

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### 716 JK Police officials promoted

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): The Inspector General of Police has promoted at least 716 officials to their next rank.

"On the recommendations of Departmental Promotion Committee constituted for assessing the suitability of eligible Constables for their elevation to the next rank vide ZPHQ Kashmir order No. 562 of 2024 dated 13.02.2024, IGP Kashmir Shri V K Birdi has approved the promotions of 716 Constables having their lien and seniority with Kashmir Zone to the rank of SgCt," reads a statement.

The statement further reads, "IGP Kashmir has felicitated the promoted officials/their families and expressed the hope that they will strive to work hard for maintaining public peace, tranquillity and law & order in the Union Territory of J&K."

### Unidentified male body recovered from Jhelum in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): An unidentified male body was recovered from river Jhelum near Safa Kadal area of Srinagar on Sunday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that an unidentified body was recovered from river Jhelum near Safa Kadal area of Srinagar.

He added that, the police have taken the body into custody and shifted it to SMHS hospital for medico-legal formalities.

### Weather office predicts wet spells in J&K

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): Weather is likely to remain unchanged in J&K during the next 24 hours as the Meteorological (MeT) office forecast inclement weather from Tuesday onwards.

"Generally cloudy weather with possibility of light rain/snow in J&K on February 27 while more wet spells are expected from February 28 to March 3", an official of the MeT department said.

Srinagar had 0.5, Gulmarg minus 10 and Pahalgam minus 6 as the minimum temperature.

Leh town in Ladakh region had minus 14.2, Kargil minus 18.1 and

## Driverless goods train runs on tracks from Kathua to Hoshiarpur, major accident averted

JAMMU/CHANDIGARH, Feb 25 (Agencies): A diesel locomotive-hauled freight train travelled more than 70 kilometres from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua to a village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district without its drivers on Sunday, officials said.

No casualty or damage to property has been reported, they said and added that an inquiry has been ordered into the incident that took place between 7.25 am and 9 am.

The 53-wagon train loaded with chip stones was on its way to Punjab from Jammu, the offi-



cial said.

The train had stopped at the Kathua railway station in Jammu for a driver change and it seems that it began to roll down a slope gradient track on the Jammu-Jalandhar section, a spokesperson of the

Northern Railway said, citing preliminary information.

Both drivers — loco pilot and assistant loco pilot — were not on board the freight train, the officials said.

The train gained speed along the way, finally

coming to a stop on a steep gradient near Unchi Bassi railway station in Punjab, they said.

Divisional Traffic Manager, Jammu, Prateek Srivastava told PTI that "an inquiry has been initiated to know the exact cause of the incident. Prima facie, it seems that the train started rolling down the slope gradient towards Punjab without the driver and his assistant".

He said the train came to a halt near Unchi Bassi due to steep gradient, after covering a distance of more than 70 km.

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## Impact of Rs 2,000 Notes withdrawal: currency-in-circulation growth dips to 3.7% in Feb



MUMBAI, Feb 25 (Agencies): The growth in currency in circulation decelerated to 3.7 per cent for the week ended February 9 from 8.2 per cent a year ago, reflecting the impact of the decision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to withdraw Rs 2,000 banknotes.

Currency-in-circulation (CiC) refers to notes

and coins in circulation, while currency with the public comprises notes and coins in circulation minus cash with banks.

According to the RBI, commercial banks have reported double-digit growth in deposits in January, which too can be attributed to withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes.

The growth of Reserve

Money (RM), as per the RBI data, decelerated to 5.8 per cent as on February 9, 2024 from 11.2 per cent a year ago (8.8 per cent adjusted for the first-round impact of change in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)).

Components of RM include CiC, banks' deposits in RBI and other deposits with the central bank.

The growth in CiC, the largest component of RM, decelerated to 3.7 per cent from 8.2 per cent a year ago, reflecting the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 banknotes, according to the RBI.

On May 19, 2023, RBI announced withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation.

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### Psychotropic drug recovered from car in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Sunday seized a vehicle from which psychotropic drug was recovered while the accused managed to escape during the raid in Ganderbal district.

A statement issued by police said that it has recovered Psychotropic Substance and a vehicle used in the commission of the crime in the jurisdiction of police post Shadipora.

"Following specific information a raid was carried out at the house of one person identified as Manzoor Ahmad Bhat alias Setha resident of Batwina village.

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## Matter of Shame that elections in J&K had to be announced by Supreme Court: Omar Abdullah

NEW DELHI, Feb 25 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has said it was "a matter of considerable shame" that the Supreme Court had to issue a directive about elections in Jammu and Kashmir rather than the Election Commission of India.

The National Conference leader also said the view that Article 370 was at the root of all problems of Jammu and Kashmir was not correct, and terrorist attacks are now being reported in areas which were earlier free of terrorism, in particular the hills of Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch.

More Kashmiri Pandits have been killed in targeted attacks in the



Valley during the tenure of the present government than in the past, he claimed while speaking at ABP Network's 'Ideas of India' Summit 3.0 here on Saturday.

"What is the BJP and what is the Government of India going to do about the deadline the Supreme Court has set," Abdullah asked, noting the court has said the assembly elections should be held in

Jammu and Kashmir by the end of September 2024.

"It is a matter of considerable shame that elections in Jammu and Kashmir, rather than being announced by the Election Commission or encouraged by the Government of India, had to be announced by the Supreme Court," Abdullah said.

In December last year, the Supreme Court

upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 which had given a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, but directed restoration of statehood "at the earliest". Assembly elections should be held by September 30, 2024, it said.

Abdullah also said that terror attacks on Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley is a regular occurrence.

Despite the abrogation of Article 370, pockets of support for separatists continue to exist and hardly a week or two pass without a terrorist attack, he said.

More Kashmiri Pandits have been killed in targeted attacks under the present (Union) government than under

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## KPDCL announces disconnection drive over unpaid electricity bills

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has reiterated that an essential escalation in power curtailment measures is underway due to restricted power availability and related constraints.

The corporation emphasized that this decision, considered crucial for upholding grid discipline and preventing the risk of major trunk line failures and extensive blackouts.

Assuring the public of a relaxation in restrictions once power availability improves, KPDCL has urged consumers to refrain from power theft and adopt responsible

electricity usage practices. The recent surge in power demand coupled with limitations in supply has forced utilities to implement stricter curtailment protocols.

These measures entail regulated reductions in electricity supply to certain areas during peak demand hours, aimed at balancing the grid load and preventing system overloads.

Officials emphasize that while the current situation necessitates stringent curtailment measures, efforts are underway to alleviate the strain on the power infrastructure. They assure the public that restrictions will be eased

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## Government official booked for rape in Ramban

BANIHAL/JAMMU, Feb 25 (Agencies): A government official was booked for rape following a complaint by his domestic help in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, police on Sunday said.

The accused Yawar Amin, an employee

of the Public Works Department presently posted as an assistant engineer in Samagra Shiksha Ramban, is on the run and efforts are on to arrest him, they said.

The 18-year-old victim, in her complaint to the Banihal Police Station,

alleged that Amin raped her when she was alone at his house after his wife left for Jammu recently, a police official said.

The victim alleged that the accused gave her some medicine after she fell sick in the evening

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## Rusted grenade found in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, JAMMU, Feb 25 (Agencies): A rusted grenade was found on the roadside in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Sunday, police said. Kishtwar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Abdul Qayoom said the explosive device was noticed at Zargar

Mohalla by a local resident, who immediately informed the police.

Qayoom said a bomb disposal squad was summoned and the HE-36 hand grenade was safely removed from the scene.

"The grenade is in a rusty condition, indicating that it was lying

there for a very long time. There was some construction work undertaken about four to five months ago and the debris was dumped here. Prima facie, it appears that the device was present in the debris and was exposed due to recent rains," the SSP said.

