

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Donald Trump says his criminal indictments boosted his appeal to Black voters



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BRIEFLY

Renowned educationist Prof A G Madhosh passes away

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): Renowned educationist and psychologist Prof Abdul Ghani Madhosh passed away on Saturday morning.

He was former Dean and Head school of Education, physical education, and former Director SRC Kashmir University.

His *nimaz-e-jinazah* will be performed at 10.30 am at his residence in Srinagar.

Prof. Madhosh has contributed immensely to the education policy and planning, both at the state and the national level.

Kupwara Admin seeks data for railway line extension survey

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): In a latest development vis-à-vis the extension of approximately 33.7 kilometer long railway line from Sopore to Kupwara under the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, the Kupwara administration has sought latest requisite data from various offices in the district for the purpose of 'Final Location Survey' (FLS) by the Railway authorities.

"Dy. Chief Engineer/C-II, Northern Railway, USBRL Project, Banihal vide communication under reference has conveyed that Northern Railway is conducting the Final Location Survey (FLS) for extending the Railway Line from Sopore to Kupwara. An assessment of the anticipated traffic on this proposed new line has to be made as a part of the project report which will help in deciding the requisite infrastructure at various stations," reads a communiqué by ADC Kupwara to General Manager DIC, Chief Agricultural Officer, ARTO, Assistant Director FCS&CA, Area Marketing Officer, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Society Kupwara and Executive Officer MC Kupwara/Handwara/Langate.

"Now therefore, you are requested to provide latest data pertaining to your respective departments with regard to the population of the towns in the Project area and the transportation requirement for various commodities i.e

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ECI takes strong exception to defiance of instructions on transfers, postings of officers in wake of anticipated LS Polls

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): Observing contravention to the instructions on transfers and postings of officers in wake of upcoming Lok Sabha polls, Election Commission of India has directed the offices concerned in all states and union territories to strictly adhere to and comply with the transfer policy instructed by the Commission.

Secretary, Ashwani Kumar Mohal, in a communiqué to Chief Sec-



retaries of all the States & Union Territories and Chief Electoral Officers of all the States & Union Territories that, "I am directed to refer to the

Commission's instruction of even number dated 21.12.2023 on the subject cited and to state that the said instruction clearly indi-

cated that the Commission has been following a consistent policy that officers connected with conduct of elections in an election going State/UT are not posted in their home districts or places where they have served for considerably long period."

"It has come to the Commission's notice that in certain cases officers are being transferred/posted in the adjacent districts within

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About 36% Rajya Sabha candidates declared criminal cases against themselves: ADR

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): "Thirty-six per cent of Rajya Sabha candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves while the average assets of candidates analysed stood at ₹127.81 crore," according to poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ADR and the National Election Watch analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 58 out of the 59 candidates in the fray for 56 seats in 15 States. The Rajya Sabha polls are scheduled for February 27.

Congress candidate from Karnataka G. C. Chandrashekar was omitted from the analysis due to poorly scanned documents. The analysis found that 36% of the scrutinised candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves.

Additionally, 17% of these individuals face serious criminal charges with one candidate having cases related to attempted murder.

According to the analysis, eight (27%) out of 30 BJP candidates, six (67%) out of nine Congress candidates, one

(25%) out of four TMC candidates, two (67%) out of three SP candidates, one (33%) out of three YSRCP candidates, one (50%) out of two RJD nominees, one (50%) out of two BJD candidates, and one (100%) BRS candidate have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. Moreover, the analysis delved into the financial backgrounds of the candidates.

Approximately 21% of the candidates are billionaires, boasting of assets exceeding ₹100 crore.

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SIA Kashmir files chargesheet against Sarjan Barkati, his wife & others in unlawful activities & militant financing case

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): Kashmir unit of State Investigation Agency (SIA) presented a charge sheet against Sarjan Ahmad Wagay alias Sarjan Barkati, his wife and others in a case of unlawful activities and militant financing, here on Friday. Among the others named in the chargesheet, as per a statement, include; Abdul Hamid Lone alias Hamid Mawar, an active militant of HM, based in Pakistan, abscond-

ing in this case, before the honourable Special UAPA Court, Kulgam, in case FIR No. 02 of 2023 of Police Station SIA Kashmir. The case, the statement reads, was registered on 03.03.2023 under sections 13, 17, 18, 21, 39, 40 UA(PJA) read with section 120-B IPC based in allegations that Sarjan Ahmad Wagay (aka Sarjan Barkati) son of Abdul Razaq Wagay resident of Rebban, Zainapora, Shopian, an active ideologue, pro-

moter and supporter of ongoing militant-secessionist nexus, hatched a criminal conspiracy with others which include his relatives and family members to facilitate, aid, incite, advice, advocate, and promote militant and secessionist ideologies and activities through his inflammatory speeches and through such audio video inflammatory speeches he has incited, instigated and provoked youth to join the militant ranks. "Further in

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Sub-zero night temp continue in Kashmir; minus 3.1°C in Srinagar, 9.0°C in Gulmarg

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): Freezing cold conditions continued in Kashmir Valley as Srinagar recorded minus 3.1°C on Saturday, officials said.

A meteorological department official here told GNS that Srinagar saw a fall of 0.5°C from previous night's minus 2.6°C and it was below normal by 4.0°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 3.0°C against minus 3.8°C on the previous night and it was 2.9°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the MeT official said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 7.4°C against minus 9.5°C on the previous night and it was 3.4°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 3.7°C against minus

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Narco Terror Case | NIA attaches properties of 4 accused in Handwara; Seizes over 2 Cr Cash

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday attached properties of four narco terror smugglers associated with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Jammu & Kashmir's Handwara and Kupwara district. The properties were seized as part of a narco terror module probe.

The properties belong-

ing to the four accused have been attached in Handwara. The agency also seized a total of Rs 2.27 crore in cash under Section 25 of the UA(P) Act.

The immovable properties attached include the double-storeyed house belonging to once accused Afaq Ahmad Wani, a single-storeyed residence in the name of accused

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Two-Way Traffic on Jammu-Srinagar Highway resumes with restrictions

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): Strategic Jammu-Srinagar highway has been open for two-way traffic on Saturday as plying time was fixed by the authorities.

Traffic department officials said that Jammu-Srinagar highway is open for two-way traffic today, but vehicle going to Kashmir Valley

must cross Nagrota by 2 p.m. and those going to Jammu must cross Qazigund by 3 p.m. today.

"No vehicle will be allowed to move on the highway from either side after the scheduled timings," officials said.

Jammu-Srinagar national highway is the

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Yami's 'Article 370' rakes in over Rs 5 Cr, Vidyut-Starrer 'Crakk' mints Rs 4 Cr on Day 1



MUMBAI, Feb 24 (Agencies): Bollywood actress Yami Gautam-starrer 'Article 370' has made over five crore Rupees, and action star Vidyut Jammwal's film

'Crakk: Jeetega Toh Jiyegaa!' has minted four crore Rupees on the first day of their releases.

According to Sacnilk.com, 'Article 370', which

has been directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale made Rs 5.75 crore nett in India on its first day, going by early estimates.

In 'Article 370', Yami essays the role of an intelligence officer. It tells the story of the politically charged abrogation of Article 370, which revoked the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir 'Crakk', which has been directed by Aditya Datt, has earned four

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Former MLC among dozens of pahari activists join BJP in Jammu

JAMMU, Feb 24: Dozens of Pahari activists, including a former Jammu and Kashmir MLC, joined the BJP on Saturday and pledged to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Ravinder Raina welcomed the new entrants, mostly affiliated with the National Conference, into the party fold.

Former Member of Legislative Council



(MLC) Syed Mohd Rafiq Shah, who had switched over from the National

Panthers Party to the National Conference in 2019, and his support-

ers joined the BJP at the party's headquarters in Jammu.

Several prominent Pahari leaders, including former minister Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari and former MLC Shahnaz Ganai, had earlier joined the BJP after the central government added four more communities, including the Pahari-speaking people, into the Scheduled Tribes list earlier

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

10TH DAY KRIYA & PRAYER MEET

ज जायते श्रियते वा कदाचिन्मृत्यं भूत्वा भविता वा न भुवः ।
अजो नित्यं शाश्वतीयं पुराणी न हन्ते हन्तव्याने शरीरे ॥

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.

IN FOND AND LOVING MEMORY OF BHUSHAN LAL GAROO, 10TH DAY
KRIYA WILL BE HELD AT ALANDI GHAT, PUNE, ON 26TH FEB. 2024, AT
8.30 AM.

FOLLOWED BY PRAYER MEET
AT CLUB HOUSE, CLOUD 9, NIBM ROAD, PUNE, FROM 2 PM ONWARDS.
GREATLY MISSED BY:

SHEELA GAROO - WIFE
SHIBAN LAL AND INDIRA GAROO - BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW
ASHISH AND JYOTI GAROO - SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
AMIT AND SHONIMA GAROO - SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
UMASHORI LIDOO - SISTER
SMT AND SH J.L. KACHROO - SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT & SH C.L. LIDOO - SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT AND SH C.L. PANDETA - SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT AND SH S.K. TIKOO - SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT & SH M.K. GURTOO - SISTER-IN-LAW & BROTHER-IN-LAW
KANNAN, KENEESHA, VIHAAN, ADHRIT AND SVANIK - GRAND CHILDREN
CONT: 9552543210/70066 45177

वासान्नि जौणीनि यथा विहाय, नवानि नृहान्ति नदोपानि ।
तथा शरीरानि विहाय जीर्ण, नवन्वानि संयाति नवानि देही ॥



BHUSHAN LAL GAROO

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).

TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence on **23rd February 2024 (Friday)** at **11:00 AM**.

KRIYA will be performed at our Residence on **24th February 2024 (Saturday)**.

UTHALA will be performed at our residence on **26th February 2024 (Monday)** at **04:00 PM - 05:00 PM**

GRIEF STRICKEN**Son & Daughter-in-Law**

Sh. Sukhdev Sharma & Smt. Meena Sharma
Sh. Rajesh Kumar & Smt. Rita Sharma
Daughter & Son-in-Law

Smt. Jyoti Sharma & Raman Bali



Smt. Darshna Devi

Grand Sons
Sunandan, Vishesh, Abhishek,
Apoorav & Aarav
Contact: 9469087740
9797359062

10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY :-

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



MRS SUSHMA KOUL

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.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 25-02-2024 Sunday at Akhnoor Ghat followed by Assembly at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education at 11.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Rajni Safaya - **Wife**
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Shri Sanjay & Smt. Neetu Safaya
Shri Sunil & Smt. Meenakshi Safaya
Shri Bushan Lal Safaya & Smt. Krishna Safaya - **Brother & Bhabhi**
Shri Ashok Kumar & Smt. Lalita Razdan - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Smt. Dimple Safaya - **Daughter-in-law**
Shri Raj Kumar Safaya - **Son**
Shri Vijay & Sakshi Safaya - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
Ms. Mansi & Khushbu Safaya - **Grand Daughter**
Mst. Rishi & Paras Safaya - **Grand Sons**
Mst. Arush, Nivid & Diksha Safaya - **Grand Children**
Phone No:- 9796826450, 9419648982, 6005728884, 7006163854, 9906125394



Paury Lal Safaya

CHOUBARSI

Choubarisi of our beloved Lt. Smt. **Bimla Devi** W/o Shri Ramesh Chander Gupta will be performed on Sunday 25th February 2024 at 12.00 Noon at her residence 542, Bhawani Vihar, Extn. Sec-3, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu followed by Preeti Bhoj (Lunch) in her loving remembrance, let us gather to share fond memories and celebrate the beautiful life she lived.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED AND MISSED BY:

Sh. Ramesh Chander Gupta (**Husband**)
Monika & Amit Mahajan
Ankur Mahajan (JKAS)
Shelly & Sumeet Mahajan
Sh. Jagmohan Gupta
Sh. D.K. Gupta
Smt. Suman Gupta
Meenakshi & Dr. Anil Gupta
Smt. Renu Khanna
Smt. Usha & Ramprakash Gupta
Shriya, Siddhant, Daksh & Shaurya
J&K SPORTS, J&K SCIENTIFIC AGENCIES
9419103618, 9419189650, 9419144811, 9419144810, 9419103619



Lt. Smt. Bimla Devi

TENTH DAY/KRIYA /UTHALA

With great agony and sorrow we inform that **Smt. Pushpa Khajuria** W/o Late Major AK Khajuria departed for the heavenly abode on **16th Feb 2024**.

TENTH DAY shall be performed at 11 am on **25th Feb (Sunday)** at residence, 8 East Ext Sector 1A, Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

KRIYA shall be performed at 11 AM on **26th Feb (Monday)** at residence 8 East Ext Sector 1A Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

UTHALA shall be performed at 4.30 PM to 5.30 PM on **26th Feb 2024 (Monday)** at **Shiv Mandir Sector 3 Trikuta Nagar**.

GRIEVED BY

Daughter in Law & Son
Sushma & Neeraj Khajuria
Sandhya & Dheeraj Khajuria
Daughter & Son in Law
Neera & Late Sh. Virendar Magotra

Grand Children & Great Grand Children
MOBILE NO 9419184488,
9920490492



SMT. PUSHPA KHAJURIA

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.

She left for heavenly abode on 20 Feb. 2024. May her soul attain Moksh.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 29 Feb. 2024 at Sainik School Nagrota at 09:30 am.

Grief Stricken

Razdan Family (9906350083)
Raina Family (9906174981)
Mahaldar Family (9906696904)
Bhat Family (9858178343)



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.

Contact Numbers:- 7051312567, 9419150324

Grief Stricken:**Sons and Daughter-in Laws**

Sh. Balwant Rai and Smt. Asha Gupta
Sh. Suresh Gupta and Smt. Sangeeta Gupta
Late Naresh Gupta (Dy.Sp) and Smt. Prakriti Gupta
Daughters and Son-in Laws
Smt. Chander Kanta and Late Kapil Gupta
Smt. Rajni Gupta and Sh. Shristy Paul
Smt. Suman Gupta and Sh. Tehinder Gupta
Smt. Sangeeta Gupta and Sh. Anil Gupta

Grand Sons and Daughter in Law

Sh. Sumit Gupta and Smt. Ankita Gupta
Sh. Rajan Mahajan and Smt. Sonam Mahajan
Adv. Rahul Mahajan and Adv. Sarita Mahajan
Sh. Sajjan Mahajan and Dr. Sonakshi Gupta
Sh. Arunesh Gupta and Smt. Anandita Mahajan
Grand Daughter and Son in law
Smt. Neha Mahajan and Sh. Swapan Mahajan
Great Grand Children
Vivaan, Viraj, Saumya, Shivay, Kabir, Bhaskar, Shreenika, Noodan



LATE SH SAIN DASS GUPTA

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. Shoppora (Magam) Handwara Dist Kupwara. At present Flat No. 6 Block No 86 Lane No 18 Jagti Colony, who left us for heavenly abode on 21st Feb 2024.

May Lord Grant Peace to her divine soul.

10TH KRIYA will be performed at Thajwal Mata Baderkali Asthapan on 29th Feb 2024 (Thursday)

Assembly will be held at 11.00 AM at residence mentioned above.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT & SH KULDEEP KUMAR SHAH (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)
SMT & SH SANJAY KR SHAH (SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW)
SMT & SH SANIL KR SHAH (SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW)
SMT & SH PREM NATH BHAT (DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW)
SMT & SH S N BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)
MOBILE NO 9622007694, 7006714389



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. Mourning is being held at House No 100A, Sector 4, Saugat Lane, Pamposh Colony, Janipura, Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on March 1, 2024 (Friday) at Akhnoor Ghat and the assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 11.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-**Daughters-in-law and Sons**

Smt. Neetu and Anil Koul
Smt. Veena Koul
Smt. Lovely and Ajit Koul
Smt. Dolly and Ramesh Koul
Smt. Seema and Rajinder Koul
Daughters and Sons-in-law
Smt. Rajni and Rakesh Bhat
Smt. Girija and Pradeep Bhat
Smt. Anjali and Anil Koul
Sakshi, Shivansh and Rushil
Kouls, Bhats, Ganjoos
Phones: 9811447592, 9086037293, 9419237293, 9711244061



SMT. PHOOLA KOUL

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.

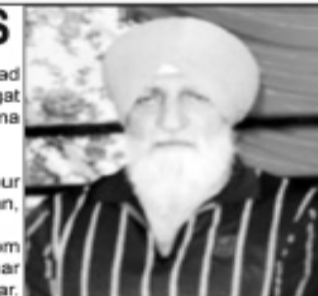
PROGRAMME:

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 23-02-2024 at our residence W.No. 7, House no.126, Mohalla Kama Khan, Poonch.

Kirtan and Antim Ardas on 25-02-2024(Sunday) from 10:00 am to 12:00 at Gurudwara Baithak Sant Bhai Mohar Singh Jee (near distt. Hospital) followed by Guru Ka Langar.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sdn. Birtha Kour (**Mother**)
Sdn. Sushinder Kour (**Wife**)
Manmohit Singh (**Son**)
Brothers & Sister-in-laws:
Sdn. Ranjeet Kour & S. Kulwant Singh (Retd. Principal)
Sdn. Satinder Kour & S. Rajinder Pal Singh (Retd. Principal)
Sdn. Jagjeet Kour & S. Rachpal Singh (Retd. Principal)
Sisters & Brother-in-laws:
Sdn. Pritam Kour W/o Late Prof. Sudershan Singh
Ramesh Kour W/o S. Kuldeep Singh
Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law:
Sdn. Parvinder Kour & S. Tarlok Singh (Retd. ZEO)
Sdn. Tajinder Kour & S. Jatinder Singh (Retd. E.D. NHPG)
Mobile : 7780944842 9797584896



S. Daljeet Singh

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH ASHOK KUMAR PANDITA** S/O LATE SH SAROOP NATH PANDITA R/O NEW PALAM VIHAR (ORIGINALLY FROM SHERWANI COLONY, KHOJA BAGH, BARAMULLA) WHO LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 17/02/2024.

THE TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT SH GAURI SHANKER TEMPLE IN T BLOCK , SECTOR 109, DWARKA EXPRESSWAY, NEW PALAM VIHAR, GURGAON ON (MONDAY) 26TH OF FEBRUARY FROM 8:30 AM ONWARDS.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT KIRAN PANDITA (WIFE)
SMT AMBIKA & SH RITESH PANDITA - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT RITIKA AND SH MITHIL DESHMUKH - DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW
SMT VEENA AND SH RAVINDER PANDITA - SISTER-IN-LAW & BROTHER
SMT PUMMY AND SH BHUPINDER SHALLA - SISTER-IN-LAW & BROTHER
SMT RAJNI AND SH JATINDER GARGOO - SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW
GRAND CHILDREN : RUANSHI, RUDRANSH
KASIDS, KABOOS & SAPROOS



Sh Ashok Kumar Pandita

MOBILE: 9891810432, 9797487416, 9419287921

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.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 22-02-2024 at 11.00 am at their residence.

