# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



16

**Asha Bhosle: 'I can sing** almost 18 songs at one go at age 90'



**NATIONAL** 

**Lt Governor Forced Officers To Stall Bus Marshal Scheme: Arvind Kejriwal** 

**INTERNATIONAL** 

18

Idaho in United States halts execution of serial killer by lethal injection after 8 failed attempts to insert IV line



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

| 7

Vol.-15 Issue-59 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

#### BRIEFLY

#### **Soldier** injured in accidental fire along LoC in **Poonch**

POONCH, Feb 29 (Agencies): A 27-yearold soldier was injured in "accidental" fire along the Line of Control in Poonch district, officials said on Thursday. An official said that the soldier suffered injury in left foot as his rifle went off accidentally in Krishna Ghati Sector in the district. He was immediately shifted to hospital and is under treatment, the official added.

#### Man allegedly kills Wife in Handwara **Village**

SRINAGAR, Feb 29 (Agencies): A man allegedly killed his wife in Cheki Audoora village in Mawer area of Handwara on intervening Wednesday and Thursday night, reliable sources said. The sources said that one Mohammad Maqbool Mir son of Ali Mohammad Mir used some sharp object to attack his wife, resulting in on spot death of the victim (name withheld), daughter of Mohammad Mukhtar Sheikh of Lawoosa. "A police team has reached the spot to collect the necessary details,' they said. When contacted, a police official confirming the incident said that they have registered a case in the matter."We are assessing the matter thoroughly and it may take us some time to come up with the full details, though as of now we have ascertained the culpability of the husband in the gore murder of the woman,' the official said.

#### No-Confidence Motion moved against DDC Chairperson

SRINAGAR, Feb 29 (Agencies): District **Development Council** members of central Kashmir's Budgam district have moved a no-confidence motion against the incumbent chairperson of the council.

Quoting sources, KNO reported that 13 members of the council have moved the no-confidence motion against DDC

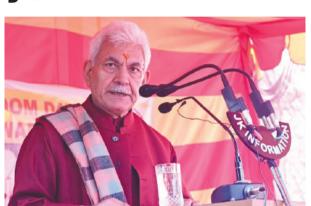
Turn to page 9

### **100 Most Influential Indians of 2024**: **LG Manoj Sinha secures 23rd Rank**

SRINAGAR, Feb 29 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has secured a position in the prestigious Indian Express 100 most powerful Indians list for 2024.

Ranked at 23rd, Sinha's inclusion acknowledges his significant role as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, marking him as one of the most influential figures in the nation. Having led J&K for over three years, Sinha has notably enhanced public engagement, often addressing multiple events in a single day, as reported by the Indian Express.

Under Sinha's leader-



ship, the focus has been on efficient administration, with initiatives like the popular "Awaam Ki Awaaz" fortnightly feature. Additionally, regular video-conferencing meetings with the entire administration and prompt resolution of complaints submitted through the LG's griev-

ance cell have underscored his commitment to effective governance.

The list highlights individuals whose decisions resonate across the nation and beyond, showcasing their power and influence across diverse spheres. While the top 10 positions are predominantly occupied

by RSS/BJP stalwarts. notable exceptions like Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and business magnate Gautam Adani, whose resurgence from the Hindenburg controversy elevated him to prominence, reflect the diverse landscape of power in contemporary India.

This curated selection celebrates the movers and shakers whose actions shape the nation's trajectory, encompassing political leaders, visionary entrepreneurs, cultural icons, and thought leaders, symbolizing the intricate dynamics of India's power structure in the modern era.

#### Six Congress MLAs who crossvoted for BJP disqualified from **Himachal Assembly**



SHIMLA, Feb 29 (Agencies): Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania disqualified the six Congress MLAs on Thursday who cross voted in the Rajya Sabha polls.

Himachal Pradesh

Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania said, "Six MLAs, who contested on Congress symbol, attracted provisions of anti-defection law against them-

selves...I declare that

the six people cease to

be members of the Him-

achal Pradesh Assembly with immediate effect.'

The six MLAs who have been disqualified are Sudhir Sharma, Rajinder Rana, Davinder K Bhutto, Ravi Thakur, Chaitanya Sharma and Inder Dutt Lakhanpal.

The petition was filed by Congress MLA and parliamentary affairs Minister Harsh Wardhan Chauhan under the anti-defection law for disqualification of the six MLAs.

After the 2022 Assembly elections, the Congress had 40 MLAs while the BJP had 25 in the 68-member state assembly. The

Turn to page 9

#### Padma Shri Awardee Ghulam **Mohammad Mir joins BJP**



SRINAGAR, Feb 29 (Agencies): Ghulam Mohammad Mir, honoured with the Padma Shri Award, formally became a member of the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district on Wednesday. The joining ceremony took place in the presence of District President Budgam, Ruhullah Ghazi, a party state-

The statement highlighted Mir's entry as a significant enhancement for the party, particularly in anticipation of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Ghulam Mohammad Mir, popularly known as Moma Kana, was honoured with India's fourth highest civilian award, Turn to page 9 the Padma

#### Stay order in Civil, Criminal cases won't automatically expire: SC

NEW DELHI, Feb 29 (Agencies): The Supreme Court today held that there cannot be an automatic vacation of stay orders granted by a lower court or high court in civil and criminal cases after six months.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud did not agree

Turn to page 9

#### **Kashmir braces for** major snow spell from today, night temp drops

SRINAGAR, Feb 29 (Agencies): Amid forecast for major snowfall, night temperature recorded a drop in Kashmir Valley on Thursday.

A meteorological department official here told GNS that Srinagar recorded a minimum of 2.1°C against previous night's 4.5°C. It was below normal by 0.6°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, the MeT offi-

cial said. Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 1.0°C against 2.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 4.4°C against minus 2.4°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 0.4°C against 1.1°C on the previous night and the temperature was below normal by 1.7°C for the place, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of minus 1.7°C against 1.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 5.6°C . same as on the previous night. The temperature was below normal by 0.2°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 9.5°C and it was below normal by 8.1°C for the winter capital of J&K.

■Turn to page 9

#### **Police** attach illegal properties worth Rs 15 lakh of notorious drug peddler in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Feb 29 (Agencies): Continuing its action against drug peddlers, Police in Baramulla attached properties (Single storied residential house worth approx. Rs. 15.00 lacs) belonging to notorious drug peddlers namely Afroza Begum @ Affri wife of Fayaz Ahmad Dar resident of Ganie Hamam at present Trumgund Hygam Sopore, District Baram-

According to a Police spokesperson, "The action was taken under sections 68-E read with 68-F (1) of NDPS Act of 1985 & is linked with

■Turn to page 9

#### Liquor Shop auctions fetch J&K record revenue, Qazigund creates history

SRINAGAR, Feb 29 (Agencies): The government of Jammu and Kashmir has attained unprecedented success in its recent auction of liquor shops, with revenues skyrocketing to a historic high of Rs 2280 crore in the fiscal year 2024.

This surge in revenue, as confirmed by official reports, compared to previous years, highlights the effectiveness of the state's revamped excise policy, which was initiated three years ago to streamline the auction process and boost revenue generation.



According to local news gatherer KNO news agency, the auction witnessed intense bidding wars, culminating in the sale of a liquor shop in Qazigund, Kashmir, for an astonishing Rs 5.23 crore.

This ground-breaking bid not only represents the highest ever recorded in the region but also signifies the increasing investment interest in Jammu and Kashmir's liquor industry. Similarly, a shop in Ramnagar, Udhampur, fetched a commendable Rs 3.41 crore.

"The overwhelming response to the auction underscores the buoyancy of the market and the potential for further revenue generation," stated an official, emphasising the commitment to fostering a conducive business environment and Turn to page 9 ensuring

#### Tourists enjoy chilly morning on Dal Lake

SRINAGAR, Feb 29 (Agencies): The cold in the national capital may be on its last legs but up north in Jammu and Kashmir, chilly weather prevailed on Thursday morning and tourists were seen cruising on the pristine Dal Lake in Srinagar.

As the morning mist rose from the water, visitors could be seen enjoying the tranquil surroundings, taking in the fresh mountain air, and marvelling at the reflections of the surrounding snow-capped peaks on



the crystal-clear lake. Boat rides are a popular activity for tourists in the early hours of the morning, as they leisurely glide through the calm waters. The chilly breeze

adds a special charm to the experience, making it even more enchanting for those seeking a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Wrapped in warm shawls, tourists choose to sit by the shore, basking in the golden glow of the morning light. The chilly atmosphere enhances the enchanting experience.

Beyond the scenic beauty, the chilly morning serves as a time for connection and reflection. Tourists engage in conversations with friendly locals, delving into the rich history and culture of the region, and appreciating the simple pleasures of life amidst ■Turn to page 9



CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

#### 10TH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother Smt Vishno Devi W/o Late Sh. Dewan Chand Mehyia R/o Ward No. 6 Ramnagar who left us for heavenly abode on 19/2/2024 10th Day will be performed on 27-02-2024 (Tuesday) at Town Hall Ramnagar at 11:30 AM

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN:** 

Sh. Agya Pal Gupta and Smt Lalita Devi Sh. Dharamvir and Smt Babli Devi

Sh. Hari Bushan and Smt Anu Radha

Smt Sushil Kala W/o Sh Vijay Kumar Gupta Smt Parveen Gupta W/o Late Sh Ashok Gupta

Smt Sanjeeta Gupta W/o Sh Pawan Gupta

Contact Details: 7006503942, 9622359170, 9419158849



**Smt Vishno Devi** 

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

KARAMYOGI SH. TRILOKI NATH DHAR (PAPA JI), S/C LATE SHRI SONA JOO DHAR (RESIDENT OF THAJIWARA, BIJBEHARA, KASHMIR, AT PRESENT G-18, GALI NO.11, PREM NAGAR, NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI-43) AFTER FULFILLING HIS EARTHLY KARAMYOGI SH. TRILOKI RESPONSIBILITIES LEFT TO SERVE THE LOTUS FEET NATH DHAR (PAPA JI)

OF SHRI HARI VISHNU ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2024.



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

DEEPLY GRIEF STRICKEN: SMT. MOHINI DHAR (WIFE) **DAUGHTERS & SONS- IN-LAW** 

1. RAJNI PANDITA, ASHOK PANDITA

2 JAYA KOUL AVTAR KRISHAN KOUL

3. JEETA PANDITA, VEER JI PANDITA

MOTI LAL DHAR, JYOTI DHAR, SACHIN DHAR, MADHU RAINA

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

#### TENTH DAY/RASAM PAGRI/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved Smt Neelam Gupta W/o Sh Parshotam Lal Gupta.

Tenth Day will be performed on 27-02-2024 Tuesday at our residence H. No. 316, Lane No.11, Talab Tillo, Jammu from 10AM.

Rasam Pagri & Kriya will be held on 01-03-2024 Friday at our residence H. No. 316, Lane No.11, Talab Tillo from 3 PM to 4 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Parshotam Lal Gupta (Husband)

Sumit Gupta (Son)

Sheetal & Parmod Wadhera (Daughter & Son-in-Law) ALL MEMBERS OF MAHAJAN FAMILY

Mobile: -9149489373, 9796210000, 7889945645

#### **ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved S. Man Singh Azad (Nepal Wale) S/o Late S Kala Singh R/o Nanak Nagar, who passed away for his heavenly journey on February 21, 2024 **PROGRAM:** 

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib: on 28/02/2024, Wednesday, at 9:30 AM at our residence - 38/2, Nanak Nagar Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib: on 01/03/2024, Friday till 09:45 AM at our residence - 38/2, Nanak Nagar

Antim Ardas: on 01/03/2024, Friday at 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Nanak Nagar followed by Guru Ka

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdn Jasvinder Kaur (Wife) dn Harvinder Kour & S. Mohan Singh (Bhabhi & Brother) Sdn Tejinder Kour & S. Harvinder Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son) Dr. Rumy Kour & Dr. Ravinder Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son) Sdn Sarabjeet Kour W/o Late S. Tejinder Singh (Daughter-in-law) Sdn Kulvir Kour & S. Charanjit Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son) M: 9471234500, 9650833255



**SMT NEELAM GUPTA** 

S. Man Singh Azad Ji (Nepal Wale) 18 Dec 1941 - 21 Feb. 2024

#### **TENTH DAY**

With great agony and sorrow, we inform that Late Smt. Darshana Devi our mother departed for the heavenly abode on 21st Feb 2024.

Tenth Day shall be performed at 11 am on 01st March (Friday) at Shri Guru Ravi Dass Temple, Ward No. 49,

Residence: Channi Rama, Jammu. Satsang: 12 Noon to 1 PM **Grief Stricken** 

Sh. Sukh Lal - Husband

Sons & Daughters-in-Law Sh. Amit Kumar & Smt. Bindu 7006181962 Sh. Anil Kumar & Smt. Sneha 6005757454

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Amicka & Sh. Surinder Dogra 9596668346

**Grand Sons & Grand Daughters** 

Anicka, Dhruthi, Harshit & Prince

#### **10TH DAY KRIYA**

Venue: Haridwar

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the unfortunate and sad demise of respected Shri. Romi Ganju Son of Smt. Kaushalya Ganju and Late Sh. Jawahar Lal Ganju original resident of Ganjoo House Lane, Raghunath Mandir, 2/3 Bridge Habba Kadal, Sgr. Kashmir & permanently residing at Dehradun on 24th



Late Smt. Darshana Devi

Shri. Romi Ganju

10TH DAY KRIYA will take place on 4th March 2024 at Haridwar, followed by 11th & 12th day in Bhatt Sabha Haridwar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:** 

February 2024 in Delhi.

GANJU'S: 8130155461, 9149423011 KOUL'S: 9419795107, 9419181954

Tenth Day / Kriya / Uthala
With great agony and sorrow we inform that
Sh. Amar Nath Vaid S/o Late Sh. Faquir Chand Vaid departed for the heavenly abode on 21st Feb. 2024. Tenth Day shall be performed at 11 am on 29th Feb (Thursday) at Ved Mandir, Amphalla, Jammu. Kriya shall be performed at 12 noon on 1st March

(Friday) at our residence H.No. 11, Palace Hill Top, Karan Nagar Jammu. Uthala shall be performed at 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm on

1st March 2024 (Friday) at Ved Mandir, Amphalla, Jammu.

Grief Stricken Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sh. Ajay Vaid (Advocate) & Smt. Ritu Vaid Sh. Neeraj Vaid (Xen) & Smt. Veenu Sharma

Sh. Nishant Vaid & Smt. Shivani Vaid Brothers & Bhabhi

Sh. Krishan Lal Sharma Smt. Kusum Sharma (W/o Late Sh. G.D. Sharma)

Dr. Harbans Sharma & Smt. Arti Sharma Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Sudesh Raina & Sh. Gopal Krishan Raina Grand Children: Vedant, Dhrrishaj, Shaunish, Nakshita M/s Tej Ram Faquir Chand, Kanak Mandi Jammu

9419632944, 9419140396, 9906113414

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

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

Grief Stricken

Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law

Sh M L Bhat & Smt Kishni

Sh Ashok Kumar Bhat -Son (Mobile 7889560966)

Daughter & Son-in-law Smt Asha & Er. Vinod Wali (Mobile 7006587286)

Son & Daughter-in-law Er. R N Bhat & Mrs Pushpa (Mobile 7006928141)

#### **Grand Children & Great Grand Children**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Dalip Kumar Vaid (Raju) S/o Late Smt. Vaishno Devi & Sh. Krishan Lal Vaid on

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

The **Tenth Day** will be held at 10.00 am on 29th Feb. 2024 (Thursday).

Kriya will be performed on 1/3/2024 (Friday) at our residence H.No. 165, New Plot Jawahar Nagar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Sh. Krishan Lal Vaid (Father) Smt. Anupama Sharma (Wife) Mr. Shravan Vaid (Son)

(Sisters-in-law & Brothers) Smt. Radha Devi & Sh. Kewal Kumar Vaid

Smt. Anita Sharma & Yash Paul Vaid Nephews & Niece

Aditya Vaid, Akshay Vaid, Rudrakshi Vaid & Trayksh Vaid

M/s Down Town the Fashion Hub Contact No.: 7889915075, 9697407915, 7051960262

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved mother Smt Raj Dulari Bhat W/o Late Sh Jagar Nath Bhat original resident of Chandapora, Habba Kadal, Srinagar and now residing at 220, Sector D Ext. Bharat Talab Tillo, Jammu departed for her heavenly abode on 22nd Feb 2024 at 3.15 AM.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Bhader Ghat Mata Baderkali Asthapan, Thalwal, Jammu on 1st March 2024 (Friday) at 9.30 AM and Assembly will be held at 12.00 PM at residence mentioned above.

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

Smt Asha & Er Vinod Wali - Daughter & Son in law (Mobile 7006587286)

Er R N Bhat & Mrs Pushpa - Son & Daughter in law (Mobile 7006928141) **Grand & Great Grand Children** 

#### ANTIM ARDAS

Gurmukh Janam Savaar Dargeh Chalya Sachee Dharageh Jaye Sachaa Pir Malya

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Col Sukhjit Singh S/o Late Capt GS Lubana (IN) R/o Kirpind, at present 126/A, Sainik Colony, Jammu.

Sri Akhand Path Sahib & Antim Ardas will be held at Singh Sabha Gurudwara, Sec-A, Sainik Colony Jammu, as follows.

Aramb Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 29-02-2024 (Thursday) at 10.00 AM

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 02-03-2024 (Saturday) at 10.00 AM.

