel near Gujrat border, which went on for two hours.

As for his favourite songs, Sukhwinder praises Chaiyya Chaiyya and Jai Ho. He says, "If Jai Ho is a bridge that traversed the distance from traditional to global, then Chaiyya Chaiyya is ibadat because it has everything - dance, singing and melody."

(The concert will be held on February 24 at the Sector 34 Exhibition Ground, starting 5:30

Kate Hudson still earns royalty from 1992 hit movie 'Home Alone 2'



Actress Kate Hudson has revealed that her appearance in Home Alone 2: Lost in New York, a film that was released in 1992, still pays her residuals, even if she's only earning a dime!

Kate was speaking on her podcast Sibling Revelry, hosted with her brother, Oliver Hudson. During the conversation, Kate discussed her credits with Joey Lawrence, Matthew Lawrence, and Andy Lawrence.

"I still get residuals from Home Alone 2 because I sang in the chorus," Kate said, referring to the scene where Macaulay Culkin's Kevin McAllister ruins a school Christmas pageant. "I am in that chorus, and then I get 10 cents every once in a while.

Joey Lawrence knows the feeling, "Sometimes I'll get, like, 2 cents and I'm like - wait. doesn't the envelope and paper cost more than this?"

The Christmas comedy film has been directed by Chris Columbus. The seguel to the 1990 film Home Alone and the second film in the Home Alone franchise, it stars Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern, John Heard, Tim Curry, Brenda Fricker and Catherine O'Hara.

"It is a slap on TV industry": Rashami Desai slams viral ad starring Ranveer Singh, Johnny Sins

Clarifying her displeasure over the recent collaboration of actor Ranveer Singh on an advertisement with porn star Johnny Sins, television actor Rashami Desai said she has a problem with the advert content and not Ranveer Singh.

"It is not about Ranveer Singh. I do not want any complications. My words are clear," she said in an interview, adding that in television, we have never shown such things. "People always make a mockery of the small screen, but they come to TV when they need to promote

TV has the biggest reach, but it is also demeaned the most. There is no respectful balance. I felt bad because I have been working here."



She slammed the ad by posting an Instagram story that read: "This all happens on big screen. And there is nothing wrong in showing the reality but this a reality check for the entire TV industry because I feel it is a slap."

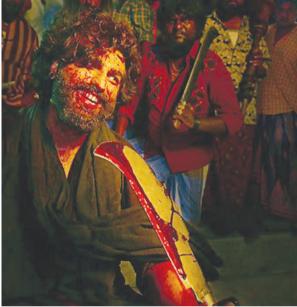
The clip starts with the

Rohit Shetty unveils Arjun Kapoor's first look from 'Singham Again'

Director Rohit Shetty unveiled the first look of actor Arjun Kapoor from his action film Singham Again. Taking to Instagram, he posted a series of pictures with the first one showing Arjun's face splattered with blood. The second photo showed him with Simmba, aka Ranveer Singh.

He captioned it as, "Insaan galati karta hai, aur usse uski saza bhi milti hai... Lekin ab jo aayega, wo shaitaan hai! Can I say - introducing Arjun Kapoor! #SinghamAgain @ arjunkapoor @rohitshettypicturez

Arjun also shared his first look from the film and captioned the post, "Singham ka villain! Feeling on top of the world being a part of hit-machine Rohit



Shetty sir's cop unithere will be mayhem ...#SinghamAgain @ itsrohitshetty @rohitshettypicturez.

Helmed by Rohit Shetty, Singham Again also stars Kareena

Kapoor Khan, Deepika Kumar, Tiger Shroff and Ranveer Singh in the lead roles. Singham Again is the third instalment of the super-hit franchise and the film is all set to hit theatres

on August 15, 2024. Singham was released in 2011, starring Kajal Aggarwal and Prakash Raj in the lead roles. followed by Singham Returns in 2014. Both of them were box-office hits.

In an interview, Shetty said, "I did 'Simmba', 'Sooryavanshi' and then the pandemic came for two years because Sooryavanshi's end is linked to Singham, we had to wait for almost three years to start shooting for the film."

Rohit Shetty, who enjoyed shooting in Hyderabad and Goa, has finished some of the shooting for Singham Again at the Ramoji studio in Hyderabad, "It's a huge studio and the kind of work I do... car chases, action and all that ... so for that, I

need that kind of place. There are not many

restrictions and I love that place. You stay there in the studio and you shoot there... it's kind of a boarding school... there is discipline...within two minutes you are on a set."

Talking about the role of Ajay Devgn and whether he will reprise the character of Inspector Bajirao Singham, Shetty said, "He is upgraded now, although he is playing an officer but on a bigger level. He has a different mission altogether from the government. Then there are Ranveer and Deepika, they all come from a different region. It's not like in one police station. The film travels. It travels from Mumbai to South till Rameswaram and forward from that."

SRK praises K-pop band BTS



In a new video, where he announced the digital release of Dunki on OTT, Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan was seen professing love for K-pop band

BTS. Shah Rukh and the streaming giant on Thursday took to Instagram, where they shared an announcement video in a quirky manner.

Badshah of Bollywood entering a visa office for permission; to which, the visa officer says what if he doesn't come back and what are the assets he owns. SRK then talks about his assets and hilariously says, "Mannat isn't sea facing, the sea is Mannat facing"

He then asks for a visa to visit 190 countries — Australia to Zimbabwe on a single visa.

However, the visa officer lets him know that such a visa doesn't exist but SRK doesn't take no for an answer. SRK says that he has influenced everyone around the world and how every third person in London is named Raj, courtesy his character from Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge!

SRK then wins over Korean hearts, "It was me who taught South Koreans how to give hearts." He added, "Love you BTS." His visa still gets rejected. SRK then talks about his film Dunki streaming in 190 countries on Netfllix.

Will Smith to star in action thriller 'Sugar Bandits'



Hollywood star Will Smith will be seen in the upcoming high-octane actioner Sugar Bandits, where he will play an Iraq war veteran. Based on the Chuck Hogan book Devils in Exile, the thriller centres on an Iraq war veteran who teams up with a crew of fellow vets to target the drug trade in Boston.

Hogan, whose writing credits include The Town and The Strain (which he co-wrote with Guillermo del Toro), has penned the screenplay.

Smith and Jon Mone will produce through Westbrook Studios with Ryan Shimazaki overseeing; Stuart Ford will produce for AGC Studios, which is fully financing the film; and Richard Abate (13 Hours, From Scratch) will produce for 3 Arts Entertainment.

Sugar Bandits marks the latest film for Smith, whose last major feature and the first since his infamous Oscars 'slap' was Antoine Fuqua's Emancipation, which sold to Apple TV+ in Cannes for a market record deal of \$120 million, but failed to make a significant impact on launch.

Being famous after 'Titanic' release was horrible, says Kate Winslet

Oscar winner Kate Winslet says she chose to do smaller projects after the global success of 'Titanic' as life became "quite unpleasant" with fame.

The 48-year-old star reflected on the media pressure and body image scrutiny she was subjected to after the release of James Cameron's 1997 romancetragedy epic.

"I felt like I had to look a certain way, or be a certain thing, and because media intrusion was so significant at that time, my life was quite unpleasant.

"Journalists would always say, 'After 'Titanic', you could have done anything and yet you chose to do these small things'... and I was like, 'Yeah, you bet your life I did! Because, guess what, being famous was horrible'," Winslet told Porter magazine.

Despite the unpleasant aspects, "It's not a burden, any of it," she

"'Titanic' continues to



bring people joy. The only time I am like, 'Oh God, hide,' is if we are on a boat somewhere," the actor quipped.

This is not the first time Winslet has talked about her popularity following 'Titanic', which also starred Leonardo DiCaprio.

In 2021, she recalled going "into self-protective mode right away" after the film because she felt "bullied" by the UK media.

'Government working on schemes to benefit farmers': PM in Haryana amid protests

NEW DELHI, Feb 16 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that his BJP government at the Centre has been working on schemes for the "benefit of farmers". His statement came amid the second edition of the farmers protest, which entered day four earlier in the day.

PM Modi addressed the public after laying the foundation stone in AIIMS Rewari. He took multiple swipes at the previous Congress-led UPA government at the Centre.

The Prime Minister said that the Centre gave the farmers the "guarantee" to seek loans from banks, which earlier was denied to them

"We gave Modi guarantee to farmers... Banks did not give them loans, but we gave guarantee to the farmers," he added. Farmers, primarily from



Punjab, have been marching towards Delhi since February 13 to push the Centre with several demands, including farm loan waiver and a law on the minimim support price (MSP), among others.

A five-hour marathon talks between the leaders of protesting farmer unions and three Union ministers saw no resolu-

After the meeting, farmers told reporters that they would intensify their agitation and would stick to their march and plan to enter the national capital.

Heavy security forces have been deployed at the Punjab-Haryana borders, and Delhi's borders with its neighbouring states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh as farmers from these states stay on with their march to the capital.

Internet services remain snapped in three districts in Haryana, and barricades and barbed fences have been put in place to keep the protesting farmers from entering Delhi.

Traffic has been severely affected, especially at Delhi borders, since February 13. Visuals on social media showed traffic jams as commuters wait for many hours and take detours to reach their destination.

Noida and Delhi Police have issued traffic advisories to help citizens avoid inconvenience. Section 144 that bans large gatherings of five or more people at once has been imposed in both the capital and Noida.

Scheduled Castes panel chief submits report on Sandeshkhali violence to President Murmu; recommends President's rule in Bengal



NEW DELHI, Feb 16 (Agencies): National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) chief Arun Halder on Friday said the commission had recommended the imposition of President's rule in West Bengal in its report submitted to President Droupadi Murmu on alleged harassment of women by TMC supporters in Sandeshkhali.

