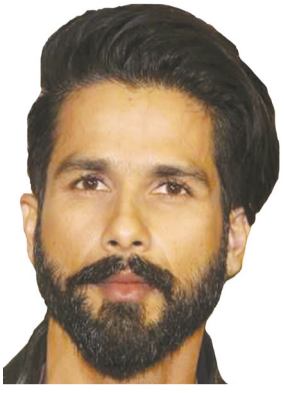


# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Jammu-Srinagar National Highway reopens for traffic

JAMMU, Feb 23 (Agencies): The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was reopened for traffic early Friday after remaining closed for four days owing to multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains and snowfall, officials said. "Traffic plying on Jammu-Srinagar national highway but slow movement in Ramsoo sector due to single lane and poor surface," a spokesperson of the traffic department said.

He said while Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) were allowed from both sides this morning, heavy vehicles are being managed in a regulated manner to ensure smooth movement of vehicles.

The road was damaged and rendered single lane at Dalwas, Cafeteria-Mehad and Gangroo between Nashri and Banihal tunnels, the spokesperson said.

The decision to allow the traffic from both the capital cities was taken late Thursday after all stranded vehicles on the highway were cleared.

The traffic on the highway was suspended on Monday after multiple landslides, mudslides and shooting of stones from the hillocks overlooking the highway blocked the road at over a dozen places.

With the improvement in the weather on Wednesday, the agencies concerned mobilised more manpower and machines and managed to open the road partially for stranded vehicles.

However, a massive landslide at Kishtwari Pather blocked the highway again and finally the road was cleared for traffic on Thursday afternoon.

### Generally dry weather to prevail in J&K till Feb 26

SRINAGAR, Feb 23 (Agencies): Night temperature remained below the freezing point in Kashmir on Friday as the MeT office forecast generally dry weather till February 26.

An official of the Meteorological (MeT) department said that "there is likely no significant change in weather till February 26 during which period weather will generally remain dry in J&K".

Srinagar had minus 2.6, Gulmarg minus 10 and Pahalgam minus 9.5 as the minimum temperature.

Leh town of Ladakh

Turn to page 9

## ECI to assess possibility of simultaneous Assembly, LS polls in JK

SRINAGAR, Feb 23 (Agencies): The Election Commission of India (ECI) is scheduled to hold a comprehensive review to assess the possibility of simultaneous conduct of Assembly elections along with Parliamentary polls in Jammu and Kashmir during its two-day visit to the Union Territory on March 12 and 13, Deccan Herald reported.

Quoting sources the DH reported that though such a possibility is remote, the full commission is meeting with top officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi on March 8 and 9 ahead of their JK visit.

"The high-level meeting has been scheduled to review the overall security requirements and paramilitary deployment options for the Lok Sabha and assembly. Sources said that this meeting will be key to determining whether both the polls could be held simultaneously," sources said.

A senior officer in the JK administration highlighted that holding assembly polls in J&K would require heavier security arrangements



compared to parliamentary polls due to factors like providing security cover to each contesting candidate.

In the past, the assessment by the MHA revealed a need for over 800 paramilitary forces for JK alone, which was ruled out at the time.

The ECI panel plans to engage with various stakeholders, including politicians and law enforcement officials, to gather perspectives on holding assembly elections.

The Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners will meet with district election officers and SSPs to assess the security situation, particularly in the Valley. Jammu and Kashmir has been without an elected government since June 19, 2018, following the withdrawal of support by the BJP.

After visiting Jammu and Kashmir on March 12 and 13, the ECI is expected to announce the schedule for Lok Sabha elections, with a decision on simultaneous Assembly polls to follow.

## Army destroys landmine found near LoC in Poonch



MENDHAR/JAMMU, Feb 23 (Agencies): An Army patrol destroyed a rusted landmine in a controlled explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Friday.

The landmine was found adjacent to the border fence in the Balnoi area of the

Mankote sector on Thursday, they said. The officials said experts were summoned and the landmine was destroyed.

As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with landmines, which sometimes get washed away by rains and also result in accidental blasts, the officials said.

## Kashmir BSF Jawan Dies in West Bengal

SRINAGAR, Feb 23 (Agencies): A Border Security Forces (BSF) Jawan from North Kashmir's Kupwara district died after drowning in a river in West Bengal on Thursday evening.

Quoting official sources, Kashmir Scroll reported that Reyaz Ahmad Rather, son of Ghulam Ahmad Rather from the Mancher Lohab area of Kupwara, who served as a BSF Jawan stationed in West Bengal, lost his life due to drowning on Thursday evening.

Reyaz Ahmad was involved in boat patrolling when strong winds struck. The boat he occupied capsized, leading to Reyaz's drowning in the river.

Turn to page 9

## LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates new girls hostel at NIT Srinagar

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the new Girls Hostel at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar, today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the NIT management, faculty members and students on the occasion.

"The facility is dedicated to our daughters who are breaking the barriers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics- STEM education and ready to shape the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem," he said.

The Lt Governor emphasized on developing specialized workforce to meet the indus-



try demands who should also be capable of solving local challenges.

"The biggest responsibility of the institutions like NIT today is to create new generation of innovators. We should focus on developing Innovation-driven economy in

Amrit Kaal to strengthen innovation ecosystem in the country," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor called upon the faculty members to create a conducive environment for future-oriented capacity building of students

and strengthening the synergy between educational institutions and industries.

We must also ensure increased participation of women in STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics courses.

At NIT, the Lt Governor also shared the transformation in the educational landscape of the country, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Today, our educational institutions are emerging as centers of cutting-edge learning programs. With the new opportunities being provided to our talented youth in diverse fields, we can truly dominate the global knowledge economy in the future, he said.

The state-of-the-art hostel inaugurated today is a major step towards providing residential facilities to the girl students in the Campus.

Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Director NIT; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Deputy

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## Lt Governor inspects progress of Balidan Stambh in Srinagar



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 23: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha conducted the on-site inspection of the construction work of 'Balidan Stambh' at Pratap Park in Srinagar, today.

The Lt Governor

emphasized on timely completion of the prestigious project.

The foundation stone for the Balidan Stambh was laid by Hon'ble Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, during his visit to Srinagar in the month of June last year.

## High Court Closes Iltija Javed's Passport Case

SRINAGAR, Feb 23 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir disposed of a plea by Iltija Javed challenging travel restrictions placed last year while issuing her a passport, after the Court was informed that these restrictions have since been withdrawn.

Iltija, who is the daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti, was issued a "normal passport certificate with full validity" in August 2023, the Court was told. The submission was made by Deputy Solicitor General of India (DSGI), TM Shamsi before Justice Sanjeev Kumar. DSGI Shamsi told

that Court that with the issue of the normal passport certificate, Iltija Javed's grievance stood addressed. In this regard, the DSGI also submitted a communication issued by the Passport Officer at Srinagar from August 2023.

In light of this submission, the Court closed Iltija's plea.

"From reading of the communication aforesaid, it clearly transpires that the Passport Officer has considered the request of petitioner (Iltija Javed) and in view of the fact that there is nothing adverse reported against him by CID and also having regard to age and future career of the petitioner,

the passport office has issued a normal passport certificate with full validity to the petitioner. In view of aforesaid, there remains nothing in this petition for adjudication and, therefore, this petition rendered infructuous and is, accordingly, disposed of," the Court said.

By way of background, a conditional passport earlier issued to Javed was argued to have restricted the scope of her travel abroad as it prescribed that she could only travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and only for the purpose of her higher studies. Subsequently, Iltija moved the Court

Turn to page 9

## DGP's Tomorrow Public Grievance Program postponed: JK Police

SRINAGAR, Feb 23 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday said that DGP RR Swain's Public Grievance Redressal Programme will not be held tomorrow.

"This is to inform that the 'Public Grievances Redressal Programme' of DGP J&K will not be held this Saturday i.e. 24th February 2024," Police said in a post on X.

The Police added that, "Place and venue, date and time of the next grievance redressal programme will be communicated to the general public separately".

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UTHALA

We sadly inform the sad demise of our beloved Prof. Ravinder Chadha S/o Lt. Sh. Khem Chand Chadha on 21-02-2024 after a short stroke.



Prof. Ravinder Chadha

Sdr. Deep Kour - Sister-in-law
Sdr. Parvinder Singh - Nephew
Grand Children - Viham & Adviti
Mobile No.: 9149476434 & 9419242930

KRIYA

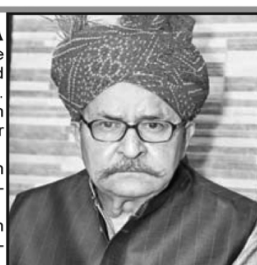
With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved Mr. Sanjay Kumar S/o Late Sh. Jagdish Chander and Smt. Veena Devi R/o H.No. 6, Uttam Vihar, Near Petrol Pump who left us for heavenly abode on 12-02-2024.



MR. SANJAY KUMAR

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Shri Kuldeep Singh Manhas (Retd. Head Master) S/o Late Romal Singh Manhas of Paloura who left us for heavenly abode on 14-02-2024.



Shri Kuldeep Singh Manhas

BARKHI

ONE YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE YOUR NOBLE SOUL LEFT US FOR HEAVENLY ABODE. THE PAIN OF MISSING YOU WILL NEVER FADE, BUT YOUR LOVING MEMORIES ARE STILL ALIVE IN OUR HEARTS AND YOUR BLESSINGS WILL ALWAYS KEEP SHOWERING ON US.



LATE SMT. RAJ KUMARI (RETD. TEACHER)

10TH DAY KRIYA & PRAYER MEET

ज जयते त्रियते वा कदाचिन्मायं भूत्वा भविता वा न भूयः । अजो नित्यं श्वास्त्यैयं पुत्राणो न हन्ते हन्यमाने शरीरे ॥



BHUSHAN LAL GAROO

THE SOUL IS NEVER BORN, NEVER DIES ONCE IT COMES INTO BEING, IT NEVER CEASES TO BE. UNBORN, ETERNAL, ABIDING AND PRIMEVAL, IT DOES NOT PERISH WHEN THE BODY IS SLAIN.

TENTH DAY KRIYA

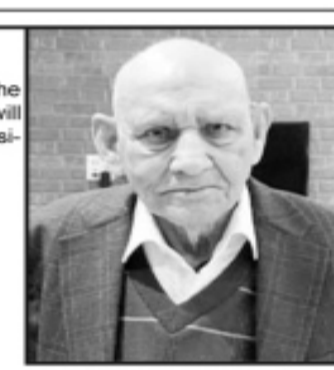
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Praba ji Razdan (Sheela) W/o Lt. Sh Prithvi Nath Razdan at present lane No. 5, Block No. 22, Flat No. 4 Jagti Nagrota.



Smt. Praba ji Razdan (Sheela)

TENTH DAY

It is expressed with profound grief and sorrow that the ritual of Tenth Day of Late Sh Sain Dass Gupta will be performed on 26 Feb 2024 (Monday) at our residence Ward No 8, Hiranagar at 10.00 am.



LATE SH SAIN DASS GUPTA

10TH DAY KRIYA

We profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Sh. Surinder Raina S/o Jagar Nath Raina R/o Rainawari, Sirnagar A/p H.No. 25, Lane 3, Bharat Nagar Bantalab on 15-02-2024.

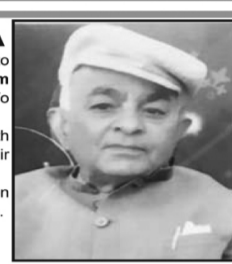


Sh. Surinder Raina

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 24th February (Saturday) 2024 followed by Assembly at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 11 AM.

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Om Parkash Gupta S/o Late Sh. Bhagu Ram R/o M.I.G-12, Housing Colony, Udhampur.



SH. OM PARKASH GUPTA

UTHALA

Heart broken and grief stricken, we inform the sad demise of Sh Akhili Gupta (Bunty) S/o Late Narinder Pal Gupta of Bhadherwah (Kala Family).



Sh Akhili Gupta (Bunty)

TENTH DAY/KRIA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Darshna Devi W/o Lt. Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma R/O 177-Old Janipur, Jammu on 15th February, 2024 (Thursday).

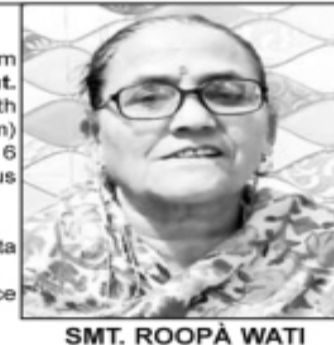


Smt. Darshna Devi

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at our residence on 24th February 2024 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM.

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our Karam Yogi mother Smt. Roopa Wati alias Sheela W/o Lt Sh Shambhu Nath Shah originally resident of Vill. Shogpora (Magam) Handwara Dist Kupwara.



SMT. ROOPA WATI ALIAS SHEELA

OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

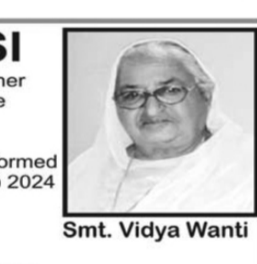
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sudden demise of our beloved Smt. Phoola Koul W/o Late Poshkar Nath Koul originally resident of Ratnipora, Pulwama on February 21, 2024.



SMT. PHOOLA KOUL

CHOUBARS

Choubarsi of Our beloved mother Lt. Smt. Vidya Wanti W/o Late Sh. Brahm Dass Sharma R/o Railway line Kotli Shah Daula R.S. Pura Jammu will be performed on 24th February (Saturday) 2024 at 12:30 PM at our residence.



Smt. Vidya Wanti

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 Tangmar Dist. Baramulla on 17th Feb 2024 A/p Block NO 2 Quarter No 16 Lane No 1 Jagti Township Nagrota Jammu.



MRS SUSHMA KOUL

UTHALA

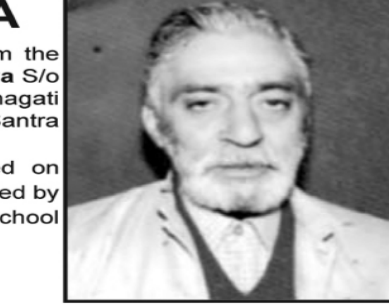
With profound grief and sorrow, we informed the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Rani Devi W/o Late Sh. Rattan Chand Gupta R/o House No. 35/A, Pucca Dunga Akhnoor.



Smt. Rani Devi

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Paury Lal Safaya S/o Late Shri Narayan Dass Safaya of Bhagati Kanipora Kmr. on 16-2-2024 at Present Santra Morh Shardha Vihar Bohri Jammu.



Paury Lal Safaya

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

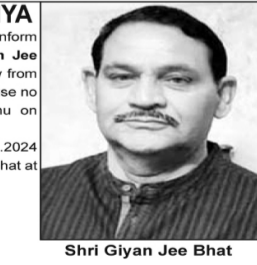
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved S. Daljeet Singh S/o Late S. Bhagat Singh Ji Tailor Master (Nangali Sahib wale) of Mohalla Kama Khan, who left for heavenly abode on 18-02-2024.



S. Daljeet Singh

OBITUARY/ 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of Shri Giyan Jee Bhat S/o Late Shri Ganesh Lal Bhat originally from village Mungthana Pulwama presently at house no 109, Lane no 2, Deena Nagar Barnai Jammu on 20.02.2024.



Shri Giyan Jee Bhat

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# Neglecting public issues, BJP bound to face flak by disillusioned supporters, common man: Rattan Lal

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: National Conference Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta said that BJP is bound to face setbacks in all upcoming polls in J&K as the government under its ambit has been callously neglecting the significant issues being confronted by different sections of society.

In a statement issued to media persons, while interacting senior colleagues of Jammu city, the senior NC leader maintained that BJP led Centre and its proxy rule in Jammu and Kashmir has remained phlegmatic over the important issues being faced by the public including the Saffron party's hardcore supporters leading to disillusionment of all as what was promised has not been delivered and the chances are also bleak that the government will change

its course listening to common man's plight.

He said looking into growing unrest among all sections of society, it seems that the BJP Government is upto something in J&K as it has no concern about people's problems and is uncanny over promises made to alleviate issues like unemployment, regularization, bolstering public infrastructure, basic amenities, etc.

Elaborating unattended issues point-wise, Rattan Lal Gupta said that despite number of rounds of talks and discussion, and promises, the disgruntled daily wagers are struggling for their demands and protesting but the government is nonchalant as if it has nothing to do with this section comprising thousands of individuals and their families. He termed the situation as the government's cruel joke with

the hapless worker community.

