

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-48 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Srinagar, other plain areas receive rains, Kashmir's hilly regions get snowfall

SRINAGAR, Feb 18 (Agencies): Higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall even as plains of the valley received rains that brought down the temperatures by several degrees, officials said here on Sunday. Snowfall has been reported in all hilly and mountainous areas of Kashmir since early morning, they said. The plains of the valley, including Srinagar city, received light to moderate rains, they said.

The snowfall has closed several roads connecting the main valley to remote areas like Machil in Kupwara district, Gurez in Bandipora district and Sonamarg in Ganderbal district, officials said. Mughal road connecting Shopian district of Kashmir to Rajouri-Poonch area of Jammu division has also closed due to snow.

However, there was some traffic on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway till some time back, the officials said. The weather office has forecast moderate to heavy precipitation in the form of snow or rains across Kashmir Valley over the next three days.

Srinagar-Leh highway closed following fresh snowfall

SRINAGAR, Feb 18 (Agencies): Authorities have closed the Srinagar-Leh Highway for vehicular movement due to snow accumulation at Baltal in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal District.

Baltal is a camping ground for pilgrims, 75 km from Ganderbal and 93 km from Srinagar. It is located 15 kilometres to the north of Sonmarg.

The Border Roads Organisation, which develops and maintains road networks in border areas, also shared a video of the fresh snowfall.

Meanwhile, the Pir Panjal range in Poonch district witnessed fresh snowfall on Sunday, as seen in the visuals.

Meanwhile, Gurez Valley, in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, received fresh snowfall on Sunday morning, with the Srinagar weather department predicting heavy to very heavy snow over the

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No future-oriented society can progress without people-centered governance: LG Sinha

Our vision is to ensure that growth must reach all sections of society and measures for equitable access to opportunities is further strengthened: LG

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: During this month's Awaam ki Awaaz programme, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha highlighted efforts to provide social justice to build an Atmanirbhar Jammu Kashmir. He also shared the stories of beneficiaries and inspiring unsung heroes that have become embodiment of transformation in Naya Jammu Kashmir.

"After more than seven decades of India's independence, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji established Social Justice in J&K, which ensured everyone has access to equal opportunities and the resources to well-being and prosperity of marginalised sections of society," the Lt Governor said.

He said the vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas has removed developmental imbalances and put J&K



on the path of accelerated and inclusive development.

"No future-oriented society can progress without people-centered governance. Our vision is to ensure that growth must reach all sections of society and measures for equitable access to opportunities is further strengthened," the Lt Governor observed.

The historic decision of the inclusion of Paharis, Padari Tribes, Koli and Gadda Brahmin in Scheduled Tribes list, while safeguarding the interest of Gujjar, Bakarwals and other listed tribes is a testimony to

our commitment towards the empowerment of all, he said.

Dedicating the 35th edition of Awaam ki Awaaz programme to Unsung Heroes and Nari Shakti of Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor lauded Bandipora's Ms Shabnam Bashir for her significant contribution to the society and standout efforts for the revival of tribal culture.

He made a special mention of Ms Waheeda Akhtar from Budgam who overcame immense challenges and serves as an inspiration to women in the area and helping in their econom-



ic empowerment. Ms. Reva Raina from Jammu is promoting values-based education using sports in different schools. Her vision and selflessness have helped revolutionize and shape the young minds, the Lt Governor said.

Udhampur's Anita Sharma and Shahnaz Bano; Sunita Devi from Kathua; Medhavi Sharma; Saras Bharti; Baramulla's Nazish Rashid, Mehbooba Akhtar of Ganderbal and Lakshmi, a resident of Samba also received a special mention from Lt Governor for their inspirational journeys in

fields like entrepreneurship, promotion of Dogri Folk, Basohli art & painting; mushroom cultivation and establishment of Polygreen house unit.

The Lt Governor shared the valuable suggestions received from Dr. Syed Saileen from Srinagar, Priya Varma from Reasi and Insha Manzoor from Pulwama on women's health, well-being and safety and issued necessary directions to the concerned departments for appropriate action.

He also voiced the inspiring thoughts of Rishu Gupta from Samba, Kupwara's Neelofar Bukhari, Chanchal Kumari from Udhampur and Arifa Ara from Budgam pertaining to financial literacy among women, entrepreneurship and leadership roles for women.

In this month's episode, the Lt Governor paid homage to Thakur Raghunath Singh, a nationalist thinker-writer

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Obstructing ambulances may attract Rs 10,000 fine or jail upto 6 months

SRINAGAR, Feb 18 (Agencies): The Traffic Police department Kashmir on Sunday warned that obstructing ambulances could lead to a Rs 10,000 fine or up to 6 months in jail.

"In case of any medical emergency movement, hospital administration and other health care centers operating in Kashmir Valley area advised to communicate with Traffic Police Control Room for hassle free movement of patients within municipal limits

of Srinagar," the Traffic department said in its circular.

It said that the drivers of the medical emergency vehicles carrying patients and the attendants shall keep close liaison with Traffic Control Unit on the above mentioned helpline numbers during the transit of patient to the hospital for a hassle free passage.

"All the commuters on road are advised to pave way for Ambulances, especially carrying

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Low-Danger level avalanche warning issued for Anantnag, Kulgam for Next 24 Hrs

SRINAGAR, Feb 18 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir State Disaster Management Authority (JK DMA) issued a low-danger level avalanche warning on Sunday for Anantnag and Kulgam districts of Jammu and Kashmir for the next 24 hours.

The warning said that the avalanche is likely above 2500 metres

over the Anantnag and Kulgam districts.

JK DMA also issued a warning of an avalanche with a medium danger level over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara and Ganderbal districts in the next 24 hours.

Taking to the micro-blogging site, X, JK DMA

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'Delhi Chalo' March | Union Ministers, farmer leaders to hold 4th round of talks Today



CHANDIGARH, Feb 18 (Agencies): A panel of Union ministers will hold a fourth round of talks with farmer leaders here on Sunday over their demands, including loan waiver and bringing an ordinance on giving

legal guarantee to MSP for crops.

The meeting comes amid thousands of farmers staying put at the Shambhu and Khanauri points of the Punjab-Haryana border with layers of barricades

and a large number of security personnel halting their march to the national capital.

The two sides — ministers and farmer leaders — had met earlier on February 8, 12 and 15 but talks remained

inconclusive.

Besides loan waiver and a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP), farmers of the 'Delhi Chalo' agitation, which entered its sixth day on Sunday, are also demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, and withdrawal of police cases.

There was no report of any confrontation between the protesters and Haryana security personnel on Saturday. The farmer leaders have asked the protesters to maintain calm at the

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Selfie Point near LoC in Uri becomes major tourist attraction



URI, Feb 18 (Agencies): A selfie point near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir has become a major attraction for tourists as it allows them

to capture the mesmerising beauty of Uri's remote border region and offers a panoramic view of the Jhelum river, officials said here.

The INDIA selfie point provides visitors with an engaging environment symbolising a sense of nationalism in the region, they said.

The army had last year opened 'Kaman Setu', zero-point at the LoC here, for tourists. The selfie point was opened for the public around the Republic Day this year.

The selfie point is the brainchild of artist and RANAF founder Rouble Nagi. It has been positioned strategically

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Ensure heightened vigilance to mitigate risk of terrorist threats; IGP Kashmir directs officer

SRINAGAR, Feb 18 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone VK Birdi Sunday directed officers to ensure heightened vigilance, particularly during night hours to mitigate the risk of terrorist threats.

IGP Kashmir Zone expressed these remarks while convening a meeting at PCR Kashmir, which was attended by senior officers of various security agencies including police, Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB, CISF besides state and Central intelligence agen-



cies. The meeting aimed to comprehensively review and strengthen security arrangements in anticipation of visits by VVIPs to the UT of J&K, as well

as other events in offing. During the meeting comprehensive briefing was given by participating officers on the security plans devised in the backdrop of coming

events. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a delicate balance between security needs and the smooth conduct of events, IGP

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LG Sinha addresses convocation ceremony of Khardiha Mahavidyalaya at Ghazipur

Top News Report

JAMMU / GHAZIPUR (U P) Feb 18 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Convocation Ceremony of Khardiha Mahavidyalaya, Ghazipur today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the graduating students and their parents on the momentous occasion and extended his best wishes to them for all the success in the future.

He also paid homage to the great educationist and freedom fighter Shri



Brijmangal Rai.

The Lt Governor exhorted the students to imbibe the values of selfless service, compassion, social harmony, sacrifice, truth,

non-violence and work for the betterment of the society. Your strong character, courage and self-confidence will lead you to overcome the challenges in life, he

added.

Youth are engine of nation's growth and development. They will be the flag bearers of our knowledge and cultural heritage. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the progressive educational reforms have paved the way for the bright future of the younger generation, he said.

He asked the youth to take full advantage of the enormous opportunities available in diverse fields and contribute in realising the

vision of Viksit Bharat.

A publication on Human Values and Human Rights was also released on the occasion.

Prof. Vandana Singh, Vice Chancellor, Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University, Jaunpur; Prof. Prem Narayan Singh, Director IUCTE Varanasi; Dr. Shashikant Rai, Administrator and Dr. Kunwarbhanu Pratap Singh, Principal Khardiha Mahavidyalaya; Heads of various institutions, teachers and students were present.

Mohit Manas becomes president of GDC Ramgarh



Top News Report

RAMGARH, Feb 18: Mohit Manas has been appointed for the post of President of Student Union of Government Degree College, Ramgarh. Mohit Manas has been unanimously declared the President of Government Degree College, Ramgarh. After which the students congratulated the newly appointed president by garlanding him with flowers. Talking to the

media, newly appointed President GDC Ramgarh Mohit Manas said that the process of selecting the President was done under the supervision of the Principal and College Committee of GDC Ramgarh. A total of two candidates were standing for the post of President, but at the last moment the second candidate withdrew his nomination and I have been unanimously appointed as the President of

Government Degree College, Ramgarh, for which I thank everyone. Mohit Manas told that college students have many problems. I will act as a bridge between the college administration and the students. Whatever problems the students have, I will put them before the college administration and get them resolved. Along with this, I will also work with the students for the betterment of the college.

17-year-old cyber expert trains Police Officers at Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy Udhampur



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: Rishreek, a young prodigy at the age of 17, has already made significant strides in the field of cyber security. Recently, he conducted hands-on cyber security training at the Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy in Udhampur. During the training sessions, Rishreek delved into topics like cyber security in governance, investigation methods, and live demonstrations of cyber attacks.

The training sessions were attended by Deputy Superintendents of Police (DYSs) and Inspector-ranked officers from various parts of India, including Jaipur, Tamil Nadu, Bhopal, Chandigarh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Risheek's comprehensive approach and in-depth knowledge left a lasting impression on the attendees. At the valediction of the course, Risheek was honored with a memento by the Assistant Director of the academy, recognizing his invaluable contribution to the training program. The positive feedback received by the academy's director further underscores

Risheek's impact and effectiveness as a cyber security trainer.

Despite hailing from a modest background in a village in Jammu and Kashmir, Risheek's passion for cyber security has propelled him to remarkable achievements. As the founder of Jammu and Kashmir's first Cyber security company and the world's youngest Cyber security entrepreneur and trainer, Risheek's dedication to advancing cyber security awareness has earned him recognition and honors in various forums and organizations.

KP's appeals to take a final call on migrant M-forms before LS Polls

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: A meeting of Prominent Socio Political activists of the Kashmiri Displaced community held today under the leadership of its senior leader M.K.Yogi highlighted various genuine problems of the community living in forceful exodus for more than thirty years in Jammu, Udhampur, and other parts of the country as a migrant including an important issue of M form system that has deprived the community at large in exercise their voting rights for last more than three decades.

While speaking in the meeting Yogi said that with introduction of a tedious, lengthy, and unnecessary M-form system without any logic and benefit has deliberately kept Kashmiri Pandits away from a Voting system in exile for more than three decades and deprived them of their basic fundamental rights of voting which needs to

removed forthwith for sake justice and equity.

Yogi has lauded and appreciated the historical decisions and developments taken by the Central Government for the welfare of the people of the country at large in their tenure and expects the issues of this helpless community to be addressed in the coming times also.

Yogi also appealed for the formation of a concrete time-bound rehabilitation policy for rehabilitation of the displaced community back in the valley with honor and dignity and implementation of the immovable migrant act 1997 in letter and spirit as the community has full faith and pinned great hopes in the present Government

Other prominent persons who highlighted the other community issues were Vinod Pandita, Vishal Jotshi, Sunil Pandita, Pran Pandita, Ashwani Bhat, Tej Dhar, Ashok Kumar Koul, Balkrishan Bhat, Bittoo Ji, and others.

Education Conference Cum Career Counselling Programme for students & Civil Service Aspirants held at Community Hall Wadipora

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Feb 18: Civil Society Wadipora today organised a one day Education cum Career Counselling programme for the students belonging to various colleges students and civil service aspirants at Community Hall Wadipora.

