

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Houseboat sinks in Jhelum in Rajbagh, suffers damage

SRINAGAR, Feb 27 (Agencies): A residential house boat sank in river Jhelum and suffered damaged in Rajbagh area of Srinagar on Tuesday morning, officials said. Houseboat owner Abdul Rehman Pakhtoon said they noticed in the morning that the houseboat was sinking. "As we noticed it, we immediately called the administration for assistance," he said. He said that in view of the inclement weather, the administration must provide them support and shelter. The SDRF and Fire and Emergency Service carried out the rescue operation.

Amnesty Scheme for domestic power consumers extended

JAMMU, Feb 27 (Agencies): The Power Development Department yesterday extended amnesty scheme for the domestic electricity consumers in Jammu and Kashmir. The order in this regard was issued by M S Malik, Director General, Finance, Power Development Department. As per the order, the Amnesty Scheme for the domestic consumers has been extended by one year, which now stands extended by Finance Department up to March 31, 2025. The said extension is in the process of approval by the competent authority for its issuance. However, the extended concurrence accorded by the Finance Department is subject to the conditions which are in addition to the conditions already envisaged in Government order no 103-PDD of 2022 dated 12-9-2022. The Department shall ensure recovery of arrears in full by covering of all eligible consumers. The Department shall disconnect the connections of the consumers who do not avail the scheme and fail to pay the power dues. The failure of

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PM Modi likely to visit Kashmir in March, to address public rally in Anantnag



SRINAGAR, Feb 27 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to visit Kashmir in month of March to address a public rally

in Southern district of Anantnag. Quoting reliable sources, news agency KNO reported that PM Modi is scheduled to visit Kashmir between March 7 and March 15. He will address a public rally in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, said the report while quoting sources.

It said that a BJP leader privy to PM's visit said

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MeT issues advisory in Kashmir amid heavy snowfall forecast

SRINAGAR, Feb 27 (Agencies): The local Meteorological Department (MeT) has issued an advisory in view of heavy snowfall forecast in Jammu and Kashmir, cautioning about the disruption of surface and air transport to the landlocked valley.

In the advisory, the regional MeT centre said that an active Western disturbance is

most likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from 29th evening/night onwards.

Under the influence of this system, it said widespread moderate rain/snow is expected in Jammu and Kashmir from 29th night/early morning of 01 March till the afternoon of 3rd March with its peak activity on 2nd March.

"The above system

is most likely to cause heavy to very heavy rain/snow over Pirpanjal Range of Jammu division and middle & higher reaches of Kashmir Division (Anantnag-Pahalgam, Kulgam, Sinthan Pass, Shupiyan-Pir Ki Gali, Sonamarg-Zojila, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, Gulmarg and Kupwara-Sachna Pass)," read the advisory.

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Lok Sabha polls: Decision on seat sharing with INDIA alliance soon, says Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Feb 27 (Agencies): Former J&K Chief Minister and Lok Sabha MP, Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said that there is a need to make INDIA bloc strong so that the country is "saved from the disaster BJP has done in the last ten years."

He maintained that NC vice-president Omar Abdullah is in constant contact with Congress party and decision on seat-sharing will come to the fore in coming days.

"We have to make a pact with Congress. Omar is talking with



them and hopefully decision on seat sharing will come out in coming days," said Abdullah.

He said the INDIA alliance needs to become strong to save the country from trouble. "It is

imperative to make INDIA alliance strong. Being a part of the country we have to make this alliance powerful," he said.

While responding to a query, Dr. Farooq Abdul-

Govt directs H&UDD to frame another expert committee to probe alleged loss to exchequer by then Director ULB Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 27 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir Government directed the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to constitute another committee to probe the alleged financial loss caused to the State exchequer by then Director Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir.

As per an office memorandum of the General Administration Department (Vigilance), a report submitted by a committee constituted



earlier by the H&UDD, to probe the allegations of the financial loss caused by the then Director Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, was

very vague in nature since the committee members were not technically sound enough to calculate the loss and

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Ministry of Railways Issues Clarification on Fake Recruitment Notification for RPF Posts

NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): In a recent press release, the Ministry of Railways has issued a clarification regarding a fake recruitment notification circulating on the website 'RTUEXAM.NET'.

The erroneous mes-

sage claims vacancies for 4208 posts of Constables and 452 Sub-Inspectors within the Railway Protection Force (RPF). However, the Ministry emphasizes that neither the RPF nor the Ministry of Railways has issued any such

notification on their official websites or through any print or electronic media channels. Officials reiterate that the news is entirely fabricated and should be disregarded by all. "It is to reiterate that the news is fake and should be ignored by all."

Security review meeting held in Ramban



SRINAGAR, Feb 27 (Agencies): A high-level joint security meeting was held in Ramban to review the prevailing situation in the district and adjoining areas ahead of Parliamentary elections on Tuesday.

The meeting was participated by Army's

White Knight Corps, J&K Police, CRPF Jammu Sector and Railway Protection Force Northern Railway.

The participants reviewed the prevailing situation with special emphasis on synergized operational focus.

It was decided to work

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Freight train runs driverless for 75 km in J&K: Probe suggests driver, station master at fault

NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): A preliminary probe into the incident of the driverless running of a freight train for about 70 km from Kathua (Jammu) to Uchi Bassi Station (Punjab) in Jammu Tawi-Pathankot section has suggested that both the driver as well as the station master failed to fulfil their responsibilities.

The joint probe report, signed by five senior railway officials, has recorded the statements of various persons involved in the incident and described the turn of events which point to dereliction of duties on the part of the driver

and the station master of Kathua.

Exclusively accessed by PTI, the report said the loco pilot in his statement submitted that besides stabilising the engine and three wagons of the train by applying hand brakes, he also placed two wooden wedges before the wheels of the loco so that it couldn't move.

The report added that, however, when the train was stopped at Uchi Bassi the concerned station master carried out an inspection which was video recorded and found that the wagons' handbrakes were not in applied position.

It further noted that the station master of Kathua, who was on duty, did not stabilise the train properly from 6:05 am to 7:10 am. Railway officials said that as per norms, the station master has to check if the brakes are properly applied and take other measures to ensure that it would not move.

According to the report, it was a divisional material train (DMT) which is used to carry railway materials for construction and other purposes. It was stationed at Kathua junction with 53 wagons and it had no brake van (guard's

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RTO Kashmir Shifts office to Bemina

SRINAGAR, Feb 27 (Agencies): The Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir has announced to shift its main office to a new building in Bemina on Tuesday.

The move, aimed at enhancing efficiency and accessibility, may cause temporary disruptions in routine services for a few days.

The RTO Kashmir Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, said that the transition to the new location is being meticulously planned to minimise inconvenience to the public.

"Efforts are underway to ensure a smooth shift while maintaining

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Crime Branch arrests man posing as Under Secretary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Cyber Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE Crime Branch Jammu J&K) arrested a man posing as Under Secretary posted with Raj Bhawan arrested.

After taking cognizance a case FIR 03/2024 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station CICE Jammu against one Firdous Ahmad Wagay, son of Ghulam Nabi Wagay and resident of Waskora, Ganderbal, Jammu & Kashmir, spokesperson said adding that the impersonator was apprehended by team of P/S CICE Jammu.

Some incriminating material including fake ID cards, seals and other documents used in the commission of crime has also been seized from his possession and further investigation of the case is in progress, spokesperson added.

MHA orders posting of IAS, IPS officers to J&K

SRINAGAR, Feb 27 (Agencies): Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday ordered posting of one AGMUT cadre IAS and one IPS officer to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

As per an order, 1996-batch IAS officer Chandraker Bharti and 2008-batch IPS officer Tejinder Singh have been posted to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Consequent upon

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IIM Jammu, NIFT Srinagar Forge Strategic Partnership to Foster Academic Excellence and Innovation at Bharat Tex 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: In a significant stride towards fostering academic collaboration and promoting innovation, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu and the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar have formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The ceremonial signing took place today at Bharat Tex 2024, an esteemed international industry platform hosted at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Bharat Tex 2024 serves as a pivotal stage, spotlighting exhibitions, knowledge sessions, thematic discussions, Government-to-Government (G2G) meetings, Business-to-Business (B2B) networks, and interactive pavilions. This event marks the genesis of a promising partnership between the two esteemed institutions, IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar, setting the stage for collaborative endeavors and mutual growth.

The event commenced with a formal introduction to the MoU Signing accompanied by a warm welcome extended to all partners involved Prof. Dr. Sudha Dhingra, Dean Academics, NIFT Delhi, delivered the welcome address. This was followed by an introduction to both Institutions and an outline of the key deliverables of the MoU between IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar.



The MoU signing ceremony, held on the eve of the ongoing Bharat Tex 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, was a significant milestone.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, and Prof. Javid Ahmad Wani, Director of NIFT Srinagar, inked the MoU in the presence of Director General NIFT, Tanu Kashyap, IAS and various delegations, symbolizing a commitment to collaboration across various fronts. This partnership aims to enhance academic excellence, foster research endeavors, and cultivate entrepreneurial talent in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Also present at the ceremony was Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of Srinagar Campus, IIM Jammu adding further significance to the occasion. Bharat Tex 2024, in its ongoing events, highlights the richness of Indian textiles, reinforcing its image as a custodian of tradition, innovation, and sustainability. Speaking on the occasion,

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, expressed profound enthusiasm about the collaboration, highlighting its significance for the growth and development of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). He emphasized that the partnership with NIFT Srinagar will open up exciting possibilities for academic collaboration and innovation, which are crucial for the socio-economic advancement of the region. He underscored the importance of leveraging each other's strengths to create a synergistic environment that fosters not only learning, research, and entrepreneurship but also contributes to the overall growth trajectory of J&K. He emphasized that by harnessing the rich cultural heritage and diverse talent pool of the region, the collaboration between IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar holds immense potential to catalyze positive change and drive inclusive development. He stressed

the role of academic institutions in fostering innovative ecosystems that not only address current challenges but also anticipate future opportunities. He reiterated the commitment of both IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar to spearhead initiatives that promote interdisciplinary research, technology transfer, and entrepreneurial ventures, thereby contributing to the overall prosperity of Jammu & Kashmir. Dr. Javid Ahmad Wani, Director, NIFT Srinagar, echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the transformative potential of the collaboration. He expressed delight in joining hands with IIM Jammu in this endeavor, envisioning the creation of dynamic ecosystem that nurtures talent, fosters creativity, and propels socio-economic development in the region. He emphasized the collective commitment of both Institutions to leverage their expertise and resources for

the greater good of U.T of Jammu and Kashmir, aiming to establish a thriving environment conducive to innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth. The MoU encompasses various areas of collaboration, including academic partnerships, research endeavors, executive education and training programs, joint seminars, conferences, and workshops, initiatives for entrepreneurship and incubation, as well as the sharing of research and campus facilities. The vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Dr. Sanjeev Malage, Head of International and Domestic Linkages, NIFT Delhi. The signing of the MoU represents a significant milestone for both institutions, signaling the beginning of a new era of collaboration and excellence. Through joint efforts, IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar are primed to make substantial contributions to academia, research, and entrepreneurship, thereby shaping not only the future of the region but also extending their impact beyond local boundaries and thereby contributing to nation-building. The Bharat Mandapam, Bharat Tex served as the ideal platform for the MoU Exchange and networking, where esteemed academicians and reputed institutes from India and globally came together for collaborative endeavors and partnership formation.

FFMA pays tributes to Chander Shekhar Azad



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) J&K paid tributes to the freedom fighter Chander Shekhar Azad, on his martyrdom day at Maheshpura Chowk here today. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman FFMA, Rajiv Mahajan recited Azad's famous proclamation, 'Dushman Ki Gollyon Ka Saamna Hum Karenge, Azad Hi Rahe Hain, Aur Azad Hi Rahenge'. Chander Shekhar Azad was born in a small Madhya Pradesh village of Bhavra in

Jhabua district on July 23, 1906. He was just 15 when he was terribly moved by the Britishers killing thousands of innocent Indians at Jhalianwala Bagh in Punjab. That was when he decided to join India's independence movement," Rajiv Mahajan said. He added, "Azad shook the British empire when he was just 16 by revealing his name as 'Azad', his father's name 'Swatantrata' and his residence as the prison cell." Mahajan further said that Azad's passion for freedom inspired many youth.

Mahajan said that Shaheed Chander Shekhar Azad fought and jerked the base of the British rule in India with his dedication and sacrifice. He was jailed several times for his protests against the British. "His patriotism & valour remains an inspiration. The nation remains forever indebted to his supreme sacrifice," Mahajan said. Others present on the occasion were Ved Gandotra (Chief Patron), R.C Puri (Vice Chairman), Karnail Chand (Working President), Kamal Sharma, Parbhat Kaphi and others.

OBC Adhikar Tiranga rally reaches Katra-Reasi, attracts a attention of Govt

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 27: The members of Other Backward Classes took out OBC Adhikar Tiranga rally to Katra Reasi from Udhampur here on Tuesday to attract the attention of Govt towards the implementation of Mandal Commission report in the JKUT. The OBC members led by Kasturi Lal Basotra, Chairman Jammu & Kashmir OBC Mahasabha along Bansil Lal Choudhary Convenor OBC Adhikar Tiranga Yatra besides others assembled at Hari Singh Park near Tawi bridge today morning and started Adhikar Tiranga rally to create awareness among the own community people about their rights. They were shouting slogans in support of their demand of

implementation of 27% reservation for the OBCs in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Several leaders of the OBCs including Kasturi Lal Basotra, Bansil Lal Choudhary addressed the rally and also spoke to the media, demanding implementation of the Mandal Commission Report in J&K. They said that 12% reservation was not acceptable to the OBCs and the Modi Government must fulfil its promise. They said after J&K was turned into UT, the Central Laws were extended to the J&K, then why the Mandal Commission report was not implemented here. The Modi Government must clarify it. They said that merely a 12% quota was not acceptable to them as the population of OBCs is 42%. The quota

should be provided as per population. They further disclosed that the Tiranga Yatra is being taken out from Feb 26 to 29. The main purpose of this yatra is to educate OBC masses about their fundamental constitutional rights and their duties towards their Nation besides implementation of 27% reservation in JK-UT for OBCs. This eighth OBC Adhikar Tiranga Yatra after starting from Maharaja Hari Singh Park adjoining Press Club Jammu at around 10.30 am and passed through Gumat Chowk, Vivekanand Chowk, Prem Nagar, Gurjar Nagar, Nagrota, Suketar, Dhansal, Jindrah, Kishanpur-Manwal and then reached Udhampur in the evening of 26th February, 2024 followed by Katra-Reasi today.

Alok Kumar elected as VHP National President, Chandel extends congratulations

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Raju Chandel, a Hindu nationalist BJP leader, congratulated Advocate Alok Kumar on being elected as the National President of Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Tuesday. He stated that Vishva

the world. Vishva Hindu Parishad has tirelessly fought for the protection of Sanatan temples and Shivalingas worldwide. It is the only organization in the world that unites all sects and traditions together, with the aim of protecting the heritage of saints and Sanatan



Hindu Parishad will work under his leadership with utmost strength and determination. Chandel mentioned that Advocate Alok Kumar, as the National Executive President, has shouldered the responsibility of the magnificent construction of Sri Ram Temple in Ayodhya and bringing devotees from all over the world to Ayodhya. Under the leadership of Vishva Hindu Parishad, the victory cheers of Sanatan Dharma and the respect for Hindus reverberate throughout

principles. Chandel further added that Advocate Alok Kumar has been a long-time companion and we have worked together shoulder-to-shoulder during the time when he contested the election for the Legislative Assembly from Mansarovar Park on the BJP ticket. Today, as he takes the command of Vishva Hindu Parishad and the grand Ram Temple, we stand together, ready to work hand in hand with him for the entire Sanatan Dharma and every child of our nation.