Kirtan & Antim Ardas on 02-03-2024 (Saturday) from 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM. Followed by Guru Ka Langar. GRIEF STRICKEN Smt. Paramjeet Kour - Wife

Dr. Preeti & Lt. Col. Pujam Manhas (Daughter & Son-in-law) Prachi - Daughter

Mrs. Gurdeep Kaur & Dr. Gurmeet Kaur - Sisters

**Brothers** 

Capt Charanjit Singh (Retd.), CPO Jujhar Singh (Retd.), Late S. Jorawar Singh

#### **ANTIM ARDAS**

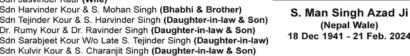
of our beloved S. Man Singh Azad (Nepal Wale) S/o Late S Kala Singh R/o Nanak Nagar, who passed away for his heaven ly journey on February 21, 2024 PROGRAM:

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib: on 28/02/2024 Wednesday, at 9:30 AM at our residence - 38/2, Nanak Nagar Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib: on 01/03/2024, Friday till 09:45 AM at our residence - 38/2, Nanak Nagar Antim Ardas: on 01/03/2024, Friday at 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM,

GRIFF STRICKEN Sdn Jasvinder Kaur (Wife) Sdn Harvinder Kour & S. Mohan Singh (Bhabhi & Brother) Sdn Teiinder Kour & S. Harvinder Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son) Dr. Rumy Kour & Dr. Ravinder Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son)

M: 9471234500, 9650833255

Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Nanak Nagar followed by Guru Ka





18 Dec 1941 - 21 Feb. 2024

10TH DAY KRIYA
With profound grief and sorrow,
we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Karmayogini Smt. Kamlawati Mantoo** W/o Late
Nanak Chand Mantoo originally
from Ram Ghat Varahmulla.

from Ram Ghat Varahmulla.

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

10th Day Kriya will be held at
Akhnoor Ghat on 1st March
Friday. Assembly followed by
Prasad will be held at our residence at 1230 hrs at House

No 24, Poonch House Talab Tillo Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

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

Sh. Amar Nath Vaid

Smt Raj Dulari Bhat

Sh. Dalip Kumar Vaid

(Raju)

(7/6/1970 - 20/2/2024)

Smt Raj Dulari Bhat

#### Tenth Day / Kriya / Uthala With great agony and sorrow we inform the Sh. Amar Nath Yaid S/o Late Sh. Faquir Chand Vai departed for the heavenly abode on 21st Feb. 2024 Tenth Day shall be performed at 11 am on 29th Fe (Thursday) at Ved Mandir, Amphalla, Jammu. Kriya shall be performed at 12 noon on 1st Marc (Friday) at our residence H.No. 11, Palace Hill Tol Karan Nagar Jammu.

Uthala shall be performed at 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm of 1st March 2024 (Friday) at Ved Mandir, Amphalla

Grief Stricken
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Ajay Vaid (Advocate) & Smt. Ritu Vaid
Sh. Neeraj Vaid (Xen) & Smt. Veenu Sharma
Sh. Nishant Vaid & Smt. Shivani Vaid
Brothers & Bhabhi
Sh. Krishan Lal Sharma
Smt. Kusum Sharma (W/o Late Sh. G.D. Sharma)
Dr. Harbans Sharma & Smt. Arti Sharma
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Sudesh Raina & Sh. Gopal Krishan Raina
Grand Children: Vedant, Dhrrishaj, Shaunish, Nakshita
M/s Tej Ram Faquir Chand, Kanak Mandi Jammu
9419632944, 9419140396, 9906113414

### **TENTH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Chhaya Rani** W/o Sh Mohan Lal Dabgotra (**Retd PDD**) R/o H No. 1064, Sector 8, Lane 10, Nanak Nagar, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 20-02-2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed at 11 am on 29-02-2024 (Thursday) at Ram Mandir,

Sector 8, Nanak Nagar, Jammu. Kriya will be performed at 9 am on 01-03-2024 (Friday) at our residence. UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI will be performed

at 1 pm on 02-03-2024 (Saturday) at Ram Mandir, Sector 8, Nanal Grief Stricken :

Sh Mohan Lal Dabgotra (Husband) Sh Rajan Dabgotra (Son) & Smt Samiksha (Daughter-in-Law) Sh Vimal Dabgotra (Son) & Smt Niti (Daughter-in-Law)

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA KARAM

With profound grief and sorrow, we regre to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Mahatam Singh Bandral who left fo neavenly abode on 19 Feb 2024. 10TH DAY KRIYA shall be performed o 28 Feb 2024 at 12:00 Noon at our resi dence Ward No. 16, Near BGR Palace Housing Colony Road, Kali Bari, Kathua. 13TH DAY KRIYA KARAM shall be per ormed on 02 Mar 2024 at our residence



Shikha and Sunil- Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-law heeraj, Shivani, Abhishek and Adarsh reat Grand Children: Shrishti, Jeevika, Babya, Devansh, Sidarth ontact No : 7400238308, 9469380524

In Loving Memory It is with deep sorrow that we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Bal Bushan Sharma, son of Late Sh. Hem Raj Sharma, R/o H.No. 118 Patoli Mangotrian Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 21/02/2024. Tenth Day will be performed at our Residence H. No.118 Patoli Mangotrian (opposite Bua Datti Mandir) on 01/03/2024 (Friday) 11:00 am

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Purna Sharma (Wife) Pinki Manhas (Daughter-in-law)

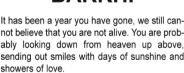
#### **10TH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER SMT RANO DEVI W/O LT. SH DINA NATH R/O MUTHI CAMP PHASE 2ND FLAT NO. 19 BLOCK 'D' WHO EXPIRED ON 21-2-2024

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI CAMP PHASE 2ND COMMITTEE HALL EKTA BHAWAN ROOP NAGAR JAMMU ON 01-03-2024 AT 10 AM.

Sons & Daughters-in-law Sh Sudesh Kumar & Pooja Devi Sh Sanjay Kumar & Mamta Kumari Daughter & Son-in-law Smt Neelam Kumari & Sh Dev Dutt Phone No. 7006912331, 8492919904, 8803750301

BARKHI



Barkhi of our respected and beloved father Sh. Kewal Krishan S/o Munshi Ram will be performed on 01-03-2024 (Friday) at 11:00 am a

our residence ward no. 3 Narsingh Colony Sh. Kewal Krishan Ghagwal, Opposite SDM Office Ghagwal.

Sardhalia Family

#### BARSI/BARKHI t has been a year we all lost the hero of

With heavy heart, we will be performing Barkhi on 02nd March 2024 (Saturday) at NRI RESIDENCY TOWER 2 FLAT

In loving memory

Deeply Remembered By

Smt. Nirmal Mahajan - Wife- 94191 83044 Smt. Pooja and Sh Rajnish Mahajan -Son and Daughter in law- 84370 00575 Smt Rajni Mahajan and Sh Mukesh Gupta -Daughter and Son in law Shrey, Shresth, Varadha and Varadhan - Grand Children

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for



No 24, Poonch House Talab Tillo Jammu.





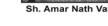
Sh. Amar Nath Vaid









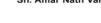


















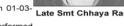


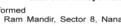












#### Smt Sona Dabgotra (Daughter) & Dr Amit Fotra (Son-in-law) Mobile: 94191-31280, 9906169009, 9622222207



#### TENTH DAY

Sandeep Sharma and Amit Sharma (Sons) Meena Raina and Rita Sharma (Daughters)

#### Vishesh and Vishvesh (Grandsons) Divyanshi and Netanyia (Maternal Grand Daughters)

(WEDNESDAY).

ably looking down from heaven up above, sending out smiles with days of sunshine and showers of love

Deeply missed & remembered by: Contact No :- 8492880655

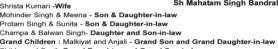
our family and society. We all are still learning to live without you.

201 SECTOR - 45 Noida 201303

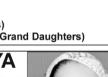
MAHAJAN

#### **DISCLAIMER**

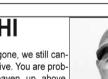
the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon.

















Sh Mahatam Singh Bandra

missioner Baramulla

informed the chair that

the remaining construc-

tion work will be complet-

ed soon and the hostel

will be operationalized

A complainant namely

Sh Sohail Khan from

Jammu drew the atten-

tion of the administration

on the issue of the func-

tioning of Ticket counter

and other facilities at

Bus Stand Jammu. The

Lt Governor directed the

Divisional Commission-

er, JMC Commissioner,

JDA, Traffic police,

Transport department

and other stakeholder

departments to take con-

crete measures to ensure

the facilities at the Bus

Commissioner JMC Rahul Yadav flags off the Electric Bus from Kala

within one month.

### Lt Governor interacts with citizens during **Live Public Grievance Hearing**

LG emphasizes on strengthening both physical and social capital

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the people and listened to their grievances during "LG's Mulagaat"- Live Public Grievance Hearing programme, at Civil Secretariat.

The Lt Governor sought details of complaints received on JKIGRAMS portal and action taken report on public outreach programmes from the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners and senior officials.

He directed the officials to assess the public outreach programmes and take corrective measures for efficient redressal of grievances.

"All the initiatives must serve the common good and decisions must be implemented without fear or favour," the Lt Governor said.

He impressed upon the officials to take dedicated measures and focus on strengthening both physi-

**Transporters delegation** 

meets MP Khatana,

highlights issues

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: The

delegation of trans-

porters from Jammu

on Thursday met Er.

Ghulam Ali Khatana,

Member of Parlia-

ment Rajya Sabha and

apprised him about the

the Transport owners of

passenger commercial

The delegation com-

prising of veteran and

prominent transporters

apprised the MP mainly

about the Issue of Per-

mits' Replacement with

vehicles of age below 10

submitted about this criti-

They apprised him

that the J&K Transport

Department in their

meeting held on January

Transport Secretary,

J&K has taken a deci-

sion that no commercial

passenger vehicle above

age shall be allowed to

ply through replacement,

with the existing permits.

Whereas, till date, no

2. 2023, at the office of

A memorandum was

vehicles.

years only.

cal issue.

10 years of



cal and social capital. We should strive to

improve the public service delivery mechanism, quick resolution to public complaints, speedy and transparent implementation of welfare schemes to enhance capabilities of the citizens, the Lt Governor observed.

Addressing the grievances received from the citizens, the Lt Governor passed explicit directions for the rationalization of teachers, especially in schools located at far flung areas. "No Single Teacher School" across Jammu Kashmir should be ensured, he said.

He further directed for effective function-

such Gazetted notifica-

tion/Order by MoRTH or

amendment in MVD Act,

in this regard has been

issued but the irony is that the RTO/Transport

Commissioner office are

adhering to the guide-

lines/minutes of meeting.

irrational decision is

against the interest of

the transporters, as it is

causing huge loss to the

transport owners, forc-

ing them to abandon and

The MP gave a patient

hearing and a thread-

bare discussion was

held about this issue. He

assured the aggrieved

transporters that an

immediate appropriate

action would be taken

on this issue after having

discussion with the Sec-

under chairmanship of

Amreek Reen along with

the veteran transporters

Nanak Singh and Pankaj

Vaid. Others who attend-

ed the meeting were

Igbal Singh, Pankul Vaid.

Jasbir Singh and Hardit

The meeting was led

retary Transport, J&K.

halt their vehicles.

delegation

The

ing of borewells and handpumps, besides strengthening the power transmission & distribution infrastructure and addressing the issues of LT Network and loose hanging electric wires.

**Deputy Commissioners** were instructed to ensure that areas that require necessary intervention as far as power infrastructure is concerned are covered under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

On the complaint of Sh Mohd Iqbal from Uri, Baramulla pertaining to the construction of the Girls Hostel near Higher Secondary School Pehlipora, the Deputy Com-

Stand Jammu and Multitier Parking are working properly and are available to the people.

Addressing a grievance filed by Sh Jashan Sambyal, a resident of Thalora Mandi, Samba regarding the dilapidated condition of the Sumb road, the Lt Governor directed the concerned Deputy Commissioner and officials to redress the issue at the earliest. Deputy Commissioner Samba informed the chair that the work on the said road is expected to be completed by the end of April this year.

Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar, Secretary, Public Grievances conducted the proceedings of the LG's Mulaqaat.

Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Forests; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode

VICE TO SUCHETGARH BORDER

Pic by AMAN SHARMA



Devinder Seth, President Khatri Sabha honouring Achrya Parshotam Vashisht on Thursday. Acharya Parshotam is renowned astrologer of Jammu and Kashmir.

#### SSP Reasi holds crime review meeting



**Top News Report** 

REASI, Feb 29: The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Reasi, Mohita Sharma, convened a comprehensive crime review meeting of Sub-division Mahore at District Police Headquarters in Reasi. The meeting was attended by the SDPO Mahore Ajaz Choudhary, SHO Mahore, SHO Chassana, IC PPs, IO's and other

During the meeting, the status of under investigation cases related to ULAP(A), NDPS Act, Excise, bovine smuggling and Crime against women & children were

The progress made in ongoing criminal investigations was discussed to

ensure timely resolution and justice for victims. Strategies to strengthen community policing and enhance public safety were deliberated upon. emphasizing the importance of community involvement in maintaining law and order.

Measures to tackle drug abuse within the district were discussed, with a focus on prevention, rehabilitation and enforcement.

Addressing the officers, SSP Reasi said that the Investigation officers must take all the measures to improve investigation and disposal of cases.

She directed that the quality of investigation and disposal of these cases needs improvement and stressed upon them to adopt the latest

techniques and standard operating practices which would bring better results in investigation process.

SSP Reasi, directed the participating officers to remain extra-vigilant, strengthen nakas/check points, and generate actionable intelligence so that the nefarious designs of anti-national elements can be thwarted.

She further directed the officers to take the lead while conducting area domination/patrolling and speculative/specific CASOs in vulnerable areas/pockets.

This meeting served as a crucial platform to identify challenges, share insights, and develop actionable plans to address both existing and emerging security concerns in the district

### 'Two months on, BDO Office Kund failed to issue the death/birth certificates to the applicants'

Kender to Suchetgarh in Jammu.

**Top News Report** 

KULGAM, Feb 29: Residents of various areas of Kund belt in south Kashmiri's Kulgam district complained that they have applied for issuance of birth and death certificates two months ago but Block office Kund yet to issue the same since then leaves us 'high and dry'

A large number of people who have applied for the issuance of birth and death certificate to the respective Block office Kund even a two month ago or more are still waiting for any response. In a few cases, the additional documents were sought by the concerned staff, but despite submitting the same, no



clue could be received about the delivery of their certificates for month.

Voice of India is receiving numerous such grievances of the public every day. The people are generally alleging delay in issuance of certificates through online mode and frequent breakdown in the system.

A local said that he had applied online for birth certificate certificate on January this year at BDO Office Kund but since the he is yet to receive the same from the BDO Office.

When Contacted Block Development Officer (BDO) Kund. Arif Avaz acknowledged the dalay, adding that I have joined recently and all the pending certificates would be issued within two days.

cises regularly and sensitized them to maintain

a healthy lifestyle &

hygiene. Besides, he also

elaborated the role of the

CRPF in maintaining cor-

dial relationship between

Ramesh Kumar, DIG

Jammu Range, TH

Khan, Commandant-76

locals & force.

#### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 197 of 2023-24 Dated 26.02.2024

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contrac -tor	Head of Account
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Boundary wall and interlock tile at	2.75	600/-	@2% of	30 Days	"D"	UT Capex
	Facilitation Cum Sale Centre of			advertised			Budget
	Horticulture Department Udhampur.			cost			Horticulture

Position of AAA:-Accorded Position of T.S:-Accorded Position of Funds:-Available

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website http://jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-02-2024			
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 26-02-2024 to 04-03-2024, 1800 Hrs			
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	01-03-2024 at 1200 Hrs, Executive Engineer, PWD			
	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	(R&B) Division, Udhampur.			
4	Bid submission Start Date	27-02-2024 from 1700 Hrs			
- 5	Bid Submission End Date	04-03-2024 up to 1800 Hrs			
- 6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	05-03-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of			
	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Offline)	Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.			
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.			

- 1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- 2. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the reon of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of
- 3. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

Dated:- 26-02-2024

No:- 27126-31

DIP/J-15516/23

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division

### TH Khan organises free medical camp

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: Under the guidance of IG Jammu Sector and DIG Range Jammu, a free medical camp organized by TH Khan, Commandant- 76 Bn under Civic Action Programme on Thursday at Panchayat Ghar Near Lal Madrassa, Sunjwan Lower Bathindi, Jammu.

The main objective of the camp was to reach out to the needy people of the area to provide free health care and make them aware about their health.

In the Medical Camp, 04 Medical Officers namely Dr. Amit Kumar, SMO, 38 Battalion CRPF, Dr.



free medicines. Shivani Malhotra, Dr. Gulam Ali Khatana, Saroj and Dr. Nazish Hussain, Medical Officer M.P. Jammu inaugurated conducted free medical the Civic Action Procheck-up of around 425 civilians and provided

On this Occasion, by doing physical exer-

Ramesh Kumar, DIG Jammu Range, TH Khan, Commandant-76 Bn appealed to all people of the area to remain fit Bn, Praveen Kumar, Asst. Comdt., Rajinder Pal Singh, Asstt. Comdt., Gulam Rashool, Lamberdar Bathindi, Medical Staff & Jawans of 76 Bn CRPF also participated in the camp.

The initiative drew positive response and was received well by the locals with the urge that CRPF to organize such camps in the future also.