## 3.0 Magnitude Earthquake hits Ladakh

LEH, Feb 25 (Agencies): An earthquake of 3.0 magnitude struck Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region on Sunday, according to the National Center for Seismology.

As per the National Center for Seismology, the earthquake occurred at 11:48 am.

"Earthquake of Magnitude:3.0, Occurred on 25-02-2024, 11:48:00 IST, Lat: 33.34 & Long: 76.84, Depth: 5 Km, Location: Ladakh, India," NCS said in a post on X.

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## EDITORIAL

YOUTH  
POWER- NEW  
HOPE OF  
TODAY

The youth of the country is a new hope of today. If the youth of our country wants, they can reform the country and in this regard, the youth of our country is also working. The youth of the country are very active today and are moving forward with positive energy and thinking.

The youth of the country is the mainstay of democracy in our country. The youth of the country are coming forward very fast to give their participation in democracy, politics and also in the development of the country. The youth are also moving forward to give a new strength to the country. The youth in the country have progressed a lot. The youth of the country are leading the country to make it better for tomorrow.

The youth of our country works as a force in the democracy in the country. After independence in the country, the youth have given a lot of support and strength to democracy in the country. Even before the independence of the country, the youth of the country have contributed a lot in liberating the country. The youth of the country are playing an important role in taking the country on the path of development.

Today it is also working as an organization of youth in the country. If there is any program in the country, like elections, census or any other national program, the people and the youth of the country participate very loudly in all of them.

To make any country better for the future, the youth of the country make a very important contribution. Youths have a very important contribution in the country of India as well. To make the country better, it is very important for the youth to be educated. In a democratic country like India, the youth of India are doing a lot with their educational and qualified power. Today's youth doesn't seem excited to run in the crowd rather they work hard to do something good and different.

More than half of the population in our country is full of youth. If we talk about the maximum number of youth in any country, then India will be able to keep itself above it. The growing youth population in the country can be a respectable one. It is very important to have youth in any country. It is a different thing that many other things also matter in this, to what extent the youth can do well. If the youth power of the country is strong then no one can easily defeat that country.

The youth of our country is also moving forward very fast in today's time. Today many people of our country are raising the name of India in foreign countries. You must have heard the names of Sundar Pichai and Satya Nadella. Sundar Pichai is the CEO of Google and Satya Nadella is the CEO of Microsoft. Not only this, apart from this, the youth of the country are moving forward a lot. This is the reason why we have got such good doctors, engineers and scientists.

The vaccine we are using for the disease like Corona has also been made by the scientists of Indian doctors. India is now becoming self-reliant and the youth of the country are also taking part in it. Indian scientists are also playing a very important role in the Indian Internal Research Center in the country. When the rocket was launched for the first time in the country, many youths contributed in this team as well.

The youth in our country today have progressed a lot in the field of sports as well. You must have heard about cricket. Apart from this, India has also won many medals in many sports in the Olympics. Youth are a force in the country.

## Miscalculated MSP and other unkept promises

By: Manish Tewari

The unfortunate and eminently avoidable death of a young 21-year-old farmer, Subhakaran Singh of Baloke village in the Bathinda district of Punjab, during the second round of farmer protests as a consequence of the excessive and coercive use of force used by the Haryana police deserves to be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

The current agitation once again focuses attention on the larger structural issues bedeviling Indian agriculture.

The genesis of these structural fault lines ironically lie in the progressive and beneficial legislation enacted immediately after independence, namely the various land ceiling and Zamindari/Ryotwari/Mahalwari abolition laws that were correctly promulgated to give land to the tiller and end the pernicious exploitation of the peasantry by the rural feudal elite — the notorious and rapacious Zamindars that the British created to extract revenue from poor and impoverished farmers.

Those who may have watched the 1953 Bollywood film *Do Bigha Zameen* can perhaps relate to the atrocities perpetrated by the Zamindars on hapless small and marginal farmers during those times.

Obviously, therefore, there is no question that these progressive legislation that were inserted into the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India in 1951 vide the First Amendment can ever be rolled back. That is where the Minimum Support Price (MSP) becomes a germane issue.

The average size of a land holding in India is 1.08 hectares or 2.66 acres. Two-thirds of these land holdings are classified as marginal and have an average size of 0.39 hectares or

0.9 acres. This makes agriculture on a standalone basis an unviable economic activity, thereby putting a severe strain on livelihoods solely based upon agriculture.

According to a Press Information Bureau Press Release of November 2022, "Agriculture continues to be the prime pulse of the Indian economy and is at the core of the socio-economic development of the country. It accounts for around 19 per cent of the GDP and about two-thirds of the population is dependent on the sector." This means 93 crore or 930 million people.

In a good year a farmer of a self-owned three-acre plot is able to make about Rs 20,000 per month de-hors the labour cost of an entire family tilling their own land. If a person is a contract agriculturalist the same numbers come down to about Rs 9,500 a month. These calculations are near accurate approximations based upon the rice and wheat cycle prevalent in the breadbasket of India, i.e. Punjab and Haryana, at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). That is why a legal architecture around the MSP question is even more a critical issue for the farmers of Punjab.

Government statistics underscore a far grimmer reality. "As per the National Sample Survey, the estimated average monthly income per agricultural household increased from Rs 6,426 in 2012-13 to Rs 10,218 in 2018-19." Presuming these numbers are correct because government data is suspect even then it is a mere pittance.

In 2004, the then UPA government established the National Commission of Farmers (NCF) under the leadership of M.S. Swaminathan. The NCF was created with the objective of determining the causes of farmer distress, the rise in farmer suicides, and how to address these issues.

One of the significant recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee was the method of calculating the Minimum Support Price which was to be set at 50 per cent more than the average cost of production of the crop. This was intended to ensure viable returns for the farmers. Accordingly, the formula determined by the Swaminathan Committee is expressed as "C2 + 50". This formula includes the cost of production (C2), encompassing the total actual cost of producing the crops, imputed rent on the land owned by the farmer, and imputed interest on any fixed capital owned by the farmer.

In response to an unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha regarding the fixing of MSP (Starred Question No. 110), the NDA government stated that it will abide by the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee and fix the MSP at one-and-a-half times the total cost of production. However, it relied upon a formula which was absolutely in dissonance with the Swaminathan Committee's formula. The NDA/BJP government relied on "A2 + FL" to calculate MSP. Herein A2 was the average cost of production and FL was the imputed cost of family labour. This formula fails to take into consideration the value of owned rent or capital.

If the Swaminathan Committee's report is implemented, it would significantly help in boosting the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of crops and provide valuable assistance to farmers. According to Down To Earth, the MSP for Rabi crops for the marketing season 2024-2025 would be as follows: Wheat would be Rs 2,478 as against the current Rs 2,275; barley would be Rs 2,421 as against the current Rs 1,850; lentil would be Rs 7,335 as against the current Rs 6,425, and finally, gram would be Rs 6,820.50 as against the

current Rs 5,440.

The anti-farmer policies of the current dispensation has increased income inequality among farmers. According to the Centre for Financial Accountability, New Delhi, an average of 30 farmers commit suicide per day during the NDA/BJP government's tenure. Moreover, we also see that the absolute number of indebted farmers has increased from 902 lakhs to 930 lakhs in the same period. And the average amount of outstanding loans has surged about 1.6 times compared to 2013.

What is further distressing is the manner in which the government is dealing with the farmers' protest. The government is using colonial-era laws, such as the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017, of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, to block Internet services and suppress the farmers' legitimate right to articulate their anguish on grounds of "public emergency" and "public safety". Moreover, drones are being employed to tear-gas and disperse crowds.

