

**Laying of Foundation Stone,
Inauguration & Dedication to Nation
220 Projects | ₹32000 crore
in Jammu & Kashmir**

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

- AIIMS, Jammu
- IIT, Jammu
- IIM, Jammu
- New Terminal Building Jammu Airport
- 206 Developmental Projects of UT
- Common User Petroleum Terminal, Jammu
- MoRTH Projects -Expressway, bridges, tunnels and other infrastructure projects
- New Railway Line between Banihal -Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section
- Electrification of Baramulla-Sangaldan Railway line
- Distribution of 1748 appointment letters

- **Specialised Health Services** ● **Quality Education** ● **Better connectivity**
- **Employment Generation** ● **Economic Growth & Tourism**

February 20, 2024 | 11:00 AM | M A Stadium, Jammu



DIP/J-15223/23

OBITUARY



Mr Samir Ji Bhat

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform the sad demise **Mr Samir Ji Bhat** S/o Late Vesh Nath Bhat originally resident of Hugam-Anantnag at present 42-A Lane No. 6 Vaski Vihar opp Vaski Nag Temple Bantalab Jammu on 14th Feb 2024.
Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 23-Feb 2024 followed by Assembly at Home 11:00 AM.
Grief Stricken :
Jyoti Bhat (Wife) - 9596109709
Vishal Bhat, Vivek Bhat- Sons
Brothers and Bhabhis
Kamal Ji Bhat & Rita Bhat
Shubhan Ji Bhat & Basanti Bhat
Sisters and Brothers-in law
Sharika Raina W/o Mohan Lal Raina
Princy Reshi W/o Pintoo Jee Reshi

7006135572, 9419242828,
7051454144

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 Bantalab 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

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



Sh. Jai Krishan

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

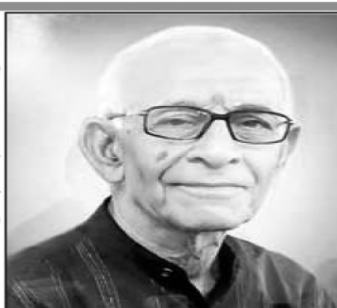
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sudden demise of our beloved **SMT. ANJAN BALA** W/o Sh. Bharat Bushan alias Bablu ji R/o Wanpoh presently at C. No. 181 Bakshi Nagar near Kamshwar Gas Agency.
10th Day will be performed on 22nd Feb 2024 at BHADRAKALI Mandir, Thalwal (Assembly will be held at our residence at 11:00 AM)
GRIEF STRICKEN
SAMAST PARIVAR
Sh. Bharat Bushan alias Bablu ji (husband)
9419149707,
Akhsh Pandita and Nisha Joshi(Son and daughter- in law)
982230201,
Smt. Isha Bhatti & Sh. Bharat Harish (Daughter and son-in-law)
800939822,
882501518.
Daughter and son-in-law
Smt. Sakshi Bhatti & Sh. Kuldeep Bhatti
7006029091, 6006073501, 9463338980, 9419684898,
8598726206, Kids: Jatin, Karan, Yashashvi and Devansh



SMT. ANJAN BALA

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

13TH DAY / UTHALA

With profound grief, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Hem Raj Sharma** (Ex Comdt. B.S.F.) who left us for heavenly abode on 10-2-2024.
Dharam Shanti Path: 21-2-2024 from 12.00 to 2.00 pm at our residence: JMC-49, Shanti Vihar, Patta Paloura (near Pillar No. 83), Jammu.
Uthala: 21-02-2024 from 4.00 to 5.00 pm at: Shree Geeta Mandir Simriti Bhawan, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Rita Sharma (Wife) (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Tushar Sharma & Neha Sharma
Shalini Magotra and Brig. Rajesh Magotra (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Komila Sharma & Col. Munish Sharma (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Brother & Sister-in-law
Late Sh. Chander Prakash Sharma and Smt. Nirmal Sharma
Late Sh. Amarnath Sharma and Late Smt. Bhushan Sharma
Sh. Narotam Sharma & Smt. Asha Sharma
Phone : 9717466500, 9469169164, 9953164476



Sh. Hem Raj Sharma (Ex Comdt. B.S.F.)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

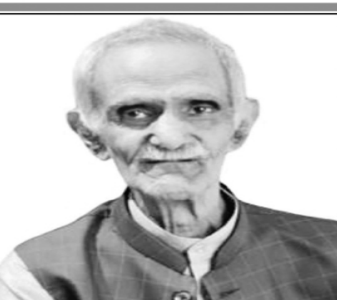
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sardarni Narinder Kour** R/o H.No. 20, AKC Colony, Extension Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.
Akhand Path Arambh on Monday 19th Feb at our residence at 9:30 am and **Bhog Akhand Path** 21st Feb at 9:30 am at our residence House No 20 A K C Colony Extension Trikuta Nagar opp CRPF Camp Jammu. Antim Ardass 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

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. Makhni 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

TENTH DAY, KRIYA & 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
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

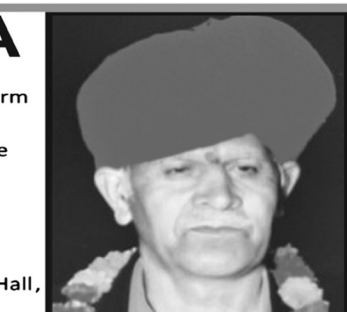
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that our revered mother **Smt. Asha Braroo** W/o Lt. Sh. Piyarey Lal Braroo R/o Malyar Habbakadal Srinagar at present H. No 233-C, Lane No 4, Sec 1 Durga Nagar Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 16th Feb 2024.
10TH DAY KRIYA will take place at Akhnoor 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

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Prahlad Sharma** R/O Pandit Gham 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)
Arti Sharma and Manoj Sharma (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Samast Bhaderwahi Pariwar, Pandit Gham Kuleed.
Cont.+91-8716888000, 9915906469



Sh. Prahlad Sharma

MASWAR & VOHARVAR

It has been one year now since you left for heavenly abode leaving all your nears & dears including your small children in a very shocking position. Your memories are still fresh in our hearts & minds. The children miss you every now & then.
MASWAR & VOHARVAR of our beloved **LATE SMT. SHANU BHAT** W/o Sh. MOHIT RAINA originally R/o Rangar, Teh. Chadoora (Budgam) will be performed at our residence Flat No. 602, Block D, TDI Wellington Heights, Mohali, on 20 & 21 Feb 24.
DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY
All Nears & Dears
Mohit Raina & Children
Mob 9888881779



LATE SMT. SHANU BHAT

FIFTH DAY

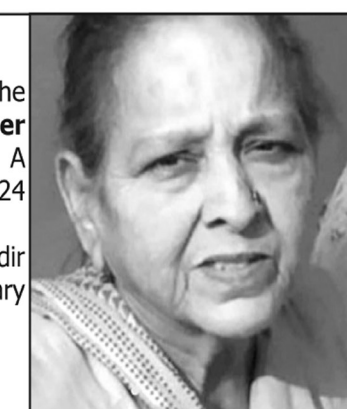
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved sister **Smt. Rampyari Paroch** W/o Late Sh. Lakshmi Das R/o Batote on 17 February 2024
FIFTH DAY will be held on 21, February 2024, (Wednesday) at 12 noon at Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Main Bazaar, Batote.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Late Sh. Chuni Lal Bucha & Late Smt. Ratna Gupta
Sh. Om Prakash Bucha & Late Smt. Kailash Gupta
Sh. Bansil Lal Bucha & Smt. Vimla Devi
Sh. Shyam Lal Bucha & Smt. Sudershana Gupta
Sh. Jiya Lal Bucha and Late Smt. Santosh Gupta
Sh. Shakti Prakash Bucha & Smt. Nirmal Gupta



Smt. Rampyari Paroch (1921-2024)

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Sudesh Langer** W/o Lt. Sh. Shanti Swaroop Langer R/o 677 A Gandhi Nagar, Jammu on 18th February 2024 (Sunday).
FIFTH DAY will be performed at Shiv Mandir Sec-3 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on 21st February 2024 (Wednesday) at 11 AM To 12 NOON.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Brothers & Sisters-in-Law
Lt. Sh. Dev Raj Gupta & Lt. Smt. Bimla Gupta
Lt. Sh. K.L. Gupta & Smt. Vijay Gupta
Lt. Sh. Sudarshan Gupta & Lt. Smt. Sukeshi Gupta
Lt. Sh. Lok Raj Gupta & Smt. Raj Gupta
Sh. Nirmal Kumar Gupta & Smt. Tripta Gupta
Mob. No. 9419144332, 9419197086, 9419230641



Smt. Sudesh Langer

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Prahlad Sharma** R/O Pandit Gham 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)
Arti Sharma and Manoj Sharma (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Samast Bhaderwahi Pariwar, Pandit Gham 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 Eiora 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

KRIYA/UTHALA

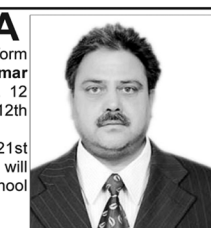
With profound grief & sorrow, we inform untimely demise of our beloved **Rahul Bali** S/o Lt. Sh. Pardeep Kumar Bali & Lt. Lalita Bali who left for heavenly abode on 10-02-2024.
KRIYA will be performed on 20 Feb. 2024 Tuesday from 11 AM at our residence H.No. 302 Jullaka Mohalla Jammu.
Uthala will be performed at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony from 4 to 5 PM on 21 Feb 24 Wednesday.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Isha Sharma - (Wife)
Ritisha Bali - (Daughter)
Ritvik Bali - (Son)
Parvesh Kumar Bali & Sandhya Bali - (Taya, Tayi)
Rajesh Kumar Bali & Rama Bali - (Chacha, Chachi)
Y.K. Vaid & Madhu Vaid - (Fufa Ji, Bujji)
Sanjay Sharma & Renu Sharma - (Fufa Ji, Bujji)
9419765585, 9086607628, 9419157393, 9796627170



Rahul Bali

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ajay Kumar Mathu** S/o Lt. Sh. Bansil Lal Mathu R/o H. No. 12 Saraswati Lane, Talab Tilloo Bohri Jammu on 12th February 2024.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 21st February 2024 at Akhnoor Ghat and assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 11.00 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
Smt. Shiyama Mathu- Mother
Smt. Sarita Wastel - Sister
Smt & Sh. Rajinder Mathu- Brother & Bhabhi
Gautam Mathu- Son
& Samast Mathu, Raina, Seru & Jalali Parivar
P. No. 94191-33898, 7889369820



Sh. Ajay Kumar Mathu

10TH DAY/KIRYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Charan Dass Gupta** (Malguria) S/o Sh. Achru Ram R/o Shaks Nagar, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 11-02-2024.
10th Day will be performed on 20th February, 2024 (Tuesday) from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon at Samrli Bhawan Ram Mandir, Gutha Bakshi Nagar Jammu.
Kriya will be performed on 23rd February, 2024 (Friday) at 12:00 noon at our residence H.No. 193, Lane No. 7, Shakti Nagar, Jammu.
Uthala will be performed on 23rd February, 2024 (Friday) from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Samrli Bhawan Ram Mandir, Gutha Bakshi Nagar Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sons and Daughter-in-laws
Sh. Sanjeev K. Gupta and Smt. Anu Radha Mahajan
Sh. Chetan Gupta and Smt. Vandana Mahajan
Brothers and Bhabhis
Sh. Jia Lal Gupta and Smt. Tripta Gupta
Sh. Bishan Dass Gupta and Smt. Sushma Gupta
Sister and Brother-in-law
Smt. Jagmohan Gupta and Lt. Sh. Gajananand Gupta
Brother-in-laws and Sister-in-laws
Sh. Jagmohan Gupta and Lt. Smt. Sushila Rani
Dr. C.D Gupta and Dr. Chanchal Gupta
Sh. Vijay Gupta and Smt. Veena Gupta
Sh. Sumrinder Gupta and Smt. Vijay Gupta
Grand Children: Dharam, Dhawan, Jakesh, Nivaran
Contact details: 7006240491, 9037383853, 9796496326, 8979258929



Sh. Charan Dass Gupta (Malguria)

10TH DAY / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Ram Lal Khajuria** S/o Lt. Sh. Paras Ram. **10th Day** will be performed on 20 Feb, at Gorkha Mandir Sector 4, Nanak Nagar from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.
Uthala will be performed on 21st Feb, at Gorkha Mandir, Sector 4, Nanak Nagar from 3.00 to 4.00 pm.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Khajuria Family
Contact: 9419290686/ 9419909076/ 9149812732



Sh. Ram Lal Khajuria

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TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

CRPF trooper dies of suspected cardiac arrest in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Feb 20 (Agencies): A CRPF trooper died of a suspected cardiac arrest during duty hours in Wavura area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. An official told GNS that one Mohan Lal, SI Rank, of 162 Battalion, complained of acute chest pain and subsequently fell unconscious during duty hours at Wavura. "The trooper was taken to SDH Sogam, where the doctors declared him as brought dead on arrival", the official said. Confirming the death of the trooper, a police official told GNS that as per the doctors the CRPF man has died of cardiac arrest.

Unidentified body recovered in Budgam, probe launched

BUDGAM, Feb 20 (Agencies): An unidentified body was recovered in Sanzipora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday. Official said that the body of the man was found by locals who accordingly informed the police. He said that the body has been recovered from the spot, and his identification is being ascertained. Police have taken cognizance of the incident and have started further investigation in this regard.

3.7 magnitude earthquake hits Kishtwar

JAMMU, Feb 20 (Agencies): An earthquake of 3.7 magnitude struck Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar region on Monday morning, according to the National Center for Seismology. As per the National Center for Seismology, the earthquake occurred at 6:36 am. "Earthquake of Magnitude: 3.7, Occurred on 20-02-2024, 06:36:00 IST, Lat: 33.32 & Long: 76.71, Depth: 5 Km, Location: Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir, India," NCS said in a post on X. On Monday evening, an earthquake of 5.2 magnitude struck the Ladakh region near Kargil, according to the National Center for Seismology. The earthquake occurred at 9:35 pm. "Earthquake of Magnitude: 5.2, Occurred on 19-02-2024,"

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PM Modi arrives in Jammu



SRINAGAR, Feb 20 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday arrived in Jammu on his day long visit. He was received

by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Advisor to LG RR Batnagar, Chief Secretary Atal Daloo and other top officials of J&K administration.

The Prime Minister drove straight to Moulana Azad Stadium where he will address public rally. During his visit, the PM Modi will inaugurate, dedicate and lay the foundation stones for a series of development projects worth over 30,500 Cr.

These projects span across various sectors such as health, education, transportation (including rail, road, and aviation), petroleum, and civic infrastructure. Highlighting the government's commitment to development, the event will also see the distribution of appointment letters to approximately 1,500 new government recruits from Jammu and Kashmir, underlining efforts towards job creation and employment enhancement in the region.