### **EDITORIAL**

# GREGORIAN CALENDER

The Gregorian calendar is the most commonly used calendar around the world. According to this calendar, one extra day is added every 4 years and this day is added only in the month of February, due to which this month becomes 29 days. Generally there are only 28 days in the month of February. This extra day is called leap day and this entire year is called leap year. Leap years occur since the Gregorian calendar was adopted in the world. It is said that if we do not celebrate leap year, we will go behind by 0.2422 days every year. So in 400 years, this will be a difference of approximately 91 days. This will also cause climate change. That means in 400 years, spring will be summer, and winter will be spring. It is generally said that the Earth takes 365 days to complete one revolution around the Sun, but in reality the Earth takes 365.2422 days. To correct this difference, we celebrate a leap year every four years. After knowing all this, now the question arises that why was this extra day added in February only? Before the Gregorian calendar, it was followed according to the Julian calendar and this Julian calendar was based on the Sun. According to this calendar, the first month was March and the last month was February, while leap year was also included in this calendar. The extra day of leap year was added to the last month i.e. February. But when the Gregorian calendar was adopted, the first month became January and the second month became February. In such a situation, as per the already existing order, the extra day remained in February only. The history of leap year is considered very old. The ancient Egyptians and Romans used leap years. It is being used from ancient civilizations till today. The first leap year was established by Julius Caesar in 46 BC. In the Julian calendar established by Julius Caesar, there was a provision for a leap year every four years. After this, the Julian calendar was changed to the Gregorian calendar in 1582. Since then it has become a tradition to add a leap day to February. In the Julian calendar, leap years are observed every four years. What is the significance of leap year?

- It helps in better understanding the cycle of seasons.
- Leap years ensure that important dates always fall in the same season.
- In many cultures, leap years have special significance. In some cultures, it is considered lucky, while others are considered bad luck.
- It helps in better understanding the cycle of seasons.
- Leap years ensure that important dates always fall in the same season.
- In many cultures, leap years have special significance. In some cultures, it is considered lucky, while in others it is considered bad luck.

The year 2024 is a leap year. In such a situation, 29 February 2024 became a leap day. Usually there are 28 days in February. But in the leap year that comes every 4 years, an extra day is added to February, making the month of February 29 days. In this way 29th February is called Leap Day. In this decade, these years fall as leap year 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2020, 2024, 2028, 2032, 2016, 2036, 2040, 2044, 2048, 2052, 2056, 2060, 2064, 2068, 2072, 2072, 2080, 2084, 2088, 2092, 2096.

Some interesting facts related to leap

- People born on February 29 are called "Leaplings", "Leapers" or "Leap Day Babies".
- People born on February 29 celebrate their birthday only every four years.
- In some countries, such as Italy, it is considered inauspicious to get married in a leap year.
- It is said that people born on February 29 in leap years are very lucky.
- In leap years, the Earth's rotation slows down slightly.

#### Acute poverty falls in India, but not extreme inequality

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

veryone loves a survey, **⊣** especially in a paradox-**⊿**ridden country. Take the survey that has been making news and is fast emerging as potent campaign fodder as the Lok Sabha elections draw nearer. After a gap of 11 years, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has released data on household consumption expenditure in the country. It is a preliminary fact sheet, not the detailed report yet. But in a sharply polarised landscape, both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its opponents have jumped on to it to sell their own political narratives. On offer are dramatically different images of India.

The "good news" emanating from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), conducted during August 2022 to July 2023, and flagged by government spokespersons, is about a dramatic reduction in poverty, about per capita monthly household spending more than doubling in 2022-23 compared to 2011-12, about Indians who are eating better and have more disposable incomes. There is data to buttress some of these assertions -- Indians are indeed spending less on food as a percentage of their monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) and more on clothes, toiletries, durable goods, etc. They are spending more on dry fruit -up from 0.58 per cent of the MPCE in 2011-2012 to 1.15 per cent in 2022-23.

All this is part of the India story. But it is not the full story. If everything in the country is so "shiny", why do the poorest five per cent of rural India -- about seven crore people -- spend only Rs 46 per day, asked Congress president Mal-

likarjun Kharge.

That a survey released on the eve of elections becomes a political tool should surprise no one. But there is also the citizen's perspective. One basic question leaps out: is India progressing towards better living standards for all citizens? Here, the picture is a mixed one.

Clearly, extreme poverty is declining across vast swathes of the country. But extreme inequality is not. Extreme inequality matters because it comes in the way of the country realising its full potential.

The latest household survey offers some stark facts about the gaps -- between the richest and the poorest, between states, between cities and villages and between social groups.

The bottom five per cent of India's rural population has an average MPCE of only Rs 1,441; it is Rs 2,087 in the urban areas; the top five per cent of India's rural and urban population has an average MPCE of Rs 10,581 and Rs 20,846, respectively.

Among the states, Sikkim has the highest MPCE (rural – Rs 7,787 and urban – Rs 12,125); Chhattisgarh has the lowest (rural – Rs 2,575, urban -- Rs 4,557), says the report.

The latest HCES data also reflects the sharp cleavage between social groups. The Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes continue to trail behind others. In rural areas, the Scheduled Tribes reported the lowest MPCE at Rs 3,098, followed by Rs 3,571 for the Scheduled Castes.

It is interesting to look at changing patterns of household spending on food. The share of cereals and pulses within overall expenditure on food has reduced sharply, both in villages and cities. The MPCE share spent on cereals fell to 4.9 per

cent in 2022-23 from 10.7 per cent in 2011-12. Part of the reason can be attributed to the government's free foodgrain schemes. It is also true that more protein-rich dairy products, eggs, fish, meat, and fresh fruits are being consumed.

That said, there are questions, troubling takeaways, and much that we do not know.

For example, when we say Indians are moving towards better food, are we factoring in the sharp spike in consumption of ultra-processed food? The HCES 2022-2023 shows that Indians in rural and urban areas are consuming greater quantities of beverages and ultra processed food that are unhealthy. The share of expenditure on "beverage, processed food, and others" has gone up from 7.9 per cent of the total MPCE in 2011-12 to 9.4 per cent of the same. Alongside, expenditure on "pan (betel leaf), tobacco, & intoxicants" has risen from 3.2 per cent to 3.7 per cent in the same period.

This is happening against a backdrop of rising obesity among adults and children and an alarming spike in lifestyle diseases in the country. The latest household consumption survey shows rising expenditure on medical treatment (both hospitalisation and non-hospitalisation) in both rural and urban areas.

There is another very important dimension: gender. The fact sheet does not tell us anything about intra-household food consumption or allocation of resources. We need more granular data on who is eating what, when and how much to be able to conclusively say if diets have improved for all Indians. Ditto with the data on conveyance. Both urban and rural Indians are spending more on conveyance. Overall, spending on conveyance

has jumped from 4.2 per cent of the MPCE in 2011-12 to 7.3 per cent of the MPCE in 2022-23.

The question: is this sharp spurt in expenditure about greater mobility or about increase in fuel costs and rising inflation? Further, is the extra money spent on transport leading to greater freedom of movement and opportunities for women as well as men? The most recent National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5. 2019-2021) tells us that only 42 per cent of women in the 15-49 age group reported enjoying "freedom of movement". That means being able to go alone to the market, health facility, and places outside the village or community. This marked a very slight increase from 41 per cent (NFHS-4, 2015-16).

There are more worrying takeaways. Indian families are cutting down on expenditure on education. The factsheet does not tell us why, but some analysts say the data in HCES 2022-2023 could well be reflecting the after effects of the Covid-19 pandemic or pandemic effect. Many children were pulled out of private schools and put into government schools. "Many children did not resume private schooling after that... there was a shift to govt schooling/cheaper options noted during those years. Many small private schools were shut down or handed over to the state," says education strategy expert Meeta Sengupta. Clearly, we need much more research on why expenditure on education has come down.

As the poll season kicks off, data wars are going to intensify. There are great stories tucked within a survey. It depends on which story one wants to listen to, whether one has the appetite to listen to all the stories, and ask about the ones that are not being told loud enough.

### How to Get Healthy Glowing Skin with Fruits



**By: Shahnaz Husain** 

Your journey to getting healthy and radiant skin begins with your diet. The foods we consume play a crucial role in the overall health and appearance of our skin.

Your skin will only glow if you are healthy from the inside out, regardless of how many cosmetics you use.

That's why getting the right amount of nutrients through your food is a must.

Fruits are an abundant source of nutrients and essential vitamins and minerals. And, eating fruit is the key to improving your overall skin health too

From preventing acne and blemishes to keeping your skin radiant, fruits do it all. If you don't know where to begin, we have curated a list of the best fruits for glowing skin to include in your diet and skincare routine.

This tropical fruit is a rich source of vitamins A, B, and C containing minerals such as copper, potassium, and manganese.

1--Papaya

An enzyme present in it, papain, is capable of treating acne, removing blemishes, and tanning. It also cleanses and unclogs the pores.

it is a great fruit to maintain glowing skin.

Additionally, it contains antiviral,

antibacterial, and antifungal qualities that can treat various skin problems such as moles, eczema, and ulcers. Papaya can be consumed daily in a bowl or you can even apply it topically as a face pack. A single cup of fresh papaya contains a whopping 86.5 milligrams of vitamin C and 1 milligram of vitamin E.

Eating papaya can aid in avoiding constipation, which is one of the factors contributing to unhealthy skin It is a good choice for skin problems

like warts, ulcers, and eczema
Use papaya in your diet and cosmet-

Use papaya in your diet and cosmetic routine if you suffer from digestion problems, scars, or discoloration.

2 Orange -----This sweet, juicy, and pulpy fruit is one of the most well-known sources of vitamin C.

Orange can decrease oxidative damage, photodamage, DNA damage, lessen inflammation, and promote the production of collagen. It has natural citrus oils which keep your skin hydrated from the inside and plump on the outside.

The natural oils present in oranges protect our skin from harmful UV rays, flush out the toxins from our skin, increase hydration, and slow down premature ageing. It also helps to build natural collagen that prevents premature ageing.

Every day, eat half an orange. Start adding oranges to your salad, stew, cakes, and chocolates.

Add a little orange juice to your smoothie.

Orange juice can be applied topically wherever there is pigmentation. After ten minutes, rinse.

Combine 2 tablespoons of gram flour, 1/2 teaspoon of turmeric, 3 tablespoons of orange juice, 1 teaspoon of lemon juice for oily skin. Use as a pack.

Combine 3 tablespoons of orange juice, 1 teaspoon each of lemon and milk, along with 1/2 teaspoon each of turmeric and honey, to treat dry skin

3--Lemon
This round yellow fruit is popular-

ly used in several skincare products. From anti-acne creams to anti-aging lotions, this citrus fruit can prevent a host of skin issues. Lemon available all year round is the superfood for a healthy skincare regimen. Brimming with vitamin C, It serves as a natural bleaching agent that brightens skin complexion and also improves skin's barrier function to protect it against harmful environmental aggressors

. Lemon is rich in antioxidants that help release toxins from your skin and also help protect the skin from hyperpigmentation and clear acne.

Having a glass of lemon juice each day will intensely hydrate the skin, effectively reduce acne, hyperpigmentation, dark patches, and even minor scarring

Lemon juice water with a teaspoon of honey added to it should be the first thing you drink in the morning. You can add lemon juice to your salad and even your curries while you consume them

4---Cucumber

Cucumbers, water-rich fruit contain a whopping 96% water content. Unpeeled cucumbers are incredibly rich in

fiber and vitamins K and C, both of which are essential for making your skin appear bright and glowing.

The hydrating properties of cucumber make it the best food for people with dry and acne-prone skin.

Daily intake of cucumber in any form is essential for the development of healthy cells. A bowl of sliced cucumber can help in

puffy eyes, swelling, sunburn, acne, or even cleansing of the skin.

Placing a slice of cucumber over each eye is a great way to reduce puffiness, dark circles as well as fine lines and wrinkles around the eye area.

Cucumber tastes good when eaten raw. Just peel them, sprinkle some salt, and black pepper, and your evening snack is ready.

Add it to your salads and sandwiches. Cucumber juice can also be eaten first thing in the morning.

To moisturize dry skin, grate a cucumber and add 1 tablespoon of milk to it. Add a teaspoon of coconut oil to the mixture and apply it to your skin. Rinse off after 10 minute

Mix grated cucumber with 1 tablespoon of milk and 1 tablespoon coconut oil. Apply the mixture to

your skin. Rinse off after 15 minute.
It's a natural moisturizer for people with dry skin

5----Strawberries

Apart from being great ice cream flavors, Strawberries are as beneficial as they are tempting!

This sweet, citrus fruit contains vitamin C that increases the skin's ability to produce collagen, evens out skin tone, and gives you a more radiant appearance

appearance.

The fruit is rich in salicylic acid, which acts as a chemical cleanser for all skin types. It removes dirt, bacteria, and debris from your pores, thus opening all clogged pores and giving you glowing skin. Ellagic acid, found in strawberries, has been shown to prevent UV damage and reduces the appearance of signs of aging. Strawberries are inexpensive yet super effective natural chemical exfoliators.

Have a bowl of strawberries with your breakfast. You can also add strawberries to your descerts

strawberries to your desserts

Mash a few strawberries. Apply the
mashed pieces to your skin and wash
off after 10 minutes for glowing and

radiant Skin .

Mash a few strawberries and add a tablespoon of lime juice to it. Apply to the affected area. Wash off after 10 minutes with lukewarm water for pigmentation and tanning.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

### Rich Harvest budding Scientists win 1st place in Quiz

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: On National Science Day, students from Rich Harvest School, Bari Brahmana had an extraordinary opportunity to explore the marvels of science at the prestigious exhibition organized by the Survey of India held on 28th Feb, 2024.

The event showcased the nation's rich scientific heritage and celebrated the pioneering spirit of Indian scientists.

National Science Day commemorates the discovery of the Raman Effect by Nobel laureate Sir C.V. Raman in 1928.

In honor of this significant contribution to science, the Survey of India hosted an immersive exhibition designed to inspire the next generation of innovators and



explorers.

Led by passionate scientists and experts from the Survey of India, the exhibition featured a wide range of captivating displays, interactive demonstrations, and informative presentations. From geospatial technologies to cartography, students had the opportunity to delve into various aspects of earth sciences and geographic exploration.

Through engaging exhibits and quiz competition, students gained insights into the role of surveying and mapping in addressing real-world challenges, such as urban planning, disaster management, and environmental conservation. The exhibition highlighted the importance of scientific research and its impact on society, sparking curiosity and inspiring students to pursue careers in science and technology.

The students were provided with a unique opportunity to engage with cutting-edge science and technology. It was a truly enriching experience that has ignited their passion for exploration and discovery.

The visit to the Survey of India's exhibition not only expanded students' knowledge but also fostered a deeper appreciation for the contributions of Indian scientists to the global scientific community. As they reflect on their experiences, students are inspired to embrace the spirit of inquiry and innovation in their academic and personal pursuits.

The Director of the School Ruchi Charak and Head of the Institute Anita Bhatia applauded the efforts of the young scientists for achieving a remarkable feat by winning an amazing 11 prizes and 1st place in the Quiz organized by the Survey of India on the memorable day.

#### Free Medical camp organized by 162 Bn CRPF at Waskura

**Top News Report** 

HANDWARA, Feb 29: A free medical health check-up camp was organized on Thursday during the Civic Action Programme conducted by the 162 Battalion Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at ITI Handwara and distributed free medicines.

The camp was inaugu-

rated by Commandant 162 Battalion CRPF Vinod Kumar, Second in command Rajiv Kumar Lambardar Wuskura Handwara Shahzad Ahmad Dar, Assistant Commandant R K Malik, Assistant Commandant Abishek Yaudv, Medical Officer Dr Ajay, Dr Javid Ahmad 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 220 people took advantage of the camp.

Speaking on the occasion Commandant Vinod Kumar 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 organised 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 Vinod Kumar

#### **NHM Employees Association welcomes** New CMO Kishtwar Dr Rajinder



**Top News Report** 

KISHTWAR, Feb 29: The NHM Employees Association, Kishtwar, accorded a warm welcome to the new Chief

Medical Officer (CMO) of Kishtwar, Dr. Rajinder

Dr. Nazir Hussain, the District President of the NHM Association, along with Dr. Noor ul Hassan and Ankush, met Dr. Kumar and extended their greetings.

Dr. Kumar is a seasoned medical professional with extensive experience in various healthcare roles

He has previously served as the Medical Superintendent of the District Hospital in Reasi, the District Health Officer in Kathua, and the Block Medical Officer in Bani, Billawar, and RS Pura. He has also held the positions of Deputy CMO and DIO in Reasi.

The NHM Employees Association expressed their hope for a collaborative working relationship with Dr. Kumar to improve healthcare ser-

#### SWD Bhaderwah organises training cum awareness program on Juvenile Justice

**Top News Report** 

BHADERWAH , Feb 29: Social Welfare Department (SWD) on Thursday organized a one-day Training cum Awareness Program on the Juvenile Justice Act under the Mission Vatsalya scheme at Community Hall Bhaderwah District Development

Council Chairman Dhanter Singh Kotwal, graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Secretary District legal Services Authority (Sub Judge ) Ramesh Lal, was the guest of honour, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sanjeev Kumar and Advocate Mohd Majid Malik



program. During his address, Resource Person Advocate Mohd Majid Malik highlighted the significance of such training programs in creating awareness and fostering a collective approach. He underscored the essential role played by collaborative efforts in ensuring the safety and well-being of children

within the community. He emphasized that the primary objective of the program was to enlighten stakeholders about the Mission Vatsalva Guidelines, ensuring a comprehensive understanding and implementation of child protection and welfare measures.

He also threw light on POCSO Act 2012 and role of Child Welfare Committee and JJB in each district.

Advocate informed that the District Child Protection Unit. Child Welfare Committee, and Juvenile Justice Boards are all playing an active role in implementing child rights and juvenile justice within the district. They are also involved in addressing concerns related to child labor and legal violations. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) underpins the department's focus on providing comprehensive services to vulnerable childrens.

