

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Trafficked Bihar Woman in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 19 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police has rescued a woman trafficked from Bihar in the Union Territory's Bandipora district, officials said on Monday.

"Bandipora police rescued a lady victim of human trafficking belonging to Bihar, illegally sold to one person named Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh s/o Nazir Ahmad r/o Ban-yari Ajas," the district's police said in a post on X.

Cognisance has been taken under relevant sections of the law, it said.

### Srinagar-Leh highway closed due to heavy snowfall

SRINAGAR, Feb 19 (Agencies): Major snowfall during the last 24 hours closed most of the highways leading out of Kashmir in J&K on Monday except the Srinagar-Jammu highway on which traffic was moving smoothly.

Traffic department officials said that Srinagar-Jammu national highway is open for traffic while the Srinagar-Leh, Mughal Road, Bandipora-Gurez road, Sinthan-Kishtwar and roads leading to Keran/Karnah border towns are also closed.

While the Valley received rainfall, higher reaches like Zojila Pass, Baltal, Sonamarg, Pahalgam, Doodhpathri, Gurez, etc., received heavy snowfall during the last 24 hours.

Reports from Gulmarg ski resort said heavy snowfall was continuing there in the morning.

The MeT department had forecast rain/snow till February 21 after which the weather is expected to improve.

**Kashmir University postpones exams after fresh snowfall in Kashmir**

SRINAGAR, Feb 19 (Agencies): Authorities of Kashmir University (KU) on Monday postponed examination for 19th and 20th of

## Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi takes over as new Army Vice Chief

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday took over as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff.

After assuming the appointment of Vice Chief of Army Staff, the General laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in Delhi. Lt Gen Dwivedi is an alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa (MP) and was commissioned into the 18 JAK RIF on December 15, 1984, which he later commanded in the Kashmir valley and the deserts of Rajasthan. He has had the unique distinction of having balanced exposure of both Northern and Western theatre.

He has also held the important appointments of Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) and Sector Commander Assam Rifles in intense counter terrorist operations and held various other staff and command appointments in the North East.

After commanding the Rising Star Corps, the General was given the command of the most prestigious Northern Army from 2022-2024 in



an extremely challenging operational environment.

During his command, he provided guidance and operational oversight for the planning and execution of sustained operations along the northern borders with China and the Western Front with Pakistan, besides orchestrating the dynamic counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

He was also involved in the modernization and equipping of the largest Army Command of the Indian Army, where he steered the induction of indigenous equipment as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

He has also worked towards creating synergy with the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh for convergent

nation-building outcomes and infrastructure development.

The General officer, during his illustrious career spanning across 39 years, has held various staff appointments in the headquarters of the Armoured Brigade, Mountain Division, Strike Corps and Integrated HQ (Army). As an instructor at the Indian Military Academy and the Army War College (Higher Command), he shaped the future generations of tri-services and Friendly Foreign Countries. The appointment of DG Infantry empowered him to steer and fast-track capital procurement cases of weapons for all three services, leading to significant and visible capability enhancement for our Armed Forces.

As Dy Chief (IS&C), the officer gave impetus towards automation and the absorption of niche tech in the Indian Army. Being a tech enthusiast, he worked towards enhancing the tech threshold of all ranks in Northern Command and pushed for Critical and Emerging Techs like Big Data Analytics, AI, Quantum and blockchain-based solutions.

The Genral officer's two overseas tenures include Somalia, as pw1art of HQ United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) II and Seychelles, as Military Advisor to the Government of Seychelles.

Besides attending Staff College, Wellington and the Higher Command Course at Army War College (AWC), Mhow, the officer was conferred 'Distinguished Fellow' in the coveted NDC equivalent course at USAWC, Carlisle, USA. Complementing his illustrious military career, are an M Phil in Defence & Management Studies, in addition to two Master's degrees in Strategic Studies and Military Science, including one

## Multi-Tier security for PM Modi's visit to Jammu

JAMMU, Feb 19 (Agencies): A multi-tier security setup has been put in place and traffic advisories issued for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu on Tuesday, officials on Monday said. Modi is scheduled to address a public rally at Maulana Azad Stadium in the heart of winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir during his visit on February 20, they said.

The officials said the prime minister will also launch multiple develop-



ment projects, including for education, railway, aviation and road sectors, worth Rs 30,500 crore.

According to a state-

ment issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), he will also distribute appointment letters to about 1,500

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## Jammu-Srinagar highway blocked after landslide in Ramban



SRINAGAR, Feb 19 (Agencies): Authorities on Monday temporarily

suspended vehicular movement on Srinagar-Jammu highway after

mudslide and landslide occurred at several places on the stretch.

The officials said that due to mudslide at Mehad, Ramban and landslide at Tabela Chamalwass, Banihal the vehicular movement on the highway was suspended temporarily.

They said that people are advised to avoid journey on NH-44 till the weather improves and the road is clear.

"People are

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## Jammu declared No-Fly Zone for Drones ahead of PM Modi's visit

JAMMU, Feb 19 (Agencies): Jammu district has been made no-fly zone for drones and quadcopters with immediate effect as security arrangements are being tightened across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit on February 20.

Jammu District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya, keeping in view intelligence reports highlighting potential security threats, issued a comprehensive order under Sec-

tion 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973.

The ban order will continue until February 20. It imposes restrictions on drones, remote-controlled micro-light aircrafts, para-gliders, para-motors, hand gliders and hot air balloons within the district. The ban order exempts security forces.

The Tribune quoting an official reported that the precautionary measure was in place to counter possible activities by terrorist and

anti-national elements.

Security has also been strengthened along the Pathankot-Jammu highway as the prestigious project of AIIMS will also be inaugurated by the PM in Samba, located along the highway.

Special security measures have been taken at the MA Stadium in Jammu where the PM will address a rally and likely talk about the post-Article 370 era and Central

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## Govt, Ladakh delegation meet on issues of UT

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): The Centre is holding a meeting with a delegation from Ladakh here on Monday on their key demands, including statehood for the high-altitude region, two Lok Sabha seats and bringing the area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. A 14-member delegation of the Apex

Body Leh (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) is meeting the High Powered Committee (HPC) for Ladakh headed by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

"We are going to discuss our demands, including statehood for Ladakh and two Lok Sabha seats," Apex Body Leh member Cher-

ing Dorjay Lakrook told PTI.

The demands of the delegation are statehood for Ladakh, two Lok Sabha seats (one for Kargil and one for Leh), job opportunities for the residents of the Union Territory and constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule, sources said.

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## Rains, snow continue in Kashmir; Gulmarg receives 16 inches of snowfall

SRINAGAR, Feb 19 (Agencies): Rains continued to lash Srinagar and other plains while higher reaches including Gulmarg received snowfall on Monday.

A meteorological department official here told GNS that Srinagar received 12.4mm of rain in 24 hours till 0830 hours and recorded a low of 2.0°C against 5.8°C on the previous night. It was above normal by 1.0°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund received 12.8mm of rain and recorded a minimum of 3.6°C against 3.8°C on the previous night and it was 3.7°C above normal for the gateway town of



Kashmir, the MeT official said.

Pahalgam received 18.6mm of rain and recorded a low of 0.8°C against 2.5°C on the previous night and it was 5.2°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, received 8.0mm of rain and

recorded a minimum of 3.5°C against 5.0°C on the previous night and the temperature was above normal by 4.4°C for the place, the official said.

Kupwara town also received 42.7mm of rain and recorded a low of minus 0.1°C against 2.4°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C

above normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg, the official said, received 40cms (nearly 16 inches) of snow during the time, and recorded a low of minus 2.8°C against minus 1.4°C on the previous night and the temperature was above normal by 4.0°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir.

Jammu, he said, received 4.9mm of rain and recorded a minimum of 13.8°C and it was above normal by 3.3°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal received 59.9mm of rain and recorded a low of 7.0°C, Batote received 35.6mm and had a low of 8.1°C and

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar 9419143503



## OBITUARY

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

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

**Grief Stricken :**  
Jyoti Bhat (Wife) - 9596109709  
Vishal Bhat, Vivek Bhat- Sons  
**Brothers and Bhabhis**  
Kamal Ji Bhat & Rita Bhat  
Shubhan Ji Bhat & Basanti Bhat  
**Sisters and Brothers-in law**  
Sharika Raina W/o Mohan Lal Raina  
Princy Reshi W/o Pintoo Jee Reshi



Mr Samir Ji Bhat

7006135572, 9419242828,  
7051454144

## UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we are sad to inform the demise of our beloved **Mrs CHAMPA GUPTA** W/o Late Prof B.B Gupta R/o 428/7 Channi Himmat, Jammu on 17th Feb, 2024.

The uthala will be held on **20th Feb, 2024**, between **3:00 to 4:00 PM** at Panch Mandir Sec. 2, Channi Himmat, Jammu

**Grief Stricken**

**Vandana & CA Vinod Gupta - Daughter and Son-in-Law**  
**Amita & Atulya Salhotra - Daughter and Son-in-Law**  
**Vivek & Priyanka Mahajan - Son and Daughter-in-Law**  
**Smt. Suman & Er. Parshotam Gupta - Sister-in-Law and Bro-in-Law**  
**Er. Raman & Dr. Rachna Gupta - Nephew & Daughter-in-Law**  
**Taresh, Darshita, Ananya, Kritvi, Manan, Agrim, Anahita - Grand Children**  
**Ph:- 9419188901, 9419148502**



Smt. Champa Gupta

## BARKHI

**BARKHI** OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT CHINTA DEVI** W/O LATE SH SHANKAR DASS WILL BE PERFORMED ON **TUESDAY 20-2-2024** AT OUR RESIDENCE H.NO. 28, LANE NO. A-9, HOUSING COLONY TIMBER ROAD JANIPUR JAMMU AT 12 NOON.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY :****SONS**

**LEKH RAJ GUPTA**  
**BISHAN DASS GUPTA**  
**HARI KRISHAN MAHAJAN**  
**BHARAT BHUSHAN GUPTA**  
**TARA CHAND GUPTA**  
**MOBILE: 9796085550, 8492916812**



SMT CHINTA DEVI

## TENTH DAY KRIYA

"A light has gone out of our lives but the love you gave will shine forever"

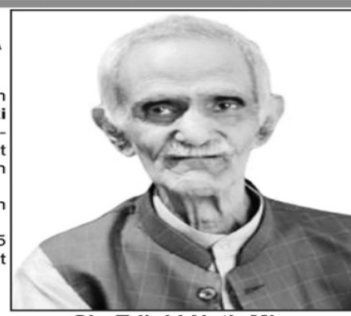
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Triloki Nath Mirza** S/o Lt. Sh. Syam Sunder Mirza originally resident of 397 Jawahar Nagar Srinagar (Kmr) at present 2/35 Pamposh Colony Janipur Jammu on 14.02.2024 at 10:40 PM.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held at Akhnoor Ghat on 23.02.2024 (Friday).

**ASSEMBLY** will be held at our residence 2/35 Pamposh Colony Janipur Jammu on 23.02.2024 at 11:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Makhi Mirza - Wife  
Smt. Santosh Mirza - Sister-in-law  
**Daughters & Son-in-law**  
Smt. Asha Nagri Mirza & Sh. Vijay Nagri  
Smt. Shikha Raina & Sh. S.K. Raina  
**Sisters & Brothers-in-law**  
Smt. Phoola Raina & Sh. C.L. Raina  
Smt. Girja Raina & Sh. Satish Raina  
Mirzas, Chiragis, Kaks, Nagris & Rainas  
**Deeply Missed by Beloved Ones**  
Ankit & Divya, Arnab & Nupur, Sharang & Arun  
**Ph.: 9419181142, 9906332605, 9784437739, 8377911624**



Sh. Triloki Nath Mirza

## CHOUBARSI

**Four years have passed since you left us, but your memories are still with us forever.**

Choubarisi of our beloved **Smt. Champa Sharma** W/o Sh. Yog Raj Sharma of Kallar, Near JK Channel, Udhampur shall be performed at our residence House No. 40 Sector-5 Lower Roopnagar, Jammu at 12.00 noon on Tuesday on 20/02/2024

**DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY**

**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
**Pranab Sharma & Riitika Sharma**  
**Pt. Rattan Chand Sharma & Smt. Sudersha Sharma- Jeth & Jathani**  
**Sh. Hari Krishan Sharma & Smt. Darshna Sharma- Jeth & Jathani**  
**Ruhi- Grand Daughter**  
**Mobile: 9419126490, 9890621330**



Smt. Champa Sharma

## PRAYER MEETING

In the loving memory of **CHAND SADHU** W/o Late Sqn. Ldr. Bansi Lal Sadhu 14 Jan. 1937 - 16th Feb. 2024.  
**Prayer Meeting**  
Tuesday, 20th Feb. 2024  
from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm at  
Community Centre, Sector 37-C,  
Chandigarh.

Kiran Sadhu, Chandan Sadhu,  
Shri C L Sadhu, Smt Sheela Sadhu  
& Samast Sadhu Parivar  
Shri Vijay Mattoo, Smt Rekha Mattoo  
& Samast Mattoo Parivar  
Sasmast Raina Parivar (Nawakadal)



CHAND SADHU

## 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mrs Sushma Koul** W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Koul originally resident of Wanigam Tangmarg Dist. Baramulla on 17th Feb 2024 A/p Block NO 2 Quarter No 16 Lane No 1 Jagti Township Nagrota Jammu.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 26th Feb 2024 at 9.00 AM  
**ASSEMBLY** will be held at our residence at House No 17 lane No 11 Ghura Barnai Bantialab after 12.00 Noon.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY :-**

Sh. Ashok Kumar Koul - Husband  
Miss Shiksha Koul - Daughter  
Sahil Koul - Son  
Sh. Bharat Bushan Koul & Smt Sushma - Brother in Law & Sister in Law  
Sh. Piaray Lal Pandita & Smt Sanju - Brother in Law & Sister in Law  
Miss Radhika & Miss Maisa - Daughters  
**7006551816, 9469219480**



MRS SUSHMA KOUL

## OBITUARY

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

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

**Grief Stricken :**  
Jyoti Bhat (Wife) - 9596109709  
Vishal Bhat, Vivek Bhat- Sons  
**Brothers and Bhabhis**  
Kamal Ji Bhat & Rita Bhat  
Shubhan Ji Bhat & Basanti Bhat  
**Sisters and Brothers-in law**  
Sharika Raina W/o Mohan Lal Raina  
Princy Reshi W/o Pintoo Jee Reshi



Mr Samir Ji Bhat

7006135572, 9419242828,  
7051454144

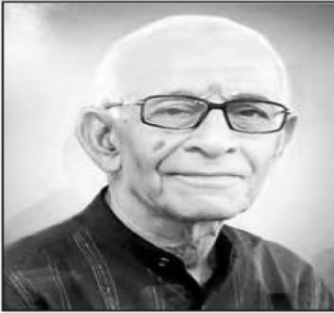
## OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Bansi Lal Pandita** S/o Sh. Late Naranjan Nath Pandita originally from Pampore Kashmir, presently residing at Lalleshwari Vatika Sector 21D Faridabad, on 12th February 2024.

**10TH DAY** will be performed at Murad Nagar Ghaziabad on 21st February (Wednesday) 2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Shyama Pandita (Wife)  
O.K.Pandita and Sunita Pandita (Son and Daughter in Law)  
Sunita Kalpushu and Kuldeep Kalpushu (Daughter and Son in Law)  
Sujata Dhar and Anil Dhar (Daughter and Son in Law)  
Nitin Pandita, Madhurima Dhar and Kamakshi Kalpushu (Grand Children)  
**CONTACT NO: 9871328973, 9419134597, 9899957847**



SH. BANSI LAL PANDITA

## BHOG &amp; ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sardarni Narinder Kour** R/o H.No. 20, AKC Colony, Extension Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

**Akhand Path Arambh** on Monday 19th Feb at our residence at 9:30 am and **Bhog Akhand Path** 21st Feb at 9:30 am at our residence House No 20 A K C Colony Extension Trikuta Nagar opp CRPF Camp Jammu. Antim Ardhas on 21st February from 11.00 am to 12:30 pm at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Ji Gandhi Nagar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

S.Gurmeet Singh (Husband)  
S. Gagandeep Singh (Son)  
Srd. Harsimran Kour (Daughter in Law)



Sardarni Narinder Kour

## 10TH DAY

We are deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of our beloved father **Chander Hans Sharma** on 12-02-2024.

**10th Day** will be held on Tuesday, 20 February, 2024 at our residence H.No. 44, Lakkar Mandi, Janipur, Jammu.

**IN GRIEF:-**

Shakuntala Devi - Wife  
Gautam Sharma - Son  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Shallu Sharma & Nitin Sharma  
Neha & Sumit - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Satyaban Sharma - Brother  
**+91-9596868550, +91-7051961534, +91-9596805905, +91-9797594657**



CHANDER HANS SHARMA

## TENTH DAY, KRIYA &amp; UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ved Parkash Thappa**, S/o Lt. Sh. Govind Ram Thappa, R/o 261/A, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed at 11 AM -12 Noon, on 20 February, 2024 (Tuesday) at our residence.

**KRIYA** will be performed at 12 Noon on 21 February, 2024 (Wednesday) at our residence.

**UTHALA** will be performed at 4 PM - 5 PM, on 23 February, 2024 (Friday) at Shiv Mandir, Near Govt. Flats, Gandhi Nagar

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Surendri Thappa - Wife  
**Sister & Brother-in-Law**  
Smt. Kanta Goswami W/o Lt. Sh. Madan Gopal Goswami  
**Brothers-in-Law & Sisters-in-Law**  
Sh. YL Sharma & Smt. Rama Sharma  
Sh. MM Magotra and Smt. Suman Magotra  
Sh. RP Magotra & Smt. Rakesh Magotra  
**Son & Daughter-in-Law**  
Sanjay Thappa and Ritu Thappa-  
**Son & Daughter-in-Law**  
Ajay Thappa and Seema Thappa-  
**Son & Daughter-in-Law**  
**Grand Sons and Grand Daughters**  
Samarth Thappa  
Ashmika Thappa  
Suryanshi Thappa  
Adhvik Thappa

Mobile No.: 9419185069, 7051363939



Sh. Ved Parkash Thappa

## 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that our revered mother **Smt Asha Braroo** W/o Lt Sh. Piyarey Lal Braroo R/o Malyar Habbakadal Srinagar at present H. No 233-C, Lane No 4, Sec 1 Durga Nagar Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 16th Feb 2024.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will take place at Akhnoor Ghat on 25-02-2024.