13th Day/Uthala will be performed on 25-02-2024 at 12.00 Noon at their residence.

Grief Stricken

Smt. Kamla Devi- **Wife**
Sh. Sooram Singh and Darshna Devi- **Brother-in-Law & Sister**
Sh. Gurcharan Singh and Lt. Nirmala Devi- **Brother-in-Law & Sister**
Sh. Rajesh Jasrotia and Kusum Jasrotia- **Son-in-Law & Daughter**
Sh. Chiketan Singh and Raj Lakshmi- **Son-in-Law & Daughter**
Sh. Balbir Singh and Antima- **Son-in-Law & Daughter**
Sh. Sachin Dev and Neha Manhas- **Son & Daughter-in-Law**
And All Manhas Family
Mob. No.: 9796653531, 7780984057, 7006066968



Shri Kuldeep Singh Manhas

10TH DAY/KRIYA

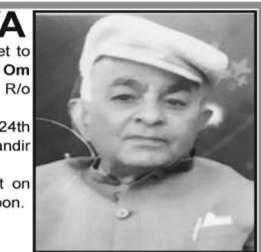
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Om Parkash Gupta** S/o Late Sh. Bhaguram R/o M.I.G-12, Housing Colony, Udhampur.

Tenth Day will be performed on Saturday 24th February, 2024 at 12.00 Noon at Shiv Mandir First Floor, Housing Colony, Udhampur.

Kriya will be performed at Devika Ghat on Tuesday 27th February, 2024 at 12.00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Raj Kumari - **Wife**
Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh. Jyoti Parkash Gupta & Late Smt. Chanchla Gupta
Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law
Smt. Suketi Kumar Dogra & Smt. Shoba Dogra
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Rama Gupta & Sh. Vinod Gupta
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt. Neelam Gupta & Sh. Kishore Kr. Gupta
Smt. Neera Rani & Sh. Rajesh Gupta
HIGHWAY SHOES
Mob: 9419216749, 9469223244, 9419162241



SH. OM PARKASH GUPTA

OBITUARY/ 10TH DAY KRIYA

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

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 22.02.2024 at Akhnoor followed by Assembly at Muthi Ghat at 11.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Nancy Bhat (**Wife**)
(Daughter in law and Son)

Gayatri and Abhiyot Bhat
Urvesh and Abhishek Bhat

Vijay and Tej Krishan Bhat (Bhabhi and Brother)

Prana and Ramesh Kumar Bhat (Bhabhi and Brother)

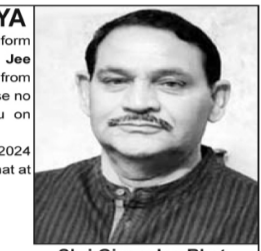
Veena and Vinod Kumar Bhat (Bhabhi and Brother)

Dulari and M. L. Raina (Sister and Brother in Law)

Nancy and B. L. Bhat (Sister and Brother in Law)

Sunita and Ravi Kaul (Sister and Brother in Law)

Contact No : 6006089535, 9419120180, 600595792, 9149876058.



Shri Gyan Jee Bhat

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

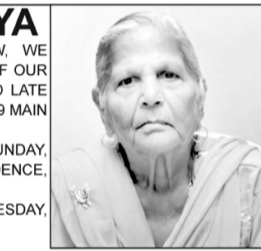
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT SHANTI DEVI GUPTA** W/O LATE SH BISHAN DAS MAHAJAN R/O WARD NO 9 MAIN BAZAR, HIRANAGAR.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON SUNDAY, 25 FEB 2024 AT 11.00 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE, HIRANAGAR.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON WEDNESDAY, 28 FEB 2024 AT 11.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SH. ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA - **SON(ELDER)**
DAUGHTER IN LAW (ELDER)
SMT. NEELAM GUPTA
SH. VINOD KUMAR GUPTA (**SON**) & SMT SHASHI GUPTA(**DAUGHTER IN LAW**)
MOB: 8493098845, +91 84920 02524, +91 99714 41324



Smt Shanti Devi Gupta

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.

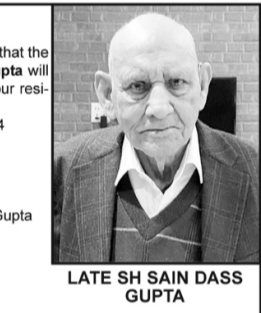
Contact Numbers:- 7051312567, 9419150324

Grief Stricken:

Sons and Daughter-in Laws
Sh. Balwant Rai and Smt. Asha Gupta
Sh. Suresh Gupta and Smt. Sangeeta Gupta
Late Naresh Gupta (Dy.Sp) and Smt. Prakriti Gupta
Daughters and Son-in Laws
Smt. Chander Kanta and Late Kapil Gupta
Smt. Rajni Gupta and Sh. Shristy Paul
Smt. Suman Gupta and Sh. Tehinder Gupta
Smt. Sangeeta Gupta and Sh. Anil Gupta

Grand Sons and Daughter in Law

Sh. Sumit Gupta and Smt. Ankita Gupta
Sh. Rajan Mahajan and Smt. Sonam Mahajan
Adv. Rahul Mahajan and Adv. Sarita Mahajan
Sh. Sajjan Mahajan and Dr. Sonakshi Gupta
Sh. Arunesh Gupta and Smt. Anandita Mahajan
Grand Daughter and Son in law
Smt. Neha Mahajan and Sh. Swapan Mahajan
Great Grand Children
Vvvaan, Viraj, Saumya, Shivay, Kabir, Bhaskar, Shreenika, Noodan



LATE SH SAIN DASS GUPTA

MOURNING FROM MALUIN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Brother-in-law Sh. Gyan Ji Bhat** H/o smt. Nancy Bhat of Monghama Pulwama at present Barnai on 20th of Feb 2024.

Mourning from maluin side presently observing at Community Hall Jagti, backside Lane No. 25 near Block 152.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Rich tributes paid to Sheikh Nazir on his 9th death anniversary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Rich tributes were paid to former National Conference General Secretary Sheikh Nazir Ahmed on his 9th death anniversary with senior leaders leading the remembrances.

Leading the party leaders and prominent workers in paying homage to the late leader at a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan here this morning, Additional General Secretary and former minister Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal said that Sheikh Nazir will always inspire the National Conference cadre for his simplicity, honesty, selfless service, organizational capabilities and political acumen, adding that he stood by his cherished principles till last without opting any position of power.

Dr. Kamaal said that Sheikh Nazir was one of the rare and front-ranking leaders across the country, who lived a very simple life and served the people most.

In his homage, Additional General Secretary and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra said that Sheikh Nazir was a pillar of the organization, who remained connected with the cadre at grass roots level all his life.



Dwelling upon various facets of his illustrious political odyssey, Sadhotra said: "Nazir Sahib has left an indelible mark of selfless service which will continue to guide and inspire the younger generations and influence their political journey."

He said the Nazir Sahib shaped the destiny of the National Conference as a strong mass movement that strived for dignity and honour of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

Recalling the qualities of head and heart of the former General Secretary, the Provincial Secretary Jammu Sheikh Bashir said, "The best tribute to Nazir Sahib would be to strive for steering the state to peace and progress besides empowering the people at grass roots level."

On his 9th death anniversary we salute Nazir

Sahab's legacy and paying glowing tributes to him", Sheikh Bashir said.

Former minister and President Central Zone Babu Rampaul described Sheikh Nazir as a pioneering leader who stood for high values in politics and public life. He said the former General Secretary worked tirelessly for the betterment of the people, especially the poor, and strengthened the party at grass roots level.

In his homage, former minister and Zonal President Udhampur Reasi Zone Abdul Gani Malik said that Sheikh Nazir Sahib worked tirelessly for uplifting the people belonging to down-trodden sections of the society.

In his homage, Zonal President Pir Panjal Zone and senior leader Javed Ahmed Rana said that service to the people remained the focal point of the life of Sheikh Nazir Sahib.

He said the late leader remained steadfast in his commitment to the party and worked to ameliorate the lot of the people.

Paying homage to Nazir Sahib, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell and Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban and Ragbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural "A" said, "Late Nazir Sahib stood for his principles until his last breath. He was an honest and hard working leader who epitomized simplicity in his personal life."

Earlier in the morning special prayers and Qur'an Khani were organized for eternal peace to the departed soul by G.H Malik Senior leader at Sher-e- Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu.

Prominent among those present on this occasion included Qazi Jalal Ud Din Ex-MLA,

Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Pardeep Bali and Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Vijay Lakshmi Datta Sr. leader, Jugal Mahajan Treasurer, Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Bashir Ahmed Wani Sr leader, Waris Gill President Christian Cell, Harshvardhan Singh President NCSU, Ram Parshotam District President Udhampur Rural, Ashok Dogra Ex-Corporator, Rita Gupta Vice President Central Zone, Dr. Vikas Sharma Secretary Central Zone, Master Aslam Secretary Central Zone, Sandesh Shan Secretary Central Zone, Som Raj Taroch Secretary Central Zone, Randhir Singh Chib District Vice President Jammu Rural A, S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, S. Parvinder Singh Block President Gandhi Nagar, Mohinder Singh Block President Khour, Devi Dayal Jogi Block Secretary Khour, Surjeet Singh Sasan Secretary Central Zone, Karan Singh, Naresh Anthal, Prabhat Kaphai, Vishal Thakur, Jahangir Mughal, Varun, Deeraaj, Ajit Singh, Raja Naveed Joint Secretary Central Zone, Reyaz Ahmed Hakla, Pritpal Singh, Dr Amina and others.

Parkash Utsav of Guru Ravidas celebrated



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Parkash Utsav of Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj was celebrated at Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Krishna Nagar Jammu under the Chairmanship of Piran Ditta President All J&K Guru Ravidas Sabha (Regd) HQ, Krishna Nagar Jammu.

Sangat from all parts of Jammu Province started reaching Gurudwara Krishna Nagar from early morning.

To seek the blessings of Guru Sahib, along with families Gurudwara Bhawan was highly decorated by Sabha and Bhajan Kirtan started continuously. Sewadars were alert to their sewa duties in very disciplined manner.

Dharmic Dewan and Shardhanjali Samaroh started at 11 AM with large number of devotees attending the function.

Children presented cultural programmes and vow to Guru ji with their beautiful dances and Bhajans which was highly admired by sangat.

Renowned singers from different parts of J&K UT and from Punjab paid their respectful homage to Great Guru Ravidass through their Bhagati Sangeet.

Raman Bhalla Ex. Minister and working President of AICC J&K UT was Chief Guest on this occasion and BR Kundal Ex. Minister was Guest of Honour. Both leaders also paid floral tribute to Guru ji and stressed need of unity and brotherhood.

Speaking on this occasion, Piran Ditta President threw light on life and mission of Guru Ravidas Ji and said Guru Sahib ki Pavitar Bani teaches us to stand for truth and to be kind to

human beings. Today, we have the opportunity on holy birthday of Guru Sahib to spread his pious teachings and be united.

He further highlighted that our samaj is duty bound to save the constitution of India-given to us by Bharat Rattan Baba Sahib Dr. BR Ambedkar. Any attempt to change in constitution will be fought tooth and nail by All Dalit Samaj of India. Message of equality, brotherhood will be taken from town to town and this will be real shradhanjali to Great Guru Ravidas Ji.

Prominent members of Ravidassia Samaj attended function and spoken Raj Kumar Raja, Dr. Rai Pal Hans. Mulkh Raj. Romesh Hans, Darshan Rana, Deepak Bangotra, Banarsi Dass Digra, Joginder Digra, Chaman Lal, Om Parkash, Krishan Sangral President Kabir Colony and Sham.

DMA Jammu releases Calendar of Activities for year 2024



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: District Mountaineering Association (DMA), Jammu would give more thrust to Adventure Picnics and short treks to Heritage sights and less frequented beauty spots of Jammu in holy Trikuta hills especially Jungle Gali and Devi Pindian areas, Pancheri and Mougri area and the neglected forts in the Surinsar-Mansar area for school students during the current year.

It was announced by Sonam Sidharth, General Secretary of the District Association, while highlighting the detail of activities included in the Calendar of Activities of the Club for the year 2024, which was released in a simple but impressive function held at Press Club of Jammu.

Sanjeev Gupta, Chairman of The Shri Ram Universal School and Shobha Rajput, the pioneer sport climber of J&K, jointly released the Calendar of Activities along with President of the District Association Rakesh Goswami, General Secretary Sonam Sidharth, Vice Presidents Navneet Gupta and Sushil Singh, Treasurer Shashi Kant

and executive members Sunil Chakharia, Sakshi Magotra and Anu Sharma.

Highlighting the activities to be undertaken by the club this year General Secretary of the Association mentioned that this year the Association shall organize three trekking expeditions including one to Triund (10000ft) in Dhauladhar Range in Himachal Pradesh in March, Saroli meadow (9000ft) near Jungle Gali for Junior members in May and a five days trek from Dudu to Seoj Dhar for senior members in September, 2024. Besides, a Heritage Trekking Programme in Kangra area of Himachal Pradesh shall also be organized for about 200 students starting from heritage week in October to December, 2024.

To spot the talent in sport climbing at the grass root level and to groom it for future competitions the Association has an ambitious plan of conducting year long coaching camps and monthly competitions for sport climbers including physically and visually challenged ones.

A UT level sport climbing competition exclusively for women

shall also be conducted by the Association at sprawling buds ICSE School in the month of March, 2024 besides an Open Union Territory level sport climbing competition in October, 2024. However, the club has not so far been able to identify the area for the conduct of a mass Himalayan Trekking Programme for about 300 school children during summer vacations and the same shall be announced as and when finalized.

Another ambitious plan of the Association is to contribute towards protection and preservation of nature by planting 300 saplings in the Pancheri -Mougri area in Udhampur district besides saving and caring for the natural springs and other water bodies in the area.

Rakesh Goswami, President of the District Association while addressing the members announced that in order to spread awareness about the importance of environment, wild life, mountains and cleanliness the Association shall celebrate World Environment Day, Wild Life Week, International Mountain Day and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Manjit Singh pays obeisance at Shree Guru Ravidas Ji Temple

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Feb 24: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Saturday paid his obeisance at the temple of Sant Shiromani Shree Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj Jayanti at Channi Manhasan in Vijaypur in District Samba.

As per the press release, the Former Minister was accompanied by prominent people and former Panchayat members during his visit to the temple where he paid his respects to mark the celebration of Ravidas Ji Jayanti.

The Former Minister

was also accompanied by District President, Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti.

While extending greetings to the people, he remembered the welfare work of Shree Guru Ravidass Ji for mankind irrespective of their identity.

He said that the auspicious occasion contributes towards the unity in the society and promotes rational thinking while helping the people to eradicate the superstition.

He said that the Jayanti was celebrated with enthusiasm and zeal by the people that has provided opportunity for equality.

Dimple prays to Guru Ravidas for restoration of J&K statehood



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood, on Saturday visited Guru Ravidas Temple, Rehari and to take part in Guru Ravidas Jayanti with the devotees joined in thousands women, children, elders, who joined to listen Muni Vinay. Muni Vinay showed

the path shown by Guru Ravidas and said only the teachings of Guru Ravidas is only the way for peace, happiness to reach to god.

Dimple prayed to Guru Ravidas for the restoration of J&K statehood with special status, peace, normalcy, communal harmony, brotherhood in our families and in J&K.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BHADERWAH

xsnbhadwahrb66@gmail.com

FRESH SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No.:- 70 of 2023-24 Dated:- 21-02-2024

E-tenders(Online)areinvitedfromreputedparties/agencies/Vehicle Owners forsupplyingvehicles One Number Mahindra Bolero (Top Model Optional)for official use of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division BhaderwahInterestedparties/agencies who are willing to comply with the terms and conditions annexed to thisnotice may submit their bids, online, as given in the instructions for online bidsubmission(Annexure-D).

ThresholdbeattachmentsforTechnicalBid(Annexure-A),FinancialBidinBOQFormat(Annexure-B)andTenderAcceptanceLetter(Annexure-C).TheFinancialBid/Bidswillbetakenupononlyifthetechnicalspecificationsarefoundatisfactory;otherwisetheTenderwill bestraightwayrejected.

Details of tender notice are available on the website:-www.jktenders.gov.in

The details of the Vehicle to be hired is under:

Sr. No.	Category	No. of Vehicles required	Usage
1.	Mahindra Bolero (Top Model Optional)	01(One)	Tobused on daily basis
A. This office may surrender the vehicle, if not needed by Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Bhaderwah by issuing 10Days notice.			

Data Sheet
Hiring of vehicle One Number Mahindra Bolero (Top Model Optional) for official use of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Bhaderwah

Item	Description
Name of the hirer	Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Bhaderwah
Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Bhaderwah
Tender Name	Hiring of Vehicle
Tender No.	e-NIT 70 of 2023-24
Call	3 rd Time
Method of Selection	Open E-Tender
Availability of Tender Documents	Tobedownloadedfromwww.jktenders.gov.in
Date and time of Tender notice Issuance	21-02-2024
Period of availability of Bidding Documents on website www.jktenders.gov.in	21-02-2024 to 28-02-2024
Bid Submission start date	21-02-2024
Cost Of Tender Document	Rs. 600/- (Rupees Six Hundred non-refundable) only in the form of e-challan/treasury challan/Receipt favoring to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue)
EMD	CDR/FDR for Rs.10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) Pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah. If the vehicle is not provided within 15 Days the CDR/FDR will be forfeited.
Last date and time for Bid/Proposal submission (On or before)	28-02-2024 04:00 PM
Bid Opening Time, Date & Venue	12:00 PM on 29-02-2024 in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Bhaderwah
Language of Bid Submission	ENGLISH
Currency	Indian Rupees (INR)
Period of Hiring	24 Months which can be extended

E-tender for hiring of Motor Vehicle for official use of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Bhaderwah Document Download: Tender documents may be downloaded from Jammu and Kashmir Portal at www.jktenders.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders who have not enrolled/registered in the procurement should enroll/register before participating through the website. The portal enrollment is free of cost. Bidders are advised to go through instructions provided at Annexure-D regarding Instructions for Online Bid Submission.