The Provincial President also raised the issue of lakhs of youths wasting their youthful days in dilemma as the government in seat has no concrete policy to ensure safe career to this segment as under the incumbent but incapable government, the future of these educated unemployed youths is likely to perish. He said that over 7 lakh deserving unemployed young lot is presently longing for jobs in J&K but the government has failed to complete recruitment process without a scam as it has become a new norm in the region that whenever a recruitment process begins, the next step is a scam and things got entangled in CBI probes and other lingering tactics showing inefficiency of LG administration.

He asserted that the future of youth is bleak

in Jammu and Kashmir due to hollow and anti youth policies of present government. He mentioned that those serving on Academic Arrangement in the school / higher education department till date the govt has failed to regularize them since they have been serving for the last more than 15 to 20 years which is unjustified and against the norms of natural justice.

Rattan Lal Gupta further highlighted the scarcity of drinking as well as irrigation water in many areas of Jammu city/ region which lately has become a real big problem as the present government has no plans in offering to counter the same as it would become very difficult for people to manage in absence of regular water supply especially in summer.

He asserted that the then Sheikh Abdul-

lah Government had initiated the Ravi Tawi Canal project to address the scarcity of irrigation and drinking water being faced by the farmers as well as the people of Kandi belt of District Kathua Samba and Jammu but things remained as they were, leading to manifold times increase in the problems related to water scarcity in Jammu.

Similarly, during the regime of Dr Farooq Abdullah, his government has also sent a proposal of lifting Chenab water and bringing the same to areas facing dearth of water for Jammu city including the Kandi belt.

He said that the present government in the centre should consider both the proposals and come up with a plan to resolve this issue otherwise things can go out of hand with people's sufferings reaching alarming levels.

# Custodian General, SDM, Sub judge pay obeisance at Tirupati Temple, participate in Abhishek ceremony



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Rishpal Singh Custodian General JK along with Satish Sharma SDM, Smriti Sharma Sub Judge/secretary DALSA jammu, RC Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple and Ramesh Babu paid obeisance at Tirupati Balaji temple and participated in the special abhishek of Tirupati prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of abhishek of Lord Venkateshwar is performed.

Rishpal Singh expressed happiness over the temple said that it is a feeling of plea-

sure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu. With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is heavenly. He appealed people to visit the temple and pay obeisance here.

Satish Sharma said that is ready for any kind of help to the temple and devotees. He said the temple is beautifully made in the Majheen area.

Smriti sharma said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic development and employ-

ment opportunities in the Union Territory.

On this occasion Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple also appealed transport commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple.

He also emphasize to start the Bharat darshan bus service here so that tourists also come to know about the temple.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Sai Krishna, Temple Inspector, RC Subramanyam, Superintendent Ramesh Babu Office incharge, Pradhana Pandit, Amit Shukla, Veda Pandit.

# Arun Kumar Chibber holds meet with Relief Commissioner (M)

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Apni Party's Additional General Secretary, Arun Kumar Chibber today submitted a proposal to the Relief Commissioner (M) Arvind Karwani to encourage more participation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits especially new voters in the scheduled Parliamentary elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the press release, the Relief Commissioner (M) Arvind Karwani held a meeting of all political parties

at his office to discuss ways and means of facilitating voting in the upcoming Parliamentary elections by the displaced Kashmiri Pandit migrants.

In this meeting, the Party was represented by Additional General Secretary, Arun Chibber in which he raised certain points which were noted by the Relief Commissioner.

Chibber suggested that "The M-Forms should be dispensed with forthwith as in the DDC elections, and a

special publicized drive should be undertaken to make voter cards for all eligible migrant voters."

He also said that the number of polling booths should be increased for smooth casting of constituency votes and the D - Forms should be updated to indicate the final position of constituencies after delimitation for knowledge of registered migrant voters.

All these suggestions were discussed threadbare and noted for consideration by the Relief Commissioner (M).

# BCWPC training under mission Vatsalaya held at Nowshera



## Top News Report

NOWSHERA, Feb 23: A training of Block Level & village level Child welfare and Protection Committees constituted under Mission VATSALAYA was held at conference Hall Dak Bangalow Nowshera in which members of the block level child protection committees and representatives of the five Village level child protection committees participated.

The training was organized by National Development Foundation Jammu/ Rajouri in collaboration with District Child Protection Unit Rajouri and Tehsil Social Welfare Office Nowshera. Around sixty people including Suresh Choudhary CWC Member Rajouri, ZEO, Sh. Kabir Hussain- Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Representative

from Block health, Mission Poshan, Lambardar, Children representatives and Ex Sarpanches Participated.

The training was impacted by the resource person of NDF Mr. Sunny Kumar Programme Manager NDF and Amit Kundal Program Officer NDF.

Tehsildar Nowshera Ram Pal Sharma presiding over the training program. He thanked National development foundation for selecting Nowshera for strengthening block level and village level child protection committees. He called upon the committee members to dedicatedly work for strengthening child protection mechanism in Tehsil Nowshera.

Rajiv Khajuria, President National Development Foundation in his address detailed sensitized the participants

about their role and responsibilities as the members of Block level and Village level child welfare and protection committees.

He lauded the role of District Magistrate Rajouri Om Prakesh Bhagat for conducted the first ever meeting of District level child Welfare and protection committee and issuing instruction to the district and sectoral officer for strengthening child protection mechanism in the district.

Khajuria briefed the participants on alternative care, measure viz adoption foster care and sponsorship. He applied the committee members to contribute in strengthening child friendly environment in their respective blocks and villages. He said that NDF team will be available to technical supports the VCWPC and BCWPC.

# Farooq, Omar conveyed condolences

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the suddenly passing away of Mohd Saleem Lone Rtd Lecturer S/o Abdul Rehman Lone former Block President Lohai Malhar and former Sarpanch and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mr Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with other members of the family.

In the condolence message, General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammed Sagar, Dr Sheikh

Mustafa Kamaal, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretaries, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Babu Rampaul Central Zone President and former minister, Pard-eep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, Ajeet Kumar Sharma District President Kathua Urban, Sham Narian Mehta District President Kathua Rural have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu participated in the Namaz-e- Jenaza at Dudwara Billawar today and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

# Notorious drug peddler booked under PSA

## Top News Report

REASI, Feb 23: Continuing Operation Jeevandaan in another major strike on drug peddlers District Police Reasi booked and detained one more notorious drug peddler of Reasi under PITNDPS and lodged him in District Jail Reasi.

Bobby Singh Manhas S/o Sher Singh R/o Panthal Tehsil Katra District Reasi who was involved in Case FIR No. 133/2022 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act, FIR No. 25/2024 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS ACT of P/S Katra and DDR No. 34 Dated 10.02.2024 of P/S Katra was detained under PIT NDPS Act under the order No. 22 of 2024 dated 22.2.2024, issued by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu.

Besides booking under NDPS Act a number of times he was warned to shun the path of supplying drugs to the youth of Katra. However he remained on continuous mission of minting money by supplying banned drug to youth of Katra. In view of his continuous involvement in drug peddling and to save the health and welfare of the society it was necessary to book him under stringent law.

On the directions of Mohit Sharma-Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi his dossiers for PSA were prepared and after getting necessary detention order from Ramesh Kumar Divisional Commissioner Jammu Bobby Singh Manhas was arrested by the team of Police Station Katra. He was lodged in Sub Jail, Reasi. SSP Reasi while sharing the details conveyed that Reasi Police is working on multipronged strategy to deal with the problem of drug abuse, on one hand awareness programs are being organized in every nook and corner of the district and on the other hand drug peddlers are being booked under PITNDPS Act on regular basis, whereas Reasi Police also started Anti Drug Helpline Number 9070907017 for general public where identity of caller will be kept secret.

SSP Reasi while giving tough message for drug peddlers added that there is no space for Drug Peddlers in Reasi. Drug peddlers should shun the path of spoiling our generation and must return to mainstream otherwise they will be dealt with Iron hand.

**Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu**  
e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**e-NIT No. 262 of 2023-24**

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu,  
Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in ₹)	Cost of document/ tender fee (in ₹)	Earnest money (in ₹)	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Design, Providing, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of ATS panel for 300 HP HC Pump motor set unit no. 9 and unit no. 12 along with allied works at CPS MUTHI for Augmentation / Improvement of water supply to water deficit areas of Roop Nagar, Chinore and Keran under UT Capex Budget.	14,00,000/-	500/-	28,000/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

**Position of AAA: Accorded**  
**Position of TS: Sanctioned**  
**Date of Publishing : 19-02-2024 (05.00 pm).**

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from **19-02-2024 (05.00 pm).**
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from **19-02-2024 (05.00 pm) to 26-02-2024 (02.00 pm).**
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on **27-02-2024 (02.00 pm)** or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html> in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L<sub>1</sub> bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L<sub>1</sub> bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The original documents when submitted by L<sub>1</sub> bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days from last date of receipt of Bid. No exemption of any kind shall be allowed on this.
- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of **180 days** from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.
- Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.**
  - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.
  - The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
  - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

**JSM/DNI/5178-80**      **DIP/J-15315/23**  
**Dated: 19-02-2024**

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North  
Jammu



## EDITORIAL

## Benefits of technology

Technology is an important component of life in the modern world. People have become so dependent on technology that they are unable to live without it. Technology today is important and useful in all areas of human life. It has made life easy and comfortable by making communication and transportation faster and easier. It has made education accessible to all and improved health services. Technology has made the world smaller and a better place to live. Meeting human needs without technology would be a difficult task. Before the advent of technology, humans were still fulfilling their needs. However, with technology, fulfillment of needs has become easier and faster. It is unimaginable what life would be like without technology. The technology is useful in the following areas: transportation, communication, connectivity, education, health care and business. Despite its benefits, technology has negative impacts on society. Examples of negative impacts of technology include the development of controversial medical practices such as stem cell research and the adoption of solitude due to changes in communication patterns. For example, social media has changed the way people interact. Technology is defined as the body of knowledge that deals with the innovation, invention and application of technological means as well as their inter-relationships with life, society and environment. Or in other words, technology means using scientific knowledge to achieve some specific goal or to create applications that are used in industry or in everyday life. Therefore, if we are using some scientific knowledge to achieve some goal then we are using technology. We use and rely on technology in our daily lives, and our technological needs and demands continue to increase. Technology is used by humans to explore, connect, study and work. The way we use technology decides whether its effects are beneficial or harmful to society. Technology has more positive impact on humans or society than negative. It makes our life easier and rewards us by providing resources or tools that help us in many ways. Some of the positive changes that technology is bringing to our lives are:-

**Better Communication:** Communication is the most important part of the society, we create or transfer our ideas with each other with the help of communication. Earlier people used pigeons or birds to transfer their messages to their loved ones. After that technology gradually grows and the medium of transferring information changes to mobile phones, emails, etc. Nowadays, we send messages to loved ones or known people through email, social media platforms, etc. It is the fastest, efficient and effective medium. People can easily talk or share with their loved ones, even if they are far away from them.

**Better education and learning process:** Technology enhances the education and learning process. Nowadays, people can easily increase their knowledge by using the internet. Most of the data exists on the Internet, and you can access this data anytime and anywhere.

**Mechanized Agriculture:** Technology changes the way farmers work. Many machines and technological tools were introduced in the agricultural sector which makes farming much easier, effective, automated, etc.

**Ease of Accessing Information:** We can easily access information anytime and anywhere through the internet. Most of the information available on the internet is free, so you can use them to increase your knowledge, skills, etc.

**Globalization of knowledge:** Today you can learn from any country around the world or can use internet to get latest news. Services like Twitter have enabled people to become journalists, so they report news instantly by tweeting. Wikipedia. Services like Org are equipped with data on just about anything, although not always 100% accurate.

**Better socialization:** Finding old and new friends is now much easier. Social networks like Facebook and Twitter allow you to socialize easily.

**Better communication:** Such as radio, television, internet and social media. Electronic media has improved the methods of exchanging ideas which can contribute to the development of our society. With the help of communication technologies such as telephone, video conferencing, email or instant messengers, the movement of information within an organization or business has become instantaneous.

**Accessible Education:** The use of Internet technology has opened up institutional boundaries. Students from developing countries now have the chance to study their desired courses at the same standard as First World education institutions in some cases. This type of education increases the chances of employment on the international platform.

**Increasing Production and Saving Time:** Businesses today use technology more than ever to automate. A good example is a bakery that uses electronic temperature sensors to detect a drop or rise in room or oven temperature in the bakery. These sensors send information directly to the operator, informing them of any temperature changes. This temperature system saves bakery time, and its result is also consistently high quality products.

As we know that everything present on this planet has both advantages and disadvantages. The same applies to technology, it has a negative impact on society and some of the negative effects are:

**Increase in unemployment:** Big and small businesses have low costs these days and due to high efficiency they use machinery and technical equipment due to which the unemployment rate is continuously increasing.

**Increase in pollution:** Not only humans but also technology is affecting the environment. The rate of pollution is continuously increasing due to vehicles and machinery which causes global warming etc.

**Physical activity is reduced,** with people spending less time with their family and friends.

**Increase in cyber crimes:** Due to excessive use of internet, the rate of cyber crimes has also increased. Some people (attackers) harm innocent people (victims) or children for money or entertainment.

**Poor quality publications online:** Many online publishers post content for monetary purposes, so you will find that most of the content published online is not accurate or detailed enough to help students and researchers.

**Over-dependence on information:** Students no longer take time to solve equations and research topics. They simply ask a question on Google or a calculator and find the answer. Without these tools, they would not know how to achieve the same results in the library or on paper.

**Job exclusion:** Technology has replaced many of those positions given on which humans used to live. Robots can mow the lawn or clean the pool, without the need for a servant.

**Security breaches:** Because businesses store their data on remote cloud servers that can be accessed online with a username and password, they potentially run the risk of losing that data to hackers or viruses.

Technology has led to the changes in social behavior and culture. Some of the social issues that we face while using the internet:

**Identity Theft:** To commit a crime by impersonating another person using someone's identity to fraudulently obtain financial/personal information.

## Teachings of Guru Gyagi Ji are relevant even today

By R.L.Kaith

One hundred and twenty six years ago on Sunday, 6 February, 1898 (which was Magh Purnima), an elementary combination appeared in the birth of a human child at village Smailpur (Near Nagbani in Jammu). This divine being was named as 'GYAGI' who proclaimed his great message of love, service and devotion to all people of all lands and faiths. He believed in the doctrine of Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man. He regarded all human beings as belonging to a single family and there was no question with him as to who was better or worse. All persons are equal in the eyes of God and all those who believe in Him as the Supreme Truth. There may be several paths to reach the truth but it is essential to follow the path correctly.

Guru Gyagi did not place before people any different thing and religious dogmas. His teachings were simple and could be understood by the ordinary men in the street. It did not require any Pandit to explain the intricacies of the Guru. The Guru lived among the people and preached in their own language.

According to Gyagi, this world is due to kindness of God. Before its formation, there was darkness. Neither there was moon nor sun, neither day nor night, neither hell nor heaven. Everywhere was only God and God. God created the world with His own consent and placed it in the sky. When was world created, which century, whether was created in the night or day, neither Pandit knew nor Moulvi. It is the Creator who knows better and there is none that can claim equality with Him. He is all powerful and omnipresent. He is merciful and kind to all the living being, one should have true faith in Him.

Guru Gyagi laid emphasis on the True Name. He said the true Name is nothing else but God Himself, the creator and preserver. There is nothing true in the world except God Himself

and so one should only worship Him and none else.