Jugal flags off Astha train to Ayodhya from Jammu Railway Station



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha Jammu, Jugal Kishore Sharma flagged off third Astha train taking thousands of pilgrims from Jammu to Holi, Ayodhya for darshan's of Shri Ram Lalla. He said that in coming

said that people in large number are visiting Ayodhya after the Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ram Lalla as their dream of 500 years has been turned into reality after the construction of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya and Pran Pratishtha of Idol Shri Ram by the hands of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22nd January 2024. He said that in coming


days more people will go to Ayodhya and more trains will likely to be dispatched from Jammu and Kashmir. People were chanting Jai Shri Ram slogans and saturated with the holy feelings as train started for Ayodhya from Jammu Railway station. While speaking on the backdrop of flagging of the train, he said that Jammu Railway Station will be developed on the ground of modern Railway stations with new facilities will be provided for the people as J&K is marching on the path of development under the leadership of Hon'ble Your Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Former Minister Sat Sharma & Senior BJP Leaders Yudhvir Sethi, Asem Singh, Ravish Mengi, Parveen Kerni, Atul Bakshi, Rajinder Gupta, Jai Deep Samyial, Vipin Sharma & others also present at the occasion.

MRM organises Ram Lalla Bhagat Yatra blessing event in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) All India Convenor Haji Mohammad Afzaal along with Organiser J&K, Ladakh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh Gulshan Kumar organised Insaniyat Ki Sewa's "Ram Lalla Bhagat Yatra" Blessing event at Shaheed Chowk here on Tuesday. The main aim of this program was to extend best wishes to the entire Ram Lalla Bhagat Yatri's. On this occasion, juices, fruits, mineral water and other food items were distributed among the pilgrims. Haji Afzaal, while extending greetings to all Ram Lalla Bhagat's, hoped that Ram Lalla may bring joy and success to the lives of every one. "Ram Lalla is an Avtaar for the whole universe and his temple is a house of worship for people all over the world," Afzaal told. Haji Mohammad Afzaal on this occasion further observed that the objective of Muslim Rashtriya Manch is to strive to establish mutual brotherhood since its

inception. "The slogan of MRM signifies the importance that people of every religion of this nation should maintain mutual brotherhood among themselves," Afzaal suggested. Those who became a part of the event included, Shamshul Haq (Co-Convenor J&K), Choudhary Aili Mohd Chechi (Co-Convenor J&K), Jaan Mohd (Co-Convenor J&K), Mohd Aslam Malik (Co-Convenor J&K), Amir Iqbal Khan (Spokesperson and Media/IT JKUT), Malik Zada Mohd Shahzad (Co-Convenor Jammu province), Adv. Tanzeer Khatana (Legal Advisor J&K), Ab. Mehmood (district Convenor), (Shakeel Ahmed Shawl) (Co-Convenor J&K), Rayees Ahmed Sheikh (Secretary Jammu Province), Shahid Kalas (Co-Convenor Jammu Province), Fayaz Ahmed Wani (Secretary Distt Kishtwar), Mohd Iqbal Khan (Secretary Intellectual Wing J&K), Ab. Hussain (Joint Secretary J&K), Gh. Rasool (Member MRM), Mohd Alyas Khan (Member) and others.



Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu
(Rail Head Complex, Jammu)
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Subject: Tentative seniority list of Head Assistants of Revenue Department (Divisional Cadre) Jammu Division as it stood on 01.01.2024.

NOTIFICATION NO. DIVCOMJMU(ESTT) 04 OF 2024
DATED: 21.02.2024

A tentative seniority list of Head Assistants of Revenue Department (Divisional Cadre) Jammu Division as it stood on 01.01.2024, forming annexure –"A" to this notification is hereby circulated among all the Head Assistants of Division Jammu for information. The positions assigned in the list are subject to outcome of writ petition, if any, pending in any competent court.

Any, Head Assistant aggrieved with regard to his/her position, category, qualification & date of birth assigned to him/her or to any of his/her colleague in the tentative list, may submit objections, if any, with documentary proof to this office within 15 days from the date of issuance / publish of this notice.

The date(s) of birth and category recorded in the list shall not be taken as authentic, but shall be subject to verification with Service Book / Educational certificate / DOB / Category certificate issued by the concerned / competent authority.

Issued with the approval of competent authority.

DIP/J-15452/23

(Angrej Singh) JKAS, Asstt. Commissioner (Central), With Divisional Commissioner, Jammu

No. 101/443/Snty/H.Asstt/24/6128-33
 Dated. 21.02.2024

Annexure 'A'
Tentative Seniority list of Head Assistants of Revenue Department Jammu Division as it stood on 01.01.2024

S / No	District	Name of Head Asstt.	Present place of posting	Date of Birth	Date of promotion as Sr. Asstt.	Date of promotion as Head Asstt.	Category
1.	Ramban	Samer Singh	DC office Ramban	01.12.1969	08.07.2011	02.12.2019	RBA
2.	Rajouri	S/o Il. Balak Singh R/o Dewal, Tehsil Rajgarh Qasim Hussain	DC office Rajouri	11.06.1970	05.05.2010	12.06.2020	ST
3.	Udhampur	S/o Fazal Din R/o Nadian, Tehsil Dantol Sham Lal	Div. Com. office Jammu	25.09.1964	10.02.2016	24.06.2021	OM
4.	Jammu	S/o Jagan Nath R/o Thil Tehsil Udhampur Mohd. Aslam	Div. Com. office Jammu	04.04.1969	09.03.2013	29.03.2022	ST

Note: - The date of birth shown above will not be taken as authentic and shall be reckoned by reference to the Service Book / Matriculation Certificate.

(Angrej Singh) JKAS, Asstt. Commissioner (Central), With Divisional Commissioner, Jammu

EDITORIAL

GOVT-NGO

PARTNERSHIP

A good partnership between the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) helps the government to find solutions to many problems and effectively implement initiatives in the social sector.

The Government of India recognizes the supportive role of the voluntary sector in public economic development across the country. Safe work cells mainly promote clean work in the country. The World Bank, while defining NGOs i.e. Non-Governmental Organizations, said, "Those private organizations which are involved in such activities, which can relieve someone's problems, promote the welfare of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic. They are non-governmental organizations that can provide social services and take up the responsibility of community development. These organizations can be non-profit and independent from the government. Basically, such organizations based on moral values depend wholly or partially on charitable services. The NGO sector in India has been growing rapidly in the last two decades. Different regions know and understand such institutions by different names. Some call them Civil Society Organizations and others call them Private Voluntary Organizations, Charity, Nonprofit, Charitable Organization etc. In our country, many voluntary organizations are participating in development work and social service in all fields. In the last eight decades, as issues of social concern approached a turning point, a flood of NGOs emerged. These institutions fill those empty spaces. They come to fill those jobs which the government does not want to do or is unable to do. The World Bank's Working with NGOs documents that the NGO sector has experienced unprecedented growth over the past eight decades in developing and developed countries alike. According to an estimate, more than 15% of the total foreign development assistance is being given to help NGOs.

The basic objective of these voluntary organizations is social justice development and protection of human rights. These are financed wholly or partly by the government. It does not have a legal entity under national or international law. The World Bank identifies health organizations in two ways. First operational, second advocate i.e. functional organization and advocate voluntary organization. The basic objective of functional educational organization is to develop and outline major projects. Functional voluntary organizations are classified as national organizations, international organizations and community based organizations. On the other hand, the basic objective of advocacy voluntary organizations is to influence the policies and working methods of international organizations. These institutions can play an effective role in ensuring people's participation in the development of the society.

- Voluntary organizations are known as a catalytic reaction for rural development.
- These institutions can play diverse roles in poverty alleviation. Like providing social justice to the disadvantaged groups and making people aware of their rights and duties.
- Progress in socio-political and economic aspects in rural areas.
- To establish closer relations with the people in the organization than with the people in the government.
- To organize people for participation in the process of rural development.
- To make organized efforts to eliminate rural poverty.
- To help prevent wrong money flow and prevent corruption.
- To make people self-reliant by pooling local financial resources.

It is often seen that some beneficiaries of the schemes misuse the loan obtained by the utility bank. These educational organizations can motivate such beneficiaries to make effective and efficient use of the loan. These organizations can encourage and sensitize people by actively participating in development in rural communities. There are many voluntary organizations across the country which run various types of activities. Due to which people benefit because these organizations basically work without any commercial interest or immediate profit. The main objective of these organizations is to serve the people living in distress due to poverty or any natural disaster.

Seeing the need to improve the living standards of the people, Indian educational organizations are working on various projects. Improvement is being seen in people's lifestyle. Local voluntary organizations can better help in the development of the area as they can bring flexibility in their functioning to suit the local needs. Due to direct contact with people, they can better help the local poor, especially in rural areas. Active intervention of voluntary organizations in social activities develops leadership qualities. Voluntary organizations carry out education and other such activities. Educational organizations across the country have indeed emerged as a ray of hope.

Pakistan in a mess after polls, uncertainty ahead

By: K.C. Singh

The February 8 general election in Pakistan, to the provincial assemblies and the National Assembly, provided a surprising outcome though with a predictable endgame.

The jailed Imran Khan, former Prime Minister and founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party (PTI), defied not only his two main rivals, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), but also the Army. His acrimony with the Army chief, Gen. Asim Munir, dates from his days as Prime Minister when he got the then Army chief, Gen. Qamar Ahmed Bajwa, to sack Gen. Munir from the coveted post of director-general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in 2019. Reportedly, Mr Khan was upset over an ISI report alleging that his latest wife Bushra Bibi was indulging in corruption. Now Mr Khan, instead of being the Army's ally and nominee for the Prime Minister's post, is their bugbear.

The elections were important to see how the Pakistan Army counters a populist-nationalist leader, wrapped in an Islamic shroud, asserting his independence. In the past, the Army let Prime Ministers, who outgrew its control, lose popularity due to corruption or criminality before hanging or jailing and eventually exiling them. The charges against Imran Khan were mostly petty like selling gifts received as Prime Minister. Gulf rulers showering expensive gifts on visiting dignitaries is not new. Even more unbelievable is that Imran Khan married Bushra Bibi within the forbidden period in Islamic law post-divorce. She claimed that her former husband had used the verbal triple talaq method to end her previous marriage, a year before she married Mr

Khan. Her former husband now claimed a later divorce. Surely, he could have objected earlier after Bushra Bibi's 2018 remarriage.

Pakistan, which has been under an interim government since August 14, 2023, acted to dismantle the PTI, rob it of its election symbol (which appropriately was a cricket bat) and harassed its members and sympathisers. Therefore, the PTI candidates had to run as Independents. With Pakistan's levels of illiteracy, it was unimaginable how the voters determined which Independent was aligned to Imran Khan. Despite these machinations in the polling to 266 general seats in the National Assembly, the pro-PTI Independents won 93 seats, ahead of 75 for the PML(N) and 54 of the PPP.

Consequently, the two main opponents of the PTI fell short of a majority even with their seats pooled. The PTI immediately questioned the results, alleging massive fraud. They claimed that they actually had led in 125 seats. The European Union and the United States asked for a proper enquiry into these charges. Liaquat Ali Chattha, the commissioner of Rawalpindi, resigned on February 17, pleading mea culpa for election fraud. He managed, he claimed, a PML(N) victory in 11 out of 13 seats in his jurisdiction.

Pakistan's Election Commission immediately rejected his claim, arguing that he had no role in the election. Others pointed out that his subordinates were directly involved. Facing official ire, he withdrew his charges five days later. Major Western newspapers were unanimous in condemning the election manipulation. However, the Commonwealth Observer Group gave a thumbs up to the conduct of the election.

The PTI initially claimed the right to form the national and some provincial gov-

ernments. But the PPP and PML(N) quickly met to announce on February 13 their coalition government. Some hiccups developed as they discussed first a shared prime ministerial term. The PPP's Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the PML(N)'s Maryam Nawaz Sharif are the heirs to the legacies of their respective parties and thus aspirants to the top position. The PPP, having fallen behind the PML(N) numbers, could hardly claim the prime ministership. On the other hand, Nawaz Sharif could not have his daughter supersede the claim of his brother Shehbaz Sharif, compelling him to support him as Pakistan's next Prime Minister. Simultaneously they agreed to make Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal's father, the next President, a position he has held earlier from 2008 to 2013 after the December 2007 assassination of his wife Benazir Bhutto. In addition, Maryam is to be the chief minister of Punjab, perhaps a more powerful position than that of the head of a national coalition. The Sharif family probably calculated that Maryam may be able to burnish her credentials for the top position in Islamabad if, like her uncle Shehbaz, she makes a success of running Punjab. That leaves Bilawal adrift. He could resume his previous position as foreign minister, a position his grandfather effectively used to rise higher while at best seeking to be designated as deputy prime minister.

The question that is now being debated is whether this adjustment of rival ambitions can last a full term, with a bitter Imran Khan goading his forces, within and outside the National Assembly, to keep questioning the legitimacy of the new government.

Reports indicate that he has asked those Independents aligned to him and not yet poached to join the Sunni

Ittehad Council. Apparently, some 50-odd have already done so. This is necessary as 70 seats, reserved for women and non-Muslims, get allotted on a proportionate basis.

There was media speculation in India that with Nawaz Sharif's ascendancy, an outreach to India may begin as in the past. However, his sitting-out due to the lack of a clear mandate and Imran Khan's shadow over the coalition will compel the current freeze in relations to continue. The Indian government is also preoccupied with domestic politics till May. Pakistan too has its economic mess to contend with. It also faces the threat of militants from across its western border gnawing at its stability. Moreover, the Pakistan Army would play even a stronger role regarding relations with India.

Most analysts around the world have called Pakistan's election outcome as the people, especially the youth, delivering a slap on the Army's face. But to hope that the folks in uniform will stop meddling in domestic politics would be quite premature.

Gen. Munir would like to use the new civilian government to complete the decapitation, political and hopefully not actual, of Imran Khan. But the more he is persecuted, the greater his iconic standing will grow. The Pakistan Army has managed to exacerbate the civilian political divide. If Pakistan has to attain normalcy, then political leaders have to rise above their differences and unite.

Asif Ali Zardari has experience of the Army's vindictiveness and its tragic consequences. As indeed does Nawaz Sharif. But the unknown factor is Imran Khan. Sadly, Pakistan and the entire South Asian region are facing uncertain times ahead.