**Additionally** public Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat on 25-02-2024 at 11.00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Ramesh Kumar & Jyoti Raina - Son & Daughter in Law  
Sh. Anil Bedi & Smt Indoo Bedi - Son in Law & Daughter  
Sh. Ravi Raman and Suneeta Raman- Son in Law and Daughter  
Sh. Sanjeev Raina & Jyoti Raina- Son in Law and Daughter  
**GRAND CHILDREN:** Rahul, Abesheik, Shashank, Mahak  
**MOBILE NO: 8082315128, 7006222018, 7889824041**



Smt Asha Braroo

## 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of **Sh Jai Krishan** S/o Late Sh Gopi Nath of Bonagund, Verinag Kashmir at present H.No 162 Durga Nagar Sector 1, Jammu on 13 Feb 2024  
**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 21st Feb(Wednesday), 2024.  
**Assembly** will be held at residence (H.No 162 Durga Nagar Sector 1 Jammu) at 11 am.  
**Grief Stricken**  
Girja Ji (Wife)  
Susheela Ji (Pyar) (Bhabhi)  
Pushkar Nath Ji & Usha Ji (Brother & Bhabhi)  
Bushman Lal Ji & Shanti Devi (Brother & Bhabhi)  
Sandeep & Anuja (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Virender & Sumita Trakroo (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Rohit (Son)



Sh Jai Krishan

## 10TH DAY KRIYA

**10th Day Kriya** of our beloved mother **Smt. Jai Kishori Dhar** W/o Lt. Sri Amarnath Dhar, Resident of Bagh Jogi Lankar, Rainawari, Kashmir (Originally from Vihar Nag, Kashmir) and presently residing at G-139, Sector-11, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, 201009, who was affection and love personified, embodiment of utmost humane nature and spiritual to the back bone; departed for heavenly abode on 11th February 2024 and left us totally grief stricken. May Lord Vishnu Grant her eternal peace.  
The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on Tuesday, 20th February 2024 at Gang Nahar (Chota Handwar) Murad Nagar at 08:30 AM. **Assembly** at home G-139, Sector-11, Pratap Vihar - 11:00 AM onwards.  
**Deeply Remembered By:**  
Lal Ji Dhar, Satish Dhar and Kuldeep Dhar - Sons  
Kundan Dhar, Bita Saproo and Babil Badam - Daughters  
Ravinder Saproo - Son-in-Law  
Rachna Dhar - Daughter-in-Law  
Rahasya Kaul, Piyush Saproo, Anrit Badam and Vrashank Dhar - Grand Sons  
Pregya Dhar, Karunashree Saproo and Triya Dhar - Grand Daughters  
Ajit Sukanti - Grand Son-in-Law  
Paras Bakshi Saproo and Aditi Badam - Grand Daughters-in-Law  
Shiven, Abeer and Myra - Grand Grand Children  
**Contact No. 981048520, 9810596193, 8860213684, 7303128520**



(SMT. JAI KISHORI DHAR)

## 10TH DAY/KRIYA KARAM

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Subash Chander** S/o Ram Prakash Karnathia R/o Near Maruti showroom Nomain, Katra  
**10th Day** shall be performed at our residence on Monday 19 Feb, 2024 at 11 AM.  
**11th Day (Karam) Kriya** at our residence on 20 Feb, 2024 (Tuesday).

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Ram Prakash Karnathia - Father  
Kamla Devi - Mother  
Jyoti Khajuria - Wife  
Karmanya - Son  
Bhawana & Rakesh - Sister & Brother-in-law  
Lavanya & Abhishek - Daughter & Son-in-law  
**Ph.No: 9908101538, 7006105322**



SUBASH CHANDER

## BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **S. Baneet Pal Singh (Chiky)** S/o Late S. Kuldeep Singh R/o H No 182 Sector 5 Trikuta Nagar.

Following is the scheduled programme:  
**ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** at our residence on Sunday (18-02-2024) at 10:00 AM.

**BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** at our residence on Tuesday (20-02-2024) at 10:00 AM.

**KIRTAN & ANTIM ARDAS** at Gurudwara Sahib Bala Pritam Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on Tuesday (20-02-2024) from 11:00AM to 12:30PM, followed by 'Guru Ka Langar'.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

(Sister and Brother in law)  
Sdn. Harpreet Kour (Sr. Lect. Commr.) & S. Amardeep Singh (Brother and Sister in Law)  
S. Gurpreet Singh (Pollution Control Committee) & Sdn. Harminder Kour Pavit, Simran, Gavya & Manya (Nephew & Niece)  
**9419201839, 9419170999**



S. Baneet Pal Singh (Chiky)

## OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sudden demise of our beloved **SMT. ANJAN BALA** W/o Sh. Bharat Bushan alias Bablu ji R/o Wengop presenty residing at Q. No. 181 Bakshi Nagar near Kameshwar Gas Agency.

**10th Day** will be performed on 22nd FEB.2024, at BHADRAKALI Mandir, Thawal.(Assembly) will be held at our residence at 11:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**SAMAST PARIVAR**  
Sh. Bharat Bushan alias Bablu ji (husband)  
**9419149707,**  
Ashish Pandita and Nisha Joshi (Son and daughter- in law)  
**9622320201,**  
Smt. Isha Bharti & Sh. Bharat Harish (Daughter and son-in-law)  
**600538922,**  
**8825015128.**  
**Daughter and son-in-law**  
Smt. Sakshi Bharti & Sh. Kuldeep Bharti  
**7006029091, 906073501, 9463338980, 9419684888,**  
**9596726206,** Kids: Jainil, Karin, Yashvini and Devansh



SMT. ANJAN BALA

## KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh Prahlad Sharma** R/O Pandit Ghum Kishwar presently residing at H.No. 1, Gole Gujral near Angad farms Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 12th Feb 2024.

**11th Day** - Kriya Ceremony-21st February at our residence Gole Gujral - 6 AM onwards

**Uthala** - 21st Feb Wednesday at Angadera Banquet Hall, Gole Gujral, Jammu 5PM.

We request the presence and blessings of our relatives, friends, and well-wishers during this solemn occasion to pray for the eternal peace of departed soul.

**Grief stricken :**

Smt. Usha Sharma (Wife)  
Sanjay Sharma and Neetika Sharma (Son and Daughter in law)  
Suresh Sharma and Surbhi Sharma (Son and Daughter in law)  
Archana Sharma and Kuldeep Sharma (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Arvi Sharma and Manoj Sharma (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Samast Bhardewahi Parivar, Pandit Ghum Kuleed.  
Cont.-91-8716888000, 9915906469



Sh. Prahlad Sharma

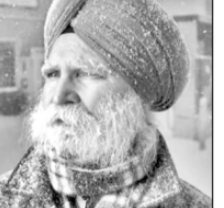
## SATSANG

In the memory of our dear brother **Manjit Singh Bali** S/o Late S. Balwant Singh Bali (Kanli Bagh Baramulla) who breathed his last on 15th February at Elora Guelgh Ontario Canada.

**Satsang** will be held at Gurdwara Digiana Jammu Ashram to pay homage to the departed soul on Friday 23rd February 2024 from 3pm to 5pm.

**Grief Stricken**

**Brother and Bhabhi**  
Jagjit Singh Bali and Ranjit Kour Bali (Kanli Bagh Baramulla)  
**9419027783, 8825078376**



Manjit Singh Bali

## CHOUBARSI

Choubarisi of our beloved Father **Sh. Romesh Chander Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Sharma R/o H.No. 158 Peer Mitha Jammu will be observed on 20th February, 2024 (Tuesday) at Brahman Sabha, Parade (Jammu) at 12.00 Noon followed by Priti Bhog. He left us for heavenly abode on 6th February, 2020.

**"Om Shanti Om"**

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:**  
Rakesh & Usha Sharma  
Vikram Dutt & Reva Shrikhande  
Vinay & Shalini Sharma  
Lalit & Rima Sharma  
Luxmi Narayan & Reva Sharma  
**All Grand Children**  
**Mb. 7889897268**



Sh. Romesh Chander Sharma

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## Goa Freedom Fighters Association J&K Org Secretary Call on LG Manoj Sinha

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Organising Secretary Goa Freedom Fighters Association J&K along with Shailendar Sharma, Ajay Singh Manhas & Navdeep wazir meet with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed about redressal of long pending demands of Goa Freedom fighters. In a recent meeting with LG Manoj Sinha, a delegation, under the leadership of Bharat Bhushan Sharma ji, highlighted the demands



and genuine issues of Goa's freedom fighters. He emphasized the urgency and priorities for recognition, support and preservation of their historical contributions. The Lt Governor expressed commitment to addressing these

concerns, marking a promising step toward honoring the legacy of Goa's unsung heroes. Further LG Manoj Sinha assured that he will take up this matter before Union Home ministry and other concerned officials.

## Prakash Premi's three Dogri Books released by Rachnakar Kala Sahitya Akademi Udhampur



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Rachnakar Kala Sahitya Akademi Udhampur released three Dogri books entitled 'Geetan Da Banjara', 'Amar Balidaan' and 'Lok Nayak Mian Dido' written by veteran Dogri Writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee Prakash Premi in a simple but an impressive function organized at Old Age Home Udhampur.

The function was presided over by Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu and eminent Dogri writer Darshan Darshi was Chief Guest on the occasion while dais was also shared by Padmashri Prof. Shiv Nirmohi, Former Brigadier Satish Sharma, Senior JKAS officer Rashpal Singh and Prakash Premi himself.

During the function detailed papers were presented by Dr. Yash Raina on 'Geetan Da Banjara', Surjit Hosh Badsali on 'Amar Balidaan' and Jagdeep Dubey on Lok Nayak Mian Doda.

While complementing Prakash Premi for having enriched Dogri literature with three more books, Darshan Darshi in his address said that Prakash Premi is a source of inspiration for many and is a living legend of dogri literature. He gave certain references to highlight his colossal contributions for enriching vocabulary and promotion of regional cultural heritage through his literary works.

Prof. Lalit Magotra, in his presidential address said that Prakash Premi has contributed a lot to Dogri literature and dogri lovers expect more from him in future also because whatever he has written is a class that helps dogri literature to stand at par with best literature written in any language. Dogri language is blessed to have a litterateur of his caliber.

He also added that the papers presented on each book were thought provoking and do open new dimensions to creative works.

He complemented the writers saying that critical analysis is a welcome step in Dogri Literature.

Other speakers Rashpal Singh and Satish Sharma who were special guests also spoke at length about their association with the prolific writer and his contributions to society as a creative person. Prakash Premi also spoke on the occasion and shared his experiences with the audience.

He extended his warm gratitude to all litterateurs and literature lovers for gracing the book release function with their august presence. Earlier Ashutosh Prashar welcomed all on behalf of Prakash Premi and Rachnakar Kala Sahitya Akademi Udhampur.

Ramalo Ram, eminent folk artist and recipient of this year's Padmashri award was also honoured on the occasion. The function was attended by galaxy of litterateurs, literature lovers and family members of Prakash Premi.

## KDP Wing of DPAP putforth demands

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: In a joint statement issued by the Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of Democratic Progressive Azad Party DPAP through its President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku and Naveen Gosani Youth President have put forth demands regarding displaced people for earliest consideration by the Concerned Authorities as a rightful right as per the Constitutional Rights. They demanded advance Ration and Relief in favour of Kashmiri Migrants on the eve of coming Maha Shivratri with three Kgs of Sugar per family.

Concerned Authorities are requested to get the rates, quality of materials required for Shiv Ratri, checked by flying Scott of different departments during these days on daily basis, especially in all Migrant Camps with favour of providing Walnut on fair price rates through Horticulture Department before ten days of Shiv Ratri including providing of other essentials as there is no fun to provide these items on the day of such pious festival.

The Concerned Authorities are also requested to ensure proper sanitation, cleanliness, regular water and power supply in the Camps as well as in Non camp colonies. The Police Authorities are

requested to deploy adequate police force in Camps for upkeep of security during festive days.

Concerned Authorities are requested to make good arrangements of essential commodities in all Transit Camps of Valley as well as in the areas where Kashmiri Hindus are still living on the eve of coming Maha Shiv Ratri Festival.

The Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir is requested to Sanction Special Festival Leave to the P.M Package employees working in Valley enabling them to celebrate Maha Shiv Ratri with their families at Jammu.

The Authorities are requested to direct Flower Culture department for providing best quality of fair price controlled rate flowers in all Camps from 05.03.2024 upto culmination of festival.

The Authorities of Food and Supplies Department is requested to frequently check the quality of grocery, meat, vegetables in advance in all Camp to curb the black marketing, exorbitant rates etc.

The Respected Relief Commissioner (M) is requested to deploy a Nodal Agency Team w.e.f; 01.03.2024 to 09.03.2024 in all Camps for ensuring proper arrangements in all required respects in Camps and for Coordination between all concerned departments to enable people for celebration of the festival.

## Rajesh Gupta accuses BJP of betrayal and failure to deliver promised development



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K general secretary and Media head of the party, Rajesh Gupta on Monday said that BSP will continue to oppose BJP Govt for rising unemployment, economic crisis, lack of development and also expose the saffron party's false promises and betrayals.

While interacting with media, here today, Gupta rued that people in the country, especially Jammu and Kashmir are confronted with the ugliest situation due to the policies adopted by Modi Govt.

"After realizing that it has failed to achieve what it had expected after 5 August 2019, several drives were started to divert the attention of the people from real issues, matter of the fact remains, people won't change their opinion and never forgive BJP for what it

has done in J&K," he added.

He alleged that the BJP exploited the electorate on different slogans on the name of religion, regions and caste but it was a tool to seek votes through these emotional issues.

BSP leader strongly raised the issue of PoJK refugees who feel cheated and betrayed. Instead of the recommended relief of Rs 30 lakh per family, only Rs 5.5 lakh per family was sanctioned by the BJP government. A large number of eligible families are still deprived of the relief, he claimed.

Gupta said that the prevailing political and security scenario in J&K tells the story of total failure of the Central government which left the erstwhile state in total chaos. The BSP leader accused the BJP of being habitual in raking up controversies to divert the attention of the people from their failure to provide a credible government in J&K.

"There is no accountability in the administration as a result of which the people are suffering on all fronts," he said. Gupta said the bureaucratic connection with the people is at an all-time low.

## Sainik Samaj Party urges PM Modi for grant of separate Jammu state

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 29: Col SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Pary JK UT, welcomed the visit of PM Narendra Modi, to the city of temples, Jammu, scheduled for February 20 and urged for separate Jammu state, which will pave the way for development of Jammu region and ensure the welfare of its people.

People of Jammu region have been discriminated, exploited, oppressed and subjugated for last 77 by Kashmiri centric politicians, with blessings of successive union governments, optimising the provisions contained in Article 370 and 35 A. Abrogation of Article 370 and 35 A, was truly historical and path breaking and achieved the complete integration



of Jammu and Kashmir with Union of India. This also resulted in breaking the back bone of militancy, elimination of hurriyat and a surgical strike on terror funding infrastructure. Pathania said, managing of 4200A sq. kilometres of area of JK UT, as UT cannot be a permanent feature, as it will adversely effect various Development and welfare projects. Goa, if an area of 3300 sq. kilometres and population of 7 lakhs can be given the status of a full-fledged state,

Jammu region with an area of 26000 sq. kms with a population of almost 70 lacs people, deserve the status of a state with safeguarding provisions of Article 371, considering the topography, demography,

a border state and ongoing proxy war unleashed by Pakistan for more than 33 years. Kashmir can continue to be a union territory on the line of Ladakh UT and move on the path of development and peace, having an area of about 15000 sq. kms. He urged honourable PM Modi to consider, socio, economical, political, geographical and demographical parameters and grant a separate Jammu state to the nationalist and patriotic people of Jammu region and end their sufferings of last 77 years.

## Congress emerges as only beacon of hope: Yashpal Kundal



### Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Feb 19: Former minister and UT Vice President Congress, Yashpal Kundal today sought special development and employment package for the border areas, saying these under-privileged pockets have peculiar problems and distinct aspirations. "Having suffered the most, the areas adjacent to International Border need some respite in terms of infrastructural development with focus on utility services", Kundal said during his extensive visit and interactions with the people of different different village of Ramgarh Assembly Constituency.

"The unemployment has increased among the unemployed youth

in Ramgarh Assembly Constituency whereas the scope of employment has reduced in the industrial sector," he said, adding, The unemployed youth have been falling into the trap of drug addiction that needs to be handled with careful crafting of policy for their employment in army, paramilitary forces, and J&K Police."

Kundal demanded reservation for the local youth in the industrial units of Samba & Bari Brahmana so that the skilled and unskilled youth of adjoining areas could be employed there.

Kundal said that Congress has emerged as the only beacon of hope in Jammu and Kashmir

and rest of India as there is widespread disappointment against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) among the public.

Kundal said that there are "thousands of daily wagers who have been struggling to fight for their rights since long". "It has been years together since the daily wagers are taking to the streets to fight for the regularisation. But, they are only getting promises by the successive regimes," he said.

He said that the Prime Minister, who is visiting J&K today, "should make an announcement with regard to the regularisation of the daily wagers within the period of 30-60 days" On this occasion, influenced by the policies of the Congress party, several individuals joined the party fold.

Kundal urged the new members to actively promote the Congress party's policies and spread awareness at the grassroots level to strengthen the party's position.

## Developed faith in Apni Party, its leadership: Manjit Singh



### Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 19: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh today the youth have developed faith in the Party leadership and its agenda of development.

As per a press release, a meeting of youth was organized by Irshan Choudhary, Block President, Youth Wing, Bari Brahmana.

Mohammed Ashraf, Secretary Apni Trade Union, was also present on the occasion. The meeting was organized at village Meen Sarkar, Bari Brahmana in District Samba.