The word Guru is coined by two letters 'Gu' means 'amalgamation' and 'Ru' means 'Soul'. An organism amalgamated with soul is called Guru. According to Hindi version 'Gu' means 'Dark' and 'Ru' means 'Light'. A person leading the pupil from dark to light is called Guru. Without Guru one cannot see light inside. Outside light is seen by eyes but eternal light is felt due to the blessings of Guru. It is just like enlightening another lamp. The soul has no colour, no shape, size, no flesh, blood no smell. Soul never requires water, food and air. Soul is an inexplicable gift of God to living being. Soul is a chetana and free from the pangs of birth, winter, summer and other phenomenon. To whom an alive person loves, after death the soul goes to him. It is an exact faith of all the religions of the world. The job of the Guru ends not even after death. The Guru works like cuckoo bird. The egg of cuckoo resembles with egg of crow in shape, size and colour. Cuckoo lays egg in the nest of crow and crow assumes them as his own egg and helps in hatching it. When the tiny cuckoo comes out, the parental cuckoo every time watches the situation and knows the tiny cuckoo has come out. The parental cuckoo produces his sound. The tiny cuckoo immediately attracts towards parental cuckoo with the help of sound. Something from the inner exerts due to which tiny cuckoo believes that the sound producers are his parent/guru. Thus parental cuckoo flies keeping in claws the tiny cuckoo towards his desired place. Similarly, when the body dies, invisible soul wanders around the guru who watches his pupil every where, produces special sound. The soul has love for guru, attracts towards guru and then flies towards Satguru. Channels to reach up to Satguru -To reach up to Satguru, there are several channels in the way and without the help of the guru, no one can cross those channels. The guru taking his pupil's soul reaches, the first channel, the black sea where the

agents of Maan/Kaalpursh/Naranjan are waiting for the soul. The agents ask the name of the guru. The souls without guru can not cross the black sea and some finish there and some go directly to hell or some to heaven depending upon karma. Hell gone souls are treated very badly by Niranjana/kaalpursh and heaven gone souls have to take birth again even after sixty thousand years staying there. To take birth is the toughest job for every living being. The soul when enters the body and stays there for some time feels pain just like a man feels while sitting on hundred degree hot iron plate at a moment. The guru interacts with his spiritual power, himself becomes a bridge and helps cross his pupil's soul and reaches the second channel which is somewhere barren land. This channel is quite calm, lengthy, tough but guru keeping pupil's soul in his feet flies with spiritual power and reaches the third channel which is a dark, lengthy cave as small hair of the head. Here guru, from his meditations, gives, some spiritual power to his pupil's soul and make pupil's soul more soft, calm and himself becomes light of the lamp and guides to cross the last and dangerous channel and ultimately reaches up to the seat of the Satguru which is full of light where a body exists without blood and flesh. When a soul reaches there, it becomes free from birth and death and hence the peace forever.

Guru Gyagi thoroughly believed in the theory of karma. Only one's own actions make or mar one's future. If actions are bad, then the sins cannot be washed away by all the waters of the Ganges and if actions are good, not a drop of holy water is required by any man for his purity.

Guru Gyagi condemned the caste system in the severest terms. The narrow division of men into different castes in Hinduism did not appeal to him and he ridiculed it. According to him, "Castes are folly, names are folly. There is no Hindu and no Mussalman". No one is born high or low. Man makes himself high or low according to his own actions. Thus

Guru Gyagi preached universal brotherhood and in this new faith caste did not have any place.

Guru Gyagi was not in favour of asceticism and leaving one's own family life. There is no use of hard penance and giving trouble to one's own life. One should remain in the world but should not indulge in the evils of the world. It was with the aim in mind that all the gurus led normal family lives and discharged all functions as house holders. The idea of righteous living is meaningless except in the context of the community.

Guru Gyagi was also not in favour of idol worship because according to him God has no shape and no limit and hence he cannot be found in any form whatsoever. He cannot be worshipped in human form and Avatars are not the incarnations of God. Guru Gyagi, therefore, did not idol worship of any sort.

According to Guru Gyagi, the chief aim of man's life on earth is to achieve 'Moksha' or the highest bliss. One should try to achieve a state of mind where there is neither pain nor happiness- a state from where the soul of man does not come to this world again. Guru Gyagi used to call meetings of his devotees in ashram occasionally for timely guidance. On February 25, 1978, he delivered a historical inspiring speech to his disciples: I want to tell you today specific instructions. I am not able to maintain the energy of my body. I want to leave this body after sometime and as such I am unable to guide you through human body. In future, I will provide my guidance while remaining formless. I want that you all work together to develop ashram to serve humanity and complete my unfinished work. More you serve, more you people get sweet and better taste of its outcome and the coming generations will be benefitted and they too will prosper. I am quite hopeful that you people have listened to me and you will act accordingly.

After sometime, this Minstrel of God, the divinely gifted guide and loving friend of mankind returned to the Eternal Home after having passed on his spirit and divine gifts to his successor Baba Barlaki.

## Open Book Exams: Benefits, Technique and Preparation Strategies for students

By: Vijay GarG

Memorising study material and reproducing it during exams is the norm. However, there is a different approach, "open book" exams that is also practised at times. Read this article to learn more about this new take on open-book exams, its advantages, disadvantages, challenges and more.

Exams are taken in order to assess academic knowledge of the students. The importance of this assessment is indisputable in a student's life. However, the pressure of performance and extremely good scores makes this assessment quite terrifying. To help students overcome this fear, another form of assessment is being introduced in schools and colleges. Open book examinations are gaining popularity.

Open book exams (OBEs) as the name suggests are tests where the student is allowed to refer to their textbooks, notes or other study material while taking the exam. These types of exams diverge from the traditional route of assessment which focuses on producing a different approach to check the student's academic knowledge than the traditional setup of closed book examinations (CBEs).

This new approach to open-book examination evaluates a student's ability to locate relevant information, interpret it effectively, and apply it to solve problems or answer questions.

Let us now look at the impact of OBEs and CBEs on student life.

**Influence on Learning and Preparation**

The regular exam requires students to memorise lessons and reproduce them orally or in writing. On the other hand, OBEs focus on applying the taught concepts. When it comes to preparation time the students have to invest more time and effort in CBEs as students to study more when appearing in exams of this format.

**Performance In Exam**

There is a notion that students will

perform better in OBEs due to the accessibility of references. However, this might not essentially be true. The focus of OBEs is to check the application of knowledge which cannot be retrieved from external sources. The time limit to answer questions during OBEs creates pressure to look for the right information from all the sources available. This makes the process of OBEs challenging.

Students preparing for CBEs used a deeper learning approach that included detailed study of lecture notes, chapter notes, and participation in activities linked to higher exam scores. Students expecting OBEs, on the other hand, may have taken a shallower learning approach, assuming they could rely on accessing materials during the exam.

**Testing Effects**

Both the OBEs and CBEs help the examinee remember the facts and apply the knowledge in different ways. CBEs make the students think harder to remember what they have learned while OBEs test the application of the facts accessible.

Students have to adopt different strategies to prepare for different styles of exams. The CBEs focus on rote memorisation. Let's understand the strategies students can opt to ace OBEs.

**Well Organised Notes**

It is wise for the students to organise the notes by chapter or category. Finding the answers from a haphazard arrangement of notes can cost a lot of time. Using tabs, and colour-coding techniques can help the students to locate the relevant information during the exam.

**Understand The Concept**

Relying on their notes while attempting OBEs is not wise. Since OBEs are more applicable it is important to understand the core concepts. This will allow me to apply critical thinking skills to solve problems effectively.

**Basic Knowledge Is Important**

Even if it's an OBE the students

need to have the basic knowledge of the subject. The formula, the chemical name, and the numerical value should be on the tongue. This also saves time during the examination. The student should have an overview of which concept comes under which category.

**Practise Past Papers**

It is important to take practice tests on OBE patterns. This gives familiarity to the student on how to attempt questions on these patterns. The student should be ready on how to look for answers, analyse the concept and answer accordingly.

When students are prepared with the above strategies, scoring in OBEs becomes easier. There is an inclination of students to OBEs as it brings advantages for examinees. Various studies find OBEs favourable on the points of:

**Less Stress On Examinee**

When the students have access to study material, taking exams becomes less stressful. They don't have to worry about memorising, recalling and producing facts on paper or orally. This might reduce the burden on the student and promote a relaxed test environment.

**Boost Critical Thinking**

The open book exam checks the knowledge of the examinee beyond rote learning. Students must grasp the concept, analyse what they understood from it and use it effectively while answering the questions. This encourages the students to understand the practical application of the concepts and carves critical thinking skills.

**Real-World Stimulation**

The open-book exam allows students to access their study materials or resources during the test, much like professionals have access to references in their work settings. By permitting this access, the exam evaluates not just the memorisation of information but also how effectively students can utilise available resources to address questions or solve problems.

However, OBEs are not all perfect. They have their set of disadvantages. Some of the drawbacks include:

**Dependence On Study Materials**

OBEs make students heavily dependent on reference materials. This makes them neglect to put effort into understanding the concepts thoroughly. Students don't even memorise the basics, just refer to the study material for it.

**Time Constraints**

Students don't remember anything they spend searching for the information asked in the exam. They might even struggle to filter out the relevant information suitable for the questions asked. This takes up a lot of time affecting the time limit assigned to complete all the questions in the exam.

**Poor Study Habits**

Students might not develop effective study habits when they are dependent on study material for exams. The only focus of the student is to filter out the information, not developing a comprehensive understanding and retaining the knowledge. However,

**Balancing OBEs And CBEs**

Students are becoming inclined towards OBEs possibly due to reduced stress and the perception that these exams encourage critical thinking rather than rote memorisation. OBEs can be successfully implemented if the curriculum across all stages is modified accordingly. It is important to note that OBEs are only successful when students reap their benefits as tools for developing application-based knowledge.

Having said that the traditional CBEs should not go obsolete as this ensures students have in-depth knowledge of certain concepts imbibed in their memory.

*(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)*



## IIC, SMVDU organizes Workshop on Innovative Sustainable Design



### Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 23: The School of Energy Management and the School of Architecture & Landscape Design, under the patronage of the Institute Innovation Council (IIC), jointly organized a two-day intra-institute workshop on Innovative Sustainable Design at SMVDU with an aim to nurture creativity, collaboration, and sustainable development.

The workshop intends to bring together faculty, staff, and students to explore cutting-edge concepts, exchange ideas, and develop solutions to address persistent environmental challenges. The inaugural session commenced with Ar. Abhiney Gupta, Asst. Prof. at SoALD, extending a warm

welcome to the distinguished guests, including Prof. Pragati Kumar, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, along with faculty members, resource persons, and enthusiastic students.

The Vice Chancellor emphasized the importance of organising such workshops which help to pool innovative ideas of the young minds.

He added that sustainable design plays a crucial role in shaping a better future for generations to come. As we face challenging issues such as climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation, it is vital that we harness the power of innovation to create solutions that are both ecologically sound and socially responsible.

The workshop featured a diverse range

of sessions, including expert presentations and hands-on workshops. Participants had the opportunity to engage with experts in the field, share their insights and experiences, and collaborate on projects that promote sustainability and innovation. Prof. Ashutosh Vaishtha, Dean Faculty of Management and Chairperson, IIC SMVDU stated that by bringing together stakeholders from across our institution, we hope to nurture interdisciplinary collaboration and encourage the cross-pollination of ideas. Through this collective effort, we aim to inspire positive change and empower individuals to become catalysts for sustainable development in their respective fields. Dr. Sanjeev

Anand, Associate Dean R&D, said that this workshop is part of IIC 6.0 Calendar Activities for Academic Year 2023-24 given by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and the best innovations will be rewarded.

Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering and coordinator of the workshop explained about the details of the workshop and how the innovations will be evaluated and rewarded.

The session progressed with enlightening presentations by notable resource persons. Ar. C L Razdan, former Director of the School of Architecture at SMVDU, captivated the audience with his discourse on the retrofitting project at Pahal-

gam, offering a profound learning experience for the attending students.

It was followed by Er. Vaneet Aggarwal from BeeKay Protection Systems who shared pioneering advancements in home security, safety, and fire-fighting technologies, enriching the discourse with practical innovations aimed at enhancing residential safety standards.

The inaugural session was attended by experts, Ar. C. L. Razdan, Vaneet Aggarwal, BEE Protection and Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Dean R&D, Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, Head, SoALD, Ar. Navin Gupta, Assistant Professor, SoALD, Ar. Abhimanyu Gupta, Assistant Professor, SoALD.

The workshop not only served as a platform for knowledge dissemination but also ignited a spirit of inquiry and exploration among participants, reaffirming the commitment of SMVDU towards fostering a culture of innovation and sustainability in academia and beyond.

## Educational visit under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyaan held at CUJ



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Under the patronage of Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain and Mentorship of Prof. Yashwant Singh, Head, Department of Computer Science & IT, an educational cum exposure visit was conducted in Central University Jammu campus for 98 students of 8th Standard and about 100 students of class 11th of Kendriya Vidyalaya Nagrota, Jammu.

This collaborative effort aims to promote a spirit of scientific inquiry and innovation among young minds.

The students visited the Central Univer-

sity Jammu campus to familiarize themselves with recent trends, developments, and innovations in the field of science and technology.

The students also visited the state-of-the-art laboratories of different science streams and interacted with the technical experts to get knowledge about future aspirations at the Central University of Jammu.

They also visited the Kalam Centre of Excellence, Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Science (ISRO), Himalayan Aerosol Research Instrumentation (HARI) facility, IoT Lab, Engineering Block and other important centres at the CUJ.

Dr. Bhavna Arora, Associate Professor and Co-ordinator of the visit along with Zakir, Assistant Professor briefed the students about the innovations, research centres, facilities, and initiatives by the Central University of Jammu.

Through this initiative, Central University Jammu aims to ignite curiosity, inspire creativity, and cultivate a passion for science and technology among students.

This visit aligns with the broader objectives of the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan to promote a culture of innovation and scientific temperament across educational institutions nationwide.

## Tanuj Sharma secures first position, receives a prestigious tab from Physics Wallah



### Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 23: Jammu Sanskriti School Kathua thrilled to announce the outstanding achievement of one of its students who has secured the first position and received a prestigious tab from the renowned online course provider, Physics Wallah.

Our dedicated student, Tanuj from class 11th has demonstrated unparalleled dedication, diligence, and intellectual prowess.

His commitment to academic excellence and passion for winning in this online quiz by the Physics Wallah has truly set him apart.

Tanuj's remarkable

achievement of securing the first position and receiving a tab from Physics Wallah's online course is a source of immense pride for our institution.

It was an online one month quiz wherein he had to score max marks so that he may qualify for the top ranks in leader board which he achieved.

His success not only reflects his brilliance but also underscores the effectiveness of quality education provided by his mentors and his school.

JSS Kathua faculty extended heartfelt congratulations to Tanuj and wished him continued success in his academic pursuits ahead.

## KTMF, JKBC, CTMFG resent SMC, SDA issuance of tax & other fees notices with excessive rates

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 23: General Secretary (Org) Kashmir Traders And Manufacturers Federation (KTMF), President Jammu And Kashmir Business Confederation (JKBC) & Chairman City Traders And Manufacturers Federation/Guild (CTMFG) Mohammad Altaf Dar (Rajbagh) have slammed the issuance of tax notices including Sanitation Fees, Licence Fees Etc to business community with excessive rates by Srinagar Municipal Corporation department and termed it as anti-business and against the interest of traders' community.

The reservations were conveyed by a group of traders in a meeting with the Mohammad Altaf Dar (Rajbagh) here at the Office on Friday.

He said the move will create mistrust between government, SMC and traders, which may also create difficulties to SMC, to increase its revenue-base. Mohammad Altaf Dar said that the traders will protest the imposition of excessive new taxes & increase in fees ie sanitation, licence etc.



Whereas, Mohammad Altaf Dar added as reportedly the Srinagar Municipal Corporation department/Srinagar Development Authority had issued notices to business community regarding taxes with exorbitant rates ie fees.

He alleged as reportedly the business community is being harassed through various tactics by the officials of various government departments to enhance revenue-base in the which was tantamount to create a gulf between the government, SMC and traders, and demanded to take stern legal action against the issuance of tax notices to businessmen, he urged.

Mohammad Altaf Dar (Rajbagh) further said that Srinagar Municipal Corporation didn't take the relevant stakeholders before artificial and unilateral increase in rates of taxes & fees which is completely unjust with business community and was unacceptable to them.

He also said the Srinagar Municipal Corporation move will make difficulties to meet the revenue-collection target. Mohammad Altaf Dar said that SMC & SDA has enough funds, but no development work has been done in market for the last ten years due to which the condition of infrastructure in markets has deteriorated.

Dar said that street lights in markets were not functioning while footpaths are broken.

He said that sanitation and sewerage system were also not performing well due to which markets were presenting filthy look.

He appealed to Commissioner SMC/VC SDA to pay urgent attention towards development works in markets in the whole Srinagar city and its extended areas and allocate funds for this purpose.

Dar said that conditions for business were not conducive; therefore, increasing Sanitation, Licence fee & other fees should not be imposed

He said that Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Srinagar Development Authority had tried to impose increase sanitation fee, Licence Fees & other fees which is not acceptable to traders. Dar called upon the government/LG Administration to take measures to bring new people under the tax & fees net instead of overburden the existing taxpayers with imposition of additional levies on them.

## Reopening of Schools in Kishtwar Distt: Teachers return to schools



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 23: In a commendable effort, the first day of opening of school post the extensive Winter Vacations in Kishtwar District unfolded seamlessly, with dedicated teachers preparing the educational institutions ahead of the return of students after a hiatus of over two months on 1st of March 2024.

Some schools of far flung faced the challenge of snow-covered premises, witnessing the collaborative efforts of teachers and support staff diligently clearing the snow to ensure a welcoming environment for the returning students to resume classes in March.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, and Chief Education Officer Kishtwar, Prahlad Bhagat, conducted thorough inspections across various schools to assess their preparedness for the imminent resumption of regular classes.

