# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Regd. No. JK-435 e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369 Vol.-15 Issue-47 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

#### BRIEFLY

Night temp records jump, MeT issues 'yellow warning' amid wet spell forecast in

J&K SRINAGAR, Feb 17 (Agencies): As Jammu and Kashmir braces up for an extended wet spell beginning this evening, night temperature on Saturday witnessed a jump with only Gulmarg recording below freezing level. Also, the weatherman issued a yellow warning for isolated heavy rain and snow over higher reaches and disruption of traffic on higher passes from February 18-20. There are four types of colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no action, vellow—situation to be watched, orangegovernment agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red –action needed by the agencies. A meteorological department official said that Srinagar saw an increase bv over 4°C. recordina a low of 3.0°C against minus 1.6°C on the previous night. It was above normal by 2.0°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, he said. Qazigund recorded a minimum of 1.0°C against minus 1.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir. the MeT official said. Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 0.7°C against minus 4.2°C on the previous night and it was 5.1°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir. Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 2.0°C against 0.4°C on the

previous night and the

temperature was above

normal by 2.9°C for the

place, the official said.

Kupwara town in north

Kashmir recorded a low

of 3.3°C against 2.4°C

and it was 3.5°C above

normal there, the offi-

cial said.Gulmarg, the

official said, recorded

a low of minus 1.2°C

against minus 3.4°C

on the previous night

and the temperature

was above normal by

famous skiing resort in

north Kashmir.Jammu,

minimum of 10.7°C and

5.6°C for the world

he said, recorded a

it was above normal

by 0.2°C for the winter

capital of J&K.Banihal

recorded a

on the previous night

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#### Ahead of PM Modi's visit to J&K, Security Forces conduct search for possible Cross-Border tunnels



SAMBA/JAMMU, Feb 17 (Agencies): The Border Security Force (BSF) and the Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted a joint search on Saturday for any possible cross-border tunnel along the International Border in Samba district, amid heightened security in the Union territory ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit next week, officials said.

In the past decades, about a dozen crossborder tunnels which were used to push terrorists, weapons and narcotics from across the border were uncovered by the security forces along the International Border with Pakistan in Samba, Kathua and Jammu districts.

Police had recently announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh to anyone who helps in locating such tunnels used by "anti-national elements"

Modi is visiting Jammu on February 20 to inaugurate and lay the foundation of 209 projects worth Rs 3,161 crore. He will also address a public meeting at the Maulana Azad Stadium in the heart of Jammu.

As part of the heightened security arrange-

ments in view of Modi's visit, the officials said, the BSF and the police conducted a joint twohour-long anti-tunnelling operation in the Ramgarh sector of Samba district.

The operation started around 9.45 am and search teams did not find anything suspicious on the ground, they said.

The officials said BSF troops guarding the IB and police personnel manning the border posts have been put on maximum alert, especially after the recent ceasefire violation by Pakistan Rangers, and have been asked to maintain a tight vigil on any suspicious movement from across the border.

Besides the border areas along the IB, security arrangements have been beefed up along the Line of Control **Turn to page 9** 

Farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' March enters fifth day, BKU

(Ugrahan) to protest outside BJP leaders' Homes

#### **Banihal-Sangaldan section of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla** rail link to open on February 20



JAMMU, Feb 17 (Agencies): The Indian Railways will start train services on the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section, a 48.1-kilometre-long significant segment of the country's most ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project, on

February 20. "We will get a step closure to realise our dream to connect Srinagar with Kanyakumari," a source

in the railways said. "The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project is one of the most ambitious Himalayan railway projects post Independence," he added.

According to sources in the railways, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the section by virtually flagging off a train from Sangaldan.

However, an official confirmation in this regard is awaited.

Talking about the project, a senior railways official said, "Spanning the challenging terrain of the Pir Panjal ranges, the USBRL aims at establishing an all-weather, comfortable and economicallyfeasible transportation network, connecting remote Himalayan areas with the rest of the country." The USBRL project seeks to integrate the Kashmir Valley with the Jammu region and the national rail network, spanning a total length of 272 kilometres out of which 161 kilometres have already been commissioned.

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#### PDD Daily Wager **Electrocuted** to Death While **Repairing Live** Wire

SRINAGAR, Feb 17 (Agencies): A PDD daily wager died after he was electrocuted while repairing a live wire in Rajouri village on Saturday afternoon.

Sources said that a

30-year-old PDD daily wager identified as Mushtaq Ahmad son of Mohd Bashir of Dramman Kochjja was critically injured when he came in contact with live wire while performing duty in Kewal village of Rajouri. He was immediately taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

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CHANDIGARH, Feb 17 (Agencies): The Bharti Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) will on Saturday hold dharnas outside the residences of three senior BJP leaders in Punjab on the fifth day of the farmers' pro-

test over their various demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP. Apart from holding dharnas outside the homes of former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh, the BJP's Punjab unit chief Sunil Jakhar and senior leader Kewal Singh Dhillon, the union will also hold protests at toll plazas in the state. extending support to the farmers' "Delhi Chalo"

On the fifth day of their "Delhi Chalo" march —



called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha — the farmers stayed put at the two border points of Punjab and Haryana as they press the Centre to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee of a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops.

The farmers from Punjab began their march to Delhi on Tuesday but were stopped by security personnel at the Shambhu and the Khanauri points of Punjab's border with Haryana. The protesters have stayed put at the two border points since then.

The Gurnam Singh Charuni-led Bhartiya Kisan Union (Charuni), which is based in Haryana, will on Saturday take out a tractor rally in solidarity with the protesting farmers.

Union ministers Arjun Munda, Piyush Goyal and Nitvanand Rai and farmer leaders will meet on Sunday for the fourth round of talks. The two sides met earlier on February 8, 12 and 15 but those talks remained inconclusive.

On Friday, the Haryana Police released a series of video clips that purported to show several farmers pelting them with stones and attempting to provoke security personnel at the Shambhu border.

In a post on X, the police asserted that "ruckus" cannot be allowed under the guise of the farmers' movement. They claimed 25 **Turn to page 9** 

#### Sachin **Tendulkar** visits Bat factory in **Pulwama**

SRINAGAR, Feb 17 (Agencies): Former leaendary cricketer Sachın Tendulkar on Saturday visited a bat manufacturing factory in Chersoo area of Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

As per the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Tendulkar visited MJ Sports factory in Chersoo area today and interacted with the workers there.

MJ Sports factory, which manufactures bats, is owned by two brothers Manzoor and Javid of Chersoo.

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#### Five senior cops among 19 booked in kidnapping, extortion case of Kutch firm staffer

BHUJ (Gujarat), Feb 17 (Agencies): Two superintendents of police (SPs) and three other senior policemen are among 19 persons against whom a case has been registered in connection with the kidnapping and extortion of an employee of a firm in Gujarat's Kutch district, police said on Saturday.

The Crime Investigation Department (CID) on Thursday registered an FIR against two SPs, three DySPs, a subinspector, and owners of Electrotherm Limited, among others, nearly a month after the Supreme Court lifted the stay on the Gujarat High Court order directing the probe agency to do the same, they said.

According to a release issued by the CID, Parmanad Seerwani, a resident of Gandhidham in Kutch district, lodged a police complaint against two company owners and 11 others for kidnapping and extortion committed in December

The probe agency, in the release, did not disclose the exact roles of the accused police officers, citing that it would affect the investigation.

Former Kutch (East) SPs GV Barot and Bhavna Patel and DySPs RD Desai, DS Vaghela and VJ Gadhvi, and sub-inspector N K Chauhan have been named in the FIR, the release stated.

The complainant

worked at Electrotherm Limited in 2011 and later tendered his resignation, which was repeatedly rejected by company owners Shailesh Bhandari and Anurag Bhan-

The Bhandaris were accused of allegedly kidnapping the complainant when he refused to become the firm's director after trying to resign unsuccessfully, the release said.

In December 2015, Seerwani was allegedly kidnapped and held captive in the company bungalow in Ahmedabad, where he was forced to sign blank papers to give away his properties, along with cash and gold worth lakhs, it said. A case has been registered against the accused under sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 347 and 348 (wrongful confinement and extortion), and 364 (kidnapping to murder), among other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Arms Act, the release said.

The complainant and his wife had approached the concerned authorities between December 6, 2015 and February 4, 2016 to get an FIR registered against the accused, it said.

However, when no action was taken, they moved the high court for directions to register an FIR, it said.

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CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

#### TENTH DAY / KRIYA & UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Smt. Asha Rani W/o Sh. Kasturi Lal Sharma R/o F-372, Rajpura Magotrian, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 4th Feb 2024. The 10th Day will be performed on 13-2-2024 at 11.30 am at Kali Mata Mandir Canal Road. Kriya will be performed at our residence on 14-2-2024 at 1 pm and Uthala will be performed on 19-2-2024 at 3 pm at our residence. **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Smt. Raj Dulari and Sh. Ved Pal Sharma **- Devar** Smt. Sushma Devi & Sh. Omkar Sharma - Devar

Smt. Ishu Magotra & Sh. Rajan Magotra - Son

Smt. Kajal Sharma & Sh. Sahil Magotra - Son

Smt. Ekta Sharma & Sh. Manu Magotra - Nephew Smt. Shefali Sharma & Sh. Manish Magotra - Nephew

Miss Akshita Magotra - Daughter

Mr. Arjun Magotra - Nephew Miss Avantika Magotra - Niece

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

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

#### 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

Smt. Asha Rani

Mr Samir Ji Bhat

S. Rajinderpal Singh

SH. ARNAB KHAJURIA

**Shri Hriday Nath** 

Koul (Ghasha ji )

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 Iaw) Harinderpal Singh & Parkash Kour (Brother & Bhabi) Parampal Kour & Tara Singh (Sister & Brother in law)

#### 10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Arnab Khajurja, S/o Raghubir Lal Khajuria resident of village Bumnal, tehsil Bishnah, at present residing at Chann Himmat, Jammu.

2024(Saturday) at 10 AM at our residence, H.no-113 A, Sec-1 A- Extension, Channi Himmat near Imperial/Aerobera Apartments KRIYA - 18th February 2024 (Sunday) at 2 PM at

10TH DAY will be observed on 17th February

our residence UTHALA - 19th February 2024 (Monday) from 10-

11 Am at Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat, Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Father & Mother Sh. Raghubir Lal Khajuria & Smt. Nirmal Khajuria

Wife & Daughter Smt. Sanchaita Khajuria & Aaratrika Khajuria Brother-In-Law & Sister Sh. Mayank Singh & Smt. Manu Khaiuria (Founder Voice of Dogras)

Chacha & Chachi Sh. Kuldip Khajuria (Retd. KAS) & Smt. Rekha Khajuria Father-In-Law & Mother-In-Law

Sh. Trilochan Pradhan & Smt. Anjali Pradhan

Sh. Parshotam Dadhichi & Vijay, Dr Kulbhushan & Sunita

CONTACT: 9419239983, 9419185631, Er. Ravinder & Neena, Dr. Manohar & Neelam 9419101742, 7006832784, Er. Rakesh & Neeraj, Sh. Rajinder & Ria

#### 10TH DAY KRIYA/SHRADHANJALI SABHA

#### **Om Shanti**

In deep sorrow, we announce the heartbreaking departure of our beloved father, Shri Hriday Nath Koul (Ghasha ji), who passed away on 10/02/2024.

The 10th Day Kriya will be conducted on 19/02/2024 at Muradnagar Ghat (UP) at 7:30 am.

The Shradhanjali Sabha will take

place from 3pm to 4pm at Community Centre Sec 52 Noida. Your presence is requested.

Grief Stricken. Kaul Family. |9999244019, 9810870040



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)

CONTACT NO: 9871328973, 9419134597, 9899957847

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** 

SALIL DHAR AND RICHA RANA DHAR

SANDEEP DHAR AND SUNNY DHAR

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

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

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

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

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 19-02-

2024 Monday at Shiv Mandir near Govt 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 sac 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 on

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 Road Jammu GRIEF STRICKEN

Father-in-law & Mother-in-law Lt Sh Prabhu Dayal Gupta & Smt Pushpa Devi

Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law

Sh Sat Pal Gupta & Smt Shakuntla Devi Sh Suresh Kumar Gupta & Smt Rajni Gupta Nanad & Jija Ji

Smt Sushma Gupta & Sh Dev Rai 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



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Surinder Singh** S/o Late Gurbachan Singh Ji Parwana R/o H No. 141, Sec-13 Nanak Nagar Jammu who breathed his last on 12-2-24. Daily Katha Kirtan, at the residence from 5.30 PM to 6.30 PM 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 Rajinder Singh & Sardarni Gurmeet Kour

Er. S Kuldip Singh & Sardarni Tarvinder Kour

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

S. Rangil Singh (Navy Retired) & Sardarni Sarbiit 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

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

Sons & Daughters in law

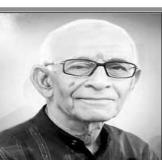
Parvesh Chib & Veena Chib (7780980345) Parshotam Chib & Chand Chib (9419189087) Krishan Chib & Sunita Chib (9419114263)

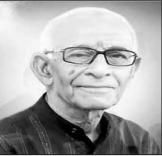
Daughter & Son in law Sudesh (Ji Rani) & Varinder Singh Grandson & Daughter in law Sauianva Chib & Vishaka Chib

Ankush Chib & Sapna Chib

Subash Nagar, Jammu.

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





SH BANSILAL **PANDITA** 

Sujata Dhar and Anil Dhar (Daughter and Son in Law) Nitin Pandita, Madhurima Dhar and Kamakshi Kalpushu (Grand Children)



Smt Sushma Devi

S. Surinder Singh

**Smt Parkasho Devi** 





Durga Nagar Sector 1 Jammu) at 11 am.

**Grief Stricken** 

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 Wyo 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 grief stricken. 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.

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER SMT. KANTA KHAZANCHI (CHHOTT JI), ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF SATHU BALA SRINAGAR, KASHMIR MOURNING IS BEING OBSERVED AT PESHINS OPPOLISE HOUSE NO.80, SECTOR-1 (AKHROT FACTORY LANE) SANJAY NAGAR, JAMMU.

10TH DAY KRIYA SHALL BE PERFORMED AT JIYA POTTA GHAT AKHNOOR ON SUNDAY 18.02.2024 AND THE ASSEMBLY SHALL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT JAMMU, NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, AT 11:30 A M.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sh. Mohan Lal Khazanchi (Husband)
M.no 6006779887, 9419131500, 9419209322
(Daughters and Sons-in-law)
Mrs. Doily Bhat and Mr. Kuldeep Bhat
M.No. 08802867215, 09716500973
Mrs. Suman Latar Khazanchi and Mr. Surinder Peshin

Mrs. Suman. Lata Khazanchi and Mr. Surinder Peshin Mrs. Osuman. Lata Khazanchi and Mr. Surinder Peshin M.No. 9419210776, 9797655285 Mrs. Meenu Khazanchi and Mr. Sanjay Koul M.No. 7006274783, 9419191515 Mrs. Roma Khazanchi

#### 10TH DAY/KRIYA KARAM

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform th sad demise of **Subash Chander** S/o Rar Prakash Karnathia R/o Near Maruti sho Nomain, Katra. **10th Day** shall be performed at our residence o Monday 19 Feb, 2024 at 11 AM.

11th Day (Karam) Kriya at our residence on 2 Feb, 2024 (Tuesday).
GRIEF STRICKEN

GRIEF STRICKEN Ram Prakash Kamathia - Father Kamla Devi - Mother Jyoti Khajuria - Wife Karmanya - Son Bhawana & Rakesh - Sister & Brother-in-law Lavanya & Abhishek - Daughter & Son-in-law Ph.No: 9906101538, 7006105322



to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Anjana Sharma, wife of Sh. Ajay Kumar, resident of Garhi Udhampur, who departed for the heavenly abode on 9t February 2024. THE TENTH DAY will be held on Sunda the 18th of February 2024, at 10:30 AM. a

our residence Tharmatt Mohalla, Nea Shiv Temple Garhi, Udhampur. KRIYA KARAM at our residence Tharmat Mohalla Near shiv Temple Garhi Udhampur SMT. ANJANA SHARMA on 19th of Feb 2024 at 12.30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN: Sh. Parma Nand Tharmatt (Father in law) Sh. Ajay Kumar (Husband) Sh. Sanjay Kumar (Brother in law)

mt. Kiran Bala (Sister in law) Mr. Rydham Sharma (Son) Mr. Abhay Tharmatt (Nephew)
Mr. Aniket Tharmatt (Nephew)

#### 10TH DAY/ UTHALA/ KRIYA

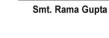
We are saddened to inform you about the untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Rama Gupta on 9th February 2024 10th Day/Uthala will be performed on Saturday 17.02.2024 at 11:30am at Raj Palace Udhampur. Kriya will be performed on Monday 19.02.2024 a

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta (Husband) (Son & Daughter in Law) . Hitesh Mahajan & Sonika Gupta (Jeth & Jethani) Sh. Vijay Gupta & Smt. Premlata (Devar and Devrani)

Sh. Verinder Kumar & Smt. Seema Gupta

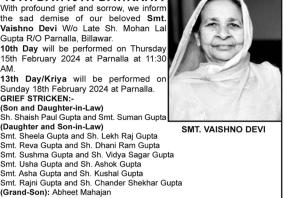
Sh. Ajay Gupta & Smt. Nisha Gupta Mobile No. 94191-58902

Devika Ghat Udhampur.



