

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-56

Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

**Ghazal Singer Pankaj Udhas dies at 72 after prolonged illness**



MUMBAI, Feb 26 (Agencies): Renowned ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas, best known for "Chitti Aye Hai" and "Aur Ahista Kijiye Baatein", died here on Monday following prolonged illness, his daughter Nayab said. He was 72.

Udhas, who also made a mark as a playback singer in many Hindi films, including "Naam", "Saajan" and "Mohra", died around 11 am at the Breach Candy hospital, a family source said.

"With a very heavy heart, we are saddened to inform you of the sad demise of Padmashri Pankaj Udhas on 26th February 2024 due to a prolonged illness," Nayab wrote in an Instagram post.

**J&K Police head constable dies of heart attack in Ganderbal**

SRINAGAR, Feb 26 (Agencies): A Jammu & Kashmir police constable died due to heart attack in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

An official told the news agency Kashmir Scroll that a head constable identified as Javid Ahmad, who was posted at Ganderbal suffered a massive heart attack during night hours. He was immediately taken to nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

Meanwhile, police took cognizance of this incident.

**'Wanted' drug peddler booked under PIT NDPS Act**

SRINAGAR, Feb 26 (Agencies): Police booked a wanted and notorious drug smuggler under the PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla after obtaining formal detention orders from competent authority, officials said.

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## Ensure timely completion of disciplinary cases: CVC to Govt departments, public sector banks

NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies): The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has asked all Government departments, public sector banks and insurance companies to ensure that disciplinary cases are brought to a logical conclusion within the prescribed timelines and without any inordinate delay.

The commission has said the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and it have issued guidelines from time to time, impressing upon the organisations concerned for a timely conclusion of disciplinary proceedings.

"However, it has been observed that on many



occasions, there is inordinate delay in bringing the cases to logical conclusion, which is against the principles of natural justice and also defeats the very purpose of initiating disciplinary action," the CVC said in an order.

The Commission said it has prescribed model timelines for investigation and conclusion of

disciplinary proceedings till the issuance of final orders.

The CVC said the existing instructions and guidelines as issued by the commission and DoPT are "strictly adhered to" by the disciplinary authorities and other authorities concerned.

The Chief Vigilance

Officers (CVOs) of the respective organisations may bring these guidelines to the notice of the chief executive officer and all disciplinary authorities concerned, the order said.

"They may also follow up all pending cases to ensure that they are brought to logical conclusion within the prescribed timelines," it added.

The CVC also said in order to ensure a timely and smooth completion of disciplinary proceedings, training needs to be imparted to the prospective and current inquiry officers (IOs) and presenting officers (POs), which will help

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## Police launch legal action against impersonator posing as ADGP Jammu



JAMMU, Feb 26 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police Monday said it has initiated legal action against a person posing as the additional director general of police of Jammu on various social media platforms.

"A fraudster has managed to impersonate ADGP Jammu zone, Anand Jain on various social media platforms using his image includ-

ing other credentials and is extorting money from people," according to a police statement "The offender has created the profiles with malicious intent. Accordingly, legal action has been initiated as per law," it said, without giving any further details.

The police also advised social media users to refrain from responding to these fake profiles.

"Any financial loss or other issues should be reported to the nearest police station or cyber cell in the respective districts," it said.

Earlier on January 2, police had flagged a fake social media account impersonating the ADGP and urged people not to interact with it.

## PC announces Sajad Gani Lone as Lok Sabha candidate for North Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 26 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference on Monday declared its president Sajad Gani Lone as the Lok Sabha candidate from north Kashmir.

In a statement, Party general secretary Imran Reza Ansari said that the decision has been taken after extensive discussions with party leaders and workers over the past two weeks.

"It is with great pleasure I formally announce that Sajad Lone has acceded to the demand of the party. He will be the candidate of the party from Baramulla Parliamentary seat," he said.

He stated that the party leadership wishes him the best and believes that the fiercest speeches on the floor of the Parliament, advocating the just cause of the people will finally be delivered by Sajad Lone after a painful wait of 7 decades.

"The people of J&K will finally get the chance to roar," he said.

## Traffic restored on Jammu-Srinagar Highway at Dalwas

JAMMU, Feb 26 (Agencies): Traffic on the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway was resumed on Monday after remaining closed for vehicular movement for a couple of hours.

A J&K traffic Police

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## Will scrap 'Agnipath', revert to old recruitment scheme if voted to power: Congress



NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies): Stepping up its attack on the Union government over the "Agnipath" military recruitment scheme, the Congress alleged on Monday that "gross injustice" was done to youngsters and asserted that it would revert to the old recruitment scheme if voted to power at the

Centre. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to President Droupadi Murmu on Monday, highlighting the "gross injustice" done to the youngsters seeking regular employment in the armed forces due to the "Agnipath" scheme, and urged her to ensure justice for them. The

future of nearly two lakh young men and women has become uncertain due to the scrapping of the regular recruitment process in the armed forces, Kharge said in his letter to the president, who is the supreme commander of the Indian armed forces. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot said there was no demand for such a scheme.

"In the long term, this scheme will not benefit anybody except saving some money for the government of India. We in the Congress party feel that we should go

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## "At least 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers killed in war with Russia", admits President Zelenskyy



UKRAINIAN, Feb 26 (Agencies): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday admitted that at least 31,000 soldiers have died in the ongoing war with Russia, CNN reported.

This statement comes one day after marking the second anniversary of Russia's 'full-scale invasion' in 2022.

Zelenskyy, while addressing a press conference, disputed Russian claims of much higher numbers when it comes to Ukrainian casualties. The Ukrainian president also said "tens of thousands of civilians in occupied parts of the country" have been killed.

Ukraine's battlefield losses are a closely guarded secret, but US officials estimate some 70,000 soldiers have been killed -- and nearly twice that number wounded, as reported by CNN.

Notably, this statement is significant as throughout the conflict, Kyiv has been hesitant to admit how many soldiers have

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## 260 stranded passengers airlifted in 'Kargil Courier' between J&K and Ladakh



JAMMU, Feb 26 (Agencies): The Indian Air Force (IAF) airlifted as many as 260 stranded passengers between the twin union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh on Monday, an official said.

With this, a total of 1,551 passengers were airlifted so far in AN-32 aircraft, also known as Kargil courier, since the launch of the service on January 22 following closure of the 434-km

Srinagar-Leh national highway owing to heavy snowfall, the official said.

The Kargil courier service operates three days a week between Jammu and Srinagar, and twice a week between Srinagar and Kargil to facilitate the stranded passengers.

"A total of 260 passengers were airlifted in Kargil courier on Monday. While 113

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## MeT forecasts 'Scattered to Fairly Widespread' Light Rains, Snow in J&K

SRINAGAR, Feb 26 (Agencies): Weather department here has forecast light rain and snow at "scattered to fairly widespread" places in Jammu and Kashmir from Monday night to forenoon of Tuesday. A meteorological department official here said that on February 28-29, partly to generally cloudy weather is expected with possibility of light rain and snow at isolated places.

From March 1-3, he said, there is possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at most places with heavy rain and snow at few middle and higher reaches during

March 2 and 3. "Few places may experience thunder/lightning/hailstorm accompanied by gusty winds during the period."

Meanwhile night temperature recorded a fall at few places and slight rise at a few with Srinagar recording a minimum of minus 2.0°C against previous night's 0.5°C. It was below normal by 2.0°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, the MeT official said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 2.2°C against minus 1.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.6°C below normal for the gateway town of

Kashmir, he said. Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 7.0°C against minus 6.0°C on the previous night and it was 3.5°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 2.8°C against minus 3.8°C on the previous night and the temperature was below normal by 2.9°C for the place, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of minus 3.5°C against minus 3.0°C on the previous night and it was 3.5°C below normal there, the official said.

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**10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Rajesh Sharma (Advocate)** S/o Late Sh. Govind Ram Sharma R/o H. No 287, Lane No 13, New Plot, Jammu. The **TENTH DAY** will be performed at Shiv Mandir, New Plot Jammu on February 26, 2024 at 11.00 AM.

**KRIYA** will be performed at our residence on February 27, 2024 at 12.00 Noon.

**UTHALA** will be performed at Dewan Janj Ghar, Sarwal Jammu on February 28, 2024 at 5.00 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Pushpa Rani - **Mother**  
Suman Sharma - **Wife**  
Abhirab and Abhirath- **Sons**  
Sudarshan and Veena Sharma - **Brother and Sister in Law**  
**Sister and Brother in Law**  
Kailash and Jagdev Sharma  
Vijay and Narinder  
Prince and Pranav- **Nephew**  
**MOBILE NO: 9419121788, 9149465624**



**SH. RAJESH SHARMA (ADVOCATE)**

**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)**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

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

**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, 9469223344, 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 Giyan 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 29.02.2024 at Akhnor followed by **Assembly** at Muthi Ghat at 11.00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Nancy Bhat (**Wife**)  
(**Daughter in law and Son**)  
Gayatri and Abhijot Bhat  
Urvasi and Abhinav 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: 600605935, 9419120180, 600595792, 9149876058.



**Shri Giyan Jee Bhat**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Karmayogini Smt. Kamlawati Mantoo** W/o Late Nanak Chand Mantoo originally from Ram Ghat Varahmulla.

**Vaishna Bawana Aisenay Jaay Dyada**. You will be dearly missed, but never forgotten.

**10th Day Kriya** will be held at Akhnor Ghat on 1st March Friday. Assembly followed by Prasad will be held at our residence at 1230 hrs at House No 24, Poonch House Talab Tillo Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Dura and Shri Suriender Kumar Mantoo & Family  
**All Nears & Dears**  
**8793626985**



**Karmayogini Smt. Kamlawati Mantoo**

**TENTH DAY/RASAM PAGRI**

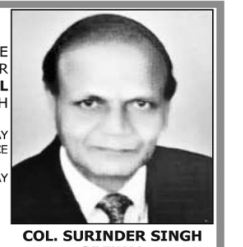
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **COL. SURINDER SINGH GREWAL** WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 16TH FEBRUARY 2024.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** SHALL BE PERFORMED ON SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 12:00 NOON AT OUR RESIDENCE HOUSE NO-158, SECTOR 1, GANGYAL, JAMMU.

**RASAM PAGRI** SHALL BE PERFORMED ON WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 2:00PM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

**GRIEF STRICKEN-**

GETA GUPTA - **WIFE**  
**SON AND DAUGHTER - IN-LAW**  
VEER BHANU SINGH & DR. RASHMI ARCHIT SINGH & JAYANT SINGH - **GRANDSONS**  
LALITA & RAJINDER GUPTA - **DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW**  
**CONTACT NO: 7006220651, 7006787161**



**COL. SURINDER SINGH GREWAL**

**REMEMBRANCE**

One year has passed since you left us for your eternal journey. There was not a single moment when we have not missed your presence around us. Your love and memories are still fresh and will always remain in our heart forever. We pray that your pious and noble soul finds sacred place under the Lotus feet of Lord Vishnu to attain eternal peace forever.

**DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:**  
Smt. Sushma Sharma (**Wife**)  
Smt. Archana & Er. Amit Sharma (**Daughter-in-law & Son**)  
Smt. Poonam & Er. Puneet Sharma (**Daughter-in-law & Son**)  
Smt. Nidhi & Sh. Sandeep Magotra (**Daughter & Son-in-law**)  
**Grand Sons & Grand Daughters:**  
Aadhya, Prisha, Sahaj & Abhaya  
**Baru Family**  
**All Nears & Dears**  
Mobile: 9419396322, 6005122667, 9419153407



**Sh. Prem Parkash Sharma (Baru) Retd. S.O. (UEED)**

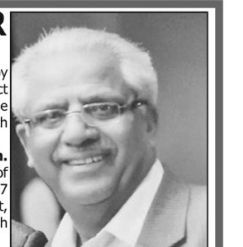
**MASWAR AND VOHARVAR**

Dear Papa,  
It's been a year since you left us and not a day goes by without feeling the void you left in our lives. Your impact on my life is immeasurable, and your love continues to be my guiding light. Until we meet again, I carry you with me always.

**Maswar and Voharvar** of my beloved Papa Late **Sh. Roshan Lal Bhat**: S/o Late Sh. Niranjan Nath Bhat of Mahnora (Budgam) Kashmir will be held on 26 and 27 Feb/24 at Shri Sanatan Dharm Mandir, Main Market, Subhash Nagar (Near Shani Bazar Gol Chakkhar), Subhash Nagar New Delhi 110027

You are deeply missed and remembered by all of us.

With love and heartfelt regards,  
Anu - **Daughter**  
Bunty Ji - **Son-in-law**  
Ridhi - **Grand Daughter**  
**+91- 9999111175**



**LATE SH. ROSHAN LAL BHAT**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kamlesh Kumari Ji** w/o Sh. Tilak Raj Angural R/O Ashok Nagar, Satwari who left us for heavenly abode on 19.02.2024.

**TENTH DAY** will be held on 28-02-2024 (Wednesday) at **RADHA SWAMI SATSANG GHAR BARJALA NEAR RAIPUR SATWARI**.

**Satsang: -12:00 PM to 1PM.**  
**Guru ka Langar: -1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

**Grief Stricken:-**

Tilak Raj Angural - **Husband**  
Mrs. Kannu komal & Sanjeev Sangral - **Daughter and Son in Law**  
Mrs. Mannu Komal & Deepak Kumar - **Daughter and Son in Law**  
**Contact:- 789639428, 7051114546, 9086049989**



**Smt. Kamlesh Kumari Ji**

**REMEMBRANCE**

**YOUR LOVE WAS A BLESSING**  
**YOUR MEMORY A TREASURE.**  
**YOU ARE LOVED BEYOND WORDS,**  
**& MISSED BEYOND MEASURE.**

THIRTEEN YEARS HAVE BEEN PASSED, BUT STILL WE FEEL YOUR PAINFUL ABSENCE EVERYDAY. PHYSICALLY YOU ARE NOT WITH US, BUT REMAIN IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.

**DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:**  
SMT VINOD GUPTA  
& ALL FAMILY MEMBERS  
**CONTACT: 9622112333**



**LT. SH. NETAR GUPTA**

**SHRADHANJALI**

With Deep Heart we Mourn the Sad Untimely demise of our beloved **JIA Ji Sh. Bushan Lal Garoo Ji (Retired CE PDD J&K)**.

**JIA Ji** you will be missed always, we pray to Almighty May Your Soul Rest in Peace. We lost Fatherly Respected Figure from our family. We will always LOVE You.

Smt. Kaki & Sh. M.K. Gurtoo  
Dimpu, Booba, Ladley, Priti, Sunil and Ajay



**Sh. Bushan Lal Garoo Ji (Retired CE PDD J&K)**

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**BARKHI**

One year has passed without you but your presence is deeply rooted in our mind, soul and heart.

**BARKHI** of our beloved **Smt. Kanta Gupta** W/o Late Sh. Kuldeep Raj Gupta will be performed at our residence H.No. 11 W.No. 3 Adarsh Colony near Eid Gah road Udhampur on Tuesday 27 February, 2024 at 12:00 noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Devar and Devrani Ji**  
Sh. Jugal Kishore Gupta & Smt. Manorma Gupta  
Sh. Chandar Mohan & Smt. Usha Gupta  
**Sons & Daughter in laws**  
Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta & Smt. Sunita Gupta  
Sh. Arvind Gupta & Smt. Meena Gupta  
**Daughter & Son in law**  
Smt. Sonika Gupta & Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta  
**Grand Children**  
Rakshi & Aditya Mahajan  
Akshi, Vansh, Smaksh, Abhinav, Megha  
**Contact:- 9906180241, 9419905460**



**Smt. Kanta Gupta**

**13TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Dyawanti** W/o Late Sh. Jagdev Singh Chanotar who departed for the heavenly abode on 16th of Feb 2024.

**13th Day Uthala** will be performed on Wednesday, 28th of February 2024 at native residence Village Bhuglerian Tehsil Ramnagar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Sons and Daughters in law**  
Smt. Sapna and Anirudh Singh  
(State President All J&K VLWs (Panchayat Secretaries) Association)  
Smt. Nirmala and Prikshat Singh  
Member District Development Council Udhampur (Jaganoo)  
**Daughters and Sons in law**  
Smt. Salochna and Sahdev Singh Jamwal (Prop. Chehra Beauty Saloon Sangoor Udhampur)  
Smt. Renu and Hem Raj Dogra  
Producer Bollywood  
**Grand Children:** Surya Dev Singh, Satyadev Singh, Takshila Chanotar, Alisha Dogra, Anaha Thakur, Nitara Chanotar, Mailihii Thakur, Kanhaiya Partap Singh  
**With All relatives and friends.**  
**9419160657, 9149994296**



**Smt. Dyawanti**

**10TH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform that **Lt Smt. Pushpa Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Munshi Ram Residently of H. No. 696 Darugiran Moh. near Kanak Mandi Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 18 Feb. 2024. **10th Day** will be performed at our residence (Devi Dewara) Peer Mitha at 11 am on 27 Feb 2024 (Tuesday).