No.:- EE/PWD/R&B/BHD/2023-24/3935-46
Dated :- 21-02-2024

Sd/-
(Er. Rajinder Kumar)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Bhaderwah

DIP/J-15382/23

EDITORIAL

GURU RAVIDAS
JAYANTI

It is said that when Ravidas ji was born on the full moon day of Magh month, it was a Sunday, due to which he was named Ravidas. He was born on the full moon day of Magha month. Saint Ravidas was born on Magh Purnima in 1376 AD, in Gobardhanpur village in Varanasi city of Uttar Pradesh. His mother's name was Karma Devi (Kalsa) and father's name was Santokh Das (Raghu). His grandfather's name was Shri Kaluram ji and grandmother's name Lakhpatri ji. His wife's name was Lonaji and the son's name was Shrivijay Das ji. Ravidas ji cobbler being from a clan, he used to make shoes. They worked with full dedication and hard work. He was born at a time when North India

when there was Mughal rule in some areas, atrocities all around, poverty, corruption and illiteracy were prevalent. At that time, efforts were made by Muslim rulers to convert Hindus into Muslims. Saint Ravidas's fame was continuously increasing due to which there were lakhs of his devotees which included people of every caste. Seeing everything, a learned Muslim 'Sadna Peer' told him to become Muslim. He thought that if Ravidas becomes a Muslim, millions of his devotees will also become Muslim. Thinking like this, he attacked them in every way. Pressure was created but Saint Ravidas was a saint. He was concerned with humanity and not with any Hindu or Muslim. Saint Ravidasji was very kind and charitable. Saint Ravidas, through his couplets and verses, removed caste based discrimination in the society, laid emphasis on social unity and laid the foundation of humanistic values. Ravidasji wrote directly that 'Raidas, no one is despicable by birth, no man is despicable, he is despicable by his deeds', that is, any person is despicable only by his deeds. The person who does wrong things is despicable. No person is ever inferior by birth. Saint Ravidas has used the Braj language of the common people for his poems. Besides, it also contains a mixture of words from Awadhi, Rajasthani, Khari Boli and Rekhta i.e. Urdu-Persian. About forty verses of Ravidasji have also been included in 'Guru Granth Sahib', the holy scripture of Sikhism.

It is said that Swami Ramanandacharya is a great saint of Vaishnav Bhakti sect. Saint Ravidas was his disciple. Saint Ravidas is considered a contemporary and Gurubhai of Saint Kabir. Kabirdas ji himself has recognized him by calling him 'Ravidas in the children'. Krishna devotee poet Meerabai of Rajasthan was his disciple. It is also said that Jhali Rani, wife of Rana Sanga of Chittor, became his disciple. There is an umbrella of Saint Ravidas in Chittor. It is believed that he ascended to heaven from there. Although there is no official description, it is said that he left his body in Varanasi in 1540 AD. There is a grand temple and monastery of Saint Ravidas in Varanasi. Where people of all castes come to visit. There is Sri Guru Ravidas Park in Varanasi which has been built in his memory in Nagwa which is named 'Guru Ravidas Memorial and Park' in his name.

Agreed, nation always comes first... but what about Sita?

By: Shobhaa De

"Sarvapratham Bharat" sounds like the title of Vivek Oberoi's next film, starring him and Akshay Kumar as soul-brothers. It will not be a "family-oriented" blockbuster. That idea belongs to INDIA (with or without the full stops in between the five letters). Union home minister Amit Shah spelt out the BJP's "Sarvapratham Bharat" vision at the Prabuddhjan Sammelan in Jaipur/Udaipur. In simple lingo, Shri Shah is telling voters that the only way forward is to toe the BJP line and place the country first. And last, too. Hello! Country First has always been the driving force and commitment for Indian citizens, regardless of which political party is in power. Khair... Shri Shah reminded us that under Prime Minister Narendra's Modi's leadership, "Sarvapratham Bharat" will be a single-point mission, which will not only guide India and Indians, but "the entire world". Amidst lusty cries of "Abki baar, 400 paar" and "Jai Shri Ram" from the audience, Shri Shah said his government will "not allow any community riots". Operative word: "Allow".

A pity that so many citizens are not evolved enough to appreciate these noble intentions, and continue with silly behavior. Like members of the Bengal VHP who went to court over a lion named Akbar and a lioness named Sita, sharing the same enclosure they'd happily been occupying as compatible roomies at the Tripura Zoo. Which law was breached? Why was the precious time of the Siliguri bench of the Calcutta high court wasted by cheap publicity seekers? Err... did anybody ask the lion and lioness what they felt about being

separated by idiotic humans? Absurdities piled on absurdities as the Akbar-Sita jodi "news" made waves. To start with, we need to rethink the concept of zoos -- it's cruel to remove animals from their natural habitats and place them in enclosures to be gawked at by humans looking for amusement -- at the expense of those mute creatures. Then comes this debate over names. Where does it end? It's zoo animals today, but it could be you and me tomorrow, if we dare to call our kids or pets by names that hurt "religious sentiments". I'm seriously thinking about our nine doggos -- are their names politically-correct? Should we be worried that someone will sue and separate our beloved furry friends from us?

Speaking of Sita (the real one), my school friend Rashna Imhasly-Gandhy, psychologist and author, wrote a strong and thought-provoking piece for The Wire titled "In Ram's hailing, Sita was forgotten. Her revival would have symbolised healing for men and women...", which provided a much-needed perspective in the aftermath of the Ram Mandir's opening in Ayodhya. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spoken, after consecrating the Ram statue in the new premises, of the need to create a Ram Rajya that embodies the virtues of a just, inclusive and compassionate rule." She argues it would have been a fitting moment to not only welcome back Ram but also resurrect his consort... She concludes her essay by stating: "A new, peaceful and respectful movement should start today for every Sita to rise in the hearts of every woman."

Coincidentally, while I was still thinking about the countless Sitas in India over the

past two millennia, I encountered another inspiring, iconic woman -- Draupadi. "Jaya -- The Victory!" is a rock musical of the Mahabharata, produced and directed by Lillete Dubey. I was moved to tears during the dramatic "vas-taharan" scene -- the turning point in the epic. Ironically, we have two extraordinary, indomitable women -- Sita and Draupadi -- symbols of courage and resilience. Both deserve our veneration and respect. Instead, we are busy creating leonine separations in zoos!

A social environment that encourages puerile "controversies" instead of throwing them into the dustbin indicates a political hawa that's sympathetic towards any and every matter which can be manipulated to generate suspicion and hate between communities. People who claim that things are not soooooo bad need a reality check. In our zeal to reclaim what we perceive as our lost legacy, we are encouraging bigotry and feeding into hate. Political philosopher and Harvard professor Michael Sandel, often described as an intellectual "with the global profile of a rock star", says: "As an interested outside observer, I'm struck by the deep polarisation in India now..."

Inciting riots is the job of hired goons without anything at stake -- not even their own lives. These are professional rioters, paid to generate trouble. Some of them double up as actors, donning different costumes, assuming identities and parroting lines given to them by riot organisers, who in turn are agents of different political parties. Social media manipulation has never been as easy. Anybody with a smartphone can shoot potentially dangerous videos and upload them to generate

narratives that are neither accurate nor authentic. But hey -- does anyone bother to cross-check?

Skewered takes on practically anything and everything have swamped and choked the social media. Deepfakes and AI-generated material are so rampant that it's near impossible to counter them. If even top stars like Vidya Balan and others have to invest time, money and energy to protect their reputations in the aftermath of scams featuring them, imagine the rest of us. A single line plucked out of a long podcast can so easily be converted into a mega controversy with just a super-imposed, inflammatory heading. We live in a post-truth era where diminishing attention spans lead to massive misrepresentation and conjecture. Political parties pounce on exactly these golden opportunities to shame their critics/opponents. No point whining about it, since there's little or nothing that can be done to actually prevent such blatant misrepresentation in future.

"Sarvapratham Bharat" is here. "INDIA" doesn't count. The mother and son (Sonia and Rahul) are stuck in quicksand. Rats have abandoned the sinking Congress ship and been welcomed by the BJP. In 1957, Chairman Mao Zedong urged his countrymen to "let a hundred flowers bloom... and a hundred schools of thought contend". Ostensibly, the Chinese intelligentsia were invited to publicly criticise the political system... but it turned out to be a deadly trap to flush out and identify all the dissidents. Those who aired anti-Mao views were executed. A lesson worth remembering as thousands of lotuses bloom across India.

Of Rolex watches and other thefts... Is London in grip of a crime wave?

By: Farrukh Dhondy

A masked villain mugs a London tourist and takes his twenty-five-thousand-pound Rolex watch. He justifies his action saying "This fellow has a French villa, three Rolls-Royces and a yacht. I live in a hovel, don't have an income and so need his watch more than he does." How would you respond?

You might say: "These are the inevitable inequalities of our world. That doesn't justify your crime."

Suppose he then quotes Proudhon: that "all proper tea is theft". (You've got that wrong, you idiot. Proudhon said: "All property is theft!" --Ed. Sorry yaar, wretched predictive text... --fd)

Or you may think this thief is working towards correcting the crass injustice of this world where people don't get rich by working hard, but by making other people work hard. Or by gaming the system as Hedgeie Sunoch did.

These thoughts, gentle reader, are prompted by a couple of experiences. The first was, I can proudly say, watching the documentary made for the BBC by my daughter Tir Dhondy. It was about the Rolex thieves and Tir boldly interviewed several of these face-masked, anonymous

muggers and snatchers who spoke in great detail and quite menacingly about their operations.

They work in gangs and in several of the sequences in which Tir confronted them, alone or in clusters, they carried weapons -- guns, machetes and knives. She asked one of them whether he had any qualms about stealing a Rolex watch from an old, helpless lady. His reply, if I remember right was something like "It's my job, morality doesn't come into it, and if it did, I wouldn't be doing what I do."

Of course, several friends who saw the documentary remarked how courageous Tir was to get immersed in this murky and multi-million-pound criminal world. A jeweller from whom I bought a modestly-priced bracelet for Tir -- no! not as a reward for being courageous, but for her thirtieth birthday -- told me that there were diamond-studded gold Rolex watches worth millions of pounds. The one on his wrist may not have been one of those, but it did look large and expensive. As we talked, I pulled the sleeve of my jacket adequately over my right wrist to cover my nineteen-pound watch. I might add that I am not in the least ashamed of this instrument as it tells the time accurately, is absolutely water-proof as it

resists being dipped in baths and swimming pools and doesn't bore me or anyone else by telling me how much money I spent at the bar a few minutes ago or switching on the drawing-room lights without my going to the switch on the wall. Those functions, which other watch-owners boast about, strike me as a form of idleness.

The second trigger for these recollections of the criminal dialogue was an encounter with a rich young British Indian lady who lives occasionally in London and says she despairs at the amount of street crime on central London's streets. She had several anecdotes of her friends, or acquaintances of friends, being mugged in open daylight for the earrings, necklaces or expensive watches they were wearing. She said she was very wary of going out onto London's streets with any forcibly transferable adornment.

I have a lady friend who was mugged a few yards from her home in south-east London. She has long been a resident of south-east London and not a rich visitor. It was in the daytime when a young man passing her, riding a bicycle on the pavement, suddenly called her attention saying she'd dropped something. She looked down and was certain she hadn't, but as her

attention was on the pavement behind her, he snatched the two necklaces she was wearing and swiftly pedalled away.

The first young lady, who was wary of the London streets, insisted that London was now the most street-crime-ridden city in the world. I am not used to reaching for my mobile phone and checking on the Internet if this sort of statement can be substantiated or is manifestly false, so I didn't contradict her. She was of the opinion that the mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, was responsible for this rise in crime. In fact, the 2023 figures for street crime are higher than those in 2021, but they are still lower than those for 2018. They've fallen since. (OK. I did look it up later on my computer).

This prepossessing young lady is not alone in blaming Sadiq who does, with the home secretary, have some responsibility for, but limited powers of control over, the Metropolitan Police. Sadiq has for the past few months convened consultations on renaming branches of the network of the city railways, known as the "OVERGROUND". From autumn this year, he has concluded, sections of this network will be called names such as The Windrush Line, The Suffragette Line, etc.

Khajuria for strengthening three-tier Child Protection Mechanism

Top News Report

NEWSHERA, Feb 24: Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, President of National Development Foundation Jammu, called for Strengthening the Three-Tier Child Protection Mechanism as envisioned in Mission Vatsalya to supplement the principles laid down in Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2015. He was speaking at an Awareness Camp organized by the Village Child Welfare and Protection Committee Handan in collaboration with the National Development Foundation Jammu/Rajouri, District Child Protection Unit Rajouri and Tehsil Social Welfare Office Nowshera. More than 100 women, youth and



children participated in the camp. Prominent among others present and spoke on the occasion include Kabir Husain, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Nowshera, Suresh Choudhary, Member Child Welfare Committee Rajouri, Sukhdev Choudhary, Ex. Sarpanch Langar, Dr. Deep Choudhary,

Sunny Kumar, Programme Manager NDF, Amit Kundal, Programme Officer NDF and representatives of Health, Education and Mission Poshan. Elaborating, Rajiv Khajuria sensitized the Community Members on various provisions of Mission Vatsalya and called upon the com-

munities to contribute to ensuring the children's best interest. He emphasized that the Juvenile Justice Act is about catering to the basic needs of Care, Protection, Development, Treatment and Social Integration of the Children in need of Care & Protection and Children in Conflict with

Law in a Child-Friendly manner with an objective of their overall rehabilitation.

Complementing the role of District Magistrate Rajouri O.P. Bhagat, Rajiv Khajuria informed the audience that District Administration Rajouri is fully committed to the welfare and development of children and District Magistrate Rajouri, in a recently held meeting of the District Level Child Welfare and Protection Committee, has directed all the concerned Departments and stakeholders to ensure the best interest of the children in the district. Khajuria assured technical support and assistance from the National Development Foundation for strengthening the Child Protection Mechanism in the district.

DPAP organises workers convention, felicitates newly ST President Kulgam



Top News Report

KULGAM, Feb 24: A programme was organized by DPAP Party workers at the house of ST District President of DPAP Party Chaudhary Nazir Ahmad at Muskhud Gujar Basti, Devsar, in which the party's relationship with the Gujar community was organized. Many workers took

part here especially Chaudhary Nazir Ahmed was congratulated by DPAP party for becoming the district president of ST. Party workers and people welcomed DPAP party and thanked the party. People seemed very happy with this decision of the party and they were feeling very happy with this decision of Ghulam Nabi Azad

Sahib and Muhammad Amin Butt Sahib while speaking on this occasion ST District President Chaudhary Nazir Ahmad promised the people that he will try his best to fulfill their every legitimate demand and try to solve every problem of the people belonging to the Gujar community not only in the district but also in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rajesh Gupta hails CAT's decision urges to adopt same for SSB

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) Chairman Rajesh Gupta on Saturday hailed the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Srinagar Bench's decision in which Srinagar Bench has passed strictures against the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (PSC) for taking the court cases casually. JWF leader has urged to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) to make the precedent and adopt the similar decision for the Service Selection Board (SSB). Rajesh Gupta mentioned the CAT's statement, "The Public Service Commission is a creation of a statute as such a Constitutional entity and such casual approach from any institution which selects the



cream of bureaucracy and other allied fields is highly deplorable", Gupta said on the same pretext the Service Selection Board (SSB) should be dealt with. Gupta further added that due to the casual approach of JK Service Selection Board several youths are facing mental trauma due to pendency of their cases even though some of them are lying pending for more than seven years. He urged CAT to dispose of all the cases which are lying pending for more than seven years without any giving more opportunity to file the objections.

Two-days winter carnival begins at Aharbal to boost tourism

Top News Report

KULGAM, Feb 24: The Two-days winter carnival, to showcase the beauty of Kulgam for its recreational and adventure potential begins today with a colourful start from the Snow-covered Aharbal tourist destination in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The district administration organized the event in collaboration with Aharbal Development Authority, Tourism Department, and Forest Division Kulgam. There were also snow games at this event, such as snow rugby, snow volleyball, snow runs for peace, snow skiing, and tug-of-war.

Tourism at Aharbal tourist spot, which is also famous for its waterfall, will be improved as a result of this step taken by the administration. Everyone was looking



forward to these games. Kulgam local says, "This is very encouraging and promising from the government. The tourism sector is an emerging and potential one. There are many beautiful places other than Gulmarg that need to be explored."

The event was attended by DIG South Kashmir Altaf Ahmad Khan (IPS), DDC Chairperson, Mohd Afzal Parrey, DC kulgam Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), Principal session judge kulgam Mohd Ashraf bhat, SSP Kulgam Sahil Sarangal (IPS), DDC Members and local people and sports persons and

officers from civil and Police administration.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan, said that the tourism destination in Kulgam has huge potential to attract tourists which needs to be fully exploited.

He also added that facilities are being developed at various unexplored tourism destinations to provide much wider choice to the tourists.

DIG Altaf Ahmad Khan, while praising the beauty of Aharbal and other unexplored destinations of Kulgam, urged the tourists to visit these areas.

Mahesh Gupta becomes chairman of All India Mahajan Biradari Sangh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Mahesh Gupta was declared elected after scrutinizing due to only one nomination for the post of Chairman of All India Mahajan Biradari Sangh.

When Election president Sunil Mahajan, who was appointed for the post of Chairman of All India Mahajan Biradari Sangh, scrutinized the nominations after the date of filing of nominations, it was scrutinized as only one nomination had been received.

Regarding this, Sunil Mahajan told that this nomination was of Mahesh Gupta which was completely correct but due to no other nomination, Mahesh Gupta has been declared elected for the post of Chairman.

Now the elections for



the post of Chairman of All India Mahajan Biradari Sangh, which were to be conducted on March 17, will not be conducted.

At the same time, Mahesh Gupta thanked the ABMBS members for not having any nomination against him for the post of Chairman and said that the way no ABMBS member has filed nomination against him, it seems that everyone is satisfied with his work and he also thanks everyone for this.

Kishtwar Congress stands firmly against Govt's Plan for installation of Smart Electric Meters

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 24: Kishtwar Congress, under the leadership of District Secretary Dr. Junaid Hassan, convened a press conference to denounce the government's alarming proposal to install smart electric meters in the Kishtwar district.

Dr. Junaid Hassan, along with other senior leaders, delivered a resounding message of opposition to this ill-conceived plan, citing its detrimental effects on the already marginalized populace of the region. Dr. Junaid Hassan condemned the government's actions as an affront to the well-being of the people of Kishtwar.

He emphasized that if the government persists in its agenda, the Congress party will not hesitate to take to the streets in protest, vowing to continue the resistance until the order is revoked. "It is unconscionable that the government



would impose such a burdensome measure on the people of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly those living in villages and below the poverty line," remarked Dr. Junaid Hassan. "Despite promises of free electricity made by past administrations, the reality faced by the common man is the imposition of these smart electric meters," he said.