During the inspections, the officers emphasized the importance of creating an optimal learning environment for students rejoining classes after an extended break. They urged the Head of Institutions (HOIs) to ensure cleanliness and facilitate necessary provisions for the smooth resumption of classes.

CEO Kishtwar stressed the significance of making the students' first day back interactive and motivational, imbued with an ambassadorial spirit to create memorable experiences that would resonate throughout the academic session.

Furthermore, teachers and HOIs were encouraged to provide necessary support and guidance to students, especially in preparation for upcoming exams. The collective efforts of the educational community in Kishtwar District reflect a commitment to fostering a positive and supportive learning environment for students, ensuring a successful transition back to in-person classes.

## Dimple demands SC to ban Article 370 movie throughout India

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, while addressing a press conference, has boycotted and appealed to the people to boycott the movie on Article 370, today in the cinema theaters.

Dimple demanded Supreme Court (SC) to ban the Article 370 movie throughout India.

Dimple alleged this Article 370 movie is conspiracy to defame



our dogra state princely state of Maharaja Harisingh gave us Article 370 in 1927 to save guard our land, jobs and to protect the dogra state history, identity and demography.

Dimple alleged earlier also the Kashmir file movie was made to defame the J&K state to fulfill the BJP political agenda and now this time also at the time of election BJP leaders are promoting this film.

## GDC Vijaypur Kick Starts Three Days Intra College Sports Meet Competition

### Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Feb 23: GDC Vijaypur organised three days Intra College Sports Meet competition in collaboration with NSS unit (Khidmat) of GDC Vijaypur under the banner of "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan" and "Voting Awareness Campaign" which was concluded on third day of the tournament.

The activity was organised under the supervision and guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta, Principal of the college. She delivered the welcome note.

While addressing the participants she appreciated and encouraged for active participation of all the students with great enthusiasm in the various sports events organised by the sports committee of the college.

Intra college sports competition started with Chess, Volley ball and Carrom board matches.

In Chess competition eight teams of men and four teams of women participated while there were six teams each in carrom board tournament and volley ball included three teams.

The winners from Men Carrom championship were Amjad Hussain and Avijeet Kumar of B. Sc Semester II, while Ranjit Kour and Palak Panotra of B.A. Semester II won in women carrom championship. The chess competition was won by Anshitha Sharma (W) of B.A. Semester II and Manjeet Singh (M) of B.Com Semester.

The winners of Volley ball competition were the students of Semester 6 of the college.

The refreshment and certificates was also distributed to all the



participants while the winners were awarded with the trophies.

The meet was organised by Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat (Convener, Nasha Mukhti Abhiyan), Dr. Manoj Heer (Convener, Sports Committee), Dr. Jan

Mohd. Wani (PTI) and co-ordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat, Prof. Poonam Kundan, Prof. Rakesh Kumar, Prof. Mazid Malik, Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal (Member, Nasha Mukhti Abhiyan), Dr. Tisha Singh and Gagandeep Singh.



## Veteran singer Suresh Wadkar receives Lata Mangeshkar Award

*He is known for his playback singing in Hindi and Marathi*

Veteran playback singer Suresh Wadkar has been honoured with the Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award.

Wadkar was felicitated with the award at an event in Mumbai on Thursday. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis presented him with special mementoes.

He also became a recipient of Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award in the Republic of India.

"It feels special to receive the award under the tenures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind. It's a big thing for me. I am happy. I have been waiting for a long time to get this award



and now I have finally received it," Wadkar earlier told agency.

Wadkar is known for his playback singing in Hindi and Marathi. He has been enthral-ling audiences for over 45 years

now. He has also carved a niche for himself in devotional music. 'Sapne Mein Milti Hai', 'Pehli Baar Mohabbat Ki Hai' and 'Lagi Aaj Saawan Ki' are some of his popular tracks.

His earliest hit numbers were 'Sona Kare jhilmil jhilmil' (film 'Paheli'), 'Seene Me Jalan' ('Gaman'), which reportedly caught late legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar's attention. She recommended him to other top music composers of the day.

On coming a long way in his journey, Wadkar said, "I feel blessed on getting opportunities to work with big makers in the industry. There's no bigger achievement than people's love. Luckily, I have been able to achieve that through my work. It's every artist's dream to receive this award. I started singing at the age of 4 and till now have sung 30,000 to 40,000 songs."

## After separation with Bharat Takhtani, Esha Deol shares cryptic post



Weeks after Esha Deol and Bharat Takhtani announced their separation after 11 years of marriage, the Dhoom actor posted a sun-kissed selfie on her Instagram along with a cryptic message.

"No matter how dark it gets the sun

will rise," Esha captioned her post.

The official statement issued by the former couple announcing their separation read, "We have mutually and amicably decided to part ways. Through this shift in our lives, the best interests and welfare of our two children is and will be of utmost importance to us. We would appreciate that our privacy is respected throughout. Thank you, Esha Deol & Bharat Takhtani."

However, the reason behind their separation is still unknown.

Esha Deol and Bharat Takhtani got married in a low-key ceremony on June 29, 2012. Radhya was born to the pair in 2017 and the couple welcomed their second daughter, Miraya in 2019.

She made her acting comeback last year, with the thriller series Rudra: The Edge of Darkness alongside actor Ajay Devgn.

She will also be seen in an upcoming series Invisible Woman alongside veteran actor Suniel Shetty.

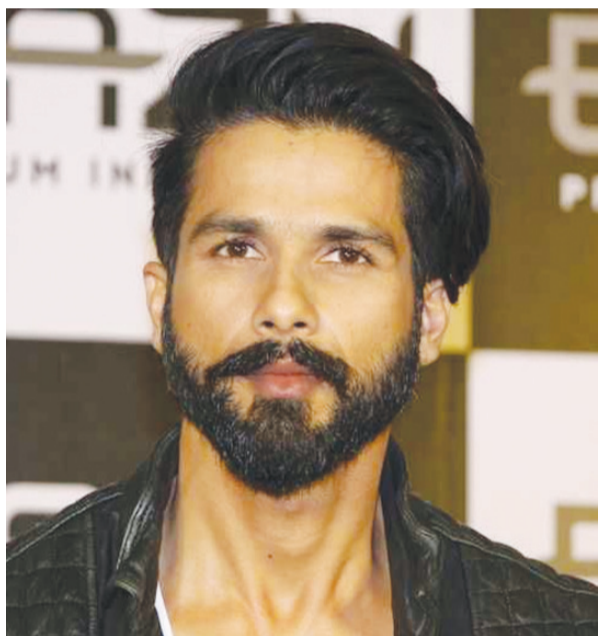
## Actor Shahid Kapoor reveals what made him quit smoking

Actor Shahid Kapoor has opened up about his decision to quit smoking, and it is his eight-year-old daughter Misha.

Shahid appeared on 'No Filter Neha' season 6, a podcast hosted by actress Neha Dhupia, who chats with her industry friends and makes interesting conversations.

During the audio chat show, Shahid revealed about his decision to quit smoking: "When I used to smoke, I would hide from my daughter and smoke. That is actually the reason I gave it up.

One day, while I was hiding and having my smoke, I told myself that I am not going to do this forever. And that is actually the day I decided to quit smoking."



Shahid married Mira Rajput in July 2015. The couple have two kids—daughter Misha, and son Zain.

On the work front, Shahid was last seen in 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa

Uljha Jiya', a science fiction romantic comedy co-starring Kriti Sanon.

He next has 'Deva' in the pipeline.

'No Filter Neha 6' streams on JioTV and JioTV+.

## Decision to do more live stunts in 'Crakk' completely technical, says filmmaker Aditya Datt

Director Aditya Datt says he opted for more live stunts than visual effects in his latest film "Crakk" as he wanted to give the audience "quality over quantity".

The filmmaker, known for "Aashiq Banaya Aapne", "Table No. 21" and "Commando 3", praised leading man and producer Vidyut Jammwal for taking the risk both physically and financially.

"I would like to explore VFX more than what I have going forward. But as far as 'Crakk' was concerned, my decision to do more live stunts was completely technical. I didn't want the audience to come in and say the concept and everything was great, but the VFX were so tacky.

"So, I thought I'll give you something real, I'll give you quality over quantity. Plus, I have support from the actors who can do that stuff on their own. But the risk is involved in (doing live stunts). That's why other actors don't do that, but



then I have an actor (Jammwal) who is crazy enough to say 'Take the real shot and I'll give it to you'. That's where 'Crakk' lies," Datt told PTI in an interview here.

VFX are a boon to cinema but are also expensive and one needs an insane amount of money which generally Hol-

lywood has.

"We also have it (funds) here but it's sort of constrained to an extent where the timelines, craft, or hiring that kind of people are concerned. So, we chose to do a little more real stuff so that we are not that dependent on VFX," he added.

Also starring Arjun Rampal,

Nora Fatehi and Amy Jackson, "Crakk" follows the journey of a man named Siddhu (Jammwal) from the slums of Mumbai to the world of extreme underground sports.

Datt said the film, billed as the first extreme sports action film in India, will be a grand big-screen experience for the viewers.

"This is a story we have told with a lot of passion and love. Everything you see is a new attempt at narrating a film. People are not going to see the same old, mundane moments, action or storytelling. This has been shot and narrated for the big screen," he added.

Asked if he would like to create a "Crakk" franchise, the filmmaker said he hadn't thought about a sequel yet. "(I'm) scared to think so far. But I would love for the audience to see 'Crakk' so that we can make 'Crakk 2.'" "Crakk" hits the screens on February 23. Jammwal has produced the film via Action Hero Films.

## Poonam Pandey jokes with paps: 'Maine daraya bilkul bhi nahi tha'



Days after faking her 'death' from cervi-

cal cancer and hitting national headlines,

controversial actress-model Poonam Pandey on Thursday was spotted at the Laxmi Narayan Temple in Andheri, Mumbai.

The visuals show Poonam wearing an ethnic yellow kurta, matching palazzos and a pink dupatta. She kept her tresses open and opted for a no-makeup look. She was holding a 'puja thali' in her hands.

A photographer asked Poonam: "Aap kaisi hain (How are you)?", to which she replied laughing, "Ek dum first class (I am all good, first class)!"

The pap then jokingly said, "Aapne daraya diya (you had scared us)."

Pandey laughed and replied: "Aap darr gaye thay, maine daraya bilkul bhi nahi tha (You got scared, but I did not try to scare you)."

"Main darshan karke aayi (I am now going in for darshan)," she concluded and walked into the temple.

The video then shows her praying inside the temple and bowing down to seek the blessings of the Almighty.

Stung by the widespread criticism of her 'death stunt', Pandey had defended herself, saying her effort ensured that the words 'Cervical Cancer' appeared in 500 news headlines on the same day.

## Billie Eilish gives update on her upcoming album



It's good news for the fans that Billie Eilish's much anticipated third studio album could be just around the corner.

The TV singer gave an update to her fans on her upcoming album. She took to Instagram and wrote, "My album is mastered," alongside pictures of herself wearing a ninja mask adorned with stars.

Eilish has yet to release additional information about the album.

## Amy Jackson's idea of a picture perfect date

Newly-engaged Amy Jackson is a fan of her beau Ed Westwick's character of Chuck Bass from the popular show Gossip Girl, and described the portrayal as "extraordinary". The actress has heaped praise on him and said that she is proud to call him the English actor her fiancé.

The 32-year-old actress, who has worked with Rajinikanth, Akshay Kumar, Vijay and Nawazuddin Siddiqui among many others, started dating Westwick in 2022. The two got engaged in January.

Talking about love and how she looks at it, Amy said, "Love, in my perspective, embodies a blend of understanding, respect, and shared growth.

The genuine connection and joy that my partner and I share are truly special."

She then went on to describe what a perfect date is for her with Westwick.

"Picture a perfect date on a sunlit Sunday afternoon in the tranquil countryside. It begins with a delightful pub lunch, followed by a leisurely stroll across the fields with our four-legged companions. As the day mellows, we indulge in a sunset horse ride, culminating in a cozy evening watch-



ing a classic black-and-white movie, all while

sipping on vegan milkshakes."



## By adopting messages of Guru Ravidas, India moving rapidly on path of development: PM Modi

Modi was speaking at a function here to commemorate the 647th birth anniversary of Sant Ravidas.

NEW DELHI, Feb 23 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India is moving rapidly on the path of development by adopting the messages of Sant Ravidas.

Modi was speaking at a function here to commemorate the 647th birth anniversary of Sant Ravidas.

Varanasi is Modi's parliamentary constituency.

"On the pious occasion of the birth anniversary of Sant Ravidas, I welcome you all to his birthplace. You have come from far-off places on this occasion,



especially my brothers and sisters from Punjab...Varanasi seems to have become a mini-Punjab," he said.

In his address, the prime minister also hit out at the opposition 'INDIA' bloc, claiming that its members were exploiting people in the name of casteism. "They care for the well-being of their families, cannot think about the welfare of Dalits and tribals," Modi added.

Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated a newly installed statue of Sant Ravidas in Varanasi.

## 36-year-old Telangana MLA Lasya Nanditha dies in road accident

The incident occurs at around 5.30 am when the car she was travelling in hits a metal crash barrier on the Outer Ring Road resulting in her death



HYDERABAD, Feb 23 (Agencies): Opposition BRS MLA G Lasya

Nanditha died in a road accident at Patancheru near here on Friday.

The incident occurred at around 5.30 am when the car she was travelling in hit a metal crash barrier on the Outer Ring Road resulting in her death, police said.

The car's driver suffered injuries in the incident, they said.

The 36-year-old legislator from Secunderabad Cantonment (SC) was shifted to a hospital where the doctors declared her dead on arrival.

## Haryana CM Khattar presents Rs 1.89 lakh crore state budget for FY25

CHANDIGARH, Feb 23 (Agencies): Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday presented the budget for financial year 2024-25 with an allocation of Rs 1.89 lakh crore, more than 11 per cent from the previous fiscal.

Khattar, who also holds the finance portfolio, said, "For 2024-25, I propose a budget of Rs 1,89,876.61 crore which is 11.37 per cent more than Rs 1,70,490.84 crore (revised estimates) of 2023-24."



It is the fifth budget of the BJP-JJP government.

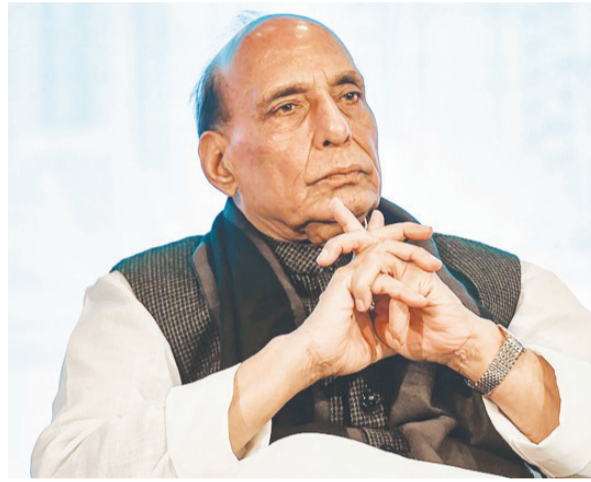
While presenting the budget, Khattar said his government took many

steps for the welfare of farmers, while adding that the government was giving a minimum support price on 14 crops.

## India, Netherlands look at defence, technology sectors

NEW DELHI, Feb 23 (Agencies): India and Netherlands are keen to encourage interaction between the defence industries, and in high-tech sectors of semi-conductors and clean energy, said the Ministry of Defence following a bilateral meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his counterpart from Netherlands Kajsa Ollongren today

The semi-conductor push comes from the fact that the Dutch company ASML is a global leader in making



cutting-edge machines used in making semi-conductor chips. India is looking at having its own

chip making process for the military, civilian, and space sectors.

The Ministry of

Defence said the ministers discussed the possibilities for expanding their bilateral defence cooperation, particularly in maritime and industrial domains.

"They noted the increased interaction between the two Navies and expressed keenness to work together to enhance maritime security in the Indian Ocean region," the ministry said.

Rajnath Singh suggested that the Dutch original equipment manufacturers could be

encouraged to integrate Indian vendors into their supply chains. India has developed a vibrant innovation and industrial ecosystem given the Indian and Dutch complementarities in skills, technology, and scale.

Kajsa Ollongren later attended the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi where she spoke on the use of unconventional technology in future wars and how protecting under communication cables and gas pipelines had been achieved in Europe.

## Bengal BJP leader arrested for running prostitution racket amid Sandeshkhali row

In the midst of a blazing row over the allegations of sexual violence against women in Sandeshkhali, police arrested Bengal BJP leader Sabyasachi Ghosh for allegedly running a prostitution racket.