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Sh. Parmodh (**Contact No. 9622385831**)  
Smt. Suman Devi  
Sh. Vijay (**9419221495**)  
Smt. Madhu Devi  
Sh. Rajinder (**9796647615**)  
Smt. Jyoti Devi  
Mr. Vinod (**9796844282**)  
Mr. Vishal (**9797637584**)  
Mr. Vikas (**9055017273**)



**Lt. Smt. Pushpa Devi**

**10TH DAY / KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Vishno Devi** W/o Late Sh. Dewan Chand Mehya R/o Ward No. 6 Ramnagar who left us for heavenly abode on 19/2/2024.

**10th Day** will be performed on 27-02-2024 (Tuesday) at Town Hall Ramnagar at 11:30 AM.

**Kriya** will be performed on 1-03-2024 (Friday) at our residence Ward No. 6 Ramnagar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Sh. Agya Pal Gupta and Smt. Lalita Devi  
Sh. Dharamvir and Smt. Babli Devi  
Sh. Hari Bushan and Smt. Anu Radha  
Smt. Sushil Kala W/o Sh. Vijay Kumar Gupta  
Smt. Parveen Gupta W/o Late Sh. Ashok Gupta  
Smt. Sanjeeta Gupta W/o Sh. Pawan Gupta  
**Contact Details: 7006503942, 9622359170, 9419158849**



**Smt. Vishno Devi**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

"THE LIGHT HAS GONE OUT OF OUR LIVES BUT THE AFFECTION & CARE YOU SHOWERED UPON US SHALL BRIGHTEN OUR HEARTS FOREVER."

**KARAMYOGI SH. TRILOKI NATH DHAR (PAPA JI)**, S/O LATE SHRI SONA JOO DHAR (RESIDENT OF THAJIWARA, BIJBHARA, KASHMIR, AT PRESENT G-18, GALI NO.11, PREM NAGAR, NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI-43) AFTER FULFILLING HIS EARTHLY RESPONSIBILITIES LEFT TO SERVE THE LOTUS FEET OF SHRI HARI VISHNU ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2024.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE HELD ON 4TH MARCH 2024 (MONDAY) AT ROHINI GHAT, SECTOR 16, NEAR MTNL OFFICE, BADLI ROAD AT 9:30 AM.

**DEEPLY GRIEF STRICKEN:**

SMT. MOHINI DHAR (**WIFE**)  
**DAUGHTERS & SONS- IN-LAW**  
1. RAJNI PANDITA, ASHOK PANDITA  
2. JAYA KOUL, AVTAR KRISHAN KOUL  
3. JEETA PANDITA, VEER JI PANDITA  
MOTI LAL DHAR, JYOTI DHAR, SACHIN DHAR, MADHU RAINA



**KARAMYOGI SH. TRILOKI NATH DHAR (PAPA JI)**

**SAMAST DHAR, PANDITA, KOUL & TIKOO PARIVAR**  
**PH.NO. 8178181868, 9868630627**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With great agony and sorrow, we regret to inform that **Smt. Raj Dulari Bhat** W/o Late Sh. Jagar Nath Bhat departed for her heavenly abode on 22nd Feb. 2024 at her residence 220 Sector D Ext. Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo Jammu.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Bhader Ghat, Mata Baderkali Asthapan, Thalwal, Jammu on 1st March 2024 (Friday) at 9 AM.

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

**Grief Stricken**

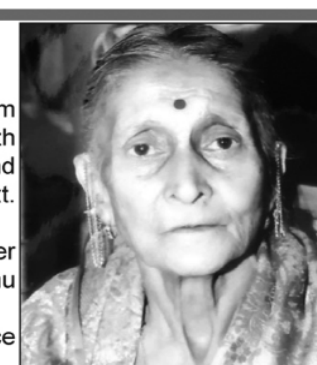
**Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**  
Sh. M. L. Bhat & Smt. Kishni  
Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat - **Son (Mobile 7889560966)**

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Smt. Asha & Er. Vinod Wali (**Mobile 7006587286**)

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Er. R. N. Bhat & Mrs. Pushpa (**Mobile 7006928141**)

**Grand Children & Great Grand Children**

**Smt. Raj Dulari Bhat**

**Grand Children & Great Grand Children**

**Grand Children & Great Grand Children**



# PM Modi lays foundation stone to redevelop Mata Vaishno Devi Railway Station in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26 (Agencies): The Mata Vaishno Devi railway station in Jammu and Kashmir's Katra city will be redeveloped at a cost of Rs 40 crore to enhance the existing facilities and introduce new amenities for passengers.

The step is part of the Amrit Bharat Station scheme under which Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 553 railway stations across the country at a cost of more than Rs 19,000 crore.

Union minister Jitendra Singh unveiled a plaque marking the formal redevelopment of the Mata Vaishno Devi railway station, which is part of his Udhampur parliamentary constituency.

The station is in Reasi district.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, Singh said the inclusion of the Katra station in the Amrit Bharat Station scheme is reflective of the prime minister's special focus on the development of this region.

Recalling that the station was among the first stations chosen for the



rollout of the Vande Bharat train, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office said it also holds the distinction of being the first station in the country where a solar power facility was unveiled.

"As part of today's endeavour, besides the Katra station, three other stations — Udhampur, Jammu and Budgam — will also be redeveloped as Amrit stations. Among the four, three are in the Jammu region. This reinforces the prime minister's commitment for the development of Jammu and Kashmir," Singh said.

He said the Katra station will emerge as an inter-modal station, integrating rail, road and air travel so that people can move from one mode to

another seamlessly. Singh said Modi has chosen Katra — the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine — as part of the country's development journey.

"Ever since Modi assumed the country's leadership, there has been a transformation in the citizens' mindset," he said, adding that the prime minister has ensured a level playing field for the welfare of every person and region in the country.

The Union minister said it has been ensured that every citizen and region of the country utilises their maximum potential commensurate with their talent and resources.

"Now, a poor man's son or daughter can

dream big, compete in prestigious examinations like civil services and reach the corridors of power, irrespective of their religion, caste or region. Hopes have been rekindled and evils like corruption and nepotism have been curbed," he said.

Singh said the number of development projects the country has seen in the last 10 years is unparalleled. "The pace of development has been accelerated to realise the goal of Viksit Bharat," he added.

The 553 railway stations chosen for redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme are spread across 27 states and Union territories.

These stations will be redeveloped at a cost

of more than Rs 19,000 crore. The stations will act as "city centres", integrating both sides of a city, and will have modern passenger amenities, such as roof plazas, beautiful landscaping, inter-modal connectivity, improved modern facades, a play area for kids, kiosks and food courts.

The stations will be redeveloped as environment-friendly and Divyang-friendly. The designs of these station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage and architecture.

Modi also laid the foundation stone, and inaugurated and dedicated to the nation 1,500 road overbridges and underpasses.

One of those costing Rs 49 crore will be in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

These road overbridges and underpasses are spread across 24 states and Union territories, and the total cost of these projects is around Rs 21,520 crore.

These projects will reduce congestion, enhance safety and connectivity, and improve capacity and efficiency of rail travel.

# LG Sinha inaugurates 2nd aerosol winter school 2024 at Central University of Jammu

Top News Report



SAMBA, Feb 26: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 2nd Aerosol Winter School — 'Manthan 2024' at Central University of Jammu today.

In his address, the Lt Governor commended the joint endeavour of Central University of Jammu, Sindh Central University Ladakh and Indian National Young Academy of Science to impart hands-on training on required instrumentation and analytical techniques as well as remote sensing tools for air quality studies to meet the objectives of the National Clean Air Programme.

He emphasised on the collaborative and cross-sectoral coordination to tackle air pollution, which has turned into a serious health concern for the people.

"Air sustains life. Now the time has come for us to sustain the availability of clean air. Mother Nature is reminding us to learn proper lessons from the wrong steps of the past and work towards a cleaner and greener planet," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor reiterated the resolve of the UT Administration,

under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to address the challenges of Air pollution.

He called for effective monitoring network and inclusive public participation and capacity-building measures to ensure sustainable solutions, he said.

"The societies and nations have prospered because of balanced and sustainable development. Many important achievements of the industries, science and technology have also derived their strength from nature. Today, it is time to protect and preserve the nature," he further added.

He directed the Jammu Kashmir Pollution Control Committee and other key stakeholders to assess and review the progress registered under National Clean Air Programme.

The Lt Governor announced Rs 1.5 cr to be allocated by Forest, Ecology and Environment Department for

strengthening of Himalayan Aerosol Research Instrumentation centre of Central University of Jammu.

He also assured Indian Institute of Geomagnetism of necessary support by the UT Administration for expansion of research-related activities in J&K.

On the occasion, a Service Level Agreement was inked between District Skill Committee Samba and School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu for capacity building and skill courses in Samba District under SANK-ALP Scheme.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu; Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Forests, Prof AP Dimri, Director Indian Institute of Geomagnetism; Prof Sachin S Gunthe, IIT Madras; Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Samba, experts, HoDs, faculty members and students were present.

# Farooq, Omar convey condolences

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the passing away of Shaheena Begum wife of Abdul Qayoom Baghwan District President Doda Rural (Bhaderwah) JKNC and Abdul Aziz Pachho District Vice President Ramban father-in-law of Gulshan Parveen DDC Khari and conveyed condolences to the bereaved families.

In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah prayed

for peace to the departed souls and expressed solidarity with other members of the families.

In the condolence message, General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammed Sagar, Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretaries, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Khalid Najeeb Suharwardhy former minister and Vice President Jammu Province, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo former minister and Zonal President

Chenab Valley, Qazi Jalal Ud Din Ex-MLA, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat Ex-MLA, Mehboob Iqbal Senior leader, Sajjad Shaheen District President Ramban, Tanveer Ahmed Kichloo District President Kishtwar, Zaffarullah Rather District President Doda, Pyare Lal Sharma, Abid Magrey Vice President District Ramban, Arif Mir District Secretary Ramban, Ved Prakash Gupta District Secretary Doda, Abdul Hafiq Butt District Secretary Doda Rural (Bhaderwah) have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed souls.

# NC nominates Sakhi Mohd as District President Scheduled Tribe Cell Gool-Arnas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26: Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Jammu Province Rattan Lal Gupta has nominated Mr. Sakhi Mohd DDC Member Gool as District President Scheduled Tribe Cell Gool-Arnas JKNC with immediate effect.

# Batwal Samaj Ekta Manch Punjab honours Kaith for best community service

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26: Batwal Samaj Ekta Manch Punjab honoured Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha General Secretary R.L.Kaith for best community service at a function held in Shahzadpur Kothi.

In his praise, the Manch's members said, "Community service is unpaid work performed by a person who donates his time and money.

The term applies to Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha's General Secretary R.L.Kaith who remains on call 24 hours a day the year round and has been working selflessly and non-profitably for the welfare of Batwal Community for last four decades.



He does everything for helping others. He is kind-hearted, it is his kind heart that melts him and encourages him to help others. He can feel pain of the poor and he does everything he can. May Waheguru bless him.

Among those who were present on occasion included Messrs Dharam Pal Bassa, Ashwani Kumar Chanjotra, Hira Singh Khalsa, Joginder Singh Behl, Rajinder Pal Lakhotra, Surti Ram, Manik Nandan and Babba Halwai.

# Army organises Village Defence Committee Meet



Top News Report

REASI, Feb 26: Army organised an interactive workshop with Village Defence Committee (VDC) members. A total No of 28 VDC members were present during the workshop.

During the workshop, the members displayed their training prowess and skill in weapon handling.

The Army unit assisted all the members of VDC in further improving their self defence

capabilities and laid emphasis on the role of Village Defence Committee.

A lecture cum demonstration on weapon handling, cleaning, musketry and minor repairs of weapons was conducted as part of the workshop.

The event was also utilized to exchange views on role of VDC including motivating youngsters for joining defence services & stay away from Narcotics.

# Serving the society is our tradition: Ravinder Raina

Top News Report

In an impressive, largely attended function at party headquarters, organized by Neelam Langeh, BJP SC Morcha president & former MLA, the party leaders highlighted various aspects of the life of Guru Ravi Dass, while celebrating the Prakash Utsav of the great saint.

The function commenced with the lighting of lamp and laying wreaths at the portrait of Guru Ravi Dass by BJP State President Ravinder Raina, General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul, General Secretary & former minister, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary & former MLC Vibodh Gupta, SC Morcha president & former MLA Neelam Langeh, Morcha general secretary Adrash Jathiar and other leaders.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the massive gathering on this occasion, said that India, the Bharat, has been known as a land of rich culture, heritage, religious values and noble traditions. On this land, many spiritual and religious saints were born and Guru Ravi Dass, one such among them, earned the most respectable and revered place in the society of his times. He said that Guru Ravi Dass was born in a poor family and faced poverty, atrocities, and insults but did



not deviate from his path of bhakti and came to be known as Sant Shiromani. He said that the life of Guru Ji is full of inspiration and discipline.

BJP General Secretary & former minister, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, said that the community has the responsibility to preach the message and teachings of Guru Ravi Dass to get united to defeat the social evils and excel to lead a respectable and dignified life. He stressed on educating the children in the families and motivate them to earn education to be respectable citizens.

SC Morcha president & former MLA Neelam Langeh said that a 'Guru' works as a bridge to fill the gap between the public and the God and Guru Ravi Dass contributed a lot in this regard in the social service. He said that this great saint had become an institution in himself by his inclination towards spiritualism and zeal to end the caste-based social practice and build an all-embracing society. He said that the BJP SC Morcha too is following the path of Guru Ravi Dass and working towards creating social equality.

He asked the Morcha activists to work in coordination for the betterment and welfare of the community by making them aware of the good works of the Modi government, which have changed their socio-economic status.

The gathering was also addressed by former MLAs Kuldeep Kumar, Dr. Krishan Lal and Prof. Gharu Ram, former VC Balbir Ram Rattan read a welcome note, Morcha Seh Prabhari Jeet Angral presented a vote of thanks and the proceedings were conducted by Morcha Vice-President B.R. Rao.



## EDITORIAL

KNOW CANCER  
FOR NO CANCER

Cancer is caused by abnormal cell growth that usually originates in one part of the body and spreads to another place if it is not treated timely. There are many types of cancer which include some common types of cancer like lung cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, skin cancer, kidney cancer and blood cancer. Lakhs of people have to face this deadly disease every year. Some people fight it while some people accept defeat before it.

There are four stages of cancer. If it is detected in the early stages then it can be cured with the help of surgery and medicine and if it is detected later then it can usually prove fatal for the patient. Detailed information about the four stages of cancer is as follows. In the first stage, cancer is in a budding state in which it is trying to grow; In stage 2 the tumor increases in size. Although this has not yet spread to the surrounding tissues. Sometimes stage 2 cancer means that the cancer cells have progressed and the tumor has spread to nearby lymph nodes; In this stage the size of the tumor becomes very large and it can spread into the surrounding tissues. Cancer cells also spread to the lymph nodes in the area at this level; In this stage the cancer has spread to other organs/organs. This is called secondary or metastatic cancer.

Sometimes these stages can also be divided with the names A, B and C.

Why are the stages of cancer important?

This is essential to find out the cancer stage as it helps in understanding the treatment required for the patient. For example, if a patient is still in the early stages of cancer, surgery or radiotherapy may help as a treatment. This is a local treatment that treats only one part of the body. If cancer cells have broken away from the stool and lymph, adjuvant treatment is suggested when the nodes have been penetrated, which means the patient has entered the third stage of cancer. This usually includes chemotherapy post surgery. This is done to kill cancer cells that have broken away from the primary tumor. Local and adjuvant treatments are not enough if the cancer has spread to other parts of the body. It requires treatment that involves the entire body. This type of treatment is known as systemic treatment. This includes chemotherapy, hormone therapy, and biological treatments that spread through the bloodstream. In this step-by-step approach, the size and problem of cancer are determined. It is used as a means of describing severity. When a patient is treated for cancer many tests are done by doctors so that it can be known that this whether or not has spread to other organs.