During the meeting, the youth highlighted their concern over the

growing unemployment and insufficient opportunities in the private sector and industrial sector.

While holding deliberation, the Former Minister said that the traditional political parties have failed to deliver as per the expectation of the people.

"These political parties have exploited the youth as vote banks and tried to divide the society on the name of region and religion," he said, while referring to the policy of autonomy, self-rule and discrimination with Jammu.

He said that Jammu has been facing the worst kind of disparity regarding unemployment, development, and allocation of funds after

several years because there is no elected Govt.

In the wake of the exploitation of the youth in both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the youth have now pinned their hopes with the Apni Party because of its developmental agenda and policy of promoting unity and integrity.

Meanwhile, he also referred to the promotion of sportsmanship among the youth. "The drug addiction among the unemployed youth has increased and the authorities have not been able to handle the issue that has given birth to multiple criminal activities," he added.

He demanded coordinated efforts to curb drug addiction with the active involvement of civil society, and police.



## EDITORIAL

TRIUMPHANT  
RETURN

Lord Rama, the 7th avatar of Vishnu, one of the Trimurti in Hinduism, is believed to have been born in Ayodhya, which lies in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India. Hence, Ayodhya is also called Ram Janmabhoomi. This place is very holy for Hindus as Rama is a highly revered deity, who is also called Maryada Purushottam or the ideal man.

It has been a long-cherished dream of Hindus to have a grand temple for their beloved deity, Lord Rama, in his birthplace, Ayodhya. Ayodhya is holy ground for Hindus, as Ram was born here. Moreover, he is the avatar of Vishnu. Hence, to rebuild the Ram temple in Ayodhya, where people worshipped him in ancient times, has been a highly emotive issue for the Hindu community.

The new Ram Mandir will symbolize the triumphant return of Rama to Ayodhya after centuries of exile following the Mughal invasion. It means many things to many people. It means a validation of faith for devotees. For the people of Ayodhya, it means brighter days ahead, as the temple will attract tourists from all over India and the world, giving a boost to the economy. It will also burnish the image of the city as a renowned pilgrimage destination due to the vastly improved infrastructure and other facilities.

Hindus believe that many centuries ago, there was a temple for Rama in his birthplace. Here, devotees worshipped Rama in his child form, Ram Lalla. However, the Mughals destroyed this temple, and a mosque came up in the same location. This was the Babri Masjid mosque.

Excavations carried out at the site in 1976-77 revealed the remains of an ancient and grand Hindu temple beneath the Babri mosque. Twelve pillars of the Babri mosque, which was under police custody at the time, were made from the remains of the temple, says K.K. Muhammad, one of the members of the ASI (Archeological Survey of India) team that carried out the excavation. Many such mosques in India in fact were built using the spoils of Hindu temples. This is a historical fact.

Some people contested the discovery of the temple remains, so another excavation took place in 2003, by which time the mosque had been destroyed. In 1992, a rampaging Hindu mob of kar sevaks demolished the mosque, leading to widespread riots and communal tensions. The second excavation revealed that a very large and imposing structure had existed once. The team found more than 50 pillar bases in 17 rows. The structure dates back to the 12th century AD. As terracotta objects depicting living beings like animals and also gods and goddesses were found in the ruins, it was clear that they belonged to a temple and not a mosque, as Islam does not allow such depictions.

Also, the archeologists discovered two pieces of a Vishnu Hari Sheela Phalak inscription in the ruins. The evidence suggested that the temple had associations with an avatar of Vishnu who had slain Bali and a 10-headed person.

The first police complaint in the Ayodhya dispute was in 1858, and the first cases were filed in 1885. However, the movement for Ram Mandir got a huge thrust in 1989 when the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) laid a foundation stone ('shilanyas') at the disputed site.

In September 1990, BJP leader, LK Advani, began a Rath Yatra from Gujarat's Somnath to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh to create awareness about the Ram Janmabhoomi issue and to raise support for building a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. It led to communal tensions, and in December 1992, kar sevaks climbed the Babri Masjid mosque and demolished it.

Hindus and Muslim litigants fought a prolonged court battle to claim the disputed site, and finally, the Supreme Court delivered a verdict in 2019 allowing temple construction at the site. Muslim litigants got a 5-acre plot of land to build a mosque elsewhere in Ayodhya as compensation.

Once the dispute ended, the temple construction began. The inauguration of the Ram Mandir temple will be on January 22, 2024, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of spiritual leaders and other eminent personalities.

## The bond of wealth, power: SC verdict won't end nexus

By: Sanjaya Baru

The verdict of the Supreme Court on the electoral bonds scheme has been widely welcomed. Even the Bharatiya Janata Party, the scheme's biggest beneficiary, has also welcomed it. While this verdict may make the scheme more transparent, it is unlikely to end the nexus between wealth and power that defines any democracy.

During the Congress era, the Communists used to refer to the Union government as the "Tata-Birla ki Sarkar". Today they refer to it as the "Adani-Ambani ki Sarkar".

Through the electoral bonds scheme, the Narendra Modi government spread its net wide, beyond big business, and garnered more than a lion's share of the contributions. The late Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, the Big Bull on Dalal Street, once famously told a journalist that his Agrawal community within the bania caste "owned the country". Look at the names, he said, Jindal, Goyal, Mittal, Bansal, Singhal and so on and on. "So, boss, do we own the country or not?" The dominant section of the business community across the country is invested heavily in Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his BJP and in Hindutva. So, why would the BJP not corner as much as 90 per cent of the electoral bonds issued in this past half-decade?

The shifts in Indian politics over the past seven decades have, without doubt, shaped the social composition of the political power elite. Their caste, class and regional composition has certainly changed. The rise of the inter-

mediate castes, the OBCs, has been one of the major structural changes in both the class and caste composition of the ruling political class. Yet, the land-owning upper castes have retained their place of prominence and dominance in many regions. From the Jats and Rajputs of North India to the Marathas and Patels of western India and the Reddys, Kammas, Velamas, Chettiars and Nairs of the South, the upper castes have retained their presence in business and politics.

As I have tried to explain in my book, *India's Power Elite: Caste, Class and a Cultural Revolution* (Penguin, 2021), in India's "psephocracy", as sociologist Ashis Nandy characterised an electoral democracy, wealth remains, above all, the most important determinant of power. The cost of getting people out on election day to cast their vote is rising even as their trust in the system may be waning. Several recent studies have focused on the role of "money power" in politics and the nexus between crime, business and politics. The rising cost of election campaigns, the inability of the State to enforce the rules pertaining to election funding and, more recently, the brazen manner in which political parties in power are able to corner the bulk of the funds provided by corporates and other donors has made politics a game of the rich in which the wealthy become wealthier and are able to become politically more powerful.

It is not, therefore, surprising that a disproportionate number of the members of state legislatures and Parliament are wealthy. There

had been some dilution of this aspect in the first decade after Independence with more members of the middle class, including rich peasants, entering politics. However, as election expenses have grown and with the rising importance of political office as a source of both power and wealth, there has been a rise in the number of the wealthy among the elected

representatives of the people. Consider the social composition of the 17th Lok Sabha, that was elected in 2019. It has more wealthy members than any other Lok Sabha in the past half century. Data collated by the Association for Democratic Rights shows that as many as 475 MPs (constituting 88 per cent of the 539 MPs for whom data was available) have assets upwards of Rs 10 million (Rs 1 crore), slightly up from 443 (82 per cent) in the 16th Lok Sabha. Out of 542 winners analysed during the Lok Sabha 2014 elections, 443 (82 per cent) winners were crorepatists. In the 15th Lok Sabha (2009-14), the comparable number was appreciably less at 315 (58 per cent).

The ADR study shows that not only had MPs become richer during the five years they were members of the Lok Sabha, but that in successive elections since 2009 the proportion of "crorepati" candidates among the victors has also risen. In other words, the wealthy had a better chance of securing admission to political office, and that office became an important source of acquiring wealth. In a country with a nominal per capita income that is less than Rs 200,000 per annum, and at least a fifth of

the population living in abject poverty, it is surprising that an overwhelming number of elected representatives, both in the Lok Sabha and in the state Assemblies, are millionaires, if not billionaires.

The ADR data showed that with the exception of MPs from the Communist parties, all other MPs of all other parties were millionaires, with the BJP having the largest number of them. As many as a third of MPs in the 17th Lok Sabha had assets worth more than Rs 50 million, while average assets per winning MP was Rs 21 million. The wealthiest MPs, however, came from smaller political parties like the YSR Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, DMK, Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) and the Akali Dal.

These are, of course, declared assets, and that too, in the name of the specified individual and not of all family members taken together. Many wealthy Indians hold considerable wealth in the name of their spouse. The ADR data also shows, interestingly, that MPs from regional parties like the Akali Dal, BRS and the Nationalist Congress Party saw the highest increase in wealth of sitting MPs between the general elections of 2014 and 2019.

The role of money power in politics has only increased with time and this is reflected in the wealth of elected politicians. With the decline of the Congress, the balance of power and wealth has shifted in favour of the BJP. Hindutva politics has arrived with deep pockets, with the rural and urban rich bankrolling the BJP, making it the richest political party. The electoral bonds scheme was just one more instrument used by a party in power to cement the alliance between wealth and power.

## New-look London Overground open; Baroness Shreela's remarkable legacy

By: Kishwar Desai

Miracles will never cease. Paul McCartney's original bass guitar — a Hofner 500/1, no less, that he bought in 1961 for thirty pounds (a lot of money in those days) — has been found. He played it at the Cavern club in Liverpool and at Abbey Road for that iconic LP. But then the guitar was "lost". Now after 54 years it has been returned to him by a student, Ruiadhri Guest, who said he had inherited it. It was discovered in an attic in Hastings. The last time McCartney had used it was in the Beatles album, *Let It Be*.

That is not the only good news. The sun is shining and there is a promise of spring in the air. Even the by-elections or the recession in the economy is not dampening down the people enjoying the lovely weather.

London has always had the Underground. Now it has Overground railways as well. Sadiq Khan who faces election as Mayor just unveiled the new lines. The underground has routine names like Northern and Central. These new Overground railways have

trendy names. There is Lioness celebrating the successful English women's soccer team. Windrush — in honour of the boat that brought Afro-Caribbean people back in the 1940s and which changed the cultural scene with Bob Marley and the Notting Hill carnival. There is the Suffragette line to commemorate the women who fought for the vote.

These overground lines (somewhat like Paul McCartney's guitar) have been recovered from little used overground railway lines. So Sadiq Khan is frugal as well as imaginative. Let us hope it helps him get back in as Mayor.

But elsewhere there is trouble. Students can no longer afford night life. Swinging London from when the Beatles and the Rolling Stones ruled the roost is gone. Night venues for dancing are shutting down. Even pubs are suffering. There is a recession in the economy and it is telling.

But fortunately for authors — money is not everything. There is now to be a new literary prize for women authors for nonfiction writing. It turns out that women have caught up with men in fiction but

they are lagging in the non-fiction prize field. So we now have 16 women shortlisted for a nonfiction prize worth 30,000 pounds. Naomi Klein, the well-known Guardian columnist, is shortlisted. Sixteen titles on the long list will be narrowed down to six on March 27 and winner will be announced on June 13.

One person who will be sorely missed is Baroness Shreela Flather, who just passed away.

She was a pioneer in many ways. She was the first woman Mayor of Maidenhead as well as a member of the European Parliament and entered the House of Lords as the first woman of Indian origin.

She sat on the Conservative benches and remained a fiercely independent member with a marvellous wit and a keen debating style. She married Gary Flather, a barrister and judge, but revelled in her Indian roots. We, at the Partition Museum (set up by the trust that I chair in Amritsar and Delhi) were delighted to interview her as she was the descendant of the great Sir Gangaram — who set up institutions in Lahore and India. She was proud of the connec-

tion — especially when one remembers that the hospitals he set up in both countries have survived the Partition. But in her own right she has left a permanent monument in London in the vicinity of the Buckingham Palace. It is a memorial to all the soldiers of the Commonwealth who fought and died during the world wars. She raised the money, made the arrangements and secured the place. There is a memorable photograph of hers in the Parliament gallery. A true pioneer.

Shreela ushered in a new chapter for Parliament — but the House of Lords has recently gained a new woman member who is also a novelty. She is only 27, Welsh and does not approve of the unelected House. She belongs to the Welsh nationalist party Plaid Cymru which nominated her. She intends to take her oath in Welsh and wear her Martens Boots. That may wake up some noble lords from their afternoon nap but then they are used to that. Perhaps it was about time the House of Lords got a young rebel!



## Vivek Singh of Arni University awarded with Best Chancellor Award



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: One of the most prestigious private universities of Himachal Pradesh, Arni University added another feather to its crown by bagging the Best Chancellor award in the private sector.

Arni University's Chancellor Vivek Singh bagged the Best Chancellor Award among private universities in the state. At a grand ceremony held in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presented the Award to Vivek Singh.

This accolade highlights Mr. Vivek Singh's exemplary leadership and dedication to advancing higher education in the state. Vivek Singh expressed gratitude for the honor, emphasizing the university's commitment to academic excellence and societal impact.

He said, "I am very encouraged by this honour as it acknowledges our contributions to higher education in Himachal Pradesh. At Arni University, we have always believed in contributing to social causes."

Under the visionary leadership of Vivek Singh, Arni University has consistently demonstrated its commitment to fostering inclusivity and supporting the educational aspirations of various communities.

In a ground breaking initiative, the university has introduced special provisions for students from defense families, starting with the Jammu and Kashmir Scholarship Scheme.

This initiative aims to facilitate access to quality education for deserving candidates recommended by the Indian Army's Northern Command Headquarters.

Vivek Singh reiterated the university's vision of "Skill Comprehensive Higher Education," emphasizing its role in equipping students with the skills needed to excel in their chosen fields and contribute meaningfully to society. This forward-thinking approach has made Arni University a preferred destination for students from across Northern India, leading to a significant increase in student enrollment over the years.

As Arni University continues to evolve and innovate, it remains committed to empowering students and serving as a catalyst for positive change in the region. The recognition of Chancellor Vivek Singh with the Best Chancellor Award underscores the university's dedication to excellence and leadership in higher education.

## NLP J&K holds meeting at baramulla, Dozens of local people joined the party

### Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Feb 19: a meet was held at Channad, District Baramulla meeting was organised by Shahnaza Akther and Riyaz Ahmad Bhat in which Rubina Akhter, National General Secretary, Muhammad Yakub

of locals have joined National Loktantrik Party (NLP).

Mushtaq Ahmed (Sarpanch & State Youth Secretary, Baramulla), and Hazik Fayaz, State Youth Secretary, Srinagar present in the meeting.

It was vowed that



Dunoo, State Youth President and Lucky All, State General Secretary & All Morcha Incharge were Chief Guests. In the meeting dozens

agenda and works of National Loktantrik Party is to take Jammu and Kashmir to new levels of peace and prosperity.

## GDC R S Pura organizes awareness lecture on skill courses under NEP 2020



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Career Counselling and Placement Cell of Govt. Degree College, R. S. Pura under the banner of IQAC organized one day seminar on the topic "Awareness in Skill courses" as part of orientation program for the students. The event was conducted under the patronage of the Principal Prof. Rajni Bhagat and supervision of Dr. Rajinder Sharma, IQAC Coordinator & Head Department of Botany and Prof. Shelly Kalsi, Convener Career Counselling and Placement Cell.

The resource person was Mr. Tawqeer Ul Islam from Evergreen Education Trust, an authorized training partner of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). He spoke on the process of admis-

sion in various skill training course under NSDC and SSC.

He deliberated upon the different career prospects after completing these courses.

Principal of the college, Dr. Rajni Bhagat appreciated the efforts of the college organizing committee and also advised the students to follow the guidelines and procedures for skill based courses. About 90 students participated in the seminar.

The faculty members who grace the occasion were Dr. Rakesh Coudhary, Dr. Vijeta Anand, Prof. Neelam Kumari, Dr. Renu Sharma, Prof. Vishal Sharma and Dr. Sunil Mangoch.

The event was concluded with the Vote of thanks presented by Dr. Neeti Chhibber, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany.

## Ajeet Bhagat appeals to LG, CS to set up Separate Office of Public Information

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 19: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior leader, Spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat has appealed to Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to set up public information office in each Districts to prevent wrong doing.

Bhagat said that the RTI Act can be easily implemented. Tactics in Government Departments say Government Officials have become accustomed to violating the RTI Act.

Bhagat said a large number of people have submitted RTI requests for information, but surprising, the information has not been provided.

The National Conference leader said the appeal has been disposed of with instruction to provide information but no Officer respects the order of the first appealing Officer and no action has been initiated against the Officers con-

cerned by the appealing Officer under the RTI Act. Not done this is the volume of mismanagement.

"We have only RTI as a tool to curb corruption if a Public Information Office is set up outside the departments, it will be beneficial for general Information seekers as they will work with keen interest to provide Information. It will also report wrongdoing to the Central Information Commission Government Officials are doing," he said.

Ajeet Bhagat said that the Rural Development Department, Public Health Engineering, PWD R&B and Horticulture Departments corruption is skyrocketing due to lack of Information.especially in the Rural Development Department.

The National Conference Leader further appealed Lt. Governor Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to form an audit team specifically for now disclosure of Information and to penalize the Government Officers for making mistakes under RTI Act Rules.

## 7 days NSS special winter camp culminated at GDC R S Pura



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: A Seven Days Special Winter Camp culminated at GDC R.S Pura organized by the NSS unit of the college from 12th February 2024 to 19th February 2024 under the patronage of worthy principal of the college Dr. Rajni Bhagat and Supervision of Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO.

A valedictory function was organised by the NSS volunteers on the the successful culmination of the week long endeavour. The College Principal Dr. Rajni Bhagat was the Chief Guest was on the occasion and the programme started with the lighting of the lamp followed by Saraswati vandana.

The function started with a welcome address by the principal of the college and then the detailed report of seven days was presented by the NSS Programme Officer, Dr. Chanchal

Angral. She praised the efforts of the NSS students and congratulated them for the success of the programme..