The theme of the programme was "Civil Services: A Viable Career Option for Public Services".

Dr Ibrahim Khoja, Assistant Professor GDC, Baramulla, Mr Mohd Shafi Sheikh, Superintendent of Police (KPS) Mr Zeeshan Khan (JKAS) Tehsildar Zachaldara/Handwara were the invited speakers in the programme.

On the occasion, the speakers shared their wide experiences and expertise with the students.



In his lecture, Mr Zeeshan Khan Tehsildar gave a comprehensive presentation to the students on the necessity of qualifying the civil services examinations like KAS and IAS for a better career choice and effective public contribution.

He informed the students that having academic degrees is not enough, but what is needed is focus, hard-work and full dedi-

cation. He provided tips on the various books, reading material and resources that students need to access for qualifying the exams like IAS and KAS.

Zeeshan Khan (JKAS) Tehsildar Zachaldara/Handwara advised the students to inculcate passion and motivation for qualifying the Civil Service exams. He said that one can render noble service to the soci-

ety through Civil Services even in an increasingly corporate driven world. He acknowledged that such interactions are very important and beneficial for our youth.

Tehsildar exhorted the students to focus on set goals by evolving a proper strategy to qualify civil service exams. He underscored the need to constantly put in efforts at an opportune time to qualify the same.

In his address, Dr Ibrahim Khoja Assistant Professor, emphasized on the value of guiding the students towards better career choices like Civil Services. He stressed upon the students to work harder to achieve their goals. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Gh Hassan Teacher.

Structural heart program launched at Ojas

Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDIGARH, Feb 18: A structural heart program to enhance cardiac care was launched at Ojas Hospital, Panchkula.

Dr. Anurag Sharma chairman cardiology said that the program is designed to address a spectrum of cardiac disorders distinct from blockages in coronary arteries, ranging from


congenital defects to acquired structural abnormalities.

Dr. Rajat Datta, director cardiology, said that the program aims to provide tailored solutions for each patient, ensuring


optimal outcomes and improved quality of life. With the advancement in this field today valve replacements can be done without cutting open the chest or putting the patient under gener-

al anesthesia or bypass pump, he informed.

One of the key highlights of the program is its comprehensive range of minimally invasive procedures, said Dr. Munish Dev cardiologist.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of Executive Engineer, Machinery Division, Jammu
e-mail: mdjxen@gmail.com



NOTICE INVITING TENDERS


E-NIT No:MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/92 DATED:15.02.2024 DUE ON: 22.02.2024
On behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Government of Jammu & Kashmir Bids are invited by Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu by e-Tendering mode from reputed firms for undertaking the work as per SBD/BOQ.

S.No	e-NIT No.	Description of work	Cost of tender (Rs.)	Time of Completion	Tender opening authority
1.	MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/91	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of 01 no. (16 passengers) Elevator at Super Bazar Jammu	1000.00	90 days	Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu


The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, bill of quantities can be seen / downloaded from J&K Govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in). All other information regarding the e-NIT can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during the working hours before due date.

-Sd-
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division
Jammu.

DIP/J-15129/23



Department of Wildlife Protection
Office of the Additional Director Jammu Zoo
Manda Hills Jammu Near Hotel Ashok
Email: wjwambuzoo@gmail.com



SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
E-TENDERING
Tender Notice : e-NIT No.:- 62/WLW/JZ of 2023-24 dated: 16-02-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir UT, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. /Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

Name of work	Adv. Cost (₹. in lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Receiving /Opening Authority
Eradication/Removal of lantana & other unwanted weeds in Jammu Zoo	10.30 lakh	20,600	D	600	30 days	Tender opening committee

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- <http://jktenders.gov.in>
Position of funds: CAPEX 2023-24
Position of AA : Awaiting.
Position of TS : Awaiting.

Publishing Date	16-02-2024
Download Start Date	16-02-2024
Bid Submission Start Date	16-02-2024
Bid submission End Date (online)	23-02-2024 up to 04:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	24-02-2024 at 12:00 AM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	24-02-2024 at 03:00 PM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)

Bid documents can be seen at and download from the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

Terms & Conditions:

- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Additional Wildlife Warden Jammu Zoo. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) has to be uploaded at the time of bidding.
- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened after the evaluation of the Technical Bids by the Tender Opening Committee of the Department. The dates of opening of price bids as per NIT. The price bids will also be opened in the office of Conservator of Forest/Wildlife (Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu), Manda Hills, Jammu.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, then the earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State Government is allowed to work as the contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from government service without permission of the government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained permission from the government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the contractor's service.
Anil Kumar Atri (SFS)

DIP/J-15159/23

Additional Director /
Wildlife Warden, Jammu
Jammu Zoo.

EDITORIAL

SAVE NATURAL RESOURCES

Pollution is directly related to nature, but it is not only related to loss or damage to any one thing, but to spoiling or wasting all those natural resources that nature has given us with great beauty. Are. We all have heard and read this proverb that as we behave with nature, we will get the same in return from nature.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board 2022 report, out of 156 cities, three cities had very poor air quality. Very poor means the air quality index in these cities was above 300 while the air quality of 21 cities was recorded in the poor category. Pollution is such a curse that is born from science, the result of which the whole world is suffering. The meaning of pollution is to create faults in the natural balance.

When the undesirable elements dissolve in the air, water, soil etc. and make it dirty to such an extent that it adversely affects health, then it is called pollution. Pollution creates natural imbalance. At the same time, it is also a danger bell for human life.

Air pollution is considered the most dangerous pollution, the main reason for this pollution is the smoke coming out of industries and vehicles. Harmful smoke emanating from these sources also creates hindrance in breathing for people. Day by day growing industries and vehicles have increased air pollution significantly which has created many health problems related to bronchitis and lungs.

Waste from industries and homes sometimes gets mixed in rivers and other water bodies, polluting them. Once upon a time, our rivers, which were considered clean and sacred, have become home to many diseases today because a large amount of plastic material, chemical waste, and many other types of non-biodegradable waste have been found in them.

Industrial and domestic waste which is not disposed of in water remains spread on the ground. Although many efforts are made to recycle and reuse it, but no significant success is achieved in it. Due to this type of land pollution, mosquitoes, flies and other insects start growing in it, which causes many diseases in humans and other living beings.

Noise pollution is generated by loud machines running in factories and other loud noise-making machines. Along with this, noise generated due to road vehicles, the bursting of firecrackers, and loud-speakers also increase noise pollution. Noise pollution is the main cause of mental stress in humans, which, along with many side effects on the brain, also reduces the power of hearing.

Light pollution is caused due to excessive and excessive light generation in an area. Light pollution is caused by the excessive use of objects of light in urban areas. Objects that produce excessive light without need increase light pollution, causing many problems.

Radioactive pollution refers to the pollution that is generated in the atmosphere by unwanted radioactive elements. Radioactive pollution is generated by the explosion and testing of weapons, mining etc. Along with this, the components generated in the form of waste in nuclear power stations also increase radioactive pollution.

Water is used as a coolant in many industries, which is the main cause of thermal pollution. Due to this, aquatic organisms have to face problems like temperature change and lack of oxygen in the water.

Man-made objects that affect our vision come under visual pollution such as billboards, antennas, dustbins, electric poles, towers, wires, vehicles, multi-story buildings, etc.

Govts a continuum: Modi, Nehru face-off ill-

By: Pavan K Varma

Some days ago, I was on a TV debate where curiously the discussion's focus was "Jawaharlal Nehru versus Narendra Modi". Such comparisons, I think, are both facile and unnecessary, because you don't have to heap praise on one leader by demonising the other. Nor is there any need to view things in black and white polarities. All leaders have strengths and weaknesses. None is entirely good or entirely bad. But debates of this kind seek to compel you — if you fall into the trap — of making forced choices.

History should never be judged only by the advantage of hindsight. Leaders, in the context of their own time, take decisions which they think are right, but posterity has the right to evaluate whether they were wrong. Certainly, Nehru was not infallible. When a person is the first Prime Minister for 17 years of a newly independent nation, which faces huge challenges and infinite competing priorities, of which healing the wounds of Partition and tackling abject and pervasive poverty are perhaps the two most important, he or she takes decisions according to that situation.

Uniting a very diverse multicultural and multireligious country through the tapestry of democracy and respect for all faiths, and ensuring that India remains a democratic nation when all around so many decolonized nations had lapsed into dictatorships or military rule, was no mean achievement, and credit must be given to Nehru for this. In this process, it is true too that he made mistakes. The fiasco of the 1962 war with China was certainly one such.

Another of his failings was that he saw India's future largely through a Western prism. Nehru was impatient to make India a modern and scientifically-minded nation, and in doing so, he was often much too dismissive of our ancient past, conflating it largely with ritualism, superstition and prejudice, thereby ignoring our profound cultural and civilisational wisdoms. His definition of secularism, as the complete separation of the church and the state, was also extreme, as for instance when he protested against President Rajendra Prasad inaugurating the renovated Somnath Temple. Perhaps, he was — for well-intentioned reasons — concerned about ensuring that minorities do not feel alienated in an overwhelmingly Hindu country, but to many it seemed like minority appeasement. An example often cited is that he brought in the reformatory Hindu Personal Code, but left untouched the retrogressive practices in the personal laws of other minorities.

However, it is only a highly ungrateful nation that will forget the tremendous sacrifices he made during the freedom movement including spending nine years in jail, and the exemplary democratic inclusiveness he laid as the foundation of the Republic. To paint him entirely with a black brush — as some overzealous spokesmen of the BJP do — is a superficial display of ignorance, sycophancy and bias.

Narendra Modi, too, has his strengths and weaknesses. His political tenacity is undoubted, rising from poverty to the pinnacle of power, without any dynastic patronage. He is also a leader who knows the pulse of the people, and this is based on his vast experience in grass

root politics, first as a pracharak for three decades, chief minister for 10 years, and now as PM for a further 10 years. He also has resolve, as Balakot shows, strong decision-making abilities, a tremendous capacity for hard work, unparalleled eloquence, and a vision for the future of India, a viksit Bharat. Among his signal achievements are a successful foreign policy, enhancing the stature of India in the world, the revolutionary digitisation of the economy, targeted welfarism, economic reform in bringing in key laws like RERA and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and an infrastructure push, which have cumulatively contributed to making India the fastest growing economy in the world.

However, some of his decisions, like demonetisation, were hugely disruptive of the economy. Rampant unemployment, food inflation, and rising inequalities taint his economic record. His style of functioning is autocratic, and his tolerance to dissent, limited. Moreover, in consolidating Hindu vote, he has created avoidable communal disharmony, and alienated the minorities, especially Muslims, which could lead to endemic social instability. For the first time since 1947 we have a ruling party with an absolute majority which does not have a single representative of the largest minority in the country, either in the parliamentary party or the Cabinet.

Mr Modi is also accused, like Indira Gandhi, of creating a supra-party personality cult, where the leader becomes bigger than the party. Today, it is all about "Modi ki guarantee", where the BJP is not even mentioned. Such a strong emphasis on one leader thrives on absolute obeisance, and

summarily deals with those who are even suspected of falling short of it. The combined Opposition also alleges — not without substance — that under Mr Modi's watch, autonomous institutions have become handmaidens of the government, relentlessly targeting the Opposition and others who don't fall in line, while whitewashing those very Opposition leaders when they defect to the BJP.

Both Nehru and Modi were exceptionally popular leaders; Nehru was PM for three terms, and Mr Modi seems set to become one too. Absolute comparisons in politics are both expedient and simplistic. Atal Behari Vajpayee, in paying tribute to Nehru, realised that. When Atalji became the foreign minister, he noticed that the picture of Nehru had been removed from his office. He issued instructions that it be reinstated. He recounted this incident in an unforgettable speech in Parliament in 1999, which should be read and heard by every citizen.

There is a very important lesson in what Vajpayee did and what he said. Governments are a continuum. Different political parties come and go. But the contribution of leaders of each plays a role in the making and evolution of the modern Indian nation. By attempting to erase history, or negating iconic leaders of the past, you do not elevate yourself but denigrate this enriching continuity. Ultimately, history will make its own judgement. In the case of Nehru, some people seem to think they already have the right to absolutely condemn him. They are as wrong, as those who think that Mr Modi is flawless. Or that Mr Modi is entirely blemished and Nehru was infallible.

ED hand behind INDIA collapse? For Mohan Yadav, it is kissa kursi ka

By: Anita Katyal

Indira Gandhi began her parliamentary career in the Rajya Sabha but her daughter-in-law, Sonia Gandhi, is entering the Upper House towards the end of her political career. Before it was finally decided that Sonia Gandhi would file her nomination papers from Rajasthan, there had been some chatter that she could pick Himachal Pradesh instead. But, it was felt it would be politically more prudent for Sonia Gandhi to represent a big state from northern India though Abhishek Singhvi would have been a better fit for Rajasthan as he hails from there. There was also a fear that the Bharatiya Janata Party could create problems for Sonia Gandhi, which is what happened. Mr Singhvi's nomination from Himachal Pradesh and Ajay Maken's candidature from Karnataka has angered the state units in both states. Himachal Pradesh Congress leaders are upset as it is the first time a non-Himachali has been nominated to the Upper House. Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had apparently proposed Anand Sharma's name but to no avail. The party's Karnataka unit is furious that an outsider was picked instead of a local leader.