Many types of cancer can be treated if found in stage 1 or 2. However, it becomes difficult to deal with this problem when it increases. The symptoms of this disease should not be ignored and the patient's treatment should be done while being drunk.

## The politicisation of Bharat Ratna awards is getting more pronounced

By: Bhopinder Singh

Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation and a global apostle of peace, never got the Nobel Peace Prize. Nominated repeatedly, the inspiration for the likes of Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Dr Martin Luther King Jr, Barack Obama, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and countless others, was denied this honour. Later, the Norwegian Nobel Committee had itself acknowledged: "The greatest omission in our 106-year history is undoubtedly that Mahatma Gandhi never received the Nobel Peace Prize. Gandhi could do without the Nobel Peace Prize, [but] whether the Nobel Committee can do without Gandhi is the question".

From technicalities and precedence (non-Westerner, non-white, non-Christian, etc) to even sheer politics (potentially offending sensibilities of the British or even seen to be on one side of the contentious India-Pakistan divide), the elevated soul was denied the prize, and eventually, it was only Nobel's loss.

In the Indian context, the highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna (Jewel of India), conferred for "exceptional service/performance of the highest order" has had its own share of notable omissions. Though the Bharat Ratna has often been given posthumously, the Supreme Court contextualised the denial to the Mahatma by suggesting that he was "higher than the Bharat Ratna" -- while others like the family of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose declined the honour, as they refused to accept his death.

But it is a fact that political, electoral or partisan considerations for conferment has often been the subliminal consideration ever since Independence with all governments, but possibly increasingly so now, and a little more brazenly.

The last four governments at the Centre -- led by Inder Kumar Gujral, Atal Behari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi -- validate this disconcerting trend. Inder Gujral's government conferred this honour on M.S. Subbulakshmi and C. Subramaniam (both non-partisan awards). The Vajpayee era conferred it on "Lok Nayak" Jayaprakash Narayan, Nobel-winning economist Amartya Sen, Assamese leader G. Bordoloi, sitar maestro Ravi Shankar, singer Lata Mangeshkar and shehnai virtuoso Bismillah Khan (only two of the six were politicians). Dr Manmohan Singh's government conferred the award on vocalist Bhimsen Joshi, scientist C.N.R. Rao and cricketer Sachin Tendulkar (all three non-partisan). However, the current government has given the same to former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, educationist Madan Mohan Malviya, former President Pranab Mukherjee, singer Bhupen Hazarika, ideologue Nanaji Deshmukh, former Bihar chief minister Karpooori Thakur, veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani, agronomist and Green Revolution pioneer M.S. Swaminathan, and former PMs P.V. Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh (an unprecedented seven out of ten are politicians!).

While each of the awardees has had a substantial impact on the national narrative, the sharp political angularities now

are unmistakable. The Nitish Kumar flip-flop drama and the underlying concern over a caste census in Bihar accompanied the Karpooori Thakur nomination (even though the erstwhile Jan Sangh, with a predominantly upper caste base, had opposed Karpooori Thakur's reservation drive then). In the case of L.K. Advani (with his own complicated history with Narendra Modi after being relegated to the Margdarshak Mandal geriatric club), the murmurs of perpetuating the crucial Ram Mandir momentum abound. The most recent announcements of M.S. Swaminathan (truly deserving for his apolitical and transformational contribution) aside, the other two awardees -- P.V. Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh -- are deeply political. Even though the politics and preferences of both Narasimha Rao and Charan Singh were antithetical to Hindutva anchorage -- rewarding the former perpetuates the narrative of dynastic politics of the Congress, which arguably disowned its own like Rao, while the recognition for Charan Singh bagged a major ally in the RLD just before the general election. The timing is ominous and a giveaway, and it would be naïve to assume otherwise.

Earlier too, various governments did not exactly cover themselves with glory with their own actions. It is a fact that Jawaharlal Nehru did not nominate himself (contrary to vile innuendoes), as it was President Rajendra Prasad who did so. Not only did President Prasad insist, "this is my decision, I am doing it", but also accepted his unilateral and non-consultative approach. People forget that Rajendra Babu

was not exactly on friendly terms with Nehru and would not have done so unless he truly recognised Nehru's stature during the Cold War era. Similarly, President V.V. Giri is said to have conferred the Bharat Ratna on Indra Gandhi after India's victory in the 1971 Bangladesh war, after taking "full responsibility for conferring the honour on Indira". In the case of the 1971 war, Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw had a far more compelling claim to the honour, and to assume that the all-powerful Indira Gandhi wouldn't have known about President V.V. Giri's move is hard to believe. Second, both Nehru and Indira could have gracefully declined, and that wouldn't have lessened their legacy, but they didn't. Lastly, the fact that both Nehru and Indira were instrumental in what could be construed as reciprocal conferment onto Presidents Rajendra Prasad and V.V. Giri does not make for great optics.

Now, there is also a question of double standards when compared to the much-hyped approach of "recognising the commoners" for the Padma awards -- which was a positive development, considering the awards did end up getting to awardees known to be close to the government of the day, earlier. It could now be credibly argued that the highest award, the Bharat Ratna, still follows the same age-old approach, and with perhaps even more politics and partisanship involved. From securing sudden electoral alliances to willy-nilly discrediting the Opposition, everything has been par for the course.

## Grip of Loneliness

By: Vijay Garg

According to the news a few days ago, a professor, who had completed seven decades of his life, hanged himself due to domestic troubles. People around him told that there were fights in his house every day and that is why he took the suicidal step. But instead of domestic strife, Kota, which was a factory of engineers, doctors and other educational products for a long time, has today become known as a center of suicide of the youth who came there with their dreams. Such tragedies occur in other areas of society as well. The number of incidents is increasing. This number has increased among people from all levels of society including men and women, educated and uneducated, poor and rich. No matter the issue or field, the pictures of people fleeing from different sections of society and environment are certainly worrying. The increasing suicidal tendency among people forces us to think about what is our condition and where is the direction. The wind of change that we dreamed of and the paths of development that our society, government and system accepted for it, and how right and how wrong it is! If we look at the periods from the beginning of the development of Indian civilization till now, we will find that family and sociality have always been at

the center. People have overcome huge obstacles because of this and because of this. Here family has never been limited to the limited context of husband, wife and child. In the context of family, there have been parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles and all the people related to them. Individualism is not in our roots. In such a structured Indian society increasing individualism, disintegrating family and diminishing sense of sociality are one of the main reasons for increasing suicide. Marketism has played a big role in increasing individualism. Since his benefits lie in this, he is busy increasing it as much as possible. It has dominated the individual and society to such an extent that people have accepted the artificiality created by it as truth and have made it a way of life. A self-centered person starts considering even a small problem as a big one. He obeys his feelings cannot share even with friends. It is also worth noting that today people are so engrossed in themselves that they do not even have time to pay attention to the needs of others. It is in such busyness that they feel proud. Today many people are easily found saying that 'I don't have even a moment's time'. People do not even have time for their parents and other family members. They try to compensate for this through expensive gifts, mobile con-

versations, video calls etc. They don't try to understand that their loving company of loved ones is far superior to expensive gifts. Loneliness makes many people mentally ill and weak. They feel that the family is not concerned about them, but is only concerned with their money. In such a situation, they easily take suicidal steps. Instead of teaching children the art of living a simple, natural life right from childhood, making them addicted to artificial life, taking them away from sports, natural environment, friends and inciting them directly or indirectly to join the endless round of competition at untimely times. To try to fulfill their unfulfilled dreams by sowing the seeds of their unfulfilled dreams in the tender minds of children, at the age when children are most afraid of faltering and need the company of parents and elders the most. In those times, sending them away from home in the name of studies and overall loneliness are the major reasons for today's youth becoming scattered and addicted to drugs. In adolescence, the loving shade of parents is most needed. Family friendly words, right company and better environment can help children in any way. Can also take you closer to your desired destination. Its lack leads to disorientation and suicide despite the presence of many educational institutions and resources. In

Kota and many places like that, if on one side there is a market of education, then on the other side, to a great extent, there is a black market of drugs and other vices. The aim of one is to sell education by making it a commodity, while the aim of the other is to sell its goods by somehow misleading the youth. Far away from home, family and loved ones, many young children are tired of the burden of studies and unwanted dreams; when will these wanderers get bored? They are caught in the clutches of evil, they are not able to know. Often by the time they realize such a trap, it is too late. This becomes a major reason for suicide. Many children succumb to family pressure and choose subjects which are not of their interest. As a result, despite all efforts they are not successful. In such a situation, failure and parents' dreams take, the sting of not getting it fulfilled many times leads them to death. Whereas the important way to prevent the tragedy of suicide is the strong support of the family. This helps people from difficult situations. By taking them out, it can give them the strength to live a simple life.

(Vijay Garg Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout  
Punjab)



# Four-day OBC Adhikar Tiranga Yatra begins

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26: Jammu & Kashmir OBC Mahasabha along with Mohan Lal Pawar, Gen. Secretary, O.B.C Mahasabha, Faquir Chand Satia, President All India Backward Classes Federation, Kewal Fotra, General Secretary All J&K Sain Samaj, All J&K OBC Welfare Forum Srinagar, Abdul Qadir, General Secretary, Dhobi Welfare Central Committee, Rehameen Malik, President Teeli community, Rakesh Kumar Verma, Vishwakarma Sabha-Lohar Tarkhan Biradri, Balwant Katria, Vice-Chairman Vishwakarma Library New Plot, Manohar Lal Tidy, Chief Advisor, Amit Kumar Mehra, Leader Youth wing and Bansi Lal Choudhary, Convener OBC Adhikar Tiranga Yatra started this four days yatra from February 26 to 29, 2024 from Press Club Jammu towards Udhampur via Dhansal.

This yatra started from Jammu with great pump show and held programmes in main Bazaars of Dhansal, Jindhrach, Shanoos, Manwal and reaches Guru Ravidass Sabha,



M.H.Morh Udhampur. The devotees of this Yatra keep the Indian Constitution on their heads like Kalsh raise slogans like 'Save Constitution- Save India at public places while passing through main cities/towns/villages and also for the implementation of our fundamental constitutional rights of 27% reservation as per Article 15(4),15(5),16(4),16(5), and 340 guaranteed by the Supreme Court's verdict of November 16, 1992 on Mandal Commission report. Kewal Fotra, while speaking at Dhansal highlighted that the word 'Rural' is still

standing in the central list of Other Backward Classes despite the deletion of this Rural word by Jammu & Kashmir Govt.S.R.O:-124 of 2000.

Due to which the masses of Barber, Kumhar, Dhobi and Teeli residing in Urban areas are getting their OBC certificates.

In the awareness programme of "OBC Adhikar Tiranga Yatra" at Dhansal and Manwal the devotees of this yatra highlighted that we have been left with no alternative to come on the roads regarding discrimination with JK-UT OBC's that JK-UT "Socially & Educationally Backward Classes

Commission-2020" Report-2023 an amendments in Annexure-D to the Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Rules-2005 submitted to Ministry of Home affairs, Govt. of India by worthy L.G Jammu & Kashmir and also as per JK-UT Government Social Welfare Department vide paragraph 2(ii) of S.O:-537 of October 19, 2022 regarding the inclusion of castes & communities. Most of these castes & communities except Chopans, Sochies and Perna are not eligible to be identified as SEBC's (OBC's) as these castes & communities are not able to fulfill the parameters set by the Supreme

Court in its judgment on Mandal commission report as the masses of these communities are Land Lords and very rich Businessmen and Transporters and having M.L.A's and Ministers which means these are not Kameens.

The definition of Kameens means that the Jammu and Kashmir masses who were not entitled to hold a piece of land which means landless. Further these castes & communities except Chopan, Sochies, Perna are not identified as socially & educationally backward classes by "Kaka-Kalelkar Commission-1955 and neither by Mandal commission and also not by Jammu & Kashmir Backward Classes Commissions and Committees constituted by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir are Viz- Wazir Janki Nath Committee-1969, not by "Justice Anand Committee-1978 and not by the commissions constituted in Jammu & Kashmir under Backward Commission Act-1995 and 1997. Moreover the inclusion Jat caste has already been declined twice by Supreme court of India.

# GDC Udhampur organizes Voter Awareness Campaign



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 26: A slogan Writing Programme was organized by SVEEP in collaboration with the NSS units of the college to create awareness among the students of the college, as part of the Voter Awareness Campaign started by the Govt. of India from 24 Feb, 2024 to 4 March, 2024 to have maximum participation of youth in the coming elections, under the patronage of the worthy principal, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, in the college premises. The programme was led by Dr. Jagjeet Singh, Co-ordinator SVEEP, and NSS POs Dr. Gurpreet Kour, and Prof. Sanjeet

Singh. The Programme started with the interesting and colourful slogan writing by the participants. The students showcased their enthusiasm and expressed their views through their colourful depictions in the event. The introductory speech was given by Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal GDC Udhampur. In his speech, he spread the awareness among students about the importance of voter and the participation of the students to cast vote. He further said that voting is a positive welcome as each and every vote counts for the better future of our country. He also motivated the students

to spread awareness among masses of the same.

Mohit Singh, NSS Volunteer also briefed on the relevance of voting and choosing the right leaders to build a strong nation. He also added that voting an envisioned person can lead to a prosperous and strong nation. He further said to the students that voting is a fundamental right and the power to vote for our country is an important part of our life.

It was quite a lively programme as more than hundred students participated in the event. The programme ended with the recitation of the National Anthem.

# Bimla Luthra addresses women workers meeting



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26: National Conference former MLA and State Vice President Women Wing JKNC, Bimla Luthra addressed a women workers meeting at Village Kothe Slad in R.S Pura. The meeting was organized by Bharti Devi.

While addressing the meeting Bimla Luthra said that party stands by its politics of truth and remains steadfast on its commitments made with

the public. The party's agenda has always been in line with peace and progress of Jammu and Kashmir. Luthra said the women should get equal rights and opportunities to participate in the democratic institutions and also in other fields as they are second to none. She also urged women to come forward and play their crucial role in the decision making bodies. She said that National Conference is the

only party which firmly stands for peace, prosperity and unity of Jammu and Kashmir. She listed out various initiatives taken by National Conference from time to time for the empowerment of women particularly living in far flung areas. Those who were present in the meeting included Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women Wing, Joginder Kour, Sabita, Raji, Tilki, Rani and others

# DPS Junior, Kathua holds Vegetable Activity for LKG Students

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 26: Delhi Public School (DPS) Junior, Kathua organized a vibrant and educational vegetable activity for its LKG students, led by the dedicated class facilitators Shobhna Puri, Roshika Jasrotia, and Shivani Sharma.

The activity aimed to educate young minds about the importance of vegetables in their diet and daily lives.

The students, dressed in colorful costumes representing vegetables such as carrots, tomatoes, pumpkin, brinjal, peas etc. captivated the audience with their enthusiastic performances.

They spoke confidently about the nutritional benefits and characteristics of their assigned vegetables, showcasing both their



knowledge and presentation skills.

The class facilitators, expressed, "It was delightful to see the enthusiasm and curiosity of our young learners as they explored the world of vegetables. Such activities not only make learning fun but also lay a strong foundation for healthy eating habits."

Principal Vivek Arora commended the efforts

of the teachers and students, stating, "Activities like these are instrumental in broadening the horizons of our students and nurturing a deeper understanding of the world around them. We are proud of our LKG students and their facilitators for their active "Participation and creativity."

Monika Singh, the School Incharge, emphasized the signifi-

cance of such activities in early childhood education, saying, "These activities play a pivotal role in holistic development by promoting sensory exploration, vocabulary development, and fostering a positive attitude toward healthy eating."

The event concluded with a heartfelt appreciation from the School Incharge, Monika Singh for the enthusiastic par-

ticipation of students, the dedication of teachers, and the support of parents, highlighting the collaborative efforts in providing a nurturing learning environment.

Delhi Public School Junior, Kathua remains committed to providing innovative and holistic learning experiences that enrich the lives of its students and prepare them for a bright future.

# Advocate Sadiq Hussain from Telangana Elevates Discourse on Right to Information at RTI Pend #25 in Kashmir

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 26: Jammu & Kashmir RTI Foundation's latest installment of RTI Pend, featuring prominent legal luminary Advocate Sadiq Hussain from Telangana, unfolded as a beacon of empowerment and enlightenment for citizens. Held on Sunday evening, the event resonated with a diverse audience eager to delve into the intricacies of the Right to Information (RTI) Act and its implications for democratic governance.