This includes those from at-risk families or who are victims of abuse, trafficking, or exploita-

However Arif Rana educationist was stage secretary and Tahir Nadeem Khan Senior Journalist also spoke on the occa-

#### **Educationist Anshu Kataria honored in** Sapt Sindhu Lit Fest in Panjab University



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: Organised by Nivedita Trust, Sapt Sindhu Forum, the Sapt Sindhu Lit Fest, 24 concluded at Panjab University, Chandigarh.

On the occasion, the eminent personalities who have performed well in their respective fields in society were honoured. Among them, Chair-

man, Aryans Group of Colleges, Dr. Anshu Kataria was honoured with the "Sapt Sindhu Shiromani award".

The Chief Guest of the session was Dr. H R Gandhar while Guest of Honour was Baba Kashmira Singh.

The panelists of this session were Dr. Jagdish Singh & Dr. Alankaar. The session was presided over by Dr. Harpreet Singh Jathedar. Dr. Yograj was the speaker of the session.

Dr. Kataria, while thanking said it is a matter of pride for me to be honoured here as I am the alumnus of this univer-

He added that the

Indian philosophy can be known only by fully understanding Gurbani, and for this. Sanskrit is necessary. Instead of following Western culture, we should follow our ancient culture and not consider it inferior to modern civilization in any

On the occasion, Prof. B S Ghumman, Senator Mukesh Gautam, Prof Mukesh Arora, Ashwani Sekhri, Prof. Jintender Grover, Virender Garg, Sukhi Chahal (USA), Madeep Agarwal etc were present.

#### **Ajeet Bhagat meets** DC Kishtwar, submits memorandum

**Top News Report** 

KISHTWAR Feb 29 Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Senior Leader, Spokesperson Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat met Dr. Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar and submitted a Chater of demands for redressal.

Bhagat demanded the upgradation of High School Pochhal to the level of Higher Secondary School, opening of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Branch in Village Pochhal, upgradation of Medical Sub Centre to the level of Allopathic Dispensary (AD) in Village Pochhal, provide high breed fruit plants to the deserving farmers free of cost, development of Chowgan Ground Kishtwar as per project already submitted through Floriculture

Department and KDA. Bhagat also demanded blacktopping, repairing

ofroads from Pochhal to Arsi, Narangadi, Machgadi and Camp Ground Pochhal to Saras, educated and uneducated unemployed youth of Kishtwar District be given priority and other works in Hydroelectric Power Projects at Kishtwar on performance basis.

He said that the SRTC Buses be provided exclusively for Government employees and sons all routes particularly on such link Roads where there is no SRTC Bus service

Dr, Devansh Yadav patiently hearing to the Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance leader and assured that soon their demands will be considered at the earliest after consulting the higher authorities.

#### May Fair Int'l School holds farewell party for class 12th students



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: May Fair International School , Chinore , Jammu organized Farewell Party for their Class 12th on Thursday in the school premises. Students of Class 11th put great Efforts along with the Lecturers to make this Farewell Party a Huge Success.

To begin with Class 11th students gave a warm welcome to the Guests of Honour, Mgt. Committee Members, Staff Members & all the Students of Class 12th.

A Galaxy of Dignitaries were present to Bless the

Students, Gauray Gupta - Secretary, Jammu Club / Ex Secretary General CCI Jammu, Rinku Chodhary , BJP District General Secretary, Jammu Border, Riaz Malik & Shahzad Malik -Social Activists were the Guests of Honour, Abhey Basur - Director May Fair Schools, Radhika Basur

- Trustee and Sunny Nanda (general secretary J&K Sports Speedball Association ) Sandeep Sharma - Management Committee Member were the Special Guests on the occasion.

Class 11th students presented beautiful Dance Performances & Class 12th Students also Participated along with them All the Guests Blessed the Students with Best Wishes for their Future Endeavours & presented Momentos as a token of Blessings & Appreciation to Students as well as Staff Members.

They appreciated the Efforts of Neha Gupta School Incharge & Staff Members for organizing such a Fine Function . Sonia Bhardwaj & Arvind Bhagat from Class 12th were adjudged as Miss May Fair & Mr. May Fair For Session 2023-24 respectively.

#### School Education Board should protect parents from looting of private schools: Amit Kapoor

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: President of Parents Association Jammu, Amit Kapoor has said that the School Education Board should protect the parents from being looted by the mafia of private schools. He said that the order to install books in all private schools at par with government schools should be strictly followed.

Along with this, he also said that orders should be issued to all the CEOs of Jammu division to strictly

implement this order. Kapoor said this while addressing a press conference in Jammu. He

said that if the CEO of Poonch can issue orders in this regard and warn private schools to take strict action, then the CEOs of Jammu and other districts should also not hesitate to do the same. He said that if they do not do this then it is clear that they have nexus with private schools

Amit Kapoor said that the Director of School **Education Department** should take this matter seriously to save the parents from being looted by the mafia of private schools and issue orders to all the CEOs to ensure

that the private schools



are treated the same as the government schools. Be sure to arrange the

books. He warned that if the Director of School **Education Department** failed to do so, he would launch a series of vigorous protests against it. Along with this, he also urged LG Manoj Sinha to intervene in this matter and issue instructions to the concerned officials to stop the looting perpetrated by private schools.

#### **GDC Udhampur emerges overall winner of Wrestling Cship**

**Top News Report** 

UDHAMPUR, Feb 29: GDC Udhampur emerged overall winner of Inter-collegiate Men's Wrestling Championship, organised by Directorate of Sports and Physical Education at University of Jammu on 27th of February, 2024.

Bishal Singh scripted the history as he became one of the best emerging wrestlers of the colleges, who won the gold medal in the 70 Kg weight category while the other students who won silver medal were Atul Raina. Mohammad Sajjad, Jasveer Singh and Razak

Mohammad in 98 Kg, 92 Kg, 57 Kg and 61 Kg respectively.

Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal GDC, Udhampur expressed his delight by congratulating Bishal Singh and the other winners for winning the overall championship.

Principal in his address, appreciated the efforts and sportsmanship of the students which they proved by winning the tournament in such a gallantry manner.

He also added that such achievements are the source of inspiration for the young sportspersons and will provide a



new perspective to others also. He further said that college always emphasised on the sports, infrastructure and development on the campus to allow students to prepare for a career in their respective games.

ed the medal winners, organised by the Department of Sports, in presence of Dr. Mohinder Pal, Convener Sports Committee, Mr. Shashi Sharma, PTI and the other faculty members of the college

Prof. (Dr.) Romesh

#### **Wham, Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, Jennifer Lopez — if you** love their music, here's your chance to know them know up close and personal

It's raining musicals! This blossoming affair between filmmakers and singers needs to be celebrated and we so badly wish to have the talent to sing it for you. But fret not, even if we cannot, singers like Beyonce, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez and Bob Marley are doing it for us with their recent releases.

As they enthrall us with their singing talents, we try to find out what makes these musical popular, the hot picks available for binging and which dates to reserve for upcoming musical films and docu-series. Read on:

Concert movies

Concerts, which is supposedly the breadwinner for singers, has now been turned into a cash cow. Films are edited out of extensive world tours of these celebs and played on 70mm screen as concert films. Last year, Grammy award winner Taylor Swift released Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour and Swifties from across the globe turned up in theatres making it not just a global hit but highest grossing concert film of all time. The record was previously held by Michael Jackson's This Is It, a 2009 American documentary film, with \$ 261.2 million collection worldwide. Taylor Swift: The Eras



docu-film is set between

Tour grossed over \$ 261.6 million in worldwide collection.

On January 4, celebrated singer Beyoncé released her concert documentary in Indian theatres. Titled Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé, it is neither a film nor a concert but more of a culture on Black dance music. The film chronicles the artiste's Renaissance World Tour, which was based on her 2022 studio album by the same name. Through its release in the US on World AIDS Day (December 1), Queen Bevs paid a tribute to her uncle, Johnny, the one who first introduced her to house music. Apparently he died of AIDS.

Dramatic life

Not all celeb documentaries or series revolve around concerts or career. Some are more personal. This Is Me... Now: A Love Story by American singeractress Jennifer Lopez (JLo) is one such project. The Prime Video

her painful breakup with Ben Affleck just before the wedding in 2004 to their whirlwind reunion and becoming 'Bennifer' in 2021. It focuses on JLo's complicated love life. The songs it featured from her new album This Is Me... Now sure added the romance quotient to the valentine's week. And for those who couldn't get enough of this dramatic artiste, JLo had previously released an

spotlight. Tribute-worthy

intimate documentary,

titled Halftime, where

she reflected on her

multifaceted career and

the pressure of life in the

Bob Marley: One Love hit the theatres across the globe on Valentine's Day to emphasise on late Bob Marley's message of love, unity and redemption which he imparted while living through his music. His biopic, directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green, helps part the reggae artiste from the legendout with this song. The illuminating and anecdotal show reveals how Quincy Jones rounded up all those talented personalities into one of the biggest recordings of the 1980s. It included names like George Michael, Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Stevie Wonder, Paul Simon, Kenny Rogers, James Ingram, Tina Turner, Billy Joel and more.

how all the celebrities

joined hands to come

American Symphony is another applauded musical of 2023. In this documentary, musician Jon Batiste attempts to compose a symphony as his wife, writer Suleika Jaouad undergoes cancer treatment. Matthew Heineman directed the film.

Getting personal

The four-part documentary Ed Sheeran: The Sum of It All, available on Disney+Hotstar, reveals the celebrated singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran's private life. He talks about universal themes that inspire him to create music and talks about the hardships and triumphs in his life. Ed and his wife bare it all. The raw emotions, heartfelt performances and behind-the-scene unedited footage make it a very-well executed attempt in knowing Ed Sheeran up, close and personal.

### Asha Bhosle: 'I can sing almost 18 songs at one go at age 90'



Her first song came when she was just 10. Eighty years on, Asha Bhosle is 90 and says she can belt out 18 numbers at one go even today. And that's just what Bhosle is about to do at her March 9 concert to celebrate her 90th birthday.

"If I will live more, I will go almost everywhere in Maharashtra and do shows. The name of my show is Woh Phir Nahin Aati Hai. I will also not come again... You should never regret that you haven't seen that person. People say we did not see Kishore Kumar and other singers (perform). But now you can say we have seen Asha Bhosle," the legendary singer said at a press

Singing, she said, is her passion. She would sing even as a child but took to professional singing due to circumstances, Asha Bhosle said.

"I got the name and fame, people started recognising me. Even though when I am not working, I keep singing. I keep practising. I never left singing, that's why my voice is okay even today. Maintaining one's voice is akin to "taking care of your body," she said.

"I don't practise for others. I practise for myself because I like it. I sang my first song when I was 10 years old and it's been 80 years. I want to thank you all. (I don't know) how you have tolerated my voice for 80 years? I almost sing 18 songs at this age. I am always on stage," Bhosle said.

Her first film track was "Chala Chala Nav Bala" for the 1943 Marathi film Majha Bal. From peppy numbers such as "Piya Tu Ab To Aaja" and "O Haseena Zulfon Wali" to soulful ghazals like "Dil Cheez Kya Hai" and the classical "Tora Man Darpan Kehlaye", she has some 12,000 songs across languages to her credit.

The second of the five Mangeshkar siblings — Lata Mangeshkar being the oldest — Asha Bhosle last took the stage in Dubai on September 8, 2023, her 90th birthday.

With the upcoming concert, Bhosle said she was honouring her promise of performing in her city.

"Mumbai is my city. It has seen me taking buses, walking on roads. Mumbai has seen me when I had nothing. Mumbai has seen me in the car also. Now, I have everything, kids and family. I will do a show in my city and I know everyone will go back home happy," she added.

Bhosle said she was a big fan of ghazal maestro Pankaj Udhas, who died at a Mumbai hospital on Monday after prolonged illness.

"He had visited my home too. I sang his songs when he was a music director. He was a great person, other than that it's god's will. Nobody can go against god's will," she said.

Her granddaughter Zanai Bhosle will perform with her at the show.

"It makes me teary eyed that you have given my grandmother so much love even in her 90s... I feel grateful that I was born in this house. Firstly, I am going to perform with a person who is India's heart and voice. But for me, she is my grandmother... I mean, who gets a chance like this? I am doing it for her,"

Asha Bhosle also hummed a few lines of "Kuch Toh Log Kahenge", the song from the 1972 film Amar Prem, in the memory of her late husband-music composer RD Burman.

#### Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh expecting their first child

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh have announced that they are expecting their first child.

Bollywood star couple are all set to welcome their first bundle of joy in September

Ranveer and Deepika took to their respective Instagram, where they made the announcement. They shared an e-car, which has balloons, baby onesies, lollipops and booties made on it with pastel colours.

The card has "September 2024. Deepika and



Ranveer" written on it. For the caption they chose, two folded hands and evil eye emoticons. It was on February 20, when speculation about having their first baby went viral on the internet. It was reported that

ary singer who stirred

up a revolution and a

political change. It's also

one good opportunity to

listen to those reggae

Fiction, but musical

Yet to release in India,

Mean Girls (2024) is

the latest teen musical

comedy. A perfect amal-

gamation of 2004 film

and its adapted stage

musical, it is based on

the original screen-

play by Tina Fey. With

Samantha Jayne and

Arturo Perez Jr helming

the project as their fea-

ture directorial debuts,

the film is currently the

highest grosser in the

US. The film is a refresh-

ing tale mixed with

contemporary musical

adaptations, cinema-

tography and choreog-

Historically speaking

The Greatest Night in

Pop on Netflix gives you

the front row ticket to

We Are The World song

concert. The song made

history by raising funds

for the people of Africa,

who were affected by

a famine. It's all about

anthems.

trimester. The two started dating after coming together in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's movie 'Ram-Leela'. It was released on November 15, 2013.

Deepika is in her second

The actors got married in 2018 in Lake Como,

#### 'Can't wait to meet you': Alanna Panday, Ivor McCray expecting first child

Actress Ananya Panday's cousin and social media sensation Alanna Panday is expecting her first child with her husband Ivor McCrav.

Alanna took to Instagram and announced her pregnancy with a video from her naturethemed maternity shoot.

In the video, Alanna looked beautiful in a floral dress flaunting her baby bump, while Ivor opted for a white shirt and trousers.

Alanna also offered a peek into the sonogram. Sharing the video, she wrote, 'We love you so



much already, we can't wait to meet you.

As soon as the news was shared, fans and industry members chimed in the comment section.

Shanaya Kapoor wrote, 'congratulations'. One of the users wrote,

'So happy'. Another user commented, 'awwww congratulations'

Alanna and Ivor got married in a grand wedding on March 16. 2023, following Hindu rituals in Mumbai with several Bollywood stars in attendance. Ivor is a **US-based** photographer by profession.

Ivor and Alanna dated for many years before they decided on tying the knot.

Alanna is the daughter of Chunky Panday's brother Chikki Panday and fitness instructor Deanne Panday.

#### **Taapsee Pannu to marry** long-time boyfriend, badminton coach Mathias Boe in March



Taapsee Pannu, who was last seen in Dunki along with Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, is set to tie the knot with her longtime

partner Mathias Boe. The couple is set to exchange wedding vows in a grand celebration which will reportedly be a blend

and Christianity. While the two like keeping a low key about their relationship but have never been secretive about it.

of traditions of Sikhism

Taapsee and Mathias have been dating for over a decade now. Mathias, who hails from Denmark, is a badminton player-turned coach. He made his international debut in 1998. He rose to world number 1 in doubles and currently coaches the Indian team in doubles. He won the men's doubles silver medal at the 2012 Olympics in London, and a silver at the 2013 World Championship.

#### **Kanye West sued** for 'stealing' Donna Summer's 'I Feel Love' for 'Vultures'



Controversy's favourite child, rapper Kanye West has landed into another trouble. He is being taken to court by the late Donna Summer's estate. The late singer's estate has alleged that he used a sample of the singer's hit song without permission.

Kanye, Ty Dolla \$ign, Ye's record label, and more are allegedly being sued by the estate for using Donna's 1977 song I Feel Love, according to legal documents. The Gold Digger rapper released his first album in his Vultures 1 compilation earlier this month. Donna's estate claims that the album's song Good (Don't Die) included vocals of the late disco diva after the estate "explicitly denied" them permission, according to the

#### **Euphoria star Hunter Schafer** arrested during pro-Palestine protest in US

Hunter Schafer, who is known for her work in the drama streaming series Euphoria, was taken into the police custody for storming 30 Rock during the taping of US President Joe Biden's Late Night appearance.

The cops and sources said that she was booked along with 33 protesters

Sources have said that the actress was issued a summon for trespassing, after she participated in the protest. The protest was organised to demand a ceasefire in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Schafer was photographed wearing a Cease-fire Now t-shirt while she was escorted out by a New York City Police Department



officer with her hands restrained behind her back. She joined other protesters with the organisation Jewish Voice for Peace as they sat in the lobby of 30 Rock holding banners.

### India, Mauritius natural partners in dealing with challenges in Indian Ocean region: PM Modi

The PM also announced that Mauritius will be the first country to join India's Jan Aushadhi scheme, an initiative rolled out to provide quality medicines at affordable prices.

NEW DELHI, Feb 29 (Agencies): India and Mauritius are natural partners in the maritime domain to deal with traditional and non-traditional challenges in the Indian Ocean region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday after virtually inaugurating a number of New Delhi-assisted development projects in the island nation.

The prime minister also announced that Mauritius will be the first country to join India's Jan Aushadhi scheme, an initiative rolled out to provide quality medicines at affordable prices.

At a virtual ceremony, Modi and his Mauritian prime minister counterpart Pravind Jugnauth inaugurated several community development projects at the Agalega Island in Mauritius that were implemented with India's financial assistance. The projects included an airstrip and a

In his brief address at the event, Modi described Mauritius as an important partner under



India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, noting that the two countries achieved "new heights" in mutual cooperation in the last few years. He also referred to various challenges in the Indian Ocean region.