The Bharatiya Janata Party's ruthless use of investigative agencies against Opposition leaders

is paying rich dividends. While a host of leaders have been forced to switch sides after being pursued by the agencies, the INDIA bloc is also unravelling after they stepped up their activities. It is no coincidence that, two days after the Enforcement Directorate issued summons to him, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah announced that his party would go solo in the coming Lok Sabha elections. Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has not been arrested even though he has not appeared before the ED despite getting his sixth summons from the agency. This laxity could well be connected to Mr Kejriwal's recent announcement that the Aam Aadmi Party will not ally with the Congress in Punjab and give only one seat to it in Delhi. He has also upped the ante in Goa and Gujarat. The ED cases against Mr Abdullah and Kejriwal could well be buried now.

Of the seven Union ministers who have been denied another term in the Rajya Sabha by the Bharatiya Janata Party, Dharmendra Pradhan will face the toughest challenge in contesting the coming Lok Sabha election from his home state Odisha. Though the BJP wishes to project Mr Pradhan as its chief ministerial face in the eastern state, the party's Odisha unit has been fighting with its hands tied to the back as its Central leadership has stopped short of going all out against the

ruling Biju Janata Dal. The reason: Not only does Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik share cordial relations with the BJP at the Centre, he has also refrained from joining hands with other opposition parties. Mr Patnaik has always bailed out the BJP in Parliament and supported it on key issues. Last week, the BJD endorsed Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw's candidature in the Rajya Sabha election. Mr Pradhan will be hoping for the same.

There is no end to the factional battles in Haryana's Congress unit. With former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his son, Deepender Hooda, riding high, his detractors have banded together to put up a united fight against them. Congress office bearers Selja and Randeep Surjewala along with former Haryana minister Kiran Choudhary, popularly called SRK, who were not known to be too fond of each other, have decided to sink their differences to take on a common political rival. The SRK trio has been holding public meetings and rallies independent of the state unit's political programmes. However, Mr Hooda appears oblivious to the pressure he's facing from within the party and from investigative agencies. His annual lunch saw a huge turnout of senior journalists and politicians including former ministers P. Chidambaram, Shashi Tharoor and

Karnataka's deputy chief minister D.K. Shiv Kumar along with Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut and Priyanka Chaturvedi.

While former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is no longer grabbing headlines, people are still adjusting to the fact that their home state is now headed by a new person. As a result, there is a huge push by the Bharatiya Janata Party's state unit to make the new chief minister Mohan Yadav a household name like his predecessor Mr Chouhan. These days, the Madhya Pradesh countryside is dotted with huge hoardings with Mr Yadav's photographs, who until last month, was a little-known political figure despite being a third term legislator. A supporter has also come up with a special song dedicated to Mohan Yadav in which he extols his virtues, describing him as a strong and powerful leader who is capable of bettering Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath's record in crushing indiscipline. Mr Yadav himself is also going all-out to be more visible. He is seen at almost any event — from pujas and bhandaras to inauguration of gyms, parks or even unveiling of lamp posts. In a bid to assert himself, Mr Yadav's office has issued instructions to organisers of public events that the chief minister be provided a bigger chair than those of other guests and it should be placed ahead of their chairs.

First river rejuvenation project completed, locals await "Devika's rebirth" ahead of PM Modi's visit

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18 (Agencies): Excitement is brewing in Udhampur as North India's first river rejuvenation project, "Devika" completed in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur on Sunday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various projects in Jammu and Kashmir, scheduled for February 20.

The Devika River considered the sister of the holy Ganga, holds immense religious importance for local communities.

Recognizing this, the government launched the Devika Rejuvenation Project in 2019, drawing inspiration from the successful "Namami Gange" program.

Residents of Udhampur are hailing the project as a "rebirth" for the Devika River. The project not only promises environmental rejuvenation but also potential economic benefits through sustainable tourism and local business opportunities.

Raghav Raine a local from Udhampur, reflect-



ing on the project completion, witnessed significant changes in the Devika River.

"Today, we stand in the city of Devika, and I express heartfelt gratitude for the work carried out by the roads here. I sincerely thank our Prime Minister, Modi Ji, who is scheduled to visit on the 20th, who comes every year. Significant developments have taken place here; what was once just a jungle now has seating arrangements, and a special open theatre has been constructed for events. Previously, it was dark here, but now there is proper lighting, making it accessible for elderly individuals who couldn't come before

due to the darkness. I am very excited about Modi Ji's visit to Devika this time, wondering what gifts he might bring for us," Raghav Raine said.

A college student, Rohit Kumar, expressed his gratitude for the roadwork carried out in the city.

"I have witnessed a multitude of significant changes in the Devika River. When I used to come here before, there were no proper pathways, but now there is complete development. The river was highly polluted in the past. I also want to express my gratitude to PM Modi for the development of our religious place, the Devika River," he said.

Felmo Devi anticipates economic growth resulting from these positive changes.

"When I first visited, it was hard to believe because there was nothing developed around the Devika River. There were no proper pathways. But now, a significant revolution has taken place, and in the times to come, tourists will be attracted here. We will also witness the economic growth in future. There have been substantial changes," Felmo Devi said.

Tariq Shah, a local from Udhampur, highlighted the transformative impact of Prime Minister Modi over the ten-year tenure, making the Devika River worth witnessing.

"In the entire tenure of 10 years, Prime Minister Modi has transformed our Devika River, making it worth witnessing. Nowadays, a considerable number of people visit, and there's even a statue of Lord Shiva. Beautification efforts have been implemented, and special attention is given to the cleanliness of the Devika River. We have

high hopes that when PM Modi inaugurates it, there will be additional arrangements for the development of Udhampur. The waves of development have been visible in Devika since the arrival of PM Modi," Tariq Shah said.

Udhampur is also a well-known city for the Devika River, which is referred to as the sister of the Ganges.

According to the official website of the district Udhampur, the details there say that the Nilmata Puran, written in the 7th century by Nela Muni, mentioned that the Devika River is a manifestation of Mother Goddess Parvati herself, benefiting the people of Mader Desha that covers areas between the rivers Ravi and Chenab. The Devika River is said to have appeared on Shiv Ratri.

"Lord Shiva himself is said to remain side by side with his consort Uma, manifesting in the form of Shiv Lingas at eight places alongside the Devika River," per the information on District Udhampur official website.

Empowering Partnerships: Servokon System Limited Hosts Dynamic Channel Partner Meet in Jammu, Unveils Future Growth Strategies



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: Servokon Systems Limited, a leading player in the power conditioning equipment and transformer manufacturing sector and India's No. 1 Servo Voltage Stabilizer Manufacturer, made a significant announcement during its Channel Partner Meet at Hotel KC's Orchids Banquet and Convention Center in Jammu. The event unfolded with a comprehensive display of Servokon's extensive product portfolio, including the most demanding Automatic Voltage Stabilizer, underscoring the company's unwavering commitment to innovation and customer-centric solutions. Among the key announcements made was the introduction of new solar rooftop solutions tailored for the Jammu region in response to the burgeoning demand for Servokon's products. This strategic move underscores the company's dedication to providing cutting-edge solutions that cater

to evolving customer needs while contributing to a sustainable future. Servokon's new solar product offerings include panels, inverters, and batteries, aligning with its vision for a greener planet.

Mr Haji Kamruddin, Founder and Managing Director of Servokon Systems Limited, expressed his enthusiasm for the expansion, stating, "Our Channel Partner Meet in Jammu underscores our steadfast commitment to excellence and our unwavering dedication to meeting the needs of both our valued customers and esteemed distributors and channel partners. This event represents a significant milestone in our journey, and we are delighted to announce its resounding success. We are thrilled to introduce our enhanced product offerings, reflecting our ongoing efforts to deliver innovative solutions that resonate with our customers.

The active participation of our partners, who play a pivotal role

in Servokon's success, has added immense value to the event. Their insights and our shared dedication to innovation have propelled us forward in our quest for excellence."

Highlighting the company's responsiveness to market demands, Mr Kamruddin noted, "The growing demand for our products in Jammu has spurred us to enhance our manufacturing capabilities to meet this surge.

This strategic initiative underscores our agility in adapting to market dynamics and reaffirms our commitment to serving the region effectively."

Servokon Systems Limited remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering robust partnerships, driving innovation, and contributing to the development of the power sector in Jammu. The expanded product portfolio is poised to empower individuals and businesses alike with advanced technological solutions for their power conditioning requirements.

Principal GDC Udhampur Inaugurates Intra-College Volleyball Tournament

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Fe 18: GDC Udhampur organized intra college Volleyball Men Tournament 2024 w.e.f 17th of February, 2024 to 19th of February, 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 Kavya 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. Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta 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. Principal also added that, It is not only important to take part in sports activi-



ties for physical development, but also mental growth. Such activities teach the skills to deal with difficult circumstances in life. It also teaches the value of involvement and trying. This improves team-building abilities as well as decreases stress.

A total of 4 teams participated in the tournament. 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.

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. Final match

between the two teams will be played on Monday.

The matches were conducted under the guidance of Dr.Mohinder Pal, Convenor Sports Committee and Mr.Shashi Kumar Sharma PTI of college. Other dignitaries presented on the occasion were Dr.Sunil Kumar Bhat, Dr.Parveen Singh, Dr.Jagjeet Singh, Prof.Samosh Kumar, Dr.Revika Arora, Prof.Shivani Sharma and Prof.Vijay Kumar.

Annual Status of Education report alarming situation for Country education system: Ajeet Bhagat



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 18: Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Senior leader, Spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat expressed concern over the Annual Status of Education Report and has raised demands from the Government to improve the Education system in the Country.

The National Confrance leader said that at this time in the Country, insted

of Amrit Kaal, there is the greatest need for Shiksha Kaal. Bhagat said that this report has made a shocking revelation. According to the report, 56.7 percent of students aged 14 to 18 years in Rural India cannot solve third grade mathematics. 26.5 percent of Students in this age group still cannot read second grade level text fluently in there regional language, 25 Percent of youth in the age group of 17 to 18 years have Stopped Education due to lack of interest.

The report also says that more than half of the children are not able to solve 3- digit quotient problems properly. Only 43.3 percent of this age group are able to solve such problems correctly. These questions are usually for Children of Third and Fourth Class.

The National Confrance leader said that if 14- 18 year old Children cannot Read even a Second Class Book fluently and cannot do Third or Fourth Class arithmetic problem, then it is not very difficult to estimate the status of Education. Ajeet Bhagat said that the Government should take this report Seriously and take Serious steps to improve the level of Education.

DPAP leader Shoaib Lone demands Tehsil and block for Chandooosa

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 18 (Agencies): In a public meeting held in Chandooosa and adjoining areas of kandi on Saturday, Former MLA and President of DPAP Baramulla district, Shoaib Lone, demanded the government to grant Tehsil and block status to Chandooosa kandi area of Baramulla district.

He said that Chandooosa is the central place for the entire Kandi region and deserves better administrative facilities.

Lone said that the people of Chandooosa and the surrounding areas have been facing many problems due to the lack of a Tehsil and a block office. He said

that the people have to travel long distances to access basic services such as revenue, education, health, and agriculture. He said that the creation of a Tehsil and a block in Chandooosa would ease the hardships of the people and boost the development of the area.

Lone also criticized the previous governments for neglecting the demands of the people of Chandooosa and the Kandi belt. He said that the DPAP is committed to raising the voice of the people and ensuring their rights.

He appealed to the government to fulfill the long-pending demand of the people and announce a Tehsil and a block for Chandooosa at the earliest.

Will ensure PM Modi's Feb 20 rally becomes his biggest-ever in J&K: Jasrotia

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu & Kashmir on February 20 and inaugurate several mega development projects besides addressing a mega public rally at MAM Stadium here. "PM Modi will lay foundation stones for many new projects to give boost to the development in Jammu & Kashmir," former Minister Rajiv Jasrotia said while addressing a press conference here. He said PM Modi will address a massive public rally at MAM Stadium in Jammu at 11:00 am, to be organised by the BJP. The party has geared up to make sure that the rally becomes the biggest-ever being addressed by PM Modi in J&K so far, he added. This would be the second public rally of PM Modi at MAM Stadium in Jammu City. Earlier, Modi addressed the 'Lalkar Rally' at MAM Stadium during the BJP's election campaign for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Jasrotia said the people of Jammu & Kashmir have always remained enthusiastic to attend the rally of PM in massive numbers. "This time too, lakhs of people from across J&K will come to listen to their popular leader," he said. Jasrotia said that PM Modi has given a new direction to the peace and prosperity here. Today, one can witness many new projects, rails, roads,



highways, medical colleges, AIIMS, higher education institutes, etc in J&K, he said. He appealed to all the residents of Jammu & Kashmir to join the rally and listen to the Prime Minister who has put J&K on the "development map". "PM Modi has led the all-round develop-

ment in J&K, which is the reason that whole of J&K residents including Dogras, Kashmiris, WPRs, PoJK, Valmikis, Gujjar-Bakerwals, Pahadi, women, OBCs and other communities got their due rights," Jasrotia said, adding, "Modi govt has ensured justice to everyone."