A delegation of the NCSC had visited Sandeshkhali on Thursday after a large number of women claimed that TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh and his supporters captured swathes of land by force and also sexually harassed them. Speaking to reporters after submitting the report to the President, Halder shared a brief account of the atrocities

Sandeshkhali.
"We have recommended that President's rule be imposed in West Bengal over the situation there," he said.

and violence endured by the people of

Criminals in the state have joined hands with the government there, he

The violence in Sandeshkhali is also impacting the people from Scheduled Caste communities, Halder said.

Many women in Sandeshkhali are demanding the immediate arrest of Sheikh, who has been absconding since an Enforcement Directorate team that raided his house in connection with an alleged ration scam was attacked by a mob last month.

Man arrested for decapitating wife, walking with her skull in UP's Barabanki

Anil Kanojia allegedly attacks his wife Vandana (28) with a cleaver following an argument and decapitates her

BARABANKI, Feb 16 (Agencies): Police on Friday arrested a man here for allegedly decapitating his wife and walking with her skull.

Anil Kanojia, a resident of Basara village in Fatehpur police station area of the district, allegedly attacked his wife Vandana (28) with a cleaver following an argument in the morning and decapitated her.

In a fit of rage, the husband drenched in blood, picked up the severed skull and began walk-



ing towards the police station. A police team arrested him on his way, locals said.

Superintendent of Police Dinesh Kumar Singh said, "Kanojia suspected his wife of adultery. The couple had estranged relations and they often used to argue. Prima facie it appears that he killed his wife in a gruesome manner following arguments in the morning."

Police have sent the body for post-mortem.

Situation tense; internet suspended after violence in Manipur's Churachandpur

IMPHAL, Feb 16 (Agencies): The Manipur government on Friday suspended internet services in Churachandpur district for five days after violence broke out over an action taken against a policeman.

The situation in the district remained tense after the offices of the superintendent of police and the deputy commissioner were vandalised, vehicles used by CAPF were torched by a mob and the national flag at the SP office complex was pulled down, an official said.

'There is apprehension that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, posts and video messages inciting the public, which might have serious repercussions for the law and order situation. There is imminent danger for loss of



lives/damage to public or private property and widespread disturbances to public tranquillity and communal harmony as a result of inflammatory material and false rumours,' the notification said.

The violence broke out in the district on Thursday night as the mob barged into the government complex and torched

vehicles hours after a head constable of the district police was suspended as he was seen with gunmen in a purported video, an official said.

Security forces fired several rounds of tear gas shells and used 'minimum lethal force' to disperse the agitators and bring the situation under control.

the situation under control.

Locals claimed that one person

died and as many as 30 people were injured in the clash.

Churachandpur-based Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum called for a shutdown in the district to protest the killing of one person.

Protesters demanded the reinstatement of the head constable in the service, alleging that his suspension was 'unfair'.

State PWD minister Govindas Konthoujam, considered close to Chief Minister N Biren Singh, has condemned the statement of BJP MLA from Churachandpur, Paoleinlal Haokip, alleging that he had made a "hate campaign" in the wake of the mob violence there.

ITLF, in a statement, said, "The SP should immediately revoke the suspension order and leave the district within 24 hours".

2 cops 'planted' drugs on student near Pune, extorted Rs 4.98 lakh, case filed

PUNE, Feb 16 (Agencies): A case has been registered against two policemen and six others for allegedly extorting Rs 4.98 lakh from a 19-year-old student by threatening to implicate him in a false drugs case in Maharashtra's Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Police have so far arrested four people in connection with the case, based on the complaint filed by the student.

The accused have been identified as Anil Chaudhary, Aman Sheikh, Hussain Dange, Mohammad Ahmar Mirza, Shankar Gorde, Munna Swami, Sub-Inspector Hemant Gaikwad and constable Sachin Shejwal.

Police said the accused first gained his trust and collected information. The cops, along with others, hatched a plan to extort money after they found that the teenager is wealthy.

They initially called the student to a cafe, and kept a packet of drugs in his pocket, after which the accused cops searched him. Further, threatening to implicate him in a case of illegal possession of marijuana, the accused demanded Rs 20 lakh. Scared, the student transferred Rs 4.98 lakh to the accused's account.

BJP's Return Will Cause Existential Crisis To Regional Parties: P Chidambaram



KOLKATA, Feb 16 (Agencies): Veteran Congress leader and former Union finance minister P Chidambaram on Friday said he cannot predict the future of the INDIA bloc as he is not part of the negotiating committee of the national alliance, but said that the return of Narendra Modi and the BJP to power would cause an existential crisis to state-specific regional parties.

He said the Ram temple in Ayodhya

could be a factor in the upcoming elections but "whether it will be a decisive one, only time will say".

"I cannot say anything about the future of the bloc because I'm not part of the national alliance's negotiating committee and also not part of INDIA bloc meetings. My information is only secondhand or even thirdhand. But I sincerely hope that all the remaining parties understand that the return of Mr Modi and the BJP to the Centre will cause an existential crisis to the state-specific regional parties," Mr Chidambaram told PTI in an exclusive interview

The veteran Congressman was recently in the city for a discussion on his new book 'The Watershed Year-Which Way Will India Go?'.

Mr Chidambaram added that the Congress is attempting to forge the INDIA alliance with stable and deep-rooted political parties.

5 die as car rams into moving truck in Rajasthan



JAIPUR, Feb 16 (Agencies): Five people, including three members of a family, died when their car rammed into a moving truck in Rajasthan's Bikaner in the early hours of Friday, police said.

The accident took place at 4 am near Rasisar village on the

Amritsar-Jamnagar Bharatmala highway. All the five deceased were residents of Gujarat, said Bikaner Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) (Rural) Pyarelal Shivran.

The deceased were identified as Prateek, his wife Hetal and their one-and-a-half-year-

old daughter, Community Health Officer Pooja and her husband Karan. According to parking slips and other documents recovered from the car, the five had gone to Kashmir for a vacation a week ago, the ASP said.

He said the bodies have been kept in the mortuary at Nokha Hospital for post-mortem examination.

The family members of the deceased have been informed. The post-mortem would be conducted after their family members reach the hospital, Shivran said.

Rahul Gandhi reaffirms legal guarantee for MSP if INDIA bloc comes to power

ROHTAS, Feb 16 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said his party will accept long-pending demands of farmers in the country and ensure a legal guarantee to minimum support price (MSP) of crops if the INDIA bloc comes to power after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing the 'Kisan Nyay Panchayat', a gathering of farmers, in Bihar's Rohtas, as part of his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', Gandhi claimed that "cultivators are not getting the remunerative prices for their crops".

"If the INDIA bloc comes to power after the general elections, we will give a legal guarantee to MSP. Whenever farmers have asked for something from the Congress, it has been given to them. Be it loan waiver or MSP, we have always protected the interests of cultivators and will do so in future," Gandhi said.

His comment comes at a time when

Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), a farmers' body, called for 'Bharat Bandh' on Friday to press the BJP-led central government to accept cultivators' demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price for crops.

Farmers from Punjab began their 'Delhi Chalo' march on Tuesday but were stopped by security personnel at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Delhi and Haryana.

The protesting farmers have been camping at the border points ever since.
Their agitation entered the fourth day on Friday.

The Congress MP also slammed the BJP-led central government, accusing it of "transferring a considerable portion of funds of the defence budget into the pockets" of an industrialist.

The Centre's defence budget is not for the welfare of jawans and all defence contracts are going to a corporate group only," he alleged.



Gandhi also criticised the Centre for the 'Agniveer' scheme, saying, the Union government has "divided the army into two categories - Agniveer and regulars".

"If an Agniveer is injured or martyred, they will not receive adequate compensation. Why is this discrimination? Why have they created separate categories in the Army for Agniveer and others?" the Congress MP asked.

Earlier, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav joined Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', which resumed from the party's

district office in Sasaram this morning and is expected to enter Uttar Pradesh through Mohania in Kaimur district in the evening.

Yadav and Gandhi were seen sitting on the roof of a sports utility vehicle, which was slowly moving, and they waved at enthusiastic crowds that gathered along the main road of the town.

Locals queued up on both sides of the

road and watched the procession.

Earlier, Yadav was seen driving the SUV with Gandhi and other leaders on

Both leaders of the opposition 'Mahagathbandhan' will also address a public meeting in Kaimur around 3 pm on Friday.

The 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', which started in Manipur on January 14, is scheduled to cover 6,713 km in 67 days, passing through 110 districts in 15 states, before culminating in Mumbai on March 20.

IIT Delhi student found hanging in hostel room

NEW DELHI, Feb 16 (Agencies): In a suspected case of suicide, an MTech student of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi was found hanging in his hostel room, police said on Friday.

The matter came to light after the family of Sanjay Nerkar asked his hostel mates to check on him as he was not answering his phone, they said.

Nerkar, 24, stayed in room number 757 at Dronacharya hostel. He was a native of Nashik in Maharashtra, a police official said.

"Nerkar's family mem-

bers called him on Thursday night. When he did not answer the phone, the family asked his hostel mates to check on him," a police officer said.

When the other students went to his room, they found it locked from inside. They informed the hostel guard, who broke open the door. Nerkar's body was found hanging from the ceiling of the room, the officer said.

The student's family have been informed and an investigation is under way to ascertain the cause of death, police said.

In Latest Blow, Rishi Sunak's Party Loses 2 Seats To Opposition In Key Poll

LONDON, Feb 16 (Agencies): Britain's ruling Conservative Party on Friday lost two more parliamentary seats to Labour in by-elections, dealing an ominous new blow to embattled Prime Minister Rishi Sunak ahead of a full national vote.

The losses capped a dire week for the UK leader, struggling to revive support for his beleaguered party, as official data showed Britain is in recession after economic contraction for two successive quarters.

In power since 2010, the Conservatives are widely expected to lose the general election that Sunak, 43, has said he would call in the second half of the year.

The main Labour opposition secured its second largest byelection swing away from the Conservatives in one of Thursday's contests, held after a Tory MP quit and another faced a recall petition over bullying his staff.

"The Tories have failed. Rishi's recession proves that. That's why we've seen so many former Conservative voters switching directly to this changed Labour Party," its leader Keir Starmer said as he hailed the "fantastic" results.