In a thought-provoking address, Advocate Sadiq Hussain, renowned for his tireless activism and legal acumen, underscored the pivotal role of RTI in upholding accountability and transparency in governance. Emphasizing citizens' sovereignty, Hussain illuminated the transformative potential of RTI in fostering informed participation and enhancing governmental responsiveness to public needs.

Hussain's impassioned advocacy for timely appointment of Infor-



mation Commissioners struck a chord, resonating with attendees who recognize RTI's indispensable role in fortifying democratic institutions. His call for responsible dissemination of obtained information underscored the need for vigilance and prudence in navigating the complexities of accessing governmental data.

Moderated by Er. Irfan Banka, Chairman of J&K RTI Founda-

tion, the session unfolded as a dynamic exchange of ideas and insights. Participants, including luminaries such as Dr. Idrees Badrani, spokesperson of J&K RTI Foundation Sheikh Maqbool and acting CEO Sajad Hussain, actively engaged in the interactive Q&A segment, enriching the dialogue with diverse perspectives and probing inquiries.

Mohammad Suhail Dar and Rabiya, among other distinguished participants, contributed meaningfully to the discourse, underscoring the event's inclusive and intellectually stimulating atmosphere. With robust participation both on the Zoom platform and through social media channels, RTI Pend #25 emerged as a testament to the enduring relevance and impact of informed civic engagement.

As citizens depart from this enlightening session, they carry with them not only a deeper understanding of their rights under the RTI Act but also a renewed commitment to holding their representatives accountable and championing transparency in governance.

# GDC Thannamandi starts NSS Special Winter Camp

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Feb 26: Government Degree College Thannamandi inaugurated a week-long NSS Special Camp with an inspiring ceremony, setting the stage for impactful community engagement and service.

The inaugural session of the camp was organized under the patronage of Dr. Farooq Ahmed, Principal of the College. The inaugural event held at Government Degree College Thannamandi, was graced by the presence of all teaching staff of the college, NSS Volunteers and Mr. Adnan Aqib Head Boy of the college who also conducted the proceedings of the program.

Prof. Asif Ajaz Lone, the NSS Programme Officer, extended a warm welcome to all the



faculty members and NSS volunteers, fostering a sense of unity and purpose among the attendees. During the ceremony, Prof. Asif Ajaz Lone welcomed everyone involved in making the NSS Special Camp a reality. His words echoed the college's commitment to promoting social responsibility and youth empowerment through initiatives like the NSS Special Camp.

The NSS Special Camp, slated to run for a week, promises to be a platform for students to actively engage in vari-

ous community service activities, thereby contributing to the betterment of society. Through this camp, Government Degree College Thannamandi continues its tradition of nurturing socially conscious individuals who strive to make a positive impact on the world around them.

During the program former NSS program officers Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Dr. Naseem Ahmed & Dr. Ather Aziz shared their experiences as NSS Program officers and guided the NSS volunteers about the various

activities to be conducted during the winter camp.

On the very 1st day of the camp, awareness lecture on national service scheme and its benefits was delivered by Dr. Naseem Ahmed. Others present in the program included Dr. Abdul Haq Naimi HOD Urdu, Dr. Ashaq Raza Coordinator IQAC, Dr. Shiraz Ahmed HOD Zoology, Sh. Rakesh Puri Physical Director, Prof. Supriya Gupta HOD Computer Applications, Dr. Ather Aziz HOD mathematics, Dr. Gowher Iqbal HOD Arabic besides others.



## Article 370 box office collection day 2: Yami Gautam-starrer is already ahead of The Kashmir Files, earns Rs 13.4 cr



Article 370, starring Yami Gautam and Priyamani, is continuing its strong run at the box office. The political film is being perceived as divisive but despite that, the Aditya Dhar-produced film made Rs 7.5 crore at the box office on Saturday taking its nett domestic total to Rs 13.4 crore, as per industry tracker Sacnilk.

On Saturday, Article 370 recorded an overall Hindi occupancy rate of 26.58 percent, with peak attendance observed during

evening screenings, reaching 44.39 percent. Benefiting from discounted ticket rates in several cities, Article 370 started strong on its opening day, when it amassed Rs 5.9 crore. Article 370 released in theatres alongside Vidhut Jammwal and Nora Fatehi-starrer action flick Crakk. While Crakk kicked off with a respectable Rs 4.25 crore, it couldn't maintain the pace, managing only Rs 2.75 crore on the second day.

Many have been comparing Article 370 to Vivek Agnihotri's 2022 film The Kashmir Files. The Kashmir Files was one of the biggest hits of the year as it went on to make Rs 252.90 crore during its theatrical run. After two days in the theatres, Article 370 is outperforming The Kashmir Files. The Vivek Agnihotri film stood at Rs 12.05 crore after the first two days.

Article 370 delves into the contentious subject of the abrogation of Article 370, which revoked the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir. Directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale and produced by Aditya Dhar and B62 Studios, the movie also features Kiran Karmarkar, and Arun Govil in pivotal roles.

Article 370 was endorsed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech in Jammu even before its release. The film has released shortly after the Atal Bihari Vajpayee biopic Atal. Bastar: The Naxal Story, made by the team of The Kerala Story, is also set to release soon, followed by Kangana Ranaut's Emergency.

## Priyanka Chopra shares trailer of 'To Kill a Tiger' calls it 'truly remarkable'

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas recently on-boarded Oscar-nominated documentary To Kill a Tiger as one of its executive producers. She joins other notable names like Dev Patel, Mindy Kaling and Rupri Kaur among others. The actor shared the trailer of the film, which will soon stream on Netflix. "Trailer. Truly remarkable," the actor wrote, sharing the trailer on Instagram. The movie is the tale of a father, whose 13-year-old daughter is gang-raped. Chopra directed the movie directed by Indian-Canadian director Nisha Pahuja at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). She instantly took to the film.

On Sunday, when she announced her onboarding as an



executive producer, she wrote that the film

felt personal to her, as the father and daughter

ter hail from Jharkhand, where the actor was born. "This hard-hitting piece of art also really hits home on so many levels, but personally, I was born in the state of Jharkhand (where the survivor and her father are from), and as the daughter of a father who was my forever champion...I was moved to pieces. I cannot wait for audiences around the world to discover this moving story," she wrote.

The film has been nominated in the best documentary feature film category at the Oscars. At the end of the trailer, which is sure to move you, the girl (rape survivor) can be heard saying, "To do good, to build a good future, isn't that why God created us in the first place?"

## Sundeep shuts down man asking inappropriate questions about co-stars Varsha Bollamma, Kavya Thapar: 'Don't ask double-meaning questions'



Sundeep Kishan faced an uncomfortable situation while promoting his latest release, Ooru Peru Bhairavakona, as he was confronted with inappropriate questions regarding his co-stars Varsha Bollamma and Kavya Thapar by a memer. Despite persistent questioning, the actor maintained his composure while also schooling the memer for his inappropriate behaviour.

During a press meet in Hyderabad, the memer posed a question to

Sundeep, insinuating actions towards the film's heroine, "Meeruu ee cinema lo heroine ni ala chesaru kada. Em chesadu, ela chesadu ani ending varaku unna nenu. Ending lo naku telisindi. Ala chesinapudu mee feeling enti? (You did that to the heroine in the film, right? I only understood what you did to her at the end of the film. How did you feel when you did it?)"

Although visibly uncomfortable, Sundeep calmly refused to answer the question

and urged the memer to inquire about something else, stating, "I will not answer this question. I know you are joking, but it's wrong. It's not nice to ask double-meaning questions. You ask me something else, I'll answer."

Despite the hint, the memer persisted and asked, "Ante meeru iddari heroines to chesaru kada. Meeru evarito baaga anipinchindi. (You did it with both heroines. With whom did you like it more?)" Sundeep attempted to

reason with the memer, emphasising the inappropriate nature of the questions and urging them to refrain from such behaviour, "Are you asking whom I liked to act with? You could've asked that straight-forwardly."

But the man did not let go and said, "Ante idartu baaga enjoy chesara? (So did you enjoy with both?)" Asking him to stop asking double-meaning questions firmly, Sundeep said, "Please don't behave like this. If someone asks you to, don't listen to them. There are women on stage here. I asked you not to do it and you keep persisting. It's not right."

Ooru Peru Bhairavakona is directed by Vi Anand and produced by Razesh Danda, with co-production by Balaji Gutta. The film features Sundeep Kishan, Kavya Thapar, Varsha Bollamma, Vennela Kishore, and Harsha Chhemudu in pivotal roles.

## Kareena Kapoor says husband Saif Ali Khan helped her deal with paparazzi's 'Taimur obsession': 'We can't run away'



Her social media game may be on point, but Kareena Kapoor Khan likes to keep a certain aspect of her life private and preserve it from the public eye and the internet. And while both Kareena, a mother of two, and husband Saif Ali Khan, are okay with their children — Taimur Ali Khan and Jeh — getting clicked by the paparazzi and posing for the cameras at the airport, she has a side to her that is low-key and private, which helps her stay sane, aiding her to survive in this challenging business of acting.

At ABP Network's Ideas of India Summit 3.0, Kareena revealed,

"Some things should be preserved, should be kept a little bit for the unknown. So that feeling of okay, do we really know her or most people assume that I am either Geet or Pooh and I made them believe that could be a possibility but there is a side to me that I like to keep a little private."

As an actor, especially living in the age of internet and social media, where people's judgments and opinions can have an adverse impact on her happiness and emotional well-being, Kareena credits this 'little secrecy' to her mental stability. "I think that somewhere, it (being private) keeps

my, like I said mental health, my mental stability because I think if everything is just left for the known and you know, for judgment, I don't know how we'll survive as actors (sic)," said the 43-year-old actress.

Kareena and Saif's sons have been a constant fixture in the paparazzi's lens, especially Taimur, who has been under the watchful eyes of the photographers since day one. When asked how did she manage to deal with media's obsession with Taimur and if it bothered her as a mother, Kareena, shared, "I think the only way I could deal with the media attention on Taimur was to actually be chilled about it because if I were hyper about it — which may be I was inside, or openly expressed what I was feeling, I feel somewhere, it would have affected Taimur."

"If he (Taimur) was aware that something was upsetting me or I was affected by too

many cameras around him. If I kept stressing over 'Kya kar raha hai? Kyun photo le rahe?' (What is he doing? Why are they taking pictures of Taimur?) or I told the photographer, 'Photo mat lo! (Don't take pictures)', it would have left a lasting impact on him," told Kareena.

The Don actress revealed that it was Saif who suggested that they deal with the cameras focused on their son with calmness. Saif advised the actors that they simply needed to head down and walk. "We can't run away from this," Saif told me. He believes that instead of trying to scare him further, let's just take it in our stride and just walk with your head down outside the airport or wherever it is. After a certain age, Taimur will understand — which he does even now — that his parents are famous. He's quite easy about it," added Kareena, who will be seen in Crew alongside Tabu and Kriti Sanon.

## Where Is Wendy Williams? major revelations: Docuseries explores exploitation, relationships, and addiction



Step into the tumultuous world of Wendy Williams as Lifetime's gripping docuseries delves deep into the multifaceted aspects of her life. Just under 72 hours before the debut of Lifetime's two-part docuseries, the team representing the former talk show host revealed that she has received a diagnosis of primary progressive aphasia and frontotemporal dementia (FTD). This new show, following the

major revelation, might offer viewers a different perspective as they watch the show.

Titled Where Is Wendy Williams? this documentary offers an intimate exploration of exploitation, fractured relationships, and addiction. As viewers embark on this revealing journey, they are confronted with the complexities of Williams' personal struggles, shedding light on the challenges she has faced amidst the glare

of the public eye. The first part of the documentary series debuted on Sunday and discussed Williams' 2022 placement under guardianship for finances, for which she now claims to have "no money."

Where Is Wendy Williams? Review

Where Is Wendy Williams? takes us on a deeply personal journey alongside the former talk show host. Through heartfelt interviews, she courageous-

ly shares the ups and downs of her life. One of the most touching moments comes when she acknowledges how her struggle with alcohol affected her relationship with her son and loved ones. This series is a continuation of her 2021 documentary Wendy Williams: What A Mess, which delved into her public divorce, battles with mental health, and other major events in her life.

According to Wendy Williams' nephew, she nearly passed away in 2020

In 2020, DJ Boof, a friend and former coworker of Williams, talks about how she started to worry about her health as they were working together on a project and later Williams was hospitalised. Her nephew in the interview said, "DJ Boof was there, and he called us crying, saying that she's going to die, and she needs help."

## Manoj Bajpayee and Shabana Raza's inter-faith marriage: 'My family might have been worried about her religion, but nobody expressed it openly'

Kareeb and Satya released in July 1998. One was a hit; the other a flop. Shabana's career was at stake. "We were both living in the vicinity but at different addresses. We kept meeting. Sometimes I would stay back at Shabana's place and sometimes she would stay back at mine, especially when we had a party."

Around the same time, Manoj and his team started planning to make a film based on the play Netua. Manoj and Shabana were finalized for the lead roles, but somehow it didn't materialize.

Manoj and Shabana married many years later, but they had committed to each other long ago. That's why Shabana had arranged for a meeting between Manoj and her family. Manoj had also started giving signals to his family. When Manoj's sister Poonam became a mother, Shabana came with a gift on behalf of



Manoj. Shabana also visited Belwa village on the occasion of the wedding of Manoj's youngest sister, Garima, which took place on 10 March 1999. "I took Shabana to my village. My youngest sister was getting married. I made her meet everyone. It was also the time when the shooting for Shool (1999) was underway."

When Shabana came to participate in the wedding, their relationship became official. Manoj bhaiyya asked me to make her a part of every

ritual. "She is a Muslim, and it shouldn't seem like we are discriminating against her," he told me. So, she participated in everything. She visited the temple too with us for the prayer service. In fact, when we visited Mumbai, it was Shabana who showed us around," says Poonam.

It wasn't easy for a man from a traditional Brahmin family in Bihar to marry a Muslim girl, but everyone was aware of Manoj's persistent nature. The late Radhakant Bajpayee

told me, "We didn't say anything regarding marriage because this is how it happens in the film world."

"My family might have been worried about Shabana's religion, but nobody expressed it openly. They didn't show any sadness either. On the other hand, Shabana's family was open and progressive. They were not opposed to interfaith marriage and they had made that abundantly clear."

Harsh Chhaya was one of the close friends with whom Manoj had spoken about the possibility of a life with Shabana. Manoj took Shabana to meet Harsh and Shefali on Diwali. "Manoj forbade me from calling many people as he was bringing Shabana for the first time. I couldn't say anything as it was about Shabana. We have been close friends, so I was a bit hurt when I got to know of Manoj's wedding in the newspapers," says Harsh.



## Sandeshkhali: Bengal Police arrest TMC leader's aide Ajit Maiti for land grabbing

Police register FIR against absconding TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh

NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies): The West Bengal Police arrested TMC leader Ajit Maiti from the trouble-torn Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district on the charges of land grabbing from villagers, an officer said on Monday.

Maiti, considered a close aide of absconding TMC strongman Shahjahan Sheikh, was detained on Sunday evening from the residence of a civic volunteer where he had locked himself for over four hours after being chased by villagers, he said.

"We have arrested him after getting complaints from villagers regarding



land grabbing. We will produce him in the court later in the day," the police officer told PTI. "After getting over 70 complaints, the police lodged an FIR against

Shajahan Sheikh," he said.

Most of the complainants claimed that Shajahan was actively involved in the forcible acquisition of their land

and torturing of local women, the police officer said.

Angry villagers had attacked Maiti a couple of days back for his alleged ties with Sha-

jahan and his group, accused of land grabbing and sexual assault on local women.

The police action comes after a TMC delegation visited the restive Sandeshkhali for the second consecutive day on Sunday and heard the grievances of villagers who have been protesting against alleged atrocities by local leaders of the ruling party.

The riverine Sandeshkhali area—situated on the borders of the Sunderbans, about 100 kilometres from Kolkata—has been on the boil for more than a month with protests against Shahjahan, who is absconding, and his supporters.

## Security forces kill 3 Maoists in Chhattisgarh encounter



RAIPUR, Feb 26 (Agencies): Security forces killed three Maoists during an operation in the Abujhmad area of Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Sunday morning.

The encounter took place at around 8 am in southern Abujhmad, near a hill deep inside the forest ahead of Koylibeda village. Abujhmad is an unsurveyed area that is larger than the state of Goa, and has

been a Maoist stronghold.

A joint team of District Reserve Guards (DRG), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Border Security Force (BSF) personnel ventured into the forest area after getting some intelligence inputs, officials said. Soon after, the encounter began.