Enunciating the activities, the Programme Officer said that about 40 students participated in the camp with great fervor and enthusiasm. The event witnessed cleanliness drive along with decoration cum painting of trees, development of aromatic garden, Sharamdaan, cleanliness drive at Gharana wetland under water body conservation, a lecture by Dr. Shalini Bhagat on eradication of dreaded parasites and awareness on CA cervix in females and other related issues and means to prevent them.

A Plantation drive was also conducted in the campus by NSS volunteers under the supervision of the Principal of the college.

A Cultural program comprised of dances,songs ,speeches, poetry and NSS

song was presented by NSS volunteers and their talent was highly appreciated by the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest Dr. Rajni Bhagat applauded the efforts made by NSS volunteers for doing a great job and asked them to continue to work with the same spirit and responsibility as such activities instill a sense of ownership and belongingness among students for their surroundings and boost their confidence and develop their overall personality. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Hari Singh, NSS member ans Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology. Dr. Neena Gupta, Prof. Shifali Abrol, Dr. Raj Kumari, Prof Jai Mala Thakur, Prof. Vishal Sharma, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Prof Rajinder Singh and Dr Rakesh Kalotra

graced the occasion by their presence and also applauded the volunteers for their efforts.

## All India Global Service Foundation Holds Awareness Program

### Top News Report

DODA, Feb 19: All India Global Service Foundation J&K held an awareness program at panchayat Ichrir in sub division Gandoh of Doda district to create awareness among the masses regarding Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Govt.

The awareness program was held under the chairmanship of district president of Foundation Iqrah Parveen in presence of other office bearers and prominent citizens. General public of the area was invited to attend the program and awareness regarding various

Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Central Govt. was given to the audience.

Speaking on the occasion Iqrah Parveen, threw light on various schemes launched by the Govt of India for the welfare of common masses and urged the desirous beneficiaries to avail the benefits of such Central Sponsored Schemes.

The organizers extented gratitude to the district administration Doda for giving them opportunity to hold the program and also thanked the participants to make the program successful.

## Model Academy organizes Hubs of Learning programme



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Model Academy recently organized Hubs of Learning programme, aiming to foster collaborative skills among teachers. The event saw participation from esteemed institutions like Army Public School, Jammu Cantt, Regional Research Laboratory School, Air Force School, Army Public School, Domana, and Model Academy itself.

Notable attendees included Rupa Gupta, Joint Director of MIER, P.K. Srivastava, Principal, and J.K. Dhiman, Vice Principal. Special invitees were Pushpinder Kaur, Principal of APS, Domana, and Puneet Kaur, Principal of APS, Jammu Cantt.

The programme was attended by 20 faculty members from the partner schools.

"Hubs Of Learning" and initiative launched

by CBSE is a concept that provides a common platform aimed at embedding best practices and ideas in school communities, and to encourage the professional development of teachers, mobilise teachers, parents, students and other community partners, bring together expertise for the improvement of all stakeholders, experience joyful learning, and create educational leadership that collaborates at all levels for accelerating improvement.

Through engaging PowerPoint presentations, teachers delved into topics such as developing teaching potential, fostering high self-esteem, nurturing a mindset conducive to child development, and the pivotal role of teachers in value education.

The collaborative atmosphere facilitated by partnerships between various schools promised an ecosystem con-

ducive to effective work and growth.

Dr. Adit Gupta, Director MIER, emphasized the importance of collaboration in exposing educators to best practices and enabling the adoption or adaptation of these practices. P.K. Srivastava welcomed the initiative, highlighting its potential to facilitate the exchange of diverse ideas, thus enhancing classroom practices, and fostering continuous professional development among teachers.

In his closing remarks, J.K. Dhiman advised teachers to implement the discussed strategies for cultivating a healthy and harmonious classroom environment.

The event was expertly introduced by Manju Vai and efficiently coordinated by Mukul Arora, Priyanka Malhotra, Nisha Arora, Disha Sethi, and Sakshi Sharma, with technical support provided by Amisha Mehta.



## 'Oppenheimer' wins seven prizes, including Best Picture, at British Academy Film Awards

Atom bomb epic 'Oppenheimer' won seven prizes, including best picture, director and actor, at the 77th British Academy Film Awards on Sunday, cementing its front-runner status for the Oscars next month.

Gothic fantasia 'Poor Things' took five prizes and Holocaust drama 'The Zone of Interest' won three.

Christopher Nolan won his first Best Director BAFTA for 'Oppenheimer', and Cillian Murphy won the best actor prize for playing physicist J Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the atomic bomb.

Murphy said he was grateful to play such a "colossally knotty, complex character". Emma Stone was named best actress for playing the wild and spirited Bella Baxter in 'Poor Things', a steampunk-style visual extravaganza that won prizes for visual effects, production design, costume design, and makeup and hair.

'Oppenheimer' had a field-leading 13 nominations, but missed out on the record of nine trophies, set in 1971 by 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid'.

It won the best film race against 'Poor Things', 'Killers of the Flower Moon', 'Anatomy of a Fall' and 'The Holdovers'. 'Oppenheimer' also won trophies for editing, cinematography and musical score, as well as the Best Supporting Actor prize for Robert Downey Jr.

Da'Vine Joy Randolph was named best supporting actress for playing a boarding school cook in 'The Holdovers' and said she felt a "responsibility I don't take lightly" to tell the stories of underrepresented people like her character Mary.

'Oppenheimer' faced stiff competition in what was widely considered a vintage year for cinema and an awards season



energised by the end of actors' and writers' strikes that shut down Hollywood for months.

'The Zone of Interest' — a British-produced film shot in Poland with a largely German cast — was named both best British film and best film not in English — a first — and also took the prize for its sound, which has been described as the real star of the film.

Jonathan Glazer's unsettling drama takes place in a family home just outside the walls of the Auschwitz death camp, whose horrors are heard and hinted at, rather than seen.

"Walls aren't new from before or since the Holocaust, and it seems stark right now that we should care about innocent people being killed in Gaza or Yemen or Mariupol or Israel," producer James Wilson said. "Thank you for recognising a film that asks us to think in those spaces."

Ukraine war documentary '20 Days in Mariupol', produced by The Associated Press and PBS 'Frontline', won the prize for best documentary.

"This is not about us," said filmmaker Mstyslav Chernov, who captured the harrowing reality of life in the besieged city with an

AP team. "This is about Ukraine, about the people of Mariupol".

Chernov said the story of the city and its fall into Russian occupation "is a symbol of struggle and faith. Thank you for empowering our voice and let's just keep fighting." The awards ceremony, hosted by 'Doctor Who' star David Tennant — who entered wearing a kilt and sequined top while carrying a dog named Bark Ruffalo — was a glitzy, British-accented appetizer for Hollywood's Academy Awards, closely watched for hints about who might win at the Oscars on March 10.

The prize for original screenplay went to French courtroom drama 'Anatomy of a Fall'. The film about a woman on trial over the death of her husband was written by director Justine Triet and her partner, Arthur Harari.

"It's fiction, and we are reasonably fine," Triet joked.

Cord Jefferson won the adapted screenplay prize for the satirical 'American Fiction', about the struggles of an African-American novelist Jefferson said he hoped the success of the movie "maybe changes the minds of the people who are in charge of greenlighting films and TV shows, allows them to be less risk-averse."

The historical epic 'Killers of the Flower Moon' had nine nominations for the awards, officially called the EE BAFTA Film Awards, but went home empty-handed.

There also was disappointment for Leonard Bernstein's biopic 'Maestro', which had seven nominations but won no awards. Neither did the grief-flecked love story 'All of Us Strangers' with six nominations, and barbed class-war dramedy 'Saltburn', with five.

'Barbie', one-half of 2023's 'Barbenheimer' box office juggernaut and the year's top-grossing film, also went home empty-handed from five nominations. 'Barbie' director Greta Gerwig failed to get a directing nomination for either the BAFTAs or the Oscars, in what was seen by many as a major snub.

Britain's film academy introduced changes to increase the awards' diversity in 2020, when no women were nominated as best director for the seventh year running and all 20 nominees in the lead and supporting performer categories were white. However, Triet was the only woman among this year's six best-director nominees.

The Rising Star award, the only category decided by public vote, went to Mia McKenna-Bruce, star of 'How to Have Sex'.

Before the ceremony, nominees, including Bradley Cooper, Carey Mulligan, Emily Blunt, Rosamund Pike, Ryan Gosling and Ayo Edebiri walked the red carpet at London's Royal Festival Hall, along with presenters Andrew Scott, Cate Blanchett, Idris Elba and David Beckham.

Guest of honour was Prince William, in his role as president of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

## No point getting upset over award snubs, says actress Helen Mirren



Veteran Hollywood star Helen Mirren has said there is no point in being 'upset' at a lack

of awards' nominations, though she does wish actress Margot Robbie and Greta Gerwig had

been nominated for Oscars. The 78-year-old actress found it disheartening when Robbie and Gerwig failed to be recognised in the Academy Awards shortlists for their work in Barbie.

Helen said, "You can't get upset about things like that, honestly. What is fantastic is that Barbie was the highest-grossing film that Warner Brothers has ever had in their lives and do you remember who won best film of the year before last? I mean, of course I would have loved to have seen Greta be nominated, and I think she should win best director. It's so difficult, it's not a running race, you know, you can't."

"Christopher Nolan's work on Oppenheimer was spectacular, extraordinary. But for me, Greta's work was so out there, it was so brave, it was something we'd never seen before. I just love the fact that the audience responded the way it did," she added.

Helen also confirmed rumours that there is a deleted scene from Barbie in which she fought with a 'drunk' Olivia Colman, as the Crown actress attempted to take over her narrator's job. She said, "We did shoot that scene, yes we did. I'd love to see it sometime."

## Paramvir Singh Cheema says playing Prashant in Sapne v/s Everyone helped him disengage from the emotional turmoil he internalised while portraying dark and aggressive

Paramvir Singh Cheema is currently revelling in the success of his latest OTT venture, Chamak. These days, he is best known as Kaala, the character he portrays in the show. Centered on the journey of a Punjabi singer, the series vividly captures the grind and hustle of an artiste. However, he isn't your typical musician; Kaala is dark and aggressive.

To embody this character, Paramvir shares, "I had to lose a significant amount of weight to ensure my eyes stood out, as much of my performance relied on my eyes. I grew my hair for six months, tanned my skin to achieve a darker look, and revamped my wardrobe."

While physical preparation was essential, delving into Kaala's psyche required even more effort. Paramvir explains, "I immersed myself in understanding the journeys of singers by reading about them, watching their interviews, and exploring their biographies. Influenced by artistes like Kanwar Grewal, Gurdas Maan, Sidhu Moosewala, Arif Lohar, and Tupac among rappers, I crafted a backstory in my mind to authentically portray emotions on screen."

Initially, Kaala may evoke a sense of revulsion, but Paramvir assures that as the show progresses, viewers will develop a connection with the char-



acter. "In the storyline, Kaala's father is killed in his homeland, leading to a tale of revenge that rationalises Kaala's behaviour as the narrative unfolds."

The death of Kaala's father, portrayed by Gippy Grewal, in the first episode draws parallels to a historical event in Punjabi music. It bears resemblance to the assassination of Amar Singh Chamkila and Amarjot Kaur in 1988. When asked if the show is loosely based on their lives, Paramvir responds, "While that particular scene might suggest a connection, the focus of the show is to highlight that such tragic deaths should not occur. Numerous artistes, not only in the Punjabi music industry but also globally among rappers, have faced similar fates. The recent incident with Sidhu Moosewala remains shrouded in mystery." Having immersed himself in the role of Kaala for months, Paramvir found it challenging to disengage from the character's emo-

tional turmoil. "Holding onto that trauma was not easy. Fortunately, Sapne v/s Everyone came along, and portraying Prashant in the show helped me move beyond it."

Paramvir has experienced consecutive success with Tabbar, Chamak, and now Sapne v/s Everyone. Anticipation surrounds the release of Chamak Season 2, but he admits, "After completing the shoot for Chamak 2, director Rohit Jugraj cautioned me against taking up another dark or negative role, fearing that people might start disliking me. That's how much pain I've lived through Kaala."

Reflecting on his journey to success, it's hard to ignore the fact that he contemplated giving up acting during the lockdown. The son of an advocate-turned-farmer, Paramvir returned to Jalandhar to do farming in 2020 after spending four years in Mumbai. His story unfolds like a movie script. "It all happened spontaneously. In 2016, a friend asked

me to walk the ramp, and I won the contest. Encouraged by a friend, I participated in the Mr Punjab pageant and reached the finale. This gave me the confidence to move to Delhi and participate in Mr India, which I also won. Life took a new direction in just six months." Despite initial success, Paramvir faced the harsh realities of Mumbai. Struggling with no money and limited opportunities, he turned to casting for projects like Satyamev Jayate 2, Rocket Boys and Adhura.

It was his father who convinced him to persevere. "Having seen my work in a couple of TV series, he told me to not quit acting but I got busy with the farmers' protest. During the protest, I received an audition call for Tabbar. Following my father's advice, I recorded the audition right from protest site."

The rest, as they say, is history. Tabbar led to Chamak, followed by Sapne v/s Everyone. Now content in his space, Paramvir aspires to shine on the silver screen and collaborate with 'great directors'. "Whether Punjabi directors like Jatinder Mauhar and Jagdeep Sidhu or in Hindi, Anubhav Sinha and Anurag Kashyap, working with them would be a joy. They create cinema that impacts people, brings about change in others' lives, and that's my dream—to bring joy through my work."

## Jodie Foster is amazed at her nomination for Oscar again, 47 years after Taxi Driver



Acclaimed actress-filmmaker Jodie Foster finds it 'cool' that there has been 47 years between her first Oscar nomination for Taxi Driver and her most recent for Nyad.

The 61-year-old actress was recently shortlisted for the Best Actress in a Supporting Role accolade for her work on Nyad, a biographical sports drama film about swimmer Diana Nyad's multiple attempts in the early 2010s to swim the Straits of Florida, with flashbacks to her early life. Jodie, whose first nomination was for Taxi Driver in 1976, said, "Oh, really. That's cool, I like that statistic. Look, I worked in the sixties, the seventies, the eighties, the nineties, the

noughts, the tens and the twenties... That's amazing, all those different eras."

The True Detective actress became the youngest double Oscar winner in history when she was 29, taking Best Actress in a Leading Role for The Accused in 1988 and Silence of the Lambs in 1991. She appreciated the freedom of being able to take her career in her own direction, including choosing more unorthodox roles and directing her first movie, Little Man Tate.

Jodie, who was also nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role for Nell in 1994, was just six years old when she began her acting career.

## John Cena stuns fans as he sings Shah Rukh Khan's 'Bholi si surat' from 'Dil To Pagal Hai'

Shah Rukh Khan's charm is unparalleled. His fans are all over the world. Even wrestler-turned-actor John Cena is a great admirer of King Khan and in the recent video, he can be seen singing King Khan's popular song 'Bholi si surat' from 'Dil To Pagal Hai'.

Taking to X, Shah Rukh Khan Universe Fan Club shared the video, in which John can be seen delighting fans by crooning to King Khan's hit song.

He said before singing the song, "You never know where you can learn, when you choose



the path of growth. Here we are in a gym, so we are growing. There are tons of paths to grow so I am going to try my best to learn the song."

After the post, one fan

wrote, "Very Sweet... Love you John Cena Sir", while another wrote, "Shah rukh khan sir the biggest and most loved movie star on planet earth". The song 'Bholi

si surat', originally performed by Udit Narayan and Lata Mangeshkar, continues to captivate audiences decades after its premiere.

'Dil To Pagal Hai' received significant critical praise and numerous Filmfare Awards.

Professional wrestler Gurmehar Singh, who teaches him the lyrics and tunes to the song, said, "This is for you Mr Shah Rukh Khan."

He posted the video with the caption, "Lifting weights and singing Shah Rukh Khan songs @johnkena @wweindia @iamsrk".



## India bringing back its ancient idols from abroad, getting record foreign investment also: PM Modi

Was addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone of the Shri Kalki Dham temple in Uttar Pradesh

SAMBHAL (UP), Feb 19 (Agencies): The circle of time has moved, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, noting that the country is not only bringing back its ancient idols from abroad but also getting record foreign investment.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone of the Shri Kalki Dham temple here in Uttar Pradesh, he said on the one hand places of pilgrimage are being developed and, on the other, cities are getting hi-tech infrastructure.



The programme was attended by seers and religious leaders from across the country.

"Our ancient idols are being brought back from abroad and we are getting record foreign

investment, the circle of time has moved," the prime minister said and highlighted that "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had encouraged us to take pride in our identity".

Modi, who was accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Kalki Dham Peethadheeshwar Acharya Pramod Krishnam, also unveiled a model of the temple.

The Shri Kalki Dham is being constructed by the Shri Kalki Dham Nirman Trust whose chairman is Krishnam.

## Serious constitutional crisis has arisen in Delhi, says CM Kejriwal in Assembly



NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said a "serious constitutional crisis" has arisen in the national capital as officers are saying they will not work because of alleged "threats and pressure" from the BJP.

This problem stems from Delhi not enjoying full statehood and the real power lies with the central government,

which is led by a different party, and "that other party does not want that the elected government (of Delhi) does its work", he said during his address in the Delhi Assembly.

Kejriwal also said the one-time settlement scheme to rectify water bills is being "obstructed" by some officers.

The chief minister alleged that the officers are being threatened to block the one-time settlement scheme for correcting water bills because of pressure from the BJP.

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP.

Kejriwal also claimed the officers' unwillingness to work has led to a "serious constitutional crisis" in Delhi.

He appealed to Lt Governor VK Saxena to call the officers for clearance of the scheme and added that 10.5 lakh families will benefit from this "good scheme".

## 3 dead after car crashes into truck on Amritsar-Jamnagar National Highway in Rajasthan

JAIPUR, Feb 19 (Agencies): Three persons on the way to a marriage ceremony died after their car ramed into a truck ahead of it when the latter applied brakes suddenly in Rajasthan's Anupgarh district, police said on Monday.