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#### (Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-Law) Minal Mahajan and Saurav Kudyar Ph. 6006195022, 9896517522 **10TH DAY KRIYA**

10TH DAY/13TH DAY/KRIYA

Nith profound grief and sorrow, we info

the sad demise of our beloved **Smt**. **Vaishno Devi** W/o Late Sh. Mohan La

Gupta R/O Parnalla, Billawar.

10th Day will be performed on Thursday

15th February 2024 at Parnalla at 11:3

13th Day/Kriya will be performed

Sunday 18th February 2024 at Parnalla.

(Son and Daughter-in-Law) Sh. Shaish Paul Gupta and Smt. Suman Gupta

(Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Smt. Sheela Gupta and Sh. Lekh Raj Gupta

Smt. Reva Gupta and Sh. Dhani Ram Gupta

Smt. Asha Gupta and Sh. Kushal Gupta

GRIEF STRICKEN:

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret nform the sad and untimely demise of Sh Jai Krishan S/o Late Sh Gopi Nath of Bonagund /erinag Kashmir at present H.No 162 Durga Nagar Sector 1, Jammu on 13 Feb 2024 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoo Ghat on 21st Feb(Wednesday), 2024. Assembly will be held at residence (H.No 162



Pushkar Nath Ji & Usha Ji (Brother & Bhabhi) Bushan Lal Ji & Shanti Devi (Brother & Bhabhi) Sandeep & Anuia (Son & Daughter-in-law) Virender & Sumita Trakroo (Son & Daughter-in-law)







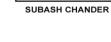
(SMT. JAI KISHORI





















The mobile telemedi-

cine clinic "Aarogya-

Doctor on Wheels" is

an initiative, said Dr

Jitendra Singh, to tie

up with various doc-

tors of leading super

speciality hospitals of

the country providing t

quality healthcare to the

remotest and inacces-

This latest super spe-

ciality mobile hospital,

inspired by the Prime

Minister's Digital Health

Mission and Ayushman

Bharat, is providing

doorstep consultation

with doctors and helped

bridge the Urban and

Rural divide in preven-

tive healthcare, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh

informed that the mobile

Aarogya clinic is pres-

ently being conducted in

Dudu Basantgarh in the

upper reaches of Ram-

nagar block of Udham-

pur under the 4th phase

from 17th January 2024.

The majority of ben-

eficiaries of the 'Doctor

on Wheels' scheme are

Women, said Dr Jiten-

dra Singh, stating that

out of a total of 11,431

beneficiaries in Doda,

Hiranagar and Kathua

Billawar areas of Doda

district in J&K, 6,643

Same trend is visible

here with as many as

835 women availing

consultation out of a

total of 1,452 beneficia-

ries in the 56 villages

under 22 Panchayats

the van has camped in,

were Women.

sible areas.

### Nearly 13,000 remote area patients attended by "Doctor on Wheels" Al driven free Mobile Telemedicine Clinic: Dr Jitendra

**Top News Report** 

NEW DELHI, Feb 17: Nearly 13,000 remote area patients have been attended so far in the far-flung regions of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency by "Doctor on Wheels", the first-ofits-kind, state-of-theart, Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven free Mobile Telemedicine Clinic.

This was stated by here today in a media interview by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh who said that this novel experiment makes use of the latest technology tools whereby the patient attended by the Mobile Telemedicine Clinic is screened, thoroughly investigated and then the consultation is obtained from the concerned super specialist doctor in the one of the leading hospitals in metros like Hyderabad and Bengaluru with whom an arrangement has been tied up for the purpose. This entire exercise of patient examination and providing a prescription is accomplished in around 45 minutes which may otherwise take several days if the patient has to physically go to the

hospital, he said. The majority of beneficiaries of the 'Doctor on Wheels' initiative are women, said Dr Jitendra Singh, stating that



out of a total of 11,431 beneficiaries in Doda, Hiranagar and Kathua -Billawar areas 6,643 were women.

Same trend is visible currently in the fourth phase in remote Dudu Basantgarh in the upper reaches of Ramnagar block of district Udhampur where as many as 835 women have availed consultation out of a total of 1,452 beneficiaries in 56 villages under 22 Panchavats where the Clinic van has camped so far, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh further explained that while the entire process of patient's examination and consultation calls for a very heavy cost. in this case it is being done free of cost to the patients in his constituency through the funds raised from voluntary sources.

The state-of-the-art, Artificial Intelligence (AI) supported "Aarogya-Doctor on Wheels" is possibly the first of its kind Telemedicine Mobile Clinic, Dr Jitendra Singh said.

Its huge success will inspire other similar initiatives elsewhere across the country as well, he said.

"Aarogya-Doctor on Wheels" functions on the latest methodology wherein a patient can narrate his illness or complaint in his native language and the Al Doctor understands the language and responds to the patient in the same language, said Dr Jitendra.

Dr Jitendra said, this free telemedicine facility overcomes the problems of 'Accessibility, Availability and Affordability'. He said, the obstacles like quality of services, specialised doctor, distance of travelling and cost of consultation/treatment are targeted and solved efficiently through this facility. Ordinarily, a metro hospital will cost a patient very heavily and may take two to three weeks' time.

This type of free telemedicine mobile camp solves all the problems especially for those having weak socioeconomic background, he said.

For the convenience of patients, the prescribed medicines are also being provided free of cost and in addition, medicine kits containing commonly used drugs are being distributed across the constituency free of cost to all the families in general, Dr Jitendra Singh informed.

Dr Jitendra Singh, who represents the Udhampur parliamentary constituency that also covers Kathua and Doda districts, said, the first phase of this facility covered more than 60 villages in the far-flung Gandoh area of district Doda where it spent three months. The second phase was conducted along the Zero Line villages of the International Border, and the third phase was held in the upper reaches of Bilawar, where such healthcare facilities are either not available or inadequately available, he said.

The Union Minister said the mobile telemedicine service, the first healthcare service that is delivered via digital mode, is being provided in J&K purely from non-government sources by two Startup groups belonging to North India and South India.

The mantra of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, - 'Seva, Samparan and Start-up' is being followed in these free telemedicine mobile services with extraordinary medical facilities for people with low socio-economic background as this government is dedicated to the poor, said Dr. Jitendra Singh.

#### **Road Safety Month campaign** concludes at GDC Darhal



**Top News Report** 

DARHAL, Feb 17: The NSS Unit in collaboration with IQAC of the college organized road safety awareness program as part of the Viksit Bharat @2047 here today.

The Ministry of Road and Highways' initiative to observe the Road Safety Month from 15th of January to 14th of February in GDC Darhal has successfully come to a close.

The month-long program aimed to promote road safety awareness among students, and to provide them with the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure their safety on the roads.

Throughout the observance, a series of engaging and informative lectures were organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) wing in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the college.

The program witnessed the active participation of students, as well as the college faculty and administration. Under the visionary

leadership of Dr. M

Saleem Wani, Coordinator IQAC and Dr.Mohd Akhlaq, NSS Programme officer, the program successfully spread awareness about various safety measures that can be employed to prevent accidents and promote responsible road behavior. The lectures were delivered by esteemed experts in the field, who shared their knowledge and expertise on road safety regulations, defensive driving techniques, and best practices for pedestrians.

The final function, chaired by Principal Prof Musaraf Shah sb, marked the successful conclusion of the

Road Safety Month. Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Dr. Anzar Ahmed, Dr Asad Imran and other dignitaries graced the occasion with their presence. Principal Prof Musaraf Shah expressed his gratitude towards the Ministry of Road and Highways for their support and emphasized the importance of instilling

among the youth. The successful observance of the Road Safety Month at GDC Darhal not only raised awareness about road safety among the students but also fostered a sense of responsibility towards ensuring safer roads for all.

road safety awareness

The college remains committed to organizing such initiatives in the future to further promote road safety consciousness among its students and the community at large.

#### BJP is a mission to serve nation, its people: Ashwani

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: BJP senior leader & former MLA, Ashwani Sharma, during his weekly sitting at party headquarter. Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, listened to the grievances of a large number of people in the Public Darbar on Saturday.

Ashwani Sharma also interacted with many of the people who had visited the party headquarter to seek help in resolving their prob-

Ashwani Sharma said that the BJP is not only a political party but a mission to serve the nation and its people. It has a committed cadre, always available in the ground, reaching the doorsteps of the people



and helping them in many ways. He said that the Narendra Modi government, during the last about ten years, has launched large number of welfare schemes for the socio-economic upliftment of the different sections of the society, besides initiating numerous mega proj-

ects of development in various sectors

Ashwani Sharma further said that the ten years rule of Modi government has been splendid. The government took care of all sections and regions in its schemes, programmes and policies and people, cut-

ting across their faith. gender, region, has appreciated the good governance model of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He asked the people to support BJP in the upcoming elections of Lok Sabha and return Modi as Prime Minister for third consecutive term.

ments.

In the public darbar, the people raised their Talab, Nagrota, Vijaypur and other areas.

### BJP Media team

member Sanjay Bakshi diarized the proceedings of the public darbar and assisted Ashwani Sharma in communicating with the senior officials of different depart-

problems related to repair of damaged house, ownership rights to farmers, permission for construction in government allotted land, replacement of fused street lights, up gradation of the transformer, black topping of connecting road etc. They had, all along came from Nowshera, Sumbal (Kashmir), Bishnah, Kupwara, Nai Basti, Ban

#### JKBS honours its brave man **Devi Dass Sargotra**



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 16: Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha at a brief function held in Village Garhi here today, honoured Batwal community's brave man:

Devi Dass Sargotra. Speaking on him, the JKBS General Sec-

retary R.L.Kaith said. "Bravery is a unique aspect of a human that allows a person to do a task despite his own fears. One of the most unique things that I have found in brave Devi is that he had a driving force. He faced dangerous and difficult

situations in his with

courage.'

Thanking the JKBS members, Devi Dass said, "I am so grateful to be the recipient of this great honour.'

Prominent among others who were present on the occasion included JKBS President Rachhpal Kaith, Subedar and Duni Singh

#### **Tennis Ball Cricket** selection trails from Feb 25

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: J&K Tennis Ball Association is going to conduct two days selection trails at Greenfield Gandhi Nagar Jammu on February 25 & 26, 2024 to select the J&K UT Senior teams (men & women) for participation in the 34th Senior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship (Men & women) scheduled to be held at Ramanathapuram (Tamil Nadu) from 2nd to 5th March, 2024.

The selection trails shall start at 11 am under the supervision of Gulshan Rattan (I/C Selection Trails Mob.7006963458)

The participants who are desirous to participate in the selection trails should come in a proper cricketing kit alongwith Adhaar card, Physical fitness certificate & 6 recent passport size photographs.

The participants should also carry with them their personal bat

The screening of the Selected teams team shall be held at the same venue on 27th February 2023 at 11/00 am by the screening Committee of the J & K Sports Council.

It is in place to mention here that the Selected teams shall leave from Jammu on 28th February 2024.

#### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR e-mail:xenpwddivgandhinagar@gmail.com SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DGN/70 of 2023-24 Dated 14-02-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited for the work mentioned below for the Year 2024-25 on monthly basis for 01 Year from approved and eligible firms which is registered as NGO or as registered with Registrar of Societies/Labour Department of **Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir** for each of the following works or **Govt. of India duly** renewed for the year 2023-24.

S. No	Name of the Work	Name of Divn	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (in `)	Earnest Money (in `)	Period of Contract	Amount of Work	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1/	Providing Services for Housekeeping / Cleaning - Sanitation of Lok Nirman Bhawan Rail Head Complex Jammu comprising of Basement, G+3 and Parking area	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	12.00	600/-	24000/-	01 Year	Rates to be quoted by the bidder on Monthly Basis	(1400 Hrs) on or after 23-02-2024	Firm which is registered as NGO or registered with Registrar of Societies / Labour Department of UT of J&K or Govt. of India duly renewed for the year 2023-24.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.O), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website http://jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:

	1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-02-2024					
	2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14-02-2024 to 22-02-2024, 1300 Hrs					
	3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	17-02-2023 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office					
			of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division					
			Gandhi Nagar					
	4	Bid submission <b>Start Date</b>	14-02-2024					
	5	Bid Submission <b>End Date</b>	22-02-2024 up to 1800 Hrs					
Γ	6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	23-02-2024 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office					
		(Online)	of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division					
			Gandhi Nagar					
	7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is					
		(Online)	completed					

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar. The CDR/FDR shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi **Nagar** at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequentialsubmission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar, the date for same shall be intimated separately.

DIP/J-15088/23

.. Sd .. (Er. Rahat Gupta) **Executive Engineer** PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar

#### **EDITORIAL**

## Exam time is naturally stressful

nyway, exam time is naturally stressful. Apart from having to memorize a lot for the exam, stiff competition on campus, expectations from family and friends and pressure to get good grades, all these factors add to the stress of students during exams.

This exam stress can have a negative impact on any student's learning process and make studying a difficult task, which can affect your grades. Like Aarti, anyone can get trapped in this kind of negative thinking.

However, there are several things that you can keep in mind while preparing for the exams or while the exams are going on or even after the exams, so that you do not get trapped in such negative thinking.

Things You Can Do While Preparing for the Exam- When you eat junk food, you feel better at that time, but later it affects your digestion, causing fatigue and lethargy. Therefore, take a balanced diet and keep yourself hydrated; You should have good sleep because when you are well rested, it helps you to remember better what you have studied before when you start preparing again after waking up. Here are some ways to help you get better sleep; Indulging yourself in any kind of physical activity for at least 15 to 20 minutes can refresh your body and mind; Substances like caffeine, nicotine and alcohol increase stimulation, creating more stress instead of reducing it. In their place, healthy alternatives like energyboosting green tea, fruit or vegetable juices can be found and used; Figure out which relaxation technique works best for you and spend time practicing it. Effective relaxation techniques not only help to improve well-being, but also help a lot in moments of crisis; Like other important hobbies like studying, playing, running, engaging in social activities, listening to music, spiritual activities, journaling, painting, etc., taking guilt-free breaks is equally important. Find out what can help you stay stress-free; By gathering information related to topic dates and resources well in advance of the exam, you can save yourself from lastminute stress; Create an environment of study by keeping yourself away from noise, just like the environment of sitting in an examination hall and taking an exam. This method proves helpful: Following a predetermined routine helps with control, although this is not always possible. It can be beneficial for you to have an estimate of how much time it will take to complete a task.

We start feeling the way we think. What kinds of words are you using when thinking or talking about your test skills? Notice if they are too harsh, full of self-criticism, or unrealistic. Let's check how much truth is there in these thoughts. You have to create an alternative perspective that is more sympathetic to yourself and closer to the truth about the possible outcomes.

Stress increases in many of us just before the exam or while the exam is going on.

This is how stress manifests in students during exams.

Upset stomach, feel like vomiting, sweating palms, dizziness, heart beating loudly, 'Completely going blank', difficulty concentrating, feeling confused/overwhelmed or frustrated, being anxious/crying/grinding teeth/being restless/behavior like hovering here and there and biting nails. Negative thoughts in the mind like 'I can't do this', 'I can't do this'.

These things can help:-

One should try to eat food on time and it may be tempting to study all night, but one should get some sleep before the paper.

When you are dealing with your own anxieties, talking to someone who is also uncertain and nervous before the exam is not a good idea; this will only add to the problems for both of you. Focus on doing certain things to calm yourself (like listening to calming music).

It helps to journal or put down your worries, doubts, and thoughts on paper. And you are less likely to be affected during critical moments. If you're feeling overwhelmed, vent your experience out by simply typing something on your phone or writing it down on a piece of paper.

If you're feeling anxious as you sit down to turn in a paper, pause for a moment, using your breathing to calm yourself. Breathe in and out by counting to three. And repeat this process until you feel better.

Maintain your routine of attending class regu-

larly and preparing assignments as before.

After your exams are over, give your brain some time to relax. But for many of us this time can just be a time of increased anxiety about how I performed in the exam and what will be the result.

#### CAA won't target anyone, it corrects an old injustice

By: Sunanda K Datta Ray

→he long-overdue Citizenship (Amendment)
Act of 2019 should have been spared the taint of voteseeking opportunism which the humanitarian measure has acquired from the timing of Union home minister Amit Shah's announcement about its notification and implementation. Contrary to the furore by some Muslims and most Opposition parties, the CAA does not make any substantial difference on the ground. India has always been Hindustan in a larger philosophical sense, and Hindus in neighbouring countries are viewed differently from people of other faiths.

That difference was obvious after the Bangladesh war, when the camps for mostly Hindu refugees around Kolkata were being closed, and inmates forced almost at bayonet point to board military trucks to take them back to the villages of Jessore and Khulna from which the Pakistan Army had brutally evicted them. "Do you regard yourself as an Indian, a Pakistani or a Bangladeshi?" I asked a wiry Hindu peasant who made no secret of his extreme reluctance to be repatriated. "You should regard me as an Indian citizen residing in Bangladesh", he shot back.