Jammu-Srinagar highway blocked for second day as landslides hit several places



JAMMU, Feb 20 (Agencies): The strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained blocked for the second day on Tuesday following landslides at over a dozen places

in Ramban district, traffic department officials said. The inclement weather is hampering the road clearance operations at the affected areas between Ramban and

Banihal, the officials said, advising people to avoid taking the road till further updates. "The Jammu-Srinagar National highway (NH-44) is blocked due to Landslides/Mudslides/shooting stones (from hillocks) at Dalwas, Peerha, near Peerha Tunnel, Mehad-Cafeteria, Jaiswal bridge, Trishul Morh, Seri, T2, Monkey Morh, Mom Passi, Gangroo, Hingni Marog, Kishtwari Pather, Shalghari Rampari, Tabela and Chamalwas," a traffic department

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Police rescues Pregnant woman amidst heavy snowfall in Sopore

SRINAGAR, Feb 20 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday morning rescued a pregnant woman amidst heavy snowfall from Zethan to PHC Dangiwaacha in North Kashmir's Sopore. A Police spokesperson said, "A distress call from Shamshad Ahmad Mir R/O Zethan Dangiwaacha, requesting for urgent rescue and medical

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Forest official suspended for wearing pheran during duty hours in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 20 (Agencies): The forest department suspended a forest employee for wearing a Pheran (a Kashmiri traditional outfit) during duty hours in Langate area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. The divisional forest officer (DFO), Langate

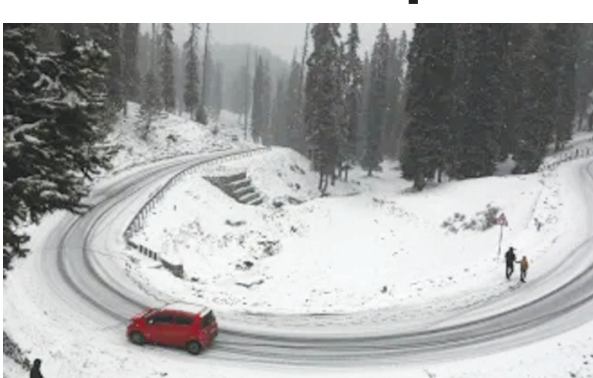
forest division in a suspension order states that during his surprise inspection of Forest Check-post Langate on 17.02.2024 at 12:25 pm one forest official namely Bashir Ahmad Dohi, Forest Guard was found wearing with pheran and looking like a shepherd.

He said that the territorial forest officials are part of a disciplined force and are always duty bound to wear proper dress code while performing their duties at sensitive postings. "Therefore, pending departmental enquiry Bashir Ahmad Dohi, Forest Guard is hereby

placed under suspension at attached with Range Office Rafiabab with immediate effect," he said. The order also said that the Range Officer Mawar shall make an internal arrangements in place of the suspended official till suitable staff is posted in the said check-post.

Rains, snow continue in Kashmir; Gulmarg amasses 3-ft snowfall in 48 hours

SRINAGAR, Feb 20 (Agencies): Gulmarg and higher reaches in Kashmir Valley massed a plenty of snow with world famous skiing resort recording nearly 3-ft of it in 48 hours till this morning, officials said on Tuesday. A meteorological department official said that plains largely received rainfall with Srinagar recording 41.4mm in two days including 29.0mm in 24 hours till 0830 hours today. Also, he said,



mercury witnessed drop with Srinagar recording a low of minus 0.7°C against 2.0°C on the previous night. It was

below normal by 1.6°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, he said. Qazigund received 76.8mm

of rain in 24 hours till 0830 hours and recorded a minimum of 0.0°C against 36°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the MeT official said. Pahalgam received 40.1mm of rain during the 24 hours and recorded a low of minus 0.5°C against 0.8°C on the previous night and it was 3.5°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

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PM Modi launches Rs 32,000-Crore worth development projects in J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched multiple development projects, including for education, railway, aviation and road sectors, in Jammu and Kashmir worth over Rs 32,000 crore.

From Jammu, the prime minister also launched or laid foundation stone of projects worth Rs 13,500 crore across the country.

These projects include Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and central universities.

Modi distributed appointment letters to about 1,500 newly recruited government employees of Jammu and Kashmir and also interacted with the beneficiaries of various schemes as part of the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu' programme.

Among the railway projects that Modi inaugurated are the railway line between Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan (48 km) and the newly electrified Baramulla-Srinagar-Banihal-Sangaldan section (185.66 km).

He flagged off the first electric train in the Valley and the train

service between Sangaldan and Baramulla stations.

The commissioning of the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section is significant as it features the usage of ballast less track (BLT) all along the route providing a better ride experience to passengers.

India's longest transportation tunnel T-50 (12.77 km) lies in the portion between Khari and Sumber.

The railway projects are expected to improve connectivity, ensure environmental sustainability and boost the overall economic development of the region. The prime minister also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several projects worth about Rs 13,500 crore for other parts of the country.

The projects include permanent campuses for IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT Tirupati, IIT Jammu, IIITDM Kanchi, Indian Institute of Skills (IIS), a pioneer skills training institute on advanced technologies located at Kanpur, and campuses of Central Sanskrit University at Devprayag (Uttarakhand) and Agartala (Tripura).

He also inaugurated three new IIMs in the country — IIM Jammu,

IIM Bodh Gaya and IIM Visakhapatnam — besides 20 new buildings for Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 13 for new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) buildings across the country.

As part of his government's efforts to provide comprehensive, quality and holistic tertiary-care health services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister also inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu, officials said.

The institute, whose foundation stone was laid by him in February 2019, has been established under the central government's 'Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana'.

Set up at a cost of over Rs 1,660 crore and in an area spanning over 227 acres, the hospital is equipped with 720 beds, a medical college with 125 seats, a nursing college with 60 seats, an AYUSH block with 30 beds, residential accommodation for faculty and staff, hostel accommodation for UG and PG students and a shopping complex among other facilities.

Among other projects, Modi laid the foundation

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EDITORIAL

SUCCESS
IN LIFE

Success is something that makes our life meaningful. This is the highest point of the ladder in life where we all want to reach. We all must have played the game of snakes and ladders; in this game many times we get bitten by snakes, otherwise we would have easily reached our goal. Exactly like this is our success story. Every step to reach the highest ladder of success is full of challenges. We should always be ready to face and overcome all these challenges to be successful in our life.

Success is a word made up of four letters, which we can write very easily. But in reality it is very difficult to achieve. Everyone in this world has a dream or goal, to achieve which he works honestly. It is a good thing to dream about any goal in life and achieving that goal is our success. Success is something that we define as achieving the goals of our life. Success is the thing that we want to achieve in life. There is no success in doing good deeds only and there is no success in bad deeds. We need to work hard and utilize our time properly to make our dreams come true. Success is achieved only by those who are capable of it. To make their dreams come true, people use their time properly and work hard and work accordingly. Failure is also a part of success. We do not need to be disappointed by our failure, rather we need to learn from our failure. We need to identify where we have made mistakes and correct them. With this we can correct the mistakes we have made. The meaning of success is different for everyone. For some it is a good situation and for others it is to acquire more property or money. According to me real success is something which you see as your dream and you want to achieve it. Success means reaching your goals, this is what gives you real happiness and satisfaction. All people have different goals, like dancing, singing, doctor, sports, studies etc. everyone has their own different goals and their achievements.

Essential Factors for Success

1. Decide your goal

It is very important for all of us to have a goal in life. Life without goal has no value. Having a goal in life helps us to focus and think about achieving our goal.

2. Time management

This is the most important factor to achieve success in life. Once time has passed, it cannot be brought back. In this world, everything is very important to be done at a fixed time, so we need to understand the importance of our time. We should keep in mind the importance of our time and work accordingly. So that we can achieve a happy and successful life.

3. Inspiration

Everyone in this world needs inspiration and every person definitely has some source of inspiration. Helps us to fulfill our life goals and walk on the right path. It is a catalytic force that generates enthusiasm and a spark within us. It gives us a positive energy to work with our honesty and dedication and this always motivates us to achieve that goal.

4. Hard work

There is no substitute for honest hard work in the process of becoming successful. There are many people in the world who are born with great luck and a brilliant mind. But they also need hard work to achieve their goals and be successful. Hard work can be seen as a key to success, nothing else can replace it.

Success is something that cannot be achieved by any shortcut method. To achieve this, it requires a lot of hard work, dedication, motivation, dedication, etc. along with determination. Success comes only to those who pursue their goals with determination. To achieve this, it requires a lot of hard work, dedication, motivation, dedication, etc. along with determination. Success comes only to those who pursue their goals with strong determination. Those people who only dream of being successful in their goal and do nothing to achieve it can never take advantage of it.

A good learner and listener who understands the importance of time and works hard to achieve his goals only then gets the fruits of success. Success is a step by step process that requires a lot of patience. For this, first of all we have to decide the goal of our life. After setting the goal, we have to work hard and diligently accordingly. Surely this will help us to become successful and happy in our life.

An ant as an example of success:-

Have you ever seen an ant carrying a piece of food? Many times the food she carries is so heavy that she drops it midway. Despite this, the ants never get disappointed and start trying to take it away again. I think this is a best example of hard work which is most important for us to achieve success in our life.

The journey to success is not as easy as we see or hear. To achieve success we also have to face many failures. We need to motivate ourselves again and again until our goal is achieved without giving up on this failure. Motivation is the only thing that helps us to focus on our goal. The art of trying again and again with some positive thoughts and energy is the lesson that we get to learn from this little creature.

How is success important in our life?

We all work to achieve something in our life. Everyone's goals may be different but everyone's goal is the same and that is to be successful in their goal. It is very important for us to be successful in our life goals, because it gives us a good identity and respect in the society. Success makes us more confident in our life and makes our life happier. It gives us an inner satisfaction because achieving success means achieving what we want to achieve in life and what we want to become in life. It is very necessary and important for the existence of a human life. It opens doors to different opportunities for us. Success only inspires us to move forward in our life. We can never live without inspiration or encouragement in our life. Success is such a thing which makes our life meaningful and makes us optimistic. Success is the only thing which shows us the right path of our life and inspires us to move forward on it. Successful people of the world are an example for other people of the society.

It is always said that to achieve something in life we have to sacrifice something. This proves absolutely true in achieving success. To achieve success in our life, we need to give up our lazy behavior in life and all the luxuries of life. Once you achieve success in life, you see its result in happiness and a different kind of feeling within you.

SC bonds ruling a reminder how weak India's key institutions are

By: Aakar Patel

India's electoral bonds scheme has been declared illegal, a rare win in court for those resisting authoritarianism. But many elections, including the last general election, have been fought on these unlawful funds.

It would have been appropriate to have heard and adjudicated on the issue earlier but the court chose not to do so. Former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, rewarded with a Rajya Sabha seat, when asked why he had delayed adjudicating on the issue, said he did not remember the issue coming up before his court. Many will not know how diabolical the electoral bonds enterprise was, and it is for their benefit that this is being written.

The scheme was announced by the Narendra Modi government through the 2017 Union Budget. The bonds would be a way for political parties to receive money through anonymous donors. The donor would have to reveal their identity to the bank while making the bond purchase, but the identity would not be revealed on the bond itself. Political parties could accept the money without being required to reveal who gave it. Voters would therefore not know who was funding and influencing political parties. The change would allow foreign companies and even shell companies to donate to India's parties without having to inform anyone of the contribution or having their names revealed. It also undid

that part of the Companies Act, under which corporates had to disclose details of their political donations in their annual statement of accounts. Now they were no longer required to do so. The corporates had earlier also been limited to donating a maximum of 7.5 per cent of their average three-year net profits to political parties. No longer, because they could now just go through the electoral bond route as that cap had been lifted legally. The process to fund a party anonymously was made easy. Bonds would be available in multiples of up to Rs 1 crore at State Bank of India branches in 29 cities. A donor could purchase them through their bank account and hand them over to the party or individual of their choice, who could then encash them.

They would be valid for 15 days.

Four days before the 2017 Budget, a bureaucrat spotted it in finance minister Arun Jaitley's speech, and noted that the RBI's assent was required for such a large shift. This was because the introduction of bonds required changes to the RBI Act, something that apparently the government did not know. The officer drafted a proposed amendment to align the RBI Act with the change and sent the file up the ranks for the finance minister to see. The same day, January 28, 2017, a Saturday, the RBI was sent a five-line email seeking its comments. The reply came the next working day, Monday, January 30. The RBI said it was a bad idea because it went against

the RBI's authority as the sole issuer of bearer instruments, meaning cash. These bonds, because they were anonymous, could become currency and undermine the faith in India's cash. On this point, the RBI was unambiguous: amending the law to facilitate this "would seriously undermine a core principle of central banking legislation and doing so would set a bad precedent". The RBI's second objection was that "even the intended purpose of the transparency might not be achievable as the original buyer of the instrument (the bond) need not be the actual contributor to the party". If person A purchased the bond and then sold it, at face value or more, to any entity, including a foreign government, that entity could gift it to a party. The nameless bond was as good as cash. "The bonds are bearer bonds and transferable by delivery," the RBI said, "hence, who finally and actually contributes the bond to the political party will not be known". This would affect the money laundering law as well, the RBI said. The last point it made was that what was being proposed through the electoral bond scheme — the transfer of money from bank accounts of entities to political parties — could be done through a cheque, bank transfer or demand draft. "There is no special need for, or advantage by, the creation of an Electoral Bearer Bond, that too by disturbing an established international practice." The next body to say that the electoral

bonds scheme was dangerous was the Election Commission. In an affidavit to the Supreme Court, it said that to exclude the reporting of donations received by political parties through electoral bonds would have "serious repercussions on the transparency aspect of political funding of political parties".

The EC remained opposed to the law even after it was enacted and continued to resist though the Supreme Court gave the government a pass.

The two most important institutions related to the bonds tried to do their work and resisted the scheme. They were unable to.

Though the RBI had responded immediately, one reason the government gave to dismiss its concern was that "this advice has come quite late at a time when the Finance Bill is already printed". The electoral bonds episode reveals the limits of institutional checks in our democracy. When a strong executive decides it wants something, even something that is dangerous and unconstitutional, there is little resistance from within to stop it.

The Supreme Court has now held that the scheme unconstitutional, something that was obvious to anyone familiar with the most basic details of what the bonds were for. But this should also alert us to how weak our institutions are and how, when they mean well for the country, they can just be ignored.

Time for the Tiger: India must be on UN high table

By: Debatri Dhar

During his recent visit to India, the UN General Assembly president affirmed what many global affairs analysts know to be true: that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) does not reflect contemporary geopolitical realities. Last year, a top Cabinet minister had, using a tongue-in-cheek analogy from industry, compared the UN to a company whose shareholders had changed, with the new shareholders wanting better management but the "old guys" refusing to let go. Once a hallowed institution, the UN is seen by many as losing its relevance in a world reeling from the human and economic costs of war. There is an urgent need for democratisation and expansion of the UNSC, with India being included as a permanent member.

The UN Security Council is one of the six organs of the UN system with a mandate to protect international peace and security. Among examples of its peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations are missions in Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, and Bosnia, approving military interventions, and, in theory, issuing binding resolutions on member states. The Council was preceded by the League of Nations, founded in 1920 by the Paris Peace Conference at the end of the First World War, for maintaining interstate harmony, financial stabilisation, rules related to treatment of prisoners of war and against human trafficking of women and children, etc.

However, the League was criticised for its failures to prevent mass atrocities like Nazi crimes under Adolf Hitler, or to represent the colonised people and creating a diverse, representative international relations arena.

That its successor, the UNSC, has

still lagged behind at giving voice to the erstwhile colonised people is apparent in its composition. Despite its mandate of "global" governance, its 15-member body has five permanent members: the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, who enjoy a veto power relating to UNSC resolutions. There is no permanent member country from Africa, Latin America or South Asia. Thus, the case for increasing general membership to more than 15, and to include India as a permanent member in the UNSC is very strong.

India has been an important part of UN initiatives through the decades, playing a key role in international diplomacy and mediation. An old civilisation as well as a modern state, India's Constitution demonstrates remarkable syncretism from its very inception, combining a global outlook with distinctly local features. India's parliamentary system of governance was modelled after the British system, part three of the Constitution on the fundamental rights of individuals was inspired by the American Constitution, part four on the Directive Principles of State Policy by the Irish Constitution, the concurrent list by the Australian Constitution, etc. With a history of being invaded, colonised and racially exploited for centuries, it has much in common with other countries from the Global South with similar painful histories. It shares some cultural commonalities with its South Asian neighbours; forms of dress and address, celebration and blessing, languages facing the global domination of English, if not extinction. This links up with the concerns of a large global Indian diaspora, which has some shared experiences with other diasporic Asian communities and engagements with inclusivity and representation. At the same time, as the world's largest democ-

cracy whose Army has never usurped power from democratically-elected governments, India aligns more with many Western democracies than with some of its subcontinental neighbours. India is the world's fifth largest economy aiming to become the third largest in the coming years, with a growing private sector alongside the public sector, and consistent GDP growth of 7-8 per cent.