The accident occurred on the Bharatmala Amritsar-Jamnagar National Highway near Nai Mandi of Gharsana



late Sunday night.

Sub-Inspector Ram Singh Meena posted at Gharsana police station said the truck moving ahead of the car applied brakes suddenly due to which the car ramed into it and the three pas-

sengers died. The deceased were identified as Ravinder Kumar, Subhash Kumar and Ajay Kumar.

The bodies were handed over to family members after post-mortem, he added.

## Woman Cop Manhandled, Locked In Room During Raid At Gambling Den In Odisha

BALASORE, Feb 19 (Agencies): A woman police Inspector was allegedly manhandled and locked up by miscreants during a raid at a gambling den in Odisha's Balasore district.

According to police, the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of Talsari Marine police station, Champabati Soren along with three of her staff was on patrolling duty on Sunday night.

Getting information, the police team raided



a house in Udaipur village where a gambling session was going on.

Seeing the police party, some local people assembled and started

manhandling them. It was alleged that the woman police officer along with her staff were locked up in a room, the police said.

Police force from Bhograi police station and Chandaneswar outpost reached the spot and rescued them, they said.

Acting on a tip-off about illegal gambling, the IIC and her staff reached the place. When she reached the spot during patrolling, there was an

argument between the IIC and the locals. The locals scuffled with the IIC and detained her, said Dilip Sahu, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Jaleswar.

"An investigation is going on into the case. Appropriate action will be taken against the accused as per the law", the SDPO said.

About 20 people were detained over the incident and further investigation is on, police said.

## "Must Be Careful Of Rumours": Mayawati Rejects Poll Alliance Reports

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Amid widening the rift over the INDIA bloc, and the speculation of many Congress leaders that are likely to join the BJP, the Bahujan Samaj Party Chief Mayawati on Monday reiterated that there is no alliance ahead of the Lok Sabha election and said that her party will contest the election alone.

"Despite BSP's repeated clear declaration of not forging an alliance with any party in the upcoming Lok Sabha general elections, spreading rumours about alliance every day proves that without BSP, some parties are not going to fare well here, while BSP is going to do well. The welfare of our people is paramount," BSP Chief posted on X. "Therefore, keep-

ing in view the interest and welfare of the Sarv Samaj (Entire Society), especially the poor, exploited and neglected, BSP's decision to contest the Lok Sabha general elections on its strength with the body, mind and money of its people across the country is firm. People must be careful of rumours," she added.

Earlier, Mayawati reiterated her party's stand for the 2024 Lok Sabha election and said that her party will contest the polls alone.

Addressing a press conference here, the BSP chief said that her party may consider about alliance once the elections are over.

"Our experience with alliances has never been beneficial for us and we suffer more losses from alliances.



For this reason, most of the parties in the country want to ally with BSP. An alliance can be considered after the elections. If possible, BSP can extend its support after the elections...our party will fight the elections all alone," she said.

On December 21, 2023, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, lashed out at member parties of the

INDIA bloc, especially the Samajwadi Party (SP), who make comments on opposition parties that are not a part of the alliance.

"It is inappropriate for anyone to make unnecessary comments on parties, including the BSP, that are not a part of the opposition alliance. My suggestion to them is that they should refrain from it because

you can never say who will need whom in the future in the public interest. It would not be correct for such people and parties to feel ashamed later. SP is a living example of this," said Mayawati.

Notably, Samajwadi Party reportedly opposed the move to induct the BSP into the INDIA alliance at the fourth meeting of the INDIA bloc.

The BSP, a Scheduled Castes-centric party, was a major political force in Uttar Pradesh in the 1990s and 2000s but witnessed a gradual decline over the past decade.

In the 2022 assembly elections, the party polled only 12.8 per cent votes, its lowest in almost three decades.

## Uddhav Sena wants to contest in 18 Lok Sabha seats, including 4 in Mumbai

MUMBAI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Amid ongoing seat-sharing talks between the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena (UBT)-appointed Election Coordinators said the party wants to contest in 18 of 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state. This also includes four out of six constituencies in Mumbai for the upcoming general elections.

The appointment of Election Coordinators by Shiv Sena (UBT) is seen as an assertion of their demand to contest in 18 of 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra.

The four parliamentary seats in Mumbai are -- Mumbai South, Mumbai South Central, Mumbai North West and Mumbai

North East. The Uddhav Thackeray faction of Shiv Sena is proposing to leave only two seats for their allies to contest in the Lok Sabha polls, likely to be held in April-May.

The last meeting of MVA over seat-sharing distribution was held on February 2, after which former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan left the Congress to join the BJP.

No discussion was held between MVA leaders since then after Chavan's exit from Congress.

In the previous meeting, Prakash Ambedkar of Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) also took part in the meet, his first after his party's induc-

tion in the MVA. Ambedkar insisted on having a Common Minimum Programme (CMP) before deciding on the seat-sharing within the MVA allies.

The next meeting is likely to be on February 22.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, undivided Shiv Sena was part of an alliance with the BJP and fought in 22 out of 48 seats. The Shiv Sena won 18 seats, including three in Mumbai.

But with prominent Congress leaders Ashok Chavan and Milind Deora leaving the party, the Shiv Sena (UBT) wants to contest in those seats which they won in 2019 as a backup plan.

## Protest March Case: Supreme Court Halts Proceedings Against Siddaramaiah

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday stayed proceedings against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others in connection with a protest march held in the state in 2022.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and P K Mishra issued notice to the Karnataka government and the complainant in the case.

The top court also stayed the high court order, which had imposed a fine of 10,000 on him as well as Congress general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, state ministers M B Patil and Ramalinga Reddy, and



directed him to appear before a special court on March 6.

The case was registered against the Congress leaders after they took out a march to lay siege to the then chief minister Basavaraj Bommai's residence in Bengaluru, demanding the resignation of KS Eshwarappa, who was then the rural development and panchayat raj

minister in the southern state.

The agitation was staged after a contractor, Santosh Patil, died by suicide accusing Eshwarappa of demanding 40 per cent commission for a public work in his village.

According to police, the case pertained to blocking roads and causing trouble to commuters.

## Parliament Panel Probe Against Bengal Officers On Hold In Sandeshkhali Case

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday paused a Parliament panel's proceedings against top officers of the West Bengal government that was triggered by allegations of misconduct by state BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar. The case is linked to the alleged atrocities against villagers in Sandeshkhali.

A bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud issued notices to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar, and the Union Home Ministry, and sought their responses within four weeks.

Notices have also been issued to the West Bengal Director General of Police, the Chief Secretary, and the local District Magistrate.

The Privileges Committee of the Parliament had ordered the Chief Secretary, the DGP, the local District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police, and the local police station in-charge

to appear before it on Monday. The notice was issued after Mr Majumdar, an MP from Balurghat, filed a complaint alleging "misconduct, brutality and life-threatening injuries to him".

Challenging the notice, Chief Secretary Bhagwati Prasad Gopalika, DGP Rajiv Kumar, and other officers told the court that political activity can never be a breach of privilege.

Referring to Mr Majumdar's complaint that he was injured during a clash with the cops when his delegation tried to enter Sandeshkhali, senior advocate Kapil Sibal pointed out that 38 state police officials - including eight women cops - also sustained injuries.

The petition filed by the officers argued Mr Majumdar was demonstrating on the top of a police car when a woman member of his party pushed him and he fell on its bonnet. The police had no role in the incident which is evident in videos, they argued.

"How can this be a violation

of privilege of the Parliament? The MP violated Section 144. He jumped on the bonnet of a car and was inciting violence. The complaint is based on a completely wrong story," said Mr Sibal.

He also pointed out that the DGP and the Chief Secretary were not even present at the site.

The Lok Sabha secretariat's counsel said the officers were not being accused of anything and it was a regular process to issue notices after an MP files a complaint.

The case in Sandeshkhali surrounds a Trinamool leader and local strongman Sheikh Sahajan, who and his aides have been accused of systematically exploiting the villagers and multiple counts of sexual assault. Two of his henchmen - Uttam Sardar and Shibu Prasad Hazra - have been arrested, but Shahjahan is still on the run.

A BJP delegation led by

Mr Majumdar to the island was stopped by the cops on Wednesday.

Governor CV Ananda Bose, who has visited Sandeshkhali, said that "women in numbers" have told him they were harassed and intimidated, and that he has forwarded their written complaints to the state government.

"Women in numbers met me and told me about their grievance. They said they were molested, harassed, and intimidated, their husbands were beaten up," Mr Bose told NDTV.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the BJP of making a "mountain out of a molehill". "Instead of peace, they are starting fires," she has claimed.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes, which visited Sandeshkhali last week, had recommended President's Rule in the state amid violence and political tension.



## China on the march, US needs more friends: Nikki Haley bats for closer India ties

WASHINGTON, Feb 19 (Agencies): Indian-American Republican presidential aspirant Nikki Haley has said that if voted to power in the November 2024 election, her administration will not only strengthen the alliance with Nato but also with several other countries, including India, Australia, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. She said this was for "America having more friends, not less friends".

Haley, the 52-year-old former US Ambassador to the UN, said that if former US President Donald Trump is re-elected a threat to the Nato alliance is one of the things she is worried about.

"I'm worried about a lot of things if Trump is re-elected. That is one of them," she told ABC News, adding that Nato is a 75-year success story.

Haley is the only candidate left against Trump in the Republican Party's 2024 presidential nomination race.

The two-term former governor from South Carolina said that Russia has never invaded a Nato country because it has typically been very intimidated by this alliance.

Nato is an intergovernmental military alliance of 31 member



states — 29 European and two North American.

Even China is intimidated by this alliance. So, keeping Nato strong is important, Haley said.

Haley was responding to a question about the remarks by Trump in South Carolina a week ago that he would encourage Russia to do "whatever the hell they want" to any Nato member country that doesn't meet spending guidelines on defence.

Adding more friends to the fold is important. This is not the time to leave an alliance. This is not the time to side with a thug and not side with friends, who stood with America after the September 11 attacks, Haley said.

"We have to make sure that we stand firm. Because when we stand firm with our friends,

our enemies stay on their heels. When we start to show any weakening of those alliances, that's when our enemies move. That's why we're seeing China on the march. That's why we're seeing Iran want to build a nuclear bomb. That's why we're seeing Russia start to move towards Poland and the Baltics," she said.

"And that's what I promise I will do as president, is we not only will strengthen NATO, we will strengthen alliances with India, Australia, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines. We will add to the fold. This is about America having more friends, not less friends," Haley said in response to a question.

Haley called Trump's NATO comments "bone-chilling" and

empowering to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"And all he did at that moment was, he sided with a guy who kills his political opponents, he sided with a thug who arrests American journalists and holds them hostage," she said.

Haley alleged that incumbent President Joe Biden, a Democrat, had also failed on multiple fronts.

"That has emboldened our enemies. That's why you see them moving. It happened after the fall of Afghanistan. It is continuing to happen. Then they go, and they see the other opponent running for president, and they see that he doesn't worry about Putin invading Ukraine. So, what does Putin do? He is going, and now he's starting to put soldiers around the Baltics. He's moving in for the next era.

"Let's remind the American people that Putin said once he took Ukraine, Poland and the Baltics are next.

Now he is putting soldiers around those countries, just like he did in Ukraine. And if that happens, those are NATO countries. That immediately puts America at war. That is what we are trying to avoid. And that's why this aid package is so important," she added.

## Houthi rebels suspected of attack that damaged a Belize-flagged ship in Bab el-Mandeb Strait

DUBAI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Yemen's Houthi rebels are suspected in an attack that damaged a Belize-flagged ship traveling through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait connecting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, authorities said early Monday.

The attack on the ship came as the U.S. military acknowledged conducting new airstrikes targeting the rebels, including one that targeted the first Houthi underwater drone seen since the rebels' began launching their attacks on shipping in November.

The ship targeted in the Houthi attack Sunday reported sustaining damage after "an explosion in close proximity to the vessel," the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center reported. It said that the crew aboard the ship were safe.

The private security firm Ambrey reported

the British-registered, Lebanese-operated cargo ship had been on its way to Bulgaria after leaving Khorfakkan in the United Arab Emirates.

Ship-tracking data from MarineTraffic.com analyzed by The Associated Press identified the vessel targeted as the Rubymar. Its Beirut-based manager could not be immediately reached for comment.

Ambrey described the ship as being partially laden with cargo, but it wasn't immediately clear what it had been carrying. The ship had turned off its Automatic Identification System tracker while in the Persian Gulf early this month.

The Houthis did not immediately claim the attack, though a military spokesman for the rebels, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, said a statement on their activities likely would be released sometime Monday morning.

Since November, the rebels have repeatedly targeted ships in the Red Sea and surrounding waters over Israel's war targeting Hamas in the Gaza Strip. They have frequently targeted vessels with tenuous or no clear links to Israel, imperiling shipping in a key route for trade among Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Those vessels have included at least one with cargo for Iran, its main benefactor.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military's Central Command reported it carried out five airstrikes targeting Houthi military equipment. Those strikes targeted mobile anti-ship cruise missiles, an explosive-carrying drone boat and an "unmanned underwater vessel," Central Command said.

"This is the first observed Houthi employment of a UUV since attacks began in Oct. 23," Central Command said.

## Six killed, 30 trapped in Afghanistan avalanche: provincial official

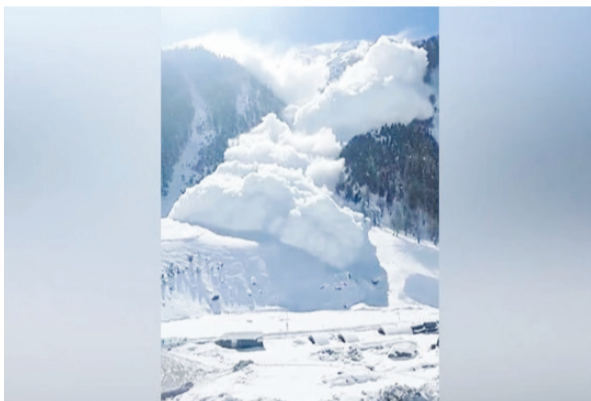
KABUL, Feb 19 (Agencies): An avalanche has killed at least six people and trapped 30 more in the eastern Afghan province of Nuristan, a provincial official said on Monday, after swaths of the country saw heavy snowfall.

"It is still snowing. Rescue efforts are under way and the number of dead may increase," provincial head of information and culture Jamiullah Hashimi told agency.

The avalanche swept through the village of Nakre in the Tatin Valley of Nuristan overnight on Sunday, blanketing homes in snow and rubble.

Around 20 houses were destroyed or heavily damaged, Hashimi added.

"Due to clouds and rain, the helicopter cannot land in Nuristan," said Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Adel, the head of public works in the



province, adding that snow had blocked one of the main roads into the province, making "the rescue operation difficult".

Nuristan province, which borders Pakistan, is mostly covered by mountainous forests and hugs the southern end of the Hindu Kush mountain range.

This year, the arrival of snow was delayed across much of Afghanistan, which is accustomed to harsh winters.

The exceptionally low level of rain in a country that relies heavily on agriculture has forced

many farmers to delay planting.

Afghanistan is one of the world's poorest countries, wracked by decades of war, prone to natural disasters and vulnerable to extreme weather events linked to climate change.

Once flush with humanitarian aid following the US-led invasion of the country, funding to Afghanistan has plummeted since the Taliban returned to power in mid-2021, in part over the many restrictions it imposed on women.

## Bilawal Bhutto says he rejected power-sharing formula offered by Nawaz Sharif's party over prime minister's post to respect people's mandate

KARACHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has revealed that he said "No" to a power-sharing formula in which the prime minister's post would be shared between his and former premier Nawaz Sharif's parties, as he did not want to take up the top post without the people's mandate.

The 35-year-old former foreign minister was the prime ministerial face of the PPP. However, in the February 8 elections, his party came third with 54 seats in the National Assembly, behind more than 90 seats won by independents backed by jailed prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

To form a govern-



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

The PPP and PML-N, who have formed a post-poll alliance, have failed to reach a consensus on a power-sharing formula despite several meetings between their top leadership.

Addressing a Yaumi-Tashakur (Thanksgiving Day) rally in Thatta to celebrate the PPP's election victory in Sindh province, Bilawal said, "I was told (by PML-N) that let us be the prime

minister for three years and then you can take the premiership for the remaining two years."

"I said no to this. I said I do not want to be a prime minister like this," he said. "If I become the prime minister, it would be after the people of Pakistan elect me." Without taking any names, Bilawal said the party had decided that it would move forward with "those who have asked for its votes" and would not seek any ministries.

Bilawal also said his father Asif Ali Zardari

would be the PPP's candidate for president, insisting that the former president would play his role to defuse political tension.

"To control the fire spreading in the country, we have decided that Zardari will be our candidate for the presidential election. And when he takes up the post, he will put out this fire, and will save the Centre and the provinces," he said.

He said the country needed a political party that talked about people's problems, adding that the brewing economic and political crisis had divided society.

"What should happen is that politicians and all political parties should think about the people of this country instead of focusing on their personal benefit," Bilawal stressed.

He claimed that a PTI-backed candidate was

made to win against a PPP leader.

He said the PPP had decided to collect the election complaints of party workers from all over the country and raise them at appropriate forums. "If we are unsuccessful, we will come to you and protest together," he said.

Bilawal appealed to all the political parties to "stay within the system" and work for the country's betterment.

Reacting to Bilawal's comments, PML-N leader Ishaq Dar stressed that it was not appropriate to divulge details about talks between the parties vying to form the next government.

He insisted that the PPP chairman had made the time-sharing formula public but "that was just one aspect and there can be more formulas".

## "Stop Harassing Chinese Students For No Reason": China Urges US

BEIJING, Feb 19 (Agencies): China's public security minister urged the US homeland security secretary to stop alleged "harassment" of Chinese students entering the United States in a meeting between the two in Vienna, Beijing's state media reported Monday.

In a readout of talks Sunday between Wang Xiaohong and Alejandro Mayorkas, Beijing urged Washington "to stop harassing and checking Chinese students for no apparent reason", state news agency Xinhua said.