"Various traditional and nontraditional challenges are emerging in the Indian Ocean region. These challenges impact our economic systems. India and Mauritius are natural

partners in the maritime domain to deal with these challenges," the prime minister said.

"We are working actively towards ensuring security, prosperity and stability in the Indian Ocean region," he said.

His comments came amid increasing concerns in New Delhi over China's growing military forays into the Indian Ocean region which is largely considered as the backyard of the Indian Navy.

Modi also said that the development partnership between India and Mauritius has been a "significant pillar" of the political relationship between the two

"Our development partnership is based on Mauritius' priorities," he said.

The development projects are expected to fulfil the demand for better connectivity between mainland Mauritius and Agale-

The inauguration of these projects came weeks after the launch of India's UPI systems and RuPay card services in Mauritius.

"We are making history today on the island of Agalega with the inauguration of a new airstrip. a new jetty and several other development projects," Jugnauth said at the event.

"This event marks a great moment for the remarkable and exemplary partnership between Mauritius and India," he added.

#### **Lt Governor Forced Officers** To Stall Bus Marshal **Scheme: Arvind Kejriwal**



NEW DELHI, Feb 29 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday accused Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena of threatening officers to stall various city government initiatives, including the bus marshal scheme.

There was no immediate reaction from the LG's office to the chief minister's claim.

Speaking in the Delhi Assembly on the issue of removal of civil defence volunteers deployed as bus marshals in Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and

cluster buses, Kejriwal said the scheme ran smoothly from 2015 to 2022.

"We formed the government in 2015 with a promise to ensure women's safety. We installed CCTV cameras in five vears, street lights were installed at dark spots and buses were equipped with CCTV cameras, panic buttons and bus marshals were deployed. There are several instances of good work by bus marshals." the chief minister

said. The bus marshal

scheme worked well for eight years but in 2023, officers started raising objections saying civil defence volunteers could not work as marshals, he said.

"The Lt Governor threatened officers to stall the bus marshal scheme. The LG questioned the deployment of marshals saying there were CCTV cameras and panic buttons," Kejriwal charged.

He also accused the BJP of shedding "crocodile tears" over the issue and said that he was ready to sign any paper for the reinstatement of bus marshals.

Kejriwal also spoke about Saxena's open letter to him on the onetime settlement scheme for allegedly inflated water bills.

"The language of the LG's letter was filthy," he said, adding such language should not be used.

#### 14 killed as pick-up vehicle overturns in Madhya Pradesh

DINDORI, Feb 29 (Agencies): Fourteen people were killed and 20 injured when a pick-up vehicle overturned and fell into a deep valley in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district in the wee hours of Thursday, a police official said.

The accident took place near Badjhar Ghat at around 1.30 am when the vehicle's driver lost control over the wheel while negotiating a blind turn.

The vehicle fell into a 50-foot-deep valley. Fourteen people died on the spot while 20 were injured, the official said. Among the deceased seven were men, six women and a minor boy.

The victims were returning to Amhai Devri from Masurghugri village in the district's Shahpura block after taking part in a programme, Sub Divisional Officer of Police Mukesh Avindra said.

Dindori Collector Vikas Mishra and Superintendent of Police Akhil Patel rushed to help the victims

The injured were admitted to the



Shahpura Community Health Centre. Six of them were reported to be in serious condition, an official said.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief and announced an assistance of Rs 4 lakh each to the kin of the deceased.

Yadav also directed state cabinet minister Sampatiya Uikey to rush to Dindori for the relief work.

Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath expressed grief over the incident.

#### Demolishing houses of poor is the truth of BJP's 'anyay kaal': Priyanka Gandhi

NEW DELHI. Feb 29 (Agencies): Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday attacked the BJP over the razing of the house of a rat-hole miner who was part of the Silkyara tunnel rescue operation, saying demolishing the houses of the poor and humiliating them is the truth of the BJP's "anyay kaal".

Several houses, including that of Wakeel Hassan, feted for saving with his team of rathole miners 41 workers trapped in Uttarkashi's Silkvara tunnel in November last year, were razed in a demo-



lition drive carried out by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Khajoori Khas area on Wednesday.

In a post on X, Vadra shared a video of Hassan's wife in which she is heard saying that her husband was the hero of Uttarkashi whom

everyone respected and in exchange for that honour, "they took away my house".

Vadra said Hassan risked his life to save the workers trapped inside the Uttarkashi tunnel.

"Then, for their publicity, big leaders of the BJP had gotten photo-

graphs clicked with him. Now when the publicity is over, today the same Wakeel Hassan was locked in the police station and his house was demolished and the roof was taken away from the heads of his children," the Congress general secretary said.

"Demolishing the houses of the poor, crushing them, torturing and humiliating them this injustice is the truth of the BJP's 'anyay kaal'. The public will definitely respond to this injustice," Vadra said.

The DDA had said on Wednesday that the demolition drive was carried out on land that was "part of planned development land".

Police said several structures built illegally were demolished during the drive.

Hours after razing his house, the DDA offered to move Hassan and his family to a temporary accommodation but he declined the offer, sources said on Thursday.

Hassan told PTI that DDA officials also told him that he would soon be provided a house in the Govindpuri area but he refused to accept the offer as it was only a "verbal assurance".

#### Ex-Intel India head killed after being knocked 20-year-old BBA student in Greater down by speeding cab in Navi Mumbai

MUMBAI, Feb 29 (Agencies): Former Intel India country head Avtar Saini was killed after a speeding cab hit him while he was cycling in Navi Mumbai township of Maharashtra, police said on Thursday.

The accident took place at around 5.50 am on Wednesday, when Saini (68) was riding a bicycle along with fellow cyclists on the Palm Beach Road in Nerul area, an official said.

The speeding cab hit Saini's bicycle from behind and the driver then tried to escape from the spot, with the bicycle's frame wedged under the front wheels of

the cab, he said.

Saini received injuries and the fellow cyclists rushed him to a hospital where he was declared dead on arrival, the official said.

Saini, a resident of suburban Chembur, was credited with working on the Intel 386 and 486 microprocessors. He

also went on to lead the design of the company's Pentium processor.

The police have registered an FIR against the cab driver under various Indian Penal Code sections, including 279 (rash driving), 337 (causing hurt by doing an act rashly or negligently so as to endan-

ger human life) and 304-A (causing death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide), and provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The accused has not yet been arrested, an official from the NRI police station said.

#### Noida killed by 'friends', body buried in farmland in Amroha

NOIDA, Feb 29 (Agencies): A 20-year-old BBA student in Greater Noida was allegedly strangled to death by four friends after an argument broke out and they buried his body 6 feet deep inside a farmland in Amroha, police officials said on Thursday.

Three of the accused were arrested on Wednesday evening after a gunfight with the police in Greater Noida in which the trio suffered gunshot injuries on their legs, officials said.

The victim and the accused belonged to Gajraula area in Amroha district, Uttar Pradesh, where the murder took place on Tuesday night, the officials said.

The student, who belongs to a business family, was enrolled for a Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) degree at a private university in Greater Noida. When he did not return to the university hostel after leaving it on Monday, an FIR was lodged at the local Dadri police station and an investigation initiated, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Greater Noida) Saad Miya Khan

police received information that Bennett Univer-

sity student Yash Mittal had not returned to the hostel since February 26. Immediately, police teams were formed to investigate the case. When CCTV footage was reviewed, it was found that he left the university campus safely in a car while talking to someone on the phone,"

Khan said. Later, as part of the probe, call data records were also checked, leading police to some suspects, including his friend Rachit Nagar who told the police about a party in Gajraula where Mittal was invited by his friends, the officer said.

"During the probe, Rachit Nagar told police that he, Yash Mittal, Shivam Singh, Shubham Singh, Sushant Verma and Shubham Chaudhary, who lived in Gajraula are friends since November 2023," the DCP said.

"On February 26, they had called Yash Mittal for the party in Gajraula. He went there during which an argument broke out between him and others after which he was killed and his body buried inside a farmland in Gajraula. We recovered the body from the farmland on Wednesday," Khan said.

The argument broke out between the accused

-- all in their late 20s and financially weak -- and Mittal, whose family is in the electronics business, after he told them that they were "surviving and having parties with his money", according to a police source privy to the probe

On Wednesday evening, the police here got to know that the accused were in Greater Noida's Dadri area. During a combing operation, a gunfight broke out during which the accused suffered bullet injuries on their legs, and were later held, police said.

The fourth accused -- Shubham Chaudhary -- is at large and efforts are under way to arrest him, police said.

"The accused told the police that they had killed Yash on February 27 but to mislead the police and his family, they sent ransom messages on February 28," DCP Khan said.

The police said they had lodged two FIRs against the accused -first for murder, criminal conspiracy, and evidence destruction, and the second after the encounter for an attempt to murder and under the Arms Act. Further legal proceedings in the case are under way, the police added.

#### Two minor girls found hanging in UP's Kanpur, families allege gang rape

KANPUR, Feb 29 (Agencies): Two girls were found hanging from a tree in a field near the brick kiln they were working in here in a village in the Ghatampur area -- days after they were allegedly raped, police said on Thursday.

Family members have alleged that the minor girls were raped a few days ago by the con-

tractor of the brick kiln, Ramroop Nishad, (48), his son Raju (18) and nephew Sanjay (19), Additional CP (law and order) Harish Chandra

All three accused have been arrested, he

According to the families, the accused had also made a video of the act to blackmail the

airls due to which they took the extreme step on Wednesday, Chandra said. The victims went miss-

ing on Wednesday and hours later in the evening, their bodies were found hanging from a tree, 400 metres from the brick kiln, the ACP said.

He said all three accused who are residents of Hamirpur district in UP have been arrested.

"We have recovered videos and photographs of the girls from mobiles of the accused which would be sent for forensic examinations," the officer said.

The accused have been booked under the Indian Penal Code

sections 376D (gang rape), 306 (abetment of suicide) and the Protection Of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Chandra said.

The bodies have been sent for a post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death and verify gang rape charges, he said.

#### Man Thrashed Dog And Locked It Up In Room In UP, Arrested After Video Surfaces

SAHARANPUR (UP). Feb 29 (Agencies): A man was arrested for allegedly locking up a dog in a room in the Deoband area and thrashing it, police said on Thursday.

A purported video of the incident surfaced on social media, showing a man hitting a dog badly, Additional SP (Rural) Sagar Jain said. A police team has rescued the dog and arrested the accused, he said.

During the probe it was found that the accused is used to beating dogs frequently, police said.

received information on Wednesday that accused Kuldeep was beating a dog after locking him in a room.

Mr Jain said that police been admitted to the hospital. The accused has been booked under Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the officer The injured dog has said.

"On February 27, the

# Idaho in United States halts execution of serial killer by lethal injection after 8 failed attempts to insert IV line

Thomas Eugene Creech, 73, has been in prison half a century, convicted of five murders in three states and suspected of several more

KUNA, Feb 29 (Agencies): Idaho halted the execution of serial killer Thomas Eugene Creech on Wednesday after medical team members repeatedly failed to find a vein where they could establish an intravenous line to carry out the lethal injection.

Creech, 73, has been in prison half a century, convicted of five murders in three states and suspected of several more. He was already serving a life term when he beat a fellow inmate, 22-year-old David Dale Jensen, to death in 1981 — the crime for which he was to be executed.

Creech, one of the longestserving death row inmates in the US, was wheeled into the execution chamber at the Idaho Maximum Security Institution on a gurney at 10 am.

Three medical team members tried eight times to establish an IV, Department of Correction Director Josh Tewalt told a news conference afterwards. In some cases, they couldn't access the vein, and in others they could but had concerns about vein quality. They attempted sites in his arms, legs, hands and feet. At one point, a medical team member left to gather more supplies.

The warden announced he was halting the execution at 10.58 am.

The corrections department said its death warrant for Creech would expire, and that it was considering next steps. While other medical procedures might allow for the execution, the state is mindful of the 8th Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment, Tewalt said.

Creech's attorneys immediately filed a new motion for a stay in US District Court, saying "the badly botched execution attempt" proves the department's "inability to carry out a humane and constitutional execution".

The court granted the stay after Idaho confirmed it would not try again to execute him before the death warrant expired; the state will have to obtain another warrant if it wants to carry out the execution.

"This is what happens when unknown individuals with unknown training are assigned to carry out an execution," the Federal Defender Services of Idaho said in a written state-



ment. "This is precisely the kind of mishap we warned the State and the Courts could happen when attempting to execute one of the country's oldest death-row inmates."

Six Idaho officials, including Attorney General Raul Labrador, and four news media representatives, including an Associated Press reporter, were on hand to witness the attempt — which was to be Idaho's first execution in 12 years.

The execution team was made up entirely of volunteers, the corrections department said. Those tasked with inserting the IVs and administering the lethal drug had medical training, but their identities were kept secret. They wore white balaclava-style face coverings and navy scrub caps to conceal their faces.

With each attempt to insert an IV, the medical team cleaned the skin with alcohol, injected a numbing solution, cleaned the skin again and then attempted to place the IV catheter. Each attempt took several minutes, with medical team members palpating the skin and trying to position the needles.

Creech frequently looked towards his family members and representatives, who were sitting in a separate witness room. His arms were strapped to the table, but he often extended his fingers towards them.

He appeared to mouth "I love you" to someone in the room on occasion.

After the execution was halted, the warden approached Creech and whispered to him for several minutes, giving his arm a squeeze.

A few hours afterwards, Labrador released a statement saying that "justice had been

delayed again". "Our duty is to seek justice for the many victims and their families who experienced the brutality and senselessness of his actions," the attorney general wrote.

Creech's attorneys filed a flurry of late appeals hoping to forestall his execution. They included claims that his clemency hearing was unfair, that it was unconstitutional to kill him because he was sentenced by a judge rather than a jury — and that the state had not provided enough information about how it obtained the lethal drug, pentobarbital, or how it was to be administered.

But the courts found no grounds for leniency. Creech's last chance — a petition to the US Supreme Court — was denied a few hours before the scheduled execution Wednesday.

On Tuesday night, Creech spent time with his wife and ate a last meal including fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy and ice cream.

A group of about 15 protesters gathered outside the prison on Wednesday, at one point singing 'Amazing Grace'.

An Ohio native, Creech has spent most of his life behind bars in Idaho. He was acquitted of a killing in Tucson, Arizona, in 1973 — authorities nevertheless believe he did it, as he used the victim's credit card to travel to Oregon. He was later convicted of a 1974 killing in Oregon and one in California, where he travelled after earning a weekend pass from a psychiatric hospital.

Later that year, Creech was arrested in Idaho after killing John Wayne Bradford and Edward Thomas Arnold, two house painters who had picked him and his girlfriend up while they were hitchhiking.

He was serving a life sentence for those murders in 1981 when he beat Jensen to death. Jensen was disabled and serving time for car theft.

Jensen's family members described him during Creech's clemency hearing last month as a gentle soul who loved hunting and being outdoors. Jensen's daughter was four when he died, and she spoke about how painful it was to grow up without a father.

Creech's supporters say he is a deeply changed man. Several years ago, he married the mother of a correctional officer, and former prison staffers said he was known for writing poetry and expressing gratitude for their work.

During his clemency hearing, Ada County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jill Longhorst did not dispute that Creech can be charming. But she said he is nevertheless a psychopath — lacking remorse and empathy.

Last year, Idaho lawmakers passed a law authorising execution by firing squad when lethal injection is not available. Prison officials have not yet written a standard operating policy for the use of firing squad, nor have they constructed a facility where a firing squad execution could occur. Both would have to happen before the state could attempt to use the new law, which would likely trigger several legal challenges.

Other states have also had trouble carrying out lethal injections.

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey paused executions for several months to conduct an internal review after officials called off the lethal injection of Kenneth Eugene Smith in November 2022 — the third time since 2018 Alabama had been unable to conduct executions due to problems with IV lines.

due to problems with IV lines. Smith in January became the first person to be put to death using nitrogen gas. He shook and convulsed for several minutes on the death chamber gurney during the execution. Idaho does not allow execution by nitrogen hypoxia.

In 2014, Oklahoma officials tried to halt a lethal injection when the prisoner, Clayton Lockett, began writhing after being declared unconscious. He died after 43 minutes; a review found his IV line came loose.

#### Gaza health ministry says war deaths exceed 30,000 as famine looms

PALESTENIAN TERRITORIES, Feb 29 (Agencies): The Hamas-run health ministry said Thursday more than 30,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the war between the militant group and Israel began nearly five months ago.

While mediators say a truce deal between Israel and Hamas could be just days away, aid agencies have sounded the alarm of a looming famine in Gaza's north.

Children have died "due to malnutrition, dehydration and widespread famine" at Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, said the health ministry, whose spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra has called for "immediate action" from international organisations to prevent more of these deaths.

Citing the deteriorating conditions in Gaza, USAID head Samantha Power said Israel needed to open more crossings so that "vitally needed humanitarian assistance can be dramatically surged"

"This is a matter of life and death," Power said in a video posted on social media platform X.

The latest overall toll for Palestinians killed in the war came after at least 79 people died overnight across the wartorn Gaza Strip, the health ministry said Thursday.

Mediators from Egypt, Qatar and the United States have been seeking a six-week pause in the war sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel, which in response vowed to eliminate the Palestinian Islamist group that rules in Gaza. Negotiators are hoping a truce can begin by the start of Ramadan, the holy Muslim month that kicks off March 10 or 11, depending on the lunar calendar. The proposals reportedly include the release of some Israeli hostages held in Gaza in exchange for several hundred Palestinian detainees held by Israel. Short of the complete withdrawal Hamas has called for, a source from the group said the deal might see Israeli forces leave "cities and populated areas", allowing the return of some displaced Palestinians and humanitarian relief.