Bearing in mind the sad history of the Hindus of East Bengal, now Bangladesh, I could understand his dilemma. Most East Pakistan Hindus were cultivators and fishermen from the more depressed castes. They were also relatively poor.

East Bengal's big zamindars were also Hindu landowners, professional men, bureaucrats and academics who comprised the gentry in undivided Bengal. It was to oust them that the Muslim peasantry voted overwhelmingly for Pakistan.

Significantly, while West

Bengal in India did not abolish zamindari until 1954, in East Bengal, the system was done away with in 1950.

Jogendranath Mandal, one of Pakistan's 96 founding figures, epitomised the anguish of this contradiction. As a Bengali Hindu Dalit freedom fighter, he thought he would get a fairer deal in supposedly egalitarian Islamic Pakistan. Muhammad Ali Jinnah thought so too and made him Pakistan's first minister for law, justice and labour. But Jinnah's death in September 1948 left Mandal vulnerable. He could not cope either with the West Pakistani bureaucracy's bullying or the Muslim majority rioters in East Pakistan supported by the police and, ultimately, by the rich and aristocratic Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan.

Helpless in the face of atrocities against Pakistan's non-Muslim minorities and subject also to family pressures, Mandal eventually resigned his job and escaped to India.

Other attempted solutions also failed. One was a proposal to exchange religious minorities, like Greece and Turkey. Another was for a new Hindu homeland in a strip of Bangladeshi territory to the west of the river Padma. The 1950 Nehru-Liaquat Ali pact was a third plan to recognise the rights of the Bengali Hindu peasantry to their ancestral fields. However, whatever the Pakistan government agreed to in formal discussions was often negated by local officials who were quick to list the Hindu owners as "evacuees" and their lands, after the 1965 war, as "enemy property".

Nor was there ever any question of replicating in the east the rehabilitation plans that accounted for the west's prosperity. Muslims in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh abandoned substantial properties that the Indian government took over to create a compensation pool for Hindus

from West Pakistan. There was no such divisible property pool in the east. Nor did the Centre's generosity extend to building an equivalent of Chandigarh city, setting up industrial townships for refugees such as the one at Faridabad, or developing areas like New Delhi's fashionable Khan Market, established in 1951 by India's new rehabilitation ministry to create economic opportunities for Partition victims, especially from the North-West Frontier Province and named after Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, an icon of the Independence movement and NWFP chief minister from 1945 to 1947. Long before he became President of India, Pranab Mukherjee contrasted New Delhi's generosity to West Pakistan refugees with its parsimony to Hindus from East Pakistan who were left to fend for themselves. The CAA belatedly attempts to correct that injustice.

The result of the BJP's campaign promises in 2014 and 2019, the CAA provides a fast track for non-Muslim immigrants from Muslim-majority Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan to Indian citizenship. One objection is that selective access militates against the secular ideal and violates Article 14 (equality before the law) of the Constitution. Another is that it will be exploited to disenfranchise Muslims. The renewed call by Akhil Gogoi, an Assam Opposition MLA, to protest against what he calls the "unconstitutional CAA", is a reminder of how deep-seated such fears can be. Sadly, the rhetoric of some Indian politicians only go to fan these fears.

It's not forgotten that Mr Shah had referred derisively to illegal migrants from Bangladesh as "termites". Uttar Pradesh's BJP chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, had promised to cleanse India of other religions, calling this the "century of Hindutva". Another

BJP MLA from the same state, Surendra Singh, warned in 2018 that India would be a "Hindu Rashtra" by this year and that only Muslims who "accepted" India's Hindu culture could stay on. While the Kerala government challenged the CAA in court, several chief ministers refused to implement the law in their states.

Actually, India has moved with circumspection on the question of migrants. The informal term in Bangladesh that migrants without proper papers travel on a "jungle passport" means that a Muslim pays less to the Bangladesh border police and more to the Indian guards, and vice versa if he is a Hindu. Far from turning away Hindus in need of asylum, India operates a tacit equivalent of Israel's Law of Return. Similarly, when the Custodian of Enemy Property compensated Indians who were originally from East Bengal for lost property, he sought no proof. Asked about evidence, the outraged custodian snapped: "A man has escaped with his life and you want me to ask him to produce title deeds?" Under the CAA, no Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan who arrived in India on or before December 31, 2014, will be treated as an "illegal migrant". He/she will be allowed time to apply for Indian citizenship, the qualifying length of residency being reduced from "not less than eleven years" to "not less than five years".

Reservations by some American and international organisations reflect the stand that favouring one group can only be at the expense of other groups. This is a charge that India must strongly rebut. The government can do so most effectively by being impeccably even-handed in its treatment of all communities and curbing the tendency to indulge in abuse, vituperation and majoritarian bullying.

#### Democracy can be dodgy: The war in Gaza still plagues UK's Labour Party

By: Farrukh Dhondy

odgy are the uses of democracy. which can turn to resembling the toad -- ugly and venomous -- and yet hope springs eternal -- that it wears a precious jewel in its head. (Quite enough of Shakespearean parody -- Ed)

Winston Churchill called it the best worst system, and added that "the best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter". He didn't live long enough to have even a half-minute conversation with Donald Trump supporters in the United States.

Some of these supporters are educated professionals, some are salt of the earth.

What makes them supporters of a -- OK, I won't characterise Dump, everyone knows about his attitudes to race, to women, to immigrants, to other nations, to Nato, to the US Constitution -- and the word Trump is synonymous with ignorance and vulgarity -- but do the MAGA-wallahs care? Oh democracy, our democracy!

And so, move to those countries which don't support, through the one-person-one-vote system, a maniac such as Trump, but support leaders who appeal to voters through pre-democratic or atavistic allegiances: religion, a nostalgia for lost empire, a myth of national greatness, xenophobia, racism...

The vote in several nations of

Europe is predominantly influenced today by a reaction against the mass migrations of populations in a globalised world. There is Giorgia Meloni's post-fascist government in Italy, Viktor Orban's EUdissenting party in Hungary, Vox in Spain, the "Sweden Democrats", Portugal's Islamophobic Chega... One could go on!

Then there are the "democratic" countries who fall for appeals to religious dogma and ideologies of political antagonism to other religions. Mother democracy gives power to these factions which then commit matricide -- killing the very things like freedom of expression and protection of minorities that democracy should stand for.

But having said all those profound things, gentle reader, I give you now the current, if minor, travesty of the democratic process and appeal -- and that is the story of the coming by election to the Westminster Parliament in the constituency of Rochdale.

The byelection, owing to the death of Sir Tony Lloyd, the former Conservative MP, has a list of eight candidates.

The Labour candidate, chosen before the closing date for nominations on February 2, is one Azhar Ali. This candidate asserted at a public meeting that Israel had allowed Hamas to carry out the attacks and the taking of hostages on October 7, 2023 in order to have a reason to attack Gaza and seize

territory.

This conspiratorial opinion displeased Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, whose one big play for popularity is distancing himself and the Labour Party from the supposed (though I personally disagree) anti-Semitism embraced and/or allowed by his predecessor Jeremy Corbyn.

The Israeli slaughter in Gaza has put the Labour Party in a bit of a quandary. It is no surprise that the Muslim population of the UK, whose decisive votes have contributed to the election of 31 Labour MPs in this Parliament, are avid supporters of the Palestinians and opposed to the Israeli genocide of civilians and demolishing of Gaza's cities.

Keir Starmer has apparently decided that his stance of coming down hard on any "anti-Semitism" will keep the "red wall" working class voters and the intellectual middle classes on Labour's side and despite their sympathies with Gaza, the Muslim vote will, in substantial numbers, have nowhere else to go.

Azhar Ali, very calculatedly, apologised unreservedly for his remarks and said he was completely mistaken -- and I say "calculatedly" because he didn't mean the apology. He had got his real opinions across to the Muslims of Rochdale and now offered his tongue-in cheek apology to stop Labour disowning him. Nevertheless, according to reliable newspaper reports, he continued to hold the opinions, or similar

anti-Israeli opinions for which he had apologised. The Labour Party then said that it doesn't support him even though on February 29, when the byelection takes place, his name will appear on the ballot paper as the Labour candidate.

His calculation is certainly that he will get a, possibly decisive, majority of the Muslim vote and enter Parliament as an Independent MP now that Labour has disowned him.

There is, of course, the possibility that it may not happen. He is opposed by one George Galloway, a maverick politician who was once in Labour but was thrown out of the party for obsequiously supporting Sadaam Hussein during the UK-US war against him two decades ago. Galloway went on to win a parliamentary seat in the majority Muslim constituency of Tower Hamlets, defeating the Jewish Labour candidate. He is now campaigning in Rochdale wearing a Palestiniancolours scarf and may draw a substantial portion of the Muslim vote.

The other candidates, from the Conservative, Lib-Dem and Green parties and Independents, are not campaigning on any Palestinian platform, but rather pushing their parties' national and local policies. Except for Simon Danczuk, a former Labour MP for Rochdale who was dismissed in 2017 for sending sexual material to a 17-year-old. He is standing for the Reform UK party, a new extreme right-wing essentially anti-immigration group.

ential gentry and civilian

populations of Drugmul-

la block and address

issues that affects the

The Kupwara based

based Vajr Division

expressed enthusiasm

about the initiative, stat-

ing, "We believe in col-

laboration between mili-

tary and civilian life. By

facilitating meaningful

conversations between

soldiers and civilians,

Awaam.

### **Army conducts Awaami Milap in Drugmulla**

**Top News Report** 

KUPWARA, Feb 17: The Kupwara based Vajr Division as part of ongoing Operation Sadhbhavana to bridge the gap between military and civilian communities organised a unique gathering which provided a platform for the Awaan of Drugmulla block to resolve their administrative problems/issues.

The local people also shared their concerns with the General Officer Commanding, 28 Infantry Division & other officers & suggested how the environment can be made conducive for peace in J&K

A total of 90 individuals attended the event

which served as a platform for population of Drugmulla block to voice their concerns with civil administration & Army share their experiences

and obtain solutions to

the problems and areas

of concern. The Army & civil officers listened to the concerns of civilians and gained valuable insights into the challenges faced by com-

munities, while civilians expressed a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices and contributions of Indian Army.

The event was also attended by Sarpanch, Ward Members, Teachers, Imams etc.

By fostering open communication and mutual understanding, the aim was to cultivate stronger bonds between military, influriers, dispel misconceptions, and build bridges of empathy and cooperation. It is a testament to

the Indian Army's commitment to support the regional population. The Indian Army believes in the transformative power of promoting dialogue, celebrating diversity, building bridges and empowering change. This pioneering effort aligns with the Indian Army 's broader vision of fostering positive engagement.

The local population were all praise for Indian Army for their efforts towards empowering the partnership between military and civilian society.

#### Ajeet objects delimitation notified by Municipal Council Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 17: Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Sr. Leader, Spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat has taken strong cognizance over the unholy Delimitation notified by the Municipal Council Kishtwar and has expressed his anguish to the manner in which the rural areas have been taken brought under Municipal Limits, which will have adverse affect to the public residing in Rural, Mandal areas of Kishtwar Town.

Expressing his statement, Ajeet has denounced that there will be long lasting I'll affect over the Employment Reservation under



different categories to the aspiring students viz, the Reservation to the Reserved Backward Areas (RBA) applicants to the extent of 20 percent wil end for ever.

The National Confrance Senior Leader Ajeet Bhagat said that the Thousands of poor people in rural areas brought under Municipal Council Limitation wil loose Jobs under MGNREGA.

Whereas, it has been urged the Rural areas

viz, Lachkhazana, Killed, Wassar and PDC Colony up to Sen Petrol Pump via D.C Office Complex Zellana and from Zellana Police Naka point to Sangrambatta and Chowk Hidyal upto Tund be excluded from the Municipal limits.

Whereas, the other Rural, Mandal areas via Matta, Sarkoot, Berabhata up to Sarkoot Mandir be brought under Reserved Backward (RBA) area and objection to the inclusion of areas viz, Panditgam, Semana Colony to Zewar be kept under Reserved Backward (RBA) area, which in the Delimitation process has been brought under Municipal limits.

#### **GDC Vijaypur organises Essay Writing Competition**

**Top News Report** 

VIJAYPUR, Feb 17: NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur in collaboration with Department of English, under the banner of Voting Awareness Campaign organised an essay writing competition on the theme, "Right to vote" under the supervision and guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta, Principal of the College.

More than twenty college students participated in the competition with great enthusiasm, fervour and zeal. The aim of the event was to aware students about the importance to voting in a democracy.

The competition started with the welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Anoop Kumar Bhagat, HOD Sociology.

He briefed the students that voting in a democracy is of utmost importance as it lets cit-



izens choose their representatives in forming the government.

He further stated that voting and taking part in the electoral process is more than a right. It's a responsibility that each citizen holds to select their leaders. The terms and conditions of the competition were informed by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary, HOD English.

In the competition first position was shared by Ruhi Sharma of B.A sem. II & Sheetal of B.A sem. VI; second position was shared by Rebika Kumari of B.A sem. VI & Rupali Verma of B.A sem. IV: third position was shared by

Kajal Devi of B.A sem. VI & Monika Charak of B.A sem. IV.

Principal of the College, Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta lauded efforts of all the participants and made sure that all of them register for the upcoming elections. The event was coor-

dinated by Prof. Anita Bhagat, Prof. Mamta Gupta, Dr. Anoop Bhagat Prof. Ritu Bhagat and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary and co-ordinated by Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Dr. Radhika Rasyal, Dr. Attied Khawar, Dr. Neelam Kumari, Prof. Sonia Devi and Prof. Mazid Malik. Certificates were distributed to all the participants.

#### Batwal Samaj Ekta Manch Punjab to participate in Guru Gyagi **Birth Celebrations**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: The Batwal Samaj Ekta Manch Punjab held a meeting at Pathakot which was chaired by Ashwani Chanjotra and attended by a large number



The meeting resolved to actively participate in Guru Gyagi Birth Commemorative Function slated to be held on February 24, 2024 at Shahzadpur Kothi in

The meeting also resolved that Batwal Samaj Ekta Manch Punjab before coming to Jammu on February 24, would take out a Nagar-Kirtan in Pathankot on February 23 to mark the birth celebrations.

#### **GDC R S Pura organizes awareness lecture** on anti helminthes drug administration

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: In the sequence of events organized during the ongoing 7 days special winter camp, NSS Unit in collaboration with Zoology Department organized an awareness lecture on "anti helminthes drug administration" on 17th February 2024. The programme was conducted under the patronage of Principal of the college Dr, Rajni Bhagat and under the supervision of Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO.

The programme began with the welcome address by Dr. Chanchal Angral (NSS

She said the very motto of the awareness lecture is to shed light on the importance of anti helminthes drugs in combating parasitic infections that affect millions of people worldwide.

awareness lecture was delivered by Dr. Shalini Bhagat, Gynaecologist, NTPHC Chakroi under

She stressed that lymphatic filariasis is a dreaded infectious disease transmitted by the round worm parasites Wuchereria bancrofti and causes a disease called filariasis or elephantiasis spread

the guidance of Dr.

Monika Kotwal, BMO,

R.S.Pura.

by mosquito vector. Dr. Monika also addressed the students and emphasized on the various methods of eradication of mos-

quitoes including drug administration and vaccination for CA cervix in females. Dr. Renu Manhas

and Dr. Jasmeet Singh graced the occasion. About 50 students attended the lecture with great enthusiasm.

The programme ended with the formal vote of thanks by Prof. Shifali Abrol, Associate Professor, department of Zoology. Dr. Radhika Mahajan, HOD Chemistry, Dr. Hari Singh and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, NSS members also attended the programme.

#### **Principal GDC Thannamandi Commends Geography Department's Innovation**



#### **Top News Report**

THANNAMANDI, Feb 17: In a commendable display of academic achievement, Principal of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi, Dr. Farooq Ahmed, recently extended appreciation to the Geography Department for their innovative strides. The accolades were specifically directed towards two standout students, Kamran Latief Naik and Rouf Mir from the B.Sc. 4th semester, who participated in a transformative 5-day workshop on 3D printing and new product development at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

Under the expert guidance of Dr. Gulshan Rashid, Head of the Geography Department, Kamran and Rouf exhibited exemplary dedication and enthusiasm throughout the workshop.

Their active engagement and commitment to learning not only reflected positively on themselves but also brought acclaim to the college.

Dr. Farooq Ahmed, acknowledging the significance of such initiatives in fostering academic excellence and practical skills, lauded the efforts of Dr. Gulshan Rashid and the entire Geography Department.

He emphasized the importance of nurturing a culture of innovation and hands-on learning within the institution. Furthermore, Dr. Farooq Ahmed extended hearty congratulations to the deserving students and the Geography Department for their remark-

able achievement. He expressed confidence in their ability to

continue making significant contributions to the field of geography and beyond, further elevating the reputation of GDC Thannamandi on a national scale.