Beijing has repeatedly alleged that Chinese nationals with valid travel documents have been subject to aggressive interrogations and deportations at US airports, with its embassy in Washington last month urging Chinese travellers to avoid the capital's Dulles airport.

In his meeting with Mayorkas, Wang urged the United States to "ensure that Chinese citizens enjoy fair entry treatment and full dignity," according to Xinhua.

Wang also pressed Mayorkas to "rectify" the US decision to place China on a list of major countries transiting or

producing narcotics.

US officials have long charged that China is complicit in the trade of fentanyl, which is many times more powerful than heroin and is responsible for more than 70,000 overdose deaths a year in the United States.

Last month in Beijing, US and Chinese officials agreed to cooperate to curb the production of ingredients to make fentanyl, known as precursor chemicals.

A US readout of Sunday's talks said Wang and Mayorkas had held "candid and constructive discussion on the steps needed to combat the spread of precursor chemicals".

"The two sides also made commitments with respect to continued law enforcement cooperation, technical bilateral exchanges between scientists and other experts, scheduling of precursor chemicals, and furthering multilateral cooperation," it said.

Washington and Beijing also discussed expanding cooperation "in the fight to protect children from online child sexual exploitation and abuse", the readout added.

## Lightning bolt scorches four people near Sydney Opera House

SYDNEY, Feb 19 (Agencies): A lightning bolt scorched and knocked out four people near the Sydney Opera House on Monday as they sheltered under a tree during a violent electrical storm, rescue officials said.

The four were struck beneath the tree in the Botanic Gardens, ambulance workers said, just a stone's throw from the harbourside architectural masterpiece.

"They all had a brief loss of consciousness," said New South Wales ambulance service's Dominic Wong.

They also suffered burns and presented cardiac symptoms, he told reporters.

The victims -- two men and two women aged from their late teens to their 30s -- were treated at the scene by paramedics and taken to Sydney hospitals in a "serious and stable" condition, he said.



## 53 killed in fight between two tribes in Papua New Guinea



SYDNEY, Feb 19 (Agencies): At least 53 people were killed in tribal fighting in the northern highlands of Papua New Guinea, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) said on Monday, citing local police.

The men were killed in an ambush in Enga Province, according

to the Australian state broadcaster.

A report by local newspaper the Post-Courier said the violence took place on Sunday and was connected to a battle between two tribes.

"This is by far the largest (killing) I've seen in Enga, maybe in all of Highlands as well, in

Papua New Guinea," George Kakas, a senior officer in the country's police force, told the ABC.

The Pacific nation is home to hundreds of tribes, many of which still live in inhospitable and remote terrain.

The ABC said the latest violence involved the same tribes that were responsible for clashes that killed 60 in Enga Province last year.

"That is very disturbing the news that has come out of Papua New Guinea," Australia Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said in a radio interview on Monday. "We're providing considerable support, particularly for training police officers and for security in Papua New Guinea."



# Guru Ravi Dass Ji's teachings inspire generations, transform society: Vijay Lochan

Top News Report

REASI Feb 19: The Prakash Ustav of Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj was joyously celebrated by the Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Seela temple in Reasi.

On the occasion, Vijay Lochan, Chairman SC Cell JKNC and former President All J&K Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Jammu, Jagjeevan Lal former minister and District President Reasi JKNC; Moti Ram, President Guru Ravi Dass Ji Sabha Reasi, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Adv Deepak Attri, Jagga Ram and people from all walks of life participated in the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Vijay Lochan greeted the people on the eve of Prakash Ustav of Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti and prayed for peace



and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the life and teachings of Guru Ravi Dass Ji have inspired the generations and helped in transforming the society, making it conducive for various communities, irrespective of caste, creed and colour.

The senior NC leader said Guruji emerged as a beacon of light at a time when the society was ridden with hate and discrimination on the basis of caste and

creed. He enumerated the great role played by Guruji in ensuring that all segments of the society live with honour and dignity, adding that the relevance of the teaching of the great saint and philosopher assume significance now, as never before. Lochan made a fervent appeal to all sections of society of Jammu and Kashmir to maintain peace and foil all the attempts of vitiating atmosphere by maintaining unity.

His teachings are eternal and are relevant for people of all sections of society.

On the occasion, Jagjeevan Lal former minister and District President Reasi greeted the people of J&K on the eve of Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Jayanti. He called for imbuing the spirit of love, compassion, peace and harmony as professed by great saints and seers all their life, saying that striving for social jus-

stice and equality will be best tribute to Guru Ravi Dass.

Moti Ram, President of Guru Ravi Dass Ji Sabha in Reasi, emphasized that Guru Ravidass Ji held steadfast faith in the values of harmony and brotherhood.

Rakesh Singh Raka, Vice President Central Zone, Deepak Attri Adv and Jagga Ram greeted the people on this occasion of Guru Ravidass Jayanti and said the poet— saint's message of compassion and religious harmony was relevant in the present times.

Those who were present on this occasion Dewan Chand, Ravi Kumar, Munshi Ram, Thakar Dass, Manga Ram, Dara Singh, Subash Chander, Hukam Chand, Om Prakash, Gokul, Adv Ajay Salathia.

# Freezing Congress bank accounts is not attack on one party, but on democracy: Vijay Sharma



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Congress Seva Dal President Vijay Sharma Babbi has said that unemployment in the country is creating new records every day but the Modi government's focus is only on misusing agencies and implicating leaders of opposition parties in false cases.

More than 95% of the actions taken

by agencies have been against leaders of opposition parties, which proves that the claim of eliminating corruption is hollow. Condemning the freezing of bank accounts belonging to Congress and Youth Congress by the Income Tax Department just before the Lok Sabha elections, Vijay Sharma has said that this is not an attack on Congress but on democracy.

Elections are going to be announced any time in a week or two and freezing the bank account of the primary opposition party before that is completely illegal and undemocratic.

The central government wants to end democracy in the country and bring dictatorship. For this, agencies are being used openly and decisions are being taken only for electoral gains, keeping aside all the honor and dignity of politics. The 10 years of BJP rule will be remembered in the history of the country for its serious attacks on the economic, social and democratic rights of the people and constitutional institutions. The youth of the country are being kept unemployed in order to benefit the lunar industrialists. Inflation has broken the back of the common man and BJP is trying to fool people by making false claims.

# Kesri welcomes PM's Jammu rally, asks public to follow SSP Security Jammu advisory

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today welcomed PM's scheduled to visit Jammu on February 20 (Tuesday) to inaugurate, dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 30,500 crore relating to several sectors including health, education, rail, road, aviation, petroleum, civic infrastruc-

ture, among others. Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Kesri asked all those who want to listen to PM at MAM stadium to follow Advisory issued by SSP Security Jammu for general public. He said that the entry for participants coming from District Kathua, Samba, South Jammu across Tawi River, some areas of Udhampur-Reasi-Doda- Kishtwar-Ramban Districts shall be from Dogra Chowk side / Main gate of MA

Stadium."Entry of participants coming from Jammu North, District Rajouri- Poonch, Udhampur-Reasi-Doda- Kishtwar-Ramban Districts shall be from GGM Science College Jammu," he said.

Kesri further said that as per advisory, people should reach in time for smooth entry before start of the rally by ensuring their entry before 9.30 AM." People should also carry identity proof in the form of Aadhar card, Election



card or Pan card or any other I.D proof. People should park their vehi-

cle in the parking slots as per the parking slots identified / earmarked

by Civil Administration and Traffic Police. He appealed people not to carry any bag, Tiffin boxes, other eatables, water bottles, cameras, weapon, ammunition, sharp edge articles, inflammable material, cigarette, match boxes, lighters, umbrellas, any objectionable flag, any electronic gadgets etc." The Mobile phones should be kept in switched off or silent mode," he said.

Kesri said that no traffic movement shall be

allowed beyond Dogra Chowk to P/S Nowabad Cut in order to ensure smooth flow of traffic there will be on ground restrictions/ diversions for smooth plying of vehicles, so that no inconvenience is caused to general public. Vehicle coming from Bikram Chowk towards Dogra Chowk shall be diverted from Dogra chowk to Vivekananda Chowk and JP Chowk for their movement." Vehicles coming from Canal Head towards Dogra

Chowk shall be diverted from Jewel Chowk-- St. Peters School--Bus Stand --K.C crossing--Indira Chowk -- JP Chowk -- Dogra Chowk/ Vivekananda Chowk and from Indira Chowk towards Shalamar or Directorate Ayush Cut for their destination."

The General Public is requested to use Fourth Tawi Bridge of Gujjar Nagar Bridge for their movement from North to South and Vice Versa, added Kesri.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi takes over as new Army Vice Chief

from USAWC, USA. The officer has also authored / presented articles in various professional forums / Journals. He has pioneered the first ever compendium on Indo - Myanmar Border Management. The General officer is a skilled Yoga practitioner.

He is married to Sunita Dwivedi, a science graduate, who is a homemaker. Sunita Dwivedi has been associated with Aarushi, an institute for special-ability children at Bhopal. The couple is blessed with two daughters.

### Multi-Tier security for PM Modi's visit to Jammu

newly recruited government employees of Jammu and Kashmir and interact with beneficiaries of various schemes as part of the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu' programme.

"A multi-tier security setup has been put in place across Jammu for the Prime Minister's visit to the city of temples. The major focus of heightened security arrangements remains the venue of his public meeting and adjoining areas," a senior police officer said.

He said that a high alert had been sounded along the borders, while the border and highway grids were further strengthened with the officers asked to intensify patrolling and checking of vehicles to keep subversive elements at bay.

The officials said the Maulana Azad Stadium has been taken over by the security agencies who conducted a thorough anti-sabotage check. On February 17, Jammu District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya announced a temporary ban on the use of drones, paragliders and remote controlled micro-light aircrafts as a precautionary measure to counter possible activities by the terrorists and anti-national elements.

The order was issued under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code while responding to intelligence reports highlighting potential security threats.

"Effective immediately and continuing until February 20, the order imposes restrictions on the operation of drones, remote-controlled micro-light aircrafts, para-gliders, para-motors, hand gliders and hot air balloons within the (Jammu)

district," the order said.

However, the order said exceptions to the ban include aerial surveillance conducted by the security forces during the VVIP visits or with specific written permission from the district magistrate's office.

"Defence and Para Military Forces are exempted from these restrictions. Violation of this order is subject to punitive action under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code," the order read.

Given the prediction of isolated to widespread rains in Jammu for the next 24 hours, a BJP spokesperson said that necessary arrangements, including waterproof tents, have been erected to accommodate one lakh people who are expected to turn up for the rally from across Jammu and Kashmir.

Almost all prominent BJP leaders, including J&K unit president Ravinder Raina, have been making appeals to the people to join the rally, which is seen as a formal launch of the party's campaign for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, the meteorological department has predicted continuation of wet weather for the next three days.

Meteorological department officer in-charge S C Sharma said did not rule out rains welcoming Prime Minister Modi in Jammu.

"There is prediction of widespread rains at most places in Jammu plains for the next 24 hours followed by isolated rains on February 21 and 22 and February 24 and 25," Sharma told PTI.

Most places in Jammu and Kashmir have presently been experiencing wet weather since February 18. While the higher reaches are experiencing snowfall, the plains, including Jammu city, were lashed by intermittent rains for the second day on Monday. A traffic department official said that a dry run was carried out this afternoon from the airport to Maulana Azad road as restrictions and diversions have been placed on the ground to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city.

The officials said a total of 48 locations have been identified for the parking of the vehicles carrying people from different parts of the Union Territory to the venue of Modi's public rally. The headquarters central pool security, Jammu, has also issued a detailed advisory for the general public participating in the public rally, asking them not to carry any bag, tiffin boxes, cameras, weapon, ammunition, sharp edged articles,

cigarettes, lighters, umbrellas, any objectionable flag or any electronic gadgets among others.

The mobile phones should be kept in switched off or silent mode, the advisory said and asked the participants to ensure their entry in the venue before 9.30 am and cooperate during frisking.

### Jammu-Srinagar highway blocked after landslide in Ramban

requested to contact Traffic Control Unit (TCU) before starting the journey," officials said.

Notably Jammu and Kashmir received fresh snowfall and rains on Monday, affecting normal life and bringing down the temperatures in the Himalayan region.

### Jammu declared No-Fly Zone for Drones ahead of PM Modi's visit

Government's schemes.

The rally is the first in a series before the Lok Sabha polls. The police and the CRPF are conducting random checking of vehicles.

Checkpoints have been set up at various places besides entry and exit points in Jammu and Srinagar.

### Govt, Ladakh delegation meet on issues of UT

Ladakh currently has one Lok Sabha constituency, Ladakh, which no longer has any MLA constituency, was part of Jammu and Kashmir state.

The erstwhile state was bifurcated on August 5, 2019, into two Union Territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was also abrogated on that day.

As per the provision of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, Jammu and Kashmir has been made a UT with a legislative assembly and Ladakh has been made a UT without any assembly.

There were four representatives from Ladakh in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

The Centre had assured the delegation from Ladakh in December last year that it

was committed to fast-track the development of the UT and to meet the aspirations of the people there.

The assurance was given at a meeting held with the High Powered Committee (HPC) for Ladakh headed by minister Rai.

Sources said the 14-member delegation will on Monday press for their four-point demands before Rai and seek an early resolution of their issues.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted the High Powered Committee for Ladakh under Rai's chairmanship with a mandate to discuss measures to protect the Ladakh region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance.

Also to ensure protection of land and employment, measures for inclusive development and employment generation in the region, measures related to empowerment of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) of Leh and Kargil and Constitutional safeguards that could be provided to ensure the measures and protection as mentioned above.

Several organisations of Ladakh were demanding a separate Union Territory for the region for decades and the demand was fulfilled on August 5, 2019, with the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The KDA and the ABL, however, in the recent past protested at different locations, including New Delhi, Jammu and Ladakh, highlighting the four demands.

### Rains, snow continue in Kashmir; Gulmarg receives 16 inches of snowfall

Bhaderwah received 26.7mm of rain and recorded a minimum of 2.4°C, he said.

The weatherman has forecast "extended wet spell" in Jammu and Kashmir till afternoon of February 21.

From February 19-20, he said, there is possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at most places (plains and lower reaches) with possibility of heavy snowfall over middle and higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Badgam, Shopian and Kulgam districts during late afternoon of February 19 to

February 20 late night.

From February 21, he said, there is possibility of light to moderate snow at many places till afternoon and late afternoon and gradual improvement thereafter.

Regarding Jammu division, he said, there is possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain with thunder/lightning in plains of Jammu Division with light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches and heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches of Ramban, Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar from February 19-20.

On February 21, he said, light to moderate snow/rain/thunder/lightning is expected over many places till late afternoon and evening and gradual improvement thereafter.

The MeT office also issued an advisory, saying that the system may lead to temporary closure of roads of higher reaches and important passes like Sinthan pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna, Razdan pass, Zojila etc.

"Travellers are advised to plan accordingly," the MeT official said, adding, "farmers are advised to withhold irrigation and fertilizer application and drain out excess water from Orchards and fields during the above period."

He said a significant drop in day temperature is expected during the period.

As 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harsh period of winter ended on January 29, Kashmir is presently in the middle of 20-day-long winter period called 'Chillai-Khurd' that ends on February 19 and is followed by a 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) which starts from February 20 to March 1.

### Kashmir University postpones exams after fresh snowfall in Kashmir

February due to fresh snowfall across Kashmir Valley.

An official of Kashmir University informed that due to the prevailing weather condition, all the examinations of the University of Kashmir scheduled for today, the 19th, and 20th of Feb, 2024, are postponed.

He added that fresh dates for the conduct of postponed papers shall be communicated separately.



## Sensex, Nifty fall after opening higher; Paytm jumps 5%

**The S&P BSE Sensex was down 68.90 points at 72,357.74 at 9:53 am, while the NSE Nifty50 was trading 7.55 points lower at 22,033.15.**

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices fell after opening higher on Monday, even as energy and financial stocks rose.

The S&P BSE Sensex was down 68.90 points at 72,357.74 at 9:53 am, while the NSE Nifty50 was trading 7.55 points lower at 22,033.15. On the other hand, broader market indices witnessed strong momentum in early trade.

Most of the sectoral indices were trading in positive territory but with marginal gains as global cues remained weak. The biggest drag among all sectoral indices was the Nifty IT index, which fell nearly 1 per cent.

The weakness in IT stocks came after fresh US data dampened hopes of an early rate cut by the US Federal Reserve,



The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Bajaj Auto, Bajaj Finance, ITC, Grasim and Adani Enterprises. On the other hand, the top losers were SBI Life, TCS, Apollo Hospitals, Wipro and LTIM.

Meanwhile, shares of digital payments firm Paytm jumped 5 per cent after the central bank provided relief to its associate, Paytm Payments Bank. On Friday, the RBI extended its earlier deadline of February 29 for the payments bank to stop key operations. The RBI has

now extended the deadline to March 15.

Deven Mehata, research analyst at Choice Broking, said, "With the support of FII's buying, we can expect Nifty to cross its all-time high levels. If Nifty closes above 22,125 we can expect the market to move higher towards 22,400-22,500 levels."

"Traders are advised to hold their long position with a trailing stop loss for the above given targets. On the lower side Nifty has a strong support at 21900 levels," he added.

## Randhawa reviews arrangements for PM's rally, asks people to participate in large numbers

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vikram Randhawa chaired a meeting at BJP's Party Headquarters Trikuta Nagar Jammu to review the arrangements for the Prime Minister's rally.

The rally will be held at MA Stadium Jammu from 11 am onwards, during which the Prime Minister will launch and lay foundation stone of development works of thousands of crores of rupees.

While speaking, Randhawa emphasised that Jammu is not only welcoming Narendra Modi the Prime Minister but also a statesman who is steering the country to new heights of development and cultural renaissance and at the same time ensuring respectable place for India in the comity of nations.

Former Legislator said that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, during his public rally, should see massive attendance of people as BJP has put more efforts to ensure that people reach MA Stadium in large numbers to listen to the Prime Minister.

"Given the respect, love & affection bestowed by the people of the country on our Prime Minister & the position he has created for the nation & himself on the world stage it is our sacred duty to give Narendra Modi a rousing reception during his visit to Jammu," he stated.