During the encounter, three Maoists, all men, were shot dead, officials said. "We have recovered three indigenously

made weapons from them. Efforts are on to ascertain their identity," said Kanker district superintendent of police Kalyan Elesela.

A new police camp has recently come up around 15 kilometres from the encounter spot. Police sources said a number of police camps have been established recently in Kanker, and that anti-Naxal operations have been stepped up.

## 'Can't wait for court decision?': Arvind Kejriwal on 7th ED summons

NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies):

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) should wait for a court order instead of issuing summons repeatedly, this after he skipped the seventh summons issued to him by the probe agency in the Delhi excise policy case.

The Aam Aadmi Party convenor claimed that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants AAP to break the ties with the opposition's Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections by threatening the officers of possible probe agency action.

"They want us to break the alliance (INDIA). When ED itself has approached the court, then why can't they wait for the court's decision? The matter is in court and they sending summons repeatedly. Informally, we have got messages to



break the alliance. We will not leave the INDIA alliance," news agency ANI quoted Kejriwal as saying.

Earlier, several AAP leaders including Delhi ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj levelled allegations against the BJP claiming that several AAP leaders received messages and threats over Kejriwal's arrest and possible action by probe agencies like CBI and ED if the party enters into an alliance with Congress or the INDIA bloc for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The ED in its

latest summons asked Kejriwal to appear before it on Monday, after he continued to skip interrogation since November last year when he was first asked to depose before the probe agency but did not, alleging the notice was "vague, motivated and unsustainable in law."

The ED has also filed a complaint against Kejriwal for "disobeying" its summons in this case. The court granted Kejriwal an exemption from personally appearing in court until March 16. The Delhi chief minister appeared before the

court virtually, submitting that he could not physically appear due to the ongoing Budget session of the Delhi assembly.

According to ED, the AAP received huge funds around ₹100 crore to finalise the liquor excise policy. It was also alleged that a large chunk of this money was used by the party in its Goa election campaign. So far, the probe agency has arrested top AAP leaders - former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh in the case.

## Months after Pannun case, US team to visit India for security talks

NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies):

Months after US federal prosecutors accused an Indian citizen and an unnamed Indian official of being involved in a foiled plot to assassinate Khalistan separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on American soil, it has been learnt that a government delegation of the United States, headed by Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Kristie Canegallo is scheduled to visit India next week for the Homeland Security Dialogue (HSD) with officials of Union Home Ministry.

India has prepared several presentations to discuss a range of issues, which include asylum status used by criminals, pro-Khalistani elements to carry out terrorist activities in India, assistance to arrest the attacker of the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, the extradition status of Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana, terror fugitives, and on terror financial investigations with



them, a source said.

A senior official with the Ministry of Home Affairs said they have made all preparations and the heads of Narcotics Bureau, National Investigation Agency, Central Bureau of Investigation, and Internal Security will be part of the HSD.

"After Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Christopher A Wray's visit in December, this is the first official meeting of a US government delegation, which is coming to meet the Central government this year. Top officials of both the nations will

sexual exploitation, human trafficking, trade and economic security, cyber security, and proposal for electronic travel document.

A source said anything related to Pannun is not on the agenda. During Wray's visit, a presentation was made on Pannun, but there was no discussion on him. "Both the nations will discuss to enhance bilateral cooperation in all the key areas," the source said.

The India-US Homeland Security Dialogue was introduced in 2010 as a mechanism to a sequel to the signing of the India-US Counterterrorism Initiative. The first HSD was held in May 2011.

During Wray's meeting at NIA headquarters last year, wide-ranging discussions were held on a host of issues, including activities of terrorist-organised criminal networks and ongoing Probe in the US regarding the attack on Indian Consulate in San Francisco.

## Minor's sexual assault case: HC refuses 'default bail' to suspended Delhi govt officer Khakha

NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies): Khakha assailed a trial court order denying him the relief of statutory bail as he contended that the charge sheet filed in the case was based on an incomplete investigation.

His wife also sought a default bail before the high court in the case and a similar order was passed on her plea as well.

Rejecting the bail pleas, Justice Jyoti Singh said there was no infirmity in the trial court order and a substantial investigation was done by the police before filing the charge sheet within the stipulated time.

"Charge sheet was filed on October 11, 2023. Cognisance was taken by the trial court on November 8, 2023. Undoubtedly substantial investigation has been completed," the court

said. "The court finds no infirmity in the trial court order refusing default bail," concluded the court.

As per the Code of Criminal Procedure, an accused is entitled to default bail if the investigating agency fails to file a charge sheet before the court concerned within the stipulated time. The time frame depends on the offences invoked and was 60 days in this case.

Khakha has been accused of allegedly raping a minor girl several times between November 2020 and January 2021 and is currently in judicial custody after being arrested in August.

The minor was the daughter of a person known to the accused, according to police.

The official's wife Seema Rani is also an accused in the case.

She allegedly gave the girl medicines to terminate her pregnancy. The woman is in judicial custody.

The couple was arrested after the survivor recorded her statement before a magistrate at a hospital.

The case was registered under provisions of the POCSO Act and Indian Penal Code sections 376(2)(f) (being a relative, guardian or teacher of, or a person in a position of trust or authority towards the woman, commits rape on such woman) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to outrage the modesty of a woman).

IPC sections 506 (criminal intimidation), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 313 (causing miscarriage without woman's consent) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) have also been invoked in the case, police said.

## Geeta Koda, lone Cong MP in J'khand, joins BJP ahead of 2024 LS elections

JHARKHAND, Feb 26 (Agencies): The lone Congress MP in Jharkhand Geeta Koda joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday in the presence of state unit chief Babul Marandi. Geeta Koda, the wife of former Jharkhand chief minister Madhu Koda, was reportedly unhappy with alliances forged by the Congress party in the state, according to news agency ANI.

On her reason for quitting Congress, Geeta Koda accused the grand old party of resorting to politics of appeasement.

"The Congress has pushed the country into ruins. The Congress is only doing appeasement politics. On one hand, they claim they want to take everyone along, but the fact remains they care for none and are only concerned about their family. There is no point in staying in a party that is least con-

cerned about people. I have decided to serve people in future with the BJP. I would contribute in whatever capacity the party requires me to. Will contribute in fulfilling the dream of Prime Minister Modi to make India Viksit Bharat," Geeta said.

Geeta Koda's move ahead of the crucial 2024 Lok Sabha elections is seen as a major setback to the Congress party, which had won just one seat in the tribal-dominated state in the last general elections. Geeta Koda held her own in an election otherwise swept by the Narendra Modi-led BJP juggernaut.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Koda defeated her nearest rival Laxman Giluwa of the BJP by over 72,000 votes. She secured more than 49 per cent of the total votes polled while Giluwa received nearly 41 per cent of the votes.

## Delhi's ex-MLA Ranbir Singh Kharb, wife get 7-year jail term in 17-year-old case

NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies): Delhi's Rouse Avenue court on Monday awarded a seven-year jail sentence to former MLA Ranbir Singh Kharb and his wife Anita in a 17-year-old cheating case. The court has also imposed a fine of ₹44 lakh on them.

The husband-wife duo have been directed to surrender today, reported news agency.

Notably, Kharb was the first Jat MLA from Najafgarh constituency in 2003 as an independent candidate. Prior to this, he reportedly worked as a fireman.

Ranbir Singh Kharb launched a company 'Jyoti Fair Finance' in 1998, with his wife Anita as one of its directors. Soon after the company gained popularity and Kharb became an MLA, the duo began to induce people to invest money in their company.

They allegedly promised investors that they



would double their money in three years.

According to the police, all the victims of Kharb were either his close relatives or friends. "Due to the victims' blind faith in the accused, most of them did not take any receipt for the money invested...The company gave an assurance that a high rate of interest would be paid regularly or the amount would be doubled in three years and money invested would be returned as and when required," the police said.

However, around 2002-2003, the investors began asking the duo for their promised returns. That is when Kharb allegedly shut

down his office and disappeared overnight.

The police said that the couple duped people to the tune of ₹4.75 crore.

Meanwhile, one of the victims had claimed that Kharb became an MLA with the money accumulated through fraudulent means. "When he became an MLA in 2003, he asked us to forget the money invested by us. We then complained to the police a year later and a case was registered," the victim had said.

In 2009, Kharb and his wife, who were allegedly on their way to surrender, were arrested by the police and sent to 14 days of judicial custody.



## The spy war: How the CIA secretly helps Ukraine fight Putin

UKRAINE, Feb 26 (Agencies): Nestled in a dense forest, the Ukrainian military base appears abandoned and destroyed, its command center a burned-out husk, a casualty of a Russian missile barrage early in the war.

Not far away, a discreet passageway descends to a subterranean bunker where teams of Ukrainian soldiers track Russian spy satellites and eavesdrop on conversations between Russian commanders. On one screen, a red line followed the route of an explosive drone threading through Russian air defenses from a point in central Ukraine to a target in the Russian city of Rostov.

The underground bunker, built to replace the destroyed command center in the months after Russia's invasion, is a secret nerve center of Ukraine's military.

There is also one more secret: The base is almost fully financed, and partly equipped, by the CIA.

"One hundred and ten percent," Gen. Serhii Dvoretzkiy, a top intelligence commander, said in an interview at the base.

Now entering the third year of a war that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, the intelligence partnership between the United States and Ukraine is a linchpin of Ukraine's ability to defend itself. The CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies provide intelligence for targeted missile strikes, track Russian troop movements and help



support spy networks. But the partnership is no wartime creation, nor is Ukraine the only beneficiary.

It took root a decade ago, coming together in fits and starts under three very different U.S. presidents, pushed forward by key individuals who often took daring risks. It has transformed Ukraine, whose intelligence agencies were long seen as thoroughly compromised by Russia, into one of Washington's most important intelligence partners against the Kremlin today.

The listening post in the Ukrainian forest is part of a CIA-supported network of spy bases constructed in the past eight years that includes 12 secret locations along the Russian border. Before the war, the Ukrainians proved themselves to the Americans by collecting intercepts that helped prove Russia's involvement in the 2014 downing of a commercial jetliner, Malaysia Airlines Flight 17. The Ukrainians also helped the Americans go after the Russian operatives who meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Around 2016, the CIA began training an elite

Ukrainian commando force — known as Unit 2245 — which captured Russian drones and communications gear so that CIA technicians could reverse-engineer them and crack Moscow's encryption systems. (One officer in the unit was Kyrlyo Budanov, now the general leading Ukraine's military intelligence.)

And the CIA also helped train a new generation of Ukrainian spies who operated inside Russia, across Europe, and in Cuba and other places where the Russians have a large presence.

The relationship is so ingrained that CIA officers remained at a remote location in western Ukraine when the Biden administration evacuated U.S. personnel in the weeks before Russia invaded in February 2022. During the invasion, the officers relayed critical intelligence, including where Russia was planning strikes and which weapons systems they would use.

"Without them, there would have been no way for us to resist the Russians, or to beat them," said Ivan Bakanov, who was then head of Ukraine's domestic intelligence agency, the

SBU.

The details of this intelligence partnership, many of which are being disclosed by The New York Times for the first time, have been a closely guarded secret for a decade.

In more than 200 interviews, current and former officials in Ukraine, the United States and Europe described a partnership that nearly foundered from mutual distrust before it steadily expanded, turning Ukraine into an intelligence-gathering hub that intercepted more Russian communications than the CIA station in Kyiv, Ukraine, could initially handle. Many of the officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence and matters of sensitive diplomacy.

Now these intelligence networks are more important than ever, as Russia is on the offensive and Ukraine is more dependent on sabotage and long-range missile strikes that require spies far behind enemy lines. And they are increasingly at risk: If Republicans in Congress end military funding to Kyiv, the CIA may have to scale back.

To try to reassure Ukrainian leaders, William Burns, the CIA director, made a secret visit to Ukraine Thursday, his 10th visit since the invasion.

From the outset, a shared adversary — President Vladimir Putin of Russia — brought the CIA and its Ukrainian partners together. Obsessed with "losing" Ukraine to the West,

Putin had regularly interfered in Ukraine's political system, hand-picking leaders he believed would keep Ukraine within Russia's orbit, yet each time it backfired, driving protesters into the streets.

Putin has long blamed Western intelligence agencies for manipulating Kyiv and sowing anti-Russia sentiment in Ukraine.

Toward the end of 2021, according to a senior European official, Putin was weighing whether to launch his full-scale invasion when he met with the head of one of Russia's main spy services, who told him that the CIA, together with Britain's MI6, were controlling Ukraine and turning it into a beachhead for operations against Moscow.

But the Times investigation found that Putin and his advisers misread a critical dynamic. The CIA didn't push its way into Ukraine. U.S. officials were often reluctant to fully engage, fearing that Ukrainian officials could not be trusted, and worrying about provoking the Kremlin.

Yet a tight circle of Ukrainian intelligence officials assiduously courted the CIA and gradually made themselves vital to the Americans. In 2015, Gen. Valeriy Kondratiuk, then Ukraine's head of military intelligence, arrived at a meeting with the CIA's deputy station chief and without warning handed over a stack of top-secret files.

## Vivek Ramaswamy and Kristi Noem top Republican straw poll on who should be Donald Trump's running mate in 2024

WASHINGTON, Feb 26 (Agencies): As Donald Trump looks set to secure a third presidential nomination from the Republican Party, a straw poll at a prominent gathering of conservative activists has shown that South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem and Indian-origin biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy were tied for the top choice to be the former US president's running mate, according to media reports.

The straw poll, at the Conservative Political Action Conference or CPAC, announced at the end of the four-day gathering outside Washington on Saturday said that Noem and Ramaswamy each garnered 15 per cent of the vote in the straw poll, The New York Times reported.

Tech entrepreneur Ramaswamy, 38, who was born in Cincinnati to Indian immigrant parents, ran for the Republican presidential nomination this year but dropped out of the race after finishing fourth in January's Iowa caucuses. He then withdrew from the race and backed Trump.

Noem, 52, became the first woman governor of South Dakota when she was elected in 2018, endorsed by Trump. During the Covid pandemic, she rose to national prominence



over her refusal to issue statewide mandates for vaccinations and wearing face masks.

It was the first time in years that a question about whom Republicans should pick for vice president had overshadowed one about the presidential nominee in the survey of attendees, the NYT report said.

It was also because Trump, 77, won the presidential poll as expected with a landslide over Nikki Haley, beating her 94 per cent to five per cent. The last time Trump was not the top choice for the White House among CPAC attendees was in 2016 when Texas Senator Ted Cruz finished first, the report said.

Former Indian-origin Representative Tulsi Gabbard, from Hawaii, who ran for president as a Democrat in 2020 but has since left the party to become an independent, finished third with nine per cent of the votes followed by Representative Elise Stefanik of New York and Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina with

eight per cent votes each.

Senator JD Vance of Ohio, whom CPAC attendees chose as their favourite senator, received two per cent of the votes, behind former Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the political scion of a Democratic family who is now running for president as an independent, the report said.

The report said that Trump's third presidential campaign would be his first without former vice president Mike Pence as the two parted ways politically after Pence refused to help Trump overturn the 2020 election won by Joe Biden, a Democrat.

Trump on Sunday secured a resounding win over his Indian-American rival Haley in South Carolina in the Republican primary. Trump has now won every contest that counted for Republican delegates, adding to his previous wins in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and the US Virgin Islands.

## Months after backing Haley, Koch Network suspends support for her campaign



NEW YORK, Feb 26 (Agencies): The political network created by the billionaire industrialist Koch brothers announced Sunday that it was suspending its support for Nikki Haley in the presidential primary after her latest defeat in South Carolina.

The group, Americans for Prosperity Action, had spent tens of millions of dollars trying to elevate Haley and prevent the renomination of Donald Trump, but it had already slowed its spending in the GOP race dramatically after Haley fell short in the New Hampshire primary last month. The organization made its decision official Sunday.

"Given the challenges in the primary states ahead, we don't believe any outside group can make a material difference to widen her path to victory," Emily Seidel, the CEO of Americans for Prosperity Action, wrote in an email to the staff. The email was first reported by Politico.

Seidel wrote that the group would now focus on House and Senate races, adding that the conservative organization remained concerned about the political aftershocks of Trump winning the GOP nomination.

"If Donald Trump is at the top of the Republican ticket, the risk of one-party rule by a Democratic Party captured by the progressive left is severe," she wrote.

Seidel described how the last three elections had shown "what we can expect from voters who consistently rejected Donald Trump and his impact on the Republican party brand."