Furthermore, Dr. Junaid Hassan highlighted the hypocrisy of certain local leaders who have remained silent on this critical issue, possibly due to personal agendas.

He reaffirmed the commitment of the Congress party to fight relentlessly on behalf

of the people of Kishtwar and urged them to support the Congress in future elections.

In attendance at the press conference were prominent leaders including Taraq Hussain Zargar, Working President of Sevadal Kishtwar, Nayar Amin Butt, District President of Youth Congress Kishtwar, Mohd Abbas Malik, a senior Congress leader, Zain ul Azhar, and other distinguished members of Kishtwar Congress.K

The Kishtwar Congress stands united in its resolve to safeguard the interests of the people of Kishtwar and will spare no effort in ensuring that their voices are heard and their rights protected.

Er Rashid Mushtaq selected as Junior Engineer (Civil) in R&B Deptt

Top News Report

DODA, Feb 24: In a remarkable achievement, Er Rashid Mushtaq, son of Mushtaq Ahmed Naik, a Senior Lecturer in Sociology hailing from Danda (Kellar) of Bhalla, a remote area in Doda district, has been selected as a Junior Engineer (Civil) in the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department.

The rigorous examination for this coveted position was conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB).

Er Rashid Mushtaq's success stands as a fruitful result of his dedication, hard work, and perseverance. Despite the challenges of residing in a far-flung region, he has demonstrated exceptional academic prowess and technical acumen, earning him this prestigious role.

His accomplishment not only brings pride to his family and community but also serves as an inspiration for aspir-



ing youth across the region.

The selection of Er Rashid Mushtaq highlights the potential and talent present in even the most remote corners of the country. It underscores the importance of providing equal opportunities and resources to individuals from all backgrounds, enabling them to excel and contribute to the nation's progress.

As Er Rashid Mushtaq embarks on this new chapter in his career, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for his continued success and endeavors in the future. His achievement serves as a beacon of hope and motivation for others to pursue their dreams relentlessly, irrespective of their circumstances.

Combating misleading, stereotyping of Sikhs as Khalistanis

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: In recent times, the Sikh community has been unjustly subjected to the harmful and baseless label of "Khalistani." This term, originally rooted in a specific political movement, has been misappropriated and used to generalize and stigmatize an entire community.

It is imperative for administrations and societies alike to recognize and address this issue head-on, taking decisive action against those who perpetuate such harmful stereotypes.

First and foremost, it is essential to understand the historical context behind the term "Khalistani."

The Khalistan movement, originating in the 1970s and 1980s, advocated for the creation of an independent Sikh state. However, the vast majority of Sikhs, both then and now, do not



support or identify with this movement.

Most Sikhs are peace-loving individuals who contribute positively to their communities and societies.

The mislabeling of Sikhs as Khalistanis has serious repercussions. It not only tarnishes the reputation of the Sikh community but also perpetuates discrimination and

prejudice. Sikhs have often faced profiling, harassment, and even violence as a result of this misrepresentation. Moreover, it undermines efforts to foster unity and understanding among diverse communities.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon administrations to take swift and decisive action to address this issue.

Kareena, Kriti, Tabu share posters of Crew: Take a look



Kareena Kapoor Khan, on Friday, shared posters of the film, Crew. The actor posted three posters on her Instagram account. Starring Kapoor, Tabu and Kriti Sanon, the movie is slated to release on March 29. The trio will play the cabin crew in the film.

"Ready for check-in? Time to fly with the Crew! Crew in cinemas on March 29 @ tabutiful @kritisanon @

diljidosanjh and a special appearance by @kapilsharma," Kapoor wrote.

The teaser of the film was released recently. A recreated version of the song 'Choli ke peeche kya hai' plays as the three actresses wearing air hostess uniforms are shown walking with their backs to the camera. The movie is being presented by Balaji Telefilms, under Anil Kapoor's banner. The movie is directed

by Rajesh A Krishnan.

The movie, which also stars Diljith Dosanjh, is about a flight crew planning a heist. This is the second collaboration between Ekta Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor after Veere Di Wedding, which starred Sonam Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor, Shikha Talsania and Swara Bhasker. Kapoor was last seen in Jaane Jaan, Kriti in Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya and Tabu in Khufiya.

Indian wildlife documentaries to watch

Poacher, the web series on wildlife crime being streamed on Amazon Prime, is getting rave reviews. Directed by Richie Mehta of Delhi Crime fame, and starring Nimisha Sajayan and Roshan Mathew among others, Poacher is about forest officials getting to the bottom of an ivory smuggling racket.

Here's are some documentaries and docu-series on India's flora and fauna, which will help you appreciate the diversities in the country's wildlife and why it is important to conserve them.

Wild Karnataka: This documentary celebrates the diversity of the state of Karnataka. This documentary, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, gives a glimpse into the state's flora and fauna. And into the large number of elephants and tigers. It has been filmed over four years using drones and hidden cameras. Background music for the film has been provided by Grammy-winning Ricky Kej. It was directed by Amoghavarsha an Indian filmmaker and wildlife photographer, who has worked with National Geographic and BBC. Watch it on YouTube.

Elephant Whisperers: This one won the Academy Award for the best documentary short film. It was directed by Kartiki

Gonsalves. It tells the tale of Bomman and Bellie, a couple in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai, who care for an orphaned elephant, Raghu. The couple works tirelessly to ensure Raghu's well-being. Watch it on Netflix.

Chilika - the Jewel of Odisha: Chilika, Asia's brackish lake and lagoon, was considered a dying wetland until it was scientifically restored. It is the largest wintering ground for waterfowl in the subcontinent. It hosts migrant birds from Central Asia, Siberia and Europe. The short documentary showcases the biodiversity at the lake. The film has been directed by Shekhar Dattari. Watch it on YouTube.

A Dream of Trees: This documentary follows the work of two scientists, Divya Mudappa and TR Shankar Raman. In 2001, they set out to restore degraded tropical rainforests in the Anamalai Hills of the Western Ghats. The duo go about doing this with the help of tea and coffee plantation companies. As the restoration progresses, it revives the forest, bringing back wildlife. Watch it on YouTube.

The Real Black Panther: This documentary short, follows the tale of Saya, the only black panther in Nagarhole



Tiger Reserve's Kabini. In this film, directed by John Cullum, Saya is shown wanting to challenge the status quo and stake his claim to the throne. Watch it on Disney+Hotstar.

Gaur in my Garden: This documentary is directed by Rita Banerji, a conservation filmmaker. It showcases human-animal interactions and conflicts in Kotagiri, Nilgiris. It mainly focuses on the experiences of the residents with the Indian bison, a threatened and endangered species. Watch it on YouTube.

The Jujurana's Kingdom: This documentary short, made by Munmun Dhalaria, journeys into the life of the colourful and

vulnerable pheasant, Jujurana. The bird is native to Hazara in Pakistan and Uttarakhand in India. The film highlights what it takes to protect the species. Watch it on YouTube.

On the Brink: This docu-series showcases various species of animals across India. The series brings in local conservationists, environmentalists, scientists, and biologists, who talk about wildlife and the various methods that are implemented to protect endangered species. It takes us through various habitats across the country, following the rarest of animals and the effect climate change has on their life. Watch it on Disney+ Hotstar.

Aishwarya Rai, Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan likely to attend Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding festivities

Businessman Mukesh Ambani's youngest son Anant Ambani is all set to marry Radhika Merchant, the daughter of industrialist Viren Merchant. As per Times Now News, many Bollywood celebrities will attend the festivities. The couple's pre-wedding festivities will take place in Jamnagar, Gujarat, from March 1 to March 3, and the functions are expected to happen in a traditional and grand way.

According to the report, Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth, Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, and Kajol will travel to Gujarat for the pre-wedding events. Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Vicky Kaushal, Katrina Kaif, Karan Johar, and Saif Ali Khan will also be seen.

A part from them, Varun Dhawan, Sidharth Malhotra, Shradha Kapoor, Chunky Pandey, Boney Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Aditya Chopra and Karisma Kapoor will also be part of the celebrations. As per ABP Live, Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Bachchan, Twinkle Khanna, and Rani Mukerji will also go to Gujarat for the event.

Reportedly, singers Rihanna, Arijit Singh and Diljit Dosanjh



will also perform at the events. Apart from them, Sachin Ten-

dulkar, MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya and Ishan Kishan will also be part of the celebrations. Anant and Radhika got engaged in a traditional ceremony in January 2023 at the family's residence Antilia in Mumbai. Interestingly, the guests at the occasion will receive traditional scarves made by women artisans from Kachchh and Lalpur in Gujarat. Recently, Reliance Foundation posted a video on their Instagram handle in which women from Gujarat curated Bandhani scarves for the wedding functions of Anant and Radhika.

In the clip, Nita Ambani met the artisans and expressed her happiness seeing their hard work. "Threads of Love and Heritage: A Tapestry Woven for Anant and Radhika. In a tribute to Indian heritage, the Ambani family has commissioned skilled women artisans from Kachchh & Lalpur, to weave a tapestry of dreams for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's upcoming union. These women pour their hearts and souls into the craft, preserving age-old techniques and breathing life into stories as ancient as the land itself. Swadesh is empowering communities and preserving age-old craftsmanship." Reliance Foundation captioned the post.

Kiran Rao on ex-husband Aamir Khan: 'Him and I have never really fought, it is very strange'



Kiran Rao opened up about the 'disagreements' she had with ex Aamir Khan as well as their relationship now after divorce. She said they never had 'big fights'.

Kiran Rao and Aamir Khan tied the knot in 2005 and parted ways in 2021. In a new interview with Pooja Talwar, Kiran spoke about her comeback film Laapataa Ladies that releases on March 1, and also opened up about life post divorce from Aamir. The filmmaker said she and her former husband have a great equation even today as they coparent their son Azad.

"We have disagreements but we never have big fights" When asked about working with Aamir - his Aamir Khan Productions has backed her latest film - post their divorce, Kiran Rao said, "Anyone who is married will tell you marriage has its challenges. And certainly I have had my share of fights and we have dealt with things. But actually, Aamir and I have never really fought, it is very strange. We have our disagreements, but we never have big fights."

"Never saw any turbulence" Kiran added, "It is also

because I think we (herself and Aamir) respect each other a lot. We understand each other quite well, it is just a case of finding the right argument to convince the other person or to be convinced. Our relationship is like that; and we are both not like too proud to agree (with each other). And that is one of the advantages of having been in this marriage. We never saw any turbulence of the kind that a lot of people go through. We have had our share of ups and downs, but never anything that I could term even vaguely antagonistic."

Manoj Kumar Sharma reveals he didn't get any 'monetary compensation' for 12th Fail: 'If you ask me personally...'

IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma recently opened up about how his life has changed, if at all, after the Vikrant Massey-starrer 12th Fail, directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, was released in theatres to critical and commercial success. He revealed that he did not get any monetary compensation for allowing the filmmaker to tell his life story, nor was he paid for the book that inspired the film.

Talking at ABP's Ideas of India summit in Mumbai, he said in Hindi, "If you ask me what I got personally, then I didn't get anything, because I don't take money from anyone or go in expecting any monetary benefits from people. I am a visapt imaandaar (totally honest) person, I am as I was at the time of selec-



tion. My wife is also like that."

Manoj also shared that he and his wife have a "no gift system" at work and at home. He said, "At the time when my wife and I were preparing for the exams, we had decided that we'll not wear diamonds and jewellery. She still doesn't wear it so we don't have that expense. We don't even have a gift system, we don't give each other gifts on anniversaries and birth-

days. If we want to give gifts we write letters to each other. So we don't need to go shopping."

Manoj also shared that the film has served as an inspiration for the youth, and that is the biggest reward that he could've asked for. "The only benefit that I have got is that the things that I wanted to tell the people of our country have come out through the film and the book, and if you want to take something from it then

you can. What makes me happy is that school students are sending me letters and saying that they want to be like me, and to be honest, that is my reward. There was a guy who said that his father used to tell him about his struggles, but he never understood what his father meant. But after watching the movie, he went and hugged his father. This is what I have gained," he said.

Thanking Vidhu Vinod Chopra for taking his story to the masses, he said, "Through this movie, thanks to Vidhu Vinod Chopra, people came to know about my story, otherwise there are so many stories but no one cares. How do you find someone like him to tell a story like this.

Amitabh Bachchan remained dissatisfied by his performance despite rehearsing dialogues 200 times

Actor Aamir Khan is known as the 'perfectionist' of Bollywood for intense working style, which usually involves thorough preparation. In an interview, Aamir said that there is no limit to how much an actor wants to rehearse, as he recalled a lesson that he learnt early in his career from observing Amitabh Bachchan remain dissatisfied by his performance despite giving eight takes.

During a stage interaction at the ABP Majha event, the host joked that it's easier to get newcomers to do rehearsals, and Aamir bristled at the suggestion that he doesn't rehearse just as hard. He said in Hindi, "I rehearse more than anybody else, bro. I just remembered a story. I was shooting for



Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak. It was my first film, and we were shooting in Film City. I was sitting in my makeup room with Reena (Dutta) and my cousins Nuzhat and Raj Zutshi. We had a break of 1-2 hours and then we had to give a night shot." The actor continued, "Outside, another film was being shot, and we could hear the lights being set up. Then we heard an actor rehears-

ing his line. He must have repeated the same line 100-200 times. I stepped out and saw that it was Amit Ji (Amitabh Bachchan)." Aamir said that he was a big fan of the superstar back then, and continues to remain his admirer. So, he decided to observe the senior actor by sitting in the corner of room. Amitabh was shooting for a Prakash Mehra film.

"He was doing so much hard work, he was so focused. He gave around 8-10 takes. It was a long shot. In those days, there was no monitor. When the shot was done, the crew was ready to move on, but Amit ji didn't move. Then, he went to Prakash ji and asked, 'Prakash, I didn't speak too fast right?' He was still stuck on that shot," Aamir said.

Finally coming to his deduction from that observation, Aamir said, "So, for me, that was a big lesson. There is no end to how much you can rehearse and get it right."

Aamir will return to the big screen for the first time since 2022 in this year's Sitare Zameen Par. The film is expected to be released around Christmastime.

JP Nadda will meet BJP election in-charges to discuss poll strategies; Amit Shah may attend

The in-charges were reportedly asked to submit reports on government campaigns

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): With preparations going on in full swing for the Lok Sabha elections, BJP's election in-charges and co-in-charges from all states are set to meet party president J.P. Nadda in New Delhi on Saturday.



The in-charges were

reportedly asked to submit reports on government campaigns and schemes in respective states.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also likely to join the meeting, ANI quoted sources as saying.

BJP's Central Election Committee will reportedly hold a meeting on February 29 or the first week of March, the sources added. Besides Shah, the CEC meeting chaired by Nadda will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. CEC members K. Laxman, Vanathi Srinivasan, B.S. Yeddyurappa, Sarbananda Sonowal, Iqbal Singh Lalpuria, Sudha Yadav, Bhupendra Yadav, Om Prakash Mathur and B.L. Santosh will also be present.

'No justice, no closure': Family of Jaahnavi Kandula as US police officer is let off the hook

HYDERABAD, Feb 24: With the Seattle police officer who struck her with his vehicle off the hook, the family of Jaahnavi Kandula called the news "devastating".

A family member told The Indian Express, "First they joked about it, now the officer responsible has been let off. There is no justice and no closure for us. It is devastating."

Jaahnavi was killed on January 5 last year when a police car driven by officer Kevin Dave struck her near Northeastern University's Seattle campus. She was 23 and was pursuing a MS in Information Systems. In September, an audio emerged wherein an officer investigating the case could be heard joking about her death, and saying it had limited value and a cheque for \$11,000 would suffice.

Hailing from Halvi village in Kowthalam Mandal of Kurnool district, Jaahnavi's parents live in Adoni, where her mother K Vijayalakshmi was a school teacher while her father K Srikanth had retired from



the police department. "We keep receiving one bad news after another about the case," said a family member. Her mother has withdrawn into a shell while her sister remains traumatised, the family said.

Hailing from a middle-class family, Jaahnavi first studied at a government school before joining the Dr Jyothirmayi Degree College at Adoni. She completed her B.Com in 2019 and went to the US in September 2020 to pursue the two-year MS course, which was to finish in December. BRS chief KTR also

posted on social media, calling the decision "disgraceful and absolutely unacceptable". In his tweet, he demanded that the Indian Embassy take up the matter with US authorities and deliver justice to the family.

"I request the External Affairs Minister to take up the matter with his counterpart and demand an independent investigation into the matter. It is tragic that the life of a youngster with soaring ambitions has been cut short, but what's more tragic is the callous disregard for justice to the victim.

Quad is a statement that others cannot have 'veto' on our choices: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies):

The Quad is a statement that others cannot have a "veto" on choices of like-minded nations and the coalition is here to stay, grow and contribute to global prosperity, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday, amid mounting global concerns over China's rising assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific.

In an address at a think-tank forum, Jaishankar described the coalition of India, the US, Japan and Australia as an "overhead light" that is a "creative, flexible, nimble, responsive and open-minded" enterprise.

The Quad has largely been focusing on bolstering cooperation to ensure a free and an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific in the face of Chinese belligerence.

The external affairs minister said the Quad reflects the growth of a multipolar global order and its central approach is collaborative, and not unilateral.

"All four governments have behaved differently from how they normally do. The Quad is an overhead light — creative, flexible, nimble, responsive and open-minded enterprise. These are not adjectives we normally associate with the bureaucracy," he said explaining the principles that the grouping stands for.

Jaishankar also said that the Quad has five messages, "One — it reflects the growth of a multipolar order; two — it is post-alliance and post-Cold War thinking; three — it is against spheres of influence; four — it expresses the democratising of the global space and a collaborative, not unilateral approach and five — it is a statement that in this day and age, others cannot have a veto on our choices," he said.

He noted that the Quad is facilitated by the emergence of the Indo Pacific, adding it is propelled by a change in the global order that requires "more" and "not less collaboration".

15 people including 8 children dead as tractor-trolley overturns in Kasganj

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): As many as fifteen people including eight children died when a tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond in Uttar Pradesh's Kasganj district on Friday.

A senior police officer said the occupants of the vehicle were going to take a dip in the Ganga river in the Patiyali area on the occasion of Magh Purnima. The accident occurred on the Patiyali-Dariyavganj road and according to police, around 20 people were hospitalised with injuries.