KOLKATA, Feb 23 (Agencies): West Bengal BJP leader Sabyasachi Ghosh was arrested on Friday for allegedly running a prostitution racket in Howrah. This comes against the backdrop of the BJP going hammer-and-tongs after the ruling Trinamool Congress over Sandeshkhali, where several women have accused TMC strongman Sheikh Shahjahan and his aides of sexual exploitation.

Stepping up the attack on the BJP, the TMC alleged that Bengal Police busted a prostitution racket that was operating in Sabyasachi Ghosh's hotel in Howrah. The Mamata Banerjee-led party

accused the BJP of "protecting pimps" and not women.

In a post on its official X handle, the TMC said, "@BJP4Bengal leader Sabyasachi Ghosh caught running a PROSTITUTION RACKET of MINOR GIRLS in his hotel in Howrah's Sankrail. The Police arrested 11 accused & rescued 6 victims from the spot. THIS IS BJP. They don't protect BETIS, they protect PIMPS!"

The development came as a delegation of BJP women activists, looking to further pressure the state government over the Sandeshkhali issue, was prevented from visiting the restive region earlier in



the day.

The BJP team, led by MP Locket Chatterjee and MLA Agnimitra Paul, were stopped by the police, citing prohibitory orders. "We were denied entry to Sandeshkhali by the police citing prohibitory orders. The state government is trying to hide the truth," Paul claimed.

A National Human

Rights Commission team is also in Sandeshkhali today to ascertain facts by an on-spot inquiry into allegations of violation of human rights there.

Multiple women in Sandeshkhali had raised allegations of systemic sexual exploitation and land grabbing against several leaders belonging to the ruling Trin-

amool Congress (TMC). The women alleged that Sheikh Shahjahan, a member of the local Zila Parishad, is the prime culprit.

The women came out with the allegations against the TMC leaders after Sheikh Shahjahan went into hiding. A team of the Enforcement Directorate which was on its way to Shahjahan's house in Sandeshkhali was attacked in January, and he has been absconding since then.

Two of his close aides - Shibaprasad Hazra and Uttam Sardar -- who are also TMC leaders, were arrested after police filed a case based on complaints by women in the area.

## Centre planning to arrest Arvind Kejriwal through CBI, alleges AAP leader Gopal Rai

NEW DELHI, Feb 23 (Agencies): Delhi minister Gopal Rai on Friday lashed out at the BJP and alleged that the Centre had been planning to arrest AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal by serving him a notice through the CBI.

Addressing a press conference here, Rai alleged that the CBI had been preparing a notice under CrPC 41A (notice of appearance before police officer) for Kejriwal.

"The BJP has been frustrated ever since the opposition formed the INDIA bloc. The BJP-led central government has been planning to arrest Arvind Kejriwal by serving him a notice through the CBI. We got to know that a notice is being prepared under



CrPC 41A and thereafter, they plan to arrest him," he alleged.

"Since all the notices by the ED to Kejriwal failed, they now plan to misuse the CBI," he further alleged.

Rai claimed that despite raids by the central agencies at various places linked to AAP leaders, no evidence of corruption was found against them.

"These agencies

raided our leaders' residences and offices and several other places linked to them but they never found a spec of evidence of corruption against us. AAP was never scared of the BJP and their agencies' threats and we won't be scared in the future too," Rai claimed.

"AAP will fight the elections as a part of the INDIA bloc and no one can stop us," he added.

## 7 students injured as school bus veers off road, crashes in Himachal Pradesh



SHIMLA, Feb 23 (Agencies): A private school bus veered off the road and plunged around 50 metres downhill in Ghyagi in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district on Friday morning. Initial reports indicate that seven children sustained injuries in the accident.

The bus, belonging to MPS School of Banjar, was en route to the school with students onboard when the driver lost control, resulting in the vehicle falling off the edge of the road.

Emergency services were dispatched to the scene, and the injured children were quickly transported to Banjar Hospital for medical treatment.

Further details are awaited

## Former Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi passes away

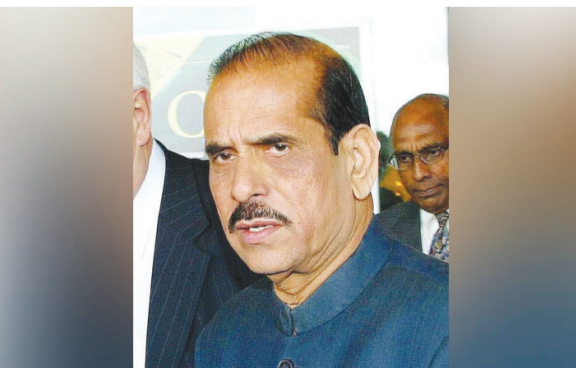
MUMBAI, Feb 23 (Agencies): Former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi passed away at a Mumbai hospital on Friday, where he was admitted after suffering a cardiac arrest.

Joshi (86) was admitted to Hinduja Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) on February 21 and passed away early on Friday, the private medical facility said.

Joshi Sir, as he was popularly known, was the first chief minister of the undivided Shiv Sena and held the post from 1995-1999.

He was admitted to the hospital in May last year after suffering a brain haemorrhage.

He was also elected as a member of Parli-



ment and was the Lok Sabha Speaker from 2002 to 2004 when the Vajpayee government was in power.

Born on December 2, 1937 in coastal Konkan region of Maharashtra, Joshi obtained his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the prestigious Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute in Mumbai.

His political career

began with his involvement in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and he later became a member of the Shiv Sena. In the 1980s, Joshi emerged as a key leader within the Shiv Sena, and was known for his organisational skills.

He was the Lok Sabha Speaker from 2002 to 2004 when the Vajpayee government was in

power.

The former Union minister was married to Anagha Joshi, who died in 2020 at the age of 75. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

Joshi began his career as a teacher and entered politics in 1967. He was associated with the Shiv Sena for more than four decades.

Condoling Joshi's demise, Union minister Nitin Gadkari, who was a member of the Maharashtra ministry when the former was the CM, said the state had lost a "cultured face" of politics.

Joshi's family said his last rites would be performed at Shivaji Park crematorium in Dadar area.

## Heroin worth Rs 350 crore seized from fishing boat in Gujarat's Gir Somnath

VERAVAL, Feb 23 (Agencies): The Gujarat police have seized heroin worth Rs 350 crore from a fishing boat near Veraval harbour in Gir Somnath district and arrested nine crew members, an official said on Friday.

A large quantity of the psychotropic drug was recovered during a raid late on Thursday night, the official said.

"Based on a tip-off, our teams raided a fishing boat when it arrived near Veraval harbour. We recovered 50 kg of heroin, and its origin is being probed. Nine crew members on board the Veraval-registered boat were arrested," Superintendent of Police Manoharsinh Jadeja said.

Taking to X, Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi said the seized contraband was worth Rs 350 crore (Rs 7 crore per kg) in the international market.

"Another big success in our campaign against drugs. Gujarat Police seized 50 kg of heroin, kept in sealed packets, worth Rs 350 crore at Nalia Goli coast of Veraval harbour. Nine accused, including three main accused, have been nabbed by the police," Sanghavi said in his post.

The minister also congratulated the Gir Somnath police for their successful operation against the drug trade.



## 4 Dead, 19 Missing After Massive Fire In Spain Apartment

Television footage showed the entire facade of the building ablaze as burning segments fell to the pavement below and small explosions were heard inside.

VALENCIA, Feb 23 (Agencies): At least four people were killed in a fire that engulfed an apartment building in Valencia in eastern Spain, local authorities said on Friday, while at least 19 people remained missing.

Television footage showed the entire facade of the building ablaze as burning segments fell to the pavement below and small explosions were heard inside.

Local media reported several residents calling for help from the balconies of their apartments.

The fire began on the fourth floor of the building in an afflu-



ent neighbourhood of Spain's third-largest city and spread to other apartments, emergency services said on X.

Ana Mari Gonzalez, who works in a nearby clinic, told state

broadcaster TVE she could see firefighters working to rescue a teenage boy trapped on the building's first floor.

Sixteen firefighting units and five ambulances were deployed

at the scene, according to local emergency services. Rescue teams said 19 people were missing.

The deputy head of emergency services in the Valencia region, Jorge Suarez, told reporters that four people had been confirmed dead in the blaze, adding that the building's characteristics did not allow to extinguish the flames inside, with firefighters first attempting to cool down the facade.

Suarez said that there did not appear to be a risk of the structure collapsing for now, but firefighters were nonetheless operating from the outside due to security criteria.

## Double Murder, Missing TV Host, Killer Cop In Sensational Australia Crime



SYDNEY, Feb 23 (Agencies): Australian police on Friday charged one of their own officers with the double murder of a TV presenter and his flight attendant boyfriend, whose bodies have yet to be found.

Detective Superintendent Danny Doherty said a 28-year-old serving police constable was charged with two counts of murder, after a high-profile three-day search across Sydney.

Earlier this week, the chance discovery of bloodied clothes in a suburban rubbish bin led detectives to the home of former red carpet host and entertainment journalist Jesse Baird, 26.

On searching Baird's inner-city flat, detectives said they found "a large amount of blood" and held "grave concerns" for both him and his boyfriend, Qantas flight

attendant Luke Davies, 29.

The pair are presumed dead.

A projectile found at the apartment matched that of a police-issue firearm.

The weapon has since been found inside a police station safe. The accused officer was said to have been in a relationship with Baird until recently, when it ended badly.

Baird had been a presenter on Australia's Network Ten.

On Friday the officer turned himself in to Bondi Police Station, near the country's famed beach.

Footage of the arrest shows him handcuffed and escorted into the building wearing a dark baseball cap and sneakers.

He remains in custody and police will oppose granting bail.

Australian media

reported that the suspect had been a celebrity chaser and blogger before joining the police force, and had been photographed with Taylor Swift, Miley Cyrus, Lady Gaga, Ben Stiller and scores of others.

He was previously investigated over the aggressive tasing of an Aboriginal man in 2020, after video of the incident emerged online.

News reports from 2014 indicate that he came out publicly as gay by throwing a letter onstage at a Lady Gaga concert, which the star read out to a crowd that included his sister.

"Charges have been submitted for two counts of murder," said Doherty, adding that the police focus was now on locating the bodies of the two missing men.

Police allege the remains of the two men were transported in a white van and disposed of.

Forensic examinations of the van are ongoing.

"It's really important that we do locate the bodies, not only for the cause of death but also for answers for the family who are grieving," said Doherty.

## Over 100 cars pile-up on icy China highway, several injured

BEIJING, Feb 23 (Agencies): Several people were injured after more than 100 cars collided into each other on an icy stretch of an expressway in the Chinese city of Suzhou, state media reported on Friday, the latest accident caused by extreme weather conditions.

Dramatic footage from state television CCTV and social media showed numerous cars clumped together haphazardly on the highway with one jackknifed at a severe angle in the

air. Glass and debris could be seen scattered everywhere.

Three people were injured and hospitalised, while six suffered minor scratches, Suzhou Industrial Park traffic police reported on its WeChat social media account.

Road traffic has been restored and the cause of the accident is being investigated, the police said.

Over the past few weeks, large parts of China have been hit by cold waves, blizzards and icy

rain, impacting transport at a time millions of people are rushing home for the Lunar New Year holiday celebrations.

During this week, the government raised its emergency response for freezing temperatures and also started several plans for transportation flow, supplies and electricity in provinces and cities including Beijing, Hebei, Shanxi, Anhui and Hubei, Xinhua news reported.

The China Meteorological Administration maintained a



heightened warning for freezing and low temperatures in several central and southern areas.

According to weather warning data on VariFlight, 34 of the more than 260 airports in the country have issued fog and snow warnings, CCTV reported.

## "Extremely Concerning": Elon Musk On Google's Gemini AI Image Generator

WASHINGTON, Feb 23 (Agencies): Tesla CEO Elon Musk has recently taken a swipe at Google's Gemini AI, the tech giant's latest image generation model, following reports of inaccuracies in depicting historical figures.

Google introduced Gemini AI models for image generation earlier this month, competing with OpenAI's ChatGPT. Since the launch, users have flagged instances where the Gemini AI model returned historical images with inaccuracies.

Elon Musk joined the conversation on Friday, responding to a user's post on X, formerly Twitter. In the post, Gemini generated an image of what was supposed to be George Washington as a black man.

Mr Musk highlighted the issue, stating, "The problem is not just Google Gemini, it's Google search too."

The tech billionaire added that the problem is "extremely concerning."

This comment came in the wake of the tool showing images with genders and ethnicities that don't match historical accuracy. For instance, it displays World War II soldiers and America's founding fathers as women with diverse ethnic backgrounds, which is not how it happened in reality.



Earlier, Mr Musk labelled the Gemini AI chatbot as "racist" and "anti-civilizational."

He wrote on Thursday, "I'm glad that Google overplayed their hand with their AI image generation, as it made their insane racist, anti-civilizational programming clear to all."

Mr Musk also criticised Gemini's product lead, Jack Krawczyk, stating, "I'm not picking on some randos. This nut is a big part of why Google's AI is so racist & sexist."

Now, Google has declared a temporary suspension of the feature, with plans to reintroduce an enhanced version soon.

The Gemini AI, initially launched as Bard, underwent a rebranding earlier this month, accompanied by the introduction of paid subscription plans offering improved reasoning capabilities.

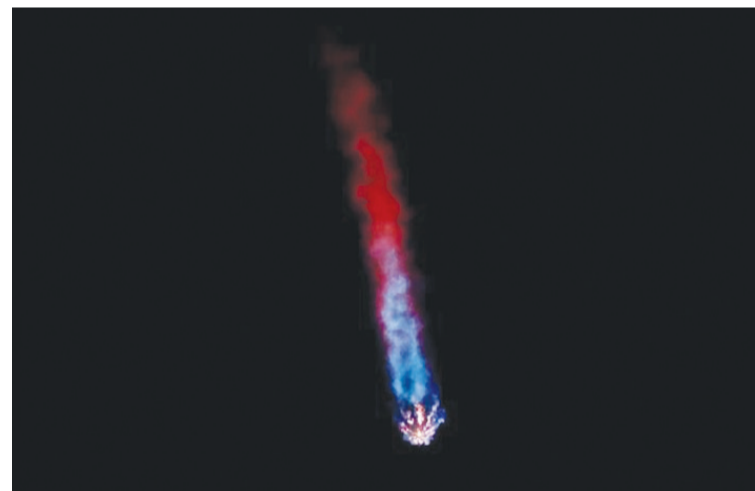
## Private US company makes history by landing first commercial spacecraft on moon

WASHINGTON, Feb 23 (Agencies): A private American company has scripted history by landing the first commercial spacecraft on the moon as well as the first US vehicle on the earth's only natural satellite in more than 50 years, joining earlier feats by India, Russia, the US and China.

Built by Intuitive Machines, the lander -- named Odysseus -- touched down on the moon at around 6.23 pm ET on Thursday, making it the first American spacecraft on the moon since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.

"Today, for the first time in half a century, America has returned to the moon," Bill Nelson, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Administrator said after Intuitive Machines, a Houston-based company, landed its Odysseus robot near the lunar south pole.

The lander carries a bounty of NASA scientific instruments, "and bearing the dream of a new adventure in science, innova-



tion and American leadership in space, well, all of that aced the landing of the lifetime," Nelson said.

"What we can confirm, without a doubt, is our equipment is on the surface of the moon, and we are transmitting," Flight Director and Chief Technology Officer Tim Crain announced amidst cheers among his colleagues and others across the coun-

try as there were some tense moments before the landing on the moon.

As the spacecraft made its final descent, mission controllers lost contact with it, as was expected to occur, NBC News reported.

"After troubleshooting communications, flight controllers have confirmed Odysseus is upright and starting to send data. Right

now, we are working to downlink the first images from the lunar surface," Intuitive Machines said, announcing the historic feat.

"I know this was a nail-biter, but we are on the surface, and we are transmitting. Welcome to the moon," Intuitive Machines Chief Executive Officer Stephen Altemus said during the livestream.

The lander will have seven days before darkness descends on the landing site, preventing the spacecraft's solar panels from gathering energy from sunlight and bringing freezing temperatures, ABC News reported.

In August last year, India made history as its moon mission Chandrayaan-3 became the first to land in the uncharted south pole of the earth's only natural satellite and became the fourth country to master the technology of soft-landing on the Moon, propelling it into an elite group of nations.

## UK and EU agree to cooperate on tackling illegal immigration as post-Brexit relations thaw further

LONDON, Feb 23 (Agencies): Britain and its former partners in the European Union have struck a deal to cooperate more on tackling illegal migration, in the latest sign of a thawing in relations between the two sides following Brexit.