While the developed East Asian economies of Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan are referred to as the "Asian Tigers" for their industrialisation and export-driven high economic growth, the time has come for India's national animal, the tiger. India has been recognised as the third largest ecosystem for start-ups globally, with not just a unicorn boom but decacorn transitions already under way.

These historical, geopolitical, and economic factors place India in the distinctive position of understanding and mediating between countries and blocs with diverse needs and agendas while fostering dependable friendships. This was also apparent from the G20 summit hosted by New Delhi, which I covered in a previous article and one of whose major successes was the long overdue inclusion of the African Union, alongside the European Union, under India's leadership. Termed "multi-alignment", this is India's strength, not weakness, despite external pressures to opt for a more simplistic position.

In published interactions with journalists, the external affairs minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar reiterates that India is non-Western and not anti-Western, an independent country that does not perceive itself primarily in alliance terms. In this sense, multi-alignment and strategic autonomy is not all that different from the "active non-alignment" model espoused by

several nations in the Global South and veteran analysts of colour. As a tenet of diplomacy, it certainly draws upon India's historical strengths.

One challenge, on a practical level, is the aforementioned veto. France, the US, the UK and Russia may support India's candidature, but this is not the case with China, unless Sino-Indian disputes can be resolved. Hence, India must also provide leadership to calls for democratising UN processes, replacing the current veto system by a simple majority votes in certain instances and a two-thirds majority vote for UNSC permanent membership deliberations.

Of course, India is not yet a developed country. As a leading voice for the Global South, domestic social, educational, financial, and health policies to upskill youth, uplift the poorest sections of society, and provide opportunities for socio-economic mobility must continue, ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable development. White Tiger, Arvind Adiga's Booker Prize-winning novel, traced India's ascent through the rise of its protagonist Balram Halwai, whose entrepreneurial vision breaks caste boundaries. As important is the continuing inclusion of women in polity, society and organisations across sectors, with particular attention to women's safety and security, reducing gender-based violence and the facilitation of legal justice. With a resurgence of great power competition and hostilities, international pressure on India can be expected to mount. Yet a continuing commitment to its founding principle of democracy, and clearly stated points of agreement and disagreement in foreign policy, can strengthen India's role as a force of good for promoting global peace and security. It is what the UNSC needs.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra hails PM Narendra Modi for inaugurating, dedicating to the nation and laying foundation stone of 220 projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20 : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today hailed the world's most popular leader, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for inaugurating, dedicating to the nation and laying foundation stone of 220 projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore in a public function at the Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the projects relate to several sectors including health, education, rail, road, aviation, petroleum, civic infrastructure, among others and added that this reflects the highest priority Prime Minister accords to Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, soon after taking charge as Prime Minister in May, 2014, Shri Modi had flagged off the Mata Vaishno Devi Rail Project. The Minister also recalled that immediately after becoming the Prime Minister, Shri Modi was confronted with flood situation in the UT, and he not only navigated through the calamity, but also spent his Diwali with the victims of the flood.



Dr Jitendra Singh reiterated that Prime Minister Modi has accorded high priority to the infrastructure development of J&K. He said the establishment of two AIIMS, IIM, IIT and IIMC in the Union Territory is evidence of the huge amount of priority Prime Minister Modi gives to Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the developmental projects under Prime Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said, world's highest rail bridge, the Chenab Rail Bridge in the Reasi district of the Jammu, Asia's longest road tunnel, Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, also known as Patnitop Tunnel, North India's first River Rejuvenation Project Devika, North India's first Bio-tech Park and the Aroma Mission, which triggered the gainful Agri-Start-ups are example of Prime Minister Modi's Vision and affection for the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the Shahpur Kandi Project which had been stalled for several decades

and it was the personal intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which enabled this anomaly to be corrected and the Indus Waters Treaty which was signed by the then Prime Minister in 1960 has been truly followed in letter and spirit only after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, as the major part of India's share of water from river Ravi was flowing into Pakistan.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, social justice was also accorded the highest priority by Modi Government and all sections of society like Gujjar-Bakarwal, Pahadis, women, Kashmiri Pandits all got their

due rights.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the abrogation of Article 370 proved that "Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai". Similarly, after a wait of 500 years, people got a chance to visit Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. The Minister reiterated that "Modi's Guarantee is pure Guarantee".

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that in December, 2013, in a Public Rally at the same Maulana Azad Stadium, Shri Narendra Modi promised to open the doors of higher education to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and the dream has been realized under his rule since May, 2014.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the "Sankalp se Siddhi" and developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir, a Vikshit Jammu and Kashmir all are equal partners and when the country will celebrate the 100 years of its Independence in 2047, Prime Minister Modi's vision of the Jammu and Kashmir will shine like a crown in Bharat Mata's head.

Ganesh hails PM Modi for launching dev initiatives worth over Rs 32,000 crore in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20 : Shiv Sena Hindustan Youth Wing J&K President Ganesh Choudhary today hailed the first visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jammu after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution and thanked the Prime Minister on behalf of his party stating that 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 Supreme Court of India paved the way for resolution of the long-standing issue. "The slogan of the PM- 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' is bearing fruit," he said. Ganesh added that this was visible in J&K during his visit where he inaugurated projects worth thousands of crores of rupees that have seen their operationalisation in the recent times. "These projects include



the AIIMS, IIT, IIM several roads and road segments, road bridges, railway and power sector infrastructure. Foundation stone for a modern and state of the art petroleum terminal at Bajalta laid by the PM that will ensure year long and hassle-free availability of petroleum products for the people of the Union Territory," he said. Ganesh said that the UT of J&K is the only place in India where every citizen is provided with the "Ayushman Bharat Card" thus enabling its people to avail best medical facilities as per their requirement. For this the people of J&K

shall always remain thankful to the PM. Ganesh 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.

ABVP J&K Welcomes J&K Govt's Decision to Restore Waiting List for Recruitments

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20 : The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Jammu and Kashmir unit, today welcomed the decision of the Jammu and Kashmir government to restore the waiting list for recruitments. Akshi Billooria, state secretary ABVP J&K, said, "We welcome the J&K government's decision to restore the waiting list for recruitments. This

is a significant step that will benefit a large number of qualified candidates who are awaiting their chance to be appointed."

Billooria further added, "The abolition of the waiting list had created a lot of uncertainty and disappointment among the candidates, we are glad that the government has addressed this issue and taken steps to ensure fairness and transparency in the recruitment process."

ABVP has been demanding the restoration of the waiting list for a long time. The organisation believes that this decision will provide relief to many unemployed youth in the state and give them a fair chance to get government jobs.

The ABVP urged the government to expedite the recruitment process and ensure that all eligible candidates in the waiting list are given a fair chance.

Rajesh Gupta greets Modi for giving Rs 32,000 cr package to Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) General Secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta extended his warm greetings and congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday for inaugurating and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects for education, railway, aviation, and road sectors, worth over Rs 32,000 crore in Jammu. Gupta wrote on his X handle this happened only in PM Modi's tenure that Jammu gets so many projects in one go. Otherwise Jammu



was always tolerated discrimination since independence in Congress and regional parties NC, PDP etc.

Rajesh Gupta said he always do the healthy politics he never hesitates to praise for opposition party and also never missed the chance to criticize for their shortfalls.

NLP State President Mohammad Yaqoob Dunoo affirms holistic agenda

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 20: National Loktantrik party is seasoned player in politics and will use its 20 years experience for the development of Jammu and Kashmir National Loktantrik Party State Youth President Mohammad Yaqoob Dunoo has affirmed that NLP will heal miseries of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

As a grassroots leader, he vowed that he would become voice of Voiceless People. He also vowed to highlight the genuine grievances of people of Jammu and Kashmir

Mohammad Yaqoob Dunoo has affirmed also to fight for the Right and Injustice of people of Jammu and Kashmir

He Said it is the need of times to raise



the voice for the traders, highlight the infrastructure needs of common masses and get their day to day issues especially related to Electricity, Water, Roads addressed swiftly. He also assured unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir that their job needs would be taken with the Central Government.

Account Officer BSNL wins silver Medal in Cultural Meet

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: Joginder Singh, Accounts Officer of BSNL Working in Jammu Business Area has won silver Medal in Solo Song category (Dogri Folk) in the 20th All India BSNL Cultural Meet held at Nagpur, Maharashtra from February 12 to 15, 2024, in which 18 BSNL Circles

from all over the Country participated.

Saurabh Tyagi, Chief General Joginder Singh and congratulated him for the Manager, BSNL J & K Circle, felicitated Joginder's extraordinary performance and bringing laurels to BSNL J&K Circle. Anil Kumar DGM (CFA), CSCB and Deepak Jyoti, Sr. Sports Assistant were also present.

Indian Army Petronet Jammu Super 30 Students Shines Again at Reasi

Top News Report

The Students of Petronet Jammu Super 30 of Indian Army yet again made it big by clearing JEE mains Phase-I exams. The second session of the Institute is underway in the academic

year 2023-24 at Reasi. A total of 27 students from all over the remote areas of Jammu region appeared in the JEE mains Phase-1 exams from 27 January 2024 to 01 February 2024. The results declared on 13 February 2024 are impressive as 18

students have shown promising performance. Mr Aditya Kumar of Arnia village has secured 99.05 percentile and is amongst the Top 05 Students (out of a total of 785 students) of all the centres being run by CSRL. These students of Petronet

Jammu Super-30 are indeed a replica of bright future of youth of the region. The students and the mentors have once again geared up for the upcoming JEE Mains Phase-II Exams scheduled in the month of April 2024, which is just a month away.


UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BILLAWAR
Email: - xenpwdbillawar@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 44 of 2023-24 Dated 16-02-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of Tender document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contr.
1	Repair/Renovation at HSS Malhar, Zone Malhar (Under Revenue Budget 2022-23)	PWD (R&B) Division Billawar	0.96	600	2% of Adv. Cost	01 Months	26/02/2024 (1600 hours)	'D'
2	Repair/ Renovation at MS Rampur Zone Billawar (Under Revenue Budget 2022-23)	PWD (R&B) Division Billawar	1.50	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 Months	26/02/2024 (1600 hours)	'D'

Position of AAA :-Accorded
Technical Sanction :-Sanctioned

- If the contractor / firms fails to complete the work within the time mentioned in the NIT / Contract, then the allotted contract will automatically treated as cancelled after forfeiting the performance security of the contractor / firm and work put to fresh tender without serving any notice from this office.
- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16-02-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 16-02-2024 to 26-02-2024 upto 1400 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	16-02-2024 at 1800 hours
4	Bid Submission End Date	26-02-2024 upto 1400 hours
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	26-02-2024 on or after 1600 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. name of work e-NIT No.& dt: duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar and upload the same i.e treasury challan Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of the Letter of Acceptance.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

Sd/-
No:- 934-952 DIP/J-15207/23 Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Billawar
Dated:-16-02-2024

'Banegi Apni Baat' actor Rituraj Singh passes away due to cardiac arrest

His health condition deteriorated last night

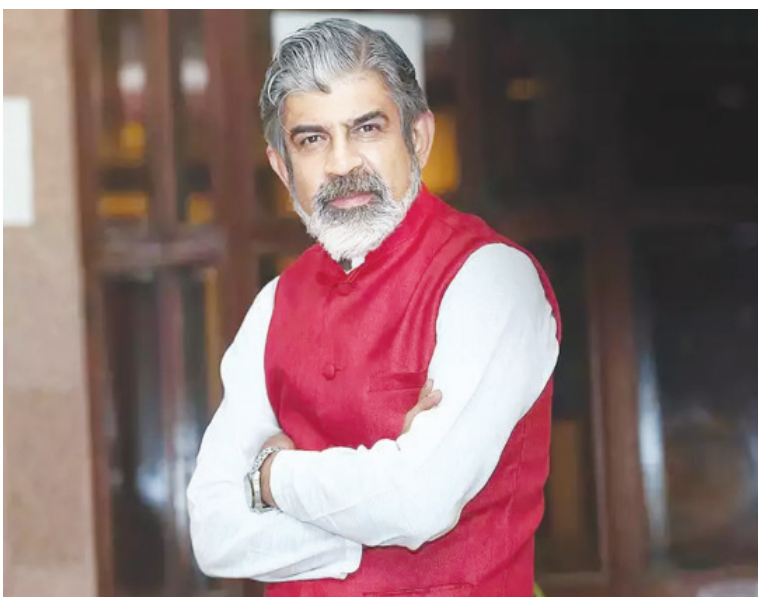
TV actor Rituraj Singh passed away at the age of 59 in the wee hours of Tuesday.

The actor was discharged from hospital after he was admitted following a stomach infection, but his health condition deteriorated last night, and suffered a heart attack.

Actor Amit Behl said, "Rituraj was admitted in the hospital and was discharged. Last night, at 12.30 am, he got a cardiac arrest."

"He was admitted in the hospital for a stomach infection," the actor said.

Asked about the cremation, Amit categorically said, "I have no details about his cremation."



Meanwhile, Bollywood actor Arshad Warsi expressed grief over the death of Rituraj.

In a post on X, Arshad wrote, 'I am so saddened to know that Ritu Raj passed away.'

We lived in the same building, he was a part of my first film as a producer. Lost a friend and a great actor... will miss you brother....'

With a career spanning over three decades, Rituraj was known for his work in shows like 'Banegi Apni Baat', 'Tehkikaat', 'Kutumb', 'Jyoti', 'Beintehaa' and 'Anupamaa'.

He also featured in the movie 'Yaariyan 2' in 2023 and web series 'Made in Heaven' in 2022.

This is how Ranveer Singh reacted to Deepika Padukone's look at BAFTA 2024



Actor Ranveer Singh never leaves a chance to praise his wife and actor Deepika Padukone both on and off social media.

Photographer Greg Williams posted a

photo of Deepika on Instagram from the BAFTA 2024 award ceremony to which the actor wrote in comments, 'Such a beautiful shot of Deepika! Love it! ugh.. her smile.'

Deepika presented the award for the Best Film not in the English language to actor Jonathan Glazer for 'The Zone of Interest'.

The 77th BAFTA Film Awards ceremony was held at London's Royal Festival Hall on Sunday.

Deepika made heads turn on the red carpet as she donned a golden and silver-hued shimmering saree with sequins all over it. She paired it with a matching blouse with strappy sleeves.

The list of other presenters included former England football star David Beckham, singer Dua Lipa, Cate Blanchett, Adjoa Andoh, Hugh Grant and Lily Collins.

Asif Kapadia to make feature-length documentary on final 12 days of Federer on court

British filmmaker of Indian origin Asif Kapadia has been greenlit by Amazon Prime Video to do a feature-length documentary chronicling the final 12 days of tennis legend Roger Federer's professional career.

The as-yet-untitled documentary was originally planned as a home video never intended for public viewing.

Featuring interviews from Federer's rivals and friends, notably Rafael Nadal,

Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray, the documentary captures Federer at his most vulnerable and candid self, "as he says goodbye to a game and the fans that shaped his life for the last two decades," a Prime Video press statement said.



Kapadia, an Oscar and BAFTA winner for his celebrated Amy Winehouse documentary Amy (2015), has won BAFTAs for his biographical documentaries on car racing champion Ayrton Senna (Senna; 2010) and the

Argentine football legend Diego Maradona (2019).