Shalabh Mathur, IG of Aligarh range said eight children and seven women died in the incident. Mathur said the driver of the tractor lost



control while attempting to avoid a collision with a car on the road, Hindustan Times reported. The tractor trolley overturned into the pond, filled with mud-laden water, the publication reported.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the incident and said all injured will be provided with free treatment. "The loss of lives in a road

accident in Kasganj district is extremely heart-wrenching. My condolences are with the bereaved family. District administration officials have been instructed to provide proper free treatment to all the injured," Adityanath tweeted. Adityanath also announced solatium of Rs 2 lakh to the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

Kamal Nath to join Rahul's yatra in March first week, say Congress leaders

BHOPAL, Feb 24 (Agencies): Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath will take part in the state leg of Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra, a Congress spokesperson said on Friday.

Nath will reach Gwalior on March 2 and attend the yatra till March 6, the spokesperson said.

On February 20, Nath attended a meeting on the Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra to take stock of preparations. This comes even as rumours that Nath, a Congress veteran and nine-time MP from Chhindwara, could leave the party have been doing the rounds for some time. The speculation resurfaced after the Congress did not nominate Nath for the coming Rajya Sabha polls, and was fanned by his sudden trip to New Delhi



on Saturday, cutting short a tour of Chhindwara.

On Friday, Nath posted a message on X encouraging the Congress workers to join the yatra. "The people of Madhya Pradesh and Congress workers are excited to welcome Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra. Our leader Shri Rahul Gandhi has taken to the streets across the country and announced a decisive fight against injustice, oppression and exploitation. I urge the people of Madhya Pradesh and the brave

workers of Congress to become the strength and courage of Rahul Gandhi by joining the Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra in maximum numbers. Together you and I will make this great campaign against injustice successful," Nath posted in Hindi.

The Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra will enter Morena from neighbouring Rajasthan on March 2 and will cover Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Rajgarh, Shajapur, Ujjain, Dhar and Ratlam before re-entering Rajasthan on March 6.

Land grabbed from Sandeshkhali villagers be returned immediately: DYFI leader Mukherjee

KOLKATA, Feb 24 (Agencies): DYFI West Bengal state secretary Minakshi Mukherjee on Saturday demanded that land grabbed from villagers in Sandeshkhali region of North 24 Parganas district be returned immediately.

Mukherjee, who reached river-bounded Sandeshkhali using a detour to avoid detection by the administration, was stopped by the police and taken to Sandeshkhali ferry ghat on the banks of River Kalagachi.

"We want the administration to immediately take steps to give back agricultural land of the villagers, which were grabbed by TMC leaders Shajahan Sheikh, Shiba Prasad Hazra and Uttam Sardar and were turned into water bodies for fish farming," she said.

She claimed that people want the arrest and prosecution of Sheikh, Hazra, Sardar and also some police personnel who allegedly did not pay heed to complaints against these TMC leaders by the affected villagers.

"I have been told that I cannot move around

since prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC are in force in the area," Mukherjee, the leader of CPI(M)'s youth wing in the state, told reporters at Sandeshkhali.

She said that while ruling party leaders were being allowed to move around Sandeshkhali, opposition leaders were being stopped from interacting with the affected villagers.

"Ministers Sujit Bose and Partha Bhowmick are from the same party as Shajahan Sheikh," she said, while refusing to leave the area.

Bose and Bhowmick visited Sandeshkhali on Saturday and went around some villages.

"I have come here as the state's irrigation minister and not as a political leader," Bhowmick said, reacting to Mukherjee's charge.

The DYFI leader asked why lands snatched from the villagers were not returned at the state government's Duare Sarkar programme held regularly at various places in the state with the aim of bringing government services to the doorsteps of people.

ED files new case against TMC's Sandeshkhali strongman Shahjahan Sheikh, searches 6 locations linked to him



KOLKATA, Feb 24 (Agencies) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday filed a fresh case against Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Shahjahan Sheikh in an old cheating case related to land encroachment and conducted searches across West Bengal at several locations linked to his associates.

Sheikh, an influential TMC leader from Sandeshkhali, has been on the run since January 5 when ED officials who had gone to raid his house were attacked and chased away.

According to ED sources, searches are being held at six places, including Kolkata, Howrah and North 24 Parganas, at the houses of businessmen and others "close" to Sheikh.

Around 7 am on Friday, ED officials accompa-

nied by central forces began searches at the house of businessman Parthapratim Sengupta in Haldarpara, Howrah. Locals claimed that Sengupta traded in shrimp and fish along with running other businesses. Businessman Arup Som's house in Vijaygarh in Kolkata is also being searched. ED sources said these traders were in the import-export business and Sheikh was in touch with them.

Sheikh and his close associates have been accused of building fisheries and chicken farms by encroaching upon land in Sandeshkhali and have been accused of not paying villagers for the lease of fish stocks. Friday's searches are part of the ED's investigation into 'irregularities' in the import-export business

and a fresh Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) has been registered, sources said. Investigators are looking into whether money from the alleged land-grabbing was invested in the import-export business, whether fish and other items were exported illegally etc, sources added.

Sandeshkhali has been witnessing widespread protests against local strongman Sheikh from the beginning of February, with women accusing his close aides Uttam Sardar and Shivprasad Hazra of sexual harassment. The protests have led to the TMC and the BJP taking potshots at each other even as the police are trying to restore peace in the area. While Sardar and Hazra have been arrested, Sheikh is still at large.

BJP will win all 25 Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

JAIPUR, Feb 24 (Agencies): Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has exuded confidence in the BJP winning all 25 seats of Rajasthan in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The Union minister also expressed confidence of the BJP-led NDA forming the government at the Centre with a strong majority.

Shekhawat said whether it is construction of the Ram Mandir, the abrogation of Article 370 or resolving the issue of Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project, it may indirectly benefit the BJP in the elections but the party does this work not for votes but to change the lives of the people.

"I do not see any challenge in winning 25 out of 25 seats in the state. The trend of forming a government with absolute majority since 2014 is there," Shekhawat told PTI viewers here.

"As far as elections are concerned, the BJP is not a party with a machine to win the elections but the BJP is a party which has been continuously increas-



ing its presence since its inception by being active on issues of social concern, national importance and local issues," he added.

Shekhawat said the "result of BJP workers' continuous struggle was that we uprooted the Congress".

"On the basis of the same confidence, I can say that the way BJP worked to change the country under the leadership of the prime minister, it will again win with a huge majority," he said, adding the NDA will cross the 400-mark this time.

Shekhawat further said for the BJP, the issues of Ram Mandir and abrogation of Article 370 are not for gaining election benefits.

"It may be possible to get benefits from it indirectly in the elections, but these are being used for the benefit of the elections. The commitment of the BJP is to work to bring change in the lives of people," he added.

Attacking former chief minister Ashok Gehlot, Shekhawat alleged that the Congress leader only did politics on the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) issue.

When asked whether he will contest the Lok Sabha elections from Jodhpur this time also, Shekhawat said it is for the BJP to decide because "there is no tradition in the party that we decide who will get ticket".

Two years of Ukraine-Russia war: Can Kyiv sustain the fight against the Kremlin?

UKRAINE, Feb 24 (Agencies): The future looks bleak for war-weary Ukraine: It is beset by shortages in soldiers and ammunition, as well as doubts about the supply of Western aid. Ukrainian forces also face a Russian enemy that has recently seized the initiative on the battlefield.

Two years after Russia's full-scale invasion captured nearly a quarter of the country, the stakes could not be higher for Kyiv. After a string of victories in the first year of the war, fortunes have turned for the Ukrainian military, which is dug in, out-gunned and outnumbered against a more powerful opponent.

As the war enters its third year, here is a look at the situation on the ground, the challenges ahead and some of the potential consequences if Ukraine does not acquire the people, ammunition and assistance it needs to sustain the fight.

What is the state of play?

Triumphs have turned to attrition for Ukraine along the snaking front line in the country's east. With Russia gaining advantages, shortages mounting and a major military shake-up still fresh, questions abound about whether Kyiv can keep going.

As things stand, neither side has won. Neither side has lost. Neither side is anywhere near giving up. And both sides have pretty much exhausted the manpower and equipment that they started the war with, said Gen. Richard Barrons, a British military officer who is co-chair of a defence consultancy.

Ukraine suffered setbacks after the much-anticipated summer counteroffensive failed to produce any breakthroughs. The armed forces switched to a defensive posture in the fall to repel new advances from Moscow.



On February 17, Russian forces took control of the embattled city of Avdiivka, where Kyiv's troops were under constant fire with Russians approaching from three directions. Ukrainian commanders had complained for weeks of personnel and ammunition shortages. It was the biggest battlefield victory for Russia since the fight for Bakhmut, and it confirmed that Moscow's offensive was gaining steam.

Away from the battlefield, Ukraine has proven successful in the Black Sea, where it has used long-range weapons to strike military installations in Crimea and maritime drones to sink Russian warships. Ukraine has disabled a third of the Black Sea Fleet, according to the Atlantic Council.

Ukraine is looking to acquire more long-range missiles to strike deep into Russian-occupied territory, a move that some European countries fear may spark escalation from Moscow.

How many people have been killed?

Both Russia and Ukraine have sought to keep casualty figures under wraps.

Few details about Ukrainian military deaths have emerged since the full-scale invasion began in 2022. But it's clear that tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians have been killed.

In 2023, the first independent statistical analysis of Russia's war dead concluded that nearly 50,000 Russian men had died in the war. Two independent Russian media

outlets, Mediazona and Meduza, worked with a data scientist from Germany's Tbingen University to analyse Russian government data.

What happens if Ukraine can't find more troops?

Without more soldiers, Ukraine's defensive lines will be overstretched and more vulnerable to Russian attack, especially if Moscow launches intense multi-pronged assaults along the 1,000-kilometre (620-mile) front line.

The Ukrainian military has an average personnel shortage of 25 per cent across brigades, according to lawmakers. Military commanders are unable to give their soldiers enough rest, and Russia has recently increased the tempo of attacks. As a result, soldiers are tired - and more easily injured - exacerbating the effects of the shortage.

Ukraine's military command has said 4,50,000 to 5,00,000 additional recruits are needed for the next phase of the war. Even if Ukraine succeeds in mobilising that number, which is unlikely, it still would not be able to match the manpower of Russia, which has more than three times Ukraine's population.

Lawmakers have spent months mulling over a controversial proposal to increase the conscription pool, as many Ukrainian men continue to evade the war in Ukrainian cities.

Commanders say they don't have enough men to dig trenches or carry out offensive operations. Shortages have also required them to

switch tactics and focus on preserving the lives of the soldiers they do have, sometimes at the expense of holding territory.

What about weapons and ammunition?

If they continue, ammunition shortages will jeopardise Ukraine's ability to hold territory and keep soldiers alive.

Military leaders appear to be rationing shells, sending trickles of ammunition to firing positions to preserve stockpiles, while promises for more ammunition from Western allies have gone unfulfilled. The European Union failed on its promise to deliver 1 million rounds by the start of the year, delivering only a few hundred thousand.

At the same time, Russia is mobilising its defence industry and may soon be able to fire 5,000 artillery rounds a day, Barrons said. Ukraine is building up its domestic arms production but will not be able to match Moscow in scale in the short-term.

Military commanders have complained for months of ammunition shortages for infantry fighting vehicles, machine guns, artillery and multiple rocket launch systems. Those shortages grew particularly acute by the end of 2023, with some artillery commanders saying they can meet only 10 per cent of ammunition needs.

Commanders say long-range artillery in particular serves two important purposes: first, it acts as a protective umbrella to cover infantry, allowing them to hold territory and prepare for offensive operations. Second, by striking Russian troops and heavy weaponry from a distance, artillery prevents planned assaults by seriously degrading Moscow's capabilities.

Without it, Ukraine will increasingly come under the pressure of Russia's relentless artillery barrages. Com-

manders say their soldiers have no choice but to dig in deeper to hold their lines.

Is western support waning, and what if it does?

Ukraine is reliant on western allies and international organisations not just for military aid but also for financial support and humanitarian help.

Without western assistance, Ukraine will not have the weapons, ammunition and training it needs to sustain the war effort, nor will it be able to keep its battered economy afloat or reach Ukrainians trapped in the crossfire of battles.

Between divisions about the future of aid within the EU and \$60 billion in military aid languishing in the United States Congress, western countries have not been as forthcoming with money this year.

Kyiv breathed a sigh of relief in February when the EU approved extending a 50-billion-euro (\$54-billion) aid package for Ukraine after resistance from Hungary. That money is meant to support the economy and rebuild the country, not to fight Russia.

But it's the US funding that many Ukrainian leaders are waiting for. The funds will enable Ukraine to purchase weapons and equipment from American firms, access more military training and intelligence sharing, and bolster air and sea defences. The money will also provide direct budget support for Kyiv.

Ukrainian leaders also need western help to cover the salaries of public servants and medical workers.

On the humanitarian side, the United Nations and its partner agencies said if an appeal for \$3.1 billion in new funding for the year is not fulfilled, the UN won't be able to meet the basic needs of 8.5 million Ukrainians living on the front line.

Tokyo's Hello Kitty theme park shut after 'terrorist alert'

TOKYO, Feb 24 (Agencies):

Western Tokyo's Hello Kitty theme park faces a tough day ahead after receiving an e-mail labelled 'terrorist alert'. The amusement park was forced to be temporarily shut down on Saturday.

Sanrio Puroland in Tama notified the public about the hazardous object in a statement on its website: "We will be temporarily closed today as we are unable to adequately ensure the safety of our customers, performers and on-site staff at this time".

Located in Tama, the Sanrio Puroland Park brought the police up to speed at 9 am local time about the warning issued to them via e-mail. It highlighted the presence of 'hazardous' objects at the park premises.

The following reports from public broadcaster NHK confirmed that the



police hadn't discovered anything suspicious at the park after scouring it. Authorities have yet to identify the e-mail's sender.

Hello Kitty represents an anthropomorphised white cat, a widely known fictional character. Yuko Shimizu created it originally. The Japanese entertainment company Sanrio owns the character as its creative entity.

The indoor Tokyo theme park, Sanrio Puroland, is also known as Hello Kitty Land. Located in the Tokyo suburb of Tama, this park opened in 1990.

Like how Disney theme parks host their customers, the Japanese centre of attraction is dedicated to many exclusive characters such as My Melody, Cinnamoroll, Gudetama, Pochacco, Keroppi and others. It was temporarily closed during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The Hello Kitty Park offers numerous cutesy attractions, including rides, walkthrough centres, food factory displays, game corners, several parades and stage shows, and even a fireworks spectacle.

Donald Trump says his criminal indictments boosted his appeal to Black voters

NEW YORK, Feb 24 (Agencies): Former President Donald Trump claimed on Friday that his four criminal indictments have boosted his support among Black Americans because they see him as a victim of discrimination, comparing his legal jeopardy to the historic legacy of anti-Black prejudice in the US legal system.

Trump argues he is the victim of political persecution, even though there is no evidence President Joe Biden or White House officials influenced the filing of 91 felony charges against him.

Earlier in the week, Trump compared himself to Alexei Navalny, Russian President Vladimir Putin's top domestic rival, who died in a remote Arctic prison after being jailed by the Kremlin leader.

"I got indicted for nothing, for something that is nothing," Trump told a black-tie event for Black conservatives in South



Carolina ahead of Saturday's Republican primary.

"And a lot of people said that's why the Black people like me, because they have been hurt so badly and discriminated against, and they actually viewed me as I'm being discriminated against. It's been pretty amazing but possibly, maybe, there's something there." Trump has centred his third campaign for the White House on his grievances against Biden and what he alleges is a "deep state" targeting him, even as he faces charges from his efforts to overturn the 2020 election, keeping classified documents at his Florida estate, and allegedly arranging pay-

ments to a porn actress. He is the dominant Republican front-runner, as many GOP voters echo his beliefs, and is favoured to soundly beat former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley in her home state.

Trump noted the mug shot taken by Georgia authorities after he was indicted on state racketeering charges over the 2020 election.

"When I did the mug shot in Atlanta, that mug shot is No. 1," he said, adding: "You know who embraced it more than anyone else? The Black population." Trump's campaign has predicted he can do better with Black voters in November than he did four years ago, citing Biden's faltering poll numbers with Black adults and what Trump sees as advantages on issues like the economy and the record-high number of people crossing the US-Mexico border, often ending up in cities with large Black populations.

Navalny aides say Russian authorities give mother 3-hour ultimatum over burial

LONDON, Feb 24 (Agencies): A spokeswoman for the late Alexei Navalny said on Friday that Russian authorities had told his mother he would be buried in the penal colony where he died unless she agreed within three hours to lay him to rest without a public funeral.

Navalny, the best-known political opponent of President Vladimir Putin, died suddenly a week ago in the Arctic penal colony where he had been serving sentences totalling more than 30 years.

His mother Lyudmila, 69, has been demanding for days that authorities hand over his body to be buried in a way that will allow his friends, family and supporters to pay their respects.

Navalny's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh posted on X: "An hour ago, an investigator called Alexei's mother and gave her an ultimatum. Either she agrees within three hours to a secret funeral without

a public farewell, or Alexei will be buried in the penal colony."

Yarmysh said Navalny's mother was refusing and continuing to demand that his body be handed to her. There was no immediate comment from the authorities.

Navalny's family and supporters have accused Putin of having him killed, an accusation that the Kremlin has angrily rejected. He had survived a poisoning attempt in 2020 and years of harsh treatment in prison, including long spells in solitary confinement.

Rights group OVD-Info says 400 people were detained in the days following Navalny's death for trying to commemorate it in public.

In a 95-second video released on Thursday, Lyudmila Navalnaya said authorities were trying to "blackmail" and threaten her into agreeing to a non-public burial, something she said she would not accept.

"They want this (burial) to be done secretly, with no farewell. They want to bring me to the edge of a cemetery, to a fresh grave and say: here lies your son. I don't agree to this," she said.

"I want you, who cared about Alexei, and for whom his death was a personal tragedy, to have an opportunity to say goodbye to him," she added, addressing Navalny supporters in Russia.

Navalny's aide Ivan Zhdanov said Lyudmila's lawyers had filed a legal complaint alleging "violation of the body of a deceased person".

He also offered a reward to members of the security establishment in return for information about what he called Navalny's murder.

"If you still have any trace of humanity, stop taunting his mother and return the body of her son to her," said Evgenia Kara-Murza, wife of opposition politician Vladimir Kara-Murza, who is serving a 25-year sentence in Siberia on

charges, including treason, that he has denied.

Journalist Dmitry Muratov, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, posted on X, "Just give Lyudmila Ivanovna her son. Just give him back."