"People want change and are ready to put their faith in a changed Labour Party to deliver it"

Conservative deputy chair James Daly called the losses



"disappointing" but insisted there was "no love" for Starmer. Latest losses

The by-elections highlight the struggle Sunak faces if he is to secure a fifth consecutive term in power for the Conservatives.

The party has a lost a string of traditionally safe seats to Labour and the smaller centrist Liberal Democrats.

Ex-chief prosecutor Starmer and his party have enjoyed double-digit leads over the Tories in most opinion polls throughout Sunak's 15-month tenure as prime minister.

He replaced Liz Truss, who was ousted after her tax-cutting economic agents as pooked mar-

kets and lost support.

The Conservatives' popularity has plummeted as Britain has endured the worst cost-of-living crisis in decades since the pandamia

Factional infighting and chaotic rule have also led to three prime ministers since autumn

A record 21 by-elections have now been held since the last general election in 2019, many as a result of misconduct committed by Tory MPs. The Conservatives were defeated in the vast majority.

The party has now lost more by-elections in a single parliament than any government since the 1966-70 Labour administration of Harold Wilson, which suffered 15.

Big swings Thursday's contests were held in Wellingborough, central England, and in Kingswood, in the southwest

Former Wellingborough Tory MP Peter Bone was suspensed from parliament after an inquiry found he had subjected a staff

member to bullying and sexual misconduct.

Bone's partner Helen Harrison was controversially selected as his replacement candidate in the seat, held by the party since 2005.

Labour overcame a majority of 18,540 by scoring a 28.5-percent swing -- its second-largest ever from the Conservatives in a by-election.

The vote in Kingswood, near Bristol, was triggered by Chris Skidmore's resignation as an MP in protest at Sunak's plans to boost North Sea oil and gas drilling.

Labour won the seat -- Tory since 2010, but due to be abolished for the general election under the redrawing of constituency boundaries -- with nearly 45 percent of the vote.

Sunak will also be unnerved by fringe right-wingers Reform UK -- formerly the Brexit Party -securing more than 10 percent for the first time, suggesting his party is losing voters to the right as well as Labour.

The wins will be welcome respite for the opposition party, after it also endured a difficult week following the suspension of two prospective MPs over allegations of anti-Semitism.

One had been selected to contest a by-election this month, in Rochdale, near Manchester, which has been sparked by the death of a veteran Labour MP.

4 Die After Oxygen Cut In Gaza Hospital Raided By Israel: Health Ministry

GAZA, Feb 16 (Agencies): The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said four patients died Friday due to lack of oxygen at one of the war-torn Palestinian territory's few operating hospitals that had been raided by Israeli forces.

"The generators of the complex stopped and the power was cut off," the ministry said, raising fears over the fate of six other patients in intensive care and three children in a nursery at the Nasser hospital in the southern city of Khan Yunis.

"We hold the Israeli occupation responsible for the lives of patients and staff considering that the complex is now under its full control," it said in a statement.

Indian National Dies In Flooding In Australia's Queensland

CANBERRA, Feb 16 (Agencies): An Indian national in Australia was found dead in the floodwaters near Mount Isa in Queensland amid inclement weather in the region, the Indian High Commission in Canberra said on Friday.

The Indian mission expressed condolence to the family of the victim and said that it is in touch with them for all necessary assistance.

necessary assistance.
"Heartbreaking tragedy in Australia: an Indian national lost her life in a flooding incident near Mount Isa, Queensland. Deepest condolence to the family of the deceased. Mission team is in touch for all necessary assis-

tance," the Indian High Commission posted on

The Indian mission has not revealed the name of the victim.

Further details are awaited in the matter.

Meanwhile, the situation in Queensland remains tense amid severe alerts for rain and thunderstorms.

"Severe Thunderstorm warning for people in parts of Sunshine Coast Council Area. The BOM warns that a severe thunderstorm likely to produce heavy rainfall that may lead to flash flooding was detected near Maroochydore and waters off Maroochydore," the Queensland police said in a state-

ment.

In another incident, the police informed that a woman was found dead in her car which was found submerged in floodwaters near Mount Isa.

Queensland police said that the matter is being investigated and urged people to come up with any information that can assist in the investigation.

"Due to recent weather events, flooding is continuing to impact extensive road networks across the Mount Isa district. Motorists are urged to exercise extreme caution, and to never enter flood waters," the police stated.

Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi accuses jail authorities of poisoning her food

ISLAMABAD, Feb 16 (Agencies): A lawyer representing Bushra Bibi, the wife of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, has accused the jail authorities of tampering with her food, which led to a deterioration in her health

Bushra Bibi is currently confined at her Banigala residence, designated as a sub-jail after her and Imran Khan's conviction and sentencing in the Toshakhana case. The incident happened six days ago.

Mashal Yousafzai, the lawyer and spokesperson for Bushra Bibi, has alleged that the former first lady had health issues after consuming a meal that was "unusually spicy".

In a statement, Yousafzai said Bushra Bibi disclosed to her that an acidic chemical substance was deliberately added to the food by the jail authorities.

"She has developed blisters in her mouth and throat post consuming that meal and has been very unwell since," said Yousafzai. "She wants to inform the nation about this malicious act and its intended harm," she further said.

Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), in a post on X, accused the "fascist regime" of "maliciously attacking" Imran Khan's wife and denying her



necessary medical aid.

"Make no mistake, it will not be long before the people responsible for these heinous acts will be brought to justice. Pakistan stands strong. Imran Khan stands strong," the post further said.

The party has urged higher courts to intervene, emphasising the urgency of the matter.

Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were sentenced to 14 years in jail in the Toshakhana case, which relates to the illegal sale of state gifts that the PTI chief had retained when he was the Prime Minister, last month. Two days later, they were given an additional seven-year sentence for contracting marriage during the 'Iddat' (period of waiting).

Imran Khan has been lodged at Adiala Jail. Earlier this month, Bushra Bibi approached the Islamabad High Court, seeking a transfer to Adiala Jail.

Thousands Seek To Flee Myanmar As Junta Plans Mandatory Military Service

YANGON, Feb 16 (Agencies): More than 1,000 people lined up at the Thai embassy in Yangon on Friday as young people sought to leave Myanmar after the junta said it would impose military service.

The military said last weekend it would enforce a law allowing it to call up all men aged 18-35 and women aged 18-27 to serve for at least two years, as it struggles to quell opposition to its 2021 coup.

The junta faces widespread armed opposition to its rule three years after seizing power from an elected civilian government and recently suffered a series of stunning losses to an armed alliance of ethnic minority groups.

The Thai embassy in Yangon has been swamped with young men and women seek-



ing visas to get out of Myanmar since the announcement last Saturday that the "People's Military Service Law" would be brought into force.

On Friday, an agency journalist saw a queue of between 1,000 and 2,000 people snaking through the streets near the mission in downtown Yangon -- compared with less than 100 before Saturday's announcement.

The embassy said it is issuing 400 numbered



Student Aung Phyo, 20, said he arrived at the embassy at 8 pm on Thursday and slept in his car before starting to queue around midnight.

"We had to wait for three hours and police opened the security gate around 3 am and we had to run to the front of the embassy to try to get places for a token," he told agency, using a pseudonym because of fears for his safety.

"After we got a token,

people who didn't get one were still queuing in front of the embassy hoping they might give

out extras."

The law was authored by a previous junta in 2010 but never used and it is not clear how it will now be enforced.

No details have been given about how those called up would be expected to serve but many young people are not keen to wait and find out.

"I will go to Bangkok with a tourist visa and

hope to stay there for a while," Aung Phyo said.
"I haven't decided yet

"I haven't decided yet to work or study. I just wanted to escape from this country."

The junta has said it is taking measures to arm pro-military militias as it battles opponents across the country --both anti-coup "People's Defence Forces" and more long-standing armed groups belonging to ethnic minorities.

Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun said on Saturday the military service system was needed "because of the situation happening in our country".

More than 4,500 people have been killed in the military's crack-down on dissent since its February 2021 coup and over 26,000 arrested, according to a local monitoring group.

Kim Jong Un's Powerful Sister Offers Rare Olive Branch To Japan SEOUL. Feb 16 countries can open up impossible for Kishida to Kishida expressing from Kim Yo Jong, a Soon after that,

SEOUL, Feb 16 (Agencies): The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un offered a rare opening for Japan, saying she saw a positive tone in comments from Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who is seeking a summit.

Kim Yo Jong indicated a meeting of leaders would be possible if Japan "does not lay such a stumbling block as the already settled abduction issue," she said in a press statement.

"It is my opinion that if Japan makes a political decision to open up a new way of mending the relations through its courteous behavior and trustworthy action on the basis of courageously breaking with anachronistic hostility and unattainable desire and recognizing each other, the two

countries can open up a new future together," the statement carried on the Korean Central News Agency said.

The tone is a marked change from comments she issued nearly two years ago when she lumped Japan in a bunch of "sinister" nations she accused of raising rabble at the United Nations to criticize Pyongyang for the test of an intercontinental ballistic missile. She has also unleashed speeches with fiery and threatening language directed at South Korea's leaders.

Japan's top government spokesman, Yoshimasa Hayashi, said Friday that Tokyo was taking note of the comments from Kim Yo Jong. He also said it was "totally unacceptable" to consider the abduction issue as resolved.

It would be nearly

impossible for Kishida not to focus on the abductee issue, which has played a prominent role in the priorities of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party for years.

While North Korea appears to be warming up slightly to Japan, it has widened a chasm between itself and Seoul. Last week, Kim Jong Un said he has the legal right to annihilate South Korea, in his latest move to threaten his neighbor after starting the year by eliminating the concept of peaceful unification from his state's national policy.

North Korea has been under new pressure as South Korea, Japan and the US have raised their cooperation to new levels over the past two years and stepped up military training against threats posed by Pyongyang. The US has also been bringing nuclear-



capable military assets such as aircraft carrier groups and attack submarines off the Korean Peninsula in shows of force meant to deter Kim Jong Un from aggression.