The key to success is hard work

By: Vijay Garg

We all need hard work as an essential part of life. Hard work is the act of devoting oneself to achieving a goal through perseverance, determination, discipline and sacrifice that involves both physical and mental effort. Nothing big and challenging can be achieved in life without hard work. That is to say, one does not gain anything by being idle. On the other hand, someone who constantly works hard, undoubtedly will be successful in life. People who are lazy can never live a successful life. In fact, a lazy person does not know how to handle success. Successful people can handle both success and failure because they have a strong work ethic. They

understand that no victory is final and no failure is final. People who succeed feel constantly motivated by their hard work. Success requires sacrifice and hard work. greatness at Achieving extraordinary success is not only possible for a few - everyone, including you, can achieve it, you just need to believe in yourself and take advantage of the opportunities that come your way with sincere planning. So we have to spend our life time to reach our destination. If you are willing to put in the time, your hard work will pay off. Also, you should proceed properly. Making the right decisions, working hard and persevering will ensure that you make your own You will achieve the goal. It is completely wrong to think that luck is required for achieving

goals and good reputation. With hard work and dedication, anyone can succeed despite the lack of natural talent. The odds are always in favor of those who work hard. Hard work is important to achieve your goals, encouraging discipline, perseverance and determination. It can enhance skills and expertise in a particular field, leading to personal growth and inner satisfaction. work hard New people are always disciplined. Important qualities like resilience, humility and determination are naturally born in their nature. Hard work also develops skills and knowledge for long-term success and provides a sense of achievement that boosts self-confidence. There are many benefits to working hard. We become successful, confident and determined only because

of our hard work. People who work hard, want to improve their current situation, solve problems and life They have a longing to reach a point. So they work hard to do that. When hard work pays off, all kinds of difficulties are automatically ignored; Hard work turns into success and one feels proud of oneself. In this way he becomes able to guide others as well as himself. It is very important for us to inculcate the habit of working hard in our future generation, but this habit is not only acquired through words; That is why we have to work hard in front of them Your life has to be.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

Women have fewer top and high-profile jobs in India

Prof. Uppal emphasizes importance of paying more attention to sustainable Development

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: A multidisciplinary conference was jointly organized by the M.D.S.D College, Ambala, Haryana, and the International Council for Education Research and Training. India aims to produce 78 million graduates by 2024, with 2.6 million being STEM graduates. Metropolitan cities including Delhi and Mumbai have the most STEM jobs. Despite women comprising 33.3% of all researchers, they make up a mere 12% of members in national science academies. Although women researchers often face shorter and less remunerative careers, their work is underrepresented in high-profile jour-



nals, and they often miss promotion opportunities. World Bank data reveals that women constitute almost 43% of the total graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in India. Digitalization has instigated sweeping transformations across

numerous sectors of the world economy. There's a complete change. The Social Sciences, Management Sciences, Science, and Engineering Fields have completely changed. New models of growth, marketing, and strategic planning are emerging.

ICT and IA are playing a crucial role in changing growth strategies. This recent transformation has also changed the Educational process either to deliver the education or evaluate the various transcripts. Today, it's easier than ever to meet the 17 Sus-

tainable Development Goals. The transformation in science and technology has propelled India to an unparalleled feat, making the country the first in the world to send a mission to the moon.

According to Dr. R.K. Uppal, STEM education is essential for women and girls for sustainable development. He underscored the importance of science, engineering, humanities, and social sciences for sustainable development. Currently, Dr. Uppal holds the positions of Professor Emeritus and Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi, and Professor-cum-Principal at Baba Farid College of Management and Technology in Punjab.

Rajeev, Ishant flag off Ram devotees to Ayodhya

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Amid religious fervor and 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans, a group of 'Ram Bhakts' was flagged off from Bahu Fort to Ayodhya by BJP J&K Senior Leader & Prabhari Jammu District Rajeev Charak and J&K BJP State IT Head Advocate Ishant Gupta here today.

The Group is led by Sumeet Bajrang and all the pilgrims were



sent to Jammu Railway Station to board the special 'Aastha Train', carrying over more than thousand devotees for Ayodhya as it departed from the Jammu Railway Station at 11:55 am.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajeev Charak expressed enthusiasm among the devotees of Prabhu Shri Ram, "Congratulations to everyone here. Chanting Ram Bhajan and 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans,

the enthusiastic devotees and their families thronged the occasion and to be part of the flagging-off ceremony.

Advocate Ishant Gupta also expressed his happiness for this moment and congratulated all the devotees for their holy yatra.

Others who presented were Haradesh Khokher, Yash Nagotra, Pt. Khushal Chand, Sher Singh Khokher, Darshan Patyal, Sat Pal Sharma and others.

Shiv Public School Sari Rakwalan celebrates Annual Sports Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Shiv Public Hr. Sec. School, Sari Rakwalan Jammu along with Shiv Kidz Planet, recently celebrated its Annual Sports Day with fervor and enthusiasm.

The school's expansive playground served as the vibrant venue for a day filled with competitive spirit and sportsmanship.

Students from all grades showcased their athletic prowess by participating in a myriad of events, including relay races, lemon and spoon race, sack race, Kho-Kho, cricket, kabaddi, hurdles, and more. The atmosphere was electric as participants poured their hearts into each event, displaying determination, skill, and



teamwork. The highlight of the day was the awarding of medals by the esteemed Principal, Mehak Manhas, who recognized and celebrated the outstanding achievements of the winners.

Their victories not only symbolized their individual triumphs but also reflected the collective spirit of the school's community. The event's success wouldn't have been possible without the meticulous planning and

coordination under the able guidance of Divan-shi Jamwal, the Coordinator, and Mehak, the Sports Incharge, along with the dedicated efforts of all staff members. Their unwavering commitment and sup-

port ensured that the event was a great success.

As the day drew to a close, Mehak Manhas extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all participants, applauding their dedication and sportsmanship. The event concluded on a patriotic note with the rendition of the National Anthem, serving as a poignant reminder of unity and pride.

Shiv Public Hr. Sec. School takes immense pride in nurturing not just academic excellence but also fostering holistic development through sports and extracurricular activities. The Annual Sports Day served as a testament to the school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel both on and off the field.

CRPF 162 Bn organises free medical camp in Handwara

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Feb 27: A free medical health check-up camp was organized on Tuesday during the Civic Action Programme conducted by the 162 Battalion Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at the Govt Girls Middle School Bandy Mohalla in Handwara and distributed free medicines.

The camp was inaugurated by Second in command P K Lal 162 Battalion CRPF. Ex Municipal Vomittee Chairman Handwara, Masroor Ahmad Bandy, Assistant Commandant Abhishek Yadav, Assistant Com-



mandant R K Malik, Medical Officer Dr Ajay, Dr Javid Ahmad, Social activist Tauseef Ahmad war and other officers graced the occasion by their presence.

During the medical camp a number of people including the ladies, children and senior citizens of the area gathered in large numbers for the health camp and more than 150 people took advantage of the camp.

Speaking on the occasion Second in command PK Lal of 162 Battalion remarked "CRPF runs various schemes for assisting the needy and merging with the local population and for

having better coordination with them. Today we have organized a free medical camp and consultancy for those who require medical assistance and you see a large number of people turned up in the programme".

"The aim of such programmes is to have good relations with locals and also help them in difficult times. It's a continuous process and 162 Battalion is periodically conducting community outreach programs in one or other way. In the past also such free medical camps were organised in different areas in Kupwara district", added PK Lal.

Dharmarth Trust to celebrate upcoming Maha Shivratri Festival with great fanfare: Brig Langeh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: J&K Dharmarth Trust, a renowned organization dedicated to the preservation and management of temples and shrines, has diligently made all necessary arrangements across the temples and shrines falling under its purview for the impending Maha Shivratri festival, which will be celebrated on March 8, 2024.

Speaking at a press conference, Brig RS Langeh (Retd), President of the Trust flanked by SSP Ashok Kumar Sharma (Retd), Secretary, said "Under the able guidance of Hon'ble Chairman Trustee, Dr. Karan Singh and other Trustees, the Trust has made commendable efforts in ensuring a seamless experience for devotees visiting the temples and shrines falling under its purview."

He said several ancient and prominent temples like Umapati Mahadev Temple in Purman, Ranbirsingheshwar, Abbhikumteshwar Temples in Utterbehni, Shankaracharya Temple Srinagar, Raghunath ji Temple, Jammu, Shri Ranbireswar Temple, Sudh Mahadev, Mantalai, Shiv Temple Nagrota, and Shiv Temple Sat-



wari have all been prepared meticulously to accommodate the influx of devotees during this auspicious occasion.

The Trust's President expressed his commitment in ensuring hassle-free facilities for devotees not only on Maha Shivratri but also on regular days. The Trust, with its rich history spanning centuries, has been pivotal in offering state-of-the-art amenities to pilgrims and visitors. It strives to continue this tradition by providing enhanced services and augmenting facilities wherever feasible, he added.

Briefing media persons, Ashok Kumar Sharma informed that the Civil Administration and J&K Police Department has made elaborate arrangements for facilitating the celebrations and ensuring the security respectively. He also thanked active public participation in organizing the function

on Maha Shivratri. He

also commended the efforts of the Shri Ranbireswar Mandir Welfare Committee, whose contribution has been instrumental in making the celebrations a grand success.

The Trust's President and Secretary invited devotees from across the Union Territory to join the vibrant and spiritually uplifting

celebrations of Maha Shivratri in the Dharmarth Trust Temples and Shrines. In addition to the meticulously prepared temples, there will also be various cultural and spiritual programs including Langars organized throughout the day, providing a truly enriching experience for all who participate, they added.

3 JCBs, 3 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized in Kulgam



Top News Report

KULGAM, Feb 27: Three JCB machines and three sieve tractors involved in illegal mining at Ashmuji area of Kulgam were seized by Geology and Mining Department Kulgam last night.

An official said that on the directions of Deputy Commissioner

(DC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan a team of mining department led by District Mineral Officer (DMO) Kulgam Mur-taza Bashir carried out the operation on Vaisho nallah at Ashmuji in Kulgam last night and seized Three JCB's and three sieve tractors for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals.

Meanwhile, District Mineral Officer (DMO) Kulgam Murtaza Bashir said that "He would act tough against persons involved in illegal mining and nobody will be spared for such doings", adding that all the vehicles after seizure were handed over to police and shall remain in their custody till realization of penalty.

CEO Kupwara organizes Medical Assessment Camp for hearing impaired Children

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Feb 27: Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kupwara organized Medical Assessment Camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) for Visually impaired & Hearing impaired Children under Inclusive Education Component of SAMAGRA SHIKSHA.

J&K(U.T) in Collaboration with DSSC (Doctor Shahs Sight Centre Kupwara) VI CWSN were assessed by Dr Faisal Qayoom Shah MBBS, MS, FVR, & Dr Bilal Ahmed Mir MBBS, MS, Consultant Ophthalmologist assisted by 08 medical technocrats with latest and modern equipments and Hearing impaired CWSN were assessed by CREASOUL Hearing and SPEECH Clinic Budgam & Inclusive Education Team of CEO Kupwara wherein 40 students with Hearing impairment & 80 students with Visual impairment were assessed and recommended for supportive devices so as



enable them to continue their studies parallel to normal students for their happy and independent livelihood, strive and thrive for the society as well. The initiative of Education department for proper care and such steps for these special people of society was highly appreciated by the locals of area especially parents of CWSN.

Appropriate seating and heating arrangements were put in place by Principal GHSS Handwara & his supporting staff for smooth & successful Conduct of camp in extreme cold climate.

CEO Kupwara Abdul Majeed Dar & District Coordinator Javid

Wani told media that the Medical Assessment Camps shall continue throughout the District to assess such CWSN and recommend for supportive devices as required and shall be followed as per the calendar already circulated by this office for the benefit and betterment of special class of our student community and appealed parents / guardians of CWSN to bring their children at the designated venues accessible to them to avail this benefit.

The medical camp concluded in a pleasant atmosphere and all measures were taken for the safety of our special children.

Rashmika Mandanna finally opens up on Animal success

Rashmika Mandanna, who most recently portrayed the character of Geetanjali in the box-office super hit action-thriller *Animal*, has opened up on why she did not take "ownership" of her part in the film following its release.

The actress, who is shooting for an upcoming film, has penned a lengthy note, where she has talked about the massive success of the Ranbir Kapoor star vehicle.

The movie directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga is reported to have minted Rs 917 crore worldwide.

Rashmika shared how she wanted to take some time out and enjoy the phenomenal success of *Animal*, but she was back on the set of her new film, so she could not spare any time.

Sharing a monochrome mirror selfie, Rashmika posed for the lens hiding her face. She wrote: "Hi guys! Can't show my full face as it is a new film look, and I can't reveal it before my film team does, as always. But the



shoots are going really well — just wanted to let you all know." Reflecting on the chatter, Rashmika wrote: "Ok, here's the thing. 1: I know it comes from a place of love, concern,

and worry. We have delivered a massive film, and people loved it and appreciated it.

"I too wanted to take some time out to enjoy it, as every one of us wants to, but I was

back on set the next day of my film release (being the amazing workaholic that I am), and hence I was and am unable to do a lot of interviews or events out there. I am having to do these overnight travels for work, and I am shooting for some of the biggest and most intense films in my career.

"And as you'll know, I can't really reveal the look before my film teams do, and hence I am unable to take photos or post some posts or go live as per your or my wishes. And I know you'll be missing me and so am I, but I know for sure that when the films DO release, I know you'll all be super-duper happy, and it's all gonna be worth it!! (I personally CAN'T WAIT for those moments)."

Rashmika continued her heartfelt post by urging her fans: "Please be patient with me because you should know that I am doing my best, and I am happy doing so for all of you, myself, and my teams."

Well done!: Karisma Kapoor turns speaker at Harvard Business School



Karisma Kapoor was one of the speakers at the India Conference

at Harvard Business School in Boston, Massachusetts. Karisma

took to Instagram and expressed her happiness on receiving an opportunity to share her views at a session titled Soft Power of Bollywood at the renowned institute.

Interestingly, Karisma's sister and actor Kareena Kapoor marked a special "virtual" appearance at Karisma's session. "It was an absolute pleasure and honour to be a speaker at the India Conference at Harvard. Shout out to @kareenakapoor for joining us for an impromptu but insightful chat. Thank you to @sunnysandhu24 and team #HarvardIndia-Conference for being so wonderful. This was truly special," she wrote. She also shared a string of images from her session at Harvard.

'Kashi of the Himalayas' 2nd at Chitra Bharati Film Festival

'Kashi of the Himalayas', a documentary film by Shimla-based director Aman Sharma, has won the first runners-up prize in the 'Best Documentary Film' category in the Fifth Chitra Bharati Film Festival 2024 held at Indradhanush Auditorium in Panchkula, Haryana.

The director was presented a memento and Rs 50,000. The documentary has been written by Deeksha Katoch and edited by Alkesh Sonaji.

Aman said the festival was a medium to bring together talented artistes and producers of Indian cinema and honour their outstanding contributions.

"The documentary depicts the divine celebrations before Mahashivratri and devotion of people who believe in Lord Bhootnath, Madho Rai and the local deities of Mandi district," he added.

The documentary 'Next Stop Folk Music', co-directed by Ashwani Ranjan, Abhay Dubey, Kajal Kapoor and Anubhuti Mehta, was awarded the Best Documentary Award in the Professional Campus category. All four are the students of Department of Journalism



and Mass Communication at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamsala.

A total of 139 films helmed by Indian and foreign directors were screened in the three-day film festival. About 20 films from the state were sent to the festival. Three were shortlisted and screened during the festival.

The film festival was inaugurated by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, while renowned film directors Vivek Aghnhotri of "Kashmir Files" fame and Sudipto Sen of "The Kerala Story" fame were among those present.

Diljit Dosanjh, Parineeti Chopra-starrer 'Amar Singh Chamkila' biopic set for OTT release

The makers of Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra-starrer true story 'Amar Singh Chamkila' on Monday announced that the Imtiaz Ali directorial movie will be released on OTT on April 12.

The film charts the untold story of Punjab's original rockstar of the masses, the highest record-selling artist of his time, Amar Singh Chamkila, often referred to as the 'Elvis Presley of Punjab'.

Amar Singh Chamkila's music was heavily influenced by the Punjabi village life, and his songs revolved around extra-marital relationships, coming of age, drinking, drug use, and the hot tempers of Punjabi men.