Belarusian Nobel literature prize winner Svetlana Alexievich posted: "I want to appeal not only to the Kremlin. I want to ask all people, all of us - keep on saying and saying that they must give back the body to his mother."

A Russian fact-checking organisation said it had uncovered a fake audio message being circulated on social media and reported by some news outlets that purported to be a statement from Navalny's mother accusing his wife Yulia of unseemly behaviour since his death. Yulia and her daughter Dasha on Thursday met U.S. President Joe Biden, who called Navalny "a man of incredible courage" and has said he holds Putin responsible for his death.

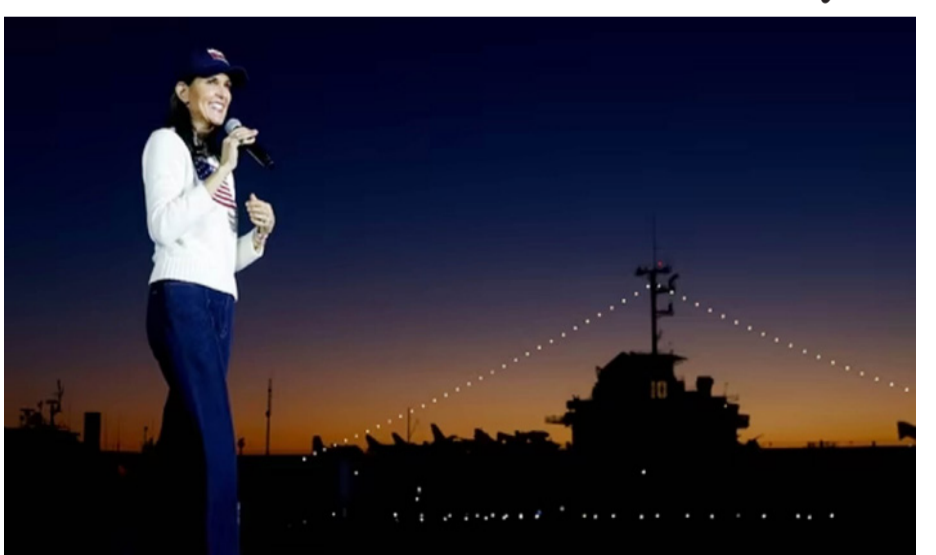
Nikki Haley mocks Trump and Biden's age during final pitch to home crowd ahead of South Carolina Primary

NEW YORK, Feb 24 (Agencies): Before the South Carolina Primary in her home state, GOP presidential hopeful Nikki Haley made her last pitch to the voters in Mount Pleasant on Friday. She attacked her main rival Donald Trump and claimed that she was the only one who could beat President Biden in the general election.

The former governor of South Carolina, said to the crowd, "The best America can do is two candidates in their 80s?" She was referring to Trump, who is 77, and Biden, who is 81.

"We need someone who can do eight years of hard work day and night, getting the job done for the American people. No drama, no vendettas," she added.

According to the latest polls, Haley is trailing Trump by 28 points in South Carolina. But her campaign manager Betsy Ankney said in a call with reporters on Friday morning that Haley would not give up



and would fight on until Super Tuesday.

Ankney stated, "As we look to the path ahead, we know that this is an uphill battle. We know that the road is difficult. We know that the math is challenging, but this has never just been about who can win a Republican primary - this battle is about who can win in November, defeat the Democrats and finally get our country back on track."

"We have never gotten [into] those bench-

marks. We won't start now. Once again, she made very clear in her speech on Tuesday that we are marching on and that's what we intend to do," she continued.

Some of Haley's supporters in South Carolina said that they wanted Haley to stay in the race in case something happened to Trump, such as getting "locked up" or having a health issue. But they also admitted that they did not expect her to win.

Meanwhile, Rep. Dean

Phillips (D-Minn.), who is challenging Biden for the Democratic nomination, said on Friday that he was open to the idea of running as an independent with Haley as his running mate.

He said, "I think it's a conversation that Ambassador Haley and I should have if that's what this comes down to." Phillips had a strong showing in New Hampshire, where he got more than 20% of the vote and Biden was not on the ballot.

District President Congress Sanjeev pays homage to Saint Ravidas

Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 24: 647th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas was celebrated with great pomp across the state.

Even in district Samba, Guru Ravidas Jayanti was celebrated in all the Guru Ravidas temples. Satsang was organized on Ravidas Jayanti in Keso Manhasa, Kamor, Diayani etc. of district Samba, after which the congregation was blessed with the nectar of Guru Ravi Das. Congress district president Sanjeev Sharma also attended the program organized at Diani on the occasion of Guru Ravi Das Jayanti in district Samba. Yashpal Kundal and Sanjeev Sharma received blessings of Guru Ravi Das by offering garlands on his photo.



On this occasion, Congress District President Sanjeev Sharma said that Saint Ravidas was a spiritual person of sacred spirit. Ravidas had united the

society by threading it into harmony with the development of the spirit of devotion. His life inspires harmony, equality and national unity.

On this occasion, Sanjeev Sharma said that Saint Ravidas has called humanity and human service as religion. Saint Ravidas ji had refuted the distinction between high and low in the society through his couplets. Many programs, yatras and kirtans are organized in different parts of the country on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Throwing light on the life of Saint Ravidas, Sanjeev said that Saint Ravidas was actually famous as a high-class scholar and a folk poet. Saint Ravidas was truly a saint with a pure heart. We all should follow the ideals given by him. At the end of the program, all the people who did good work for the society were honored by district president Sanjeev Sharma by giving mementoes and awards.

NSF calls for HC Judge led inquiry into farmer's death

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Varinderjeet Singh, Chairman of the National Sikh Front (NSF) has urged for a thorough investigation into the tragic death of young farmer Jaskaran Singh.

In a statement issued today, Singh emphasized the need for transparency and accountability in the handling of this sensitive matter.

It is imperative that the inquiry into Jaskaran Singh's death be conducted by a sitting judge of the High Court, stated Varinderjeet Singh.

Given the gravity of the situation and the concerns raised by the

community, an independent and impartial investigation is necessary to uncover the truth.

Singh further highlighted the circumstances surrounding the incident, noting that the farmers present at the location had no JCBs, tractors, or any objectionable items. Despite this, the Haryana police allegedly resorted to violence, resulting in injuries to several farmers and the tragic loss of Jaskaran Singh's life.

The use of excessive force against unarmed civilians is deeply concerning and warrants a thorough examination,

added Singh. We demand answers as to why such brutality was inflicted upon peaceful protesters.

The National Sikh Front stands in solidarity with the affected farmers and their families during this difficult time. The organization calls upon the authorities to ensure that justice is served and those responsible for the violence are held accountable.

Additionally, Varinderjeet Singh, Chairman of the National Sikh Front, emphasized that the Punjab government shares equal responsibility for the incident by refusing to file an FIR.

Centre planning to arrest Kejriwal through CBI: Nirmal Mahna

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Party Spokesperson Nirmal Mahna on Saturday lashed out at the BJP and alleged that the Centre has been planning to arrest AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal by serving him a notice through CBI.

Addressing a press conference at Party Office here, Mahna alleged that the CBI has been preparing a notice under CrPC 41 A (notice of appearance before police officer) for Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal. "BJP has been frustrated ever since the opposition formed I.N.D.I.A. bloc."

"The BJP-led central government has been planning to arrest Arvind Kejriwal by serving him



a notice through CBI. We got to know that a notice is being prepared under CrPC 41 A and thereafter, they plan to arrest him," she alleged. "Since all the notices by ED to Kejriwal failed, they now plan to misuse CBI," She further alleged. Mahna further 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 BJP and their agencies' threats and we won't be scared in the future too," Mahna claimed.

"AAP will fight the elections as a part of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc and no one can stop us," she added.

Muslim Rashtriya Manch nominates Co-Convenor Intellectual Wing

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Organiser Muslim Rashtriya Manch Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh Gulshan Kumar in consonance with all the office bearers has nominated Abdul Qayoom Mir DDC member Thannamandi and Executive Administrator Wakaf Board district Rajouri as Co-Convenor (Intellectual Wing) for Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

As per a press statement, the nomination has been made with great consideration, taking into account Ab. Qayoom Mir's dedication, commitment and valuable contributions to the organization.

"We are confident that his involvement in this role will strengthen our efforts and enhance our presence in the Jammu Kashmir," Kumar said. He further stated that Qayoom possesses a wealth of experience and a deep rooted passion for the goals and values of MRM.

"We believe that his leadership will inspire greater participation and cooperation among our members, ultimate-



ly leading to the advancement of our shared objectives," Gulshan Kumar further added.

On this occasion, all office bearers and members have welcomed Abdul Qayoom Mir and offered him full support with the assumption of his new responsibilities as the Co-Convenor for MRM in the J&K.

"We are confident that together we will continue to work diligently towards the betterment of our community and the promotion of our organization's principles," statement quoting office bearers added.

Baba Saheb Ambedkar Sports Club organizes Langar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: On occasion of 647 Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj, a massive Langer was organised by Baba Saheb Ambedkar Sports Club at Sri Guru Ravidas Chowk which was formally known as Jewel Chowk on Saturday.

A large number of devotees gathered to pay homage to their revered Guru.

The volunteers distributed Langar among the devotees in the presence of the committee members among the devotees.

The Langar was supported by SC, ST Employees Welfare Association, PNB Bank.

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAZR- WVM24-4	11.03.2024 at 12:30 PM	Allotment of contract for provision and operation of Water Vending Machines at Railway Station Jalandhar City.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 594/24		

FROM PAGE 1

ECI Takes Strong Exception To Defiance of Instructions On Transfers, Postings of Officers In Wake of Anticipated LS Polls

the same Parliamentary Constituency thereby undermining the spirit of transfer policy," observes the communiqué, a copy of which lies with GNS.

"Therefore, the Commission has directed that, except for the States/UTs that comprise of up to two Parliamentary Constituencies, all States shall ensure that officers who are transferred out of the district are not posted within the same Parliamentary Constituency. This shall also be applicable to the transfers/postings that have already been given effect in pursuance of the Commission's instruction. It is reiterated that the transfer policy of the commission must be adhered to in both letter and spirit."

"The Commission has further directed that a report certifying the compliance of the earlier directions and including the above be furnished by the Chief Secretary and the DGP of the State concerned to the Commission latest by 3:00 PM on 26.02.2024," the communiqué further reads.

About 36% Rajya Sabha candidates declared criminal cases against themselves: ADR

crore. The average assets of Rajya Sabha candidates stand at ₹127.81 crore. "Congress nominee from Himachal Pradesh Abhishek Manu Singhvi with total assets worth ₹1,872 crore, Samajwadi Party nominee from Uttar Pradesh Jaya Amitabh Bachchan with assets worth ₹1,578 crore and JD(S) nominee from Karnataka Kupendra Reddy with assets amounting to ₹871 crore are among the top three wealthiest candidates," according to the analysis.

Among the poorest candidates are BJP's Madhya Pradesh candidate Balyogi Umesh Nath with assets worth more than ₹47 lakh,

BJP's West Bengal candidate Samik Bhat-tacharya with assets worth ₹1 crore and BJP's Uttar Pradesh candidate Sangita with assets worth ₹1 crore.

While 17% of the candidates have educational qualifications ranging from 5th pass to 12th pass, a significant 79% hold graduate or higher degrees.

"A majority (76%) of the candidates fall in the 51-70 age group with a smaller proportion (16%) in the 31-50 age group. Only 19% of the candidates are women," according to the analysis.

SIA Kashmir files chargesheet against Sarjan Barkati, his wife & others in unlawful activities & militant financing case

pursuance of aforesaid larger criminal conspiracy, they received, raised and collected funds from different suspicious sources in cash and through banking channels into their bank accounts of different banks, intended to be used for purposes of militancy and secessionism and by using these funds Sarjan Ahmad Wagay has purchased some immovable properties intended and likely to be used for the furtherance of militancy," reads the statement. The investigation, the statement reads, has established the culpability of the accused Sarjan Barkati, his wife and their Pakistan based handler in furthering and financing the militant and secessionist activities in J&K. "The trio accused pursuant to the criminal conspiracy generated militancy funds to the tune of INR 1.74 crores which were routed through various shell accounts intended to be used for smuggling and creating wherewithal's for propagation of secessionist, subversive, militant ideology and unlawful activities in J&K to achieve their common objective of separation of J&K from Union of India and to support militant activities and ecosystem." The trio, the statement, were in contact with each other through secret communication applications and encrypted messenger applications. "In the investigation of the case among the accused charge sheet two are arrested and lodged in judicial custody while the third is based in Pakistan", reads the statement.

"The charge sheet was presented within the statutory period of investigation after obtaining the mandatory government sanction against these three accused persons for commission of offences punishable under sections 13, 17, 18, 21, 39, 40 UAP(P) A read with sections 120-B, 420, 471 IPC", reads the statement. "Further investigation against other suspects and associates of charge-sheeted accused persons will be continued", concludes the statement.

Sub-zero night temp continue in Kashmir; minus 3.1°C in Srinagar, 9.0°C in Gulmarg

3.5°C on the previous night and the temperature was below normal by 3.0°C for the place, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of minus 4.5°C against minus 4.7°C on the previous night and it was 4.2°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 9.0°C against minus 10.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was below normal by 2.3°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir where 4th edition of Khelo India games are underway presently.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 8.3°C and it was below normal by 2.3°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of minus 1.6°C, Batote 0.1°C and Bhaderwah minus 2.2°C, he said.

The weatherman has forecast mainly dry weather till February 26.

From 27th-28th Feb, he said, there is possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at scattered to fairly widespread places.

On 29th Feb, he said, there is possibility of light rain and snow at isolated places.

From 1st-3rd March, he said, there is possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at scattered to fairly widespread places.

While 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harsh period of winter ended on January 29 and 20-day-long winter period called 'Chillai-Khur'd' ended on February 19, Kashmir is the middle 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) which culminates on March 1.

Narco Terror Case | NIA attaches properties of

4 accused in Handwara; Seizes over 2 Cr Cash

Muneer Ahmad Pandey, a property belonging to third accused Saleem Andrabi and the double-storied house of Islam ul Haq.

A total of 12 accused have so far been arrested in the case, in which the NIA has charge sheeted 15 individuals.

The case pertains to the use of the proceeds of narcotic drugs to fund nefarious terrorist activities by LeT and HM operating in the Handwara-Kupwara region.

The case was registered following the recovery of a black bag and a large number of Indian currency notes of 500 denominations during the checking of vehicles in the Langate area of Handwara. The seizure was made from a white Creta car without a registration number.

Preliminary questioning of the car's driver, Abdul Momin Peer, had led to the revelation of the narco-terror nexus, which had sparked a detailed investigation.

During the initial searches of the houses, 21 kg of heroin was seized, in addition to various incriminating materials, including large sums of cash.

Two-Way Traffic on Jammu-Srinagar Highway resumes with restrictions

lifeline of supplies for the landlocked Valley as essentials including petroleum products, medicines, foodstuffs, vegetables, meat and poultry products are routed through this road.

Meanwhile, Srinagar-Leh, Mughal Road, Sinthan-Kishtwar road, Bandipora-Gurez road and Kupwara-Tangdhar road are still snowbound and closed for traffic.

Yami's 'Article 370' rakes in over Rs 5 Cr, Vidyut-Starrer 'Crakk' mints Rs 4 Cr on Day 1

crore Rupees in India nett on its first day as per early estimates, states the trade website.

'Crakk' is a high-action sports thriller, which also stars Nora Fatehi, Amy Jackson and Arjun Rampal. It tells the tale of a man going from the slums of Mumbai to the world of extreme underground sports.

Former MLC among dozens of pahari activists join BJP in Jammu

this month.

Shah, a resident of the Trehgam area in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, said, "I have taken a conscious decision to join the BJP, given Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts for development, peace and providing justice to the deprived sections of society." As chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Pahari Tribal Movement for more than 25 years, he said they have been struggling for political, social and economic rights of the community that were finally fulfilled by the Modi government.

"The previous governments used us as a vote bank only but justice was done by the Modi government," Shah, who was seen in the prime minister's public rally in Jammu on February 20, said.

In a separate function, dozens of Pahari activists led by prominent National Conference leader Mohd Ayub Pahalwan from Kotranka in Rajouri joined the BJP in the presence of Raina.

"The joining of political stalwarts in the BJP is a stamp on the works done by the prime minister in Jammu and Kashmir," the BJP leader said.

Raina said the party's doors are open for everyone who wants to join and serve the people.

"I want to assure the new entrants that their honour and position will be respected so that they can serve their people in a better way," he said.

Kupwara Admin seeks data for railway line extension survey

Food Grains, Fertilizer, Cement, Diesel, Petrol, Steel Etc for the Project Area," reads the communiqué.

"This requires your personal attention and needs to be submitted to this Office (ADC Office) within 03 days positively," reads the communiqué further.

Motor Parts Dealers Association Transport Nagar holds meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: A review meeting of Motor Parts Dealers Association Transport Nagar Jammu held regarding the upgradation of Transport Nagar under the chairmanship of Rajinder Prasad President and the participants of members raised & demand the enclosed details for divisional commissioner for expedite the pace of developments to give relief the transport Nagar community at the earliest. Also passed the resolutions that write a letter of demand & copy to VC JDA Jammu and President of Chamber of commerce and industry for highlights our problems to the concerned as our association is affiliated with CCI Jammu.



Besides large members of MPDA Jammu, Jaswinder Singh, Satish Kumar, Sanjay Dogra, Parvinder Singh, Ashok Kumar, M.P. Singh, Sham Singh Bhau and Raman Gupta also attended the meeting.

They said that the Anti Encroachments Drive required on merits as our team MPDA have three meeting with law enforcement concerned authorities to challan the illegal permanently parked junked trucks, buses

and cars in and around transport Nagar Narwal Jammu for smooth free flow of traffic but they show helplessness because they don't have sufficient men, machinery and space to tow away these vehicles. Then we write to traffic police Jammu, they have challaned virtually some vehicles but the problem is still there because every day there are increasing Encroachments by roadside workshops kisko, vegetable & fruit

venders and scrap dealers. Which creates confusion & spoiling the face of transport Nagar, it's seems that there is no Law enforcement agencies neither any administrative agency to check these violators.

They further said that the jobs which has been has been accomplished by the contractor also not satisfied upto the engineering norms. Every nook and corner can be seen by open eye's. Our team MPDA

suggest to you for visits in transport Nagar from yard number 1 to 7 and issue directions to the concerned authorities for early remedies.

To avoid the illegal Encroachments in future, they said, our team MPDA suggested that there should be fencing by three feet height steel grills through out all roads dividers but the concerned agency started the same and leaves inbetween without completing which also encouraged to all illegal Encroachments.