#### **Intra College Volleyball Men Tournament** 2024 begins at GDC Udhampur

**Top News Report** 

UDHAMPUR, Feb 17: GDC Udhampur organized intra college Volleyball Men Tournament 2024 from February 17 to 19, 2024.

The Tournament was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.)Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the college and chief guest of the occasion.

NCC Cadets, Suryadev Singh and Kavva Sharma escorted the chief guest to the sports ground, the venue of the match. Principal of the college appreciated



the efforts of the sports committee and motivated the students to excel

in the field of sports. He said that sports and games are integral part and parcel of New Education Policy.

He further emphasized that for physical

fitness, the students must participate in different sports activities. A total of 4 teams par-

> ment. First match was played between Raman Team and Shivaji Team. Raman team defeated Shivaji Team with set

score 2-0. Another match was held between Ashoka and Tagore Teams, wherein Ashoka team won the game with score 2-0.

ticipated in the tourna-

Both the matches ended in neck to neck competition and finally team Raman and Ashoka booked their place in the final match.

The students who played exceptionally well were Nasir Beg, Ansh Sharma, Aryan, Ankush Kumar, Ajay Singh, Neshad Ali, Kapil

and Rishav Singh. Principal of the college chaired the Prize distribution ceremony as a chief guest of and presented the trophies to the winner teams.

#### **CRPF** organises free Medical Camp in Asham Sonawari

**Top News Report** 

BANDIPORA, Feb 17: Under its civic action program, a free medical camp was organized by 45 Battalion Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Asham village of Hajin Tehsil in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Sat-

urday. The camp was inaugurated by PRI Nisar tinue to conduct such a civic programme for the benefit of the local public in future.

Our aim to organise this free medical camp is to reach out to the general public.

We are providing treatment for common diseases, seasonal illnesses, and also if there is a need to involve expert and we are providing that, he



Ahmad in presence of Apoorwa, commandant of 45 Bn CRPF.

He was accompanied by Rajiv Ranjan, other officers and local eminent personalities were present during the camp.

Commanding Officer 45 Bn CRPF, Apoorwa, said that 45 Bn CRPF assured the local public that CRPF has always been helping the Kashmiri people and putting all out efforts for peace, prosperity and development of the society. He added that they will conadded. A local resident

namely Mohammad Sultan of Asham after getting a checkup said that they are very thankful for this camp. The medicines are quite expensive outside. We have to spend Rs 1000-2000 on them in the market. The doctors are also very good. People are getting check-ups done quite smoothly.

A large number of people gathered to the health camp organised by 45 battalion CRPF.

#### Dimple asks PM Modi to announce restoration Statehood, assembly, parliament elections



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: President Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple urged PM Narendra Modi to announce the

restoration of J&K statehood and the holding of assembly elections along with parliament election in J&K during his visit to Jammu.

Dimple demanded

to start Darbar move, return of J&K power projects back, employment package for the educated youths, regularization of the all daily wage workers.

### In Chandigarh for an event, poet-lyricist Irshad Kamil goes down memory lane and recollects fond memories of City Beautiful

"Coming to Chandigarh for me is like 'a-low-on-battery-cell-phone-gets-its-charger," said poet and lyricist Irshad Kamil, who graduated from the Panjab University and also worked with news agency. As he visited Mulk Raj Anand Auditorium, Arts Block I, PU, for an event, 'Chandigarh Language Congress', Irshad talked about the theme — 'Towards a Comparative Cosmopolis: Language, Culture and Hybridity'.

About his initial years, Irshad joked that he always wanted to prove that he was an intellectual. "I used to love local papers which featured poems and other literary items. I sent my poems to them, but those were never printed! Later, I worked as a journalist for many years. Later, I thought Chandigarh was not taking my talent seriously and moved to Mumbai."

Irshad paid due regard to his teachers sitting in the crowd and veteran Punjabi poet Surjit



Patar, who also had a session. He said, "All these seasoned writers and teachers are making me nervous. You have grown up

reading Patar ji, you cannot just say anything before him. I hope I am making sense. Also, as a lot of youngsters are sitting here, I

am trying to say things in a way that they don't come across as a lecture to them. I always try to connect to youngsters."

Irshad candidly talked about the difference in writing poems and songs, "It's way different. When you write poems, it's for yourself and readers who would like to indulge in such writing. But when it comes to film songs, there are a lot of things that come into play.

The characters, music producer and the situation plays a part in writing a song, but then there is also the pressure that the song should be a commercial hit, catchy and something to hold your attention for a longer period."

As for social media, Irshad said, "Much has changed, the focus of young budding writers is to give quantity and not quality, which is something they should work upon if they would like to stay in this profession for long."

#### Shakira to release her latest album 'Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran' on March 22



Singer-songwriter Shakira is busy in the studio, as she has been 'rebuilding herself' with her brand new album. The 47-year-old Latin singer, who split from footballer Gerard Pique in 2022, after more than a decade together, has so far released 11 studio albums since she was a teenager. She announced that her latest album Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran will be out on March 22. Shakira shared, "While writing each song I was rebuilding myself. While singing them, my tears transformed into diamonds, and my vulnerability into strength."

The new album will feature eight tracks along with the previously released hit singles, including Music Sessions Vol. 53 with Bizarrap, TQG with Karol G, Te Felicito with Rauw Alejandro, Copa Vacía with Manuel Turizo, and more.

The She Wolf singer has not released an album since 2017 when El Dorado, which was mostly sung in her native language Spanish, spawned the singles Chantaje and Me Enamore. Prior to that, Shakira released the self-titled record that served as her fourth English language album overall. It contained the hit single Can't Remember To Forget You, which also featured Rihanna

#### Rashmika Mandana to appear on 'No Filter Neha' Season 6

The sixth season of the podcast No Filter Neha will feature Rashmika Mandana as the next guest.

The show is gearing up for a brand new format, which will stream on JIO TV and JIO TV PLUS.

Hosted by actress-producer, Neha Dhupia, the show has already created a buzz for its upcoming season with an impressive lineup, including Shahid Kapoor, Kartik Aaryan, Tiger Shroff and Kriti Sanon.

The addition of Rashmika Mandana, known for her charm and versatility, adds a new layer of excitement to the talk show, as she joins Neha Dhupia in a candid conversation.



## Kavita Chaudhary of 'Udaan' fame dies due to cardiac arrest

Actress Kavita Chaudhary, who played the iconic characters of Lalita ji and IPS officer Kalyani Singh in the Doordarshan series Udaan, passed away due to cardiac arrest in Amritsar earlier today. She was 67. Kavita was cremated in the presence of family, including Ajay Sayal, nephew, her neice, and close friends.

Ajay Sayai, nepnew, ner neice, and close friends. Inspiring an entire generation of women though her onscreen avatar of an ambitious and gritty women IPS officer in Udaan, Kavita Choudhary had shared that her role in the popular show had been inspired by her own elder sister, Kanchan Chaudhry Bhattacharya, who was the second woman IPS officer after Kiran Bedi. Born and brought up in



schooling from Shri Ram Ashram School and later pursued her higher education from the Hindu College. She later went to the Natinal School of Drama. "Kavita and her sister Kanchan were both quite ahead of others, always striving to do something that broke stereotypes. Despite hailing from a affluent business family, both worked hard to make their own mark and succeeded. Now, with both of them gone, it is a great loss to city community, who had seem them achieve many milestones," shared AshokSethi, a city-based businessman and friend of Kanchan Chaudhary.

Kavita's ancestral home is inside Hall Gate. Though her screen time was limited

to Udaan, Kavita later produced two film based on police force. Her now iconic character of an intelligent and informed housewife, Lalita ji in the Surf advertisements had made her a popular face among audience in the 80s and 90s. Her role as IPS officer Kalyani Singh in Udaan, a progressive show about women empowerment during the time when women, in general, were still aspiring to break gender and social barriers, was considered as a milestone in Indian television history for its premise and character development. She not only acted in the show, but also co-wrote the story.

Several actors and artists who knew her expressed grief on her demise.

#### Gurpreet Singh says each hurdle became a stepping stone for him



Gurpreet Singh, who was last seen as Prakash in Chaand

Jalne Laga, made his acting debut as Sujal in Kahiin Toh Hoga in

2005. Looking back at his journey, he says, "The journey had its share of financial and emotional challenges, coupled with moments of indecisiveness. However, each hurdle became a stepping stone, contributing to personal and professional growth. Looking back, I'm immensely

satisfied with the choic-

es made and the les-

sons learnt."

Kids these days have a lot of options to choose from as far as picking a career is concerned and Gurpreet feels, "The landscape has evolved. While parental guidance is invaluable, it's essential to explore one's unique path. Embracing differences fosters creativity, bringing fresh perspectives."

So what advice would he give to struggling actors? "Embrace your uniqueness and stay persistent. Success often comes from resilience, continuous learning and authenticity. Find joy in the process, and let passion be your guiding light," Gurpreet says.

## When Kristen Stewart hospitalised due to anxiety attack



Actress Kristen Stewart has revealed her anxiety got so bad at the height of her Twilight fame that she was admitted to hospital and given a sedative. The 33-year-old actress has revealed she began suffering mental health issues after shooting to international stardom in the Twilight movies.

Her sleep troubles continued for years until she met her fiancee Dylan Meyer, who helped get her into a healthy routine after they moved in together.

# Mouni Roy says it is not easy to survive in the entertainment industry

Actress Mouni Roy, who is gearing up for her upcoming OTT show Showtime, has spoken up about the challenges she faced in the industry, most notably of being typecast. The actress said while it may be a fair industry, but it's not easy to work in it by any stretch of imagination, as each day presents a new challenge, and it demands a lot from its artistes.

Mouni Roy said, "I've been typecast, yes, of course. But I've also been very, very lucky with directors who had the vision to see me in different roles, in different parts. Like Emraan said that it may be a fair industry, but I truly believe it is a very difficult industry too. And along with hard work, come a lot of challenges. There is that ongoing struggle that you cannot deny."

She added, "There is no shortcut to hard work. And I truly believe work begets work. When you are focused on a project, whether it's a dancing or an acting part, if you



give your 100 per cent, if you somehow get into the skin of the character and justify it, I think sooner or later you're going to land that next role. And that's been the only mantra of my life "

only mantra of my life."
The series also stars
Emraan Hashmi,

Mahima Makwana, Rajeev Khandelwal, Shriya Saran, Vishal Vashishtha, Neeraj Madhav, Vijay Raaz and Naseeruddin Shah in pivotal roles. Created by Sumit Roy, Showtime is set to stream on March 8 on Disney+ Hotstar.

#### BJP winning 370 Lok Sabha seats will be true tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee, says PM Modi at party's national council meeting

Modi says 'lotus' is party's candidate in Lok Sabha elections; exhorts members to ensure its win

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that BJP winning 370 Lok Sabha seats will be a true tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who fought for scrapping Article 370.

Speaking at the party's twoday national council meeting, Modi said that 'lotus', BJP's poll symbol, is the party's candidate in Lok Sabha elections and exhorted the members to ensure its win.

As many as 11,500 delegates arrived in the national capital on Friday to take part in the BJP



National Council meeting over the weekend.

Meanwhile, BJP chief JP Nadda on Friday opened an exhibition on 'Viksit Bharat' at Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the party's meeting.

The council will pass two resolutions, including a political resolution, which is expected to hail PM Modi for his "stable and firm leadership over a decade". and renew the call for the BJP to cross the 370-seat mark and the ruling NDA coalition to go past 400 in the 543-member Lok

#### Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' Enters PM's **Constituency Varanasi**



VARANASI, Feb 17 (Agencies): The Rahul Gandhi-led 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' of the Congress today entered PM Modi's constituency Varanasi on the second day of its Uttar Pradesh leg.

Rahul Gandhi, along with the party's state president Ajay Rai and other congress leaders, stood atop an open jeep and toured the busy Gudauli area of the temple town. Mr Gandhi also visited the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) leader Pallavi Patel and the Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA from Sirathu also joined the yatra in Varanasi

The yatra on Friday entered the state from Bihar at Chanduali where it halted for the night.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has said that he will join the yatra in Rae Bareli.

The yatra will traverse through Uttar Pradesh before entering Rajasthan. The east to west Manipur-Mumbai yatra will traverse 6,700 km through 15 states and aims to highlight the message of 'nyay' (justice) while meeting common people on the way.

#### Pregnant Woman Gang-Raped, Set On Fire In Madhya Pradesh

MORENA, Feb 17 (Agencies): A 34-year-old pregnant woman was allegedly raped by three men and set on fire in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district, and is battling for her life in a hospital, police said on Saturday.

The victim, who sustained 80 per cent burns, is undergoing treatment in Gwalior, an official said.

The incident occurred in Chand Ka Pura village, around 3 km from Ambah town, on Friday, he said.

The victim went to the village to work out a compromise with a woman who had accused her husband of rape, inspector Alok Parihar of Ambah police station told agency.

The victim was, however, allegedly

raped by three men who were present in the woman's house. Later, the trio and the accused woman poured fuel on her and set her ablaze, the official said.

A video has been shared with the police in which the victim, being rushed to a hospital in a vehicle, is heard saying that she was first gang raped, and then the accused woman and the men had set her ablaze, he said.

The victim's husband, who is out on bail in the rape case, has handed the video to the police, Parihar said.

While the victim has recorded her statement with the magistrate, the police were yet to record her statement, he said, adding that the investigations are underway.

#### Arvind Kejriwal wins trust vote, dares BJP to seek votes ahead of Lok Sabha polls

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal won the trust vote in the Delhi Assembly on Saturday and dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek votes for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Kejriwal also said his party, the Aam Aadmi Party, was the biggest challenger to the BJP and that is why it is under attack from all sides.

"Go seek votes in the coming polls by saying you want to end the Delhi Vidhan Sabha, if they end the Vidhan Sabha, I will keep working for you (Delhi voters)," Kejriwal said during a discussion on the motion of confidence he moved in the Budget session of the assembly.

Further, Kejriwal asserted that even if the BJP wins this year's Lok Sabha polls, the AAP will "liberate" the country from the saffron party in the 2029 elections.

"If the BJP is afraid about its future, then it is only because of the AAP. That's why they

want to break the AAP. If

the BJP doesn't lose the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, then the AAP will surely make the country free of the BJP by 2029. The AAP was formed just 12 years ago. There are nearly 1,350 parties in the country. The AAP applied for its registration on November 26, 2012, it has now become the third-largest party in the country after the BJP and Congress," Kejriwal said.

The Delhi Chief Minister, who is also the AAP convenor, said his government has a majority in the House, but it needed to bring the motion of confidence because the BJP was trying to poach party MLAs and topple his government.

The House later passed the motion of confidence through a voice vote, with 54 of the AAP's 62 MLAs present

during the voting.

"On contacting our MLAs, we found out that they tried to poach seven of our legislators. These MLAs today said in the House that they were approached (by the BJP). As Rajesh Gupta said, they (BJP) want us to show proof. How can we show proof? A person doesn't carry a tape recorder all the time. They feel that the party (AAP) will collapse once Arvind Kejriwal is arrested. They can arrest Keiriwal but how will they arrest Kejriwal's thinking?," he

He also asserted that

no AAP MLA had defected. Two MLAs are in jail, some are unwell, and some others are out of station.

they are not. Now dis-

cussions are being held

in parks and people are

asking 'Does PM Modi

want to crush Arvind

Kejriwal'? Even chil-

dren are asking this

question because they

have arrested so many

of our ministers. Our

number 2, number 3,

and number 4 are in jail,

and talks are being held

that soon number 1 will

be arrested. This is hap-

pening because AAP is

BJP's biggest challenger

in the entire nation," the

Kejriwal also alleged

that the BJP, through

control over the Ser-

vices department and

the bureaucracy, was

obstructing the work of

"They claim to be Ram

bhakt, but they stopped

his government.

Chief Minister said.

poor people?" he said. "The way they (BJP) Kejriwal said he has have attacked the AAP faced attacks in the and arrested our minpast, been slapped, got isters, people across ink thrown on him, and the country are aware now they want to arrest of this. They think that him. people are fools, but

On Friday, Kejriwal moved a motion of confidence in the Assembly.

medicine for the poor

people in our hospitals.

Did Lord Ram ask to

stop medicine for the

This is the third motion of confidence by the Kejriwal government in the last three years. It comes amid the AAP's claims that the BJP wanted to break the party by offering money to its MLAs and toppling its government in Delhi. previous confidence motions came in August 2022 and March 2023, amid AAP allegations that the BJP was carrying out "Operation

Lotus" to poach its MLA. The AAP has an overwhelming majority in the Delhi Assembly, with 62 MLAs in the 70-member House.

The Opposition BJP has eight MLAs, of whom seven are currently suspended.

#### **Temporary Structure Collapses** At Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, 11 Rescued

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): At least 11 people trapped under the debris of a collapsed temporary structure at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in south Delhi were rescued today, officials said.

The incident occurred at 11 am, police said.

A Delhi Fire Services official said a call

HYDERABA, Feb 17

(Agencies): In a dis-

turbing incident, 21

stray dogs were shot

dead by unidentified

perpetrators in a village

in Telangana. An FIR

has been filed under

the Arms Act and the

Animal Cruelty Act, but

no suspects have been

The incident occurred

in Ponnakal village in

Mahabubnagar district.