This stands in stark contrast to how authorities are handling farmer protests in France, Poland and other parts of the European Union, where the objective is not to squelch dissent but to try and resolve their problems.

Punjab is a border state that has contributed to the defence of the nation in a substantial manner. It makes 7.7 per cent of the Indian army despite having a 2.3 per cent share in the national population. An overwhelming majority of them are sons and daughters of the very farmers who are being brutalised on the borders of Punjab and Haryana and prevented by the "hukumrans" from coming to Delhi to even exercise their fundamental right of protest guaranteed under Article 19(1) (b) of the Constitution of India.

## "EYES WIDE OPEN: STORY OF TIRANGA IN KASHMIR"

By: Col. Tej K Tikoo

"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 women-folk, 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 Mahatsav. 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.

## Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, Shiv Sena Hindustan organize cleanliness drive in Arnia

Top News Report

ARNIA, Feb 25: The Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation (S.N.C.F.) under guidance of Nirankari Satsang Bhawan head Mata Sukhveer Kour and Bhushan Kumar along with activists of Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K led by its President Pt Rajesh Kesri today organized cleanliness drive in Arnia. The Nirankari workers and Shiv Sainiks together carried out the cleaning campaign in various various markets. Garbage was collected from the streets and from the banks of the drains, put in a trolley and collected at one place which was later dumped in the dumping point. Mata Sukhveer Kour speaking on the occasion said that The Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation (S.N.C.F.) is based on the philosophy of Sant Nirankari Mission that every person, community and nation has the power to heal & serve. In 2010, His Holiness Baba Hardev Singh Ji



established the SNCF and now under the guidance of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji, the core values of the SNCF are healing, enriching and empowering humanity. She said that SNCF has reached out and touched the lives of the community with its humble and selfless service. In the past also the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and various other luminaries have applauded and appreciated the efforts of SNCF. These mega and multiple activities are carried out to implement

the message of His Holiness Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj "Life gets a meaning, if it is lived for others, she added." Kesri speaking on the occasion appreciated SNCF for cleanliness and tree plantation drives by the Foundation since 2003 to commemorate the Birthday of Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj. From 2010, the campaigns have been carried on by undertaking various socio-charitable activities like cleanliness of historic monuments, beaches and river banks, hospitals, public

places and particularly major railway stations pan India continuously for 6-7 years which has been highly appreciated by the public and the Govt. of India, added Kesri. To implement its motto, "Life gets a meaning, if it is lived for others," Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation is guided by the vision of Nirankari Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj that, "Pollution within or without is harmful". With the guidance and blessings of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj all the socio-

charitable activities of the Foundation are carried out regularly for pro-bono-publico, added Kesri. Kesri further said that the cleanliness campaign reflects the mentality of the people of a street and locality that how clean the locality is, how clean will be the hearts and minds of the people there. We should keep our house clean but the locality and the streets should also be kept as clean as one's own house because this reflects the good or bad character of the people living in the locality. Kesri requested all the people to run a similar campaign to clean the streets and neighborhoods of Jammu and Kashmir so that a clean India can become a reality soon. Prominent among those who participated in campaign included SHO Arnia, Balveer Kumar, Balwant Fauji, Vijay Luthra, Sanjeev Sharma, Rajkumar Baba, Darshana Devi, Neeru Devi, Rajni Devi, Jyoti Devi besides dozens of Shiv Sainiks.

## BJP leaders along with public listen 110th Episode of Mann Ki Baat Program at Jammu West

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) along with BJP leaders and prominent Citizens listened the 110th edition of "Mann Ki Baat" by PM Narendra Modi at Ward no 28, Booth no 43, 44 Jammu West.

The program was organised by Parveen Badyal (Vice President OBC) and Tarun Sharma (culture cell bjym). Surinder Choudhary (Former Councillor), Sonu Sharma, Bharat bushan, Subash Singh and prominent citizens were present on the occasion.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed the nation through the 110th edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'.

During his Addressal, Prime Minister Nar-



endra Modi hailed the women's empowerment and said that 'Nari Shakti' is progressing in every section of life. Mann Ki Baat has evolved into a significant platform that empowers and fosters unity among the people. PM Modi said Who would have thought till a few years ago that in our country, women living in villages would also fly drones? But today this is becoming possible. Today, there is so much discussion about Drone Didi in every village, 'Namoo Drone Didi, Namoo Drone Didi' is on everyone's lips. Everyone is talking about them.

PM Modi says, "After a few days on March 8, we will celebrate Women's Day. This special day is an opportunity to salute the contributions of women's power in the developmental journey of the country. The great poet Bharathiyar Ji has said that the world will prosper only when women get equal opportunities."

He said Due to the efforts of the government in the last few years, the number of tigers in the country has increased. The number of tigers in the Tiger Reserve of Chandrapur, Maharashtra has crossed the figure of 250. Here cameras have been installed at the border of the village and the forest. Whenever a tiger comes close to the village local people get an alert on their mobile phones with the help of AI.

PM Modi speaks about the technological

integration in conserving animals. He said Technology is being used extensively for the conservation of wildlife in different parts of our country.

Today anyone who has a mobile, has become a content creator. Social media has helped a lot in this way. Today, several youngsters are creating content in different segments — travel, food, etc. We have started a contest on mygov — 'National creators award'.

He added Tribal families living in Khatkali village near Melghat Tiger Reserve have converted their houses into home stays with the help of the government. This is becoming a big source of income for them.

Braham Jyot Satti explained the summary of the whole episode to the public and said India is growing too fast under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said India is blessed to have PM like Narendra Modi who works for every segment of society and he is only PM who remembers the valour and martyrdom of our forces.

He said with the help of various employment schemes we are experiencing a huge growth in the number of entrepreneurs in the state we are highly appreciable.

He said Nation First is the ideology of BJP and every BJP worker is working on ground level and serving humanity.

## Sat, Baru, Dr Pardeep listen to "Mann Ki Baat" at Brahm Kumari Ashram



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb, 25: Sat Sharma, former Minister accompanied by Sanjay Baru, senior leader BJP & former Councillor, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, BJP, Chaman Lal Bhagat, District President SC Morcha, Neelam Nargotra, former Councillor Ward 40 accompanied by the prominent citizens listened to the "Mann Ki Baat", popular AIR programme by PM Narendra Modi at Brahm Kumari Ashram in Kabir Colony, Ward no 40 in Talab Tillo.

Yash Shivgotra, Jatin Sethi, Veeru Ram, Surinder Sharma, Rahul Nargotra, and others

were also present on the occasion.

The program was organized by the members of Brahm Kumari Ashram led by Sushma ji, Incharge, Kabir Colony Bhawan.

Sat Sharma, speaking on the occasion said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed the nation through the 110th edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the women's empowerment, Drone Didi, Tiger Reserve of Chandrapur, the help of AI, conserving animals, content creation, home

and said that Modi ji as a Prime minister has

remained connected to the public through this programme. He said every BJP worker under the leadership of PM Modi works with the Nation First ideology to serve the nation and the society.

Sanjay Baru asked all the listeners to attentively listen to the programme and gain from the various issues and achievements highlighted by the PM in the programme.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that "Mann Ki Baat" has established a dialogue with the citizens on issues of day-to-day governance", highlighting the 'good governance' policy of the Modi government.

## My Chhota School Hiranagar celebrating Annual Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: My Chhota School Hiranagar celebrated its annual day function today. The programme commenced with the welcome of the guests followed by the lighting of the Ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest Sudesh Kumar Ji, BJP Mandal Pardhan Hiranagar, Guest of Honour Bharti Sharma, BJP spokesperson and Retd. BDO Ramdayal ji accompanied by the Principal and other eminent dignitaries.