His debut film, The Warrior (2001), featured Irrfan Khan playing a warrior in feudal Rajasthan who serves a ruthless tyrant and attempts to give up the sword.

Riteish Deshmukh to direct, act in film on Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Actor-director Riteish Deshmukh announced his next directorial venture titled 'Raja Shivaji', based on the life of Maratha empire founder Shivaji.

The Marathi-Hindi bilingual is set to bring to life the journey of a young Shivaji, who rebelled against the mighty powers and went on to become the revered Raja Shivaji, according to a press release issued by the makers.

The 45-year-old will also play the titular role of Maharashtra's greatest warrior, he said, adding that it was his dream to make a film on Shivaji.

"Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is not a mere historical figure; he is an emotion, a timeless saga of valour, and a beacon of hope that has illuminated hearts



for over three and a half centuries. A rebel whose courage knew no bounds, he didn't just rule land, he conquered hearts, earning the endearing title of 'Raja

Shivaji,'" Deshmukh, said in a statement.

On the eve of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj jayanti on Sunday, the actor also unveiled the poster of 'Raja Shivaji'.

The historical action drama is produced by Jio Studios and Deshmukh's home production banner Mumbai Film Company.

Deshmukh's actor wife Genelia, who serves as a producer, said bringing the life story of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has been their "biggest dream".

"We embark on a noble quest, not merely to produce a film, but to weave a narrative thread that enriches the tapestry of our culture and history. 'Raja Shivaji' is our biggest dream and we couldn't have found a better partner than Jyoti Deshpande and Jio Studios. It's not only a huge honour but immense responsibility, and we seek your good wishes as we pursue our calling," Genelia said.

RIL's President of Media and Entertainment

Jyoti Deshpande said they are proud to associate with Riteish and Genelia in bringing the story of 'Raja Shivaji'.

"Raja Shivaji embodies this vision, it's not just a regional tale, it's a culturally rooted narrative designed to transcend languages and regions," Deshpande said.

The cinematography is by Santosh Sivan and noted music composer duo Ajay and Atul will score the music for the movie.

According to the makers, the filming of 'Raja Shivaji' will begin this year.

Two more films are in the pipeline on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, one featuring Akshay Kumar with Mahesh Manjrekar attached as a director and another being made by Sandeep Singh.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu says year of separation from Naga Chaitanya was 'extremely difficult', talks about myositis

Samantha Ruth Prabhu said that before she was diagnosed with myositis, she was feeling like she "can breathe and go to sleep". She added that she felt calm.

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu has spoken about her health and the 'extremely difficult year' before she was diagnosed with myositis. Taking to her YouTube channel, Samantha dropped the first episode from her health podcast series, Take 20, as she spoke to Alkesh. A year before she talked about her autoimmune condition, Samantha separated from her husband-actor Naga Chaitanya.

Samantha said, "I remember specifically the year before I had this problem, it was an extremely difficult year for me. I specifically remember the day that I think my friend/partner/manager Himank, and I were traveling back from Mumbai. And this was in June of the year before last, and I remember telling him that finally I feel calm. I haven't felt a little relaxed and a little calm in a very, very long time. And I finally feel like I can breathe and I can go to sleep, and I can now wake up and focus on my work and be the best that I can be at work. And I woke up

with this condition."

She added, "The reason I wanted to do this podcast was because after the experience, the harrowing experience that I've been through and well, an autoimmune condition is lifelong, so with what I'm dealing with right now as well, I'd rather want people be safe than sorry."

Last year, Samantha announced a break from work to focus on her health. In 2022, she had revealed her diagnosis of myositis, an autoimmune condition, ahead of the release of her film Yashoda. A part of her Instagram post read, "A few months back I was diagnosed with an autoimmune condition called Myositis. I was hoping to share this after it had gone into remission. But it is taking a little longer than I hoped. I am slowly realising that we don't always need to put up a strong front. Accepting this vulnerability is something that I am still struggling with. The doctors are confident that I will make a complete recovery very soon."

Recently, she shared a video on Instagram Stories announcing her comeback. "I am going back to work, finally. But apart from that, in the meantime, I was



completely jobless. But, I am doing something fun with a friend. It's a health podcast. It is quite unexpected, but it is something that I really love, and something I am extremely passionate about."

Samantha will be seen

with Varun Dhawan in the Indian adaptation of the American series Citadel.

It is created by Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK. Priyanka Chopra and Richard Madden headlined the international version.

Manisha Koirala gives an update on what she's been upto at 53

Actor Manisha Koirala lived a busy life as a young actor in Bollywood and now she is enjoying a well-deserved rest. The actor took to Instagram on Tuesday to share her thoughts on taking things slow after turning 50 and having given a great amount of time and effort to one's career.

She posted three pictures of herself relaxing at her home and added a long caption. "A lot of people ask me what I am doing these days.. some genuinely asking but sometimes it's like asking at 53 you couldn't be doing much...true !!but happy too for I am tasting different flavour of life, doing only those things I love and that means, at times doing absolutely nothing and relaxing with my cats and dogs or with book and music and perusing spiritual learnings, learning to sing and dance, walk in the nature, gyming, globe trotting." Sounds so ideal, doesn't it?

But Manisha knows this life did not come easy. "After 30 years and 100 films I think I have earned my me time... I work when I know I would love the process of work !! By the grace of god, good people are around me, I soak in their love and



care... having lived alone most of my life in a buzzing city with most demanding profession that I absolutely adore, yet filled with uncertainty. Not to forget being a celebrity one has to face too many ups and downs, good and bad people... good media and harmful fake news... without security of supportive circle of people and all alone !!... Honestly when I look back I don't know how

I did it ?? I guess being younger, one had a zeal to take the world head on... besides I think in your loneliest times god sends angels and I had very handful of true friends !!! My memories are timeless treasures of my heart..like life, good and bad, happy and sad," she wrote.

About her life now, she wrote, "You see now I prefer much quieter, slower, less shocks, less drama, no more

impulsive decisions but a thorough thought out long term thing...co creating peaceful, happy, healthy a wholesome life."

Manisha got a lot of support on her post from other female Bollywood actors. Lisa Ray wrote, "Here, here! I am in exactly the same place dear Manisha- also getting the same questions- and not that one has to justify a slow and rich life full of enriching experiences - at the same time it's sometimes annoying to hear the question. You are amazing, accomplished and spiritually rich. You do you." Richa Chadha wrote, "You're fantastic actor and a very generous co star."

Richa and Manisha will soon be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's series, Heera Mandi. Manisha plays a senior courtesan in the show.

Manisha made her acting debut in 1989 with the Nepali film Pheri Bhetaula. She joined Bollywood with Subhash Ghai's Saudagar in 1991. She later acted in movies such as Akele Hum Akele Tum, Gupt, Bombay, 1942: A Love Story, Mann, Dil Se, Khamoshi and many more. She has acted with Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, Anil Kapoor.

Farmers rejected offer as they understood government's 'mischief'; will provide justice to them: Congress

Congress resolves to provide legal guarantee for the MSP

NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday claimed that protesting farmers have rejected another "false offer" as they have understood the government's "mischief" and asserted it is committed to providing legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and take other necessary steps to provide justice to the tillers. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the legal guarantee for MSP would not make the Indian farmers a burden on the budget but

ensure they become the drivers of GDP growth. He claimed that "lies" are being spread that the MSP guarantee is not feasible under the government's budget. In a post on X, Gandhi claimed that ever since the Congress resolved to provide legal guarantee for the MSP, 'Modi's propaganda machinery and media friendly to him have spread a barrage of lies on MSP'. "Lie—It is not feasible to provide legal guarantee for MSP in the budget of the government of India. Fact—According to CRISIL,



giving MSP to farmers in 2022-23 would have resulted in an additional burden of Rs 21,000 crore on the government, which is only 0.4 per cent of the total budget,' Gandhi said in

his post. In a country where bank loans worth Rs 14 lakh crore have been waived and corporate tax exemption of Rs 1.8 lakh crore given, why is even a little expenditure

on farmers irking them, he asked escalating his attack on the ruling dispensation. With the legal guarantee for MSP, investment in agriculture would increase, demand would increase in rural India and farmers would also get confidence in growing different types of crops, which is a guarantee of the country's prosperity, Gandhi argued. "Those who are spreading confusion on MSP are insulting Swaminathan and his dreams," the former Congress chief said.

Maharashtra Assembly passes bill providing 10 per cent quota for Marathas in education and jobs



MUMBAI, Feb 20 (Agencies): The Maharashtra legislative assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a bill providing 10 per cent reservation for the Maratha community in education and government jobs.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde tabled the Maharashtra State Socially and Educationally Backward Bill 2024 in the House during the day-long special session of the legislature on Maratha quota.

The bill also proposed that once the reservation comes into effect, its review could be taken after 10 years. Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange, who is sitting on a hunger strike since February 10, had demanded that a special session be called over the issue. The government recently issued a draft notification which said if a Maratha person has documentary proof to show that he or she belongs to the agrarian Kunbi community, the person's 'sage soyre' or blood relatives too would get Kunbi caste certificates.

The Kunbi community falls in the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) category, and Jarange has been demanding that Kunbi certificates be issued to all Marathas. Maharashtra cabinet minister Chhagan Bhubal has been opposing the "backdoor entry" of Marathas into the OBC quota, but is in favour of

a separate reservation for the community. Notably, the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission on Friday submitted a report on its survey on the social, economic, and educational backwardness of the Maratha community. The massive exercise covered nearly 2.5 crore families. One of the key findings in the bill tabled by CM Shinde underscores that the population of the Maratha community in the state is 28 per cent. Out of the total Maratha families that are below poverty line, 21.22 per cent hold the yellow ration cards. It is higher than the state's average of 17.4 per cent. The state government's survey undertaken between January and February this year also found that 84 per cent of the Maratha community families do not fall under the progressed category, hence they are eligible for reservation as per the Indra Sawhney case, as per the bill. Out of total farmers' suicides in Maharashtra, 94 per cent are from Maratha families, the bill noted.

'BJP labels every person wearing turban as Khalistani': Mamata Banerjee

NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday slammed the BJP and alleged the party's 'divisive politics has shamelessly overstepped constitutional boundaries'. Sharing a video of Bengal BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul, the Chief Minister said she condemned the 'attempt to undermine the reputation of our Sikh brothers and sisters'. Mamata Banerjee's remarks came as Agnimitra Paul was argued with a Sikh police official in Bengal today, as the BJP leaders were stopped from

visiting Sandeshkhali. "Today, the BJP's divisive politics has shamelessly overstepped constitutional boundaries. As per BJP, every person wearing a turban is a Khalistani," Mamata Banerjee wrote on X. "I vehemently condemn this audacious attempt to undermine the reputation of our Sikh brothers and sisters, revered for their sacrifices and unwavering determination to our nation," she added. "We stand firm in protecting Bengal's social harmony and will take stern lawful measures to prevent any attempts to disrupt it," Banerjee said.

Senior BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari was on Tuesday stopped by the police from visiting restive Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district. This came even after a division bench of the Calcutta High Court today allowed Adhikari to visit the restive Sandeshkhali. The police stopped Adhikari from going to the trouble-torn area, where prohibitory orders had been imposed, stating the government had moved a division bench challenging the Calcutta High Court order that allowed the leader of the opposition in the West Bengal Assembly to visit the area.



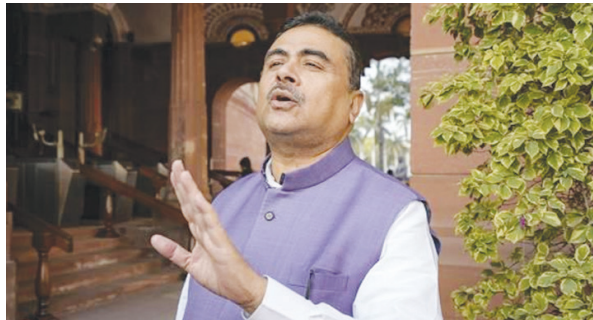
Adhikari said he will again move the court over the matter. This was the third time in the last eight days that Adhikari has been stopped from visiting the restive area. A large number of women in Sandeshkhali had accused Trinamool Congress strongman Shajahan Sheikh and

his supporters of "land-grabbing and sexually assaulting" them under coercion. Shajahan has been absconding after a mob, allegedly affiliated with him, attacked Enforcement Directorate officials who had gone to search his premises in connection with a ration scam on January 5.

Calcutta High Court refuses state appeal, allows Bengal LoP Suwendu Adhikari to visit Sandeshkhali

KOLKATA, Feb 20 (Agencies): Refusing to allow an appeal by the state government, a division bench of the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday allowed Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari to visit the restive Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district. The division bench presided by Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam refused to interfere into a single bench order that allowed Adhikari and another BJP MLA Shankar Ghosh to visit Sandeshkhali on Tuesday.

been witnessing protests over allegations of sexual atrocities and land grab by some ruling TMC leaders. The West Bengal government moved an appeal before the division bench challenging Monday's order of Justice Kausik Chanda, who had also stayed till further order prohibitory orders on assembly of five or more persons imposed in Sandeshkhali by the administration under Section 144 of CrPC. The division bench, also comprising Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya, directed the BJP leader to ensure that none of the supporters or people belonging to the party accompany them, except security



personnel, who have been deployed for them. The division bench directed the superintendent of police, Basirhat, and the West Bengal government to comply with the orders issued by the single bench. Justice Chanda on Monday directed the state to deploy adequate number of security personnel to ensure that no untoward incident takes place during Adhikari's

visit to Sandeshkhali village in Sandeshkhali block II in North 24 Parganas district. He had also directed the superintendent of police, Basirhat, to file a report before the court on the next date of hearing regarding the number of registered criminal cases relating to rape and sexual assault within the jurisdiction of Sandeshkhali police station from Feb-

ruary one, 2024 till the present date. Adhikari's advocate Billwadal Bhattacharya stated before the division bench that Adhikari and Ghosh were prevented by police from reaching Sandeshkhali on the ground that the appeal was moved before it, challenging the single bench order. He prayed that Tuesday's order allowing them be communicated to the district authorities. Advocate General Kishore Dutta, representing the state, informed the division bench that he will communicate to the district administration the court order allowing Adhikari and Ghosh to visit Sandeshkhali.

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan

JAIPUR, Feb 20 (Agencies): Congress leader Sonia Gandhi was on Tuesday elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan, said the Assembly secretary. Along with Sonia Gandhi, BJP's Chunnilal Garasiya and Madan Rathore were also elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan, added the official. The Congress had



nominated its former party chief on February 14 for the Rajya Sabha election.

With this, the 77-year-old Congress leader entered the Upper House for the first time.

Chandigarh mayoral polls case verdict: Kejriwal thanks SC, says it saved democracy



NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): The Supreme Court has saved democracy in these "difficult times", Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday, thanking the court for its decision in the Chandigarh mayoral polls case. The top court has said it would direct recounting of votes polled in the controversial elections and declaration

of result after considering the eight "defaced" ballots that were declared invalid by the returning officer. "Thank you SC for saving democracy in these difficult times," Kejriwal said in a post on X. The BJP won the Chandigarh mayoral polls on January 30 defeating the comfortably placed AAP-Congress alliance candidate after the returning officer declared as invalid eight votes of the coalition partners, drawing accusations of tampering with ballots. Manoj Sonkar of the BJP defeated Kuldeep Kumar after polling 16 votes against his rival's 12 to bag the mayor's post. Sonkar, however, resigned subsequently, while three AAP councillors defected to the BJP.