The village is just 2 km

away from a National

The unidentified

assailants armed with

identified so far.

Highway.

launch probe

was received about the pandal (temporary structure) collapsing at the stadium. Initially, two people were rescued from under the debris. Later, nine more people were brought out.

A police officer said most of the injured are workers.

"The pandal was being erected for a wedding

firearms carried out the

massacre, which also

left several other dogs

The Animal Husbandry

Department conducted

the post-mortem exami-

nation of the dead dogs,

revealing the gruesome

Addakal Sub-Inspec-

tor of Police, Srinivas,

raised suspicion that the

dogs were poisoned and

shot at close range, pos-

sibly with locally-made

The absence of CCTV

cameras in the village

and along the high-

weapons.

nature of the killings.

21 stray dogs shot dead in

Telangana village, police

injured.

function near Gate No 2. The injured have been taken to AIIMS trauma centre for treatment," the officer said, and added no casualties have been reported so

Personnel from the police and the fire department, and ambulances are on the spot. the officer added.

way has complicated

the investigation. But

authorities have initiated

steps to install surveil-

The motive behind

A clues team has been

deployed to gather evi-

dence, including identi-

fying the empty cartridg-

The police also

revealed that two dogs

died without gunshot

wounds, suggesting that

they might have suc-

cumbed to poisoning.

es found at the scene.

the incident is yet to be

lance cameras.

ascertained.

#### 15 commercial units, some houses gutted in fire in Mumbai, nobody injured

MUMBAI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Around 15 commercial units and some houses were gutted in a fire that broke out in a residential structure in Mumbai's Govandi area early on Saturday, in which nobody was injured, an official said.

The fire brigade received a call alerting it about the blaze at 3.55 am, he said.

"Around 15 galas (commercial units) located on the ground floor and some houses on the first floor were gutted in the fire that broke out in a chawl at Bainganwadi in Adarsh Nagar area of Govandi," the fire brigade official said.

The fire, which was tagged as level one (minor), engulfed some electrical wirings and installations. plastic sheets, household items, wooden planks and furniture, among other things, he said, adding that the blaze was doused after five hours of efforts.

Four fire engines and as many jumbo tankers were pressed into service for the firefighting operation, he

"Nobody was injured in the incident and the exact cause of the fire is being ascertained," the official

#### 9 killed, several injured in explosion at firecracker factory in Tamil Nadu



CHENNAI, Feb 17 (Agencies): At least nine people died, and several others were injured on Saturday in an explosion at a firecracker factory in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district.

According to locals, the magnitude of the blast was so high that four buildings, in addi-



tion to the firecracker factory, were destroyed.

The factory was owned by a person named Vijay and was located in the Vembakottai area of the city. After the incident, police and a team from the fire department rushed to the spot and admitted the injured to a local hospital where they are getting medical

According to the police, seven people died on the spot while two succumbed to their injuries while being on their way to the hospital.

The preliminary investigation suggested that the accident occurred in the chemical mixing room of the factory, police added.

Further investigation into the case is under-

Earlier last year, eight people, including three women, were killed, and several others sustained injuries after an explosion took place at a firecracker factory in the state's Krishnagiri.

#### At least 8 wagons of goods train derail in Delhi's Zakhira

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): At least eight wagons of a goods train derailed in Delhi's Zakhira on Saturday. The incident happened near the Zakhira flyover, in Chara Mandi.

A team of railway officials and fire brigade rushed to the spot as soon as they received the information about



the incident A video showed the moment wagons

derailed from the tracks. According to the details, the goods train

was carrying iron sheets at the time of the acci-

Railway police said the possibility of casualties in the incident was not ruled out.

Another video from the accident spot showed derailed bogies on the railway track. A rescue operation on the tracks was underway.

#### **Congress In Telangana Not Sincere In Conducting** Caste Survey: K Kavitha

HYDERABAD, Feb 17 (Agencies): Bharat Rashtra Samithi MLC in Telangana K Kavitha on Saturday alleged that the Congress government in the state is not sincere in conducting the caste survey as it passed only a resolution in Legislative Assembly without ensuring statutory backing.

The resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly on Friday to take up a caste survey gives false hope to the backward classes, she said.

Doesn't the government know that the survey would not stand legal scrutiny without statutory backing, Kavitha, daughter of former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao, said on X.

Questioning as to why the state government is not taking into consideration the experiences of Bihar and Karnataka, she demanded that legislation be made on the

caste survey immediately. Asked by reporters on the buzz about an alliance between the BJP

and BRS for the Lok Sabha polls, she said the matter is beyond her understanding or capacity and that she does not have awareness

The Telangana Legislative Assembly on Friday passed a resolution to take up a comprehensive door-to-door household caste survey in the state to plan and implement various plans for the progress of the backward classes, SC and ST citizens and other weaker sections.

## Japan Successfully Launches Next-Generation H3 Rocket In Third Attempt

The H3 rocket, billed as flexible and cost-effective by space agency JAXA, has been mooted as a possible competitor to Space X's Falcon 9.

TOKYO, Feb 17 (Agencies): Japan's space agency announced the successful launch of its new flagship rocket on Saturday, making it third time lucky for the H3 after years of delays and two previous failed attempts.

The H3 rocket, billed as flexible and cost-effective by space agency JAXA, "was put into orbit", a JAXA official told agency, after the rocket launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan at 9:22 am (0022 GMT).

The next-generation H3 rocket has been mooted as a possible competitor to Space X's Falcon 9, and could one day be used to deliver cargo to bases on the Moon.

The latest launch follows Japan's successful landing last month of an unmanned probe on the Moon -- albeit at a wonky angle -- making it just the fifth country to land a craft on the Earth's satellite.

Cheers and applause could be heard from the JAXA control centre after the agency's livestream announced the H3 engines had successfully burned, meaning the rocket had made it into orbit.

Developed jointly by JAXA and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the H3 is the successor to the H-IIA launch system, which debuted in 2001.

Designed for "high flexibility, high reliability, and high cost performance", the craft will



"maintain Japan's autonomous access to space", JAXA says.

The first H3 launch in February 2023 was abandoned after ignition issues left the rocket standing motionless on the ground.

On the second try in March last year, technical problems meant a destruct command was issued shortly after blast-off.

Improvements were made subsequently to the ignition system of the H3, which carries two small satellites.

One of the microsatellites is expected to contribute to disaster prevention by taking photos and videos.

The other, equipped with a sensor to detect infrared rays,

is intended to detect the operation conditions of factories on

the ground.

Separation of the microsatellites was also confirmed, according to JAXA's livestream.

"We will keep analysing the sequences after successfully putting the rocket into orbit," the JAXA official added.

The latest launch was postponed from February 13 due to bad weather.

H3 will be "an all-rounder -able to launch satellites into Earth orbit, serve as a supply vehicle for space stations, and go to the Moon", said associate professor Alice Gorman, a space exploration expert at The successful launch on Saturday bolsters JAXA's reputation after a string of failures, including of a different rocket, a solid-fuel model called the Epsilon-6.

Flinders University.

Japan succeeded in landing its SLIM spacecraft nicknamed "Moon Sniper" on the lunar surface last month, although the craft's solar panels were facing the wrong way.

Despite its series of past failures, overall, Japan's space programme punches above its weight, said Adrian Michael Cruise, an honorary professor of astrophysics at the University of Birmingham.

The country "has future ambitions for space exploration challenging some of the major players", he said.

"However, space payloads are getting heavier and heavier, and to remain competitive in the missions it can mount, Japan needs access to more powerful launch vehicles, like H3."

Unlike the reusable Falcon 9, the H3 is expendable, but scientists say the trial of its world-first technology is significant.

"The H3 rocket has a unique and novel first stage engine that delivers greater thrust compared to state-of-the-art rockets," said Michele Trenti, director of the Melbourne Space Laboratory at the University of Melbourne.

The H3 "has the potential to be the most cost-effective rocket", making the exploration of the solar system more affordable.

#### Ukraine Withdraws Troops From Avdiivka Amid Acute Shortage Of Ammunition

Top News of J&K

Jammu, Saturday, February 17, 2024

KYIV, Feb 17 (Agencies): Ukrainian troops withdrew from the devastated eastern town of Avdiivka, Ukraine's new army chief said in the early hours of Saturday, paving the way for Russia's biggest advance since May 2023 when it captured the city of Bakhmut.

The withdrawal, announced as Ukraine faces acute shortages of ammunition with U.S. military aid delayed for months in Congress, aimed to save troops from being fully surrounded by Russian forces after months of fierce fighting, Kyiv said.

General Oleksandr Syrskyi, who took the helm of the Ukrainian military in a major shakeup last week, said Ukrainian forces had moved back to more secure positions outside the town that had a pre-war population of 32,000.

"I decided to withdraw our units from the town and move to defence from more favourable lines in order to avoid encirclement and preserve the lives and health of servicemen," he was quoted as saying in an armed forces statement.

The loss of the town nearly two years into Russia's full-scale inva-

sion may give President Volodymyr Zelensky a stronger case to make to the West for more urgent military aid as he addresses the Munich Security Conference on Saturday morning.

U.S. President Joe Biden had said on Thursday that Avdiivka risked falling to Russian forces because of ammunition shortages following months of Republican congressional opposition to a new U.S. military aid package for Kyiv.

Capturing Avdiivka is key to Russia's aim of securing full control of the two provinces that make up the industrial Donbas region, and could hand President Vladimir Putin a battlefield victory as he seeks re-election next month.

re-election next month.

Avdiivka has borne the brunt of mounting offensive pressure by Russian forces in the east as wavering Western military aid has compounded the fatigue of troops fighting for almost two years.

"We are taking measures to stabilize the situation and maintain our positions," Syrskyi said.

There was no immediate comment about the withdrawal from the Russian Defence Ministry, Zelenskiy or the Ukrainian defence min-

ister.
OUTGUNNED AND
OUTNUMBERED

Russia stepped up its offensive on Avdiivka in October and Ukraine's positions had been looking increasingly fraught for weeks.

The Third Assault Brigade, a prominent Ukrainian infantry assault unit, was rushed into the town to help reinforce troops this week as other Ukrainian forces pulled back from the southeast of the town.

The unit described the fighting as "hell" and said on social media that Ukrainian defenders had been outnumbered by Russian forces by a ratio of about six to 100 in some places.

Russia has not given details of its losses in the brutal fighting for the town, but Ukrainian officials and Western military analysts say its advances have come at a staggering cost in terms of personnel and armoured vehicles.

The town, where fewer than 1,000 residents are now left, lies just north of the Russian-held bastion of Donetsk which Ukraine lost control of in 2014 when Moscow's proxies began an uprising. Avdiivka has a vast coking plant that has stopped functioning during the war.

## Fears grow for crucial Gaza hospital after Israeli raid

PALESTINIAN TER-RITORIES, Feb 17 (Agencies): Fears mounted Saturday for people trapped in one of Gaza's main hospitals after Israeli troops raided the facility and the Hamas-run territory's health ministry said several patients had died there from a lack of oxygen.

The ministry said late Friday that at least 120 patients and five medical teams were stuck without water, food and electricity in the Nasser Hospital in Gaza's main southern city of Khan Yunis.

In recent days, intense fighting has raged around the hospital -- one of the Palestinian territory's last remaining major medical facilities that remains operational

Troops entered the hospital on Thursday, acting on what the military said was "credible intelligence" that hostages seized in Hamas' unprecedented October 7 attack had been held there and that the bodies of some may still be inside.

The army said it had arrested 20 people, seized weapons and retrieved "medications with the names of Israeli hostages" in the hospital.

A witness, who declined to be named for safety reasons, told AFP the Israeli forces had shot "at anyone who moved inside the hospital".

Gaza's health ministry also said power was cut off and the generators had stopped after the raid, leading to the deaths of five patients.

It said it held Israel "responsible... considering that the complex is now under its full con-

The Israeli army insisted it had made every

effort to keep the hospital supplied with power. "Troops worked to repair the generator while... special forces brought in an alternative generator," it said.

But the World Health Organization on Friday slammed the Israeli operation, with spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic telling reporters that "more degradation to the hospital means more lives being lost".

"Patients, health workers, and civilians who are seeking refuge in hospitals deserve safety and not a burial in those places of healing."

'Pattern of attacks'
Doctors Without Borders said its medics had been forced to flee and leave patients behind, with one employee unaccounted for and another detained by Israeli forces.

Roughly 130 hostages are still believed to be in Gaza after Hamas' October attack on Israel, which resulted in the deaths of about 1,160 people, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally based on official Israeli figures.

Dozens of the estimated 250 hostages seized during the attack were freed in exchange for Palestinian prisoners during a week-long truce in November. Israel says 30 of those still in Gaza are presumed dead.

At least 28,775 people, mostly women and children, have been killed in Israel's subsequent assault on Gaza, according to the health ministry in the Hamasrun territory.

Israel has repeatedly accused Hamas militants of using hospitals for military purposes, which Hamas has denied.

The UN Human Rights Office said Israel's raid on the Nasser Hospital appeared to be "part of a pattern of attacks by Israeli forces striking essential life-saving civilian infrastructure in Gaza, especially hospitals".

'Dying slowly'
Around 1.4 million
displaced civilians are
trapped in the town
of Rafah, after taking
refuge in a makeshift
encampment hard by

the Egyptian border with

dwindling supplies.
"They are killing us slowly," said displaced Palestinian Mohammad Yaghi. "We are dying slowly due to the scarcity of resources and the lack of medications

and treatments."

US President Joe
Biden urged Israeli
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu late
Thursday not to carry
out an offensive on
Rafah without a plan to
keep civilians safe, the

White House said.

But Netanyahu has insisted he will push ahead with a "powerful" operation in Rafah to achieve "complete victory" over Hamas.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz said Friday that Israel would coordinate with Egypt before launching its operation.

"Egypt is our ally, we have peace agreements with Egypt and we will operate in a way that does not hurt the Egyptian interests," Katz told reporters in Munich.

Biden said he had also held "extensive" conversations with Netanyahu about the need for a new truce in Gaza to bring the remaining hostages home. "I feel very strongly about it -- that there has to be a temporary ceasefire to get the prisoners out, to get the hostages out," he said.

Hamas's armed wing said that hostages in Gaza were "struggling to stay alive" as conditions deteriorate due to relentless Israeli bombardments.

The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday that Egypt was building a walled camp near the border to accommodate any Palestinians displaced from Gaza, citing Egyptian officials and security analysts.

Egypt has repeatedly opposed any "forced displacement" from Gaza, warning it could jeopardise its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said any mass exodus of refugees would be "catastrophic" for both Egypt and the Palestinians.

"More important than anything else, a further refugee crisis would be almost the nail in the coffin of a future peace process," Grandi told the BBC.

Israel shooting In the southern Israeli town of Kiryat Malakhi, about 25 kilometres (15

town of Kiryat Malakhi, about 25 kilometres (15 miles) north of Gaza, a gunman killed two people at a crowded bus stop on Friday and wounded four others.

Netanyahu warned that the entire country had become a front line, saying that "the murderers, who come not only from Gaza, want to kill us all".

With the war now in

its fifth month, tensions remain high across the region.

Hamas ally Hezbollah and its arch-foe Israel have been exchanging near-daily fire across the border since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7.

The leader of the

Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, Hassan Nasrallah, vowed that Israel would pay "with blood" for civilians it has killed in Lebanon, warning his group had missiles that can reach anywhere in Israel.

#### Jailed ex-PM Imran Khan's party to sit in Opposition in Pakistan's Parliament; to protest against poll rigging

ISLAMABAD, Feb 17 (Agencies): Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party has decided to sit in the Opposition in Parliament while launching a countrywide protest against alleged rigging in the elections after its efforts to form the next government failed.

The major political parties in Pakistan have stepped up efforts to form a federal government after the February 8 elections delivered

a split verdict.
While Khan's Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) party-backed independent candidates dominated the election results, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) claimed to have enough numbers to form the government as some independents joined the Nawaz Sharif-led party post-polls.

PTI leader Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif announced on Friday that following the instructions of PTI founder Khan, the party has decided to sit in the Opposition both at the Centre and in the key province of Punjab.

The decision came a day after the party had named Umar Ayub Khan as its candidate for the prime minister and Aslam Iqbal as chief minister for Punjab.

Talking to the media on Friday night after visiting the Qaumi Watan Party in Islamabad, Saif said that the party decided to sit in the Opposition in the Centre and Punjab under the instructions of party founder Khan.

"We decided to sit in Opposition despite the reality that if we received seats according to our votes and the results were not changed then maybe today we might have been in the Centre with 180 seats. We have the evidence that our candidates won," he said.

The party, which also issued a white paper against alleged rigging on Friday, has decided to kick off its demonstrations from Saturday.

A PTI source said that the party's incarcerated founder has tasked former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser with engaging political parties to muster support for the protest drive.

A PTI delegation led by Qaisar

met the leader of Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) and Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) on Friday, while a meeting with Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party's Mehmood Khan Achakzai is scheduled to take place on Saturday.

Qaiser-led delegation also met Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) leader Mian Muhammad Aslam and discussed the post-election scenario.