Crackdown on illegal mining ; 5 vehicles seized: Reasi Police

Top News Report

REASI, Feb 18: In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, Reasi Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources.

In random checking, Police teams of Reasi Police inspected at different locations and seized 05 Vehicles engaged in illegal mining.

In a surprise operation which was carried out at different locations team of "Police Station Reasi seized four Tipper bearing registration numbers Jk14 J -0412, JK11E-

5131, JK20C-1461 and JK14K -9033 involved in transportation of illegal mining material".

In a separate incident team of Police post Dera Baba laid surprise naka on Kanjali road and seized a Tractor-Trolley bearing Registration No. JK20C-2409 loaded with RBM (sand) illegal mining material.

After Seizure of these Vehicles Mining Officer was informed for necessary legal action. While giving the details SSP Reasi Mohit Sharma, IPS conveyed that Reasi Police is committed for protecting the public property and to eradicate the menace illegal mining in the area.

Mannara Chopra on why she didn't use Priyanka Chopra's name on Bigg Boss 17: Did not want to show off

Mannara Chopra opened up about her relationship with Priyanka Chopra and Parineeti Chopra as she spoke about not mentioning her famous cousins on Bigg Boss 17.

Mannara Chopra secured the third place on Bigg Boss 17; Munawar Faruqi emerged as the winner of the reality show last month. In a new interview, Mannara spoke about her famous cousins – actors Priyanka Chopra and Parineeti Chopra. Mannara revealed why she did not talk about them on the show. The actor said her co-contestants would mention Priyanka and Parineeti's name, but she never did as she 'doesn't like to take advantage' of her family.

Mannara on why she was called for Bigg Boss 17

Mannara Chopra said, "So, basically ye meri life ka funda hai (this is my mantra in life), I don't like to take advantage of being known through someone. When people started talking about it toh honestly mere mann mein ek hich aata tha ki (a question would come to my mind) why are you talking



about my family and everything. Because if I've been invited by the Bigg Boss platform, it is primarily because they like my personality and they wanted me to be there as Mannara. So, you talk about me. You talk about my films, my journey, mere se lado, mere se baatein karo, mujhse gappe maaro (I wanted people to fight with me, talk to me)."

"It looks kind of like a show-off" The actor added, "Don't involve my family because everybody has their own space in life and they (Priyanka Chopra and Parineeti Chopra) are also married, they have their own family. So, don't involve them. I feel it looks kind of like a show-off ke aap apne aap ko kisi tarah portray kar rahe ho (I

did not want to show off or portray myself in a certain way). I feel jitney celebrities' aaye hai and our host Salman Khan sir, who represents our country on international platform, aaj woh log jitna mujhe jaante hai, and they know me by my personality. So, agar har line mein kisi aur ka naam lungi toh accha nahi lagta (All celebs that came on the show and even host Salman Khan knew me because of my personality. So using someone else's name would not look nice). That was my only reason."

The grand finale of the Salman Khan-hosted reality show took place on January 28, 2024. Mannara, who has worked in films such as Zid, Thikka and Rogue, was joined by Ankita Lokhande, Munawar Faruqi, Abhishek Kumar and Arun Mashetty in the top 5 finalists of Bigg Boss 17. Stand-up comedian, YouTuber and rapper Munawar won the show.

Vicky Kaushal works out with arm sling, says 'recovery mode on'



Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal has pushed the envelope for fitness by working out wearing an arm sling.

The actor then revealed that the recovery mode is on.

Vicky shared a video on Instagram, where he

is doing crunches with weight on his back. His arm seems to be fractured as it has an arm sling.

"When we cant run... We Walk... We don't stop," he captioned the clip, where he is seen finding it difficult to com-

plete the set with one arm, yet he does it.

The next is a video, where he is seen in a closed glass cabin that is captioned '110°C, recovery mode on'.

Vicky injured himself on the sets of his upcoming film 'Chhava', which also stars Rashmika Mandanna.

Directed by Laxman Utekar, 'Chhava' is a period drama, where Vicky will be seen playing Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

'Chhava' marks the second collaboration between Utekar and Vicky. The two have previously worked in 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke'.

Vicky will also be seen working with Anand Tiwari. The yet-untitled film also stars Triptii Dimri and Ammy Virk.

Things were far-fetched, actresses were glamorous in the 90s era: Shilpa Shetty

Actress Shilpa Shetty has said that films in the 90s were looked at as a medium to "escape from reality" and things were far-fetched; hence, the actresses were glamorous because one "didn't want to see drab stuff".

Shilpa has been ruling the roost since her debut in 1993 with 'Baazigar'. Since then, she has made her mark in many 90s and 2000s films. And with Rohit Shetty's 'Indian Police Force', the actress made her debut in a series on a streaming platform in 2024.

Talking about filmmakers now taking women seriously as compared to the 90s, Shilpa said, "With time, content has changed. Films are nothing but a reflection of the fabric of our society. Back in the day, I think films were looked at as a medium to kind of escape from reality."

"So, things were far-fetched, actresses were glamorous because you didn't want to see drab stuff," she added.

The actress said that there was a contrast between art and commercial cinema back then.

"And there was a clear dichotomy between art films and commercial cinema. Today, I feel lines are blurred," she said.

Shilpa added, "People are concentrating on content. We are living in a society



which is more egalitarian. Hence, you reflect on what women of today are in your movies and in your content."

Shilpa made no bones when she said that one needs to move with time.

"That's why you have Shefali Shah helming the role of a strong protagonist in 'Delhi Crime' or Vidya Balan in 'Shakuntala Devi' or Tara Shetty in 'Indian Police Force'. You have to move with time."

"I cannot compare any decade to the next. Or the one that comes after this. Who knows what is going to come next," she concluded.

Shilpa Saklani says OTT's bold element 'makes her uncomfortable': I don't like to go beyond a hug

Actor Shilpa Saklani agrees that actors have a "shelf-life" because audience needs a change. "Unless your show is going on and on, how long can you look at the same face? Everybody needs a change, be it the audience or the actor," Saklani, who's been in the business for nearly 25 years, tells us.

"We are fossils. We've become old!" Saklani laughs. The 42-year-old further shares how playing the character of Ganga in Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi (2002) came with a sense of security, just like her generation of actors, as compared to today.

"We came during that Balaji time, when shows went on for ten years and age was on my side. We were their inhouse actors. We were shooting 365 days. I bought my first car at 19 and my first house at



21. A lot of people can't do that today because they don't know when their show will end," she adds.

Saklani, who married actor Apurva Agnihotri

was challenging as the gap had "spoiled" her. "You start wondering if you want to put your 12 hours again?" she says.

Saklani is currently busy playing the character of Kaikeyi in Shrimad Ramayan on Sony TV. The actor reveals though she hasn't seen the iconic Ramayan by Ramanand Sagar properly, she took up the role because "Kaikeyi the most well written and layered character in this series. Nobody went into so much depth of Kaikeyi, her past, what she was, her journey, her kingdom."

Saklani has previously done costume dramas like Vish Ya Amrit: Sitara (2018) and Chandrakanta (2017). She shared while the heavy costumes and jewellery was one of the most challenging part, playing Kaikeyi was risky because the dialogues were in pure Hindi and borderline Sanskrit.

"You always stick to the script. So, it was a little annoying the first 2-3 times," the actor shares.

But, despite ruling the TV for years, Saklani is unsure about trying the OTT medium. She feels the "bold element" makes her uncomfortable. "I don't like to go beyond a hug. On OTT it's sort of an imperative. The biggest (actors) have to either do a kiss or a make out scene. I salute them," she explains.

Saklani and Agnihotri are completing 20 years of marriage this year. For them, the secret is they "never take each other seriously as actors", which keeps them grounded, the Kaleerein actor states.

But if they do get to work with each other, how will they be as co-stars? "I think we'll be crazy fun together, two crazy people, it's going to be a riot!" she concludes.

Huma Qureshi says female actors are seen as 'replaceable', talks about why male actors are paid more: 'Bigger budget for the hero because of his gender'

Huma Qureshi recently expressed her wish to do a film like Ranbir Kapoor's Animal and 'hold a machine gun, killing thousands of people' because she 'loved the machismo, action, and music' in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's directorial. The actor-producer, who is busy promoting her book Zeba, doesn't only desire to play larger-than-life characters like male counterparts but also wants equal pay.

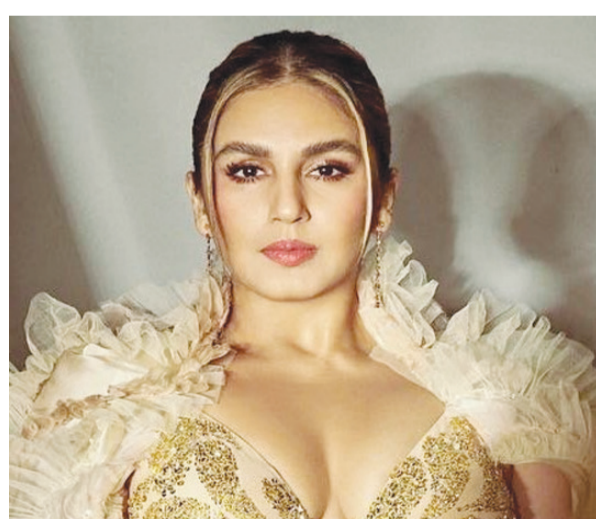
During an interview with AfterHours with All About Eve, the Maharani actor opened up about the pay disparity in Bollywood and how the phenomenon needs to change. When asked if actors are paid according to the screen time they get, Huma explained, "The conventional way is: the bigger the star, the more money they take home, oftentimes, even when their screen time is shorter and their roles are smaller."

Huma, who performed a graceful dance number — Shikayat —

in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Gangubai Kathiawadi, added, "Alia Bhatt will draw more money than others even if her part is small. I am assuming that she was the highest-paid actor in Gangubai Kathiawadi."

She laments that despite the star power that female actors bring to the screen, male actors get the bigger chunk of the pie. "Unfortunately, in our films, women are often not paid as much as men are even if they're at the same level of stardom. There is a bias that a male actor needs to be paid more because the film's story is always revolving around the male protagonist. It is quite unfortunate," she rued.

Huma has floored the audience with her work in films like Gangs of Wasseypur, Badlapur, Monica, O My Darling, Ek Thi Daayan, and D Day, among others. She also turned producer with her film Double XL. She stressed that even as a producer, she has to listen to the studios as



far as the pay for male and female stars is concerned, and therefore, it is imperative that mindsets change at a deeper level for female actors to be paid fairly.

"As a producer, if I am making an action film, with a male star or a female star and they're at the same level of stardom, I will probably get a bigger budget for the male hero because of his gender. That's a fact. The studios do this. If a change has to happen, it has to be systemic and at a corporate and studio level. The change cannot come by

just two people speaking about pay parity in their interviews," the Mumbai Saga actor added.

She revealed that the disparity is not only in terms of pay but also the kind of infrastructure that female actors are provided. She said that the rooms and vanity vans given to female actors are different from that of male stars. She added that inequality is also prevalent among the supporting actors. "In a film, if two actors are playing my parents, the guy playing my father will probably get paid a little more than

the female actor playing the role of my mother. The mentality is 'Yeh toh aise hi chalta aa raha hai (This has been going on like this)' and comes from the idea that women are replaceable. They think 'koi na koi heroine toh mil hi jaegi (We will find some or the other actress)'."

Huma has always voiced her opinion on the topic and never minced her words when it came to addressing income gaps in the industry. Speaking at Agenda AajTak 2022, in the past, she had said, "Equal pay for equal work. If there are two people who are working at an equal level in terms of their career and box office, they should be paid the same amount, which they don't. It is very sad. It is often said that female-led action films don't work but male-led action films do. If you take a look at the ratio of films made with male leads and female leads, it's very off. But now, several female stars are working."

Kelly Osbourne says Ozempic is 'amazing' for weight loss: 'It actually works!'



Amid the growing trend of weight loss drugs, Kelly Osbourne has declared her approval for Ozempic. Despite her mother Sharon Osbourne's warning against the drug, the 39-year-old singer claims that "it actually works." In a recent interview with E! News, Kelly also revealed that unlike working out, Ozempic "isn't boring."