Stage Collapses, Tejashwi Yadav Addresses Rally From Bus Roof In Bihar

NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav was seen addressing a huge crowd from a roof of a bus in Bihar's Sitamarhi after the stage collapsed before he arrived at the venue today. Former Congress MLA from Riga, Amit Kumar Tunna, was addressing the gathering when the incident happened. He was flanked by several people and the stage collapsed allegedly it had more people on it than its capacity.



Later, the former Bihar deputy Chief Minister was seen standing atop a bus and addressing the huge gathering. "Keep giving me the confidence and assurance that I can always

take care of your honor and self-respect. Hearty congratulations to the crowd that gathered in Sitamarhi," he posted on X after the rally. Tejashwi Yadav was

visiting Sitamarhi as part of his 'Jan Vishwas Yatra', which would continue for 11 days, during which he will travel all 38 districts of the state. His first public meeting was in Muzaffarpur after which he visited Sitamarhi and he will also visit Sheohar today. His night halt will be in Motihari. Before leaving for Muzaffarpur - the commencing point of 'Jan Vishwas Yatra' - Mr Yadav slammed his former boss and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar, saying he has "no vision for the people of the state". Pointing to Mr Kumar's recent flip-flop when he broke up with ally RJD and joined an alliance with the BJP, he said: "He had no justifiable reason for ditching us and going back to the BJP-led NDA. He thinks he can trample the people's mandate under his feet (janaadesh ko apne pair ki jooti samajhte hain)." The Jan Vishwas Yatra will conclude on March 1.

Curfew lifted entirely from riot-hit Banbhoolpura in Uttarakhand's Haldwani

DEHRADUN, Feb 20 (Agencies): Curfew was lifted entirely from the riot-hit Banbhoolpura area of Haldwani Tuesday morning, 12 days after the restrictions were first clamped following violence over the demolition of an "illegal" madrasa. Curfew was lifted with effect from 5 am, according to an official order.

During the days the curfew remained in force, the administration gave relaxation for varying durations. The violence broke out on February 8 after the demolition of the madrasa in Banbhoolpura. Locals hurled stones and petrol bombs at municipal workers and police on the day, forcing many personnel to seek refuge at a police

station, which the mob then set on fire. In the violence, six rioters were killed and more than 100 people, including police personnel and mediapersons, were injured, according to the police. Sixty-eight people have so far been arrested in connection with the violence. Their properties have also been attached.

Israel orders new evacuations in northern Gaza, where UN says 1 in 6 children are malnourished

More than 90 per cent of children under five years in Gaza eat two or fewer food groups a day

RAFAH (GAZA STRIP), Feb 20 (Agencies): Israel ordered new evacuations from parts of Gaza City on Tuesday, as a study led by the United Nations (UN) children's agency found that one in six children are acutely malnourished in the isolated and largely devastated north of the territory, where the city is located.

The report finds deepening misery across the territory, where Israel's air and ground offensive, launched in response to Hamas' October 7 attack, has killed over 29,000 Palestinians, obliterated entire neighbourhoods and displaced more than 80 per cent of the population.

Israel has vowed to expand the offensive to the Gaza Strip's southernmost city of Rafah, where more than half of the territory's population of 2.3 million has sought refuge from fighting elsewhere. Many have crowded into sprawling tent camps and overflowing UN-run shelters near the Egyptian border.

On Tuesday, the military ordered the evacuation of the Zaytoun and Turkoman neighbourhoods on the southern edge of Gaza City, an indica-



tion that Palestinian militants are still putting up stiff resistance in areas of northern Gaza that the Israeli military said had been largely cleared weeks ago.

Residents said there have been airstrikes and heavy ground fighting in eastern parts of Gaza City over the past two days. "The situation is very difficult," said Ayman Abu Awad, who lives in Zaytoun. "We are trapped inside our homes."

A potential explosion of preventable child deaths

The report by an aid partnership led by UNICEF's Global

Nutrition Cluster says more than 90 per cent of children under five years in Gaza eat two or fewer food groups a day, known as severe food poverty. A similar percentage are affected by infectious diseases, with 70 per cent experiencing diarrhoea in the last two weeks.

More than 80 per cent of homes lack clean and safe water, with the average household having one litre (quart) per person per day, according to the report released on Monday.

In Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, where most humanitar-

ian aid enters, the acute malnutrition rate is 5 per cent, compared to 15 per cent in northern Gaza, which has been isolated by the Israeli military and largely cut off from aid for months. Before the war the rate across Gaza was less than 1 per cent, the report said.

"The Gaza Strip is poised to witness an explosion in preventable child deaths, which would compound the already unbearable level of child deaths in Gaza," UNICEF official Ted Chaiban said in a statement.

A UN report in December found that Gaza's entire population is in a food crisis, with a quarter of the population facing starvation.

Israel says it does not restrict the import of humanitarian supplies, but aid groups say delivery within Gaza has been severely hampered by Israeli road closures, ongoing fighting, and the breakdown of law and order as Israeli strikes have targeted the Hamas-run police force.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, the main provider of aid in Gaza, said earlier this month that Israel was holding up a food shipment that could feed over a million people.

4 dead after building housing several Syrian refugees collapses in Lebanon's capital



BEIRUT, Feb 20 (Agencies): A building collapsed in a southern suburb of Beirut late Monday, killing four people and injuring three others as search operations continued for more people under the rubble, a paramedic official said today.

The building that collapsed in the suburb of Choueifat on Monday night crumbled after days of heavy rainfall in Lebanon.

Local officials said

the building was not considered safe and the municipality had ordered the four-story building evacuated two years ago out of concerns its foundations were weak. Despite the order, the owner of the building rented apartments to Syrian families.

Most of the people living in the building are Syrian citizens, according to Raja Zreik of the Islamic Health Society that was taking part in

rescue operations in the area. He said four people were killed.

State-run National News Agency also reported that four people, two women, a man and a child were killed.

Zreik told The Associated Press that two women and a boy were pulled out from under the rubble and rushed to hospital.

A member of the Lebanese Red Cross told the local Al-Jadeed TV that the scene that 17 people were still believed to be under the rubble.

A building collapsed in the same area earlier this month but no one was hurt as people were evacuated out of concerns it was not considered safe.

Lebanon hosts some 805,000 United Nations-registered Syrian refugees, but officials estimate the actual number is far higher -- between 1.5 million and two million.

Russian-American Suspected Of Raising Aid For Ukraine Arrested

MOSCOW, Feb 20 (Agencies): Russia's FSB security services on Tuesday said it had arrested a US-Russian woman suspected of treason and raising funds for the Ukrainian army, state media reported.

The FSB in the central Urals city of Yekaterinburg said it had "suppressed the illegal activities" of a 33-year-old woman, a resident of Los Angeles with dual citizenship, and taken her into custody.

It said the unnamed woman had been "proactively collecting funds... which were subsequently used to purchase tactical medical items, equipment, means of destruction and ammunition for the Ukrainian armed forces," Russian news agencies reported,



citing an FSB statement.

The RIA Novosti agency posted a video from the FSB showing hooded officers escorting and handcuffing a woman in a white coat with a white hat pulled down over her eyes.

The FSB said she had been acting "against the security of our country" and had been supporting the Ukrainian army while in the United States, news agencies reported.

Treason is punishable

by up to 20 years in prison in Russia.

Several US nationals are currently imprisoned in Russia, including Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, arrested last year on espionage charges that he, his employer and the US government had rejected.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said he wants to negotiate a prisoner exchange to swap Russians imprisoned abroad for US citizens detained in Russia.

Latest round of talks between Nawaz Sharif's PML-N and Bilawal Bhutto's PPP on coalition government formulation in Pakistan inconclusive

ISLAMABAD, Feb 20 (Agencies): The latest round of talks between the top leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has ended inconclusively after both sides failed to reach a consensus on a power-sharing formula to form a coalition government in Pakistan following a fractured verdict in the election.

The meeting, held at the residence of PML-N senior leader Senator Ishaq Dar in parliament lodges here, saw the participation of prominent figures from both parties.

The PPP delegation comprised Murad Ali Shah, Qamar Zaman



Kaira, Nadeem Afzal Chan and others, the news agency reported on Tuesday.

This was the fifth round of discussions between PML-N and PPP coordination committees to end the political stalemate after the February 8 elections resulted in a hung Parliament.

After a three-hour deliberation, the negotiation hit a snag prompt-

ing a temporary halt, with both PML-N and PPP agreeing to reconvene at 10 pm. However, the meeting did not take place.

Eventually, the PML-N concluded their meeting at 11 pm, announcing that discussions with PPP would resume on Wednesday.

In an informal conversation with reporters after the first round

of the meeting, PML-N leader Azam Nazir Tarar conveyed a positive trajectory in the ongoing discussions.

"Some things have already been decided on the matter of PPP's inclusion in the cabinet," Tarar was quoted as saying by Geo News.

The general elections have been controversial with several serious allegations of widespread rigging to alter the results.

Over 11 days after the voting, there is still no clarity on which party would form the government at the Centre.

Though independent candidates backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party won the maximum number of seats in Parliament, PML-N and PPP have announced that they would form a coalition government after the elections resulted in a hung Parliament.

However, despite multiple rounds of talks, a decision regarding PPP's inclusion in the Cabinet remained elusive.

Meanwhile, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan) pledged its support for the PML-N.

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

Putin gifts Russian-made car to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in show of their special ties

SEOUL, Feb 20 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin has gifted North Korean leader Kim Jong Un a Russian-made car for his personal use in a demonstration of their special relationship, North Korea's state media reported Tuesday.

The report didn't say what kind of vehicle it was or how it was shipped. But observers said it could violate a UN resolution that bans supplying luxury items to North Korea in an attempt to pressure the country to abandon its nuclear weapons.

Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong, and another North Korean official accepted the gift Sunday and she conveyed her brother's thanks to Putin, the Korean Central News Agency said.

Kim Yo Jong said the gift showed the special personal relationship between the leaders, the report said.

North Korea and Russia have boosted their cooperation significantly since Kim travelled to Russia last September for a summit with

Putin. During Kim's visit to Russia's main spaceport, Putin showed the North Korean leader his personal Anrus Senat limousine and Kim sat in its backseat.

According to Russia's state-run Tass news agency, Aurus was the first Russian luxury car brand and it's been used in the motorcade of top officials including Putin since he first used an Anrus limousine during his inauguration ceremony in 2018.

Kim, 40, is known to possess many foreign-made luxury cars believed to have been smuggled into his country in breach of the UN resolution.

During his Russia visit, he travelled between meeting sites in a Maybach limousine that was brought with him on one of his special train carriages.

During an earlier Russia trip in 2019, Kim had two limos waiting for him at Vladivostok station — a Mercedes Maybach S600 Pullman Guard and a Mercedes Maybach S62.

He also reportedly used the S600 Pullman



Guard for his two summits with then-President Donald Trump in Singapore in 2018 and Vietnam in 2019.

In 2018, Kim used a black Mercedes limousine to return home after a meeting with South Korea's then-President Moon Jae-in at a shared Korean border village.

Kim's possession of such expensive foreign limousines shows the porousness of international sanctions on the North.

Russia voted for the ban on supplying luxury goods to North Korea, even though as a permanent Security Council member, it could have vetoed the resolution.

The expanding ties between North Korea

and Russia come as they are locked in separate confrontations with the United States and its allies — North Korea for its advancing nuclear program and Russia for its protracted war with Ukraine.

The US, South Korea and their partners accuse North Korea of sending conventional arms to Russia for its war in Ukraine, in return for high-tech Russian weapons technologies and other support.

its foreign minister returned home following a Russian visit in January, the North's state media reported Putin expressed his willingness to visit the North at an early date.

"Be Rational": Taiwan To China After 2 Crew Killed In Boat Incident

TAIPEI, Feb 20 (Agencies): Taiwan called on Beijing to "be rational" on Tuesday following a deadly incident involving a Chinese boat and the Taiwanese coast guard, with the island's premier insisting it would protect its waters.

China claims self-ruled Taiwan as part of its territory, and relations between the two have plummeted in recent years.

Last week two Chinese crew members died after a boat capsized near Kinmen, an island administered by Taipei but located just five kilometres from the mainland city of Xiamen.

It was being pursued by Taiwan's coast guard for being within prohibited waters.

China announced stepped-up patrols around Taiwan's waters, and on Monday members of its coast guard briefly boarded a Taiwanese cruise ship to check the captain and passengers' details.

Taiwan's Premier Chen Chien-jen said Tuesday that both sides had been aware of "restricted and off-limits sea areas" since 1992.

"We will continue to protect these sea areas to ensure safety in our territorial waters and the rights of our fishermen," he told reporters outside Taiwan's parliament.

"We hope both sides can be rational, equitable and cooperate with each other to ensure the safety of the Kinmen-Xiamen waters so that the people from both sides of the strait can engage with each other in a healthy and orderly manner."

Taiwan's defence minister said the military would not get involved, leaving it to the coast guard to monitor waters around Kinmen, "because we want to avoid war".

"If we intervene, it will escalate the conflict which we do not want to see," Chiu Kuo-cheng told reporters.

"Let's handle the

matter peacefully."

Beijing has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control, and in recent years has ramped up the rhetoric of "unification".

It has stepped up military pressure on Taiwan by deploying warplanes and naval vessels around the island on a near-daily basis.

Last month Taiwan had a presidential election which ended in a win for the Democratic Progressive Party's Lai Ching-te -- a candidate Beijing considers a "separatist".

Taiwan's defence ministry on Tuesday said it detected 24 Chinese warplanes around the island in the 24 hours to 6 am -- a slight uptick compared with recent days.

"Tacit understanding" Relatives of the two late crew were expected to arrive in Kinmen on Tuesday, while authorities said the two surviving shipmates would be repatriated.

Taiwan's coast guard

had defended its actions during the pursuit that led to the deadly capsizing, saying the Chinese crew refused to cooperate with law enforcement.

It is not uncommon for Chinese and Taiwanese ships to accidentally enter the other's side, and Kinmen legislator Chen Yu-jen said the mainland coast guard had boarded the tourist ship Monday after it sailed "about one kilometre" into its waters.

"When relations between the two sides were relatively peaceful, we would not board each other's boats... It's because at that time there was a tacit understanding and the two sides would not take tougher actions," she told reporters.

But now with tenser cross-strait relations, she urged Taiwan's tourist boats and fishermen to stay within their waters.

"This is the safest way," Chen told reporters.

Manjit Singh demands restoration of democratic system in J&K

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Feb 20: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister has sought restoration of democratic system in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of growing feeling of dissatisfaction with the administration and apparent collapse of the public delivery system.

"The people from all the regions have expressed anguish over the working of the administration in their respective areas, and adamant attitude of the bureaucracy that has completely disassociated people with the system of governance.

Thus, the basic structure of governance does not reach at the ground level, and the schemes, and benefits become a



showcase for the babus to write in the progress reports," said Manjit Singh while addressing a deputation of people in Vijaypur.

The deputation had called on him to express their resentment over the delay in holding elections because the public grievances have not been addressed in their respective areas by the bureaucracy.

Addressing the deputation, he said that the Election Commission

of India is holding elections in many states of the country, yet the legislative assembly elections schedule has not been issued for Jammu and Kashmir.

"The J&K has long been waiting for the assembly elections. The people in both the regions of J&K strongly believe that the Election Commission of India should hold assembly elections, and parliamentary elections together in Jammu and

Kashmir to address the growing public issues," he said.

He said that "Govt officials have no understanding of ground reality. They work from the four walls of their offices, and hardly listen to what people want in their areas. Hence, it has hampered the development as well as widened the gap between the Govt and the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

To deal with the situ-

ation, he said that it becomes imperative for the authorities to declare elections so that the democratic system can be restored.

Besides, he said that the Urban Local Body, Panchayati Raj, and Block Development Council tenure have also expired, and the authorities have yet to take a call regarding these elections.