"North Korea is nervous to the reinforced trilateral partnership between Seoul, Washington and Tokyo," said Kak Soo Shin, a former career diplomat who once served as South Korea's ambassador to Japan. "In a bid to drive a wedge in this strength-

ening ties, North Korea seems to make use of the prime minister's desire to open up a door to Pyongyang" adding this could help Kishida boost his low support rate.

Shin sees little likelihood of a summit taking place given the differences on abductees and the thorny issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Last month, leader Kim Jong Un also offered an olive branch when he sent a rare message lences for the victims of an earthquake in Japan. Kishida has long said he is willing to meet Kim Jong Un without pre-

sympathy and condo-

he is willing to meet Kim Jong Un without preconditions. Last week, he said his government has made "various, concrete" efforts for a summit with the aim to resolve the long-standing issue of Japanese abducted by North Korea, Kyodo News reported.

Tokyo officially lists 17 of its citizens as having been abducted by North Korea in the 1970 and 80s, five of whom returned home in 2002. North Korea considers the issue settled and has blasted Japan for repeatedly raising it. North Korea claims that eight of the abductees have died and the other four were never in its

Prior to the statement

country.

from Kim Yo Jong, a senior US State Department official charged with managing issues with Pyongyang said Kishida has mentioned a summit before and Washington would support talks. "We encourage any

kind of dialogue," Jung Pak said in an interview.

North Korea has a habit of seeking concessions for engagement with countries it sees as adversaries, such as Japan. It has shunned offers over the past several years from the US, Japan and South Korea for talks and appears to be receiving significant support from Russia in recent months in return for arms sent by Kim's regime to help President Vladimir Putin in his war

In 2002, Junichiro Koizumi became the first Japanese prime minister to visit North Korea.

on Ukraine.

Soon after that, five Japanese kidnapped by North Korean agents in 1978 were reunited with their families after arriving in Tokyo. Koizumi and then North Korean leader Kim Jong II also agreed to work to establish formal diplomatic relations but that never came to fruition.

"That Kim Yo Jong's invitation to Kishida comes with strings attached should have us question the sincerity of the DPRK's intentions," said Soo Kim, a former Korea analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency who now works at US-based management consulting firm LMI, referring to North Korea by its formal name.

"Not to mention, the chasm in North Korea-Japan relations is quite wide — would thawing their relations be so simple?" she said.

Jal Shakti Deptt failed to provide drinking water facility to Kulgam's Razloo village, protest erupted

Issue will be sorted out within 2-3 days: AEE Jal Shakti

Top News Report

KULGAM, Feb 16: Residents of (Wagay Mohalla) Razloo village in Kund belt area of south Kashmiri's Kulgam district accused the authorities of neglecting the water woes faced by them for last 10 years.

They said that they has been facing acute shortage of water all these years and despite



apprising the officials about the same, no action was taken by they are not paying due attention towards this problem," residents

Residents demand that their problem should be solved on urgent basis.

within 2-3 days.

cerned authorities but

When Contacted Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Jal Shakti, Qazigund Mohd Rafiq, said that issue would be sorted out

Voter's Day celebrated at GDC Thathri

Top News Report

THATHRI, Feb 16: On the eve of Voters week on 16 Feb 2024 the NSS unit in collaboration with the voter literacy club of GDC Thathri organised a Pledge-taking ceremony regarding voters aware-

The programme was organised under the banner of voter awareness campaign for the youth and the overall supervision and patronage of the college Principal

All the staff and NSS volunteers of the college took pledge regarding voter awareness with zeal and patriotic fervour.

The college principal in his address highlighted the significance of a vote and motivated



them on the ground.

"We are continuously

requesting the con-

the students and local youth to participate fully in various elec-

(teaching and non teaching) by Prof. Arshad Ayoub HOD Political

The program was concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by NSS PO of the college Dr Sanjay Kumar, HoD Urdu. HODs of different departments viz., Economics, EVS, Education, Dogri, English and Sociology were also present in the pledge

Empowering Women: AIIMS Jammu leads the way with steps taken, initiatives shine, visionary display and Unwavering Commitment"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: The evolving role of women in India is gradually moving towards equality, buoyed by governmental initiatives like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and 'Mission Shakti', necessitating that organizations, particularly Medical Institutions, offer equal opportunities and roles for women.

The "Government of India" under the visionary leadership of esteemed Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, has emphasized various programs (Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram JSSK, Janani Suraksha Yojna JSY, etc.) targeting women's health and well-being under the National Health Mission.

The Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, started his conversation saying, "I, being born and brought up in Jammu, a city renowned worldwide for the sacred Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, hold deep respect and gratitude towards the women section, a sentiment that will always remain sincere and unwavering. He emphasized the

role of women at AIIMS Jammu and stated that "The imperative for women's empowerment is evident as approximately half of the country's population comprises women, yet a significant portion remain dependent due to limited educational and employment opportunities. AIIMS Jammu is taking a catalytic role in creating an ecosystem for women empowerment."

Prof Gupta added that "AIIMS Jammu, with nearly 55% of Doctors and 80% of nursing staff as women, has created a wealth of opportunities for women, both in terms of employment and representation."

This strategic approach is not only breaking traditional gender norms (Caregiving and Household responsibilities) but also ensures that women have equal opportunities to excel in

the field of medicine. He further elaborated that beyond mere representation; AIIMS Jammu has proven its commitment of promoting women's leadership by offering key administrative positions within the institute, serving as Principal, Associate Dean, Department Heads, and Chairpersons of various committees. They also play leadership roles in research activities, contributing to the institute's academic and scientific achievements

AIIMS Jammu orga-"Healthcare nized

Leadership Management Development Programmes", (Nov. 2022 and Sep, 2023), for female staff, ensuring their holistic development and empowerment. AIIMS Jammu had also conducted awareness sessions on Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) to promote a positive and safe workplace environment.

As part of community outreach programs focused on women's health initiatives, Prof Gupta remarked that AIIMS Jammu is actively engaged by organising Awareness sessions on Cervical and Breast Cancer (two leading causes of cancerrelated deaths among women), in schools and colleges across the region.

Dr Basharat Iqbal.

toral processes. The pledge was administered to the students and the faculty

FROM PAGE 1

Pakistani quadcopters found hovering near LoC in Poonch; Army Opens **Fire**

they said.

Earlier on February 12, Army troops had fired on an enemy drone after picking up its movement in Mankote area of Mendhar sector. Pakistan is using drones to drop narcotics and weapons in Jammu and

The Jammu and Kashmir Police recently announced a cash reward of ₹3 lakh to anyone providing information about drones flown from across the border with a purpose to drop weapons and narcotics.

31 police officers. personnel transferred in Jammu Kashmir

Ali from Police Station Janipur to DPL Additional Sub-Inspector Joginder Singh

has been transferred from Police Station Phallian Mandal to Police Station Domana, ASI Balbir Singh from DPL Jammu to Police Post Greater Kailash as IO, HC Pardeep Singh from DPL Jammu to Court Parvi Team (UAPA) cases District Jammu, L/HC Anita Devi from Police Post Mandir Bahu Fort to Police Station Bus Stand, and L/HC Anita Rani from Police Station Bishnah to Police Station Bakshi Nagar, said the order Similarly, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Samba has ordered transfer and

posting of 8 police officers. As per an order issued in this context, Inspector Asha Nand has been transferred from District Police Line (DPL) Samba and posted to DSB/District Anti-NDPS Team Samba as incharge, and Inspector Rahul Mahajan from District Anti-NDPS Team Samba to Police Component Samba.

The order further said that Inspector Sandeep Charak has been transferred from Police Station Vijaypur to Police Station Samba as SHO, Inspector Jaswinder Singh from DPL Samba to Police Station Ramgarh as SHO, Inspector Zaheer Mushtaq from DPL Samba to Police Station Vijaypur as SHO, Inspector Sikandar Singh from DPL Samba to Police Station Ghagwal as SHO, Inspector Lalit Kumar Sharma from DPL Samba to Police Station Purmandal as SHO, and Inspector Surinder Kumar from DSB Samba to DPL Samba.

Farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' **Call: Farmer to stay but at Puniab-Harvana borders** as deadlock persists

February 8 and 12 also remained incon-

Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Arjun Munda, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Min-

ister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai represented the Centre at Thursday's meeting over the farmer unions' various demands, including a law guaranteeing a minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema also joined the meeting at the Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration in Sector 26 here.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha have given a 'Delhi Chalo' call to press the BJP-led central government to accept their demands.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Union Minister Munda said the meeting between the government and the farmer leaders took place in a cordial atmosphere.

There was a positive discussion, he said. The talks will continue and will now take place on Sunday at 6 pm, he said.

"We will find a solution by sitting together," he added. Mann said a detailed discussion took

place between farmer leaders and the ministers. "There was a detailed discussion on each

issue," he said. Mann said he raised with the Centre the issue of suspension of internet services in certain areas in Sangrur. Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib, and that of Haryana security personnel using a drone to drop tear gas shells on protesters inside Punjab's territory.

Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said a detailed discussion was held on their demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP and a debt waiver.

"They (Union ministers) said they need time," said Pandher.

"We want that there should be a positive result and any confrontation should be avoided. Otherwise, our programme to go to Delhi stands," he said.

Responding to a question on whether farmers will stay put at the Punjab-Haryana borders, Pandher said, "Yes"

During the meeting with the Union ministers, the farmer leaders took exception to the suspension of the social media accounts of various leaders.

Pandher said they also raised the issue of tear gas shelling by the paramilitary forces on farmers at the Shambhu and Khanuri

He said they showed the shells to the ministers during the meeting.

Farmers from Punjab began their march to the national capital on Tuesday but were stopped by security personnel at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Delhi and Haryana.

The protesting farmers have been camping at the border points.

On Tuesday, farmers, mainly from Punjab, had clashed with Haryana Police at two border points between the states, facing tear gas and water cannons as they tried to break the barricades.