US President Joe Biden is "pushing all of us to try to get this agreement over the finish line", said his secretary of state, Antony Blinken.

of state, Antony Blin Famine 'imminent'

The crucial southern Gaza city of Rafah is the main entry point for aid crossing the border from neighbouring Egypt. But the World Food Programme said no humanitarian group had been able to deliver aid to the north for more than a month, accusing Israel of blocking access. Neighbouring Jordan has coordinated efforts to air-drop supplies over southern Gaza. "If nothing changes, a famine is imminent in northern Gaza," the World Food Programme's deputy executive director Carl Skau said.

Israeli officials have denied blocking supplies, and the army on Wednesday said "50 trucks carrying humanitarian aid" had made it to northern Gaza in recent days

The war was triggered by an unprecedented Hamas attack on southern Israel that resulted in the deaths of around 1,160 people, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally of official Israeli figures. Militants also took about 250 hostages, 130 of whom remain in Gaza, including 31 presumed dead, according to Israel.

Israel's retaliatory military campaign in Gaza has left hundreds of thousands displaced, with nearly 1.5 million people now packed in Rafah.

In a sign of growing desperation among Gazans over living conditions, a rare protest was held Wednesday by residents over the soaring prices of commodities. "Everyone is suffering inside these tents," said Amal Zaghbar, who was displaced and sheltering in a makeshift camp.

"We're dying slowly."

Israel has repeatedly threatened a ground offensive on Rafah, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying a truce would only delay it, as such an operation was needed for "total victory" over Hamas.

Egypt -- which borders Rafah -- says an assault on the overcrowded city would have "catastrophic repercussions".

No one 'left behind'

While Israel's plans for post-war Gaza exclude any mention of the Palestinian Authority, its top ally the United States and other powers have called for a revitalised PA, which governs the occupied West Bank, to take charge of the territory. Palestinian foreign minister Riyad al-Maliki said a "technocratic" government without Gaza's rulers Hamas was needed to "stop this insane war" and facilitate relief operations and reconstruction. His government, based in the West Bank, resigned this week, with prime minister Mohammad Shtayyeh citing the need for change after the war ends. A government that includes Hamas -- longtime rivals of president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party, which controls the PA -- would "be boycotted by a number of countries", Maliki told a news conference in Geneva.

On Thursday, Palestinian factions -- including Hamas and Fatah -- were expected to arrive in Moscow for a meeting at Russia's invitation.

"The central goal is how to unite the Palestinian ranks," Mustafa Barghouti of the Palestinian National Initiative -- a civilian political party -- told Qatar state TV from Moscow.

In Israel, Netanyahu has come under increasing pressure to bring the hostages home.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant insisted the government was "making every effort".

A group of 150 Israelis started a fourday march from Reim, near the Gaza border, to Jerusalem, calling for the government to reach a deal.

"No one should be left behind," said Ronen Neutra, father of captive Omer Neutra, an Israeli soldier who is also a US citizen.

#### Taiwan Detects 19 Chinese Military Aircraft, 7 Naval Vessels Closing In

TAIPEI, Feb 29 (Agencies): Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) has detected 19 Chinese military aircraft and seven naval vessels close to the country in the last 24 hours until 6 am (local time) today.

According to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence, among the 19 Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft, 12 crossed the Taiwan Strait median line.

After China's action, Taiwan sent aircraft and naval ships and deployed air defence missile systems to track the activities of the People's Liberation Army, Taiwan News reported.

Taiwan News reported. In a statement shared on X, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence stated, "19 PLA aircraft and 7 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC 8) today. 12 of the aircraft crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait and entered Taiwan's northern, southwestern, and eastern ADIZ. ROC

Armed Forces have monitored the situation and employed CAP aircraft, Navy vessels, and coastal missile systems in response to the detected activities."

So far in February, Taiwan has detected Chinese military aircraft 253 times and naval ships 150 times, according to a Taiwan News report. Since September 2020, China has intensified its use of gray zone tactics by increasing the number of military aircraft and naval ships operating around Taiwan.

Gray zone tactics have been described as "effort or series of efforts beyond steady-state deterrence and assurance that attempt to achieve one's security objectives without resorting to direct and sizable use of force," Taiwan News reported.

On February 14, the US nominee to helm US Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel Paparo, warned that China could soon have the capability to use military exercises

to conceal an invasion of Taiwan, Taiwan News reported.

Admiral Paparo made

the remarks at a conference organised by the Defence Innovation Unit in Silicon Valley to discuss ways in which the private sector can collaborate with the US military in leveraging emerging commercial technologies to strengthen America's defences.

Paparo touched on the growing threat by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and ways that the US could use new technologies to deter Beijing. The US Commander further said that despite economic, demographic woes in China, and the corruption scandals within the PLA, Beijing's leadership is "undaunted in their ambitions."

He added that these ambitions include the world, the West Pacific, the South China Sea, and "more acutely for Taiwan," Taiwan News reported. According to Paparo, the PLA within

the past three years has achieved "step-level changes" in its force levels and the "jointness" of those forces.

He said that these developments, along with PLA rehearsals demonstrating joint capabilities and the heightened threshold of warnings, indicate that China will soon reach a point at which it will have sufficient forces to launch a "profound military operation" that can be operated "under a fig leaf of exercise."

At the same time,

Paparo said that the "erosion of strategic operational and tactical warning is real" and presents a challenge to the ability of the US and its allies to detect warning signs of a Chinese attack. He said that this could hinder the ability of the US military to be properly positioned to support allies and partners and affect its readiness to defend Taiwan if China should "decide to settle matters with the use of force.

# South Korea's striking doctors warned to return on deadline or face legal action



SEOUL, Feb 29 (Agencies): Most striking doctors have not returned to work despite a deadline, South Korea's health minister said Thursday, warning of legal action if medics do not end work stoppages that have plunged hospitals into chaos.

Nearly 10,000 junior doctors -- about 80 percent of the trainee workforce -- handed in a notice and walked off the job last week to protest government plans to sharply increase medical school admissions to cope with shortages and an ageing society.

Doctors say the plan would hurt the quality of service, and industry groups have slammed the government's "intimidation tactics".

Under South Korean law, doctors

are restricted from striking, and the government threatened to arrest and suspend the medical licences for medics who do not return to work by Thursday.

"If junior doctors return by the end of today, we will not hold them accountable," Health Minister Cho Kyoo-hong said in an interview with local SBS radio early Thursday.

Some trainee doctors who joined the walkout have subsequently returned to their hospitals, Cho said, but "a full-scale return has not yet materialised".

"As today is the last day of the return, I implore them to do so for the patients."

The mass work stoppage resulted in the cancellation and postpone-

and C-sections, with the government raising its public health alert to the highest level.

ment of surgeries, chemotherapy

Cho said the government was committed to its reform plan, which would increase medical school admissions by 65 percent, citing shortages of health professionals and a looming demographic crisis.

"If we reduce the scope (of the increase)... it would delay the provision of required medical workforce," he said.

Polling shows up to 75 percent of the South Korean public support the reforms, and President Yoon Suk Yeol, who has taken a hard line on the striking doctors, has seen his approval ratings tick up ahead of an April legislative election

Seoul says it has one of the lowest doctor-to-patient ratios among developed countries, and the government is pushing hard to admit 2,000 more students to medical schools annually, starting next year.

The health ministry requested on Tuesday that police launch a probe into people connected to the walkout, including five linked to the Korean Medical Association (KMA).

Proponents of the reform say doctors are mainly concerned the reforms could erode their salaries and social status.

### Vi Postpaid Customers can now Pre-Book International Roaming Packs

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: In the post Covid era, Indians have emerged as big globetrotters. This surge in travel, though positive, is accompanied with growing concerns for lost and mishandled baggage. Infact, a report by SITA the world's leading specialist in airport transport communication and IT, found that over 26 million pieces of luggage were delayed, lost, or damaged in 2022

Today, effective bag-

gage management has become a crucial focus area to enhance the overall travel experience. As many are looking to devise solutions to prioritise safety of travellers baggage, Vi, a leading telecom operator, has become the first in its industry to partner with Blue Ribbon Bags, a US based lost baggage concierge service company. to offer a worry-free travel experience for Vi Postpaid international travel-

Vi Postpaid users can

pre-book an International Roaming (IR) Pack for travel planned before April 7, 2024 and avail of complimentary cover towards delayed or lost baggage. This service offers a compensation of Rs. 19,800 per bag in case the luggage is delayed or not found beyond 96 hours following a submission of the complaint. This exclusive offer is valid for a limited period on select unlimited international

roaming plans namely

10 days @3999, 14 days

@4999, and 30-days

@5999 starting February 26, 2024, until March 21,

This partnership represents a significant step towards fulfilling the needs of modern travellers, offering them peace of mind and assurance during their international journeys. As Vi continues to prioritize customer-centric innovation, baggage protection services is yet another addition to our add on services and reinforces Vi's commitment to delivering unmatched value and convenience to

In addition to this, Vi postpaid users can truly

its customers.

enjoy other benefits of Vi's international roaming plans such as unlimited data and calls across 29 Countries, unlimited incoming calls in 100+ countries and 24/7 Live agent customer support via WhatsApp. To avail this service, click here: https://www.myvi.in/content/vodafoneideadigital/ in/en/vil-homepage/static-pages/Travel-with-Viget-FREE-lost-baggageprotection.html

#### **CEDC** of NCUI hosts stakeholder meeting in collaboration with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: The Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Cooperation (CEDC) of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) organized a pivotal Stakeholder Meeting in collaboration with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).

The event witnessed the active participation of esteemed faculties from IIT BHU, IIT Roorkee, IIT Jammu, Goa Institute of Management, Gandhigram Rural Institute (Tamilnadu), NIT Manipur, and other higher education institutions designated as Regional Coordinating Institutions (RCIs) under UBA. Representatives from NGOs and Industry Groups also attended the meeting.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), a flagship program of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, currently encompasses 4000 colleges/ universities and 20,000 villages across India. The primary agenda of the meeting was to foster

collaboration between stakeholders in empowering cooperatives and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) at 25 locations throughout India.

Sumit Singh, Advisor (Strategy and Cooperation), NCUI, provided an insightful introduction, emphasizing the pivotal role of cooperative entrepreneurship in empowering the needy. He highlighted the salient features and advantages of NCUI Haat, Incubation Centre, Skill Development Centre, and other key initiatives designed to build capacities within cooperatives across

India. Senior faculties from IIT Delhi, the National Coordinating Institution for UBA, elucidated the objectives of UBA and its integral role in commu-

nity development. Manik Batra, Chairman, ASSOCHAM J&K Council, graced the event as the Special Guest and shared insights into the crucial role of Industry in strengthening the cooperative movement.

Emphasizing the need to focus on food security and healthy practices, he highlighted the importance of sustainability measures in the field of

rural livelihoods. Prof. Suyash Tiwary, Senior Faculty, GIM, Goa, and Dr. Sandeep Ghosh, Faculty, IIT BHU, delved into the necessity of identifying technology needs for artisans and the transformative role of entrepreneurship development in empowering communities.

A consensus was reached during the meeting to conduct a comprehensive need assessment for selected cooperatives and SHGs at all pilot project locations. An appropriate implementation plan will be devised based on these assess-

ments. The Stakeholder Meeting marked a significant step towards fostering collaboration and synergy among institutions and organizations committed to the development of cooperatives and SHGs across India.

### Farooq, Omar conveyed condolences

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU Feb 29: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the passing away of Sham Dass Mahajan elder brother of Jugal Mahajan Treasurer and senior leader JKNC and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

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

In the condolence message, General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammed Sagar, Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretaries, Rattan Lal Gupta

Provincial President Jammu Province, Sheikh **Bashir Ahmed Provincial** Secretary, Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President, Ajaz Jan Provincial President YNC Jammu, Ayub Malik, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretaries, Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Jammu Province, Vijay Laxmi Datta Sr. leader, Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Raghvir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural "A" have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

#### Vibrant Village- Army addressing aspirants

Top News Report LEH, Feb 29: In a resounding testament to the commitment of Indian Army towards empowering border communities through aspirational development, General Officer Commanding Leh Sub Area handed over essential items to the community members of Vibrant Village

Kharnak on Thursday.
The amenities included provision of 20 camping tents designed to shield the villagers traversing the rugged terrains from the biting cold and icy winds, two semiautomatic handloom machines to empower the local populace through skill development, and 30 portable solar LED lights, an eco -friendly solution to electricity for the villagers.

The project undertaken through Op Sadbhavana will directly impact 300 community members of the village, elevate their standard of living and work towards nurturing an environment conducive to enhancing their skills and fostering a culture of sustainable development.

#### Asir Kishtwari featured in the "Meet the Author" series organised by JKAACL

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), organised Meet-the-Author program at JKAACL premises in Jammu. The series intends to have a direct interaction of the writer with the audience, and these interactions shall aid the exploration of various life aspects and works which acts as a creative inspiration for the author/writer. Under this initiative, every weekend, the JKAACL shall host meet the authors of seven different languages: Urdu, Hindi, Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi, Gojri, and Pahari.

Today's event was based on Sahitya Akademi Awardee Wali Mohd Bhat( Asir Kishtwari), former Director General Accounts and Treasury, an eminent Urdu/ Kashmir poet writer.

Wali Mohmad Aseer Kishtwari is a renowned name in Kashmiri. Urdu literature and history of Jammu and Kashmir.

An iconic figure was

born to Kh. Ghulam Qadir Batt Berwari at village Berwar kishtwar on 2nd of August 1954. Aseer Kashtwari has several books to his credit and is acting as a research guide for the research scholars and other stakeholders. His book 'Tareekh-e-Aulivae-Jammu wa Kashmir', was chosen as the Best Urdu Book of 2015 and received state Award from J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. In the book he has introduced more than 400 Awliyas with their shrines located in different parts of the State including Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and across the Line of Control (LoC) as well. The 848-page book, published in 2013, is an authentic document on Sufism in state of J&K and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). His Kashmiri book "Jamis Manz Kashir Zaban-O-Adab (Tawareekh Te Tangeed) recieved Sahitya Akadmi Award for the year 2020 His other works include



nakhat (Literary identity of Doda District) was published in the year 1993, it carries write ups on the Chenab valley's history, culture and literature. This book contains 495 pages in which the light has been thrown on local poets and their literary contributions.

Other books include Tareekh-i-Ishat-i-Islam, Farsh-e-Gul, Jamme-Subhik Kaeshir Kalamkar, Yaad-e-Nadeem, Safr-e-Harmain, Zikr-O-Fiqr, Jamis-Te-Kashir Manz Kashir Zabban-O-Adab (History & Criticism), Monograph of Nishat Kishtwari, Monograph on Janbaaz Kishtwari, Nishat Kishtwar

(Monography) Jenab Bahir Bhadarwahi, renowned Kashmiri/ Urdu Poet presided over the function while Prof. Farooq Fayaz, former HoD History, Kashmir University, prof. Shad Ramzan, Convener, Sahitya Akademi Kashmiri, Prof. Shohib Inayat Malik, HOD Buddhist Studies, Jammu University and Principal IMFA, Jammu shared the presidium along with Bharat Singh,

Secretary, JKAACL. At the outset, Bharat Singh gave a heartfelt cordial welcome to everyone. While addressing the audience, he expressed that authors are the face of society. "They (authors) represent the inner thoughts of the social fabric through their ink, and it is indeed a special skill," mentions the Secretary. He, in his address, further added that we (at JKAACL) started this series to promote the direct interaction with the author whom we have read in books: this would enable the

audience to know about and struggle they had faced. It shall be a source of inspiration for all. It is a priceless opportunity to interact with these authors/writers and learn from their literary jour-In the beginning

B.N.Betab read an elaborative paper on the life and literary Journey of Aseer Kishtwari. He emphasised him as the Kohinoor of literature. The personalities who expressed their views about Aseer Kishtwari included Prof. Shohib Inayat Malik, HOD Buddhist Studies and Principal IMFA. Jammu, he lauded the efforts of the Secretary JKAACL Bharat Singh for activating the Academy by organising such programs. He also announced that Bharat singh has been selected for Rasa Javedani Award for this year for his contributions to the Art and Literature and same will be conferred on him on 27th May, 2024 during Rasa Javedani Seminar.

Asir Kishtwari expressed his gratitude to all who had come to witness the program. Others who expressed their views included Khalid Hussain, Sahitya Akademi Awardee writer Abdu; Mehjoor, Dolly Tiku, Gh. Mohi-u din Andrabi, P.N. Shad, Padamshree Jitender Udhampuri, A.K.Naaz, Prof. Shad Ramzan, Prof. Farooq Fayaz and Bashir Bhadarwahi. Vote of thanks was presented by S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Punjabi.

The unprecedented literary initiative of JKAACL is receiving rounds of appreciation.

#### Empyrean 2024 to start from March 1 at IIM Jammu dents. With a diverse

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu announced the muchawaited annual cultural extravaganza, "Empyrean 2024". Empyrean is the flagship cultural festival of IIM Jammu, celebrated annually to showcase the talents and creativity of stu-

pendents.

flock together.

MLAs in Shimla.

**Six Congress MLAs who** 

cross-voted for BJP dis-

**qualified from Himachal** 

**Assembly** 

remaining three seats are held by inde-

With the six rebel MLAs disqualified the

strength of the house comes down from

68 to 62 and the halfway mark is 32. With

the loss of 6 MLAs the Congress now has

34 MLAs and the BJP with independents

has 28. The fortunes of the Congress will

now rest on its ability to keep the rest of its

Earlier today, Himachal Pradesh Chief

Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had

called a 'breakfast meeting' of all Congress

"It is an important meeting. Let's see

Congress MLA Sudarshan Singh Bablu

said, "The CM has called everyone for

breakfast. Let's see what discussions are

taking place...We received the message

last night. Our Government will continue

under the leadership of the Chief Minister."