"There is uneasiness among the people without an elected Govt. The authorities should understand that the direct rule of babus cannot be continued for years together without an elected Govt," he said, while cautioning the authorities against the continuation of the bureaucratic rule where the people have lost their voice.

PM Modi's Jammu visit proved underwhelming with no new packages, promises: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC on Tuesday said that people of Jammu region have expressed great resentment over PM Narendra Modi's Jammu visit as it has proved to be a underwhelming due to the absence of any new packages, promises, or announcements for the aspiring people of the region.

In a statement issued to the media persons, the NC stalwart said that the much awaited visit of PM Modi has shattered the dreams of the people who were expecting a lot from their Prime Minister as there are still many promises unfulfilled with refugees awaiting the pending

compensation amount, unemployment making the educated youths restless, statehood, Assembly polls and so many other issues confronting the population with local administration remaining clueless on almost all these problems. He said that except being an election rally there was nothing substantial for the people of Jammu or for that matter the entire UT as the projects launched by the PM could have been launched from any part of the country as everything was accomplished virtually.

Rattan Lal categorically criticized the visit by the PM, highlighting the missed opportunity to address key issues and provide much-needed relief to the people of the UT. He pointed out that

while the Prime Minister inaugurated several projects, the visit failed to deliver any significant benefits or new initiatives for the people of the region as most of them left the venue disappointed.

The NC senior functionary emphasized on the need for concrete measures to address pressing issues such as unemployment, economic slowdown, restoration of political process and return of statehood besides continuing the process of ensuring governance as started by the NC Government during the tenure of Omar Abdullah because till date the helmsmen in J&K have not done anything significant in this direction except rhetoric for which the party in power is famous for.

Paytm crisis: Nirmala Sitharaman to meet heads of fintech firms next week



NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): Amid the ongoing problem faced by leading fintech player Paytm, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has decided to meet heads of financial technology companies next week to persuade them to strictly follow regulatory norms.

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd, an entity promoted by One97 Communications Ltd, faced regulatory actions by the Reserve Bank for failure to comply with host of regulatory norms, including Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines.

According to sources, Sitharaman will be meeting CEOs of fintech companies next week to hear their concerns and problems.

However, sources said, she will impress upon them the need

to abide by regulatory norms as they are dealing with money of individuals.

The meeting is expected to see participation from senior officials of Reserve Bank, finance ministry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, among others.

Last week, the RBI advised customers as well as merchants of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) to shift their accounts to other banks by March 15, giving 15 more days to the beleaguered entity to close most of its operations, including deposit and credit transactions.

The earlier deadline was February 29, 2024, which the RBI has extended by 15 days keeping in view the interest of customers (including merchants) of PPBL who

may require a little more time to make alternative arrangements in larger public interest.

RBI has also directed termination of the 'nodal accounts' of One97 Communications Ltd, which owns the Paytm brand.

One97 Communications holds a 49 per cent stake in PPBL but classifies it as an associate of the company and not as a subsidiary. Speaking to media, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das had said the central bank is always supportive of the fintech sector and it is ensuring rapid growth of the sector.

Even Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi had said that fintech should comply with the regulations as with scale comes responsibility.

KPDCL geared up amidst heavy snowfall

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 20: Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mussarat Islam, today said that KPDCLs frontline workers are fully geared up in post-snow restoration works, even as heavy snow has caused disruptions especially in North Kashmir districts and some parts of South Kashmir.

In a statement released to the press today afternoon, the MD said five 33 kV feeders out of 120 are presently under fault, while 76 out of 1118 HT 11 kV feeders are down, in view of heavy snowfall in parts of Electric Divisions Handwara, Baramulla & Kupwara, where damage to power infrastructure due to heavy snowfall has also been reported.

"Five 33 kV feeders under fault have been reported from North Kashmir districts of Kupwara and Baramulla. Efforts are on to restore the feeders under fault, but the same would require road connectivity especially in those districts where upper reaches have been cut off due to snow," he said, urging consumers residing in these areas to exercise patience.

The statement added that 33 kV Gurez line has been charged partially while as 33 kV tap lines Keran, Machhil and Tangdar is under fault. Similarly, 33 kV Wanpoh-Qazigund line is also charged partially.

In 11 kV category, 39 out of the 76 feeders are under fault in Baramulla and Kupwara Districts, while as 12 in Budgam, 08 in Shopian-Pulwama. 05 feeders each are under fault in Srinagar and Anantnag-Pulwama districts, the statement added.

He further stated that all feeders in capital city Srinagar are operational, along with majority of the 11 kV feeders in other districts like Ganderbal, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Shopian.

MD KPDCL also directed SEs of O&M Circles and Executive Engineers of all Electric & STD Divisions to personally monitor restoration measures following heavy snowfall. He also emphasized upon the Subdivisional Officers to ensure that the field workers take all safety measures by using safety gadgets (PPE) like helmets, gloves, harness belts, and using earthing roads while restoring power supply.

Presently, all Executive Engineers of Sub Transmission Division in Srinagar, Ganderbal, Sopore, Bijbehara are monitoring the status of Receiving Stations across Kashmir Division, the statement added.

MD urged the consumers to follow KPDCL's official media handles to get regular updates about restoration works currently underway. He said the figures will be updated in the evening and shared on its official social media platforms.

Closing bell: Nifty crosses 22,200 for the first time, Sensex above 73,000

MUMBAI, Feb 20 (Agencies): Indian benchmark indices extended the gains on the sixth consecutive session on February 20 with Nifty surpassing 22,200 for the first time.

At close, the Sensex was up 349.24 points or 0.48 percent at 73,057.40, and the Nifty was up 74.70 points or 0.34 percent at 22,197.00. About 1661 shares advanced, 1667 shares declined, and 65 shares unchanged.

Biggest gainers included Power Grid Corporation, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, NTPC and Kotak Mahindra Bank, while losers were Hero Moto-Corp, Coal India, Bajaj Auto, Eicher Motors and TCS.

On the sectoral front, Bank, media, power and realty up 0.8-2 percent each, while auto, IT, metal down nearly a percent each.

Seven of the 13 major sectors declined, with the auto index, which had gained 5.5% over the last five sessions, losing 1% on the day.

The broader, more domestically-focused small-caps advanced 0.2%, while mid-caps were relatively unchanged, outperform-

ing the benchmarks. Indian markets could see some consolidation in the next few sessions following the recent rally, said Deepak Jasani, head of retail research at HDFC Securities.

The Nifty 50 hit a record high for the sixth

tors waiting for bigger stimulus measures.

Among individual stocks, Whirlpool of India dropped 3% as parent Whirlpool planned to sell a 24% stake in Indian unit this week at a 7.6% discount to Monday's closing price, Reuters



time in 2024 on Monday.

Both the Nifty 50 index and Sensex have gained in each of the previous five sessions, adding about 2.3% each, remaining resilient to fading hopes of an early Federal Reserve rate cut, which triggered a bout of foreign selling.

Asian markets fell 0.25%, as China's decision to cut its benchmark reference rate for mortgages in an attempt to revive its ailing property sector failed to bolster sentiment, leaving invest-

Biocon lost 2.5% following a Jefferies downgrade, which flagged further weakness in earnings amid lack of new launches in the bio-similars segment.

Zee Entertainment Enterprises rose 5% after a report in the Economic Times said the company is making a final attempt to restart discussions with Japan's Sony Group to revive their \$10 billion merger deal. Zee powered the media index 2% higher.

FROM PAGE 1

PM Modi launches Rs 32,000-Crore worth development projects in J&K

stone for a new terminal building at the Jammu airport.

Spread over 40,000 sqm, the new terminal building will be equipped with modern facilities catering to about 2,000 passengers during peak hours, and will be environment friendly.

Modi laid the foundation stone of important road projects including two stretches (44.22 km) of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway connecting Jammu to Katra and phase-two for the four-laning of the Srinagar Ring road.

He laid the foundation stone for a project to develop the CUF (Common User Facility) petroleum depot at Jammu as well.

Jammu-Srinagar highway blocked for second day as landslides hit several

places

spokesperson said. He said the road clearance operations have also been impeded by the third straight day of rain.

On Monday also, a traffic department official said the traffic on the 270-km highway was suspended around 9.30 am following landslides triggered by heavy rains in Dalwas, Mehad-Cafeteria, Chamalwas, Shalgadi and Gangroo.

A meteorological department spokesman said the Banihal town along the highway received 83.6 mm of rainfall during the 24 hours ending 8.30 am Tuesday.

Bhaderwah in Doda district received a rainfall of 58.8 mm followed by Batote in Ramban (49.6 mm), the spokesman said, adding Katra town - the base camp for pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district - recorded 16.2 mm during the period.

The Jammu city received a rainfall of 5.8 mm rainfall till 8.30 am, the spokesman said, forecasting widespread rains at most places during the day followed by isolated rains till February 25 except February 23.

Police rescues

Pregnant woman amidst heavy snowfall in Sopore

evacuation of his pregnant wife who was in critical condition was received by Sopore Police."

"Due to heavy snowfall from last two days, the road was completely blocked and the movement of vehicle was very difficult", he said.

Realising the exigency, a rescue team headed by SHO Dangiwachha Insp. Jan Mohammad was immediately deputed to respond to distress call. In spite of heavy snow on the road, the rescue team reached the location on time and the patient was carefully and safely evacuated to PHC Dangiwachha.

General public of the area thanked Sopore Police for this timely humanitarian gesture.

Rains, snow continue in Kashmir; Gulmarg amasses 3-ft snowfall in

48 hours

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, received 1 cm of snow and 26.0mm of rain during the 24 hours and recorded a minimum of minus 0.3°C against 3.5°C on the previous night and the temperature was above normal by 0.4°C for the place, the official said. Kupwara town also received 41.9mm of rain and recorded a low of minus 0.4°C against minus 0.1°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal there, the official said. Gulmarg, the official said, received 50cms of snow during the 24 hours and 90 cms (2.95-ft) in last 24 hours, and recorded a low of minus 4.0°C against minus 2.8°C on the previous night and the temperature was above normal by 2.7°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir which is set to host 4th edition of Khelo India games from February 21. Jammu, he said, received 5.8mm of rain and recorded a minimum of 13.4°C and it was above normal by 2.8°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal received 83.6mm of rain in 24 hours and recorded a low of 2.0°C, Batote received 49.6mm and had a low of 3.44°C while Bhaderwah received 58.8mm of rain and recorded a minimum of 1.6°C, he said. The weatherman has forecast more precipitation in next 24 hours in

Jammu and Kashmir and improvement in weather thereafter. "There is possibility of light to moderate Rain/Snow at most places (Plains & Lower reaches) with possibility of heavy to very heavy snowfall over middle & higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Badgam & dists. of South Kashmir," the MeT official said. On February 21, he said, there is possibility of intermittent light to moderate snow at many places till afternoon or late afternoon and gradual improvement thereafter. "No significant weather activity is expected till February 27," he added. While 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harsh period of winter ended on January 29 and 20-day-long winter period called 'Chillai-Khurd' ended on February 19, Kashmir is the middle 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) which culminates on March 1.

3.7 magnitude earthquake hits Kishtwar

21:35:17 IST, Lat: 35.45 & Long: 74.93, Depth: 10 Km ,Location: 148km NW of Kargil, Laddakh," NCS said in a post on X. More details are awaited

37th Convocation of IGNOU held**12454 students from Jammu region declared successful****Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 20: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) organized its 37th Convocation today on the 20th of February 2024.

The Convocation ceremony was organised at 39 Regional Centres across the Country concurrently including the Regional Centre Jammu.

As many as Three Lakh Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Four (3,08,584) students were declared qualified to be presented with the degree/diploma/certificate in the convocation functions at IGNOU Headquarters and 39 Regional Centres across the country. Under the Jammu region, as many as 12454 learners have been declared successful and eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates in the 37th Convocation function at Jammu which includes 5698 learners of Master Degree programmes, 6235 learners of Bachelor Degree programmes, 416 learners of Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes and 105 learners of Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programmes.

Jagdeep Dhankar, Vice President of India was the Chief Guest on this occasion at the New Delhi HQs. of IGNOU.

Prof. Ashok Aima, Distinguished Chair Professor, School of Management, MIET-Jammu and Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, was the Guest of Honour and delivered Convocation address in the 37th Convocation function of Regional Centre Jammu which was organized in the Auditorium of Central



Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

The Convocation ceremony started with the Guard of Honour by NCC cadets, followed by the lighting of traditional lamp by the dignitaries and saraswati vandana by the students of Central Sanskrit University. Alka Sharma hosted the ceremony.

The University had earlier created an online portal for the eligible students to register for the 37th Convocation. The students who registered and submitted their consent to receive the degree in person were invited as per IGNOU guidelines to confer upon the Degree in the Convocation ceremony. Those who had registered and given their consent to receive Diploma/Degree through post would be sent their respective Degree/Diploma/Certificate through Speed Post after the Convocation ceremony.

As per the details provided by IGNOU authorities, as many as 310 qualified students had submitted the requisite fee and consent to receive their respective Degree/Diploma certificates in person in the Convocation func-

tion at Regional Centre Jammu.

Prof. Ashok Aima, Guest of Honour on the occasion at Jammu, termed the 37th Convocation of IGNOU as an occasion of Celebration of IGNOU's achievements which is popularly known as the People's University accessible to all those far and wide who otherwise would have lost the opportunity to gain access to higher education, improve upon their qualification and increase the chances of employment.

Prof. Ashok Aima congratulated the students on whom the University had conferred Degree Certificates and also appreciated the efforts made by the Regional Centre for the sincere efforts to expand the spectrum of education in the region.

Prof. Aima in his Convocation address urged the awardees that they have to translate their educational achievements to benefit the world and that they all have a collective responsibility to work for the progress of the society and the country as a whole. Prof. Aima said that Open and Distance Learning is a blessing for those who

missed formal education, especially in the far flung rural areas since it is convenient, cost-effective and student-centric.

Regional Director, Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, presented the Regional Centre Report. In his report Dr. Verma presented a summary of the initiatives that the University and the Regional Centre Jammu have taken to strengthen students support services network in the region. Dr. Verma stated that IGNOU is the largest Open University in the World and is widely acknowledged as a system leader offering a variety of academic, vocational, professional, liberal arts and skill based, job-oriented programmes.

Dr. Verma in his report highlighted that in light of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, IGNOU has implemented Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) in which the learners would have the freedom to select their desired courses providing curriculum's interdisciplinary flexibility. He stated that Students in various fields such as sciences, computer sciences, psychology, library science, social work, sustainable development, counselling and family therapy, food and nutrition, anthropology, education, health sciences, nursing, information security, and more, are expected to actively participate in hands-on learning experiences to enhance their job prospects.

Dr. Verma stated that IGNOU has become the First Open University in the Country to have been accredited with the highest A++ Grade

by NAAC and the programmes are offered in compliance to NEP 2020 Guidelines and various programmes are specifically tailored to address a wide range of requirements in various professional domains.

Dr. Dayanath, Assistant Professor, Central Sanskrit University, Jammu, Dr. Savita Jamwal, Associate Professor, Govt. SPMR College of Commerce, Dr. Abdul Majid, Assistant Professor, Govt. Degree College Ramnagar, Ghulam Abbas, Joint Director Press Information Bureau were felicitated as IGNOU friends on the occasion for their unconditional support to RC Jammu in carrying forward its mandate to the masses.

The Regional Director congratulated the awardees for their achievement and wished them success in their future endeavours and also appreciated the role of Regional Centre staff in making the function of 37th Convocation happen.

Tejinder Pal Singh, Deputy Registrar of the Regional Centre, presented the vote of thanks.