The makers took to social media and shared a motion poster announcing the date of the movie.

In the snippet, Diljit, who plays the titular character, is saying,



"Ek baat to pata hai mujhe ki log kya sunna chahte hain, unhe kis chiz me maja ata hai. Wo mai kar sakta hun." (One thing I know is what people want to hear, what they enjoy the most. I can do that)

The post is captioned as,

'Maahaul bann jata tha jab vo chedta tha saaz, kuch aise hi tha Chamkila ka andaaz. @imtiazialiofficials #AmarSinghChamkila arriving on April 12, only on Netflix.'

Shot in real locations, the film promises to transport the audi-

ences to the vibrant and rhythmic world of Punjab's folk music, right to the rustic Akhadaas (live music performances in villages) where Chamkila's voice would once roar.

The film stars Parineeti as Amarjot, Chamkila's wife and singing partner.

Maestro AR Rahman is helming the music, and Irshad Kamil has penned the lyrics. Diljit and Parineeti have also lent their voices to some of the songs.

For the first time, the film will showcase live music recordings done on locations capturing the rawness and the exuberance of each moment as Diljit and Parineeti sing live in the Akhadaas.

The film is produced by Mohit Choudhary, Select Media Holdings LLP, Saregama, and Window Seat Films.

'Amar Singh Chamkila' will premiere on April 12 on Netflix.

'Oppenheimer,' Lily Gladstone win at 30th Screen Actors Guild Awards

'Oppenheimer' continued to steamroll through Hollywood's awards season on Saturday, winning the top prize for outstanding cast, along with awards for Cillian Murphy and Robert Downey Jr, at the 30th Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards.

As the Academy Awards draw closer, Christopher Nolan's blockbuster biopic — already a winner at the Golden Globes and the BAFTAs — has increasingly looked like the run-away favourite. The SAG Awards, one of the most telling Oscar predictors, will only add to the momentum for 'Oppenheimer', the lead Academy Awards nominee with 13 nods.

The SAG Awards were streamed live on Netflix, a first for a major Hollywood award show. That made for some significant tweaks to the age-old traditions of such ceremonies. There were no ads. Profanity was permitted. ("Don't say anything you wouldn't say in front of Oprah," said Idris Elba.) And winners were occasionally interviewed backstage by red-carpet co-host Tan France — sometimes awkwardly, sometimes charmingly. The SAG Awards don't always signify

Oscar success. Two of the last five winners from the guild ('The Trial of the Chicago 7' and 'Black Panther') lost at the Academy Awards. But in the past two years, all five of the top SAG prizes — best ensemble and the four acting winners — have corresponded with the eventual Oscar winners, including the ensembles for 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' and 'CODA'.

That could mean the SAGs offered an Oscar preview in two of the closest contests: best actor and best actress.

The night's most thrilling win went to Lily Gladstone for female actor in a leading role in Martin Scorsese's 'Killers of the Flower Moon'. No category has been more hotly contested, with analysts evenly split between Gladstone and Emma Stone for 'Poor Things'.

But Gladstone won on Saturday and the crowd erupted. Stone, too, stood and vigorously applauded. More is riding on Gladstone than perhaps any other Oscar contender this year. Her win would be a first for Native Americans.

"We bring empathy into a world that so much needs it," said



Gladstone.

"It's so easy to distance ourselves. It's so easy to close off, to stop feeling. And we all bravely keep feeling. And that humanises people. That brings people out of the shadows. It brings visibility."

Murphy and Paul Giamatti ('The Holdovers') have also been seen as in a neck-and-neck contest. But Murphy has now won at the SAGs, the BAFTAs and Globes, suggesting he has the clear edge heading into the Academy Awards.

Downey Jr and Da'Vine Joy Randolph each won for their supporting performances, likewise solidifying their status as Oscar favourites.

"Why me? Why now? Why do things seem to be going my way?" said

a dominant force for years in awards season, turned host, too.

"Personally, I can't wait to get home and have Netflix recommend this show to me based on all the other stuff that I watch myself in," joked Idris Elba, the night's de facto emcee.

The TV awards went largely to the same shows that have cleaned up at the Emmys and Golden Globes: 'The Bear' (best comedy series ensemble, Jeremy Allen White, Ayo Edebiri); 'Beef' (Ali Wong, Steven Yeun); and the cast of 'Succession'.

One exception was Pedro Pascal, who won best male actor in a drama series for 'The Last of Us' over a trio of 'Succession' stars.

"This is wrong for a number of reasons," said a visibly stunned Pascal. "I'm a little bit drunk. I thought I could get drunk."

This year's SAG Awards follows a grueling months-long strike in which the SAG-AFTRA union fought a bitter battle over a number of issues. Much of the work stoppage was prompted over changes in the film and TV industry brought on by streaming and a sea change led by Netflix.

Lost & found: Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies to be opening film at IFFM Summer Festival



Kiran Rao's directorial *Laapataa Ladies* has been selected as the opening film of the second edition of the IFFM Summer Festival.

The film will have its Australian premiere on February 29 at the festival ahead of its release on March 1, according to a statement.

Excited about the screening, Rao said, "It's a great honour for *Laapataa Ladies* (Lost Ladies) to be the opening film at IFFM. I am absolutely delighted and would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the

festival. I hope the Melbourne audience enjoys the film, and that I get to visit this great city in person soon!" The festival will take place from February 29 to March 2.

Festival director Mitu Bhowmik also shared her enthusiasm for the IFFM Summer Festival, stating, "This festival's summer edition this year will have *Laapataa Ladies* as an opening film, directed by the talented Kiran Rao. We are thrilled to kickstart our latest venture with Kiran's nuances film of layered human rela-

tionships, celebrates women and the unexpected complexities that life throws at us. This is our continued endeavour to have a widespread year-round celebration of Indian films Down Under and we are excited to have Kiran's remarkable film be the opening film of the summer edition of our festival."

Speaking of *Laapataa Ladies*, the film's story is set in 2001 in rural India about two young brides who get separated during a train journey.

PM Modi announces names of 4 astronauts for Gaganyaan mission at ISRO

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Feb 27 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced the names of the four astronauts who are undergoing training for the country's maiden human space flight mission, Gaganyaan.

The four astronauts are -- Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Angad Pratap, Ajit Krishnan, and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla, Modi said at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) at Thumba near here.

Bestowing 'astronaut wings' to them, the PM said they are four forces that encompass the aspirations of 1.4 billion people of the country.



After four decades, an Indian was poised to venture into space and "this time around the countdown, the timing, and even the rocket would be ours", he said.

The PM further said he was proud and happy that most components used in the Gaganyaan human flight mission are made in India. The PM also emphasised upon

the "important role" played by women in the country's space programme and said those like Chandrayaan--the moon mission and Gaganyaan would not be possible without their contribution and participation.

Modi also said India's success in the space sector was not only sowing the seeds of scientific temperament in the country's young generation, but was also helping in it emerge as a dynamic global player in the 21st century by showcasing significant developmental strides across various sectors.

The PM was at the VSSC to inaugurate three major technical facilities of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Delhi excise policy case: ED issues eighth summons to CM Arvind Kejriwal



NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has issued an eighth summons to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for questioning in the excise policy-linked money laundering case, officials said on Tuesday. The central agency, while issuing the eighth summon under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering

Act (PMLA), has asked him to appear before it on March 4.

Earlier on 26 February, the Delhi CM skipped the seventh summons issued to him in the case, saying he would appear before the agency if a court ordered him to do so.

A city court, approached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over Kejriwal skipping its summonses, has directed the chief minister to appear before it on March 16.

The ED, while issuing the eighth summons, rejected the contention that a fresh notice for Kejriwal's attendance was wrong as the matter was sub-judice.

Aam Aadmi Party spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar had said that the party replied to all the summons and that the investigative agency should have waited for the Court's verdict on the case. The party has repeatedly called the summons by the ED as illegal.

Maharashtra Congress leader Basavaraj Patil quits, to join BJP today

NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): Basavaraj Patil, working president of the Congress party, is set to join the BJP later on Tuesday, in the presence of state BJP president Chandrashekar Bavankule and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadanvis.

Patil met Devendra Fadanvis at his residence today morning.

Basavaraj Patil is a two-term MLA from the Ausa constituency. He has also been a prominent Lingayat leader from Marathwada region. He was a state minister in his first term. In 2019, Patil was defeated by BJP leader, Abhimanyu Pawar. Meanwhile, Congress



state chief Nana Patole denied the reports of Patil's resignation and said he did not receive any letter from Patil. "We have not received any resignation letter from Basavaraj Patil. He is a working president of the state Congress party,

but he has not attended any meetings for a long time," Patole said.

"He is not active in the party. We are also hearing the news from the media that he has quit the party, but he has not communicated with us," he added.

Bengal Governor's "72 Hours Or..." Deadline To Arrest Sandeshkhali Accused

KOLKATA, Feb 27 (Agencies): Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on Tuesday upped the pressure on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her government, declaring he will "shift base" to Sandeshkhali if Sheikh Shahjahan - the main accused in sexual assault and land grab allegations - is not arrested within 72 hours.

The time limit slashes that imposed by the Bengal government on itself - seven days.

"I have written to the state government and given a deadline of 72 hours for the arrest of the main culprit. I will shift my base to Sandeshkhali if the arrest is not made..." Mr Bose told agency.

The Governor has also demanded the state



prepare an action plan for the rehabilitation of Sandeshkhali women who have accused Shahjahan, a local Trinamool leader, of sexual assault.

The Bengal Governor spoke to NDTV last week too, and said "women in numbers" had met and told him of the harassment they faced. "They said they were molested, harassed, and intimidated... their husbands

were beaten up," he said, adding he had sent written complaints to the state government.

"I am very clear the government has to do justice. That is what expected of a government, nothing more, nothing less," he said, demanding "perceptible action" by the Chief Minister.

"I have made it clear this criminal has to be arrested. I am waiting

for the day..." he said earlier.

Mr Bose's ultimatum came after the Calcutta High Court responded to Trinamool MP Abhishek Banerjee's claim - the state can't arrest Shahjahan because the judiciary had "tied" the police's hands.

"I want to put this on record... Trinamool is not guarding Shahjahan. Judiciary is. Lift the stay and see what police does," he said, hitting back at such allegations by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party.

The court replied, in no uncertain terms, that Shahjahan "obviously needs to be arrested".

"We clarify there is no stay on arrest in any proceeding. There is only a first information report and he (Shahjahan) has been named

as an accused. He is absconding," the High Court Chief Justice said.

In response, senior Trinamool leader Kunal Ghosh declared the Sandeshkhali strongman will be arrested "within seven days". "Thanks to the High Court... for clarifying this matter..." he said on X.

Shahjahan is at the centre of a row that erupted on the island of Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district, where locals have accused him and his aides of land grab, extortion and harassment.

Allegations of sexual violence have also been made against Shahjahan, who went missing after a mob of his supporters attacked an Enforcement Directorate team last month.

Congress chief Kharge targets Centre, says Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 'election-inspired'

NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): Targeting the Centre for releasing an "election-inspired" Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Tuesday demanded a census be conducted soon for accurate information, insisting it should also incorporate a caste survey.

In a post on 'X' in Hindi, Kharge said that after 10 years of "deep sleep", the Modi government has finally come out with an "election-inspired" survey on public expenditure and income.

"The Modi government has made an unsuccessful attempt to pat itself on the back in the survey," he said.

"We have only one demand, for correct information, the Census of 2021 should be done

as soon as possible and a caste census should be a part of it. The Congress party will definitely get it done as soon as its government is formed," the Congress chief added.

Kharge said if everything in the country was so shiny as is being shown in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, why the poorest five per cent of rural India was spending only Rs 46 daily.

"Why did the poorest five per cent of families get the least benefit from government schemes - only Rs 68/month? Did the capitalist friends get the remaining benefits?"

"Why is the monthly income of farmers less than the average income of rural India? Why has the fuel expenditure of rural families reduced by only 1.5 per cent while the Modi government



continues to boast of the success of the Ujjwala scheme," the Congress leader asked.

"Citing the survey report, NITI Aayog officials are saying poverty in India is now only five per cent, but according to another report of the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index of the same NITI Aayog, the poverty figure is 11.28 per cent," Kharge said.

Noting that both the surveys are for 2022-23, he asked, "Why is

it not true that the Modi government admitted in a PIB press release that the Advisory Committee -? National Accounts Statistics rejected its suggestion of changing the base year of GDP to 2017-18 and why so?"

"Did the Modi government want to take electoral advantage of the GDP Base Year and hide the real facts," he added.

Kharge claimed that the surprising thing is that the nomination of this Household Consumption Expenditure Survey should have been the 69th Round or the 70th Round, but which round is this survey named after, that has deliberately been kept ambiguous. This has been done so that manipulation of data goes undetected, he alleged.

Shafiqur Rahman Barq, senior Samajwadi Party leader, dies at 94



NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): Senior Samajwadi Party leader, and MP from Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, Shafiqur Rahman Barq, died today. He was 94.

India's oldest MP in Parliament, Shafiqur Rahman Barq, died at a private hospital in Moradabad reportedly due to a kidney infection. He was weak and unwell for quite some time.

The Samajwadi Party, in a post on X, wrote, "The demise of senior Samajwadi Party leader and several-time MP Shafiqur Rahman Barq Sahab is extremely sad. May his soul rest in peace. May the bereaved family members get the strength to bear this immense sorrow. Heartfelt tribute!"

SP President Akhilesh Yadav also expressed grief over his death and offered his condolences to the bereaved family.

Born on July 11, 1930, Shafiqur Rehman Barq began his political career with former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh. He also served as the coordinator of the Babri Masjid Action Committee and was known for amplifying the voice of the Muslim community across the country.

He also worked closely with Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav at the time of the party's formation.

Barq, who has been a four-time MLA, was elected MP from Sambhal for the fifth time in 2019. Barq won the Muradabad Lok Sabha seat three times (1996, 1998, and 2004) and the Sambhal Lok Sabha seat twice (2009 and 2019) from SP.

He had also served as a cabinet minister in the Uttar Pradesh government and was elected as a legislator from the Sambhal seat four times. In 2022, he had his grandson, Ziaur Rahman Barq, elected as a legislator from the Muradabad seat.

In 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had praised Barq for his dedication, despite his age.

Rahul Gandhi should reconsider contesting from Wayanad: Brinda Karat

NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): Senior CPM leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Brinda Karat on Tuesday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should reconsider contesting from Wayanad and should find an alternative seat against the BJP.

"CPI has declared its candidate for the seat in Wayanad, Comrade Annie Raja, who has played a key role in 'Mahila andolan'. Now she will be the candidate from the side of the whole Left Democratic Front. Rahul Gandhi and Congress need to think, they say that their fight is against BJP," Karat said. She asked the Congress, "In Kerala,



if you come and fight against Left, what message are you giving? So they need to think about their seat once again."

The LDF is exerting pressure on Rahul to vacate Wayanad for CPI.

On way to board exams, four students killed in accident in UP's Shahjahanpur; 6 injured

SHAHJAHANPUR, Feb 27 (Agencies): Four students on the way to appear in Uttar Pradesh board examinations here were on Tuesday killed and six others injured when the vehicle they were travelling in lost control and hit a tree, police said.

The students were going to a school in Jaitipur in a car for the test, they said.

Police said the vehicle hit a tree and fell into a ditch near Jarawav village, Additional SP (City) Sanjay Kumar said.

Anurag Khushwaha (15), Anurag Srivastava (14), Pratishtha Mishra (15) died on the spot while one Mohini Maurya (16) died in the hospital, he said.