Kelly Osbourne gives green light to Ozempic

Kelly's statement comes after Sharon publicly revealed her disapproval of weight loss drugs like Ozempic. The 71-year-old TV personality decried that people, especially teenagers, should

refrain from using it to drop pounds, considering its long-term impact and side effects.

The One Word singer told the outlet that she thinks Ozempic is "amazing" at Dolly Parton's Pet Gala red carpet. She continued, "There are a million ways to lose weight, why not do it through something that isn't as boring as working out?" Kelly further added that "people hate on it because they want to do it."

Unlike her mother, who revealed the downsides of the popular weight loss drug, Kelly had several plus points in mind. She even claimed that the majority of those in disapproval of the drug are users of Ozempic in reality. "And the people who hate on it the most are the people who are secretly doing it or pissed off that they can't afford it," she said.

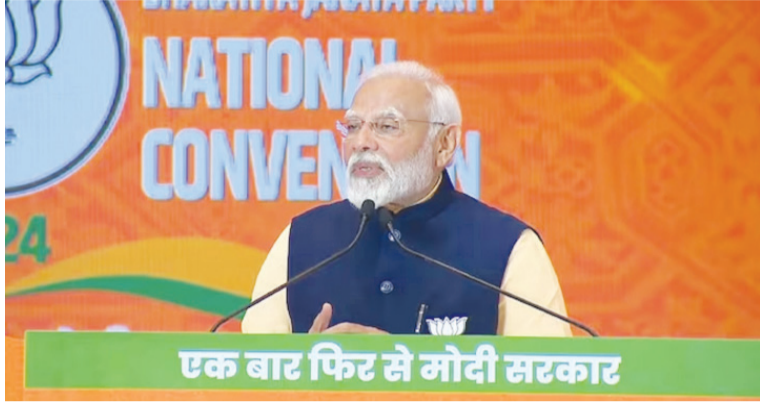
"Unfortunately, right now, it's something that is very expensive, but it eventually won't be because it actually works," Kelly further explained. This comes after Sharon's staunch disagreement with Ozempic getting the greenlight as a common weight loss drug.

Sharon, who lost over 40lbs, recently admitted she never wanted to "go that thin." "I didn't actually want to go this thin, but it just happened. I'll probably put it all on again soon!" the former X-Factor judge confessed, according to Hello. She even argued, "You have to keep this stuff away from younger people," per People.

'Gave scam-free rule in past 10 years': PM Modi jabs Congress during key BJP meet

Attacking the Congress over a host of issues, including corruption and development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a clarion call for the BJP-led NDA to win 400 seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls

NEW DELHI, Feb 18 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday took on the Congress over corruption during their tenure and said his government had ruled the country for the past 10 years free from "mega scams".
Delivering his remarks to the BJP leaders during the second day of the party's National Convention 2024 in the national capital's Bharat Mandapam, PM Modi said the Opposition leaders were also raising slogans of 'NDA sarkar, 400 paar' (this time, 400 seats for NDA).
"To take NDA to 400, the BJP will have to cross the mark of 370 (seats)," he said.
In a dig at the Congress, the Prime Minister said, "The entire country believes that we have freed the country from the fear of mega scams and terrorist attacks. We have tried to improve the lives of the poor and middle class."
PM Modi asserted that the next five years would be "important" as a giant leap has to be taken towards making a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India).
"Now the country's dream and resolve will be bigger. Our dream and resolution is that we have to make a 'Viksit Bharat' and the next five years will play an important role in it," he said.
He said the initiatives taken in the past 10 years were only a step towards the goal of making India a developed nation by 2047.



"We showed the courage to finish the works that had been pending for decades. For instance, by building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, we ended the wait of five centuries. Be it the opening of the Kartarpur corridor, the abrogation of Article 370, or the implementation of the New Education Policy, these changes were long-awaited by the people of India. Nations shape their futures by embracing their history and culture," PM Modi said.
He asserted that the Opposition makes many false claims but is wary of making one promise, which is to make India develop, which only the BJP can do.
"I am not asking for the third term to enjoy power. If I had thought about my house, I would not have built houses for crores of poor people. I am living for the future of poor children. The dreams of crores of women, poor and youth are PM Modi's resolve," he said.

PM Modi said India's relationship with West Asia was at its strongest and accused the Congress of ignoring the Middle East and seeing the region "through the prism of Pakistan".
"I went to the UAE for the first time in 2015. Before my visit, no PM had been there for the last 34 years. We always ignored that region. Congress governments used to look at that region through the prism of Pakistan," he said.
"I have received invites from foreign countries to visit them in July, August and September. They also know 'aayega to Modi hi' (Modi will win, anyway)," he added.
He asserted he was the first Prime Minister who raised the issue of toilets during his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort and expressed anguish at the use of derogatory words for women.
He said the feeling of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' was very close to the BJP's hearts

and the idea is visible in its governance.
Accusing the Congress of ignoring the Northeast, PM Modi said, "We focus on the development of every region. For instance, the Northeast. The previous governments ignored the Northeast because there are only a few parliamentary seats there. However, we don't work for votes or seats."
He said India was planning to host the Youth Olympics and Olympics in India in 2029 and 2036, respectively. He also said the Railways has also set the target to become a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030.
He said the BJP's goal for the next 100 days was to unite and engage with every voter.
"It is essential to earn the trust of the people, and with collective efforts, the BJP will have the opportunity to serve the nation with the highest mandate ever," he said.
PM Modi said, "People keep telling me you have achieved so much. You have fulfilled all major promises, then why are you still working so much? The entire country believes that having a spotless 10-year term and taking 25 crore people out of the poverty line is not a simple task."
"Hum Rajneeti ke liye nahi Rashtra Niti ke liye nikle hai, (we don't work for politics, we work to serve the nation)," he further said.

2024 a choice between 'gareeb ma ka beta and dynasts', Amit Shah says at BJP meet



NEW DELHI, Feb 18 (Agencies): On the second and concluding day of the BJP National Council meeting in the National Capital, Union Home Minister Amit Shah crafted the upcoming Lok Sabha election as a choice between "developmental and dynastic alliances" led by "gareeb ma ka beta on the one hand and dynasts on the other."
Capping the decade long rule of BJP led NDA coalition under Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "period of all-round, all-inclusive development", Shah went out all guns blazing against the Congress-led INDIA bloc calling it a grouping of "seven dynastic parties working to install sons and daughter in key posts."

Shah likened the 2024 General Election with the Mahabharata saying "The next election is a contest like the Mahabharata where two factions were ranged against one another – the Pandavas and the Kauravas. On one side is the NDA coalition under PM Modi and on the other is the INDI alliance under the Congress. The Ghandia coalition is the nurturer of politics of corruption, dynasty, casteism and appeasement. The NDA rule is a rule of nation first with PM Modi eradicating the evils of corruption, dynasties, appeasement and caste politics," said Shah to frequent applause for Modi at the meeting venue, Bharat Mandapam.
The Union Home Minister attacked the Congress as a "mother of instability" listing 90 occasions when the party dislodged elected governments and said

Limits were reached when the Congress declined an invite to attend Ram Mandir inauguration, said Shah noting: "By doing so they stood alienated from the growth journey of India."
The Home Minister also questioned the Congress for "distorting the constitutional concept of secularism by practising a politics of appeasement", and held it accountable for India's partition.
"The divisive mentality of the Congress lives on as we recently heard its leader ask for the partition of India into two nations," Shah said adding, "Rahul Gandhi should have some shame for opposing the abrogation of Article 370 and giving Pakistan a handle against India in the UN."
The leading BJP poll planner listed serial saffron wins in UP, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur, Tripura, to argue that the country should elect Modi for a third time to see India become the third largest global economy.
Shah also hailed Modi for rooting out naxalism and terrorism which, he said, were counting last breaths in India.
The Home Minister gave the whole credit of Ram Mandir inauguration to Modi and his tenacity and lauded the majority Hindus for resiliently struggling for the cause in courts over 75 years.
Shah reserved some sharp barbs for Rahul Gandhi saying the "Congress prince has a habit of repeating a script for eight months and is parroting an OBC line these days."
"Rahul Gandhi should read history and how his ancestors JL Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi opposed pro OBC moves," said Shah, adding that the people must be told their choice in the next election is simple – "between PM Modi who did not take a single holiday in 23 years as head of the Gujarat and then the national government and Rahul Gandhi who vacations for three months every year."
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The top BJP strategist slammed INDI partners saying Sonia Gandhi wants son Rahul to become PM; MK Stalin and Sharad Pawar want son and daughter to be CMs; late Mulayam Singh installed Akhilesh Yadav as CM.
"The BJP, on the other hand, gave an extremely backward class PM to the country, a President who hails from the most marginalised tribal segment, a Vice-President who is the son of a farmer. In the BJP a booth worker can rise to become President and PM because we have democratised the party," home minister said, lashing out at Congress led INDI bloc for what he described as a negative politics of opposing everything.

BJP running 'political brothel', party not confident of winning more than 200 Lok Sabha seats: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut

MUMBAI, Feb 18 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday said the Bharatiya Janata Party was running a "political brothel" in Maharashtra and was solely responsible for polluting the state's culture. In his column 'Rokthok' in the Uddhav Thackeray-led outfit's mouthpiece 'Saamana', the Rajya Sabha MP said the BJP was not confident of winning more than 200 Lok Saha seats and cited the induction of leaders like Ashok Chavan, a former Congress chief minister.
"Maharashtra was once famed for the staunch support for progressive and modern thoughts in politics. BJP is solely responsible for changing the image of the state, which is now known for political switch overs, and decline in its culture," Raut alleged.
"BJP leaders like Devendra Fadnavis and (former MP) Kirit Somaiya were once harsh critics of Chavan. They levelled serious allegations against him. But now Fadnavis was present when Chavan joined the BJP. Fadnavis had once called Chavan a 'dealer'. Now,

the state's deputy chief minister has to deal with him," Raut said.
Chavan, who was once accused by the party of alleged involvement in the Adarsh housing scam, joined the BJP last week and was nominated by the party to the Rajya Sabha. "The BJP is running a political brothel in the state now. And its end has begun now. Chhagan Bhujbal faced allegations of corruption in Maharashtra Sadan construction, Ajit Pawar was accused of involvement in irrigation and Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scams, while Ashok Chavan faced allegations in the Adarsh Society scam," he said in the column.
Fadnavis, when he was in Opposition, used to talk about putting them in jail but now they are his party colleagues, Raut pointed out.
Either the BJP's allegations were fake or their corruption has been covered up now that they have joined the ruling party, he claimed. "History will remember the BJP as a shameless and immoral institution of the country," he said.



The BJP is not confident of winning even 200 seats in the Lok Sabha polls on the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi so is inducting corrupt faces across the country, he claimed in his column.
Quoting an unnamed survey for Lok Sabha elections, Raut claimed, "RSS insiders suggest the BJP will win only 190 Lok Sabha seats. It means there will be huge changes in the political landscape post-2024 LS elections." The BJP is now so desperate it has to induct Chavan, who allegedly insulted the Kargil War martyrs as the Adarsh tower was made for their kin, he said.
Just for Nanded Lok Sabha seat the BJP has inducted him, he alleged.

Jain Seer Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj Dies, PM Modi Says "Irreparable Loss"

RAJNANDGAON, Feb 18 (Agencies): Renowned Jain seer Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj breathed his last on Sunday at Chandragiri Teerth in Dongargarh in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district after undertaking 'sallekhna'.
Sallekhna is a Jain religious practice involving voluntary fasting unto death for spiritual purification, a statement from the teerth said.
Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj attained Samadhi through 'Sallekhna' at Chandragiri teerth at 2:35 am, the statement said.
"Maharaj was staying on the teerth in Dongargarh for the last six months and was unwell from the last few days. For the last three days, he was observing sallekhna, a religious practice of voluntarily fasting to death, and had quit intake of food and liquids. According to Jainism, it is a vow taken for spiritual purification," the statement said.
A procession will be taken out at 1 pm on Sunday for people to pay tribute to the departed seer and the final rites will be held in Chandragiri teerth, it added.
Ahead of the Chhattisgarh Assembly elections last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Dongargarh, a popular pilgrimage spot, and met Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj on November 5 and took his blessings.



In his condolence message, PM Modi said that the demise of Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj was an "irreparable loss" for the country.
"His valuable efforts for spiritual awakening among the people will always be remembered... My meeting with him last year at Chandragiri Jain Temple in Chhattisgarh will be unforgettable for me,"
Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said, "Received the news of the world revered and national seer Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Mahamuniraj ji's samadhi at Chandragiri Teerth in Dongargarh.
Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj, who enriched the country and the world including Chhattisgarh with his dynamic knowledge, will be remembered for ages for his exemplary works for the country and society, sacrifice and penance." "I bow down to the feet of Acharya Shri Vidyasagar ji," he added.