Besides a legal guarantee on MSP, the farmers are demanding the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the Lakhim-pur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 and compensa-tion to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.

Terroristassociate along with arms. ammunition arrested in Kupwara; booked under **UAPA: Police**

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and further investigation is underway.

Residential quarters building damaged in tire incident at MLA **Hostel in Srinagar**

stations to bring the fire under control. There was no report of any loss of life or injury in the incident.

The cause of the fire is being ascertained,

Congress alleges Party's Accounts Frozen, Calls it "Freeze Of Democracy"

has been frozen. Just 2 weeks before elections when the opposition's accounts are frozen, it is equivalent to freezing the democracy" he added.

The Congress leader questioned the motive behind the alleged freeze of party accounts ahead of the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

"When the principal opposition party's accounts have been frozen just two weeks before the announcement of the national elections. Do you think democracy is alive in our country?" Maken remarked.

"We don't have money, we don't have money to pay the salaries, not only Nyay Yatra but all political activities will be impacted. We appealed in the Income Tax appellate tribunal the day before yesterday and the hearing is going on. We believe in the judiciary," he added.

Meanwhile, Congress MP Rahul Gandhiled Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra arrived in Bihar on Friday.

The Yatra reached its final stage in Bihar and is scheduled to enter Uttar Pradesh later today.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will also join the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi as it enters Uttar Pradesh on Friday evening. She will join her brother in Chandauli in Uttar Pradesh after the yatra enters the state from Bihar.

The East-West Manipur-Mumbai Yatra traverses 6,700 km through 15 states and aims to highlight the message of "nyay" (justice) while meeting common people

Highway toll collector IHMCL removes PayTm payments bank from list of banks authorised to issue **FASTag**

other instruments after February 29. However, any interest, cashbacks, or refunds may be credited back to customers anytime.

"No further deposits or credit transactions or top-ups shall be allowed in any customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags, NCMC cards, etc. after February 29, 2024, other than any interest, cashbacks, or refunds which may be credited anytime," the RBI said.

Further, withdrawal or utilisation of balances by its customers from their accounts, including savings bank accounts, current accounts, prepaid instruments, FASTags, and National Common Mobility Cards are to be permitted without any restrictions, up to their available balance.

"No other banking services, other than those ...like fund transfers (irrespective of name and nature of services like AEPS, IMPS, etc), BBPOU and UPI facility should be provided by the bank after February 29, 2024," it had added.

The direction followed persistent noncompliances and continued material supervisory concerns, the central bank had said in a statement.

IHMCL has said it is encouraging FASTag users to complete the 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) process of their latest FASTag as per RBI guidelines.

The banks authorised for issuing FASTags also include Union Bank of India, Thrissur District Cooperative Bank, South Indian Bank, Saraswat Bank, Nagpur Nagrik Sahkari Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Karur Vyasya Bank, J&K Bank, IndusInd Bank, Indian Bank, IDFC First Bank, FINO Bank, Equitable Small Finance Bank, Cosmos Bank, City Union Bank Ltd, Central Bank of India, Canara Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, AU Small Finance Bank, and Axis Bank.

FASTag is an electronic toll collection system in India operated by the NHAI. It employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for allowing toll payments directly from the linked bank

Over dozen structures develop cracks in Doda

National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) for their plight.

They claimed that large cracks appeared in the structures after the ground started sinking due to road widening work.

The district magistrate said that he would take up issue of compensation for the affected families with the NHIDCL in the next review meeting.

"We left our houses after cracks started widening due to recent rains. We have

been pleading before the NHIDCL authorities and the district administration, but no one came to our rescue till date." Haleema Begum (65) said.

Mohd Aarif (35) said they have left their unsafe homes and are now living under polyethylene sheets.

"We are living in constant fear of attacks by wild animals like leopards and bears which keep on roaming in this area," he said, demanding their proper rehabilitation at the earliest.

50 detained ahead of protest in Lal Chowk in support of farmers' demands in J&K

"Condemning in no uncertain terms the use of forces against the peaceful protest of Apple Farmers' Federation of India, scheme workers and CITU leaders organised in response to Grameen Bharat Bandh," Tarigami said on a series of posts

He claimed that scores of leaders, including Kulgam District Development Council (DDC) chairman Mohammad Afzal, Apple Farmers' Federation of India president Zahoor Ahmad Rather, general secretary Abdul Rasheed, were "unjustly arrested after being bundled into police vehicles".

"The use of brute force against peaceful protesters is an affront to democracy and a violation of fundamental rights," he added.

Farmers from Punjab began their 'Delhi Chalo' march on Tuesday but were stopped by security personnel at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab

The protesting farmers have been camping at the border points ever since. Their agitation entered the fourth day on Friday.

Ahead of wet Weather Forecast. Summer like weather prevails in Kashmir

Thursday in Srinagar settled at -1.6 °C against the-3.0°C recorded the previous night. It was 2.6°C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national had a low of -1.2°C against the-2.0°C, while the picnic spot of Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of 04°C against the -0.2°C recorded on Thursday. Pahalgam remained the coldest place even though the night temperature significantly improved by several notches and recorded at -4.2°C against the -5.4°C. It was 0.2°C above normal for the tourist hot spot of south Kashmir. Kupwara settled at -2.4°C against the -3.3°C and it was 2.2°C below normal for the frontier north Kashmir district. Gulmarg had a low of =3.4°C against the -3,2°C recorded the previous day and it was 3.4°C above normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir.

I bought Twitter to improve probable 'civilisational lifespan': Elon Musk

X to become profitable in 2024

NEW DELHI, Feb 16 (Agencies): Elon Musk on Friday said that he acquired Twitter for \$44 billion to improve the "civilisational lifespan".

Twitter in April 2022 announced it will be acquired by Musk for \$54.20 per share in cash in a transaction valued at approximately \$44 billion.

Upon completion of the transaction in October 2022, Twitter became a privately-held company.

In a fresh post, Musk replied to a follower on X who posted that in the long run, 'I suspect Elon buying Twitter will be the most important thing he ever did'.

"I bought Twitter to improve probable civilisational lifespan," com-



mented the Tesla and SpaceX CEO.

Famous author Stephen King replied to Musk, 'Just because you bought it doesn't mean you own it'.

After renaming Twitter to X, Musk had said in a post that the platform made a record in terms of users in 2023, reaching 541 million.

Last December, X

CEO Linda Yaccarino said that over 10 million people signed up for X

in the same month.

In September, X's traffic dropped from 6.4 billion to 5.8 billion, a loss of 10 per cent, according to new SimilarWeb data.

The social media platform could become profitable in 2024, she had said.

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India expands its Road Safety Awareness Campaign at Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: Ensuring road safety is the topmost priority of HMSI. To promote responsible behavior on the roads and to aid in creating a more conscientious and safetyoriented society, the company frequently conducts Road Safety Awareness Campaigns across various regions of the country. HMSI firmly believes that such campaigns encourage individuals to adopt safe driving practices, fostering a culture of caution and consideration on the roads. One such campaign was recently held in the city of Jammu which left an indelible mark on the participants. On the premises of Army Public School, HMSI saw an enthusiastic participation of more than 2800 school students and staff members.

HMSI firmly believes that imparting road safety awareness at an early age is imperative, and thus, promotes the inclusion of road safety educational curricula at both school and college levels. Understanding that young minds are receptive to learning, the company aims to

empower the next generation with the knowledge and skills necessary for navigating roads responsibly. The road safety awareness campaign consists of highly interactive and engaging activities such as Road Safety Games, Safe Road Theory Session, Road Signage and Riding posture training.

Since inception, in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, HMSI has imparted education to nearly 3 lakh adults and children, focusing on promoting responsible road usage and cultivating safe riding habits.

Marengo Asia Hospitals achieves a revolutionary medical milestone with bloodless liver transplants

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: Marengo Asia Hospitals made a significant achievement in the field of liver transplants by using the bloodless technique and discharging their patients in the shortest period. As many as 10 liver transplants have been performed in Marengo Asia Hospitals, Faridabad and Gurugram and 5 liver transplants using this technique have been successfully conducted in Marengo CIMS Hospital, Ahmedabad. Dr Punit Singla, Director - Liver Transplant and HPB Surgery, Marengo Asia Hospitals Group, and his team utilized the Werfen technique for this remarkable surgical procedure. Dr Punit was supported by Dr Rishabh Jain, Head - Liver Transplant Anaesthesia, Marengo Asia Hospitals. Marengo Asia Hospitals have pioneered this technique in performing the first bloodless organ transplant, heart transplant not only in India, but first time in Asia as well.

In the latest and highly advanced method of bloodless transplant, the patient's own blood is conserved and returned to their body. Bloodless surgery eliminates the need for external blood or blood components from donors. During these sur-



geries, surgeons employ meticulous techniques and innovative procedures to minimize surgical blood loss, eliminating the need for transfusions. Bloodless organ transplant surgeries are exceptionally complex, demanding a high level of clinical expertise and an experienced team. Precision and accuracy are essential in these procedures to assess and minimize blood loss, thereby avoiding the necessity for a blood transfusion.

Dr Raajiv Singhal, Managing Director & Group CEO, Marengo Asia Hospitals says, "The number of liver transplants conducted with the Werfen technique across our hospitals

marks a significant moment of pride for us. The achievement of our medical team in successfully implementing the blood transfusion-free technique is a testament to our dedication to enhanced patient experience, deployment of advanced healthcare technologies, and our unwavering commitment to 'Patient First' above all else. This feat signifies a pivotal step forward in our endeavor to emerge as a destination for organ transplants, not only for the heart and lungs but also for the liver. Our embrace of innovation and breaking conventional methods across all our hospitals underscores our steadfast endeavor to better serve the communities under our care.'

Dr Punit Singla, Director-Liver Transplant Program, Marengo Asia Hospitals says, "Liver transplantation has evolved as a preferred therapy for specific patients facing end-stage liver disease. Achieving a blood transfusion-free liver transplant represents a remarkable milestone in Gastrointestinal surgeries. It showcases the significant strides made in surgical techniques and technology within the medical field while emphasizing our dedication to our patients' well-being. Observing an organ functioning again, without the need for external blood donation which requires precision, timely, and focused intervention speaks about the unwavering commitment of our entire medical team."