At the onset Chairman Ganesh Kumar Sharma, a well renowned nationally and internationally awarded sculptor welcomed the chief guest by presenting bouquet. He also welcomed all the parents and other guests who were present in the function. The cultural program began with the Saraswati Vandana by the students. The students of all the classes participated in various items like dance, fancy dress competition, yoga, bhanga and many others.

## Lowpaid govt employees federation holds meeting



Top News Report

DODA, Feb 25: Lowpaid govt. employees federation Doda held condolence meeting under the chairmanship of its dist. president mr. Niyaz Ahmad rahi. (LPEF) unit doda has expressed the deep sorrow on the sad demise of Ghulam Nabi shal retired Com pressure opereter of (R&B) kishtwar passes away on 21st of february 2023 after long illness in kishtwar. senior leader of (LPEF) Ghulam Hassan Pampori and Sha-keel Ahmad dev said that ghulam Nabi shal was hard-working and honest personality of kishtwar. President JK pensioners Association Mr. Nazir Ahmad sheikh it was great loss of kishtwar. Mohd Rafiq Malik Contractor Association Spokes person said that Ghulam Nabi shal was honest brilliant and highest personality for respective department and are standing with his family at this time of grief and sorrow. who were present in condolence meeting including Mohd Ashraf khokhar. Niaz kulhandi. Molvi Abdul Hameed. Anayatullah mir. Santosh kummar. Hari krishan. Akhtar Hussain gattu. shakeel Ahmad gattu. Rashpal singh. Ghulam Rasool PDD doda. Surishta devi. Gopal singha and many more employees.

## Ajeet Bhagat urges Government to stop backdoor employment

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 25: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior Leader, Spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat urged the government stop backdoor employment of blue eyed persons and reserve employment quota for the SC, ST and OBC Youths in the private sector.

The National Conference Senior Leader who lashed out at the government and accused it of non functioning and creating tough circumstances for employees by not providing them with employment.

Stress was also laid on the issue of employment of educated youths who were unemployed and distressed.

Bhagat demanded reservation for SC, ST and OBC educated youths. Meanwhile it was unanimously urged upon the Chairman Cum Managing Director (CMD) NHPC New Delhi and Chenab Valley Power Projects (CVPP) authorities to fix the quota for SC, ST and OBC Community.



Ajeet Bhagat urged upon CMD New Delhi and CVPP authorities to advertise and fill up the all vacant posts reserved for SC, ST, and OBC quota at Pakal-Dul, Kiru, Kawar, and Rattle Hydroelectric Power Projects of District Kishtwar of Chenab Valley Zone.

Bhagat urged the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and Chief Secretary to look into matter and act at the earliest.

## Two days 'Winter Carnival' concludes with felicitation ceremony at Aharbal Kulgam

Top News Report

KULGAM, Feb 25: The two-day Kulgam winter carnival to showcase the beauty of Kulgam and harness its adventure potential concludes on Sunday with a colorful felicitation ceremony at the snow-covered Aharbal in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The event was organized by the district administration in collaboration with Aharbal Development Authority, Tourism department and Forest Division Kulgam.

The 'Winter Carnival' was attended by a galaxy of participants from different walks of life besides sports enthusiasts and trekkers.



To encourage and felicitate the trekkers, skiers and participants of other games who enthusiastically participated in this event, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmad Giri and other seniors officers of district admin-

istration felicitated them with certificates, medals and mementoes.

"It is very cheering and promising from the government. The tourism sector is an emerging and potential sector. There are many beautiful places other than Gulmarg that are

needed to be explored", a local said.

Pertinently, throughout these two days Aharbal remained abuzz with Snow sports activities which include Snow Cricket, Snow Rugby, Run for peace, Snow Volleyball, Tug of war and other games.

Notably, The Winter Carnival was jointly inaugurated by Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parrey; Deputy Inspector General (DIG South), Altaf Ahmad Khan; Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

Addressing the public DC Kulgam said that Aharbal and other tourism destinations in Kulgam have huge potential to attract tourists and the Winter Carnival is an initiative to promote winter tourism in unexplored scenic places, destinations of the district and to boost the tourism sector in Kulgam.

## Despite performing with a feted star cast in the film *Fighter*, actor Akshay Oberoi made a mark of his own. He talks about his overall experience

Akshay Oberoi is being loved in his role as Squadron Leader Basheer 'Bash' Khan in *Fighter*. The recently released aerial action film boasts of an ensemble cast with superstars, including Anil Kapoor, Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone along with Karan Grover playing lead roles in it. If the audience has loved Bash in the film, Akshay believes it is director Sidharth Anand's vision that deserves the credit.

Calling him a maverick, Akshay says, "His vision for Bollywood matches that of Steven Spielberg. *Fighter* is being called his best film and I think he has outdone himself. This kind of aerial VFX in India, everyone is still so surprised. I am just honoured to be in his film."

But when it comes to his own work, Akshay feels he is finally getting his due, as do his fans and viewers. To be flooded with responses, Akshay smiles and says, "I have been hearing that this was long overdue since the release of *Fighter* and it's not just my loved ones, but also the viewers and critics that think the same, so there must be truth in that. I am passionate about acting and that's been my focus in over a decade that I have spent in this industry."



To be able to leave an impact in a film that has many big names, Akshay understands is no mean feat. "My character is the emotional core of what happens in the film. To be in such a big movie with such a big star cast has been quite a ride. Usually, in these big tentpole movies, it's very difficult for actors like me to find a place of their own and stand among these legends. I am glad that I got it right."

Dancing with Hrithik  
Akshay calls Hrithik Roshan his idol when it comes to dance. It is after watching *Kaho Na Pyaar Hai* that he took to dancing as a 15-year-old boy. From then to now when he got to shake a leg with Hrithik in the track *Sher khul gaye* was quite the challenge he took upon

himself. "Most people would think action must have been the challenging bit in a film that showcases fight scenes at such a grand level, but for me it was the song where I had to dance next to Hrithik Roshan. That was my fear. When he moves, everyone is in awe of that man. I was so nervous while doing that song and I told him too. I can dance but to be in the same frame and match him, my heart was racing."

Calling Hrithik the Michael Jackson of the Hindi film industry, Akshay reveals that Hrithik's dedication towards the craft inspires him. "We all know him as such a great dancer, but he was practicing those steps more than anyone else. He would look at the mirror, even in between

the shots, and made sure that every move was perfect. Imagine, with his skills and experience, even today he puts in so much effort to get perfection in whatever he does — there's so much to learn from that man."

**Packed schedule**

While he admits that he has given it his all to acting and knows nothing else, he says, "I come from the school of thought that says let your work speak, but with changing times one needs to change and it's high time I did that too when it comes to branding oneself. In times of social media, I've realised I cannot not be there and expect people to know me."

Thrilled about 2023 that went by in a jiffy, thanks to *Fighter*, Akshay hopes all the coming years are packed for him. On a final note, the actor says there's much to look forward to. "I did a lot of work last year. There's *Illegal Season 3*, *Broken News Season 2* and sequel to *Laal Rang* with Randeep Hooda. I am also working on a movie called 2014 with Jackie Shroff, then there is a film called *Tu Chahiye* that has been directed by Ratna Sinha, who made *Shaadi Mein Zaroor Aana*. There's also *Varchasha* with Ravi Kishan. Lots happening."

## Taylor Swift's Sydney gig stopped due to lightning



Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift's concert in Sydney, Australia, was cut short over safety fears after a series of lightning strikes on Friday. Her gig at the

Accor Stadium suffered a major blow following the bad weather, with fans being forced to leave the lower levels of the stadium. The fans were urged by the

organisers to seek shelter as the storm brought heavy rain, wind and lightning. A post on the X account of Taylor's The Eras tour read, "The floor and lower bowl are currently being evacuated due to lightning strikes nearby the stadium at today's show of Taylor Swift's The Eras Tour in Sydney, Australia. Please stay safe and seek shelter for now #SydneyTSTheErasTour."