Haley's campaign had announced that it had raised \$1 million in the less than 24 hours since polls closed in South Carolina on Saturday and she lost her home state. She has vowed to stay in the race through Super Tuesday, on March 5.

In a statement, the

Haley campaign praised Americans for Prosperity Action as an ally.

"We thank them for their tremendous help in this race," the statement read. "Our fight continues, and with more than \$1 million coming in from grassroots conservatives in just the last 24 hours, we have plenty of fuel to keep going. We have a country to save."

The endorsement from the group, which was announced in November, was crucial for Haley. It came as she was trying to gain traction against Trump, particularly given how small her team was at the time. It gave her access to a direct-mail operation, field workers to knock on doors and people to make phone calls to prospective voters in Iowa and other states.

Still, despite those efforts, Haley came in a distant second to Trump in Iowa. One person close to the network said that it had focused on grassroots voter outreach in the final stretch leading up to South Carolina, as opposed to advertising.

After word of the group's pullback became public, Trump posted on his social media website that Charles Koch "and his group got played for suckers right from the beginning!"

## Tuvalu names new PM as Taiwan and China vie for influence



TAIWAN, Feb 26 (Agencies): Tuvalu's former Attorney-General Feleti Teo was named prime minister of the tiny South Pacific nation Monday.

Teo was the only nominee after the previous prime minister, Kausea Natano, lost his seat at the January 26 election. "It is the first time in our history that a prime minister has been nominated unopposed," said Tuvaluan lawmaker Simon Kofe.

The selection of a new prime minister had been delayed since the January vote because bad weather prevented MPs from outlying islands from reaching the capital.

Tuvalu is made up of tiny atolls in the Pacific Ocean and is home to around 11,000 people. Rising sea levels pose an existential threat to the country.

Tuvalu's election in January was watched closely by China and Taiwan.

The Pacific nation is one of 12 countries that formally recognize Taiwan, but there had been speculation that the nation could instead establish relations with Beijing.

During the election campaign, then-Finance Minister Seve Paeniu, said the new government should review its ties with Taipei and Beijing.

Rumors were also fueled after the neighboring nation of Nauru severed ties with Taiwan in favor of China.

Taiwan's ambassador to Tuvalu, Andrew Lin, said the new government assured him that ties between the two nations are "rock solid, durable and everlasting."

"I was invited to attend a lunch with all the MPs and the newly elected PM. I had conversations with all of them and had assurances from all of them," Lin told the AFP news agency on Monday.

## Palestinian PM Mohammed Shtayyeh submits resignation, a move that could open door to reforms

JERUSALEM, Feb 26 (Agencies): Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh says his government is resigning, in a move that could open the door to U.S.-backed reforms in the Palestinian Authority.

President Mahmoud Abbas must still decide whether he accepts Mr. Shtayyeh's and his government's resignation, tendered on February 26.

But the move signals a willingness by the



Western-backed Palestinian leadership to accept shake-up that might usher in reforms seen as necessary to revitalize the Palestinian Authority.

The U.S. wants a reformed Palestinian Authority to govern Gaza once the war is over. But many obstacles remain to making that vision a reality.

## Who is Maryam Nawaz, newly elected chief minister of Pakistan's Punjab province



ISLAMABAD, Feb 26 (Agencies): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior vice president Maryam Nawaz was elected as the chief minister of Pakistan's Punjab province on Monday after the nomination papers of the former and Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) Rana Aftab were declared valid by the election commission after scrutiny, ARY news has reported.

The session, which began after a delay of 30 minutes, was presided over by newly-elected Punjab assembly speaker Malik Ahmad Khan

Maryam Nawaz had earlier pledged to live up to the expectations of the people. Maryam is the first-ever female chief minister in Pakistan's history who won the elections after receiving the backing of 220 MPAs in the provincial assembly, Geo News reported on Monday.

Maryam Nawaz was born in 1973 in Pakistan's Lahore city. She is the daughter of former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

In 2012, she entered politics. Maryam led the PML-N to victory in the 2013 Pakistan elections

upon being elected as the president of the party.

In the same year, she was appointed the Chairperson of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme. However, she resigned in 2014 after her appointment was challenged in the Lahore High Court.

In 2017, Maryam was disqualified from holding public office by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in view of the Panama Papers scandal. The court ruled that Maryam was involved in money laundering. However, the PML-N denied the charges against her and maintained that she was innocent.

In 2017, Maryam was also included in the BBC's 100 Women list, recognizing influential women worldwide. In December 2017, she was featured on The New York Times list of 11 Powerful Women Around the World for the year 2017.



# Youth participation in elections essential for nation's development: Ashok Koul

Top News Report

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, led by its state general secretary (organization) Ashok Koul, held a meeting of the Election Management Department at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Adv. Vibodh Gupta, state general secretary and former MLC and department incharge Parduman Singh also addressed the meeting, in which all the BLA-1 of Jammu division and conveners and co-conveners of the Election Department were present.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the meeting, asked the party activists



associated with the election management to fully concentrate on the new polling booths. He said that the new polling stations have been added with the addition of votes, hence the party activists have to do extensive work on

the new voter lists, and categorize it to facilitate the voting process in the later stage. He asked that the PM has focused on the youth as the first-time voter in the nation's election process. He termed the participation of youth in

the election process as essential for nation's development and insisted that the party activists must approach and prompt the new voters to vote for BJP to ensure the development and strengthening of the nation.

Adv Vibodh Gupta asked the party activists to work with dedication and responsibility. He insisted that the party workers must acquaint themselves with the minute details of the tasks linked to the election management before they venture out in the field on the ground level. Parduman Singh shared the development of the works done by the election management teams with the senior leadership. He asked the team members that now they should concentrate on their work in the field. He asked them to conduct similar meetings at the district and the mandal levels to push the ground-level activist into the election mode.

# Army organises a cleanliness drive at Rajouri



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Feb 26: Army organised a cleanliness drive as part of the "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" at Higher Senior Secondary School, Gambhir

Muglan at Rajouri District (J&K).

The event was aimed at educating the students and the resident populace to maintain clean and hygienic surroundings for a healthy life style. Various Gov-

ernment schemes and incentives promoting rural hygiene and sanitation were also explained to the participants. They were explained about need to bring about a behavioural changes towards this.

# Apni Party criticizes authorities for neglecting Nai Basti area in Nagrota



Top News Report

NAGROTA, Feb 26: Apni Party has criticized the authorities for neglecting Nai Basti area of Nagrota in Jammu East Assembly Constituency regarding development and providing basic amenities.

This demand was raised in a meeting that was organized by ward president of ward number 4 in Jammu East Constituency by Ramesh Chander.

During this meeting, the local people including women participated and they claimed that the Nai Basti has been ignored regarding devel-

opment, drinking water supply or basic amenities.

While addressing the people, Provincial President of Trade Union of the Apni Party, Raj Sharma strongly condemned the authorities for turning blind eyes towards the suffering of the people in Nai Basti.

"The authorities have not provided tap water supply even as a drinking water tank has been constructed," he said, expressing shock over the poor response from the authorities towards the constant suffering of the people.

He further said that the condition of the

approach road in Nai Basti is in shabby condition and requires immediate repair work by the authorities. He also demanded unscheduled power cuts.

Meanwhile, he demanded Govt accommodation for the economically poor families in Nai Basti. Those who spoke on the occasion include Vijay Mangotra, Sheikh Latief, Sohail Khajuria, Archana Koul, Sanjay Kumar and others. Those who were present on the occasion include Manish Kumar, Sunny Kumar, Balbir Chand, Tarun Kumar, Shalalu Devi, Poonam, Dulla and others.

# Secy Cooperatives reviews progress on establishment of Jan Aushadi Kendras

Top News Report

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 26: Secretary Cooperatives, Babila Rakwal, today took stock of measures being taken up by the department regarding establishment of economically viable Jan Aushadi Kendras under PMBJK by the Cooperatives in each district of the UT.

The meeting besides the Additional Registrars Jammu/Kashmir was attended by Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars and other concerned officers.

The Secretary impressed upon the Additional Registrars and Deputy Registrars to ensure functioning of a minimum of one Jan Aushadi Kendra in each district. She directed them to ensure functionality of such kendras by the first week of March this year.

She observed that securing a drug license by virtue of the association with PACS should



act as an advantage for qualified pharmacists. She said that such pharmacists should be made an inalienable members of such societies with full rights and stakes like other members. She asked for taking appropriate measures suitable for the location to start functioning of drug stores.

The Secretary asked for turning maximum

numbers into drug stores by encouraging the identified pharmacists. She also asked for increasing the sales of such stores by popularizing them among the public with all the benefits. She advised for identifying such public health institutions where there is no presence of these stores nearby essentially in far off areas of the UT. She asked for

looking into having long term tie ups with such institutions for maximizing benefits for all the associated stakeholders.

Earlier, the Additional Registrars revealed that for each district 5 Jan Aushadi Kendras have been set, out of which, 32 have been made functional. In addition, 42 have applied for drug license and 98 out of 101 applicants have obtained PMBI

approvals pre-requisite for establishing such stores, he added.

The meeting was further apprised that the Deputy Registrars are in constant touch with different stakeholders including the health institutions, Pharmacy Council and Controller Drugs office for enhancing the pace of establishment of such medicine stores for the benefit of public at large.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Ensure timely completion of disciplinary cases: CVC to Govt departments, public sector banks

create a pool of trained IOs and POs in the respective organisations.

"For IOs/POs, who are serving public servants, timely completion of departmental proceedings by them needs to be given due weightage/cognisance by the reporting/reviewing officers in the APARs (annual performance appraisal reports) of such IOs/POs," said the order that has been issued to the secretaries of all Central Government departments and chief executives of public sector banks and insurance companies, among others.

In another order, the CVC said a time limit of six months has been prescribed for the IOs to complete an inquiry and submit a report to the competent authority.

"However, it has been observed that in a substantial number of cases, completion of inquiry and submission of inquiry report is taking more than the six-month period. One of the reasons contributing to such delay is due to frequent change of IO as a result of transfer, promotion, retirement etc. Of the earlier IO," the order said.

The Commission said in order to ensure a timely completion of a departmental inquiry, the same IO should continue to conduct the inquiry even after his transfer or promotion till the inquiry report is submitted by him.

In case of the transfer of an IO to a new station, either his transfer orders may be given effect after the submission of the inquiry report or the digital mode or video-conferencing may be used for conducting or continuing with the departmental inquiry, the order said.

"Further, it may also be ensured that a person who is due to retire shortly (may be

within a period of one year) is not appointed as IO. In case the departmental inquiry gets delayed due to any reason and the IO retires before submission of inquiry report, he may be considered for continuing as IO even after his retirement, subject to his willingness and other conditions applicable to appointment of retired officials as IOs," it added.

### Will scrap 'Agnipath', revert to old recruitment scheme if voted to power: Congress

back to the old recruitment system," Pilot said.

If some changes are to be introduced to modernise the armed forces, that is very much possible in the current setup, but to completely eradicate the old system is not right, he added.

"It is closing avenues of employment. I think it has been done in an ad-hoc fashion, without much thought to the future prospects of how the Army would function. We in the Congress party believe that the Agnipath programme is not a positive development and we will certainly go back to the old recruitment system when people vote us back," Pilot said.

Congress leader Deepender Hooda also lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre and wondered who had called for such a scheme.

Hooda said the Congress demands a roll-back of the scheme and a return to the old recruitment process.

In June 2022, the government rolled out the "Agnipath" recruitment scheme for short-term induction of personnel into the armed forces, with an aim to bring down the age profile of the three services.

The scheme provides for recruiting youngsters in the age bracket of 17 years and a half to 21 years for a four-year period, with

a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years.

### 260 stranded passengers airlifted in 'Kargil Courier' between J&K and Ladakh

passengers were airlifted from Srinagar to Kargil and another 93 from Jammu to Kargil, 38 were airlifted from Kargil to Srinagar and 16 others from Kargil to Jammu in two separate aircrafts," the official said.

### Traffic restored on Jammu-Srinagar Highway at Dalwas

department official said, "Traffic restored at Dalwas on Jammu Srinagar NHW. People are advised to follow lane discipline and not to ply against advisory/traffic plan in view of possible traffic congestion because of narrow carriage way between Nashree and Banihal on Jammu-Srinagar NHW."

Earlier, on Monday morning, Traffic movement on Jammu-Srinagar highway was suspended due to maintenance of road at Dalwas.

### "At least 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers killed in war with Russia", admits President Zelenskyy

been killed. Former Ukraine Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov said in June 2022 that he believed tens of thousands of Ukrainians

had been killed since February of that year. But two months later, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, then the head of Ukraine's armed forces, said 9,000 troops had been killed.

Russia, meanwhile, has lost a staggering 87 per cent of the active-duty ground troops it had prior to the invasion, CNN reported citing a source familiar with a declassified US intelligence assessment.

The Ukrainian President further said that he has hope for gaining additional military aid from the US.

"I have hope for the US Congress, and I am sure it will be a positive solution," Zelenskyy said at the press conference on Sunday.

"Otherwise, I don't understand which world we live in -- definitely a different world. That is why we count on the US Congress. They know we need their support through the months ahead, and I met senators and bipartisan representatives.

This comes as US President Joe Biden on Saturday, urged House Speaker Mike Johnson and members of Congress to return from a two-week break and pass much-needed aid for Ukraine.

The speaker on the other hand, has resisted calls to bring a Senate-passed aid package up for a quick vote -- a move that would almost certainly spark a revolt from some members of his own party. While visiting Ukraine last week, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer also called on House Republicans to pass the aid bill.

Zelenskyy also stated that there is "no alternative" but to win the war against Russia.

He thanked Ukrainians for their 'resilience' throughout the conflict thus far, and suggested a peace summit in Switzerland could take place in the spring.

### MeT forecasts 'Scattered to Fairly Widespread'

### Light Rains, Snow in J&K

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 9.0°C against minus 10.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was below normal by 3.2°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 7.9°C and it was below normal by 3.7°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 1.8°C, Batote 2.1°C and Baderwah minus 0.44°C, he said.

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

### 'Wanted' drug peddler booked under PIT NDPS Act

A police spokesperson in a statement said, "The most wanted and notorious drug smuggler namely Irshad Ahmad Ganie son of Ab Jabbar Ganie resident of Solinda Tangmarg, Baramulla has been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority. The booked drug smuggler has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jammu."

"Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against the said drug smuggler and who was involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Solinda, Khaipora, Tangmarg & other areas of District. Despite his involvement in many FIRs, he did not mend his bad activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth," statement reads.



## Truecaller Launches AI-Enabled Call Recording in India with Transcription and Call Summary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26: Truecaller, the leading global platform for verifying contacts and blocking unwanted communications, announced the launch of AI-Powered Call Recording in India, for iOS and Android platforms. The new addition provides users with the ability to record incoming and outgoing calls directly within the Truecaller app, offering a convenient and efficient way to capture and manage important conversations.

By leveraging cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence technology, Truecaller empowers users to fully engage in their live conversation without the need to be concerned about taking detailed notes, thereby improving productiv-



ity during calls. The integration of AI into the newly launched call recording feature marks a significant leap forward, allowing for a detailed transcription of the entire phone call, along with an AI-generated call summary.

For iPhone: After answering or making a call, open the Truecaller app, go to the Search tab and tap 'Record a call'. This will call the recording line, which is a special number provided

by Truecaller. The call screen will then provide the option to merge the calls.

A push notification will alert you when the recording is ready. Previously recorded calls can also be accessed within Truecaller. On iPhone, all recorded calls are stored locally on the device, ensuring complete control. Additionally, users have the option to create a backup on iCloud, providing an extra layer of security.

For Android:

The Truecaller dialer includes a dedicated recording button that can start or stop recording with just one tap. On other dialers, users will have a 'floating' button to initiate or end recording. Once the call ends, a push notification will alert users when the recording and transcription are ready. Users can easily listen to recordings, rename them, delete unwanted ones, or seamlessly share them with other apps.

Speaking about the launch of the call recording feature, Rishit Jhunjhunwala, Managing Director and Chief Product Officer of Truecaller stated, "We are constantly innovating cutting-edge solutions that enhance communication. As we continue to push these

boundaries, we are thrilled to announce our AI-enabled Call Recording solution, which has always been a highly requested user feature. We want to give our customers greater control and flexibility in managing their conversations, and it is also a very valuable tool for both personal and professional purposes."

Truecaller's AI powered Call Recording solution will be available as a part of the brand's Premium plan, starting at INR 75 per month or INR 529 per year. While the feature is being rolled out across iOS and Android, it currently supports transcriptions only in English and Hindi. The service was previously launched in the US, and additional markets and languages will follow.