Complex organ transplant surgical procedures necessitate the practice of transfusing blood to the patient but very often the transfusion can lead to adverse effects, including severe and long-lasting complications for the patient. The most sustainable, cost-effective, and evidence-based approach for minimalizing blood transfusion, and hence improving patients' outcomes (such as decrease in the length of hospital stay), is to implement the principles and practices of Patient Blood Management (PBM), which is strongly recommended by WHO. The most crucial and clinically proven cornerstone of PBM is Goal-directed bleeding Management (GDBM). With proven accomplishments in Australia, the US, and Europe, the adoption of GDBM ensures a reduction in blood usage by up to 90%, ICU length of stay by 25%, complications like infections or kidney damage by 70% providing more efficiency to doctors and time for patient management with an overall improvement in patient out-

Paytm Payments Bank's deadline to stop transactions extended till March 15

NEW DELHI, Feb 16 (Agencies): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday extended the earlier deadline given to Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) to stop key services, including credit transactions, deposits, wallet and FASTags. The central bank has said in a fresh circular that the new deadline is March 15.

"Keeping in view the interest of customers (including merchants) of PPBL who may require a little more time to make alternative arrangements and the larger public interest, the following directions are issued by the Reserve Bank of India under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 in partial modification of the earlier Directions dated



January 31, 2024," said the RBI in its fresh circular

The central bank noted: "No further deposits or credit transactions or top-ups shall be allowed in any customer accounts, prepaid

instruments, wallets, FASTags, National Common Mobility Cards, etc. after March 15, 2024 (extended from the earlier stipulated timeline of February 29, 2024), other than any interest, cashbacks, sweep in from partner banks or refunds which may be credited anytime."

However, besides the deadline extension, there has been no change or modification to its earlier order. Withdrawal or utilisation of balances by its customers from their accounts, including savings bank accounts, current accounts, prepaid instruments, FAST-ags, National Common Mobility Cards, etc. are to be permitted without any restrictions, upto their available balance," RBI noted.

New paper-based platform can rapidly detect antibiotic-resistant bacteria

NEW DELHI, Feb 16 (Agencies): Researchers have developed a paper-based platform that could help quickly detect the presence of antibiotic-resistant, disease-causing bacteria.

One of greatest challenges facing the world is the rise of disease-causing bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. Their emergence has been fuelled by the misuse and overuse of antibiotics, the researchers said.

According to the World Health Organisation

(WHO), a handful of such bacteria, including E coli and S aureus, have caused over a million deaths, and these numbers are projected to rise in the coming years. Timely diagnosis can improve the efficiency of treatment, the researchers said.

"Generally, the doctor diagnoses the patient and gives them medicines. The patient then takes it for two to three days before realising that the medicine is not working and goes back to the doctor," said Uday

Maitra, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore.

"Even diagnosing that the bacteria is antibioticresistant from blood or urine tests takes time. We wanted to reduce that time-to-diagnosis," Maitra said in a statement.

The latest research, published in the journal ACS Sensors, addressed this challenge by developing a rapid diagnosis protocol that uses a luminescent paper-based platform

to detect the presence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

There are different ways by which a bacterium becomes resistant to antibiotics. In one, the bacterium evolves, and can recognise and eject the medicine out of its cell.

In another, the bacterium produces an enzyme called beta-lactamase, which hydrolyses or breaks down the beta-lactam ring -- a key structural component of common antibiotics like penicillin and carbape-

nem -- rendering the medication ineffective.

The approach developed by researchers at the IISc and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Karnataka involves incorporating biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (BCA) within a supramolecular hydrogel matrix containing terbium cholate (TbCh). This hydrogel normally emits green fluorescence when ultraviolet (UV) light is shined on it.

Study decodes how birth weight is linked with heart disease in adulthood



LONDON, Feb 16 (Agencies): Researchers found that birth weight is linked to heart disease in adults due to risk genes shared by mothers and their children.

Most previous studies show that people born small are at increased risk of developing hypertension and heart disease in adulthood.

The biological cause of this phenomenon has been debated for decades, but there is no definitive research evidence. One popular theory is that inadequate nutritional intake during pregnancy affects the developing foetus' metabolism, predisposing it to cardiovascular disease during periods of overnutrition.

The findings, published in the journal Communications Biology, showed that maternal genetic factors that

influence the growth of the developing foetus have a birth weightindependent effect on the child's subsequent risk of heart disease.

However, it appears that these genes only play a role in disease risk when they are passed on to the child, said the researchers from the University of Helsinki in Finland.

"Certain maternal genes influence the growth conditions of the child in the womb and consequently the birth weight of the child. The child in turn inherits a copy of these genes from the mother," said Jaakko Leinonen, a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM) at the University of Helsinki.

"When we studied the impact of these birth weight genes on children's morbidity later in

changes in the baby's growth before birth due to the mother are unlikely to have a major impact on the child's risk of developing the disease as an adult. Instead, it seems that a child's own genes play a much more important role in determining his or her future health risks," Leinonen added.

The new research results were obtained by looking at the genetic data of more than 36,000 such motherchild pairs.

According to the researchers, previous genetic studies have produced partly different results because they have not been able to distinguish between the genetic effects of mother and child.

"Our research method, which uses genetic data from both mothers and their children at the same time, has proven to be a very effective way to find out how maternal health and the conditions of the baby in the womb can affect the health of the child," said Dr Taru Tukiainen, who led the study.

More research is needed to find out how being born significantly underweight or other significant changes in birth weight affect the risk of disease in adulthood.

New sensor can detect breast cancer using saliva in just 5 seconds

NEW YORK, Feb 16 (Agencies): Even as breast cancer cases are rising across the globe, an international team of scientists has developed a hand-held sensor device that makes screening fast, affordable, and accurate, from a tiny sample of saliva in just five seconds.

The biosensor design, by a team from the University of Florida and National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University in Taiwan, uses common components, such as widely available glucose testing strips and the open-source hardware-soft-

ware platform Arduino.

"Imagine medical staff conducting breast cancer screening in communities or hospitals," said Hsiao-Hsuan Wan, from the Department of Chemi-

cal Engineering, University of Florida.

Florida.

"Our device is an excellent choice because it is portable— about the size of your hand— and reusable. The testing

time is under five seconds per

sample, which makes it highly

efficient," Wan added.

The device uses paper test strips treated with specific antibodies that interact with the targeted cancer biomarkers.

A saliva sample is placed on the strip, and pulses of electricity are sent to electrical contact points on the biosensor device.

These pulses cause the biomarkers to bind to the antibodies and alter the charge and capacitance over the electrode.

This produces a change in the output signal, which can be measured and translated into

digital information about how much biomarker is present.

The design is revolutionary

The design is revolutionary compared to its alternatives. Mammograms, ultrasounds, and MRIs are costly and invasive and require large, specialised equipment, present low-dose radiation exposure, and can take days or weeks to return test results, said the researchers in the paper published in the Journal of Vacuum Science & Technology B.

"In many places, especially in developing countries, advanced technologies like MRI for breast cancer testing may not be readily available," Wan said.

"Our technology is more costeffective, with the test strip costing just a few cents and the reusable circuit board priced at \$5. We are excited about the potential to make a significant impact in areas where people might not have had the resources for breast cancer screening tests before," Wan said.

tests before," Wan said.

The biosensor requires just a drop of saliva, and it can provide accurate test results even if the concentration of the cancer biomarker in the sample is only one quadrillionth of a gram, or one femtogram, per millilitre.

"The highlight for me was when I saw readings that clearly distinguished between healthy individuals and those with cancer," Wan said.

"We dedicated a lot of time and effort to perfecting the strip, board, and other components. Ultimately, we've created a technique that has the potential to help people all around the world," Wan said.

PV Sindhu shines as India women assured of historic medal at Badminton Asia Team Championships

PV Sindhu led from the front as India women beat Hong Kong 3-0 in the quarter-final on Friday in Selangor. Indian women's team was assured of its first-ever medal in the Badminton Asia Team Championships.

SELANGOR (MALAYSIA), Feb 16 (Agencies): India women's team continued its sensational run in the Badminton Asia Team Championships in Selangor, Malaysia. After stunning top seeds China to top the group stage, India blanked Hong Kong 3-0 in the quarterfinal. The dominant win assured the India women's team of its first-ever medal in the prestigious continental team tournament.

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu's comeback to competitive action could not have been better as she played a key role in India beating China on Wednesday. On Friday, Sindhu clinched a hard-fought win against lower-ranked Lo Sin Yan Happy of Hong Kong. Sindhu needed 52 minutes to beat the World No.



77 21-7, 16-21, 21-12.

Meanwhile, Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa won their first double match in straight games to give India a 2-0 lead.

India did not need the last two matches of the quarter-final tie

as Ashmita Chaliha clinched a comfortable straight-game win over Sum Yee Yeung in 37 minutes

India may face China again, this time in the semi-final. PV Sindhu's side will face the winner of another quarter-final between China and Japan.

Earlier in the week, India produced a sensational result as they stunned top seeds China 3-2 in a thrilling Group Y match. 16-year-old Anmol Kharb produced the biggest win of her career as she won the decisive singles match for India.

Sindhu, playing her first competitive match since October last year, came up with a clinical show against World No. 8 Han Yue in her match against China.

The win over China and finishing on top of the group helped India avoid a tougher test in the quarter-final and PV SIndhu's side was up to the task, blanking Hong Kong 3-0.

The Indian men's team will be in action later in the day in their quarter-final against Japan.