Six others who are injured are undergoing treatment at a medical college where their condition was stated to be stable.

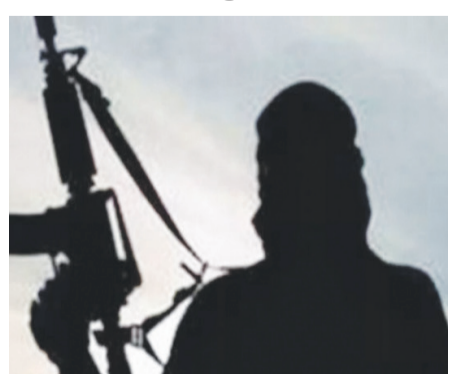
Four Naxalites killed in encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR, Feb 27 (Agencies): Four Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Tuesday, a senior police official said.

The face-off took place in a forest under Jangla police station area when separate teams of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were out on an anti-Naxal operation, he said.

When one of the patrolling teams of the DRG was near Chhote Tungali forest, the exchange of fire broke out, he said.

So far, bodies of four Naxalites have



been recovered from the encounter site, the official said, adding that search was still underway.

Israel ready to halt war in Gaza during Ramadan if hostage deal is reached: Biden

TEL AVIV, Feb 27 (Agencies): United States President Joe Biden said Israel would be willing to halt its war on Hamas in Gaza during the upcoming Muslim fasting month of Ramadan if a deal is reached to release some of the hostages held by the militants.

Negotiators from the US, Egypt and Qatar are working on a framework deal under which Hamas would free some of the dozens of hostages it holds, in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners and a six-week halt in fighting. During the temporary pause, negotiations would continue over the release of the remaining hostages.

There was no immediate Israeli reaction to Biden's comments, released for publication early Tuesday.

The start of Ramadan, around March 10, is seen as an unofficial deadline for a cease-fire



deal. The month is a time of heightened religious observance and dawn-to-dusk fasting for hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world.

Biden said Monday that he hopes a cease-fire deal could take effect by next week. During a pause, negotiations would continue over the release of the remaining hostages and the release of additional Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

"Ramadan's coming up and there has been an agreement by the Israelis that they would not engage in activities during Ramadan as well, in order to give us time to get all the hostages out," Biden said in an appearance on NBC's "Late Night With Seth Meyers." At the same time, Biden did not call for an end to the war, which was triggered by the deadly Hamas attack on southern Israel on

October 7.

He left open the door to an eventual Israeli ground offensive in the city of Rafah in southern Gaza, on the border with Egypt, where more than half of Gaza's population of 2.3 million has fled under Israeli evacuation orders.

The prospect of an invasion of Rafah has prompted global alarm over the fate of Gaza civilians trapped there. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said a ground operation in Rafah is an inevitable component of Israel's strategy for crushing Hamas.

Biden said Monday that he believes Israel has slowed its bombardment of Rafah. "They have to and they have made a commitment to me that they're going to see to it that there's an ability to evacuate significant portions of Rafah before they go and take out the remainder of Hamas ... but it's a process," he said.

5 China coast guard ships entered waters around Kinmen: Taiwan minister



TAIPEI, Feb 27 (Agencies): Five Chinese coast guard ships entered prohibited or restricted waters around Taiwan's front-line island of Kinmen on Monday, a Taiwan minister told reporters on Tuesday amid a rise in tension with Beijing. China's coast guard this month began

regular patrols around the Taiwan-controlled Kinmen islands, which are close to China's shores, after two Chinese nationals died trying to flee Taiwan's coast guard after their boat entered prohibited waters.

Kuan Bi-ling, head of Taiwan's Ocean Affairs Council, told reporters

the Chinese boats left the area shortly after Taiwan's coast guard told them to leave.

Democratically governed Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, has been wary of efforts by Beijing to ramp up pressure on Taipei following last month's election of Lai Ching-te as president, a man Beijing considers a "dangerous separatist".

Six Chinese coast guard officers last week boarded a Taiwanese tourist boat carrying 11 crew and 23 passengers to check its route plan, certificate and crew licences, leaving around half an hour later, Taiwan's coast guard said.

Pak election commission to hold open hearing of Imran Khan's party-backed SIC's plea on reserved seats' allocation

The decision was taken at a meeting of the top electoral body headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja.

ISLAMABAD, Feb 27 (Agencies): Pakistan's election commission will hold an open hearing on a petition by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party-backed Sunni Ittehad Council seeking the allocation of its share of reserved seats, a media report said on Tuesday.

Candidates of 71-year-old Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) fought as independents after the party could not directly participate in the February 8 elections due to the non-allotment of its iconic electoral symbol - the cricket bat.

To receive the PTI's share of reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies, the winning independent candidates backed by the party joined the rightwing Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) - an alliance of Islamic political and religious parties in the Muslim-majority country which represents followers of the school of Sunni Islam.

The Election Commission of Pakistan on Monday decided to hold an open hearing on the SIC's plea seeking allocation of the reserved seats on Tuesday, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the top electoral body headed by Chief Election Commissioner



Sikandar Sultan Raja. The development came shortly after President Dr Arif Alvi rejected a move to summon the first session of the newly elected National Assembly on February 29.

Alvi rejected the summary from the caretaker parliamentary affairs ministry on Monday and maintained that all reserved seats be allocated before the summoning of the session in which newly-elected members of the National Assembly will take oath, Geo News quoted sources as saying.

After the denial by Alvi - a close aide of PTI founder Khan and a former senior member of his party - National Assembly outgoing Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf decided to convene the lower house of parliament session on February 29.

The ECP will also hold a hearing of a petition filed by convener MQM-P (Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan) against the proposed allocation of

seats to the SIC.

PTI-backed independents won majority seats at the National Assembly in the February 8 general election.

However, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have agreed on a power-sharing deal to form a new coalition government, which may effectively end Khan's chances of returning to power.

Khan's party has rejected the attempts by the PMLN and the PPP to form a coalition government, warning that robbing its public endorsement by the "mandate thieves" will result in the worst political instability.

Independent candidates - a majority backed by the PTI party -- won 93 National Assembly seats.

The PML-N won 75 seats, while the PPP came third with 54 seats.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) has 17 seats.

Rat On Plane Grounds Sri Lanka Airline For 3 Days, Sparks Investor Concern

COLOMBO, Feb 27 (Agencies): Sri Lanka's national airline on Tuesday blamed a rat for grounding a plane for three days, sparking chaotic delays and fears it will scare off investors for the cash-strapped carrier. The stowaway rodent was spotted enjoying the SriLankan Airlines Airbus A330 flight from the Pakistani city of Lahore on Thursday, triggering an aircraft search to ensure it had not chewed through critical components.

An airline official said the plane has now resumed flights, but that the grounding had a knock-on effect on the entire schedule. "The aircraft was grounded for three days at Colombo," an airline official said, declining to be named. "The plane



could not be flown without making sure that the rat was accounted for. It was found dead."

The state-owned airline, which had accumulated losses of more than \$1.8 billion at the end of March 2023, has three other aircraft grounded for over a year out of a fleet of 23.

The carrier has no foreign exchange to pay for mandatory overhauling of the engines.

Aviation minister Nimal Siripala de Silva told reporters the errant rodent might scare off "the few investors" interested in taking over the debt-burdened airline. Successive govern-

ments have attempted to sell it without success. A previous government offered the airline for one dollar, but there were no takers.

The International Monetary Fund, which bailed out Sri Lanka last year with a \$2.9 billion loan spread over four years, has stressed that such

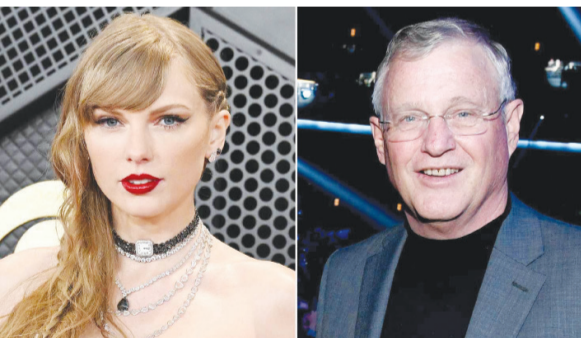
state-owned enterprises are a heavy burden on the national budget.

The airline was profitable until a management agreement with Emirates was scrapped in 2008, following a dispute with then-president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The carrier had refused to bump fare-paying passengers and give their seats to 35 members of Rajapaksa's family, who were returning from a holiday in London.

Ironically, one of the airline's most profitable years was in 2001, when the Tamil Tigers separatist movement destroyed several aircraft in an attack -- with the insurance payouts and the removal of excess capacity boosting its income.

Taylor Swift's Father Accused Of Assaulting Photographer In Australia



SYDNEY, Feb 27 (Agencies): Australian police said they were investigating a 71-year-old man for the alleged assault of a photographer in Sydney in the early hours of Tuesday. The accuser identified the man as Taylor Swift's father.

"Police have been

told a 71-year-old man allegedly assaulted a 51-year-old man at Neutral Bay Wharf about 2:30 am (1530 GMT Monday), before leaving the location," police spokeswoman Alicia McCumstie told agency. "The younger man reported the incident and inquiries are now

under way by officers attached to North Shore Police Area Command."

The alleged victim, Ben McDonald, told agency the man was Swift's dad, Scott Swift. McDonald said he had been photographing the US pop icon on a "super yacht" in Sydney Harbour after the last of her four gigs in the city.

McDonald alleges Swift's security put an umbrella in his face to prevent him from taking photographs of Taylor Swift, who was walking down the jetty to a waiting vehicle.

After Swift departed, McDonald claimed a man confronted him and

"he punched me in the chops".

"I didn't know who he was, but I looked at photos and saw him holding hands with Taylor, and it was her dad."

"It was a shock. That's never happened to me in 26 years," he said.

Australian police do not usually publicly identify people accused or alleging crimes.

Taylor Swift is currently in the midst of her worldwide blockbuster Eras Tour.

She heads to Singapore this week for the next leg of what is expected to be the highest-grossing musical

tour of all time at over \$1 billion, according to Pollstar.

A spokesperson for Taylor Swift has accused two unnamed individuals of pushing, grabbing and threatening behaviour at the time a photographer was allegedly assaulted by the star's father in Sydney early on Tuesday.

"Two individuals were aggressively pushing their way towards Taylor, grabbing at her security personnel, and threatening to throw a female staff member into the water," the spokesperson told agency.

Mark Zuckerberg's "10/10" Rating For McDonald's In Japan

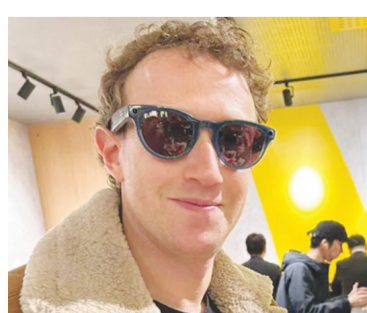
TOKYO, Feb 27 (Agencies): He may be the world's fourth-richest person and visiting gourmet paradise Japan, but Mark Zuckerberg is eating McDonald's, according to photos posted on Tuesday by the Meta chief.

"Japanese McDonald's: 10/10. Give these guys a Michelin star," the 39-year-old said on Facebook and Instagram, alongside photos of himself in sunglasses eating a burger and of his wife Priscilla Chan outside the golden arches.

Seen on Zuckerberg's packed tray were popular Japanese menu items including a shrimp-patty burger, a teriyaki chicken burger, edamame bean salad and bite-sized churros -- along with the more usual chicken nuggets and fries.

Zuckerberg was in Japan with his family for a trip mixing pleasure -- including skiing and making Japanese swords -- and business.

After reportedly meeting with Facebook developers in Tokyo on Monday and Tuesday, Zuck-



erberg was set to travel to South Korea and then India for the wedding of a billionaire's son.

In Seoul Zuckerberg is expected to hold meetings with Presi-

dent Yoon Suk Yeol and leaders of tech titans Samsung and LG, according to South Korean media.

He will also meet the CEO of LG Electronics to discuss the development of a mixed-reality headset to compete with Apple's Vision Pro, the Korea Economic Daily reported.

Meta, Google and others have invested billions of dollars in Reliance's digital unit Jio Platforms as it seeks to take on Amazon and Walmart in India's vast e-commerce market.

Japan's birth rate hits record low for 8th consecutive year



TOKYO, Feb 27 (Agencies): The number of babies born in Japan fell for an eighth consecutive year

to a record low in 2023, preliminary government data showed on Tuesday, underscoring the daunting task the

country faces in trying to stem depopulation.

The number of births fell 5.1 per cent from a year earlier to 758,631, while the number of marriages slid 5.9 per cent to 489,281 - marking the first time in 90 years the number fell below 500,000 - foreboding a further decline in the population as out-of-wedlock births are rare in Japan.

GDCW Kathua showcases Role of Home Science in Entrepreneurship Development

Top News Report

GDCW Kathua showcases Role of Home Science in Entrepreneurship Development

KATHUA, Feb 27: In an effort to promote and inculcate skills among students, Department of Home Science, Government Degree College For Women, Kathua, in collaboration with IQAC and IIC, has taken an initiative to organize an Entrepreneurship Development event in the college premises on Tuesday.

Dr. Deepti Salotra, Assistant Professor in Home Science aware the students of different streams about Home Science education that it provides different skills, lifelong teaching for self-development, employment and income



earning opportunities in different areas of Home Science.

Under this event, Home Science students have displayed different mouthwatering food stalls, diet for BP patients and for Diabetic patients, Best out of waste items, handcrafted products and many more that covers different branches of Home Science, with the aim

that hone their entrepreneurial skills.

The programme was organized under the esteemed patronage of Dr. Inderjeet Kour, Incharge Principal of the college. She expressed her enthusiasm for the event, stating that it's a platform that instills entrepreneurial skills in our students, preparing them for real-world challenges. She also encouraged

the students to participate in all such events where they are groomed to keep up with the spirit of entrepreneurship and 'Earn while they Learn'. She commended the Home Science Department for their efforts in fostering holistic education. The event was graced by Prof. Ashwani Khajuria, Dr. Babita Mahajan, Dr. Rachna Devi, Prof. Romika Bassin, Prof. Yash Paul, Dr. Deep-

shikha, Dr. Ambica, Dr. Karam Chand, Dr. Surbhi Gupta, Dr. Kamini Kapoor, Dr. Mukesh Kumari, Dr. Surekha Rani, Dr. Usha Kiran and Dr Rohit Kumar.

Dr. Deepti Salotra, Head of the Department of Home Science, emphasized the educational significance of the event, saying, "Our department is committed to providing a well-rounded education to our students and this event is a testament to our commitment." She concluded the event with a vote of thanks to the chair and all the participants present over there."

DYSP, SHO, and Entrepreneur Applaud Sahaj Sabharwal's Literary Brilliance at His Residence in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Davinder Singh Bandral (DYSP), Kanuj Gupta (Entrepreneur), and Rakesh Singh Jamwal (SHO) visited Sahaj Sabharwal's residence at Pacca Danga, Jammu

Sahaj Sabharwal presented his latest literary masterpiece, "ANECDOTE-A Multi-Category Content Book," captivating the esteemed guests with his creative brilliance. The event featured the appreciation of Sahaj's



impactful "Balatkar- Rap Song (Against Rape)," and the guests actively endorsed and recommended his book to the youth.

Sahaj Sabharwal, the versatile writer, singer, and rapper from Jammu, received commendation from Mr. Davinder Singh Bandral (DYSP), Mr. Rakesh Singh Jamwal, SHO (Station House Officer), and Mr. Kanuj Gupta (Entrepreneur) at his residence during a high tea cum book review gathering.