The British government said in a statement Friday that UK border agencies and Frontex, the EU's border and coast guard agency, will be able to access each other's intelligence to secure borders and tackle organized immigration crime. There will also be joint training, deployments of staff from one side to the other, and collaboration on research and development on new technologies.

The agreement, which

will be signed later in London, doesn't include any bilateral returns agreement, which means neither side will be obliged to take any asylum-seekers under burden-sharing arrangements agreed on between the EU's 27 member states.

"Organized immigration crime and people smuggling are global challenges that require shared solutions and ambitions," UK Home Secretary James Cleverly said.

"Our landmark working arrangement between the UK and Frontex is another crucial step in tackling illegal migration, securing our borders and stopping the boats," he added.

Relations between the two sides on an array of issues has been improv-



ing in the past few months, having been severely tested during the drawn-out divorce negotiations that followed Britain's 2016 vote to leave the EU.

The split became final in early 2021 with the agreement of a barebones trade and cooperation deal, but relations grew even more testy under strongly pro-Brexit UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Rishi Sunak, the current prime minister who took the helm in October 2022, has quietly worked to improve the United Kingdom's relationship with its European neighbors, though trade friction and deep-rooted mistrust still linger. Last year, for example, he agreed that Britain would rejoin the EU's \$100 billion science-sharing program Horizon Europe.

Sunak has made cutting illegal immigration one of the main pillars of his leadership. More than 29,000 people arrived in the UK in small boats in 2023, having made the often treacherous journey across the English Channel.

Though that was down from nearly 46,000 the year before, Sunak has promised to "stop the boats," leaving him open to charges that he has failed to achieve one of his main objectives before a general election this year, the date of which he will decide.

Opinion polls show that Sunak's Conservatives are trailing far behind the main opposition Labour Party, and losing support to a new hard-right political party, which is focusing on immigration.

## Pakistan to seek \$6 billion in new IMF loan program: Report



ISLAMABAD, Feb 23 (Agencies): Pakistan plans to seek a new loan of at least \$6 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help the incoming government repay billions in debt due this year, agency reported, citing a Pakistani official.

The country will seek to negotiate an Extended Fund Facility with the IMF, the report said, adding that the talks with the global lender were expected to start in March or April.

Pakistan averted default last summer thanks to a short-term International Monetary Fund bailout, but the programme expires next month and a

new government will have to negotiate a long-term arrangement to keep the \$350 billion economy stable.

Ahead of the bailout, the South Asian nation had to undertake a slew of measures demanded by the IMF, including revising its budget, a hike in its benchmark interest rate, and increases in electricity and natural gas prices.

The IMF staff continues a dialogue with authorities on needed longer-term reform efforts, a spokesperson for the fund said, adding that the fund is available, if requested, to support the post-election government through a new arrangement to address Pakistan's ongoing challenges.

Pakistan's vulnerable external position means that securing financing from multilateral and bilateral partners will be one of the most urgent issues facing the next government, ratings agency Fitch said.

"A new deal is key to the country's credit profile, and we assume one will be achieved within a few months, but an extended negotiation or failure to secure it would increase external liquidity stress and raise the probability of default," it said.



# BLSKS Celebrates 647th Birth Anniversary of Guru Ravidas

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: To celebrate the 647th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas Ji & to promote the traditional culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan in close coordination, Sangam Tru Art Production presented 405th Friday series dogri musical play "Katoti Main Ganga" which was based on the life of Guru Ravidas Ji at open air theatre, Durga Bhawan Janipur Jammu.

The Mega Musical play was written , produced and directed by Dr.M.L.Dogra former Regional Director ,Song and Drama Division Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ,Government of India and music was assisted by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor.

The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. Anju Kumari Dogra, Health Department J&K Government. V.K.Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India , Dr. Tara Singh Charak, Former Deputy Director , Health Department J&K Government, Sh.J.K.Raina, Producer Director Jk Films, Mukesh Singh, Media Person J&K were the Guest of Honor. The program was commenced with Song " Hari Migi Paduka Banai Liya oh ", " Tum chandan hum Pani ", " Prabhu more



avgun chit na thare" , "Ganga par Kari De Ganga Mayi", sung by the artistes & students of BLSKS.

The musical play was highly appreciated by the general public and the chief guest lauded the efforts of the organizers in making such awareness programmes colorful and effective and highlighted history of Guru Ravi Das and his teachings.

Dr.Anju Dogra , wished all the countrymen a very happy Ravidas Jayanti and asked people to follow the great saint's ideals. She wrote "Best wishes to all countrymen on the auspicious occasion of Shri Guru Ravidas Jayanti. Guru Ravidas ji emphasized the values of social equality, unity, morality and working diligently. Let us follow their teachings and move forward united to build a society and country based on equality, unity and justice."

In addition to the above program the artists of BLSKS also presented songs which

was recorded and uploaded online on social media for benefit of General Public.

Earlier welcome address of Dr.M.L.Dogra, Chairman, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan, appreciate the great efforts of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi today addressed the 647th Birth Anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas in Varanasi. At the Sant Guru Ravidas Janmashthali temple at Seer Govardhanpur near BHU, the Prime Minister inaugurated the newly installed statue of Sant Ravidas in adjoining Ravidas Park & Dr.Dogra highlighted the teaching of Guru Ravi Dass , also known as Raidas, Rohidas and Ruhidas, was a famous saint of the Bhakti Movement. He was a famous poet, saint, who played a prominent role in the Bhakti movement.

He was also the founder of the Ravidassia religion. This year, February 24th ,2024, will mark the birth anniversary of Guru Ravi-

das. Ravidas Jayanti is dominantly celebrated in the northern part of the country. It is widely celebrated in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana. This day observed on the auspicious day of Magh Purnima.

On this day, the devotees take a dip in the river Ganga and they chant the Amritbani of Guru Ravidas Ji, and a special aarti is also performed on this day. To mark his birthday, processions carrying his portrait take place in the streets. Large processions bearing Guru's portraits are carried out on streets, Sikh scriptures are recited in temples dedicated to the Guru and devotees take a dip in the holy rivers to perform rites. The prime feature of the festival is the Nagar Kirtan. People dress up as Guru Ravidas and his supporters to mark the celebrations. Dr.M.L.Dogra also highlighted the day of his birth anniversary, tableaux and Shobha-yatras of Saint Ravidas are taken out.

# Only NC capable of fulfilling aspirations of all sections of society: Sunil Verma

## Constitutes Lower Malhar Panchayat Committee



## Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 23: Sunil Verma, District President of J&K National Conference (NC), along with Ch Abdul Rashid, District Secretary JKNC, and Ch Irshad Ali, Block Secretary JKNC ST Cell Udhampur, visited the Lower Malhar Panchayat.

The senior NC leaders interacted with the local community and discussed their issues being faced by them.

The meeting was organized by the local leader of the NC Panchayat Malhar, where residents voiced several issues faced by the people in the absence of basic amenities. Sunil Verma assured them that their concerns would be taken up with the relevant authorities for early redressal.

In an effort to tackle

a specific issue, Sunil Verma immediately contacted the Superintendent Engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD) and highlighted the urgent need to construct a road from Phat Ladhyaala to Malunghat Bain Ward No 4, near Gulam Rasool's house in Lower Malad.

While interacting with the residents of Lower Malhar Panchayat, Sunil Verma emphasized the Party's commitment to equitable development by fulfilling the aspirations of all sections of society. He stressed that only National Conference has the vision and policies to bring about inclusive and sustainable growth that benefits everyone.

As part of his visit, the District President also announced the constitution of the Panchayat Committee. The nomi-

nated members include Ch Gulam Rasool as President, Farooq Mohd as Secretary, Janait Ali and Latif Mohd as Vice Presidents, Fareed Mohd as Joint Secretary, and Naith Ali, Abdul Kareem Kasana, Hazi Moosa, Mushtaq Bakkerwal, and Gaffor Mohd as Members of the Panchayat Committee.

Recognizing the importance of a strong political foundation, he encouraged the newly nominated members to actively engage with the local community, understand their needs, and effectively communicate the party's ideologies and initiatives. By fostering a strong and loyal support base, he aimed to ensure the continued progress and success of the National Conference in serving the interests and aspirations of all sections of

# 7 Industrial Estates, 2000 start-ups, 30000 jobs spark optimism: Raman Suri

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Hailing the Administrative Council (AC) of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (UT), which under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, accorded administrative approval for the development of seven new Industrial Estates and two thousand new start-ups, which are sure to generate about thirty-thousand jobs in the next few years, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri said that this massive investment and development is a testimony to J&K's economic renaissance, which has been unleashed by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi since past ten years.

Raman Suri said that all the previous governments in J&K including those of Congress, National Conference (NC) or People's Democratic Party (PDP) kept the youngsters away from such start-ups, which would have given wings to their talent and expertise in various

fields. Leaders of these parties also ensured that the industrial sector in J&K remained on ventilator with no new investments coming from other states or countries. The abrogation of Article 370, coupled with infrastructural development and liberal funding, has strengthened the hopes and confidence of investors, which is why new industrial estates have started coming up here.

The BJP leader said, the new industrial estates spread over 5290 kanals of land and to be set up at a cost of Rs 304.51 crores besides the 2000 new Start-ups, for which a venture capital fund of Rs. 250 crores has been set aside, will reverse the brain-drain, and also encourage our youth to unleash their full potential in the UT itself. There still exist some leaders who are blind to this massive development and are continuing to exploit youngsters for their vested interests. They must look at the startups and economic growth, which our UT is witnessing since the abrogation of Article 370.

Raman Suri said that the adage "Rome was not built in a day" goes well with the removal of the controversial Article 370, adding that J&K needs more time to cleanse corruption and nepotism from the system that have marred the careers of many. On the other hand, massive development that is taking place in the shape of smart cities or development of new industrial policies are going to change the fate of Jammu and Kashmir. Tourism is already on the rise and the Prime

Minister Narendra Modi has also ensured that the world witnesses how Kashmir will be developed in the coming years.

In Jammu, massive development works are already going on and in the coming days, the region will prove to be the most sought-after destination for business and travel for the people from states like Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, as well as from the rest of India and the world. He added that 7 new Indus-

trial Estates located at Banderpora Budgam, Sempora Medicity, Srinagar, Bhagthali, Kathua, Karandi, Samba, Trenz, Shopian, Hariparigam Tral Pulwama and Khunmoh, Pantha Chowk Srinagar would attract investments worth crores of rupees, which in turn will generate enough employment. He urged the youth to have faith in the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has a special place in his heart for Jammu and Kashmir.

# Admission Awareness Campaign organized at GHSS Sarore



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Under the guidance of Principal Er. Arun Bangotra Principal Govt. Polytechnic College Jammu and Er. Manjeet Singh H.O.D Electrical Engineering Department , Er. Vicky Sharma Faculty Electrical Engineering Depart-

ment visited GHSS Sarore and aware the students regarding courses/Scholarships offered in Govt Polytechnic College Jammu and also collected data of students of Higher Secondary Schools. Further, motivated the students for taking admission in technical course offered in Gov-

ernment Polytechnics to improve their skill and employability.

During the Awareness Campaign Rajni Abrol Principal GHSS Sarore and other Staff members of the School were also Present.

Rajni Abrol Principal GHSS also appreciated the Awareness Campaign

# Mission Vatsalya; One-Day Sensitisation, Training Programme on implementation of Juvenile Act 2015 held at Womens College Anantnag

## Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Feb 23: A one day Sensitisation/ Training programme on 'Implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2015 and Mission Vatsalya Scheme' was Thursday held at Govt.Degree College Women's, Anantnag.

The programme was organized by the Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with DLSA & Women's Degree, mission vatsalya witnessed the participation of an important target group viz. Anganwadi Workers (Front line workers) of Mission Poshan Anant-

nag , functionaries of Child line and other field functionaries' of the Social Welfare Department.

The target group were sensitized that they are very crucial to uphold child rights vis-a-vis development in their jurisdiction.

Speaking on the occasion, District Social Welfare Officer Anantnag Muzaffar Ahmad Malik explained the importance of the programme and gave a detailed description of the topic and its working mechanism at the government level.

The speakers shared their expertise and professional knowledge with the

participants. Among them,Secretary District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Tabassum Qadir discussed and explained that if any Frontline worker needs to share details of a child who seems to be in need of any welfare schemes, for that purpose the concerned worker can directly contact the Child Welfare Committee members through various means viz. Child line number (1098), Social Media Sites or through phone calls.

She well explained the role of the Child Welfare Committee and Children in need of Care and Protection. She further shared some immedi-

ate counseling skills which need to be used at the ground level by the frontline workers for the benefit of such children.

District Mobile Magistrate Anantnag Sarfraz Nawaz , explained Role and responsibilities of Juvenile Justice Board regarding Child in Conflict with law. He added the importance of incorporation of new skills and exploring the participatory nature of these Children for incorporating them in the mainstream society, and urged the target audience to take an active role in this regard for the welfare of the societies in general and child in particular.

## FROM PAGE 1

# Kashmir BSF Jawan Dies in West Bengal

"Soon after a rescue operation was launched at the site which ended with the recovery of the body of the drowned trooper this morning. The mortal remains of Reyaz are arriving today in his hometown for last rites," officials said.

# LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates new girls hostel at NIT Srinagar

Commissioner Srinagar and faculty members of NIT Srinagar were present.

# High Court Closes Iltija Javed's Passport Case

challenging the same and also registered objection to the validity period of the passport which was for two years (till April 2025), whereas passports generally have a ten-year validity period.

Iltija's counsel, Senior Advocate Jahangir Iqbal, had argued during a court hearing in July 2023 that the decision to impose conditions while issuing Iltija's passport was an arbitrary restriction that violated her right to travel abroad, which is guaranteed

under the Constitution of India. Months later, in August 2023, Iltija was issued a normal passport with a ten-year validity (normal validity period). In view of this development, the Court has now closed her plea. None appeared on behalf of Iltija Javed on February 16, when the order closing her case was passed. DSGI TM Shamsi and Deputy Advocate General Syed Musaib represented the respondent-authorities. ( Bar and Bench).

# Generally dry weather to prevail in J&K till Feb 26

region had minus 18.6, Kargil minus 22.2 and Drass minus 25 as the minimum temperature. Jammu city had 6, Katra 5.6, Batote 0.2, Bhandarwah minus 2.4 and Banihal minus 1.6 as the minimum temperature.



## Tony slams incumbent Government for neglecting dying industrial sector

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Member Suchetgarh, vehemently criticized the incumbent government for its lackadaisical approach towards the deteriorating state of the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The industrial sector, he asserted, is on the brink of closure as a result of misguided industrial policies implemented by both the Central and UT governments.

In a statement issued here today, the senior Congress leader emphasized that the industrious sons and



daughters of the soil who have dedicated themselves to running businesses in Jammu and Kashmir have played a significant role in generating employment opportunities for the local youth.

The industrial sector has provided livelihoods for countless individuals, offering jobs to

lakhs of young people within the region.

However, Tony expressed deep disappointment that the present government has failed miserably in creating adequate job opportunities for the highly educated unemployed youth. He emphasized that instead of focusing on the establishment of new industrial estates, it is imperative for the government to redirect its attention and extend support and strengthen the existing industrial units within Jammu and Kashmir.

"By prioritizing the survival and growth of the existing industrial units, the government can effectively tackle the mounting crisis and strive towards sustain-

able development.

It is crucial for the incumbent government to recognize the invaluable contributions of local entrepreneurs and provide them with the necessary support to revive and expand their businesses," he added.

Moreover, Tony adamantly stated that it is imperative to improve the work culture and make the single window system more efficient, as the current implementation remains only on paper.

In light of the devastating impact of the pandemic on the industrial sector, he called on the government to introduce a power amnesty scheme specifically for the commercial sector. The industrial sector

has endured immense hardships during these unprecedented times, and the implementation of an amnesty scheme would provide much-needed relief and support to the struggling businesses.

Tony called upon the government to urgently reassess its industrial policies, develop comprehensive strategies, and implement robust measures to foster a conducive environment for the growth of existing industries.

He stressed the importance of creating a supportive ecosystem that empowers local entrepreneurs, boosts employment opportunities, and accelerates economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Developing Galaxy S24 most rewarding period of my career: Samsung chief

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Samsung has a leading role to play in the AI revolution since mobile devices have become the primary access point for AI, said Dr. TM Roh, President & Head of MX Business, Samsung Electronics. His comments come a month after Samsung unveiled its Galaxy S24 series globally, calling it its first AI smartphone.

"Developing the Galaxy S24 series has been the most rewarding period of my career. As an engineer, I have witnessed many examples of incredible innovations, but AI is the most transformative technology of the century. Few engineers get the chance to be involved in some-

thing with such seismic potential. It brings great change, not only for Samsung and the mobile industry but for all humankind," Dr. Roh said.