This is the first visit of Modi to Jammu city after the abrogation of article 370 & 35A of the Indian constitution & comes close on the heels of the PM's successful visit to UAE & Oman. It may be mentioned that the Government of Narendra Modi was able to bring back home the 8 Navy veterans who were sentenced to death by the Oman Government because of some misunderstanding.

The visit also comes at a time when the Prime Minister was involved in the "Pran-

pratishtha" of Ram Lalla temple at Ayodhya after the decision of the Supreme Court of India paved the way for resolution of the long-standing issue. He also inaugurated the Swami Narayan temple of BAPS in Dubai & the close relationship between the authorities of UAE & Indian government was visible for all the viewers of the inauguration ceremony. This clearly shows that the PM of India is not only pursuing his goal of cultural renaissance of India but is also ensuring close political & economic relationship with the neighbouring middle eastern countries as well as the nations beyond.

The slogan of the PM "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" is bearing fruit & this, he said, will be visible in J&K during his visit where he is slated to inaugurate projects worth thousands of crores that have seen their operationalisation in the recent times. These projects include the AIIMS, IIT, IIM several roads & road segments, road bridges, railway & power sector infrastructure. Foundation stone for a modern & state of the art petroleum terminal at Bajalta is also expected to be laid by the PM that will ensure yearlong & hassle-free availability of petroleum products for the people of the Union Territory.

Randhawa stressed that under the Modi regime, not only Jammu but also the Kashmir Province witnessed equitable and unprecedented development.

"In 2023, Jammu and Kashmir became a global tourism hub, witnessing 2.02 crore tourists, with over 50 thousand foreigners visiting the union territory. The holding of the international level G20 Summit in Srinagar also added a feather in the Government's cap, solidifying its reputation as a capable host for high-profile diplomatic events and further affirming the region's position on the global stage", Former Legislator said.

The senior BJP leader emphasized that

only the Modi Government can ensure equitable development in Jammu and Kashmir regions without any discrimination compared to successive regimes headed by the National Conference and Congress in the erstwhile state. He urged the people of J&K to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls with an aim to continue the spree of development and progress in the union territory.

The senior BJP leader said that people can themselves witness the reflections of good governance across this Union Territory with a large number of developmental works completed till date and works going on at a great pace on still larger number of current development works.

Randhawa said that the people of Jammu & Kashmir have always remained enthusiastic to attend the rally of PM in massive numbers and this time too, lakhs of people will become a party of massive rally in order to listen to their popular leader PM Modi.

He said that PM Modi has given a new direction to the peace and prosperity here. He said that today, one can witness many new projects, rails, roads, highways, medical colleges, AIIMS, higher education institutes etc. He, on the occasion, appealed to all the residents of Jammu & Kashmir to come, join the rally, and listen to the PM, who has put the J&K on the development map.

Former Legislator said that PM Modi has led the all-round development 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 have today got their due rights. PM Modi-led government has ensured justice to everyone and this is the greatest reason why the people from every single area of J&K have started loving PM Narendra Modi.

## DLL inaugurated One week Workshop on Communication and personality development

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu today inaugurated one week workshop on Communication and personality development in the seminar hall of department of commerce.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu. The main objective of the workshop is to enable the students to learn basic skills

of good communication and to improve the confidence levels in order to create a good and lasting impression on others. As a result of communication and personality development workshop, one can learn, discover,

and practice skills, strategies and tools to improve one's character and competence.

The resource person for the workshop is Neetu Dhar, Chief Coordinator and Master Trainer Jammu and Kashmir Dairy Producers, Processors and Marketing Cooperatives, Ltd.

She highlighted the need to have effective communication skills in terms of reading, writing, arithmetic, reading comprehension, speed reading, etc.

The workshop is being coordinated by Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, Department of Lifelong Learning.

About 62 participants from University of Jammu, colleges and civil society are very enthusiastically participating in the workshop.

## Electoral Literacy Club organizes awareness program for first time voters at GDCW Kathua

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 19: The Electoral Literacy Club on Monday organized an awareness program at the Govt Degree College for Women Kathua to educate young and first-time voters about the importance of exercising their voting right to elect a Govt.

On this occasion, Deputy Director Election Officer, Kathua, Nagesh Singh was the chief guest, who appreciated the organizer of the program and hoped that the program would help the young and first-time voters to understand the importance of their vote.

He also commended the role of GDCW Kathua authorities for their initiative to educate the young voters about their role in nation building and in the election process.

Meanwhile, he assured that he will coordinate with the College Officials regarding the organization of the registration camp for the enrollment of new voters in the campus complex.

"The awareness is important among the youth to enroll themselves as voters and exercise their voting right to strengthen the democratic system in the country," he said.

Besides, District Level Master Trainer, Rahul Gupta delivered his lecture, and accordingly, the students were provided on hand training by the experts.

Earlier, Coordinator Election Literacy Club, Dr Syed Naser Ali Shah welcomed the guests and informed the participants about the importance of this program that would help the new generation about their role as nation building. Pertinently, the NSS students actively participated in making the program a success.

## IVF dedicates Free Alopactic Dispensary to Society

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: International Vasya Federation (IVF) dedicated a free alopactic Dispensary at Shakti Nagar by Amrit Bansal Global Vice President, came specially all along from Delhi.

Romi Aggarwal provided a well furnished space for Dispensary.

Bansal, Chief Guest of the function, emphasized upon the Members gathered in Amar Singh Club to make strong bandage and connectivity with Agarwal Brothers Nationally and Internationally, Society has made significant contribution in Economic and Social development of country.

80% GDP is being managed by the community and has done commendable service to Nation with dedication, commitment & compassion.

Ravinder Mittal State



Gen Secy conducted the proceedings of the program.

Hardeep Aggarwal (CA), Sr Vice President referring to the contribution of the community in the freedom struggle, helped the young revolutionaries of the country to fight against the British rule with their capital & helped in the freedom movement.

Community has provided employment to Lakhs of people across

the country in the field of industry, trade & Social welfare and has worked to bring positive changes in the field of industry in lives of every person in the society, he said.

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner was appointed as State Sr Vice President, who made gathering aware about the outstanding contribution as 17000 Dharamshalas, 22000 Goushalas and 18000 Charitable Hos-

pitals & Schools in every niche and corner of the country.

Swatantar Agarwal, State President, Parveen Mittal, Hardeep Aggarwal Sr Vice presidents, Rajesh Aggarwal, Harish Aggarwal Vipin Mittal, Anoop Mittal, Vice Presidents besides Executive members were felicitated.

Under the leadership of Sh Ashok Aggarwal, global president, we have to strengthen the economic system by using new technology so that the country develops rapidly.

Lord Agrasen has given us the responsibility of changing the life of the last person of society to work for social welfare. Therefore, we have to ensure that our thoughts and actions bring positive change in society.

Jain presented a vote of thanks to all the Members, Chief Guest and especially Romi Aggarwal, from M/S Kundan Lal and sons.

## BTSM celebrates 76th birthday of Dr Indresh Kumar



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch (BTSM) J&K Celebrated the Seventy-sixth birthday of Dr Indresh Kumar, Senior Pracharak RSS & Margdarshak Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch by distributing eatables, Stationery items etc to specially-abled children of Red Cross Home for Handicapped at Udheywala Jammu.

The programme was organised by the J&K UT Unit of Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch under the mentorship of Dr Vivek Sharma, President, BTSM J&K.

Dr Vivek Sharma said that Dr Indreshji founded BTSM to liberate Tibet from China to free Kailash Mansarovar

and to protect Bharat and the environment. Further, he said that a day will surely come when Tibet and Kailash Mansarovar will be liberated by the efforts of the Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch, as well as India will be secured from a security point of view.

Furthermore, he said that Dr Indresh ji dedicated his entire life to society and strengthened the work of RSS in the entire country. He founded the work of many organizations in which Rashtriya Muslim Morcha, Fans and so on.

Other prominent persons who graced the occasion were Rajinder Sadotra, Dr Rajesh Chib, Vishal Sharma, Manan and others.

## State Level Declamation Contest on Viksit Bharat @ 2047 organized by NYKS J&K - Ladakh

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 29: Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India in collaboration with NSS unit of GCW Parade today organised State Level Declamation Contest on the theme My Bharat Viksit Bharat @ 2047 By the Youth For the Youth.

The Contest was attended by the winners of the District Level Declamation Contests from all the Districts of UTs of J&K and Ladakh. Youth Speakers from across the UTs delivered their speech on the Topic.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairperson District Development Council Jammu graced the event as the Chief Guest in presence of Nisar Ahmed Butt State Director NYKS J&K Ladakh, Avinash Kumar Gupta Vice Principal GCW Parade and Nitin Hangloo DYO NYKS Rajouri.

The jury members of the program were Prof Jigar Mohammed Retd HoD Jammu University, Dr Rajeev Attri NSS Program Coordinator and Dr Gurpreet Kour NSS



Program Officer GCW Parade Ground Jammu.

The youth speakers presented their views on Various factors involved in the making of Viksit Bharat.

They presented very insightful speeches on the topic. The jury members evaluated the performances on various diverse and important parameters.

Chief Guest while welcoming all the participants in the event appreciated the initiatives taken by NYKS and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in J&K.

He further said that success and failure is part of competition and programs like these provide experience to the participants.

The first prize was given to Arshpeet Kour from Jammu while Sehrish

Khanam from Kathua was adjudged second. Vanshika Sharma from Rajouri and Basit Ali from Budgam were the runner ups.

Nitin Hangloo District Youth Officer NYK Rajouri while presenting Vote of Thanks said that Viksit Bharat is the Focus Area of the Govt and all are striving to make India Viksit Bharat by 2047.

He congratulated the winners and appreciated the other participants who also gave their best.

The Program was held under the supervision of Sh Nisar Ahmed Butt State Director NYKS J&K - Ladakh, Bimlesh Kaur APA, NYKS, Jammu and Anmol Bajaj APA NYK Jammu along with Volunteers of NSS Unit of GCW Parade Ground Jammu provided necessary support to the program.

## Er. Ashu Kumar meets Prof. Dr. Kulbhushan Mohtra

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Er. Ashu Kumar met Prof. Dr. Kulbhushan Mohatra, Bharatiya Janata Party BJP Jammu and Kashmir State Incharge Library and Documentation Department at BJP headquarters Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

Er. Ashu Kumar Vice-President Nations Development Association (NDA) briefed him motive, aim and achievements of Nations Development Association (NDA) in the Society. He further said working in the society for last Ten years "the association is a social organization that never takes funds or donations from anyone" under the supervisor of Chairman Nations Development Association (NDA) Sushil Singh Charak.

Er. Ashu also said, the Nations Development Association (NDA) is working in different sectors and



fields like Health, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Research and Evaluation, Women Empowerment and Skills Development and Youth Empowerment and Development, Child Protection, Development Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response, Education and Environmental Protection.

Prof. Dr. Kulbhushan Mohatra, Bharatiya Janata Party BJP

Jammu and Kashmir State Incharge Library and Documentation Department appreciated efforts of Nations Development Association (NDA) in the Society. He assured Er. Ashu Kumar to provide every necessary help and added Library and Documentation Department will co-operate and work together to complete motive of association.



## After record win, Rohit Sharma backs team to succeed on any pitch

RAJKOT, Feb 19 (Agencies): Skipper Rohit Sharma stressed on the Indian team's ability to win games on any surface, including rank turners, following its record win over England. "We have won a lot of matches on such wickets before. The turning tracks and on pitches where the ball turns remain our strength. It gives us balance," Rohit said.

"We have given results for many years and we will get results in the future as well. But we don't have control over certain things — we don't discuss whether we want rank turners or not. We come here (at the venues) two days before the match and how much can we do anyway in two days? The curators decide and make the pitch. We have the strength to play on any wicket and win on it. When we won the Test in South Africa (at Cape Town), everyone knows what kind of wicket it was," he added.

Rohit said the Indian team has



found a way through all conditions witnessed in the first three Tests. "(In) the last three Tests we played, there were different challenges. In the first Test (Hyderabad), the ball was spinning and the pitch was slow. In Vizag, it was (keeping) low. As the game progressed, the wicket became slower. Here, it played well for the first three days. Today, we saw that the

ball was turning and it was low. This is (in) the nature (of pitches), we get pitches like these in India. But if we get rank turners, we will play on them as well," he said.

Looks like they belong: Rohit on young guns

India skipper Rohit Sharma credited the young and inexperienced members of his side for their role in delivering the team's

record Test win. "Obviously it's a very good feeling to win a game like that and especially with such a young team as well. (We had) two debutants (Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel) and not a lot of Test matches amongst the playing eleven as well," Rohit said. "A lot of these guys are learning from the experience that they're having in the middle. We got to learn a lot about how we played in Hyderabad and then in Vizag when we won."

Rohit said India have had to work really hard given the circumstances (injuries to senior players). "We knew it's not going to be an easy one for us to just come out here and win the series. We have (had) to work really, really hard, especially with a lot of our frontline players missing as well," Rohit said. "A lot of credit to these young boys who have come in and showed a lot of character. Looks like they actually belong here and they want to stay here as well," he added.

## India vs England: Jasprit Bumrah likely to be rested, KL Rahul set to be available for Ranchi Test

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Premier fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah is likely to be rested for the fourth Test of the ongoing 5-match series between India and England as the team management is keen on managing his workload. The development comes a day after India hammered England by 434 runs in the third Test in Rajkot and took a 2-1 lead in the series.

Jasprit Bumrah will not be traveling with the Indian team from Rajkot to Ranchi, a top source in the BCCI told India Today. Rohit Sharma and his men will travel to Ranchi on Tuesday.

On the other hand, KL Rahul is all set to return to action in the fourth Test, starting February 23 at the Jharkhand Cricket Association Stadium. Rahul had missed the second and the third Tests due to quadriceps strain. The star batter, who shone in the first Test in Hyderabad, was named in the squad for the last three Tests but was ruled out of the Rajkot Test in the eleventh hour after he failed to completely recover from the injury setback.

The Indian cricket board, in a statement, said that KL Rahul was 90 per cent fit and that the team management

felt the star batter needed more time to completely recover from the quadriceps issue.

Captain Rohit Sharma, speaking to the press in Rajkot after India's 434-run win, also gave a positive update on Rahul's recovery from injury.

Jasprit Bumrah has been the leading wicket-taker in the ongoing Test series between India and England, claiming 17 wickets in three matches.

In fact, Bumrah had a great day out with the bat in Rajkot, scoring 26 runs off 28 balls on Day 2 to help India post 445 runs in the first innings.

The right-arm pacer claimed a wicket each in the two innings at the Niranjan Shah Stadium, following up on his 9-wicket haul in Vizag and a 6-wicket haul in Hyderabad.

Bumrah's absence will present an opportunity for Mukesh Kumar to get a look in after he was released to play Ranji Trophy during the 3rd Test. India also handed a maiden Test call-up to Bengal pacer Akash Deep. The team management might also flirt with the idea of playing 4 spinners, if the conditions in Ranchi are conducive to spin bowling.

## Sad Pacquiao accepts his Olympic dream is over

MANILA, Feb 19 (Agencies): A "saddened and disappointed" Manny Pacquiao conceded Monday his Olympic boxing dream was over after the ring great was denied a berth at this year's Paris games.

The International Olympic Committee rejected a special request for Pacquiao to take part, the Philippine Olympic Committee announced Sunday.

Pacquiao, 45, who hung up his gloves in 2021 before an unsuccessful presidential run, said he respected the decision of the IOC, which has an age limit of 40 for Olympic boxers.

"While I am very saddened and disappointed, I understand and accept the age-limit rules," said a statement from Pacquiao, who won world titles at eight different weights during a glittering professional ring career spanning more than a quarter of a century.

The Philippines last year asked the IOC for a "universality place" for Pacquiao, who has never boxed in the Olympics.

Universality places are usually awarded to athletes from smaller countries who struggle to secure slots in the Olympics through normal qualification.



Philippine Olympic Committee president Abraham Tolentino claimed Sunday the IOC decision would deprive the country of a "sure podium or first ever gold" in Olympic boxing.

Pacquiao said he will continue to support and cheer for Filipino athletes competing in the Olympics.

He also reminded his fans that despite his retirement, he intends "to bring pride and honour to my country inside the boxing ring in the near future".

A Pacquiao aide confirmed to reporters Monday that Pacquiao will fight Thai kickboxer Buakaw Banchamek in an April 20 exhibition match in Bangkok.

The match against Muay Thai great Buakaw will be fought under international boxing rules, the aide said.

## NBA All-Star Game: Damian Lillard stars as Eastern Conference beats Western Conference 211-186

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb 19 (Agencies): Milwaukee Bucks guard Damian Lillard scored 39 points and drained 11 three-pointers to lead the Eastern Conference to a record-setting 211-186 win over the Western Conference in the NBA All-Star Game on Sunday night in Indianapolis.

Lillard, 33, was named NBA All-Star Game MVP for the first time for his performance.

The Eastern Conference shattered the record for most points by a team in an All-Star Game. The previous mark was 196 points, which late Los Angeles Lakers great Kobe Bryant and the Western Conference notched during the 2016 All-Star Game.

Boston Celtics forward Jaylen Brown added 36 points on 15-for-23 shooting for the Eastern Conference in the win.

Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton finished with 32 points on 11-for-15 shooting to delight fans who watched him play on



his home court.

Karl-Anthony Towns of the Minnesota Timberwolves led the Western Conference with 50 points on 23-for-35 shooting. The Oklahoma City Thunder's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander tallied 31 points on 12-for-16 shooting, including a 7-for-10 mark from long distance.

The contest was dominated by 3-pointers and dunks, as neither side devoted much energy or attention to defense.

Eastern Conference shot 56.8

percent (83-for-146) from the field and 43.3 percent (42-for-97) from 3-point range. The Western Conference shot 55.9 percent (80-for-143) overall and 35.2 percent (25-for-71) from beyond the arc.

LeBron James made history by playing in his 20th All-Star Game. The 39-year-old surpassed fellow Los Angeles Lakers great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who earned 19 selections.