## Div Com Kashmir discusses developmental issues of Rakh-I-Arth Housing Colony Bemina

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 26: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting of Officers, here to discuss developmental issues of Rakh-I Arth Housing Colony Bemina Srinagar.

Among others the meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC/V.C SDA, Dr Owais Ahmad; Vice Chairman, Bashir Ahmad; Secretary LCMA, Gulzar Ahmad; Director School Education Kashmir, Tasaduq Husain; Chief Engineer (D) KPDC, Sandeep Seth; ADC Srinagar, Jt. Commissioner SMC; Senior Manager, JK Housing Board; Ex. Engineer LCMA and AEE PHE; A.E WSPM PHE.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam attended the meeting virtually.



At the outset, the concerned officers briefed the Div Com about the developmental projects undertaken in the said colony which includes school, hospital, parks, water supply, electricity, roads, sanitation etc.

The meeting was informed that the school building stands completed and the same shall be made functional from this session.

It was also given out that the area is fed from Sukhnag water supply scheme, and to further augment it, the

water supply shall be improved through tube wells.

Regarding electricity, it was informed that the electricity shall be augmented as DPR reappraisal has also been submitted.

To ensure proper sanitation in the area, the Div Com directed the SMC to issue a tender for Solid Waste Management.

The Div Com took strong note of encroachments in the area and directed the concerned to remove the same forthwith.

## Secretary visits GMC Anantnag; assesses healthcare services, seeks feedback from patients

ANANTNAG, Feb 26: Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today visited Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag and Rehmat Aalam Hospital, MCH to assess the healthcare services being extended to the ailing there.

He had an extensive round of all the wards of the hospitals to take stock of the diagnostic and treatment facilities being made available to the patients in these healthcare institutes. He also interacted with the patients and their attendants seeking feedback on status of the medical services being provided to them.

Deputy Commissioner, S F Hamid and Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather besides other senior officers accompanied the Secretary.

During the visit, the Secretary assessed the current state of healthcare infrastructure and services at GMC Anantnag, focusing on patient care, infrastructure, medical equipment and overall operational efficiency of the hospital.

Interacting with the doctors and other staff, Dr. Abid Rasheed exhorted upon them to ensure that their medi-



cal facilities meet the highest standards and we are able to provide effective healthcare services to the community. He emphasized upon the doctors to commit them towards enhancing the quality of medical services in the hospital. He called upon the medical professionals to conduct through rounds in the hospital for efficient management of patients.

The Secretary conducted round of the hospital visiting the patient wards, emergency wards, MRI lab, radiation oncology lab and other related infrastructure to assess each facility systematically.

Later, the Secretary also chaired a meeting with the administration of GMC and Associated Hospitals to review progress on several major development projects being executed there.

The Secretary also held a detailed meeting with Principal GMC, CMO, Chief Engineer, PWD, Head of Depart-

ment of different departments of GMC, Medical Superintendents of GMC and its Associated Hospitals, Executive Engineers of all wings and other concerned officers.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Dr. Abid called upon them to work with zeal and zest so that the GMC Anantnag emerges as best performing health institution across J&K. He called upon the administration of GMC and Associated Hospitals to maintain an absolute cohesion and team work among all agencies as well as medical professionals so that improved medical care facilities are provided to the public.

The Secretary emphasized upon all to maintain punctuality and sincere work culture in the hospital which is pre-requisite to meet the expectations of the people. He asked the Principal GMC to focus on innovative research in the institute.

## Samsung launches Galaxy Fit3 with advanced health monitoring technology

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has announced the launch of Galaxy Fit3, its newest fitness tracker that democratizes Samsung's advanced health-monitoring technology, inspiring everyone to feel their best and adopt a healthier lifestyle. The Galaxy Fit3 is Samsung's latest wearable device and boasts an aluminum body with a wider display, allowing users to keep track of their health and wellness data — from daily workouts to peaceful sleep — straight from their wrists, around the clock.

"In this new era of

wellness, users desire a more comprehensive understanding of their health and Samsung has committed to providing users with advanced health monitoring tools to help them along their wellness journey," said Aditya Babbar, Senior Director, MX Business, Samsung India. "As our newest fitness tracker, the Galaxy Fit3 underscores our commitment to providing accessible resources that encourage everyday wellness and inspire everyone to work on their best self."

The Galaxy Fit3 is designed with an aluminum body and a 1.6-inch display, 45% wider than the previous model, making it easier for users

to check detailed insights at a glance. Galaxy Fit3 is also lightweight and sleek with a comfortable fit, making it ideal for everyday use around the clock. Users can incorporate the Galaxy Fit3 into their lifestyles with ease thanks to its long battery life that can last up to 13 days. They can personalize their tracker and make it more stylish by selecting their favourite watch face from over 100 presets or setting their own photos as the background. Users can also effortlessly mix and match bands to complement their fashion and daily routines with a one-click button.

Samsung has always prioritized sleep for

better wellness, empowering users to understand their patterns and build healthier habits with advanced sleep monitoring tools. This commitment is reflected in the Galaxy Fit3. Users can comfortably wear their Galaxy Fit3 throughout the night while it tracks their sleep patterns, even detecting snoring and monitoring blood oxygen levels to provide more detailed measurements. Based on individual sleep patterns, the Galaxy Fit3 provides users with personalized Sleep Coaching. With meaningful insights that help them more intuitively understand their sleep, leading them to make posi-

tive changes.

During the day, the Galaxy Fit3 allows users to keep an eye on their daily activities. Users can track over 100 types of workouts anytime, anywhere and review their exercise records easily, encouraging them to stay motivated to achieve their goals. The Galaxy Fit3 features a 5 ATM rating and IP68-rated water and dust resistance, meaning users can enjoy outdoor activities in a variety of environments, as well. The Galaxy Fit3 gives users an even deeper understanding of their overall health, by delivering health metrics that include heart rate and stress levels.

## Director Agriculture conducts extensive tour of Pulwama, Budgam districts

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 26: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today conducted an extensive tour of Pulwama and Budgam districts.

During the visit, he also convened two separate review meetings and took stock of the progress under HADP projects, regular CAPEX and CSSS, scope of convergence between

MGNREGA and HADP and issues related to procurement of Seed under SVP, organic farming, Natural farming, PM KISAN, PMFBY and Soil Health Card schemes.

During the meeting, different centrally sponsored schemes being implemented by the department including RKVY, MIDH, ATMA, NFSM, PM KISAN, Soil Health Card Scheme, KCC scheme etc were also discussed in detail. The implementation of projects

under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) was discussed threadbare.

In his remarks, the Director said the projects under HADP have been designed in such a way that the small and marginal farmers could establish their own agri-income based units.

He underlined the importance of expeditious and judicious expenditure of funds under different centrally sponsored schemes, projects under HADP and CAPEX. He asked

the officers that funds allocated under different components of centrally sponsored schemes must be expended in a time bound manner. He reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest level of transparency and accountability during all the expenditures.

Director asked the concerned officers to work in close coordination with concerned district administrations during the implementation of different initiatives at district level.

## COAS visits MSME Defence Expo 2024 at Pune

JAMMU / MAHARASHTRA, Feb 26: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Manoj Pande, visited the Maharashtra MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) Defence Expo 2024 at International Exhibition Convention Centre, Moshi, Pune on Monday.

The expo, organised by the Government of Maharashtra, showcases the indigenous capabilities and innovations of the MSMEs, private companies, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories, and Defence Public Sector Unit (DPSU) setups in Maharashtra.

General Manoj Pande delivered a keynote address to the MSME & students and said that, Maharashtra deserves a mention, for being one of the major contributors to the nation's economy, industrial growth, exports and FDI attractive-

ness. He noted that the State was the first in India to frame a Defence Manufacturing Policy after private investment was allowed in the defence sector. Maharashtra has also declared Aerospace and Defence manufacturing as a thrust sector in the 'Package Scheme of Incentives'. As a result of these efforts, the state has been contributing more than 20% to the country's output in aircrafts, ships and boats and 30% to the national output in weapons and ammunition. These figures reflect a strategic vision towards promoting the Defence Industrial Sector.

The COAS while highlighting the economic growth made by the India, said that the nation is witnessing an improved consumer affluence, better standards of living, higher literacy quotient and rising aspirations of the



citizens.

He appreciated the steps taken by the Government agencies and armed forces in policy reforms, skilling initiatives, infrastructure investment, digital potential, front-line entrepreneurship and said that this

signifies the commitment to sustainable development and the promise of being a reliable supply chain stake-

holder.

He mentioned that, "Leveraging both the MSMEs and the Start Up ecosystem has been a focus area for the Indian Army, as part of the Atmanirbharta pursuit, in meeting our capability development requirements".

The Army Chief elaborated that under the Innovations in Defence Excellence (iDEX) procurement, all projects are

mandated to be progressed through Start Ups. "Currently under the iDEX route, 55 Indian Army projects, worth Rs 400 Cr are being pursued, which encompass a total of 65 Start Ups. Four contracts worth Rs 70 Cr have been concluded for procurement of equipment in limited quantity for field exploitation. The iDEX route also follows the Spiral Mode of development

of indigenous technology and platforms, since exploitation of limited quantity in field conditions, enables concurrent development of equipment based on "user recommendations", he said.

The COAS mentioned about the Indian Army's in house Ideas & Innovation initiative, and informed the gathering about two innovations and the technology transferred to industry for mass production, namely VIDYUT RAKSHAK — an Internet of Things (IoT) based generator protection system and a bio medical device.

He mentioned that Indian Army's endeavour to promote innovation also entails pursuing of Intellectual Property Rights for the products developed in collaboration with the industry. He highlighted that 66 IPRs have been filed by the Indian Army

to date, of which 13 Patents, 05 Copyrights and 05 Design Registrations have been granted. The Indian Army, during the expo, displayed its indigenous equipment and systems such as Tank T-90, BMP Mk-II, Soltam Gun, Dhanush Howitzer, K-9 Vajra, Pinaka Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher, Sarvatra Bridge System, Schilka Gun and Fly Catcher Radar of Army Air Defence, Tavor, Sig Sauer & M4 Assault Rifles, Ak-47, Sniper Rifles and various other weapons and equipments. Chief of the Army Staff also interacted with the participating industries and encouraged them to align their products and services with the future requirements of the Indian Army.

He urged all to collectively contribute to the aspirations, goals and objectives of a Rising India, through the resolve and commitment to



## Fourth Test: Gritty India humble England by 5 wickets; win series

Gill and Jurel put on a match-winning unbeaten partnership of 72 runs



NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies): A gritty India overcome a tricky English bowling attack and an unpredictable Ranchi pitch, to pull off a five-wicket win in the fourth Test to win the five-match series 3-1, with one Test to go.

Chasing 192 in the second innings, Shubman Gill (52\*)

and Dhruv Jurel (39\*) put on a match-winning partnership of 72 runs for the sixth wicket on day 4, to guide India home. At one stage, India had lost three wickets in the space of 20 runs, with Rajat Patidar and Sarfaraz Khan both falling to spinner Shoaib Bashir for nought. Ravindra Jadeja (4), too, was dismissed

by Bashir. But Gill and Jurel ensured that India suffered no further setbacks.

Earlier, Rohit Sharma's fifty was instrumental in India reaching 118/3 at lunch. The skipper (55 off 81) looked in his usual attacking mode and hit a swat-flick off James Anderson en route to his 17th Test fifty.

England bowlers failed to get under the skin of Rohit and Yashasvi Jaiswal (37 off 44) after they resumed the day at 40 for no loss chasing 192.

The duo shared an 84-run stand before part-time off-spinner Joe Root (1/21) broke the partnership, dismissing Jaiswal. The young southpaw failed to control his inside-out shot and James Anderson pulled off an absolute stunner with a forward diving catch at backward point.

Thereafter, left-arm spinner Tom Hatley (1/40) took the prized scalp of Sharma.

He came down the track only to be beaten by the flight and spin from Hatley and Ben Foakes did the needful behind the stumps. Though he was way out of the crease, he was adjudged caught behind after getting a faint tinkle on the way to the wicketkeeper.

The last Test will be played in Dharamsala from March 7.

It is India's 17th consecutive series win at home. The team's last home series loss was a 1-2 defeat to an Alastair Cook-led England in 2012-13. Since then, India have won 39 out of 50 Tests at home.

## INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Blasters desperate to regain winning touch against FC Goa

KOCHI, Feb 26 (Agencies): With many of his key players injured, it would not be a surprise if the Kerala Blasters head coach Ivan Vukomanovic says a small prayer every time one of his players falls down during a game.

The Blasters take on FC Goa — an opponent one rung above them — in the ISL at the Nehru Stadium here on Sunday. More than anything else, the talk is around the many injured players in the team, with goalkeeper Sachin Suresh the latest to join the list that includes the team's star Adrian Luna.

"The injuries... actually for us, that's the story of the season," said Vukomanovic on Saturday and admitted that this is the most challenging phase of his tenure in Kochi.

"Now, every day it's like hoping that we don't lose anybody (with injuries)...



and hope the players stay healthy till the end of the season."

The Blasters, fifth in the league table after losing their last three matches, have to work hard to regain their winning touch.

"We cannot control our opponents, but we have to get back that fighting spirit, fighting for each other and trying to overcome the opponents like we were doing in December," said the coach.

## Carabao Cup 2024: Liverpool beats Chelsea 1-0 to win the English League Cup

LONDON, Feb 26 (Agencies): Virgil van Dijk headed Liverpool to a record-extending 10th English League Cup trophy by securing a 1-0 win against Chelsea at Wembley on February 25. The center-back's goal in the 28th minute of extra time settled a tense clash that had ended 0-0 in regulation. It clinched an eighth piece of major silverware for Jurgen Klopp at Liverpool and ensured he will not end his final year at the club empty-handed.

"You should always savour the good moments, this is definitely one of them," Van Dijk said. "I'm so proud, proud to be part of this club and especially proud of the boys."

Klopp will step down at the end of the season, but victory in the League Cup has kept his team on course for an improbable quadruple of trophies. Liverpool



currently leads the Premier League table and is still in contention for the FA Cup and Europa League.

Chelsea manager Mauricio Pochettino was hoping to win his first major trophy in England after previous spells with Southampton and Tottenham. He will have to wait, while Klopp can look ahead to more glory before walking away.

Liverpool and Chelsea had met in both domestic finals in 2022 and on each occasion, Liverpool came out on top to lift the League Cup

and FA Cup on penalties after two goalless draws. This was another close match that saw both teams have goals ruled out for offside and the woodwork hit on three occasions.

Chelsea could have gone ahead early on when Cole Palmer's effort was saved by Caioimhin Kelleher from close range. Later Raheem Sterling thought he had put Chelsea in front after sliding home Nicolas Jackson's cross, but the goal was ruled out for offside in the buildup.

Cody Gakpo's header

then left Chelsea goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic standing shortly before halftime, but his effort came back off the foot of the post.

Van Dijk sent Liverpool fans wild in the second half with a powerful header to beat Petrovic, but it was Chelsea's supporters who were left cheering when after a lengthy review it was also disallowed for offside. Conor Gallagher hit the post in the 76th after flicking Palmer's cross beyond Kelleher and later denied when one-on-one with the keeper.

Liverpool had the better chances in extra time but when Harvey Elliott struck the post with a header it looked like it would go down to penalties again. That was until Van Dijk came up with the decisive moment and perhaps the start of a trophy-laden end to Klopp's reign.

## What Imran Khan told the Indian High Commissioner about Virat Kohli at an iftaar party

NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies): Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had once rated Virat Kohli higher than Sachin Tendulkar, recalls Ajay Bisaria, who served in Pakistan as India's High Commissioner from 2017 to August 2019. Bisaria was later expelled by the Pakistan government in response to the abrogation of Art 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

"During one of the iftaar parties he had hosted, Imran Khan told me that he thought Virat Kohli was clearly the best cricketer in the world and he would rate him much higher than Tendulkar," Bisaria said at the Idea Exchange.

"Because, he said, Kohli turned losing matches into winning ones, and that is not what often happened in the case of Tendulkar.

"Even Dhoni has a huge following in Paki-



stan."

Earlier, this month Imran Khan, was sentenced to years in prison in cases pertaining to leaking state secrets and corruption. Khan was removed from power in a no-confidence vote in parliament in April 2022. However, the 71-year-old former cricket star-turned-politician alleged that his country's powerful military

generals conspired with the United States to unseat him.

Ex-envoy Bisaria also explained why Virat Kohli has a huge appeal across Pakistan, as was the case with Imran Khan in India earlier.

