

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

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

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 valley.

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 banks of Dal Lake.

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.

An intense Western Disturbance 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

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

JAMMU, Feb 16 (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

or narcotics by the 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."

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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 Punjab and Haryana 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

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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".

In a press conference held at the AICC headquarters in Delhi, Maken said, "I have very disturbing news to share with all of you. The accounts of the Con-



gress party have been 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 our accounts

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Over dozen structures develop cracks in Doda



JAMMU, Feb 16 (Agencies): Over a dozen residential houses and

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

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

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

SRINAGAR, Feb 16 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday detained 50 trade union leaders and activists who were planning to hold a protest at Lal Chowk here in support of the demands of agitating farmers.

The protest was

planned in response to the Samyukta Kisan Morcha's call for a 'Bharat Bandh' to press the government to accept the agitating farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

The leaders and activ-

ists were detained by 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.

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31 police officers, personnel transferred in Jammu Kashmir

JAMMU, Feb 16 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police has ordered transfer and posting of 31 police officers and personnel in Jammu division.

An order issued in this regard said Sub-Inspector (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 Station Domana as IO, and SI Bhola Nath from Police Post Sainik Colony to Police Station Nowabad as IO.

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 Station Bishnah to Police Station Nagrota as IO, PSI Mohammad Zahid from Police Station Nagrota to Police Station Bishnah as IO, PSI Aqib Lateef from Police Station Bus Stand to Police Station Gangyal as IO, PSI lahtsham-Ul-Haq from Police Station Gangyal to Police Station Bus Stand, PSI Arun Kumar Shan from

DPL Jammu to Police Station Gharota as IO, PSI Maroof Ahmed from 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 Nowabad as IO, PSI Irshad Ahmed from Police Station Gharota to Police Station Miran Sahib as SHO, and PSI Rashid

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



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 Gundmacher Bridge.

He further said that during checking, a sus-

picious movement of one person carrying a white colored bag who was coming from Lalpora towards Gundmacher was observed.

"Today morning, we 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.

Saxena further said that an FIR has been registered under

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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

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EDITORIAL

FARMERS
STRIKE

Farmers 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

At 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 with-

out 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

Women'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 vio-

lence 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.

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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 reshaping



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 Narendra Modi's "AtmNirbhar Bharat" and "nirashakti" initiatives.

Dr. Bukhari envisions aligning her passion for cocoon artistry with

the national agenda of self-reliance, contributing to the empowerment of women in the industry. By embracing and embodying the spirit of these initiatives, she aspires to play a pivotal role in fostering innovation, resilience, and women's empowerment within the sericulture sector. Dr. Bukhari's dedication not only extends to artistic excellence but also to becoming a catalyst for positive change, echoing the transformative vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives on a national scale.

Expressing her gratitude, Dr. Bukhari thanked Director Poonch Campus Prof.

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

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 environment 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 engineering institutions across

India. 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 success.

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



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

others presented on 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.

Therefore, in order 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.

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 Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMKAY), 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 provided



to state governments 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 Narendra Modi'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

announced by the Prime 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 PMKAY. 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

malnutrition.

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 PMKAY, 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 GDC Udhampur in Semi Final by 02 points.

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

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

The men team was led 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 Chandigarh."

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 aashiqana 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 private affair.

Visual element

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

"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 pm).

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 conversa-

tion, 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 sequel 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 (films)."

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."

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 universe! I promise you there will be mayhem... #SinghamAgain @itsrohitshetty @rohitshettypicturez.

Helmed by Rohit Shetty, Singham Again also stars Kareena

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.

The clip starts with the 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 Netflix.

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 romance-tragedy 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 said.

"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 fol-

lowing '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 minimum support price (MSP), among others. A five-hour marathon talks between the leaders of protesting farmer unions and three

Union ministers saw no resolution.

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 sup-

porters 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 and violence endured by the people of Sandeshkhali.

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

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

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 tranquility 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.

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 here.

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 ramed 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 board.

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.

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 J&K.
The RARI is only NABH as well as NABL accredited Ayurvedic 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. Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH, Government

of India.
He visited the all sections of the Institute and appreciated activities being conducted by RARI.
He also met with staff and shared some valuable suggestions for further improvement in services. Dr. Sanjay 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.

JKBS grieves unfortunate 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 Village Shahzadpur, the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha held a meeting here today.
While speaking, the JKBS' General Secretary R.L.Kaith and it's executive members said, that Girdhari Lal Motan was polite, kind,

respectful and an active member of erstwhile organization of Batwal community, headed by Late Shri Bula Ram.
He always gave considered opinion in Batwal community's important matters.
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 immeasurable loss boldly.

Prof. Uppal's book "E-Banking -A New Gateway For The Indian Banking Industry" released



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. Uppal.
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

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 multiple options to the customers.
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,

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.

Tony urges 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 areas.
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



farmers is showering tear gas and bullets on the members of farming community. He urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to accept the protesting farmers' pending demands before it is too late and the situation goes out of control.
Meanwhile after kick-starting 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-

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 sense.
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 Bedu.

Army conducts medical camp at Chhowa Panchayat



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 check-ups to specialized care, the camp offered a wide array of services tailored to meet the diverse healthcare requirements of the attendees.
Sarpanch Mumtaj

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 Panchayat, the Indian Army continues to uphold its ethos of selfless service and solidarity with the citizens of India.

CUJ students visit NABARD Headquarters for Outreach Program



Top News Report
JAMMU, Feb 16: Department of Economics at Central University of Jammu post graduate students had the privilege of visiting the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Jammu & Kashmir Regional 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 students, offering them a

first-hand glimpse into the challenges and opportunities in the realm of rural development.
Moreover, an engaging 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 functions.
Her presentation shed light on NABARD's pivotal role in promoting sustainable agriculture, rural infrastructure, and inclusive financial services across the country.
Following the presentations, an interactive question and answer session ensued, allowing the students to delve

deeper into the intricacies of NABARD's initiatives.
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 NABARD's esteemed leadership team.
The outreach programme 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.

KC College of Education conducts Plantation Drive



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, main-

tain ecological balance and above all lessen the effects of global warming.
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 Conservation.
The students of semester I participated in the drive where in, 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. Pooja 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.

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 information 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-to-day 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.