Table Tennis World Team Championship: Ayhika, Sreeja stun World No 1 and 2 but India go down to China



BUSAN, Feb 16 (Agencies): Indian paddlers Ayhika Mukherjee and Sreeja Akula stunned the world's top two players, Sun Yingsha and Wang Yidi, but it wasn't enough as the side went down 2-3 to defending champions China at

the World Table Tennis Team Championships in

Busan on Friday.
Starting the proceedings for India, Ayhika, ranked 155, punched way above her weight to pull off a brilliant 12-10, 2-11, 13-11, 11-6 win against world number

one Yingsha to give her team a 1-0 lead.

C o m m o n w e a l t h Games medallist Sreeja pulled off a dominating win over Yidi. The Indian won 3-0 (11-7, 11-9, 13-11). India's topranked player Manika Batra disappointed, losing both her matches to world number four Wang Manyu (3-11, 8-11, 15-13, 7-11) and Yingsha (3-11, 6-11, 13-11, 9-11).

With the tie locked at 2-2, the 26-year-old Ayhika was unable to recreate the magic of her opening match and went down in straight games to Manyu 9-11, 11-13, 6-11.

Bengaluru open: Nagal passes Wong test with flying colours

BENGALURU, Feb 16 (Agencies): Sumit Nagal was put through his sternest test yet by Coleman Wong but the second-seeded Indian had enough fight in him to battle past his opponent to enter the quarterfinals of the Bengaluru Open.

Nagal won 6-2 7-5 after an hour and 46 minutes of intense battle. But, the beginning belied the struggles awaiting Nagal in the later stages of the match.

Nagal continued the pattern of earning an early break when he went up 2-0 in the opening set. But it was not all smooth sailing as the 26-year-old had to battle from 0-30 down in the very next game to hold his serve.

Nagal got another break in the eighth game to bag the first set 6-2. However, the 19-year-old Wong showed more fight in the second set.

After the first four games went by serve, Wong broke Nagal in the fifth game, and it was the first time the Indian dropped his serve in this fournament.

dropped his serve in this tournament.
Wong found his groove as his serves
and ground shots took a toll on Nagal

during this passage.
However, the world No. 98 broke back



in the sixth game to restore the parity at 3-3, though it was more the result of his rival committing a couple of unforced errors. In the seventh, Nagal was 0-40 down but lifted his game to make it a deuce and a couple of points later he managed to hold the serve to go 4-3 up.

The Indian star received a brilliant chance to close out the match in the 10th game when he went up 40-15 on Wong's serve. Wong kept showing resisitance, but Nagal did not miss his third match point which came in the 12th game.

NZ vs SA: Record-breaking Kane Williamson guides New Zealand to first-ever Test series win vs South Africa

HAMILTON, Feb 16 (Agencies): New Zealand ended their long wait for their maiden Test series win over South Africa as Kane Williamson inspired the hosts to a 7-wicket win in the 2nd Test in Hamilton on Friday. Kane Williamson hit an unbeaten 133 as New Zealand successfully chased down 267, the highest total chased in Test cricket history at Seddon Park.

New Zealand and South Africa met each other in bilateral Test series 17 times in the past with the Proteas winning 13 of them. However, Kane Williamson's run-scoring fest made sure New Zealand hammered a weakened South African side 2-0. A twin hundred from the former captain made sure New Zealand won the first Test by 281 runs. When it looked like another walk in the park for New Zealand, a spirited South African side, riding on David Bedingham's maiden Test hundred.



gave the home side a scary by taking the first innings lead.

However, Kane Williamson ground it out on a tough batting pitch on Day 4, bringing up his 32nd Test hundred and stitching a 152-run match-winning stand with Will Young in the final innings.

With the 2-0 series win which earned them the first-ever Tangiwai Shield, New Zealand also extended their lead in the

World Test Championship points table.

WILLIAMSON LAUDS PRO-TEAS FIGHT

"Coming into today on a wearing surface we knew we were going to have to string partnerships together. Credit to South Africa. Certainly, for the first couple of days they outplayed us I thought," Kane Williamson, who was named the Player of the Series, said.

"We had to fight hard to get out of that position and change momentum and with the partnerships and seeing off the new ball were able to give ourselves the chance," he added after finishing the series with scores of 118, 109, 43, and 133 not out.

The disappointment on South Africa's camp was evident as the tourists fluffed a chance to bat New Zealand out of the contest in the second innings. Barring David Bedingham, none of the other batters converted their starts into big knocks as they were bundled out for 235.

The South African team is considerably under-strength as most of its leading players remained at home to play in a domestic Twenty20 league. Six Proteas players including captain Neil Brand made their debuts in the first test and the second test lineup had only 51 tests in total compared to New Zealand's 436.

Ishan Kishan's absence from Ranji Trophy continues | South Korea sack head coach

JAMSHEDPUR, Feb 16 (Agencies): Ishan Kishan's absence from Ranji Trophy continued as the wicketkeeper-batter, who plays domestic cricket for Jharkhand, skipped the final round of matches that started on Friday, a move that will not go down well with BCCI.

Kishan's reluctance to play first-class cricket and focus only on the IPL forced the BCCI to make a minimum number of Ranji Trophy games mandatory for players in order to be eligible for the cash-rich

league's lucrative aud tion pool.

Deepak Chahar and Shreyas Iyer are also missing in action in the ongoing final round of matches that started across venues. Iyer was, however, having issues with his lower back and groin.

These three players --Kishan, Chahar and lyer -- were specifically told to play for their respective state teams in firstclass cricket.

In the absence of Kishan, Kumar Kushagra continued doing wicket-keeping duties



for Jharkhand.
Jharkhand, who have only one win and 10 points from six matches so far, are playing Rajasthan at home in their

inal round

The manner in which Kishan has missed match after match since returning midway from the national's team

"travel fatigue", hasn't gone down well with the men who matter in the Indian cricket establishment.

More so after it was found that he was training in Baroda with his new Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya while his state team languished near bottom of group A table in Ranji.

There is a general consensus that a strict policy needs to be adhered to so that a group of young players don't make "playing IPL to IPL" a habit.

Jurgen Klinsmann following disappointing Asian Cup campaign



SEOUL, Feb 16 (Agencies): The South Korean Football Association (KFA) has terminated the contract of national coach Jurgen Klinsmann, following a disappointing performance at the 2024 Asian Cup. This decision came after a committee from the KFA raised doubts regarding Klinsmann's leadership abilities.

South Korea was ousted from the Asian Cup, following a 0-2 defeat to Jordan in the semi-finals. This loss heightened calls from fans and some politicians urging Klinsmann's dismissal, as the team continued their 64-year wait for a third Asian Cup title.

Klinsmann's popularity in South Korea took a significant hit during the tournament, including public denouncements criticising his attitude after he was seen smiling during his team's

poor performances. Additionally, concerns over his leadership arose after an incident between the team's players which left their captain, Son Heungmin, with a finger injury just before the crucial semi-final game.

In fact, KFA President Chung Mong-gyu tore into Klinsmann, saying the German fell short of expectations. Klinsmann has coached Germany, United States national teams and Bayern Munich in the past.

"Coach Klinsmann failed to demonstrate leadership that we expected from the national team coach, including game management, player management and work attitude, which elevate the competitiveness of the national team," said Chung.

his tenure, Klinsmann was criticised for his 'remote leadership.' Despite committing to spending time in South Korea, much of his working time was spent in Los Angeles, where he currently resides.

The former World Cup-winning player with West Germany in 1990 replaced Paulo Bento as South Korea's coach after Bento stepped down following their defeat to Brazil in the 2022 World Cup's round of 16. However, Klinsmann's tenure with South Korea began on a slippery slope, with the team going five games without a win.

Following his sacking, Klinsmann thanked the KFA for their support, saying it's been an incredible journey for him.

"Thank you so much for all your support taking us to the semi-final of the Asian Cup and an incredible journey over the last 12 months with not losing 13 games in a row before the semifinal," said Klinsmann.

Despite some improvements, including a sixgame winning streak leading up to the Asian Cup and subsequently reaching the semi-finals, their poor showing in the semi-final game where they failed to register a single shot on target against Jordan, a team 64 places below them in the FIFA rankings, sealed Klinsmann's fate.

Delhi Capitals' Annabel Sutherland warms up for WPL 2024 with record Test double century vs South Africa Women

PERTH, Feb 16 (Agencies): Annabel Sutherland, agonisingly, fell short of making history for Australia Women despite scoring 210 runs off 256 balls against South Africa Women in the Only Test at the WACA in Perth.

The 22-year-old Sutherland became only the fifth Australian woman to score a Test double hundred after Joanne Broadbent, Michelle Goszko, Karen Rolton and Ellyse Perry.

Perry holds the record for the highest individual score after she racked up an unbeaten 213



against England back in November 2017 at the North Sydney Oval.

Sutherland was unbeaten on 202 at Tea on Day 2 of the Test and was all set to go past Perry's record for Aus-

tralia. However, she fell 3 runs short after Chloe Tryon accounted for her wicket.

Sutherland's knock, laced with 27 fours and 2 sixes, helped Australia post 575 for 9 (declared) and take a lead of 499 runs in the first innings.
Sutherland in terrific form before WPL 2024

After the Women's Test, Sutherland will head to India where she will play for the Delhi Capitals in the 2024 Women's Premier League (WPL). In the auction that took place last year, DC shelled out a whopping Rs 2 crore for the all-rounder.

Apart from performing with the bat, Sutherland was up to the mark with the ball as well. The youngster picked up the wickets of Sune Luus, Tazmin Brits and Delmi

Tucker and finished with impressive figures of 9-2-19-3.

On the back of her spell, Australia bowled the Proteas Women out for a paltry score of 76 in 31.2 overs.

Sutherland was a part of the Gujarat Giants last season, but failed to make an impact, after which she was released by the Beth Mooney-led team.

In the Capitals, Sutherland will play under former Australian skipper Meg Lanning and will be looking for a better showing.

JKBS grieves unfortunate

respectful and an active member of erstwhile

organization of Batwal

community, headed by

He always gave con-

sidered opinion in

Batwal community's

All JKBS members

present in the meeting

prayed to Almighty to

grant eternal peace to

the departed soul and

give immense strength

to the bereaved family

to bear this immeasur-

able loss boldly.