As per an update, the staff members at the stadium were busy trying to set up the arena again for fans to return. They were resetting the floor and preparing the seats again for the show. They urged everyone to stay sheltered until further notice. Taylor is due to perform in three more shows at the Sydney stadium over the weekend with Sabrina as her support act.

The singer is then scheduled to take the tour to Singapore next month for six shows at the National Stadium before heading to Europe for shows in France, Sweden, Portugal, Spain and the UK.

## Priya in *Shaitani Rasmein*?

A little birdie from the sets has revealed that actress Priya Banerjee might be seen in the Star Bharat's fantasy thriller *Shaitani Rasmein*. While details remain unconfirmed, speculation is rife that Priya Banerjee will essay the role of Chaaya Dayan, described as a character with strength and boldness. Known for her versatility and impactful performances across various projects, Priya Banerjee's potential addition to *Shaitani Rasmein* as Chaaya Dayan is expected to bring a fresh dynamic to the show's narrative, adding depth and complexity to the storyline.

The show features Naqiyah Haji and Vibhav Roy in the lead roles, alongside renowned actor and performer Shefali Jariwala in a key role.

In the upcoming episodes, viewers will witness Nikki, unaware of her divine powers, being transported to her past life in her dreams. There, she finds herself dressed as a Rajkumari and encounters a masked man, who attempts to harm her. However, before Nikki



can uncover more, she abruptly wakes up, leaving her bewildered and

eager to know more. The storyline promises intrigue and suspense.

## Asees Kaur: Ecosystem where artistes have greater control and fair compensation is essential

Singer-couple Asees Kaur and Goldie Soheli talk about their latest single "Khayaal", changing music trends and things they'd wish to change.

Singer-couple Asees Kaur and Goldie Soheli recently released their single *Khayaal*. The romantic track is grabbing audience attention for the onscreen chemistry of the real-life couple. According to them, their "strong bond off-screen" helped them do justice to the script.

"Having Asees by my side, it was easier to connect with the song's narrative, allowing it to guide our performance," Soheli tells us.

Kaur and Soheli appear as a couple in *Khayaal* trying to find a balance between their love and differences. The two reiterate that translating their real life romance on screen was challenging, their "shared passion for music helped bridge that gap."

Kaur, known for hits like *Raataan Lambiyani*, *Ve Kamleya*, *Nain Ta Heere*, *Hasina Pagal Deewani*, *Hui Malang* and *Makhna* says, "While we share a strong bond off-screen, capturing that same authenticity in a scripted environment requires finesse." Soheli adds, "It's about the narrative we want to convey. Crafting the right emotions was crucial, making the acting aspect challenging yet rewarding."

Kaur and Soheli tied the knot in 2023. The musical couple however disagree that only music dominates their home. "It's not the only language we communicate in," Soheli states.

He adds, "Like any couple, we have our moments of disagreement, but we often resolve them through music. It serves as a bridge, helping us express our feelings and reconnect on a deeper level."

The two also indulged in talks about the ongoing music trends that they like and dislike. Kaur feels fitting into today's diverse



music scene is challenging. The 35-year-old singer opines, "While there's a demand for fresh talent, standing out amid the competition requires constant innovation and adaptability to evolving trends."

So how does she deal with the way auto-tuning is impacting the Indian scene today? According to her while it "enhances certain aspects of the song, overreliance on auto-tune can dilute the authenticity of an artist's voice."

We ask the couple whether they believe the use of artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the face of mainstream music, and Soheli quips, "there's a risk of diluting the essence of music by replicating bygone voices."

The Aaj Sajeya maker adds, "It's crucial to preserve the uniqueness of individual artistes amidst technological advancements."

Kaur adds, "AI raises ethical questions about the boundary between homage and exploitation, as well as the implications for the future of artistic expression. It should be used as a tool to complement human creativity."

Being in the business for a decade now, Kaur does feel "over-reliance on formulaic song structures and repetitive themes" needs to change.

Kaur points at the monopoly of music labels and how they stifle artistes' creativity. "A more equitable ecosystem where artistes have greater control over their work and fair compensation is essential for a thriving music industry," she says.

Ask them, what advice they'll give to each other as artistes, and Kaur wants Soheli to trust his abilities and continue to evolve as an artiste. "Let your passion and authenticity shine through in every performance, and never lose sight of why you started making music," she tells Soheli.

The husband, on his part advises his wife to never underestimate the power of her voice and the emotions she can evoke through her singing. The couple sign off.

## Vin Diesel confirms 'Fast & Furious' franchise ending

Actor-producer Vin Diesel has shared an update on the next instalment of the 'Fast & Furious' franchise christened 'Fast XI' and has promised that it will indeed be a grand finale.

The film is reportedly marking the end of the long-running franchise, at least for the actor, who plays Dominic Toretto.

He has started connecting with the public again after a December lawsuit was filed against him by an ex-assistant, accusing him of sexual

battery. However, he has denied the allegations, reports deadline.com.

Vin Diesel took to Instagram to share the plans and wrote: "Just finished our end of the week Fast meeting with the writers and the whole team.... To say the excitement for our finale was incredibly powerful is an understatement. Wow. So exciting... Diesel added: "While everyone was heading into the weekend amped and excited, I thought of you all... reminded of the countless moments when your enthusiasm

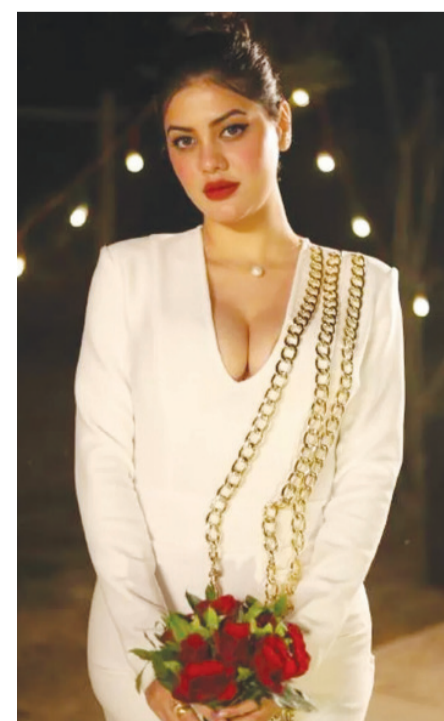


and passion became the driving force behind our creative journey. Your commitment to our saga has had a unique impact on its success and evolution... as my youngest daughter would say, it's profound".

The actor thanked his fans for being the "backbone of this global saga that because of you, transcends the screen".

The actor concluded: "This grand finale is not just an ending; it's a celebration of the incredible family we've built together. Hope to make you proud!"

## Sherleen on a personal note



When it comes to their personal lives, knowing what to share, when to share and where to share are key aspects of a celebrity's life, says actress Sherleen Dutt. Sherleen, who is known for *Honey Trap Squad*, says it can get challenging to keep personal details private, but one needs to be fierce while doing so. "Shielding your personal life from the media is undoubtedly challenging for actors, particularly in Bollywood, where the spotlight can be intense," she says.

We see actor couples revealing their baby's faces and talking openly about them, while earlier they would protect them for years.

Sherleen says that things are gradually changing. "In today's age of social media, there's a growing trend of actor couples sharing more about their families, including their children. This shift towards greater openness reflects changing societal norms."

## PM Modi inaugurates 2.3-km-long Sudarshan Setu, India's longest cable-stayed bridge, in Gujarat

At present, devotees visiting the temple at Beyt Dwarka can travel only during the day by boat, while the construction of the bridge will allow them to travel at all times

DEVBHUMI DWARKA, Feb 25 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated 'Sudarshan Setu', the country's longest cable-stayed bridge of 2.32 km, on the Arabian Sea connecting Beyt Dwarka island to mainland Okha in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.