Samsung said it has received great feedback about how people actually use Galaxy AI features in their daily lives.

"One of the most welcomed AI features is Circle to Search with Google, an incredible new tool for intuitive discovery. Our communication tools for removing language barriers, such as Live Translate, Chat Assist and Interpreter, have captured the imagination of many. People also love Photo Assist, our tool for creativity powered by our Pro Visual Engine," Dr. Roh

said. Samsung said Galaxy AI is helping people communicate beyond borders, complete everyday tasks easily and so much more. Galaxy users will be able to enjoy more Galaxy AI features as Samsung continuously enhances and grows the mobile AI experience, the company added.

Samsung said in the near future, select Galaxy wearables will use AI to enhance digital health and unlock a whole new era of expanded, intelligent health experiences. Samsung will keep enriching and expanding Galaxy AI experiences across categories through collaborations with more industry-leading AI partners.

## 250 students of Hiranaga zone embark on educational tour

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 23: A group of 250 students drawn from GHSS Hiranagar, GHSS Marheen, GHS Sherpur, GHS Hiranagar and GHS Marheen today embarked on an educational tour to the prestigious Atal Setu Bridge in Basholi. Zonal Education Officer Hiranagar Des Raj and other Officials led the group of the students.

The tour aimed to provide students with hands-on learning experiences and foster a deeper appreciation for India's rich cultural and historical heritage. The tour began with a visit to the Atal Setu Bridge, an architectural marvel that stands as a symbol of

engineering excellence. Students were fascinated by the bridge's unique design, which allows it to withstand the turbulent waters of the Ravi River. They learned about the construction process, the challenges faced by engineers, and the bridge's significance as a vital transportation link in the region.

The tour also included visits to several educational monuments and sites of historical importance in the area. Students explored ancient temples, forts, and museums, gaining insights into the region's rich past and cultural diversity. They engaged with local experts and historians, who shared captivating stories and

legends that brought history to life. Throughout the tour, students demonstrated a keen interest in learning and actively participated in discussions and activities.

They asked thoughtful questions, expressed their curiosity, and showed a genuine appreciation for the opportunity to explore new places and cultures. The educational tour to Atal Setu Bridge Basholi was a resounding success. It provided students with a unique and enriching learning experience, igniting their passion for history, culture, and engineering. The tour also strengthened bonds between students from different schools, fostering a sense of unity and community.

## New 'One UI 6.1' update brings Galaxy AI to more Galaxy devices

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Samsung Electronics has announced the availability of Galaxy AI features on more Galaxy devices through a new One UI 6.1 update engineered to further the democratization of mobile AI. The update will be available across the Galaxy S23 series, S23 FE, Z Fold5, Z Flip5 and Tab S9 series, starting to roll out from the end of March. Aligning with the recently launched Galaxy S24 series, this update elevates the standard of users' mobile AI experience through a hybrid approach that combines on-device and cloud-based AI.

"Our goal with Galaxy

AI is not only to pioneer a new era of mobile AI but also to empower users by making AI more accessible," said TM Roh, President and Head of Mobile eXperience Business at Samsung Electronics.

"This is only the beginning of Galaxy AI, as we plan to bring the experience to over 100 million Galaxy users within 2024 and continue to innovate ways to harness the unlimited possibilities of mobile AI."

Even more Galaxy users will now be able to take advantage of the communication-enhancing Galaxy AI features available on AI-supported models. The features include the ability to adjust message tone and translate messages in

13 different languages using Chat Assist. Galaxy users can experience the power of real-time interactions through Live Translate, which provides voice and text translations for phone calls. With Interpreter, users can also engage in spontaneous conversations with locals while traveling as the split-screen feature generates text translations for live conversations.

The broader integration of Galaxy AI across the Galaxy ecosystem also enables a seamless user experience in day-to-day tasks on AI-supported models, driving new levels of efficiency. Search functions are improved through Circle to Search with Google,

which generates intuitive search results with a swift circle-motivated gesture.

Life-enhancing organization features such as Note Assist allow users to create formats, generate summaries and translate notes, while Browsing Assist enables individuals to stay up to speed faster by generating comprehensive summaries of news articles. Transcript Assist can also easily transcribe meeting recordings and generate summaries and translations.

With Galaxy AI, Samsung is doubling down on its role in unlocking individuals' creative potential. Galaxy's latest update delivers a suite of Galaxy AI tools that encour-

ages creative freedom even after a photo is taken. Through Generative Edit, AI-supported devices can easily resize, reposition or realign objects in photos to perfect a great shot. Users can also polish any photo faster and easier than ever with Edit Suggestion. No need for multiple re-shots as Instant Slow-mo10 can generate additional frames for slow-motion videos to capture action-packed moments.

Creativity and personalization do not stop there. Customizing Galaxy devices is even easier than before through AI-generated wallpapers, enabling AI-supported devices to bring users' creativity to life.

## Sleep's impact on memory consolidation

NEW DELHI, Feb 23 (Agencies): Researchers have uncovered the critical role of sleep in consolidating memories of complex events. The study by the LMU's Institute of Medical Psychology focused on the effect of sleep on memory of intricate associations within events.

Dr. Nicolas Lutz, lead author of the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), emphasised the significance of sleep in completing memories of whole events.

Participants who had learned events with complex associations were observed under two conditions: spending the

night in a sleep laboratory or staying up all night. The subsequent night was spent at home to facilitate recovery before testing the participants on their ability to recall different associations between elements of the learned events.

"We were able to demonstrate that sleep specifically consolidates weak associations and strengthens new associations between elements that were not directly connected with each other during learning. Moreover, the ability to remember multiple elements of an event together, after having been presented with just a single cue, was improved after sleep compared to the condition in which the

participants had stayed awake," said Nicolas Lutz.

The study also monitored the brain activity of the participants during sleep, revealing that the improvement in memory performance is connected with sleep spindles, bursts of neural oscillatory activity during sleep associated with the active consolidation of memory contents.

"This finding suggests that sleep spindles play an important role in the consolidation of complex associations, which underlie the completion of memories of whole events," said Professor Luciana Besedovsky, lead researcher of the study.

Overall, the study's

findings shed light on the importance of sleep in completing partial information and processing complex events in the brain. Lutz and Besedovsky highlighted the identified effects of sleep on memory as an important adaptation of the human brain, helping individuals draw a more coherent picture of their environment and make more comprehensive predictions of future events. "And so our results reveal a new function by which sleep can offer an evolutionary advantage," reckoned Luciana Besedovsky. "Furthermore, they open up new perspectives on how we store and access information about complex multielement events."

## New Industrial Estates to transform J&K's industry sector, address unemployment issue: Dr Parneesh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Dr Parneesh Mahajan, Convenor, Department of Training, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, has asserted that the Administrative Council's approval for establishment of 7 new industrial estates in J&K has paved the way for not only transforming this sector in a big way but also in addressing the unemployment problem in this Union Territory. The BJP leader expressed this while reacting to the Govt's nod to the aforesaid industrial estates.



In a statement issued to media here today, the senior BJP leader said that the development of seven new Industrial Estates in the UT of J&K spread over 5290 Kanals of land for an amount of Rs. 304.51 crores has enough potential to ensure a prominent place to J&K

on the nation's industrial map thus ultimately benefiting the Union Territory and its people in an unprecedented way. He said that the aforesaid industrial estates are estimated to have the employment potential of around 30,000 persons which means that it will definitely provide livelihood to lakhs of family members of such employed persons across the Union Territory.

Dr Parneesh said that the approval of Administrative Council for establishment of new industrial units reiterates the commitment of the BJP Govt to fulfill

all the promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir in terms of economic empowerment. He said that this has been possible due to abrogation of Article 370 which was a big hurdle in ensuring the due welfare of the people of J&K especially the common people. He said that BJP Govt led by Narendra Modi at the Centre in synchronization with the UT Administration has ended the seven decade old injustices done to the common people during which only the dynastic rulers and their blue eyed ones got empowered economically.

## 10-day-old underweight baby with life-threatening congenital heart defect saved via Balloon Angioplasty at Fortis Mohali

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: In a one-of-its kind case, the Department of Paediatric Cardiac Sciences, Fortis Hospital Mohali, successfully saved the life of a 10-day-old baby -- who was extremely underweight at 1.3 kg and suffering from "Coarctation of Aorta" -- through Balloon Angioplasty.

Coarctation of Aorta (CoA) is a congenital heart defect and causes narrowing of the aorta (main heart artery), thereby obstructing the flow of blood. This defect puts excessive pressure on the heart



and a delay in surgery can affect the heart, lungs and endanger the

child's life.

The baby was put on life-saving medicines and shifted to Fortis Hospital, Mohali, where her parents approached Dr Rajat Gupta, Senior Consultant, Department of Paediatric Cardiac Sciences in October 2023.

Led by Dr. Rajat Gupta, the medical team swiftly intervened to address the baby's critical condition. Balloon Angioplasty, a minimally invasive procedure, was performed to open the narrowed artery through a tiny incision in the neck, thus avoiding the need for open-heart surgery.

Dr. Gupta emphasized the importance of early detection and intervention in cases of congenital heart defects, highlighting that timely treatment is crucial to preventing irreversible damage to the child's heart. He further explained that Balloon Angioplasty can serve as a life-saving measure for newborns too fragile to undergo immediate surgical intervention.

Following the procedure, the baby's health stabilized, and she was discharged from the hospital. However, in December 2023, she underwent a second Balloon Angioplasty to further improve

blood flow to her body. Post-surgery, the baby's health has significantly improved, and she has shown remarkable weight gain.

The Department of Paediatric Cardiac Sciences at Fortis Hospital Mohali is renowned for its expertise in treating complex congenital heart conditions. Serving patients not only from Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh but also from neighboring countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Mongolia, and South Africa, the department remains committed to providing exceptional care to children with cardiac ailments.



## Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer Likely To Be Axed From BCCI Central Contracts: Report

The duo of Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer are reportedly likely to lose their place in BCCI's central contract list for the 2023-24 season.

NEW DELHI, Feb 23 (Agencies): Away from international duty, Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan continue to keep their distance from the Ranji Trophy for different reasons. While Kishan has reportedly been 'working on his technique' ahead of the forthcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season, Iyer is said to struggling with a minor back spasm problem. But, it seems like the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) top brass isn't entirely happy with Kishan and Iyer, and is likely to leave out the duo from the new central contracts list.

As per a report, both Iyer and Kishan are expected to be omitted from the list of centrally contracted players for the 2023-24 season. One of the reasons behind this decision is reportedly their absence from domestic cricket despite the board's



insistence.

"The selectors, led by Ajit Agarkar, has almost finalised the list of centrally contracted players for the 2023-24 season too, which the BCCI will

announce soon.

"Kishan and Iyer are likely to be excluded from that list, as both haven't been playing domestic cricket despite the BCCI's diktat to do so," a source

told the paper.

The paper also quoted a source close to Iyer saying that the middle-order batter was left out of the last three Tests against England due to a back problem.

Iyer was "excluded from India's squad for the last three Tests as a precautionary measure, after he complained of a back problem." "Patel's email to the BCCI was written after the second Test against England. Since then, a back problem has bothered Iyer," the source said. "Iyer was one of India's top-performing batsmen in the ODI World Cup in India last year. He won't lose the contract just because he missed the odd Ranji match."

As far as the 2022-23 central contract goes, Ishan Kishan was placed in the C category, while Shreyas Iyer was in B, earning Rs 1 crore and 3 crores respectively.

## NZ vz AUS: Hazlewood, Zampa combine to hand New Zealand series defeat

AUCKLAND, Feb 23 (Agencies): After a riveting thriller in the opening T20I of the series, expectations were high from the hosts to turn their fortunes around on Friday, 23 February. However, that turned out to be as far from the preferred result as it could be at Eden Park, Auckland.

Australia, despite their batting failure in the first innings, defeated New Zealand by 72 runs in the second match, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the T20I series. A clinical bowling performance from the Australian team saw New Zealand get bowled out for just 102 runs while chasing 175 on Friday, 23 February.

New Zealand were dealt with a heavier blow during the match after Devon Conway got injured in the first innings

of the match while keeping behind the stumps.

"Devon Conway has left Eden Park to undergo an X-ray on his injured left thumb after sustaining a blow while wicket-keeping in tonight's second T20I," New Zealand said in an official statement.

It was later revealed by the board that Conway had fractured his thumb. The star batter did not take any further part in the game. Conway's injury came as a big blow to the side, who were already without the services of youngster Rachin Ravindra, who had been sidelined due to a knee injury.

Early Success

New Zealand were in a strong position through the halfway mark, having bowled out Australia for just 174 runs in 19.5 overs. No Australian players scored a

fifty in the first innings of the game. The most runs were scored by Travis Head (45 off 22) and then fast bowler Pat Cummins (28 off 22) in an impressive rearguard action.

Cummins added a little over 30 runs for seventh wicket, which pushed Australia's score past 150.

Lockie Ferguson was the pick of the bowlers, clinching 4 wickets for just 12 runs in his 3.5 overs.

Australia's Comeback With Ferguson being on top of Australia in the first innings, it was time for the visitors to hit back.

Josh Hazlewood was unplayable in his 4-1-12-1, while Pat Cummins put in an incredible support for the pacer with 3-0-19-1.

With Conway out of the batting innings,



New Zealand had no clue how to tackle the pacers.

The pressure put up at the top half of the innings made New Zealand desperate and they crumbled against the spin of Adam Zampa.

Zampa picked for wickets from his 4 overs for 34 runs and sealed the fate of the home team.

Cummins was named the player of the match, which seemed to surprise the Australia's red

ball and ODI captain. Cummins said that he did not expect it and added that he loved not being the captain of the Australian team.

"Dunno how I got this, but I'll take it. Yeah, batting wise, some came off the edges and I guess I'll take it. I love it [not captaining] Just going off to the boundary and coming in to bowl. I love it," Cummins said at the post match presentation.

## I always dreamt of being a cop, says Deepti Sharma after becoming DSP in UP Police



NEW DELHI, Feb 23 (Agencies): It's not often that one gets to live a cherished professional dream after taking a completely different career path in life but Indian women's cricket team all-rounder Deepti Sharma counts herself among the lucky few after being appointed a DSP in Uttar Pradesh Police, something that she aspired for as a child.

Sharma, who hails from Agra, was named a DSP in UP Police last month and was felicitated by state chief minister Yogi Adityanath with a cash prize of Rs 3 crore for her performances in the last couple of years.

Sharma was part of the teams that won the

Asian Games gold last year and the Commonwealth Games silver in 2022.

"I always dreamt of becoming a police officer. I used to see that it is a difficult job but I always wanted to wear that uniform once and wanted to see how it felt," Sharma told PTI Video.

"My parents also supported me that I should become a police officer. I and my family are really happy with this recognition," she said.

The off-spinner was adjudged the women's international cricketer of the year for the 2022-23 season in the annual BCCI honours for her stellar run during the award period.

The 26-year-old

picked up 38 wickets during the time and contributed 313 runs with the bat, including two half centuries, in the T20 format.

She is now gearing up for the Women's Premier League which begins on Friday in Bengaluru.

Sharma said that she is aiming to do well in tandem with fellow spinner Sophie Ecclestone in the UP Warriorz team.

The Warriorz will open their campaign against Royal Challengers on Saturday.

Sharma and Ecclestone are currently sitting at the top of the international bowling rankings in T20Is and will spearhead UP's attack.

The left-handed batter said that she will prefer to bat a bit higher in the order.

"The more balls I face, the more time I will get to score big. But whether I bat above or below, my focus will be to contribute for the team," she said.

## Musheer Khan hits maiden first-class hundred, rescues Mumbai in Ranji quarters

MUMBAI, Feb 23 (Agencies): Musheer Khan brought up his first first-class hundred and he couldn't have timed it better as the 18-year-old rescued Mumbai in their Ranji Trophy quarter-final against Baroda at the BKC Ground in Mumbai on Friday, February 23.

Musheer Khan came up with a gritty hundred in 181 balls, shying away from his natural stoke-making ability as he hit only six boundaries, collecting the rest of his runs by running hard between the wickets.

Musheer Khan, who batted at No. 3, was the only batter who went past 30 in the first 80 overs of the Ranji Trophy quarter-final as big guns, including Prithvi Shaw (33) and captain Ajinkya Rahane (3) failed to make a considerable mark.



Musheer stitched a 43-run stand for the fourth wicket with Suryansh Shedge, who managed 20 and added his first fifty-plus stand of the innings with wicket-keeper Hardik Tamore, who held one end with a defiant knock. Mumbai were reduced to 142 for 5, but Musheer's composed knock helped them inch closer to a competitive first innings total.