The Convocation ceremony was organized successfully by the determined efforts of ARDs Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Dr. Vikram Singh, Deputy Registrar, Tejinder Pal Singh, Assistant Registrar, Rajesh Mohan, Section Officer, Dara Singh and their team comprising Lakhbir Singh, Sweeti Gupta, Jagdish Chander, Naveen Dutta, Rupesh Pandita, Ankush Pathania, Ashwani Sharma, Lucky Sharma, Samunder Singh and Arjun.

GDC Thannamandi organizes seminar on Life and Works of Nisar Rahi**Top News Report**

THANNAMANDI, Feb 20: The Department of Urdu in collaboration with IQAC of GDC Thannamandi organized a seminar on the Life and Works of Nisar Rahi as part of Viksit Bharat@47 Sankalp here today.

On his first death anniversary, a seminar on the life and works of Nisar Rahi, noted poet and writer of Pirpanjal region, organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of the college.

Prof. Farooq Ahmed emphasized upon the need of highlighting the contribution of regional scholars of eminence among youth and stu-

dents. There is urgent need to preserve and continue the legacy of scholars like Nisar Rahi, he added. He appreciated the organizing team for taking this initiative.

Dr. Abdul Haque Naimi, Head Department of Urdu, delivered an expert talk on the life and works of Nisar Rahi. Hailing from Dadasanbala in Thannamandi, Nisar Rahi was known for his extraordinary literacy works including his books on fiction and poetry in Urdu and regional languages - Thund, Parakh Parchol, warq warq, Harf-e-tamanna, sabs jazeera etc. Besides this he also launched the Weekly Urdu Newspaper, Das-

toor and conducted research on the Pahari language and culture. Dr. Naimi explained in his lecture. Dr. Naseem Ahmed, Prof. Asif Aijaz Lone and some students also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, Dr. Ashaq Malik, IQAC Coordinator and Head, Department of Botany welcomed and introduced the audience about the programme and conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Dr. Nazir Ullah, Prof. Altaf Hussain, Dr. Junaid Ahmed, Dr. Nisar Bhat and Dr. Arshad Khan.

Snow clearance operations going on in full swing at Kulgam**Top News Report**

KULGAM, Feb 20: Following heavy snowfall in the district, the Snow clearance operations are going on in full swing and all men and machinery have been pressed into service to clear the roads.

AEE Mechanical Engineering Department Kulgam, Khurshid Abdullah said that number of snow clearance machines

have been augmented and the snow clearance operations are being carried out on all major roads connecting Kulgam with other districts besides other link and inner roads.

He also said that they 20 snow clearance machines for 554 kilometres of road in the district with 377 Kilometers priority 1st and 177 priority 2nd roads.

"So far we have

cleared 60% of snow on the roads in the district out of which 300 kilometres of priority first and 30 kilometers of priority 2nd roads out of 554 Kilometers", he said adding that "Remaining 40 percent snow to be cleared at an earliest.

"I am myself monitoring the situation on ground and ensuring clearance of snow from all roads in the district," Abdullah said.

JKTF demands extension of Winter vacations for teachers winter Zones of Jammu division**Top News Report**

RAMBAN, Feb 20: J&K Teachers Forum affiliated with All India Secondary Teachers Federation has urged from Director School Education Jammu Ashok Kumar Sharma for extension of the winter vacations in the winter Zones of Jammu division due to the inclement weather.

Pertinent to mention that all the Schools of winter Zones are supposed to reopen for Teachers on February 21, 2024, however for the students the schools are likely to reopen on March 1, 2024 but from last two days it has been heavily snowing in upper reaches of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban besides the extreme to moderate rainfalls

in the districts of plain areas.

So keeping in view the inclement weather conditions JKTF State President, Sh Mohammad Ashraf has sought feedback from several District/Zonal units of JKTF particularly in Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban and a common suggestion to extend the vacations till the weather is absolutely normal as a precautionary measure has been adopted and the same has been conveyed to DSE Jammu so as to get an official communication in this regard.

Moreover, JKTF has further made it very clear that the Schools shall reopen for the students on the due date as per the already shared schedule i.e on March 1, 2024.

Lowpaid Govt. Employees Federation holds meeting at Doda**Top News Report**

DODA, Feb 20: A deputation of pensioner employees of Doda dist. visited to the office of J&K Lowpaid Govt. Employees Federation office doda alleging facing hardship by employees in view of not getting pension by the most of employees of different departments from their respective Banks within time bound schedule delayed for months together.

A meeting was called

on Tuesday under the chairmanship of its dist. president JK Pensioner Association Er. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh LPEF Doda who assured deputation to high light the problem faced by the pensioner before His Excellency LG of J&K UT Manoj Sinha for the necessary directions to the All Banks to ensure the pension salary to the pensioner with in the schedule and date ensure the medical treatment and purchase the medicines other expenses for their

livelihood at least one day before completion of every month.

Chairman assured of a support in their time of need requesting L.G. Administration to redress the genuine demands.

Others present were Ghulam Hassan Pampori, Shakeel Ahmad Dev, N.A. Rahi, Rashpal Singh, Nizam Din Butt, Gopal Singh, Hari Raj, Ghulam Hassan Bagwan, Faizan Trambo, Niaz Ahmad kKulhandi and Molvi Abdul Hameed.

GDC Vijaypur organises a Selfie-Taking Campaign on Voting Rights**Top News Report**

VIJAYPUR, Feb 20: To commemorate the day in continuation of the sequel of events organized under the banner of Voter Awareness Campaign" NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of GDC Vijaypur organised a selfie-taking campaign on voting rights with the aim to aware the staff and students that right to vote is a fundamental

right in any democratic society.

The ability to vote is not only a right, but a responsibility, as it ensures that the voices of all citizens are heard and that their interests are represented in the government.

Democracy allows every citizen to cast its vote in choosing its own government in a democratic way. A single vote is very important as it

can decide the fate of a government in a democratic setup. Whole of the event was organised under the able guidance of Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta, Principal GDC, Vijaypur.

The event was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Coordinator NSS) and co-coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO).

The event was organised with the full support of following faculty members namely Dr. Anoop Bhagat (HOD Sociology), Prof. Mamta Gupta (HOD Commerce), Prof. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri), Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Dr. Radhika Rasyal, Prof. Renuka Kundan, Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal, Dr. Jan Mohd. Wani, Dr. Tisha Singh.

Ajeet Bhagat appeals LG to make arrangements for the school children**Top News Report**

KISHTWAR, Feb 20: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior Leader, Spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat appealed to Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor



Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to arrange system for school children. The National Conference leader said that children are not preparing for exams in harsh weather. He said 20% of chil-

dren will see snow-covered roads by April. He urged the government to organize a system for school children about the difficulties faced by our children so that the education system does not suffer.

Kaith Biradari grieves demise of Sewa Ram**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Aug 20: The Kaith Biradari at a condolence meeting held here, expressed grief over of demise of its eminent member Sewa Ram Kaith, who left for

his heavenly abode in the evening yesterday.

He was elder brother of Retired Sub Inspector Karan Kumar Kaith and hailed from Village Bachyal. Biradari members said, the deceased was polite, humble, reli-

able, dedicated, honest and self-disciplined.

While offering heartfelt sympathies and condolences, Kaith Biradari members prayed for the peace to the departed soul and patience for the near and dear ones.

'Yashasvi Jaiswal learnt from his upbringing, not from you': Nasser Hussain slams England opener for bizarre comment

The ex-England captain chastised Ben Duckett for his statement and urged England players to self-reflect when it comes to supporting 'Bazball'

RAJKOT, Feb 20 (Agencies): Former England skipper Nasser Hussain has responded emphatically to Ben Duckett's comments on India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal's aggressive batting.

Duckett asserted that Jaiswal played an aggressive style of cricket as a result of England's much-discussed 'Bazball' approach in the game's purest form.

Jaiswal's attacking approach has yielded runs in tons for him across the three Tests played so far in the five-match series between India and England.

However, Duckett remarked that England deserve "some credit" for the way Jaiswal has adopted an attacking brand of cricket in Tests. The 29-year-old England batter has faced plenty of backlash for the comment.

Speaking about Jaiswal's effort after the third day's play, Duckett stated, "When you see players from the opposition playing like that, it almost feels



like we should take some credit that they're playing differently than how other people play Test cricket."

The opening batsman's opinion did not sit well with ex-England captain Hussain, who chastised Duckett for his statements and urged England players to "self-reflect" when it comes to supporting 'Bazball'.

"He's not learnt from you. He's learnt from his upbringing, all

the hard yards he had to put in growing up. If anything, lads, look at him and learn from him. I hope there's a little bit of self-introspection going on. Otherwise it becomes a cult - and, at times, Bazball and this regime has been described as such, where you cannot criticise within or externally," Hussain told Sky Sports.

Jaiswal has scored the most runs in the series so far, with

545 in six innings at an average of 109. The left-hander scored double-centuries in consecutive Tests and finished unbeaten on 214 in Rajkot.

Hussain said that England's optimism is admirable, but he bemoaned a lack of realism considering their lofty aspirations. "When you're living in an environment in a bubble that has got so much good messaging and positive vibes, you go into a press conference and you're never going to step back and go, 'they may have got too many and we're just going to play for a draw'.

I enjoy their positivity but there has to be a little bit of realism in there as well. Obviously, chasing 600 in India batting last is not a particularly good option to look," he added.

With a 2-1 lead in the five-match Test series, India will face England in the fourth game in Ranchi from Friday.

After outburst, Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman's days numbered?



NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman's days are numbered as she is unlikely to get an extension after her contract expires in July for failing to produce results, including the side's failure to qualify for the Paris Olympics.

Schopman, who was the analytical coach at the Tokyo Olympics, took over the reins after Sjoerd Marijne's departure just after the quadrennial event.

"Her contract ends in July-August (till the Olympics). Let us see

what happens, I can't tell anything at this point of time," a Hockey India source said.

It is, however, learnt that Schopman is unlikely to get an extension. Under Schopman, India won bronze at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and last year's Asian Games.

Schopman's relationship with HI secretary general Bholanath Singh soured after the team failed to qualify for the Paris Games. It became worse after her outburst in the media following India's last FIH Pro League game at home against USA.

Schopman claimed that she didn't get the respect from some quarters of the national federation.

Schopman, an Olympics gold medalist, also claimed that she felt "alone a lot in the last two years", and was critical of the differential treatment meted out to the women's team compared to the men's side.

Hockey India, however, completely denied the allegations, stating that she was provided everything that she wanted.

"I don't know why she is saying these things. There is no discrimination in Hockey India. We treat both the men's and women's teams equally," the HI source said. "Neither Hockey India nor the Sports Authority of India has treated her badly. We have always given due respect and recognition to her."

Schopman's next assignment is the European leg of the Pro League in May.

'Underdogs' New Zealand vow to 'fight' in T20 series with Australia

WELLINGTON, Feb 20 (Agencies): Captain Mitchell Santner vowed Tuesday that his "underdogs" New Zealand will put up a "fight" in their three-match Twenty20 home series against a full-strength Australia.

With the World Cup looming in June, the rivals will meet in front of a sell-out crowd in Wellington on Wednesday, followed by games in Auckland on Friday and Sunday.

New Zealand triumphed in their last meeting in the shortest format, by 89 runs in October 2022 in Sydney at the World Cup, but Australia have since lifted the 50-over World Cup and are coming off a 2-1 T20 series win over the West Indies.

"We're probably underdogs but we are used to that tag and don't think much of it," Santner told reporters.

"It's always a pretty cool time when the Aussies come over. You always want to challenge yourself against the best in the world,



and they're up there for sure."

The Black Caps and Australia last met in a T20 series three years ago, with hosts New Zealand winning 3-2.

"It's special," Santner said. "We probably don't play Australia as much as we probably should, but the trans-Tasman clash is always good fun."

"Looking at their squad at the moment, they're a very, very good team with all bases covered," added the all-rounder.

"We've just got to do our thing, we've got our plans in place."

The tourists, captained by Mitchell Marsh, are at full-strength.

David Warner, who recently retired from

Test cricket, is 54 runs away from overtaking former captain Aaron Finch as Australia's all-time leading scorer in men's T20s.

New Zealand have rested world-class batsman Kane Williamson but added experienced seamer Trent Boult to their attack.

"We know how good they're going to be and how explosive their team is," Santner said of the Australians.

"So for us it's just about staying in for as long as we can and see what happens."

"We want to put up a good fight this series, then we can look forward after that."

The T20 series is followed by two Tests.

From ball boy to Punjab Kings new signing: Small town boy Ashutosh Sharma ready for IPL 2024

NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): After a Punjab Kings batting camp in Mumbai, the new entrant, Ashutosh Sharma was sitting excitedly with his phone in his hand, waiting for former Indian cricketer Sanjay Bangar to arrive. Bangar, the Head of Cricket Development of the franchise, was delighted when Ashutosh showed his 12-year-old selfie alongside him.

While Bangar was a part of the now-defunct Kochi franchise when the selfie was taken, Ashutosh was a young ball boy. Over a decade later, the 25-year-old cricketer will have a chance to train under one of his cricketing idols, as he was picked up by the Punjab franchise for Rs 20 lakhs for the coming edition of the Indian Premier League.

"I remember my meeting with Bangar Sir. I was 10-11 years old at the time, and I asked him to advise me on my batting stance. Now, the dream



is fulfilled and I am here at Punjab Kings, and will receive coaching under him" Ashutosh said.

Ashutosh, who hails from the city of Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh, began his cricketing journey at a young age. Due to a lack of opportunities in his hometown, he moved to Indore when he was 8 years old to train at Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association's residential academy.

"When I left home, I did not have enough money. I used to go to a camp and I started umpiring in matches to afford lunch. We were a family of limited means, and it was hard to do everything on my own so early. But I never let

it affect my family about my struggles as I did not want them to worry" he recalled.

During a rough batting patch, while playing U19 cricket, Ashutosh thought of punishing himself by doing all his household chores without any help, believing it would bring discipline and remind him of the sacrifices he had made to reach the level. "After doing so for a month, I scored a hundred," he recalled. The time spent on his own also made Ashutosh the chef among his friends, and cooking became one of his favourite hobbies. "My signature dish would be paneer curry and rice. I also make

amazing ginger tea," he said.

Growing up, Ashutosh admired local Ratlam cricketer Naman Ojha as one of his childhood idols, along with Suryakumar Yadav. In 2019, despite a string of solid performances, opportunities did not come his way in Madhya Pradesh, and after three years away from the sport, Ashutosh shifted to Railways.

Last year, in a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy clash against Arunachal Pradesh, the right-handed batsman smashed an 11-ball fifty, breaking Yuvraj Singh's record of the fastest half-century in the shortest format, capturing the attention of the cricket community. "It was one of the most memorable moments of my career, along with getting picked for Punjab Kings."

Ashutosh recalled the day of the auctions and described the tense atmosphere at his house. Even though I was confident I would

be picked, I was unable to sit in one place and completely skipped lunch," he said.

When he was eventually picked by the Punjab Kings in the acceleration round after a long wait, Ashutosh switched off the television set immediately and the celebrations began. "I stayed up with my friends till 5 AM. My phone kept ringing and eventually stopped working. Our relatives and family brought crackers and sweets. The people from the town put posters all over, celebrating that a player from the area has been selected. It was a great atmosphere. I called my coach and told him that the hard work has paid off," he recalled.

Now, set to feature in the coming season of IPL, Ashutosh has his mission statement prepared. "I want to express myself," he said. "I have worked so hard to reach here. I will work even harder now so I can help Punjab Kings win their first trophy."

T20 World Cup 2024: Rohit Sharma right choice to lead India in upcoming ICC event, says Sourav Ganguly

NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): Former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly feels that India made the right call by selecting Rohit Sharma as the captain of the side for the upcoming World Cup 2024.