The delegation sought JI's support for joint protests against the alleged rigging.

It was not clear if the party would participate in the election of the prime minister and Punjab chief minister after the decision to join the opposition ranks.

Khan's party claimed that at least 85 seats won by it in Parliament were snatched in the "biggest voter fraud" in the country's history and announced plans to hold "peaceful" nationwide protests on Saturday against alleged rigging.

PTI's core committee met on Friday and finalised the plans for the nationwide protest campaign on the call of the party's founder Khan.

The meeting urged the whole nation to come out of their houses against the "massive rigging". The meeting also sought the resignation of the chief election commissioner.

Independent candidates - a majority backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) - won 93 of the 265 National Assembly seats that were contested in the February 8 election.

However, PTI's two main rivals appear on course to form a coalition government after former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) formed a

post-poll alliance on Tuesday.
The PML-N won 75 seats while the PPP came third with 54 seats.
The Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) has also agreed to support them with their

To form a government, a party must win 133 seats out of 265 contested seats in the 266-member National Assembly.

Khan declared on Friday he will not seek political vengeance upon returning to power. "We will not take any political revenge, but we will take the country and the nation forward for the sake of the development of the country and the nation," he stated, as conveyed by PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan

following a 30-minute long meeting with Imran Khan at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

PTI's Information Secretary Raoof Hasan and other leaders including Sher Afzal Marwat, Rehana Dar, Shoaib Shaheen and Salman Akram Raja, who challenged their election results before various forums, addressed a press conference here.

Hasan said that 2024 would be remembered due to the "biggest voter fraud" in Pakistan's history against the party and its candidates.

"According to our estimates, out of 177 [National Assembly] seats which were supposed to be ours, only 92 have been given to us. And 85 seats have been taken away from us fraudulently," he said.

He said that the party was taking constitutional and legal steps to counter the rigging and get its right.

"We have verified data about 46 seats and it is being compiled for 39 seats," he said.

Hasan also highlighted the discrepancies between Form 45 and Form 47, which respectively deal with counting in each polling station in a constituency and the overall count of all polling stations.

Hasan claimed there was a huge difference in the numbers of votes polled for National Assembly and provincial assembly seats. He said that the number of rejected votes, in certain cases, exceeded the margin of victory.

Separately, Hasan affirmed the party's readiness for dialogue with the establishment, emphasising that the purpose of contacting political parties is not to form an electoral alliance but to bring all political forces together on a unified platform.

Speaking on the Express Tribune newspaper, Hasan highlighted that PTI's founder has consistently advocated for engaging with all political parties. He emphasised that if political parties engage in positive politics, there is no harm in holding meetings and fostering

collaboration.

"The purpose of contacting political parties is not at all an electoral alliance; our aim is that all political parties come together on one platform," stated Hasan during the programme.

## Sena leader demands development of tourist resorts of Doda region

**Top News Report** 

KISHTWAR, Feb 17: Shiv Sena, Shinde president chenab valley Tilak Shan today urged the Government to take effective steps in promoting tourism in erstwhile Doda district which has a lot of potential for the same.

Addressing a joining programme organised by the party today he said erstwhile Doda district has lot of potential for tourism promotion but no specific attention was given to same by earlier Kashmir centric Governments who



ignored and neglected this area altogether that has resulted in backwardness and poverty of the people.

Shan said the nature has bestowed scenic beauty to the erstwhile Doda district with lush green forests, meadows, lakes, springs, The district is also famous for pilgrimage and eco tourism, hiking etc and it needs to be promoted to boost the

rivers and streams.

etc and it needs to be promoted to boost the economy of the area and also create opportunities for employment generation.

He said the present Government though has started taking initiative in this regard with administration providing attention for promotion of tourism in respective districts of Doda region but more needs to be done by exploiting the natural tourist places of the region to tourism

promotion.

He said moreover the attention needs to be paid in starting work on other power projects in the region as rivers of erstwhile Doda district has a potential of generating about 10,000 mw of power which the UT can sell to the other states to boost the economy.

He also urged the Government to issue directives to concerned management of under construction power projects to implement the Relief and Rehabilitation plan for the affected people.

## SCs are most exploited by the BJP policies: Karan Bhagat

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: Karan Bhagat Chairman SC Dept. of JKPCC has said that SCs are most exploited lot due to the policies of the BJP government and asked them to strengthen the all inclusive congress policies.

Addressing a meeting of selected gathering of representatives of SC which was convened to review the organizational structure from Districts to Block levels, upcoming programmes of AICC and Lok Sabha Polls, here today at PCC HQ, Jammu.

Karan Bhagat exhorted them to come forward to safeguard their own interests, as Congress is a national platform, available for the oppressed and weaker sections, as it is open to all sections. Congress party especially Rahul Gandhi alone boldly fights for the rights of poor and weaker sections and is a strong voice where there is injustice.

He said that congress always safeguarded the rights and interests of these weaker sections including political, economic, professional courses, jobs and developmental aspects. He said right from freedom till date their rights to reservations in services, jobs, political representations including in the PRIs was ensured by the congress to give them their due

Karan Bhagat referred to the historical background and described it a battle of ideologies

share. He asked them

to strengthen congress

for their rights, interests

and upliftment of future

generations.

from long time while Congress always followed a progressive policy of liberalism, equality and togetherness. He asked them to follow Congress policies of progressiveness and unity in diversity.

Dina Nath Bhagat in his address asked the representatives of SC to strengthen congress at grass roots levels right from booth level. The congress is the only political force in the country which is truly secular and has inclusive policies for each and every sections especially the weaker sections.

He asked them to come forward to seek

their due share in the political arena and represent the voice of their people on every platform. The Congress always safeguarded their rights but other parties only exploited them for vote bank politics to serve their own political interests.

Sunil Thapa, Shamsher Bhagat, Babu Ram Bhagat, C.L. Manyal, Baldev Raj, Surinder Atri, Vinay Bhushan, Yog Raj, Bal Krishan, Bushan Kumar, Dewan Chanf, Bharat Bushan Kundal, Des Raj Bhagat, Mulak Raj, Lok Nath, Jagdish Raj Surinder Kumar, Ricky Dalotra and others attended the meeting.

#### 647 holy birthday celebration of Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: All J&K Guru Ravi Sabha president Piran Ditta on Saturday while speaking poo n the celebration of 647th Birth of Shri Guru Ravi Dass informed that a Grand Shobha Yatra will be arranged on 22nd February 2024 from Krishna Nagar Gurudwara with beautiful Jhankies, Bands, Bangaran and Bhajan kirtan Parties will pass different bazaar of Jammu.

Shobha Yatra will start from Krishna Nagar Gurudwara at 11 AM and passing through Guru Ravi Dass Chowk, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk, JP Chowk, Vivekanand Chowk, Gurudwara Sunder Singh road,

Raghunath Chowk, City Chowk, Chowk Shalimar road, Indira Chowk, B.C Road and will cultimate at Krishna Nagar Gurudwara where Guru ka Langer will be served, he said in the press confer-

Piran Ditta appealed to all social organisations and Bazar committee to welcome the Yatra in their areas. Different sangeet parties and prominent. Singers are also participating in Shoba Yatra. He further added that.

647th birthday of Guru Ravi Dass Ji will be celebrated with great galla programmes at Gurudwara Krishna Nagar which will start at 11 AM on Saturday, the 24 Feb. 2024.

Besides Bhajan Kirtan, Popular singers of state and from Punjab will pay homage to Guru Ji through their Bhajan along with their parties. Political and social leaders of Jammu and Kashmir are also participating to pay rich tribute to Great Guru Ravi Dass

Ji. Sh. Piran Ditta also appealed to religious people from all walk of life t participate with families and have blessings of Guru Ji Executive committee and working committee members.

Others present and spoken on this occasion were Dr. Raj Pal Hans, Darshan Rana, Romesh hans, R.K Raja, Sham Sunder Bassan, Mulkh Raj, Banarsi Digra, Joginder Digra, Chaman Lal and Deepak Bangotra.

The Programme will come to an end at 4 PM and Guru ka Langer will be served.

#### Tata AIA appoints Venkatachalam H. as Chief Executive officer and Managing Director

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited, one of India's fastest growing life insurance companies, announced today that its Board has appointed Venkatachalam H. as the new Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, subject to regulatory approval from IRDAI. Venkatachalam H. will take over from current Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Naveen Tahilyani who moves to another role in the Tata Group and has been elevated as a Non-Executive Director

TATA AIA

#### LIFE INSURANCE

of Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Ltd. Venky as he is fondly

known, has over 27 years' experience spanning Life Insurance, Asset Management and Custodial Services. He has expertise in Sales & Distribution, Strategy, Business and Process Development and Key Account Management.

2016 and was President and Chief Distribution Officer in his previous role. Venky has also led several initiatives in areas such as marketing, strategy, analytics, and direct digital business.

Naveen has been a visionary leader, spearheading the transformation of Tata AIA into a market-

leading and digitally enabled multi-channel business. Tata AIA has consistently outperformed the market, with VONB increasing by three and a half times between 2018 and 2022. Under Naveen's leadership. Tata AIA has risen to become number 3 company on retail weighted new business premium and is ranked number 1 in retail sum assured among private sector life insurers.

Tata AIA has been awarded the Kincentric Best Employer seven times in a row as well as certified as a Great Place to Work.

#### DPS Kathua students recognized with Certificates, Medals by Mahatma Gandhi Rashtrabhasha Prachar Sanstha, Pune

**Top News Report** 

KATHUA, Feb 17: The fervent efforts of students from DPS Kathua in promoting the Hindi language have been acknowledged and celebrated by the Mahatma Gandhi Rashtrabhasha Prachar Sanstha, Pune.

As part of its mission to propagate Hindi, the organization conducted examinations across various levels, spanning from Class 1 to 10. A com-

mendable total of approximately 110 students from DPS Kathua participated wholeheartedly in these examinations. Under the supervision of Smarty Sharma, Head of the Hindi Department, alongside other dedicated Hindi educators and Olympiad in-charge, Ruchi Sharma, the examinations were conducted smoothly.

In recognition of their exceptional talents, all participating students have been honored with gold medals

and certificates of appreciation. Furthermore, Smarty Sharma has been bestowed with a Certificate of Excellence and the prestigious National Language Ornament Medal for her remarkable contributions towards the students' engagement and success.

Principal Vivek Arora extended his warmest congratulations to the students and encourages them to maintain their enthusiasm for learning and to strive for excellence in all their endeavors.

#### FROM PAGE 1

#### test outside bjp leaders' Homes

security personnel — 18 from the Haryana Police and seven paramilitary force jawans — were injured in clashes with the

Farmer leaders spearheading the "Delhi Chalo" call claimed that the Haryana security personnel used "force" against the protesters by hurling tear gas shells and firing rubber bullets at them, leaving many injured.

A 63-year-old farmer, who was among the protesters at the Shambhu border, died of a heart attack on Friday.

Gian Singh, from Punjab's Gurdaspur district, complained of chest pain in the morning and was taken to the Civil Hospital in Punjab's Rajpura. From there, he was rushed to Rajindra Hospital in Patiala where doctors declared him dead.

The protesting farmers paid tribute to Singh.

A 52-year-old police sub-inspector posted at the Shambhu border also died, an official said on Friday.

Hira Lal, who was attached to the Haryana Railway Police, was deployed at the Shambhu border for the farmers' protest, a police spokesperson said.

He experienced a sudden decline in his health while on duty, he added.

Sarwan Singh Pandher, a farm leader, on Friday accused the Centre of trying to "suppress" the voices of the protesters, claiming social media accounts of farmers and Youtubers have been suspended.

Besides a legal guarantee for MSP, the farmers are demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, no hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act – 2013, and compensation to the families of the farm-

ers who died during a previous agitation

**Sachin Tendulkar visits** 

He joined Tata AIA in

## Bat factory in Pulwama Tendulkar was accompanied by his wife and daughter Sara Tendulkar. Five senior cons among

#### 19 booked in kidnapping, extortion case of Kutch firm staffer

In its order dated October 10, 2019, the high court directed the authorities to register an FIR, but the accused got a stay from the Supreme Court. The stay was lifted on January 16 this year, the release said.

#### Night temp records jump, MeT issues 'yellow warning' amid wet spell forecast in J&K

low of 4.0°C, Batote 6.9°C and Bhaderwah 4.8°C, he said. The weatherman has forecast "extended wet spell" in Jammu and Kashmir from Saturday night onwards till afternoon of February 21. "A couple of moderate to intense Western Disturbances most likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from February 17 afternoon onwards," he said. Under the influence of the weather Systems, he said, an "extended wet spell" is likely from February 17 (night) onwards till February 21 (Afternoon) most likely over J&K and adjoining areas.In Kashmir Valley, he said, partly to generally cloudy with possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches is expected towards late Saturday night.On February 18, he said, generally cloudy weather with possibility of light to moderate rain and snow is expected at many places.From February 19-20, he said, there is possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at most places (plains and lower reaches) with possibility of heavy snowfall over middle and higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Badgam, Shopian and Kulgam districts during late afternoon of February 19 to February 20 late night. From February 21, he said, there is possibility of light to moderate snow at many places till afternoon and late afternoon and gradual improvement thereafter. Regarding Jammu division, he said, there is possibility of light rain and snow at many places on Sunday. From 19th-20th Feb, there is possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain with thunder/lightning in plains of Jammu Division with light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches and heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches of Ramban, Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar."On February 21, he said, light to moderate snow/rain/thunder/lightning is expected over many places till late afternoon and evening and gradual improvement thereafter. The MeT office also issued an advisory, saying that the system may lead to temporary closure of roads of higher reaches and important passes like Sinthan pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna, Razdan pass, Zojila etc. "Travellers are advised to plan accordingly," the MeT official said, adding. "farmers are advised to withhold irrigation and fertilizer application and drain out excess water from Orchards and fields during the above period."He said a significant drop in day temperature is expected during the period. As 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harsh period of winter ended on January 29, Kashmir is presently in the middle of 20-day-long winter period called 'Chillai-Khurd' that ends on February 19 and is followed by a 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) which starts from February 20 to March 1.

# to J&K, Security Forces conduct search for possible Cross-Border tunnels (LoC) and the hinterland to thwart any attempt by terrorists to carry out an attack

**Ahead of PM Modi's visit** 

(LoC) and the hinterland to thwart any attempt by terrorists to carry out an attack, the officials said, adding security forces have intensified patrolling, area domination and checking in sensitive areas to maintain peace.

On Wednesday evening, Pakistan Rangers violated the ceasefire by firing on a BSF post at Makwal along the IB in R S Pura sector, prompting retaliation by the Indian border guards.

The cross-border firing continued for 25 minutes and later the BSF lodged a strong protest with their counterparts for the unprovoked firing.

Army troops guarding the LoC also fired at Pakistani drones on three occasions in different sectors of Poonch district in the past six days.

#### Banihal-Sangaldan section of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link to open on February 20

According to the railways, the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section, which was constructed at a cost of Rs 15,863 crore, is ready for operation and the existing train services from Baramulla to Banihal will now be extended up to Sangaldan, a town near the district headquarters of

"It features 16 bridges — 11 major ones, four minor ones and one road overbridge. More than 90 per cent of this section is in tunnels, with a total of 11 tunnels covering

43.37 kilometres, including the country's longest transportation tunnel, T-50, stretching 12.77 kilometres in the Khari-Sumber section," a senior official associated with the project said.

"For safety and rescue, there are three escape tunnels with a combined length of 30.1 kilometres. Additionally, the section includes 30 curves spanning 23.72 kilometres. To further enhance passenger safety and comfort, several advanced features have been incorporated, such as ballastless tracks and canted turnouts (a first for the Indian Railways)," he added.

Besides, CCTV monitoring and state-ofthe-art tunnel-safety technology, including ventilation and firefighting systems, are some of the other added safety features.

So far as electrification is concerned, the Baramulla-Srinagar-Banihal-Sangaldan section of the USBRL project, which spans 185.66 RKM (route kilometres) and serves 19 railway stations, is complete, the sources said.

"Constructed for Rs 470.23 crore, with electrification, it is possible to operate the state-of-the-art Vande Bharat trains in the section. Other noteworthy features include 25-KV OHE inside the longest operational tunnel (tunnel T-80 in the Banihal-Quazigund section), specialised equipment for high-altitude operations and 132/33-KV traction substations at altitudes exceeding 1,600 MSL," one of the sources said.

#### PDD Daily Wager Electrocuted to Death While Repairing Live Wire

Meanwhile, police took cognizance of this

Farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' March enters fifth day, BKU (Ugrahan) to proPOS terminal will con-

tinue to work after

March 15 if it is linked

to other banks instead

"We are committed

to providing seamless

service to our merchant

partners, with focus on

compliance and regu-

latory guidelines. We

assure our users that

the Paytm app, and our

pioneering devices like

Paytm QR, Soundbox,

Card Machine will con-

tinue to work as always.