The meeting is also being attended by

Congress' central observers Bhupinder

Hooda and DK Shivakumar. The observers

had met the MLAs individually on Wednes-

day and are expected to report to the party

The BJP has claimed the Congress had

lost the moral standing to be in power after

**Padma Shri Awardee** 

losing majority in the Assembly.

high command today.

what happens...This is an informal meet-

ing," party MLA Ashish Butail said.

lineup of events spanning music, dance, fashion, comedy, and more, the event aims to inspire, entertain, and unite individuals from all walks of life. Promising three days of astonishing performances. artistic showcases, and engaging activities, Empyrean is set

to captivate audiences

from March 1st to March 3rd, 2024, at its Jagti campus.

Empyrean 2024 boasts a diverse itinerary that promises to cater to all tastes and interests. From captivating musical performances to exhilarating dance battles and thoughtprovoking competitions, the festival offers something for everyone.

#### FROM PAGE 1

The BJP hailed Mir's affiliation as a noteworthy development, asserting, "The party gains impetus with the inclusion of Padma Shri Awardee Ghulam Ahmad Mir. In the past month, a multitude has aligned with the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) in the

#### Stay order in Civil, Criminal cases won't automatically expire: SC

are extended specifically.

also said the constitutional courts, the Supreme Court and the high courts should refrain from fixing a timeline for disposal of cases and it can be done only in exceptional circumstances.

"The constitutional courts should not lay down a timeline to decide cases since grassroot issues are known to concerned courts only and such orders can be passed in exceptional circumstances only," said Justice AS Oka.

"There cannot be an automatic vacation of stay," said Justice Oka, who wrote the judgement for himself, the CJI and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

but concurring judgement in the case

The top court had on December 13, 2023

The top court had on December 1 last year referred to a five-judge bench its 2018

The previous judgement said the stay granted by a lower court or high court in civil and criminal cases will automatically expire after six months unless extended specifically.

In its 2018 verdict in the case of Asian Resurfacing of Road Agency P Ltd Director Vs CBI, a three-judge bench had held that the interim order of stay granted by courts, including high courts, will stand vacated automatically unless they are specifically extended.

Consequently, no trial or proceedings can remain stayed after six months. However, the top court had later clarified that the judgement would not be applicable if the stay order was passed by it.

#### **Kashmir braces for maior** snow spell from today. night temp drops

Banihal recorded a low of 5.4°C. Batote 4.3°C and Bhaderwah 1.4°C, he said. MeT has also issued an advisory caution-

ing about the disruption of surface and air transport in the valley.

It said that an active Western disturbance is most likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from today evening/night onwards.

Under the influence of this system, it said, widespread moderate rain/snow is expected in Jammu and Kashmir from February 29th night/early morning of March 1 till the afternoon of March 3 with its peak activity on March 2.

"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.

The weather activity may lead to disruption of surface and air transport including

Jammu-Srinagar highway and other major roads of middle and higher reaches of J&K. It urged the people in snow bound areas

Zilla Doda ki Adabi Shi-

to avoid venturing into sloppy and Avalanche prone areas. "Chances of landslides, mudslides &

shooting stones most likely over the vulnerable areas," it said, adding, "Farmers are advised to withhold all farm operations during 1st week of March."

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

#### Police attach illegal properties worth Rs 15 lakh of notorious drug peddler in Baramulla

case FIR No. 238/2023 u/s 8/21 NDPS Act of PS Baramulla."

"The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Police. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddler". he said.

This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area hailed the initiative of Police.

#### **Liquor Shop auctions** fetch J&K record revenue, **Oazigund creates history**

transparency in the auction process. The success story of the auction is further accentuated by the consistent growth in excise revenue over recent years. In 2020,

the department recorded earnings of Rs 1320 crore, followed by Rs 1353 crore in 2021, Rs 1777 crore in 2022, and Rs 1796 crore in 2023, culminating in the historic milestone of Rs 2280 crore in 2024.

Looking ahead, officials anticipate sustained financial growth, with 38 liquor shops yet to be auctioned. "We remain optimistic about the prospects for revenue generation in the coming years. With prudent policies and effective management, we aim to maximize revenue streams and contribute to the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir," government sources reported.

#### **Tourists enjoy chilly morn**ing on Dal Lake

natural beauty.

Enjoying the prevailing cold spell, Divya Jain, a tourist from Mumbai, spoke about her experience. "It's quite chilly here, but I'm enjoying the weather. Wearing a cap and jacket to avoid the cold. The experience at the boat house on Dal Lake was fantastic. I'll tell everyone to visit this heavenly place," Divya said. Mansi Jain shared her strategy for warmth, saying, "The cold here is much more than in Mumbai, but it's quite enjoyable. Covering ourselves well with caps, gloves, and jackets to stay warm. This experience should not be missed. Dal Lake is beautiful, and the Shikara ride and Meena Bazar were amazing. Overall, Kashmir is a paradise. Everyone should come here."

#### **No-Confidence Motion** moved against DDC Chairperson

chairperson Nazir Ahmad Khan.

"Chairperson has failed to convene any meeting of the council for over a year now and has failed to discharge his duties as the head of the council," they said.

#### **Ghulam Mohammad Mir** ioins BJP

Shri, in 2010 for his courageous efforts during the 1990s, when few dared to oppose militants.

Kashmir region."

#### with its 2018 judgement which had held that there should be automatic vacation of stay orders of the courts below unless they

Laying down guidelines, the judgement

The bench pronounced two separate but concurring judgements.

Justice Pankaj Mithal wrote a separate

reserved its judgement in the case after hearing senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, who appeared for the High Court Bar Association of Allahabad, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and other lawyers on the

judgement for reconsideration.

# Reliance Foundation announces Vantara - a comprehensive animal rescue & rehab prog

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: 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 res-

cued species to thrive in. The Vantara initiative, the first of its kind in India, has been conceptualised and birthed under the passionate leadership of Anant Ambani, Director on the boards of RIL and Reliance Foundation. Ambani is also spearheading Reliance's ambitious renewable energy business in Jamnagar, and, in that capacity, is responsible for leading Reliance's journey to

Zero company by 2035.

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

become a Net Carbon

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 occa-

sion, 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 blessed 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 said, "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."

#### Nissan to commercialize autonomousdrive mobility services in Japan

**Top News Report** 

CHANDIGARH, Feb 29: Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. today announced its roadmap to commercialize its inhouse-developed, autonomous-drive\*1 mobility services in Japan.

This is a significant step towards the company's long-term vision, Nissan Ambition 2030, to empower mobility by solving transportation service issues faced by local communities in Japan. Local communities have been facing several mobility challenges, such as driver shortages, which are a result of an ageing population. With this service, Nissan will provide a broad range of new services that enable free movement.

Nissan has been testing business models for mobility services in



Japan and abroad since 2017. These vicinities include the Minato Mirai area of Yokohama and Namie town, Fukushima Prefecture, where a manned mobility service called Namie Smart Mobility has been in operation since 2021. Outside Japan, Nissan has been testing autonomous-drive mobility in London and other areas with the support of the UK government.

Equipped with this knowledge, Nissan plans to begin offer-

ing autonomous-drive mobility services starting in fiscal year 2027\*2, working with third parties such as local authorities and transport operators. Nissan will begin trials in the Minato Mirai area in fiscal 2024, and eventually scale up the trials the following fiscal year. During the trials, the level of autonomous driving will be gradually enhanced while assessing customer acceptance, with the aim to provide driverless services.

#### Samsung Announces New Memory Variant of Galaxy A15 5G at INR 17999

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 29: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today announced the launch of a new storage variant, 6GB+128GB of Galaxy A15 5G at an attractive price of INR 16499.

The addition of the new storage variant will give more choices to consumers looking to buy Galaxy A15 5G.

The smartphone is currently available in 8GB+256GB and 8GB+128GB storage variants and comes in three refreshing colours, - Blue Black, Blue and

Light Blue.
Galaxy A15 5G is the successor of Galaxy A14 5G, India's no.1 selling 5G smartphone for 2023, according to Counterpoint Research and exemplifies Samsung's prowess in delivering transformative innovations at an affordable price, making them the first choice of millions of consumers in India.

Galaxy A15 5G flaunts Galaxy's signature design philosophy for a premium feel with a glastic back panel in haze finish. The new key island design on the side panel and the flat linear camera housing creates a unique silhouette for enhanced grip.

Galaxy A15 5G features a 6.5-inch Super AMOLED display, enhanced with Vision Booster which creates smooth, bright and vivid viewing experiences with 90Hz refresh rate and a low blue light display for eye comfort.

Galaxy A15 5G sports a 50MP triple camera setup with VDIS to reduce blur or distortion in videos from unsteady or shaky movements along with a 13MP front camera for profile-worthy selfies.

Galaxy A15 5G comes with Knox Security platform, ensuring users are in full control of their data with features like Auto Blocker, Privacy Dashboard, Samsung Passkey and others. The device also features Knox Vault chipset, built at the chip level, designed to safeguard your sensitive data, such as PINs, passwords and patterns, in a separate tamper-resistant storage for protection against software and hardware threats. Packed with superior privacy and security features, Galaxy A15 5G is designed to stay future-ready with up to 4 generations of OS upgrades and up to 5 years of security updates.

Galaxy A15 5G also redefines consumer experience with innovations such as Voice Focus that cuts the ambient noise for a truly amazing calling experience. Galaxy A15 5G comes with a host of exciting features that elevate the Galaxy Experience. The Quick Share feature enables users to instantly share files, photos and documents with any other device, including your laptop and tab, faraway devices and even privately.

Galaxy A15 5G also gets the Samsung Wallet, which lets consumers enjoy a seamless experience to store IDs and redefine payments convenience. Galaxy A15 5G is powered by MediaTek Dimensity 6100+ processor and offers more power and speed for a seamless multitasking experience. Galaxy A15 5G houses a 5000mAh battery that lasts up to two days and supports 25W fast charging and is equipped with adaptive power-saving mode that automatically adapts to your usage to ensure optimal power savings.

#### Bharat Tibet Sangh donates Harmonium to blind handicapped youth



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: Bharat Tibet Sangh, an organization working for the freedom of Tibet and Kailash Mansarovar and security of India from China, who have illegally occupied the Tibet and Kailash Mansarovar.

Kailash Mansarovar.
Dr Kuldeep Sharma
Prabhan Northern
Region along with Vivek
Singhal. State President J&K and Ashwam
Sharma, Sr Vice President held a Press Conference at head office
Rehari Colony Jammu to
announce the upcoming

events in few days.

A deputation of handicapped and blind artists headed by Sachin Kumar approached for assistance and possible help to earn their living Bharat Tibet Sangh

Donate a Harmonium to Sh Sachin Kumar a Blind Handicapped, so that he along with his group can earn their living by opening the institute to cognize the students The deputation thanked the organization for the help Dr Kuldeep Sharma. assures every possible help in future as well.

Vivek Singhal State President announce the upcoming events in coming days He promised to open Tailoring and cutting in different parts of rural area in Jammu in few days to help the needy womens to earn their living He assures that it will continue in coming months Sunny Kumar, Rushani Gupta and others were present in the Confer-

#### JU facilitates Industrial Visit for Students to Witness Inner Working of Media Outlets

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: Aiming to enhance practical knowledge and industry exposure of its students, the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu under the supervision of its head, Dr Garima Gupta today organised an insightful industrial visit to the printing press and office of the popular publication, the Daily State Samachar.

Led by faculty members, the visit provided students with an invaluable opportunity to witness the inner workings of the media outlet.

From observing the intricacies of the printing process to gaining insights into editorial decision-making and newsroom dynamics, the experience was enriching and educational.

While interacting with the students, Managing Director of Daily State Samachar, Shamsher Singh Charak emphasized the importance of such initiatives in bridging the gap between theoretical learning and real-world application.

He stated "Experiential

He stated, "Experiential learning is fundamental in journalism education. This industrial visit will allow students to contextualize their classroom learning and gain



practical insights that will undoubtedly benefit them in their future careers."

He further impressed

upon the students to

adopt objective and

fearless Journalism, so that their work can bring change in the society. The visit also included interactive sessions with senior journalists and printing press operators, which provided students

with a comprehensive

understanding of the

challenges and opportunities inherent in the field of journalism.

Daily State Samachar's editorial team shared their experiences and offered practical advice to aspiring journalists, highlighting the impor-

accuracy in reporting.
Students also had the chance to engage in discussions on media ethics, news gathering techniques, and the evolving landscape of digital journalism.

tance of integrity and

Students also expressed their satisfaction with the visit, stating that this visit was eye-opening. They said witnessing the entire process of news production – from conception to dissemination – has deepened their appreciation for the profession and inspired them to pursue excellence in journalistic endeavors.

Dr Pardeep Singh, Lecturer, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu on behalf of the Department extended gratitude to Managing Director and the entire team of the Daily State Samachar for graciously hosting the visit and developing a conducive learning environment for the students.

Other faculty members accompanying the students included Dr Ravia Gupta and Kumerjit Chajgotra, Lecturers, Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

#### High level convention of Muslim Rashtriya Manch held in Kishtwar



**Top News Report** 

KISHTWAR, Feb 29: A meeting of Muslim Rashtriya Manch was organized in the hilly district Kishtwar of Jammu and Kashmir, in this meeting workers participated enthusiastically on a large scale and the entire city echoed with the slogans of "Watan Hindustan Zindabad". On the other hand, apart from the National President of the organization, Mohammad Afzal Sahab, the rest of the

organization's spokesperson Samsul Ul Hag. campaigners of 4 states, Gulshan Kumar, Shahnawaz Ahangero, Convener Kishtwar, Convener of Jammu and Kashmir Cell Shri Mohammad Aslam Malik, Chanderbaga Convenor Saadat Doolwal and others including Mohammad Amin Mohammad Rafiq Mohammad Aslam, Raees Ahmed welcomed him with great enthusiasm and said that in the coming time, Muslim Rashtriya Manch will

strengthen the society on a large scale.

Every possible effort will be made to do this, said that for the integrity of the country, we pledge that we will try to unite people on one platform for loyalty towards the country, on the other hand, Muslim Rashtriya Manch said with great concern.

It is a matter of concern that the withdrawal of security from the Muslim Rashtriya Manch in the hilly district Kishtwar of .Jammu and Kashmir is a matter of concern, said that this matter will be raised with the Home Minister, while on the other hand the National President of the organization while talking to the local SP said that the security of the people of the organization should be completely restored so that any untoward incident can be prevented from happening.

#### SMVDU celebrates National Science Day in collaboration with JAKEDA

**Top News Report** 

KATRA, Feb 29: Institution Innovation Council and Faculty of Sciences in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) jointly celebrated National Science Day activities at SMVDU.

The inaugural ses-

sion commenced with Dr. Kamni Pathania, coordinator of the event, who extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests which include Chief Guest, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor SMVDU, Guest of Honour, Dr. Prithvi Raj Dhar, CEO, JAKEDA, Prof. Ashutosh, Chairman IIC, SMVDU, Heads of faculty of Sciences, faculty members, enthusiastic students and team JAKEDA. Dr. Kamni briefed the audience about the program

objectives and highlighted the importance of celebration of National Science Day.

She also apprised the audience about the various activities for the event. Prof. Pragati Kumar highlighted that primary objective of National Science Day is to ignite an interest in science, inspire people, especially students, to perform new experiments, and make them aware of the latest developments in science and technology. He reminded the students of the efforts and achievements made so far, in the field of science and urged everyone to weigh up the implementation of different technologies.

Dr. P. R. Dhar gave a detailed presentation on the importance of Solar Energy for sustainable future and Viksit Bharat. He discussed how, in the pursuit of sustainable energy development and security, their organization encourages the widespread adoption and usage of all forms of renewable energy, which include hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal and hydrogen energy for economic growth and prosperity of UT of J&K. Dr. Yugal

Khajuria, Dean International and Alumni Affairs, SMVDU spoke about the greater participation of students in scientific activities and urged all students to develop scientific mind

scientific activities and urged all students to develop scientific mind. Dr. Kuldeep Raj, Head School of Mathematics emphasized the relevance of scientific celebrations and motivated students to dig deeper into science & learn its utilization for public welfare.

NSD 2024 started with ashort cartoon-artistic documentary on the 'Life of Sir C.V Raman' and 'The Establishment of ISRO' to fascinate and encourage the young minds of the institution. A poem recitation on the theme "Energy Conservation" was presented by Sadhvi Sharma of School of Physics. A Quiz Competition was also organized by the Research Scholars of the faculty of Sciences to make science an interactive aspect of their life. A poster presentation on the theme "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat" and "Energy Conservation" was displayed at Matrika auditorium. The prizes were also given to the students in each category of the competition. The session progressed with an interesting Exhibition on solar technology devices displayed by team JAKEDA. The event was jointly coordinated by Dr. Kamni Pathania, Dr. Rakesh Thusoo and Dr. Sandeep Sharma.

### BCCI's Stern 'Play Domestic Cricket' Message After Terminating Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer Contracts

Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan were the notable absentees from BCCI's annual contract list for Team India (Senior Men) for the 2023-24 season.

NEW DELHI, Feb 29 (Agencies): Star India cricketers Ishan Kishan and Shreyas lyer did not find a place in the Annual Player Contracts for Team India (Senior Men) for the 2023-24 season, which were announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Rumours were rampart over the duo being dropped from the contract list, which has now been finalised for the duration between October 1st, 2023 to September 30th, 2024. "Please note that Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan were not considered for the annual contracts in this round of recommendations," the BCCI said.