Because cricket is a subcontinental religion and everything else falls before that.

Although cricket is a religion in the sub-continent, but the sports

diplomacy has failed get two countries closer.

"Sports diplomacy has been a very important tool of the people-to-people diplomacy," said Bisaria.

"Bilateral diplomacy has often ridden on the back of cricket diplomacy. But we should recognise its limits.

"However, when the relationship gets better, trade and cricket are low-hanging fruits."

## Leverkusen breaks Bayern's German record to go 33 games unbeaten, extends lead in Bundesliga to 11 points

BERLIN, Feb 26 (Agencies) Granit Xhaka scored his first goal for Bayer Leverkusen as the Bundesliga leader defeated Mainz 2-1 and set a German record of 33 games unbeaten across all competitions.

Leverkusen, which hasn't lost a match since last season, stretched its lead to 11 points before 11-time defending champion Bayern Munich — which held the previous unbeaten record of 32 games — hosts Leipzig on Saturday. Eleven rounds remain after this weekend.

"We deserve to be where we are," Xhaka said.

"When you're eight points, now 11 points, ahead of second-place Bayern, there is a lot to lose. But we'll keep working day by day, game by game, stay positive, and I'm sure we'll be able to keep getting our wins."

The buildup to Friday's match was dominated by speculation over the



future of Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso, with his former clubs Bayern and Liverpool looking for new coaches for next season.

Alonso has no lack of suitors after taking Leverkusen from the relegation zone when he took over in October 2022 to a genuine title candidate in his first senior management job.

"It's all just speculation, my head is totally here," Alonso repeated on Friday.

"We have so much to do, we're in such a super position. So enjoying it, preparing, and that's all that's going on in my head."

Supporters celebrated the German football league's midweek decision to scrap its plan to bring in an outside investor for a share of media rights income by displaying a banner saying "Football belongs to the fans."

They didn't have to wait long to celebrate again when Xhaka fired Leverkusen into a third-minute lead. The Swiss midfielder let fly from outside the penalty area for his first goal on his 31st appearance for the club.

But Dominik Kohr replied for the visitors with a header at the other end four minutes later.

Leverkusen went on to

dominate possession. The home team's urgency grew toward the end of the half, when Alex Grimaldo drew a good save from Robin Zentner with a free kick.

Leverkusen's frustrations grew when Jeremie Frimpong was booked for complaining after he'd been tripped by Mainz defender Philipp Mwene when he would have been through on goal. TV replays showed there was contact. Alonso was also booked for his complaints.

The frustration remained after the break as Leverkusen failed to find a way through.

Then the otherwise excellent Zentner failed to hold Robert Andrich's harmless-looking shot and the ball looped in over his head in the 68th. It proved enough for the win as Mainz's hopes were hit in the 80th when Jessic Ngankam was sent off after a VAR check for a dangerous tackle on Xhaka.

## Hardik Pandya returns to competitive cricket after long injury layoff

NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies): India all-rounder Hardik Pandya on February 26 made his return to competitive cricket after a long injury layoff with a two-wicket haul in the DY Patil T20 Cup in Navi Mumbai. Pandya grabbed 2/22 in three overs in Reliance One's win by two wickets in a low-scoring game over Bharat Petroleum Cooperation

Limited at the DY Patil Cricket Academy.

Pandya had been out of action since suffering an ankle injury during the ODI World Cup match against Bangladesh in Pune in October, and is preparing up for a comeback in the Indian Premier League (IPL) as the new skipper of the five-time winners Mumbai Indians.

The Reliance One

team also included other Mumbai Indians players such as Tilak Varma, Nehal Wadhwa, Akash Madhwal, Naman Dhir and Piyush Chawla.

The 30-year-old all-rounder, however, was replaced by Rohit Sharma as India's captain for the T20 World Cup to be played in the Caribbean and the USA in June this year.

The DY Patil T20 Cup

is a corporate tournament in which a total of 16 teams are taking part.

India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan, who has been out of action since the World Cup, will also be making a comeback to competitive cricket as he is set to play for the Reserve Bank of India against Route Mobile on Tuesday.

## We can't just keep talking to youngsters, need to give them environment to excel, says Rohit Sharma

NEW DELHI, Feb 26 (Agencies): The "composed" set of newcomers in the Indian team don't need frequent

advice, they need just a supportive environment to excel, said skipper Rohit Sharma after the young guns played a major part in the hosts' series-sealing win over England in the fourth

Test in Ranchi on February 26.

Playing his second Test, wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel produced a player of the match performance with the bat in both the innings.

His 90 in the first innings allowed India to get close to England's 353 while his 72-run

stand with Shubman Gill in the second innings helped the hosts tide past tense moments in the run chase.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan and Akash Deep were also among the fresh blood who made an impact in the series.

"It's been a very hard-fought series, so to

come on the right side of it feels very good. A lot of challenges thrown at us but we responded and were quite composed. These (youngsters) guys want to be here, growing up in the domestic circuit, local club-cricket, and coming here," said Rohit in the post match presentation.



## BLSKS felicitates artists for contribution in Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2024

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26: To promote the traditional culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sanshan (BLSKS) felicitated artists for their outstanding contribution in the field of performing art in presentation of excellent Performance in Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2024 on 21 Feb, 2024 held at open air theatre , Durga Bhawan Janipur Jammu. V.K.Magotra MD, BLSKS Jammu who was the Chief Guest, honored over 22 artists/ technicians by giving away certificates on the occasion. Dr.Anju Dogra, Medical Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Health Department, was the Guest of Honor on the occasion. The Chief Guest lauded the role of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sanshan (NGO) in promoting the Traditional folk culture of the region especially Jan Bharat Rang under the 25th Anniversary of Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2024- International Theatre Festival of India, Series Musical Play "VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM" in collaboration with National School of Drama , New Delhi, Ministry of Culture Govt Of India. The play was written by Lalit Parkash , produced and directed by Dr.M.L.Dogra, former



Regional Director, Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

Earlier welcoming the Chief Guest M.L.Dogra chairman BLSKS apprised the objectives of the organization in reaching out to the people to keep alive our traditional folk culture including folklores of leading deities /saints of the regions. Dogra while felicitating the awardees said their recognition in varied talents not only encouraged the writers but boosted their moral in strengthening the social fabric and a meaningful society which is sensitive towards the human feelings and aspirations. The main aim of the production was to enrich Duggar culture, traditional folk theatre of Jammu

region. The production could help revival of traditional folk of J&K region as well as for channelizing the energies of youth towards Nation building. The Chief Guest said Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is a Sanskrit phrase means "the world is one family". It is a philosophical concept that embodies the idea of universal brotherhood Communal Harmony . The phrase conveys the message that every individual is a member of the global community and that we should treat each other with respect, dignity and compassion. This principle highlights the importance of embracing diversity and promoting peace, unity, and cooperation among all nations and cultures. In today's increasingly interconnected world, the message of Vasud-

haiva Kutumbakam is more relevant than ever, as we face challenges such as poverty, inequality, and conflict. The Songs on the said theme were also presented and uploaded online on Social Media for benefit of the people.

Dr. M.L.Dogra, Chairman, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sanshan who highlighted the event i.e. the true meaning of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam encapsulates the essence of universal brotherhood and the interconnectedness of all beings. This ancient Indian philosophy highlights the idea that the entire world is one big family, where every individual is a member, regardless of their race, religion, nationality or ethnicity. The phrase represents the belief that we should

treat everyone with kindness, compassion and respect, and strive to live in peace and harmony. The Importance of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in today's fast-paced and interconnected world, the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is more relevant than ever before. We live in a global village where boundaries between nations, cultures, and people are becoming increasingly blurred. Hence, it becomes imperative to embrace the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and strive to create a world where everyone is treated equally and with dignity and integrity.

The Dignitaries/ artists / technicians for their excellent performances in this mega musical play were felicitated, Usha Raina, Kranti Kant Joshi, Mahesh Chander Kotwal, Raju Bajgal, Rajni Gupta, Deepak Kumar, Zulekha Bano, Sanjeev Kumar, Chahat Chadha, Bindia Okheda, Sudesh Devi, Rahul Kumar, Taniya Gupta, Aparna Chopra, Sunil Kumar, Vandana Gupta, Afroz Aalam, Jattan Sharma , Naiya Meenia, Renu Bala. Deepak Kumar Dogra presented vote of thanks and conducted the proceedings of the event efficiently.

## NMOPS holds One Day Convention

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26: National Movement For Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) JK UT held one day convention at Guru Nabha Dass community centre Dogra Hall Jammu demanding Old Pension Scheme.

NMOPS is a national level organisation fighting for the cause of Govt employees to restore old pension of Govt employees.

Hundreds of delegates belonging different districts of Jammu Kashmir participated in the convention.

UT President NMOPS- JK Mohammad Ashraf presided over the convention. President JKEEGA PDD Sachin Tickoo, State Chairman JKTF Mohammad Amin Khan (Provincial President EJAC) Chairman JKATA Vishal Manhas ,

UT President NMOPS Ladakh Ahmed Husain, President JKVEA Dr Vakash Khajuria, President JKATA Dr Yasir Tak, President PDEU Tarun Gupta, Provincial President AJKPA Sham Saroop, Ex- State president JKTF Mohd Afzal Bhat, Spokesperson EJAC Mir Bashir Ahmed, Chairman JKRETF Khalid Rafiq Bhat, , President JKTDC Qumer Din and Trade Unions leaders from different departments participate the convention.

While speaking on the occasion, the trade union leaders unani-

mously demanded Restoration of Old Pension Scheme (OPS) by scrapping NPS in order to give justice and respectable post retirement life of thousands of government employees who gave their precious years of their youth to serve the government and people of this state. In Jammu and Kashmir the employees who were appointed after January 1, 2010 came under the purview of NPS ( New Pension System).

President Mohammad Ashraf termed NPS a joke with the life of employees and new pension scheme which, according to him, has deeply disappointed the retirees.

He urged upon the administration of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir particularly Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha to look into the matter and do the justice with the employees of Jammu Kashmir UT like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand in which state govt switched over to old pension scheme.

Pertinent to mention that in Jammu and Kashmir erstwhile state NPS was introduced in January 2010, whereas in other parts of the country , NPS was introduced in 2004, after scrapping Old Pension Scheme which was well defined and secure Pension System", according to the statement issued by NMOPS.

Further leadership of NMOPS JK said that all employees in j&k, during their golden period of life, had served under Rehbar policies on a monthly enumeration of meagre Rs 1500, Rs 3000 etc and putting them under NPS not only demoralises them but also drags their post retirement life towards the darkness.

Sr.Vice President Vishal Manhas also spoke and emphasized on the legitimate demand of Restoration of OPS.

The other dignitaries who spoke on the occasion were Mir Bashir Ahmed, Mohan Singh, Raman Sharma, Rajeev Sharma, Ram Krishan Singh, Gulzabar Dang, Dr Karamjeet Singh, Amar Mooman, Dheeraj Choudhary, Neetan Kalyan, Hamidullah Trumbo, Mymona Khan, Mohd Ashraf Kulgami, Ghulam Nabi Sofi, Irfan Nazir, Harpreet Kour, Deepak Sharma, Rail Singh, Dr Sanjay Sharma, Sushil Sharma, Peerza Irshad, Gulshan Sharma, Kulbhushan Singh, Sanjay Sharma, Surinder Pathania, Ramesh Shastri, Prof Rajaul Singh, Surjeet Singh, Nadim Ahmed Mir, Iqbal Mugal, Irfan Shan Prof Ravi bushan, Manzoor Ahmed, Nisar Ahmed, Farous Ahmed, Ab Quyoum Patan, Irshad Bhat, Sunil Kumar ,Muzafer Ahmed, Parshotam Singh, and hundreds of employees joined the convention.

## Katra Railway Station Re-development unveiled; station to emerge as inter modal station: Dr Jitendra

### Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 26: In a historic decision, Mata Vaishno Devi Railway Station in Katra city of Reasi district in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be redeveloped at a cost of 40 crore rupees to enhance the existing facilities and introduce new amenities for passengers. The step is part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme under which Prime Minister Narendra Modi today laid the foundation stone for redevelopment of 553 railway stations across the country at a cost of over 19,000 crore rupees.

To mark the occasion, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled a plaque marking a formal redevelopment of the Mata Vaishno Devi Railway Station today.

Addressing a gathering at the event, Dr Singh said inclusion of this Station in the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is reflective of Prime Minister's special focus and priority he has given for the development of this region.

He recalled that this rail station was among the first which was chosen for the roll out of Vande Bharat train including the second Vande Bharat adding that it also holds the distinction of being the first station in the country where a solar power facility was unveiled.

Dr Singh informed



that as part of today's endeavour, besides Katra station, three other stations, namely Udhampur, Jammu and Budgam, railway stations will also be redeveloped as Amrit Stations. Among the four, three are in Jammu region.

This reinforces the Prime Minister's commitment for the development of J&K, the minister underscored. Dr Singh further informed that Katra station will emerge as an inter-modal station, integrating rail, road and air so that people can move from one mode to another seamlessly.

Dr Singh said that the Prime Minister has chosen Katra as a leg of the country's development journey.

Dr Singh said that ever since Modi assumed leadership of the country, there has been a transformation in citizens' mind-sets. He stated that the Prime Minister has ensured a level playing field for the development and welfare of every person and region of the coun-

try. He added that it has been ensured that every citizen and region of this country reach their maximum potential commensurate with their talent and resources. Now, a poor man's son or daughter can dream big and compete in prestigious examinations like civil services and join corridors of power, irrespective of their religion, caste or region. Hopes have been rekindled, and evils like corruption and nepotism have been curbed, Dr Singh added.

The Union Minister said the number of developmental projects India has seen in the past decade are unparalleled. The pace of development has been accelerated to realise the goal of Vikist Bharat, Dr Singh underlined.

The 553 railway stations chosen for redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme are spread across 27 States and Union Territories.

These will be redeveloped at a cost of over Rs. 19,000 crores.

These stations will

act as 'City Centres' integrating both sides of the city. They will have modern passenger amenities like roof plaza, beautiful landscaping, inter modal connectivity, improved modern façade, kids play area, kiosks, food courts, etc. They will be redeveloped as environment friendly and also Divyang friendly.

The design of these station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage and architecture.

Today, the Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation 1500 Road Over Bridges and Underpasses. One of them costing 49 crore rupees will be in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. These Road Over Bridges and Underpasses spread across 24 States and Union Territories, the total cost of these projects is around Rs 21,520 crores. These projects will reduce congestion, enhance safety and connectivity, improve capacity, and efficiency of rail travel.

## Dr. Preeti Bhagat organizes free medical camp at Beaspur Parlah

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 26: One of the biggest problems facing humanity today is civilization-related diseases.

The development of technology, improvement in the quality of life and general enrichment of society has brought with it many good things, but there have also been drastic changes in everyone's life.

Due to the progress of civilization, lifestyle has changed the most, causing diseases of civilization to affect the elderly and youth and even children. These diseases can be



avoided by adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat gave this advice to the villagers during the free medical camp in Beaspur Parlah village of Suchetgarh

assembly constituency. During the camp, Dr. Preeti Bhagat and her team conducted free checkups of more than 200 patients and distributed medicines to them. Villagers said that

getting checkups done in such camps keeps them aware about their health. Otherwise they do not have the facilities to get their health checkup done.

Dr. Preeti Bhagat said that her aim is to provide health facilities to the people near their homes.

The passion for social service has been in my mind since the beginning. She wants to do something for the society. This was also the purpose of coming into the medical profession and now she is serving people through this profession. Such camps will be continued in future also.

## Leh Sub Area felicitates war heroes in Veer Naris



### Top News Report

LEH, Feb 26: Leh Sub Area organised an event at Leh on Monday in honour of War Heroes and Veer Naris of Kargil

War in view of the Rajat Jayanti celebrations of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

The event commenced with wreath laying at War Memorial, Hall of Fame, Leh to pay homage

to the Bravehearts of Kargil War, post which 10 War Heroes and 10 Veer Naris of Kargil War were felicitated by General Officer Commanding, Leh Sub Area at the

Rinchen Auditorium, to honour their sacrifices for the Nation.

On the occasion, amenity items were also distributed to Ex-Service-men societies of Diskit, Chuchot Yokma, Likir and Leh. During his address, the General Officer Commanding, Leh Sub Area thanked the Veterans and Veer Naris for their sacrifices and assured them of wholehearted support from Indian Army. Director Rajya Sainik Board Col (Retd) Lobzang Neema and President Ex-Servicemen League, Ladakh were also present during the event.