Rape survivor alleges sexual abuse by judge in Tripura court, probe ordered

AGARTALA, Feb 18 (Agencies): A rape survivor has alleged that she has been sexually abused by a magistrate inside his chamber in a court in Tripura.
A three-member panel headed by Dhalai District and Sessions Judge Gautam Sarkar has initiated a probe into the allegation, a senior advocate said on Sunday.
The woman alleged that the incident of sexual abuse took place

on February 16 when she went to the chamber of first class judicial magistrate, Kamalpur to get her statement recorded in connection with her rape.
In her complaint to the additional district and sessions judge, Kamalpur, the woman stated, "I went to the chamber of the first class judicial magistrate to get my statement recorded on February 16. When I was about to give my statement, the judge

groped me. I rushed out of his chamber and informed the lawyers and my husband about the incident."
The woman's husband also lodged a separate complaint with the Kamalpur Bar Association over the incident.
Acting on the survivor's complaint, District and Sessions Judge Gautam Sarkar, along with Chief Judicial Magistrate Satyajit Das, visited Kamalpur's additional district and

sessions judge's office to investigate the matter.
"The three-member panel headed by the district and sessions judge also met the members of Kamalpur Bar Association on the court premises and sought our point of view on the allegations of the woman.
We placed our points before the panel," Shikendra Dasgupta, secretary of the advocate body, told agency.

Responding to the allegation brought against the judge, Registrar General, Tripura High Court, V Pandey said, "We have not yet received any official complaint regarding the issue. Like other people of the state, I too came to know about it from the media and social media platforms. Once we receive a complaint in a proper format, we will definitely take appropriate action."

Four dead, 10 injured as truck hits tempo in Amravati

AMRAVATI, Feb 18 (Agencies): Four persons on their way to a cricket match died in Amravati in Maharashtra on Sunday morning when their tempo was hit by a truck, a police official said.
The tempo had 21 members of a cricket

team from Amravati city and the accident took place at Shingapur Phata in Nandgaon Khandeshwar taluka at around 7:30am, Superintendent of Police Vishal Anand said.
"Four persons died on the spot, while 10 sus-



tained injuries and have been hospitalised.
The truck driver has been arrested," the SP said.
The tempo was on its way to Yavatmal for a cricket match when the incident occurred, he added.

Israeli PM Netanyahu dismisses election calls as thousands protest in Tel Aviv

Demonstrators call for new elections, which are not scheduled until 2026

JERUSALEM, Feb 18 (Agencies): Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed the idea of holding early elections, while thousands of Israelis gathered in Tel Aviv for an anti-government protest.

Netanyahu has seen his popularity plummet in opinion polls since Hamas' October 7 attack that sparked the devastating war in Gaza.

Anti-government protests that shook the country for much of 2023 have largely subsided during the war. Still, demonstrators again took to the streets of Tel Aviv calling for new elections, which are not



scheduled until 2026.

The crowd was much smaller than last years' mass protests,

numbering a few thousand, according to local media.

"I'd like to say to the govern-

ment that you've had your time, you ruined everything that you can ruin.

Now is the time for people to correct the things, all the bad ones that you've done," said one protestor, his head wrapped in an Israeli flag.

Netanyahu was asked at a press briefing about calls within his own ruling Likud party to hold early elections right when the Gaza war ends.

"The last thing we need right now are elections and dealing with elections, since it will immediately divide us," he said. "We need unity right now."

China to step up patrols near Taiwan after deadly boat incident

BEIJING, Feb 18 (Agencies): China on Sunday said it would step up law enforcement patrols in waters near Taiwan after two Chinese nationals died in a boat incident involving Taiwan's coast guard.

A Chinese boat was carrying four people when it capsized on Wednesday near the Kinmen islands while pursued by the Taiwanese coast guard.

All four on board were thrown into the water and two of the crew later died. The Chinese coast guard said it would "carry out regular law enforcement patrol operations" in the area.

"The patrols are intended to 'further maintain the order of operations in relevant waters and protect the safety of fishermen's lives,'" Gan Yu, a spokesperson for the Chinese coast guard, said in a statement.

China has condemned democratic Taiwan for the incident and urged the island to release the two surviving members of the boat crew, who were

detained.

Taipei in turn blamed Beijing, saying the boat was "within prohibited waters" around the Kinmen islands -- a territory administered by Taiwan but located just five kilometres (three miles) from China's city of Xiamen.

Wednesday's incident comes against a backdrop of heightened tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

Beijing claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to one day bring the self-ruled island under its control.

Taiwan's presidential election, held in January, was won by the Democratic Progressive Party's Lai Ching-te, whom Beijing considers a "separatist".

Chinese President Xi Jinping has in recent years ramped up rhetoric for the "unification" of Taiwan with China.

And Beijing has stepped up its military presence near Taiwan, deploying warplanes and naval vessels around the island on a nearly daily basis.

4 Including Teens Feared Dead As Russia Fires Rockets In East Ukraine

KRAMATORSK, Feb 18 (Agencies): Four people were feared dead in Kramatorsk after Russia fired rockets on the eastern Ukrainian city on Saturday night, the regional governor said.

Agency journalists in the city saw rescue workers carrying one victim out of a two-storey home in a white body bag, as rescuers dug through the rubble to search for survivors. Ukraine's Donetsk Governor Vadim Filashkin said Russia had fired three rockets at the city. "Probably, a family of four, including teenagers aged 14 and 16, are under the rubble of one of the houses," he said in a post on Telegram.

Dozens of rescue workers were at the scene of the strike, agency journalists saw, working by lamplight and using their hands and shovels at times to shift the debris. At one point they cut floodlights powered by loud generators to listen for signs of life.

The strike left a two-metre crater next to the home where the people were feared dead.

Kramatorsk is around 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the frontlines in eastern Ukraine. It has come under repeated Russian attack since the start of the war two years ago, including an April 2022 strike on the city's train station that killed more than 60 people.

China's first home-grown airliner makes international debut in Singapore



SINGAPORE, Feb 18 (Agencies): China's challenger to Airbus and Boeing's passenger jets, the narrow-body C919 manufactured by the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), has made its first trip outside Chinese territory, staging a fly-by at the Singapore Airshow on Sunday.

China has invested heavily in its attempt to break the hold of the dominant two Western planemakers on the global passenger market.

China has indicated a push this year to advance the C919 and COMAC's footprint domestically and internationally. The plane is only certified within China and the first of now four C919s began flying with China Eastern Airlines last year.

With Airbus and Boeing struggling to ramp up production and meet demand for new planes, and Boeing struggling with a string of crises, the aviation industry is watching how

COMAC positions itself as a viable alternative.

COMAC will invest tens of billions of yuan over the next 3-5 years to expand C919 production capacity. Chinese media reported a COMAC official saying in January.

China's aviation authority said last month it would this year pursue European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) validation for the C919, a process which began in 2018.

The C919 was one of two commercial plane-makers flying their planes off Singapore's coast alongside Airbus at a Sunday preview for Asia's biggest air show. Boeing will not display a commercial aircraft this year.

COMAC has two passenger products: the ARJ21 regional jet and the larger C919 twin-engine narrow-body airliner with 158-192 seats, which competes with the established Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX 8 models.

The C919 made its first flight outside mainland

China in December to Hong Kong. ARJ21s are in use by Indonesia's TransNusa Air.

Many inside the industry caution that only four C919s are in service in China; the plane is only certified by Chinese regulators and the C919 relies international supply chains.

However the aviation industry-wide supply crunch, which is testing an expected full return and then growth of civil capacity in Asia, is garnering COMAC more attention.

"We have also seen a growing trend where clients are including the C919 option in their fleet evaluation," said Adam Cowburn of Alton Aviation Consultancy.

Two C919s were delivered in 2023. Aviation consultancy IBA forecasts 7-10 C919s could be delivered in 2024.

"With Airbus and Boeing narrowbodies in the A320neo and 737 MAX families sold out for most of this decade, the C919 has a strong opportunity to gain market share, particularly in its domestic market," said Mike Yeomans of aviation consultancy IBA.

"The immediate challenges for COMAC are around production to meet local demand and certification to penetrate international markets," Yeomans added.

Trump tells supporters his \$355 million fraud fine is 'election interference'

WATERFORD TOWNSHIP, MICH./IRMO, SC., Feb 18 (Agencies): Donald Trump lashed out at the New York judge who ruled he must pay \$354.9 million in penalties for fraudulently overstating his net worth to dupe lenders, telling thousands of supporters at a campaign rally the decision was an "election interference play."

Addressing supporters for the first time since Justice Arthur Engoron hit him with massive financial penalties, Trump made the unsubstantiated claim that the judge was part of a "left wing" conspiracy aimed at stopping him from becoming president again.

The former Republican president, the frontrunner for his party's White House nomination, told a crowd in Michigan that "these repulsive abuses of power are not just an attack on me, they are an attack on all Americans."

Trump also repeated his lie that his 2020 election defeat to Democratic US President Joe Biden was due to election fraud.

Engoron also banned Trump from serving as an officer or director of any New York corporation for three years. The judge said of Trump and his co-defendants: "Their complete lack of contrition and remorse borders on pathological." New York Attorney General Letitia James had accused Trump and his family businesses of overstating his net worth by as much \$3.6 billion a year over a decade to fool bankers into giving him better loan terms.



Trump spoke shortly after Nikki Haley, his last remaining rival for the Republican presidential nomination, who held an event in South Carolina.

On Saturday morning, Haley wasted no time in going after Trump after Friday's ruling, which handed him another legal setback in a civil case that imperils his real estate empire.

Trump also faces four state and federal criminal trials, including one scheduled to start in New York on March 25, over alleged hush money payments to a porn star. That means Trump will become the first former U.S. president to stand trial on criminal charges.

Haley frequently says "chaos" follows Trump, and that he can't be an effective president or candidate because of his myriad legal problems.

"He's going to be in court March and April. He's going to be in court May and June. He said himself that he's going to be spending more time in a courtroom than he is on the campaign trail," Haley told Fox News.

Trump is close to clinching the Republican presidential nomination, and the prospect of a likely general election

rematch with Biden, after recent nominating contest wins in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada.

Michigan is a key battleground state that could determine the outcome in November. This year Michigan Republicans are allocating their presidential delegates via both a primary on Feb. 27 and a caucus on March 2.

Keen to generate momentum in the state, Trump urged his supporters to participate in the nominating contests. But Trump, who has sought to attack Biden's mental acuity and penchant for gaffes, relayed both correct and incorrect dates to the crowd.

"Remember the primary is Tuesday February 27th. We need to get out and vote to set the stage for November. Go vote. November 27th," Trump said.

Trump also reiterated his desire to eliminate early voting and denigrated mail-in voting, which is embraced by Democrats.

Some Republicans have warned Trump's opposition to mail-in voting could discourage some party members from casting ballots.

"Mail-in voting is totally corrupt. Get that through

your head," Trump said.

Before his rally in Michigan Trump appeared at a convention for sneaker fans in Philadelphia, where he launched his own sneaker brand - gold-topped with American flag logos.

"I've wanted to do this a long time," Trump said, before urging young people to vote.

Haley, who has no clear path to the Republican nomination, has refused to quit. She is making a potential last stand in her home state of South Carolina, which holds its primary on Feb. 24, where she trails badly in opinion polls behind Trump.

At her rally on Saturday evening, Haley also attacked Trump for his failure to comment on the death of Alexei Navalny, Russia's most prominent opposition leader. At his Michigan rally, Trump again failed to mention Navalny.

Russia's prison service said that Navalny, 47, died on Friday at the "Polar Wolf" Arctic penal colony. The West, including Biden, blamed Russian President Vladimir Putin for the death. Western leaders did not cite evidence.

Haley, addressing a crowd in Irmo, South Carolina, accused Trump of cozying up to Putin in the past. She also referred to a speech Trump made on Feb. 10, when he said he would "encourage" Russia to do "whatever the hell they want" to any NATO member who didn't spend enough on defense.

"Trump is siding with a thug who kills his own political opponents," Haley said.

Pakistan's election commission forms high-level committee to probe senior bureaucrat's allegations of poll rigging

Former Rawalpindi Commissioner Chattha claimed that 13 candidates from Rawalpindi were forcefully declared winners



ISLAMABAD, Feb 18 (Agencies): Pakistan's election commission has formed a high-level committee to probe the explosive allegations levelled by a senior bureaucrat that widespread rigging aided by the judiciary and the top election body happened against jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party in the garison city of Rawalpindi.

Former Rawalpindi Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha alleged that the candidates who were "losing" the elections "were made to win" in the city. He claimed that 13 candidates from Rawalpindi were forcefully declared winners.

His remarks came amidst jailed former prime minister Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party began nationwide protests against alleged rigging and stealing of its mandate in the February 8 elections.

"I am taking the responsibility for all this wrongdoing and telling you that the chief election commissioner and the chief justice are also completely involved in this," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Chattha resigned from his office after "accepting responsibility" for the manipulation of poll results.

The Election Commission of Pak-

istan (ECP) has strongly rejected the allegations Chattha has made against the chief election commissioner.