Rohit, who recently made his return to the T20I format after a year-long hiatus, guided the side to a 3-0 series win over Afghanistan. Speaking to Mid-Day, Ganguly said that the opener was the right choice to be made the captain for the T20 World Cup.

The former BCCI president pointed out how the opener led from the front and guided them to the final of the ODI World Cup 2023, by winning 10 games in a row.

"Rohit Sharma is the right choice as India captain for the T20 World Cup. The way he led the Indian team and won 10 matches in the 50-over World Cup is still fresh in our memory. So, Rohit was the best choice," Ganguly concluded.



BCCI secretary Jay Shah was the one who went on to announce that Rohit would be leading the Indian team at the T20 World Cup 2024. On the eve of the third Test against England, Shah announced that he was confident that India would lift the trophy in West Indies under the leadership of

Rohit.

"We may have lost the final of the 2023 ODI World Cup. But we won hearts there by winning 10 matches in a row. I am confident that India will lift the 2024 T20 World Cup under Rohit Sharma's captaincy at Barbados," Jay Shah said.

Rohit hadn't played a T20I

since India's exit in the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup 2022 at the hands of England but made a sparkling return in the series against Afghanistan. After getting out for ducks in the first two matches, Rohit hit his 5th T20I hundred in a thrilling series finale in Bengaluru.

During Rohit's absence from the T20I side, Hardik Pandya was the one captaining the Indian team in the shortest format of the game. The all-rounder replaced Rohit as the skipper of the Mumbai Indians ahead of the IPL 2024 campaign.

This would create speculation that Hardik could be the one leading India in the World Cup in West Indies and the USA as he has led the team in 11 matches so far.

However, Hardik hasn't played a game after sustaining an injury during the ODI World Cup 2023 match against Bangladesh in Pune.

Sri Lanka Spinner Wanindu Hasaranga Joins Elite Club With 100 T20I Wickets



DAMBULLA, Feb 20 (Agencies): Sri Lanka's prime spinner Wanindu Hasaranga joined the elite list with a massive career milestone, becoming just the second Sri Lankan to take 100 T20I wickets. Hasaranga became the eleventh men's player

ranga has taken more wickets than any other bowler in men's T20Is since debuting in 2019.

Malinga was the only other Sri Lankan bowler with over 100 T20I wickets. Malinga reached the milestone in his 76th T20I, whilst Hasaranga did so in his 63rd, second quickest to 100 T20I wickets, after only Rashid Khan, who did so in 53 matches in 2021.

Hasaranga, who concluded with 2/19 in four overs at Dambulla on Monday, now has 101 wickets in 63 T20Is at an average of 15.36 and a strike rate of 6.78.

Sri Lanka defeated Afghanistan in the second T20I, taking a 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Prophecy of four Shankar Acharyas Kissan Andolan, Electoral bonds Ban, Chandigarh Mayor Selection face-off with Judiciary showing its impact: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: The Senior AAP leaders, Ram Singh Chauhan & Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao in a joint statement issued here said that the comments & prophecy of four pillars of Hindu faith- the Shankar Acharyas against the untimely opening of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya quite pre-maturely ahead of completion & they said the temple is incomplete, so pran pratishtha at a time like this is not in line with the Vedas & Sanatana Dharma that- Kissan Andolan, murder of democracy in Chandigarh Mayor election, Face off with Apex court, Electoral bonds ban, destruction of constitution, constitutional Institutions, Election Commission, Federal system, favoring hand-ful Industrialist friends at the cost of Indian economy & masses etc are the signs before the world and Indian masses casting bad shadows and the days are not far when the doubts of Shankar Acharyas may not come true.

The AAP leaders further pleaded that the Nation is fast heading towards dictatorship as the job of Foreign Minister, Defense Minister, Finance Minister, Works Minister etc is being done by only one person who is always



& always visible on the first page of every news paper, on every channel of TV, on every Petrol Pump, Railway station, Bus stop and what not, the AAP leaders said & added that the time when general elections in the country are round the corner, the populist assertion made by PM Modi are nothing but the bundle of lies, which is known across the country. They said that none of the promises made by our PM has been fulfilled, the debt over India has risen to three times high than it was before 2014, the rupee has fallen down tremendously as compared to US Dollar, India is lagging behind in various parameters than its neighbors' like poverty, hunger, malnutrition & promising of 15 lacs into the accounts of each house hold, doubling the income of farmers by ending 2022, MSP to the benefit of farmers,

2 crore jobs every year, removing corruption, decriminalization of politics, lowering prices of Diesel, Petrol, domestic gas, sand, Bajri, stones, making 100 smart cities, running of Bullet trains, constructing 1 model village in each constituency every year etc.

Referring to grant of warding Bharat Rattan to revered Chaudhary Charan Singh & Dr. Swami Nathan, the AAP leaders termed it as an attempt to lure farmer community in view of ongoing agitation of farmers over demanding grant of MSP etc.

While referring to the height of hypocrisy in the part of BJP in general & PM Modi in particular, where, Modi in his open speech in Bhopal, in MP, he thumped his own chest and gave a guarantee to the country that will soon take action against the corrupt persons but to the astonishment of one &

all, he inducted 9 cabinet Ministers in Maharashtra government by breaking NCP including Ajit Pawar against whom ED & CBI have registered cases in 70,000 crores most infamous Irrigation scam, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dhananjay Mudey, Hassan Mushrif & recently ahead of Lok Sabha polls 2024, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan resigned from the Congress Party & joined BJP, to whom BJP openly accused of the Adarsh Scam, which was specifically mentioned by the PM, two days back etc, & against whom several cases are underway but the PM, Modi crossing all limits of shamelessness gives guarantee of taking action , what a height of hypocrisy, they claimed & added that BJP has now openly declared that all the corrupt should come to its fold & get cleaned off their sin in BJP's washing powder.

The release said that on one hand BJP is arresting political opponents on fake corruption charges while they themselves are on an MLA & councilors purchasing spree.

Hard-earned public money is being misused to quench BJP's thirst for power, the release alleged. The release further said that the BJP

& Prime Minister Modi cannot talk about fighting corruption now; the tainted leaders under the scanner of ED & CBI for corruption have been put into "washing machine" & BJP's detergent washing powder cleans all spots in seconds.

The AAP leaders further said that destroying of Constitutional Institutions, auctioning public owned units to friendly Industrialists, bribing Supreme Court of India Judges to be nominated as Rajya Sabha Members, silencing electronic & print Media, enacting most obnoxious & anti-farmer laws & later on nullifying the same, remaining mum over Manipur - Hathras like heinous crimes & episodes, allowing unbridled price rise on kitchen by imposing irrational GST, letting lose the reign of terror through ED, CBI & in case of opposition leaders etc are driving the country for a unitary system of governance which, in near times to come, shall prove very harmful for the countrymen and dangerous for the unity & integrity of the country.

In fact, the ruling Party is working on the policy to keep 95% people poor and 5% wealthy to fund & rule which is very dangerous for unity & integrity of Country, the release cautioned.

Department of English GCW Kathua concludes workshop on Effective Communication Skills

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 20: A five days Workshop on Effective Communication Skills was concluded today on 20th Feb 2024 by the Department of English in Government Degree College for Women, Kathua.

The Workshop was organised under the banner of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC).

It was commenced on 15th Feb 2024. The programme was commenced with the formal welcome address proposed by Ms Surbhi Gupta Assistant Professor of Computer Science.

The workshop was held under the guidance and supervision of the Principal of the College, Dr Inderjeet Kour.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal of the college Dr. Inderjeet Kour congratulated the department of English and the whole organising committee for the smooth and effectively conducting the Workshop.

She expressed that workshop was a significant milestone in the professional as well as personal development of the participants.

However, she also urged the students to take part in such work-



shops so as to develop their invaluable insights into effective verbal and non verbal communication techniques, active listening strategies and the art of delivering impactful presentations.

Karam Chand, Assistant Professor, HOD Department of English, and Dr. Naseer Mir Lecturer Department of English remained the resource persons on the occasion.

Karam Chand Assistant Professor, HOD Department of English threw light on the reflections of five days workshop, by mentioning a detailed report of the event.

He also expressed his gratitude for the efforts put forth by the organising committee to make the event as a successful one.

However some participants also came forward to express their feed-

back regarding the outcome of the workshop. Among others Navdeep Kaur, Mehnaz Akhtar and Komal Sharma expressed their delightfulness over the benefits of the workshop.

The function was compared by Surbhi Gupta, Assistant Professor in Computer Application.

Among other faculty members, Dr. Babita Mahajan, Dr. Rachna Devi, Dr. Yash Paul, Dr. Kamini Kapoor, Sachinjeet Singh, Dr. Sonika Rajput, were present on the occasion. Dr. Nasser Mir Lect. English, second Resource Person of the event, expressed a formal vote of thanks. The workshop was organised and coordinated by the organising committee members Sachinjeet Singh, Surbhi Gupta, Dr. Kamini Kapoor, Dr. Ritu Raj, Dr. Sonika Rajput, and Surekha Rani.

Aryans Group of Colleges to organize JK job Fest on Feb 22

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: Giving golden opportunity to the job aspirants of Jammu & Kashmir, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh is going to conduct a recruitment drive at two locations to be held on 22nd February in Adams Apple, opposite Hotel Sheeza Abi Guzar, Central Market Lane, Lal Chowk Srinagar & Govt. Woman College, Anantnag.

The aspiring freshers/ experienced can visit Aryans Website i.e. www.aryans.edu.in or send their



CVs on careers@aryans.edu.in for Registration.

It is to be mentioned that Aryans is only campus outside Kashmir, where more than 2000 Kashmiri students are studying in Aryans in various courses. For Job or Admission related queries candidates may contact Er. Mudasir :8427022288, Er. Rayees :8054899888, Er. Jehangir

: 8054699888, Er. Shahid : 8054499888.

Around 50 positions including Director, Principal, Professors, Assistant Professors, Associate professor will be filled to teach students of Engineering, Law, Nursing, Pharmacy, Paramedical, Physiotherapy, Management. Various other vacancies are Administrator, Office Supdt., Chief Security Officer, Social Media Expert, Finance Officer, Librarian, PRO, Senior Accountant, Accountant, Auditor, Clerk, Cashier, Office Assistant etc will also be filled.

Bhan urges PM to talk about reversal of KP exile

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: Ashok Bhan, Chairman KPSG has urged the Prime Minister to talk about the reversal of KP exile.

KPs are longing to return home. 34 years of exile is harsh, traumatic and painful fraught with extinction of this unique & viable community.

This community is aboriginal with 5000 years of roots engraved in soil of Valley. It is the moral, Constitutional and political duty -Dayatva of Modi & his government to plan a structured Garwapsi of the KPs without whom the idea of Naya Kashmir is incomplete Bhan said



In the historical and social context of the Kashmir Valley, the scars of past conflicts weigh heavily upon its people. The fallout from the 1947 turmoil and the prolonged insurgency has resulted in the displacement of indigenous religious minorities

and the senseless loss of innocent lives at the hands of non-state actors and militant groups.

The people are victims of the 1947 conflict and the lingering aftermath of the armed insurgency that led to (a) the displacement of the entire indigenous religious minority and (b) the killing of innocent civilians by non-state actors, brutalised anti-people groups and other actors.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing this plight, the Kashmir Policy and Strategy Group has tirelessly advocated for dialogue and societal healing, emphasizing the imperative of fostering peace, justice, and inclusivity in the region.

International Multi Disciplinary conference organised at MDSD College

Top News Report

AMBALA, Feb 20: One Day International Multi Disciplinary conference was organised at MDSD College Ambala City, Haryana in collaboration with International Council of Education, Research and Training. Conference convener Dr. Anuradha said that the conference was organised on the day of UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science and 200 participants from 20 different countries presented their research papers in the conference. Dr. Kiran Agra, Principle MDSD college and chief organising chair and Dr Sandeep Kumar, Secretary, ICERT USA and India, Dr Simran Mehta, Director ICERT welcomed all guests and dignitaries arrived in the conference with the presentation of shawls and



mementos followed by Lightning of Lamp Ceremony and singing of Saraswati Vandana.

In her welcome address Dr Angra said that this conference will enable professionals, academicians and educationists in policy making and implementation for making sustainable future for the coming generations.

On this occasion Dr Aruna Anchal, Director and Head, Research and Publication division ICERT, Head of Department of education Baba Mastnath University Rohtak, Dr Loganathan

Veera Muttu Research assistant professor, Institute of organic and polymer materials National Taipei University of technology Taiwan, Dr Manisha D. Bhagoji, Executive Director, Professional Development Division, ICERT, Pennsylvania, USA, were invited as Guests of Honours of the Inaugural session.

Dr Vinita Gupta associate professor, department of English Government College sector 1 Panchkula was the guest of honour of Valedictory session. Dr Sandeep, secretary

ICERT, Dr Kiran Angra and Dr Anuradha, Assistant Professor of English, MDSD College and Dr Aruna Anchal released the souvenir of the conference. Dr Abraham Melkie, Director international relations and strategic partnerships, Debre Tabor University, Ethiopia was invited as chief guest of the inaugural session of the conference. ER Diljit Singh, Vice President- Unisys Infosolutions Pvt Ltd and Professor Rajendra Kumar Uppal, MTC global chair professor Indian Institute of Finance New Delhi and principal BF CMT Bhatinda Punjab was invited as chief guests of the Valedictory session of the conference.

On the occasion book of Professor RK Uppal on "Banking: A new gateway for Indian Banking Industry" was also

released. Dr Sandeep said that the book written by Professor Uppal would certainly prove helpful for all the concerned teachers and scholars. Engineer Diljit Singh deliberated on how technology can boost sustainable development. Dr Abraham Melkie said that technology can help make cities more sustainable by improving energy efficiency reducing emissions and enhancing mobility. Dr Rinku, Assistant Professor, Department of Defence Studies, Jyotiba Phule Government College, Radaur, Haryana presented the report of the conference. Dr Monica Dhillon, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Anchal, Assistant Professor Department of Mathematics, MDSD College, Ambala city were the conference coordinators.

Jaura Kalan Panchyat residents appeal PM, Dr. Jatinder, LG to instruct concerned to restore work on Suringa Morh-Jai link road

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: Sarpanch Panchyat Jaura Kalan, Tehsil Kahara, District Doda, Anil Kumar & Panch Jaura Kalan, Ashok Kumar in a joint statement issued here have appealed the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, MOS in PMO's office, local Member Parliament, Dr Jitendra Singh and the Lt. Governor, of J&K-UT, Manoj Sinha, to instruct the concerned for according of forest clearance and taking up the suspended work on Suringa Morh- Jai link road immediately. They said that on Suringa Morh-Jai link road (14 Kms), earth cutting work is already complete on Suringa Morh to revenue

village Jaura Kalan - a distance of 4 Kms (Non forest area) & the work from Jaura Kalan to Jai (10 Kms) stands suspended for want of forest clearance. They said that out of these 10 Kms, a stretch of one & half Kms i.e. from revenue village Jaura Kalan to Revenue village Lower- Shamdlain is tree-less though it falls in forest area; work on this stretch can be executed without any loss to forest & without any legal hindrance even before forest clearance for the whole.

They have also appealed to Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha & Chief Engineer, R&B, Jammu Province to accord forest clearance at the earliest and

simultaneously issue orders of execution of work on this tree-less stretch of one & half kms from Jaura Kalan to Lower Shamdlain, so that justice to the poor inhabitants of the village Lower Shamdlain & ST village Kunth will be denied.

The letter of Indent regarding compensation etc has already been sent to the office of Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B), Jammu by the concerned Executive Engineer PWD (R&B spl. Sub-Division) Gandoh (Bhalessa), No:- EE/PWD/SSDG/203-05, dated:-19-04-2019, through Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Doda, but there is no action till date.