Modi began his day by offering prayers at Lord Sri Krishna temple at Beyt Dwarka.

He later inaugurated the four-lane cable-stayed bridge called the 'Sudarshan Setu', which



boasts a unique design, featuring a footpath adorned with verses from Srimad Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna on both sides. The 2.32 km bridge,

including 900 metres of central double span cable-stayed portion and a 2.45-km-long approach road, has been constructed at a cost of Rs 979 crore, as

per an official release. The four-lane 27.20-metre-wide bridge has 2.5-metre-wide footpaths on each side, it said. The bridge, which

was known as 'Signature Bridge', has been renamed 'Sudarshan Setu' or Sudarshan Bridge.

Beyt Dwarka is an island near Okha port, which is nearly 30 km from Dwarka town, where the famous Dwarkadhish temple of Lord Krishna is situated.

At present, devotees visiting the temple at Beyt Dwarka can travel only during the day by boat, while the construction of the bridge will allow them to travel at all times, officials said.

## No 'Mann ki Baat' broadcast for 3 months in view of general election: PM Modi



NEW DELHI, Feb 25 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast would not be aired for the next three months in line with political decorum in view of the upcoming general election.

In the 110th episode of the programme, he said there is a possibility that the Model Code of Conduct will

be enforced in March as it was done during the last polls as well, a reference to the expected announcement of the election schedule sometime next month.

It is a big success of the programme that it has been kept away even from the shadow of the government during its 110 episodes, he said, asserting that the broadcast has been dedicated to the country's collective strength and achievements.

"It is a programme of the people, for the people and by the people," the prime minister said.

"When we meet the next time, it will be 111th episode of the Mann Ki Baat," Modi added, noting the auspiciousness associated with the number. What can be better than this, he said.

The prime minister has frequently expressed confidence of retaining power in the election.

The programme was deferred before the 2019 general elections as well.

## At least 4 dead in blast at firecracker unit in UP's Kaushambi

LUCKNOW, Feb 25 (Agencies): At least four people were killed, and several others injured in an explosion at a firecracker factory in Uttar Pradesh's Kaushambi district on Sunday. The injured people have been sent to the district hospital for treatment.

The cause of the explosion is yet to be ascertained.

Addressing media-persons, SP Kaushambi Brijesh Kumar Srivastava said the factory in Bharwari had the license to both sell and manufacture firecrackers.

"According to information, four people have died. Of the injured people, some are in serious condition and have been sent to the hospital. The victims



were workers of the factory which had the license to both sell and manufacture firecrackers," he added.

The fire was brought under control and a case has been registered.

A video of the incident shows black smoke billowing into the sky, with locals and police personnel engaged trying to douse the flames.

Mangled remains of the structure can also be seen.

Earlier this month, at least 11 people were killed and more than 170 others injured following an explosion at a firecracker factory in Madhya Pradesh's Harda district.

Although the cause of the blasts was not known, the factory owners were booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, among other charges, after an FIR was filed against them.

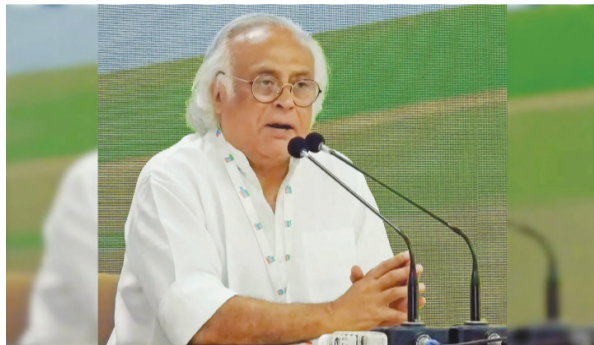
## Congress has to make tough decisions: Jairam Ramesh on seat-sharing with AAP

NEW DELHI, Feb 25 (Agencies): Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said that the party had to "make some tough decisions keeping in mind the bigger picture" regarding the seat-sharing talks with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharuch seat being given to the latter. He said that decisions are not made for a particular person but for the entire party.

The senior Congress leader's remarks came a day after the two parties finalised their seat-sharing formula of Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana, Gujarat and Goa for this year's Lok Sabha elections.

It was decided that in Gujarat, the Congress would contest from 24 seats, while the AAP would try its luck in the Bhavnagar and Bharuch constituencies.

Following the announcement, Mumtaz Patel, a Congress leader and daughter of late party leader Ahmed



Patel, "apologised" to party workers in Bharuch for not being able to secure the seat, which was initially a Congress stronghold and was represented by her father thrice, from 1977 to 1984.

Mumtaz Patel, who had previously objected to the Bharuch seat being given to AAP, said she won't let Ahmed Patel's 45 years of legacy go in vain.

The AAP has already announced the party's Dediapada MLA Chaitar Vasava as its candidate from Bharuch.

While speaking to the ANI news agency today, Jairam Ramesh said "the party has to make

some tough decisions, keeping in mind the bigger picture".

"I, too, was disappointed and upset, but the decisions were taken to strengthen the party and also to make the (Opposition) alliance stronger. It is understood that we take a little and give a little," he said.

The Congress leader, however, reiterated that "decisions are made for the party and not a particular person".

In a post on X on Saturday, Mumtaz Patel had said, "Deeply apologise to our district cadre for not being able to secure the Bharuch Lok Sabha seat in alliance. I share your dis-

appointment. Together, we will regroup to make Congress stronger. We won't let Ahmed Patel's 45 years of legacy go in vain."

Also expressing his disappointment, Ahmed Patel's son Faisal Patel said, "My party workers and I are not happy, and we wanted this decision not to be taken, but if the high command wants, we will follow it."

"I am going to Congress and I will speak with the high command once again. There is a lot of time to file nominations... The Gandhi family is my family too... I am of the firm belief that they will understand the emotions of the Patel family attached to this seat," he added.

Saturday's seat-sharing formula between the AAP and Congress came after the latter struck a deal with the Samajwadi Party for a seat-sharing agreement in Uttar Pradesh.

According to the agreement, the Congress will

contest 17 Lok Sabha seats, while the remaining 63 seats are for the SP and other partners of the Opposition INDIA bloc.

According to the agreement, the Congress will field candidates on its strongholds -- Raebareilly and Amethi, as well as Kanpur Nagar, Fatehpur Sikri, Basgaon, Saharanpur, Prayagraj, Maharajganj, Amroha, Jhansi, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, Mathura, Sitapur, Barabanki, Varanasi and Deoria.

A day earlier, Farukhabad MP Salman Khurshid had posted a cryptic message on X, asking "how many tests do I have to face to prove my relationship with Farrukhabad?"

"The question is not about me but about the future of all of us, about the future generations. Never bow before the decisions of fate. I can break, I can't bend. You promise to support me, I will keep singing songs," Khurshid said.

## 3 Naxalites killed in encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh

KANKER, Feb 25 (Agencies): Three Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Sunday morning, a senior police official said.

The face-off took place in a forest in Koyalibeda area when a joint team of the District Reserve Guard and the

Border Security Force was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Kanker Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Elesela said.

So far, bodies of three Naxalites and two weapons have been recovered from the encounter site and the operation is still under way, the official said.

## BSP MP Ritesh Pandey resigns from party; joins BJP



NEW DELHI, Feb 25 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

Lok Sabha MP from Ambedkar Nagar Ritesh Pandey on Sunday

tendered his resignation from the party and joined the BJP in New Delhi.

He is a Lok Sabha MP from Ambedkar Nagar in Uttar Pradesh.

Several BSP MPs are likely to quit with Mayawati appearing increasingly distant and aloof from state politics on 18th Lok Sabha poll eve.