It was only Musheer Khan's fourth first-class match for Mumbai in only his second season

at the highest level. Mumbai missed quite a few of their key batters, including injured Shivam Dube and Shreyas Iyer, and brother Sarfaraz Khan, who was on national duty, but teenager Musheer stepped up and delivered on the big stage.

Musheer Khan seems to have put behind the disappointment of losing the U19 World Cup final earlier in the month to seize another opportunity that has come his way, this time in first-class cricket.

## Will take Ilia Topuria's 'head off' in fight, eye on UFC gold in 2024: Yair Rodriguez

Yair Rodriguez said he has his eyes on firmly on the UFC Featherweight title and why he feels a fight with current champion Ilia Topuria is a good match-up

LONDON, Feb 23 (Agencies): For Yair Rodriguez, the goal is set for 2024. He has his eyes set on the UFC Featherweight title, and if Ilia Topuria is the holder of it, he won't mind knocking his head off to get it.

Rodriguez is all set for his return to the octagon on February 24, in a rematch with the returning Brian Ortega at UFC Fight Night: Moreno vs Royval 2. The 31-year-old last fought Alexander Volkanovski in a unification bout for the Featherweight title in July 2023.

Since then, the landscape of the division changed when Topuria defeated the Aussie to become the new champion.

Ortega has been inactive for more than a year and it places Rodriguez as the favourite for the bout.

However, the Mexican isn't someone ready to go buy the belts.

In their first bout, he was the underdog

against Ortega, but emerged with the win. Speaking to agency, the Mexican said he doesn't care about the numbers or being the favourite and feels great coming into the fight.

He also had some good words for his opponent and said he was prepared for the fight.

"Yeah. I don't really look into, like, the bets. If I'm a favourite or not. I never put attention to that, because at the end of the day, it doesn't really matter. You know, That's just numbers. I feel great coming into this fight. I know Brian Ortega is a great opponent for me. He's a really good guy and I like him. I like him as a human being, you know? I know he's a tough athlete, but I'm prepared for anything for this fight," said Rodriguez.

Performing in front of his home country is also something Rodriguez is unfazed by. The 31-year-old was clear that he doesn't view it as any sort of extra



pressure on him and is just focused on his stuff before the fight.

"I don't really feel like (pressure). No. But I'm telling you, I don't put attention to any of that. Like, I don't really look into any of that. Like my my only focus is training, making weight, feeling good every single day. And that's it. And the rest is like, it doesn't exist for me," said Rodriguez.

Will face Topuria with the intent to take his head off: Rodriguez

Speaking about a future match with the current champion Topu-

ria, Rodriguez was clear about what he felt about the Spaniard. He said he doesn't like Topuria and a future fight between them would see him looking to knock the 27-year-old's head off.

"I mean, first thing. Win against Ortega and then I can start talking about what's the what's next, right? But with everything we have been talking about, Topuria, I think it's a good fight to make. It's a great matchup to make, and I honestly don't really like the guy. So, you know, I'll go with that fight

with, like, really intent on taking his head off," said Rodriguez.

Rumors suggest Topuria could next defend his title in Spain and at the iconic Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid. However, Rodriguez doesn't care about the location and is ready to fight for the strap anywhere.

"I don't really look into places for me. A street is good. A backyard is good. A soccer field is good, like I don't care. You know, for me, any anywhere is good. Right now in this specific, uh, occasion fighting in front of my Mexican crowd makes this event really special."

"I mean, my goal is on the title. You know, regardless of who is in there. Right now, Topuria has the title. I don't like Topuria, and that just makes it perfect, you know? And, but yeah, whoever. If it's not Topuria, whoever has the title at the moment, that's what I'm aiming for right now," said Rodriguez.

## Russia loses appeal against International Olympic Committee ban

MOSCOW, Feb 23 (Agencies): The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said on Friday it has dismissed an appeal from Russia against an International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspension for recognising regional organisations from territories annexed from Ukraine.

The IOC banned the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) in October for recognising regional Olympic councils for Russian-occupied regions of Ukraine - Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia.

At the time, the IOC said the move constituted a breach of the Olympic Charter

because it violated the territorial integrity of Ukraine's NOC.

Russia, which launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which Moscow calls a 'special operation', has denounced the measure as politically motivated.

In its appeal at the Lausanne-based CAS, ROC asked for the ban to be revoked and that it be recognised as a fully-fledged NOC, with all the prerogatives the status entails.

"The CAS Panel in charge of this matter dismissed the appeal and confirmed the challenged decision, finding that the IOC EB (Executive Board) did not

breach the principles of legality, equality, predictability or proportionality," CAS said in a statement.

Russians and Belarusian athletes had initially been banned from competing internationally following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, for which Belarus has been used as a staging ground.

Last year, however, the IOC issued an initial set of recommendations for international sports governing bodies to allow Russians and Belarusians to return, competing as individual athletes with no flag, emblem or anthem.

The IOC has said athletes should not be punished for the actions of governments.



## Interaction Meet of non-camp Kashmiri Migrants held

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: The first interaction meet of Kashmiri Migrants living in non-camps was convened at Udheywala Jammu by Vishal Jotshi coordinator Vitasta Helping Hand Trust which was attended by a large numbers of prominent persons of the displaced community putting up in non camps in different parts of Jammu.

Dr. Arvind Karwani, new Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner J&K attended the meeting as Chief Guest. Senior community social activists and leaders M.K. Yogi and Vinod Pandita were the guests of honor.

The meeting discussed various genuine problems faced by the community residing in forced exile for over three decades in the Jammu region and other parts of the country particularly addressing the many genuine issues which the community is confronting in their exodus and seeking their resolution forthwith.

Yogi highlighted the plight of PM package employees and said that more than fifteen



hundred PM package employees mainly women folk are putting up on a rent basis in the valley which has caused them big miseries that need immediate attention with the allotment of accommodation near their workplaces to deserving employees on priority basis.

He also called for the enhancement of meager monthly cash assistance from Rs. 13000 to 25000, the creation of a new employment package for the unemployed educated youth of the community.

Yogi raised the issue of removal of M Form system ahead of the coming Lok Sabha polls for making voting system form displaced community simple and transparent in order to remove this long dis-

crimination. Addressing the meeting, Vinod Pandita emphasized the urgent need for a concrete and time-bound rehabilitation Policy for the return of the displaced community in the Valley with honor and dignity.

Pandita also called for the implementation of the immovable migrant property act 1997 in letter and spirit and urged the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner to coordinate in this respect as a nodal agency of migrants.

Pandita further highlighted the plight of migrants of Purkhoo Phase II living in deplorable conditions and appealed to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner to arrange suitable accommodation for these families

as their condition in temporary sheds is deplorable.

Vaibhav Mattoo social activist and special invitee of session highlighted the issues of provisions for regular supply of pure drinking water in all camps, internal repairs, and maintenance of migrant quarters and sought immediate steps in this direction.

The representatives of all PM package Coordination Committee Rubon Sapru, Ranjan Jotshi, Vinod Tickoo and Amit Koul while speaking in the meeting highlighted the genuine problems of PM package employees working Valley like promotion issue, accommodation issue, transfer issue etc in detail and submitted a detailed Memorandum

of demands to the Relief Commissioner and urged for early consideration of their demands.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Dr. Arvind Karwani while addressing a huge gathering complimented the Vitasta Helping Hand Trust for organizing this first non camp interaction meet and assured the displaced community that he would leave no stone unturned in mitigating the important and long pending genuine issues of the community.

He also assured the mammoth gathering that he would take all problems highlighted here in the session at the highest level in administration for their early solution. Many representations comprising of different problems were presented before him by many migrants to which he assured timely action shortly on the merits of the problems.

The others who voiced concerns and highlighted the community issues were Mohan Lal Bhat, M L. Pandita, Shiban, Virender Bindroo, Vinod Bhat, Pintoo, Maharaj Krishan Koul.

In the end vote of thanks was presented by Vishal Jotshi.

## GDC R S Pura holds awareness rally under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: The Red Ribbon Club of Govt. Degree College (GDC) R. S. Pura in collaboration with Viksit Bharat Club on Friday organized an awareness programmes on the theme "Drug Abuse and De-addiction" as a part of "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan" under the aegis of Viksit Bharat@2047 initiative.

The programme initiated under the patronage of principal Prof. (Dr.) Rajni Bhagat.

In her message, she told the students that Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan is a campaign to make our society free from all kinds of harmful addictions like alcohol, tobacco, drugs etc.

She also said that this abhiyan is a prime

nation building initiative because it focuses on the healthy and disciplined youth. The awareness programme started from the college campus in which the students from all the streams participated and took pledge for making the campus and its surrounding Nasha Mukht.

A small rally in which the students displayed posters, self-made slogans and play cards based on the theme of the event was also organised.

Prof. Neelam Kumari, Convenor Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Committee and Red Ribbon Club, in her interactive session with the students asked them to spread the awareness among common masses and also abstain them-

selves from drug addiction.

Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, HOD Dogri/ Nodal Officer Viksit Bharat also told them that addiction is when you can't stop and when it puts your health in danger.

Under this abhiyan you have to make not only your community, family, friends but also yourselves drug free.

The other staff members present during the event were Dr. Geetika Goswami, Dr. Meeshu Pandita, Prof. Vishal Sharma, Prof. Rajinder Singh and Dr. Rekha Rani.

The principal of the college applauded the efforts of the teams of both the clubs for organizing such kinds of awareness programmes.



## Dogri Deptt felicitates Theatre Artist Pawan Verma on Int'l Mother Language Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, Department of Dogri, University of Jammu, felicitated Jammu's well-known Theatre Artist Pawan Verma for getting the Jammu Kashmir State Award this year in Performing Arts Category.

One Shawl and Memento was presented to him.

Sucheta Pathania H.O.D Department of Dogri was the chief guest on the occasion. Every year the state awards were announced by Jammu and Kashmir govt. on the eve of Republic Day.

This year Pawan Verma was given the Jammu and Kashmir State Award for his contribution in the field of Theatre.

Pawan Verma (Theatre Artist) is a product of Natrang's theatre Camp - year 2000. Pawan Verma belongs to Mubarak Mandi, a Heritage of Dogra Rulers in the heart of city, Jammu. Pawan has adopted this cultural race without any family background. But due to his keen interest in culture, he performed at a very tender age of 6, when he was in 1st standard. He played the role of Mahatma Gandhi. He got 1st prize in Drawing & Painting competition for three consecutive years 1997, 1998, 1999 in Inter School Debate Competition in 1997 & 1998 organised by DAV society. He got 1st prize in Drawing /Painting & Capitation competition in Inter School Drawing & Painting com-



petition organized by Amar Mahal Museum & Library.

PH never moved back and won many prizes and applauses in debates, quiz, drawing and painting competitions. To polish his skills in art and culture, Pawan joined Natrang and learnt a lot. He got guidance from his Guru Padmashri Sh. Balwant Thakur. It became an eye opener for Pawan which would ultimately give him the dividends in respect of excellence in the field of Acting.

Having experience of more than 24 years in Theatre, he has acted in over 80 plays which were performed more than 700 times throughout the country and abroad too. Important among them are Bawa Jitto (Dogri), Mahabhaj (Dogri), Ghumayee (Dogri), Kauva Chala Hans Ki Chaal, Andhon Ka Hathi, Holi, Sher Pehlo Pehal Gayee (Dogri), Diary Kusse Loknath di (Dogri), Aap Hamare Hain Kaun, Mere Hisse Ki Dhooop Kahan Hai, Bichoo, Ek Tha Gadha, Gatt (Dogri), Comedy of Terrors, Suno Ek Kahani (Dogri), Bagia Banchha Ram Ki, Sainyan Bhaye Kotwal, Kanjoos, Aaj ki Aurat, Kan-

joos, Mangu Di Chabeel (Dogri), Tandav, Kabab Mein Haddi, Hawalat, Manvta da Rishta (Dogri) Darl Apna Apna (Dogri) Adalat Mein Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav etc.

He has participated in more than 40 National Theatre Festivals in which major among are: Bharat Rang Mahotsav, Nandikar international theatre festival, Jash-ne-Bachpan, Vivechana's National theatre festival, "Jash-e-Jammu Kashmir" festival of Dance and Drama at Guwahati (Assam), 8th Theatre Olympics, Satabdira Kalakara's N.T.F, Rabindra Rangmandap, Bhubneshwar (Orissa), National Theatre Festival at Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal, National Theatre Festival by Kerala Sangeet Natak Akademi at St. John's Auditorium, Tiruvalla, N.T.F Raja Muthaiah Mandram, Madurai (Tamil Nadu) etc. organized by the prestigious Institutions like National School of Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi, North Zone Cultural Centre, Indian People Theatre Association (IPTA), Nandikar etc.

## JMC Commissioner chairs ABC/ARV Monitoring committee meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Commissioner JMC, Rahul Yadav on Friday chaired ABC/ARV Monitoring committee meeting to review the current status of ongoing ABC/ARV programme within JMC limits.

For the effective management of street dog population and to curb the spread of rabies both in humans as well as animals, ABC/ARV programme is being carried out by the Jammu Municipal Corporation within JMC limits.

The meeting was attended by all the members of ABC Monitoring committee viz. Dr. Zaffar Iqbal, LDO, Jammu, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Health Officer JMC, Dr. Divya Sharma, MVO JMC, Dr. Manmeet Singh, VAS, MACC Roop Nagar, Namrata Hakho, Founder/ Chairperson, Hakho Street Animals Foundation Trust (Regd.), Devinder Kour



Madaan, Chairperson, SAVE (NGO).

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the various aspects and progress of the ongoing ABC/ARV program being implemented by JMC in collaboration with Friendicoes-SECA (Delhi based Animal Welfare Organization) at Municipal Animal Care Centre, Roop Nagar, Jammu.

Dr. Divya Sharma, MVO, JMC appraised the committee that since the outsourcing of ABC/ARV programme to FRIENDICOES-SECA i.e. w.e.f 01.04.2021 to ending Jan. 2024,

2012 no. of stray dogs have been sterilized/ immunized with ward wise /complaint basis catching and all sterilized dogs have been relocated in the same area from where they were caught as per the ABC (Dogs) Rules, 2023 promulgated under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

MVO, JMC further appraised that so far a total of 38546 no. of stray dogs have been sterilized/ vaccinated within JMC limits in an estimated street dog population of 50000 by taking into account of previous ABC/ ARV

done by the JMC.

In the meeting it was decided that for the effective implementation of ABC programme within JMC limits, ward wise/ zone wise coordination committees comprising of representatives of Resident Welfare Associations and Animal activists/ volunteers constituted will work in their respective wards based on general public complaints.

For the regulation of pet dog population within JMC limits, committee decided that JMC shall intensify the awareness campaigns as well as enforcement drives

for pet dog registration with mandatory spaying of female pet dog in accordance to Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2023 & Municipal Corporation Act, 2000. Notices regarding the same shall be published accordingly.

Commissioner JMC showed his satisfaction about the implementation of the ABC programme within JMC limits and further advised that more emphasis should be laid on those areas where more unsterilized dog population still exist and dog litter (pups) are born.

He directed MVO, JMC to intensify the IEC activities to educate the general public by involving schools, colleges, universities & Resident Welfare organizations about the effectiveness of ABC/ARV programme in helping to reduce street dog population as well as eradicating rabies.

## Sensitization Program on Rights of a Voter organized by MIER College

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: The Extension Unit of MIER College organized a sensitization program on the theme of 'Importance of Voting and Rights of a Voter' at its adopted village, Purkhoo, Jammu.

The event was held on February 21, 2024. Led by Mrs. Suman Devi, 50 student members engaged villagers in an insightful dialogue.

Aashiya, a student in B.Ed. Semester I, welcomed the Sarpanch,



Panch, and audience.

A dedicated group comprising students from the School of Education and the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, including

Chavi, Shivangi, and Palak from B.Ed. Special Education, alongside Pritibha from B.A. Political Science Semester III, enlightened the residents

about their voting rights and its significance.

They emphasized that voting is a pivotal tool in empowering individuals to actively participate in shaping national decisions.

Stressing its importance as a civic duty, they highlighted its role in holding politicians accountable and fortifying the democratic framework of our nation.

The villagers, along with local leaders, lauded the initiative, acknowledging MIER College's dedication

to societal causes and youth education.

Sonia, a student from M.Ed. Semester III, proposed a formal vote of thanks, while Suman Devi expressed gratitude to all participants.

Dr. Adit Gupta, Principal of MIER College, commended the unit's endeavours in fostering awareness about voting rights, highlighting the significance of such initiatives in fostering informed citizenship and democratic engagement among rural communities.