Fixing of Tiles works also not successful as trucks with loads of forty tons ultimately caused damaged the tiles. There should be mettle with concrete will be durable for next thirty years, they added

Bali Bhagat chairs State BJP Election Committee's Social Sampark meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: The first meeting of BJP's State Election Committee's Social Sampark Group was held at the Party Headquarters in Jammu. The meeting was chaired by BJP senior leader and Former Minister, Bali Bhagat in which Convenors and Co-convenors of 18 Assembly Constituencies of Jammu province attended the meeting.

During the meeting, it was decided that different programs would be initiated in all the eighteen assembly constituencies from 27th February till the end of the Lok Sabha elections. The meeting also decided to organize similar meetings for other assembly constituencies of both Jammu province and Kashmir shortly.

The upcoming programs under Social

Sampark Abhiyan, scheduled for March, will cover all 90 constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir. The programs will reach out to intellectuals, doctors, engineers, professors, advocates, traders, senior citizens, retired officers/employees, retired bureaucrats, youth, students, NGOs, priests, Granthis, Paadris, Imams, Jain, Munnis, different caste associations, Mahila organization, Satsang Groups, ex-servicemen, district/state/national/international awardees, sports teams/popular sportspersons, organizing tournaments, key voters, social and religious organizations, labor class (Shramik Varg), poor/BPLs, hotel associations, taxi associations, transport associations, auto associations, riksha associations, shikara associations, fruit growers, vegetable/fruit vendors, bar-

bars, tea stallwale, artisans, rehari and phari wale, poet sammelans, organizing mushairas, organizing local and popular actors/singers, yoga associations, gym, beauty parlors/salons.

Speaking at the meeting, Bali Bhagat said that the Social Sampark Group is geared towards fostering grassroots connections, ensuring inclusive participation, and mobilizing support for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. He said that the party remains committed to engaging with all sections of society and working towards the overall progress and development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The former minister urged all attendees to gear up for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. He emphasized the importance of active participation from party members and the need to reach out to every corner of the constituencies.

NYKS J&K hosts virtual State-Level National Youth Parliament Festival

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) J&K under MoYAS has successfully organized the State-Level National Youth Parliament Festival on 23 & 24 February, 2024, bringing young minds from UTs of J&K and Ladakh together in a virtual setting.

The Theme of the Parliament was Young Voices: Engage and Empower for Nation's Transformation. The event saw enthusiastic participation from district-level winners, who passionately shared their perspectives on three key topics:

Yuva ke dwara Yuva Ke liye (Youth for Youth) Using Social Media for Social Changes Viksit Bharat (Developed India). Each participant delivered a compelling Four Minute speech, addressing one of the designated topics. An eminent jury panel comprising renowned personalities judged the competition. Their feedback provided crucial insights and encouragement to the participants. The jury included: Shobha Ram (Retd Director, Protocol, J&K Govt) Sohail Qazmi (Editor in Chief, Daily Taskeen), Dr. Musavir Ahmed (Professor & NSS Prog Coordinator, Kashmir University), Preeti Sharma (Director, IAS Academy), Mohd Sajjad Khan (Councillor LAHDC Kargil).

Field trip to Gharana wetland organized by Department of Environmental Sciences JU

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu organized a one-day field trip to Gharana wetland Jammu.

The purpose of the trip was to acquaint the students with different varieties of resident and migratory birds visiting the area during winter and to provide them with hands-on training on various monitoring techniques to study the water quality and biological aspects of the wetlands. Pertinent to mention that Gharana wetland is home to more than ninety species of resident as well as migratory birds and is located along the Central Asian Flyway. It is a noti-



fied wetland conservation reserve under the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Protection Act (1978) and has international recognition as one of the important bird areas (IBAs) in the world, declared by Bird-Life International (UK) and the Bombay Natural History Society.

Some of the birds seen by the students included flocks of bar-headed

Geese, northern pintails, northern shovelers, white-breasted ibis, herons, cormorants, coots, and water hens, to name a few. Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences in his inaugural remarks said that such field trips are essential for students to obtain practical knowledge of the subject which com-

plements the theoretical knowledge gained during classroom teaching. Mr. Ashish Mahajan, Range Officer Wetlands, Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of J&K interacted with the students and briefed them about various conservation measures adopted by the Department of Wildlife for the management of Gharana wet-

land.

He informed that the count and the diversity of both the migratory and resident birds have shown a tremendous increase this year. Dr. Deepika Slathia, Teacher Incharge of the trip along with Tsering Dolkar, Shivali Sharma and Mohinder Kumar guided the students about vari-

ous water quality monitoring techniques and discussed about the habitat, behaviour patterns and habitat preferences of the birds visiting the area. The students used high-power binoculars to observe the activities of the birds in the wetland.

The students also interacted with the locals to understand their perspective regarding the management measures taken by the Department of Wildlife Protection, Govt. of J&K and sensitized them regarding the importance of the wetland in the area. The students also visited the Suchetgarh Border. A total of 25 students along with the faculty members, participated in this educational trip.

“EYES WIDE OPEN: STORY OF TIRANGA IN KASHMIR”

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: “Eyes Wide Open: Story of Tiranga in Kashmir,” is among the latest books written by displaced Kashmiris in exodus, to hit the stands. Published by Sabre and Quil and authored by Ranjana Raina, it is another addition to the Exodus Literature; books written by ethnically-cleansed Kashmiri Hindus and others, who faced a tragic fate in early nineties when Pakistan-sponsored armed uprising took the Valley by storm.

Whereas most books falling in this category of Exodus Literature contained anguished accounts of personal and community-level experiences the writers had undergone or were witness to, this book under review describes the positive changes sweeping the Valley during the last few years.

The author, Ranjana Raina, has solid credentials to write this account. She is a displaced Kashmiri Pandit who spent years in a refugee camp at Jammu. Ranjana is married to Col Rajeev Raina who, after serving multiple tenures in insurgency-hit Jammu and Kashmir state, was posted as a staff officer at Srinagar Sub Area, the formation responsible for carrying out civic action programs in Kashmir. Here, he not only had a bird's eye view of the events in the Valley but was an active participant in activities that went a long way in turning the tide in Kashmir in considerable measure. Author of this book and Rajeev's wife, Ranjana, as part of the women-led initiatives toured the length and breadth of

Kashmir rendering a helping hand to common women who had experienced years of fear and bloodshed.

The book gives a detailed account of the numerous initiatives launched by the army under the directions of General Officer Commanding 31 Sub Area, Maj Gen Sanjay P Vishwasrao who, as the book makes it clear, was the central figure of the civic action programs that contributed immensely to bring in positive change in Kashmir. Gen Sanjay was not new to the situation he faced when he was posted to Srinagar in 2021. Having dealt with the situation during his multiple tenures at various levels in the concerned theatre of operations and subsequently, as Military Attache in Pakistan, he had gained a first-hand knowledge of the big role played by Pakistan's Islamic parties in radicalizing the gullible Kashmiri youth by exploiting their religious sentiments and, above all, of Pakistan Army itself who, during the past 30 years between 1990-2020, had waged a proxy war against India in Kashmir by using its own jihadi cadres inside the valley as also a huge network of its sympathizers, both overground and underground.

Initially, Gen Sanjay took baby steps which sent a clear message to the youth of Kashmir to shun fear and raise their voice against violence and destruction of the fabric of Kashmiri society. The youth were encouraged to take part in events which would help common people, youth, the womenfolk, the small-time business community, and the marginalized segments

of the society. Gradually, the General built a dedicated group of young men and women to implement his ideas that basically revolved around conveying the following message to the Kashmiri Awam (people):

1. During the past three decades, Kashmiris have suffered hugely. This has mainly been due to Pakistan-sponsored insurgency and the excesses perpetrated on the men and women of Kashmir by its armed cadres.

2. Whereas the ordinary Kashmiri youth were motivated to pick up arms by leaders owing allegiance to Pakistan, their own children rarely did so. In fact, they were well educated and landed cushy jobs in India and abroad.

3. Kashmiri women folk were the worst sufferers of the turmoil as the violence took away their bread-winners and because in their helpless situation they became the victims of the militant's lust and other forms of exploitation.

4. While India was economically taking great strides, Pakistan, the sponsor of militancy, was falling deep into political chaos and economic gloom. Many generations of Kashmiri youth had been destroyed by picking up arms, joining the paid gangs of stone pelters. This situation needed to be reversed to save Kashmir's future.

Gradually, through word of mouth, innovative use of social media and some solid work on ground, more and more people joined Gen Sanjay's core team till it became a self-sustaining movement.

Within a year of launching such initiatives successfully, Gen Sanjay launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahatsof. A 100 feet-long iron pole with Tiranga on one end was hoisted on top of Haeri Parbat within the fort, built by Mughal King Akbar in late sixteenth century, on August 15, 2021. The author describes in detail the enormous physical work and technical sophistication that was galvanized to have this heavy pole taken up the mountain and have it erected at the right place. It was for the first time that a Tiranga would now be visible to the whole Srinagar city from all directions. Incidentally, I had been asked to provide a brief history about Haeri Parbat to be narrated during the recording of the video of this event. Tiranga now became a ubiquitous presence on many important days of National Importance, i.e., Republic Day, Independence Day, Accession Day, etc. Many women wove the National Tri-color in their homes as part of cottage industry. Such was its popularity. Gen Sanjay Vishwasrao was kind enough to present me one of these.

As far as dealing with the ordinary women of Kashmir, who spend their entire lives in a highly conservative environment, was concerned, Gen Sanjay's wife Mrs Sanjeevani Vishwasrao took the initiative to address their concerns and as far as possible improve their lot. With the group of Army women, including the author, Anjana Raina, she forayed into

unknown territory; first with great trepidation and later with greater confidence as the welfare schemes became popular among the women folk. As more and more women saw the advantages accruing to them through various schemes, many women's NGOs and self-help groups lent a helping hand in extending the reach of these schemes to remote and relatively inaccessible areas. The Ex-Servicemen of Kashmir, coming from across the Kashmir Valley, too joined the mission of popularizing these schemes. Ms Ranjana Raina was at the forefront of this activity. In the book, she describes in detail how Mrs Sanjeevani Vishwasrao and her dedicated team of women volunteers carried out welfare schemes in remote and least frequented inland waterways of Dal Lake in Kachari Mohalla inhabited mostly by the Shia community. She describes in detail how the local women of the area were initially reluctant to join such initiatives, but gradually joined in large numbers when it became evident that these schemes were meant for their own good. The change in the peoples' perception took place gradually till it became visible to everyone.

Two of the most noticeable events that pointed to the changed situation in Kashmir were the complete absence of any protests post-abrogation of Article 370 and 35 A on August 5, 2019, and presence of large number of Tirangas in Lal Chowk, the heart of militancy, dominated particularly by JKLF. It was on August

15, 2022, that five brave women of Kashmir, installed a Tiranga atop the Ghantaghar at Lal Chowk. Since then, Lal Chowk is now buzzing with tourist activity like it was prior to the start of militancy in late eighties.

The book describes in detail the frustration of those whose vested interests were hit by the success of Gen Sanjay efforts at turning the clock of violence and militancy back in Kashmir. The author describes in detail an article that appeared in Caravan Magazine after Gen Sanjay had been posted out of Kashmir in December 2023. Similarly, some other voices too were raised by frustrated elements who could not see common people celebrating Tiranga; something that hit at the root of their industry of violence perpetuated through fear, money, gun, and religious exploitation.

Kashmiris who had become part of Gen Sanjay Vishwasrao's initiatives and those who had seen a visible and positive change coming over the valley under his guidance, would have preferred to have his tenure in Srinagar going beyond the traditionally followed two-year or so deadline. However, overlooking the contribution made by the General and the need to extend his tenure by at least a year more in national interests, in order to consolidate the gains Kashmiris had made, he was posted out to an innocuous NCC Directorate at New Delhi. It is quite apparent that Army does not see itself performing roles beyond the routine.

127th Jayanti of Guru Gyagi Ji celebrated

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: The 127th Jayanti of Guru Gyagi Ji, a spiritual saint, was celebrated with great enthusiasm, religious fervour and gaiety at his shrine in Shahzadpur Kothi.

In this connection, a grand religious function was held at Guru Gyagi Ji's temple in which thousands of devotees drawn from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory and Punjab State participated.

The function was organised by Guru Gyagi Birth Commemorative Committee.

The entire temple complex was



fully decorated by the Committee befitting the occasion. The devotees paid obeisance in the temple and prayed for peace and prosperity of mankind. Besides Pooja-Archana, Havan was also held in the holy temple by the devotees.

The devotees also sang hymns in praise of Guru Ji. They were served prasad by the committee. There was a beeline of devotees right from early in the morning waiting for their turn to perform darshan.

On behalf of Guru Gyagi Birth Commemorative Committee, R.L. Kaith welcomed the Chief Guest former Minister Sukh-nandan Choudhary, the Guests of Honour SSP M.L. Kaith, DDC Member Balbir Lal, functionaries of Batwal Samaj Ekta Manch Punjab and all other dignitaries present on the occasion.

Kaith also highlighted the secular aspect and universal character of Guru Gyagi giving references of global brotherhood and oneness of the mankind.

The Guest of Honour SSP M.L. Kaith said, Guru Gyagi Ji showed us the path of a compassionate virtuous life and an inclu-

sive society.

May Guru Gyagi Ji's eternal message guides us on the path of creating a kind and peaceful world.

While the Chief Guest Sukh-nandan Choudhary in his speech said, the auspicious Guru Gyagi's birthday teaches us brotherhood, amity and to work together to fight ignorance, poverty and other problems of society.

He further said the spiritual scholars have left indelible mark in public service, which needs to be emulated by people for making this world a better place to live in.

Choudhary counted the achievements made and developmental works executed under Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi's leadership in the last ten years. He said PM's decisive leadership has transformed Jammu and Kashmir into a peaceful and almost terror-free region. He also praised the economic growth under PM Modi's leadership.

Also to encourage the students to work hard and behave diligently in future, Choudhary highly appreciated Batwal community's meritorious students and advised them to follow the path of honesty and kindness.

Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj said that may Guru Gyagi Ji's noble teachings continue to guide us in our endeavour of building a just and compassionate society.

Fourth Test: India bowl out England for 353; reach 34/1 at lunch

Ollie Robinson scored his maiden half-century



NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): Ollie Robinson gifted away his wicket after making a career-best 58 that resulted in England's first innings ending at 353 even as Joe Root remained unbeaten on 122 on the second day of the fourth Test against India, on Saturday.

England had made a solid start this morning, making Indians toil hard without success before Robinson's choice of shot - a reverse sweep - off Ravindra Jadeja brought India

back in the opening session. It ended a dogged 102-run stand between Robinson and Root.

In their reply, India lost skipper Rohit Sharma (2) cheaply to be 34 for one at lunch, trailing England by 319 runs.

Veteran James Anderson saw the back of Sharma with a delivery that moved away slightly off the surface after pitching on a perfect length, taking edge from Indian captain's bat that was taken by Ben Foakes.

Yashasvi Jaiswal (27 batting) was his usual confident self and giving him company was Shubman Gill (4) at the break.

England added 51 valuable runs to their overnight total of 302/7 as the Indian attack failed to make early penetration. The last five England batters added 241 runs after being 112/5 at lunch on the opening day.

While Mohammed Siraj (2/78) erred in his line and length, debutant Akash Deep could not add to his tally of three wickets to

return with 3/38 from 19 overs.

For India, Ravindra Jadeja took all the three wickets to return with 4/67 from his 32.5 overs.

Root, who dug in deep with his classical century spanning a little more than six hours, remained stranded on 122 from 274 balls (10x4).

Robinson had a great start to morning when he flicked one away from a wayward Siraj in the first ball of the day for a boundary through fine leg.

There was no stopping him as he looked for every opportunity and took on Akash Deep with three boundaries that took him past his previous career-best Test score of 42.

However, a bizarre shot selection ended his gritty knock as he employed a grounded reverse sweep which was not necessary at that moment as Indian bowlers were hardly troubling the visitors.

The ball missed the edge of the bat touched the gloves of Robinson before being grabbed by 23-year-old Dhruv Jurel.

England then fell in a jiffy with Shoib Bashir swinging his bat to the second ball and skied the ball to be caught at point. Jadeja trapped James Anderson to end England resistance.

Doda Taekwondo athletes secure 20 medals in 26th J&K UT Taekwondo C'ship



Top News Report

DODA, Feb 24: Doda Taekwondo players have won twenty medals at 26th J&K UT Taekwondo Championships 2023-24 held at Indoor Sports Hall, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu.

The event was organized by J&K Taekwondo Association (Regd) under the aegis of Taekwondo Federation of India (TFI) and J&K Sports Council (JKSC).

Five female taekwondo athletes of District Doda are selected to represent J&K - UT in the upcoming Phase 2 of 1st Khelo India Women's Taekwondo League 2023-24 from 21st to 24th February 2024 at KD Singh Babu Indoor Stadium, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, organized by Uttar Pradesh

Taekwondo Association, under the aegis of Taekwondo Federation of India & Khelo India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

The taekwondo athletes of Doda represented District Doda and secured 20 Medals in which 10 Gold, 03 Silver and 07 Bronze medal in the said event with the support of Burhan Ud Din Khan (NIS Taekwondo Coach) as Team Coach.

GOLD: Misbah Fatima, Radha Sharma, Zikra Fatima, Mehreen Bint Riaz, Ahmed Tahan, Kartik Shaan, Kashif Iqbal, Mutaib Masood, Rutba Majid, Zikra Fatima in (Pair Poomsae).

SILVER: Khadija UI Qubra, Mohd Ayan Zargar, Misbah Fatima

in (Kyorugi).

BRONZE: Umar Iqbal Butt, Mohd Yaffi, Ridhima Singh Rakwal, Sharjeel Banday, Zaisha Raies, Khadija UI Qubra in (Junior Individual Poomsae) and Radha Sharma in (Junior Individual Poomsae).

NGul Faiqa and Aira Fatima also participated in the said championships.

The championships were attended by more than 600 players from across the UT which was held with latest rulings of Taekwondo, using real time management of the competition system.

President District Doda Taekwondo Association Junaid Ali Khan Congratulated the whole DDTA Team for this remarkable achievement.

Liverpool eye 'special' League Cup final triumph against Chelsea

LONDON, Feb 24 (Agencies): Liverpool have their sights on a "special" League Cup triumph in Sunday's final against Chelsea as Jurgen Klopp reaches the first milestone moment of his long goodbye. Klopp is in his last season as Liverpool manager after the German's bombshell announcement that he will step down at the end of the current campaign.