Kishan had opted for a break midway through the tour of South Africa, before being dropped from the team for the T20Is against Afghanistan and the ongoing Test bilateral against England.

On Kishan's non-selection, India head coach Rahul Dravid had said that the player is yet to make himself for selection,



adding that the wicketkeeperbatter will have to play domestic cricket to get back into the national team.

lyer, on the other hand, played the first two Tests against England, before being dropped from the squad for the last three games. BCCI didn't give a reason behind his ouster from the team. However, he kept on missing the Ranji Trophy match-

es for his state team Jharkhand. Iyer recently excused himself from a Ranji Trophy game of Mumbai due to a back issue. A report in the agency had predicted that the duo will be dropped from the BCCI con-

After dropping Kishan and lyer from the central contract list, BCCI, in their release, also warned the players to feature in domestic games when they are part of the national team.

"The BCCI has recommended that all athletes give precedence to participating in domestic cricket during periods when they are not representing the national team," the BCCI sug-

gested.

Meanwhile, among the contracted players - Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja were placed in the highest - A+ - category. Six players - R Ashwin, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya - are in the A category.

"Additionally, athletes who meet the criteria of playing a minimum of 3 Tests or 8 ODIs or 10 T20Is within the specified period will automatically be included in Grade C on a pro-rata basis. For instance, Dhruv Jurel and Sarfaraz Khan, having played 2 Test matches so far, will be inducted into Grade C if they participate in the Dharamsala Test Match, i.e., the 5th Test of the ongoing series against England," a BCCI released said.

"The Selection Committee has also recommended Fast Bowling contracts for the following athletes - Akash Deep, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Umran Malik, Yash Dayal and Vidwath Kaverappa.

## KL Rahul's comeback delayed by soreness



NEW DELHI, Feb 29 (Agencies): Senior India batter KL Rahul is unlikely to feature in the fifth and final Test against England in Dharamsala as he hasn't fully recovered from his right quadriceps injury.

Rahul became unavailable after the series-opener in Hyderabad in January but as per BCCI, he was 90 per cent fit before the third Test in Rajkot earlier this month.

Rahul has now travelled to London to get an expert's opinion on his injury and with the series in the bag, the team

management will not take the risk of playing him in the Dharamsala Test beginning March 7. He needs to be fully fit before the IPL, where

he will lead Lucknow Super Giants, and is expected to bat in the middle-order to bolster his chances of making the India squad for the T20 World Cup in the USA and Caribbean.

"It is more to get an expert opinion (travel to London). He experiences a bit of pain (right quadriceps) while batting. It is to ensure that he recovers fully as he is a player that team needs for the long-term. There

is so much competition coming his way — IPL, he could also be in the T20 World Cup mix. Then we have some important Test series against New Zealand, and Australia later in the year. So, it is better to give him time to recover properly than rushing him," an IPL source said.

It is the same quadriceps injury that had sidelined Rahul for almost four months last year.

Meanwhile, pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who was rested for the Ranchi Test, is expected to lead the attack at the HPCA Stadium. The series is sealed but every Test match offers crucial World Test Championship points and Bumrah can play a big part in the cooler climes. India are second in the standings with five wins, two losses and a draw. New Zealand lead the table with a winning percentage of 75 but they have only played four Tests.

#### I used to watch Zaheer Khan: James Anderson



NEW DELHI, Feb 29 (Agencies): James Anderson, England's greatest fast bowler with an unparalleled longevity and nearly 1000 international wickets, said he has learned a few elements of pace bowling, including reverse

swing, from Indian great Zaheer Khan. At 41, Anderson continues to lead the England attack and is two short of becoming the first fast bowler to breach the 700-wicket mark in Tests. "For me, Zaheer Khan was someone I

used to watch a lot to try and learn from. How he used the reverse swing, how he covered the ball when he ran in to bowl, that's something I tried to sort of develop on the back of playing against him quite a few times here," Anderson said.

# NZ vs AUS, 1st Test: Cameron Green hundred lifts Australia to 279 for 9 on Day 1

WELLINGTON, Feb 29 (Agencies): Australia found themselves in a challenging position but managed to end the day on a high note, thanks to Cameron Green's exceptional batting performance on the opening day of the first Test against New Zealand. The day concluded with Australia scoring 279 for 9, largely propelled by Green's unbeaten century, which came off 155 deliveries, including 16 boundaries.

The match began under overcast conditions, prompting Australia to bat first. Early on, the Australian top order, particularly Steven Smith and Usman Khawaja, showed resilience against the New Zealand bowlers, navigating through the challenging first hour. Despite losing Smith before lunch, Australia managed to lay down a solid foun-



dation for the innings. However, the second session saw Australia losing quick wickets, including Marnus Labuschagne, Khawaja, and Travis Head, putting them in a precarious situation.

Matt Henry emerged as the standout bowler for New Zealand, claiming four wickets and putting pressure on the Austra-

lian batting lineup. Despite the setbacks, Mitchell Marsh along-side Cameron Green attempted to stabilize the innings, but Marsh's departure left Australia looking vulnerable.

Cameron Green, however, stood tall amidst the crumbling Australian innings. Demonstrating remarkable skill and determination, Green navigated through the New Zealand bowling attack, forging crucial stands with the tailenders to keep the scoreboard ticking. His efforts culminated in a magnificent century, his second in Test cricket, achieved in the last over of the day, ensuring Australia ended Day 1 on a positive note.

Green's innings was not just a personal triumph but a testament to his ability to rise to the occasion when his team needed him the most. In a post-match interview, Green humbly attributed his success to the team's needs, highlighting the tough conditions and the collective effort of the team. His century was a beacon of hope for Australia, rescuing them from a potentially dire situation and setting the stage for an intriguing continuation of the Test match.

# Chris Gayle hopes T20 World Cup can help cricket crack US market

LONDON, Feb 29 (Agencies): Former West Indies star Chris Gayle hopes the T20 World Cup will help cricket crack the lucrative American sports market and lift the game onto a new global level

The Twenty20 showpiece, which starts on June 1, is being jointly hosted by the United States and Gayle's native West Indies, where big crowds are expected.

But it will be the first major international cricket tournament staged in the United States, with a sell-out crowd expected for the clash between archrivals India and Pakistan at a temporary 34,000-seat venue in Long Island, New York.

Gayle believes the success of last year's inaugural Major League Cricket, a US-based T20 franchise competition, has given the game a foothold in America.

"The ICC (International Cricket Council) has been trying to get cricket on a global scale within the USA," Gayle told agency in an interview marking 100 days to go until the start of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

"India v Pakistan is in New York, I'm sure it's going to be phenomenal.

"They (the USA) had a T20 tournament last year and it was a success. It's a big market, we just have to hope it will be a success within the United States."

West Indies have pedigree in limited-overs cricket, winning the first two men's one-day



international World Cups in 1975 and 1979, but they failed even to qualify for last year's 50-over tournament in India.

"We missed out on the 50-over World Cup so this will be something fantastic for the guys to actually play for something," said Gayle, speaking via video call from Barbados.

"We just want to be in the (June 29) final here in Barbados. Anything is possible when you make it to the final."

"I'm excited for the people, to actually see a bit of cricket," added big-hitting opener Gayle, who in 2007 became the first batsman to score a T20 international century.

The 44-year-old, a member of the West Indies teams that become T20 world champions in 2012 and 2016, said the current side had enough "options and experience" to relieve holders England of their title, even

though they are a lowly seventh in the world rankings. 'Struggle'

The West Indies lost their recent ODI series in Australia 3-0 and went down 2-1 in the T20 series but they drew the Test series 1-1 as an under-strength team won a thiller in Brisbane by just eight runs against the reigning world champions in the five-day format.

It was the first time West Indies -- who dominated Test cricket in the 1980s and 1990s -- had won a Test in Australia since 1997 and Gayle said it was huge achievement for the side.

"The adrenaline, the excitement, to beat Australia (in a Test) after so many years, you know I've been a part of that struggle as well as a captain in Australia.

"To be able to get that win, in that fantastic manner as well, is

something superb.

"To see the likes of (batting great) Brian Lara when he was actually doing the (television) commentary, how excited he was, we saw (former batsman) Carl Hooper shed tears as well."

One pressing issue for global cricket chiefs is that top players no longer need to play internationals to make a living in an era of worldwide franchise competitions.

Former West Indies captain Jason Holder missed the Test series in Australia to play T20 cricket in the United Arab Emirates instead.

Gayle, one of the original globe-trotting T20 "guns for hire", who had several run-ins with Caribbean cricket chiefs over availability, said it was down to administrators to rebalance the schedule.

"I'm in favour always of the players making their earnings, it's their livelihood, it's their job," he said.

"Cricket is actually a big business, so we can't beat down on a player to choose a franchise over his particular country, because there's no loyalty from both sides.

"There's just too much cricket and it takes away a bit from international cricket, unless there's two big teams playing. They just need to structure it a bit better to make sure both teams are competitive when they are going against each other at international level."

#### "We've Lost Here But...": Brendon McCullum Issues Huge 'Bazball' Statement

England cricket team head coach Brendon McCullum continued to show his support for 'Bazball' despite his team losing the five-match Test series against India.



NEW DELHI, Feb 29 (Agencies): England cricket team head coach Brendon McCullum continued to show his support for 'Bazball' despite his team losing the five-match Test series against India. The visitors won the first match in Hyderabad but ended up losing three matches in a row with experts and fans criticising their style of play and questioning their ability to adapt according to situations. However, McCullum said that they have improved over the last 18 months and added they are

capable of doing "some special shit".

'There's times in games where we haven't quite screwed down our method just yet. We've lost here, didn't win the Ashes (2-2), but we're a better team than 18 months ago, and we've got an opportunity in the next 18 months to do some special shit," McCullum

told the UK media.
"We'll keep chiselling
away at those rough
edges. It's not a bad
time to be coach of the

England team."
India lead 3-1 in the series with the last

game scheduled in Dharamsala from March 7. The team's last home series loss was a 1-2 defeat to an Alastair Cook-led England in 2012-13. Since then, India have won 39 out of 50 Tests at home.

The host team's victory marked a stunning downfall for 'Bazball', which has been a much-hyped winning mantra for England since 2022 and is now facing all-round criticism for being too rigid and lacking in depth.

Conceptualised after the appointment of Brendon McCullum as coach and Ben Stokes as captain, England's plan to attack irrespective of circumstances found its match in the unflappable approach

of the Indians.

While the visitors remained stubborn barring the conservative hundred by veteran Joe Root, the Indians adapted and refused to be bogged down by setbacks.

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

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: 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 formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

. The ceremonial signing took place today at Bharat Tex 2024, an 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.

Prof. Dr. Sudha Dhingra, Dean Academics at NIFT Delhi, delivered the welcome address, followed by an introduction to both Institutions and an outline of the key deliverables of the MoU between IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, and Dr. 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.

Dr. Mugbil Burhan, Chairperson of Srinagar Campus, IIM Jammu, was also present.

This partnership aims to enhance academic excellence, foster research endeavors, and cultivate entrepreneurial

With this invention, the inventors aim to

talent in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kash-

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

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

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.

to nation-building.

#### J&K Bank Branch Ajote organizes awareness programme on Financial literacy

**Top News Report** 

AJOTE, Feb 29: Recognising the importance of financial literacy is crucial in present day life, J&K Bank branch Ajote on Thursday organised awareness cum interaction programme under the guidance of Brach head Aftab Choudhary.

Brach official Vishal Sharma delivered keynote address on the significance of banking facilities for economic safety and security.He also aware the people about different types of bank accounts and their features that are available across all banks in the country.



about digital banking, how to use online transactions safely using Mpay delight plus app, UPI and QR code.

Mohd Adil made the people aware about cyber crime related to banking and advised them not to share OTP to any unknown person. He stressed upon banking from home for the time in the life of a people as well as the general person.

People were extremely happy by the enriching experience they had with the bank officials. Other Bank officials who were present on this occasion are Vigar Ali, Jehangir Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed, Pervaiz Akhter.

#### Patent on "Multi-tasking MOP Handle" granted to School of **Mechanical Engineering SMVDU**

of Mechanical Engi-

neering, SMVDU are

the inventors of this

patent. The patent is

related to design of an

innovative joint to be

placed along the length

equipped with a unique

joint comprising two

shafts connected by the

innovative joint, allow-

ing for the inclination

of the shaft at various

The invention shall

provide flexibility to the

mop handle (upper half)

at different angles to

facilitate the user.

angles.

of the mop handle.

This handle



**Top News Report** 

KATRA, Feb 29: A patent has been granted to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for an invention entitled

"Multi-tasking MOP Handle" for a term of 20 years in accordance with the provisions of the Patents Act. 1970 by the Controller of Patents, Indian Patent Office, Government of India, with Patent No.: 508337.

Dr. Sanjay Mohan, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU, and Nikhil Kumar, a

provide comfort to the user, enabling cleaning underneath surfaces while standing or sitting. This invention simplifies mopping for users and incorporates ergonomic design principles to ensure safe and comfortable usage. Users no longer need graduate of the School

to bend while mopping and can adjust the mop handle to various angles as desired. This achievement is

noteworthy for the university and contributes to the development of its intellectual property. The inventors extend their gratitude to their fellow colleagues at School of Mechanical Engineering for their continuous encouragement and support. The Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Pragati Kumar, congratulated the inventors of the patent.

### Indian Hawks skaters clinch top spots in Roller Skating Federation of India's Ranking for 2023-24

#### Kartikeya Puri becomes No 1 in India in quads category

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: In a dazzling display of skill and determination, the Indian Hawks Roller Skating Club (IHRSC) has firmly established its supremacy in the national skating arena, with Kartikeya Puri clinching the coveted top slot in India in quads category. This remarkable achievement is further underscored by seven other skaters of the club securing top rankings in their respective individual age categories in Roller Skating Federation of India's (RSFI) Ranking for 2023-24. The stellar performance of the Indian Hawks is a testament to the dedication and hard work of its members, who have tirelessly honed their skills to compete at the highest level. Kartikeya's achievement of securing the top spot in India is a crowning glory for the club and a reflection of his exceptional talent and commitment to the sport. The credit for success of IHRSC goes to top class coaching and efforts of support staff



that have played a pivotal role in nurturing and guiding the skaters. Their expertise and guidance have been instrumental in helping the skaters reach the pinnacle of success. The club's outstanding performance is a source of pride for the entire region, highlighting the talent and potential that exist in Jammu. Since IHRSC continues to make waves in the national skating scene, its success serves as an inspiration to aspiring players. The achievements of IHRSC are a testament to the power of determination, hard work, and perseverance, and a shining example of what can be accomplished with passion and dedication. Other skaters who proved their mettle by showcasing supremacy in national ranking charts in individual age groups include Samarjot Singh, second and Surya Bhaskar eleventh position in above 17 years age group, Udhay Narayan first in 14-17 age group, Prageet Kour fourth in 14-17 years age group, Puneesh Puri second in 11-14 age group, Sanvi Grover fifth in 11-14 age group and Ahana Gupta ninth in 9-11 age group. Meanwhile, in Sahodaya School Competition held at JK Public School Kathua, the IHRSC skaters left the sports lovers spellbound by clinching 7 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals in both inline and quads categories. The medal winners who made the difference through their stellar performances include Adwait, Aryansh, Sanvi Grover, Adhira and Puneesh Puri in quads category, and Tabish and Tamanna Saini in Inline category.

#### 70 students from Govt schools embark on Educational Study visit

**Top News Report** 

BASOHLI, Feb 29: A total of 70 students from High School Govt. HS Bhiker, Govt HS Sialag 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. Upon arrival, the students were warmly welcomed by Zonal Education Officer, Basohli, Lalit Sharma, and his staff members.

Sharma briefed the students about the sig-



nificance of RAK and its role in fostering scientific temperament and innovation among young minds.

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

tion 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 breathtaking 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.

The study visit concluded with a visit to the Vishawsthali Painting Centre, Basohli, renowned for its traditional miniature paint-

ings.
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.

## Rubeena expresses gratitude to party high command for

her nomination as NLP Core committee member **Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Feb 29: National Loktantrik Party Leader Rubeena Akhtar expressed her deepest



gratitude to Jamsheed Ali, Dr Suhail Chaudhary for reposing trust on me and giving me an opportunity to provide my services as NLP Core com-

mittee member. It is an honour for me to assume such a big responsibility. It has been an exhilarating journey so far and I will continue to serve my

party and people of my country with all my ability. I will surely try to live up to the expectations of the party high command.

#### DLL inaugurates workshop on personality development

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Feb 29: Employment Information cum Advisory Bureau, Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL), University of Jammu on Thursday inaugurated a 3-day workshop on personality development at Govt. Degree College, Kunjwani, Jammu for the students of the college.

The objective of this workshop is to enable the students to learn basic skills of good communication and to improve their confidence.

Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, Principal of the college in his welcome address expressed the dire need for personality development programmes for the students of the college as it helps to

create a good and lasting impression on others. He also appreciated the efforts of the



Department of Lifelong Learning to organise this workshop

The workshop is being organised under the guidance of Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director DLL. It is coordinated by Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB, DLL. The resource persons were Swati Basotra, Motivational speaker and Entrepreneur and Neetu Dhar, Master Trainer

and chief coordinator, Jammu Kashmir Dairy Producers processors and Marketing cooperatives Ltd.

Neetu Dhar will have sessions on self-discovery and self-development,

time management, presentation skills, emotional intelligence and empathy. Swati Basotra will speak on effective communication skills, aspects of personality- relation with career

development and conflict and stress management.

About 110 students have registered for the workshop. Dr. Arti Gupta, coordinator career counselling cell of the college provides all support for the workshop.

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office: 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor: M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor: Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No: (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

(All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).