## UP Man Borrows Money For Online Gaming, Kills Mother In Payback Plan: Cops

FATEHPUR, Feb 25 (Agencies): An addiction to online gaming led a man to murder his mother so that he could claim her life insurance payout and settle his mountain of debt, police have said. The shocking incident has been reported in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur where the accused, Himanshu, allegedly killed his mother to claim a ₹ 50 lakh insurance and then disposed off her body near the Yamuna river bank.

The accused, police have said, was addicted to gaming on popular platform Zuepe. Such was the addiction that his repeated losses prompted him to borrow and keep playing. After a point, he realised he owed nearly ₹ 4 lakh. The question now was how to pay back creditors. What followed was a ruthless plot.

Himanshu, police said, stole his paternal aunt's jewellery and used the money to buy life insurance policies worth ₹ 50 lakh each



for his parents. Soon after, he allegedly choked his mother Prabha to death when his father was away, said police. He put the body in a jute bag and drove his tractor to the Yamuna river bank to dispose it.

Himanshu's father Roshan Singh, who had gone to the Chitrakoot temple, did not find his wife and son at home when he returned. He asked around and then headed to his brother's home in the same locality. No one knew where Prabha was. Then a neighbour mentioned that he had seen Himanshu on

the tractor near the river.

Police were informed and the body recovered from near Yamuna. Himanshu was arrested soon after. His questioning revealed the shocking plot a son hatched to murder his mother so that he could clear his debt. "The son was on the run after murdering his mother. We caught him and unearthed the sinister crime," senior police officer Vijay Shankar Mishra said.

Cheap and fast internet connectivity has given a big boost to online gaming. In many of these games, users can make money. The urge to make quick bucks on your phone turns into an addiction for money. Zuepe, which is among the popular platforms for online gaming, warns users that they must play only for entertainment. "Don't play to earn extra income. Don't play impulsively. Don't play with loaned money," its 'dos and don'ts' list says.

## Two people dead in road accident involving Lucknow admin vehicle

LUCKNOW, Feb 25 (Agencies): Two people who were amongst the 11 persons injured in an accident that took place when a Lucknow district administration vehicle assigned to secure the route for the Chief Minister's convoy overturned after hitting an animal carcass, have died during treatment.

The victims were identified as a woman and a girl.

The Chief Minister has ordered a compensation of Rs 2 lakhs each for the families of the two victims and Rs 50,000 for the injured persons.

The 11 injured people included five police personnel and six civilians.

Sources told agency that the accident in the city's Arjunanj area on Saturday night occurred after the anti-demonstration vehicle collided

with an animal's carcass on the road.

The collision resulted in the vehicle overturning.

The vehicle was not part of the Chief Minister's convoy, it was a local police car.

It was also not immediately clear if the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was in the convoy.

Commenting on the accident, Samajwadi

Party president Akhilesh Yadav said that the problem of stray cattle has become the "dangerous truth of Uttar Pradesh".

In a post on X on Saturday night, he blamed the issue as the cause of the incident, adding that "this is a question of people's lives".

"The BJP should take a lesson from this incident," he added.

## Bihar: Asst engineer of Water Resources dept found dead under mysterious circumstances

MUZAFFARPUR, Feb 25 (Agencies): A 29-year-old woman, working as an assistant engineer with the state Water Resources department, was found dead under mysterious in her rented flat in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, police said on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Mahima Kumari (29), a resident of Mananpur

Bazar of Lakhisarai district.

Locals said the victim, working as an assistant engineer with the state water resources department and was posted in Muzaffarpur and used to stay alone in her flat in Atardah Prajapati Nagar locality in Muzaffarpur town.

Talking to reporters Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP-

Town), Muzaffarpur, Bhanu Pratap Singh on Sunday said, "the body of Mahima Kumari was recovered from her flat late Saturday evening."

Her body has been sent for post-mortem examination and further investigation is on.

"We are investigating the case from all angles forensic experts have already collected scientific evidence from the

spot and further examining it", he added.

A local police officer, on the condition of anonymity, said, "Locals noticed Mahima dead under mysterious circumstances in her flat. The doors of her flat were open and her body was found lying in the bedroom. The body also bore injury marks and blood oozing out from her nose".











# Successful Execution of 'Project Amrit' by the Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: Under the holy patronage of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj and Nirankari Rajmata Ramit Ji, the second phase of the 'Amrit Project' under the theme 'Swachh Jal Swachh Mann' commenced at 8:00 AM at Chatt Ghat Yamuna River Banks ITO DELHI. Inspired by the teachings of Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj, this project was organized on a large scale simultaneously at over 1,533 locations in all 27 states and union territories of India with the support of more than 1.1 million volunteers. The event was organized by the Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, the social wing of the Sant Nirankari Mission.

In Jammu City the drive was held on the banks of River Tawi and was inaugurated by Ajit



Singh Zonal Incharge Jammu. This project saw significant active participation from the youth.

Inaugurating the second phase of 'Project Amrit,' Nirankari RajPita Ramit Ji, in his address before Satguru Mata Ji, stated that Baba Hardev Singh Ji inspired us to serve

selflessly, not for praise. In serving, we should focus on the spirit of the service rather than on making a loud display of it. Our efforts should be towards changing ourselves because social and global change stems from our inner transformation. A clean and pure mind initiates a virtuous change.

During the event for Project Amrit, Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji expressed in her blessings that water is of great importance in our lives and is like nectar. Water forms the very foundation of our existence. It is our duty to care for the clean and beautiful creation that God has given us. It

is us, in human form, who have misused this priceless heritage and polluted it. We must maintain the purity of nature by keeping it in its original form. We need to inspire everyone with our actions, not just words. When we connect with the omnipresent God and take inspiration from that connection, we start loving every form of his creation. Our endeavour should be that when we leave this world, we leave it in a more beautiful state than we found it.

At the conclusion of the program, the guests who joined commended the mission extensively and expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Satguru Mata Ji, stating that the mission has certainly taken an important step towards nature conservation through this beneficent project of water conservation and cleanliness.

# 647th Prakash Utsav of Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj celebrated in Jammu

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: 647th prakash utsav of Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj was celebrated by Shri Guru Ravi Dass sabha bahu fort jammu in the premises of Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj bahu fort Jammu with great enthusiasm. People from all walk of life participated and took blessings of Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj.

While speaking on this occasion Sham Lal basson general secretary of Shri Guru Ravi Dass sabha bahu fort jammu said that teachings of Sant Shiromani Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj are more relevant even today like drug addiction etc. Sham basson said that every person.

He further said that 35 students delivered speeches on the life and mission of Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj. Promi-



nent among students who delivered speeches were Arya Angral Madhav Kalsi, Samridhi Basson, Jia Sharma, Manvi Bhagat, Samaksh Basson, Arushi, Stuttgart Kundal, Urvashi, Umang, Sumaira Basson, Hargun Basson, Jaspreet kour and others.

Some dignitaries like Sanjay Badyal DC(North), Ramesh Angral (SSP), Commandant, ex Minister Babu Ram Paul, Vijay lochan provincial chairman SC NC cell, Prof Kali Dass general secretary AIBCU, M R Bangotra (Retd CEO), TC Bavouria were honoured. Deep Mala ceremony was

performed. Cake cutting ceremony was performed by Kashish Kalsi D/O late Raj Kalsi and family members. Sonu Heer renowned Singer sang karantikari bhajans and he was honoured. Baldev Raj Nargotra chairman was honoured. BD Thapa also sang bhajans. Sh Rajinder kumar(Sanju) and Rajesh Kumar(Kala) had arranged big coffee stall. Jayesh Gupta Sr AAP leader, Dr Rajinder Kumar, were also honoured on this occasion.