It held an emergency meeting to discuss the commissioner's allegations and formed a high-level committee to probe the allegations.

Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja attended the meeting via video link.

In light of the committee's report, the election regulator would decide whether or not the commissioner be tried for contempt.

High-level committee will record the statements of the relevant district returning officers and returning officers and submit its report to the ECP within three days.

The newly-appointed Rawalpindi Commissioner, Saif Anwar Jappa, rejected all the accusations made by the former commissioner regarding irregularities in the February 8 general elections. He clarified that the commissioner's role in the polls was only for coordination.

Emphasising the fairness and accuracy of the recent elections, the District Returning Officer (DRO) for Rawalpindi assured that the elections were conducted with complete transparency and without any external pressure on them.

Meanwhile, a nationwide disruption in social media platform X's service has been reported in Pakistan due to the "escalating unrest and protests" over allegations of election fraud, according to Internet tracking organisation NetBlocks.

In a post on X, the organisation added that the disruption took place "following a high-level resignation and public admission of vote manipulation by a senior election official".

Independent candidates - a majority backed by the PTI party - won 93 of the 265 National Assembly seats that were contested in the February 8 election.

The 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 last week.

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 17 seats.

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

PML-N leader Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that Chattha should have approached the Election Commission of Pakistan with evidence if there was any instead of hurling allegations during a press conference.

Speaking on Geo News, she said the commissioner neither presented any evidence nor disclosed if he had received any call or a text message.

"Your conscience came alive eight days after the elections and after receiving your US visa," Aurangzeb said.

Brachial plexus injury behind 30% of serious road accidents: Expert

Top News Report

JAMMU/ CHANDIGARH, Feb 18: "Road accidents have declined by 5% globally in the last 12 years, while in India it has increased by 15.3%. Road accidents contribute to 83% of all traffic-related deaths in India," Addressing a health session on 'Rising trends of road accident & brachial plexus injuries', Dr. Jaspreet Singh Randhawa, neuro surgeon at IVY Hospital, Mohali said that awareness on golden hour concept is must, which means that the



first 60 minutes are the most crucial after any accident. If the patient reaches the right place at the right time, many lives can be saved. He further informed that the roads in Punjab are very deadly in terms

of accidents and in 2022 there were 6122 road accidents in Punjab and 4688 deaths in road accidents. 70% of people die in road accidents due to over speeding. Dr. Randhawa said

that 30% of serious road accidents occur due to brachial plexus injury. The brachial plexus is a complex network of nerves that control the muscles of the shoulder, arm and hand. Recent advances in micro neurosurgery have given patients with brachial plexus injuries a new ray of hope, he maintained. Dr. Randhawa also shared that wearing a proper helmet increases their chances of survival by 42% and reduces the risk of brain injury by 74%.

Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society held meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: A routine meeting held by the Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society in Jammu. The meeting discussed several issues and put forth demands to address them. To effectively communicate these concerns and requests to the relevant authorities, it would be helpful to organize the information in a structured manner. Here's a refined version:

Chairperson: Rajinder Parshad Kakkar, President TNWS Jammu.

Reduction of road width affecting traffic flow in various spots.

Request for a review and adjustments to ensure smooth traffic movement.

Call for better coordination and stakeholder involvement in road maintenance projects.

Advocacy for awareness programs before road work initiation.

Rehariwallas utilizing wide footpaths near the railway station exit gate,



causing traffic issues and unhygienic conditions.

Urgent measures needed to address the problem and restore normal traffic flow.

Damage to Retaining Wall of Nallah:

The retaining wall on the left side of Nallah in Sector 3 is damaged, posing a threat to life and property in the main market area.

Immediate action required for repair and

reinforcement.

Proposal for issuing identity cards for free medical services and providing reservations and concessions in traveling services for senior citizens and retired officials.

Request for a government notification to address these concerns.

Appeal to concerned authorities for prompt intervention.

Urgent allocation of

sufficient funds for timely resolution of the identified issues.

Upendra Zadoo, Ar. Ashok Gupta, Davinder Singh Khorana, S. Amarjeet Singh, Vijay Gupta, N.K. Bali, S.N. Kaul, Er. Varinder Kumar Suri

Emphasized the importance of addressing the mentioned problems promptly.

Requested all concerned authorities to take necessary actions in a time-bound manner.

Party Parliamentary Board to decide Lok Sabha candidates soon: Mehbooba Mufti

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 18 (Agencies): People's Democratic Party President and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Mehbooba Mufti, stated that the parliamentary board will determine the candidates for parliament seats.



According to a statement, she presided over a significant meeting regarding preparations for the election for the Central Kashmir parliamentary seat.

Mehbooba Mufti said that the parliamentary

board, led by Chairman Mohammad Sartaj Madni, will soon finalise the candidates.

The meeting as per the statement was attended by Party Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Veeri, General

Secretary Dr Mehboob Beg, Adv. Gh Nabi Lone Hanjura, Additional General Secretary Asia Naqash, as well as other senior leaders, former ministers, district presidents, constituency incharges, zonal presi-

dents, and various party members, who shared their perspectives and insights.

Shobha Yatra of Sri Guru Gyagi Ji taken out Today

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: To mark Guru Gyagi birth celebrations falling on 24 February, 2024, the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha today took out a Shobha Yatra in which a large number of devotees including men, women and children participated with great enthusiasm and religious fervor.

The Shobha Yatra started from Guru Gyagi Ashram Shahzadpur, passed through Parwah, Patyali Chack, Sangram Pur, Durgo Chack, Patnayal, Akalpur, Pouni Chack, Sari Rakwal, Bhadrone, Dei Chack, Gho-Manassan, Rathua, Karloop, Kalasse Chack, Marh, Halqa, Tokerian, Jaffer Chak and many other



villages.

During the Shobha Yatra, SSP M.L.Kaith, Bawa Ram Kaith, Krishan Lal Kaith and many others accorded a warm reception to the Yatra enroute at Karloop and distributed sweets, fruits, water, langar, tea, snacks, milk, and various other items to the

participants.

Prominent among those who participated in the Shobha Yatra included Messers former Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj, R.L.Kaith, Inspector retired Bishan Dass, TSO retired Rachhpal Kaith, Subedar retired Baldev Raj, Baldev Chand, Darshan

Lal, Duni Singh, Jeet Raj, Joginder Sargotra, Tara Chand, Brinder Kaith, Darshan Kumar, Jagdish Mandi, Jagdish Lakhotra, Bishan Lal, Surjeet Dogra, Jagdish Kaith, Yog Raj, Sandeep Bhardwaj, Sanjay Motan, Anil Kumar, Ganesh Motan, Mangal Ram, Rash-

pal Motan, Pagu Ram, Vinod Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Vikas Kumar, Ram Dyal, Shallo Ram, Arjun Kumar, Sunil Motan, Suresh Kumar, Dev Raj and Shubham Kumar.

NOTICE

I, Sat Pal Bhatti (Old Name) S/o.Sh. Dittu Ram Bhatti R/o.35, Apna Vihar Kunjwani Jammu has changed my name from Sat Pal Bhatti (Old Name) to Satyapal Bhatti (New name). I do hereby assume from this date the name/surname Satyapal Bhatti (New Name).

If anybody have any objection may contact concern authority within Seven days after publishing notice.

Woman Found Dead at In-Laws' House, Family Alleges Murder

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 18 (Agencies): The family members of a woman found mysteriously dead at her in-laws' home in the Zonimar area of Srinagar alleged on Sunday that she had been murdered, whereas her in-laws asserted she died by suicide.

Family members of the deceased woman, identified as Mehvish, alleged that she has been murdered by her in-laws. One of the family members said that they tried to call her many times, but she was not available. "Her in-laws are claiming she died by suicide, but they have murdered her. We demand a thorough probe into the matter."

FROM PAGE 1

No future-oriented society can progress without people-centered governance: LG Sinha

and recalled his significant contribution to the promotion of Dogri language and culture. He also congratulated and commended Padma Shri recipients Dogri folk singer Sh Romalo Ram and master craftsman Sh Ghulam Nabi Dar of Srinagar for preserving and promoting the rich art and heritage of Jammu Kashmir.

Obstructing ambulances may attract Rs 10,000 fine or jail upto 6 months

patients to referral hospitals, failure to provide passage to the medical emergency vehicles (Ambulances) is violation under section 194E Motor Vehicle Act and carries fine of Rs. 10, 000/- and imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months," it said.

Low-Danger level avalanche warning issued for Anantnag, Kulgam for Next 24 Hrs

posted, "Avalanche with LOW Danger Level is likely to occur above 2500 metres over ANANTNAG & KULGAM districts in the next 24 hours. Avalanche with *MEDIUM Danger Level is likely to occur above 2200 metres over DODA, KISHTWAR, POONCH, RAMBAN BANDIPORE BARAMULLA, KUPWARA & GANDEBAL districts in next 24 hours. People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing into the avalanche-prone areas.

'Delhi Chalo' March | Union Ministers, farmer leaders to hold 4th round of talks Today

borders. Multiple layers of barricades and concrete blocks have been put up and security personnel deployed at Delhi's borders with Haryana also in view of the protest.

Farmer leaders, including from the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha that had called for the march, will be meeting Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Arjun Munda, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai at 6 pm on Sunday in Chandigarh — the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.

On Saturday, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher had said the entire country is looking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for addressing the farmers' demands and expressed hope that the farmers will get "good news" after the Sunday's meeting with the Centre. "Now the ball is in the government's court," he had said and added that the Centre has a right to take "political" decisions.

"If the government wants resolution of the farmers' protest, then it should bring an ordinance with an immediate effect that it will enact a law on MSP, then discussion can proceed further. It (Centre) can bring the ordinance overnight, if it wants to," Pandher had added.

Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' march along with Pandher, had also said that the government should bring an ordinance for "giving something to people of the country".

The Haryana government on Saturday had extended the ban on mobile internet and bulk SMS services in seven districts by two more days till February 19.

On Saturday, the Bhartiya Kisan Union

(Charuni) took out a tractor march in Haryana while BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) held dharnas outside residences of three senior BJP leaders in support of the farmers protesting at the borders of Punjab and Haryana. Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar on Saturday had said that the Modi government was fully cognisant of farmers' issues, adding that the ongoing talks between the farmers and the Centre will definitely lead to an effective redressal.

Haryana Director General of Police Shatruej Kapur on Saturday had visited the Data Singhwala-Khanauri border point where farmers have been camping since their 'Delhi Chalo' march was stopped by security personnel.

He had said that strict action would be taken against those who disturb law and order.

Selfie Point near LoC in Uri becomes major tourist attraction

along the National Highway-44 and the structure offers a panoramic view of the picturesque Jhelum river, enhancing the pride of the locals as well as the tourists, the officials said.

The army thanked Nagi's foundation which is known for its women empowerment projects. "Her gesture of gifting the structure stands as a testimony to rising nationalism in the valley. The selfie point was conceptualised with an aim to provide a unique engaging environment for individuals and groups alike," the army said. Nagi said sculpting the name of the nation through her art installation is a tribute to the sacrifices made by various sections of society for the country's freedom.

"Nothing feels better than sculpting the name of my nation through my art. Proud to install my sculpture #INDIA at Uri, a remote border region," Nagi, daughter of a retired army officer, said.

"How blessed we are to be free. Our children need to know the sacrifices that were

made by so many to protect the freedom we enjoy today," she said, urging people to include Uri as their tourist destination. Nagi has been instrumental in making selfie points in Kashmir which included one at the revamped Polo view market, Rajbagh and Dal Lake.

Ensure heightened vigilance to mitigate risk of terrorist threats; IGP Kashmir directs officer

Kashmir directed officers to ensure heightened vigilance, particularly during night-hours, to mitigate the risk of terrorist threats.

Emphasizing the imperative to bolster intelligence gathering and anti-terror operations, IGP Kashmir urged officers to minimize the risk of untoward incidents by strengthening security at vulnerable points, especially during significant events. Special attention was given to enhancing security along the National Highway, tunnels, minority pickets and other critical pockets.

Furthermore, specific directives were issued to intensify security/surprise naka measures in both uptown and downtown areas of Srinagar, with 24x7 patrolling and increased presence at entry and exit points of the district. The IGP also stressed the importance of briefing personnel to take care of SOP, considering the heightened security concerns during events.

Additionally, IGP Kashmir Zone emphasized the critical need for thorough monitoring of vulnerable areas and prompt action against suspicious activities. Special instructions were given to border district heads to maintain strict vigilance along the LoC and hinterland to prevent the potential terror activities.

In conclusion, the Inspector General of Police Kashmir reiterated the importance of collective vigilance and proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of all residents and visitors to the Kashmir

valley.