During the interaction, Sahaj shared insights into his educational journey, hobbies, and the diverse content of his books with Mr. Rakesh Singh Jamwal, SHO. The SHO was informed about Sahaj's awards at the State, National, and International levels for his poetical and social works.

Sahaj emphasized his commitment to spreading awareness through his writings, encompassing motivational thoughts and addressing social issues. His poetic collection, "Poems by Sahaj Sabharwal," and his second published book, "Pedagogical Thoughts Made Facts," were discussed, shedding light on vari-

ous topics, including success, failure, motivation, and critical social issues like offenses of rape and cybercrime. And the latest published book ANECDOTE was reviewed and recommended by the officers. Davinder Singh Bandral and Kanuj Gupta greeted and congratulated Sahaj Sabharwal's family members for having Sahaj as the prodigy of his family.

Rakesh Singh Jamwal, expressed deep appreciation for Sahaj Sabharwal's accomplishments, highlighting him as a source of inspiration. The SHO urged readers, especially the youth, to support Sahaj's hard work by purchasing and reviewing his books. Online platforms like Amazon offer convenient access to Sahaj's literary creations, available in Kindle editions.

Sahaj Sabharwal's books, showcasing his multifaceted talent, are not only a literary treat but also an insightful journey into societal concerns. The guests collectively wished Sahaj continued success, expressing confidence in his potential to achieve even greater heights in the future.

Relief Commissioner (M) reviews arrangements for Maha Shivratri Festival

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: A meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation (M) J&K to review the necessary arrangements for Annual Maha Shivratri Festival, falling on 07/08th of March 2024.

The officers from Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Fisheries, Floriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Jal Shakti, Jammu Municipal Corporation and representatives from District Administration attended the meeting.

The chair highlighted the importance of Maha Shivratri Festival, par-

ticularly for the Kashmiri Pandit community and requested the District Administration to constitute checking squads to monitor the quality and the rates of the essential commodities like Flowers, Pooja items, Mutton, Fish, Vegetables, Milk products etc.

The Floriculture Department assured the supply of flowers especially Bael/ Bael leaves and Marigold to all the migrant camps viz. Jagti, Muthi, Purkhoo and Nagrota and Non Camps areas where Kashmiri Pandits have a sizeable population viz Durga Nagar, Roop Nagar, Janipur Colony, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Gangyal, Subash Nagar, Muthi, Udhaywa-

la, Talab Tillo etc. during the festival days.

The Department of Horticulture assured supply of good quality walnuts, green vegetables, especially Nadru, etc in all the migrant camps and non camps areas during the festival days on approved rates.

The Department of FCS&CA assured smooth supply of all quality food items in camps and non camp areas.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation assured arrangements of cleanliness in the areas falling within the municipal limits.

The Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu assured adequate supply of mutton

at reasonable rates in close coordination with Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The Department of Fisheries assured supply of adequate quantities of fish in all the migrant camps and prominent non camps areas.

The participants assured that all the necessary arrangements will be in place well in advance to facilitate smooth celebration of Maha Shivratri festival.

Chief Engineer, JPDCL and Chief Engineer, PHE Department, was requested to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supply in all the migrant camps and non camps areas during the festival days

CUJ faculty admitted as Fellow of The Royal Society of Chemistry

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Prof. V. Sridharan, Head, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) has been admitted as a Fellow of The Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) in February 2024.

Prof. Sridharan is a Synthetic Organic Chemist, who is working on the development of novel multi-bond forming reactions including nucleopalladation initiated cascade reactions to access complex carbo- and heterocyclic compounds of biological relevance and exploring the mechanistic aspects of these transformations.

Prof. Sridharan has received several research projects from funding agencies including DST, SERB, CSIR, DRDO and JKST&IC and published his research results in over 120 well-reputed international journals of



high-impact.

The Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences has recently received DST-FIST grant of Rs. 2.43 cores, where Prof. Sridharan was the Coordinator of the project.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu congratulated Prof. Sridharan for this recognition.

Prof. Sridharan acknowledged the exceptional support and initiatives taken by Prof. Sanjeev Jain for the promotion of research activities at CU Jammu, particularly for the development of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences.

FROM PAGE 1

PM Modi likely to visit Kashmir in March, to address public rally in Anantnag

that the party's Kashmir unit has urged the PM to address a rally in Srinagar as well. "However, there was no final decision on this," he said, adding that PM Modi will arrive in Kashmir any time between March 7 and March 15. "Final date will be announced shortly," he said.

This will be the second visit by PM Modi to J&K since February 20, the day he addressed a massive public rally in Jammu where he also inaugurated projects worth Rs 32000 crore.

Govt directs H&UDD to frame another expert committee to probe alleged loss to exchequer by then Director ULB Kashmir

thus, the aspect of loss, if any, caused to the Government exchequer.

As such, the GAD has directed the H&UDD to constitute another expert committee, consisting of officers/officials who are technically sound, well-versed with the domain and competent enough, for examining the aspect of loss in the matter.

The committee so constituted afresh shall submit an explicit report to the H&UDD so that the Department shall further examine/ consider the issue for taking appropriate action and submit ATR to the GAD.

Notably Housing & Urban Development Department has registered a case FIR No. 13/2020 at Police Station Anti-Corruption Bureau Srinagar U/S 5 (1) (d) r/w 5(2) of J&K PC Act Svt. 2006 and section 120-B RPC against Shameem Ahmad Leharwal, the then Director of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir.

On 10.09.2020 a case FIR No. 13/2020 PS Anti-Corruption Bureau Srinagar U/S 5 (1) (d) r/w 5(2) of J&K PC Act Svt. 2006 and section 120-B RPC against Shameem Ahmad Leharwal, the then Director of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir and beneficiaries on basis of preliminary enquiry (PE) conducted by Anti-Corruption Bureau to look into the allegations of embezzlement, irregularities and misuse of power by former Director Urban Local Bodies, Shameem Ahmad Leharwal. It was alleged that he purchased furniture, fixtures for newly constructed office at Bemina on exorbitant rates. It was further alleged that he, by abuse of his official position in lieu of pecuniary benefits, placed four Junior Secretaries as Incharge Executive Officers and suspended five Executive Officers and two Junior Engineers which was beyond his competence etc.

The PE conducted has revealed that pursuant to auction notice No. MC/BUD/2011-12/1330-33 dated 17.02.2012 of Executive Officer MC Budgam for outstanding of Adda fee/Entry fee contract for the year 2012-13, highest bid of Rs. 35.00 lacs among 34 bidders was received. However, as the highest bidders did not show interest to take contract, the EO recommended for extending contract to the second highest bidder for Rs. 26.00 lacs. The then Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Shameem Ahmad Leharwal without any cogent reasons, rejected the recommendations of Executive Officer for awarding the contract in favor of second lowest tenderer. He, used to confer undue benefits upon the contractor, shifted the bid venue to Srinagar and allotted the contract in favor of one Ali Mohammad Sheikh S/o Ghulam Rasool Sheikh R/o Budgam for Rs. 18.39 lacs only, after getting it re-auctioned.

The PE conducted has further revealed that the person in question during his tenure as Director ULB Kashmir, purchased furniture, fixtures, khatambands, etc worth Rs. 52.00 lacs approximately without any tendering, without prior concurrence of Finance Department or approval of Administrative in violation to then prevailing norms. The purchases made were on

highly exorbitant rates.

It has also been found that the said Director ULB Kashmir diverted funds to the tune of Rs 15.00 lacs meant for up gradation of Urban infrastructure. The funds were meant for construction of lanes and drains under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Instead of spending the amount under budget ahead, he is incomplete disregard to the guidelines of the scheme., spent it on computer networking system of Directorate of ULB at Bemina.

It was also alleged that Shameem Ahmad Leharwal while being Director ULB Kashmir, suspended many Junior Engineers and Executive Officers and reinstated them against pecuniary considerations. Also in lieu of pecuniary gains, he, by abuse of his official position placed four Junior Secretaries namely Javid Ahmad Mir, Farooq Ahmad Malik, Gowhar Ali Tugo and Ghulam Hassan Mir as In-charge Executive Officers in complete disregard to the seniority list.

MHA orders posting of IAS, IPS officers to J&K

repatriation from Central deputation, Chandraker Bharti is hereby posted to Jammu & Kashmir with immediate effect and until further orders," read an order issued by the MHA.

Another order reads, "Consequent upon repatriation from Central deputation, Tejinder Singh is hereby posted to Jammu & Kashmir with immediate effect and until further orders."

MeT issues advisory in Kashmir amid heavy snowfall forecast

The weather activity may lead to disruption of surface and air transport including Jammu-Srinagar national highway and other major roads of middle & higher reaches of J&K.

It asked the people in snow bound areas to avoid venturing into sloppy and Avalanche prone areas.

"Chances of landslides, mudslides & shooting stones most likely over the vulnerable areas. Farmers are advised to withhold all farm operations during 1st week of March," it added.

Lok Sabha polls: Decision on seat sharing with INDIA alliance soon, says Farooq Abdullah

& Kashmir. "It is a surprise that government is going to hold Parliamentary elections but at the same time delaying Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Security review meeting held in Ramban

in tandem for strengthening the security grid in the district and adjoining areas and enhance vigil on elements inimical to peace.

Freight train runs driverless for 75 km in J&K: Probe suggests driver, station master at fault

coach). The report said that at 5:20 am, the control room told the station master to tell the driver to take the train to Jammu but the driver refused as the train didn't have any guard's coach as well as a guard.

The control room, as per the report, asked the driver to shut down the train, be relieved of his duties and take a train to go to Jammu. The driver handed over the keys to the station master around 6 am and left for Jammu.

The report suggested that the train remained unmanned from 6 am to 7:10 am before it started moving on its own due to a down gradient.

Experts say that as per the norm the station master is supposed to give in writing to the loco pilot to leave the train unmanned but in this case, as per the report, it was not done. The loco pilot also didn't make any entry in the load stabilizing register or put his sign there, the report said.

According to reports, the Divisional Railway Manager of the Firozpur division, under which the Kathua-Jammu Tavi section comes, has suspended six railway officials based on the preliminary probe and ordered a detailed investigation. When contacted, Shoban Chaudhari, General Manager, Northern Railway (NR), told agency, "At the moment I cannot make any statement regarding actions being taken against the officials since further probe is on." According to an official railway communication, the driverless train ran at 70 to 75 km/h, crossed eight to nine stations and covered 75 km before it was stopped at Uchi Bassi by putting obstructions such as sand and wooden blocks on the track.

RTO Kashmir Shifts office to Bemina

essential services as much as possible during the transition period," he added. He added that, in light of the relocation, people are advised to anticipate possible delays in accessing RTO services during the transition phase.

Amnesty Scheme for domestic power consumers extended

outstanding dues within the prescribed 12 months period shall invite penalty and legal action against the defaulter consumer. No power amnesty scheme shall be considered in future. The Department shall appraise the FD, on monthly basis of the recoveries made under the scheme. The Department JPDCL and KDPCL will vigorously implement loss reduction, Metering and energy audit measures to lower the ATC losses as per the trajectory committed to MHA/MOF.

J&K team shines in National Ju-Jitsu C'ship 2023-24

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: In a remarkable display of skill and determination, the contingent from Jammu and Kashmir made their mark in National Ju-Jitsu Championship 2023-24 (U-21, Adults, Masters & Para) at Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The team secured a total of 5 Gold, 3 Silver, and 6 Bronze medals, showcasing their power on the national stage.

The medal winners from Jammu and Kashmir showcased exceptional talent and commitment throughout the tournament.



Leading the charge with outstanding performances were Koushal Garg, Rajan Bhardwaj, Rajesh Singh, Anirudh Verma, Mohit Singh & Subqat Malik who all clinched the coveted Gold medals.

Their dedication and skill were evident as they outperformed their opponents with finesse and precision.

Adding to the glory were Rudrakshit Gupta & Harshita Singh who secured Silver medals,

contributing significantly to the state's medal tally. Additionally, the bronze medals were clinched by Ravinder Kumar Mukherji, Amina Bano, Ina Dhar, Suresh Kumar & Mohd Owais further solidifying Jammu and Kashmir's impressive performance at the championship.

The team was accompanied by Danish Sharma, Harsh Vardhan Raina, Farooq Malik (National Ju-Jitsu Referees), Muzaffar Ahmed (Team Coach).

The triumph at the U-21, Adults, Masters & Para National Ju-Jitsu Championship 2023-24

not only highlights the exceptional talent present in the region but also serves as a testament to the relentless efforts put in by the athletes, coaches, and officials.

Amidst the jubilant celebrations, Tarsem Sharma (CEO - Ju-Jitsu J&K) extended his heartfelt congratulations to the entire team, coaches, and officials for their outstanding performance. He also emphasized the significance of their achievement in bringing laurels to Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated his belief in the potential of the athletes to excel at the national level.

Akshith Chawla clinches Champion of Champion title

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Jammu and Kashmir Body Building and Fitness Championship, organised by Body Building Association of Jammu and Kashmir (BBAJK) in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, concluded at A V Resort Sainik Colony, here.

About 70 body builders participated in different categories. The championship was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Raman Bhalla, Ex-Minister by illuminating the traditional lamp along with Dr. Ashutosh Sharma President of J&K Olympic Association, Arun Kumar Sharma President BBAJK, Rajesh Dutta, Surinder Singh Kala, Vinay Sharma, Parveen Singh Lucky, were also present.

Raman Bhalla lauded the performance of BBAJK for winning various medals in the national and international



levels. He asked the youth to stay away from the drug by raising slogans "Say No to Drugs" and be a part of nation building.

Ashutosh Sharma congratulated the members of the BBAJK especially Rajesh Dutta for his efforts to engage the youth of UT making them healthy and shunning the path of bad habits and use of drugs. Rajesh Dutta appreciated the role of BBAJK for providing a platform to young and budding body builders to perform the different level of competition within and outside in Union

Territory. Surinder Singh Kala Narwal Mandi President and Parveen Singh Lucky were the Guests of Honour.

Nareish Gupta, Vinay Sharma, Sanjay Bali, Dr. Amar Singh Sudan, Brij Mohan, Sahil Mehra, Yogatvam Gupta, Noor Mohd. (Principal Doon Kids School), Rahul Bakshi, Sachin Singh, Anju Singh were among officials who were present during the event.

Nand Kishore, Vimal Jit, Mohd. Javed, J. P. Singh were among the prominent who judged the event.

Nissan Formula E Team announces partnership with Coral Eyewear

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Feb 27: Nissan Formula E Team on Tuesday announced its affiliation with sunglasses and apparel company Coral Eyewear, on a multi-year deal.

The partnership will see Coral Eyewear supply its distinctive products, crafted using recycled plastic and plant-based materials, to all Nissan Formula E Team members throughout the 2023/24 campaign and beyond. In addition, the marque will release special edition Nissan Formula E Team sunglasses, decorated with team colors and logos, ahead of the inaugural Tokyo E-Prix at the end of March.

Coral Eyewear is a natural partner for Nissan Formula E



Team, as both brands share a commitment to sustainability while never compromising on quality. This collaboration will also allow the Japanese squad and its drivers Oliver Rowland and Sacha Fenestraz to harness the exposure that the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship generates, to promote sustainable fashion to audiences around the world.