Prof C L Shivgotra, Dr Vijay Shivgotra spoke on this occasion. SH TC Sambyal Raj kumar, Bittu ji, Mahesh Sambyal Sher chand were honoured.

Guru ka Langer was served to all sangat. Those who managed the function included Vikas Kalsi, Sham Kalsi, Rajesh Kumar (Kala) Sanjay Kalsi, Rinku Bangotra, Prof Chaman Lal Shivgotra delivered speech on the teachings of Sant Shiromani Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj regarding unity equality Fraternity. Guru ji gave message for eradication of social evils, drugs menace. Dr vijay shivgotra extended vote of thanks and stressed for importance of education. There should be strong link among students- parents and teachers for quality education.

# Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans delivers lecture to sangat

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandgi, while delighting the Sangat with the nectar of his sermons in Satwari, Jammu today, said that at the time of initiation, body, mind and wealth are offered. This body is not yours. The soul is forgetting its existence and considering itself as the body. There are fights in the world because of money. Nowadays lawsuits are going on in the family. It was once said that brother is brother's arm. Now brother is enemy of brother. Man is entangled because of money.

If man is not on earth then creation has no importance. Man is the basis of creation. Inanimate matter cannot do anything.

If there is no soul, this world is inanimate. That's why Niranjani is not allowing even a single soul to go to the immortal world. Therefore, I offered my mind to the Guru.

This world is like a dream. There is Sushumna Nadi in this human body. He can go into Turiya state. Consciousness increases manifold. No one else has this. When Turiya reaches the beyond, he gets the power to create the world. Even the gods were afraid of Vishwamitra. Such a system does not exist in any other organism. Fear, food, sex are there in everything. Our body is made of food. No one eats as good a diet as a human being. A lion that has human flesh in its mouth does not eat any other living creature.

He doesn't like it. He searches for humans. But there is fear in that too. Afraid of humans too. Is afraid of some



other creatures also. He is also afraid of some other creatures like crocodile, elephant, rhinoceros, giraffe etc. Fear is in everyone. Everyone is having food. Everyone is also having sex. But no one has a human like structure. The king of the earth is man. Man is the greatest because he can meditate and see the inner world. If you are not doing bhajan then you are losing your birth like a diamond. It is not found for body subjects. After getting this, do devotional songs. Gods also want to attain this body. There are many options in this body. By achieving this anything can be achieved. Man is the greatest because he can meditate and see the inner world.

Anal bird lives in the sky. He only eats air. There are many people, we listen to the sages and sages, that they remain without food or drink for so many days. The man wonders. He told that he had not eaten for so many days. But no one is able to tell what the basis was. How to survive when you don't eat? There is blood in fish. Anything that has blood needs oxygen.

Where do fish take oxygen from? Water is a mixture of two gases. It also has oxygen in it. There is a system in its body that extracts

oxygen from water. But you and our body do not have this system. When we go into water, we don't get oxygen so we drown and die.

When the Diwali lamp is lit, the snake goes underground. Then it comes out in the spring. Why don't you go out so late? Because the snake moves in a zigzag manner. The body temperature of a snake depends on the outside temperature. Our temperature is always 98 percent. Our body has a system of internal temperature. Whether it is winter or summer. The snake's body temperature is related to the outside temperature. That's why when it's hot, the snake gets very upset. Our soil has the property that it becomes hot in winter and cool in summer. So after going underground the snake eats air. what the FAC. But this is not going to be accepted as science. The truth is that how did our sages survive if they performed great practices? Some take underground samadhi, so how to live is an art. A man can hold his breath for 30-35 seconds. Where did the oxygen come from? He is not doing any other work. Not feeling much energy. They keep rotating the same wind inside. Paltu Sahib is also saying that in that state of meditation one

does not feel hungry and thirsty. Put the body on hold. For example, when you talk to someone, the other person asks you to put them on hold for a minute. So his bill doesn't come. In this way, there are systems in your body that can be put on hold.

I have said a lot even after dying while alive. It is absolutely true that the basis of the body is breath. The biggest source of energy is breath. Rest are different things. Many people do not eat food. Many people do not drink water. The main energy of the body is breath. Prana operates the entire body.

Sahib's easy path. There is no need to do difficult penance in that. Sometimes when a person goes into deep sleep the body goes on hold. That is why it is said that the last rites should not be performed until 24 hours after death. He may be in deep sleep. There are many such examples where a person who is declared dead by the doctors suddenly wakes up. In Akhnoor too, a man woke up from the funeral pyre. It also appeared in newspapers. The dead became alive. People started saying that a ghost has come. The doctors had declared him dead. He was also shocked. He doesn't speak like that. They see that the heart is not working. Rest of the organs are not working. Then let's speak. In Kanpur also, a dead body lying on the bier had become alive.

In this way, when the Sushumna opens during meditation, the rest of the body parts stop. A person can keep his body on hold for many years. A man does not die after entering Sushumna. The body goes on hold.

# JD(U) Leaders greeting around the globe on auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Barat

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 25: Janata Dal (United) State President G M Shaheen and State General Secretary Vivek Bali greeting people of Jammu and Kashmir and across the globe on the auspicious occasions of Shab e Barat the night of forgiveness.

G M Shaheen said on this day, it is believed that Allah writes his worshipers' fate for the coming year based on their previous actions.



Hence, the holy night is spent pleading God for forgiveness for any misdemeanour.

The celebrations of the Shab e Barat takes place just ahead of Holy

month Ramadan. May Allah forgive our sins and provide us with his blessings.

Vivek Bali wishes Shab-e-Barat Mubarak to whole Muslim Ummah around the World and especially to people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Let us take the opportunity to express our apologies for our wrong actions and deeds and Seek forgiveness from The Almighty Allah, who is the creator and Generator.

# Natrang stages outstanding play 'Panch Pran' in Sunday Theatre



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: A highly motivating and moving theatre presentation 'Panch Prana' featured in Natrang's weekly theatre series Sunday Theatre. Written by Lalit Prakash and directed by Neeraj Kant this highly energising performance elaborated the five resolves the nation has pledged to make developed and resurgent India. Devised in a chorus style, the play opens with a group of performers appealing to the masses for

coming forward and unitedly strive to make India a developed nation by 2024. Finding them confused and distracted over the mission, a crusader appears on the scene who pacify their conflicting notions and beautify describes each of the five resolves in a highly theatrical manner. Following this, each of the five resolves were theatrically demonstrated threadbare. On the historic day, when the celebrations of 75 years of India's independence were completed, honourable Prime Minister

of India described in detail the five resolves to ensure a developed India in next 25 years. These resolves included, a resolve of developed India, removing of all traces of colonial mindset, taking pride in our legacy, our strength of unity and fulfilling the duties of citizens with honesty. Amongst all the resolves, taking pride in our legacy was the highpoint of the play. An important prerequisite for a positive and confident mindset among the citizens is to have national pride. Pride in

its millennia old cultural and spiritual heritage, pride in our legacy and contributions to the world and the pride in being the citizen of this glorious nation.

Play 'Panch Pran' came out to be the shining example of an extraordinary motivational presentation aimed at infusing the real sense of nationalism amongst the spectators.

Natrang's brilliant artists who presented a remarkable performance included Neeraj Kant, Mohd. Yaseen, Aadesh Dhar, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Vandana Thakur, Chaitanya Shekhar, Subash Jamwal, Kananpreet Kaur, Mehak Chib, Palshin Dutta, Sunny Mujoo, Vansh Pandotra, Radhika Sharma, Mehak Singh, Sahil Narwalia, Malik Madiha, Suneha Angural, Avantika Sharma, Ritika, Dheeraj Kotwal, Mandeep Singh, Arjun Soni, Priya, Vishal Sharma, Sanket Bhagat and Kushal Bhat. The music of the play was composed by Brij Mohan.