Among the participants were IG CRPF (SOS) Srinagar, IG BSF Ftr, DD IB Kmr, DIsG of CKR, SSB, BSF, Armed, IRP, CRPF, ITBP, SSsP Srinagar, PCR Kashmir, CID CIK, Traffic, Security & PC & Telecom, DC SB Sgr and CSO (1) 15 corps where as those who joined virtually were DIsG NKR, SKR Baramulla, CRPF Bla & South and all SSsP/SP's of Districts and PDs.

Srinagar-Leh highway closed following fresh snowfall

higher reaches of the Kashmir division over the next three days, starting today. Visuals showed, upper reaches of Gurez Valley, including Tulail Valley and Dawar village, received fresh snowfall on Sunday morning.

Gurez Valley is located in the high Himalayas, about 86 kilometres from Bandipora and 123 kilometres from Srinagar. Following the snowfall, the authorities have reportedly closed the Gurez-Bandipora road for traffic movement.

As per the seven-day forecast from the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, the minimum temperature in Sringar city will reach 3 degrees Celsius on Sunday, while the maximum temperature will reach 8 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature will hover around one degree Celsius over the next five days, starting February 19, while the maximum temperature will be 5-8 degrees Celsius over the same period of time. Gulmarg, the ski resort in Kashmir, witnessed a minimum temperature of minus 3 degrees Celsius on Sunday.

In a post on X on February 17, Meteorological Centre Srinagar said, "18-20 Feb: Light to moderate Snow/Rain over plains with heavy to very heavy snow over higher reaches of KMR Division & Pir Panjal Range of JMU Division," it said.

The India Meteorological Department predicted heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh on February 18 and 20, and over Uttarakhand on February 19 and 20.

PM Modi to Inaugurate new Campus of IIM Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: Nestled amidst the breathtaking Himalayas, the Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM Jammu) stands as a beacon of excellence, shaping the future of management education, business, and society. With a strong dedication to nurturing leaders and fostering innovation, IIM Jammu has consistently set benchmarks in management education while making significant contributions to the society.

Established in 2016, by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, IIM Jammu began its journey from transit campus at Canal Road. From its modest beginnings with just 47 students in 2016, the Institute has grown exponentially, currently catering to over 1200 students across various programs.

Under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, the Institute embarked on a journey with the



construction of its new campus in Jagti. Spanning 200 acres and built at a project cost of Rs. 500.91 crores, the new campus reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to providing world-class infrastructure conducive to holistic development of student. The new campus has been completed in record time, boasting state-of-the-art facilities, including smart classrooms and the "Nalanda", a modern library, fostering an environment of academic pursuit and innovation.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the New Campus, Prof. Sahay, mentioned "IIM Jammu's vision is to develop leaders and entrepreneurs, aiming

to motivate students from job seekers to job creators through practical exposure and industry collaborations. Despite being the youngest of IIMs, IIM Jammu has earned recognition, ranking 15th overall among all, IIMs in the NIRF Rankings 2023. The Institute offers MBA, Executive MBA, Ph.D, MBA in Hospital Administration and Healthcare Management jointly with AIIMS Jammu and IIT Jammu, Dual Degree Programme (B. Tech +MBA) with IIT Jammu. Driven by its vision to develop global leaders and entrepreneurs, IIM Jammu is committed to serving as a catalyst for positive change in the U.T of Jammu and

Kashmir and Ladakh. The inauguration of the new campus by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi signifies the Institute's unwavering commitment to excellence, societal impact, and economic development."

Adding further, he mentioned, "The Centre for Diversity and Inclusion reflects IIM Jammu's dedication to providing a safe environment for marginalized communities to explore entrepreneurship. In a short span the Institute has been spearheading impactful programs like the Community Leadership Program, Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme, and the establishment of Centre for Entrepre-

neurship, Innovation & Skill Development, IIM Jammu aims to foster socio-economic development and empower communities. Through Initiatives such as the Community Leadership Program aimed at empowering youth with essential leadership skills, while collaborations like the STEM program with SIDBI promote grassroots entrepreneurship. The Education Leadership Training Programme for College Principals of Jammu and Kashmir enhances education quality in Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing IIM Jammu's holistic approach to education and societal impact."

As IIM Jammu continues its journey, it remains dedicated to fostering leadership, innovation, and societal transformation. With a focus on excellence, inclusivity, with state-of-the-art facilities, IIM Jammu is poised to emerge as one of the top business schools in India with a global outlook and a commitment to nation-building.

On the UN Int'l Day of Women and Girls in Science, ICERT felicitated Professor Emeritus R. K. Uppal



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: The core committee of ICERT and the organizing committee of the international conference felicitated Prof (Dr.) Rajinder Kumar Uppal, Professor emeritus, MTC Global Chair Professor and Research Professor, Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi, and principal, Baba Farid College of Management and Technology, Bathinda, Punjab at the one-day International Multidisciplinary Conference on "Recent Advances in Science and Engineering, Humanities

and Social Sciences towards Sustainability on UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science in auditorium, M.D.S.D College, Ambala, Haryana jointly organized with International Council for Education Research and Training India and USA. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a Professor Emeritus, is an exemplary scholar and professional, renowned for his impeccable academic and research background. He is highly regarded in the academic community and is widely recognized for propagating best practices in the fields of education

and research to nurture the intellectual growth and moral development of students. Moreover, he significantly expanded the boundaries of knowledge applications through the publication of numerous well-researched books and technical papers in esteemed national and international journals. Currently, Dr. Uppal holds the positions of Professor Emeritus and Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi, and Professor-cum-Principal at Baba Farid College of Management and Technology in Punjab.

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Miss World Undeclared'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: 'Miss World Undeclared', a play in Hindi, written by Satyendra Shrivastava and directed by Neeraj Kant, was staged here today at Natrang's Studio Theatre Kachi Chawni in its Weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre. Mrs Varsha Jain wife of ADG Police Jammu zone was the Chief Guest on the occasion who appreciated the performance of young artists and complemented Natrang for providing training and performance opportunities to the enthusiastic new entrants in the world of theatre.

The play 'Miss World Undeclared' presented at Natrang Studio unfolds the sad saga of all those people, particularly Asians who reside in the developed European Countries and are subject to racial discrimination and hatred from the natives as they think their resources are shared and reduced by them. This was shown from the point of view of a school going



girl, 'Noorie' who was regularly bullied by her classmates who have fair complexion. They tease her for not being as beau-

tiful as them to the extent that she decides to discontinue her education. But her mother, a very wise

lady, makes her realize that the criteria for being beautiful is not being fair or having external beauty, the real beauty is internal beauty and anyone with a good heart and calm mind is much more beautiful than those people who are just externally good looking.

Motivated by her mother, she goes to the school and comes back very happy as on that day the result of the Miss World pageant gets declared and the winner was an Indian girl. The play ends with a positive and inspirational note that "it does not matter how we look but it really matters what we are" and that is the key to real and eternal happiness.

Natrang's young artists who presented a remarkable performance included Mehak Chib as 'Noorie' and Vandana Thakur as 'Mother'. Lights were designed and operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the music was scored by Chaitanya Shekhar. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Wrong Policies of BJP led NDA Govt at State, Centre against unemployment inflated prices in the Country: Gurmeet Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: Gurmeet Singh General Secretary JKPC & President Beopar Mandal conveyed to everyone that the Congress's ongoing protest as 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'-led by MP Rahul Gandhi was not for any political gain. It is to raise voice against issues like specially inflation corruption, irregular raised taxes by center and State BJP led Governments, and wrong policies of the BJP led NDA Govt. at the Centre & unemployment of youth in the country.

Gurmeet Singh said that People are feeling harassed by tax terror and unprecedented price hike, at the same time, they realize that BJP Govt. is looting them to recover the losses it has done to the Country economy by misuse and mismanagement of things since the day one as a result there is a restlessness across the country.

Every section of the society including youth, students, employees are up in arms due to wrong policies of BJP and this is the reason Congress party under the leadership of Shri Rahul Gandhi has launched Nationwide 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' against the wrong policies of the BJP led NDA Govt. at the Centre.

He said that our dynamic leader Rahul Gandhi is fearlessly fighting for the cause of every Indian against

the oppressive policies of the Modi Govt. and the entire Congress cadre is solidly behind the Congress leadership.

Gurmeet Singh Addressing largely attended Congress protesters at jammu east, against price rise, rising unemployment today lashed out at Centre Govt. for the unprecedented price hike and record unemployment besides failing to address the grievances of people of J&K on every count after promising massive development post August 5, 2019. he said that developmental process started by UPA in J&K received a major setback, as the NDA Govt. failed to carry forward the massive developments started by UPA.

Gurmeet Singh said In the protest it was highlighted that only by getting LPG Gas Cylinder @ Rs. 950/- which is not at all toerlable by the poor people and beyond the capacity of purchasing the cylinder at very high rate. Speaking on the occasion Gurmeet Singh Distt. General Sect. Congress stress the BJP Govt. to issued LPG cylinder FREE OF COST to the BPL and poor families so that they may be able to pull on their daily life peacefully.

It is also added that the poor peoples should get kerosene oil as was earlier issue to them it is not known why it has been stopped by the BJP Govt it is strongly stress that the kero-

sene oil be issued on regular basis to the poor families.

Gurmeet Singh General Secretary JKPC & President Beopar Mandal strongly attacked the BJP Govt at centre for the incessant price hike of essential commodities including LPG Cylinder and continue hike in price of petrol and diesel making life miserable for all sections of societies in the country.

Gurmeet Singh has said that Modi Govt. has imposed heavy taxes on the people, as its economic policies have been total failure leading to worst ever economic situation and lowest ever growth of the Country leading to unprecedented price rise of all commodities.

Gurmeet Singh criticized the BJP Govt. for plight of common poor man and unemployed youth as well as the sufferings of different sections of the society and said that Congress would continue to highlight the problems of the people.

Prominent among those who accompanied :- Gurmeet Singh President Beopar Mandal, include ward no 3, President Hardevinder Singh, Santosh Devi, Shanti devi, Reena Devi, Asha Rani, Asha Devi, Sandya Kumari, Jyoti Sevi, Pooja, Poly Devi, Bimla, Rita Devi, Suman Devi, Sushma Devi, Kavita Kumari, Vishal Devi, Ram Lal, Kasholya Devi, Pooja Devi, Amarpreet Singh, Apu Singh, and beside others.

Jaya Ekadashi Vrat on Tuesday: Mahant Rohit Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 18: The fast of Ekadashi of Shukla Paksha of Magh month is on Tuesday, 20th February 2024. Regarding the Ekadashi fast, Mahant Rohit Shastri Jyotishacharya, the head of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sanathan Trust, explained that there are 24 Ekadashis in a year, but when an extra month (Adhikamasa) comes once in three years, then their number increases to 26.

The beginning of the date of Jaya Ekadashi of Magh Shukla Paksha will be on Monday, 19th February at 08:51 AM and the end of the date of Jaya Ekadashi will be on Tuesday, 20th February at 09:56 AM. The sunrise will occur on 20th February Tuesday, hence the fast of Jaya Ekadashi will be observed on Tuesday, 20th February. The fast of Jaya Ekadashi can be broken on 21st February, Wednesday, Dwadashi date, from 07:11 AM to 09:20 AM.



The Ekadashi of Magh month Shukla Paksha is known as Jaya Ekadashi. According to religious scriptures, by observing this Ekadashi fast, a person becomes free from lower births such as ghosts, spirits, and demons. Jaya Ekadashi fast is considered superior because on this day, King Harishchandra got rid of all difficulties by observing the fast. Observing the fast of Ekadashi not only brings religious merit equivalent to performing Ashwamedha Yajna, chanting, austerity, and bathing in pilgrimage places but

also teaches one how to maintain balance in life. The person observing the Ekadashi fast must control his mind, senses, and behavior. The fast of Ekadashi elevates a person above material and worldly desires towards the path of righteousness, leading to salvation. Both men and women can observe this fast.

On this day, whoever donates annihilates all sins and attains the supreme state. On this day, Brahmins and needy people should donate gold, land, fruits, clothes, sweets, food, education, donation of Dakshina, and donation of cows according to their capacity.

On this day, worship of Lord Ganesha, Lord Lakshminarayana, Lord Shri Krishna, and Lord Mahadev is also done. The story and Aarti of Lord Lakshminarayana must be performed or heard. The significance of Ekadashi fast is not only religious but also very important from a mental and physical health per-

spective. The fast of Ekadashi is dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu.

Fasting teaches discipline to the mind and provides new energy to the body. Whoever worships Lord Lakshminarayana on this day surely attains Vaikuntha.

According to religious scriptures, on the auspicious day of Ekadashi, one should not consume rice and any kind of tamasic substances, and should stay away from alcohol and other intoxicants. Not only on the body but also on your future, adverse effects can occur, hence only sattvic items are consumed on this day.

Mahant Rohit Shastri (Jyotishacharya) President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sanathan Trust (Registered) Raipur, Thathar Bantalab Jammu, Pin Code 181123.

Contact:- 9858293195, 7006711011, 9796293195 Email: rohitshastri.shastri@gmail.com