"The shift of the nodal

account to Axis Bank

(by opening an Escrow

Account) will ensure

seamless merchant

of PPBL

## Paytm shifts nodal account to Axis Bank to ensure continuity of transactions

#### The move will allow continuity of Paytm QR, Soundbox and card machine

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Fintech firm One97 Communications -- owner of the brand Paytm -- has shifted its nodal account to Axis Bank from Paytm Payments Bank.

The move will allow continuity of Paytm QR, Soundbox, card machine after the March 15 deadline set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as per a regulatory filing.

The RBI has advised customers and merchants of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) to shift their accounts to other banks by March 15, giving 15 more days to the beleaguered entity to close most of its operations, including deposit and credit trans-



actions.

"The company has also shifted its nodal account to Axis Bank (by opening an escrow account) to continue seamless merchant settlements as before.

"This arrangement is expected to seamlessly replace the nodal account that OCL was using with Paytm Payments Bank. Paytm Payment Services Ltd (PPSL), OCL's wholly owned subsidiary has already been using the Axis Bank services since its inception,"

The nodal account of Paytm is like a master account in which all its customers, merchant transactions are settled.

Paytm said in a filing.

transactions are settled.
The RBI in the list of
FAQs has clarified that
Paytm QR code, Paytm
Soundbox or Paytm
Soundbox or Paytm
Settlements as before.
We strive to continue to empower Indians, contributing significantly to the country's financial

inclusion journey," a Paytm spokesperson said.

The RBI has advised PPBL customers to obtain a fresh QR code linked to an account with another bank or wallet to receive payments after March 15.

"You may also change your bank account details (in which you receive payments) through your service provider," Paytm management had said earlier this month.

Paytm will also work with other banks to change the virtual payment address linked to PPBL that merchants use for accepting transactions, so that there is no disruption in their transactions after the RBI set a deadline.

## Adani Realty outbids L&T to clinch Rs 30,000 crore Bandra Reclamation project

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Adani Realty pipped Larsen & Toubro to emerge as the highest bidder for the redevelopment of the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation's (MSRDC) 24-acre prime land at Bandra

Reclamation close to the Bandra-Worli.

Adani Realty offered 23.15% revenue share to the state government body while Larsen & Toubro offered 18% share of the project's revenue.

The final decision will be taken by the MSRDC Board next week.

MSRDC invited bids for the prime land parcel facing Mahim Bay and along the sea link approach road, which



has a casting yard and the MSRDC office. This plot is allocated for commercial as well as residential use in the Development Control and Promotion Regulations 2034 and valued at an estimated cost of ₹30,000 crore.

The land parcel has a potential development area of 45 lakh square feet. Residential prices in Bandra Reclamation

are pegged at around ₹83,000 per square feet.

As per the bid terms, Adani Realty will have to share higher of either Rs 8,000 crore or 23.15% gross revenue earned from the project with MSRDC.

The timeframe set for fulfilment of these conditions is 10 years from the handover of the land parcel to the developer.

## Should PPF and bank FD investors bet their money on sovereign gold bonds?

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Investing in SGBs provides a hedge against inflation, unlike PPFs or FDs, which have been hit by inflation over the years. The reason is that the prices of gold, which form the base of SGBs, are generally inversely proportional to the economic conditions. When the economy weakens, or inflation rises, the prices of gold rise; thereby protecting the investors' purchasing power.

Sriram BKR, Senior Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, says, "Though gold could not be a similar alternative to fixed income options, those keeping money in FDs and PPF, looking for diversification apart from equities, gold could be a choice for such investors. Gold

apparently is the next best-performing asset class in India, next to equities, going by the past 10 to 15 years of data. SGBs offer a fixed interest of 2.5% per annum on the investment amount, payable semi-annually. Additionally, SGB gives investors an opportunity to participate in the price appreciation of gold if it were to happen over a longer term.

tenure of 8 years, and premature withdrawal is allowed after 5 years. Sriram says, "Over a nearly 34-year period, data suggests that if one remained invested in gold, the outcomes were favourable. For 5-year duration, the average returns stood at 9.1%, with positive returns occurring 83% of the time and returns

SGB has an overall

exceeding 7% in 55.5% of cases. Similarly, for an 8-year period, the average returns remained at 9.1%, with positive returns observed 96% of the time, and returns surpassing 7% in 57% of instances. When factoring in the SGB interest, the likelihood of positive returns and returns exceeding 7% would likely improve for both 5 and 8-year spans. Notably, for an 8-year investment horizon, positive returns were observed 100% of the time."

"Apart from this, capital gains arising on maturity are exempted from long-term capital gain tax, and SGB is eligible for indexation benefits on the transfer of bonds. This is a clear and exclusive advantage that comes with SGB," he added further.

## Rs. 2.1 lakh crore accumulated through bank accounts under Jan Dhan scheme: Anurag Thakur

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday inaugurated the 2024 Annual Government and Institutional Business Meet of the Federal Bank and asserted that under the Jan Dhan scheme around 45 crore bank accounts have been opened.

Addressing an audience of the officials and employees of the bank, the Minister at the very outset, congratulated Federal Bank for an all-time high share price.

Recalling the mood when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Thakur said that a lot of people had rebuffed it as a non-starter.



"But today the government can proudly boast of having opened 45 crore bank accounts under the scheme. The corpus under the Jan Dhan accounts is a mammoth 2.1 lakh crore rupees that is part of the banking ecosystem," he said.

Reminiscing the time before the current government, Thakur said

that before 2014 the government was known for policy paralysis. Since 2014, the credo has shifted to Reform, Perform, Transform. The banking sector is today out of the clutches of debt and at an all-time high performance.

The Minister stated that when the country was hurt by economic offenders before 2014, it

was the current government that came out with the Economic Offenders Bill and is still fighting cases abroad to get all the offenders back to India. The gross NPA has reduced to 3.2 per cent, and the return on assets has seen a rise from 0.5 per cent to 0.79 per cent in 2023.

He went on to state that a similar mood prevailed when digital payments were promoted by the government after demonetization but today the smallest of payments is being made by BHIM UPI.

These are examples that have taken India from Fragile 5 to the top 5 economies of the world and will take the country to 3rd largest economy soon.

Thakur said that the government's efforts, with a mix of accountability and transparency, have brought 25 crore people out of multidimensional poverty in the past ten years and this a proof of people benefiting from Government schemes.

The Government can proudly proclaim that a hundred per cent of government expenditure on social sector schemes is reaching the beneficiaries due to the implementation of the JAM trinity.

The Minister ensured that the government will keep taking bold initiatives and is resolute to take India to the top 3 economies in another five years and a developed country by 2047.

## Salt substitutes lower hypertension risk in elderly adults by 40 percent



NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Researchers have unveiled a remarkable finding that could revolutionize the way we approach hypertension in older adults. The study, published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, suggests that replacing regular salt with a salt substitute can significantly reduce the risk of high blood pressure without increasing the likelihood of low blood pressure episodes, offering a flavorful solution to a pressing health con-

Lead author of the study, Dr. Yangfeng Wu, Executive Director of Peking University Clinical Research Institute in Beijing, China, emphasised the significance of the findings, stating, "Our results showcase

an exciting breakthrough in maintaining blood pressure that offers a way for people to safeguard their health and minimize the potential for cardiovascular risks, all while being able to enjoy the perks of adding delicious flavor to their favorite meals."

the DECIDE-Salt trial, involved 611 participants aged 55 years or older from 48 care facilities in China. The participants were divided into two groups, with one group replacing usual salt with a salt substitute, while the other continued to use regular salt. The results revealed that individuals who used the salt substitute were 40% less likely to develop hypertension compared to those using regular salt, marking a significant advancement in the field of cardiovascular health.

Commenting on the study, Rik Olde Engberink, a researcher, nephrologist, and clinical pharmacologist at Amsterdam University Medical Center's Department of Internal Medicine, commended the findings, stating, "The study provides an attractive alternative to the failing strategy to reduce the intake of salt worldwide," while emphasizing the need for continued effort and adoption of salt substitutes early in the food chain by the food indus-The study's implica-

tions extend beyond the realm of hypertension prevention, offering a promising approach to cardiovascular risk management and overall health maintenance. As the World Health Organization identifies hypertension as the leading risk factor for cardiovascular disease and mortality, this research paves the way for a flavorful and effective strategy in the prevention and control of hypertension and related conditions.

#### Himachal Pradesh Budget 2024: Govt hikes MSP for milk

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Presenting his second state Budget, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday announced hiking the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cow milk and buffalo milk.

The MSP on cow milk has been raised from

be introduced for apple packaging and horticulture tourism will be encouraged.

He reiterated the state government's resolve to make Himachal Pradesh a green state by 2026.

He said the state government announced a special package of ₹4,500 crore for disas-



₹38 to ₹45 per litre and buffalo milk from ₹38 to ₹55 per litre, he said.

The CM announced Rajiv Gandhi Prakriyat Kheti Yojna, under which 36,000 farmers -- 10 farmers from every panchayat -- will be trained in natural farming techniques.

Sukhu further said universal cartons will

ter-affected people after last year's monsoon, and added that the Centre had not given any special package.

He said it was due to the financial mismanagement of the previous BJP government in the state that Himachal's total debt stood at ₹87,788 crore.

## **Experts call for concerted efforts** to tackle tobacco menace in India

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Government officials and health experts have underscored the urgent need for collaborative efforts across various sectors to address the pervasive issue of tobacco use in Indian society. Dr. Atul Goel, Director General of Health Services (DGHS) for the Government of India, emphasised the critical role of multi-sectoral intervention in navigating towards a healthier future. He highlighted India's position as the fourth-largest global producer of tobacco in 2021, emphasising the magnitude of the challenge.

Dr. Sutapa B Neogi, Director of the IIHMR-Delhi and president of the 6th National Conference on Tobacco or Health, highlighted the grim reality of tobacco use in India, where over 10 lakh people die each year from tobaccorelated illnesses. She stressed the importance of uniting to combat the dual burden of smoking and smokeless tobacco, which currently affects nearly 29 per cent of Indian adults. The conference aims to serve

as a platform for pro-



fessionals, researchers, and policymakers to exchange knowledge and best practices in tobacco control.

Dr. L Swasticharan,

Additional DDG in the Directorate General and Director (EMR) at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, expressed concern over the involvement of youngsters in tobacco consumption and the resultant global impact. He emphasized the economic burden and the imperative to strengthen measures such as the NTCP and WHO-MPOWER initiative, highlighting the importance of multi-sectoral action at the national, state, and district levels to prioritise tobacco taxation and raise funds for a smoke-free India .

Dr. Yutaro Setoya, Team Lead for NCDs and Comorbidities at the WHO India Country Office, reinforced the urgency to address the increasing burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in India, primarily attributed to tobacco use. He commended the country's efforts while emphasizing the need for holistic eradication strategies and prevention initiatives targeted at youngsters.

Dr. Jagdish Kaur, Regional Advisor for Tobacco Free Initiatives at the World Health Organization's South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO-SEARO), emphasised the urgent need for comprehensive policies to regulate surrogate advertisements of tobacco products, particularly smokeless tobacco. These policies are crucial to protect public health and prevent the exploitation of loopholes in advertising regulations.

#### "Should Have Done It On Day 1": Sunil Gavaskar Unhappy Over India's 'Late' Black Armband Gesture For Great

Indian cricket team players on Saturday wore black armbands as a mark of respect in the memory of former captain Dattajirao Gaekwad on the third day of the ongoing third Test against England

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): The Indian cricket team players on Saturday wore black armbands as a mark of respect in the memory of former captain Dattajirao Gaekwad on the third day of the ongoing third Test against England in Rajkot on Saturday. Dattajirao, who played 11 Tests for India between 1951 and 1962, died on February 13 after remaining hospitalised for 12 days. At 95, he was India's oldest living Test cricketer.

Dattajirao was the father of former India batter and coach Aunshuman Gaekwad.

"Team India will be wearing black arm bands in memory of Dattajirao Gaekwad, former India captain and India's oldest Test cricketer who passed away recently," the BCCI said in a statement shortly before the third day's play got underway here at the Niranjan Shah Stadium.

A right-handed batter, who could bowl both medium pace and leg-break, Dattajirao was India's captain during the 1959



tour of England.

Former Indian cricket team captain Sunil Gavaskar mentioned that India could have worn the black armband right from the first day.

"Better late than never... they should've done it on Day 1 but better late than never," Gavaskar said on commentary. "He was captain of the Indian team in a five-match series. He captained four out of the five matches and the other one was captained by Pankaj Roy.'

An accidental Indian captain

who matched the peerless Vijay Hazare stroke for stroke with a cover drive to die for, Dattajirao Gaekwad should have played more than 11 Tests, given the talent this remarkable player

from Baroda possessed.
On Tuesday, Gaekwad died in his hometown Baroda at the age of 95. Statistically, he was the oldest living Indian Test cricketer since the death of Deepak Shodhan in 2016.

He also mentored a lot of Baroda cricketers through 70s, 80s and 90s including the likes of Nayan Mongia and was always looking out for new talents at the famous Moti Baug Palace ground.

"Under the shade of the banyan tree at the Motibag cricket ground, from his blue Maruti car, Indian captain D.K. Gaekwad sir tirelessly scouted young talent for Baroda cricket, shaping the future of our team. His absence will be deeply felt. A great loss for cricketing community," Former India pacer Irfan Pathan wrote on 'X' The BCCI also put out a condolence message.

"The BCCI expresses its profound grief at the passing away of Dattajirao Gaekwad, former India captain and India's oldest Test cricketer.

"He played in 11 Tests and led the team during India's Tour of England in 1959. Under his captaincy, Baroda also won the Ranji Trophy in the 1957-58 season, beating Services in the final. The Board expresses its heartfelt condolences to Gaekwad's family, friends, and admirers," it stated.

#### Its time for one last dance: Manoj Tiwary announces retirement from red ball cricket for Bengal



KOLKATA, Feb 17 (Agencies): Manoj Tiwary has decided to bid farewell to first class cricket after Bengal's Ranji Trophy match against Bihar at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata.

Bengal's captain, Tiwary, took to social media to announce his retirement from the Ranji Trophy and posted an emotional message. He reflected on his career and his sheer love for his home ground, Eden Gardens. The Bengal batter also urged the fans to come and support him as he embarked on his last dance.

"Hi all, So... It's time for one last dance! Possibly one last time for a long walk towards my beloved 22 yards. I will miss every bit of it! Thanks for cheering and loving me all these years. Would be loving it if you all come down to my favourite #EdenGardens today and tomorrow to cheer for Bengal. A loyal servant of cricket, your Manoj Tiwary," he wrote on 'X'.

Tiwary also posted a video on 'X' that

summed up his entire career, which lasted for 18 years.

"A circle is about to get completed at the iconic Eden Gardens. I was fortunate to make my first class debut at the Eden Gardens. I am about to play my last at the same venue where it all started. I am playing my last first class match of my career. I thank you all for the continuous support," posted Tiwary.

Tiwary announced his retirement from all formats of the game last year in August. However, just after a week, the batter chose to reverse his retirement decision and play for Bengal in Ranji Trophy 2024. He reasoned the decision by saying that he wanted to give one more shot to help Bengal lift the coveted trophy. However, last year's finalists, Bengal failed to qualify for the quarter-final of the tournament.

The 38-year-old made his first class debut in 2006 and broke into the Indian team in 2008. However, he played only 12 ODIs and 3 T20Is. His last international appearance for India was in 2015 against Zimbabwe. However, the batter continued to flourish for Bengal in domestic cricket. He completed 10,000 first class runs this season. He has 30 centuries and 45 to his name in first class cricket. Tiwary represented Kolkata Knight Riders, Rising Pune Supergiants, Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings in the IPL.

#### IND vs ENG: Kuldeep, Siraj and Jadeja step up in Ashwin's absence to orchestrate England collapse on Day 3

(Agencies): Mohammed Siraj starred with a four-wicket haul as India, who were missing premier spinner R Ashwin due to a family medical emergency, delivered a bowling masterclass to trigger a significant England collapse in the Rajkot Test. England, who were 207 for 2 when Day 3 began, were bundled out for 319, trailing India by 126 runs. The Ben Stokesled side lost their last 8 wickets for 95 runs as the hosts made a terrific comeback on Day 3.

The day began with England hoping to build on their overnight score, with Ben Duckett and Joe Root at the crease aiming to solidify their team's position. The Indian bowlers, sensing an opportunity to capitalize on Ashwin's absence, stepped up their game, with Jasprit Bumrah making the initial breakthrough by dismissing Joe Root early in the session.

This wicket set the tone for the day as Kuldeep Yadav, embracing the role of the lead spinner in Ashwin's absence,



delivered a masterclass in spin bowling. Duckett, continuing his splendid form from the previous day, managed to add 20 more runs to his score before being dismissed for an impressive 153 by Kuldeep Yadav. Kuldeep not only sent Duckett back to the pavilion but also claimed the wicket of Jonny Bairstow for a duck, leaving England in a precarious position.