Tommaso Volpe, managing director and team

principal, Nissan Formula E Team said: "I'm delighted to begin this partnership with Coral Eyewear. Their mission aligns perfectly with the values of our team and Formula E as a whole, as we both seek to promote planet-friendly solutions and show the world that sustainability does not mean that quality needs to be sacrificed. I look forward to working with Coral Eyewear to achieve our shared goals over the coming years."

Samsung's PC Lineup Galaxy Book4 Series goes on sale in India

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Samsung Galaxy Book4 series, the most intelligent PC lineup with Galaxy Book4 Pro 360, Galaxy Book4 Pro and Galaxy Book4 360, will go on sale in India starting today.

Galaxy Book4 series comes with a new intelligent processor, a more vivid and interactive display and a robust security system — beginning a new era of AI PCs that offer ultimate productivity, mobility and connectivity. These enhance-

ments not only improve the device but also elevate the entire Samsung Galaxy ecosystem, advancing the PC category and accelerating Samsung's vision of AI innovation — for today and tomorrow.

Bringing next level connectivity, mobility and productivity, the Galaxy Book4 series redefines how users interact with their PCs, smartphones, tablets, and other devices, delivering truly connected and intelligent experiences. It is completely interactive with optimized and

familiar touch-based user interface, just like the experience on your smartphone or tablet.

Featuring an intelligent processor for powerful performance, the Galaxy Book4 series has a new Intel® Core™ Ultra 7/Ultra5 processor that combines a faster central processing unit (CPU), a higher-performance graphics processing unit (GPU) and a newly added neural processing unit (NPU). Talking AI capabilities to the next level, the Galaxy Book4 series features Intel's industry-

first AI PC Acceleration program to boost productivity.

The Galaxy Book4 series offers a stunning and interactive display with its Dynamic AMOLED 2X display assuring clear contrast and vivid colour, whether indoors or outdoors. Its Vision Booster uses an Intelligent Outdoor Algorithm to automatically enhance visibility and colour reproduction in bright conditions, while anti-reflective technology reduces distracting reflections.

The sound quality is

equally top-notch with AKG Quad speakers with Dolby Atmos® delivering high octaves and rich bass for clear and crisp sound. All the exceptional features are packaged in this next generation of intelligent PC, which also has a robust security system.

A testament to Samsung's vision of AI-powered innovation, the Galaxy Book4 series is designed to empower people with higher levels of productivity while exploring new possibilities to enhance their quality of life.

Skoda Auto announces all-new compact SUV for India

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Skoda Auto India is not taking its foot off the accelerator pedal when it comes to the Indian market. In its third major product offensive after the Kushaq and the Slavia, the company announced plans for an all-new compact SUV that will debut in India in the first half of 2025.

Speaking on the announcement, Klaus Zellmer, CEO, Skoda Auto a.s., said, "India is crucial to the global growth of Skoda Auto, both because of its own market strength and as a development and manufacturing base for our expansion in new markets including Asean and the Middle East. We have more than doubled sales in India since 2021 and we are now taking the next step by further expanding the range of models designed for customers in India and internationally. The all-new compact SUV due in 2025 will add an important segment for customers. I'm confident the expanding Skoda portfolio will contribute to our India growth target of achieving a market share for the Volkswagen family of brands of around 5 percent by 2030."

The MQB-A0-IN platform, debuting with the Skoda Kushaq in 2021, formed the crux of Skoda Auto India's



strategy. It was developed jointly by teams in India and the Czech Republic with a focus on high localisation, low cost of ownership, and quick turnaround times. It is the first platform developed by the company outside of Europe and tailored for the Indian market.

Speaking on the product action, Dr Johannes Neft, Member of the Board of Management for Technical Development, Skoda Auto a.s., said, "The MQB-A0-IN platform we developed and localised specifically in India for India has incredible technical prowess, is very versatile and is ready for the world. The Kushaq and Slavia are based on this platform, and it is fulfilling to see that they have played an integral part in the growing focus on building safer cars in India. The new compact SUV will also be built on this platform and will carry forward the same Skoda DNA of superior

driving dynamics, integral safety and proven quality."

Speaking on the all-new product announcement, Martin Jahn, Member of the Board of Management for Sales & Marketing, Skoda Auto a.s., said, "The Skoda brand has taken big strides globally. In 2023, we have grown by 18.5% compared to 2022. India is a key market for our growth, and we have just crossed the 100,000 sales mark over the last two years — thanks to the locally developed and produced Kushaq and Slavia models. With the all-new compact SUV, we are underlining our commitment to India and its importance to our internationalisation plans. Together with the Kushaq and the Kodiaq, we will have an even better SUV portfolio for India, which is a key segment that contributes over 50% to all vehicle sales in the market."

Reliance Foundation announces Vantara - a comprehensive animal rescue & rehab programme

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation have announced the launch of their Vantara (Star of the Forest) programme, an umbrella initiative to focus on rescue, treatment, care and rehabilitation of injured, abused and threatened animals, both in India and abroad. Spread over 3000 acres within the Green Belt of Reliance's Jamnagar Refinery Complex in Gujarat, Vantara aims to be one of the leading contributors to conservation efforts globally.

By working with leading experts in animal care and welfare, Vantara has converted a sprawling 3000-acre space into a jungle-like environment that mimics the natural, enriching, lush and verdant habitat for the rescued species to thrive in.

The Vantara initiative, the first of its kind in India, has been conceptualised and birthed under the passionate leadership of Shri Anant Ambani, Director on the boards of RIL

and Reliance Foundation. Shri Ambani is also spearheading Reliance's ambitious renewable energy business in Jamnagar, and, in that capacity, is responsible for leading Reliance's journey to become a Net Carbon Zero company by 2035.

Vantara is focused on creating best-in-class animal conservation and care practices including state-of-the-art healthcare, hospitals, research and academic centres.

Within its programmes, Vantara also focuses on integrating advanced research and collaboration with reputed international universities and organisations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF).

Over the last few years, the programme has rescued more than 200 elephants, and thousands of other animals, reptiles and birds from unsafe situations. It has undertaken initiatives in key species including rhino, leopard and crocodile rehabilitation.

Of late, Vantara has also taken part in foreign rescue missions in countries like Mexico, Venezuela etc. It recently brought in several big animals answering a call from Central American zoo authorities.

All such rescue and rehabilitation missions are undertaken under strict legal and regulatory frameworks in India and internationally.

Speaking at the occasion, Anant Ambani said, "What started as a passion for me at a very young age has become a mission now with Vantara and our brilliant and committed team. We are focused at protecting critically endangered species native to India. We also want to restore vital habitats and address urgent threats to species and establish Vantara as a leading-edge conservation programme. We are delighted that our efforts have been recognised in India and internationally. Some of India's and the world's top zoological and medical experts have joined our mission and we have been

blest to receive active collaborations and guidance of government bodies, research and educational institutions. Vantara aims to partner with the Zoo Authority of India and other relevant government organisations in improving all the 150-plus zoos in India in terms of training, capacity building and animal care infrastructure.

We hope Vantara becomes a beacon of hope globally and can showcase how a forward-thinking institution can help the global biodiversity conservation initiatives."

Explaining the philosophy that inspired him to establish Vantara, Shri Ambani says: "Vantara is a combination of the age-old ethical value of compassion with the excellence of modern scientific and technological professionalism. I see Jeev Seva (animal care) as a seva towards the almighty as well as humanity."

Vantara has a centre for elephants and facilities for several other large and small species including lions and tigers, crocodiles, leopards, etc.

KDP Wing of DPAP highlights demands of displaced people

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: In a joint statement issued by the KDP Wing leaders of DPAP through its President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, and Naveen Gosani Youth President have put forth the earnest demands for consideration by the Govt. and Relief, Rehabilitation Commissioner.

The Ration on payment at free sale rates to low paid employees, pensioners and daily wagers has been stopped which is requested to be supplied to these categories of migrants especially in view of the Shiv Ratri Festival besides floor Atta stands stopped to Relief Holders since last six months which is demanded to be released as there is

highest rate of diabetic patients among migrants who are dependent on floor meals only and are not able to purchase the same on highest market rates.

In view of the Coming Festival Maha Shiv Ratri the leaders demand that the Ration of March and Cash Assistance be released during February in advance with supply of three Kgs Sugar per family. The Food and Supplies Department and other concerned departments are requested to frequently visit Camps w.e.f. 28.02.24 to 08.03.2024 with flying squad to check the quality, rate control of commodities vegetables, meat, milk products required during the Festival of Shiv Ratri and special arrangements of walnut supply by Horticulture Depart-

ment requires to made in Camps in advance and not on the day of Shiv Ratri.

The Leaders have appealed the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner to issue instructions to the concerned Authorities for ensuring proper water/power supply, sanitation,

deployment of police during Festive period of Shiv Ratri with deployment of a Nodel Officer to monitor the availability of regular water, power supply in all Camps including other required facilities.

The Concerned Authorities are requested to make all other

arrangements for ensuring smooth celebration of Shiv Ratri Festival. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner is appealed to direct concerned for ensuring two times water supply for the festival three days enabling all camp inmates to avail fresh water for Pooja Days.

GDC Udhamapur inaugurates Week long NSS Winter Camp

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 27: NSS Units of the college Inaugurates Week long NSS Winter Camp in Conference Hall under the Patronship of Principal Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta and in Supervision of NSS Programme Officers Dr. Gurpreet Kaur and Prof. Sanjeet Singh.

NSS volunteer Ambica held the proceedings of the programme by Lighting of traditional lamp by Principal Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta,

NSS Programme Officers Dr. Gurpreet Kaur and Prof. Sanjeet Singh and senior NSS Volunteers.

It was followed by a Welcome address by Prof. Sanjeet then a Key note address was delivered by Dr. Gurpreet Kaur about the aim of the said camp and gave detailed information about the activities to be done in the upcoming week.

While addressing the Volunteers Principal Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta said that NSS needs to inculcate social values in youth so as to

create a healthy society. He also lay stress on to develop a sense of Social and civic responsibility among volunteer so as to utilize their knowledge in finding solution to community problems.

The Volunteers took great initiative in the event and in all 50 Volunteers were present.

Prof. Sanjeet Singh tendered the vote of thanks, where he also apprised all about the continuous organizing of such events in the college. The programme was concluded with National Anthem.

'Looking forward to getting back on my feet', says India pacer Mohammed Shami after undergoing ankle surgery; set to miss IPL

The development raises question mark about injury rehabilitation management programme planned by National Cricket Academy for Shami

NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): Senior India pacer Mohammed Shami has undergone a successful surgery on his left achilles tendon, which rules him out of next month's Indian Premier League and possibly the T20 World Cup in June.

The 33-year-old, who last played for India in the ODI World Cup final against Australia on November 19, went under the knife in London on Monday.

Shami, who is eager to "get back on my feet soon" stares at a recovery time of a minimum of three months. He will thus miss the IPL slated to be played from March 22 to May 26, as reported by agency last week.

Shami is also a doubtful starter for the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA.

"Just had a successful heel operation on my achilles tendon! Recovery is going to take some time, but looking forward to getting back on my feet," Shami tweeted, along with several pictures of him in the hospital, on



X on Monday.

Shami, who was one of the architects of India's stupendous ODI World Cup campaign with 24 wickets, had played through pain as he had problems with his landing but didn't let it affect his performance.

He had flown to London in January to take special ankle injec-

tions. However, the medication didn't work and the fast bowler had to opt for surgery.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also wished Shami a speedy recovery following his surgery.

Modi posted on X, "Wishing you a speedy recovery and good health, @MdShami11! I'm

confident you'll overcome this injury with the courage that is so integral to you."

The absence of Shami is a major blow for Gujarat Titans, who have also traded all-rounder Hardik Pandya to Mumbai Indians in an all-cash deal. Shami was the side's highest wicket-taker during their runner-up finish in IPL last year.

Shami, who was recently conferred with the Arjuna Award, has 229 Test, 195 ODI and 24 T20 wickets in his decade-long career.

The development raises a question mark about the injury rehabilitation management programme planned by the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for Shami.

It is also highly unlikely that the pacer would be able to make a comeback before India's Test matches at home against Bangladesh and New Zealand (October-November). His target could be the marquee away series against Australia.

Hockey India CEO Elena Norman resigns citing unpaid dues, difficult work environment

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said he did all he could do to persuade Norman to continue in the role



NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): Close on the heels of Indian women's coach Janneke Schopman, Hockey India chief executive officer Elena Norman has also put in her papers.

Norman who has been the top official of Hockey India for the good part of the last decade has cited "unpaid dues and difficult working environment".

Elena's resignation has been accepted but

it is not clear when she would be relieved of her duties.

Hockey India president and former Indian captain Dilip Tirkey while accepting the resignation acknowledged Elena's contribution towards the growth of the game in India.

However, in a separate correspondence with HI board members, Tirkey did say that he did all he could do to persuade Norman to continue in

the role. "Despite my best efforts to persuade Elena to continue her invaluable contributions to our organisation, we cannot overlook the challenges she has faced, particularly issues surrounding unpaid dues and increasingly difficult working environment," Tirkey said in his mail on Tuesday.

"The decision for her departure is truly disappointing, as I firmly believe that Hockey India is losing a seasoned professional who has played a pivotal role in the growth and elevation of the sport's professionalism over the past 12 years. Her dedication and hard work have significantly contributed to the organisation's achievements, and her departure is undoubtedly to the detriment of Hockey India," he added.

Suspended WFI President Invites Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat To Appear For National Trials

NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): Suspended Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Sanjay Singh invited Olympic medalist Bajrang Punia, World Championship medalist Vinesh Phogat and retired wrestler Sakshi Malik to compete in national trials in March to decide the team for Asian competitions, including the 2024 Paris Games Qualifiers in Kyrgyzstan. WFI also announced the dates to hold selection trials for an Olympic qualifying event for Paris 2024, as well as the senior Asian championships - both scheduled to take place in April in Kyrgyzstan.

The Wrestling Federation of India announced the trials on March 10-11, including the names of star grapplers Bajrang (65kg freestyle), Vinesh (55kg), and Sakshi (62kg), who declared her retirement from the sport on the day Sanjay Singh was elected president.

"I would like to inform all affiliated units of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) that the selection trials to select the teams for participation in the following events are being conducted on 10th and 11th March 2024 at K.D. Jadhav Wrestling Indoor Stadium, IGI Sports Complex, New Delhi," said Sanjay Singh in a statement.

According to the announcement, the trials are being held to determine teams for the Senior Asian Wrestling Championship in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) from April 11 to April 16, as well as the Asian Olympic Games Qualifier Tournament at the same location from April 19 to April 21. "All state units are requested to intimate the wrestlers as per the list attached to participate in the said trials," added the statement.

Earlier this month, United World Wrestling (UWW) lifted the suspension on the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) with immediate effect.

The three wrestlers have been seeking Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's arrest for alleged sexual harassment of female wrestlers. In response to the severe charges, the sports ministry suspended the WFI last year and established an ad hoc council to oversee the sport's operations.

The ministry also ordered new elections, which were held in December of last year, but the newly elected body, led by Sanjay Singh, was suspended three days later. Antim Panghal, who is the only Indian to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics so far, will appear for trials in the 54kg category.

Deshpande, Kotian script first-class history with Ranji Trophy hundreds vs Baroda

MUMBAI, Feb 27 (Agencies): Mumbai all-rounders Tanush Kotian and Tushar Deshpande scripted history by becoming only the second No. 10 and No. 11 pair in First-Class history to score centuries. Both Kotian and Deshpande scored centuries during the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Baroda. Kotian remained unbeaten at 123, while Deshpande contributed a solid 120, propelling Mumbai to a formidable total.