Although Klopp is convinced he no longer has the energy to drive Liverpool's relentless quest for silverware, there has been little sign of the feared decline in his side's fortunes following his stunning revelation.

Liverpool have won five of their six matches in all competitions, scoring 21 goals in the process, since the 56-year-old revealed his plan to quit.

Extending that hot streak at Wembley this weekend would give Liverpool their first trophy since 2022, when they beat Chelsea in both the FA Cup and

League Cup finals.

Klopp has won six major trophies during an iconic nine-year reign and his quadruple-chasing players are desperate to give him a silverware-filled farewell.

As well as this weekend's date with Chelsea, Liverpool sit four points clear at the top of the Premier League, face Southampton in the FA Cup fifth round on Wednesday and take on Sparta Prague in the Europa League last 16.

"We want to make it a special day and get our first trophy of the season," Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk said.

"The end of the season will probably be very emotional for a lot of people, including the manager, but we are not there yet."

Klopp's assistant Pep Lijnders echoed Van Dijk's call to make it a day to remember for their boss.

"We'll go for it. It's a special game. Special games need special performances so we have to focus on that," Lijnders said.

Lijnders insisted Klopp was always confident Liverpool's players would keep their focus after his shock announcement.

"I think you underestimate our squad, the personalities in it," he said.

"A lot of these boys didn't win anything with Liverpool yet so of course they give everything despite the manager saying he is leaving. We are stable enough to deal with it."

"Dream for us"

Lijnders' reference to several of Liverpool's young squad waiting to taste success underscores Klopp's achievement in rebuilding his team after the pre-season departures of Jordan Henderson, Fabinho, Roberto Firmino and James Milner among others.

The Reds' resolve will be tested at Wembley by a mounting injury crisis that leaves them without Alisson Becker, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Curtis Jones and Diogo Jota.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Salah, Darwin Nunez

and Dominik Szoboszlai face late fitness tests.

But taking advantage of Liverpool's injury woes will be easier said than done for inconsistent Chelsea.

Mauricio Pochettino's team were one of Liverpool's victims during their recent goal spree, losing 4-1 at Anfield in January.

Former Tottenham and Southampton boss Pochettino, yet to win a trophy in England, has been under fire from angry Chelsea fans as a troubled season threatens to spiral out of control.

With Chelsea languishing 25 points behind Liverpool in 10th place in the Premier League, a surprise win at Wembley would be a major boost to the Argentine's job security.

Chelsea co-owner Todd Boehly is expected to fly in from the United States to watch the Blues' first cup final since he and Behdad Eghbali bought the London club from Roman Abramovich in 2022.

Rohit Sharma-led India's on-field attitude prompts Manjrekar, Karthik to 'miss' Virat Kohli in India vs England 4th Test

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): One of the most prominent criticisms of Rohit's Test captaincy has always been his lack of proactiveness. On Day 2 of the 4th Test, it made India 'miss' Kohli.

Rohit Sharma's non-proactive captaincy once again came to the fore during the India vs England 4th Test at the JSCA Stadium in Ranchi prompting former India cricketers to "miss" Virat Kohli's presence in the field. Sanjay Manjrekar and Dinesh Karthik discussed the absence of Kohli, which they believed was one of the major reasons behind the lack of energy among India's fielders on Day 2 of the fourth Test against England in Ranchi.

One of the most prominent criticisms of Rohit's Test captaincy has always been his lack of proactiveness. He tends to wait for things to happen rather than getting ahead of the game, especially when a partnership is build-



ing. His laid-back body language doesn't help.

The situation was quite similar towards the end of Day 1 and at the beginning of Day 2 in Ranchi. India had England huffing and puffing at 112/5 in the first session. From then, Joe Root and Ben Foakes got through the next session wicketless. While they showed admirable patience one of the biggest talking points was the late introduction of Kuldeep Yadav. It took Rohit 41 overs to throw the ball to the left-arm wrist spinner.

When they finally managed to get the breakthrough in the final ses-

sion and followed it up with another wicket to have England 245/7, Rohit failed to go for the kill. The second new ball wasn't taken and another partnership between Root and Ollie Robinson made sure they got to stumps on without further damage.

In the first session on Saturday, there was no urgency in the Indian camp. Robinson and Root batted without any trouble. The former got to his maiden half-century in Test cricket as the partnership for the 8th wicket crossed 100. It was at that moment when Manjrekar and Karthik talked about

the need to show some energy.

Manjrekar said it is during these times that India start to miss someone like Virat Kohli, who used to make things happen with his energy and body language.

"Virat Kohli is one of those guys. If the fielders are quiet, he will get the crowd to back the players, and bring some energy. When he's out there, he just gets that intensity going. India are missing Virat Kohli. There is no one quite like him. He carries that energy," Manjrekar said.

Dinesh Karthik was quick to join in: "Has the uncanny knack of getting the crowd behind him."

Kohli was named in India's squad for the first two Tests of the England series but the former captain withdrew after attending just one practice session in Hyderabad. After the second Test ended, BCCI revealed that Kohli would not take any part in the next three Tests also.

Will rain help Indian cricket team steal a draw in 3rd IND vs ENG Test?

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): Coming into the third Test at the JSCA International Stadium Complex in Ranchi India were firm favorites to win the series however, a magnificent ton from Joe Root and an inspired bowling performance from young Shoib Bashir have put the hosts on a deficit of 134 runs after Day 2.

In India, it is not very usual for teams to come from behind. With the pitch crumbling by each session, any total England will ask India to chase would be a herculean task. However, a glimmer of hope for

India which could save them the blushes is the weather forecast for Sunday (Day 3) and Tuesday (Day 5)

According to the AccuWeather app on Sunday, there will be a shower or two in the afternoon, and on the final day a cloudy day is expected and a couple of showers in the afternoon. There are also showers predicted for Day 4 however, the App suggests those could be only in a few areas of the Ranchi city.

Unless a dramatic batting effort from Dhruv Jurel with the remaining lower-order batters which would

take India closer to England's first-innings total of 353. India would be hoping all the showers predicted would come true and give them a chance to draw the Test.

Despite Yasashvi Jaiswal scoring the fourth half-century in a row in the series the rest of the batting order could not provide him with enough support hence India ended the day at 219/7.

The series currently stands at 2-1 after England beat India in the first Test in Hyderabad by 28 runs. Ollie Pope's 196 helped them to turn the Test match from an

impossible situation. India after swallowing a bitter pill in the opening Test made a comeback in the second game in Visakhapatnam by beating the visitors by 106 runs-A comeback led by Jasprit Bumrah's heroics.

The third Test in Rajkot was the first time where India completely thrashed England. The game seemed on an even keel after Day 2 on the back of Ben Duckett's ton but Yasashvi Jaiswal had different ideas. India took the lead in the series after beating England by a whopping 434 runs at Rajkot.

India women's hockey coach leaves on bitter note, but here's why her contribution shouldn't be undermined

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): Janneke Schopman's voice choked with emotion midway through what would now be one of her last interactions with the media. The Olympic qualifiers saw the Indian women's hockey team fall short of accomplishing their goal; after famously finishing fourth in Tokyo, they wouldn't even be playing at the 2024 Olympics.

"Very hard. Because, you know..." she paused when asked about the challenges she faced. "I come from a culture where women are respected and valued. I don't feel that here." She would also say she felt 'alone a lot'. For a coach who spoke at every possible opportunity about growing as a team, the parting words couldn't have been more anti-climatic.

After the FIH Pro League leg in Odisha, Schopman's tenure as

head coach officially ended on Friday night. And as it often does in Indian hockey, not on the best of terms. The first-ever female to take up the role - and among the very few international female head coaches at the top level - Schopman bowed out calling out the disrespect she felt she was at the receiving end of, based on her gender. "Coming from the Netherlands, having worked in the USA, this country is extremely difficult as a woman, coming from a culture where you can have an opinion and it's valued." At the highest level of any sport, coaches are ultimately judged for results. The team's best outcomes in major events in the last few years have come at the FIH Nations Cup (winners, promoted to Pro League), Commonwealth Games (bronze), Asian Games (bronze),

Asian Champions Trophy (winners), Junior Asia Cup (winners, for the first time). The lows, however, were sharp too. The ninth place at the 2022 World Cup was below par, but the biggest disappointment came in Ranchi during the Olympic qualifiers where they missed two chances to win a quota for Paris Games.

But beyond results, Schopman changed the Indian team's identity. It cannot be ignored that Schopman - a former world champion who grew up in the world of Dutch hockey where attacking, fast gameplay is paramount to success - made Indian players embrace speed. She put together a squad that had some of the most exciting young attacking players in the world, something her adversaries acknowledged repeatedly.

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Shiv Sena demands reservation, increase incentive amount, monthly allowance to medal winners

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded reservation in government jobs, increase in incentive amount and monthly allowance along with better facilities for the champions as part of its resolve to uplift sports in the state and provide better facilities and rights to the players.

In a press conference organized at the party state central office today, state chief Manish Sahni said that the sports cell recently formed at the party level sports cell has received dozens of complaints and suggestions.

He said that mainly the players are especially worried about their future. He says that even after years of hard work and winning medals at the national and international level, bringing glory to the country and his state, he still remains worried about his economic strength and future.

To overcome this main problem of his champions and medal winners, Sahni demanded 4% reservation in government jobs.



He said that such recommendations have also been made by the Sports Council. Recently it has been implemented by the Uttarakhand government.

Along with this, he also proposed to increase the incentive amount given to the gold, silver and bronze medal winners and to give a monthly allowance of Rs 7-5 thousand till the medal winners get a government job and to provide free air travel to the players selected in national level competitions. Demand to provide travel facilities.

Sahni has appealed to share their complaints and suggestions regarding the improvement and facilities of sports in the state by calling on "9419182952", WhatsApp and email on "shivsenasahni@gmail.com".

He said that on all the legitimate demands received by him, Assured to raise voice and raise it before the concerned department and administrative higher officials and make every possible effort for a solution. Sahni said that all the com-

plaints and suggestions will be raised before the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and efforts will be made to implement the reforms and demands.

On this occasion, Shiv Sainiks paid immense respect and emotional tribute to Saint Shri Guru Ravidas on his birth anniversary.

On this occasion, President Women's Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, President Kamgar Raj Singh were present.

Prof (Dr.) R.K. Uppal receives Golden Book Award 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: The esteemed 'Golden Book Award 2024' was awarded to Prof R. K. Uppal from the esteemed MTC Global jury members.

The distinguished honor was bestowed upon Professor Emeritus R.K. Uppal for his comprehensive publication, 'Encyclopedia of Indian Banking Industry'.

Dr. Uppal's vast contributions to the banking and finance field, marked by his active engagements with professional organizations and exceptional theoretical and applied contributions, have fortified India's banking system's global competitiveness.

Dr. Uppal's list of notable books includes 'Indian Banking in the Globalized World-2013', 'Information Technology in Banks-A New Gateway for Success-2018', 'E-Age Banking - A Future Outlook-2018', 'Bank-



ing with Technology- A New Vision 2020', and 'Managing Transformation in Indian Banks Through E-Delivery Channels-2021'.

Dr. Uppal's work has been widely acknowledged with numerous awards and referenced in professional programs.

Dr. Uppal foresaw the challenges and opportunities of e-banking, particularly in public sector banks, and championed reforms within the banking and financial industries, harnessing the potential of e-technology.

His prolific scholarly contributions, encompassing over 155 research papers on banking and finance,

have significantly broadened knowledge application.

Dr. Uppal, an esteemed academician and researcher, boasts an exemplary academic record and holds high esteem for his contributions to education. He is widely recognized for propagating best practices in education and research to foster intellectual growth and moral development.

Presently, Professor Uppal holds dual roles as a Professor Emeritus and Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, concurrently serving as a Professor-cum-Principal at Baba Farid College of Management and Technology, Bathinda.

His contributions are greatly appreciated. I am deeply grateful to Prof. Bholanth Dutta, founder and chairman of MTC Global, and to the jury members for their recognition of Dr. Uppal's invaluable contributions to education.

Two-day HRD training programme inaugurated



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 23: Central Integrated Pest Management Centre, Jammu, Govt. of India, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in collaboration with State Agriculture Department, Sub-Div Jammu, State Horticulture Department, and SKUAST-J inaugurated two-day training programme today on "Integrated Pest Management" (HRD) on Apple at Kissan Kendra, Talab Tillo, Jammu

A large number of farmers took part in the programme wherein Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Arya, Assistant Director gave a brief introduction of the IPM programme, and Dr. Sunita Pandey, Joint Director (E) deliv-

ered a lecture about survey and surveillance carried out by CIPMCs, further Dr. V.D. Nigam gave a lecture on Apple Leaf Blotch Miner identification & preventive measures.

Dr. Pandey elaborated in full detail about IPM-based survey & surveillance of pests, Dr. Nigam describes in detail of Apple leaf blotch miner, how to identify and combat this ALBM in advance to stop the further spreading of this pest. Sh. Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP) delivers a lecture on the Safe & Judicious Use of Pesticides.

This inaugural programme was attended by A.S. Reen, Director, Agriculture, C.L. Sharma, Joint Director,

Horticulture, and Prof. Amrish Kumar Vaid, Director (Ext.), SKUAST. AS Reen appreciated the Department for conducting such programmes for the welfare of farmers and asked the farmers to come forward to take maximum benefits from the departmental schemes. A.K. Vaid discusses the situation of ALBM in districts of Jammu and their management.

Assistant Plant Protection Officer (WS) Manni Ram Bera along with Sudhir Chander, Scientific Assistant, Kawal Nain Singh, Scientific Assistant, Surinder Kumar, Technical Assistant, Ashwani Kumar, Lalita Sharma were also present during the programme.

Ayush Minister Sonowal unveils initiatives to Boost Capacity at NEIAH in Shillong

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24 : The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal launched multiple projects to scale up capacity at the North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy (NEIAH) at its campus in Mawdiangdiang in the city today.

The Ayush Minister inaugurated the Guest House while laid foundation stones for Administrative Building, Pharmacy Building, as well as Boundary wall with Periphery Road complete with external electrification including entry & exit gates.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "With the scaling up of capacity at NEIAH, we have a unique opportunity to learn, collaborate and build on strengths as we strive to establish proof for each formulation of traditional medicine with scientific evidence. It is a moment of great realization that



the institute has already trained nearly one thousand experts in Ayurveda and Homoeopathy put together. This has greatly bolstered the healthcare delivery system in the region, especially in Meghalaya, as we move closer to realize the vision of our dynamic Prime Minister Narendra Modiji of a Swastha Bharat.

This new brigade of physicians, armed with evidence proven formulations of Ayush system of medicine, will help people to avail benefits. They are closer to our

age old home remedies prevalent among local societies for thousands of years, but now with a wider array scientifically proven patient care solutions to treat as many diseases. Heal in India, healed by India is the objective of resurgent movement of Ayush."

The newly inaugurated Guest House has a total area of 1780.56 SqM to provide accommodation and conference facilities.

The eco-friendly building is complete with all modern amenities. The upcoming Administrative Building of NEIAH, with a floor area of 3160 SqM, will have one building (G+3) with two floors basement, including a multi purpose hall. The estimated cost of this building is pegged at Rs 27.30 crores. The pharmacy building will be built with an investment of ₹ 15.33 crores for a G+3 building with 1833 SqM. The boundary wall with Periphery Road with external electrification including Entry/Exit Gate is being built at an estimated cost of Rs 12.72 crores.

Adding further, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "The Narendra

Modiji led govt intends to enable and empower our tribal healing practices to move beyond their historic communities and boundaries, and help humanity to live an enriched quality of life and devolve commercial opportunities for the region. While infrastructure and other physical structure are important for superior results in research & development, the new capacity scale up at NEIAH will bolster the resurgence of traditional medicine under the inspiring leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji. The government remains committed to build capacity of NEIAH so that it became a cradle of top human resource institution of Ayush in the country. In last one year, the Modi government has made an investment of more than ₹ 145 crores to scale up capacity at NEIAH. The total project outlay for capacity expansion at NEIAH is Rs 217.02 crores."

The Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal also announced that Peripher OPD services will be started at Smit, East Khasi Hills district which will potentially be accessed by

40,000 people living in 20 villages. The minister also informed that NEIAH has started Swarnabindu Prashan Sanskar (Ayurvedic Immunomodulation in Children) at its Ayurveda Hospital. With this programme, the government is helping patients with Ayurvedic solutions to treat Iron Deficiency Anemia (IDA) among tribal females between 18 and 45 years in Mawpat and Myllem Block of East Khasi Hills district of under the AYURSWASHTYA Yojana. NEIAH has been particularly helping patients with interventions like Panchakarma, Ksharasutra, Uttarabasti and Yoga to improve their quality of lives. As more and more students are trained in these techniques, including via specialized Panchakarma Technician programme, we expect the Ayush system of medicine to become more popular, widely available with deep healthcare benefits.

India under the dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modiji has successfully taken the movement of traditional medicinal practices to a resurgent level at the global stage. A revitalized Ayush has helped build strength to our thousands of years old traditional medicinal practices as it continues to embark on this journey by bringing in tribal and folk medicine into its fold with an ultimate aim to build a robust & scientifically proven healthcare solutions to enrich the quality of human lives, regain physical fitness and mental happiness," remarked Sarbananda Sonowal.

Awareness Programme on HIV/AIDS organized

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Awareness generation Programs on HIV/AIDS and drug de-addiction was organized by Public Welfare Organization Jammu under the aegis of J&K Aids Control Society at Village Deoli in Bishnah Jammu in which large number people from all walks of life of the area participated besides its office bearers.

Ajeet Singh Charak (Ex. Sarpanch) senior prominent person of the area was the chief



guest on the occasion.

The other Renowned persons and social activists of the area Balbir Singh, Hans Raj and Tinka Ji (Ex. Panch) also attended the pro-

grams as special invitees.

Ajeet Singh Charak delivered the lecture on the topic of HIV/AIDS and drug de-addiction in detail and imparted

awareness to the participants.

He impressed upon youth to come forward and discharge their assigned role in the eradication of the drug addiction menace from society for its progress and prosperity.

He also said that drug addiction is a big social evil that needs to be eradicated from society which is the need of the hour.

Balbir Singh, Hans Raj, and Tinka Ji also addressed the program and imparted awareness to the participants in length on how to take

preventive measures to prevent the spreading of HIV/AIDS, a dreaded disease in the society so that our society always remains healthy and fit.

Soni Pandita of Public Welfare Organization also threw light on the subject in detail and appealed to participants to spread this awareness and message of the program to people at the gross root level so that they are benefited and educated with such awareness programs and in the end she also presented vote of thanks.