Despite the loss of key wickets, England found some resistance in Ben Stokes and Ben Foakes, who showed determination and resilience against a relentless Indian bowling attack. England were 290/5 at lunch, but Siraj dismissed Ben Foakes, Rehan Ahmed, and James Anderson, while Jadeja dismissed the dangerous Ben Stokes

(41) and Tom Hartley in the post-lunch session. Siraj finished the day

with a commendable four-wicket haul in his 21.1 overs spell. Ravindra Jadeja also contributed significantly, taking crucial wickets that further dented England's hopes of building a substantial lead. The collective effort of the Indian bowlers, especially Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, and Ravindra Jadeja, in the absence of their leading spinner Ashwin, was instrumental in orchestrating the English collapse. With the momentum firmly in India's favor, the match is poised for an exciting conclusion, highlighting the resilience and adaptability of the Indian team in challenging cir-

## RCB Great's Blunt Take On "Whether Ishan Kishan Is Doing Wrong" Amid Star's Absence From Domestic Cricket

NEW DELHI, Feb 17 (Agencies): Former South African batting legend AB de Villiers opened up on Indian wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan's absence from international cricket following a break, saying he himself has been through this situation and there should be proper communication between a player and team management/ board. De Villiers' comments come as Ishan continues to remain absent from international cricket, having last played in a T20I match against Australia at home in late November. Following that, he asked team management to release him from the Test squad for the South Africa series happening in December-January due to personal reasons. The 25-year-old was in the T20I squad in South Africa in December 2023 but did not take part in any of the three games. He also did not take part in the ongoing Ranji Trophy.

Following India's win over England in the second Test, Indian



head coach Rahul Dravid said for Kishan to return, he will have to play some cricket. The India head coach revealed that the wicketkeeper-batter asked for a break, and that's why the selectors did not include him in the squad for the first two Test matches against England.

He added that it is the player's choice to decide when he is ready to make a comeback. "There is a way back for anyone and everyone. It is not that we rule out anybody from anything. I just do not want to go on labouring about the Ishan Kishan point. I have tried to explain it as

best as I can. The point was that, you know, he requested a break. We were happy to give him the break and whenever he was ready... I did not say he has to play domestic cricket. I said, whenever he is ready he needs to play some cricket and come back, and the choice is his," Dravid said as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

Speaking on the You-Tube channel about the situation, de Villiers said the situation is tricky and players do manage their careers. The former batter also noted that players do run out of energy and one tends to go into a shell, which is natural for any human being. He also said that he

He also said that he does not know if Kishan is right or wrong, there should be proper management between a player and team management/board.

"Very interesting sce-

nario there in India and I have been through this quite a bit throughout my career as well. It is a very tricky situation. Players trying to manage their careers, and rightfully so, but the difficulty around this is that there are a lot of T20 leagues around the world, IPL, and it's taking up a lot of attention...of the player's focus is on that," said De Villiers.

"Very difficult because the ultimate format of the game is still Test cricket and all Testplaying nations really wanna look after the Test format, so there is a bit of force in all kinds of directions here...

of directions here...
"Guys, you do run out
of energy, and once
you run out of energy,
you tend to go in your
defensive mode and
into a shell where you
look after what you feel
is important to you, and

that's a human reaction...

"So, whether Ishan is doing it wrong or other players are doing it right or wrong, I do not know but what needs to happen is proper communication. So, the players know exactly what, not only proper communication but proper and regular communication."

De Villiers said that he would like to wish all the players the best since it was difficult for him to manage his career towards its end and it needs real and clear communication.

"I just wanna wish all the players the very best because managing the career is something I found extremely difficult in the backend of my career," said de Villiers.

"It is not an easy thing to manage. It starts with communication, real clear communication between selectors, coaching staff, and the BCCI and the players. People need to know where they stand and that is something expected of them," he concluded.

#### Jurgen Klopp endorses Bayer Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso as 'standout' new generation coach

LIVERPOOL, Feb 17 (Agencies): Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp reckons that Xabi Alonso's remarkable achievements at Bayer Leverkusen highlight his immense talent among the emerging generation of managers. The former Liverpool and Real Madrid midfielder has been strongly linked with the impending vacancy at Anfield following Klopp's announcement last month of his departure at the end of the season.

Alonso's tenure at Leverkusen saw a remarkable transformation, taking the team from near the bottom of the Bundesliga to a commanding five-point lead at the top within just 16 months. The 42-year-old coach led Leverkusen to the German Cup semi-finals and notably secured a stunning 3-0 victory over perennial champions Bayern Munich last weekend. "Xabi is doing an incredible job,"

Klopp said.
"If you would have asked me eight weeks ago about Xabi Alonso, I would have gone 'Oh my God!' Always what I said, the dinosaurs if you want, Ancelotti (Carlo),

Mourinho (Jose), Guardiola (Pep), maybe me, we will not do it – okay, maybe Mourinho - but all the rest will not do it for the next 20 years.

"The next generation is already there and I would say Xabi is a standout in that department... Former world-class player, from a coaching family as well which helps a little, he was like a coach already when he was playing. The football he is playing, the teams he sets up, the transfers he did, it is absolutely exceptional. I played a long time in the Bundesliga and it is super impressive. Not only the points tally but the way they play. Leverkusen was clearly the better side in the first game against Bayern and that is rare. To be honest when we beat Bayern at Dortmund it was a bit of very well defended, counterattack and taking the momentum. Especially at the beginning. But Leverkusen were better. That was probably the real surprise given the short time he was there and it's a young team. He has super signings for this team, exactly what they needed, and that's really a



very special job.

Klopp clarified that he isn't playing a role in selecting his successor, leaving that decision to the owners of the Merseyside club. The 56-year-old, known for his successful tenure at Borussia Dortmund in the German league, commended Alonso's swift and effective execution of strategies despite assuming the role only in

October 2022.

"Leverkusen has a very good chance to win the cup. When you look through the Europa League, Leverkusen is one of the favourites there as well so it could be the season for Leverkusen. Really

#### Badminton Asia Team Championships: Indian Women Enter Maiden Final After Beating Japan 3-2

SHAH ALAM (MALAYSIA), Feb 17 (Agencies): Indian women shuttlers' dream run continued as they progressed to their first-ever final at the Badminton Asia Team Championships after edging out two-time former champions Japan 3-2 in a thrilling semifinal on Saturday. World No. 23 pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, world No. 53 Ashmita Chaliha and the 17-year-old Anmol Kharb registered stunning wins in the first doubles and second and deciding singles to take India through to the summit clash. India will face Thailand in the final on Sunday.

Though Japan were without their world No. 4 Akane Yamaguchi, world No. 7 pair of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota and world No. 8 combination of Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara, they were still a formidable side, making it a tough battle for India.

Returning from a long injury layoff, Sindhu had enjoyed wins against China's Han Yue and Hong



Kong's Lo Sin Yan Happy but she couldn't produce her best against the left-handed Aya Ohori, going down 13-21, 20-22 in the first singles to peg India back.

Treesa and Gayatri, playing the first doubles, dished out a superlative performance to outwit world No. 6 Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida 21-17, 16-21, 22-20 in a 73-minute contest as India drew level at 1-1.

Up against former world cham-

pion Nozomi Okuhara, who is currently ranked world No. 20, the left-handed Ashmita produced an aggressive game, using her overhead cross drops and jump smashes to good use, to record a shocking 21-17, 21-14 win to hand India a 2-1 lead.

With Tanisha Crasto suffering a niggle, Sindhu then paired up with Ashwini Ponnappa but they couldn't get across the world No. 11 pair of Rena Miyaura and Ayako Sakuramoto, losing 14-21, 11-21 in 43 minutes.

With the five-match rubber evenly poised at 2-2, Anmol was handed the responsibility of taming world No. 29 Natsuki Nidaira and the Indian once again lived up to the expectation, claiming a 21-14, 21-18 win in 52 minutes.

The final appearance keeps India's hopes of winning a first-ever gold in the continental championship. India had won two bronze medals in men's team event in the 2016 and 2020 editions.

## Daughters of J&K should express gratitude to PM Modi for visiting: Rekha

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan, stated in context with the upcoming mega public rally that daughters of J&K should express gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for visiting on 20 February at Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu union territory of J&K.

She urged all daughters, particularly those from rural and urban areas of Jammu South, to join this mega rally as it is considered a historic moment. Rekha said Article 370 was a hurdle for the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"It gave only separatism, terrorism, nepotism, and corruption to the people of Jammu & Kashmir. She counted that J&K could not develop like the rest of the country. But now, the future of the citizens here will improve," she said, adding that



J&K which was known as paradise on earth, would again attract the world.

While interacting with the group of women, under the Shakti Vandan program (NGO and Self-help group Sampark Campaign) Rekha Mahajan hails the efforts of women.

She said that no Prime Minister since Independence has been as sensitive as PM Modi has been towards daughters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always supported and encouraged Indian women in every field.

Rekha along with Co-Convenor of the Abhiyaan Divya Jain, Ex-Councillor Narinder Singh, Sarojini Sharma, and others had an interaction and had a cup of tea with ladies doing work for the wives of the army and also did

and a sense of belongingness to the own land on the faces of females, as the decision of the Modi led government has given them equal status at par with other citizens of J&K and it is indeed a great honor for all of us.

Rekha Mahajan high-

tion has brought smiles

Rekha Mahajan highlights that the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme will be extended so that more youth can take advantage of it and "local youth especially from Jammu region will receive employment.

Public sector units and big private sector companies will be encouraged to create jobs for the local youth in the state.

Rekha Mahajan elaborates that India is witnessing a rapid transition from women's development to women-led development, we have developed a multi-pronged approach in our strategy under the leadership of our honorable Prime Minister.

## Women in large numbers should attend PM Modi's public rally: Sanjita

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 27: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Mahila Morcha President, Sanjita Dogra, chaired a meeting of Jammu District Mahila Morcha, which was attended by the three Mandal Presidents and their teams.

The meeting was convened to discuss the upcoming visit of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to Jammu, and public rally to be held on February 20, at M.A. Stadium, Jammu.

Sanjita Dogra, in the meeting, also reviewed the ongoing Shakti Vandana programmes and stressed on reaching maximum Self-Help Groups and NGOs run by women in Jammu and Kashmir and garner their support for the

Sanjita Dogra, while stressing upon the Mahila Morcha teams of the three mandals of the Jammu District to reach every area of their Mandal, contact the women and brief



them about the PM's visit and appeal them to reach the Public rally venue on February 20 in large numbers.

Sanjita Dogra said that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has launched a large number of welfare schemes for different sections of the society, with women too getting adequate share for the first time.

The women in Jammu and Kashmir have availed the benefit of various schemes, many of them are even the beneficiaries of more than one scheme of the Modi government, she said.

The Mahila Morcha President said that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, during his massive attendance of women and the Mahila Morcha has to put more efforts to ensure that the women reach M.A. Stadium in large numbers to listen to the Prime Minister. She said that the PM has done a lot for the women and as such, the women too should convey their thankfulness to the Prime Minister through their presence in the public rally.

Mahila Morcha General Secretary Reema Padha, BJP District President Kuldeep Kandhari, Morcha Office Secretary Arti Koul, Chakshu, Meenu, Jyoti Devi, Anuradha Sharma were prominent among those present in the meeting.

#### **BJP VDG Cell holds meeting at Jhiri**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Village Defense Guard (VDG) held meeting at Jhiri in Akhnoor Assembly constituency and was attended by local VDG members in large numbers.

Former MLAs Rajeev Sharma and Krishan Lal, senior leader Munish Sharma, Convenor VDG Cell Basant Raj Thakur, VDG Co-Convenor Ramesh Katoch were the prominent leaders, who addressed this meeting.

Rajeev Sharma Ex-



MLA and Akhnoor district President, said that the VDG's are discharging their duties like strong force and their contribution has been

splendid.

Krishan Lal Ex- MLA,
spoke on the services
rendered by VDG's in

remote and far-flung areas and added that their task is no less than the security forces.

Munish Sharma applauded the role of VDG's and said that their genuine demands should be fulfilled at the earliest.

Basant Raj Thakur said that the issue of transferring of gun to the next in the family after the demise or retirement of the serving VDG members, is very well in our notice and is being taken up at the appropriate plate forms and expressed hope that the matter would be considered as members as the said of the said as the said of the said of

a workshop on zumba

for the well being of the

community at Sainik

colony of Bahu Constit-

uency in Jammu South.

ji is coming to Jammu

after the abrogation of

Article 370, a constitu-

tional provision, which

had turned the females

born in this erstwhile

state into second-class

citizens and the abroga-

tion of the controversial

provision of the constitu-

Rekha added that Modi

ered sympathetically.

He also discussed the issue of the unpaid VDG's and said that the same is also taken up regularly with the concerned authorities.

Ramesh Katoch said that the presence of VDG's has induced

a sense of security among the minorities in areas of Doda, Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch, Bani, Basohli and they have even sacrificed their lives in anti-insurgency operations.

Prominent among others present in the meeting included BJP Mahila Morcha spokesperson Pooja Grover,BJP Akhnoor Mandal President Swaran Singh, Khour Mandal President Manga Ram, Capt. Shoba Ram, Raj Kumar and others.

## **GHSS Dhakhar students visit GDC Khour**

Top News Report

KHOUR, Feb 17: About 50 students of Govt. Higher Secondary School Dhakhar along with their teachers visited the Govt. Degree College Khour as part of the celebration of the viksit Bharat event on Saturday.

During their visit the students visited different labs viz Computer lab, Science Labs, and the Library of the college. The aim of the event was to give exposure to the students for pursuing higher studies. During this visit the worthy Principal, Dr. T.K. Sharma, gave motivational and encouraging lecture to the students for achieving their aimed goals in life.

Dr. Anjana Sharma, HoD Computer Sciences and Viksit Bharat @2047 committee members organized this event under the able guidance of the Worthy Principal.

Sunny Dogra delivered a lecture on basics of IT equipments to the student. Heads of all Departments have welcomed the students during their visit to their respective Departments.

The students interacted very enthusiastically with the faculty members of the college and express their gratitude to the Principal & faculty members.

## Govt Polytechnic Jammu organizes certificates distribution function

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 17: Government Polytechnic Bikram Chowk Jammu today distributed Certificates to the trainees of two batches in Tailor (Darzi) on the successful completion of the Basic Skilling Training and also started the skill training under PM Vishwakarma Scheme in Carpenter (suthar) trade.

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme training was conducted under the leadership of worthy Secretary Skill Development Department Kumar Rajeev Ranjan.

The certificates were distributed today to the trainees by Director Skill Development Department (SDD) Sudershan Kumar in presence of Leena Padha, Mission Director, Skill Mission J&K along with Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu, Er Arun Bangotra, G.M Bhat Joint Director Skill



Development Department and faculty of the college.

Principal Er. Arun

Bangotra extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries and trainees under Vishwakarma Scheme and highlighted the basic objectives of the scheme by recognition of artisans through PM Vishwakarma Certificate as well basic training of five to seven days and advanced training of 15 days or more, with a stipend,

providing modern voucher toolkit of Rs 15000 free of cost to trained Vishwakarmas besides linkage with credit based soft loans and marketing support for expansion of their business.

While addressing the trainees, Sudershan Kumar Director Skill Development Department enlighten on PM Vishwakarma Scheme which is an ambitious initiative of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and it aims to

provide recognition, training, tool kits, certification, marketing support and soft loans to empower the craftsmen and artisans of our country who immensely contribute towards the economy of our nation as a whole.

He commended the efforts of Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu Er Arun Bangotra and his team for successfully conducting the training under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

While speaking on the occasion Leena Padha Mission Director, Skill Mission J&K encourage the trainees to leverage their skills and open up their own business and earn the livelihood and contribute to the nation's economic growth.

While speaking on the occasion, several trainees expressed their gratitude towards the administration of the college for successful and smooth conduct of their training.

Other present on the occasion were Er. Inderjeet Singh workshop superintendent, Raj Kumar HOD Mechanical Engineering, Manjeet Singh HOD Electrical Engineering Surekha Rani, Sanjogita Mehra, Sandeep Singh and Amit Kapoor Instructors of Government Polytechnic Jammu, and various craftsmen were also present on the occasion.

## **Bharat Darshan tour programme** by 89 Bn BSF Tangdhar



**Top News Report** 

TANGDHAR, Feb 17: Karnah Kupwara:In line with BSF's commitment to fostering goodwill along the LOC, the 89 Bn BSF, Tangdhar, proudly presents a Bharat Darshan tour programme, set to unfold on Saturday.

Under the guidance of Brindavan Prasad Sah, Offg Comdt, 89 Bn BSF, and S S Ahmad, Second-in-Command, along with Dr. Abhishek Sharma, CMO (SG), eager students from various government schools – Govt. Higher Secondary School Kandi, Govt. Higher Secondary School Tad, Karnah, Govt. High School Hajitra, Karnah, and Govt. Middle School Hajinar, Karnah – will embark on a memorable journey to Kolkata, West Bengal.

Over the course of 7 days, these young learners will immerse themselves in the vibrant culture and heritage of

Kolkata, exploring its iconic landmarks and soaking in the essence of the City of Joy.

Additionally, they will have the opportunity to visit nearby sites of historical and cultural significance, offering a glimpse into the rich tapestry of India's multicultural diversity. This tour promises to be an enriching experience, providing students with invaluable insights into the progress and diversity of our beloved nation.

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office: 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor: M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor: Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No: (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

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