Kotian and Deshpande became only the second No. 10 and No. 11 pairing to score centuries in the same first-class innings, mirroring the legendary performance of Chandu Sarwate and Shute Banerjee back in 1946. Their partnership not only surprised the spectators but also left the Baroda team grappling for answers as Mumbai amassed a colossal 569 in their second innings, setting a daunting target of 606 runs for Baroda.

Collaborating for the final



wicket in Mumbai's second innings, which stood at 337 for nine overnight, Kotian and Deshpande displayed remarkable resilience, effectively steering Mumbai towards a dominant position against Baroda. Their partnership not only secured a substantial 36-run lead but also propelled Mumbai to a commanding position in the game. Kotian achieved a century mile-

stone, leading the charge with a fluent innings of 115 balls, featuring nine boundaries and three towering sixes. Following suit, Deshpande crafted his masterpiece, reaching his maiden First-Class hundred in just 112 deliveries, comprising an array of eight boundaries and six powerful maximums. Their determined efforts not only underscored their prowess

but also significantly bolstered Mumbai's chances in the match.

The Kotian-Deshpande partnership is also only the third occasion an Indian pair has shared a 200-plus stand for the final wicket. Deshpande also became only the third Indian batter to score a First-Class century while batting at number 11, surpassing Banerjee's 121 as the highest FC score by an Indian number 11 batter. Deshpande eventually holed out for 123, and the partnership finished at 232, one shy of the Ranji Trophy record.

Kotian and Deshpande helped Mumbai post a massive 569-run total on board. Baroda will face an improbable job of chasing 606 runs. Kotian and Deshpande virtually clinched Mumbai's semifinal qualification, as the team had a 36-run lead in the first innings. If they win, Mumbai will face Tamil Nadu, who defeated Saurashtra, in the semi-final.

"Maybe Virat Kohli Will Miss IPL Too," Sunil Gavaskar's Cheeky Comment Gives Rise To Speculation

RANCHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): With Virat Kohli skipping the ongoing Test series against England citing personal reasons, the legendary Sunil Gavaskar wondered if the star batter would play in the upcoming Indian Premier League. The IPL 24 will begin with defending champions Chennai Super Kings taking on Royal Challengers Bangalore on March 22 at Chepauk. Initially named in the Indian Test squad, the RCB talisman pulled out before the opening game in Hyderabad. Earlier this month, the cricketer along with his wife Anushka Sharma announced the birth of their second child.

"Kya woh khelenge... kuchh reason ke liye khel nahin rahe hain, shaayad ho sakta hai ke IPL ke liye bhi na khele (Will he play... He is not playing because of some reason, perhaps he may not play in IPL as well)," Gavaskar said rather cheekily when asked if Kohli would be hungry for runs in the IPL as he would be returning to action after a long break.

Gavaskar was interacting with the students of Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi during a Star Sports Star event.

'Jurel could be superstar'

Gavaskar said wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel, who plays for Rajasthan Royals, could be the superstar of this IPL.

Playing in only his second Test, Jurel won the Man of the Match award for his splendid batting efforts of 90 and 39 not out in India's series-clinching five-wicket win over England.

"He could be promoted up the order. Jurel could be the superstar after this performance in the Test matches. Even Akash Deep



could get more exposure in RCB and play the role of the death over specialist which they were missing last season." Gavaskar also hailed Mumbai Indians' move to make Hardik Pandya their captain, paving the way for Rohit Sharma to bat freely, without the additional responsibility of leading the side. "To allow Rohit to play purely as a batter... it has been a busy season for him, first the World Cup, and now this series.

"This will give him the freedom to play without worrying about other players. My feeling is that it will work very well for Mumbai Indians.

"For Hardik to have someone like Rohit to turn to would be invaluable. Hardik will enjoy having Rohit as 'captain'."

'Let's not rush Rishabh'

Gavaskar is also excited that his favourite player, Rishabh Pant, will be making a

much-awaited comeback after surviving a near-fatal car accident.

"I'm also a big fan of him. For me the most important thing, is he should be healthy like before, so that he can come and entertain us.

"It will be very difficult for him and it will take some time for him to get that batting fluency. But good that he has started training.

"Knee plays a pivotal role in batting as well as keeping -- which of course he may not do initially. Maybe he won't be the usual Rishabh Pant that we are used to seeing," Gavaskar said.

"He certainly has the ability to think on his feet. If he gets back to full fitness, the reins of (Delhi Capitals) captaincy should be handed over to him.

"Let's stay hopeful. This season is first of him coming back to full fitness. Let's not rush him into doing something that there will be a setback," he added.

'KKR dark horse, Pandit-Gambhir interaction key'

Terming Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings his favourite teams in IPL, Gavaskar said Kolkata Knight Riders would be the dark horse.

He said for KKR to succeed the "interaction" between coach Chandrakant Pandit and their former IPL-winning captain Gautam Gambhir would be key.

"Both Gambhir and Pandit are strong personalities and the interaction they would have would be key. The combination they both will make is going to be very crucial. If they click then KKR can become a very, very strong contender for the title."

OTD in 2011: Sachin Tendulkar hits his last World Cup hundred in a tie vs England



NEW DELHI, Feb 27 (Agencies): On this day in 2011, India great Sachin Tendulkar scored his last World Cup century in a group match that ended in a thrilling tie against England at Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium. For most of the 2011 World Cup, India dominated its opponents with cricketing brilliance on the pitch, but two teams, South Africa and England, were exceptions. While the Proteas defeated India by three wickets in a group-stage match, England played a tie that was as good as any victory against the men in blue.

India, batting first, saw Tendulkar open the innings and weave his magic once again. Sachin's superb 120 off 115 balls was a testament to his enduring class and form. This century marked his fifth in World Cup tournaments, a record at the time, and propelled India to a formidable total of 338 runs. Ten-

dulkar's innings was a blend of finesse and aggression, punctuated by 10 fours and five sixes, showcasing his ability to dominate the world's best bowlers.

England's response was led by Strauss, who played an equally magnificent innings of 158 runs. The match evolved into a titanic tussle between the two teams, with fortunes swinging like a pendulum. Despite the mounting pressure, the Indian bowlers, spearheaded by Zaheer Khan's crucial wickets, managed to bring the game to a nail-biting finish. England needed two runs off the last ball to win but could only manage one, resulting in only the fourth tie in World Cup history.

The tie was a rare outcome in the high-stakes environment of the World Cup, leaving players and fans alike in a state of mixed emotions. For India, it was a game that showcased their batting depth and resilience under pressure. For England, it was a missed opportunity but also a display of their fighting spirit. The captains of both teams expressed their feelings of disappointment and relief, acknowledging the rarity and the spectacle of the contest they had been part of.

The 2011 World Cup was special for Tendulkar and India. Not only did it witness one of his finest World Cup performances, but it also culminated in India lifting the trophy, a dream Tendulkar had harbored since his childhood. The victory was dedicated to him by his teammates, acknowledging his monumental contribution to Indian cricket.

50 students from HS Daraman, HSS Hutt embark on educational study visit

Top News Report

BASOHLI, Feb 27: A total of 75 students from High School HS Daraman, and HSS Hutt participated in an educational study visit organized by the Zonal Education Office, Basohli, under the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAK) initiative of SAMAGRA.

The visit aimed to broaden the students' perspectives and expose them to diverse learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Warm Welcome and Insights into RAK:

Upon arrival, the students were warmly welcomed by Zonal Education Officer, Basohli, Lalit Sharma, and his staff members.



Sharma briefed the students about the significance of RAK and its role in fostering scientific tempering and innovation among young minds.

Engaging Interaction at DIET Basohli.

The first stop on the itinerary was DIET Basohli, the premier institution for training government teachers in the district. The students had an enriching

interaction with Principal Roshan Lal and senior faculty members, gaining valuable insights into the teacher training process and the crucial role of DIETs in shaping the future of education.

Next, the students embarked on a fascinating journey to Mini Goa Purthu and Atal Setu Basohli. At Mini Goa Purthu, they marveled at the breathtak-

ing natural beauty, while Atal Setu, a magnificent bridge, provided a glimpse into the marvels of modern engineering.

These visits sparked the students' curiosity about science, technology, and their applications in real-world scenarios.

Immersion in the Artistic Heritage of Basohli.

The study visit concluded with a visit to the Vishawsthal Paint-

ing Centre, Basohli, renowned for its traditional miniature paintings.

The students interacted with artists, learned about the rich artistic heritage of the region, and witnessed the intricate techniques involved in creating these exquisite masterpieces.

The study visit proved to be a highly enriching experience for the students, igniting their curiosity, broadening their knowledge base, and fostering a deeper appreciation for various fields of learning. The Zonal Education Office, Basohli, remains committed to organizing such initiatives that empower students and nurture their holistic development.

SMVDU organizes visit to SKUAST-Jammu



Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 27: A one-day visit as an essential part of the study curriculum was organized by the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra for the undergraduate students pursuing Biotechnology at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu.

Students had the opportunity to explore the ongoing research and were provided with a comprehensive knowledge of the recent research endeavors in the institute.

The students visited various departments and labs of the institute including the School of Biotechnology, School

of Biochemistry, School of Plant Breeding and Genetics, and School of Plant Pathology.

Students were provided with valuable insights into the intricate workings and use of various instruments present in the labs and were made aware of the research done in these labs.

The students and the faculty also had an opportunity to interact with various faculty members of the institutes.

The visit was an outcome of the coordinated efforts of Prof. Anil Kumar, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Ravindra Singh Sudan, Head, Genetics and Plant

Breeding from SKUAST, and Dr. Indu Bhushan, Assistant Professor & Coordinator of the edu-

cational visit for SoBT with Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Biotechnology from SMVDU.

The other faculty members and staff accompanying the students included Dr. Sharada Pottukuchi, Dr. Parvez Singh Slathia, and VP Singh. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the faculty of the School of Biotechnology towards the overall grooming and development of their students as able professionals.

He laid stress on organizing more such visits to add to the practical and firsthand experience of the students at SMVDU.

NHM employees hold convention; frame District Udhampur Association



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 27: In its mission to bring all categories of employees under the ambit of the National Health Mission on one platform, a one day district level convention of National Health Mission employees of District Udhampur was held at Conference Hall NITL HSS Udhampur.

The meeting was presided over by Senior NHM representative of Jammu Division including Sr Vice President Jammu Faizan A Trambo, General Secretary Ajay Sharma, Chairman Advisory Committee Dr Pradeep Rathore, Dr Ashish Khajuria (Treasurer), Dr Rohit Bhardwaj (Coordinator), Dr Nasir Indrabi (Advisor), Dr Rakesh Kotwal (Sr NHM Representative), Ajay Manhas (NHM Representative) besides other representatives of District Udhampur.

The meeting was actively participated by a huge gathering of Medical Officers, Management and Paramedical Staff of the different block of the District Udhampur including DH Udhampur.

The meeting was organized with an objective to unite all NHM employees and to discuss the issue of strengthening the organization at gross root level at district as well as each block level.

During the convention, the speakers raised various issues related to the welfare of the NHM employees and meaningful solutions to their issues.

Meanwhile, a district

level body for Udhampur was also framed on this occasion in which Ajay Sharma was elected as Chairman, Dr Tamanna Dogra as District President, Dr Atul Goswami, Pawan Kumar, Mohd Ali, Sunita Devi as Vice Presidents, Dr Mohit Sharma as General Secretary, Dr Anil Sharma as Spokesperson, Madhu Devi & Sumit as Treasurers, Deepak Sharma, Rekha Ranyal, Sushma Devi, Ajay Verma & Nayim Begum as Secretaries, while in the District Advisory Committee, Dr Pardeep Rathore, Dr Arvind and Rajinder Singh were nominated as its members.

While speaking on the occasion, the newly elected President Dr Tamanna Dogra thanked all the participants for honoring and entrusting her the responsibility of the District President and assured that she will leave no stone unturned when it comes to the welfare of NHM employees of the Udhampur District.

In their addresses, Sr Leaders of the Associa-

tion stated that with the support of our fellow employees, we can work towards resolving the pending cases and particularly focus on the various concerns.

They said the current Chief Secretary, Health Secretary and Mission Director NHM have shown a positive and proactive approach, and we believe we can collectively achieve positive outcomes for the betterment of the employees in the time to come."

The leaders threw light on the problems being faced by the employees and debated the methods to be adopted to arrive at solutions.

It is pertinent to mention here that the JKNHMEA Jammu Division remains fully committed to its mission of advocating for the rights and well being of NHM employees in J&K UT.

The organization will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders and govt authorities to work towards the resolution of the issues of its employees in a more effective and focused manner.

Dimple leads protest against rising unemployment

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood led a strong protest against the rising unemployment in Jammu Kashmir, demanding PM

Kashmir in march month, and demanded PM modi to announce an employment package for the jammu Kashmir youths.

He warned we will continue the fight against this injustice



Modi to announce an employment package for the Jammu Kashmir youth.

Addressing the protesters, Sunil Dimple alleged the J&K govt and the union BJP Govt had failed to solve the unemployment problems in jammu Kashmir among the educated youths.

He said the Prime Minister is visiting

against the youths and rising unemployment.

Dimple demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the regularization of all REK, NYC, MGNERGA, Janglat, Sehat, all daily wagers.

The other leaders present were Sachin Soi, Sat Sharma, Bunty Dogra, Rupesh Bhat, Kewal Krishan, Manjiet, Ajay Mehta, and others.

Gurmeet alleges bad condition of road, broken Nallah leading to Peerkho Mandir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 27: Gurmeet Singh President Beopar Mandal & General Secretary JKPC of Jammu East staged today massive protest against the BJP

They interacted with a representation of the locals and took stock of the problems being faced by the residents. The Protest was organised by Gurmeet and Ward 3 President Harvinder Singh, beside others.

It was observed that the street are in a very bad condition of Peer Kho Road leading to Peerkho Mandir for the last 10 months and the children as well as elders are afraid that they may fall down and



injured as such the repair is very much necessary.

Gurmeet requested LG to take up this matter regarding on priority and repair the road and broken Nallah before Mahashivratri festival.

Prominent among those who accompanied General Secretary

JKPC Gurmeet Singh include Ward President Hardavinder Singh, Mohd Ashraf, Darshan Lal, Bodh Raj, Ajay Kumar, Tarsam Lal, Jung, Vipam Kumar, Subash Gupta, Manohar Joshi, Amarpreet Singh, Vijay Kumar, Raj Kumar, Apu Singh and others.

Army organises outreach program for Gujjar, Bakarwal community

Top News Report

NOWSHERA, Feb 27: Army organised a outreach program for Gujjar and Bakarwal community members of Rajpur Kamila, Rajpur bhatta, Lam, Androoth and nearby villages in Nowshera region. The events included conduct of a medical camp, distribution of essential items and interaction



with locals.

The members of Gujjar-Bakarwal community were appreciated for their positive contribution to peace and prosperity in the region.

Indian Army assured them of all necessary assistance for education, veterinary support and essential necessities for growth and development.

NSS SMVDU organizes week long Fit India Freedom Run programme

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 27: NSS SMVDU organized a week long "Fit India Freedom Run 4.0" under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav'.

The motive of the run was to make students aware about the efforts of our freedom fighters and to stay fit. The event started daily at 7 am in the university ground.

More than 100 students participated in the said event. NSS Programme coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar also participated in the event and



appreciated the efforts of all volunteers for organizing the event. Vice

chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated NSS volunteers for suc-

cessfully organizing the event. The entire event was successfully coor-

minated by NSS volunteer Abhishek Kumar Sharma throughout the week.