The career milestone did not

equate to a memorable performance on the court for James. He finished with eight points on 4-for-10 shooting, and he missed all three of his 3-point attempts.

The Eastern Conference led 104-89 at the half. Lillard had 22 points before the break, including a half-dozen 3-pointers, to help his team grab a 15-point lead.

Lillard maintained his hot hand in the second half. He drained a spot-up shot from halfcourt during the third quarter to make it 132-105.

After the shot swished through the basket, Lillard extended his arms into a full wingspan and walked back toward the defensive end.

The Eastern Conference scored at least 50 points in all four quarters.

The Western Conference scored 47 points in the first quarter, 42 in the second, 47 in the third and 50 in the fourth.

## Simone Inzaghi Pushing Red-Hot Inter Milan To New Heights As Atletico Madrid Come To Town

MADRID, Feb 19 (Agencies): Simone Inzaghi is on the verge of a major breakthrough at Inter Milan as the Serie A leaders push towards the first Serie A title of his coaching career and eye another deep run in the Champions League. Inter are in red-hot form as they await the visit of Atletico Madrid on Tuesday, eight wins from eight in 2024 giving them the Italian Super Cup and a nine-point lead over Juventus in Italy's top flight -- with a game in hand. Inzaghi has long been viewed as a cup coach, one who can win the domestic knockout trophies but isn't capable of challenging for football's biggest prizes.

But last year's run to the Champions League final and their imperious current campaign in Serie A suggests that Inzaghi belongs at the top table.

Inter have two points fewer than reigning champions Napoli -- who charged to the Scudetto with five matches to spare -- did at the same point last season.

However Inter have scored a goal more and have a better goal difference than Napoli did after 24 games, on their way to finishing a triumphant



phant season 16 points clear.

"We're now in that period where the matches are all close together so we're going to have to good enough to react to problems," said Inzaghi after Friday's 4-0 thrashing of Salernitana.

Inter destroyed Serie A's bottom team to win their eighth straight match after statement victories over Juve and Roma, leaving fans wondering just how far their team can go in Europe's top club competition.

"We're playing really well," Inzaghi added.

"It's difficult, you have to wait until the end of the season to make any conclusions."

New heights

What makes Inter's season even more remarkable is that it comes after yet another pre-season in which big players left and seri-

ous financial problems hampered their summer transfer activity.

weren't even sure who their first-choice goalkeeper was going to be until a fortnight before the start of the season after Andre Onana was sold to Manchester United in a 57 million-euro deal.

Yann Sommer, Bayern Munich's reserve keeper, was brought in for a relative pittance, while Benjamin Pavard didn't arrive until transfer deadline day but has since slotted perfectly into Inter's three-man defence.

Meanwhile free transfer Marcus Thuram immediately struck up a devastating partnership with Lautaro Martinez, making the loss of Edin Dzeko and Romelu Lukaku almost entirely pain free.

Inzaghi's ability to adapt to and get the best out of a changing

cast of players has been a hallmark of his reign in Milan and it has created a special looking team.

how good Inzaghi's latest Inter team are compared to previous years will be revealed over two clashes with Atletico, a tough team with an even tougher manager in Diego Simeone.

"They're physical, they know what they're doing, they have lots of great players coached by a really good manager who was also a great teammate," said Inzaghi of Atletico.

Tuesday will be the second straight match Inzaghi faces a former Lazio teammate in the opposing dugout after swatting aside Fabio Liverani's Salernitana.

A similar performance on Tuesday would give Inter and Inzaghi a great chance of continuing their push for European glory.

## Bengal cricket felicitates Manoj Tiwary with golden bat: You gave your best, says Sourav Ganguly

KOLKATA, Feb 19 (Agencies): Manoj Tiwary was felicitated with a golden bat by the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) for his achievement of scoring over 10,000 runs in first-class cricket as he bid farewell to the sport. The CAB honoured Bengal Captain Manoj Tiwari on the day of his retirement from all forms of cricket. He was presented with a golden bat and ball memento by CAB President Snehasish Ganguly as the majestic Eden Gardens bid adieu to one of its favourite sons.

The man of the moment, Manoj Tiwary, came up with an emotional farewell speech as he thanked the support he received from the board and his family over the years.

"I miss my father today, who passed away in 2017. My mother and my wife have been my motivation. They complete me," Tiwary said.

Manoj Tiwary also spoke of his admiration for former India and Bengal captain Sourav Ganguly.

"Dadi was this young, fair left-hander when I first came to Eden Gardens. I thought, 'This is really the Prince of Kolkata, and I need to play like him.'"

Manoj Tiwary made a



special mention to the doyens of the Bengal cricket administration, including Jagmohan Dalmiya, Sourav Ganguly, Avishek Dalmiya, and Snehasish Ganguly, for backing him at various stages of his career.

"The runs I have accumulated were only possible because of the contributions of many people, beginning with my seniors and ending with the grounds men. There was a point in my career when I went through a really dark phase. I was waiting to get a call-up, and that never came. I became so depressed that, at one point, I thought the only exercise I needed to do was how to squat and then run with bottles to the ground. But that is all in the past now. I am so happy to retire on my favorite ground," a teary-eyed Manoj said.

Former India Skipper Sourav Ganguly praised Manoj Tiwary for his contribution to Bengal

cricket and the passion he showcased for the sport.

"Manoj, you will be remembered in golden letters in Bengal cricket. You are a very talented cricketer. But there is a saying, 'Being at the right place at the right time.' It may not have worked for you, but you gave your best years to Bengal cricket, and as long as cricket is played here, you will remain one of the favourite sons of the soil. You are a motivation for generations to come to play for Bengal. Having played with you, I know your passion and dedication, and I hope the youngsters emulate your achievements," Ganguly said at the event.

Speaking at the occasion, CAB President Snehasish Ganguly said, "I laud Manoj for the runs he has piled up in a career spanning two decades. Not only has he scored 10,000 runs in first-class cricket, but

another 5,000 in the A-List. The longevity of his career defines his fitness, dedication, and passion for the game. He was hungry to give Bengal another Ranji Trophy, and that motivated him to continue in these final years. I know he deserved to play longer for India. But we often do not get what we deserve. You will be remembered as one of the finest cricketers of Bengal and this country. We wish you the very best for your future."

Former CAB President Avishek Dalmiya said, "Manoj, you and I have been friends. We have talked over issues both on and off the ground in person and over long conversations on the phone. And in every conversation, your passion and devotion to cricket were evident. Your commitment to the game and love for Bengal are unparalleled, and you should remain associated with cricket in some form, as you still have a lot to give."

Video messages of appreciation were also sent by his senior teammates Deep Dasgupta and Rohan Gavaskar, former India teammate Harbhajan Singh, coaches Sairaj Bahutule and W V Raman, and his Bengal squad member Mohammed Shami.



# 'Hollow slogan of Zero tolerance against corruption exposed by Supreme Court'

## AAP apprehends ordinance like past



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 29: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu leaders, Deep Singh, Founder & National Council Member, Major General Retd R.S. Jamwal, Farooq Ahmed Bandy, Nirmal Mahna, Er. Surinder Singh Jamwal & Kuldeep Kumar Rao, in a joint statement issued here, while hailing the historical verdict of Apex Court banning electoral bonds and there by applying a full stop against influx of black money into political life for turning it white through infamous electoral bonds, the AAP Jammu has apprehended introduction of yet another ordinance like the past challenging the Highest Court in defining the authority of Delhi Government as also Election Commission ousting CJI from the panel, on the strength of brute majority in the Parliament, mandated by

the masses.

The AAP leaders further demanded the activation of ED, CBI or the Income Tax agencies should be banned to take any action six months before elections in any state or of the Parliament so that ruling class do not find time to assassinate the characters of opposition leaders before the masses for their political gains.

The AAP leaders have urged upon the masses to see through the game of BJP regime who are hell bent to destroy constitution, democracy, constitutional & democratic Institutions like Courts, Election Commission etc in the country besides unique federal system, whereby states have more powers to the benefit of masses they maintained.

The AAP leaders further cautioned the masses that BJP has smelt rat of eating humble Pie in

ensuring Lok Sabha elections in March/April, 2024 and that is why they are turning every stone to divert the attention of the public of the country in general & women folk in particular and make best use of their emotions for electoral gains.

They have cautioned the masses in general and women folk across the country in particular to see through the game and not fall into the trap of BJP which they lay at the time of elections and later call it a Jumla.

Their sympathy with the women is well known in case of women wrestlers, Hathras episode and Manipur naked parading of girls & women, or November 2 gang rape of a 20 years old B Tech student of IIT-BHU on campus, the AAP leaders asserted and appealed to teach them a lesson for times to come to save the honor and dignity of

women, the 50% population of the country.

The AAP Leaders further said that a perpetrator is always a man of sin, whatever be his caste, political affiliation or sect or religion but sad on the part of ruling dispensation, they have saved all such perpetrators-rapists and criminals be it Brij Bhushan Singh, Kuldeep Singh Sengar, BJP IT cell among 3 for IIT-BHU girl's gang rape or Ajay Teni, who crushed down 8 protesting farmers or a contractor who repaired the bridge where more than 150 pedestrians lost their lives in MORBI Gujarat etc.

The AAP leaders maintained and warned that enough is enough and that they will be paid in the same coin in 2024 they cautioned and added that now the women folk, the unemployed educated youth, the farmers, traders & laborers etc cannot be befooled any longer.

## St. Mary's Infant Convent School holds Decennium celebrations



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: St. Mary's Infant Convent School (SMICS) Jammu held a colossal event at Govt Polytechnic Auditorium to celebrate a decade of triumphs galore in scholastic and co-scholastic arenas.

The bright and cheery decennary celebrations on the theme of "Dances of India" combined music, dance, and drama to put an exotically picturesque display of rich cultural legacy of India which has dance at its heart.

Parents embellished the occasion with their baronial presence.

With the draw of lots, select parents were chosen as the Chief Guests, who were then honored with potted plants. The special vedettes Anna Mary, Chairperson of the School and Anthony Ignatius, Director of SMICS, along with the chief guests commenced the ceremony with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, which was followed

by a cosmic dance to evoke divine spirituality.

The cultural spectacle to mark the distinguished accomplishments of students at the 10th Annual Day celebration of SMICS consisted of a rich and rhythmic medley of enthralling dance displays by tiny tots adorned in colorful costumes.

Students from nursery to class three participated with full verve and vigor in an array of riveting performances such as love-inspired dance drama, Jungle dance, Bihu dance, Goan dance, Rajasthani dance, Lavani dance, Punjabi dance, and several contemporary dances which lulled the hearts of one and all.

Parents beamed with pride seeing their little ones in the spotlight throughout the magnificent ceremony and praised the school for providing their children with a stellar enlightening odyssey.

Anna Mary and Anthony Ignatius felicitated the

guests and teachers, and expressed their deepest gratitude towards each person who has supported the school in the ten years of making significant differences in young hearts, minds, and lives.

Principal of the school, Sheetal Anthony, beamed with pride as she gave an overview of the year's achievements. Shazia Kalyan, school coordinator, presented the welcome speech, whereas Ms. Komal Chauhan and Nausheen proposed the formal vote of thanks. Other key members of the staff - Afshan Khan, Ruksar Bhatti, and Ashwarya, helped compe and coordinate the event.

The dynamic and mesmerizing cultural fiesta culminated into a grand finale that sketched an acme of students' creative impressions and demonstrated exhilarating effects at St. Mary's Infant Convent School's decennial celebrations.

## 32 students of Aakash BYJU'S from Jammu achieve 90 percentile in the first session of JEE Mains 2024; 21 students secured more than 95 percentile



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Aakash BYJU'S is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of 32 of its students from Jammu who have scored 90 percentile and above in the first session of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2024. While three meritorious students secured 99 percentile and above, 21 students scored more than 95 percentile.

The notable achievers are Mohd Maayiz Mattoo who secured 99.74 percentile, Musaib Bin Bashir with 99.62 percentile, Deedwer who secured 99.33, Kartikay Raina 98.88, Tvisha Gupta 98.87, Akshita Gupta 98.72, Palak Gupta 98.55 and Sneh Dhar 98.38 amongst others.

In fact, Tvisha Gupta

became Aakash BYJU'S female topper from Jammu region by scoring 98.87 percentile.

Three students from Aakash BYJU'S Udhampur branch have also secured high percentiles notably Prachish Sharma who secured 98.93 percentile, Swansham Mahajan 97.86 and Sunny with 94.13.

The top percentiles of the students showcase their unwavering commitment and academic excellence in one of India's most competitive exams.

The National Testing Agency unveiled the results recently, marking the commencement of the first of the two scheduled Joint Entrance Examinations for Engineering this year. Enrolling in Aakash's classroom program with the aspiration of conquering

the formidable IIT JEE, renowned as the most challenging entrance exam globally, the students credited their ascent to the top percentiles to their dedication to comprehending fundamental concepts and maintaining a disciplined study regimen.

Expressing gratitude, they remarked, "We are thankful to Aakash for aiding us in both aspects. Without the institute's comprehensive content and coaching, mastering the concepts of numerous subjects within a short timeframe would have been unlikely."

Congratulating the students, Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, Aakash BYJU'S, commended, "The students remarkable performance exemplifies Aakash BYJU'S commitment to empowering students with comprehensive coaching and innovative learning solutions, thereby enabling them to excel in competitive examinations. We wish them all the best for the next attempt as well as for their future endeavours." JEE (Mains) is structured in two sessions to provide students with multiple opportunities to enhance their scores.

## SMVDU hosts educational visit of GHSS Narla, Rajouri



### Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 19: SMVDU Katra hosted the visit of students from Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Narla, Rajouri under an outreach activity program.

The visit was organized to enhance knowledge/awareness among students about higher educational institutions under the PM Shri Scheme.

NSS volunteers of the University accompanied the school team during the visit.

NSS Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar welcomed the school officials and students and gave a brief introduction to the University.

Students were motivated to join higher educational institutes after completing their class 12th. During the event, the school team vis-

ited the central workshop, and academic area including labs, auditorium, etc.

The students were also briefed about the admission process for various courses and also informed about various facilities and achievements of the University by the NSS coordinator. More than 50 students along with their teachers and principal participated in the visit.

NSS volunteers Abhishek Sharma, Suhani Sharma, Mridul, Ojashwi, Kamal, Aaditya and Utsav guided the school students during the whole visit. The Principal of the school thanked University authorities for hosting the visit.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers in organizing the visit.

## LFO-BHF & Directorate AYUSH organise free medical camp

### Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 19: A free Ayurvedic medical camp was organised by Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) in collaboration with Directorate of AYUSH at Shri Ram Universal School, Jakh, Samba, where individuals received complimentary health checkups and immuno boosting medicines.

In addition to medical services, psychological counseling, diagnostic health screening, and awareness sessions on menstrual health and hygiene management were provided.

The event, led by esteemed AYUSH staff including Dr. Rozy, MO AHCW GHG Brahmana, Dr. Jyoti Dogra, MO GAD Palli, Dr. Tabassum Choudhary, MO GAD Salmeri, Narinder Kumar, Sr. Pharmacist AHCW Gho Brahmana, Madan Mohan, Jr. Pharmacist AHCW Rehian, Rakesh Kumar, MTS AHCW GHG Brahmana.



With a total of 603 beneficiaries, the initiative not only addressed immediate healthcare needs but also empowered individuals with knowledge about maintaining optimal health and hygiene practices, particularly focusing on menstrual health.

"We are proud to have collaborated with AYUSH and Shri Ram Universal School to deliver this impactful event," said Vivek Parihar, Founder & Director of LFO-BHF.

"Our collective efforts aim to uplift and empower

communities by providing essential healthcare services and promoting awareness about holistic well-being," said Vishal Singh, CO-Founder & COO of LFO-BHF.

This collaborative effort underscores the commitment of all parties involved to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and communities, fostering a culture of health and well-being.

The members who were present are Sachin, Navya, Sahil, Abhishek Raina and others.

## Dr. Tarun welcomes PM Modi's visit in Jammu on Feb 20



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 19: Dr. Tarun Sharma, BJP leader & Incharge Cultural Cell BJYM J&K expressed great happiness on the scheduled visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the temple city of Jammu on 20th February on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the BJP Party.

This is the first visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jammu city after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution, he said.

The Modi government was successful in bringing back home those 8 naval veterans who were sentenced to death by the Oman government due to some misunderstanding, he said.

The visit also comes at a time when the Prime Minister was involved in the "Pranpratishtha" of Ram Lalla temple at Ayodhya after the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India paved the way for resolution of the long-standing issue. He also inaugurated the Swami Narayan temple of BAPS in Dubai & the close relationship between the authorities of UAE & Indian government was visible for all the viewers of the inauguration ceremony.

This clearly shows that the PM of India is not only pursuing his goal of cultural renaissance of India but is also ensuring close political & economic relationship with the neighbouring middle eastern countries as well as the nations beyond.

Dr. Tarun Sharma said that under the PM's leadership several steps have been taken for upliftment of the hitherto forgotten people be they the refugees from 1947, reservation for the Paharis & other tribals & reservation of seats in the legislature & PRIs for women. These steps, he said, are going to substantially improve the condition of the people of J&K & will have an everlasting positive impact on the political, social & economic well-being of J&K for which the initiatives of the PM & his government will always be remembered.

Dr. Tarun Sharma said that the spectacular hosting of G20 summit in India by the PM & involving the entire country in many of its programmes underpins the desire of Narendra Modi to involve the entire nation in such big events & showcase the strength of cultural diversity of the country to rest of the world. His stress on the policy of "India First" has ensured that the country steers clear of the Russia - Ukraine & Israel - Hamas war & has minimal impact on the economy of the country. These wars have wrecked havoc on the economies of several other countries including those in the developed world causing spiralling inflation.

He emphasised that Jammu is not only welcoming Narendra Modi the Prime Minister but also a statesman who is steering the country to new heights of development & cultural renaissance & at the same time ensuring respectable place for India in the comity of nations. Given the respect, love & affection bestowed by the people of the country on our Prime Minister & the position he has created for the nation & himself on the world stage it is our sacred duty to give Narendra Modi a rousing reception during his visit to Jammu.