Late Shri Bula Ram.

important matters.

demise of its member

Girdhari Lal Motan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: To

mourn the sad, sudden

and unfortunate demise

of its eminent member

Girdhari Lal Motan,

who hailed from Vil-

lage Shahzadpur, the

Jammu and Kashmir

Batwal Sabha held a

While speaking, the

JKBS' General Secre-

tary R.L.Kaith and it's

executive members

meeting here today.

Prof. Vaidya visits RARI Jammu, inaugurates various works



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu (RARI, Jammu), CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India is serving people of J&K since last many years and providing Ayurveda Health Care Services to citizens of

The RARI is only NABH as well as NABL accredited Avurvedic Hospital at J&K having best facilities in terms of indoor and outdoor patients in addition to Research activities.

The RARI today organized an inauguration function at its campus. The deep borewell, Herbarium for plant based raw drugs, Museum and the NABL & NABL laboratories have been inaugurated by Prof. Vaidva Rabinaravan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH, Government

He visited the all sections of the Institute and appreciated activities being conducted by

He also met with staff and shared some valuable suggestions for further improvement in services Dr. Saniav Kumar Singh Assistant Director incharge briefed about programme. During the event he also felicitate employees who contributed to the institute in obtaining NABH & NABL

Dr Gopesh Sharma, Dr. Vipin Sharma, Dr. Aditya B Shah, Dr Poonam Mohod, Dr Meenakshi Suri, Dr Subhash Sharma, SRF's, interns, patients and their relatives also attended programme. Talat Anjum moderated the program.

said, that Girdhari Lal Motan was polite, kind, Army conducts medical camp



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: In a remarkable display of community service, the Indian Army organized a comprehensive medical camp at Chhowa Panchayat, targeting the Bakarwal and Gujjar communities. The event witnessed an overwhelming turnout with approximately 150 civilians, including esteemed personalities such as Sarpanch Mumtaj, local politician Mohd Yusuf, and 20 children from the Ranjan Madarasa.

The medical camp, held under the auspices of the Indian Army, aimed to address the healthcare needs of these marginalized communities, providing them with access to essential medical services and consultations.

From general checkups to specialized care, the camp offered a wide array of services tailored to meet the diverse healthcare requirements of the attendees.

Sarpanch

lauded the efforts of the Indian Army, emphasizing the significance of such initiatives in bridging healthcare disparities and fostering community well-being.

Local politician Mohd Yusuf echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the collaborative spirit exhibited by all stakeholders involved in organizing the camp.

Furthermore, the presence of 20 children from the Ranjan Madarasa underlined the inclusive nature of the event, ensuring that even the younger members of the community received necessary medical

attention and guidance. The Indian Army remains committed to serving the nation and its people, extending its outreach beyond conventional duties to address the holistic needs of communities across the country.

Through initiatives like the medical camp at Chhowa Panchavat. the Indian Army continues to uphold its ethos of selfless service and solidarity with the citi-

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: Dr. Kiran Angra, Principal M.D.S.D college, Ambala, released the book, "E-banking (A New Gateway for Indian Banking Industry" written by Professor R.K.

The book highlights that modern technology has transformed the functioning of business.

It has bridged the gaps in terms of the reach and the coverage of systems and enabled better decision-making based on latest and accurate information, reduced cost and overall improvement in efficiency.

In the Indian context, the financial sector, especially the banking sector has been a major beneficiary from the inroads made by IT.

Many new processes, products and services offered by banks and

Program

other financial intermediaries are now IT centered. E-delivery channels are also a gift of IT. Now-a-days many banks are providing the services of e-channels like ATMs, I-banking, M-banking, Tele-banking, Debit cards, Credit cards etc. Most of the initiatives regarding e-channels are aimed at providing better and more efficient customer service by offering mul-

tiple options to the cus-

Prof. Uppal's book "E-Banking

Banking Industry" released

-A New Gateway For The Indian

tomers. These e-channels have positive impact on the profitability of the bank groups. With the rapid improvements in technology and faster growth of e-channels, society has become more sophisticated than in olden days. We have a better educated, better informed, better organized and better paid workforce than existed in olden days. With the help of e-channels,

CUJ students visit NABARD

Headquarters for Outreach

banking system has become more efficient with efficient e-payment system.

This situation has resulted in more competition among banks and stimulated more technological developments.

The present book is an empirical study in Punjab and evaluated customers satisfaction and awareness level from e-services and also suggested some vital strategies to protect the customers in e-age.

This book may be very useful for banking industry, planners, policy makers, academicians, researchers and those who are interested in banking studies. Currently, Dr. Uppal holds the positions of Professor Emeritus and Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi, and Professor-cum-Principal at Baba Farid College of Management and Technology in Punjab.

Tonyurges PM to accept demands of protesting farmers

Top News Report

SUCHETGARH. Feb 16: Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) and District Development Council (DDC) Member Suchetgarh, while reiterating the Congress party's support to the farmers who marched to Delhi protesting for fulfilling their demands, has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of muzzling the voice of the nation's food producers

He expressed this in his address during a function organized to commence the development work of support roads in village Sae Tengawali of Suchetgarh constituency in RS Pura today. The work was kick-started by him amidst a gathering of a large number of the village and its adjacent

The senior Congress leader stated that it is an irony of the nation that the incumbent BJP Govt instead of accepting the genuine demands of the



ers' pending demands before it is too late and the situation goes out of control. Meanwhile after kickstarting the developmental work at village

Sae Tengawali, Tony said that nearly ten years ago a bridge was constructed but its utility remained elusive as the authorities failed to construct the approach cum support roads leading to the bridge. He asserted that this reflects the poor planning on the part of successive representatives of the area. He said that the construc-

KC College of Education

conducts Plantation Drive

tion of bridge and the supporting roads should have been executed simultaneously, but that did not happen for years together and the roads could not qualify to be called roads in true

> The senior Congress leader said that realizing his duty as the representative of the area, he took up the matter with the concerned authorities and final got the long pending demand of the people of the area fulfilled.

> Prominent among others present on the occasion were Sarpanch Sham Lal Bhagat, Kissan Neta Mandeep Choudhary, Sonu Randhawa, Ramesh Choudhary and Baldev Singh

MoU signed between **SMVDU & NIT Delhi**



Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 16: National Institute of Technology, Delhi, and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen academic and research cooperation between the two institutions.

Recognizing their strengths in research and academics across various disciplines including science, engineering, management, and social sciences, both NIT Delhi and SMVDU have agreed to establish a comprehensive program for academic cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The key highlights of the MoU include the exchange of informa-

tion related to research

activities, collaboration on joint research projects and consultancy services, Joint supervision of postgraduate and Ph.D. students, sharing of infrastructure facilities, expert lectures by faculty members, joint conferences, workshops, seminars, and short-term courses.

Dr. Vikram Singh, Assistant Professor (SoECE) and Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Dean, R&D, SMVDU, along with Prof. Manoj Kumar (ECE) of NIT Delhi, will coordinate the day-today implementation of the MoU. Both institutions have committed to periodic reviews to strengthen cooperation further.

The MoU will be valid for 3 years from the date of signing, with provisions for extension upon mutual agreement.

JAMMU. Feb 16: Department of Economics at Central Unigraduate students had the privilege of visiting the National Bank (NABARD) Jammu Office, Jammu.

The highlight of the programme was an enlightening address by Bhallamudi Sridhar, NABARD Chief General Manager, who shared valuable insights into the organization's mission, vision, and ongoing initiatives.

His words resonated deeply with the stuthe challenges and opportunities in the realm of rural development.

ing presentation by Ms. Anamika, General Manager at NABARD, provided an in-depth overview of NABARD's genesis, organizational structure, as well as its multifaceted roles and

light on NABARD's pivotal role in promoting sustainable agriculture, rural infrastructure, and inclusive financial services across the country.

tations, an interactive question and answer session ensued, allowing the students to delve deeper into the intricacies of NABARD's initia-



Top News Report

versity of Jammu post for Agriculture and Rural Development & Kashmir Regional

dents, offering them a

first-hand glimpse into

Moreover, an engagfunctions.

Her presentation shed

Following the presen-

tives. Bhallamudi Sridhar,

expressed his delight at the keen interest displayed by the students and emphasized the importance of youth participation in shaping the future of rural economy.Students gained valuable insights and engaged in meaningful discussions with NAB-ARD's esteemed leadership team. The outreach pro-

gramme not only provided students with a unique learning opportunity but also strengthened the bond between academia and industry, promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange. Such support was visible because of patronage by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and support by Shri Bhallamudi Sridhar, CGM NABARD.

The event was impeccably coordinated by Sohan Lal, Assistant General Manager, whose meticulous planning ensured a seamless and enriching experience for all participants. Dr. Shaveta Kohli, Associate Professor and Anil Kumar Bharti, Assistant Professor led the team and introduced the scope of the visit besides thanking NABARD for agreeing to such an educative visit at the conclusion of the trip.



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 16: The Environmental Club and NSS unit of K.C. College of Education organized Plantation Drive in the college premises as a part of Project Work Activity "Plant and Own a Tree" considering the manifold benefits of trees including that they release oxygen, absorb harmful gases, protect us from UV rays, provide us with food, prevent soil erosion, maintain ecological balance and above all lessen the effects of global warm-

Conservation.

semester I participated in the drive where in.

This activity was being done to help our teacher trainees recognize the beauty and importance of trees and to promote them with learning opportunities to get involved in Environment

The students of first of all the students

demarcated the area with the help of college gardeners and other helpers, they dug the ground for plantation. The students and the faculty planted the fruit trees there.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the College, Dr. Sanjay Tickoo appreciated the initiative taken by Dr. Puja Sharma, Convenor of the club and Priya Gupta, NSS Programme Officer, who convened the whole programme and further said that tree plantation is not just something that should be done, instead, it is a necessarily an urgent need of the hour.

The club members, faculty and students participated in the plantation drive with zeal and enthusiasm.

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